

Workers  
of the World  
Unite!

# Socialist Appeal

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Build  
Workers Defense  
Guards!

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## WORLD AWAITS MARCHING ORDER

### Thrust at Relief Is Congress Plan

Lasser-Benjamin Testimony Aids Reactionary  
Schemes By Forswearing Militant  
Action of Unemployed

### LABOR STANDARDS FACE WIDE BARRAGE

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
WASHINGTON, April 20.—A major thrust in the advancing offensive against the unemployed has been projected for early next week, according to Congressmen who have been leading the campaign of the Roosevelt Administration to slash relief appropriations and dump the money into the war machine.

This attack on the unemployed and their organizations is proceeding hand in hand with the developing offensive against unions and union rights through court decisions and through the barrage laid down against the provisions of the Wagner Act.

First, Colonel F. C. Harrington, W.P.A. Administrator, will be called before the House Appropriations subcommittee which is now "investigating" relief and W.P.A. under the leadership of Representative Woodrum and demanded to brand the Workers Alliance as an "improper" representative of the relief workers.

If Harrington "recognizes" the Workers Alliance as an organization of the unemployed, then the second move will be initiated. Legislation will be introduced in Congress refusing to grant relief funds to any member of the Workers Alliance.

**Blow Against Jobless**  
This is a deliberate blow cold-bloodedly designed against all the unemployed, whether they belong to any particular unemployed organization or not.

It comes as an immediate result of the admissions by Workers Alliance bureaucrats Lasser and Benjamin before Woodrum's "investigating" committee that they no longer believe in militant action and support no strike action by unemployed workers.

**Ignores Loyalty Oaths**  
Woodrum, who has long been notorious for his bitter opposition to any appropriations whatever for the relief of the unemployed, contemptuously brushed aside all Lasser's and Benjamin's protestations of loyalty to the U. S. government. Woodrum is not interested in listening to oaths of allegiance to the flag but in squeezing down relief appropriations to the last possible notch of starvation.

The seriousness of the offensive under way against the unemployed is thus demonstrated in inescapable terms. Unless immediate protests of a militant nature are launched by the unemployed on a nation-wide scale, the unemployed will find their organizations shattered, every cent of the funds which is theirs diverted into the war machine, and the most terrible hunger and suffering inflicted on their ranks.

### BENJAMIN SAYS 'UNITED STATES NOT CAPITALIST'

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
WASHINGTON, April 19.—Herbert Benjamin and David Lasser in testifying at the hearings held during the past two days by the House W.P.A. "Investigating" Committee headed by Representative Woodrum have groveled about as low as it is possible to go without leaving the toe caps and getting down under the sole of the boot.

Herbert Benjamin and David Lasser are the topmost bureaucrats in the Workers Alliance, Stalinist-controlled unemployed organization. Representative Woodrum, one of the most violent and ferocious opponents in

### NATIONAL COAL STRIKE THREAT MADE BY LEWIS

Government Fears Blow  
At War Preparation  
Program

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Threat of a nation-wide coal industry shut-down was hurled this week by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, in an effort to break the deadlock reached in negotiations with the Appalachian soft coal operators.

It would add 50,000 more strikers in Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois to the 320,000 who walked out of the mines on April 1. Union notices were served to the mid-west operators informing them of the pending shut-down on May 1, if the present dispute is not settled.

Another 100,000 anthracite miners and soft-coal miners who are not directly engaged in the present strike might also be called out, Lewis declared. Combined with the acute shortage of coal in the railroad industry, in large cities like New York, and in mid-west in-

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### C.I.O. Auto Union Faces Attack from Many Sides

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
The Auto Union now finds itself in the strange position of possessing a highly democratic union constitution and an unscrupulous, autocratic gang of Stalinist machine politicians running its leading executive board. How did this bizarre combination ever come into existence?

The recent Cleveland convention, representing the overwhelming majority of the organized automobile workers, saw a great opposition movement on the part of the rank and file delegates who were indignant at the incompetence and treachery of their top union leadership. They had witnessed, since their historic meeting in Milwaukee, autocratic abuse of power on the part of both Homer Martin and his opponents and had seen their union being torn to pieces by an unscrupulous factional battle of union cliques and politicians.

