

# WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

## War Production Means A Daily Blackout In Pittsburgh

Towards the end of the summer, when Uncle Sam began to go to town on war production, the workers of Pittsburgh began to notice how much less and less they were seeing of the sun. A mass of black soot settles over the city and covers every house and street with its dirt. The particles of soot hold the dampness in the air and the whole dirty cloud is like a black fog. The workers walk along the street coughing and choking. Every mill and every furnace is now in operation. Some of the furnaces have been idle for over ten years. Now, all through the city one hears the giant furnace coughing and belching. It sounds like the distant rumble of cannon on a movie screen. But nobody notices it unless he is a stranger visiting the city. To the workers who feel the strain of keeping the furnaces roaring it is a comforting sound. It means that now there are plenty of jobs. And there are so many things they have been wanting to buy for their kids and the house for such a long time. Now they will be able to do it, if the prices don't start going up too fast. So they drink more beer to kill the feel of the soot in their lungs, and because they are in a state of nervous excitement. They know what happened in the last war. The belly wrinkles from the depression are not yet ironed out. So every place their thoughts run to the same thing. Whether you listen to the conversation in the mill, on the street, in the house or in a saloon over a glass of beer, it is the same thing: "This won't last, you better make it while the making is good."

"Wait till this war is over. There will be bread lines a mile long." "If you don't get it now you never will." Whether they are speaking Polish, Croatian, Slavic or American, they are saying the same thing. Strikes occur almost daily in one plant or another. The strikes have different complexions. Sometimes it is to get a fink off the job, sometimes to make the slackers pay up their dues, but whatever the grievance for the strike the workers refuse to settle unless they get more wages and a brake on the speed up. People who have flown over the city at night say that one can see the flames of the furnaces bursting out along the river like man-made suns in the night. While the furnaces were idle they used to be spots in the city where the radicals gathered every night to discuss world events. As the furnaces were put into operation one by one, accompanied by yards of Jingo national defense propaganda, these spots were deserted. The whole city is now a beehive of workers going in to the plants and mills in different shifts and trudging home at the end of them. During the holiday shopping period the workers thronged into the city in bigger crowds than ever before. The streets were so jammed with pedestrian traffic that the whole reserve police force was used to direct traffic. The workers were spending everything they could possibly afford to squeeze out a good time. All these years they had nothing to spend and now war days are ahead. In the mills the F.B.I. men are posted in uniforms and on the mill property in special shacks to guard the defense orders. The workers are keeping a tight lip and thinking of their own defenses. And when they have thought enough they put on little actions to show how they feel. Pittsburgh, Pa. JAMES COOK

# Ford Pays Millions For Lying Ads To Conceal His Vile Labor Policy

## Ford's Claim To High Wages Is Exposed As A Flagrant Lie

Henry Ford published a full-page advertisement in hundreds of leading newspapers throughout the country last week. This ad makes a desperate attempt to conceal the fact that Ford pays the lowest wages in the entire automobile industry. You may search the Ford blurb with a microscope and you will find no figures on his average daily or hourly wage. And for good reason! In an earlier ad, which appeared in the *New York Times* January 28, 1940, Ford claimed to pay an average daily wage of \$7.25, or 90.6 cents per hour. But the average hourly wage for the entire automobile industry is 95.5 cents (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). And in the unionized General Motors and Chrysler plants, it is over \$1.00. Ford "proves" that he pays the best wages in the automobile industry by asserting that he pays an average annual wage of \$1,629.95. He compares this figure not with comparable figures for the automobile industry, but with the "latest" government figures for the average yearly wage of all American wage-earners covered by the old-age insurance law, which the ad says "was \$841.90." What Ford "neglects" to point out is that this figure was for 1938, a very depressed year, and included, moreover, wages paid to part-time and seasonal workers. On the same basis on which Ford computes his admitted average annual wage of \$1,629.95, General Motors and Chrysler—unionized—pay over \$1,900. In his latest ad, Ford does cite hourly minimum wages for different classifications of workers, unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled. For unskilled, it is 75 cents; semi-skilled, 80 cents; skilled, 90 cents. When one considers that in the feudal domain of Henry Ford the minimum and maximum wage for the vast majority of the Ford employees is the same thing, then we get an even clearer picture of what the real average hourly and daily pay-rates are for the workers. Take out the wages paid foremen, supervisors, and Ford's private army of spies, gun-men and strike-breakers, and we find that Ford pays not the highest, but by far the lowest wages in the automobile industry. Observe the definitions employed

