

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

'Peace on Earth' Begins at Work

Workers talk and think about everything while on the job; things from everyday life to leading world affairs. Some of their reactions and statements to questions are amazing and have deep meaning. I and several other workers were listening to a conversation between a production worker and a so-called "advanced political worker" who, they said, is a member of the Communist party. His name is Edwards. The production worker is named George.

Edwards called George and asked him what was his thinking on the Geneva Conference, the discussion among the "Big Four" leaders. George said he had not given it any thought. Edwards spoke in amazement at George's statement and said, "How is it possible that anyone can say they haven't given the Conference a thought?"

"Do you not know that world peace hangs on the decisions of those men? And peace on earth is good will to all men. Don't you want peace?"

THE WORLD IS ALL OVER

George said, "Yes, all working people want peace. They want it everywhere, all over the world; in their countries, in their states, in their territories, counties, cities and in the shops where they work. But this word, about peace on earth, means nothing. While they are in Geneva talking about peace, the French are having their Army shooting down poor working people in Morocco."

Edwards said, "I am not talking about that. I am talking about a world war."

George said, "For those that are dying and getting wounded in Morocco, it is a world war to them."

Edwards said, "But I am talking about the people in China, Russia, the millions of people in this world that would be killed in case of a war."

George said, "Morocco is not some place in the skies or away beneath the earth. Those people are in this world too. What are you trying to teach me? Is that your Party line? No wonder workers have no use for your party. It changes line so fast its own members cannot keep up with it."

"In this plant, for instance, we do not have peace. We are in a constant turmoil with the company and the union leaders. It is not a war with ammunition, but it is a war. But now, it is your new line to support Reuther."

COMMITTEEMEN SUPPORT SUPERVISION

"For instance, we had a wildcat strike last week. As soon as the committeemen came up, they rushed over to Supervision and said, 'Those workers that walk off first can be fired,'" George said. "When you take away a worker's job, you take away his right to live; and it is no peace with him and his family when he is not working. And no good will toward men, when your union leaders, who have been collecting money from workers for years, join sides with the company and say they can fire a worker and the worker must not come to his own so-called union for help."

Another worker said, "It is true what you are saying, George. It makes more sense than what Edwards is saying, who has been thinking about these things."

Edwards said, "Well let me tell you fellows something. Russia does not want war, but America does, the big people in America."

DETERMINED TO "TEACH" WORKERS

George said, "You are determined to 'teach' us. When these countries are ready for war, they will have it. Any of them, Russia, France, England, China, U. S., any of them. All that keeps them from war is their doubt as to who will win. In Africa, where they have all advantages over those people, they are always having war on them."

Edwards said, "I never thought of the things you are saying. But at this moment, the most important thing to humanity is peace."

MEN LAUGH AT POLITICIAN

George replied, "Maybe you only think of things in the way the Communist Party wants you to think and say. What you think is important is what will help the interest of the Party. I recognize, when you spoke about world peace you said you were not talking about the people in Morocco but in China and Russia. I am sure you meant the governments of Red China and Russia and not the people in these two countries. The working people, the common people there are not having any more peace than any other working and poor people in this world."

All the workers laughed when George told Edwards this. Then they hurried away to the time clock to punch out and go home.

Something New In Coal

MINERS RESTLESS AS COAL PRODUCTION RISES

Talking about the feelings of the men in the coal pits today, a West Virginia miner said, "You know, I'd like to see the day when there will never have to be a man go underground and put his life in danger to get coal. But what are they going to do with the men that are doing just that now?"

Next Issue:
Behind the
Peace Talks
Ten Years After
V-J Day

"DAVY CROCKETT" SONGS SLANDER THE PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES — When the song about Davy Crockett first came out one of the men in the shop commented, "The Indians are the most mistreated people in the United States and Davy Crockett was one of the men really responsible for that. But you wouldn't think that from all the Davy Crockett propaganda today."

Now I notice that there is a take-off on "Davy Crockett" in a song about Pancho Lopez, King of Olvera Street (Olvera St. is a Mexican tourist attraction in Los Angeles.) I think less of this song than I do of the original. The Pancho Lopez version perpetuates the myth of the lazy Mexican and slanders those poor people who fought in the Mexican revolution. The worst part of the whole affair is that the Pancho Lopez version was actually written by a team of Mexican writers who are making a commercial success out of the prejudice against their own people. I understand they were even thinking of using Pancho Villa as the "hero" of their song but were afraid to go so far as to vilify the name of the man who has become a popular legend in his own country.

—Factory worker

In 1950, there were some 450,000 coal miners. Today, it is doubtful that there are half as many. John L. Lewis, in a recent interview, said, "Europe is clamoring for coal. England's demands for coal are so great she has more than tripled her imports from the United States. On every hand the indications are that more and more coal will be needed as people switch away from oil and gas."

The picture Lewis paints for coal is a bright one for the future.

OPTIMISM NOT SHARED

Lewis' optimism is not shared by the miners. While the mines that are now working, work five and six days a week — more steadily than since the war — and more men are being called back to work, there is an air of uneasiness in the coal communities.

As the miner told NEWS & LETTERS: "Look at what has happened before. First there was the cutting machine, then the loading machine. Now we have the 'continuous miner'. All of these things have thrown men out of work. They say that machines are progress and that you can't stop progress. How can it be progress when so many men are thrown out of work? Progress, to me, means that more people can live better lives. The men I know who are out of work, and their families, sure aren't living any better lives. Something will just have to be done about all the people thrown out of work."

UPSURGE CONNECTED WITH WAR

There is a steadily growing suspicion that the sudden upsurge in coal is somehow connected with war. Consolidation Coal Company, the largest commercial coal producer in the world, has gov-

ernment contracts to produce coal to be used in the development of the atomic program.

This development has a two-fold implication to the miners. One is to connect it directly with the arms race toward another war. The other is to see it as a threat to their jobs. They feel they are becoming their own gravediggers. They dig the coal to put the atoms to work. When the atoms go to work supplying the power needed to keep industry going, the miners will be out of work — permanently.

WORRIED ABOUT AUTOMATION

To the miners, mechanization has meant one thing: Men are thrown out of work. They saw it happen with the cutting machine; they saw it with the loading machine. They feel it more sharply now with the new "continuous miner" which works a section with five men where formerly 15 worked.

During previous periods of mechanization, miners could go to other industries and find work. But with automation, lay-offs occur in other industries as well. Today, a laid-off miner knows that even if he does work elsewhere, he will be the first to go when a lay-off hits since he is new in the industry, with no seniority. Many miners have already experienced this.

