

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

Leon Blum Reveals His Role In Installing Daladier

In a recent polemic with a bourgeois opponent, Leon Blum speaks with startling candor about the part he has played in installing the current Daladier reaction as the political regime in France. Writing in *Le Populaire* on July 8, he boasts of "having done everything possible to insure a peaceful transfer of power (into the hands of Chautemps, Daladier's friend) on June 20, 1937."

"I left no stone unturned," he writes, "to see that things were done just that way."

"If I had backed the Senate, if I had decided upon resistance, if I had called upon the masses of the people for support of such resistance, indeed if I had only allowed the masses free play for their instinctive movement, very likely M. Wladimir d'Ormesson [the gentleman against whom the polemic is directed—P.G.S.] and his friends would have felt shivers creeping down their spines of the same kind as in May and June, 1936."

Nor is this said in a spirit of penitence.

"I have nothing to regret in my conduct of that time," Blum adds. The former Premier winds up his article by reproaching "bourgeois of the type of M. d'Ormesson" that they simply dub as impotence "that which they should praise, they more than anyone else, as an act of wisdom."

"Fortunately," he concludes, "we are wiser than they."

Fortunately, for the capitalist class, naturally. Not for the workers, certainly.

Daladier Plans Frame-Ups Against French Anti-Militarists

To the list of French anti-militarists arranged before Daladier's courts has been added the name of Lucien Weitz, youth leader of the Socialist Workers and Peasants Party (P.S.O.P.). Together with Marceau Pivert, Jaquier, Goldschild and Lafeuve, other leading militants of this party, Weitz is charged with inciting the military to disobedience.

But, aside from that charge, the youth leader is also being prosecuted for "divulging information relating to an espionage case." This latter charge is based on the publication of the following item in *Jeune Garde*, the paper which Weitz edited:

"Comrade Steve of the J.S.R. (Revolutionary Socialist Youth, French youth section of the Fourth International which recently merged with the P.S.O.P. youth) has been under arrest for more than a week; he is held in solitary confinement without the possibility of any contact with the outside world."

From the charge, it is evident that Comrade Steve, as well as our comrades Rigal and Schmitt, whose case has been reported in this column repeatedly, are actually being framed-up as spies.

That some such kind of an amalgam is being planned is further confirmed by reports in last Friday's paper of the arrest of a stenographer employed by the Senate military appropriations committee who is alleged to be a member of the "pacifist wing of the Socialist party which recently split away from the main body," namely the P.S.O.P. The Senate stenographer is also held on an espionage charge. His name is linked in the newspaper dis-

patches with that of Otto Abetz, avowed Gestapo agent, who was expelled from France several weeks ago. The Daladier government has learned a good deal from Gestapo and G.P.U. frame-up methods.

Belgian Militants Appeal for Help in Miners' Struggle

Some time ago we reported that the Belgian boss class locked out some 4,500 workers who stood their ground against downward revisions in the wage and hour scales when renewal of contracts came up in the Levant du Fluviu mines.

The lockout is still in full force. Some 20,000 persons are on the brink of starvation. The reformist leaders of the miners union have remained absolutely passive. Only our comrades of the Belgian Revolutionary Socialist Party are carrying on a campaign for militant action. As the first need of the hour, they have launched the slogan of equal division of work among all the miners in the region in those mines which the lockout has not yet affected. It is a demand which has found a ready response among the active militants in the mines who know what demoralization of their locked-out comrades can mean for their whole movement.

Meanwhile our comrades, whose main base is in the mine regions, have encountered the greatest difficulty in raising the material means for their campaign. The miners who make up the bulk of the members of the party are penniless.

In a deeply moving letter, Comrade Walter Dauge, the leader of the P.S.R. has appealed to us here in America to come to the aid of the Belgian party.

The S.O.S. of our Belgian miner comrades must not be left unanswered. Collect and send in contributions for them to this column. They will be remitted at once.

Send all monies to Socialist Appeal, Attn. Belgian Fund, 116 University Place.

Stalinists Attack Thomas Mann: End of Another People's Front?

In line with the alleged negotiations between the Kremlin and Wilhelmstrasse, it is interesting to note the attack launched by the German Communist Party press against Thomas Mann, the well-known novelist. Up until very recently Mann has been played up by the Stalinists as the true prophet of the German People's Front. No matter what inane, anti-socialist and anti-communist literary twaddle Herr Mann saw fit to bandy about, on the public platform or in print, the paid German agents of Stalin have always leaped to his defense.