er who gets "funny" finds himself fired. His creditors pile down on him. His landlord appears with a dispossession notice. And, in addition, a couple of tough-looking gents may approach him on the street and give him some "friendly" advice. If he should still be so bold as to press his claim, there are company lawyers, company doctors and company judges plus company assets of close to a billion dollars, to convince him of his "mistake." Ford makes one further claim for his industrial paradise: That he attempts, as a matter of deliberate policy, to keep his older workers employed. Aside from the fact that this is a lie on the face of it, because it would be impossible to maintain the man-killing, nerve-shattering speed-up at the Ford plants with older men, we need only study the figures which Ford publishes and compare them with some others which Ford does not publish. The Ford ad states: "A recent check-up shows that nearly one-half the workers at these Ford plants were 40 or over..." He then gives figures totaling 14,356 Ford employees 40 years or over. The records of Hamtramck, Mich., where many Ford workers live, disclose that of all the former Ford employees on their relief rolls, 45 out of every 100 fired were between the ages of 41 to 50; 31 out of every 100 kicked on the industrial scrap-heap by Henry Ford were between the ages of 51 and 60. That means that 76 percent of the fired Ford workers on relief were over 40 years old. There is one single fact, however, which we can glean from this ad, a fact which is incontestable: FORD IS SCARED! The years of physical terror by which Henry Ford has ruled his industrial slave kingdom are drawing to an end. Not all Ford's "Service Men," his gangsters, gunmen, bruisers, stool-pigeons and ambitious college-boys, can give him his former accustomed feeling of security. In the eyes of every worker on the Ford assembly line he reads the long-awaited accounting. Ford is deathly afraid. Where will all his yellow-bellied stool-pigeons, his muscle-men be, when the hour of reckoning, which is close at hand, finally comes? These paid tools know the score. They will hang on to the pay roll as long as it is safe, as long as the Ford workers are still too disorganized to deal with them properly. But when the hour strikes, most of these "loyal" Service Men will run like scared jack-rabbits.

## New York Plans Banquet For Grace Carlson

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—"Grace Carlson, Trotskyist candidate for Senator from Minnesota, who polled more votes than the Socialist and Communist Party combined, will be greeted in New York on her nation-wide tour with a mass meeting and a banquet," Murray Weiss, organizer of the New York local of the Socialist Workers Party announced today. "If the reception accorded her by the workers in other cities can be taken as an indication, her scheduled speech at the Lenin Memorial meeting in New York on January 24 will be one of the best attended in recent years. With the widening of World War II and the increasing realization that Roosevelt will plunge us into the blood bath, the workers are beginning to seek a way out—a way to end capitalist war forever. "The Second and Third Internationals are bankrupt, only Trotskyism, the program of the Fourth International, has the revolutionary answer to capitalist crises, hunger, war. That our party is not alone in understanding this is clearly shown by the large vote accorded comrade Carlson in the Minnesota election. Inquiries from workers in New York sympathetic to our party as to our plans for her appearance here show the keen interest her impressive showing in Minnesota as Trotskyist candidate has aroused." Comrade Carlson will speak at Irving Plaza, Irving Pl. and 15th St. on January 24 at 8:30 p. m. The banquet is scheduled for February 1 at Germania Hall.

# TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND We're On The Last Lap; Minneapolis Is In Front

By JAMES P. CANNON  
January 1st was the time set by the Chicago Conference for completion of the Trotsky Memorial Fund. As can be seen from the score board below, the branches came mighty close to the goal of the average, and some of them went over. In order to give the backward branches a final chance to catch up with and outstrip the fast starters, the Political Committee has extended the deadline for one month, to February 1st. Those branches which are not under the wire by that time are down in the black book for good. As the campaign reached its climax, a vicious competitive struggle broke out between the New York and Twin Cities locals. This was precipitated by the following telegram from New York: "NEW YORK IS UP 44% ON MEMORIAL FUND QUOTA. INTENDS TO BEAT TWIN CITIES TO GOAL." This was immediately responded to by the Twin Cities comrades as follows: "WHAT A MERE 44%? YOU CAN'T BEAT MINNESOTA." For one week New York held the lead by .1 of 1%. However, this was a bit of a fluke, as a contribution of \$100 from the Twin Cities was delayed in the mail during the holidays and was not credited to them. More than that, the New Yorkers were accused of slick work in putting in an extra dollar to gain a small lead of .1 of 1%. This week the Twin Cities comrades reached the goal and sent \$1 extra for good measure, to give them a score of 100.1%. A check for \$271 was received from them, with the following letter: "Here she is. We're 48 hours late but we have the organization and give us due credit for that .1 of 1% over the quota and see that there's no cheating by those New York City slickers. They might like Minnesota after the excellent reports of N. Y. City Convention but they can't beat us yet. "Fraternal greetings to the N. Y. comrades and better luck next time." It is now up to New York. They asked for the fight. The question is: Do they intend to go through with it? The up and coming branch at Detroit, which completed its quota 100% before the deadline, greeted the extension of the campaign for another month by pledging another \$50. Under the democratic principles of our organization other branches have full right to do likewise if they see fit.

