

# Labor's Big Chance Is Now! --Don't Muff the Ball!

AN EDITORIAL

"Ruthless" labor leaders were going to take advantage of the war boom "to advance their campaign for the closed shop, and all that implies, in such basic industries as steel, automobile and packing houses," complained a boss spokesman the other day.

Well, we certainly hope so! The industrial pickup provides organized labor with a new opportunity to regain lost ground and make the gains which were possible in 1935-1937 and which were unfortunately not realized.

Organized labor has been on the defensive since the loss of "Little Steel" in the Fall of 1937. One of the main causes for this situation has been the decline in production; it is tenfold more difficult for the trade unions to advance when factories are slowing up and many are shutting down. But that organized labor could make gains even in the midst of industrial production has been demonstrated by the one bright spot in the unions—the phenomenal transformation of the Teamsters' Union from an old-line craft setup into a semi-industrial organization of over 400,000 men.

The new type of leaders in the Teamsters' Union who made this growth possible didn't make the mistakes which stopped the CIO in its tracks in steel, packing and other basic industries. They didn't lean on the National Labor Board and the government, but put everything into organizing the fighting strength of the workers on the job.

As was shown by the warning uttered by the CIO convention against much use of the Labor Boards, the CIO leadership now appears to have a more sober estimate of the role of the Roosevelt Administration toward the workers. If it sticks to this, we shall have no repetition of "Little Steel," where the strikers cheered the incoming National Guard . . . and had the strike broken.

The industrial pickup means that the bosses have plenty of money to disgorge, if the unions go after them. Earnings of leading industrial corporations for the full year 1939 are expected to be 70 per cent above 1938 levels and close to 1936 and 1937 levels, according to the conservative estimate of the AFL "Monthly Survey of Business":

"Especially in the following industries, earnings may be expected to improve: Aircraft, chemicals, machinery, metal fabricating, non-ferrous metals, petroleum, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, steel, sugar, automobiles, automobile parts, paper, railroads, retail trade and textiles."

Here, then, are the fields upon which the labor movement can immediately concentrate!

Wage increases are necessary even to provide the workers with the same purchasing power that they had a few months ago. Labor Department figures show that retail prices of basic foods were 11 per cent higher on October 17 than on August 15, and prices have continued to rise since.

Labor has the opportunity, it has the wisdom based on actual experience with the anti-labor strategy of the Roosevelt Administration—if only the labor leaders will use that wisdom—and it has a case for higher wages and better conditions which the bosses will find it hard to controvert.

The next few months will be an acid test for every man in a position of trust and leadership in the unions. The rank and file should see to it that any man who fails to meet the test is put aside, to make room for militant progressives with backbone enough to lead their men successfully through the coming battles.

The industrial pickup has created this opportunity without, however, providing many additional jobs. Some ten million unemployed remain to be taken care of. This vast reservoir remains as a reserve army—an army of labor or an army that can be turned against labor. The employed workers must link their fortunes with those of the unemployed.

The general slogans under which the labor movement should fight the coming battles are clearly indicated. They are:

- A rising scale of wages as prices rise!
- A 30-hour week with no reduction in pay! A \$30 minimum wage on all jobs!
- A job and a decent living for every worker!
- A Twenty-Billion Dollar Federal public works and housing program!
- All war funds to the unemployed!

The opportunity is there. Labor must not let it slip by!

## Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

Twelve years ago the first Kuomintang-Communist united front was shattered when Chiang Kai-shek made a deal with the imperialists and sealed it in the blood of thousands of workers and peasants.

Today it begins to look as though the second "united front" is going to end as a result of a deal between Stalin and the Japanese.

Although the Moscow-Tokyo negotiations are still only in a preliminary stage, they have already resulted in a widening of the Kuomintang and the Chinese Stalinists. Matters have on several occasions apparently already reached the stage of actual armed conflict between them.

Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese Stalinist chieftain, is quoted now as accusing Chiang Kai-shek of not establishing a democratic government. But what a fraud

this is! When it suited the needs of their master in the Kremlin, the Chinese Stalinists came to terms with Chiang Kai-shek nearly three years ago. Although they also spoke then about "democratic government" it remained a hypocritical phrase, for the Kuomintang dictator naturally never took any steps to carry out that part of the bargain. Instead the Stalinists participated like docile lackeys in the farcical "People's Council" which Chiang set up to simulate the appearance of popular support.