COMPETITION FROM OIL & GAS

Oil and natural gas have cut very deeply into the coal market. Railroads have converted to diesel oil to run their locomotives. Oil and gas have practically replaced coal as a fuel for heating homes. Not only are these fuels cheaper, they are cleaner to use. Even in the production of electricity, machinery has been installed to convert from coal to oil by the simple turning of a valve if this is considered necessary.

LEWIS' ANSWER

The action of Lewis to these threats against the economic welfare of the miners, has been to line up with the coal operators to try to influence the politicians to limit imports of crude oil. This, however, is not the solution that the miners are looking for. Lobbying with politicians is alien to them. They

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A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

Modern medicine has achieved its greatest development in the United States. It has grown steadily with the nation and has also contributed much to the country's present state of advancement. In the mind and heart of the average American, the doctor of medicine has occupied a unique and enviable position. In recent times, however, signs have appeared of a change in the attitude of the average citizen to the medical man. There are indications of suspicion and doubt and even a questioning of integrity.

There is today, however, a greater necessity for dependence on doctors of medicine than ever before. The present period of social instability has created great numbers of malfunctioning individuals who seek relief from the only source many of them know. The physician must today correct the derangements of the spirit as well as of the body. To him come the multitude who have been damaged by the great industrial machines of modern society. The injury may be mental or physical and one may merge into the other. Today also, a far larger number of people live to a long age, developing the degenerative diseases peculiar to the aged.

But as a greater number of people have thus been drawn into the medical environment, and while it is perfectly clear that medical knowledge and skill are greater than ever before, the shortcomings of medicine have become more apparent. The ordinary man and woman feels these defects keenly and is disturbed and resentful. At the slightest opportunity he speaks out concerning them. This is what one frequently hears: "The doctor isn't interested in me or my troubles but only in his fee;" or "I can't afford to get sick, the doctor's fees, medicine and hospitals cost more than I have and force me to go into debt;" or, "The doctor doesn't know very much about my sickness and can't seem to help me."

In our times, the responsibility of an individual to a given situation is often determined by what he can get out of it. As a group, physicians are more humane and unselfish than perhaps any other group in society. But it is the nature of man in today's competitive society to get away with as little effort as possible and not to stick his neck out. The fault lies in not seeing human life as the most important thing on earth.

Miners Restless

(Continued from Page 1)

have been betrayed by politicians too many times to put their trust in them. They want action on a front they understand, where they can participate in solving their own problems.

MINERS THINK DIFFERENTLY

In the past few years, the company has had its own way. The situation in coal was such that men were laid off left and right. Mines, by the score, were closing. The men who remained at work did things they would never have done if the situation had not been so critical. In order to keep their jobs, they did three and four operations whereas before they did just one. The men could look nowhere for assistance to combat this development. The union did nothing but throw its weight against the men to get them to go back to work when they came out on strike on their own.

Now, however, with the sudden increase in coal production, the miners are feeling a new strength. They are saying that now is the time to reorganize themselves; that the company really needs the coal and will give in to demands whereas before they would have been laughed at or fired.

WANT TO ORGANIZE NOW

The miners are wondering what Lewis will do, but at

present they aren't saying much about him. They are talking about grievances they have and about which they want to do something. A mechanic told NEWS & LETTERS, for example, "Now is the time to get organized. The men can do whatever they want to. The District cannot be depended upon. The men at the mines are the only ones who can do it."

No one can say what the miners are going to do. They may not know themselves, at the moment, what they will do. But this new attitude, so strongly expressed in the pits today, promises a great change. It is similar to the attitude now being expressed in auto and steel as well.

CONTROL TIME & PRODUCTION

One can speculate about what form this change will take. This much is certain, the new change will be vastly more important than the change which took place in 1935 when CIO industrial unions replaced AFL craft organizations. The movement of the workers now, is towards direct control over production and time — and therefore over their own lives as human beings.

NEWS & LETTERS will return, again and again, to the new forms of organization the workers are attempting to forge in an effort to live freer and fuller lives; controlling nobody but themselves and being controlled by nobody but themselves.

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners Act Against International Ruling

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —When the miners got back from vacation, they had a surprise in store for them. All of the papers carried stories about the miners' vacation being over and that they were all now going to return to the pits to work. There was nothing unusual about this. There is a write up of this sort after every vacation the miners take. The big thing that was unusual was an accompanying statement that the International of the UAW had made a ruling concerning work on the Saturday of the week the miners returned. The ruling stated that work on this day was to be for straight time.

UNHEARD OF

The miners' vacation ended as of midnight on Monday, July 4th. July 4th is one of the legal holidays recognized by the operators and the UMW in the miners' contract. The miners have no paid holidays. If they work on a holiday, they get paid time and a half. It is very seldom that a mine works on a holiday. If the holiday comes during the week and a man does not work that day, but works on Saturday to make his fifth day of that week, that is paid at time and a half. The ruling of the International was unbelievable. It was unheard of in the past. When the men who had read about the ruling told others about it many arguments arose. It just couldn't be so. The next day, papers carrying the ruling were brought to the mines and shown around.

The miners were very angry and bitter in their denunciation of the International. This was the topic of conversation for the rest of the week. Many miners expressed the opinion that someone had had his palm greased with money to get a ruling like that against the men. There was not one miner sympathetic to the ruling.

OPPOSING ACTIONS

In Pennsylvania, the miners voted not to work unless they were paid time and a half for that Saturday. No mines in Pennsylvania worked that day.

In West Virginia, the situation took different forms. While the sentiment of the men was the same as those of the miners in Pennsylvania, the action taken was on a local or individual basis. The solid unity, which all of the miners in Pennsylvania demonstrated, was lacking.

At Owens mine near Clarksburg, the super of the mine put up a notice that the mine would operate on Saturday. Beneath his notice, the mine committee of the local union put up their own

notice that the mine would operate on Saturday, provided the men were paid time and a half for that day. The mine did not work. At Rachel mine, near Fairmont, the men made it so perfectly clear in their discussions around the mine that they would not work for straight time, that the super didn't even bother to work the mine. At Four States, it was the same thing. Many mines did not work, but there were some that did.

Of the mines that did operate, there were varying degrees of turnout by the men

At some mines the turnout was almost complete; at others it was so slim that it was a question whether the mine could operate with so few men. Where the local did not take any position against working, many men simply

took it upon themselves to stay away.

