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FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR:

- 1. A job and a decent wage for every worker. 2. Open the idle factories—operate them under workers' control. 3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program. 4. Thirty-three! \$30-weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs. 5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability pension. 6. Expropriate the Sixty Families. 7. All war funds to the unemployed. 8. A people's referendum on any and all wars. 9. No secret diplomacy. 10. An independent Labor party. 11. Workers Defense Guards against Vigilante and Fascist attacks.

Workers' Menus

A recent government survey has revealed that more than half of the employed workers in the United States live on insufficient food diets. This survey, which was taken in 43 industrial centers throughout the nation shows that the "American standard of living" for the average worker is a pretty low one. The average worker and his family eats foods that "stick-to-the-ribs" and stave off the feeling of hunger. To make him feel full after eating, the worker stuffs his belly with potatoes, macaroni, and bread. This takes from 25 to 40 percent of his income. Only 12 percent of the families studied have "good" diets, 38 percent have "fair" diets, and 50 percent eat an "insufficient" amount of food. Negro workers and their families are worse off than the white workers. The survey shows that 60 percent of the Negroes eat an "insufficient" amount of food. Where was it we read that "there are no classes in America"?

Two Attacks

29,000 workers on the transit lines of New York City are facing two menacing attacks on their livelihood. One attack comes from a bill sponsored in the Senate and Assembly of New York by Senator Wicks, a notorious labor-hater, which would place all employees of municipally-owned transit lines under Civil Service provisions without guaranteeing them pension rights, seniority over new Civil Service applicants, or collective bargaining rights. This is a direct undisguised attack aimed at the union workers on the B.M.T. and I.R.T. transit lines. The other attack, more covered up, is the proposed unification of the B.M.T. and I.R.T. lines with the present city-owned line when purchase plans have been completed between the LaGuardia administration and these companies.

Although it is generally understood that unification will lead to mass lay-offs of workers who have been employed for years on these lines and who have no other means of earning a livelihood, absolutely no guarantees providing for these workers have been forthcoming from the LaGuardia administration. The Wicks bill, if it is enacted, will reduce those left after LaGuardia lay-offs to the condition of serf, open-shop slaves. What is particularly revolting about these underhanded attacks against 29,000 of New York's workers is the solicitude of the city administration over the security holders of the B.M.T. and the I.R.T. who have been bleeding the public for years and who have received in dividends many times over what they laid out originally for the securities. Instead of expropriating these private holders of the city's utilities through condemning the lines—the city owns the lines anyway and merely leased them to the security holders—the staggering sum of \$315,000,000 has been turned over to guaranteeing them security and comfort for life. Why does the LaGuardia administration pay out this enormous sum to the security holders at this particular time? Why doesn't it wait until the leases expire, when the holdings revert automatically to the city? Dividend returns indicate the answer to these two questions. For the past few years earnings have steadily declined and the trend indicates that these securities would rapidly become a losing proposition for their holders. An additional consideration is the very strong likelihood that unification of the lines will mean a ten-cent fare—under the fallacious argument that a ten-cent fare will be necessary in order to pay off the \$315,000,000 gift to the security holders. The present levying of a ten-cent fare upon subways

running to the World Fair is nothing but a trial balloon in this direction.

Hundreds of millions of dollars to keep a few security holders fat, happy, and contented. A union-smashing, wage-lowering drive against the workers. A callous series of dismissals as fast as the administration can replace the present skilled workers with new applicant from Civil Service rolls, who, because of prior application for Civil Service jobs and for no other reason, will have seniority over all employees no matter how many years their service. That is the Wicks-LaGuardia unification plan!

To these two attacks against the subway workers there can be but one answer. Militant demonstrations against the vicious Wicks bill. Militant demonstrations demanding that there shall be no dismissals when unification is accomplished, with the work divided among all those now employed, but without reduction in pay.