Broad sections of the rank and file delegations, representing the genuine desires and aspirations of their memberships, took home came down to Cleveland determined to make the union constitution "air-tight" to prevent, in their opinion, a repetition of any attempts to set up a dictatorship in the union.

**How Reorganize Union?**  
How was the union to be reorganized and set moving on the right road? The rank and file delegates believed the problem would be solved by writing up a model constitution providing for faultless democratic procedures and rules. What about the problem of the leadership of the union? Chrysler local No. 7 said "Clean House. Out with the present 24 executive board members."

### The Difference in "Principle!"



### Sailors Victorious in Government Pledge to Discontinue Hiring Halls

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
SAN FRANCISCO—The long fight of the Sailors Union of the Pacific against government-controlled hiring halls resulted in a signal victory last week when, in response to the demand of the union, Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce, gave a written pledge to discontinue government hiring halls.

It was in the midst of a coast-wide strike vote being taken by the Sailors Union that Hopkins gave his word that the shipping commissioners, who are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce, would no longer maintain hiring halls.

**Union Hiring Halls**  
The S.U.P. won the fundamental right to union hiring halls as the result of the famous 99-day maritime strike in 1938-1937. The Stalinist-controlled seamen on the East Coast never achieved this basic right.

The entire fight against government-controlled hiring halls has been led and almost entirely limited to the Sailors Union on the Pacific, except for considerable rank-and-file support from seamen and firemen on both coasts. The only picket lines against the East Coast commission hiring-halls were conducted by the S.U.P. The pro-Roosevelt and pro-war orientation of the Stalinists made it impossible for them to support this militant action.

**Commission's Alibi**  
The U.S. Maritime Commission had justified its attempt to foist hiring halls on the sailors by the contention, enunciated by the commission's chairman, Admiral Land, that the merchant marine must be considered "an auxiliary to the Navy."

While the strike vote was being taken on the seven seas, Harry Lundeberg, secretary treasurer of the S.U.P., was sent to Washington by the Union. He was first able to secure backing of Department of Labor officials for the union's position. "Madame Perkins has dealt with the S.U.P. before and she knows our action on the Copeland Fink Book," Lundeberg reported, "so she knows the S.U.P. is one organization that is not bluffing when they say they are striking the coast. . . . It is admitted by Admiral Land and everybody that the (commission) ships would have been on the way to the west coast with fink-hall crews by now, had it not been for the action of the sailors union."

The Maritime Commission—a recent creation of President Roosevelt—utilized a law dat-

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### Peoples of All Nations Face Ghastly Slaughter

### Krivitsky Reveals Stalin Attempts to Woo Hitler

Disclosures by Former G.P.U. Chief Show How  
Gestapo Helped Frame-Up Case  
Against Tukhachevsky

Anglo-French diplomacy is making the most intensive effort to woo the Soviet Union into their bloc against Hitler. So far, however, Moscow has continued to preserve the cautious middle-of-the-road position it has occupied in European politics ever since Munich.

Ever since 1933 when Stalin openly offered friendship to Hitler and was rebuffed, it has been understood that some kind of deal with Hitler remained in the background of Stalin's calculations. When the People's Front set-up collapsed after Munich and in Spain, Stalin returned to this project as a possible way out of the horribly isolated and perilously exposed position in which the U.S.S.R. found itself as a result of Stalin's abandonment of the international revolutionary movement.

**AVOID PRESSING  
G.P.U. LINKS AT  
PASSPORT TRIAL**

**Hush-Hush Policy Aids  
Future Frame-Ups  
By Stalin**

By NAT LEVINE  
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
NEW YORK—As the conspiracy trial of passport forgers Ossip Garber, Aaron Sharf, and Edward Blatt moved into its second week before Judge Henry W. Goddard in Federal Court, it has become apparent that the government prosecutors have so far deliberately avoided establishing the Stalinist connections of the defendants.