The following are the additional payments made to the Trotsky Memorial Fund this week:

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Akron                    | \$ 7.00  |
| Boston                   | 16.00    |
| Buffalo                  | 7.00     |
| Cleveland                | 10.00    |
| Detroit                  | 10.00    |
| Los Angeles              | 27.75    |
| Lynn                     | 5.00     |
| Minneapolis and St. Paul | 371.00   |
| New Haven                | 2.00     |
| New York                 | 100.00   |
| Philadelphia             | 11.00    |
| Quakertown               | 5.00     |
| Rochester                | 5.00     |
| San Francisco            | 15.00    |
| Williston                | 10.00    |
| Individual Contribution  | 1.00     |
| TOTAL                    | \$602.75 |

| Branch                   | Quota     | Amount paid | %     |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| BOSTON                   | \$ 100.00 | \$ 147.00   | 147   |
| QUAKERTOWN               | 7.00      | 7.50        | 107   |
| BUFFALO                  | 25.00     | 26.15       | 105   |
| DETROIT                  | 200.00    | 210.00      | 105   |
| PORTLAND                 | 10.00     | 10.50       | 105   |
| TOLEDO                   | 50.00     | 51.00       | 102   |
| LOS ANGELES              | 150.00    | 151.45      | 101   |
| Minneapolis & St. Paul   | 1000.00   | 1001.00     | 100.1 |
| Pittsburgh               | 10.00     | 10.00       | 100   |
| Allentown                | 15.00     | 15.00       | 100   |
| Chicago & Indiana Harbor | 200.00    | 200.00      | 100   |
| Milwaukee                | 5.10      | 5.10        | 100   |
| Reading                  | 5.00      | 5.00        | 100   |
| Baltimore                | 10.00     | 10.00       | 100   |
| San Diego                | 8.50      | 8.50        | 100   |
| Rockville                | 7.00      | 7.00        | 100   |
| Texas                    | 5.00      | 5.00        | 100   |
| Newark                   | 150.00    | 150.00      | 100   |
| Hutchinson               | 10.00     | 10.00       | 100   |
| St. Louis                | 5.00      | 5.00        | 100   |
| Akron                    | 10.00     | 10.00       | 100   |
| Philadelphia             | 30.00     | 30.00       | 100   |
| Rochester                | 15.00     | 15.00       | 100   |
| San Francisco            | 100.00    | 100.00      | 100   |
| Williston                | 10.00     | 10.00       | 100   |
| Flint                    | 150.00    | 138.00      | 92    |
| Lynn                     | 100.00    | 90.00       | 90    |
| New Haven                | 20.00     | 18.00       | 90    |
| New York                 | 1000.00   | 656.00      | 66    |
| Cleveland                | 70.00     | 10.00       | 14    |
| Youngstown               | 50.00     | 6.00        | 12    |
| Individual Contributions |           | 3.30        |       |
| TOTAL                    | \$527.60  | \$3121.57   | 88%   |

as well as under the War and Navy Departments, the Shipping Board, the Railroad Administration and all other Government agencies." The second paragraph of Wilson's proclamation setting up the Board reads: "The National War Labor Board shall appoint subordinate boards to sit in various parts of the country." During the first few months of its life the Board was swamped with workers' complaints. Invoking the above paragraph, 50 field examiners—i. e. regular government agents—were assigned to travel about the country to make investigations. The Board then empowered the field examiners to make awards and itself sat only as an appeal body. The 1921 report of the Department of Labor reveals that these examiners heard and decided over 10,000 cases in a brief 12 month period. The slim chance the workers had of getting beyond these examiners to the Board itself is revealed by the fact that the Board heard, during its entire existence, only 1,251 cases. In other words, the workers had one chance in ten in getting an examiner's decision even reviewed by the Board. And if they did beat the 10 to 1 odds, then there was still less than a 50% chance that the Board would reach a decision upon their case; for the records show that the Board made decisions in only 39% (488) of the cases it heard. There is no adequate record of the thousands of decisions handed down by the field examiners, but we do know the contents of the 488 handed down by the Board itself, and these cases were the important ones... the ones that established union-busting precedents that the government enforced for the next ten years. These cases will be reviewed and analyzed next week.

