

THE MILITANT

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Rent Boost Threatens As Government Wilts

— See Page 6 —

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401

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

400,000 STRIKING MINERS DEFEND RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICAN WORKERS

Growing Strength Of American Trotskyism Shown At SWP's 12th National Convention

Approaching Depression Heralds Social Crisis; Capitalism in U. S. Is Doomed, Delegates Hold

By Joseph Hansen

In the largest gathering yet held by the American Trotskyist movement, 117 voting delegates, 70 alternates and 33 fraternal delegates of the Socialist Workers Party and 190 registered visitors convened in Chicago from Nov. 15 to Nov. 18 to deliberate on problems of the coming socialist revolution in the United States.

This Twelfth National Convention of the American Trotskyists registered the growth, strength and vitality of the Socialist Workers Party. Eighteen years ago, the representatives of revolutionary socialism in America were but a small handful. They had been expelled from the Communist (Stalinist) Party for the "crime" of supporting Lenin's and Trotsky's program of building world socialism as the only possible way to end unemployment, imperialism and fascism.

Now these few heroic pioneer Trotskyists had the satisfaction of seeing how the ideas they represented 18 years ago have attracted the most militant, far-sighted American workers.

At the Chicago Convention the 410 participants came from all the major industrial regions of the United States, a total of 41 branches of the SWP being represented.

Militant activists from all the major trade unions were present—Steel, Auto, Rubber, Railroad, Maritime, Packinghouse Workers, and so on down the list.

All colors were represented at this convention. The warm comradeship among the delegates showed how completely the Socialist Workers Party carries out in practice what it preaches in theory about racial and national equality. The convention gave a preview of future socialist society where all color lines, all national and race prejudices will have disappeared.

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and founder of American Trotskyism, opened the convention with a tribute to the fallen martyrs of our cause.

(Continued on Page 5)

CSU Leaders Arrested In Studio Strike

By Harry Thompson

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 23—The entire top leadership of the striking Conference of Studio Unions was arrested last Monday morning, and indicted by the County Grand Jury on charges of conspiracy to attack with a deadly weapon, conspiracy to obstruct administration of the laws, and unlawful assembly. CSU leaders were charged with three counts of felony and two of misdemeanor.

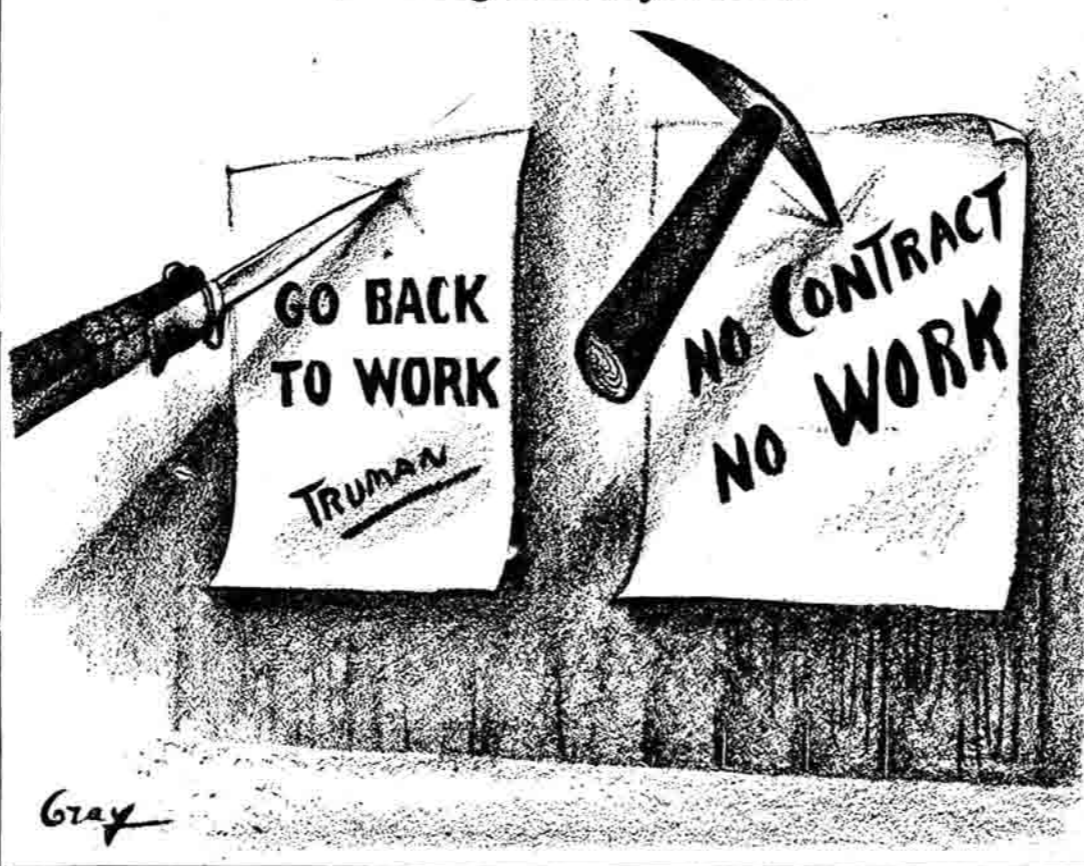
On the basis of the type of charges filed, the entire union movement could be attacked as a "conspiracy."

