

# TAKE SLAVE WAGES OR STARVE! DECLARES 'PINK SLIP' ROOSEVELT

## Let the People Vote on War!

By JAMES BURNHAM

III

### The Opposition to the War Referendum

SEVERAL years ago, Representative Ludlow of Indiana put the war referendum plan into a resolution which he introduced in the House of Representatives; and last year his resolution came up for a test vote in the House. From association with his name, the plan is often referred to as the "Ludlow amendment." It should be noticed that Ludlow's original bill did not embody the plan in its simple and direct form. He attached a proviso: the popular referendum was not to be held if the mainland of the United States were invaded.

Ludlow has re-introduced his resolution, with several more provisos, at the present session of Congress; and a similar resolution has been sponsored in the Senate by a group of Senators headed by LaFollette of Wisconsin. In both of the current resolutions, the referendum would not operate if either the mainland of the United States or any of its territories and possessions or any part of Latin America were invaded or immediately threatened by invasion. In other words, the present Ludlow and LaFollette resolutions provide for a referendum only in the case of a war conducted by the United States in Europe, Asia or Africa. Congress would otherwise retain the present Constitutional right to declare war.

### What Is Behind the Opposition?

It might be supposed that these sweeping provisos—about which I shall have something to say in the next section—would remove all the "objections" to the plan. Does not everyone from Roosevelt down assure us that the United States will never go to war for "aggressive" purposes, that the young men of this country will never again be sent to fight abroad, that the armament of the United States is being built up for purely defensive purposes? What possible objection can they have when the people ask to vote, not on all wars, but just on those obviously and blatantly aggressive wars which they say the United States will never fight?

Nevertheless, the fight against the war referendum plan, in any and all of its forms, has from the beginning been as powerful and bitter as the strength of its opponents can bring to bear. Through every channel of public opinion, speech and newspaper and magazine and pulpit, the attack has been conducted.

What lies behind this fierce opposition to this plan, approved of by more than two-thirds of the people? The people have the right to know.

Among the sharp opponents of the war referendum, we discover: the heads of the Democratic Party, including Roosevelt and his Secretary of State, Cordell Hull; the heads of the Republican Party, including Herbert Hoover, Alfred M. Landon, and the influential Henry L. Stimson, Hoover's Secretary of State; the Liberty League, and the American Legion officials; all of the most powerful newspapers, particularly the most reactionary newspapers such as the New York *Herald-Tribune* and the New York *Times*, and the Chicago *Tribune*; all of the most widely read of the big-shot columnists, especially Walter Lippman, General Hugh S. Johnson, and Dorothy Thompson; and the Communist Party.

For the most part, the attacks on the war referendum plan are in a tone of hysterical frenzy; all supporters of the plan are denounced as "unpatriotic" and it is suggested that they are influenced by paid propaganda agents of foreign nations; the lack of real arguments is covered by heavy flag-waving and big adjectives.

### Arguments Hold No Water

When we examine the arguments which some of the opponents try sometimes to put forward, they boil down to three: (1) the referendum would be contrary to "our representative theory of government" established by the Constitution; (2) holding a referendum would show other nations that "the country is divided"; (3) the requirement of a referendum before entering a war would "hamper" the government in its foreign policy.

Each of these arguments is a complete absurdity from the point of view of genuine democracy.

Granted that the United States has a representative form of government. But what is the government supposed to represent? The will of the people, presumably. No question could be more important than that of war. If those who claim to be representatives of the people believed that the nation should enter a war, then a popular vote on the issue could only help to prove whether they were in truth

(Continued on Page 3)

## Minnesota Labor Honors Its Martyr

### A.F.L.-C.I.O. Resolution Places Responsibility for Violence Against W.P.A. Strikers on Federal and Local Administrations

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, July 16—Organized labor will honor with a mass funeral this week its martyr, Emil Bergstrom, the unemployed worker killed by a police bullet in the Friday evening attack on the W.P.A. picket lines.

