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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

No One Would Have Believed It

The things that the company does as part of daily routine in the shop today, no one would have believed the workers would come to at this stage, especially those workers with ten and 15 years of experience. In the early days of the UAW, a foreman was prohibited from doing work with the men he was supervising (unless it was a new worker he was teaching the operation).

The position of the union was that if a foreman worked he would be keeping some unemployed worker from a job. Those he supervised would quit work if he continued. This was the position of every union member.

FOREMAN DETERMINES SPEED

The speed of the production line was set and timed every morning with the steward, foreman and maintenance man who did the adjusting of it. Now the foreman does all of this, or as much of it as he wants to. He sets the speed of the line. The steward and the maintenance man is nowhere near. The foremen also work as much as they want to. This is as unfair to the worker as anything in production. It is true that when foremen are allowed to work they eliminate many hours of work that some unemployed workers could be doing.

When foremen have all rights to adjust the lines, they set it slow where workers have to continue to work right around the clock. But when something causes the line to stop, the foreman speeds it up to where the number of pieces will count the same in a given hour. The longer the repairs on a breakdown, the faster the line gets after it is repaired.

UNION SAYS NOTHING

The union has no position on this today, or the actions of the foreman is its position. Many wonder why workers do not attend union meetings or support their union leaders as they did years ago. Many things that workers had to say about production standards are taken away from them, with the union leaders helping the company to do it and firing or threatening those workers who resist.

WORKERS TURN TO STRIKE ACTION

Many workers who face shop problems today will not call or notify the steward about them. If they cannot handle the problems with the help of other workers, they will say, "What is the use of calling or telling a steward?"

When the problems are serious enough, the workers fight by walking out and closing the shop down. In most of these instances they get some better adjustment. Sometimes it costs a worker his job, but the fight by strike action never stops. The company and union leaders have been unable to control that action of the workers.

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Make Sure to Read . . .

THE NEW STRUGGLE AGAINST THE LABOR BUREAUCRACY

. . . in **TWO WORLDS** on Page 5

A Second Look at Polio and the Vaccine

A father told NEWS & LETTERS that he was relieved, in a way, that his children were a little past the age for the Polio vaccine program. "I honestly don't know how I would have decided," he said. "There was always a worry about the kids in back of our minds whenever the polio season came around. When the Salk vaccine was announced as a success, a load was taken off our minds. But right after that it seemed that the big drug companies were out to make a fortune on the hopes of parents; kids got polio from bad vaccinations; and the politicians stuck their fingers into it. It's hard to know what to do.

LEARN ABOUT THE VIRUS FAMILY

It seems desirable that we become better acquainted with the virus family — the huge group of disease-producing particles of which the one causing Poliomyelitis is a member. Viruses seem to be everywhere but are hard to pin down. They cannot be seen with ordinary microscopes. Some investigators even question that they are living substances. Unlike bacteria, they are difficult to raise because they multiply only on living tissue. Existing in plants and animals, they are responsible for a variety of diseases of both, many still unknown. Measles, Mumps and Chicken Pox are common virus diseases.

Recently, I saw a patient with painful lumps on one arm due to the virus of Cat Scratch Fever. There is a virus involved in the common cold, and it is even possible that a virus plays a part in stimulating certain body cells to grow wildly and become malignant or cancerous.

NO WEAPON YET

Unfortunately, there is as yet no effective chemical weapon against the virus diseases such as has been found in Penicillin for the bacterial diseases. Over the years, hundreds of scientists, medical men, bacteriologists, chemists and technicians have been working on problems related to the development of vaccines against the virus diseases. A vaccine is a suspension of dead germ particles which are injected into the body to stimulate it to produce a specific anti-substance, that will counteract the poison produced by the germ. All living tissue has the power to kill or weaken invaders, when not overwhelmed and given time to mobilize a defense.

—M. D.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The recent stock manipulation which split General Motors stock 3 for 1 netted the holders of "Bird Dog" Wilson's shares about one third of a million dollars. Each share jumped 14 points. Now if all the General Motors workers reaped the same benefits . . .

"I think the worst thing of all was that stupid and inhuman remark by Mrs. Oveta Hobby, the Secretary of Health, that she was against free shots for all children because that would be socialism. It seems that the people in charge were interested in everything except the hopes of parents and the health of children."

DOUBT AND CONFUSION

A working mother said, "Parents had to decide without having enough knowledge to make the decision. Most of the mothers I know, did what I did. We took the advice of our family doctor. I let my son get the shots but I wasn't too happy about it. I have confidence in my doctor but I don't have much confidence left in the field of medicine as a whole. That isn't right in something as serious as health and medicine. They're supposed to know. They're going to have to restore my faith in them."

Now that the polio season is in swing and the number of cases is not much different, so far, from the same time last year, NEWS & LETTERS asked our medical columnist for his opinion, which is as follows:

VACCINE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION

The Salk vaccine is the result of the work of many people over a long period of time. It appears to be a very valuable contribution to medicine. I do not now want to go into the question of whether the virus remained sufficiently active in certain batches of the vaccine to give some who received the injections, a form of the disease. I am sure that the vaccine can be prepared so that it will not endanger the individual.

ANOTHER PROBLEM

I am concerned, however, with another aspect of the problem; one that is also seen in fields other than medicine. The conception of a successful attack on specific needs of humanity, by a cooperative effort of all the people using their entire resources, is a wonderful thing to realize. The tremendous work done in the refinement and manufacture of Penicillin under the stimulus of World War II, first gave us a look at the great possibilities in the medical field.

Had the Polio vaccine produced perfect results, little publicity would have been given to some fundamental defects underlying certain phases of our present system of medical care. The hitch in the program gave the American people a pretty good look. What they saw was not altogether pleasing.

CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, a semi-private organization that has given financial support to the Salk studies and has collected funds yearly through its March of Dimes campaigns, was accused by politically-minded Administration officials of attempting to hurry the tests in order that a celebration could be held on the birthday of its founder, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Certain Congressmen urged free distribution of the medicine and blamed drug houses and some doctors for a black market in the vaccine.

The American Medical Association came out with a resolution against free distribution and what it called an entering wedge for Socialized Medicine. In this it was backed by the drug companies manufacturing the vaccine.

President Eisenhower and his secretaries made many statements trying to please everyone.

INTERFERENCE

The difficulties connected with the Polio vaccine have raised the curtain on the obstacles that interfere with responsible human relationships in carrying on the world's work. One can see the tangle of crossing wires, the ruthless drives, greed and falseness which are glamorized under the terms ambition, incentive and freedom.

Human capacities have hardly been touched. I believe that what we today look upon as miracles can take place when the full creativeness of people is released through a feeling of inner responsibility that joins them to their fellow man. In all this lies a new America trying to be born; a people who do not want to live just to work but will work in order to live.

NEWS and LETTERS

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A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

The Social Nature of Illness

Part II

There is a large group of diseases of human beings, the cure of which is making little progress. This group has come into being with the creation of the large community, but is a further development of the activity of modern society through which human beings have become part of a highly mechanized industrial civilization.

These diseases reveal themselves through a disturbance in the function of a body organ—an activity controlled by the individual's nervous system.

Many physicians still half jokingly try to comfort and dismiss patients' complaints with the remark, "It's just your nerves." By far the largest quantity of medicine prescribed today by doctors is for calming over-active nerves.

STRESS AND STRAIN

Unfortunately, nerves enter into every corner and crevice of the human body and take part in every bit of activity. Under sufficient pressure or stress, anyone's nervous system can break down. In modern life, the nervous system has often taking such a beating, has been receiving so many insults, that it refuses to remain silent. So today, physicians have come to recognize and to name some very common protests of nerves. There are specific diseases like peptic ulcers, high blood pressure, colitis, as well as many sick people with all sorts of strange symptoms, difficult to classify. Among these are the irritable heart, the nervous stomach, the lack of energy and zest. Here also are many more serious disturbances, various neuroses and even psychoses or insanities.