CAN THIS BE HEARD?

Last month, in an interview with a reporter from a large news syndicate, John L. Lewis was asked about the reopening of the contract. Among the things he said was, "We here at headquarters wait for the membership to tell us what to do. And so far they haven't said a word."

The ruling of the International (those at Headquarters) that the men would work for straight time on the Saturday after vacation could hardly be said to come from the men. Their actions speak much more loudly than any words. If Lewis and the International can't hear this roar of protest from the men, they will never be able to hear anything.

We've Got to Have Water

Pursglove, W. Va.—I had just got to the lamp house and was walking through the room where we all change clothes to go to work. I didn't notice anything particularly different from the other days that I go to work. But I was about half way across the room on the way to my basket when a buggy runner said, "Well, what do you think we ought to do?"

I looked at him in surprise and said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"Hell," he said, "we don't have any water."

THE WAIT

Then I looked around. There was something different. Not one man in the room was changing clothes. They were all gathered in groups, talking about what they should do. Snatches of conversation came from the discussions going on.

"We can't go in there without any water . . ."

"Maybe nothing will happen, but suppose it would. You never know when you get in that hole. We've just got to have water . . ."

"I don't care what the rest of you guys are going to do. I know I'm not going in without water . . ."

"What do they take us for anyway? I'm not changing my clothes until I know something . . ."

I put my bucket down and joined the crowd. Not a man made a move to change clothes. We just sat and talked — and waited. Bosses walked by us, but none of them said a word. Time was growing short. There were only a couple of minutes left if we were going in on time. No man moved to change clothes. Time went on and now we knew that we were already late, even if we went

right then. But we also knew that before we were going in, we were going to have water.

Finally, what we were expecting happened. The super came bustling out of his office and strode through the room. He stopped in front of the largest group of men bunched together.

A DEAL IS MADE

"Now look men," he started, "this is serious. We're already behind on our orders. We've got to get that coal. I can't help it if the pipe line is busted because they're working on the road. You shouldn't penalize us for something we have no control over."

"We don't have any drinking water," a man answered. "You mean there isn't even that much?" the super asked.

"Not a drop," voices chimed in.

"Well, I tell you what I'll do. If you men will go to work, I'll get water to you if I have to go to some of the milk companies around here and get cans to get it in for you. I'll make sure that is done before anything else. What do you say?"

"It sounds O.K. to me," a guy said. There was a general nodding of heads. So we changed clothes and went to work.

Sure enough, within an hour and a half, water was already on the sections.

For days afterwards, we all talked about the incident, we all agreed that was the only way to do anything. The company needs the coal now. Before, they wouldn't have done anything at all. But now we can undo some of the things that have been going on and all of us want to see the end to. All we have to do is all of us do it together.

LABOR

How We Beat The Boss

Los Angeles — There were four foreman in our railroad section. Three of them were regular foremen, the fourth was a relief foreman whom the men didn't like. He was irritable and pressed the men unnecessarily. Eventually, what happened was that on the days the relief foreman took over, all of the men would

call in to say they were sick and couldn't work. After this happened a few times the company caught on. They couldn't fire this foreman but they let him know he would have to change his ways. And he did, to the great satisfaction of the men who had to work under him.
— Former Railroad Worker.

Professionals Pay \$ for White Collars

The position of the skilled worker in society today, in contrast with that of the engineer, technician or white collar man has vastly changed over the last years.

A few years back an engineer was looked up to as an educated man whose earning power rated him a position in the top professional class. Much in demand during the war, his wages rose since it requires four or five years of intensive training before he can be of any use to industry. The scarcity of engineers, the demands of modern industry

for more and more trained technical help, all served to create a ready market for his services.

TOO GOOD TO JOIN

But these men, on the whole, felt themselves above the working class; too good to join a union. Now they have little left but their clean white shirts and their stuffy attitudes.

Skilled workers on the other hand, through strong union organization have risen in terms of earning power to the point where they have outstripped the men who are their bosses. In the construction industry, a foreman or a Superintendent of Construction gets \$120 to \$150 a week. Working under them are carpenters at \$4.50 an hour, plumbers at \$5.50 an hour, electricians, crane operators, refrigeration men and other skilled trades who take home far more money than their bosses do. The office help, which does all the paper work, gets \$75 to \$80 a week. The men on the job laugh at them behind their backs.

CHANGING RELATIONS

The office workers, as I see them on the job, often ask the skilled workers how they too can get these jobs. They are told that the union is closed, that they must start as apprentices. The plumbers apprentice makes \$2.85 an hour, more than the average white collar worker.

The same relationship exists in the factory. Skilled tool and die makers are pulling down eight to \$10,000 a year, while the big shot engineers up in the office are lucky to hit \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year. Their pride in their white collar costs them plenty in their pay envelopes.

The same relationship exists in the matter of job security. The men in the skilled AFL building trades unions are rarely without jobs and treated very sensitively by their bosses who fear strikes. The engineer or technician can always be fired on two weeks notice. No one mourns his passing.

SKILLED VS. PRODUCTION

Skilled workers in Flint, Michigan are making a big noise about forming a new union of skilled workers and leaving the UAW. The engineers too, though they were too good to associate with production workers in the same union. Look at them.

To revolt against Reuther and his contracts is one thing. To revolt as skilled workers against the production workers is quite another thing.

GM Can't Use "Sledge-Hammer" Policy

By Jerry Kegg

Management in the General Motors plant in which I work, is finding it difficult to use the old "sledge-hammer" policy since the recent wildcat strike. They find themselves backing down time and time again. An incident that shows it, happened just this afternoon.

The foreman came to his department from the office and announced that all vacations for the month of July were cancelled by the company due to an increase in production schedule.

Two of the women would have been affected by the cancellation. They told the foreman that they made plans far in advance, on the foreman's word that they could have their vacation. All of the women on that line began to make remarks, such as:

"You can never take the foreman's word for anything."

"He makes promises just to keep us quiet." Everyone of them had something to say.

CAN'T STAND TREATMENT

The foreman took as much as he could. Then he went back to the office to get moral support. He returned a little later with the assistant manager of the plant. The girls gave him the same kind of treatment. He couldn't take it any better than the foreman did.

"You two girls can have your vacation as was promised—and any others who want it," the assistant manager said.

One of the women was really mad. "We took the foreman's word for good coin when he first promised us a vacation. Now, you are giving us another oral promise. I want to see it in writing before I believe it. I want it tonight."

The other women just stood and stared at him.