Throughout the course of the war under Chiang's leadership the workers and peasants have been bled while the big capitalists and bankers rode high, wide, and handsome in the treaty ports held by the Japanese. Against all the venality, half-heartedness, and outright treachery that has marked the Kuomintang fight

(Continued on Page 8)

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# ROOSEVELT NEUTRAL—IN A PIG'S EYE!

## 50,000 Auto Workers Blast Chrysler Union-Busting Plans

### Union Strength Forces NLRB Revision of Early Ruling on Bargaining

DETROIT, Nov. 16 — More than 50,000 automobile workers jammed into Cadillac Square today in a solid front of defiance to the Mohawk Valley plans of the Chrysler corporation, the "back-to-work" movement of Homer Martin and the fascist gangs of Father Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith.

Some 4,500 Murray Body workers quit work on the day shift two hours before closing time and the night shift men went in two hours late to take their place in the demonstration. Hudson and Packard workers were provided with a special fleet of buses and automobiles to transport them to the square.

For the second time in two and a half year period the workers of Detroit dedicated their great assemblages on Cadillac Sq. to the education of the coup-clippers of the Chrysler Corp. The demonstration got results even before the men came into the streets.

### NLRB Backs Down

On the same morning the National Labor Relations Board announced that the UAW-CIO had been certified as the exclusive bargaining agency for the Chrysler Corporation, thus changing its previous decision of certifying the union on a plant basis.

The demonstration took place in a setting of the complete fizzle of Homer Martin's scab-herding back-to-work movement. Only a few hundred men, even according to the heavily biased local press, turned up to return to work at the Chrysler, Plymouth and De Soto plants. And most of these were foremen and maintenance workers. This despite the fact that no pickets guarded these plant gates.

Where Martin gets nowhere in breaking the solidarity of the Chrysler, Coughlin takes up the cudgels for the corporation. With the aid of daily free publicity in the boss press, he is calling a meeting in his Royal Oak Church which was built by non-union labor. It is to be hoped that if any sizable group of Chrysler workers turn up for his meeting they will turn it into a jamboree the yellow priest will never forget.

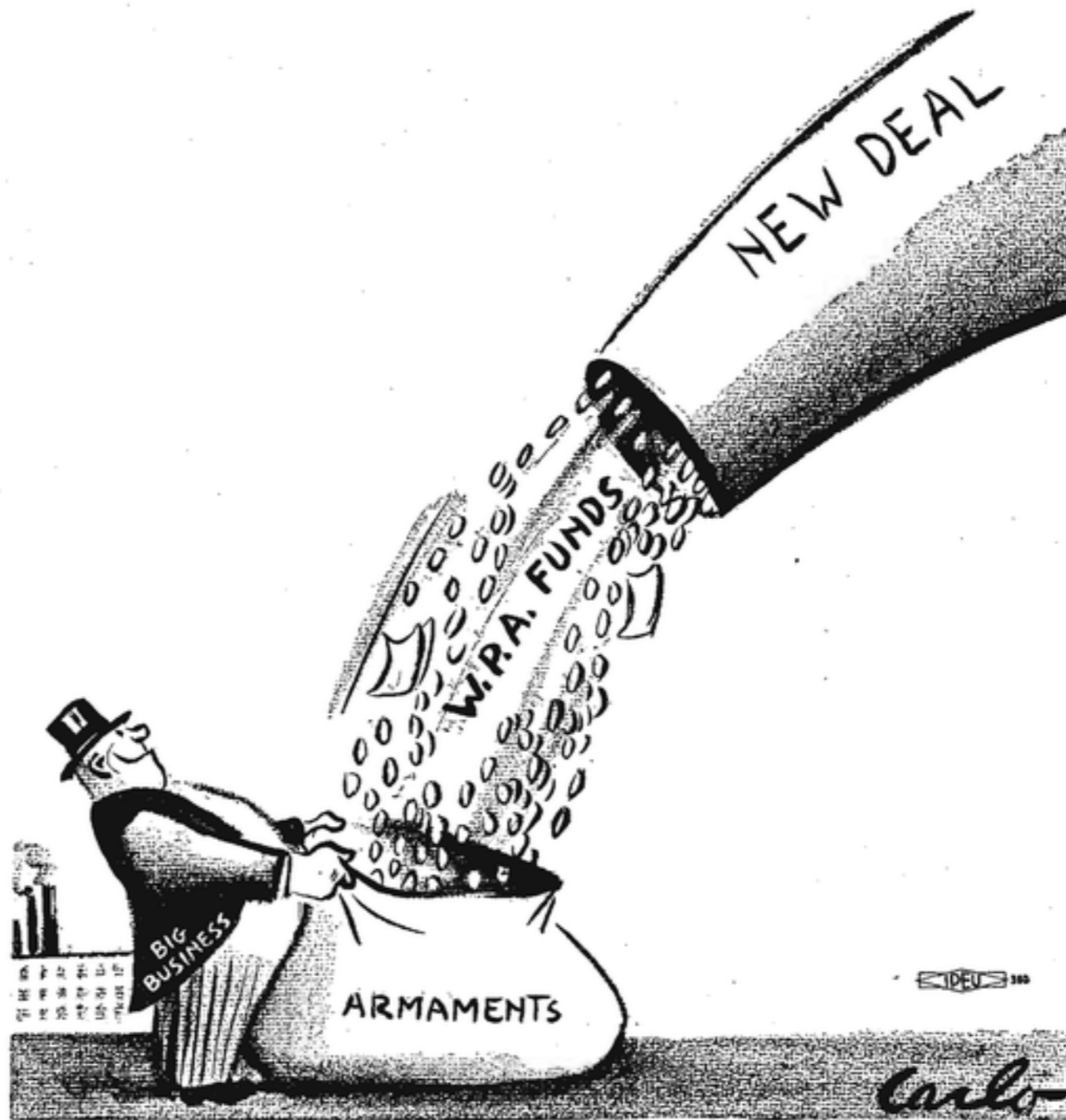
Pressure on Welfare Bosses  
Steady pressure of the auto union on Welfare officials has already forced a retreat from their original hard-boiled attitude in refusing to certify Chrysler workers for relief. But their first concessions are still made with enough loopholes to smash the workers' ranks. Joe Pagano, Asst. National Welfare Director of the UAW-CIO characterized the "work relief" the administration is offering as "forced labor." The general sentiment of Chrysler workers is for a continuance and a strengthening of this pressure to force the workers locked out by the Chrysler corporation.