MORE THAN MEDICINE

I do not want to belittle or make light of what physicians are doing and must do for these sick individuals. I merely want to point out that the established and sound way of treating a disease is to get at the cause. That, however, doctors of medicine are unable to do in the treatment of this type of human illness. Much more than the average physician's efforts and present understanding is required. The

Los Angeles—When I got to work early this morning the gate was locked. Someone said they forgot to open it, but we were let in just at starting time. The reason for this was that a foreman had fired a man last night for sleeping, and another man was fired this morning for being drunk.

Some of the men argued that no one should be fired

great increase in this type of illness brings into focus a questioning of the very existence of our present way of life.

We know that for the good and welfare of the individual human being, it is essential that he continue to develop as completely and fully as possible. But within modern society, growth and development of the individual person has become difficult and even impossible. Many men have become sick because of this and civilization has entered a blind alley.

BREEDS NERVOUS DISEASE

This abnormality has come about because we have lost sight of our goal, and are no longer looking at the human being. We have become involved with material products created by him. The chief activity of people today is finding and protecting a "good" spot in the world of production. This is usually a competitive effort. Herein is the breeding ground for disease of the nervous system and of the emotions.

The forced which drives people into this unnatural activity of modern society is fear—a fear of failure to meet the physical necessities of living — food, clothing, shelter and of becoming helpless and dependent. But in trying to protect themselves, in seeking to obtain physical security, people have, in a sense, made a bad bargain. They have let others control and use them. They have compromised themselves and sold out their humanity. They have lost the only means to obtain genuine security, through developing themselves — their individuality.

DYING BEFORE LIVING

The knowledge of this failure is the guilt within people, which may lead to sickness of the mind and the emotions. Civilized existence today in the U. S. has become synonymous with finding a place in the activity of modern industry. This activity, which should be only the background or the means to living, becomes the living itself. With this we begin to die before we have truly lived.

by the foreman for being drunk.

The man should have been sent to the doctor to determine if he was drunk, it was not the right of the foreman to decide. Besides if a man closes his eyes that doesn't mean he's asleep, he could be resting his eyes. After all when a foreman sits down at a desk, and closes his eyes, he's thinking.

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners Take Their Vacation

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —When the first of June rolls around, the miners start thinking in terms of vacation. Ten whole days to do with as they see fit.

ALL POINTS

On the whole, there are few people in the world who are keener sportsmen than are the miners. With summer being the fishing season, trips are planned to all points. Some will go out to local fishing spots. Others make trips to far places.

It Makes You Wonder . . .

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —I visited a friend of the paper, whose husband has been very sick for some time. They helped build the UMW in the 1920's. She said her husband story was one for the paper. One lung is gone—a result of his years in the mine. And now, bed-ridden with a stroke, they have been cut off from help from the welfare fund of the

UMW.

DIFFERENT NOW

She went to the union and told them just how she felt. Not one has been to see him while he was sick. And yet, his "buddies" were all he could think about.

She said things sure are different now. They were the ones who did the fighting and put the big shots in where they are now. But now they don't have time for you at all. They act like they're on the other side.

She said people used to stick together in the old days. But now, the mine officials have the upper hand. And the ones who are working are so afraid for their jobs, they do anything the company says. "We didn't have much money in the old days," she said, "but at least everybody has something. Everybody had at least a piece of bread. Now the wages are higher, but look at how many aren't making anything — don't have any jobs at all. It doesn't make sense. It makes you wonder about this world."

WHO DESERVES MORE

She went on to talk about people she met at the hospital that she had to go to recently. Plenty of others were in the same fix: widows of miners who have been cut off without a penny; women whose husbands can't find work.

"Who deserves more than people like this?" she asked. "We gave our whole lives. They say they have no money. They have the money, but what are they using it for? No, things sure are different nowadays. It just makes you wonder."

WIVES AND CHILDREN

Many of the wives are interested in the sports that their husband take up; some of them can beat their husbands at it. And if he says anything that might just hint that he would like to go alone, she sets him straight on that score without any hesitation at all. "You go on vacation, I go on vacation and the children are going with us. You're not the only one who wants to get away for a while. We all do."

There are miners with large families who simply do not have the means of getting anywhere. Their vacations are spent around home, doing all the things that have been put aside until "vacation." For them a vacation is doing work that was not done, or could not be done, while they had to work.

VACATIONS AND PAY

During the month of June there is much talk about vacations and the vacation pay. There are ten days, beginning around the last of June and ending after the first week of July. But of these ten days, five of them are actual working days. There are always two week-ends and the Fourth of July included in these ten days. There is talk that "We ought to have ten working days, then we would have time to do something that we can't with just the ten days. It ought to be two weeks, that

would really give you time if you wanted to make a long trip to see friends or relatives who live too far away for just ten days." Then another point comes up—that of the vacation pay.

The miners get \$100.00 for their vacation pay. This, they all agree, would not be enough for two weeks. But they have the solution for this. For each day they have off, they should get their regular daily rate. That would make it a reasonable vacation with pay. Then you could really enjoy yourself.

There are always comments about the taxing of the vacation pay. No miner feels that it should be taxed. It is something that has been accumulated over a period of a year, not as wages but as something that the operators give, after much bitter struggle, for services during the year.

OVER BUT NOT THROUGH

The ten days fly swiftly by, and before you know it, it is time to go back to work again. The vacation is over, but there is talk for months about the places visited, the ones that got away, the ones that didn't, car trouble, family trouble — anything and everything that happened. This will take up the talk in the lamp house and dinner holes for a while to come. Though the operator is calling the tune now, they can re-live those days for a while.

Mine Safety Committee Checks the Wrong People

Pursglove, W. Va. — I get the coal that a lot of times he doesn't use good judgment. It is the same thing with the boss of the section. He's got to be coal hungry. You put all those things together and a lot of things can happen, just like it did with us.

PIN AS YOU GO

Both of the stoppers were down on the machine and no pins could be put in. But the operator, who should have shut the machine down until it was fixed, kept on working with it. And the boss, who also knows better, let it go on. It ended up with the machine going in quite a way without a pin being put in.

Now here is the thing that gets me. The safety committee sees this unsafe condition. So who do they jump on? Not the boss or the operator, but me and my buddy. We don't run the machine. The boss and the operator do that. It was in their jurisdiction to shut it down until it would be fixed. Any fool would know that. But it was me and my buddy who were climbed all over by the committee. That was anything but right.

As the machine advances into the coal the top is supposed to be made safe. On both sides of the machine are the stoppers. They are used to put in the pins while the machine eats into the coal. Me and my buddy do this work. It's our job to make the holes for the pins and to put the pins in. Of course, the work can't be done if the stoppers aren't operating right. And sometimes this happens. What should be done then is to stop the machine and fix the stoppers so they will work. Both the boss and the operator of the machine know that. The machine should not be allowed to move unless it is safe to work on it.

ANY FOOL WOULD KNOW The only thing is that the company keeps so much pressure on the operators to

LABOR

Foils Scabs at Willow Run

Detroit—The signing of the agreement between Walter Reuther and the General Motors Corp. touched off one of the most militant wildcat strikes seen in Detroit for quite a while.

The strike, which closed the transmission division at Willow Run for over a week, started over the dissatisfaction of the tool grinders, who resented not being included in the skilled classification that got a raise.

These men, about a dozen of them, had the entire plant shut down due to general dissatisfaction with the terms of the union contract. Outside the plant the pickets were patrolling the gate. Opposite them was a small group looking for a way to cross the picket line.

ANY HEAT TREATERS?

A short distance away, the foremen had gathered into their own little group. They thought they could break up the strike by appealing to these skilled workers who wanted to get back to work. A foreman approached the group and said: "The plant will be in a mess unless we get some heat treaters. Are there any here?"

A couple, in the group of men that was trying to break the strike, raised their hands. The foreman promised to take the men into the plant in a car.

