**SEPTEMBER 22, 1941** 

110

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

# ROOSEVELT ORDERS NAVY INTO ACTION!

**Nothing to Lose But Your Chains!** 

## Washington March Blasts Jim-Crow Brutality

## Paraders March on Center Of City in Demonstration Against Capitol Lynch-Law

# Will Protest Treatment of Negro Soldiers

CHICAGO—Aroused by the treatment accorded Negro troops in the South, fifty Negro and white workers met on Chicago's South Side last week and organized themselves as the Committee to Fight for Negro Freedom, to organize a protest meeting against the treatment of Negro soldiers in the U.S. Army.

The committee will hold a protest rally on Sunday, September 1, at 4 p.m. at Forum Hall, which will hear Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees of America (Red - Caps), Ulysses S. Keys, South Side attorney; Henry Pelham; Enoch P. Waters, city editor of the Chicago Defender; Fred Foster, secretary of the Washington Park Open Forum; Frances Gober, program director; James Weldon Johnson of the Youth Council, NAACP, and William Avery, secretary of the Waller Defense Fund.

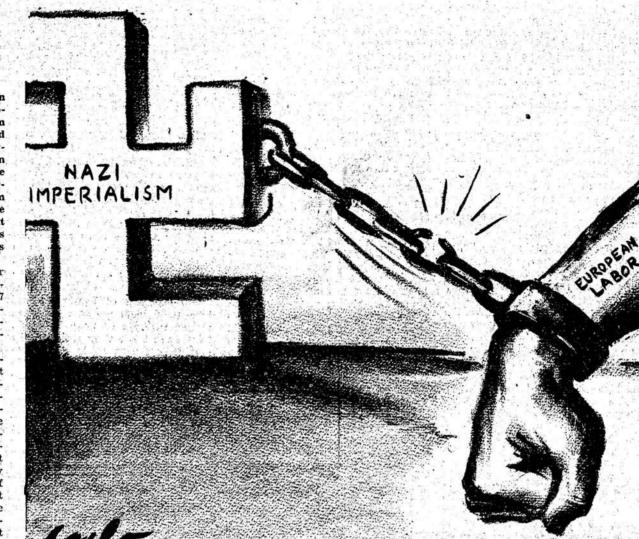
The movement for this protest meeting originated in the Washington Park Open Forum, which sponsored the original gathering.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—More than 1,500 Negro and white working peope struck a hard blow against Jim Crow in a mighty four-pronged march through the heart of Washington last Sunday, September 14, in protest against the anti-Negro police brutality of Roosevelt's own warhumming capital. Chanting "Old Jim Crow Must Go," "Down With Police Murders" and many other militant slogans, white and black marchers alike informed Washington that this was "only the beginning."

The march was organized under the auspices of the Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality, (717 Florida Avenue, N.W.), which consists of representatives of Negro organizations, political parties and private individuals.

True to their traditions, the Stalinists, who form an influential element in the committee through their control of important "front" names, attempted to sterilize the militant sentiments of the participants and force the movement into safe and sane prowar, pro-Roosevelt channels. Characteristically, too, the really militant note of the demonstration was set by the Workers Party contingent of Washington, which, over the violent and almost forceful protests of the Stalinists, swept by carrying five placards reading: "The Fight Against Jim Crow Is the Fight for Socialism,"

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## A Specter Is Haunting Europe-The Specter of Workers World

German imperialism, with cutthroat Hitler at its head, is facing the beginning of opposition in Europe. This has been evident for some weeks now in France. The most dramatic situation, however, developed in Norway last week when the trade unions took the first really bold step in planning for a general strike

After months of persecution, suppression, terror, devastation and hunger, the workers in fascist-dominated Europe begin just a little, to raise their bowed heads, to take a small step toward breaking the fascist imperialist chains that bind them.

It is significant that the movement against the Hitler gangs in Norway began in the trade unions. We cannot tell just what political currents were active in these unions and among these workers. The point we wish to emphasize is that the movement had its BASE in the mass organizations of the workers—and this is as it should be! This is the real force that can destroy Hitler and Hitlerism: there is no other.

It is the workers of Europe that are expected to be the first to show resentment at fascist rule in any way other than through purely literary means. The liberals, the intellectuals and the professional "democrats" of all stripes will damn Hitler in fine prose from afar; but it is the working class, caught in Hitler's trap, which will really do the fighting and the suffering to destroy Hitler and his associated imperialist bandits.

## FEAR THE ORGANIZED WORKERS

The German imperialists struck directly at the Norwegian trades unions. The fascists and their brother capitalists in other lands always proceded in this manner. IT IS THE ORGANIZED WORKERS THEY FEAR. They fear most those who have nothing to lose but their chains. They fear most the great organized working class that has most to gain through the overthrow of fascism and imperialism. The workers do not yet think in these terms, but all the imperialists everywhere know that great tidal waves of working class revolt often begin in a very small

Therefore they strike at the workers' organizations and murder the leaders, as they did last week in Norway. They shot Viggo Hansteen, legal adviser to the Norwegian trade unions, and another leader of the workers named Rolf Vickstroem. They sentenced Ludvig Byland, vice-president of the Norwegian trade unions, to death but commuted his sentence to hard labor for life when they faced an explosion from the Scandinavian workers as far as Finland. We suppose the plans of the Gestapo are to murder Byland some dark night by shooting him in the

The Swedish Trade Union Congress expressed solidarity with the Norwegian workers and stated their regret "that all the ways are closed for a free communication with the German workers, and we refuse to believe that the prevailing violence which deprives others of their rightful interests can find support with the German worker."

## CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO IMPERIALISMS

At present the opposition to the fascist imperialists by the workers of Europe is only a slight gesture toward freedom from the Nazi yoke: the beginning of a struggle for national independence, democratic rights, civil liberties and parliamentary government as they have known it before. It is probably correct to say that this is all that is in the minds of the masses of the workers today. They will struggle to get back that which Anglo-American workers are fighting to hold on to.

Anglo-American workers are fighting to hold on to.

The continental European workers are ready to ally themselves with Anglo-American "democracy" for the defeat of Hitler. It is very probable that their renewed courage is connected with Hitler's involvement in Russia and the consequent necessity of withdrawing troops from western Europe for use in Finland and on the eastern front. The Anglo-American imperialists will, UP TO A POINT, foster and encourage revolts among workers under Hitler's domination. They will do so for purely military reasons. Their aim is to harass Hitler and force him to fight on every front simultaneously. This will speed the

victory of Anglo-American imperialism over German imperial-

This means in effect that the European workers are caught between Anglo-American imperialism on one side and German imperialism on the other. The same is true, of course, of the workers in England and the United States. LABOR ACTION has discussed this aspect of the imperialist war many times in previous issues. This is the central problem before the workers of the world: which road shall the international working class take? It is safe to say that the workers of Europe are not unaware that the present war is an imperialist war and that the motives of Churchill and Roosevelt are not so pure as they pretend. Thousands of workers in Europe, along with thousands in England and the United States, know that more is involved in the struggle against Hitler than has been expressed in Anglo-American "war aims."

## THE COMMAND MUST BE: "FORWARD!"

Right now, however, it is the opinion of the European workers and also of labor in the United States and Great Britain that the military defeat of Hitler is first on the order of the day for international labor. At present this is the opinion not only of the ranks in the trade unions but of the most advanced of the militants. This idea is what primarily animates the Norwegian trade unions in their opposition to Hitler.

'This is understandable and should occasion no surprise. It is particularly understandable in connection with the continental European workers who have suffered for many months under the cruelest and most vicious of capitalist regimes in the entire period of capitalist exploitation. The concentration camp, the jail, the knout, forced labor, the confiscation of one' personal possessions and starvation, may break the spirit, distort the vision and mentally befuddle even the stoutest of militant workers.

This means that at present it is not to be expected that the European workers will be able to view the objective scene and (Continued on page 3)

# Acting Without the People's Consent, FDR Wades Deeper Into Battle of the Atlantic

Secretary of the Navy Knox this week revealed that as of September 16 the American Navy was ordered into action in the Atlantic shooting war.

At the same time, Acting Attorney General Biddle "eased" the neutrality law to allow for unrestricted shipping to vital war zones. In the new interpretation of the law, the United Kingdom and British Empire are redefined to include only England, Scotland, Wales, northern Ireland and five overseas possessions. All other British points and possessions, including Hong Kong and Suez, are excluded from the provisions of the act. American merchant vessels may thus sail, under their own flag, to virtually all sections of the British Empire at war.

## Nazis Fix Martial Law On Norway

By SUSAN GREE

On September 10, at 5 a.m. Stockholm time; martial law went into effect in Oslo, Norway, and in adjoining districts. The Nazi commissioner for Norway had declared a state of "civilian emergency."

Thus, some 500,000 Norwegians were made virtual prisoners of the Nazis. Curfew was decreed for 7 p.m. Meetings on streets or in public places are banned. People are being compelled to give up their radios.

The Nazi decree of September 22, 1940, forbidding Norwegians to possess arms, has been invoked. Large quantities of arms are said to be still in the hands of the population and the authorities are warning that death or long terms of hard labor will be meted out to offenders.

Reports from Stockholm state that the streets of Oslo are being patrolled by the police in full field equipment, with steel helmets and tommy guns, that all the approaches to the city are guarded by heavy concentrations of German troops, and that no one can enter without special permit.

Since the declaration of a "civilian emergency" on the 10th, 27 Norwegians have been court-martlaled, resulting in five death sentences and long terms at hard labor. About 2,000 arrests have been made. It is estimated that 300 leading trade unionists have been put behind bars, and replaced in the unions by trusted Quislingists. Not only labor leaders but everyone who is suspected of not approving of Quisling and who might become a center of resistance is being purged.

