

# Mass Against WPA Cuts on April 1!

AN EDITORIAL

On April 1 mass cuts from the W.P.A. rolls begin.

According to Col. Harrington, W.P.A. administrator, these cuts, as based upon the current appropriation measure, will have to total at least a million, more probably a million and a half, between April 1 and June 30.

This prospect is not just a wild joke or a scarehead. As things stand, it is a cold-sober necessity. The money appropriated by Congress won't go any further.

And the mass cuts are scheduled to begin on April 1.

The strategy of the administration is clear. It plans to begin the cuts suddenly, and on a huge scale, while the unemployed are off guard. It will keep throwing hundreds of thousands into the street until mass protests begin to arise.

Then, if disorders threaten, the President will propose a small additional appropriation. This will not be enough to put those already fired back on the rolls. It will not be enough to keep even the lowered figure.

Its only purpose will be to draw the teeth from the mass protest. Roosevelt counts on Lewis and the Workers Alliance swinging behind him. In other words, he plans to put across a mass reduction of W.P.A. and at the same time to get the "official" leaders of the unemployed to help him, and to praise him afterwards as the true champion of the unemployed.

This shameful, criminal plot is already well on its way. The entire press of the country is keeping a conspiratorial silence about the cuts, now only three weeks away. All the governmental and business big shots are yelling daily about "the need for greater economy." Neither the A.F.L. nor the C.I.O. nor the W.A.A. is taking a single step to prepare for a fight.

The unemployed will have to take matters into their own hands, or they are going to wake up a month from now in the doghouse.

If the unemployed wait until after the cuts have begun, it will be too late to save hundreds of thousands of workers, with their families, from destitution. They have got to prepare now.

The question is no longer one of another fifty or a hundred millions in an additional appropriation. This is completely inadequate, and a fight on such a basis would get nowhere.

The unemployed have got to make known their real needs and demands: W.P.A. jobs at union wages for all unemployed; an over-all \$30 weekly minimum; a \$20,000,000,000 public works program; opening of all idle factories to be operated with government subsidies under workers' control; all war funds to the unemployed. And no cuts whatever—not a single worker taken from the rolls.

The danger must be proclaimed from the housetops—there can be no exaggeration.

The demands must be made known not by letters to Congressmen or appearances before committees or back-stage lobbying in Washington, but by large-scale, militant mass action. This is the only move that Congress and the administration will take seriously.

As a first major concrete step, we believe that the unemployed in each locality throughout the country should carry through simultaneously on April 1—the day the mass cuts are scheduled to begin—mass demonstrations at the local relief headquarters. Thus will the unemployed make known that they will not tolerate the cut of a single man, and thus will they put forward in the most unmistakable way their own positive demands.

There was a day when the unemployed movement in this country knew how to act with an unparalleled militancy. Let us return to that day in this new emergency!

Let us turn the heat on these scoundrels who vote \$100,000,000 for a single battleship without turning a hair, and in the next breath decree starvation for millions of unemployed!

And let us act now, before it is too late!

For nation-wide demonstrations on April 1 against the cuts and for a genuine answer to the needs of the unemployed!

## Thousands Fired from W.P.A. in First Slashes

Million Scheduled to Go by June 30 as Various States Also Move Toward Drastic Relief 'Economies'

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
Washington, D. C.—The Roosevelt campaign completely to abolish W. P. A. and reduce emergency relief to the absolute minimum is now in full swing as the order to fire 80,000 workers classified as aliens was sent out this week.

An additional measure, designed to provide a large and helpless number of unemployed workers for the labor market and insure plenty of recruits for the coming war, was the stipulation that the fired workers are to be ineligible for relief rolls.

"Eliminate Waste"  
While this campaign is under way all State administrators have received instructions drastically to tighten up the machinery of the W. P. A. offices and to reduce office help to the minimum. "Wastes," says the order, "must be eliminated."