BICYCLES, ANYBODY?

He was just on the verge of succeeding with his trick, when one of the pickets, pretty well tanked up, came reeling over to the group and in a drunken voice asked, "Any of youse guys heat treaters?"

"Come on with me. I'll get bicycles for you. We'll all ride into the plant on bicycles."

The men knew that the only ones riding bikes around the plant were foremen or bosses' stooges. The men hesitated and while they did so the drunk went over to the foremen and slapped them on the shoulder, saying, "Yes, heat treaters are really needed. Who is a heat treater? Come with me, my bike is just around the corner?"

The laughter served to break up the whole scheme of the foremen and the would-be scabs.

Work on the Farm Not What It Used to Be

Birmingham, Ala.—When I was a kid, farming was known to be one of the most rugged and difficult jobs a human being could do. But they have it down now where a farmer has a more reasonable job than the one we are doing in the city.

A large percentage of the farmers have different kinds of tractors and the work is done on a somewhat collective basis. Farmers who have one type of tractor trade work with those who have another type of tractor. This is not only true among Negroes and whites as such, but between Negroes and whites.

COOPERATING LABOR

While I was at my brother's farm, a white farmer rode up and asked did I see his son who was to come over to do some work for us. When my brother came I asked him what about this man's son. He told me that this white farmer has a tractor that cuts and bales oats and hay in one operation.

This saves three or four days of labor. In turn my brother has a tractor for ploughing. They do the work for each other and pay back that way.

SHORTER WORK DAY

Another big change is that the farmers go to work by the hours something like we do in the factory. Those who came to work with my brother came at 7:30 in the morning and quit at 4:30 in the afternoon. This was astonishing and amazing to me because when I worked on the farm we worked from when we could see to when we couldn't.

Also there isn't so much of farming now as there used to be. Most of the men there, Negroes, work in the city at different jobs. Days when they think they should, they work on the farm. It gives them more independence than it does the average worker in the city. They don't take all the abuse to the extent that they took years ago. If the abuse gets

too much, they quickly say, "Well, I don't have to work here. I've got a farm; I'm raising my own crops."

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

A Negro told me one incident that shows this. The county wanted to black top a road. The state rates for such work was about \$5 a day, but the county said that was too much, it would make the farmers too independent.

About a year and a half ago they had brought the road to a point where they had some eight or ten miles further to go to finish it. Then all the workers, white and Negro, said, "Well, just let it go. When the county decides to pay us the \$5 a day the state said we're entitled to, we'll finish the road."

They stayed away and the county couldn't find any other laborers. Finally, six months later, the county agreed to pay what the state paid and the men went back to work on the road.

An Engineer Writes About His Union

I am interested in your paper because it provides its readers with a means for exchanging ideas and for broadening their understanding.

As an engineer I would like to describe for you the role of unions in the company where I work. In particular, I would like to describe the functioning of the office union, of which I am a member.

There are altogether about 3,000 employees in the company, 200 of which are on the supervisory and executive level, another 200 are shop foremen, 800 are engineers, clerks, draftsmen, salesmen, technical writers, etc., and 1,800 are machinists and assemblers.

The wages, hours and fringe benefits of most of the employees are fixed by union-contract agreements. The office union represents 400 of the white collared workers with about 200 engineers. The shop union represents the 1800 machinists and assemblers. Both unions are locals of the C. I. O. and their mutual support in any controversy against management is taken for granted.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Contract negotiations are held once every two years, with a clause providing for wage bargaining once every year. Only during negotiations do the members show a keen interest in the union activities. Mimeographed reports are distributed after

every negotiation session; and things ranging from specific demands to the philosophy of unions in general become topics for lunch hour discussions. At the same time, management reminds us who the boss is by suddenly strictly enforcing certain stupid rules and regulations which are usually neglected.

During the rest of the year, however, very little thought is given to the union. About 10% of the members attend the monthly meetings despite advance bulletin board, as well as individually distributed notices.

NOT MANY GRIEVANCES

Since many of the supervisors rose from the ranks, working relations on the job are, on the whole, friendly; high pressure techniques are hardly used. Therefore the stewards handle few, if any, grievance cases.

In fact, whenever an engineer is dissatisfied (when he has waited too long for a promotion or when he wants to be transferred to a different job or group) he would go directly to his supervisor or to someone even higher and talk things over. The union officers are never consulted except in a clear case of contract violation by management. At the present time the engineers can be relatively independent because there is a shortage of engineers and they can get jobs without too much difficulty.

Professionals In Unions

Whatever objections we

COMPANY IS WORRIED

Detroit—We were never able to do anything about our conditions. We have had committeemen fired for backing us up and also when we didn't have the complete support of the International. At contract time, even though it was settled, we stayed out as it was our only chance to get anything done. Now the whole attitude of the company to us is different and not so bossy. They speak to us better. We also get some better agreements in settling our local problems. Even the committeemen, who are all new except for the chairman, tell me that the company is more worried now and treat them better when bargaining.

—Production Worker Chev. Gear and Axle

might have against unions in general, we do recognize that our particular union is a democratic organization. I believe that the most important reason for our union working so well is because all the officers do the same kind of work and make their living the same way as do the members.

Although there is still resistance to unionization of engineers among those who call themselves "professionals," more and more of us realize that we work essentially as skilled workers and that we must promote our interests through group action.

SITDOWN STRIKE AT GENERAL MOTORS

By Jerry Kegg

For many years, General Motors, with the cooperation of the International union has been able to smother any flare-up among their employees. Only when the workers ignored the International and relied on their own initiative has the company found themselves unable to cope with the situation of their own making.

The company was first faced with a series of wildcat strikes and today, in a General Motors plant where I work, they were faced with a sitdown strike.

SITDOWN FOR FANS

The summer heat always causes some disruption in production and a lot of promises from management. The foreman's usual excuse is that fans are on the way. If pressure gets too bad he swipes them from another department or the offices.

But that excuse did him no good today. Two departments refused to work until the fans were brought in. The foreman was unable to get them so the women just sat and refused to work or talk to their foreman. He pleaded with them but they just sat. The superintendent and Labor Relations came to the department and first pleaded with them and then threatened to fire all the women. They laughed in the superintendent's face as he wrote down their badge numbers.

CONFIDENCE WINS

After half an hour, eight fans were brought in and the women went back to work.

"You see what happens once you go out on a wildcat strike," Esther said. "Our confidence was so strong that the company had to give in. With a grievance, maybe we would have gotten the fans in a week. But we got them in a half-hour."

Nut Head Says --



"Anybody who says he can't work because it's too hot is just looking for an excuse."

Read NEWS & LETTERS

EDITORIALS

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?

The problem of Youth today is the striking feature of every daily newspaper. Many journalists are writing what they think of the Youth today. Some are very interesting. None of them have any solution.

Some are very controversial. They are saying that Youth who are members of gangs, and those who commit crimes, are a very small percentage of American Youth—less than three per cent. On the other hand, they say these Youth are from working people's families. Anyone would have to ask the question: Are the working people in the majority or the minority? Is it true that working people have larger families than the rich? But to start from that point is meaningless.

A New York daily paper also stated that 80 per cent of the crimes that were committed in that city the past year were committed by Youth between the age of 16 and 21. This sounds strange or untrue, but it is one way of turning the public hostile against Youth without considering what is driving the Youth to crimes.

Yet the same paper had to admit that the violence was only the form of the Youth's fierce desire "of belonging".

There is a curious problem of Youth today. In New York, an organization which has gone in to make a study says that it is frustration that causes Youth to act this way. They did not mention whether they had any Youth helping with this research or not. It is the first mistake they are making if they do not include Youth who are members of some gangs. The strange part of Youth gang activities is that whatever the problem is, they seem to try to find a solution by fighting each other.