The Joint Action Committee, constituted by all the labor organizations of the city, sent a committee to Governor Stassen Saturday which demanded that all W.P.A. projects stay closed, and that there be no more violence and provocation against the workers by the police. The committee agreed to meet with state W.P.A. administrator Glotzbach Monday only if all Minneapolis projects stay closed. Later in the day, after telephoning his chief, Harrington, in Chicago, Glotzbach announced the projects would stay closed. The Joint Action Committee had won its point!

Responsibility for the murder of Bergstrom and the shooting and injury of 24 others was laid at the door of the Roosevelt administration in a sharply-worded resolution adopted Saturday afternoon by a meeting of all union business agents and officials, including both A.F.L. and C.I.O.

The resolution is undoubtedly a landmark in the militant development of the American labor movement. It deserves quotation in its entirety:

"Whereas this combined united front of Minneapolis labor holds that the murderous assault of the Minneapolis police grew directly from the actions of persons and agencies named below, and

"Whereas this tragic attack by police upon workers, innocent bystanders and children present, came as a direct result of the actions of the persons and agencies named below,

### All the News That's Fit to Print???

That Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, sent by Attorney General Murphy to "investigate" the Minneapolis W.P.A. strike, joined police in last Friday's attack on the picket lines, was revealed by the following paragraph in a special dispatch to the New York Times, July 15:

"The police said Federal agents, cruising the scene in a car to determine whether there had been unlawful interference with persons desiring to work, also loosed gas upon the crowd."

This paragraph was part of the story appearing in the midnight edition of the Times. The later editions appeared WITHOUT IT.

low; and is not understandable without the policies and actions taken by these persons and these agencies.

"Be it Resolved: That the combined united labor front of A.F.L., C.I.O., Workers Alliance and the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 places direct responsibility and blame for the Minneapolis situation upon:

"1. The present contemptuous and unyielding policy of the Works Progress Administration, national, state and local, as witnessed by the actions of Colonel Harrington toward the

(Continued on Page 3)

## S.W.P. LEADS ANTI-COUGHLIN PICKET LINE

### Anti-Fascist Arrested For Protesting Police Interference

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

PHILA., Pa., July 15—Despite a detail of more than 200 police and plainclothesmen, who forbade any picketing or holding of street corner meetings, the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League went through with their demonstration against a Coughlinite meeting held last night at the Metropolitan Opera House.

The picket line, with banners high and singing loudly, marched down Broad Street until they were besieged by a cordon of cops a half block away from the "Met".

Denied permission to proceed further by the police who outnumbered the pickets, the demonstrators turned their banners toward Broad Street where the masses could see them, and then continued voicing their anti-fascist slogans.

When Lou Roberts, a non-party picket attempted to address the crowd on Broad Street and explain that the demonstrators were being denied their elementary civil rights, and that the Coughlinites were always given permission and protection to picket radio stations that did not carry the Coughlin speech every Sunday, he was immediately seized and brutally thrown into a patrol wagon.