The next list to be used for firing is now being prepared by an "investigation" of all W. P. A. workers to determine whether they have outside sources of income. This investigation in many places takes the form of continual hounding and cross-examination of each worker. This is designed to demoralize the workers and prevent them from doing the work assigned by administrators. Hundreds of forms must be filled out each month and these are carefully checked to discover errors. Home visits by stool-pigeons and constant cross-examination by investigators are all part of the campaign to abolish the work relief program.

More than 1,000,000 workers are to be fired by June 30th and each month until then hundreds of thousands of workers will receive

dismissal notices. The plan is purposely designed to measure carefully the amount of resistance to the firing. The next large group to be dropped from the pay rolls will be notified this month and will be fired as of April 1.

**Thousands Already Fired**  
Already thousands of workers have received dismissal notices while the Workers Alliance has gradually become a company union in the service of the Roosevelt administration.

It is to be expected that Roosevelt will ask Congress for a trifling increase in W. P. A. funds but unless the workers organize to fight against the cuts, Roosevelt will merely ask for funds from a Congress which has already made clear its intention of going away with the entire program. The President knows in advance that Congress will refuse to vote more funds so he has nothing to lose by making a feeble gesture.

**Bulk Not From Centers**  
The bulk of this convention is made up of delegates or supposed delegates not from Detroit or Flint or Cleveland or the main auto centers but from such substantial places as Meriden, Conn., Massillon, Ohio, and Philadelphia. The credentials committee has not yet completed its report—it did not have the time to recognize without "mature deliberation" 24 of them—representing the "majority" of the large locals of the union.

It is as impossible for a progressive to breathe at this convention as it would be for a revolutionist to make himself at home at a convocation of the American Legion or the Daughters of the American Revolution. The whole atmosphere is permeated with a one-hundred percent Americanism that hits one between the eyes ever before.

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# MADRID SEEKS TRUCE

## Martin Tries to Skip Affiliation Question

Detroit Convention Delegates Represent Less Than One-Fourth of Auto Workers in Nation

### PATRIOTISM KEYNOTE

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
DETROIT, Mar. 5—Even the patriotic, anti-C.I.O. delegates of Martin's convention rose up in arms when Martin proposed that the question of future affiliation be left in the hands of the incoming Executive Board. At a closed session of the convention, Martin proposed this measure—completely contradicting all previous statements that he would leave this question up to the convention—which would give him the necessary power to railroad the remaining locals following him into the A.F.L. The delegates refused to grant the power and after a hotly-contested fight the question was referred to other sessions of the convention for action.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
DETROIT, Mar. 5—Homer Martin's convention was on a merry-go-round today and the director couldn't tell whether he had erred in starting the contraption or how or when to bring it to a stop.

After two days the convention of the Martin forces representing less than one-third of the organized automobile workers of America had accomplished exactly the equivalent of zero. The convention was scheduled to end today but it could not because the main question is still undecided: will Martin affiliate to the A.F.L.?

Martin himself has been fearful of answering this question. If he calls for affiliation, the remaining locals connected with him, may jump the traces. And if he does not, where will the finances—the cold cash—come from to finance the union and even the convention which has already reached a pretty humble status? So what is to be done? Bashful Martin is waiting for the rank and file to pop the question. And the rank and file, abiding by the good Victorian conventions are waiting for suitor Martin to propose—which leaves everything in an uncomfortable muddle.

**Who Represented**  
Who is represented at the Martin convention? All the backwoods and the backwash of the auto workers union. According to the report of the credentials committee some 236 delegates were empowered to cast 629 votes at the convention. This would add up to a total of 62,900 workers supporting Martin if the constitution rules regarding representation to conventions were adhered to. This is less than one-fourth of the organized dues-paying auto workers of this country.

With the exception of Flint and Pontiac, where Martin's claims are highly exaggerated, the locals represented at this convention have no decisive weight in the auto industry. None of Chrysler is represented in this list. None of the independents, Hudson, Nash, Studebaker are represented. Only Plymouth and Packard. Even here, the true figures would reveal that upwards of 60 percent of these workers have already declared their allegiance to the C.I.O.