After fumbling with his fingers for a few minutes he mumbled something and left. A few minutes later, he came back with written notices of the girls' vacation.

WORKERS FORCE CHANGE

The company policy is still the same, but the foreman who are supposed to carry out this policy find themselves, in many instances, forced to make exceptions.

The workers in the plant, through their recent strike experiences, are forcing a permanent change in company policy.

Union Doesn't Know Workers' Conditions

New York — The business agent came up to my shop and saw a man working after the lunch whistle blew. He yelled, "Hey you, you're not a good union man. Didn't you hear the lunch whistle?"

I was standing close by and I said to him, "What do you know of our conditions? You haven't worked since you were elected 30 years ago. What do you know about piece work? When we were on week work, long years ago, we washed up at least five minutes before the whistle. This is piece work, we're working on our own time. You don't represent us."

He said, "I'll bring you up to the National Office."

I said, "Go ahead. The Amalgamated constitution says that paid officers must be elected every two years by secret ballot. When did we elect you? You're not my business agent."

He shut up. He was elected 30 year ago. Now we only vote on nominations. No elections. —Amalgamated Clothing Worker

Mark Twain Was Right, But WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT WEATHER

Detroit — The heat wave gives us a way to beat one of the purposes of the bonus and holiday pay, which is to cut down absenteeism. Usually, for the holiday pay, one has to be at work the day before and the day after the holiday. For vacation pay one has to work so many hours of the year. In my shop both are combined, so that if one makes the requirement, one gets a pretty good-size check.

During the heat wave, when the temperature didn't go below for 90° for ten days, so many men asked for a pass at lunch time that the shop was forced to close down.

On Friday, they usually pay us after lunch so we won't go home, but so many of us asked for a pass and for our checks before lunch, that the company just closed shop and gave us our checks.

The Personnel Chief said, "What can you do? We thought we could cut down absenteeism and walkouts with our bonus and holiday system, but this heat wave is something you can't beat."

WORKING FOR TV

Los Angeles—I am an illustrator for television. We make animated cartoon commercials. Big factory-like studios dominate this field, such as Disney's, MGM, and Warner's. But many new, smaller studios have sprung up recently because of the need for animated cartoon commercials on television.

Artists who have worked in the big studios, say score is kept of the amount of work done by each. Everything possible is tried to raise incentive. The work is carefully supervised also.

But in the smaller studios that are appearing now, the supervision is extremely casual. There are no scores kept.

We live a little more like human beings because we are ignored by the busy supervisor and allowed to develop our own initiative. It's perfectly clear to us all that it can never last.

Employment Applications Ask Too Many Personal Questions

Los Angeles — I was looking for a job. One place I went to they had a registration book where everyone coming in for an interview had to put down his name and address. I saw the name of a fellow I had worked with previously so I asked if he had been hired in. The receptionist said, "No, he started to fill out his application but left before he finished it." She said many workers do that when faced with a long employment application.

LOYALTY OATH

What she said is probably true but I don't believe that is the reason why this worker did not complete his application. When I sat down to fill out my application I found they required you to sign a loyalty oath. It said in so many words: have you ever, or do you now, or will you ever belong to a group that is in favor of overthrowing our existing form of government? When I had worked with this man we had been rather close. He had

confided to me that he had past association with some of the anti - Communist, left-wing groups on the prohibited list of organizations. So I expect that when he came across this question, even though he was never a Communist, he just decided to go somewhere else where he could get work without his past and present political opinions being balanced against his abilities to do a good job.

NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS

Personally I wouldn't have done what this worker did. I have the attitude that about half of the questions they ask on those long forms are just none of their business at all. When I come across a question like: "What hobbies do you have?" I just draw a line or say "none." I've never yet heard of a man applying for a factory job given a soft office position decorating the factory just because he happens to do art work at home for a hobby. One place they want-

ed to know if I smoked a pipe or cigarettes.

They want to know what you have been doing for the last ten or 15 years, where you worked, where you lived, your religion, your mother's religion and how old she is. They sometimes even want to know your school average.

O.K. TO ASK EXPERIENCE

As far as I am concerned they are hiring me for a certain number of hours a day to do a definite job. They are entitled to ask what experience I have for that job and such questions but nothing else. What I do outside of work and my part and present political opinions aren't any of their business.

They will know in two or three days if I can do the job anyway and they always reserve the right to fire a weeks. I notice that a lot of factories don't ask these guy during the first few snoopings personal questions and they manage to stay in the competitive rat race anyway.

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EDITORIALS

THE GOVERNMENT INDICTS THE UAW

Under ordinary circumstances, the leading issue among UAW workers would be the recent indictment of the Union by the Government for the way union money was spent during the election campaign. But the workers seem less concerned about the indictment than they were and are about contract negotiations.

Many strongly resent the Government's interference in their union. They cannot believe it is to protect them. Some disagree with the Union officials for the way they have spent the money, the members having nothing to say about how it is spent and how much. They feel that the Union leaders themselves helped to create this present situation. One worker stated: "Reuther would prefer the Government on his neck to his workers."

No one can point with glee and pride to anything so outstanding for the working people's cause that the Democrats have done. This is part of the reason many people do not go to the polls and vote. To the Union leaders, this is ignorance on the workers' part. What is needed is to "educate" the workers and direct their votes. But the union members also know that many Democrats are reactionary and anti-labor and that their money is also being used to get this kind elected.

The union leaders recognize fully what is the workers' attitude on many of their selections. They act as impartial and at the same time try to force the members all together into the same party by using the workers' money and votes.

The Republicans, on the other hand, know the working people are in the majority and if the union can control all their votes it will mean a gradual death to the Republican Party.

The \$64 question is, why did the Government chose to crack down on Reuther and his union immediately after he had won his "historical" contract victory without a strike? They know and have seen the resentment and outburst of workers against the settlement. They also feel that Reuther does not have the support of the workers. If the union had called a strike, the Government would not have dared to attack the union.

Everyone remembers what the Democratic Party did to the mine workers for striking. This party which is a so-called friend of the working people, nearly wrecked the United Mine Workers Union financially. The UAW could not go all out against that action because its leaders were already in bed with the Democratic Party. Of course, Lewis was a Republican, but the same thing was done to the Railroad Brotherhood by the Democrats — and Whitney, the president of the Brotherhood was a Democrat.