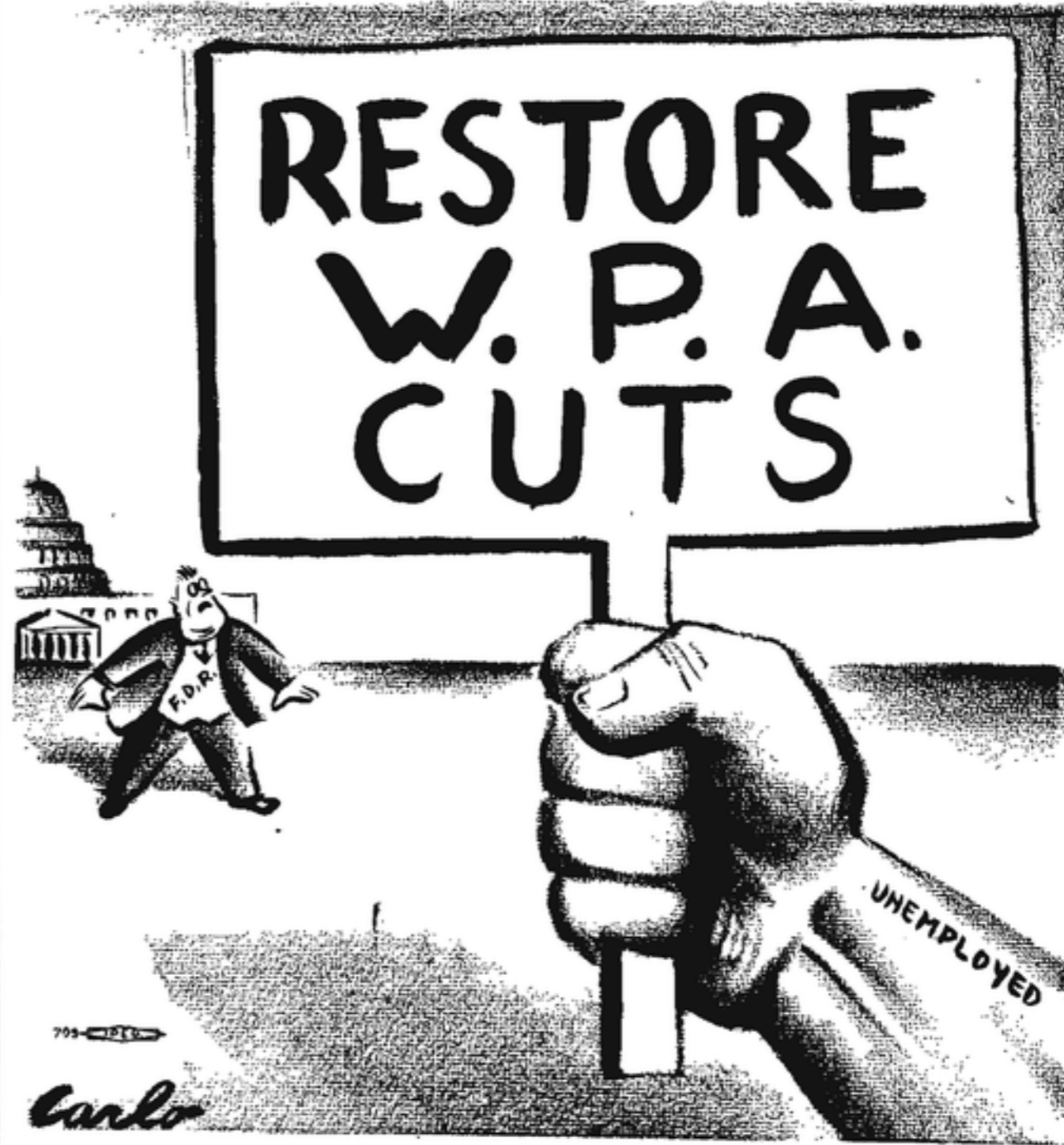
The S.W.P. legal defense staff had him released in less than an hour from the station house where he was charged with unlawful assembly. At the magistrate's hearing Roberts was held in \$500 bail for a further hearing. The S.W.P. furnished the bail to release him from the County prison where he was committed.

Coughlin addressed the audience by a direct telephone wire from Royal Oak, Mich. He went through his usual diatribes against the "Communists" in the trade unions.

The S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. only learned of the meeting three days before it was held. In this short time 5500 leaflets were distributed; scores of street corner meetings were held; and a number of trade unions contacted.

Join the Socialist  
Workers Party

## Project No. 1



## News From WPA Strike Fronts Shows Picket Lines Hold Solid

### An Education in Politics

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Heard on the strike front from a W.P.A. worker:

8:00 A.M.—Those are lies of the Boss papers! Roosevelt is not against the workers.

9:00 A.M.—That's strange, I thought Roosevelt was with us.

10:00 A.M.—By —, Roosevelt didn't say anything against the cuts, did he?

11:00 A.M.—Jiminy, he's been fooling us all the while.

12:00 Noon—He's nothing but No. 1 strike-breaker.

1:00 P.M.—What? The Stalinist leaders of the Workers Alliance endorsed Roosevelt for a third term? Holy cuts!

ROCHESTER

### Strike Compels Shutting Of All W. P. A. Operations

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ROCHESTER, N. Y., July 17—Faced with a 100 per cent shutdown of W.P.A. projects by the strikers, the W.P.A. authorities on orders from State Administrator Herzog yesterday suspended all W.P.A. operations in Monroe County.