Among the civic organizations ordered dissolved are the Boy Scout and Girl Guide organizations, the Salvation Army and the Norwegian People's Help.

Trade union officials desiring to leave their posts have been forbidden to do so. Workers cannot leave their jobs and must pay their membership dues to the trade unions after these are taken over by the Quislingists. The workers have been informed, it is reported, that they will have to work overtime for every hour lost during air raids—and there will not be any wage increase.

The Norwegian events have had repercussions among the workers in all the northern countries. The Swedish Trade Union Congress, in session in Stockholm on September 11, paid tribute to the two Norwegian trade union leaders shot on September 10, and passed a resolution of solidarity with both the Norwegian and German workers, containing the following significant paragraph:

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We aren't deeply concerned with the juggling of laws which have meant little anyway. Up to now devices of all sorts have been used to get around the neutrality act, such as reregistration of American ships. The new interpretation will merely facilitate what has been done all along.

Roosevelt has entered the war in the interests of banker and boss. Cumbersome laws will be ignored, repealed or reinterpreted, depending on which can be done without rousing the indignation of the people.

What we therefore want to ask is: Who authorized the Roosevelt-Knox decision on the Navy? Who authorized the ENTIRE POLICY OF WAR ENTRY — "non-shooting" and shooting? Certainly not the people, who continue to be against the imperialist war!

Roosévelt has acted without the consent of the people-nor even the consent of Congress. He made a military alliance with a belligerent. He sent troops to Iceland. He ordered an Atlantic patrol. HE HAS NOW ORDERED SHOOTING. Unable to risk a formal declaration of war because of mass opposition, he has nevertheless proceeded to effect his war program without a formal declaration. That will come in time. In the meantime, the shooting war is on!

Roosevelt's actions were unauthorized by the people. Every step he has taken toward war has been unauthorized. We therefore repeat our demand, and in repeating it again call upon the organized arm of labor, the trade unions, to take up the cry:

AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST

SUBMIT THE ISSUE TO A

Turn to page 2—The World at War—for an analysis of the latest moves in the World Imperialist War.

## An American Fascist Speaks His Anti-Semitism

Hitler-decorated Lindbergh made a speech last week in Des Moines, Iowa, before an "America First" meeting. In this speech the fascist Lindbergh made an open and direct attack on the Jews. Heretofore the "Colonel" has been a little obscure and cautious in his anti-Semitic utterances. But not making much headway up to now in keeping America out of war (even with the help of "socialist" Norman Thomas), Lindbergh's financial backers evidently instructed him to let go with both barrels. He said that "instead of agitating for war, the Jewish groups in this country should be opposing it in every possible way, for they will be among the first to feel its consequences."

We suppose that Lindbergh meant by this, as he has often said, that Germany will win the war and that after a Hitler victory the Jews, of course, would be marched off to a concentration camp. That's the very argument that the Jewish war-mongers are using to induce Jewish workers to support the imperialist war. Or is

Lindbergh promising the Jews that fate after he becomes a fascist big shot in the United States? Or is Lindbergh advising the Jews to oppose the war and thus place themselves in a position to receive favors from him after he 'takes over'? Evidently this fascist 'Colonel' has plans for the day when his 'party' marches on Washington after Hitler has cleaned up in Europe.

## THE PURPOSE OF HIS ANTI-SEMITISM

Their greatest danger to this country," said Lindbergh of the Jews, "lies in their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio and our government." That is, according to the fascist "Colonel," the Jews are a danger to the U.S. because they have influence in the seats of propaganda and the government. Like Hitler, Lindbergh is certain and puts in his program that the Jews are a danger. He wants the press, the radio, motion pictures and the government turned back to the "Nordies"

that founded and developed these institutions.

We stop to discuss this fascist not merely because he is antiSemitic. That is generally known. All the fascist leaders are aptiSemitic. They use this anti-Semitism as a cover for their anti-labor
schemes and plans. That is what Hitler did, and that is what Lindbergh is doing. This is the fact that workers should pay attention
to. Many workers are anti-Jewish for reasons they would find it
difficult to explain if called upon. Lindbergh wants to inflame Gentile workers against Jewish workers for similar reasons that the
bosses inflame white workers against Negro workers. Lindbergh
doesn't mention Negroes today because he doesn't believe that they
present any obstacle or difficulty. But he agrees with Hitler on the
status that Negroes should have.

Also, workers should not be taken in by Lindbergh's anti-war talk. He represents the most reactionary, the most hide-bound, the worst section of the capitalist class. Of all the capitalists, the group

which this fascist "Colonel" represents contains the most irreconcilable of the labor-haters. They would probably prefer a Hitler victory to the continuation of the Roosevelt New Deal regime. They don't like the Roosevelt method of starving the workers gradually. They prefer the methods of another of their spokesmen. Herbert Hoover. They want the army to shoot down unemployed or employed men and women and gas the babies to death. They want the unions smashed, wages cut and hours increased. They don't believe in making any concessions whatsoever to labor; not even the crumbs from the rich man's table.

The Roosevelt New Deal capitalists believe that one can "catch more flies with sugar than with vinegar." They are for "recognizing" the trade unions and then bidding for the collaboration of labor leaders to swing the workers behind any program the bosses and the government may have, such as the present imperialist war.

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## With the Labor Unions \_\_\_\_\_ THE WORLD AT WAR \_\_\_\_

## On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

#### ON WAYS AND MEANS OF PAUPERIZING LABOR

trator," and Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, during the past week have announced some plans they have for labor. Henderson wants to be given some authority in the settlement of wage disputes and Morgenthau wants Congress to adopt a plan for "forced savings" by the workers. Under this plan every worker would turn over two months' wages to the government for the promotion of "de-

It is assumed that Henderson wants to become a wage fixer as well as a price fixer. He talks about the price of wages along with the price of meat, bread and shoes. To be sure, Henderson has done nothing effective about the rising cost of living to labor, but he perhaps believes that he can be more successful setting a ceiling for workers' wages.

For 66 consecutive weeks retail prices have advanced. The rise week before last was 1.2 per cent over the week before. The Labor Department reports that during the last year the buying power of the dollar has DE-CREASED 15 per cent in industrial centers. During the past two weeks the retail price of bread, beef, pork, coffee and shortening has gone up all over the country. Butter, eggs and fruits are now real luxuries to the thousands of families with low incomes. Added to this, the increase in clothing, household articles and rent must be taken into account.

This ten year high for the cost of the necessities is what Henderson should be giving attention to. He hasn't been successful in the tasks that he was assigned. And so now he pretends that if he can meddle a little in the wages question he will be able to get the commercial capitalists to stop the hiking of commodities. This is nonsense, of course. Wholesalers, retailers and landlords are going to squeeze every cent they can get from labor. If they can help it, they don't intend to let the manufacturers take all the gravy flowing

Leon Henderson, "price adminis- from the "defense" spending. All the capitalists, great and small, are out for profits and they won't let any small fry like Henderson stand in

> Morgenthau doesn't believe in any small-time stuff when he is ready to rob the working class. He is a bigtime highwayman. According to the new tax bill, a worker earning \$65 a month must give part of that to the government in income taxes. Now Morgenthau wants to take an additional \$130 from that same worker for "defense." All the while, prices will continue to rise. Next, the employers will decide it is about time to lengthen the work-week without increase in pay. A few more opportunities of this kind offered the workers to demonstrate their patriotism and loyalty while the bosses are increasing profits 100 per cent, will, we are sure, add to the joy of living for every single worker.

Organized labor is taking all these plans for its pauperization entirely too calmly. The unions certainly would not let the bosses have such a field day in the factories. Why do they permit these same bosses to accomplish their wage cutting plans through control of the government? What's the difference between being starved out by a direct wage cut from the boss and being taxed into starvation by the bosses' government? Also, what's the difference between starving in peace time and starving in war time? The bosses don't starve at any time. In fact, if there is any difference, they are in position to eat better during war time because they make more profits then. It is only the working class that becomes so damned patriotic in war time that it is willing to undergo all manner of hardships and misery.

Roosevelt says, "You can't strike against the government." Why not? If we can strike against the boss, then why can't we strike against the boss government? At one time, even strikes against the boss were "ille-

It was brought out at the trial that

the officers of the local had taken

in \$200,000 in dues and fees from 1933

to 1940. At the time of the trial, the

local's bank balance was less than

\$108. The money had not been used

in strikes or in benefits paid to the

members. It went for "administra-

It might be said that the members

of this international have just about

the kind of international they de-

serve. There are many things they

could have done to cure this situa-

tion. They could have formed a com-

mittee to present their case to the

AFL convention. We don't pretend

to believe that this would accomplish

much, but it is a correct first step.

There are many other steps to be

taken inside their own AFL body. If

none of these worked, there is noth-

ing that can force them to remain

within the AFL. After all, there is

an organization known as the CIO

United Construction Workers.

tive expenses."

#### WHAT TO DO ABOUT HODCARRIERS SITUATION

Bill Green's International Hodcarriers and Building Laborers Union is a queer labor outfit. It's a sort of unlimited monarchy. This international has not had an election of officers for 30 years. Nobody seems to know why no elections have been held and by what authority officers elected 30 years ago continue in office. All that one can say is that the ways of this international and its officers are inscrutable. However, these things don't seem to worry Green and his brother officers on the executive council of the AFL.

At least there will be an election conducted by one local of this international, No. 17 of New York. Some members of the local went to court to compel the officers to hold an election and account for union funds. The officers were put on trial, ordered to hold an election and give an accounting for some rather suspicious actions in the expenditure of the local's money.