Unification to provide increased benefits for the public, not unification for the benefit of a few rich security holders!

It is the belief of Michael J. Flascchetti, former head of New York City's notorious Italian detective squad, that "most people have little use for policemen."

"And, for the public's information," he continued, "I want them to know we still give the third degree, and it's all that it's cracked up to be."

But Will They Ever Get Here?

Their Royal Majesties, the king and queen of the British Empire, are scheduled to visit our shores some time in June of this year.

But you'll forgive us for wondering whether they'll ever get here!

In the shiny rotogravure section of America's Sunday papers these two decadent representatives of Britain's declining imperial might look mighty secure. Their over-upholstered uniforms and dress, along with the swanky Coach-and-Four they drive about in, give the appearance of lasting forever.

We wouldn't be surprised, however, if Their Majesties found it unavoidably necessary to postpone their visit forever. The Irish are picking up the reins let drop by the traitor De Valera; the British West Indies are a seething cauldron; the Arabs are militantly demanding freedom in the Near East.

And India is set to give King George the biggest headache of his life. The working class and peasant masses of this great country are preparing to straighten out their bent and bowed backs by casting off the entire weight of England's slave masters.

So keep an eye to those crowns of yours, Elizabeth and George! How easily they can slip off and go tumbling down the hill after those of Czar Nicholas, the Kaiser and Alfonso!

Bigger And Better Takes

If Congress and President Roosevelt continue to lop appropriations for the unemployed and succeed in their campaign to jack up profits for the rich to newer and dizzier heights, it will take a planetarium and a mathematical genius to give even a faint conception of the astronomical proportions to which profits will rise over those now flowing into the coffers of the upper class.

Naturally the unemployed, the under-paid work slaves, and the young people facing a blind alley future will be expected to continue their cheering over this stellar display.

If you missed out on the juicy morsels celebrated during Dividends and Profits Week for the 1938 take, sharpen up your shears for this week's report. If you don't own stock of these particular companies in your family vault, then just imagine as you tighten your belt a notch for dinner what you could buy if you did have those dusty sheets silently earning millions for you through strenuous idleness—and praise God that the nasty workers don't wake up and take over these industries for their own benefit.

Remember, no celebrating over anything less than a million dollar take, and bless Harry Hopkins for his speech this week dedicating the Roosevelt administration to fighting for bigger and better takes for the wealthy capitalist.

Again we congratulate the happy stockholders of the companies listed below, who according to the publishable reports of their bookkeepers bled the point of production for not less than the following fat items for 1938:

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Profit Amount. Includes Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company (\$3,930,460), Atlantic Refining Company (\$4,317,297), Armstrong Cork Company (\$1,150,796), Mesta Machine Company (\$2,909,957), Gillette Safety Razor Company (\$2,941,889), Arundel Corporation (\$1,007,783), Penick & Ford, Ltd., Inc. (\$1,139,921), Reed Roller Bit Company (\$1,832,112), Radio Corporation of America (\$7,412,072), New York Telephone Company (\$29,377,181), General Foods Corporation (\$13,577,075), Sun Oil Company (\$3,085,119), Melville Shoe Corp. (\$1,484,061), Scott Paper Company (\$1,379,930), Eastern Utilities Associates and Subsidiaries (\$1,572,435), Wisconsin Electric Power Company (\$2,228,020), Bell System (\$155,543,144), American Tobacco (\$25,435,643), Homestake Mining Co. (\$6,940,848), Beech-Nut Packing Company (\$2,527,142), Abbott Laboratories (\$1,648,326), Electrolux Corporation (\$2,040,922), Greyhound Corporation (\$5,663,989), Lambert Company (\$1,277,798).

Who said the unemployed were starving?

"Found on the west side of the Huey P. Long Bridge with his left arm nearly severed below the elbow, a Negro identified by state police as Martin Hays, 20, of Napoleonville, was taken to Charity hospital by ambulance last night where physicians amputated his arm. Although state police were not able to say how the Negro was injured, hospital authorities said Hays told them he had caught his arm in a pumping machine where he had been employed."—From The New Orleans Tribune, Jan. 28, 1939.

