New York, N. Y., Saturday, January 21, 1933

Price 5 Cents

W. VIRGINIA MINERS HELD FOR MURDER

Four Framed on Charges Growing Out of Coalburg Strike

By TOM TIPPETT

BULLETIN-The four miners were brought before the court this afternoon. All pleaded not guilty-all were indicted for murder. All were returned to jail, held on \$10,000 ball each. The trial is set for early in February.

CHARLESTON, W. VA.-The West Virginia Mine Workers' Union in southern West Virginia enters the new year with unabated enthusiasm for organization although the obstacles erected in its path increase as the depression sinks deeper into the Kanawha Valley to paralyze its life.

As this is being written four members of the union are in the Kanawha County jail in the capitol city of Charleston. They will be indicted for murder this week by the State of West Virginia. The men are coal diggers from Coalburg, a small camp fifteen miles up the Kanawha River from the new capitol building which raises its huge golden dome over Charleston.

There was a strike at Coalburg, called on November 16. It was scheduled to force the Coalburg-Kanawha Mining Company to grant regular pay days to its em-The coal company pays in script, but refuses to pay even that kind of money to its workers should any of them have a bit coming after the regular company check-off has been imposed.

The state police appeared, when the strike was called, and suppressed picketing. In the course of the strike shots were exchanged on the mountain side. A non-union man was killed on November 28. The police force grew, a third degree was administered and the union miners hunted down like wild beasts. In the end the four strike leaders were accused of murder; they were tortured and beaten by the police and thrown into jail. The grand jury is now writing indictments. All of the men will be indicted for murder.

Meanwhile the strike continued at Coalburg. All the employees (except 7) joined the union; the mine closed. Then the coal company asked the courts for eviction papers. They were granted. The union was unable to post bonds to guarantee rent to the coal company. (Continued on Page 2)

Farmers Stop Sheriff Sale Near Hoover's Birthplace

LOGAN, IA., (FP).-Like wildfire the farmers' fight against sheriff sales is sweeping the corn belt. About 100 farmers gathered at Logan and succeeded in preventing the scheduled sale of the A. H. Clever farm. The group also postponed another sale in which Rep. Malcolm Baldridge (R., Neb.), was among the plaintiffs.

At Tipton, Ia., scene of the farmers fight against the bovine tuberculin test law in 1930, 20 farmers forced postponement of the sheriff sale of J. A. Halslett's farm near West Branch, birthplace of Pres. Hoover. A delinquent tax sale at Forest City, Ia., was also postponed when between 600 and 700 farmers gathered to prevent bids. All county officials suddenly agreed to give a 20 per cent salary cut to the poor fund after the demonstra-

Wisconsin, which has seen a farmer defending his farm by arms, also saw 300 farmers assemble at Appleton and force postponement until April 8 of the sale of a widow's farm on a mortgage foreclosure action.

The struggle of Bucks County, Pa. farmers, which resulted in the recent \$1.18 auction of John Henzel's farm, has been brought to court. Attorney for one of Henzel's creditors says he will fight the case "to the bitter end." The farmers who forced the \$1.19 sale say they'll fight to as bitter an end as the creditor

About 30,000 acres of land put up for sale in Spottsylvania County, Va., for delinquent taxes went to the state when owners refused to bid. They may live on the land two years more.

MINERS THREATEN GENERAL STRIKE

Illinois Progressive Union Wires Warning to Gov. Horner

UNION MORALE HIGH RELIEF CUT OFF

GILLESPIE, ILL.-(Special)-Threatening to call upon American workers to join them in a general strike unless the reign of terror in Christian county, Illinois, is stopped, the Progressive Miners America wired Gov. Henry Horner that "You cannot help knowing the facts and unless constitutional rights of our people are immediately restored there is nothing left for us but our economic strength and to ask all miners to join us in a nation-wide strike and to call upon all workers throughout the United States to cease work and take whatever action necessary to restore constitutional rights of American workers.'

National Guardsmen and Sheriff Weinecke have closed down relief stations in Kincaid and Tovey, homes have been destroyed by bombing, women and children' dragged from homes and beaten. and soup kitchens for hungry children closed, the wire stated.

Relief trucks coming into Christian county will be turned back, is Sheriff Weinecke's threat. Miners receive no local relief. A sack of Red Cross flour every two weeks per family is the limit.

The reign of terror directed against the new union which last summer broke away from the U.M.W.A. is drawing the miners closer together. The P.M.A. has 20,000 members working who can be called out in protest.

Miners' rights have disappeared. "Whenever this happens the people are justified in taking whatover means ne cessary to protect their homes and lives, the Illinois governor was told.

HOBOKEN STRIKE LEADS TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST WAGE-CUTS

HOBOKEN, N. J .- A city-wide campaign against the wage-cutting policies of local manufacturers has been started here, as a result of the strike of furniture workers at the Ferguson Brothers Manufacturing Co. in this city.

Under the lead of Dr. Walter E. Peck, who interested himself in the strike, the New York and Hoboken groups of the CPLA and other organizations have begun a public fight against wage-cutting in this vicinity. Meetings in the open and in public halls, with picketing and other demonstrations, are being carried

Four hundred workers of the Ferguson Co. walked out on the Friday before New Year's Day because of the fourth wage cut in three years. This cut had reduced their maximum wages from 85 cents per hour in 1929 to 45 cents; their average wages from 65 cents per hour in 1929 to 35 cents: and the lowest wages from 60 cents in 1929 to 10 cents per

The local police were called upon to aid the manufacturer and responded in great force. Mounted police, uniformed on foot and plainclothesmen guarded the plant for blocks. All workers who sought to pass the mill were diverted several blocks away until Louis F. Budenz and Dr. Peck won the right to mass picketing.

One woman, Mrs. Kate Kubich, has participated in the strike, and she is among the most militant of the workers. On January 7, one strike sympathizer and three strikers were arrested on framed up charges of assaulting the superintendent, William Wegner, and several strikebreakers. These arrested were: Earl Ackerman, a molder of Jersey City; Frank Dolan, Alfred Gueriera, and James Napoliello.

Bible State Slashes Wages

NASHVILLE, TENN.-(FP).-In one day Tennessee's State Senate unanimously adopted a resolution limiting the salaries of its employes to a \$6-a-day maximum ranging down to \$2 daily, saw a bill introduced to abolish four normal schools as well as the Tenessee Polytechnic Institute and the University of Tennessee junior college, prepared wage cuts, and prepared a bill to extend the time for taxes to become delinquent.

HUNGRY!



Mrs. Alice Scribner, 24, driven desperate by the cries of her three hungry children, attempted to hold up a bakery.

MORGAN UTILITIES MUST ANSWER LABOR CHARGES

NEW YORK, N. Y .- The Public Service Commission of the State of New York on December 23, 1932, directed the Morgan controlled Brooklyn Edison Company to reinstate 5,000 discharged employes or to answer charges in a petition of complaint filed by the Brotherhood of Edison Employes, signed by 30 electricity consumers and sponsored by the Public Committee on Power Utilities and Labor.

The Brotherhood of Edison Employes have long contended that public utility commissions should regulate labor policies of utility companies as well as their rates and services. A precedent has now been established by which the labor policies of public utilities are recognized to be matters for State control and regu-

Brooklyn Edison labor policies are described in the complaint as "unreasonable, unjust and un!awful, incite violence and endanger the adequacy and continuity of electric service." Filing of the complaint was expedited by threat of an electric strike by the Brotherhood,

Among the facts upon which the complaints filed with the Public Service Commission is based are:

Dividends increased by \$2,000,000 and surplus by \$11,000,000, while wage payments decreased by \$5,000,000.

That \$25,000,000 were available for dividends and yet wages were cut

That 'the Brooklyn Edison discharged 5,000 employes for "lack of work" while 36 million feet of overhead wiring remains to be put under ground.

That the Brooklyn Edison has maintained a 30 year 8 per cent dividend rate and maintains the same rate schedule to the public while effecting a \$7,500,000 annual savings in wages.

Removal of J. C. Parker, president of the Brooklyn Edison as Chairman of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Commission in Brooklyn was demanded by the Brotherhood because of his policy of increasing unemployment by his continued policy of discharging employes.

Harvey D. Gibson, Chairman of New York Employment Relief Committee re plied to William Beedie, Secretary of the Brotherhood that removal of Parker at this time "might jeopardize the campaign for relief funds." A committee, representing the Brotherhood will seek to interview Mr. Gibson to protest this decision, and to state that the workers and citizens are in no mood to tolerate longer the spectacle of heads of relief committees wantonly throwing thousands of

men out of employment. Intensifying a public campaign to educate electricity consumers to the vicious anti-labor and anti-social policies of the Morgan controlled utilities, the Brotherhood of Edison Employees are conducting two open-air meetings weekly.

NATION'S JOBLESS ORGANIZE TO FIGHT EVICTIONS, WAGE CUTS AND LONG HOURS

ORGANIZED GROUPS . Militant League in Smith Township IN ALLENTOWN, PA., JOIN FOR ACTION

By Special Correspondent

ALLENTOWN, PA. - Delegates from the Unemployed Citizens' League, the Socialist Party, the Civil Liberties Union, the St. Francis Society, the Conference for Peace and the Painters' Union met on December 29 and organized the Citizens' Protective League of Le high County, a militant organization pledged to immediate action for unem ployment relief and workers' rights on the governmental and industrial fields. This organization is the first of its type in Allentown to successfully combine isolated civic, fraternal and industrial bodies for unified action on problems as varied as Old Age Pensions, Reduced Power Rates and Extension of Municipal Ownership of important Public Utilities

A Program for Action

A program embracing 40 separate articles for action was submitted to the League and adopted without amendment Several of these articles are concerned with problems which the Unemployed League recognize as identical with their own. They include a flat demand that there shall be no evictions for any cause; that sub-contracting and contractor's profits in all forms of unemployment relief building projects are to be eliminated that ample provision is to be made for the maintenance of medical and hygienic standards among the unemployed and that all unemployed organizations shall be included on relief dispensing bodies.