## FEEDING BOSS PROPAGANDA TO THE SOLDIERS

A New York preacher, Roelif H. Brooks, pastor of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, has been giving the soldiers at Camp Stewart, Ga., some anti-labor education. Speaking to members of a New York regiment at the camp he said: "We find men refusing to work unless their wages are increased, or there is a closed shop, or there is a recognition of one union opposed to another. What care they if men like you are prevented from receiving complete training because you have no equipment."

First we want to dispose of the not very subtle lie uttered by this preacher. The men in the army are not training with broomsticks, stovepipe and other play-yard substitutes on account of strikes and union disprites. They lack equipment for the sole reason that the government is administered by a bunch of stupid, ignorant and out-of-date generals who don't know how to prepare and

equip an army for modern technological warfare. Next come the bosses who refused to turn a wheel until their stooges in the government had granted the demands of the employers for higher profits and lower

Brooks knew he was lying when he made this speech. He is the pastor of a fashionable church in New York. His fine salary is paid by the wealthy bosses and he has to make the kind of speeches they want made or he'll get fired. This parasite and mouthpiece for his capitalist pewholders, who performs no useful work and holds no necessary place in society, was attempting to create a rift between the workers in the camps and those in the factories. That has been tried before and didn't work. There are workers and trade unionists in the army and they are not falling for the boss propaganda of a paid agent like Brooks.

## A GASOLINE "PIPELINE" TO GREATER PROFITS

It has been revealed that there is no gasoline shortage in the U.S., and that all this business of closing gasoline stations at night is at bottom a scheme of the big oil companies to put over a pipe-line project financed by the government. The program for the night-time gasoline blackout was formulated by Interior Secretary Ickes' advistory committee, made up of 100 oil company officials.

After Ickes had made an agreement with the oil companies for the closing of stations at 7 p.m. he agreed with seven of the big oil companies to build a pipeline from the Gulf to the Atlantic seaboard. The line was to cost \$80,000,000 and the government would supply the money. Nearly a million tons of steel would be required as well as tons and tons of cement and other materials.

Railroad officials told the Senate committee investigating the alleged gasoline shortage that the roads could take care of any real Atlantic Coast shortage that might develop by delivering 200,000 gallons daily by tank cars. When the committee inquired why this wasn't being done, they were told that it was cheaper to deliver oil by pipeline. That is, of course, if the government supplies the \$80,000,000 to build the pipeline. The oil companies are broke; they only increased their profits 200 per cent the first six months of this year.

When the investigating committee expressed indignation, the oil companies decided to use all available tank cars and the roads reduced rates 50 per cent.

There is one other factor that motivated the oil companies in scheming with Ickes to close the gasoline stations at night. This would throw 90,000 workers out of jobs and save the big oil companies \$1,000,000 a day. Thus boss patriotism winds its

profit-making way.

## Navy Is Poised for Shooting War as Roosevelt Orders Entry in Battle of the Atlantic

The United States is now engaged in a shooting war with Germany. That is what Roosevelt told the world last Thursday. It is an undeclared war without the consent of Congress or the people of the United States.

Roosevelt ordered the American Navy to range itself beside the British Navy in the Battle of the Atlantic. This, according to Roosevelt, is

"The war," says Roosevelt, "is up to Germany." If the German Navy will voluntarily bottle itself up in her harbors and allow the free flow of supplies across the seas to her foes, thus assuring her defeat, then the American Navy will have no occasion for shooting.

Let us listen to what an American admiral had to say the day after' Roosevelt delivered his momentous speech. Addressing a "distinguished" gathering of civilians and officers of the United States and British navies at the New York Yacht Club, Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, commandant of the Third Naval District, forecast shooting in the Atlantic "in the very near future."

It must have warmed the heart of J. P. Morgan, who was right there in that "distinguished" audience, to hear the admiral say that "every American officer ought to be proud to be there and take it and give it back to them in good measure." "We should take our hats off to the British Navy," said the enthusiastic admiral. "It's a great organization, with a noble tradition. We are with them and we hope to do more for them pretty

As can be seen from the above, the admirals, who will give the orders to shoot, know that the war is on. It is on so far as the American Navy is concerned. The battlefield has already been delineated. Secretary of the Navy Knox told the American Legion convention that the American Navy will do its shooting in the Atlantic as far east as Iceland. It should be observed that the waters around Iceland are in the war zone. This of course is a temporary and arbitrary zone. Roosevelt himself made no attempt to outline the waters in which the American Navy will do its shooting. On the contrary, in his speech he significantly extended the range of shooting to all the seas that the United States "will deem necessary for its defense."

This means that the Red Sea, for example, may also be considered as a shooting area if Roosevelt so decides. The waters around the British Isles, the Persian Gulf or the Pacific Ocean -all come within the scope of Roosevelt's shooting order. That being the case, the Knox interpretation must be viewed as a momentary political and military expedient. From the political point of view the American ruling class must feel that next steps they take in the war can be sold more easily to the American people if the fighing with Germany takes place in the western sector of the Atlantic. Militarily also a division of labor has been achieved in which the American Navy takes care of the Battle of the Atlantic as far as Iceland while the British Navy concentrates its forces from that point to the ports of the British Isles.

## FINANCIERS PLEASED

In effect what the American people have had put over on them amounts to more than convoys. Since American shipping is forbidden by law to sail for British ports, it is British and allied shipping that the American Navy is convoying. From this follows the next step in the Roosevelt war program. The law itself must be abolished. That is the essence of the talks now going on in Washington between Roosevelt and Congressional leaders regarding the repeal of the Neutrality Act and the

## Norway--

(Continued from page 1)

"We express our solidarity with and our sincere admiration for the Norwegian working classes, who keep faith in our common ideals, democracy and national independence. We regret that all the ways are closed for a free communication with the German workers, and we refuse to believe that the prevailing violence which deprives others of their rightful interests can find support with the German worker."

Quisling retorted with a protest and a threat: "We strongly protest against the Swedish trades unions which found it necessary to hold commemorative ceremonies for the punishment of the Norwegian state criminals. It is an unheard of insult against Germany that the Swedish government did not find it necessary to stop this effrontery. It must clearly realize that Germany does not let herself be insulted without retalia-

However, when the death sentence pronounced upon Ludvig Byland, vice-president of the Norwegian trade. unions, was commuted to hard labor for life, this was attributed in the reports to the intense indignation throughout the Scandinavian coun-

marine. This is next on the order of the day.

How far is the United States from a shooting war which goes beyond the naval arm to all the other military arms? Let us recall that in March, 1917, Woodrow Wilson first armed American shipping against German submarine warfare. One month later the United States declared war on Germany. Is it any wonder then that the present war measures of Roosevelt "fulfilled," as the New York Times reported, "the highest expectations of financial London," which has been clamoring that America get into the war?

Financial London is relieved. The American Navy has cinched the Battle of the Atlantic. But what about all the other battles and the war itself? What will happen if the Germans get Leningrad and the south of Russia to the Transcaucasus? True, the Russians have been putting up a tremendous fight but the fact remains that the Germans continue to advance. Is it not a matter of time before the British will again confront them on some new gigantic battlefield where the full power of the Nazi military machine will be thrown against them?

#### BATTLE OF RUSSIA

The British are really concerned about Hussian resistance. It is stupid to think that they are withholding materials from her. On the contrary. Their aid to Russia was immediate and fullhearted. Hundreds of airplanes and quantities of munitions and materials have been sent there. Churchill has announced that a large portion of the war materials that he will get from America will have to go to Russia. British raids in the Baltic and northern Norway are intended to relieve the pressure

The joint Russo-British invasion of Iran was intended as an aid to Russia just as much as to safeguard the British imperialist position in the Middle East. If the British showed that they were at the same time interested in Iran's oil, the Russians were not altogether neglected. Witness the revival of Russian-Iranian Oil Co. in order to further the exploitation of oil in the Russian Iranian sphere. Cooperation, material aid, mutual exploitation does not by any means exhaust British relations to Russia. The Battle of Russia is so important that Great Britain finds it necessary to begin to send her own military forces on the soil of Russia. That is the significance of an RAF in Russia which will grow larger and larger and which will extend to other branches of the military as the Russian war goes on.

Despite the approach of winter, the British are not unaware of the Nazi danger that threatens them in the warmer climate of southern Russia. The more so that it is here that the Germans have made their farthest advances. Already, the Germans are mobilizing their forces in Bulgaria and the ports of the Black Sea for an invasion of Crimea. A winter stalemate on the northern and central fronts of Russia may even be the signal for a Nazi invasion of Turkey. The joint Russo-British invasion of Iran was in anticipation of this. Iran even now is not considered absolutely safe by the British. The Iranian regime is not trusted. That is why the British are instigating a "popular" revolt against the Shah. The British position regarding Lybia is not at all satisfactory. Altogether in the Middle East 750,000 British troops are now concentrated. The push against the Axis in Lybia is even now overdue. That is a military task that the British will have to attend to before the German conquest of southern Russia. After that it will be too late.

## WAY IS CLEARED

This is the military situation that financial London worries about. What are the British chances if events unfold in this manner? They are certainly none too bright. Roosevelt and Churchill must have pondered the matter deeply at their meeting on the high seas. The situation so obviously demanded American participation both in men and materials that Roosevelt could no longer hesitate to come forward with his full war program. This he has done. Both in the Pacific and the Atlantic the way has been cleared for the all-out shooting war.

By the strongest measures against Japan, Roosevelt has for the time being covered his flank in the Far East. Japan seems to be ready to make concessions and accept concessions. Some sort of a deal is under way. The Japanese Emperor Hirohito seems to have come to the aid of the moderates. That is the most reasonable explanation for his assuming direct control of the army-the better to curb it. Washington may grant Tokyo momentary concessions. The "democratic" imperialists can attend to Japan all the better after they have finished with Hitler.