Trial has been set for Jan. 7. Meanwhile CSU leaders are out on bail of \$5,000 each.

To date, approximately 1,500 CSU strikers have been arrested and charged with assault and battery and violation of court injunction against picketing. The 893 arrested at Columbia studio on Nov. 14 began a hunger strike in jail, but their action was quickly ended by the bail-out procedure.

Toward the end of the seven-month studio strike last year, a Southern California Conference was set up by AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods to aid the strikers. Interest in the Conference died when the strike ended. Now the arrests in the new strike make a united labor conference doubly necessary.

Answering The Injunction



CIO Delegates Open Wage Drive; Reject Red-Baiting Witch Hunt

By Art Preis

(Militant Staff Reporter)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 22 — The Eighth Constitutional Convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which this afternoon concluded its five-day deliberations at the Chelsea Hotel's Westminister Hall here, again demonstrated that the CIO represents the most progressive sector of the American trade union movement.

The more than 600 delegates from 40 international unions and 280 state and local CIO councils devoted their main attention to the basic problems of American labor, particularly the issue of higher wages to meet the soaring cost of living.

At the same time, while adopting an ambiguous anti-communist statement, the convention re-

jected the insidious demand by Big Business and its government agents that the CIO divert its energies into an internal witch-hunt against militant and radical workers.

Although the convention was composed largely of the top circles of the CIO and did not reflect the real militancy and democratic spirit of the CIO ranks, the leaders were forced to recognize and make concessions to the progressive sentiment of the CIO membership.

For weeks before the convention the capitalist press had been hopefully predicting that the CIO Convention would launch a red-baiting purge of "communists." The keynote address by CIO President Philip Murray, at the opening session last Monday morning, contained no reference to "communists."

He stressed that the very start of his remarks that "without doubt the most important considerations to be presented to the convention will be the economic

CIO Adopts Many Progressive Demands

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 22 — The CIO convention here has adopted strong resolutions on vital social and political questions, condemning racial discrimination, anti-Semitism, universal military conscription, atomic warfare, occupation troops, etc.

The convention called for vigorous action against lynchings, the passage of a Fair Employment Practices Act and a Federal Anti-Lynching Law. It demanded that the American government open the doors of this country to homeless Jewish refugees. It called for discontinuation of the stockpiling of atomic bombs; condemned compulsory military conscription; and demanded the withdrawal of American troops from China.

Challenge Combined Attack Of Big Business, Government

Nov. 25.—The bitter battle between the nation's 400,000 striking soft coal miners and Wall Street's government is rapidly developing into the most crucial struggle ever faced by American labor.

CIO Oil Workers Win Sliding Scale Wage Clause

The CIO Oil Workers International Union, which led off last year's great strike wave for wage increases to make up for loss in take-home pay, last week signed the first major contract in American industry providing a sliding scale of wages, automatically rising with the cost of living.

The contract was signed with the Sinclair Oil Company. Negotiations with other large corporations, including Standard Oil, are nearing completion.

The new Sinclair contract provides a flat increase of 18 cents per hour to compensate for increases in living costs which occurred in the nine months ending Sept. 30, 1946. To prevent this raise from being whittled away by further increases in living costs, the contract includes an escalator clause.

Under this clause, wages will be reviewed every three months. If the cost-of-living index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an increase of three per cent or more in the preceding quarter, an equivalent increase will be given the oil workers. If prices should go down, wages cannot be reduced below the basic rate including the new 18-cent raise.

The contract runs for one year, from Oct. 1, 1946. At the end of the first quarter, Jan. 1, 1947, an additional three per cent raise is expected.

Basing the escalator clause upon government figures is a weakness, because the BLS is notorious for understating the actual rise in living-costs. However, even with this defect, the escalator clause provides far greater protection for the maintenance of living standards than a flat increase alone.

The principle of the sliding scale of wages has long been advocated by *The Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party as the only immediate effective answer to the consequences of inflation. The Sinclair contract represents a historic step forward.