Already the League has opened fire on very important issue defined in article 37 of the program which read . There shall be an investigation of local industries by some impartial body with a view to determining the prevalence of child-labor violations, hours for women, sanitary conditions, wages, etc." A petition, which outlined in no uncertain terms the evils prevailing among the greater number of local factories, called on the City Council to create an investigating committee and to cooperate with the Citizens' Protective League in the reformation or abolition of these sweat shops. The petition was received and filed by the Council and made the subject of a lengthy peroration by the Mayor who finally promised to aid the League in this particular aspect of its

A State of War Predicting rapid expansion of the Citi-(Continued on Page 4)

National Campaign Against Labor Racket

A. F. of L. Unions Doomed Unless Drastic Action Is Taken at

Announced by N. E. C. of CPLA

Defies Injunction at Ohio Capital

Striking Pottery Workers

Backed by Jobless Leagues broken out in the potteries of this city and vicinity. And the organized jobless have lined themselves up in defense of the strikers!

The Smith Township Unemployed League has decided to come to the support of the strike. President John Darlington, Charlie Dunbar and Bill Berry are interesting themselves particularly in this phase of the U. L.'s work But the entire group of the unemployed have signified their intention of backing the walk-out of the employed workers to the

Active members of the League here point to this action as evi-dence of the growing value of the organized jobless to the wider labor movement.

U. C. L. IDEA GROWS IN MELLON'S TOWN

By ELMER COPE

PITTSBURGH, PA .- The unemployed of Pittsburgh are on the march! During the past few weeks hundreds of workers thrown out of work during the decression by the huge steel, railroad and electrical corporations are banding together into Unemployed Leagues.

Already five active branches of the League are functioning and the membership is growing by great strides weekly. The three largest branches are located on the North Side, in Hazelwood and East Liberty. Two other locals are operating on the South Side and on Mt. Washington. The unemployed in Hazelwood have obtained permanent headquarters located in the heart of the steel and railroad industries

The organizing work has been done in the main by members of the Pittsburgh branch of the CPLA. Other groups are now cooperating in the work. The Unemployed League idea has taken such hold upon the unemployed in the Pittsburgh area that organizers cannot be supplied to meet the increasing demands. Requests for organizing assistance are coming in daily from all sections of Allegheny County

COLUMBUS, OHIO - Encouraged by the success of its injunction fight in Smith Township, the Ohio Unemployed League is pushing vigorously its plans for a state convention in this city the last week in February.

The convention will bring representa tives of jobless organizations from all over the state to the capital city. Two of the high spots in the program will be the further extensive organization of the unemployed and the presentation to the Legislature of the demands formulated at the previous state gathering in Niles, on November 6.

William R. Truax, chairman of the Ohio Unemployed League, and Arnold Johnson, representative of the CPLA, are in Columbus for convention arrangements, en route on a state-wide tour of Ohio. They have secured a \$12 Dodge car for their transportation.

In addition to places where the branches of the Ohio league are fully functioning, Truax and Johnson have already visited Youngstown, Zaneville, New Berton, Alliance, Carrollton, Crooks ville, Salem, and other points.

The test on the injunction came on December 30, when the six members of the Smith Township Unemployed League who had been enjoined, accompanied Truax and Johnson to interview the unty commissioners at Youngstown and thereby defy the injunction. This court decree had been secured by the commissioners against active members of the Smith Township organization V. C. Bauhoff, Anthony Dawson, Joe Campbell, R. F. Dinger, Dan Tuel and Earl Angle. The injunction prohibited these men from "interfering" with re lief branking for adequate relief.

A committee of 13 workers went to the commissioners and laid down their demands. Although this was in direct violation of the injunction, and had been announced as a "defiance" at a meeting of 500 members of the Smith Township group at Sebring on December 27, the commissioners took no action for contempt. Through this action, the injunction was shot to pieces.

Every man and woman of the 500 attending the December 27 meeting at the Sebring High School endorsed the defiance of the Court decree by a rising vote. They had all expressed themselves as willing to go to jail if necessary. The injunction has thus increased their fighting spirit.

The legal attack on the Smith Township organization was undoubtedly due to the effectiveness of that group, who have conducted successful strikes on public works, fought effectively for rotation of work and have put their former chairman, Bauhoff, in as township trustee.

One of the outstanding meetings addressed in the pre-convention campaign was that at Maximo, Washington Township, in Stark County. The unemployed there are anxious to enter upon a strike against a wage cut on road work, and formed a branch of the League. Similar sentiment was reported from other Clough of the Brown Township Unemployed League when Truax and Bauhoff addressed that organization at Malvern.

The Ohio Unemployed League owes its origin to a conference of jobless organizations, held at Niles, on October 9, which had been called by the Austintown Unemployed Citizens League and the Youngstown branch of the CPLA. This conference decided upon the con vention of November 6 which formed the state league and in turn decided to hold a larger convention in the state capital during the session of the Legis

SEATTLE LEAGUE CONTROLS RELIEF

By CARL BRANNIN

SEATTLE, WASH .- The Unemployed Citizens' League of Seattle knows that it must be ready to fight. If it had not realized this fact it would have no strength today, and the Seattle unemployed would be in the same fix as the unemployed in many cities-individual objects of public or private charity.

The League begins a new chapter this year. Relations between the county re lief authorities and the League, severed six months ago, have been mended, and we go into the new year with a signed (Continued on Page 4)

tional re-organized. Although Green had (Continued on Page 2)

Once, Declares Louis F. Budenz NEW YORK, N. Y .- An insistant na- | such evils in the labor organizations. tional campaign against labor racketeer- This reply was given wide attention in

nced by the National Executive Committee of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action. A committee of prominent pro-labor

publicists and professors will function s a National Committee against Labor Racketeering.

The campaign will not only center upon the abuses in the unions which are causing so much unrest and revolt among the membership at the present time, but will also be directed toward the framing of a "Charter of Labor Rights" and the setting up of machinery which will protect minority groups in the union or-

These steps to clean up the racketeering in the unions are the outgrowth of the national convention of the CPLA in September, at which such steps were de cided upon. Since then, the organization has taken an active part in the effort to rid the labor movement of autocratic and racketeering leadership.

At the opening of the American Federation of Labor convention at Cincinnati, President William Green and the executive council were presented with "a general bill of particulars" on racketeering drawn up by the CPLA. The widespread extent of the evils was called to their attention, and specific examples were furnished.

In reply, President Green stated that the A. F. of L. was ridding itself of racketeering in a "constructive" manner and indicated that there was little of

ing and kindred evils in the unions has the standardized labor press.

Only a few weeks after Green's pronouncement, Patrick J. Cummerford. 'supervisor" of the operating engineers union in New York City, was convicted of income tax evasion and sentenced to one year and one day and a \$2,000 fine. Testimony at the trial showed that

Commerford had accepted money from non-union contractors for alleged strikebreaking and the employment of non-union workmen on union jobs. Some the sums amounted to as high as \$5,000 in a lump sum. Commerford declared that these were friendly "gifts" from these non-union employers. President John Possehl of the interna-

tional union had appointed Commerford to the position of "supervisor" in 1929. giving him autocratic powers. Since that all union meetings had been suspended. When a receivership was appointed by Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer in the early part of 1932, and an election ordered in the local union, President Possehl joined with Commerford in creating a new local. Contractors were advised by the international union that they should deal with Commerford alone. Because of these and other similar

facts, the National Executive Committee of the CPLA, through Louis F. Budenz, executive secretary, demanded of President Green that he suspend the international union until President Possehl could be deposed and the interna-

FROM - THE - FIRING - LINE

Miners From Four States Indict Officials of U.M.W.A.

The Two Johns

The signing of the agreement in Chicago between the two Johns and the coal operators was much more of a surprise to the membership of the United Mine Workers of America than it was to Wall Street. Although it has been customary for the officials of the U.M.W.A. to steal elections and referendums, so far, it has never occurred that they signed an agreement without at least going through the formality of a convention. How much more of this stuff the cowed-down membership will stand for remains to be

What motivated John and John to pull this "hot one" was their burning desire to destroy the Progressive Miners of America and to prevent a situation from arising next spring that might have proven fatal to the U.M.W.A.

Had it not been for the support given by the coal operators, the Lewis-Walker domination over the miners would have come to an end last summer in Illinois and also in the other districts where they used crooked methods to put over the reductions; that is, everywhere.

The power these crooks retain over the miners is entirely due to each individual miner's fear of losing his job. Lewis, Walker & Co., with the cooperation of the operators, can have any one hired or fired. The U.M.W.A. does not hang together due to any affection that the members have for it or its leaders. Right now in Southern Illinois the miners are being whipped into submission by Lewis revoking charters and setting up directorates.