There was not a single mention of two fundamental problems: 1) the difficulty that the youth experience in the search for jobs, and 2) their revolt against the unnatural discipline of the factory once they do find a job. Youth are not under the pressure of the family-man who is the breadwinner. At the same time the factory requires so little of their creative capacities that they no sooner get the job than the monotony drives them out of the factory.

No one but the youth themselves can answer the problems. Our pages are open to them.

—C. D.

THEY NEVER TRUST THE PEOPLE

For some weeks, there were serious and nearly-successful attempts by powerful figures in the Navy and in the Catholic Church, violently to oust Juan Peron as president and dictator of Argentina.

These leading military and clerical figures no doubt expected support from the masses of people to oust Peron and to establish a new ruler over the country.

However, since the unsuccessful June 16th revolt led by the Naval officers, it seems that Peron has, for the time being, come to some agreement with his opposition. The rulers and would-be rulers of Argentina, having reached some agreement, are satisfied to let matters rest and let the country return to what they call "normalcy."

The aroused masses of Argentina, on the other hand, are not so eager to return to "normalcy." What is normalcy for leading figures in Army, Navy, Church and State, isn't necessarily quite the same for the overwhelming majority of the people who man the fields and factories of Argentina.

What is extremely revealing in the situation is that Peron's enemies, who hoped for the support of the people to oust him at one point, now have reached some agreement, and are ready to close ranks with Peron against the people who are still seeking to redress their own grievances.

It's the same the world over. Argentina is just another example. They never trust the people and have only contempt for them.

The Detroit News, in a recent editorial said: "In his efforts to calm the Argentine people, Peron almost certainly has the backing of the Army and all responsible Argentine elements, including the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Continued dissension would only tear the country apart."

Discord and dissension will characterize the situation in Argentina so long as the deep discontent of the people remains. A struggle by the masses of the Argentine people to resolve their discontent is the only guarantee that discord and dissension can be wiped away.

—J.Z.

RAINBOWS . . .

The Argentine cops "are now called "Rainbows" because they appear after the storms are over."

—From the NEW YORK TIMES, 7-11-55

STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

I thought your articles on the auto contracts were very good. From the ordinary press you cannot judge what the contract means to the daily life of a worker in the plant, how they feel about it or what they discuss. In fact, the whole idea of a life for the worker is missing from the picture.

Even more unheard of in the ordinary press is how the worker can gain more to say over his work life; demands that would shift some of the control over conditions of production to the workers themselves. I would like to read more of this in NEWS & LETTERS.

N. S.
New York City

The trend now must be 30 hours a week plus supplementary pay. The companies will have to cut production and they will force the state to increase unemployment insurance because otherwise it will have to come out of their pockets.

Men's Clothing Worker
New York

The intellectuals think that workers look up to Reuther with awe. Boy, what they don't know!
GM Worker
Detroit

The quiet ones who don't talk much often know more than the ones who talk too much. Lots of times people will say things to someone they figure won't talk. Sometimes people may even think they'd be too dumb to express themselves. But the ones who keep quiet and listen—they know plenty.

B. C.
Fairmont, W. Va.

What the papers give about the contract vote is false statistical evidence. On the contract in Rouge, for example, (Ford River Rouge Plant) 30 per cent of those voted against. When you add to that another 30 per cent that did not even bother to come to vote it is really a majority that were opposed. I know in my shop a majority is opposed to the contract but they saw no alternative and so either voted for or didn't vote at all.

Ford Worker
Detroit

Readers'

The door is wide open for any anti-Reuther opposition. The real issues are hours of labor and conditions of work. We need something that will cut across the divisions of skilled and unskilled. A class line like in the early days of the CIO when everyone from the sweeper to the production worker, the unskilled, were in the same union and for the same purpose. A 30-hour week is a necessity for all now that automation is here.

Fisher Body Worker
Detroit

Louis Hollander is boasting that Amalgamated Clothing Workers didn't have a strike in New York for the past 27-30 years. Why? Because the union doesn't demand anything. It asks. What the manufacturers want to give it takes.

Amalgamated Clothing Worker
New York

I don't ever remember when the mines have worked so steady. Usually the men have plenty of time off. They work hard while they work, but between the strikes and working three or four days a week, they have plenty of time for themselves. But a woman works every day. Strikes or three days a week don't make any difference in what I do. Every day there's work for me.

Even now, when the mines are working steady, a man has two days at the end of his week when he doesn't have to do a thing if he doesn't want to.

I'd like to see the day I could wake up and say, "There's nothing I have to do today."

Housewife
Jere, W. Va.

CHANGES IN THE SOUTH

During President Truman's administration, Negroes were violently attacked and some even murdered for saying that the civil rights program was designed for the complete freedom of the Southern Negroes. During the present Republican administration, the Supreme Court decision on desegregation was played up as a great victory for Negroes. But the Supreme Court walked out on its own decision and turned back the execution of desegrega-

tion to the individual states, Mississippi included, the very state where a leading Negro minister was shot to death because he refused to withdraw his name from the ballot in the Democratic primaries.

While Congressman Adam Clayton Powell was busy making a "historical speech" at the Bandung conference as to the freedom of the Negroes here, striking workers in the South, white and Negro, were jailed and being beaten up by orders of officials for participating in a strike.

Charles Denby

WAR & PEACE

When Einstein died all of his old associates avoided any mention of the old man's political opinions. They even went out of their way to cast a slur on what he believed by just saying he was a brilliant scientist but "of course politically naive."

I think everybody should know that Einstein was a socialist. In our times that is a word which means many things to many people but from his writings on socialism I believe that Einstein meant by socialism the correct idea that equality among men is today a necessity because the prevailing inequality is plunging us toward atomic war.

Einstein recommended getting rid of capitalism if that is what is causing all the trouble. That is actually a lot less naive than his former associates who spoke about Einstein on TV. They also say they are against atomic war but refuse to speak out boldly against that system which makes war inevitable.

Machinist
Los Angeles

My boy signed up in '46. It was supposed to be peace time then. He served his time and came back and hadn't gained a thing.

Now another boy has joined up. I couldn't tell him anything. He wanted to go. I hope he gets back safe. But even if he does, and comes back to his own country again, what will he have gained? He'll put in his two years and come back to the sweet old U.S.A. But because his face is black he won't be worth anything. How would you feel? Would anybody be

Views

able to tell him what he's gained?

Miner
West Virginia

The writer from Glasgow complains of the arrogance of our GIs in England (June 24). I don't deny there's arrogance. But from what I've seen it's not confined to our troops. Servicemen everywhere act the same when they're in a country that's not their own.

Ex-GI
West Virginia

CIVIL DEFENSE

My father is talking of sharing a cellar in his neighbor's house for use as a bomb shelter. He is talking of stocking it with food and so forth for any emergency. Some guys at work are also talking about building bomb shelters in their back yards. Nobody knows if this kind of shelter would be any good in face of an A-bomb but the civil defense authorities don't have a plan at all. I noticed that recently at a State Governor's meeting in Washington, the Governors tried to make the Federal government take the responsibility for civil defense. They were just passing the buck.

Aircraft Worker
Los Angeles, Calif.

There appears to be a great deal of indifference on the part of many people on civil defense against A-bomb attack. I believe this stems from two sources.

First is the fact that the ideas and methods advised of officials and agencies connected with civil defense, such as mass migrations, digging holes in the backyards, the concrete shells, are so impractical that they are ludicrous.

Secondly, most medical men in general, and experts on radioactivity injuries also have made it quite clear that there is no specific treatment for the conditions. The total number of injured can be so enormous as to make even effective first aid an impossibility.

Professional
Los Angeles, Calif.

If they put all the energy into building bomb shelters that they now put into building roads there could be more of a civil defense plan.

Housewife
Los Angeles, Calif.

NEGRO AMERICANS

The person who wrote, "It Matters How You Feel Where You Live," (June 24), has a point but I don't think it should be this way. If he wants a house and has a chance to buy one, he should go ahead and buy it. He might have to fight, but it's your right as a human being to buy where you want to.