On one side are arrayed not only the militant mine workers, but the entire trade union movement of 15,000,000 workers. Both the AFL and CIO have issued public denunciations of the infamous federal injunction against the mine strike.

On the other side it is the most complete mobilization of the capitalist class and its government agencies ever witnessed in a strike.

The federal government, climaxing its unprecedented strike-breaking campaign, is threatening savage reprisal against AFL United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis for refusing to surrender the rights of the tolling miners.

Today Lewis was haled before a grand jury in Washington, D.C., where Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, acting as the judicial agent for Big Business and the rich coal operators, ordered the miners' leader to stand trial on Nov. 27 for alleged contempt of court.

This "contempt" consisted of Lewis' failure to comply with the most fantastic strike-breaking injunction to issue from a federal court. This injunction was ordered by Judge Goldsborough on Nov. 18. It commanded Lewis not merely to withdraw his announcement of the termination of the UMW contract with the Truman administration, but not even to mention that the contract might be terminated at any time in the future.

The judge's order claimed that any announcement of the termination would result in strike because "it is the announced practice of the members of the United Mine Workers of America to refuse to work while there is no contract in effect"—said refusal constituting in the opinion of the class-biased judge, an "illegal strike."

Because he did not bow to this illegal injunction, issued in clear violation of the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act, Lewis faces possible imprisonment for an indefinite term and fines amounting to as much as \$200,000.

MINERS DETERMINED — But the issue will not be settled in the courts. The determined miners, who began walking out of the pits days before the deadline of the restraining order, have made clear their stand: "You can't mine coal with injunctions!"

Even the vampire press swarming around Lewis's blood, is expressing fear that throwing Lewis into jail will make him a "martyr" and make the miners more determined.

Big Business and its whole government apparatus have unleashed a "fight to the finish" against the heroic coal miners. This savage assault is aimed not merely at crushing the miners—they have been selected only as the first victims for the capitalists' legal chopping block.

It is clear that Wall Street is mobilizing its governmental and judicial forces for a full-scale war on all organized labor. By crushing the miners, the American plutocracy hopes to blunt the spearhead of the developing drive of all labor for wage increases to meet the soaring cost of living.

If the government's infamous injunction against the miners is not smashed, if John L. Lewis and other mine union leaders are victimized for defending the workers' interests, then the judicial knife will be sharpened for every section of labor, for every militant leader.

More—much more—is at stake in this crucial struggle than the immediate just demands of the miners. Imperiled are the most fundamental rights of every working man and woman—the right to strike and freedom from legal persecution by corporation-dominated, class-biased courts and judges.

Both the AFL and CIO leaders recognize the decisive importance of this struggle. They have sharply denounced the government's use of injunction against the miners. For the first time in more than a decade the whole American labor movement—15,000,000 strong—stands united on one great issue. Truman's injunction must be smashed.

But more than words and verbal protests are needed. It is not enough to deplore and condemn the government's strikebreaking moves. These arrogant moves must not be taken lightly. The American money-bags are clearly determined to break the miners as the first step in breaking the whole labor movement.

Action is needed—united militant labor action on a scale this country has never before witnessed. The full, concerted power of the organized American working class must be speedily mobilized and hurled into the battle. A mighty counter-offensive must be immediately unleashed that will drive the jackals of capitalist reaction to flight.

To that end, as the CIO United Auto Workers proposed months ago, a National United Conference of Labor—representing every trade union body in America—must be immediately convened in Washington.

Its first duty would be to draft and set into motion a fighting program of united labor action to give the only effective answer to the united assault of big capital on the coal miners.

United labor action is the watchword of the hour! The union ranks must demand that labor leaders act now!

United Labor Action Is The Watchword!

An Editorial

Final Minnesota Returns-- 11,421 Votes For Carlson

By V. R. Dunne

ST. PAUL, Nov. 25—Final and official figures for the Minnesota elections give the Socialist Workers Party a 31 per cent higher vote than in the previous election. Grace Carlson, SWP candidate for U. S. Senator received 11,421 votes; Warren Creel, candidate for Third District Congressman, 1325 votes; Dorothy Schultz, candidate for Fourth District Congressman, 1138 votes.



shows that the party gained numerically in 67 of the state's 87 counties.

In terms of the percentage of the total vote cast the SWP gain is even more impressive. The SWP Senatorial candidate received approximately one and one-half per cent of the total vote cast in this election. In 1940, the SWP vote was only about one-half of one per cent of the total vote.

Greatest gains for the Socialist Workers Party candidates were recorded in the areas where the special Minnesota election edition of *The Militant* had been distributed.