Although the prosecution has already presented a great mass of incriminating evidence against the three men and will continue to press its case in the coming weeks, its disinclination to air the Stalinist connections of the conspirators is nicely covering up the G.P.U.

**Hush-Hush Policy**  
This is a continuation of the (Continued on Page 3)

### Y.P.S.L. Leads Militant Student Anti-War Strike

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
NEW YORK, April 21.—The cleavage between the anti-war and the pro-war forces was clearly demonstrated Thursday on every college campus.

For the past few years, in April, students have quit their classrooms in protest against imperialist war moves. This year the students were confronted by the pro-war Stalinists and the American Student Union vociferously proclaiming their intention to support Roosevelt in a new "war for democracy." They were, however, supported by much smaller crowds than last year.

In most schools the Young People's Socialist League (4th International) led the anti-war forces. The key slogan was the Oxford Pledge which is a pledge not to support any war which the United States government may undertake.

The Y.P.S.L. (4th International) gave a demonstration of what an anti-war strike can be like at City Evening on Wednesday night. 150 Yipsels, in uniform, carrying hundreds of placards and torches marched, sang and shouted slogans. Over 300 people heard James Burnham, editor of the New Internationalist, and Nathan Gould, National Secretary of the Y.P.S.L. Stalinists tried to drown out the speakers by heckling but they were quickly shut up. A march around the Campus and the singing of the Internationale wound up a colorful meeting.

Shachtman at C.C.N.Y.  
At City College 400 students thunderously applauded Max

### Politicians Stage Final Maneuvers for War Alliances

### ARMIES ON MOVE

Helpless millions throughout the world are waiting for the war clouds to break over their heads.

A handful of politicians, generals, bankers, and big capitalists are moving huge armies and navies across land and sea and manipulating whole populations like so many chips in a poker game.

Britain and France have made it plain that they intend now to fight to hold on to the colonies, the markets, the natural resources and the millions of black, brown, and yellow slaves in Africa and Asia upon whom their power rests.

Germany and Italy have played their own hijacking game just about as far as it can go without a war. Danzig may be the last thing Hitler will be able to rake in without having to draw his guns—and perhaps not even Danzig.

**F.D.R. Serves Notice**  
President Roosevelt has already served notice on the American people that he intends to throw this country's forces into the impending conflict over the world's riches. He talks about "democracy" but what he means is that Wall Street imperialism intends this time to snatch a major part of the world's swag for itself and complete its world financial domination with even more direct political control of the major markets, especially in the Far East and in Latin America.

His "plea" to Hitler and Mussolini was primarily, as the New York Times was blunt enough to admit, for the "record." When he issues his war call he will be able to tell the American masses that he did everything possible to keep the peace.

**"Breathing Space" Impossible**  
Mussolini, in his own squeaky little way, has already made his negative reply to the Roosevelt proposal for a ten-year armistice. But the real reply will come on April 28 when Hitler, the boss of the axis partnership, will in all probability serve on the world a sweeping series of axis demands as the price of terminating, for the time being, direct territorial grabs.

Neither Germany nor Italy can actually even consider a ten-year "breathing space" because the Fascist regimes could not withstand the terrific economic strain for that long, especially since there is no prospect of any general improvement in world economic conditions. They are driven to seek new markets, new colonies, new spheres of exploitation and to get them by any or all the foul means made familiar by the past history of imperialist expansion on the part of Britain, France, the United States, and all the other lesser freebooters.

**"Democracy" Talk Bunk**  
The so-called "democracies" on their part are going to hold on to their empires with all the force they can muster. Big finance in London, Paris, and New York is ready to protect its millions from its rivals down to the last drop of workers' blood.

That is why we are today on the brink of a new ghastly world slaughter. All the rest about "democracy" and "civilization" and "freedom" is just so much bunk. Ask the peoples of India, the blacks of Africa, the Indo-Chinese, the peoples of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Brazil, about the "democracy" of Britain, France, and the United States! Ask the workers of Great Britain who have already been told they are going to have forced labor and regional dictatorships in war!

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