Japanese Economy Strained To Meet Growing Burdens

Reports appearing recently both here and in the Far East indicate the terrific strain to which the fabric of Japanese economy is being progressively subjected as a result of the present ruthless war of aggression in China. The drain on the country's resources is nothing new, but it has now reached the stage where the entire structure of the country is so delicately poised that a resounding blow, from whatever quarter it might come, could very easily shake it to its foundations.

This, of course, is not the same as saying that a revolution can be expected momentarily in Japan. Recent history has given ample proof that bankrupt nations can continue to exist for seemingly indefinite periods without falling to pieces, even though they are waging a war, so long as they meet no determined, organized resistance within their own territory, and no serious reversal on the military field. Italy and Germany are striking examples.

Burdens On People Increasing It does mean, however, that Japan's economy is so strained that each day the war continues brings with it an added piling up of internal difficulties, that constantly increased burdens are being foisted on the backs of the people, and that the basic factors capable of fomenting revolt are mounting so inexorably that a military defeat, even a partial military defeat, could readily smother the supports that now prop up the government and the economic system of the country.

It also means that even without an overthrow, Japan has already lost a major portion of the commercial gains so assiduously courted in recent years. According to a New York Times dispatch from Washington of Feb. 24, Japan's exports to this country declined 37 per cent in 1938 as compared with 1937, and her imports from this country decreased 30.5 per cent in the same period. This decrease is not confined to trade with the United States. Japan's exports to all

countries, excluding the "yen bloc" countries (Manchukuo and those sections of China under Japanese domination), declined by 34 per cent up to November 30 of last year, according to Domei, Japanese News Agency.

Exports to the "yen bloc" countries increased 46.8 per cent, but these latter increases are largely spurious for from them Japan receives no foreign currency, besides which a large part of the total represents goods that have been "dumped" indiscriminately into these areas and for which the shippers may never receive payment.

It should also be noted that Japan's industries are feeling the deleterious effects of neglect, due to lack of adequate financing. Plants are wearing out, and the quality of products is declining. Domestic Prices Skyrocketing Another important index of the precariousness of Japan's economy is the skyrocketing of prices at home, a telling indication of the growing deprivation suffered by workers, peasants and small business men. A survey made by the Bank of Japan and quoted in the China Weekly Review of December 31 shows that the retail prices index in Tokyo, with 1933 represented as 100, stood at 211.9 on December 17, while the November wholesale price index (again with 1933 as 100) stood at 141. In terms of purchasing power of the masses—not taking into consideration the decline in the purchasing power of the yen—this means that consumers are now paying more than twice as much for articles of daily use as they were in 1933. The tremendous rise in retail prices also indicates the extent to which speculation is rife because of the shortage of consumer goods. Government price regulation has been able to slow down, but not check, the fantastic soaring of prices.

In the N.Y. Times report above quoted, one of the significant effects of government limitations is given as "the necessity for a large number of small and medium-sized industrialists to change the

nature of their enterprises altogether or to close down their plants." In other words, in addition to the extractions being levied on workers and peasants, the small business man, even the "middle-sized industrialist," is likewise feeling the squeeze. Many of them are being forced out of business. Others are facing the necessity of reorganizing their enterprises, a reorganization that can only be effected with considerable monetary losses to the industrialists involved, and loss of jobs for workers.

Currency Backing Constantly Decreasing Inflation is a further sign of the strain on the country's economy. Japanese statesmen and financiers do not admit that inflation has taken place, but facts belie their pretensions. Domei, in a December 20 Tokyo dispatch, stated: "The note circulation in Japan has risen so high that the gold reserves of the Nipponese state bank are insufficient to provide the legal gold coverage prescribed in the present Bank of Japan law." Which is to say that the backing for Japan's currency is constantly shrinking toward the danger point.