The Cadillac Sp. demonstration roared its approval for a resolution calling for an investigation by the City Council of the procedure adopted by the Welfare administration towards Chrysler workers. It also adopted a resolution protesting the 30-day sentence given Tracy Doll, union organizer, for violating the anti-picketing injunction in the Fredrick Stearns strike.

### N. Y. MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY

An important membership meeting of Local 1 New York of the Socialist Workers Party will be held this Sunday, November 19th, Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, at 2 p.m. sharp.

### The War Boom



### THE SECOND OFFENSIVE

## Push for the \$10,000 Organization-Press Fund

"The Second Offensive is about to begin."

This is a war communique. But it isn't from the Western front.

It's war news from the revolutionary front for socialism in the United States. It's the General Staff of the Socialist Workers Party making ready for a big frontal attack.

The battalions are organized. They have their orders. All they need now is the fighting equipment.

...Early last summer the first offensive in our war was organized in the form of a \$10,000 press-organization fund drive.

More than one-third of this sum was raised by the branches of the party from New York to Frisco. It was all done without any big noise, without any ballyhoo. The branches just came through quietly—but effectively.

With the new ammunition provided by the funds raised, the party machine worked on more cylinders than ever before—especially in the usually dead summer months.

Local branches developed a systematic and concentrated political activity.

The twice-a-week Appeal was lifted out of its financial doldrums. During the first weeks of the war crisis frequency of issue was jumped to three times a week.

A national Negro department was organized and a full-time director maintained.

More field organizers and more assistance for field organizers provided than ever before.

Several new pamphlets were put on the Socialist market.

Now we are ready to go forward again! We call it the Second Offensive! It's an offensive against the war and for the revolutionary socialist program.

By Feb. 1 we want to be over the top with the \$10,000 fund quota met 100 percent. So that we can have more organizers in the field, more literature on the war crisis, on fascism, on the transitional program for workers' action against the 60 ruling families; a solid floor built under our twice-weekly Appeal and monthly New International so that the striking power of our press shall not be affected by some silly financial shortage.

We sent a letter to the branches to find out how they felt about making good on the rest of their obligations. They can be summed up best in the succinct comment of Oscar Coover for the Minneapolis Branch:

"You may tell the world that Minneapolis will be on the line before the date set."