Chief centers of distribution were the working class neighborhoods of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and other industrial towns in the state. Grace Carlson received 1,851 votes in Hennepin County (Minneapolis); 1,442 votes in Ramsey County (St. Paul); 1,421 votes in St. Louis County (Duluth and the Iron Range).

Other areas of distribution were South St. Paul, Austin and Winona, packinghouse centers; St. Cloud, a railroad division point and center of the granite

quarrying industry; Willmar, center of the radical Farm Holiday movement of the Thirties; Red Wing, noted for its extensive pottery manufacturing plants. In these and other smaller industrial towns, where the Minnesota election edition of *The Militant* had been distributed, notable gains were recorded for the SWP candidates. A total of 30,000 *Militants* was distributed during the campaign.

Four radio broadcasts were made by the SWP candidates. Each of the candidates spoke over the Twin City station WMIN. A special broadcast was arranged for our senatorial candidate on KWLM at Willmar.

In addition to speaking at the several election rallies held in the St. Paul and Minneapolis headquarters of the party, our candidates also spoke at many other interested groups. Among these were: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Wesley Foundation on the University Campus; the Minnesota Conference of Women's Clubs; the American Veterans Committee; the Camphor Church Forum.

Through press releases sent daily and weekly newspapers throughout Minnesota by C. K. Johnson, campaign manager, widespread publicity was given to the Socialist Workers Party campaign in all parts of the state.

Highest Minority Vote In N. J. Goes To Trotskyist Candidate

NEWARK, Nov. 25—Returns from New Jersey's 21 counties indicate that the Socialist Workers Party has succeeded in rolling up the highest minority vote in the state. Total vote for Alan Kohlman, SWP candidate for Governor, has climbed to 9,829 or more than the combined vote of the Alan Kohlman Communist, Socialist and Socialist Labor Party candidates.



Kohlman's vote registers a new high in SWP electoral results in New Jersey. George Breitman, SWP candidate for U. S. Senator, rolled up 4,978 votes. The difference in votes between Kohlman and Breitman is attributed to the fact that Breitman had the most unfavorable position in the Senatorial column on the ballot. Despite that, Breitman's vote was seven times greater than the number he received for the same office in 1942. Kohlman's vote was four times greater than that of the Socialist candidate for Governor.

In the 11th Congressional District, William E. Bohannon secured 300 votes while in the Hague stronghold of the 13th District, Ariene Phillips received 1,720 votes, more than five times the vote for her Stalinist opponent.

These election totals are a fitting climax to the SWP's hard-hitting state campaign. With tremendous enthusiasm and determination, the New Jersey Party waged a broadscale campaign on many fronts; street meetings in the neighborhoods, election rallies, five radio broadcasts, over 55,000 pieces of printed literature, scores of news releases to the daily and Negro press and numerous state-wide mailings.

More important than the vote was the fact that the program of the Socialist Workers Party was carried to at least 100,000 people, that scores of new friends were made for the Party, and that recruitment to the Party doubled during the election campaign.

The election campaign thus becomes a stepping stone to further growth of the SWP, to intensified activity both in the mass movement and the legislative field in order to fight for the interests of New Jersey workers against the new Republican administration.

Wages, Prices and Profits
Wages And Production
In The Present Period

By Warren Creel

We have seen, even in the case of the great monopolies, that while they have power, there are also limits to their power.

They boast that they can and will raise prices as fast as the workers win higher wages, so they advise the unions that they might as well give up the struggle.

We know the answer. The monopolists already had raised the price as high as they could put it without losing their mass outlets.

They cannot pass on the wage raise indefinitely by raising prices. In the final analysis, they have to pay wage raises out of profits.

That's the answer in ordinary times when the propagandists for the employer tell us, "It's useless for the workers to struggle, because the employers are all-powerful."

When we apply these principles to the present period, after World War II, we find a special case, but it also illustrates the principles.

The war inflation has dumped a lot of artificial dollars on the market, so today they can charge more and get it.

They try to meet this boom market by higher prices, and not by more production. Thus capitalism shows its true character in this situation.

During the war American industry poured out goods at the rate of \$7,500 per family per year, but this high production did not raise living standards because most of the goods were used up in the war.

So the capitalists face a desperate need to cut production in half, or even to less than half.

Their plants could pour out abundance now. But if they organize for big production they will face trouble in the future.

Although they hold the supply of goods down to a trickle, they have no thought of letting the flood of wartime money get away.

To protect themselves they must hold production down. They let out only a bare minimum of goods, just the amount that they know is their ordinary market.

Although they hold the supply of goods down to a trickle, they have no thought of letting the flood of wartime money get away.