There can be no doubt about the extremely shaky nature of Japan's economy, and the grueling effects this is having upon her people. But the end is not yet in sight. A whole series of new taxes are being put into effect: new commodity taxes on soap, tooth powder, tea and coffee; raised consumption taxes on sugar, sake and textiles; new "luxury" taxes; etc.

Japan's budget for the current year, just under Yen 3,700,000,000, is the largest budget in the history of the country. But this includes only a portion of estimated expenditures, for it does not take into consideration the special military budget, which has been announced to be about Yen 5,270,000,000, making a total outlay for the year of nearly Yen 10,000,000,000. This figure is equivalent to Japan's entire national debt at the commencement of the war in China.

Thomas Jefferson's Strange Return to Life

The Stalinists Do Violence To The Whole History Of Early America In Order To Present Jefferson As One Of The Patrons Of "Twentieth Century Americanism"

(Concluded from last issue) Stalinism has long ago abandoned that axiom of Marxism, "Tell the workers the truth." In their indecent lust to become "respectable," the Stalinist lickspittles and toadies have made a ridiculous cult of certain political figures from the history of the American bourgeoisie. They bandy about the names of Paine, Andrew Jackson, and others with a feverish devotion bordering on lunacy, going so far as to have Earl Browder declaim, "Our program for Socialism is organically linked up with, is a necessary outgrowth from the traditional American Democracy as founded by Thomas Jefferson—whose political descendants we are." This slippery Stalinist hedges and qualifies enough to admit that the economic basis of an agricultural nation of small land holders has completely disappeared, but that nevertheless, by being loyal to Jefferson's humanitarianism, "... we have thereby a complete amalgamation of Jefferson's teachings with those of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. We have the full program of the Communist Party."

Misunderstands Industrial Revolution This historical "lesson" thus dissolves itself into a meaningless and nonsensical generalization. Jefferson's many utterances on freedom, liberty, and so on, can be used and have been used by any demagogue to back up any program. Every capitalist politician makes similar remarks; what he does in practice with power when he has it is the important test. The multifarious effect this faked and murky "history" has upon the young students and intellectuals associated with or under the influence of the C.P. is disagreeably evident to all who know them. This is the famous "education" the Stalinists were going to bring to their "allies" of the Popular Front!

In an effort to bolster up their phoney "ancestor," the Stalinists tell us that Jefferson's aspirations were wrecked by the Industrial Revolution, "which he could not foresee." This is absolutely false. The Industrial Revolution dates from the middle of the 18th Century, was producing its effect all around Jefferson all throughout his life, and was understood by many observers—Hamilton, for one. Had not Jefferson been blinded by his class interest as an agrarian, he would not have so completely misunderstood the importance of the machine and for as a

man constantly in public life, traveler, observer of the French Revolution, President of the United States from 1800 to 1808, he was in the most favorable position to study these forces which were to shape the future.

Naive Agrarianist Jefferson had a most naive outlook on the agrarian life. "Cultivators of the earth," he cried, "are the most valuable citizens," and "Those who labor in the earth, are the Chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people, whose breasts He has made his peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue." A slaveholder, a large landholder, Jefferson could easily forget that farm life meant back-breaking labor from day to night for all but a few, and thought of it in terms of the leisure and culture which he could enjoy, browsing in the classics of Greek and Roman literature. It was not given to this Virginian gentleman to understand what Marx so bitterly called, "the idiosyncrasy of rural life."

The Marxist understands the cities as the focal points of industry and progress, from whose suffering working population have and will come revolutionary leadership for all the exploited. Jefferson bewailed, "When we get piled upon one another in large cities as in Europe, we shall become corrupt as in Europe, and go to eating one another as they do there."