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**New Anti-Labor Decisions**  
"I feel confident that there will be other decisions following, and that other actions shall take place upon which we shall see eye to eye, agreeing in principle, even though we may approach the solution of the problems from a different point of view or by different argumentation."

## BOSSES ACT FAST FOLLOWING COURT SITDOWN RULING

Wholesale Firings in Jersey; Woll Hails Decision

The strengthening of the employer-government drive against labor through the recent Supreme Court decision in the Fansteel Metallurgical case holding sit-down strikes to be illegal was apparent this week on widely different fronts.

As an immediate consequence of reactionary decision, the J. E. Mergott Company of Newark, N. J., sent summary dismissals to 248 of its employees who had engaged in a sit-down strike during February when the company refused to renew its contract with the union and began a vicious attack against the C. I. O. as bargaining agent.

**Fires Fifty**  
Another wholesale dismissal followed this one when the Archer-Daniels Midland Linseed Oil Company of Edgewater, N. J., fired 50 of its employees who recently took part in a five-hour sit-down strike.

At a third New Jersey plant the jobs of more than 200 workers were believed endangered by the Court decision.

In Detroit the Chrysler Corporation, responding to the Supreme Court decision, struck a blow against union workers, announcing "disciplinary" action would be taken against four United Automobile Workers members for taking part in a strike last week. One of the union employees was fired and three others were laid off for two weeks to a month.

Gleeful as were the employers over the decision none of them expressed more satisfaction over the Supreme Court's action than A. F. of L. sewer-rat Matthew Woll.

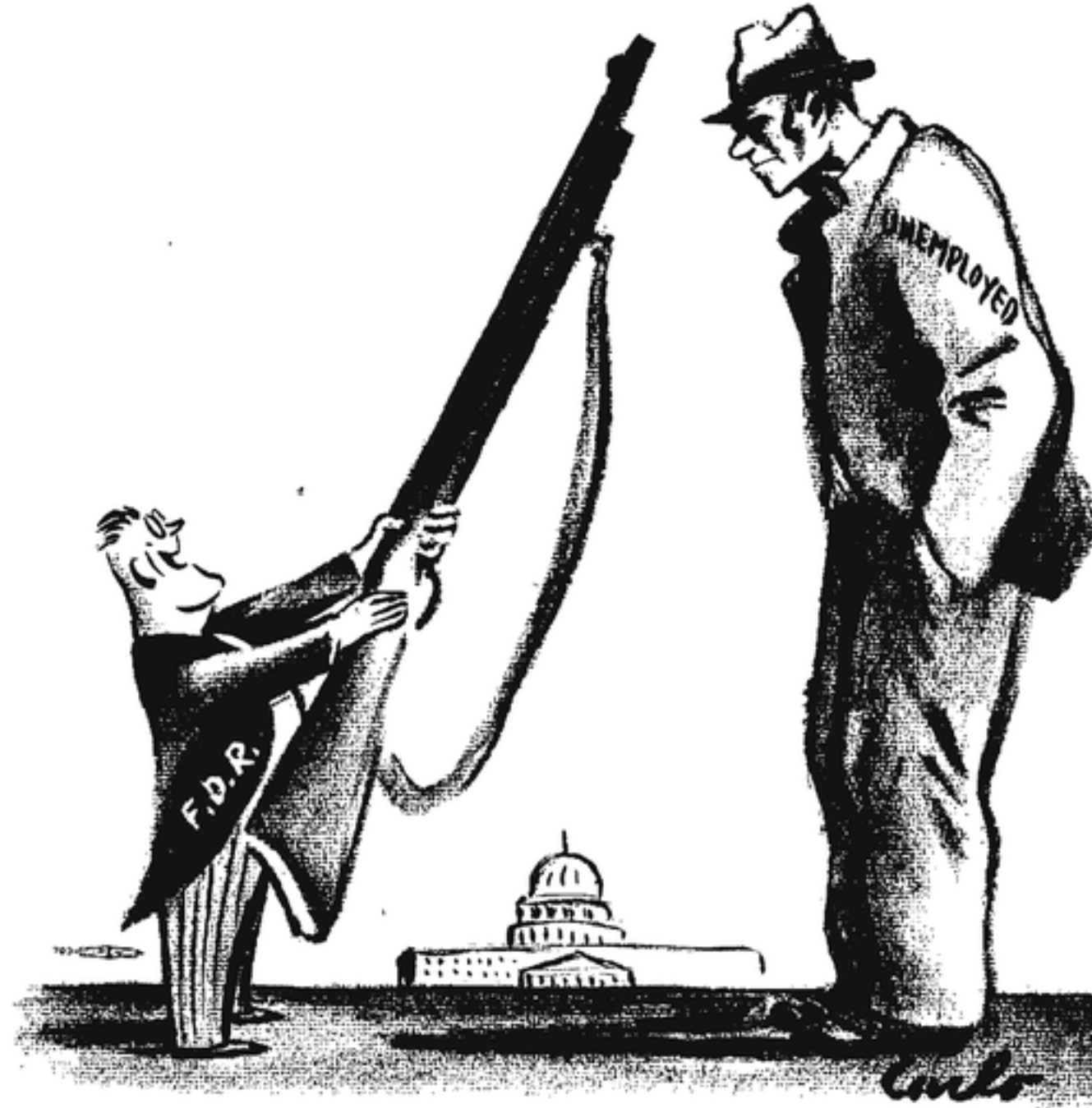
**Woll Pledges Allegiance**  
Speaking before the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York last Friday, he pledged allegiance to big business, stating that he would continue to see "eye to eye" with the economic royalists.