Right now America is participating in the Battle of the Atlantic. It will not stop there. Churchill and Beaverbrook know this. That is why financial London's greatest expectations have been fulfilled.

## Negroes Organize Against Rent-Gouging Landlord In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA - "There is one message you have heard from all the speakers tonight, one message I want to repeat, because it is the most important thing you can hear - OR-GANIZE." This wound up the open air meeting held on Lambert Street last Friday night with a burst of ap-

The Lambert Street tenants don't have to be told the value of organization. They found out in a rent strike four years ago that, united, they could not lose.

And they are putting that knowledge into practice again today by refusing to pay the \$4.00 rent increase demanded by the landlord. Although one family was evicted before the fight really got under way, they are determined now that there will be no more evictions.

Two of the leading militants and fighters on the block have already received notices to vacate - illegal notices, since they both have leases requiring 30 days' notice and the letters only gave them 15 days. They do not intend to move, to pay more rent or to give up the fight. Instead, plans are being made now to fight the landlord in the courts, and at their homes.

Street meetings are being held and a block newspaper is planned, to gain the support of the residents of the entire neighborhood. The tenants are attempting to enlist the support of the Negro papers in Philadelphia in order to gain more widespread publicity. Letters are being sent to the various white papers and LABOR ACTION articles are being distrib-

The residents of Lambert Street have undertaken a fight against the vicious methods of their landlords. They have taken their stand on the rent they fought so hard to gain four years ago and are determined to fight in any way they have to maintain it.

Street meetings, newspapers, court fights, these are all methods. But the one thing that has won and will win for them is united action. "ORGAN-IZE" is what they were told, and ORGANIZING is what they are

## Washington --(Continued from page 1)

"The Battle for Democracy Begins at Home-Clean Out Jim Crow, Not the Atlantic," "Labor Black and White, Unite Against Jim Crow," "End Jim Crow in the Army-No More Fort Bragg Murders" and "End Jim Crow Justice." The placards aroused enthusiastic responses among most of the onlookers and to a comrade carrying a placard one old Negro muttered. "God bless you. addition, more than 2,000 LABOR ACTIONS were sold or given out to paraders and onlookers.

The Stalinist elements, sporting their nice, shiny, new V buttons, trotted out their hastily dusted, still moth-eaten national unity slogans of yesteryear, of which the following bromides were typical: "Against Police Brutality-For National Unity," and "Jim Crowism Hurts National

## From Four Points

To cope with the problem of Washington's circular layout, the parade was organized to begin at four separate starting points and to come together at a central point within the city. A sound truck was present at the central point and through this various prominent leaders of Negro and labor organizations addressed the crowd. Among the speakers were Prof. Doxey Wilkerson of Howard University, who emphasized the need for continuing the committee's work, and Craig Vincent, president of the Washington CIO Council, who drew cheers with the statement: "The CIO has and will continue to fight for equal jobs and opportunity for Negroes in industry."

The demonstration, and especially the automatically enthusiastic response of the Negro people to it, showed clearly that the colored workers of Washington-as of the nation-need only effective leadership to make them a potent antiwar, anti-capitalist force. It demonstrated, too, that now, if ever, is the time and opportunity to break the Stalinist strangle-hold on the labor movement. The Negroes will rally to any organization that has the ability and the courage to present the facts clearly and simply to the great mass of workers, black and white.

## Copies

of the August New International are still available. The issue contains a host of exceptionally interesting articles, including an editorial estimate of the war as it enters its third year, a continuation of the Russian discussion, and an analysis of the UAW convention. Get your issue immediately. Order from The New International, 114 West 14th Street, New York City.

## Economic Notes by Frank Demby

The Senate of the United States has outdone the House of Representatives in the race to see which branch of the "people's" representatives can place the heavier tax burden on the masses. It's all in a good cause-financing the "war for democracy"-so don't mind if your tax bill is increased from three to

The Senate voted to lower exemptions on the income tax from \$800 to \$750 for single persons and from \$2,000 a year to \$1,500 a year for married persons. This means that about 6,000,000 more persons-23,000,000 in all-will have to file an income tax in 1942 if this bill becomes law. It also means higher rates for those earning from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Altogether, over \$300,000,000 will be

To show their seriousness in making the poor pay for the bosses' war, the Senate lowered the excess profits tax almost \$70,000,000. It then more than made up for this by raising the ante on excise and miscellaneous taxes some \$85,000,000. This was done chiefly by raising the admission tax for amusements from 10 to 15 per cent, doubling the tax on local telephone bills (10 per cent instead of 5), imposing a 10 per cent tax on electric light bulbs, and a new tax on gas and oil appliances was included. The Senate has topped the House by more than \$450,000,000-of which almost 100 per cent falls on those who work for a living.

Whether this will satisfy the National Association of Manufacturers, who agitated for a national sales tax and a payroll tax, reamins to be seen. It will certainly not meet with favor among the workers. A loud roar of protest from the trade unions can still make Congress retreat a few steps!

Meanwhile profits continue to soar for the big companies under the impates of huge war orders: The following figures show quite clearly to all except the Congress of the United States that taxes on profits and corporations can still be increased SUBSTANTIALLY without denting profits very much

(ligures are for th	ie mst nam or e	acii iiscai y	car).			
	Profits Before Tax Provisions			Net Profit		
			Pct.		KONSTILLED Y CONSTI	Pet.
Industry	1941	1940	Inc.	1941	1940	lue.
Tire and Rubber			Talls.	a bathir	Ton See 1	
(5 companies)	\$50,675,509	\$15,042,028	237	\$20,501,250	\$10,476,480	96
Railroad Equipme	nt -				11-11	
(10 companies	20,223,000	9,203,000	120	11,594,000	7,490,011	55
Automotive Equip	pment					

(13 companies) \_\_\_\_ 41,638,000 17,249,000 142 17,432,000 12,095,000 14 And this is only a small sample of what goes on every day. The patriotism of the rich thrives on this sort of diet. But what about the rest of us?

The first measures so far taken to prevent inflation remain a farce. Where they amount to anything, they are, as we predicted, further blows at the standard of living of the masses. The 7 p.m. curfew for the purpose of rationing gasoline has not only not reduced the consumption of gas, but available estimates show an increase in the sales of gas stations during the past few

Meanwhile, Henderson's order setting a price ceiling of 18.9 cents a gallon in the New York area has been honored more in the breach than by observance. This has brought a threat from "Little Flower" LaGuardia to have the mayors of various cities revoke the licenses of those dealers who are raising their prices. The only thing that will prevent a first-rate tempest from blowing up over this first example of what a war economy means is the sudden "discovery" that there are thousands of railroad oil tankers lying idle. The railroads and oil companies, were just having a private feud. The let-the-publicbe-damned attitude of big business is due for a small curb in this instance.

On September 1, the new curbs on installment buying-aimed at restricting the purchases of durable consumers' goods by the low income groupswent into effect. The Federal Reserve Board limited the maximum time for payments to 18 months and increased the down payments substantially in many cases. Sellers of these items report a brisk business; in some cases better than ever. Since the overwhelming majority of the \$10,000,000,000 installment business is carried on among the workers and lower middle class, a serious restriction of this form of credit would mean a sharp decline in the standard of living of the masses. At present, the curbs on credit remain a jokebut watch out for the future!

On the organization front the President shuffled his "defense" agencies a bit. A super seven-man board, formally known as the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board, has been set up, charged with the responsibility of supervising the OPM and the other war bureaus. The SPAB is headed by Vice-President Wallace. The other members are: Secretary of War Stimson. Secretary of the Navy Knox, William S. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman of the OPM. Price Administrator Henderson (who relinquishes his control of civilian supply) and Dollar-a-Year-Man Donald Nelson, who will be the executive director. Thus does Roosevelt hope to remove the conflicts that have been going on in Washington and satisfy the critics of the production program. That this will not do the trick was indicated by the blast from Barney Baruch, chairman of the War Industries Board in World War I, who continues to insist on the necessity for a one-man head.

Meanwhile, another Wall Street speculator crashed the Washington dollara-year racket with the appointment of Floyd B. Odlum as director of the new Division of Contract Distribution. This replaces the Defense Contract Service and is supposed to see to it that small business gets sub-contracts on the huge war orders that the big corporations are getting and can't fill. Fat chance! Small business is doomed and the war economy will hasten the process. After all, why should organizations controlled by big business order themselves to split their profits with a lot of little competitors? Monopoly capitalism doesn't work that way. Not only can't it create a decent peace economy; it can't even establish an efficient war economy!

Two developments along Wall Street are worth noting. We are very happy to report that Wendell L. Willkie, the man who made the supreme sacrifice of resigning from the presidency of Commonwealth & Southern to crusade against the dictatorial aims of the New Deal third term, is not doing so badly for himself. After becoming senior partner in the lucrative law firm of Willkie, Owen, Otis & Bailey, this junior partner of the unincorporated firm of Roosevelt & Willkie was elected a director of the Federal Insurance Co. on June 4. Now he is being proposed for a second directorship—this time in the very important firm controlled by the Lehman brothers, known as the Lehman Corp. We are confident that the October 15 meeting of the stockholders of the Lehman Corp. will elect Mr. Willkie a director. Just another example of how it pays to be a public-spirited citizen, provided, of course, you know the right people! Who says this isn't the land of opportunity?