As it was, both the contracts of the U.M.W.A. and of the P.M.A. (the baby that was born last year and survived the attack of every capitalist force in existence from the eminent Department of Labor down to the lowly company thug) were to expire April 1, 1933. Miners that are not working do not fear to lose their jobs. This fear gone and the sell-out of last summer still fresh in their memory, the members of the U.M.W.A. would have taken up the job where they left off last year due to starvation. And the fact that the P.M.A. is already there to support them would have meant the doom of the "dear" old

Lewis and Walker are of course in the service of the coal operators. The signing of this contract was merely one their duties. The operators are afraid of the P.M.A. They feel it is a dangerous organization, particularly if it grows larger. The miners as a whole have not so much docility as other groups of workers. They will go on a rampage once in a while, and when they get these spells, they are hard to control. The operators know by experience that the siest way to whip the miners back into submission, is to do it indirectly through the miners' organization. All the operators have to do is to somehow get the union officials in their clutches. The P.M.A. constitution from beginning to end includes safeguards to prevent this from happening. This is the reason the operators have no use for the P.M.A. and are manoeuvering to get it out of the way. They still tremble when they think of last summer. Their main support was the U.M.W.A.

The operators wanted this agreement because without it the ideas and spirit of the P.M.A. would have set the pace and direction for all the miners in the struggle that was to commence April 1, 1933. The U.M.W.A. would have been submerged in a great fight for the 6hour day and 5-day week. This system put in effect would mean a shrinkage by two fifths of the capital invested in mining machinery. That's what the operators and their henchmen were trying to prevent. Now, the P.M.A. is confronted by the U.M.W.A.'s fait accompli, and unless other factors change, will be compelled to formulate its demands according to the new situation.

It will be interesting to watch how Lewis and Walker are going to harmonize their shameless deed with William Green's recent bravado at Cincinnati,

"The strength and force of the A. F. of L. will be used to bring into realization this much needed shorter day."

WM. STOEFELLS.

Ohio Union Dead

Ohio, once the home of one of the strongest district organizations of miners in America, today has only the ghost of a union.

After being completely unionized for close to 30 years, the first break came in the Pomeroy Field in 1925. The Pittsburg Coal Company led the union smash ing onslaught and today only the small Tuscarawas field, centering around New Philadelphia, is under contract with the United Mine Workers of America.

But the onslaught by the open-shoppers is not entirely to blame for the con-

U. M. W. of A. must share the blame. These officials have carried out a policy of persecuting all members who offered criticism or wanted to fight for better conditions.

The strike of the past spring and summer has passed into history. Governor White's 10 point plan brought it to a close. The net results for the miners are similar to the results of the famous Marion, N. C., and Danville, Va., textile "settlements."

Dissatisfaction with it and the high dues and assessments of the U. M. W. A. bid well to further lessen the confidence of the men in the present leadership. It looks like the way out will eventually be a new union similar to the West Virginia Miners' Union or the Progressive Miners of America.

A WORKER.

Arkansas Miners Sore

The most important of cur activities since the last report was a trip by eight CPLAers to the Arkansas mining district. We had to travel in true proletarian style, via freight trains, which in itself was quite educational as most of the boys were novices at this mode of transportation. At Spiro, Okla., we slept in a huge pile of cottonseed which was literally swarming with homeless men and boys seeking shelter from the piercing Oklahoma night air beneath the downy seeds.

On Sunday we conducted a meeting of a large group of miners at Jenny Lind. six months ago the miners, through the efforts of the rank and file, resurrected and reorganized their old United Mine Workers locals which have functioned in this section weakly and sporadically since 1899.

The U. M. W. bureaucracy was quick to seize this new organization for its own aggrandizement. A contract with the operators was drawn up on August 16 which is to remain effective for three years. The miners are dissatisfied with many sections of the contract and feel that they have been betrayed by the U. M. W. officials. They are on the verge of open rebellion. Resentment is especially strong against John L. Lewis.

The men are eagerly interested in the Progressive Miners' Union. We discussed it with them and passed out copies of the "Progressive Miner."

Another trip to the mines is planned for December 13 and 14. Several locals meet on these dates. Oliver Carlson is going to address these locals. A delegation will also be sent to McAlester, Okla., soon to study conditions there

BILL REICH.

Pennsylvania Miners Wiser

miners of the anthracite who helped the coal companies break the strike last March are beginning to realize their mistake. They know now that they would have been better off had they backed the strikers and not the companies or the officers of the union.

Those that never gave a damn about agreements are now learning just what that agreement means which was given them after the six long months of strike, 1925-26. It was by this agreement that the operators were permitted to cut the wages, cut the rates, lay off men, and worsen conditions right and left, so long as the onslaughts could be spoken of in terms of efficiency. The miners are learning what co-operation and efficiency means and what a five year agreement can do to them.

The last agreement too, isn't lacking as an instructor. It is also showing the evils that are buried within its lines. The clause which says the operators sign severally and jointly gives the companies the right to re-organize under a new name and new management as has happened to the Cameron Colliery at Shamo kin. Of course when a new management takes over a mine, new men and new conditions are put into effect.

The arbitration board established by agreement is slowly but surely eating its way towards a wage cut. The board is together at present arbitrating whether the miners take a cut or whether they do not, while there isn't a mine in the region where cuts, lay offs and shut downs haven't taken place. But, what have miners to arbitrate?

This agreement with the arbitration clause in it fully annuls the right of "collective bargaining." Where the late John Mitchell used arbitration to force collective bargaining for a weak union, we find "greatest labor leaders of them all"-J. L. Lewis, with the anthracite organized 100 per cent, yielding to arbitration for the purpose of losing what Mitchell gained-recognition of the union and collective bargaining!

The Conference for Progressive Labor Action of the Lower Anthracite has declared itself against wage reductions. And in case the arbitrator deals a cut

Farm Holiday Movement

The farmer is organizing. Will he be an important factor in deciding the course of the labor movement for the next fifteen years? The Farm Holiday Movement holds the key to the answer.

An analysis of this movement, gathered at first hand from farm union meetings throughout Wisconsin, shows its stand to be as follows: In 1920 the bankers de cided to deflate the farmer, who, they believed, was receiving too much for his produce. They called in 50 per cent of all loans to farmers, and invested abroad the credit thus released, or gambled in stocks. The resulting curtailment of machinery purchases by the farmer, who normally buys 50 per cent of the total output, resulted in widespread unemployment for city workers.

At the same time bankers used their control of markets to gamble in futures, thus fixing the farmer's price with no regard to his cost of production. So, while interest is as high as in 1925, and taxes greater because of the burden of caring for the unemployed, prices have fallen to a third or a quarter of the 1925 level.

Prices must be stabilized, and the Farm Holiday Movement has this plan to offer. First, the Frazier Bill for governmental refinancing of farm mortgages, on which the farmer is to pay 3 per cent per year,-11/2 per cent for interest and carrying charges, 11/2 per cent for amor-

Second, the Farmer's Cost of Production Bill, according to which the government would fix the marketing prices of all "majors"—wheat, corn, cattle, hogs, and dairy products. Prices of other farm products are automatically determined by

Third, preservation of home market to the farmer by an adequate tariff. A petition is being circulated among the farmers which includes these demands and a pledge by the signer to withhold his produce from the market if the program is not adopted by Congress.

Organizers of the movement believe that the A. F. of L. will back them up. Union coal miners could tell them interesting stories of union train crews that hauled scab-mined coal to market while a desperate struggle was going on. These organizers do not seem to see that city workers and farmers have the same case against capital, and that they can fight effectively only if they unite forces. They raise their hands in horror and cry out: "Oh no! That is communistic!" Well, perhaps the sight of unorganized starving city workers going into the fields as scabs may teach them something.

But at least the Farm Holiday Move ment has definitely disproved the belief that the American farmer is too individualistic to organize for effective action. The leaders of the movement are warning their backers that they cannot depend upon the press or the farm magazines, that as soon as possible they must start a real farm press. An effective radical press and some good live wire radicals could transform this organization into a really constructive force. Never before has there been such a crying need for a real mass organization of all workers-farm, industrial, and unem-

ALLAN HOCKING. Wisconsin

the CPLA is going to take in membership for a new union in district No. 9. Be sides being incompetent the present officials are boasters and impostors. Moreover they are rapidly losing their grip in the Anthracite region. A new union is inevitable and it is necessary. D. M. SHAW. Mt. Carmel, Pa.

Sweating in "Dog-Holes" For the past few weeks I have been

sweating in one of those "dog-holes" so ommon in the lower anthracite belt. picking what the coal operators and their agents call "bootleg" coal.

Three other miners and myself were un early this morning, and just began picking coal, when the Coal and Iron

Police chased us off the hill. It is hard work picking this coal, due to primitive methods of mining. We only have handicraft tools to work with. Sometimes we work 10 hours, sometimes 11, 12 and 13, earning one, two and three dollars per day, very seldom more than three. In contrast to this there are a few collieries standing idle with modern machinery.