Bill, Aircraft Worker
Los Angeles

Some little boys were playing marbles in grade school. One little colored boy won all the marbles away from a little white boy and told his mother, and she came up to school and called the little colored boy a "black b—d."

A little Italian boy was playing, too. He turned to the colored boy and said, "She called you a 'black b—d,' but if I had won his marbles, she'd have called me a 'hunky b—d' or something. It's the same thing."

Reader
West Virginia

YOUTH

I fell sorry for that Santana kid. There are kids being killed in my neighborhood all the time and nothing ever happens. But the newspapers have gotten this story and they are going to make an example of that guy.

Father of Six
New York

PARENTS, CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

I can't understand that parents would allow such a situation to go on, with or without the PTA.

Mother of Three
Los Angeles

My child refuses to take luncheon on rainy days because the discipline in a room is just as described here (Just A Housewife, July 8). I've gone to plenty of PTA meetings and when the school is criticised, the PTA president always calls on the principal to answer.

Subscriber
Los Angeles

Most mothers stay away from the PTA, they don't feel it is part of them.

Young Mother
Los Angeles

ABOUT NEWS & LETTERS

I just want to give you an idea of the impression I got about NEWS & LETTERS. I like it. I read it from cover to cover. NEWS & LETTERS speaks simple words, words that people like myself speak. In other words the plain people of every trade air their grievances against the union officials. I wish you success and I hope you will have it. Enclosed you will find \$3 for subscription.

Housewife
New York City

I'd like you to bring out a piece of history every two weeks that is considered dangerous today but was considered progressive in the past.

Housewife
New York

M.D.'s COLUMN

I do not like MD's column although it is hard for me to say exactly why. I am sure he is sincere but what place have over-simplified lessons in biology in NEWS & LETTERS? Also, I find myself irritated and embarrassed by the paternalistic tone.

Reader
New York

M.D.'s column on menopause (June 24) was the best article on that subject I have ever read. It explained things the way I have never heard them explained.

Shirt-Factory Worker
Uniontown, W. Va.

... It was one of the best articles I have ever read.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

I am primarily interested in medicine. I don't want to use medicine or see it merely as a lever to correct all the ills of society. It seems to me that many people are interested in medical subjects for no other reason than they are medical subjects. I think it is part of a new culture we have been talking about.

M. D.

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Notes from a Diary TWO WORLDS

NEW STAGE OF STRUGGLE AGAINST LABOR BUREAUCRACY

The series of wildcat strikes, right on the heels of the new contracts in auto negotiated by Reuther, was a strike against the labor bureaucracy. Pure and simple; profound and new. Never before had the opposition to the labor leadership been so total. Without understanding this, it is impossible to understand "the politics" of the American working people.

Judging, no doubt, by the fact that their thirst for leadership remained unquenched, certain intellectuals who fancy themselves as workers' leaders were talking at one and the same time about the "political backwardness" of the American worker while they themselves were accepting Reuther's self-declared victory as "the fulfillment of the workers' dream." The auto workers, on the other hand, took to the picket lines.

Their talk on the picket lines revealed a new attitude to Reuther. His name was never singled out at all. "The international" — the labor leadership — was seen as a unit. Everyone from the lowest committeeman to Reuther was referred to as "a representative of management." The workers would have nothing to do with any of them. They listened only to those who were with them in the strike.

NEW FORMATIONS

New grouping arose on the basis of that activity. In one local, the rank and file simply walked to the back of the hall while the leadership sat on the platform. When they had come to a decision, they then confronted the tops on the platform with it. In another shop where the production workers were all women, while the foremen and the union leadership were men, the struggle assumed the form of a woman's fight against the inhumanity of man. In several shops they no sooner returned to work than they wanted to go out again. That is how the hunger for the unity of purpose and action, gotten on the picket line, expressed itself.

The self-confidence they gained in taking matters into their own hands is first now evolving into new group formations.

Where, a decade ago, Reuther could still place himself at the head of the strike wave following the conclusion of World War II, this time he had from the start to come out against the strike. Where, a few years ago, he could fight the wilcats by redbaiting, this present walkout was so leaderless, so spontaneous, that Reuther had no other weapon left but to shout that the long-accumulated workers' grievances were "personal."

In contrast to this, the workers' impersonal attitude toward their leadership showed how far they had gone beyond the stage of replacing one set of leaders by another as in the days when union caucuses were so popular. This type of politics they leave to the politicians. Distinctively, workers politics concerns itself instead with relations at the point of production itself. That is why this time they were so little interested in personalities, Reuther's and Stellato's included.

WHY DO THEY BEHAVE LIKE THEY DO

"Just why was it necessary for Reuther to bring all of those professors in, and turn the class struggle upside down?"

A production worker with many years of trade union experience asked me this question, and then continued, "Why did he turn to those guys to carry out his objectives? I know he always used intellectuals, but there is something new this time. It seems to me that this time they are using him. Why, even the top international representatives didn't get into that room full of professors and engineers. That is why it seems to me the workers are not thinking so much of forms of organizations as of forms of revolt; a way of getting rid of all that planning by people who haven't spent a single day on the production line."

REUTHER AND PLANS

Nevertheless Reuther and Plans have always been a pair, an inseparable pair. That was true of him even when he was a worker himself and helped organize the CIO. Always his aim was "to lead" so that when the American working class was changing the industrial face of America, he was attracted most of all by the administrative plan of Russia. In the early 1930's he had worked there for a year and, where the Russian production worker saw only the speedup, this skilled American worker saw only the grandiose Plan.

It is true that the tendency to plan did not then seem organic, that is to say, part of the very organism of this skilled worker-intellectual. It was only when America moved from depression to war and the totality of the crises laid a tightrope for the labor leaders who wanted to continue to lead above all else, that the Plan became so characteristically the mark of the American labor bureaucracy.

First Reuther came out with the plan for more planes. He challenged industry's ability to transfer itself rapidly to a war-time basis. That this competition with industry for state approval meant that the worker would be chained down with a no-strike pledge, did not disconcert Reuther a bit. He didn't have to work on the production line. He had his table of blueprints.

He seemed flexible enough when the tidal wave of strikes, at the end of World War II, threatened to overwhelm the whole labor bureaucracy. He placed himself at the head of the strikes and came out with such slogans as "Open the Books." From opposite poles, both workers and management, interpreted this as a challenge to industry's control of production. But Reuther's plan called for nothing of the sort. He soon enough got the slogan so tied to the "sliding scale of wages" that it became nothing but a bookkeeping term.

What he had done during the war with the no strike pledge and in 1950 with the Five Year Contract, he now did with the workers' urge for security in the face of automation. In the face of automation, on the one hand, and the workers' demand for a say over production schedules, on the other hand, Reuther puts the New Deal brains, that used to be on the government payroll, on the union payroll, and comes up with GAW.

Reuther is a master of substitution, that is to say, transforming something into its very opposite.

WORKERS POLITICS

That is why the opposition to Reuther now is so total. What form this workers' revolt will take, no one can tell in advance. But what cannot be doubted now is the workers' determination to find other ways, than through their present leadership, to bend production to their will and aspiration for a better life. That is the workers' politics. All other politics they leave to the politicians and intellectual planners.

NEGRO NEWS

The Road of Life

By Ethel Dunbar

The road that the colored people have to walk is rough and rocky, anywhere they go. Even if it is East or North, where they say that the colored people have all rights, it is still a hard road for us to travel.

Just go East to New York and see just where most of the colored people are living—it is in Harlem. You can find a few living down town and a few live uptown. But I did not see any living East of New York, which is Queens (Forest Hills) where it looked to me that all of the people are white American. I did not see any colored people there.

So it looks to me that they are still trying to make the colored people travel a rough road in the East.