The other interesting development in Wall Street is further evidence of the tremendous opportunities that await the eager and patient youngster of today. The American Telephone & Telegraph Co., a Morgan subsidiary, which has conducted all its financing for the past 30 years through the House of Morgan, has announced that its forthcoming issue of \$94,500,000 worth of debentures is to be subject to competitive bidding. Here's a chance for you to make a million dollars in commission. All you have to do is to submit the lowest bid for handling these bonds. The lowest bidder must get the issue. Then all you have to do is to sell them. The bonds are absolutely gilt-edged. There should be no trouble at all. So far, however, there are only two syndicates in the field; one, a group of 28 powerful investment bankers, headed by Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. (Mr. Morgan's son-in-law is head man in this outfit); the other, one of the largest syndicates every assembled, comprising about 175 investment houses, headed by Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., and the Mellon Securities Corp. We are about \$94,499,999 short of the required amount, else

we would submit a bid. Maybe our readers can help us out. Kidding aside, though, this is important because it shows that all attempts to maintain competition must remain solely between the big capitalists. And it can't be otherwise, considering the kind of economic system we live under. One more proof of the necessity for socialism!

For Independent Political Labor Action Against the Boss Class

## Sharecroppers Fight Poverty & Oppression

In 1934 the Roosevelt Administration passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act to help the farmers. It aimed at cutting down the acreage of cotton by one-third. For such is capitalism that cotton is plowed under while millions go naked. County committees were to work out the details based on an average of five years previous. The government set an arbitrary price of 11 or 12 cents and paid the farmer the difference between that and what he got on the open market. The surplus, millions and millions of bales, was stacked in government warehouses. (The Roosevelt Administration probably sees some way of using it now in making bandages for the war.) To enrich the soil one-third of the crop was to be plowed under and soil conservation payments were made to the landlord, providing that the money advanced by the government should be shared by the farmer. On paper it was beautiful.

To prevent cheating by the landlord, the law provided that the landlord could not make any change in his condition of ownership, etc. But the landlord is himself the law. He evaded this by making a bogus sale to his brother or a friend and fixed things up to suit himself. The county committees are landowners themselves or friends of landowners. They sign statements proving that the conditions were always as they wanted them arranged, in order to pocket as much of the government's subsidy as possible and leave the poorer farmers and "croppers" starving as before.

#### HIGHWAY DEMONSTRATION ANSWERS LANDLORD SCHEME

By 1938 the landlord calculated that if he had no tenant farmers and no sharecroppers he would not have to divide the government's subsidy with anybody. The sharecropper's contract is from January to December and in January, 1939, the landlords in southeast Missouri gave notice to the sharecroppers to vacate by January 10. Twenty thousand workers were told to leave the shacks in which they lived. They had nowhere to go. Some of them scattered and sought refuge with a brother here or a cousin there or a friend somewhere else. Where a two-room shack had housed four persons, it now housed six. Families broke up. But 1,500 families, about 5,000 people, Negroes for the most part, with a few whites, camped on the St. Louis highway. They took their scanty possessions with them and announced their intention of staying there until the government took some steps in their behalf.

It is true that this was a lock-out far more than it was a strike. But the action itself was no spontaneous protest springing from a sudden emergency (though it would be been none the less significant). The demonstration, however, was planned and organized. As far back as 1935, Braxton Taylor, a Negro sharecropper of Texas Bend, finding conditions unbearable, wrote a letter to an official of the Socialist Party of Mussouri asking for help. He wrote to

Among the one-third of the nation that lives in direct poverty and greatest misery are thousands upon thousands of share-croppers, Negro and white . . . in Arkansas, Missouri and other states. Ill-housed, ill-fed, they daily feel the severest lash of landlord and government. But, despite the most vicious exploitation, despite terror—yes, actual, real terror—despite starkest oppression, these are men whose spirits have not been broken, who stand ready to fight with every worker against class tyranny. They hunger for bread and they hunger for freedom. And, a fighting militant as every one of them is, they mean to satisfy these hungers, however great the odds against them, however dangerous the battle. They know their enemies and they will not yield. In this and the next issue of LABOR ACTION we present two articles on the Missouri sharecropper by J. R. Johnson.

this address because he had seen the name in The Call, the Socialist Party newspaper.

A few months before the Southern Tenant Farmers Union had been formed in Terrel, Ark. After some months a unit was formed in southeast Missouri. There were no organizers, but sharecroppers and dayhands heard of the new organization through a grapevine and joined.

#### STAND THEIR GROUND FOR TWO WEEKS

In Arkansas there was vicious oppression of the union and long battles, but there were no strikes, no collective action. The frame of the union, however, remained and late in 1938 a Mr. Whitfield. a preacher, began to go round organizing. A local landowner wrote some articles sympathetic to the cause in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Whitfield, in an automobile, visited locals and agitated. A natural leader, fluent from his practice in the pulpit, and a man who had worked in the field as a dayhand himself, he could speak from experience. Late in December he was speaking to meetings that overflowed church houses. The socialists who had helped to organize the local in the first place assisted in the organization. It was in this way that the roadside demonstration was prepared. A Post-Dispatch reporter who heard about the coming action three days before it was due, gave the news away. But neither the reporter himself nor the landlords believed that the sharecroppers had spine enough to carry out the threat. However, the walkout was a complete success. People flocked down and took up position in three groups by the roadside. They were members of the Southern Tenants Farmers union, so they called on the union for assistance. Butler, the leader of the STFU, replied to Whitfield: "You did it without consulting us. Go back." The St. Louis Urban League and the CIO organized assistance and sent food. But the Stalinists in the CIO demanded as a condition that the strikers enter the UCAPAWL. Whitfield agreed.

There are many aspects to what happened on the roadside and a full account must be written some day, because it is a landmark in the history of the class struggle in America. Police, armed to the teeth, came to intimidate these Negroes and make them leave the highway. The Negroes, who had their guns with them, resolutely refused. The Health Department and the Humane Society came out and investigated. The sit-down was called a menace to public health. The chief of police and other officials came to get the strikers to move on. The result was nil. There they were and there they were going to stay.

It was bitterly cold and they lived in tents or in the open and babtes were born on the highway. At last, by a trick, the police got hold of their guns and they were forced to go back to the Spillway. This is land lower than the river, which in the event of an overflow becomes flooded. It is damp and marshy. Here, at any rate, they were out of sight of the public.

About two weeks later they had to give in. They were shepherded away into livery stables, schools, broken down public buildings and holes and hovels of all kinds. A very small percentage the landlords took back and some were lured back to the cottages on the promise that they would not be charged any rent. On July 1, however, eviction notices were served on them and some went to jail. The majority lived how they could, but most of them went back to work as day laborers. As such they had no interest or concern with any payments made to the landlord, according to the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Some liberals in St. Louis formed a rehabilitation committee and about a hundred miles away they found a piece of land, infertile and rocky, and at the top of a hill. It was situated in the county of New Madrid, Miss. Three hundred and five families made the trek to it, and they began life over on July 5, 1939.

Just like pilgrims who had landed in America 300 years before, they set to work with axes and shovels, building log cabins and dirt floors. About a thousand people lived on bread and gravy for two months, bread made of flour, water and salt. The local relief committee gave them as little as possible, hoping to throw them out. The sheriff threatened them. "You must not stay here. Tonight I will protect you, but after that I can't." However, they stayed at the camp, Poplar Bluff, and they built a village which they still inhabit. Of the three hundred and five families who went, five were white.

#### SITUATION CAN NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN

The action itself has had a tremendous moral effect on the Negroes themselves, on the landlords, and on the government. The situation in southeast Missouri can never be the same again. We shall later trace in detail what has been the result upon the workers. For the moment it will be sufficient to show what is now the attitude of the government. Late in 1939 the Negroes began to threaten to hold another roadside demonstration. The governor of Missouri was running for senator and he feared the adverse publicity. Through Bishop Scarlett of the Episcopal Church and one or two other liberals, he got in touch with a St. Louis socialist who he knew had influence among the sharecroppers. Whitfield, president of the union, was on a Stalinist tour and was summoned back immediately.

Meanwhile, John Moore, area president, was summoned to the governor's presence. The governor put his cards on the table. He had heard that there was another roadside demonstration projected. He could settle all difficulties. He would give every landless farmer a house and land if Moore called the demonstration off. The governor himself, the head of the state police, the head of the WPA, the head of the local relief administration, the head of the State Social Security Board and four policemen, all in the room at the same time, met Moore and tried to beat him down. The governor promised 10,000 houses in 30 days and ten acres of land for each family. Moore, supported by his socialist friends, refused to commit the union. He could do nothing, he said, without the union. Having failed with Moore, the governor got hold of Whitfield at the Park Plaza Hotel, having paid all his expenses back from his tour, with cigars included.

Where Moore had held firm, Whitfield capitulated and agreed to call off the projected demonstration. Today the government has built 500 instead of 10,000 houses and instead of ten acres of land, each house has three-quarters of an acre allotted to it.

(To be continued)

# Mr. Churchill and Mr. Gallagher

Last week, in the Parliament of England, a leader of the British Communist Party made a spectacle of himself before the world. William Gallagher, lone Stalinist MP, denounced the Aircraft Production Minister of the Churchill cabinet for an alleged attack upon the Stalin government.

Winston Churchill, in his reply defending the Aircraft Production Minister, delivered a typical red-baiting slur upon Gallagher. Whereupon the British Stalinist spokesman, forgetting the "united front" for the moment, called Winnie what every class-conscious worker knows him to be—a scoundrel, blackguard, liar and working class enemy.

But in the afternoon the "united front" was mended once more—with Gallagher licking Winnie's boots and humbly apologizing to his Prime Minister.