Now, with the indictment, the UAW has suddenly found its voice and is asking: Is freedom of speech only for Republicans? It's a good question, but the UAW was very silent when Congress was passing all those reactionary so-called security laws. A year ago, when the Square D strike was going on in Detroit, Rep. Clardy, of the Un-American Activities Committee was shown on TV saying he would investigate every worker that was taking part in the strike. The police were as brutal as during any strike in the early days of organizing. UAW officials were quiet about the strike because it was called by the United Electrical Workers which had been expelled from the CIO for being Communist dominated. These officials could only say it is too bad, these workers are caught between the company and the Communists. They should join us. But the UAW rank and file put their leaders on the spot and themselves went to support the Square D strikers because they knew that if that strike was broken the UAW would be the next target.

No one can say what will be the outcome of this recent indictment. Many workers believe that the union leaders are getting too big for the Government and now the Government is letting them know who is the boss.

When the union leaders return to relying solely on the strength of the working people and not directing them into any party unless it is controlled for any by workers, then there will be no interference by the Government. This was true in the early days of the UAW.

Workers are debating the words "illegal use of funds" with which the Government is charging the UAW. One worker said, "When did the Government, or any big businessman, care about some one 'illegally' using a worker's money, or cheating working people, especially someone that's helping them?"

"We are opposed to those union leaders if what they do is illegal. But if this is a law, they will find some other way and continue to spend that amount and more."

He said, "It should be equally illegal for those union leaders in the AFL to say that the rank and file workers in the Teamsters Union voted that \$160,000 home for the union president Beck, paying all his expenses for life."

— C. D.

STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

I do not agree with your criticism of Reuther. GAW was what the workers had asked for, for years, only the average guy couldn't have worked it out as GAW and that's why I see nothing wrong in bringing in the professors that Reuther brought in.

Of course GAW isn't all we asked for. The workers could have got more if they were ready for a long strike, but there weren't. The average guy is so far in debt that he is afraid to stay out long. Everybody is in debt. Everything he buys is on the installment plan. If he loses too much time from work, he will lose his house or his car or his TV set.

Ford Worker, Detroit

The union asked us what we wanted but not a single demand that we asked for was put into GAW. That contract is no good. It is neither an annual wage nor guaranteed and we are exactly where we were before on local grievance—nowhere.

GM Worker, Detroit.

Your TWO WORLDS columnist says (July 2) that Reuther was too much attracted by the administrative plan of Russia. I don't know whether it's that so much. He is a labor lieutenant of capitalism. Bureaucrats of that kind are the same the world over whether in the CIO or AFL, or in Russia. All they ever want is to take the power away from the masses because if they followed where the workers want to go it would lead to class struggle conflicts. I don't think they have a preconceived plan. They just fight the workers on every issue that comes along. It is not the plan, but the politics of these leaders that we have to fight.

Skilled Worker,
GM, Detroit

What does GAW mean to me or you? The average production worker with five or six years seniority will be laid off for about two weeks on model changeover. A man who works the year round needs that rest.

The only guys who may benefit are those, with only two or three years seniority, who get many layoffs. They'll be laid off anyway before GAW can help us.

Auto Production
Worker, Detroit

The economy is being questioned by a lot of people. Two of my brothers work in steel. This is usually their slack season but all the furnaces are going. I just visited them and they asked me what are we doing, back here in Detroit. They said they're working full blast making steel for auto and we keep making autos, do we think people are going to buy them all?

Woman Auto Worker
Detroit

Federal workers I know say they have nothing against factory work. Factory workers make more money when they work, but you never know how much you do work. Working for the government, at least they have an annual wage. That's what we tried to get this time.

Auto Worker
Detroit

News reports arrive that the strip tease dancers, who have many grievances, are organizing a union. We trust that everything will come off all right.

Trombone Player
BostonFLINT MEETING
CIVIL RIGHTS

That skilled trades conference they just had up in Flint is only the beginning of workers splitting away from the International and I don't blame them. They're crazy though when they say Reuther's been getting things for production workers. If they really want to do something they ought to get together with the production workers.

Chrysler Production
Worker, Detroit

I'm in a kind of skilled classification and I know why those guys are doing it. I wouldn't want them to go, but to build something new that'll kick out those guys like Reuther who've been selling us out. This GAW is doing me no good nor the production workers either.

Maintenance Man
Detroit

I wasn't in Flint but my sympathies were there. If they're organizing the union to break up the leadership everyone would join.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

Do you know why the skilled workers want a 30 hour week? They want to pile up a lot more overtime

on time and a half.

Tool & Die Worker
Detroit

UE sent a few carloads of members up to that conference in Flint to break it up. They didn't get anywhere but that's part of the new line to support Reuther.

UE Member
Detroit

WAR & PEACE

I wish to take sharp issue with the column WORLD OUTLOOK (July 22) and particularly with the first paragraph entitled "Apathy." It most certainly is not true that the so-called West wasn't represented at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia last April. This Asian-African conference was run by "the West" and run by them with the connivance of "the East." All these top leaders, East or West, who play with the lives of millions are the same.

The implications of your piece was that the strings of one official representative of the West, the Philippine Government, were pulled by our State Department. But that isn't something that should have been stated only implicitly.

That should have been the axis of the article and stated without any ambiguity. Any serious politico knew that once Kenya was not on the agenda of that Asia-African conference, it meant that supposedly neutral Nehru of India and the supposedly hostile Communist, Chou-en-Lai of China, combined with America to keep this conference within the bounds of striped pants diplomacy. They were exchanging the lives of people of Africa and of Asia for some imperialist understanding between America and China on the question of Formosa. I do hope WORLD OUTLOOK will deal with this conference again.

Old Politico
Detroit

The first session of the recent UN meeting in San Francisco was all sweetness and light. The delegates from the smaller countries spoke praising the UN and predicting for it even a better future. At first, this appeared to be what the mood of the meeting would be. Some accord among the Big Four was hinted at from their separate and secret meeting in the Union Club atop Nob Hill.

All was very uneventful

Views

Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

'SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM' ON THE PROBLEM OF A WORKERS' PAPER

I have received the July-September issue of the French magazine, *Socialisme ou Barbarie* (Socialism or Barbarism), and see that it is largely devoted to the problem of establishing a workers' paper. The article by D. Mothe on the question has, workers' paper. The article by D. Mothe on the question deals with the experience of some French workers who published a shop paper, in Renault, which is like Ford here, and the experience we have had in America in publishing a workers' paper.

