

5,000 PROTEST AGAINST W.P.A. CUTS

W.P.A. To Cut Rolls Another 100,000 in June

Will Bring Total Number of "Guinea Pigs" Sacrificed Since November to 850,000—No Jobs in Industry for Dismissed Workers

Another 100,000 W.P.A. workers are to be dropped, sent to beg for home relief if they can get it, with no hope of private employment! That is the cold-blooded decision of the Roosevelt W.P.A. Administration.

These 100,000 are to be dropped in June, bringing the total dropped since November to the staggering figure of 850,000.

In the words of Congressman Dudley A. White, the first cuts were "an experiment to see whether relief expenditures could not be cut down somewhat as economic recovery progressed." When you experiment with cutting up guinea pigs it doesn't matter much if the pigs die, you can get millions more cheap. But, presumably, the millions of unemployed and their families are not guinea pigs to experiment with, leave and die.

with it will go Roosevelt's popularity. The masses cannot eat his cannons. They want bread, and bread they will have, in spite of the War Deal. The workers who showed the world the great sit-down wave of unionization will not starve for Roosevelt or anybody else.

LYNCH NEGRO WORKER IN MISSISSIPPI

Worse Than Guinea Pigs
Yet in a laboratory experiment, once the desired result is achieved, the experiment is concluded, and no more guinea pigs are slaughtered. But in the case of the unemployed, the slaughter goes on even after it has been ascertained that "economic recovery" has not taken care of those dropped.

For, as reported in the last issue of the *Socialist Appeal*, the American Association of Social Workers established in a national survey two basic facts:

- "At its peak, W.P.A. failed to absorb large groups of needy employable persons certified as eligible for such employment."
- New Deal claims that the sharp W.P.A. cuts since November were justified by increased possibilities for private employment were punctured by the survey figures. "From November 1938 to January 1939 W.P.A. wages declined sharply—by nearly 10 per cent in two months—while general (direct) relief rose even more sharply—by 19 per cent."

During that period 310,000 were laid off W.P.A. but in the same time the general relief rolls increased by more than 241,000 cases. The same phenomenon has continued since. In other words, those cut off W.P.A. jobs are not absorbed by private jobs, but go to home relief or starve.

Yet in the face of these facts—well known to the Administration of course—the Roosevelt War Deal officials brazenly continue chopping down the W.P.A. employment rolls.

500,000 Face Dismissal

Even in their present state of dismantling, the W.P.A. rolls include 500,000 more workers than are provided for in Roosevelt's relief budget message of April 27, proposing an average of only two million W.P.A. jobs for the coming year beginning July 1. These half million workers face dismissal shortly before or after July, if Roosevelt has his way. Sardonically enough, the Gallup poll has just completed a survey in which it asked a cross-section of people: "What do you think is the greatest accomplishment of the Roosevelt Administration during the six years it has been in office?" Voters in the lower income groups, who of course provide the decisive majority of the population, listed as the major accomplishment of the administration its relief and W.P.A. program.

But that was the Roosevelt New Deal. Now it is the Roosevelt War Deal. And to feed the voracious war machine, the entire relief and W.P.A. system is being abandoned. But

Tortured with Hot Irons, Shot, for Refusing Pay Cut

(By Staff Writer)
NEW YORK, June 2.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today revealed the hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, a Negro lumber worker, of Canton, Mississippi. Rodgers was shot, brutally cut, tortured by hot irons, and his body thrown into the Pearl River by the foreman of the mill at which he was employed.

Rodgers' crime was that he had refused to accept a weekly wage deduction of \$5.50 in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

Official Silence
No one has been arrested for the crime, and the local papers have maintained a complete silence. Town officials have advised residents to refrain from discussing the crime.

According to the testimony of the investigator, Rodgers on May 8 refused to take a \$5.50 weekly cut, asking for full payment. His foreman struck him.

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STALIN DECREE ON AGRICULTURE INDICATES SOVIET CONDITIONS

Increase in Number of "Landlord Peasants" Exposes Wide Crack in Soviet Economy

A drastic and sudden new decree on agriculture, signed by Stalin and Molotov and issued by the Kremlin on May 28, provides ten times more significant comment upon conditions within the Soviet Union than all the rhetoric about the triumph of socialism and the first stage of communism at Party congresses or all the faked statistics from the most recent census.

The new decree attacks "abuses in collective farm practices." In 1935, in a concession to the peasantry, there was legally confirmed the right of peasants who were members of collective farms to till small plots of land as their own, and to use or sell the produce from these plots; and, similarly, the right of individual peasants to own and use a cow, pigs, chickens, etc.

It now turns out, according

Down to the Bone



Coughlin Hides a Boss Solution Behind Plea for Living Wages

By GRACE SAUNDERS

Father Coughlin, anti-labor radio priest, is now taking the stump for a "living annual wage." Every crooked politician says he favors a living annual wage. Words and crocodile tears for the worker and the unemployed are cheap.