This shameful exhibition follows in line with the policy laid down by the British Stalinists in their letter to their party's membership: "In supporting the Churchill government we do it wholeheartedly without any reservations, without harping on the disagreements of the past or raising the fundamental differences between the Communist Party and other political parties."

So Gallagher ate crow. As Stalin and his regime become subordinate to the British and American war camp so do the various national sections of the Communist International become supporters of their own ruling class and its government.

# Anglo-American Friendship Runs Smack Into a Few Not-So-Very-Friendly Arguments About Business

By HENRY JUDD

British capitalists, bankers, importers and exporters are spending sleepless nights. Nor is it the sound of falling bombs or ack-ack fire that is keeping them awake. It is the muscling-in job that is being performed on them by their American rivals and competitors. British exporters are facing the almost total loss and collapse of their foreign trade markets.

The new Anglo-American trade agreement which was signed last week means that the British will not attempt to sell any materials they produce—and which they are also obtaining from America under the terms of the Lease-Lend Act—on the world market in competition with America. The goods which Britain receives from America will be used only according to American instructional.

The longer the war continues the more dependent does England become on American supplies. This means that in a year or

two—at the present rate—the United States ruling class will be in a position to dictate to Britain how she shall run her economic and commercial life; with whom she shall trade; what she shall charge for goods, etc. American capitalists and imperialists will be able to order their British rivals out of any part of the world where competition is not wanted (and where is it wanted?). If the British protest, Roosevelt can threaten to cut off supplies!

Naturally, the American government will not apply this agreement too rigidly or rapidly. To do so would force a large section of the British ruling class into seriously considering a capitulation to Hitler as a "lesser evil.." Britain must be kept alive—so that the Americans can inherit their Empire rather than the German rivals.

The British Board of Trade has been besieged by protests and complaints from English businessmen. Its answer has been to warn that the worst is yet to come! The question of tariffs, import du-

ties, replacement of the sterling standard by the gold dollar standard, etc., has yet to be settled. The demands of the American capitalist class have only begun.

One British journalist has proposed that an Anglo-American committee of business men be set up to explain to both groups of business men what is going on. LABOR ACTION hereby formally offers to explain what is going on—free of charge and without a committee, either

One set of imperialists and capitalists is moving in on the territory of another set which has its back to the wall. Sentiment and morality have nothing to do with it. It is a struggle for trade, markets, colonies and the like. The Americans are away out in front at the moment and are threatening to give their British blood-brothers and "allies" a royal gypping, the like of which the world has never seen!

## Specter of Revolution Is Haunting Europe

(Continued from page 1)

their own role clearly. They do not now discern fully the economic and political factors that motivate either Hitler or the British-American imperialists. Therefore they are content to ally themselves with the Roosevelt-Churchill order. They believe that, in the present emergency, this is not only necessary for the military defeat of Hitler and fascism but will at the same time restore democracy, to the end that things will go on as before the present imperialist war.

The Anglo-American imperialists seize upon this attitude, this mood of the workers everywhere and use it for the furtherance of their foul designs. We say to every worker that we can reach:

The Roosevelts and the Churchills will betray this confidence which the workers have placed in them. They will do this as surely as the French ruling class betrayed the confidence of the workers of France.

The international working class cannot depend on, cannot trust

The international working class cannot depend on, cannot trust the promises of Churchill, Roosevelt, their run-away kings, queens, princes, dukes and pricesses. These cowards and exploiters have deserted their countries, have sought the protection of their class in Fngland and the United States. They live luxuriously "in exile" in New York and London off the money they extracted from the people. They leave the workers to suffer and carry on the struggle against Hitler. After the Hitler yoke has been removed, these parasites plan to return and place other chains on the workers: the chains of "democratic" imperialism.

It is the working class duty of the workers of Europe to see that there shall be no return, no road back for the exploiting European ruling classes. The command must be forward; FORWARD TO THE BREAKING OF EUROPEAN CAPITALISM AND WORLD IMPERIALISM. The small ripply that has now manifested itself among the workers of Europe must gather force and swell into a mighty indignant wave that will engulf the imperial-

ists of all countries and seize their power.

## HOW BEST AID OUR EUROPEAN BROTHERS?

Current happenings in Europe are of immense importance to militant workers in the United States and England. The Anglo-American working class should gird itself for real participation in the emerging struggle of the workers on the continent of Europe. This struggle will surely come. We do not believe that the workers of France and other European countries, including Germany, will for long submit to the domination of fascist imperialism. We believe that as these workers move along they will learn that Anglo-American imperialism is also not the road to freedom, but to another form of slavery.

Anglo-American workers can best aid the coming struggles of the European workers, not by telegrams of sympathy and condolence, but by earrying on the class struggle in England and the United States in a most militant manner. Revolutionary movements will develop in Europe which will not please the Churchills and the Roosevelts. After the defeat of Hitler, they will seek to suppress these democratic revolutionary uprisings. These movements will not and cannot serve the interests of the Anglo-American imperialists. It will be the duty of the British and American workers to stay the hand of their own ruling class when and if it attempts to interfere with the rise of a revolutionary movement in Europe. The proper way to do this is in revolutionary workers action against one's own capitalist class.

## THE ALTERNATIVE TO FASCISM IS SOCIALISM

For the workers the alternative to fascist imperialism is not capitalist democracy but SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY. The alternative for the workers to fascist world imperialism is not "democratic" capitalist imperialism but a federation of WORLD SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. For such a consummation it is futile for the workers of the world to look to the coming peace conference. The peace between Hitler on one side and Roosevelt-Churchill on the

other will usher in only another armed truce. This kind of "peace" can only do harm to the workers.

The imperialist masters of every nation are well aware that this is an epoch in which God is on the side of the mightiest armies. They know that the conflicts of this day and time can only be resolved in armed conflict: armed conflict today among themselves, but united armed conflict tomorrow against the workers of the world. The master in the house will be that class which realizes

and understands this.

and understands this.

The days of imperialist war are a testing period for the working class. The workers of the world can use these days when the imperialist rulers are at each other's throats to take a forward step. We believe that the workers of continental Europe are beginning to stir in this positive direction. The workers of England and the United States must express their solidarity in action NOW

## An American Fascist Speaks --

(Continued from page 1)

program. They want the workers to eat, but not too much. The workers must have suits and shoes, but not too many. They believe in homes for the workers, but not to the extent that slum clearance will seriously interfere with landlords' incomes.

## WHEREIN ROOSEVELT AND LINDBERGH DIFFER

The matter of the war against Hitler is a business proposition for both the Lindbergh group and the Roosevelt group. The Lindbergh group, having fascist tendencies and a fascist outlook for the U.S., would rather make a deal with Hitler and keep business going as usual. That's why Lindbergh speaks against the war today. He is not against imperialist and capitalist war. For the reasons given, he and his group are against a war with Germany right now.

The capitalists whom Roosevelt represents, being the leading section of the imperialist ruling class, believe that their national and imperialist interests are in danger. Therefore they propose that Hitler be destroyed. They know that they must have the aid and support of labor. Therefore they make concessions in order to placate the working class. They believe in a program of slight appearament.

Workers should not forget that each of these groups within the ranks of the bosses claims to be the best of Americans, the noblest of patriots. Both are conspiring to save capitalism and their own power. Neither group is a "friend of labor." Should their power be threatened by the working class they will close ranks immediately and send their police and army against the workers.

Labor should not take sides in this quarrel between the Lindbergh-Wheeler-Norman Thomas "isolationist" capitalists and the Roosevelt pro-war capitalists. We place Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party with Lindbergh because that is where we find him. He has placed himself in the ranks of this fascist "Colonel" and it is up to the Socialist Party to get him out if they do not like the company of the Hitlerized "Colonel."

The quarrel between the Roosevelt imperialists and the discarded imperialists of the Lindbergh-Hoover-Castle-Wheeler group is nothing for workers to attempt to resolve. They should be against both. Because Lindbergh is a fascist and supported by the most openly reactionary capitalists is no reason for workers to dash over to the Roosevelt imperialist war camp. There are workers who are against Roosevelt's war plans. But Lindbergh's talk against the war is no reason for workers to be fooled into believing him, and making a dash into his fascist camp.

These considerations need to be impressed on Jewish workers especially. There is a great hue and cry in the country, from one end to the other, calling on the Jewish people to support the war so that Hitler may be defeated. The Jewish capitalists and liberals are all working overtime to bring Jewish labor into the Roosevelt imperialist war camp. They appeal to the correct desire of the Jewish workers for the defeat of Hitler. But these Jewish capitalists and liberals betray the Jewish workers into the hands of the Roosevelt imperialist war-mongers.

Jewish workers must be reminded that opposition to Lindbergh and other fascists, even Hitler, does not justify support of the imperialist war and their own Jewish capitalists. Should the ideas and plans of Lindbergh triumph in the United States, some of these Jewish capitalists and liberals will be found in the Eindbergh camp, just as some Jewish capitalists gave support to Hitler in Germany.

The basic demands of the Jewish workers must be the same as for all workers: SOLIDARITY OF THE WORKING CLASS AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR; THE ENTIRE WORKING CLASS—JEW AND GENTILE, BLACK AND WHITE, MALE AND FEMALE, "NATIVE" AND "FOREIGNER."

The workers must repudiate the Lindberghs and the Roosevelts alike. All the workers, the Jewish workers included, must defeat all the Hitlers; but no support to the imperialist war and the imperialist army of Roosevelt. Defeat Hitler UNDER A WORKERS' BANNER. Fight for a WORKERS' STATE.—D. C.

Price Administrator Leon Henderson this week announced that food prices rose 8 per cent during the last month. The Workers Party calls upon labor to fight for increased wages to meet the rising living cost.

