



cept of violence; it was not necessary for him to do so. As far back as 1933 the steel companies were arming themselves for the coming struggle. For example, the following order was shipped to Bethlehem Steel. The invoice entered on the books of Federal Laboratories, and signed by A. G. Bergman, is dated Sept. 30, 1933:

- 12 blast-type billies
- 100 blast-type billies, cartridges
- 24 Jumbo CN grenades lot No. X820
- 24 military bouchons
- 48 1½ in. cal. projectile shells (CN)
- 24 1½ in. cal. short range shells (CN)
- 4 1½ in. cal. riot guns, style 201, sr. No. 337,386,390,403
- 4 riot gun cases

That makes for quite a sizable armament, but Youngstown Sheet & Tube went in for more and deadlier protection against unarmed strikers and their dangerous wives and children. On June 6, 1934, this firm was billed for the following order:

- 10 1½ in. cal. riot gun 201, \$60 ea.
- 10 riot gun cases 211, \$7.50 ea.
- 60 1½ in. cal. long range projectiles, \$7.50 ea.
- 60 1½ in. cal. short range projectiles, \$4.50 ea.
- 60 M-39 billies, std. barrel, no disc., \$22.50 ea.
- 600 M-39 billy cartridges, \$1.50 ea.
- 200 grenades 160M, 10% disc., \$12 ea.

THESE are only two examples of widespread gun-toting by the steel companies. Nor were these the only techniques they used. They hired spies and special agents. They organized goon squads composed of thugs, professional gangsters and assorted degenerates. They bribed police chiefs and sheriffs.

And under their natural leader, Tom Girdler, they set themselves for violence.

That was part of the background to the Memorial Day Massacre. Another part was Tom Girdler himself, and it is worthwhile to look into that gentleman's history.

The second and concluding installment of Mr. Fast's article will appear next week.

THIRD PARTY IN '48?

Is there enough sentiment for it? Will it make a GOP victory inevitable? Some questions answered on this vital topic.

By A. B. MAGIL

THE CIO United Packinghouse Workers' Union at its recent convention unanimously went on record in favor of establishing a third party. This is nothing new for the packinghouse workers. And in the past year other CIO unions—the United Automobile Workers and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, for example—have adopted similar resolutions.

What is new is the fix we're in. Not completely new, of course. But the situation has matured, much that was previously blurred has come into focus. In April 1946, when the UAW executive board adopted its resolution on political action, urging "work toward the eventual formation of a broad third party," it stated that "President Truman and his administration are yielding and capitulating on issue after issue to the forces of reaction." Today it is no longer a question merely of yielding and capitulating — though there's plenty of that. It was Truman himself who, with Wall Street calling the signals, carried the ball labeled "aid to Greece and Turkey." Yes, Vandenberg and Dulles and other GOP stalwarts have labored powerfully toward the same end, but the piano player in the White House has stepped out of his role of diligent accompanist and become a virtuoso of imperialist reaction in his own right. In this sense those who speak of the President's "growing stature" are entirely correct.

On domestic questions the situation is complicated by tactical differences and partisan maneuvers, as a result of which Truman finds it expedient to seize the initiative from the Republicans only occasionally. Yet whether there is teamwork or conflict, underlying the relations between the administration and the GOP is a division of labor toward agreed objectives. This is exemplified by two newspaper headlines that appeared on two successive

days: "Senate Adopts Labor Curbs by a Margin Large Enough to Override a Truman Veto," and "Truman Signs Portal Ban." It is further exemplified in the outrageous Truman loyalty order and Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach's no less outrageous proposal to outlaw the Communist Party — administration initiative in both instances receiving vigorous Republican support.

After all that has happened in recent months, after the orgiastic profiteering and pocket-picking on the part of the trusts, isn't it about time? Time to say with the packinghouse workers: "For all practical purposes the major parties present us with a choice of Tweedledum and Tweedledee." This is not to deny that there are in the Democratic Party (and to a lesser extent in the Republican) progressives who are courageously battling to save what remains of the Roosevelt legacy. This is not to overlook the role of senators like Pepper, Taylor, Murray and Morse and their counterparts in the House, who don't sneeze every time their party chiefs take snuff and who are able to see the ordinary folks of America even behind the mammoth form of monopoly that sprawls over most of the seats in the chambers of Congress. But the fact remains that there is little, if anything, to choose between the policies that today dominate the Republican and Democratic parties nationally—little, if anything, to choose between the men who are likely to be the Presidential candidates of the two parties of big business.

It's time to try something else. The degenerate nature of capitalism is becoming increasingly evident to millions in other lands who refuse to become vassals of Wall Street and are moving toward the vital democracy of socialism. But in our country, where capitalism commits its greatest crimes, we still have to create an elementary political instrument through which