You have your quotas. The branches need only go to work. Make the Minneapolis motto your own!

"On the line by February 1st! Every last dime raised for the \$10,000 organization-press fund drive!"

## FIGHT GOV'T WAR MACHINE IN CANADA

### Armistice Day Leaflet Distributed Despite Rigid Censorship

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

TORONTO, Nov. 14—Despite the harsh war-time repressions imposed on labor organizations here, coupled with the constant vigilance of the police, the Socialist Workers League of Canada, Canadian section of the Fourth International, is carrying on the fight against war in the best traditions of the class struggle.

As the authorities prepared for the annual memorial service in connection with Armistice Day, they were confronted by the appearance of an openly circulated leaflet against the war.

The leaflet was distributed in what the comrades call "Blitzkrieg fashion." Before the authorities had a chance to even read the leaflet, it had already been widely circulated in the working class districts of Toronto.

### Remember!

Entitled, "Remembrance Day, November 11th," the leaflet declares:

"Remember the last war! Now that Canada is once more engaged on the bloodstained fields of Europe.

"REMEMBER that the Great War was fought to make the world safe for democracy, and yet today there is less democracy than at any time in the last fifty years.

"REMEMBER that the Great War was 'a war to end all wars' and not a single year has elapsed since, in which wars, great or small, have not been fought.

"REMEMBER that we went to the last war singing to the tune 'We'll hang the Kaiser on a sour apple tree,' and today the Kaiser still lives as one of the richest

(Continued on Page 2)

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR

## Neutrality Law Full of Loopholes For Intervention

### State Department Interpretation of Law Makes Clear that Pacifist Talk Covered Plans for Speedy Participation in War

The loopholes in the Neutrality Law enacted Nov. 4 are wide enough, with the help of government "interpretation," to send through them to England and France enough armament for an endless war; and to extend sufficient credits to them to link America's fate to theirs and make America's participation in the war inevitable.

That is the meaning of the "detailed analysis" of the law which was issued Thursday night by the US State Department.

## FBI ATTORNEYS CLOSE FRAMEUP CASE IN MPLS

### Coaches Witnesses to Perjure Evidence Against Pickets

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 16—The FBI attorneys yesterday afternoon concluded the presentation of its case against the 14 women and 11 men charged with "conspiracy" in the third WPA strike trial.

The government had taken eighteen days to pump an outstate jury full of hatred against the organized activity of the WPA workers during the nationwide WPA strike last summer.

As in the first two trials, which resulted in eight convictions and four acquittals, the government is attempting to prove that the WPA strike constituted a "conspiracy" to "intimidate" WPA workers. Under the Roosevelt-Woodruff Relief Law, intimidation of project workers constitutes a crime. Under the judge's ruling in the first two cases, the "conspiracy" need not have actually resulted in intimidation for the jury to convict the defendants.

G-Men Coached Witnesses  
The government witnesses, well coached by the FBI agents who prepared the trial, reeled off the most astonishingly detailed stories of the events of four months ago. The stories are all too good, too pat, too well-rehearsed.

Many of the witnesses are WPA workers, evidently cowed by the G-men, giving every evidence of being under strain, intimidated and fearing the loss of their jobs if they don't perform according to schedule. Other government witnesses show all the characteristics of being paid stool-pigeons.

A "Missionary"  
Minneapolis union leaders were particularly interested in the testimony of a Mrs. Elizabeth Thom, employed on the sewing project where the pickets were who are now on trial. In 1934 she was a WPA supervisor in another part of the state. After she came to Minneapolis she was for fourteen months a member of the Federal Workers Section of Local 644—the organization of WPA workers sponsored by the General Drivers Union—and attended its meetings up to and even after the strike.

Mrs. Thomas identified 17 of the 25 defendants as being at the strike scene. Every day of the strike she came down and watched the picket line, observing in minute detail everything that transpired. She would go among the pickets, urging them to return to work. In the language of the professional strike-breakers who testified before the LaFollette Committee, this sort

Through these three major loopholes American business can take the road to war. That's what the loopholes are there for—deliberately contrived by Roosevelt but covered up by his "neutrality" speeches and the fake debate staged in Congress.

## HOW THEY FIGHT HITLERISM IN A "DEMOCRACY"

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—The Library Board here has ordered the librarian to burn his three copies of John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," the famous novel describing the plight of California's agricultural workers.

The waiting list for the book is the longest in the library's recent history.

(Continued on Page 4)