He commended the Supreme Court in the following words: "This clear, unequivocal action on the part of the Supreme Court of the United States in outlawing sit-down strikes is a matter which we as representatives of the American Federation of Labor wholeheartedly endorse."

"I mention this fact and this decision because it will disclose to your minds as perhaps no other thing in the area of constitution law how definitely the responsible leaders of the Federation of Labor have seen eye to eye with the responsible leaders of American employers."

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## "A Job for Every Worker"



## Army Bill Voted by House Is One More Step on War Road

Last week, in an action unprecedented in the entire history of this country, the House of Representatives voted unanimously, and without even the proposal for a single amendment, the colossal "regular" Army appropriation bill, totalling with its supplements \$520,000,000.

By this unanimous vote, the House proved the altogether secondary character of the pretended Congressional "objections" to Roosevelt's "defense program," proved beyond the shadow of doubt that the entire list of these legislative harlots of Wall Street, from the A.L.P.-Stalinist Marcantonio to the arch-Tory Republicans, is 100% behind Roosevelt's plan to launch aggressive war in the interests of American imperialism.

Huge as is the sum in this regular Army appropriation, it nevertheless is but a tiny fraction of the total armament budget now being driven through Congress. The war appropriations are being broken up into a dozen separate bills, in order to deceive the public about the incredible size of the entire outlay.

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## Carl Hichin Quits C. P. in Canada; Joins 4th Int'l.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
TORONTO, Ont.—Carl Hichin, former political feature writer on the Daily Clarion and special correspondent for half a dozen other Stalinist organs in Canada, this week made known his complete severance from the Communist Party of Canada and its "now irrevocable reformism" and "social patriotism."

To his public repudiation of the Third International, the former C. P. writer added an expression of his accord with the principles and policies of the Socialist Workers' League and an appeal to his revolutionary colleagues still in the C. P. of C. "that they too, publicly repudiate the C. I. and join in building the true party of revolutionary Marxism—The Fourth International."

For the past several years Hichin was probably the most "by-lined" journalist in the Canadian Stalinist press. Previously he was for many years widely known throughout western Canada for his militant activities.

## Gandhi Fast Is Forerunner Of Major Indian Struggles

Since the article printed below was written, Gandhi has ended his fast at the request of the Viceroy of India, thus once again capitulating to British imperialism. The analysis of Gandhi's role in the Indian situation is, of course, in no way changed; if anything it is made clearer.