What every worker wants to know is: how can I get that wage? Coughlin's answer to this vital question is the bosses' answer—the same proposals they have tried to cram down workers' throats ever since labor organized and refused to work under conditions of virtual slavery. To get an annual living wage, says Coughlin, you must destroy your trade unions and remove the threat of strikes. As simple as that. Kick out the "reds" (Coughlin means good union men), insult and attack the Jews, send the foreigners back where they come from, call off strikes—and rely on the goodness and benevolence of the bosses.

Unions Must Go
If only we didn't have the unions, wails Coughlin, if only industry were "assured of an

end once and for all of the waste of time loss and the menace to morale in strikes," then the bosses "would probably be glad to pay an annual wage." Coughlin assures us that in the automobile industry (in which he seems particularly interested) this could be done, and the bosses would pay every employe an annual wage of \$2,500. Coughlin is certain about one

PAROLE BOARD TO HEAR BEAL PARDON PLEA

Unionists Ask Freedom for Leader of Gastonia Strike

A hearing on a petition for pardon by Fred E. Beal, labor leader now serving a sentence of from 17 to 20 years in North Carolina, will be held at Raleigh, N. C., on Thursday, June 8, before the Board of Pardoles, it was announced Monday by the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred E. Beal.

Beal was convicted for the shooting of Chief of Police O. F. Aderholt in the celebrated Gastonia textile strike of 1929, of which he was the leader.

Under the North Carolina law, the governor of the state acts in petitions for clemency on recommendation of the State Board of Pardoles.

Unionists Ask Freedom
Beal's petition is backed by pleas for favorable action addressed to Governor Hoey of North Carolina by members of Congress, labor leaders, including President William Green of the A.F.L., noted churchmen, writers and educators.

Beal and six other leaders of the Gastonia strike were convicted at Charlotte, N. C., on October 21, 1929, before Judge Barnhill. They were released on bail, pending an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State.

While out on bail, they were persuaded by their associates to visit Soviet Russia. Eventually

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thing—that the unions must go. He's not so positive that even then the bosses would come through. He says they "probably" would be "glad to pay" a living annual wage. But suppose the bosses double-cross the workers? They have in the past! They will in the future. If the workers foolishly obeyed Coughlin, they would get in return for sacrificing their unions the "possibility" that the bosses would change their skins and be "glad" to pay them a living wage. Every intelligent worker knows such a "possibility" is nothing but a fraud.

Coughlin hides the facts. The unions have been strong in the automobile industry only since 1936. If the unions, especially the C.I.O., are the only thing that keeps the bosses from paying every worker \$2,500 a year, why did the bosses fail to pay that sum before the industry was organized? In 1935, before the C.I.O. had gained strength, a Detroit auto worker was lucky if he earned \$1,000 a year. A large percentage of the workers earned far less. Why weren't the bosses "glad" to pay \$2,500 a year at that time? Father Coughlin doesn't explain this, because it punctures his phoney story.

His "Solution"

The bosses are "glad" to pay not \$2,500 a year but—starvation wages, and not a penny more, if unions don't force them to pay more. Without the trade unions, workers have been forced to slave twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day at coolie wages.

In a "free" market, the boss is "free" to get workers to bid against each other for ever lower salaries. In the non-union labor market, which Coughlin advocates, a worker making \$35 a week is asked to take a wage cut to \$30 or less. If he refuses or is hesitant, he is fired, and somebody else is hired in his stead at \$25 or \$20 a week. That is what always happens when the worker has no union to protect his wage and his job.

Coughlin's "solution" on how the workers can secure a living annual wage is a "solution" for the bosses and for nobody else. Coughlin thinks the workers are dopes. Sacrificing the right to strike, giving up the trade unions, means acceptance by the worker of the

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Minneapolis-St. Paul Demonstrators Press Demands on Governor

Persecution of French Labor Militants Continues

Fernand Vintriguer, managing director of "Le Libérateur", organ of the Anarchist Union of France, has been sentenced to one year in jail, and Pierre Le Meilour, a contributing writer, to fifteen months in jail, by the Daladier government.

Their "crime" was the writing and publication of an article, in the issue of December 22, 1938, on the lessons of the November 30 general strike.

The Daladier government has also suppressed the "SIA", organ of International Anti-fascist Solidarity in France, which took no part in internal politics, but which was active in rousing aid for the Spanish anti-fascist refugees.

Suzanne Charpy, Trotskyist youth leader, has lost her last appeal, and must go to jail, sentenced for anti-war activity.

In many cases, it is difficult to learn the circumstances of arrests, for among the infamous Daladier decree laws, it is a crime to make public the news of the arrest of persons seized for anti-military work.