Recently Herr Mann referred to certain similarities between the political regime in Russia and that in Germany, at a lecture in New York. For that speech, he has now been attacked by the Stalinist "Runa-Korrespondenz" of Zurich as a "lackey of American big business." If this attack is at all indicative, it is as an adumbration of a change in line on the part of the bowdlerized Comintern. Apparently, the German "People's Front," always more of a caricature of those in France and Spain than anything else, is also about to be officially buried.

New Deal Votes with Reactionaries to Pass House Anti-Labor Bill

(Continued from Page 1): Navy, places new and dangerous restrictions on freedom of speech and press in peace time, strikes at constitutional guarantees against searches and seizures. This section would make it a crime to advise a member of the armed forces to disobey the orders of a superior. A leaflet against the war machine would be so construed.

The second and third sections of the bill are directed against non-citizens. It would extend the grounds for deportation far beyond anything in the past. It would amend existing law to nullify the decision of the Supreme Court in the *Streckler* Case, deporting any alien who belonged to any "anarchistic" organization "at any time, of no matter how short duration, or how far in the past."

It makes even more repressive our present laws which "are more stringent than in any other democratic country in the world," according to the Civil Liberties Union.

Toward Domestic Passports The fourth section provides for the fingerprinting of all incoming aliens, which is an opening wedge for fingerprinting and registration of all aliens, and eventually all citizens in the United States, giving us a domestic passport system similar to those under dictatorship.

One section of the bill, thrown out in committee, was successfully reintroduced on the floor by its author, Democrat Smith of Virginia. It would outlaw teaching or advocating in any form the overthrow of the U. S. government; the printing or publishing of books teaching or advocating the overthrow of the government; or the defending or justifying of such actions; and membership in any organization devoted to such purposes.

The War Deal Coming on the heels of much fantastically reactionary legislation already passed by the House, such as the Hobbs Concentration Camp Bill that pro-

vides for imprisoning aliens ordered deported for whom foreign visas cannot be secured, the Smith Bill is another convincing demonstration that the War Deal is well under way before the war was started. It also gives a good idea of what we may expect from Congress, let alone the president's war machine, when the hysteria gets really going.

The Daily Worker foams against the bill at the same time that it whines that the bill does not apply to Communists, who are not against the government (never was there a truer word spoken). The moral of this is probably that if you turn the other cheek you will get slapped again. The Stalinists do not explain how the "progressive New Deal" majority has shrunk to a tiny minority of 48 to 273.

A Letter to the Lovestone Group

Proposing Effective Labor Action Against the Coughlinite Menace

The Independent Labor League (Lovestonites), through its New York District Organizer, D. Benjamin, recently communicated with the New York District of the Socialist Workers Party suggesting joint street meetings held on selected corners, against the growing Coughlin menace. Below we publish the reply of E. R. Frank, secretary of the New York District S.W.P.:

July 25, 1939

D. Benjamin, New York District Organizer, Independent Labor League of America, 131 West 33rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Dear Comrade: We regret the delay in replying to your letter of June 26. The press of work connected

with our Anti-War Convention interfered with a prompt reply to your communication.

We fully agree that the Coughlin movement, like the rising fascist movements in general, constitutes an acute and immediate menace to all labor organizations. Wherever any Coughlinite hoodlums have been disturbing or threatening meetings of any labor organizations, our Party is ready, for its part, to cooperate to the fullest extent in protecting such meetings.

An Effective Means

However, it is our conviction that the Coughlinite and, in general, the fascist movement, can be effectively counteracted only by the militant, organized action of the unions themselves. The fascists have demonstrated to the hilt that they mean

business, and Labor can meet the menace they represent only if it means business. By that we understand the mobilizing of the most devoted and militant elements in the trade unions into Union Defense Guards. Several union organizations in Ohio, Minnesota and elsewhere have already initiated the establishment of such Guards and with excellent effect from every standpoint.

As you are aware, the proposal to form such Union Defense Guards is now being widely discussed in the more advanced sections of the labor movement in New York, particularly among members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. Were one or more Locals of this powerful Union to endorse and organize a genuine Union Defense Guard, it would constitute a great step forward in the struggle against Fascism.

Zimmerman Support Asked We consider highly desirable cooperation among all elements looking toward such a goal. It would be especially desirable, in our opinion, if so prominent a leader of the I.L.G.W.U. as Vice-President Zimmerman, a member of your organization, were to give his support to the proposal in question.

We are interested in hearing from you on the matters raised in this letter.

Fraternally, E. R. FRANK, Organizer, New York District, Socialist Workers Party

John Boscoe, Minneapolis Central Labor Union Head, Defends WPA Strike

(Continued from Page 1) women were participating in the spontaneous walk-out in protest against this attack on their living standards.