Atlas, Pa.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

DENVER, - (FP) - For the second Christmas in succession, the Consolidated Truck Co. has sent employes fancy greeting letters praising their loyalty, hoping they will stand ready to go anywhere at call, announcing a 25 per cent wage cut and wishing them "a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

> Send In Your Subscrition for LABOR ACTION 3 months trial subscription 25 Cents

Textile Workers Desperate Boss Gives "Xmas Turkey"

Ten cents an hour-if you have a job. That is what pay winders receive in Willimantic (Conn.) textile mills. In Rockville, Conn., weavers earn \$10 week, minus "fines" of all sorts. The Peerless Silk Co., which fled New Jersey because of the activities of "radicals" in forcing better conditions, has found Connecticut a paradise with its unorganized workers, and its power-ridden legislation. Higher prices considered, there is little to choose between Connecticut standards and those in the Southern textile indus-

Cheney Bros. of Manchester, the oldest silk manufacturers in America, claiming to pay 23 per cent higher wages than elsewhere, represent the brightest side of the picture. Manchester was formerly a company town, owned outright by Cheney, who built beautiful schools, public utilities, homes, and instituted welfare plans of all sorts to keep workers satis-

But the public utilities, assessed at \$50,000, have been sold for \$1,000,000 to subsidiaries of the Roraback system. The "beautiful schools" have been sold to the town at a corresponding high price. Old age and service pensions have been reduced to a pittance, or abolished outright. The unemployed and underpaid workers are paying for all this in high taxes, high electric rates, with no redress from the power ridden courts. This is not surprising, since those in the saddle are Henry Roraback, chairman of the Republican Party and controller of the state's public utilities, and his Democratic associate and legal adviser, Homer Cum-

Cheney workers are beginning to realize that it is they who are subsidizing, directly and indirectly, a sick silk in dustry that is becoming sicker. Many of them will never work again; and the nominal relief only goads them to desperation. They are talking of a uniona militant union and a strike-quietly, secretly, because of the elaborate spy system with which they have had bitter experience. Their time will come!

Manchester, Conn.

Need for Organization Great

You may be interested to hear about conditions in this section. I estimate about one-third of the workers here to be unemployed, and only a small part of the rest have steady full-time work. City relief is terribly inadequate; no rents are paid, little provision is made for clothing, and allowances for food are seriously

Workers here are apathetic for the most part, with no organization of unemployed and only a minority in a weak union. Men are glad to work for \$7.00 a week, and women will work for anything down to board and bed. Wages are cut periodically, and with every cut there is more strike-talk, although there have been no organizing compaigns. The few radical organizations in town (Communist, Socialist, etc.), are very weak, being composed chiefly of middle-class and professional workers. What we couldn't do with a real labor organization!

WM. H. DUPRE. New Bedford, Mass.

Christmas Turkey

Are the members of the American Fed eration of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers in for another wage cut? We don't exactly known, but when a certain union manufacturer gives his employes Christmas turkeys for the first time since he has been in business it seems to us that any one with a grain of intelligence will surmise that something is going to accompany the turkeys very shortly, and that something won't be cranberry sauce

The Hosiery Workers are an autonomous division of the United Textile Workers, and consequently are firm be lievers in the A. F. of L policy of union management co-operation. The Hosiery Workers first started on their policy of class collaboration early in 1928. At that time the union manufacturers were faced with a rapidly mounting production and a steadily declining wholesale value. They approached the union officials and demanded a small concession in the wage scale. As this cut didn't amount to much, it had little if any opposition. Some time after this cut had been secured Gustave Geiges, then president of the federa tion, resigned in order to take a position, at a salary said to be \$10,000 per year with the Gotham Silk Hosiery Company.

The next cut the manufacturers de manded was the elimination of the bonus paid for double shift operation. The union by this time was convinced that only by cooperating with the union manufac turers could the non-union mills be put out of business. Apparently the Hosiery Workers never heard of the Sheeting workers of Salem, Mass., who several years ago started on a cooperation policy with the manufacturers of Pequot sheeting in an attempt to put the sweat shops

on the rocks. Today the sweat shops are still working full blast while most of the Pequot people are unemployed.

September, 1930, rolled around and the manufacturers were out after another cut. This time the cut began to pinch, but still the manufacturers demanded more. In January, 1931, the Hosiery Workers refused to take any further cuts, but by the time September had rolled around they were approached with a high pressure sales talk. The theory of which was, "The union manufacturer is our friend. The open-shopper is as much an enemy of the union manufacturer as he is of the union itself. Therefore let us reduce our wages to the level of the non-union workers and put them out of business." Falling for a line like this the Hosiery Workers let themselves in, by a close vote, for a cut that ranged from 30 to 40 per cent. This same agreement was signed for another year in September, 1932. Even this did not have the desired effect as the open shop manufacturers cut still lower.

This wage cutting policy has failed miserably, owners of union shops are going bankrupt, some have moved out of town, and still others have bought up open shops and are operating the open shop while leaving their union mill stand

This wage cutting policy has dealt a terrific blow to the fighting morale of the union, and what was probably the most militant organization in America is now like an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, helpless and defeated.

The policy of the Hosiery Workers has proven that under the present capitalist system industry cannot be stabilized, because capitalism itself is of such a nature that it is impossible to regulate any industry within it.

Let us hope that when presented with this new wage cut the workers will throw down their tools and struggle to rebuild their union to its former glory

Philadelphia, Pa. JOHN GODBER.

"Russia Is a Bad Country"

You ask about labor activities whether there is any stirring among the workers in my part of the "whirl." Now as to the stirring of the workers, I'll say, No! The last effort the organized movement made through the Providence Central Federated Union, even the President of that body told me went "flat." As to the unorganized workers, they are quiet as can be. There are "activities" of the usual kind-you know, "Elect enemies and defeat your friends," Following said "activities" the "leaders" working on the elected dumycrats.

Let me give you some examples of the sort of activities some workers are prompted to take. Martin is a textile worker, I meet him often:

"How's things going, Martin?" I asked "I tell you, G. Damned if it goes no better much longer I'll jump off the

Martin is a Pole. Bill is an Irish-English American; a fine chap and a very good moulder. Like Martin, I meet him quite often. Last time we met we blahblahed for a spell.

"How would you feel if you had a chance to go to Russia, Bill?"

"Hell, I feel like diving off the dock." Saturday, I heard one worker, or rather a has-been worker wishing his friend across the street a "Merry Christmas." The friend bellowed back, "May the devil have a merrier one."

brain is charged with fear thoughts are not very clear, nor will strong and bold charges be made against the causes of

My own local of the L. A. of M. is very close to the pit of oblivion. We have about 27 members in the whole state of R. I.-about 10,000 eligible! A brother unionist, a painter, tells me that "it wouldn't be long" for his local to go to

"The American Federation of Labor is the greatest labor movement in the world," blah blah our "leaders"!

"Russia is a bad country and conditions there are terrible"-yes! but for whom?

UNION OF PHARMACISTS DEMAND HEALTH INSURANCE

NEW YORK, N. Y .- Compulsory health insurance for all workers was favored by the Pharmacists Union of Greater New York, through resolutions adopted at its last meeting. "The wage-earning public is unable to pay for the medical attention it requires." the union declares. and this leads to the spread of unnecessary disease.

The Pharmacists Union is the organized body of registered and junior pharmacists, with headquarters at 51 Chambers Street, according to Oscar Lerner,

W. VIRGINIA MINERS FRAMED FOR MURDER

(Continued from Page 1)

When the constables came to throw the miners' families into the creek bottoms during Christmas week, Frank Keeney, president of the union, advised his men to call off the strike. To prevent eviction they did and thus the Coalburg strike ended. Then the coal company began framing the local strike leaders. Many of them are now facing eviction because there is "no place" for them in the mine.

The mea in jail are Ernest Mullens, Charles Bock, John Moore, and James McSurley. Mullens was president of the Coalburg local, the others were committeemen. Each man was held for \$10,000 bail. union was unable to furnish the \$40,000 so the men remain behind the

The Coalburg local union continues; no miner has left its fold. The union is providing relief for the victimized men and union enthusiasm there is high.

Elsewhere in the Kanawha Valley the miners also stick to their union. They have organized their unemployed into separate units and they make it much more difficult for the state to withhold relief. The unemployed councils are an outgrowth of the hunger marches which marked this valley last summer

The educational work conducted in the valley for the past two summers, for the union, by Brookwood Labor College, The League for Industrial Democracy and Pioneer Youth is continuing under the direction of Walter Seacrist, a local miner, graduate of Brookwood. Seacrist and all the executive officers of the union are members of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action.

The valley is still dotted with tents housing the miners' families evicted in the big strike two years ago. This year the union sponsored the Independent Labor Party of West Virginia and ran candidates in the fall election. None of them were elected to office but a lot of political seeds were planted. The Labor Party also remains in the field.

The West Virginia Mine Workers' Union is working in close cooperation with the Progressive Miners of America and it looks forward to a national conference of coal miners of all the coal producing states to establish a progressive union of mine workers on a national

National Campaign Against Labor Racketeers

(Continued from Page 1)

announced that he would take such ac tion against any international harboring racketeers in its midst, he has done nothing up to the present time.

The growing number of union receiverships, asked for by minority groups of members, the withdrawal of a number of unions from A. F. of L. affiliation, and the growing number of court suits against certain labor leaders for racketeering practices is calling increased attention to these evils.

Union electrical workers of Jersey City have secured a receivership for their local in that place. In the same city, four members of the motion picture operators' union have brought charges of "autocracy" and "coercion" against the officials of their local. In Denver, Colo., the Hoisting and Operating Engineers' local has withdrawn from the international, alleging they will remain out of the fold until "Possehl and his gang are cleaned up." In Boston, the local in the same union has taken similar action.