**By SHERMAN STANLEY**  
In tiny Rajkot—a minor state with 75,540 people, located in the Kathiawar area of Western India and ruled over by a feudal lord with absolute powers—Mohandas K. Gandhi, conservative and compromising leader of nationalist India is conducting another of his hunger strikes "unto death."

The 69-year old Gandhi, now weighing less than 80 pounds, has launched another of his dramatic, individualistic acts because of the failure of the Thakore Sahib (29-year old feudal lord) to live up to an agreement that had been made between Gandhi and himself.

For the past four months the workers, peasants and villagers of Rajkot have conducted a militant struggle against the dictatorial ruler and his corrupt administration. The total income of the Raja in the past four years has amounted to \$2,300,000. This has been sweated out of the 65 peasant villages in the State.

**Civil Liberties Unknown**  
Today the treasury is empty. Out of this money all but \$8,000 was spent on the ruler and his numerous vices. The \$8,000 constitutes the sum total spent on "education" over four years! It is estimated that the Thakore Sahib spends \$720 per day on himself. His despotic privileges include that of making the people work at forced labor. Civil liberties are unknown to Rajkot.

It was against this tyranny that the masses, organized in their Praja Mandal (States' People Congress), rose. Their mass (Continued on Page 2)

## Generals Take Over In Capital

Negrin Is Charged With Plan to Flee With Funds

### MAKE PEACE PLEA

In the hope of heading off a growing wave of mass hostility to the People's Front government's preparations for surrender to Franco, Loyalist military chiefs-tains took power late Sunday night in the name of a "National Defense Junta."

But one of its first acts was to address an appeal for peace to Franco.

In the radioed manifesto of the new regime, Col. Segismundo Casado, head of the new government, charged that the Negrin ministers "abandoned their posts and sought in shameful flight the means of saving their lives. . . . It is intolerable that while demanding that the people resist, they are preparing for a convenient and lucrative flight."

Cipriano Mera, C.N.T. leader and army commander, denounced in a radio speech the "traitorous and criminal conduct of Negrin," and declared that the Loyalist ministers "are thinking of gathering up the national treasury and fleeing while the Spanish people are abandoned to the enemy."

**Retains Negrin Policy**  
A revealing contrast between his public denunciations of the Negrin ministers and Colonel Casado's private talks with them were revealed by newspapermen. Sitting in Casado's office, they heard him explain the overturn to various Loyalist ministers over the telephone, including Minister of Justice Pena and Interior Minister Saez. Saez said the ministers would come to Madrid.

"No," replied Casado. "With all the friendship I have for you, I beg of you not to come. The people are tired of you. I can assure you that the Defense Council has more power than the government."

The change in government, therefore, can only be interpreted as a maneuver to retain Negrin's policy of surrender, while dropping the previous ministers, hated by the workers and peasants for their responsibility for the loss of Catalonia.

**Appeal to Franco**  
Any difference of basic policy between the Negrin government and its successor was not discernible to the naked eye. Negrin's terms for surrender, summed up as "independence for Spain" and amnesty for Loyalist leaders, were echoed in the radioed appeal of the Junta to Franco.

"In your hands, not ours, is the peace which Spain needs to recover and to end the bloody war which is weakening it and placing it at the service of invaders. Choose! If you offer us peace you will find generous Spanish hearts."

Julian Besteiro, the right-wing socialist leader who disgraced himself by his cowardly opposition to the proletarian revolt of October, 1934, emerged from virtual retirement to enter the new Junta. In much the same language as Negrin, he declared: "Our struggle will not end so long as the independence of Spain is not assured. The Spanish people will lay down their arms only when guaranteed a peace without crimes. Establish such a peace."

**Miaja Enters Junta**  
General Jose Miaja, whom Azana quoted last week as having declared some time ago that further struggle was hopeless, also (Continued on Page 3)

ATTENTION NEW YORKERS!  
The SOCIALIST APPEAL is placed on the newsstands every Wednesday and Saturday.