And the North, which is Chicago and Detroit, the colored people have a harder road to travel than in the East. In Chicago they have one side of the city for the colored people to live in and that is the South side. And they tell me that they do not want the colored people ever to come over on the North side there unless it is to work.

So that it looks to me that they are still trying to make the Negro people go that same hard road that the South does. But in Detroit where the colored people will not give up trying to make the road smooth and easier for them to travel, they live anywhere they please and go wherever they please.

Write for

NEWS

&

LETTERS

My department is two thirds colored and there are Negro foremen. One day this Negro foreman was giving this white fellow a hard time. Some of the Negroes were neutral and didn't bother to sympathize with him. The white worker called the Negro chief steward and said, "I don't care who this guy is, no man is going to order me around like dirt." The other men, whites and Negroes, were forced to support him.

HIGH COST OF HOUSING

For several years, Negroes have been moving into my neighborhood. Most of the time the people moving out do just enough to sell the house. Many of the colored moving in, improve their houses and keep them up. When you realize they have been overcharged for the house, you have to give them credit, especially when their payments are higher and they work like you and me. When you do see a colored person letting his house run down like my next door neighbor, you know it must be similar to his case. The owner sold it to realtors for \$5,500 and they sold it to my neighbor for \$8,500. With his seven kids, he was desperate, and now he has been laid off for three months.

THE REAL POWER

Maidsville, W. Va.—If labor would all be together, there'd never be any strikes. When the working people wanted something, they'd just put out what they wanted. If they didn't get it, no one would work. They'd settle so quick there wouldn't be anything to it.

The real power is, where it has always been—with the working people. Without them, not a wheel would turn, no light would burn—there would be nothing. Not the politicians and the ones who are always making the headlines, but the ordinary people like me and you keep everything going. We all know we have the power that really counts.

—Miner.

Negroes' Songs Make American Music

We were watching a TV program called "Pick the Stars." As the stars came on, they would play the number that helped make them a success.

"SAVE ME, LORD"

The "Cross-Winds" were a white girl and two white men. After they sang several songs, the announcer told them he had lots of requests for the song they made the biggest hit with. He also was anxious to hear it, an African spiritual called, "Save Me, Lord." It was beautifully sung by those white entertainers. The woman especially seemed to be putting herself into it. But there was something missing.

WHERE THE FEELING COMES FROM

I remember reading a book about the oppressive conditions of the African working people. It pictured an African man with a large family and no job, no way to support them. He made and sold some wine, mainly for food to feed his family. This was an unlawful act for Negroes there. Some white police came and arrested him and his wife. They begged and pleaded with the police not to carry the wife to jail away from the children. They began to sing that song, "Save Me, Lord," and bowed on their knees as they sang. At that instant the police began to stomp their hands and trample on them unmercifully; put cuffs on their wrists and throw them into a patrol car headed for jail.

When Negroes sing these spirituals, what makes the feeling deeper than when a white sings them, is that they sing from experience of oppression; or the sense and feeling of their fore-parents oppression by white society. This is also true about blues singing.

What was interesting is how these whites could take an African song and identify themselves closely enough with it to make it their leading hit. The ovation they received was terrific. We wondered had they read or

studied much on the African situation and the inhuman treatment that is being administered to Africans by whites. The everyday life they live causes the African people to write, compose and sing these songs with such a human feeling. That is what was missing when the "Cross-Winds" sang the song.

"ST. LOUIS BLUES"

On the next program that same evening, Guy Lombardo and his band were playing in Canada. Their big request was "St. Louis Blues." There seemed to be several hundreds of whites dancing. Not one Negro face appeared on either program but their music and their songs were the most popular for all these whites and maybe millions of others looking and listening in.

As one friend said, "I doubt very much if the number of whites could be added,

that this one Negro song — "St. Louis Blues" — had brought happiness and joy throughout the world ever since W. C. Handy composed it. It is as new today as the National Anthem."

Some movie star was there and the band leader said he dedicated the song to her. She said he could not have chosen better since "St. Louis Blues" was her number one song.

Here it was, Negro songs national and international were making leading stars of American white entertainers, but no doubt Negroes would be barred from appearing in either place. This white world is closely identifying itself with Negro music.

If the whites could bring with it the total depth of feeling and conditions that these songs came from, a totally new human feeling would arise from them.

INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the second installment.)

Father was a small man, five feet five, weighing about one hundred and forty-five pounds. Mother was a large woman weighing two hundred pounds. She had a light brown complexion, father was dark. Mother was known to be the leading Negro woman on the plantation in arranging church socials and affairs. It was hard for me to accept that sometime we'd be happy after death. It kept a controversy going between me and the rest of the community. My mother and the rest talked. My father was mostly silent. The tradition of my father's family was that they were the meanest Negroes that ever lived.

Father said, "About the law: you have to take what they do but only to a point. If anyone hits you then you're not to stand silent but fight them back." He wouldn't have us kids take a kick or a beating from anyone without fighting back. He used to say, "I worked for the farm so that we could live as free as everybody should."

At the age of five my mother told me about the school in the center of the plantation. She made me a book satchel of colored cloth and bought me a book. I was never so glad to get anything in my life. My brother set me in his lap and taught me the alphabet. I could read in the Primer and do the alphabet long before going to school.

School ran five months. It opened in November and the date depended upon how well the crops had been gathered.

School closed early March on the first of April. Some times there were enough children left by closing day for commencement services. The subjects were spelling and arithmetic. Sometimes we had a little geography. I went to school that year until closing day. On closing day the women cooked up baskets and trunks of food. There were baseball game and the children went through examination demonstrations. The highlight of the school closing was the spelling game. The last one to sit down was the winner. Everyone would talk about him in the field for months. He was the hero, he could sit the school down in spelling. The one who could work the quickest answer in arithmetic was another hero of the class. In the evening, before night, we would give speeches and dialogues. The men would miss the celebrations because they would be working in the fields. Some times we would ask the owner if we could have commencement again so that the men could come. They very seldom said yes.

The girls in the school were from five to sixteen. Most of the boys were up to twelve or thirteen. That age was the end of their school career. Planting the cotton and corn, and chopping and hoeing, was what they had to do then. The girls generally missed one or two days a week to wash the clothes for the family. Out of four or five months of school we missed at least a month. When it rained we couldn't get over the creeks and ditches and on the coldest days there wasn't enough fire from the stove to keep us warm.

SOUTH CHANGING BUT DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES

There is a new human understanding developing in the South. It is an understanding that I think any Negro will see, and he will feel more security than he has in the past when he had to make a trip down there. There isn't the same violence and hate, but discrimination is still there; only it takes some unusual forms.

As my son and I were driving on a highway in Alabama recently, we saw a truck with two Negro boys in the cab and two or three white girls standing out in

the open in the back. It began to rain and the girls were getting wet.

My son said, "I wonder why the boys won't stop and let the girls get into the cab."

I said, "Even if the boys stopped, the girls wouldn't get up front with them because of the segregation laws. If the girls did get into the cab, the boys would have to move to the back; and I don't think the girls know how to drive the truck. I am absolutely sure he knows they are there.

Though there is plenty of room for all of them in the cab, they have to sit in the back of the truck even if it is raining and they are getting wet."

My son asked, "What will the father say when he sees the girls all wet and the boys getting out dry?"

I said, "He won't say anything. This is the law and that is the way he feels it should be. But if the girls went up in the cab he would have plenty to say and the Negroes would probably lose their jobs."

YOUTH

Working For Independence

By ANGELA TERRANO

It seems everybody is stumped by youth and what they do. A day doesn't go by when you don't hear on radio or T.V. someone's analysis on why "teen-agers" do what they do. From "it's the parents fault" to appropriating some thousands of dollars to some committee or other to solve "juvenile delinquency."

It seems as if there is nowhere, anyone who sympathizes with the youth. I don't mean sympathize with any crimes that are committed. But with youth for being people who seem to have every one stacked against them.