In Newark, the Ironworkers' local has had its meetings suspended for a year and a half under orders from the international. Thomas Sherlock, henchman of Theodore M. (Ted) Brandle, has been placed in czaristic control of the local. Sherlock had previously forced through his election as business agent for a tenyear term, just as Brandle had had himself elected in Jersey City for 25 years. Although Edward F. Mc Grady, legislative representative of the A. F. of L., made a thorough report on Brandle and his henchmen to the executive council, no action has been taken against Brandle or Sherlock. It will be recalled that Brandle's activities were reviewed in great. detail in the June, 1932 issue of "Labor Age" under the title: "Czar Brandle: A Study in Success."

Chicago is, therefore, not the only center of the labor racketeers, as extensive as these abuses are in the Windy City. The racketeering activities of labor lead ers in certain crafts extend all over the

"The failure of the A. F. of L. to act vigorously," Budenz charges, "is due to the obvious fact that racketeering and kindred evils are too deeply entrenched in certain A. F. of L. unions. They will kill the A. F. of L. movement, unless something more drastic is done than the executive council have as yet seen fit to do. Receiverships and other similar court acticus are undoubtedly bad for labor unionism, but their growth is a warning to the A. F. of L. leadership that it should act quickly in the crisis.'

FOREIGN NEWS

Repeal the War-Makers!

THE New Year opened with an unusual number of bootleg wars in progress. The major achievement of the Kellogg Pact to date has been to lead warring governments to dispense with the for mality of official declarations of war. For more than six months Belivia and Paraguay have been waging a war which lacks none of the familiar characteristics except the formal declaration. Paraguay has called to the "colors" all men of military age in Asuncion, as well as Boy Scouts between fourteen and seventeen years of age. Bolivia has created a new army of 30,000 men led by the German General Sans Kundt. This South American war is labeled a territorial dispute, the contested area being the Chaco. The dispute is an old one, but the present struggle has all the marks of bankrupt ruling classes using the old tricks of patriotism and nationalism to maintain themselves in power. The solution of such bootleg wars is not the repeal of the Kellogg Pact but the repeal of the ruling

Colombia and Peru are adding to the war atmosphere of South America in their struggle over the little town of Leticia. Peru, whose generals seized the Colombian town, has been posing as an arbitrater in the Bolivian-Paraguayan dispute. This sounds like the story of the gangsters who were called in to recover the Lindbergh baby. Large forces of Peruvian and Colombian troops are reported massing in the vicinity of Leticia. Brazil has offered mediation, but the contending governments seem bent on a test of arms.

Japan Conquers-The League Debates N the Orient, the Japanese militarists are renewing their conquests on the mainland of Asia, the objective being Jehol Province this time. It will soon be time to send another British Lord to the East to prepare a report for the debating teams at Geneva. In the manner of a famous swashbuckling American President, the Japanese General will be saying before long: "I took Manchuria and then let the League of Nations de-

The occupation of Panama and the occupation of Manchuria are very different propositions, however. The ruling class of Japan is in a precarious situation at home and abroad. Its adventures in Manchuria are not considered good financial bets abroad, with the consequence that foreign loans are increasingly difficult to negotiate. Meanwhile the expenses of the campaign mount, and serious budgetary problems confront the home government. Imperialism, on a falling market, simply does not pay the dividends it once produced. That large part of the working class of Japan, now under the patriotic spell of nationalism, will soon find that disillusionment instead of prosperity is just around the corner.

The refusal of the Japanese government to negotiate a pact of non-aggression with the Soviet Union is an ominous gesture which indicates the possibilities of far more serious conflict than has yet come out of the Manchurian affair. Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Chinese Government have been restored, but it is to be hoped that the Soviets will not repeat the mistake of giving active support to the bourgeois nationalism in Chiang Kai Shek.

British Free Political Prisoners

IN India, the New Year was marked by the release of political prisoners numbering many thousands. This was a welcome step, but indicates no relaxation of the grip of British Imperialism on the country. Ramsay MacDonald, who owes his political career to British workadministers that Imperialism. Such treason to the working class will not soon be forgotten. This perfidy has not been confined to his acts of imperialism, however. Having become the servant of the bankers, he has delivered the crushing blow of depressed living stand ards to the workers of England. Day by day the English workers move farther to the left in reply to his traitorous poli-

The Pirates Confer

THE General Disarmament Conference is about to reconvene and the World Economic Conference, following the pattern of the Conference of 1927, will assemble before the new year is old. At best these gatherings can achieve a temporary stabilization of the present capitalist order. They are more likely to give further proof of the futility and hypocrisy of such assemblages, composed as they are of the representatives of the ruling classes of Western Capitalism.

End of the Five Year Plan

THAT phenomenal period of Socialist Construction known as the Five Year Plan has come to an end in the Soviet Union. It is not too early to pronounce it one of the most important periods of human history. The initiation of the new plans for Soviet development are being watched with the utmost interest all over the world. /

JOBLESS: A LONG TIME JOB

By LOUIS FRANCIS BUDENZ

A LOT of "expert" voices are telling us today what any one can see if he looks about him. The "technocrats" proclaim that there will be 20,000,000 unemployed in America two years from now. President Hoover's commission point to the growing menace of unemployment. Five hundred experts spent one million dollars to announce that fact to the unemployed!

It is clear that the leaders of Business and Banking are doing their darndest to make the depression worse. They haven't much of a choice under the present set-up. That is, as long as they are intent on safeguarding interest, rent and profits.

Wage cuts, layoffs and the bringing in of new machinery is the only way out that they see for themselves. That means only one thing: more joblessness.

New York State's Labor Department reports a drop in jobs of 3.1 per cent for the November-December period. The normal seasonal job loss should be less than 1 per cent. So, unemployment is rising. The same thing is happening in every other state. Miss Frances Per kins, head of the New York Labor Department, wonders if the R.F.C. has done "the right things to get people back to work." It is clear that she thinks they

At the same time, Albert H. Wiggin, retiring head of the great Chase National "new hopes" for recovery. Charles E. Mitchell, head of the equally great National City Bank, says that everything is "essentially sound."

All that the bankers and business "leaders" can give the workers, employed and unemployed, is the same "hopes' that appeared on Hoover's billboards in

MEETING the problem of joblessness is a long-time job. There is no escape from it. As long as present industrial methods are carried on, unemployment will grow, or at least not be cut to any noticeable extent. We are to have a standing army of the jobless for a long time to come.

If so, what can be done about it? The "individualistic" answer is to dole out \$1 or \$2 a week for food to the starving workless. When that fails, then the "individualistic" unemployed man can go out and commit suicide.

Workers say that that is no answer. Every other force having failed them, it is up to the unemployed to organize and get things for themselves. The encouraging thing is, that they have begun to realize the need for such action. Jobless organizations are springing up in the most unexpected places. They are formed under all sorts of auspices and with all sorts of initial viewpoints.

It is up to you, fellow-worker, whether you are employed or unemployed, to help form these organizations. It is up to you to do this for your own welfare and that of those around you. Unless the unemployed are organized and become part of the labor movement, they will be a menace to the men and women still working. They will be used by the employers to cut wages and bring in the speed-up, which means more jobless-

In every community, a vigorous organization of the unemployed should be on the job, fighting for their own rights and cooperating with the employed.

. . . OW can such an organization be start-How can sten at ordifficult, after all. A group of unemployed can be gotten together in a certain neighborhood. It is better to start with a small committee, which gets the right idea, and then expand the numbers. It is important to get in this group definite residents of the district and not floaters. A permanent organization must be rooted in the community and known to be such.

If the members are strong for selfhelp as a start, that sort of thing can be engaged in. But only as a cement, to get the organization under way. The big job is to get after the public officials for adequate relief, and to carry the fight from the local officials to the Governor.

As soon as possible, fights should be made on evictions and demonstrations should be arranged. These should grow out of the demands of the unemployed and not be foisted on them.

As to a meeting place, the unemployed are penniless and must proceed on that basis. A meeting place for the first meetings can probably be secured in a public library, a church building, settlement house or some other similar place. It is important, though, that the librarians, church board or settlement workers do not control the meetings but that they merely give the space for the unemployed to get together under worker auspices.

When the fight against evictions, relief abuses, etc., has gotten under way, meetings in the open and in public halls can be arranged. Delegations to the Governor, and to the Legislature are measures that should be taken as early as possible, both to get results of some kind and to widen the fight.

As soon as is practicable, the unemployed group should look around for other like groups in their county and in the State. Formation of compact county and state organizations is necessary, if the work is to get the best resuits. Because: all steps in the fight lead to the state capitol and then to Washington.

The jobless should sit down, in their organizations, and figure out a "lowest existence budget" and get publicity for it. This budget should be submitted to the Legislature to show that present relief standards are insulting and inadequate. There is no better way to do this than to show, in cold figures, how much it takes merely to exist.

Then, there is the big job of going after the industrial end of the unemployed problem: in opposing lay-offs in certain big concerns. But--that will be taken up at a future time.

In a nutshell: the jobless are here They will be here for a long time. Let us get them together, in order that they will meet their problems together-like men and not like doormats.

Police Chief Excited

NEW YORK, N. Y .- Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney, (speaking to the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee meeting, January 10): "If you go over to the old Heckscher flour mill on the East River about 10 o'clock at night and see that long line of homeless men silhouetted against the sky, waiting for food and shelter, you might allow your imagination to run riot for a few minutes and think what might happen were they motivated by a defiance of law and order. It is not a pleasant thought.

"Every one knows how quickly a mob is inflamed and how devastating the effects of a mob are, but that sort of thing will not happen while you men and other organizations continue to share and alleviate suffering."