# War Labor Board Of 1918

## Green, Hillman, Murray Following Gompers' Policy

By MICHAEL CORT  
II.  
During the closing days of 1917, after various government-sponsored labor boards had been functioning—one covering maritime, another clothing, another for workers employed on War Department orders, another for the Navy Department, etc.—strikes reached such a point that the bosses, through the National Industrial Conference, called frantically for a super-board with complete authority over all workers. Samuel Gompers responded with complete agreement to this proposal, for he had experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the unions in line. At the very opening of the war he had pledged the government "no strikes in defense industries." His attitude toward those locals which failed to respect his pledge is best exemplified by the following excerpt from a letter sent a local that disregarded a War Department ukase and struck for higher wages. "... and while you may not agree with our course (cooperation with the boards) the great majority of your brothers have chosen the road and you can not now scab." To the head of the AFL, it was the striker who was the scab! Actually, of course, the workers had received no opportunity to vote on either the war or the union-busting labor boards. Once Gompers indicated his agreement with the National Industrial Conference on the question of a superboard, Wilson invited him to confer. Pausing on the White House steps long enough to say, "There is a disposition among officers of the government to deal fairly with labor," he disappeared through the sacred portals to collaborate in the creation of the most monstrous anti-labor machinery that had ever existed in this country. A proclamation was issued by Wilson in February, 1918, organizing the super board: The National War Labor Board. **The Board's Membership**  
The Board was composed of 12 members; five of whom were appointed by Gompers, seven by Wilson. The Gompers' nominees were as follows: Frank J. Hayes, President, United Mine Workers; William Hutcheson, President, Brotherhood of Carpenters; Thomas J. Savage, member of the board, International Association of Machinists; Victor A. Rinder, representative, Seamen's Union of America; and T. A. Olicker, President, United Garment Workers. The seven boss representatives were headed by the co-chairmen of the Board, ex-President of the United States, William Howard Taft, and Frank P. Walsh. The names of the five industrialists on the board mean little to us now, but their positions in industry at that time is important. They were, respectively, Vice-president, Westinghouse Electric Company; President, Delaware and Hudson Company; President, Root and Van Dervoort Engineering Company; President of Virginia Bridge Company; and President, Lackawanna Bridge Company. According to the 1921 report of the Department of Labor, only one of these five had ever had any dealings whatsoever with organized labor. So much for the composition of the Board. Now to its philosophy. The opening paragraph of the Wilson proclamation read: "The functions of the National War Labor Board shall be to settle by mediation and conciliation, controversies arising



REGULARITY OF APPEAL ARMY  
It was gratifying, during the past seven or eight months, to follow the trend in the party toward tremendously increased volume and REGULARITY of APPEAL work. We weren't prepared to find it one day catching up with U.S. It has. Admonitions are pouring in regarding our failure to present this column REGULARLY each week. This proof that the column is carefully followed gives us a new appreciation of its potential value in the advancement of our work. We humbly promise hereafter the strict regularity that the comrades desire and merit. Here are some suggestions for expanded column content from Minneapolis: "... Plans for nation-wide sub drives, information about special sub offers, news about local sub drives, and mass APPEAL work, comments from readers and from comrades assigned to the mass work, little items about the role of the labor press, its history, etc. In short, ALL the inside information about the paper that would tend to stimulate readers and distributors in their efforts to spread its influence. "Some of the older comrades in our branch have referred on several occasions to the old Appeal To Reason, socialist publication of twenty-five years ago, concerning its phenomenal circulation and the promotion methods it used. It was suggested in our committee meeting that we might be able to learn a great deal about promotion of sales and circulation of the SOCIALIST APPEAL if a study was made of the methods used by the Appeal to Reason." We promise to dig around until we uncover some of the inside dope on the old Appeal to Reason—but do feel that in proportion our party has attained rather a phenomenal success in recent expansion of the APPEAL'S circulation. ST. PAUL APPEAL BOOSTERS We very much enjoyed another

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