On European Events In Jefferson's own day, the workers of Paris gathered on the Champs de Mars, to demand from the victorious bourgeoisie—in the name of those fine ideals the bourgeoisie claimed—full, manhood suffrage. They were ruthlessly dispersed by armed troops under Lafayette.

The unrest of workers in England and France, the birth struggles of this new class could mean nothing to Jefferson who believed, "The mobs of the great cities add just so much to the support of pure government, as sores do to the strength of the human body." The proportion of the working class of a country to its farmers, he described as the proportion "of its unsound to its healthy parts." The unorganized, desperate revolts of the laborers seemed to him like anarchy, and senseless violence: "I consider the class of artificers (city workers of the period) as the panders of vice, and the instruments by which the liberties of a country are generally overturned."

Jefferson died, still blind to the great historic forces gathering strength in the cities of industrial Europe. Only 22 years after his death, the whole continent was shaking with the Revolutions of 1848, and the young Karl Marx with eyes fixed to the future was writing for the workers he honored and loved, the "Communist Manifesto." Yet it is the name of Jefferson, idealist who never comprehended the historical role of the machine, and who, like any bourgeois, mistrusted and feared the workers—it is this name that the Stalinist, Browder, would write beside those of Marx and Engels.

No, Thomas Jefferson, a capable and eloquent leader in the revolt of the American bourgeoisie, remains just that and nothing more. He is not the ancestor of revolutionary Marxism—not even of degenerate Stalinism. If he has political descendants today, it is in the ranks of the Southern Agrarians, dilettante reactionaries who seek to crawl backward into history in fright before the mighty problems posed by the collapse of modern capitalism. Their program proves their legitimacy—as expressed by Herbert Agar, it sees our crisis as primarily a "moral" one—"a selfish and greedy people cannot be free." Let Mr. Browder return Jefferson to Agar, Allan Tate, etc. if he belongs to anyone, he belongs to them.

Expect Lies to Pass Why does Stalinism seek to wrap itself in these musty but patriotic robes? Betraying the true interests of workers everywhere, it intends to deliver into the arms of American imperialism its befuddled and deceived followers and sympathizers. Sweating with the anxiety that they will not be recognized and accepted as allies by the powerful American capitalists, the C.P. abandons internationalism for patriotic slogans, and clothes itself in whatever Stalin and Browder think will please the new-found masters. Thomas Jefferson and his "democracy," his empty but eloquent catch-phrases, have been greedily seized, for Browder's contempt for his own following is such that he expects the most stupid lies to pass unnoticed.

Nothing, however, will save the Communist Party from the coming split in its own ranks, the results of the anger and awakening of its long suffering rank and file. In so far as American history becomes clear to them, the Stalinist nonsense about Jefferson will add its bit to the final crack-up.

THEIR GOVERNMENT By James Burnham

The Fansteel Metallurgical Company is located in North Chicago. During the latter part of 1936, the overwhelming majority of its workers joined the C.I.O., and asked the company for recognition. The management, however, had for years enjoyed the profitable blessings of an unorganized plant. They indignantly pointed out to the men that "outside" unions were un-American.

The opinion was a normal one. After all, under the blessed system of "free enterprise," should not a patriotic American boss be permitted to keep wages as low as he pleases, to pile on the speedup when competition gets keener, to fire any employee who sneezes at the wrong moment? "Outside" unions certainly play hell with the good old-fashioned ways of bosses.

The management told the C.I.O., nothing doing. And just to be on the safe side, the management did a little organizing on its own account. It hired a labor relations magician who pulled a cozy little company union out of his hat. It isolated one of the most militant unionists in a job that prevented him from being in contact with his fellow-workers. It fired a few others. It brought a stool-pigeon or two in from one of the best agencies. It undertook a well planned publicity campaign among its employees, their families and the community on the evils of outside unionism. But somehow the men kept asking for recognition. And the management each time kept refusing and then redoubling the campaign against the union.