Conference Progressive Labor Action

What It Is and What It Stands For.

THE most important struggle in American history is going on today. The issue is clearly and sharply drawn: Either the bankers, bosses and politicians will control and American workers will become enslaved to an industrial and financial feudalism far more powerful than any which has gone before, or workers and farmers must fight them, take control in their own interest of the great resources of the country and build a world in which all men shall have plenty, leisure and freedom.

We agree with Abraham Lincoln that "This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of existing government they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember and overthrow it."

The Conference for Progressive Labor Action is an organization of active, devoted, militant workers from factory, mine, farm, store and office. They constitute a kind of shock-troops in the labor conflict. Any great movement must depend upon a comparatively small number of people who are ready to give a lot of time, energy and enthusiasm in order to inspire the masses to action and to help them when they do act. In order to be effective these militants must know each other, train themselves to do real work, must plan and act together and not in haphazard fashion. Since we know of no other satisfactory vanguard organization for American labor, the CPLA was founded. The best way to get an idea of what the CPLA is and believes is to see what it does.

In Action

If you had happened to be in Charleston, W. Va. in June last year, you would have seen 500 men in a militant demonstration at the State Capitol, demanding that the governor provide adequate relief for them and their families. If you had gone back in the hills you would have found more miners marching down to the Capitol to join the demonstration. They were led by Walter Seacrist, miner, former mountain preacher, recent Brookwood graduate, CPLA organizer.

At the invitation of active workers in the United Mine Workers of America, the CPLA helped get under way an insurgent movement against John L. Lewis and for a clean-up in that union. That insurgent movement "went sour" in the spring of 1931, just when it had made a promising start at rebuilding the union among the miners in the Kanawha Val ley of West Virginia. The CPLA stayed on the spot when the going became hard. Tom Tippett, a member of the N. E. C., stuck by Frank Keeney and his fellowworkers. The result was the establishment of the West Virginia Mine Workers'

The union has led in the establishment of the Independent Labor Party of West Virginia. The West Virginia Mine Work ers' Union is closely linked up with the Progressive Miners' Union of Illinois, in the founding of which CPLA members have also taken an active part.

Quietly and persistently CPLA organizers are forming small groups of steel workers in Pittsburgh, the Mahoning Valley in Ohio and elsewhere. These are the pick of the workers who can be absolutely trusted. They are organizing themselves into the Brotherhood of the Mills. Each group in this Brotherhood studies conditions in the industry, re ports what is happening in the mills, wages, the temper of the workers, acquires knowledge of the general labor movement, gets training in public speak ing and organization activities, cautiously distributes literature, lays secure foundations for an organization campaign one

At the same time these CPLA organizers are working with a small group of

CPLA skilled workers still left in the industry, the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, in the hope that what resources in money and per sonnel and tradition it has may be used in some constructive and effective way for all workers in the industry, rather than for a handful of "aristocrats of labor."

Working Inside the Unions

Drop into CPLA headquarters in New York almost any day and you will find in each of half a dozen office rooms. Secre tary Louis Budenz or some other CPLA official or volunteer worker closetted with a small group of earnest, plain spoken, rank and file trade unionists-electrical workers, carpenters, food workers, garment workers, painters. These are mempers of rank and file opposition groups which the CPLA is helping workers to ouild in the unions.

If the unions are really to be cleaned out where they are corrupt, made efficient where they are inefficient, that can only be done in the last analysis by militant workers from inside. There is no other organization in the country today which is working persistently at this job-on the one hand, fighting corruption and gangsterism without compromise, and on the other hand, refusing to engage in union-smashing activities, or in the present Communist tactics of building little sectarian "unions" which leave the masses still in the hands of the old-time leadership.

All this economic activity the CPLA regards as fundamental. There may be a lot of noise during political campaigns, and working-class parties may even poll a lot of votes occasionally but there will not be real political organization or a labor movement that moves unless the workers are organized or at least try to organize and struggle on the job. A political expression the labor movement must have, however, and the CPLA is doing all in its power to promate the idea of a united mass labor party.

The present division in the labor movement on the political field seems to us extremely dangerous. Within a unified labor party CPLA groups expect to work as a left-wing so that the party may not fall into aimless opportunism but drive straig't toward its goal of a workers' republic and an economic system or ganized in the interests of the workers. In certain localities independent labor under CPLA inspirat ready under way or in the making.

To sum up, the CPLA is an organiza tion of militant, revolutionary workers who are trying to face the realities of the American scene and talk to American workers in their own language. These militants are trying to help in every way to build up the organized power of the working class in the United States.

The immediate program for the building of an effective lapor movement in cludes promotion and support of efforts of the unemployed to organize, protest demand adequate relief and to share in relief administration as well as more fundamental economic changes: organization of the masses of unorganized workers in basic industries into militant industrial unions: stimulation and sunport of rank and file efforts for cleaning out bureaucracy, corruption and gangsterism where they prevail in existing unions; promoting progressive and militant policies in the unions: winning American workers away from allegiance to the Republican and Democratic parties and organizing them into a mass party of labor; promotion of all efforts at genuine workers' education which aims not to educate workers out of their class but to teach them the facts about the present capitalist control of finance, industry and government, and to train

A.F. of L. BEGINS NEW YEAR

Has It Really Become Progressive and Militant, or Are Its Leaders "Just Talking"?

By A. J. MUSTE

THE American Federation of Labor is still the largest body of organized workers in the United States though by no means the only spokesman for Labor as its leaders sometimes try to claim. What the A. F. of L. is likely to be and do in 1933 is therefore of importance for the workers and for all those who are interested in the labor movement.

From the standpoint of those who want to see a fighting, progressive union ovement some positions the A. F. of L. is taking at the beginning of the new year are encouraging, others not so encouraging. Let us take first the encour-

Unemployment Insurance

1. The A. F. of L. is now fighting for the establishment of a system of com pulsory unemployment insurance in all the states. That means saying to government and business: "After this when depression comes and men are thrown out of work, the jobless are not to be dependent upon haphazard charity as millions of self-respecting industrious American workers are today. In the future if a man does not get a pay envelope from the boss at the end of the week, he must get one from the state."

This is not the place to go into a de tailed discussion of the feature of the bill or bills which the A. F. of L. is prepared to sponsor. We may remark on some good points in its proposals. It demands, for example, that workers are not to be made to pay into the unemployment insurance fund. The fund is to be a charge upon industry. No one is to mpelled to take a job below the prevailing rate of wages or forfeit his insurance benefits if he refuses. The unemployment insurance sheme is not to be used as a means to force workers to leave their unions.

The fact that this conservative organization of trade unions is on record for unemployment insurance, when only two years ago at its Boston convention a mere handful dared to vote for the proposal which had been viciously nounced as un-American and Bolshevik. suggests that the "world do move.

30-Hour Week

2. The A. F. of L. has come out strongly for the six hour day and the five day week and has called upon the workers to engage in an immediate and vigorous fight for this change. It is a very important step. In factories work that required 52 hours in 1919 could be done in 34 hours in 1929 as a result of all kinds of improvements in machinery, etc. But the actual working week during this period declined only from 62 to 50 hours. Inevitably thousands of workers were thrown out on the street. There is no way of putting the millions who are now jobless back to work unless a drastic change is made in the hours of labor

This move for the 6 hour day and the 5 day week is important not only because of its object but because in the past great and effective organizing campaigns have centered around the movement for the shorter work week. Perhaps once again the slogan of drastically cutting down the hours of labor may prove a rallying cry bringing hundreds of thousands of workers in the basic industries into fighting, industrial unions.

For Force "of Some Kind" As the new year opens there are

indications that there may be more fighting spirit in the A. F. of L. than for some time past. Certainly there is more talk of fight, President Green caused a tremendous demonstration in the A. F. of L. convention in Cincinnati and precipitated a lot of talk outside the convention hour day and the 5 day week he roundly asserted: We will not be denied the realization of this great reform. The world must know we must be given it in response to reason or we will secure it through force of some kind." At a hearing before a Senate Committee in Washington the other day he spoke of general strike and "class war" if, as he thought likely, the leaders of industry refused to listen to reason and to grant the shorter work week.

For a number of years the A. F. of L. had the idea that the best way to organize workers was to "sell" the idea of unionism to employers; make the bosses believe that it was to their advantage to have workers organized and they would induce their employes to come into the union. The fact that A. F. of L. leaders today openly admit that this policy has been a failure and that the labor movement today, as in the past, must build upon the fighting spirit of the workers and nothing else, is a welcome sign.

There are, however, some serious con siderations of a less encouraging kind.

them for more effective service in all branches of the labor movement; and bringing about the greatest possible measure of unity in the pursuit of these ends among all sincere elements in the labor movement.

Losing Membership

1. A labor movement that is going to do big things must be strong. The American labor movement confronting the most powerful combinations of capital in the world, needs to be especially strong. Unfortunately, however, the entire American movement, and especially the A. F. of L., is weak. Only about 10 per cent of all the gainfully occupied people in this country are organized in unions.

The A. F. of L. itself lost membership even during the boom time, the first time in the history of this country that union membership has declined during a period of prosperity. The Executive Council's report announced a drop of over 350,000 as compared to the previous year. What is more serious, we have practically no organization in this country in some of the great basic industries such as steel, automobiles, textiles, electrical equipment, soft coal, public utilities.

