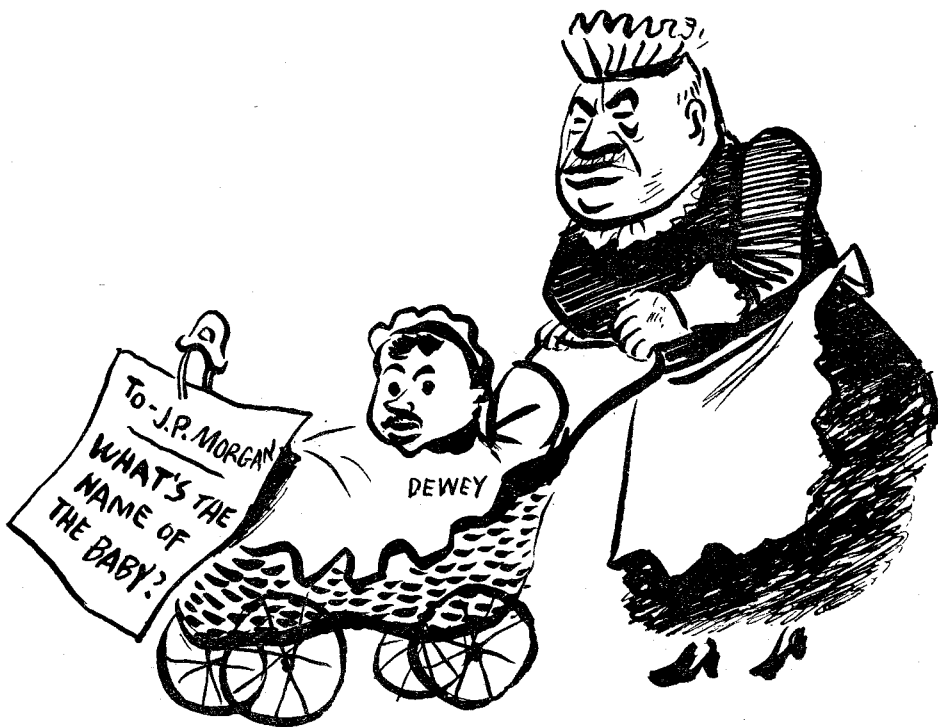
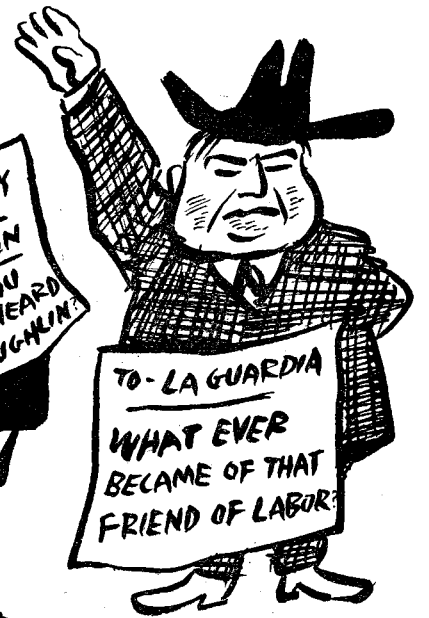
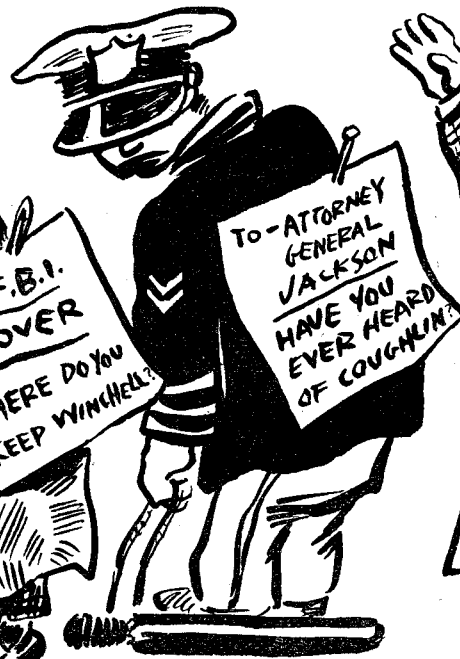
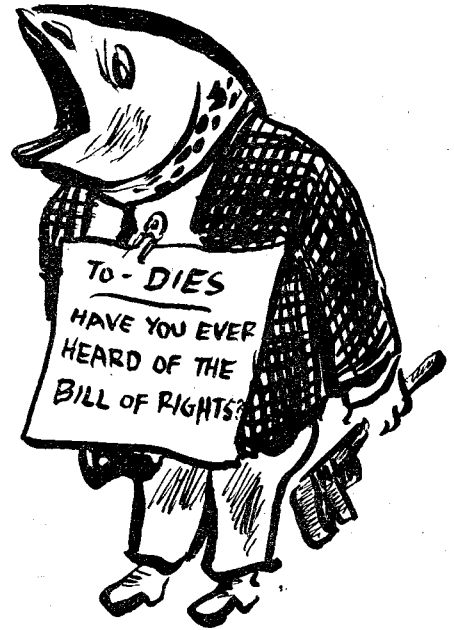


This being census week

Here are a few questions we'd like to pin on a few guys -



W.G.P.P.