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# LABOR ACTION

SHACHTMAN CAMPAIGN PAGE

# W.P. ELECTION PLATFORM HITS CITY ADMINISTRATION

## **MUNICIPAL** Merry-Go-Round

By Susan Green-

Believe it or not, LaGuardia has decreed that for the year 1942 the New York City budget shall provide exactly \$1.00 for all the public improvements so necessary and vital to the health and well-being of the population of this large congested city.

A dollar a year can't get anyone anywhere—except the \$1.00-a-year boys who now infest the nation's capital. Their \$1.00-a-year jobs enable them to toss to their own companies a good share of the \$60,000,000,000 war contracts. The boys, of course, pocket their "modest" war profits.

But for the workers of the city \$1.00 a year in the budget for public works means that they are condemned to do without much needed hospitals, clinics, schools, parks, beaches. LaGuardia, who is fanatically in favor of entering the war between the international robbers, has done this because he wants all the resources of the nation to be used for building bombers, battleships,

For the things which can bring better health and greater enjoyment to the workers and their families-ONE DOLLAR.

For the things that can bring them only death and misery-SIXTY BIL-LION DOLLARS.

THIS IS LAGUARDIA'S CAMPAIGN PLATFORM!

John B. Davies, whose backers were determined to get him into the Republican primaries by hooking or crooking petition signatures, was willing to withdraw as a candidate if LaGuardia would promise not to campaign against the next Republican candidates for Governor and President-YOU SCRATCH MY BACK AND I'LL SCRATCH YOURS. LaGuardia, of course, wasn't interested. The Little Flower has ambitions to blossom into a big sun flower. He merely tolerates the job of Mayor-until the proper moment. He trots around the country, sticking his nose into national and international affairs. He has secret hopes, it is rumored, of occupying the White House, without even so much as a sojourn in Albany. The Gallup poll already counts him as fifth runner-up for Roosevelt's crown. Definitely LaGuardia has no reason for scratching Davies' back.

So now Davies rolls up his sleeves to do battle. He discovers no less than 24 reasons why he is opposed to LaGuardia.

One wonders: WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THOSE 24 REA-SONS IF LAGUARDIA HAD MADE THE DEAL WITH DAVIES?

When the WORKERS PARTY threw its hat into the ring and put up MAX SHACHTMAN for Mayor, it stated that the main issue in this municipal elec-

As the campaign continues it becomes more evident that the politicians are playing around with the anti-war sentiment of the people TO GET VOTES. Thus Davies points an accusing finger at LaGuardia and says: "You are behind Roosevelt's foreign policy—you are for war!" And LaGuardia's supporters, panicky lest they lose the anti-war vote, hasten to assure the voters

that war is NOT the issue, but purely city administration. BOTH THESE GANGS ARE OUT TO HURT THE WORKERS. LaGuardia-like Roosevelt-is willing to sacrifice every poor mother's son to fight for the American money bags. Davies-if he is not an out-and-out pro-Nazi like

Lindbergh-is against the war-only for election purposes. The working people will throw away their chance to vote against war in this election UNLESS THEY SUPPORT THE TRUE WORKING CLASS CAN-

MAX SHACHTMAN opposes this war because wars between the international bandits always have been-AND STILL ARE-AGAINST THE IN-TERESTS OF THE WORKERS!

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In the American Labor Party the war issue also looms very big. So anxious are its leaders to hand over to the war-mongering politicians labor's vote tied up in a neat red-white-and-blue wrapper that they refused to renominate Harry W. Laidler for City Councilman. This action was taken because in 1940 Laidler supported Norman Thomas for President and not Roosevelt, the capitalist candidate of the ALP.

Now, very little harm can come to the boss class from supporting Thomas. He does not believe in WORKING CLASS MILITANT ACTION. Nevertheless, this was not sufficient reason for the super-patriots of the ALP to renominate Laider. Then the drama began to unfold. LAIDLER CROSSED HIS HEART AND DENIED THAT HE IS AN ISOLATIONIST. Well, of course!

He has been designated for re-election by the City Fusion Party. NOW HE BEATS THE DRUM WITH LAGUARDIA—at least a little bit.

While on the subject of the ALP, it should be noted that Davies believes the ALP should be DESTROYED because it is "un-American." It can hardly be said that the ALP is "un-American" if being "American"

means to support the boss class and its politicians. It, therefore, appears that Davies has been influenced by the German Fuehrer into a belief that anything that even bears the label "Labor" should

The WORKERS PARTY believes that the ALP will die A NATURAL DEATH when labor realizes that the ALP simply rounds up the trade union vote for the boss politicians!

The other day, in Chicago, before a gathering of 15,000, Mayor LaGuardia tried his darndest to steam up hatred against the "Boche." "My friends," he shouted, "there is only one language they understand, and that is the lan-

The poor people of Chicago and New York City are better acquainted with the domestic Boche-the profiteering landlord, the exploiting boss. An instance in point recently developed in New York City.

Owners of some of the foulest tenements are actually beginning to comply with some of the requirements of the Multiple Dwellings Law. They are installing private toilets, supplying fire-proofing, painting hallways, cutting windows into dark rooms. The absence of any of these features constitutes a violation of the law. BUT THE LANDLORDS DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT-AND NEITHER DID THE MAYOR.

But lately the landlords have become more law-abiding. INCIDENTALLY THEY HAVE ADDED FROM ONE DOLLAR TO TEN DOLLARS TO THE MONTHLY RENTALS.

The poor families who thought they might be getting a break but find that they can't pay the increased rents must pack up and move into tenements WHERE THE LANDLORDS CONTINUE TO VIOLATE THE LAW.

The profiteering landlords figured that the war situation will make the housing shortage so acute that by spending a little money on remodelling their fire-traps, they might be able to get "a better class of tenants"—and to

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FORCE FOR THE NATIVE BOCHE, MR. MAYOR? The profiteers can't understand any other language!

alty campaign of 1941. While the November election will be a CITY election, the chief issue in the campaign is NOT a municipal issue. The chief issue is the question of the WAR, for ALL the parties involved.

We have emphasized before that LaGuardia is actually running on his record as the noisiest jingo and patrioteer within 100 miles of New York City. Now the right wing of the ALP circularizes its registered voters, asking them to support LaGuardia-because he is 100 per cent behind the pro-war administration in Washington. O'Dwyer, Tammany's stooge, according to reports. is debating with his advisers whether or not to run against LaGuardia on the war issue. The Communist Party, as is well known, after its flop-over to the side of the war-mongers, is likewise determining its stand in accordance with its re-re-born "patriotism."

And it is perfectly true that the issue IS the war. That's why the Workers Party is running its candidate, Max Shachtman, as the ANTI-WAR CANDIDATE against this line-up of politicians who clap their hands in glee as Roosevelt wades deeper and deeper into a

But remember this: When the Roosevelt administration in Washington went all-out for the pro-war drive, that entailed a lot of other things for the workers of this country in addition to dragging the American people into the slaughter. It means that the national administration went in for union-busting and strike-strangling, as in its breaking of the North American strike. It means a sky-rocketing cost of living about which Washington refuses to do anything. It meant turning money away from relief and housing and sinking it in instruments of

A pro-war administration in the City Hall has the very same meaning for the workers of New York City. Anyone who swallows this Wall Street war has to swallow along with it an attack upon the living standards and conditions of the workingmen, not only on a national scale but also on a city scale.

#### WHAT ARE THE MUNICIPAL ISSUES?

Here are some "municipal issues" that have to be faced up to by the LaGuardias and other war-mongers whose slogan is "Guns, not butter":

1. LABOR'S RIGHT TO STRIKE, ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY.-LaGuardia likes to pose as a "friend of labor," but when the Transit Workers' contract ran out, the LaGuardia administration started to crack down on the union instead of bargaining collectively. When the union threatened to strike, LaGuardia issued the Hitler-like edict: "You can't strike against the government," and started to mobilize the police force to terrorize the subway workers.

This isn't the first time that Fiorello was forced into the open with his anti-union policy. Earlier in his career as Mayor he made quite a name for himself among the unemployed when he used clubs and horses' hoofs to break a series of WPA strikes and unemployed demonstrations. The onset of the war has meant an intensification of his efforts to chain up the labor movement.

2. RELIEF AND THE SALES TAX.-While the CIO reports over six million unemployed, even in this period of war boom, expenditures on relief have been going steadily down, while the war budget mounts. In New York, the Relief Bureau diverts relief money to city financing and even then reports a "surplus" of unexpended fund. That surplus exists, not because there are not families that desperately need the cash, but because the money has been kept from them. Needy men and women are kept waiting for weeks and months while they are being investigated. Behind a barrage of red tape, the LaGuardia/relief administration "economizes" on the unemployed. "Guns, not butter!"

the sales tax across on the people of New York. It is still there, still soaking the workers for the relief of the unemployed while swollen war profits roll through the financial market. Here too LaGuardia is no different from Roosevelt, who spares the "Fat Boys" the trouble of paying for their war by extending the income tax down to the \$15-a-week workers.

3. PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING-Here, for every housewife and wage-earner, is one of the biggest scandals of the war. Meat, stockings, furniture, spaghetti or eggs-everything is rising, penny by penny. The profiteers have declared their own "war emergency" and are gouging a-plenty.

Roosevelt looks in the other direction and refuses to do anything about it. But action CAN be taken by the city government! LaGuardia and the other war-mongers seem to be worried exclusively about the standard of living of the workers in Hitlerized Europe, while our own sinks down toward their level.

4. HOUSING.—The lavish expenditure of funds for the "floating housing projects"-the bettleships-has meant a thin trickle of funds for the immediate job of slum clearance. Hardly a dent has been made in the miserable housing conditions in Harlem, on the East Side, and other sections of the city.