Most Popular Strike "Half a million strikers! Never before, not even in the great Railway strike of 1877 nor in the nationwide struggle for the 8-hour day in 1886, had so many workers engaged in a joint struggle. It is certain that the W.P.A. strike was the most popular movement of protest which has ever occurred in this country. Governor Stassen gives full credit for it to "a small handful of local leaders." The fact is that such widespread protests do not occur without compelling reasons. Here are some of them:

"After the cumulative effects of ten years of unemployment, a more concerted drive against the unemployed began after last November's elections when 300,000 workers were dropped from W.P.A. rolls. Next, early in 1939, non-citizens, widows with children and old age pensioners were dropped from the rolls.

Government Attacks Continue "In recent weeks, the attack on W.P.A. workers reached a peak. Under the leadership of reactionaries Congress passed a cut of 800 million dollars from last year's figures. An inadequate security wage was substituted for the prevailing, or union wage. Then came the Woodrum amendments including the 30-hour lay-off for all WPA employees of 18 months standing; and the W.P.A. administration made it clear that those dropped have a slim chance of re-employment. Finally the new act called for a slash in monthly wages of over one million workers in the North and West.

"As the national protest demonstration grew came three more blows in succession—the announcement that all those away from their jobs for five

back when the full budget was actually received by anybody. The single woman has been receiving 65 percent of the budget: \$13.80 (\$7.80 for rent and 6.00 for food).

20 Cents a Day! But the 65 percent budget is going too. At the present rate, according to Mr. Lyons' calculations, the monthly budget for a single woman will be about six dollars a month.

To show their gratitude for this bounty, 43,000 unemployed have begun scrubbing street signs and gathering rubbish under the supervision of various city departments. Those who refuse to comply with the work relief order will be cut off completely.

The Communist-controlled Workers Alliance of America has not made a single gesture, not a threat, not a move. How can it? Didn't it support Mayor Kelly and the state New Deal in Illinois? The unemployed grow restive, sensing a sell-out. The scheduled one-day strike of the Alliance which was called off in Cook County at the last moment caused revolts in many of the locals, especially in the Negro district where the worst sufferers are.

Two choices lie before 300,000 relief sufferers in Chicago: either learn to eat gravel cinders and glass, or unite to demand the right to live, supporting that demand with action.

the Minneapolis labor leadership of causing great loss and injury to the W.P.A. workers and with placing 10,000 men and women in dire need. Who is it that is injuring the workers of Minneapolis and Minnesota and placing them in dire need? Is it the Minneapolis labor movement that works untiringly to protect labor and win for it a greater share of the good things of life? Or is it the connivers in Congress who pushed through a last-minute relief bill that violated the pledges these Congressmen had made to the people, that slashed the wages of W.P.A. workers, lengthened their hours, and promises to throw 1½ million of them out of employment off W.P.A.?

Recalls Stassen Promises "Come to think of it, it is passing strange that there are ANY unemployed persons in this state, for did not Governor Stassen promise to create jobs in private industry that would absorb the unemployed? Did he not promise the assembled workers on the capitol steps on June 2 that no one would go hungry in Minnesota?

"Where are these jobs you were going to create for the youth and unemployed, Governor Stassen? And is it not true, Governor, that while you are making charges against a group of Minneapolis labor leaders, that during the past week you have had a delegation of labor leaders from the Minnesota Federation of Labor along with Mr. Zanier from the government employes national union calling upon you for a hearing on wholesale discriminatory dismissals of their members during recent days, as well as the charges leveled at your highway department for wage cutting and wholesale lay offs by the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly and the State Machinists Unions?"

President Boscoe concluded: "In this as in all previous W.P.A. demonstrations here, the Minneapolis labor movement has recognized and declared that the main function of such demonstrations is to direct public attention to the unjustifiable problems of unemployment. That was our prime purpose. The fight for jobs at union wages and conditions, and for decent relief standards for those who have no jobs, did not begin nor end with the W.P.A. strike in Minneapolis. The struggle, by the logic of events, now takes other channels. There must be no adjournment of Congress until the vicious Woodrum provisions are repealed."

"Governor Stassen's second charge is that the Minneapolis labor movement has elected a leadership that is thoughtless, unsound and vicious. Thereby he implies that Minneapolis workers would be wise to desert this leadership.

Outstanding Union City "Minneapolis is among the best unionized cities in the entire country and, Governor Stassen, it will remain so. All the benefits of organization came to the workers and unemployed of Minneapolis because they have organized under this leadership whom the Governor accuses of being thoughtless and unsound.