All this is new. Heretofore socialists and other radicals have been content with publishing a paper "for" workers rather than by them. The fact that some now pose the latter question and pose it with the seriousness characteristic of the theoretical journal, is a beginning in the direction in which we have worked for some years before the actual publication of NEWS & LETTERS.

THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF WESTERN EUROPE

The conditions in France, however, are radically different from those here. We do not have a mass Communist Party to plague us. The Communist Party of France (and even more so of Italy, it must not be forgotten) is a strong force. It controls the largest trade union—the CGT—which is like the CIO here.

No socialist grouping like *Socialisme ou Barbarie* can disregard such a mass force as the Communist Party represents there. It cannot speak to workers on any subject as if the problem were only of workers against capitalists. It is a struggle within the working class; the counter-revolutionary force is right within the revolutionary movement. The problem of establishing a workers' paper in France is a question only the French can decide.

OUR EXPERIENCE

But, insofar as the struggle the world over today is a struggle against bureaucratic domination, and the fundamental problem of workers the world over, in this age of bureaucratization, is to tackle this problem not the day after but today, our experience can illuminate the problem.

The working class stamp in the overall editing and the decentralization in the editing of the individual sections—Labor, Negro, Women, Youth—did not come about accidentally. They were the results of the decisions of a unique combination of worker and intellectual. NEWS & LETTERS, being a product of this unique combination of worker and intellectual, is in its own small way to be sure, the practice of the breakdown of the most monstrous division of all—the division between mental and manual labor which has reached its apex in this epoch.

This brand of any class society also stamps many people who align themselves with the working class, but have no conception of how total the opposition to the old order must be not alone in theory but in practice. This characteristic is not limited to intellectuals, but permeates a stratum of the working class. For the classic example of that we must consider not the comparatively small problem of a workers' paper, but the historic problem of workers' power itself for it was in the period of the workers' state in Russia (1917-1923) when all the problems of today were seen as if in a blinding flash, and grasped at once by Lenin.

WHAT HISTORY TEACHES US

Before 1917 all radicals saw the problem of a new society as the problem of achieving political power. What the Russian experience showed was that the problem first then began.

Shlyapnikov was a worker who had joined the Bolshevik (Communist) Party long before the Russian Revolution of which he was a leader. Nevertheless, once power was achieved, he refused to see the problem of worker and intellectual—which is another way of saying the role of the party.

Lenin, on the other hand, saw precisely this division as the barrier—the last barrier—that the old decrepit society was setting up in the path of the new workers' state that had won power but was nevertheless heading back to capitalism. He insisted on two seemingly contradictory policies: 1) He said they must define the term, worker, "in such a way as to include only those who could have acquired a proletarian mentality from their very position in life." By which he meant that they were workers all their life; that they had worked in heavy industry at least 10 years; that they were factory workers not through choice but because they had no other way of earning a living.

2) Nevertheless he showed that the proletarian policy of the party was the result of "the enormous undivided prestige enjoyed by the thin stratum which may be called the old guard of the Party. Only a very slight internal struggle within this stratum would be sufficient, if not to destroy this prestige, then at all events to weaken it to such an extent that it would lose the power to determine policy." And so it was and the workers' state crumbled altogether.

ONCE AGAIN ON PUBLISHING A WORKERS' PAPER

To return from the historic height to the problem raised by our French friends, I cannot see how theoreticians can continue to theorize in the old way while the workers in their various activities break through old patterns to new theory. Just as it is true that the workers, in a workers' paper, do not speak only of their relations at the point of production, but all of their ideas on life, labor and the new society, so it is true that the intellectual's role cannot be just to generalize the experience, but must be to discipline himself to hear all the workers say instead of hearing only what fits into his previous theoretic patterns.

Workers' actions speak for them without equivocation. The intellectual must be attuned to hear that movement from practice to theory. That is the nub.

I would say that the tendency to say: "A workers' paper, yes, but in that case it must come from the workers themselves, and not from us the theoreticians" is an evasion of the task at hand. Theoreticians cannot be bystanders to a paper that mirrors the workers' thoughts and activities as they happen. We would like to hear more from our West European friends.

also faces problems. Why is it that Negro songs are so widely accepted by whites? They must have some of the same problems or they couldn't pick them up so fast and put them over with such feeling.

Painter, Detroit.

It's American songs, but as a kid, not only in the South but here, we used to say whites can't sing like Negroes, especially religious songs. Some whites can sing better than some Negroes, but Negroes can put more feeling into it from their life and not just from learning music.

Chrysler Worker, Detroit.

These singers set out to make a hit and a name for themselves, but the songs didn't originate to be a hit but from deep feeling of life.

Non-Singer, Detroit.

I have to agree with the point you made in your article on changing relations in the South (July 8) when you said: "Every easing of racial relations only intensifies the general crisis."

I notice in the daily papers that the Southern leaders are really mobilizing themselves to keep segregation in the schools even to the point where that Virginia Congressman punched Adam Clayton Powell during a session of the House. And just recently, in Louisiana, within a few hours, a shotgun blasted the windows of a Quaker office for equal jobs for Negroes a few hours after two Negro students were shot on the campus of the state university.

W. T., New York.

YOUTH

Every young person knows that education is necessary but he doesn't like how things are. He has ideas of what he wants. He is against the domination of the teachers, but he wants something positive, something new.

Reader, Los Angeles.

To write anything serious on youth today, one must take up militarization and the draft. The life of youth today and their thoughts of the future, or even their lack of thoughts are related to what they face as a way of life for a number of years. While

they may not talk very much about it, there is something they are thinking and expressing and that is what we should try to get.

L. M., Los Angeles.

Gangs are more prevalent in the large cities, but even there they are not typical. They are an extreme expression of the revolt of youth against society but do not represent the average youth who form into various groups, social and athletic, formal and informal.

Young Woman, Los Angeles.

On the article "Working Women V. S. Time" (July 22), is left me cold — it made me think of an alarm clock. Is it just a couple of hours extra a day that would fix things?

Housewife, Los Angeles, Calif.

ABOUT NEWS & LETTERS

I like the larger type that you are using. It makes reading easier and I think workers generally would agree.

GM Skilled Worker, Detroit.

Issue No. 2 has the same fine quality as No. 1 but they are too much alike. It's so anyone who has read one issue has read them all. Each issue has to show a change, a development, if the paper is to grow.

Reader, Los Angeles.