Time to Stop the Run Around So, on February 17, 1937, the workers decided that the run around had been going on long enough. They had been, God knows, reasonable enough. They were getting nowhere. They knew that the company's acts had been brazenly and openly illegal; and they knew that neither the company nor the police nor the courts gave a damn whether the acts were illegal or not. The time had come to protect the right to a job and a decent living by the only means left.

With complete quiet and discipline the workers sat down in two of the company's key buildings. For ten days they sat there, maintaining their discipline, keeping the buildings and machinery in perfect condition. The management "discharged" them; but the workers were guarding their jobs and they continued to sit.

Law and Order Yet to Work But, lo and behold, after the long, long months of silence and reserve, the forces of law and order sprang suddenly to life. The rights of citizens were being invaded! Time for justice to come to the rescue!

Did law and order clap a summons on the management for their illegal fostering of a company union, their illegal employment of a labor spy, their illegal discriminations and discharges, their illegal refusal to bargain with the union? I need not tell you, dear reader: law and order did not.

Law and order, in the person of a dignified judge of a state court, bowed politely to the management and issued an injunction requiring the workers to vacate the premises of the company. A sheriff and his merry men came to the buildings bearing the injunction order. But the workers believed that their right to a job was superior to the injunction; and the sheriff, after an encounter which he was not willing to confine to words, retired in some confusion.

Justice in Action Law and order were now very upset indeed. Justice came back to the buildings with a formidable enough array of thugs, cops, firemen, deputized gangsters to have besieged Pearl Harbor. A struggle, pictures of which look like high points in the assault on the Alcazar, took place. Fire ladders were raised so that tear gas bombs could be shot into all floors. Guns and clubs that would have stocked an arsenal went into action.

The workers defended themselves with courage and honor. But the forces and weapons against them were too much. They were routed, and placed under arrest. Most were later fined and jailed—for violating the injunction.

The company then happily reformed its company union, as the Rare Metal Workers of America. Some of the sit-downers were graciously permitted to return to work. Many of them were not. Those who were not petitioned through the Labor Board to get their jobs back.

This was the Fansteel case. The facts, known to every worker in Fansteel, to every resident of North Chicago, recorded by the Labor Board, are uncontroverted. The Supreme Court did not question them. "The sit-down," wrote Chief Justice Hughes in the Court's decision for the company, "was a high-handed proceeding without shadow of legal right. . . . The conduct on the part of the employees manifestly gave good cause for their discharge. . . . Manifestly, Justice Hughes, yes, manifestly.

Labor Looks Through The Press By ARTHUR HOPKINS

Carl Winter, newly appointed state secretary of the Minnesota Communist Party, speaking before the "Marxist Club" at the University of Minnesota, declares that the new pilot training courses being instituted by American universities will be of benefit in making the air force more democratic. He adds that the United States army should be cleaned of disloyal and reactionary elements, and points to Spain as a horrible example where the army joined the fascists in opposing the Loyalist government. It will be a great consolation for foreign and domestic workers to know that they and their wives and children are being bombed and murdered by democratic air men.

Says President Roosevelt at Key West: "Private business, and the utilities in particular, need have no fear over New Deal programs."

"Pope Pius had the objective of a Christian renaissance which would have placed the principles of Jesus Christ in Russia and in Asia," says Father Coughlin in a recent radio spiel. We are to presume that Italy, Germany and the "democracies" are plumb full of Christian principles!

One in every fourteen persons in the United States is allergic to certain foods and other substances, according to Dr. Theodore D. Beckwith, professor of bacteriology of the University of California at Los Angeles. And all of us are allergic to capitalism, only it doesn't affect us all the same way.

Persons who are not full-fledged citizens of the United States will be purged from W.P.A. relief rolls starting March 5, according to S.L. Stottle, deputy state administrator of Minnesota. The bosses will not be so particular when they call upon the ex-W.P.A. workers to protect "our" investments overseas.