The ordinary person you work with or know comes the closest I think. I have talked to some friends at work and one of the things they always say or agree with, is that the papers blow things up to twice their size, and that kids are in for it.

Even people who have "radical" ideas when it comes to youth seem to have a fear in them. I was discussing one of the recent gang killings with a "radical" who before

saying anything else had to say "it was a wanton murder" and from that proceeded to discuss "the youth problem."

We are against crime. But when the press lambasts all the Negro people for a crime one Negro man or woman committed this "radical" knows that at that time you don't think of the crime.

I don't know if I am getting across what I mean. It is difficult because this person was, I think, genuinely trying to put the crime aside, or think what it all means. But deep down inside I felt he just couldn't do it, because some radicals are as scared of kids, youth clubs, and think like social workers working with "juvenile delinquents." I don't mean personal fright like when you walk down a block and ten or twelve kids are walking towards you like they might knock you over. But because they have no answers to "where does it all lead to," "what is it all for." And these are not questions that I have not asked myself.

Youth Party for NEWS & LETTERS

Los Angeles — Last Saturday, I gave the first social for the paper that I have ever been personally responsible for. It was a weiner-bake. Twenty seven people attended, five were young children. The youths were there and Randy brought five girl friends with her. One other young person who had been attending youth meetings was there. Then there were adults, three couples who were not associated with the paper and others who were.

FIRST TIME

This was the first time that I had to plan a social and be the hostess. It was a little frightening, but because I was responsible I invited people more freely and felt I would have felt very bad if I had a party and none of my friends showed up.

Most of the food and supplies were donated. I brought a tamale pie and others brought homemade chili sauce and beans and the hot dog rolls, a potato salad, coffee and cake. Each couple brought two pounds of hot dogs which were not donated. We sold the dinner for 75c

to adults, 35c to teenagers, and 25c to children. We made \$14.

There was a short speech by the editing chairman. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Some went swimming, some played baseball,

some sat around the fire and sang and everyone ate. I think that in the future if we have any more weiner bakes we should start the day earlier and make a whole day of it.

—L. M.

Prejudice in School

Los Angeles — The Mexican girls in school wouldn't accept me because they wouldn't believe I was Mexican. They would just look at me; they would listen to me speak Spanish. They'd say, "Oh no, she just learned to speak Spanish, but she's not Mexican."

In high school, it seems like most of the Mexican kids would pal around together. American kids would do the same thing. The Jewish girls the same thing. The Negro girls the same thing. I was sort of lost in between. That's when I started playing hookey from school.

That was when my sister-in-law began to tell everybody we're cousins and that's when the Mexican girls accepted me. But other than that they still wouldn't accept me as being Mexican. They would talk to me and every once in a while they'd

look at me, give me a funny look. It used to seem funny to me. At home we never spoke anything but Spanish. It used to make me laugh sometimes; sometimes it used to get me pretty mad.

Some of the girls, even if they look Mexican, they don't feel the attachment to Mexico that other girls do. I think it must have something to do with how old their parents were when they came to the United States. I know there are a lot of families that are very attached to Mexico.

A lot of kids say, "Gee, we'd love to go to Mexico."

I would like to go just to see. I don't think I would find myself there. I guess they feel that as minority groups they have to attach themselves to something that is closer to home. I can't exactly explain that.

WOMEN

Child and Parents Benefit from Cooperative Nursery

When my son was 3½ years old we enrolled him in a cooperative nursery school. At the beginning he went be-

bed for the night, her housework will start uninterrupted by any children. She gets to bed late, is up early in the morning sometimes to whisk the children off to grandmother or to a baby-sitter if she hasn't made some sort of work (maybe different shift) and babysitting arrangement with her husband, before leaving for work.

It is very often that a working mother takes days off, or takes a sick leave to get some time with her family and get caught up with her housework, to say nothing of the rest she has been needing.

It isn't that she can afford to take time off financially—it depends on which is more important to her—her family or the money that she can bring in.

Most housewives would prefer a part time job, but those jobs are like finding a needle in a haystack, and always pay so little in terms of the hours put in that it makes it not worth the effort. Most employers want eight hours or more from their help. Which brings into question—why is it necessary that man or woman must work eight hours a day?

cause he had no children his own age to play with in the neighborhood. But shortly thereafter we moved to a place that was simply teeming with children. My husband and I decided then that our child would still remain a member of the group not only because he, but we, as parents, benefited by it.

I worked one day a week at the nursery as a staff member helping the teacher in whatever way was deemed best by her for the children. Quick thinking, in order to match wits and energies with pre-schoolers, is quite a chore but keeps one on her toes. You compare notes with mothers on youngsters of the same age only to discover through them, and by observing children at play, that your unmanageable precocious youngster is practically a carbon copy of the average, normal healthy child the same age.

One day I had to go away and my husband worked for me at the nursery. The children were thrilled at having a Daddy there that day. Both my husband and son came home beaming and elated. Each benefited in his own way.

Another important thing about the nursery is that parents have a voice in the way the school is run.

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

Sometimes a housewife feels that she is cut off from the rest of the world and that life has passed her by. Especially if a girl marries and has children early before she has worked much, after five or ten years she often feels trapped in her marriage.

Everywhere society pushes women into the home and into isolation. If women took this lying down, they would not be where they are today. There is such fear and tension in the world today that many housewives feel more secure when they stay home and tend to their own business.

It's a hard problem to beat. Some women never beat it. They just give up. Too many live for their children alone. Too many are sick often with many different excuses because interest in living is gone. Being shut up in a home and having the need for earning your own livelihood taken away from you can do this to a person.

YOU CAN BEAT IT

But any housewife that is worth her salt decides to beat this sentence sooner or later. And the way women do it is by getting to know their neighbors and participating in what goes on around them.

One woman I knew claimed, "I don't want to get to know my neighbors; if I do

they will be bothering me all the time by borrowing things and coming over to visit. I just don't want to be bothered." She doesn't get along well with her neighbors.

Most women get out every day and see people. They make being a housewife a social thing. Once, when I was sick along with the children, a neighbor who had four children of her own, came over and changed the beds under us and washed all our laundry. She was not an intimate friend, but she was like most of the housewives I have known. They are concerned with the welfare of their neighbor and friends.

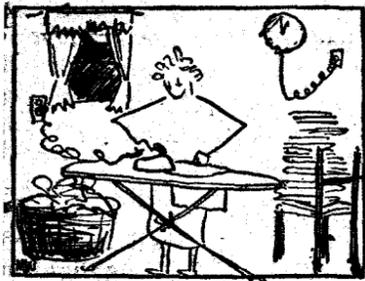
And they teach the rest of society that the most human way to live is to be concerned for one another.

EXCHANGING

SHORT-CUTS

Copper bottom pans can be easily cleaned by using a half and half mixture of vinegar and salt and kept in a jar with a little sponge for application.

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Working Woman vs. Time

A working woman's time is limited. Out of 24 hours of a day you allow 8½ hours at work (½ hour for lunch), 1½ hours a day for travel to and from work, eight hours for sleep, three hours for cooking, eating two family meals, making lunch for work, and washing dishes, ½ hour for personal care, and you find yourself with two and a half hours to do daily chores and weekly chores in. In order to squeeze housework in during the week you have to have some sort of schedule to go by. My schedule may roughly be like this:

Monday—wash.

Tuesday—iron.

Wednesday — odds and ends—(mending, dusting, repairs, etc.)

Thursday — grocery shopping.

Friday—house cleaning.

The only way a working mother finds time for her family is by giving up her hours of sleep. She'll give them some attention during the earlier part of the evening, and when they are in

Experiences and Expectations

The current wildcats are the culmination of a ceaseless struggle on the part of the auto workers against their bureaucracy and for direct control over production. These could have been foretold five years ago, when Reuther sold the workers the pension plan. I remember vividly some of the debates that took place then between Reuther and an auto militant whom we'll call Joe:

Reuther: "I am for a disciplined union. Joe is for wildcats. I am for the company setting standards with the union having the right to challenge. Joe wants the men to set the standards. He is for factory committees. I am not for that yet. The Industrial Workers of the World was that type of union and it failed. Joe is for that type of union. They are doomed to failure. They do not believe in compromising the class struggle, they do not believe in any restriction on the worker."