I was glad to get Issue No. 3 (July 22) and to see that NEWS & LETTERS has kept up the freshness and alertness with which it started. In No. 1 (June 24), I read about the wildcats that I have read nowhere else — neither the daily, radical nor trade union press. The lead article in No. 2 (July 8), was on an entirely different subject — Changes in the South — and now with No. 3 you have again caught the current subject of polio and again written about it as only this type of grassroots paper can. Keep up the good work—here is \$5 to help you do it.

Scientist, New Jersey.

NEWS & LETTERS is published every two weeks by News & Letters, at 8067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich. TYler 8-7053. Co-Editors: Charles Denby, John Zupan. Managing Editor: Saul Blackman. Subscription: \$2.50 for 36 issues. Single copy, 10c.

until one of the North African delegates took a poke at colonialism and was rapped down by the Chairman, Mr. Van Kleffens of The Netherlands. Mr. Van Kleffens had stated, in the press and in a TV interview, that the purpose of the UN San Francisco meeting was to commemorate the founding of the UN; to take stock of what it had achieved, or hadn't achieved; and not to take any definite actions on issues.

Steady Reader San Francisco

Frankly, I'm worried about the status of democracy in the United States. As a native-born American, a veteran, a taxpayer, an active citizen, a father, a practicing professional and believer in liberty, equality and democracy generally, I'm worried.

Why, in a democracy, can the F.B.I., or any other agency photograph each private citizen entering a public hearing or a public trial? By what constitutional license can the rights of private citizens be so abrogated?

Why, in a democracy, at UN-American hearings, are witnesses constantly confronted with the accusation: "You signed a petition . . ." or "You attended a meeting . . ." By what constitutional license can the citizen's right to petition and free assembly and free speech be infringed upon?

Why, in a democracy, is there such a gimmick as "subversiveness"? Either an organization or a newspaper is legal or it is illegal. Then it is NOT subversive. This subversive gimmick is a plot to have our cake and eat it, too; to label the can "democracy" while the contents are in reality that of the police state . . .

Huey Long was certainly correct when he said that fascism would come to America wrapped in the American flag.

J. J. V. Los Angeles, Calif.

NEGRO AMERICANS

I liked your article on Negro songs (July 22). My daughter and her friends go for rhythm and blues and I have often heard her say that it needs a Negro singer to put it across, a white can't.

Mother of Five, Detroit.

The white worker doesn't have the same problems as the Negro worker, but he

Difference Between North and South

By Ethel Dunbar

What a difference in the North and in the South. In the South where I was born, white Americans thought nothing of the Negro people but to put them to work on any kind of job if it was hard or easy. All they wanted was to be the overseer, bystander over you to see that you do everything correctly, like build houses, work in a foundry, put up electric wire, lay a railroad track, or put up telegraph wire.

The Northern white man doesn't seem to think that the Negro people can do anything but dig a ditch or work in the hottest part of the factory, which is the foundry.

But they don't know that the white man in the South put Negroes on any kind of job just so he can sit around in a white shirt and not get dirty.

That is why I say that Northern whites think that putting up telegraph is too fine a job for Negro people.

WE ARE HERE TO STAY

After all these hundreds of years, white Americans are not ready to accept the Negro people in the United States today. It looks to me that some whites still think that we are a bunch of wild monkeys.

The reason I am saying this, you just go and buy a house in a white neighborhood and see just how they start going from door to door whispering to each other,

"Do you know that Negroes are moving into our neighborhood? We must move some place else, or get them out of the way."

They know it's no need of trying to make them move, because wherever a Negro buys a house, he is bound to stay, if he has to fight to stay.

So then the whites will start moving out of the city and lose their right to take a part in voting and electing candidates and all the benefits that city life means.

Letter From Africa

SOUTH AFRICAN READER SAYS:
"Racial Tension Due To Government Policy"

Dear Sir:

I have enjoyed Charles Denby's articles. I hope to send a dollar as a contribution to the new paper in a few weeks to come. I hope to write an article about working conditions facing the Negroes in South Africa.

We live in a country with many nationalities and a lot of racial discrimination. South Africa's high racial tension is due to the oppressive policy of the Government. Every attempt is made by the Government to keep the black man in the low standard of living in every way.

Here are some of the utterances by some Cabinet Ministers. The Native must remain where he is if the white man is to maintain himself in South Africa. He must develop according to his own lines. There is no place for him in white South Africa in the exception of certain forms of labour. Any move to give the Native anything white would be very suicidal.

For example, the Negro in South Africa is prohibited from seeking the work he prefers freely in cities in South Africa. He has to get a special permit of seeking employment from the Government Pass Office. These permits are refused to him as he is an undesirable in the city. The police demand these documents in the streets, particularly in morning hours, being hours of seeking work. To be without them is an offence liable to a jail sentence.

These regulations affect even those born and brought up in cities, who know nothing about country life. They are ordered to quit urban areas within 72 hours as from the very date the notice is issued. Failing of which is a great offence. When one intends to change employment he has to go ask for a special permit from the Government Pass Office.

Those from districts are drastically debarred from placing their feet in the cities. At the same time, the Government is busy recruiting farm labour from towns.

Prisoners are supplied to white farmers as their farm labour. Most of them die of being shot by brutal farmers. Mind you, these people who suffer in this way are not criminals. They have not, whatsoever, committed any offence. They have only broken the pass laws.

Parliament is in session at the present time and a Bill was passed last week banning Negro building artisans from practising their profession in cities as builders. In South Africa we have things such as jobs reserved for whites only.

The Government last year banned all mixed trade unions. Even Trade Union leaders who were opposed to the policy of the State were removed from their posts or offices and banned from attending gatherings and restricted from moving from one province to another for periods extending to three years.

Something called Bantu Education was legislated last year and it came into effect this April, making Negro Education inferior to that of the whites.

I am sorry that I have been unable to answer some question as the time is now gone. I hope to answer them next time. Would you like me to send you papers and magazines?

I hope to enclose cuttings for you. I am sorry I won't say much about myself as the time has left me. I am also a worker.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,
W. W. G. M.
Johannesburg, S. Africa

MORE THAN WHITE PEOPLE KNOW

Scotis Run, W. Va. — The road is hard for colored. That is, they try to make it hard for us.

There is a difference between the North and the South. There are differences between Pittsburgh and here. In Pittsburgh there are more jobs, and you get more money for your jobs. There are more places to go.

CHANGES IN NORTH

Detroit—I was in line at the super market. A well-dressed customer in front of me leaned over to the cashier, lowered his voice and said, "Is that colored girl going to work steady as a cashier?"

The cashier answered, "Since they were getting so much colored trade, management decided to put on a colored girl and one boy."