The amazing factor in the strike situation here is that the W.P.A. workers have held out in this strike without organization and leadership. They have simply been driven to the point of desperation by the Roosevelt relief

(Continued on Page 4)

ST. PAUL

### Federal and Local Cops Fail to Scare Srikers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 16—The labor movement of this city is not lagging behind its Twin City brother, Minneapolis. The W.P.A. projects are struck effectively.

It was not long before forty or fifty cops of Attorney General Murphy's Federal Bureau of Investigation descended on the scene to spy on the activities of the strikers. They snooped

(Continued on Page 4)

## Somervell Orders Dismissal Of 75,000

### Statement Makes It Clear that Layoffs Are Permanent

By TONY CHAPMAN

Having spent last week in Chicago conferring with Col. F. C. Harrington, national W.P.A. administrator, Col. Brehon Somervell, local W.P.A. chief, came home Saturday to announce that 75,000 W.P.A. workers in New York would be dismissed by September 1 under the 18-month "rotation" provision of the Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Relief Act.

Somervell declared that the removal of workers under the 18-month clause "is a straight layoff and not a furlough." This

### LABOR SPEAKS

"... The President is definitely aligned against Labor... It was his wish and his will that prompted Congress to completely reverse the Administration's labor policy... From now on Labor can look for few crumbs under the table of the New Deal."—Minnesota Union Advocate. (See Page 3)

is the first official statement indicating that the Roosevelt Administration's interpretation of the W.P.A. law would mean permanent layoffs.

Twenty five hundred pink slips daily—that's the ration that the New Deal is handing out to New York's W.P.A. workers for the next six weeks. The first victims received theirs Tuesday.

Although 75,000 workers will be dropped from W.P.A., Somervell declared that no attempt will be made to replace them with a similar number from the Home Relief Rolls. Only 42,000 workers will be permitted to replace the number of men fired by September 1, Somervell stated.

That those dismissed face the prospect of long drawn out attempts to establish themselves on the Home Relief Rolls was indicated by Welfare Commissioner William Hodson. Hodson stated that it will take at least one month for these workers to get on the municipal relief rolls, and that only one-third to one-half of those fired from W.P.A. would ultimately get on the rolls.

### FINKS FIND GOING TOUGH

ST. PAUL—Things sure are pretty tough for a poor scab these days. Everybody is against him; strikers beat him up, decent people boo him, and the boss coppers, who protect him, hate him. But to top it all off, even his boss, the W.P.A. administration doesn't appreciate his belly crawling. In White Bear, Minn., the scabs who have been working have threatened to strike if they cannot make up their time. It sure don't pay to fink on the workers!

### CHICAGO

### Building Trades Council Calls Men Out on Strike

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO—In the second week of the nation-wide W.P.A. strike a special meeting of the Chicago Building Trades Council unanimously adopted an order for all building trades workers representing 212 locals to cease work on 65 projects.

This official action brought out many additional workers to swell the strikers' ranks in the city to over five thousand. At the same time the Sewer and Tunnel Miners' Union has called out its skilled workers and have thus compelled the closing of this project which employs in the neighborhood of 10,000.

The official strike figures handed out by the administration in the person of Charles E. Miner, State W.P.A. administrator, estimates 12,250 strikers in Illinois, exclusive of Chicago. Yet, in the same breath, Miner announces that 25,000 W.P.A. workers will be severed from their projects unless they report to work at once.

The strikes are now in operation in Chicago, Southern Illinois, East St. Louis, Carlinville, Belleville and LaSalle County.

PHILADELPHIA

### Strike Called On All Gov't Financed Projects

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

PHILADELPHIA, July 17—The Philadelphia Building Trades Council called a strike today on all government-financed projects effective 6 p. m. Wednesday.

"All building construction projects financed in part or whole by the Federal Government will be stopped by removal of all our members in support of our action with regard to the lockout now in existence on W.P.A.," announced Norman Blumberg, secretary-treasurer of the council.

Of 25,000 Pennsylvania building trades workers, 17,000 are affiliated to the Philadelphia locals.

The Pittsburgh building trades unions struck the W.P.A. last week.