Joe: The heart of the contract is production standards, the right to strike and the company's right to disciplinary measures. The company would concede anything and everything but this.

Reuther: This is the best possible settlement in condi-

tions. There are two points of view, mine and Joe's. Mine involves an orderly sentiment of work standard disputes and Joe's involves class conflict. I am for authorized strikes and Joe is for the strike weapon recklessly.

Joe: Reuther tries to improve time-study in workers' interest whereas workers are opposed to time-study as such. He wants to set production. The worker wants some leisure to himself. In all of society the production worker has the hardest, the most monotonous, the lowest paid job. He sees everyone round him with the opportunity to sit down and chat, yet the company wants him to work all the time. I'm a committeeman and I have a good job. I enjoy my job, yet I want to be able once in a while to go into the lunchroom and sit down and smoke. The history of the union shows this. In the beginning you take the right to strike into your own hands. Gradually the leadership assumes this right, saying it can get more for you. You cede it. The facts show they have done poorly. Now in order to solve the basic questions, it is necessary to retrieve this right.

—STEFAN

WORLD OUTLOOK

APATHY

None of the Western powers were officially represented at the Asian-African Conference which took place at Bandung last spring. With the representatives of the Philippines and of Thailand officially speaking for the West, and Rep. Adam Clayton Powell unofficially speaking, Bandung was openly hailed as a diplomatic triumph for the United States.

Now that the wind of the words has vanished, "our" Southeast Asian allies don't seem to be very thrilled about their alliance. Apathy is a fitting tombstone for Bandung. For a conference of Asian and African countries, there was not a word by, nor even for, the people of Kenya or of South Africa: two places where Western rule is most naked in its brutality.

INTERNATIONAL POKER

Out of the blue we learn that the United States has given a sum of money to Kenya to help rebuild its war-torn economy with a more liberal policy as regards native use of choice farm lands.

This seems very strange since it is the same settlers' government of Kenya which brought itself to the brink of bankruptcy by starting a civil war against the Kenya people in order to keep them off those same lands which were theirs to begin with.

This show of dollars is like trying to win a rich prize by bluffing with a few blue chips.

THE CHOSEN FEW

Talking about conferences in behalf of the welfare of the people of the world. A reader writes from San Francisco that the recent tenth anniversary celebration of the UN was open to the public but a very few. Of the several thousand seats available for visitors, most of them were held for VIP's and friends of VIP's. A few hundred commoners finally got in after they made a fuss. One wonders why they bothered.

Outside the Opera House where the celebration was held, cabs were waiting to serve the delegates of world peace and brotherhood. The cabs were operated by a company which refuses to hire Negro drivers.

THINGS ARE RARELY WHAT THEY SEEM

In spite of—or perhaps because of—all the efforts of the State Department, there are millions of French workers who hate capitalism.

To try to make friends and influence Frenchmen, the U.S. Information Service wrote a long pamphlet in French to prove that American capitalists aren't really capitalists any longer. And they don't really exploit the workers anymore. There were the usual statistics about how many American workers have plumbing, and so forth.

The real clincher said, that under the American system (no longer capitalist), the

workers aren't workers anymore, but are middle class. Proof? Seventy-two per cent of Americans earn between \$2,000 and \$10,000 a year. A \$10,000 one can afford to be middle class. But at \$2,000 ...?

HOW TO SPOT A COMMUNIST—

Workers in East Germany are prohibited from going out on strike under a new strike law recently passed by the Communist government. Under the new law, East German workers are ordered to maintain full labor discipline in the interests of the national economy and of collective agreements.

According to the book workers who strike in defiance of the law are subjected to as much as 25 years in prison in slave labor camps; in some cases the penalty is death.

Although the right to strike is guaranteed in the East German Constitution, the new no-strike law has the full support and approval of the union leadership. This is typical of Russia and the Iron Curtain countries.

Uncle John Used to Say—

A man I know—whose children are all married and with children of their own—told me this story from his boyhood days.

"Whenever Uncle John came to visit, it meant good times for us kids. He'd take us on picnics and fishing trips and to the carnival. There was never a dull moment when he was in town."

"Sometimes one of us would say, 'When we grow up, Uncle John, we'll take you out and give you a good time like you're giving us!'"

"He'd always answer us by saying, 'Never think of paying your old uncle back boys. It can't be done. I you think you owe us of ones anything, the only way you can pay is by helping the next young ones to live the kind of life they want!'"

After GAW came out I talked with an instructor of industrial engineering in a university. He saw in GAW a boom for his occupation. "This will force managements of the auto industry to rationalize production," he said, "to get away from seasonal operation." What he meant was they would start job reclassification, production planning, (jobs for his students) in order to use fewer workers and avoid lay-offs.

In the long run this is the whole purpose of GAR. As capitalists invest more and more in machinery they can afford to have machinery

idle less and less. Also from their point of view the new automation machinery is too expensive to keep training new people on, so they need to have workers tied to the same job. All this could be accomplished by their having the state set up a central control over labor (freezing workers to their jobs, shifting them at will etc.) — more like in the USSR. But instead they still operate in business forms and the Union does the job for them. With GAW it forces them in the direction they want to go.

N. S.
New York

Life in the Committees

LOS ANGELES

Sub-getting is of course the main preoccupation of all the committees that have begun this new paper. Thus far Mrs. Leslie of Los Angeles has brought in 25. She is making a systematic checkup of all the old subscribers as well as making new friends.

"I note that all free subscriptions will be shipped after three free copies of NEWS & LETTERS," she writes, adding with emphasis, "I sure hope we live up to that." That has been a recurrent note from other sub-getters too. They reported that too many had been used to getting their copies without paying for them.

It is not only a question that without the money from subscription we could not go on publishing. It is a matter of an attitude to the workers' paper. The person who does not trouble to subscribe is not a serious reader, writer or contributor to this new venture, and will not make it into a weapon in the struggle for the new society. As soon as this, the third issue, will reach you, so will a representative of NEWS & LETTERS. If your subscription does not arrive by the time our next issue goes to press, July 29th, the paper will no longer be sent to you. In the next issue we will continue with this report.

DETROIT

The editor of the woman's page, who is a working woman of Detroit, wrote a letter to the women in the committees in other cities, about the first issue. Below we print excerpts from it. These remarks followed her suggested lay-out for issue No. 1.

"I believe Martha Hunt is getting the feel of writing. She expresses herself very clearly, and has that way of intimacy in writing. Martha, you've made a good start, and I hope they roll in as steadily because I'm concerned with building a backlog and working out some perspectives with you and the others.

"I'm new at editing and

will need lots of help in giving it some direction. Delson is right when she says the article I wrote on what type of woman's page was general. I guess I wrote that down mostly for myself so that I would have something to go by, and work toward having something more concrete within this framework. Now, that is the hardest thing to do as there are so many ideas and experiences that I don't know just where to start: what is purely item, what is a story, how to tie it in together to show the class line at the same time. I would appreciate any criticism of the article, the fashion in which articles are used, etc.

"To balance the page, I thought since we have a housewife as a columnist, we should have one article and maybe a short one by working women in each issue. I would like one humorous article, either long or short. One column or its equivalent on current affairs like that garbage can affair, and the miner's work. Would like to carry something on the attitude of women toward war in the second issue as a carry-over from the first.

"The cartoon — I hope you're popping with ideas—will be something to balance the page. The first one is an idea of Jerry's about the foreman. So far it hit the funny bone of quite a few men, all those who have seen it here in Detroit.



"I'm going to get my husband to subscribe. I want him to read the Women's page."