More than that, the "housing projects" have not eliminated the slums but merely moved them. Thousands of families of former slum areas, unable to pay the rents in the new fine houses, have merely shifted over from one slum district to another. "Slum clearance" without low-rent housing is a fraud.

5. EDUCATION.—The subways carry posters signed by LaGuardia urging riders to protect school property, with the slogan "Education-Our First Line of Defense." But that's just a poster in the subway. In his office, LaGuardia slashes the school budget by millions of dollars, at the behest of the real-estate tycoons who object to high taxes.

The same poster shows three youngsters sitting comfortably in their seats. A truer picture would show classes of 40 to 50, with children crowded two on a bench and lapping over on the radiators and stools. A whole generation is being denied an adequate education.

## OUR MUNICIPAL PLATFORM

LaGuardia does not even propose to improve these conditions, because he can't afford to embarrass the war drive. As far as he's concerned, the people will just have to stand for them as an overhead cost of the war.

We propose: AN ANTI-WAR ADMINISTRATION which will have no hesitation in cracking down upon these aggressions on the living standards of the people.

1. Full rights to all workers and city employees to organize, bargain collectively and strike.

2. City action to keep down prices and craon the profiteers.

3. Adequate relief to the unemployed and elimination of red tape in granting relief. Raise the money by income taxes upon the rich and fat corporations and by higher real estate taxes. Abolish the sales tax!

4. A national and city program to replace the slums in five years with low-rent houses fitted to the purses of the present slum-dwellers, with special attention to Harlem to make up for years of neglect by the LaGuardia and Tammany administrations.

5. Restoration of the cuts made in the school budget

VOTE FOR MAX SHACHTMAN, ANTI-WAR CAN-DIDATE OF THE WORKERS PARTY, IN THE NO-VEMBER ELECTION FOR MAYOR!

## Where We Stand!

WE ARE AGAINST:

1. Both imperialist alliances in this war-the Nazi-Fascist Axis on the one hand, and the alliance of Washington and Wall Street, the British Empire and Stalin on the

2. The secret diplomacy and piece-meal steps by which the Roosevelt government has made us a partner to this war without the consent of the people.

other.

3. Government strikebreaking by Roosevelt and La Guardia and persecution of militant trade unionists, as well as of all aliens.

4. The plan to make the people pay for this bosses' war by direct and indirect taxes on the workers, while the government permits and encourages enormous war profits and a sky-rocketing cost of living.

5. All discrimination against Negroes, especially in the war industries and in the Army and Navy. Every manifestation of Jim-Crowism, anti-Semitism and every Hitler - like discrimination against minorities.

WE ARE FOR:

1. The only force in this war-torn world that can bring about a truly democratic peace of liberty and security for the common people - the struggle of the working class against their own bosses. End the war by a socialist victory—a socialist workers' world!

2. A national referendum on participation in the war, directly or indirectly. Let the people decide!

3. The defense of labor's rights, all democratic liberties, above all the right to organize and to strike.

4. Make the rich pay for their war! Conscript the war industries under workers' control! Place a capital levy on accumulated wealth! Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the 3 per cent who own 90 per cent of the wealth!

5. Full social, economic and political equality for Negroes! Jobs for Negroes in the war industries! Open every branch and rank of the armed forces without race discrimination!

## Final Push Gets Under Way in Drive To Put Shachtman on N.Y.C. Ballot

With over 10,000 signatures already collected in the drive to put Max Shachtman, anti-war candidate, on the ballot, Local New York of the Workers Party is mobilizing its forces in a final push to go well over the top in the petition campaign.



7,500 signatures, Local New York is out to exceed that sum by as many thousands as possible in order to allow for no technical slipups. The organization means to present the election board with so many petitions that there can be no possible doubt about a place on the ballot for our candidate. Every night of the week, including Satur-

Although the election law requires only

days and Sundays-during which all-day mobilizations are held-Workers Party members and friends are out on the streets collecting signatures. In the ten days that remain to the petition drive, the Workers Party calls upon all its sympathizers and friends to help put the anti-war candidate on the ballot for Mayor. There are many ways in which the readers

MAX SHACHTMAN

of LABOR ACTION can help. 1. Get a few petition sheets and circulate them among your friends. Peti-

by mail or by dropping in. 2. Contribute to the Shachtman Campaign Fund! Elections cost money under capitalism. We want to reach a maximum number of New York workers with our literature on the campaign and with special appeals. We need

tion sheets can be gotten from campaign headquarters at 114 West 14th Street,

your dollar bills! Send them, or bring them, to campaign headquarters.

LABOR ACTION 114 W. 14th Street **New York City** 

Dear Friends:

I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

## The Facts Speak for Themselves on LaGuardia And How He "Benefited" New York Education

Mayor LaGuardia rests his campaign for a third term on the ground that he represents "good government." One of the major arguments made in defense of his record as Mayor is that he has given New York City the best educational system in the country. This is a very important point, for education represents by far the largest single item in New York City's budget, running over \$150,000,000 a year. The record, however, shows that if New York City has a relatively good educational system-it is in spite of LaGuardia, not because of him. Let's look at the

When Fiorello LaGuardia entered City Hall for his first term in 1933, the country was still in the throes of a terrible depression. New York City was no exception. LaGuardia's very first action as Mayor in regard to education was to ask the teachers of New York City to take a "voluntary" salary cut of 6 per cent! This was, in fact, an order! What a way for a 'friend of education" to defend the educational system! Make it even more difficult for the average teacher to make ends meet, thus lowering the quality of instruction in the schools the most important element in building a sound, progressive and democratic educational system. In this action, LaGuardia revealed his typical attitude toward education. It was far more important for the poli-

tician LaGuardia to hold the city in

which meant millions of dollars every year in interest to the Wall Street bankers, than to maintain teachers' salaries!

## His Attacks Continue

The teachers have had this pay cut rescinded, chiefly through the activity of the organized teachers, but LaGuardia has continued his attacks on teachers and the educational system to the present. It is well known that LaGuardia, as Mayor of New York City, possesses considerable influence in the State Legislature at Albany. Time after time, LaGuardia has sent word along calling for the defeat of meaures favorable to the teachers and the educational system, and for the passage of measures detrimental to the well-being of the teachers and the welfare of the schools. He has not been successful in every case in carrying out his reactionary program-which is, in reality, the program of the real bosses of New York City, the bankers and big capitalists-but he has tried his darndest.

When the "payless furloughs," the polite name given for the salary cuts, were ended, LaGuardia led the big campaign for "Home Rule." This would have taken control of teachers' salaries out of the hands of the state, where it now rests, and placed it in the hands of LaGuardia, the

to cut state aid to education some \$10.000,000. Not satisfied with this, LaGuardia had his own Board of Estimate slash the city's educational budget \$3,000,000. These cuts were made in the name of "economy" and "good government." They were backed by the New York State Chamber of Commerce, whose education program is to keep the three R's. Docile and ignorant labor is what these gentlemen and their fascistminded aides, like Merwin K. Hart, also one of the big supporters of educational retrenchment, want. La-Guardia supported them, the record shows, even though there was absolutely no necessity for these cuts.

## Slashing Substitutes

In addition to the question of direct budget and salary cuts, the biggest issue in education during the terms of Mayor LaGuardia has been the substitute question. Every measure designed to benefit the plight of substitutes has foundered on the rock of LaGuardia's opposition. Every attempt to decrease class size, a most important step in developing a progressive educational system, has been bitterly opposed by LaGuardia. Thousands of teachers, including those who have passed the very arduous regular examinations, wait in vain on lists for an appointment. The policy of educational retrenchment has wage-cutter. When this measure condemned them to do regular work,

get a job, at a substitute's salary. The bill to give substitutes equal pay was opposed by LaGuardia. Today, the substitute is in danger of complete extinction from the educational system, as the retrenchment program is extended. Even regular teachers, who presumably have tenure of position, are threatened with having their positions abolished and being forced on relief after long years of faithful service.

Even small bills, relatively unimportant so far as the money involved is concerned, have been the victims of LaGuardia's drive against education. For example, a bill to increase the salaries of clerks, one of the most exploited sections of the school staff, was defeated through LaGuardia's opposition. More revolting was the killing of the non-revenue Livingston-Breitbart bill, which would have given teachers the right of counsel -again, LaGuardia's work.

As a result of LaGuardia's campaign against the schools-all in the name of "good government," remember-the New York City educational system is in the worst shape it has been in in 30 years. Classes are getting more over-crowded. Evening schools, kindergartens, playgrounds, swimming pools, adult classes-all the "extra" services-have suffered severely. Students get filthy, obsolete textbooks. There is a shortage is a complete cipher,

ers are being subjected to a vicious speed-up that would put some factory bosses to shame.

The proudest boast of LaGuardia's adherents is that he has given New York City a "non-partisan" administration. The schools, surely one of the first places to select officials on the basis of ability instead of political connections, give the lie to this boast of conscienceless politicians. "Non-partisan" in the schools means "Fusion"-that is, a supporter of La-Guardia. The few able people that LaGuardia has gotten into the school system are largely accidental. The school system is still one of the most vicious examples of politics, of the spoils system, that exists anywhere. Only now, instead of it being a Tammany spoils system, it is a LaGuardia spoils system.

Finally, the fast boast of the selfdeluded liberals that LaGuardia has, at least, built more schools is now destroyed by the war that they and LaGuardia support. Battleships and other instruments of war cost money. This means no money for the schools. LaGuardia's school-building program has come to a complete halt, with one-third of the schools still in need of renovation or replacement and with an urgent need for dozens of new schools still unfilled. LaGuardia's record in support of education