No Organizing Program

2. It appears therefore that some real organizing work will have to be done if the A. F. of L. is to be able to put up a fight against the forces massed against it, and the plans for such organizing work ought to form an important, if not the most important, part of Labor's program in the present crisis.

But almost nothing was said on this crucial point of organizing work either in the Executive Council's report or in the convention proceedings. No largescale, concrete plan for organizing work has been developed by the A. F. of L. and placed before the workers. All the wisdom that the Executive Council had to offer on this point, it summed up in these two mighty sentences: "In the coming year we must depend upon personal appeal as our chief reliance in spreading the cause of unionism." And in the second place, "We urge unions in all localities to begin continuous efforts for organizing workers during this coming

Undoubtedly organizing work is difficult now. New methods will have to be devised. That is no excuse, however, for such utter evasion of the key problem as the A. F. of L. leaders are guilty of.

Unemployed ignored

3. Furthermore, if the employed cannot easily be organized today, there are many indications that the unemployed can be. There is, in fact, a rapidly growing network of unemployed organizations throughout the land, some of which indeed are only "chiselling brigades" but many of which are carrying on collective bargaining activities and pressure activities of various kinds.

Surely, if a vigorous labor movement is to be built under the economic conditions which we now have, it is of the utmost importance that the unemployed leagues be linked up with the unions There is no evidence that the A. F. of L. has given any serious consideration to this problem. This indicates an utter lack of organizational sense which certainly does not bode well for its future.

Racketeers Still In

4. If in some respects a period like the present is not favorable for extending organization, it is an excellent time to clean house and put existing unions on a sounder basis. The rank and file in the unions are less tolerant of abuses than they were in the heyday of pros perity.

President Green and the Executive Council some months ago professed themselves greatly stirred by racketeering, gangsterism, corruption, bureauc and allied evils in the unions. They stated they were going to take extreme measures to drive these evils out. President Green went so far as to threaten with expulsion from the A. F. of L. international unions which permitted their locals to tolerate such "leeches' as gangsters and racketeers.

Nothing serious has as yet been done about this evil, however. The result, as pointed out elsewhere in this issue LABOR ACTION, is that a New York court recently threw a local union of the Motion Picture Operators into a receiv ership, appointing as one of the receiv ers John W. Davis. Davis is a Morgan attorney. That picture of a Morgan attorney as the business agent of a labor union suggests how low a part of the trade union movement has sunk and how certainly a movement which does not eradicate the cancer of racketeering must before long perish.

Doing Nothing About a Labor Party The A. F. of L. is not yet taking any definite steps toward the formation of a labor or farmer-labor party. Its leadership thinks that the Democratic sweep in the recent election represents a victory for Labor and it looks for favors from the Roosevelt regime. But the party of Raskob-Owen Young-Dupont-Baruch and that crowd is not going to do any more for the workers and farm ers than the party of Rockefeller and

The question whether the A. F. of L. has turned genuinely progressive, even the question whether it can survive has not yet been answered.

LABOR ACTION

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LOUIS F. BUDENZ KARL DRE

Editorial Board Pro Tem: HERMAN GUND J. B. S. HARDMAN HARRY A. HOWE

E. R. McKINNEY D. J. SAPOSS A. J. MUSTE

Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA.

Saturday, January 21, 1933

LABOR ACTION

LABOR ACTION—the name of our paper—tells what it is going to be about.

Labor and Action, we think, naturally belong together.

This is a workers' paper. It will talk about their lives, about the mines, farms, offices, stores and factories in which they work—work, that is, if and

when they have jobs.

What is more important is that this paper will mostly be written by the workers, not by people who talk about the workers and the labor movement.

LABOR ACTION will tell week by week the story of the labor movement, of the struggle of the workers to organize. By labor movement we mean unemployed organizations, unions (in the A. F. of L. and outside), labor political organizations, cooperatives, workers' educational enterprises, workers' sports

This paper will deal with Action, rather than with Theory. We shall try to picture where the action is leading, what it means. But mostly we will tell about what is doing among the workers of the U. S. A. and who is doing it.

Furthermore, we think there isn't enough action today on the part of American workers and the American labor movement. And this paper is going to help to get action. Action of the workers, for the workers, by the workers! Action about wage cuts, long hours, unemployment, evictions, in-junctions, yellow-dog contracts, fat dividends for shirkers while workers starve! Action to build a labor movement which will build a world in which those who do the work and not the bosses, bankers, and politicians rule!

WHO CARES AND WHY?

WE had the Big War, then the Big Boom, now the Big Bust-Up! The Big W Boys who talked so Big about their super-human brains which had put a chicken in every pot and an auto in every back-yard (well, nearly every pot and back-yard, then) have done absolutely nothing to stop the depression and noth-

ing to prevent another one coming again soon, if we get over this one. Why?

That reminds us of a story we heard the other day about a farmer who bought a mule from a trader. When he got the mule in front of a plow in his cotton field, the mule stumbled and fell over every other furrow. The farmer went back to the trader and said, "This mule you sold me is blind; he stumbles over every furrow." Said the trader, "That mule ain't blind; he just don't

Whether our bankers and politicians are blind or don't give a damn, in any

Whether our bankers and pointclains are blind of don't give a daini, in any case they aren't fit to lead.

That maybe they don't care about the suffering of farmers and workers because they themselves still have it pretty soft is suggested by some figures recently set forth by Prof. Paul H. Douglas of the University of Chicago. They show that the workers of this country, even when the drop in prices is taken into account, get less than half as big wages as in 1929, but dividends paid amounted to eight and a half billion dollars in 1930, over eight billion in 1931, and will amount to seven billion for 1932. Why should the dividend-takers give a damn? a damn?

SOME JOBS FOR 1933

WE know now that we cannot get or keep anything except by organizing and fighting for it. There is going to be some tall organizing and fighting done this year by the American worker and farmer! Here are some of the things to organize tor:

Adequate relief—decently and fairly administered. And that means the unemployed themselves must be strongly represented on all relief agencies. This is supposed to be a democratic country. Democracy for the unemployed means

they must have such representation. Fight wage cuts. The purchasing power of the masses is too small now. To lower it further is crazy and criminal. You can't put out a fire by pouring gasoline on it.

Get unemployed insurance. That won't help today or the next day. But we must establish now the principle that in the future when a man doesn't get a pay-envelope from the boss, he gets one from the compulsory unemployment insurance, fund, and doesn't have to take a hand-out from the charity society. No more evictions.

A moratorium on interest and tax payments for farmers and small home

The five-day week and the six-hour day with the same amount of pay. Machinery meant to lighten the burden of toil will be a deadly load on the workers' backs unless hours are drastically cut. But there must be no cut in weekly pay, or the workers will still lack purchasing power to set the wheels of industry turning.

Finally, no more war! The capitalists in their desperation may turn to war in order to get our attention off their rotten system and set us to fighting our fellow-workers from some other country. We do not want to be either machine-fodder or cannon fodder!

"LIBERAL ATTITUDE"

In the latest number of Kampfsignal Socialist organ of the German Workers' Party, Max Seydewitz points out the joker in Chancellor von Schleicher's seemingly liberal attitude in the matter of lifting emergency decrees and permitting the press to operate more freely than during the von Papen regime. Sevdewitz makes clear that while it is to Schleicher's advantage at present to differentiate his policies as much as possible from those of his predecessor, the Chancellor's liberal front covers a well-defined antiradical program.

A recent, widely broadcast statement of the Chancellor's, announcing the change in policy, carried the warning that in case the "freest citizenry in the world" failed to show itself as orderly and law-observing as was expected, the suppressive measures lay ready "in the desk drawer" in the interest (of course!) of "protecting the German people."

The substance of Schleicher's warning becomes plain in the following statement: "In so far as the seditious commun-4stic movement is concerned, I do not intend to leave any doubts that the Reich's government will heistate to take drastic exceptional action in case their eagerness for their goal leads to in-

creased agitation among the population." This, Seydewitz indicates, shows clearly enough the tricky work of the crafty

JOKER IN SCHLEICHER'S Organized Groups in **Allentown Join for Action**

(Continued from Page 1)

zens' Protective League in the near future, Louis Breier, its secretary pro-tem "The time has come when most labor and civic organizations interested in fighting for justice and common decency in industry and government realize that a policy of isolation is, to say the least of it, the worst possible tactical error. In the past it may have been difficult to determine just who our enemies were, and who our friends. But in this depression each day demarcates with greater clarity the opposing forceson the one side the workers of America battling for their very right to live-on the other side the vested interests of America fighting for the privilege of robbing and pillaging.

"It is organizations like the Citizens Protective League we have need of, if we are to gain success. I do not say that the League will prove the last word in workers' organization. But as the first successful unification of separate workers' groups in this community it is a tremendous step forward and will lead to greater things."

Letters have been sent to every workers' organization in the city asking for representatives at the next meeting of the League, January 14, for which the County Court House has been procured. LOOK AROUND YOU, MR. GREEN



News Item: President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor assures Cincinnati reporters that racketeers have practically disappeared from A. F. of L. unions. Mr. Green was attending the annual convention of the labor organization in this city.

OTHERS SAY

By PROLETARIAN =

American workers and farmers have fought. The past is full of militancy. The story is told by Arthur W. Calhoun in the new labor newspaper - magazine, "Our America."

"And this spirit is not dead," writes Calhoun. "All that is necessary is to impiant the realization that the days of personal resources are over, and the workers of America will flow together in unvanquishable number."