Salem C.I.O. Votes Relief Investigation

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
LYNN, Mass.—The North Shore Industrial Union council, delegate body of the C.I.O., on May 19 voted to investigate the relief situation in Lynn, Salem and other cities and towns along the North Shore.

The action was taken after numerous complaints had been received from relief clients, concerning forced labor practices and chiseling on relief allotments.

In Salem, relief recipients are required to work a whole day along with city employes on street or other work, but only receive part of the day's wage paid regular city employes for working the same number of hours.

CUBA INCIDENT DRAMATIZES PLIGHT OF JEWISH REFUGEES

After World-wide Criticism Batista 'Relents'—Opens Temporary Concentration Camp

A concentration camp on the Isle of Pines, and that only as a temporary arrangement until they can be re-embarked for another destination, was all that the 917 Jewish refugees aboard the liner St. Louis could secure from the Batista regime of Cuba.

And even this niggardly and cruel arrangement came only after world-wide attention forced Batista to propose it instead of the deportation he had already ordered.

The shipload of suffering men, women and children, pent up in Havana harbor for agonizing days of negotiations and pleas, dramatized as no single event since the German pogroms last October, the stark plight of the refugees.

Facts and figures about refugees have failed to awaken any overwhelming sympathy for them. But the terrible single picture of these hundreds, at last out of Germany, but discovering within sight of haven

Tie-Up W.P.A. Projects For Day--Marchers Ask More Jobs, No Firing

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
MINNEAPOLIS, June 3.—Pressing their demands for reinstatement of all discharged W.P.A. workers—for more W.P.A. jobs at union wages, and against competitive bidding for W.P.A. trucking, an army of 5,000 W.P.A. and relief workers descended yesterday on the State Capitol. A committee of sixteen, representing the demonstrators, presented the demands to Governor Harold Stassen.

Early Friday morning, Local 544's Federal Workers Section dispatched truckloads of W.P.A. workers to the various projects to close them down for the day. Virtually every project in Minneapolis was shut down. Hundreds of trucks driven by members of the Independent Truck Owners' Section of General Drivers' Local 544 carried the demonstrators through the loops of both Minneapolis and St. Paul to the State Capitol.

The Holiday was called in the name of a united front Joint Action Committee representing the Federal Workers Section and the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544; the Workers Alliance of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the Workers Benefit Association of St. Paul.

Stalinists Dragged Along
Only the enthusiasm of the unemployed for the demonstration forced the Workers Alliance leaders to go along, and they dragged their feet all the way. On the Joint Action Committee they refused to accept such slogans as "All War Funds to the Unemployed," pointing out that the Workers Alliance nationally was supporting the Roosevelt war machine. On at least one project Friday a Workers Alliance steward was caught in the act of insisting that the project remain open during the day, over the objections of both the workers and the supervisor who wished to close it down. Only about 25 workers paraded under the banner of the Minneapolis Workers Alliance, and many women members of the W.A.A. who objected to the pro-Roosevelt line of the Stalinists, came over to ride in the trucks of the Federal Workers Section.

WAA CONGRESS SHUNS NEEDS OF U.S. JOBLESS
'Right to Work' Congress Aims at White-washing Roosevelt

By STAN LAUREN
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
WASHINGTON, June 4.—More than 1,200 delegates from every part of the country were brought here this week to attend the "National Right to Work Congress"—staged by the Stalinist-controlled Workers Alliance, in an effort to white-wash the Roosevelt Administration's slashing of the W.P.A. rolls.

The first session opened yesterday in the spacious Department of Labor auditorium, with an address by David Lasser, Stalinist flunkey and W.A.A. president, who stated that "the fact that we are here . . . indicates that our national Congress has somehow failed in its responsibilities." But not one word came from this traitor's lips that might show the delegates a way to fight for the "right to work" for the millions of unemployed.

This morning, the second day of the "Congress," the delegates were assigned to spend

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Serve Demands on W.P.A.
At 10:30 a.m. the motorized parade, several miles long, got under way. With horns honking and with thunderous boos, the parade roared past the district W.P.A. office on West Broadway, where a committee entered to press their demands.

From there the demonstrators circled the Minneapolis courthouse, in which the city Welfare Board was meeting. Each truck and car had colorful banners and signs: All War Funds to the Unemployed—Give Stassen a 403 in 1940—For a Special Session of the State Legislature—We Want Rat-Proof Houses for our Children—Abolish the Stassen Anti-Labor Act—Keep the Bull in the Stockyards, Stassen, We Want Jobs—Thirty Dollars for Thirty Hours—No W.P.A. Concentration Camps for Single Men—600 Truckmen Want Work—Maintain Relief Standards or We Fight—More N.Y.A. Jobs, etc.

At the St. Paul city limits, the parade was joined by a large contingent from the St. Paul Workers Benefit Association, and the motorized demonstration, strung out for miles along University Avenue, then circled the State Capitol, and

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