William Gropper

# NEW MASSES

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## The War Spreads

AS WE go to press, news comes that the German army has occupied Denmark and has seized Oslo, the capital of Norway. This comes in reply to an Allied effort to involve Norway in the war on their side. It is the Nazi answer to the British mining of Norwegian territorial waters. The general strategy of the Allied powers was to create a front for action against Germany other than the French frontier. Every American will sorrow at the fate of Denmark and Norway and, more than that, at the fact that the European war is obviously continuing to extend the area of combat. In our opinion the responsibility for the extension of the imperialist war into Scandinavia is the joint responsibility of Germany and the Allied powers. No propaganda on whose was the first move must obscure that fact for the American people. No consideration of immediate sympathy can conceal the truth that British policy has placed Norway in the position of joining Britain's side against its will. It is equally obvious that Germany has taken action in protection of its own flank in the Baltic, also desiring to make the field of combat soil other than its own. Obviously, there is an immediate danger that Sweden also will be involved, a possibility which creates unforeseeable dangers for the Soviet Union.

In the light of the Scandinavian developments the significance of the unexpected Soviet-Finnish peace treaty becomes clearer. One of the major objectives of the Soviet Union was to forestall the imminent possibility of the war spreading to Scandinavia. The generosity of the Soviet Union's peace terms was to win over the governments of Sweden and Norway and pull them back from the war precipice toward which their British, French, and American "friends" were pushing them via Finnish intervention. Instead of cooperating with the Soviet effort to save Scandinavia from being drawn into the war, the Swedish and Norwegian Social Democrats rewarded the Soviet Union by official talk of a "defensive alliance" with Finland aimed, as the whole world knew, against the Soviet Union. War has come to the Scandinavian countries, but not from the direction that they pretended to fear most. It has come from their Allied "friends" whom they trusted, and from Nazi Germany, on whom they relied to save them from the "Soviet menace." One need only con-

trast the resistance of Finland to the acquiescence of Denmark to realize that it is socialism which Social Democracy dreads most.

No American can be happy about the policy of our government. It has been the Roosevelt diplomacy to encourage both the Scandinavian countries and the Allied powers to extend the theater of war into the North. This encouragement was typified by the Roosevelt agitation over Finland. It was demonstrated by the Export-Import Bank loans to Sweden and Norway and the enormous increase of arms, aircraft, and munitions shipments to these countries from the United States. Instead of working to limit the war the American government has encouraged its extension. The outcome of such a policy has been brought home to the peoples of Denmark and Norway. It must be brought home to the people of the United States that their government also bears responsibility for the extension of the war. These Roosevelt policies can lead to the involvement of the American people itself.

## After the Nazi White Book

MOST of the discussion on the Nazi White Book obscures its significance. It is unimportant whether or not the documents taken from the former Polish Embassy are true in every detail. Their main outlines are generally admitted to be authentic; neutral observers have seen the documents; French newspapers accept their validity; Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen, Washington commentators, say that denials of their authenticity must be "taken with fourteen grains of salt." The important thing is this: The administration and its major ambassadors in Europe have already committed this country to war. Without asking the American people, they have staked our lives and resources in the effort to keep European imperialism afloat. Their only consideration seems to be when to go in, and on what terms. But to go in they have already decided. This is such a horrible fact that no American can afford to accept it as final. No American can afford to dismiss the White Book as "propaganda." For everything the administration has done since September confirms its general strategy as expressed by Ambassador Bullitt months before.

Cordell Hull and Mr. Roosevelt must be compelled to discuss their foreign policy before the people; they must not be allowed the pleasure of silence. Their policy is not, and cannot be, the policy of the American people.

## Soviet Budget

FEW important newspapers thought Premier Molotov's speech on March 29 fit to print. Practically none of them gave it comment. If this reflects the embarrassment of the capitalist press with Molotov's ideas and tone, the same must be said of its reaction to the new Soviet budget. Yet the budget, just adopted by the Soviet parliament, has some

important food for thought. Under socialist planned economy, there's no such thing as an unbalanced budget. Total government income next year reaches 183,000,000,000 rubles, an increase of 16 percent over the year before. But expenditures total 180,000,000,000: no fiscal headaches for the USSR! Defense expenditures have increased to 57,000,000,000 rubles, a boost of 38 percent, but the ratio of defense costs to the total budget has gone down to 31.5 percent: an important contrast with the experience of capitalist countries. Education and social service reaches 43,000,000,000 rubles; investment in national economy amounts to 57,000,000,000 rubles, another revealing comparison with capitalist nations where investments have stagnated for years. Productivity is expected to increase; costs will drop; production for sale, which means consumers' goods, will rise by 13.6 percent in the third year of the Third Five Year Plan. There are no such things as relief cuts in the USSR; there is, in fact, no unemployment. There are no heavy appropriations for servicing bonds and stocks, because the Soviet people have learned the secret of improving living standards without the services of a special class that owns the stocks and bonds. It is an open secret: socialism.

## Trade Dilemma

BY A vote of forty-two to thirty-seven the Senate extended the trade agreements program until June 1943. The vote came after several unsuccessful attempts to limit the time-span of the program and give the Senate ratification power. The solid Republican opposition indicates that they will make trade agreements a major plank in their November platform. The Democrats were significantly divided. In the opposition of the Western senators, otherwise administration stalwarts, is reflected the dismay of farm voters with the continuing crisis in agricultural prices and exports.

The trade agreements program has become the governmental effort to push American trade preeminence in the world market. It is working out exclusively in the interests of monopoly industry: machine tools, chemicals, munitions, steel, and aircraft. For example, in February 1940 exports increased by 59 percent over the same month in 1939, but non-agricultural goods comprised \$93,000,000 of the increase, leaving only \$29,500,000 for farm produce. Such a situation is intensified by the wartime economic policies of the Allies, the reduction of European living standards, and the competition of strategic countries such as Canada, the Argentine, and Turkey.

The trend is therefore in the direction of greater American efforts to dominate world trade while domestic agriculture must be subsidized and Nazi trade methods introduced to foster our own farm exports. Ironically, the Senate passed the trade agreements program at a moment when the disorganization of world trade is greatest.