Half the World

by Claudia Jones

EVERY WORKING CLASS MOTHER and housewife knows what it is like to try and feed her family today. It's a question of scraping and pinching to make ends meet. Milk, meat, bread and vegetables—the bare necessities for a normal healthy diet are practically impossible to keep on the tables of millions of families because of high prices.

Recently a so-called price stabilization program was announced by the Truman Administration Prices were frozen at present levels.

The truth of the matter, however, was that far from stabilizing prices a cynical hoax was put over on the American people. It means that the war profiteers who have raised prices consistently since the defeat of the price control program have been given the go-ahead signal through the government price agencies to enhance their price gouging program and to protect their fat profits. But not many people recognize that the war profiteers are the same forces who control the government's foreign policy as well.



A striking example of the gory tale of how private profit is the mainspring of the government's rush for armaments and defense is shown in the recently publicized annual profit of General Motors Corp. of last year. GM, 40 percent of whose stock is controlled by one family —the duPont Family, made $834,000,000 in profit—or nearly one billion dollars in 12 months. This huge monopoly is one of the leading organizers of America's present foreign policy.

No better comparison can be pointed to in so far as who pays the cost of war, and whether the Korean adventure is truly a "crusade for freedom," than to examine the results of this same year in so far as millions of American families are concerned. This was a year, in which since June 1950, more than 52,000 American boys have died, been wounded or captured, on the Korean plains in a war of intervention 5,000 miles away. This was a year in which one million Korean men, women and children have been brutally slaughtered or frozen to death as a result of MacArthur's aggressive war on the peoples of Korea. During this same year, living standards have fallen drastically, because on the people has fallen the main burden of paying for the cost of this ruinous foreign policy.

It is against this "legalized robbery" to quote from the policy statement of the United Labor Police Committee of the top CIO-AFL leaders, that a call recently was voiced urging American housewives and consumers to enlist in a fight for tighter price controls. To implement this proposal, these labor leaders have scheduled a national conference on March 20, to plan such a nation-wide campaign. These same labor leaders recently resigned their posts in the "defense" planning agencies and charged that Big Business completely controls the government's economic machinery. But at the same time, they refuse to similarly admit that Big Business controls the government foreign policy as well, as evidenced in their support of the war program. But in contrast to them, millions of rank and file working men and women and wives question this ruinous foreign policy. It is after all, their pocketbooks and children's bellies which are stark evidences of the wage freeze, high prices and speed-up hazards to life and health. All this should make it incumbent on women's peace committees and women's organizations to utilize this call to move into action in every community against this all time price high.

Enlisting in support of labor's call against high prices should be regarded by American wives and mothers not as a way to "equalize sacrifices" with the Wall Street profiteers, but as an integral part of the anti-war, pro-peace struggle in our country. There can be no "equality of sacrifice" between mothers whose sons are now needlessly dying on foreign battlefields and the Wall Street stockholders of the GM, duPont, Ford trusts—dealers in death and aggression. This is true, primarily because the very premise of the present foreign policy is based on the conscious fraud that our country's security is jeopardized by "Soviet aggression" which deception is robbing American families today of milk, meat and bread.