"In his third charge, the Governor, in a pious tone, accuses

days would be dropped from the rolls; that striking W.P.A. workers would be denied relief; and then the press campaign that: 'YOU CAN'T STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

"No wonder that the W.P.A. workers felt desperate and that the entire labor movement joined hands in protesting this attack against the American standard of living!

Unions Led Strike "The Minneapolis labor movement took quick and effective action to organize the protest locally. On Thursday, July 5, the day after the spontaneous walkout began, the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council officially endorsed the protest strike. The various Building Trades unions voted unanimously to remain on strike and to refuse to work for anyone at less than union wages. The Minneapolis Building Trades Council, like many sister councils throughout America, has not receded from this position and is determined to defend the union wages and conditions won during fifty years of struggle.

"On Friday morning, July 7th the Policy Committee of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union endorsed the action of the Building Trades Council. In the next day or two, the Hennepin County Workers Alliance, the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, the C.I.O., and the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, all voted officially to endorse and support the protest strike called by the Minneapolis Building Trades Council and their demand that the Woodrum Amendments be repealed and that union wages be restored.

"In the light of these facts, what happens to the claim of the Governor that a small handful of men in Minneapolis started the walk-out, and that the strikers had no chance to vote on the strike? The truth is that the overwhelming majority of the Minneapolis labor organizations having members on W.P.A., voted to join the strike. The truth is that all this talk about the strike resulting from a conspiracy is untrue, and deliberately circulated to blind the uninformed as to the true cause of the strike, namely the attack upon the workers living standards. The truth is that the anti-union and pauperizing provisions of the Woodrum Relief Act had identical social repercussions throughout the country. If there was a conspiracy, it was a conspiracy of Big Business to put over an attack upon the wages and living standards of the American people.

"Governor Stassen's second charge is that the Minneapolis labor movement has elected a leadership that is thoughtless, unsound and vicious. Thereby he implies that Minneapolis workers would be wise to desert this leadership.

HE WON'T NEED A PINK SLIP NEW YORK, July 28—The W.P.A. administration can save itself the trouble of sending a pink slip to Corkmack Meehan, 35 year old cement worker, of 27 West 93rd St.

Police were dredging the Harlem River, today, for Meehan's body after he leaped into the water from the Manhattan span of the Triborough bridge. The cement worker was slated to be fired from W.P.A. at the end of this month under the 18-month ruling of the Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Law.

CHICAGO RELIEF CUT FAR BELOW LIVING NEEDS

\$6 to Single Person Per Month; Forced Labor Also Decried

By S. B. Grant CHICAGO—The possibility of death by starvation is a very real thing to the Chicago unemployed today as the relief allowance per person sinks to 30 percent of the estimated budget needed for subsistence! Relief requests have risen 300 percent in the last week, as discharged W.P.A. workers continue to storm central intake offices for help. These figures, given out by Relief Administration head, Leo M. Lyons, may be found in any local newspaper. Each additional thousand applicants for aid reduces the budget 1 percent. Already there are 35,000 new cases. An additional 60,000 are a dead certainty within the next two weeks.

The central intake offices, built like stockyard pens, are daily packed with stricken clients already showing evidences of starvation. Hundreds are turned away by harassed and understaffed social workers, and roughhoused by the police when they make the smallest gesture of objection.

"No Money" Meanwhile the city government continues to insist that it does not have any money, and the state administration refuses to contribute more than its present quota. Lyons, who is somewhat of a humorist, says "The outlook is pretty gloomy if you ask me".

Just an illustration: the full monthly budget for a single woman is \$21.24. That figure is more or less a fiction because only the old remember way

consider the resolution of Senator Murray. The Workers Alliance deliberately misleads the workers when it ascribes responsibility to Woodrum, whose task it was to adapt WPA to Roosevelt's reduced figure. The American workers who have been deluded into following Roosevelt into a Land of Plenty that never materialized, are encouraged by the Workers Alliance to remain under the spell of the Roosevelt hypnosis while the magician in the White House does a "quick change" from New Dealer to War Dealer. Finally, the Workers Alliance, by withdrawing from all "stoppages of a protracted nature," that is, from strike actions held jointly with the building trades unions throughout the country, consciously scabbed on the union workers by splitting the united front of labor in time of strike, consciously scabbed by sending the Workers Alliance members back to work at the highest point in the nation-wide strike when the unions were still out fighting a life and death struggle against the Roosevelt government.

Company Union Wherever they could get away with it, the Workers Alliance leaders even called off the one-day stoppages, the Daily Worker, July 18 reporting: "The Workers Alliance heads emphasized that their demonstration motion was not a strike, and that it was not necessary in many localities to have all day stoppages." Yes, the Workers Alliance is the company union of the Big Boss in the White House.