That's how the scarcity policy of capitalism operates in today's inflation market.

Next Week: Why Prices Go Up

Rising Unrest Of German Workers Shows Gravity Of Economic Crisis

Misery In Germany



Two young boys haul a cartload of coffins through a Berlin street. This picture was taken last winter, when death took a heavy toll in ruined Germany.

Jobless And Hunger Riots Anticipated This Winter

With another disastrous winter facing the German working class, expected to be far worse than the last, Military Governments in the four zones are disturbed by mounting signs of mass discontent.

Its sharpest manifestation this month was a protest action by the organized Ruhr coal miners.

The miners refused to work the extra shift because their food rations and wages are insufficient. They accused their union leaders of having agreed to this proposal of the British occupation forces without previously consulting them.

Since these supplies are limited, most of the city workers take along with them something to trade with the peasants.

Workers at three big motor works in Cologne downed tools last week in protest against inadequate food rations.

Economic conditions throughout split-up Germany are approaching chaos.

Whole families move for the winter into a single room, which ever can be best heated.

The physical resistance of the people, already drastically "whittled down," is less than it was a year ago.

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60,000 Votes Polled For Trotskyists In France

PARIS — The French Trotskyists, who presented candidates for Parliament in 16 areas in the Nov. 10 elections, received a total of 60,000 votes.

Trotskyists In Belgium List 19 Candidates

The International Communist Party (PCI), Belgian section of the Fourth International, will enter the Nov. 25 local elections at Gilly, a coal mining center, with 19 Trotskyist candidates.

The list is headed by Jules Henin, veteran Trotskyist, who participated with Leon Lesol in founding the Belgian Communist Party and later the Trotskyist Left Opposition.

In the announcement of its program and platform, the PCI candidates state that the fate of the workers will be decided in struggles in the factories and on the streets.

The platform includes taxing the rich instead of the poor, a fight against higher taxes on wages, immediate construction of low-cost homes for workers.

In answer to the argument that "there is no money" to carry out this program, the PCI points to the tens of millions squandered in the past to maintain an army which collapsed in 17 days before "the foreign enemy" and failed to alter in the least the fate of the country or the issue of the imperialist war.

The PCI is calling upon the workers in other areas, where no PCI candidates are running, to vote for the Socialist and Communist Party candidates.

A number of well-known journalists who had been arrested around the same time—Ramsis Yennane, Loufallah Soliman, Anwar Kavel, Bokhor Menasse and Kialli el Assy—have been recently released.

Interim Government In India Cannot Solve Basic Problems

BOMBAY, India, Oct. 20 — The following statement on the entry of the Moslem League into the "Interim Government" was made today by the Secretary of the Bombay Committee of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India.

After prolonged huckstering, the Moslem League has joined the Interim Government.

This entry is neither a victory of the League nor of the Congress. It is only imperialism that has won all along the line.

The Congress participated in the formation of the Government from the very beginning.

Imperialism knows very well that the bourgeois Congress and the feudal communal League cannot agree on any major question except of course the question of defense against the exploited masses.

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Social Democrats Discuss Reviving 2nd International

LONDON—Attempts to revive the Second International ran into new difficulties at an international conference of "socialists" held at Bournemouth this month.

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Egyptian Police Seize Revolutionist

The trial of Aly Abu el Nil, a shoemaker of Alexandria who was arrested for "distributing alleged subversive literature signed Fourth International, Communist Revolution, Middle East Center," was scheduled to begin in Cairo, on Nov. 1, according to the Egyptian Gazette of Oct. 20.

Aly Abu el Nil went on a hunger strike, protesting against the delay of the trial. His spirit was reported to be high as he prepared to make a militant defense at the trial.

A number of well-known journalists who had been arrested around the same time—Ramsis Yennane, Loufallah Soliman, Anwar Kavel, Bokhor Menasse and Kialli el Assy—have been recently released.

How Trotsky Viewed Disarmament

By Joseph Hansen

How does the slogan of "disarmament" raised by Molotov at the United Nations fit in with Wall Street's preparations for another world war?

The answer to this question can be determined most easily by referring to Leon Trotsky's writings on "disarmament." Like Lenin, Trotsky considered two variations of the demand for "disarmament": (1) the demand for total abolition of militarism; (2) the demand for a "reduction" of armaments.

"Of course, if all the countries disarmed," said Trotsky in 1929, "it would constitute a serious guarantee of peace. But self-disarmament is just as excluded as the revolutionary demolition of tariff walls. In Europe today there is only one major country which is seriously disarmed, and that, Germany. But her disarmament was accomplished, as everybody knows, by crushing her in a war."

