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What happens when "L" day comes?

300,000 RENTERS ASK A QUESTION

Chicago tenants are girding themselves for "L" Day.

"L" Day falls on December 31, 1948.

"L" Day—Lease Day—is the day when leases, signed under coercive terms of the 1947 federal rent law by more than 300,000 Chicago tenants, expire.

What's going to happen to those 300,000 tenants? Eviction? Another rent increase?

Mrs. Esther Brown, of 3748 N. Pine Grove, whose husband, Norman, is an employe of Union Buying Service, 64 W. Randolph, is typical of the many tenants interviewed by The Standard.

"When we signed the lease last year," Mrs. Brown told The Standard reporter, "we rearranged our budget and somehow managed, by cutting down on other necessities, to meet the 15 per cent rent increase.

"We tried not to think too much about what would happen when our lease terminated in December, '48. But we're forced to think about it now. December is right around the corner.

"Everyone in our building is worried that there'll be another rent increase. But people just can't afford it. . . . And what if we're evicted? Where would we go? We have two children . . ."

One rent expert, Irving Steinberg, attorney and Progressive candidate for Congress from the 12th Cong. Distr., predicts that in October landlords will serve a wave of eviction notices on tenants whose leases expire in December.

"Probably," Steinberg told The Standard, "many landlords will take advantage of the grounds for eviction provided in the 1948 Rent Act inasmuch as tenants will be handicapped by the termination of their leases.

"I say October, since a 60 day eviction notice is required under the Rent Act — and 60 days would fall on the date leases expire."

Steinberg pointed out, however, that tenants have grounds for a legal fight on evictions, since the terms of the 1948 federal Rent Act specify that "holders of rent increase leases are protected as to rents and occupancy through the first three months of 1949, when the Rent Act expires."

This means that tenants cannot be evicted during the first three months of 1949—except on grounds specified in the federal Rent Act. The following three grounds for eviction remain the greatest threat to tenants' security:

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Middlemen keep food costs up despite dropping farm prices

You'd never guess it from the prices in your grocery store, but food prices are tumbling!

Prices farmers receive for their products have dropped so seriously, in fact, that many of them fear a depression's just around the corner.

hours before Wallace ended his two-day visit in Chicago.

One of the group, Mrs. Grace McDonald, editor of the California Farm Reporter, pointed out that farmers in her state now are receiving only 14 cents a pound for apricots which cost them 35 cents to raise.

Elmer Benson, former governor of Minnesota, expressed deep concern over the price of oats, which have dropped 50 per cent in just five weeks.

Corn, which formerly brought the farmers \$2.20 a bushel, now brings a price of only \$1.50, Wallace pointed out.

The Wallace farmers blamed the "middlemen"—food processing companies and grocery chains that "pack their own"—for the still-increasing price of food.

"Wheat prices have dropped, but bread prices have increased," they pointed out. "The net profits of the three largest chain bakeries are reported at \$11 million last year, or nearly double what they were in 1945 before price controls were lifted—and this was after all expenses, including taxes, had been deducted."

This is true of many other products, including meat, according to other government statistics reported by the farmers.

While "farm prices are falling," they added, "the farmer's costs are climbing to new inflationary highs."

Homer Ayres, farm director of the Progressive Party and farm relations advisor to the United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers of America (CIO), drew attention to the general increase in the price of farm machinery recently announced by the International Harvester Co. and other manufacturers.

That's what Henry Wallace and 40 leaders of the farmers division of the Progressive Party told reporters at a press conference here last week, a few

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FAMED Negro actor-singer Paul Robeson talks to residents of the Ferry Street Bridge location, slum area north of Eugene, Oregon, where some 30 Negro families are forced to live in tarpaper shanties because of Jimcrow real estate restrictions in the city. Robeson is currently touring the country for the Progressive party.

Realtors pledge fight against rent controls

WASHINGTON (FP)—Killing federal rent control forever and preventing federal aid to public housing and slum clearance were posed last week as the big three objectives of the real estate lobby when the 81st Congress meets.

Calvin K. Snyder, a Washington official of the National Association of Real Estate Boards,

told the annual convention of Ohio realtors flatly that the housing shortage is caused by federal rent control, without explaining why. Said Snyder: "As long as we have a housing shortage artificially stimulated by federal rent control, we will have bureaucratic tub-thumpers demanding passage of federally subsidized public housing."

EXCLUSIVE IN THE STANDARD

WHAT are you going to do when it's time to renew your lease? . . . see pages 1 & 2. And don't overlook the Help for Tenants centers listing . . . see page 2. As usual, the real estate lobby will be pouring it on the 81st Congress to make things tough for people who want to live indoors . . . see page 1. The 300 West Side families who are being evicted from their homes to make way for a veterans hospital will take their problem to Mayor Kennelly . . . see page 3. They better not run into Ald. Burmeister while they're at the City Hall—he's looking for support for his Chicago anti-communist resolution . . . see page 3.

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LABOR in the NEWS

WHOLESALE resignations at the Wilson Packing local over signing of Taft-Hartley affidavits . . . see page 2. Report of the Progressive Miners convention . . . see page 5. Mine, Mill & Smelters convention endorses Wallace . . . see page 7. A court decision for labor in Pennsylvania . . . see page 7. UAW striker shot by gun-toting scab . . . see page 8. Longshoremen win battle with Army over hiring hall . . . see page 8. Don't miss Isabel Carr's "Looking at Labor" column . . . see page 5.

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ON THE FIRST BOUNCE

PROGRESSIVES are still battling to get on the ballot . . . see page 2. Ninety-three distinguished educators, artists, and churchmen slap at the State department for refusing a visa to Britain's Dean of Canterbury . . . see page 3. China through the eyes of an expert . . . see page 6. Rally for the Rosa Lee Ingram children . . . see page 5.

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YPA STATE CONVENTION

PICTURES and story . . . see page 3.

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STANDARD FEATURES

DON'T miss BILL CARR's review of Lindbergh AND his new book . . . see page 6. Movie reviewed . . . see page 6. "Our Town" . . . see page 4. Sports editor AL VAUGHN goes nuts over the American League race in the "Fan's Corner" . . . see page 8. "Politics & People" . . . see page 4. METZ LOCHARD'S hard-hitting editorial . . . see page 4.

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WALLACE IN THE STANDARD

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