Workers Alliance and the WPA Strike—A Company Union Record

By NEIL WHITE

The record of the Workers Alliance in the WPA strike is one of deliberate misleadership and conscious scabbing. One day after the strike was sanctioned by the AFL Building and Construction Trades Council, David Lasser, president of the Workers Alliance, declared in the New York Times, August 8:

"We are not so concerned with the prevailing wage controversy as with the fate of the 700,000 WPA employees who are going to lose their jobs. . . . Already, with the strike but one day old, stout-hearted Davey was obscuring the issue, skillfully belittling the prevailing wage fight by counterpoising to it the dismissals."

Why Lasser Scabbed That the attack of the government upon the prevailing wage was giving the signal for a wage-cutting drive in private industry—this Davey and his gang said not a word. Why? Because their beloved leader, Roosevelt, was for smashing the prevailing wage.

Next, on July 11, the Workers Alliance issued a call for a "WPA stoppage." But—a one day stoppage!

When—a week and a half in the future—July 20! The Daily Worker, July 11, quotes Lasser: "A nation-wide one day stoppage against the Woodrum Bill to be held on July 20 was called today by the Workers Alliance. . . . While Lasser said that he expected speedy legislative action in the Senate, he expressed apprehension as to the situation in the House. . . . To meet the situation, the Workers Alliance head urged that 1,000,000 letters and postcards be sent by July 20."

The Why and Wherefore Why did David Lasser set the date for the first nation-wide WPA action 13 days after the beginning of the strike? And why did Lasser advise the WPA workers, that in the interim be-

tween July 11 and July 20 they devote themselves to the mailing of letters and postcards?

Simply because Lasser and the rest of the unsavory Alliance crew give unqualified support to the Roosevelt government. Any action against the WPA slashes is directed mainly against Roosevelt who reduced the WPA appropriation this year by one-third, and directed also against Harrington and Murphy, Roosevelt appointees, who have the task of putting Roosevelt's "economy" into practice.

One day later, on July 13, Lasser, asked the question as to what he thought about "Roosevelt's intimation that Administration forces would not support any move to change the present WPA law," replied, "Mr. Roosevelt is badly advised."

Roosevelt, the inspirer of the WPA law, who took a billion dollars away from WPA and added it to the War Budget, appropriation-slashing, union-busting, war-mongering Roosevelt is "ill-advised!"

Preparing a "Pause" As time went on, and the 1,000,000 letters and postcards dealt blow after blow at the nasty reactionaries, the Workers Alliance drew a deep breath and prepared for the "general pause on all the projects" (Daily Worker, July 16).

Finally, the day before the one day stoppage that was to stop the Tories dead in their tracks, the following statement of Willis Morgan appeared in the Daily Worker, July 19: "Our stoppage voices our protest against the conditions, the whole and complete responsibility for which belongs to Clifton A. Woodrum and his cohorts. . . . The Workers Alliance will never strike against the Government. . . . The decision of the National Executive Board of the Alliance to withdraw from all current stoppages of a protracted nature was done to allow Congress to

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LEAFLET SCORES MOVIE WAR PROPAGANDA

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio—A novel and effective anti-war leaflet was distributed here in picketing local showings of "Confessions of a Nazi Spy."

"On the way to the trenches" was the title of the leaflet. It said in part:

"Tomorrow we will be asked to fight a new world war. This time it will be for 'Democracy against Fascism' instead of 'Democracy against Kaiserism,' but the real purpose will be the same as in 1917. . . . The main threat of Fascism in America comes not from the Bunds or Germany, but from the decay and collapse of an economic system that offers neither jobs nor the hope of jobs to twelve million American workers. The main threat comes from the Duponts, the Girdlers, the Coughlins and the Hagues.

Movie Propaganda Scored "We who publish this leaflet are forthright enemies of Fascism, and against these sinister forces we will fight with all our strength, but we want no part in a war which, under hypocritical pretensions of anti-fascism, such as 'Confessions of a Nazi Spy,' has as its objective the preservation of English, French and American trade empires.

"Analyze for yourselves the half-truths of this pro-war anti-labor propaganda and remembering the real reasons they want us to fight, answer the war makers:

"We are not your army! This is not our war!" The leaflet was signed by a group of students and faculty members of Antioch College and a number of others, including Socialist Party members. The project was carried through in the face of vigorous opposition from the local Young Communist League and of conspicuous non-cooperation from Paul Jones, Ohio state chairman of the Socialist Party, who took the position that picketing in this quiet village was so wholly exotic as to alienate the populace. Events proved him to be seriously in error.

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