"Disarmament and the United States of Europe," published in the May, 1945, issue of Fourth International.)

The victorious powers after the First World War did not voluntarily disarm, despite various conferences where the slogan of "disarmament" was given great publicity.

"The peace of Versailles," Trotsky pointed out in 1940, "... has done the Allies a poor service. After fifteen years of German disarmament Hitler was compelled to start building an army from nothing, and thanks to this the army is free of routine and does not have to drag along obsolete technique and equipment. The tactical training of troops is inspired by new ideas based on the latest word in technology. Apparently only the United States is destined to surpass the German murder machine."

Historic facts thus demonstrate that even where an imperialist power is utterly crushed and completely disarmed by force, war is not thereby prevented from breaking out again. On the contrary, when the defeated capitalist class begins rearming, they start with the very latest word in armaments. So long as capitalism endures, total disarmament is nothing but a utopian delusion.

But the proposal to avoid war by "reducing" arms, as Molotov now proposes, is just as delusory. "This amounts to saying," Trotsky declared in 1929, "that the surest way of suppressing duels is by regulating the size of pistols to be used by the duellists. Common sense would indicate that the situation itself points to just the contrary."

To paraphrase the example then cited by Trotsky: If two of the strongest powers haggle so furiously over the atomic bomb, then this only goes to show that each of them is simply jockeying, through diplomacy, for the most advantageous position in the coming military conflict.

Trotsky explains that the issue in modern war is "determined by the relative productive power of the two camps." He points out that the "soldiers, sailors, ships, guns, tanks and planes available at the outbreak of war represent only the initial stake. The issue will be decided in dependence upon the extent to which a given country is able, while under fire, to produce ships, guns, soldiers and sailors."

Thus a power with the tremendous industrial capacity of America gains in relative preponderance through reduction of arms. For such countries as Britain, Japan, Germany, etc., to agree to reduce their armaments, means to cut down the initial stake they can throw onto the battle field, thus eliminating their strongest card—a very great military-technical preponderance which would in some measure compensate for the incomparable technical and economic preponderance of the United States.

be just large enough for the initial period of the war and of sufficient size in peacetime to serve as an adequate laboratory for testing and checking new inventions and discoveries with a view to placing them in standardized mass production in the course of the war.

All these considerations apply with thousandfold force since the development of atomic energy. As the militarists themselves point out, most of the equipment used in the Second World War has been outmoded.

Small wonder the Wall Street militarists greeted Molotov's proposal for arms "reduction" with extravagant praise and congratulations!

There is still another advantage in reduction of armaments, which the Wall Street militarists have undoubtedly taken into consideration: "Today when the colossal experience of the war and the resulting flood of inventions and discoveries are just being elaborated for military needs, any and all instruments of military technology are rendered obsolete in a far briefer space of time than was the case before the war."

Referring to the battle fleets, Trotsky asks, "Under such conditions, what sense is there in accumulating ships in advance? A rational approach to the problem demands that the fleet

BOSTON
You are invited to attend a showing of Sergei Eisenstein's "Thunder Over Mexico"
Proceeds to Christmas benefit fund for the families of former concentration camp prisoners—trade-unionists — anti-fascist fighters — minority peoples
The Ritz Plaza
218 Huntington Ave (at Symphony Station)
Saturday, Dec. 7 8:00 p.m.
Dancing and Refreshments
Auspices: American Committee for European Workers' Relief

N. Y. Marxist Labor School
Mondays, Dec. 2 to Jan. 6
First American Revolution WILLIAM F. WARDE, SWP Educational Dir. 7:30-9 p.m.
Historical Materialism JOHN G. WRIGHT, Fourth International Asso. Ed. 9-10:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Dec. 3-10-17, Jan. 7:
Fridays, Dec. 28 and Jan. 3
From 3rd International To The 4th GEORGE CLARKE, SWP New York Org. 7:30-9 p.m.
Democracy, Fascism and Socialism DAVID WEISS, SWP Ed. Dir., N. Y. 9-10:30 p.m.
Mail this reservation with tuition, \$2 per course, to Marxist Labor School, 116 University Pl. Check courses you wish.
Name
Address
City Zone State

Have You -- Anything That Can Be Used It's Needed For EUROPEAN RELIEF BAZAAR to be held Dec. 7 in N. Y.
entire proceeds to American Committee for European Workers Relief. Send or bring articles to:
ACEWR
197 Second Ave.
New York 3, N. Y.

Thirty Years In The Steel Mill

By Theodore Kovalesky

There's so much work, and it's such tough work when you change a tuiere, that before the job is done, everybody is sore. Jimmy will be swearing at Slim or vice versa...