Technocracy!

A big pleasant word that fits the mouth like a penny jaw-breaker.

"Technocracy says we'd only work four hours a day if everything were right, if machinery wasn't run for profits. Technocracy says-

The word tastes good. But what do the Technocrats say?

Well, they say they offer no solution; that's something important.

They are a group of engineers who are doing good work in collecting facts and figures to add to those already in the possession of Marxists, demonstrating that the profit-system is falling to pieces, about done for. Only the engineers have not yet found the heart of the matter, that only the working class can develop the strength to unseat the capitalists and usher in the next stage, the non-profit system. So they can offer no solution.

"The Terrifying Onward March of the Machine" in the December "Lithographers' Journal" is a summary by Justus Ebert of the articles on Technocracy printed in the "New Outlook."

Workers in England read in the official journal of the Labor Movement there, the "Labor Magazine," December, that the American president-elect is better material than Hoover, but that "No one would

SEATTLE LEAGUE CONTROLS RELIEF

(Continued from Page 1)

agreement turning over the relief commissaries to the unemployed.

This period just ended has tested to the limit the pioneer organization of the unemployed in America. Weakkneed members fell away or joined the "company union" which the outgoing commissioners set up to chain the unemployed to their political chariots. The twenty-two locals in the city all weathered the attack. Workers in Seattle and the Northwest have a background of class solidarity, an immense advantage.

The U. C. L. was set in motion in July, 1931, by a few members of the Seattle Labor College. It grew very ra-

Even the enemies of all working class organizations, the bankers, the big business element, were taken off guard. The only sort of unemployed organization they knew about at the time was Communist sponsored, and it made little impression. The League put forward the principle of "self-help" as the big item in its program. Naturally the business men were led to believe that the jobless would keep their minds occupied with the innocuous work of wood cutting, gathering food from farms, and so

Then the bankers and politicians thought that they could make a "company union" out of the League, after it had grown large. This would be a better method than fighting the League openly.

describe him as a bold and enterprising man, nor one gifted with any special vision." There may be a slight reduction of tariffs, recognition of Russia, modification of prohibition, some form of unemployment insurance and federal supervision of electric power, writes Harold J. Laski, but Roosevelt's election "gives no grounds for optimism in world affairs."

YOU MUST DECIDE—AND YOU WILL

relief agencies turned over to the League lief.

tation. The unemployed began to take pride in their organization; they lost the started. Free lance correspondents sprung up with stories to the national press about a jobless paradise, exagthe movement.

their scheme to make the League a 'company union," set out to break the League before the fall elections. In the Spring the jobless workers had already turned to political action, and elected their own candidates, to the dismay of the politicians. The newspapers began carrying stories about the unemployed stealing food and chiseling, labelling the League a "Red Frankenstein."

Then followed the gruelling test of the League. Shortly before the 1932 election the county commissioners broke with the organization and took over full control of the commissaries. Political agents were installed as managers, food depots were consolidated,

But it didn't work. The League in spite of this put its candidates over in the primary and in the general election.

Today a new chapter begins for the organized jobless of Seattle. The League, again in control of the commissaries, is pressed with problems of adequate food, clothing and shelter. Nearly 17,000 families are drawing food from the commissaries. The food is bought at whole sale at about \$2 per week for a family of three.

The League has fought for and secured cod liver oil for children. Now tensive work.

In November, 1931, the city and county

the investigation and distribution of re-This period was one of experimen

badge of shame. New activities were gerated, but interpreting the spirit of Next, the political bosses, failing in

shifted, and everything was confusion

must secure better medical aid and balanced menu of vegetables and fruits. With the weekly, The Unemployed Citizen, formerly The Vanguard, and the Marxian educational program, the League aims to clarify the understanding of the

membership. 1933 will be a year of in

You take a toothache and you jump from bed howling | problems sanely, or whether, like so many labor papers, and run up and down the room making everybody miserable. Do you? No, you know there are remedies for an aching tooth; you try the remedies as fast as you can reach.

This zero number of LAROP ACTION room out to see the control of t them and if they fail to kill the pain the tooth is yanked out.

But listen to this. A terrible plague sweeps the nation, enters your home-all security is gone: the prospects for your children in life, the prospects for an old age of comfort and security for yourself and your wife, all are suddenly crushed.

What do you do? Do you sit down and hold your tongue and kid yourself with the belief that nothing has happened, or that somewhere somebody is looking out for you? No, not if you are an awakened worker. You know that there is a remedy for this plague, this TB of capitalism, a remedy that only the workers as a class can ever apply.

You know, also, that until this remedy is applied, you, we, your family, our families, all of us who belong to the working class, will go on suffering in the future as we have in the past.

But what do you do about this sort of economic toothache? What can you do about it? There is in the thinking of workers and farmers in this country a frightful amount of muddlement and confusion, this is the trouble. Everywhere you find them looking desperately for the dentist, so to speak, without knowing where the dentist is or how

The dentist in this case is a strong labor movement. And Comrade, if you are interested as we are in building the labor movement and extracting the TB system from our lives—and we must proceed upon the assumption that you are—and that you do not kid yourself and your de-pendents with vague feelings that the bankers are losing sleep figuring out ways to make money for US and not for themselves—then let us tell you about this CPLA publica-tion, LABOR ACTION.

Here are the facts, given anxiously, frankly, because whether you realize it this minute or not, you are sure to have a say in determining whether this paper lives or dies—whether it will be a weapon, a genuine force, in rousing and training the workers to organize and tackle their

This zero number of LABOR ACTION goes out to you

with proletarian prayers in the name of a workers republic. Men and women have worked hard without pay, but gladly, to place it in your hands. They have tried their best to make this issue give you some idea of what LABOR ACTION hopes to be—the most stimulating, challenging, interesting workers' weekly in America.

And just now you may be pretty sure that these workers are waiting hopefully and anxiously for your reactions.

Subscriptions have got to come in, bundle orders must e received; the comrades who are aware of the impossibilities of publishing a workers' paper without support— quick support and plenty of it—from the workers, must pitch in now without putting it off and do everything they can to get friends and fellow workers to subscribe, send in names of workers who want the paper but have no money, buy bundle orders, sell them, send in news-Every-

This is what you can do to make our work effective, for one without the other is almost meaningless. Will you do it?

128 East 16th St., New York City. I will do it. Put me down as a subscriber to LABOR

LABOR ACTION,

ACTION. I enclose one dollar. LABOR ACTION looks good to me.

Name Address Labor Action \$1 a year. 3 mo. trial sub. 25c.

THE DEVIL YOU SAY

By TESS HUFF =

The President's Research Committee on Social Trends Makes Its Report

At last your government has the facts, and here they are. After three years of study the President's Committee on Social Trends gives your government the facts and there's nothing left to do now but for your government to forget about them.

The following statements are taken from the report:

Our capacity to produce goods changes faster than our capacity to purchase; employment does not keep pace with improvement in the machinery of production.

. . . Whether the recurrent episodes of widespread unemployment, huge financial losses and demoralization are an inescapable feature of the form of economic organization which the western world has evolved is a question which can be answered only by further study and experiment.

The basic feature of our present economic organization is that we get our livings by making and spending money incomes. This practice offers prizes to those who have skill at money making; it imposes penalties upon those who lack the ability or the character to render services for which others are willing to pay.

But even in good times it is clear that we do not make full use of our labor power, our industrial equipment, our natural resources and our technical skill. The reason why we do not produce a larger real income for ourselves is not that we are satisfied with what we have, for in the best of years millions of families are limited to a meager living. The effective limit upon production is the limit of what the markets will absorb at profitable prices, and this limit is set by the purchasing power at the disposal of would-be consumers.

Of necessity the business organizer's task is often the unwelcome one of keeping production down to a profitable level.

Output per worker has increased 50 per cent in the manufacturing industries since the beginning of the 20th century.

For the very near future the standard of living may decline because of the menace to wages caused by unemployment, the possible slowness of economic recovery from the depression and the weakness of collective action on the part of wage-earners.

Poverty is by no means vanished ... The indications are that even in our late period of unexampled prosperity there was much poverty in certain industries and localities, in rural areas as well as in cities, which was not of temporary or accidental nature.

Insecurity of unemployment is characteristic of the economic process, and no doubt if control of rates of change were possible, unemployment could be greatly reduced.... Unless labor organizations show a more vigorous growth in the future other resources of society must be drawn upon to meet these problems.

Now this is good stuff and to the oint. The report states elsewhere that there are no indications that the "rates of change" of social forces will be controlled in the near future, so let's not get excited-everybody keep his place in the breadline. Plainly the Committee was stumped in

its efforts to find a way out under capitalism, although it was three years on the job. But some of its statements, as you see, are pretty red. Indeed the report puts some emphasis upon the possibility of violent revolution "unless there can be a more impressive integration of social skills and fusing of social pur poses than is revealed by recent trends.'

At any rate your President now has the facts before him and you may be sure that he will do something with them, if he does no more than put them under his bed, and someone has suggested that this is how he disposes of the facts collected by his various committees.

Anyway, you can go out now and build a labor movement to cope with the problems in the land of idle machines and moving breadlines that this system cannot solve, and if the government sends in troops, or the chamber of commerce and the churches denounce you and the police look upon you as a menace-just send a wire to your President, and he will crawl under the bed and rake out these old facts which were to guide the nation, and wire you back that you are not only right and acting according to his Committee's instructions, but that you are solving the nation's problems.