So you can imagine how the boys felt yesterday when old Steve, the keeper, was holding up things, fussing with the ratchet wrench. Jimmy looked at me across the blowpipe as we held it, sweating and breathing heavily, next to the furnace wall.

The Negro Struggle

Jim Crow And The UN

By William E. Bohannon

Last week the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the question of equality for racial and religious minorities. It was a short resolution, introduced by the Egyptian delegation...

This resolution plainly does not take up much space. But it is not worth even the small piece of paper it is printed on. It is window-dressing; it will be used to save face for the various members of the United Nations...

THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1946

PAGE SIX

10 PER CENT BOOST IN RENT IS THREATENED

OPA Officials Wilting Before Demands Of Real Estate Barons

OPA officials in Washington last week disclosed they are considering approval of nation-wide rent increases of 10 per cent as a bribe to landlords who are demanding immediate rent-boasts of 15 per cent and removal of all rent-controls by Spring.

It is almost certain that OPA will hand big rent increases to the profiteers. But this will be only the first concession before rent ceilings are wiped out. Only mass resistance can stop the grave new threat to the workers' living standards.

FIRST STEPS

First steps toward mass protest have begun in New York, where the New York City Consumer Council is organizing tenants block by block. The council is made up of 65 trade union, church, social welfare and other organizations.

CIO Convention In Session

N. J. CIO Asks Sliding Scale Of Benefits

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 25—The principle of the sliding scale of wages and compensation received new support last week when spokesmen of the New Jersey State CIO issued a statement in connection with Sickness Compensation hearings being held at the State House.

Carl Holderman, president of the State CIO, proposed that "a cost-of-living escalator clause be embodied in the proposed sickness compensation law assuring beneficiaries of weekly benefits in conformance with living costs as they rise above the index figure for the average cost of living for the period 1935-39...

IMPORTANT IMPETUS

This significant extension of the sliding scale principle by an authoritative CIO body is expected to give further impetus to adoption of the principle of the sliding scale of wages at the forthcoming December CIO Convention.

This action of the CIO occurs shortly after the vigorous SWP election campaign which prominently featured the need for the sliding scale of wages. The SWP's State Program had specifically endorsed the CIO and AFL proposals for raising unemployment and workmen's compensation and establishing sickness compensation.



Over 600 delegates, representing the CIO's six million members, shown in session at the Eighth Constitutional Convention of the CIO in Atlantic City last week. See story on Page 1.

4 Maritime Leaders Expelled By Stalinists

Among the scores of left-wingers who have been expelled from the Communist (Stalinist) party in recent months are four rank-and-file maritime union leaders on the West Coast.

"Of course," the cynical Stalinist author adds, "their red-baiting SOUNDS different than that used by the ship-owners. They say that the Communist Party isn't radical enough for them. They say that the Party is 'too conservative'... they say that we are 'reformist'."

Flint SWP Branch Mourns George Hunter

By S. Dollinger

FLINT — George 'Scotty' Hunter, revolutionary fighter for socialism, was fatally injured in a hunting accident on Nov. 17. This working class leader, only thirty-two years old, is mourned by his comrades in the Socialist Workers Party and his fellow-workmen in the UAW.

Scotty joined the Flint Branch of the SWP a few days after the GM strike began last year. He was a Chevrolet worker with twelve years' seniority and a World War II veteran. In less than a year his leadership qualities were recognized and he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Flint Branch, SWP.

Christmas Bazaars Planned By ACEWR For European Relief

Affairs in several cities are scheduled to be held in December for the benefit of European Workers Relief.

The Boston ACEWR Chapter is having a benefit showing of Sergei Eisenstein's famous film "The General Over Mexico" on Saturday, Dec. 7. All those wishing tickets should write to Josephine Jull, Treasurer, 78 Peterboro St. (Apt. 17), Boston 15, Mass.

In the Los Angeles area, Christmas shoppers will have a chance to get many bargains and at the same time help the workers of Europe by attending the bazaar of the L. A. Chapter to be held on Saturday evening Dec. 7 and Sunday afternoon Dec. 8 at 316 1/2 West Pico Blvd.

Four Pennsylvania Chapters of the ACEWR are cooperating on an Xmas Bazaar that promises to be most competitive. While the affair will be held in Philadelphia at 1303 W. Girard Avenue on Saturday evening Dec. 14, three other chapters, Allentown-Bethlehem, Reading and Pottsville, will operate their own bazaars and sell their wares in friendly competition with their hosts.

LOS ANGELES EUROPEAN RELIEF BAZAAR Sat. evening, Dec. 7 and Sun. afternoon, Dec. 8 Do your bargain shopping for Xmas and help the European anti-fascists. 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd.

Flint UAW Local 659 Publishes Articles Opposing Red-Baiting

(Special to The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., Nov. 25 — Early this month the Executive Board of Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO, passed a motion condemning any form of red-baiting and instructed the union publicity committee to print editorials and articles in the Local's paper, The Searchlight, reflecting that position.

The first editorial following this action explains the need for discussion of issues facing labor "on their merits, and not on the basis of whether or not some proponents or opponents of a question are members of some racial, religious or political minority." The editorial warns against minority-baiting on the ground that: "It is an old trick of the bosses to divide and conquer, and whoever uses such tactics is playing the bosses' game either consciously or unconsciously."

Women Who Build For The Future

By Ruth Benson

Early this month I described the frivolous, parasitic wives of the UN diplomats, who gossip about nothing but fancy clothes, as they jaunt merrily around the world. Last week I saw a gathering of very different women—delegates and visitors to the 12th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago.

The women at the SWP convention hadn't come to eye each other's finery or show off their own. They were serious participants in the workers' struggles. Some had spent decades in the revolutionary movement; some were mothers and housewives new to the ideas of socialism; some came from the factories; and some, still in their teens, were learning their first lessons in political struggle.

As we joined the meal-time crowds in cafeterias and restaurants in Chicago's busy loop, we talked about the Seattle women who were striking against the price of milk; about the Toledo women who had stormed the City Council to demand meat a few weeks ago; about the

coming hike in rents, and what we could do about it.

We all understood that the many barriers that prevent us from doing the kind of work we prefer, the inequalities of pay, and the extra burden of household drudgery, are conditions we must fight against day by day. It was astonishing to hear how much time and energy the mothers especially found for many-sided activities!

We did not limit our interest to "women's problems" alone. Women delegates participated in the many panel discussions on varied subjects, reporting on their own experiences in the factories, at union meetings, and in every branch of Party work.

There was no aspect of the Convention that did not hold our interest, because like the men, we were there to do a vital task, to help plan the future work of the Socialist Workers Party.

For we understood that only socialism will make us free; and we were determined to build and strengthen the Party which will lead the labor movement to victory.

Some rail union leaders, for example, condemned Starkey of Minnesota and others who voted for Truman's slave-labor bill. Yet Whitney, who laid the defeat to Truman's strike breaking, himself came out for Starkey, whose position was no different from Truman's.

The real truth is that railroad men like other workers had no choice. Thousands upon thousands either stayed home or cast a protest vote against the party in office. All observers agree on this—that the vote cast was not for the Republicans but against the Democrats. If they had two votes, one radio analyst remarked, they would have voted against both Democrats and Republicans.

A labor party in the campaign could have mobilized behind it the millions of workers who know that the capitalist parties have no program to meet the pressing problems of working people—lagging wages, soaring prices, anti-union drives, etc.

It is precisely Whitney and his kind who stand in the way of the formation of a real labor party. Tied to the discredited "reward your friends and punish your enemies" policy, they can only try through political sleight of hand to deceive the workers as to the real nature of capitalist politics. This time the rabbit they pulled out of the political hat was a dead one!

It is time for railroad workers to end the parlor tricks of their bureaucratic leadership and join in building a labor party.

On The Railroads Political Sleight Of Hand

By Henry Adams

"Voters across the country rejected a majority of the candidates supported by President A. F. Whitney's Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen," wrote a commentator in the Minneapolis Star after the elections. Heavy election casualties among the so-called pro-labor bloc laid low 107 of the 188 House aspirants. 18 of the 23 Senatorial endorsements fell by the wayside. Whitney, speaking in Miami from the BRT convention, attributed a big share of the defeat to "the attitude of President Truman in his attempt to make slaves out of a fine group of railroad workers last May."

Whitney speaks bitter truth in these words. But he conceals part of the truth—that it was the confused short-sighted policy of the railway labor bureaucracy which left railroad workers without a voice in this campaign.

Tied to the capitalist political machines, Whitney and his fellow-bureaucrats passed out endorsements right and left. In Minnesota they switched from primary support of the Republican isolationist Shipstead to the Democratic-Farmer-Labor pro-United Nations Jorgenson. They threw in endorsements of Michigan's arch-reactionary Vandenberg with so-called liberals like DeLacy of Washington. They even made endorsements at cross purposes with each other.

Penn 4-City Bazaar Saturday Evening, Dec. 14 at Militant Labor Forum 1303 W. Girard Avenue Philadelphia Entire proceeds for American Committee for European Workers Relief. Cooperating ACEWR chapters: Philadelphia Reading, Pittsburgh and Allentown-Bethlehem.