The customer said, "We're getting run out of this place soon, so many are moving in." To which the cashier said, "It looks that way."

I didn't know what I could say at the moment. If I said something, I might put pressure on the young colored woman. Or, would she have felt better if I had blurted out my indignation—that the whites were running themselves out by their ignorance?

There's not even a movie in the Run. Down here, there aren't many places for anybody to go, white or colored.

But there's even less for the colored. Three little places where the colored can go to eat or drink.

But a colored person can get by, more than white people know.

A colored person will go by laughing. Inside his heart may be broken. But he carries his trouble inside, and laughs outside. We may be tired, sick of trying to make ends meet, and still smile.

The whole thing is that it doesn't always stay inside. It builds up, and when it comes out there will be lots of trouble. Sometimes it seems that it may take a long time to come out. But it comes.

And why do we laugh? Because they think they've got us down. We're laughing at that.

M., Miner's wife
Pursglove, W. Va.

Subscribe to NEWS & LETTERS

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 third installment.)

We worked from dawn to dusk, Monday to Saturday. Our amusement was a picnic or a baseball game with the Negroes on other plantations. They would kill a pig, or something, and pile up a table with food. We'd go to the picnic and buy something to eat. We'd have a guitar or a harmonica, but mostly a guitar. There would be wonderful singing and music. The frolics were held under the trees. Many religious women would slip up close enough to hear the singing but they didn't want to be seen.

On Gerson Place the halfers and renters complained and said they wanted a fifty piece band. The owner said that he would buy the instruments and each Negro would be charged for the one he chose. The day the band came each man took the instrument he wanted. No one had ever held an instrument before, except the guitar or harmonica. They held the instruments and played such music that people came from all the plantations. At the end of the month they were known, and had engagements to play all through the southern part of the state. They played by ear and could hear anything once and play it. There was only one man who ever had music training in that part of the county. He'd played in the band at Tuskegee. The others played better than this man by the end of the month. The way those people could play was known all over. You could find people in many leading cities who would tell you the same story.

Practically every riding boss went with a colored woman or lived with one. Usually she'd been with a colored man before

him. If the riding boss was going with a woman he would be at the parties. He'd stay off a short distance or try to use some Negro to tell her he was there. The time of the party at my pal's place I was twelve or thirteen. Curtis Gordon had been going with a light mulatto woman. He was talking to her with his arm around her shoulder.

The riding boss came up and said, "Take your arm off her. She's mine."

Curtis swore and hit the riding boss. He knocked him down.

The riding boss got up and said, "Stay here, I'll take care of you."

I was excited; it was the first time I saw a white man get hit. Blood was running down from his face. I ran home. My father was excited and I asked him what would happen to Curtis. Father told me that what ever happened to Curtis would happen to a lot of other Negroes if we sat and did nothing about it.

I said, "But he hit a white man, I'm scared."

My father was mad, "I'll whip you if ever I hear you say you're afraid of a white man. I won't own you for a son if you ever say it again."

Nothing hurt me so much as his saying that. Dad took down his shotgun and we went over. About two hundred Negroes were waiting but the riding boss didn't show up.

Curtis said, and let it be known everywhere, "I'm going with this woman. If I ever meet that white man it means death to him."

Berger fired the riding boss and he and his family had to move off the plantation.

(To Be Continued)



Write for
NEWS & LETTERS

YOUTH

Working For Independence

By ANGELA TERRANO

I read the editorial on youth by C. D. in the last issue of NEWS & LETTERS (July 22). I thought it was good but it raised some old questions.

It mentions "two fundamental problems: 1) the difficulty that youth experience in the search for jobs, and 2) their revolt against the unnatural discipline of the factory once they find a job." I think this is an attempt to connect the youth to class struggle. It might be true but it is just one age group. What of the kids between 12 and 17 years old that are being called "hoodlums" and "juvenile delinquents?" What has the discipline of the factory got to do with them? I am not being sarcastic. If there's a connection I would like to understand it.

DISCIPLINE FROM ALL CORNERS

It seems to me that kids grow up with discipline coming from all corners. I know it is not the same as the factory but it's there. From parents, cops, teachers, even matrons in the movie houses.

Is it just the discipline in the factory that keeps these people in this age group at trying to stay out of the

factory? Would they rather get white collar jobs?

Is it that they see their parents and their friends just working day in and day out and getting just enough to live on, and some getting a few "luxuries?" When there is a war they are the ones that will be going and doing the dirty work. When the cops have to start getting on the ball they again are the ones that get it. You are forced to spend a good part of your time in school. When you learn something that's O. K. but that is not very often. Again it's the teachers that call the shots. There is the sham student government or something like that, where some A. K.'s get the idea that they are the chosen leaders. But the majority of the kids don't see anything in this.

FEEL FREE WITH FRIENDS

After all these stories in the newspapers a lot of people say "Oh these kids, what's happening to them?" Somewhere it's forgotten that a lot of kids are enjoying themselves together with their friends. That usually, in the street with their friends or in their clubs, they feel a

'Blackboard Jungle' Makes Kids Guinea Pigs

Los Angeles—I just saw "The Blackboard Jungle." It was a very interesting picture. Most of it was spent telling about the troubles of the young teacher at home and in schools; of his determination to "get to" his pupils and how he finally does it, in spite of the efforts of a couple of kids who have it in for him. But the picture just used the kids as a sounding board or his ideas, like guinea pigs.

At crucial times Hollywood seems to come out with pictures about juvenile delinquency, the reasons or it and what to do about it. But the pictures always seem to tell you about the problems of the adults who have to face

little free of all these other things.

And it isn't that the youth have a great desire to "belong" as if they have to learn something before they make the grade. I don't think so at any rate. They do belong. When you're young you have less experience and I think kids know this more than adults think they do. But they belong all right. The fight begins when the authorities and many adults get the idea that they don't belong.

the kids every day and make some kind of heroes out of them. They never deal with the problems of the kids, except where it fits the plot of the brave young teacher facing the kids in his class, kids who were played as untamed animals.

To me, this picture that claimed to be about youth, was really about the adults, the "experts" on youth who think they know all the answers, but who see everything from exactly the opposite way that youth do.

"You'd Better Get Up and Leave..."

Los Angeles—I used to belong to the Calling-All-Girls Club. I remember there was a girl from New York. She had come into Los Angeles as a stranger and we had really got friendly together. I don't know what our common interests were other than the club. We were going home on a street car one day and a Mexican lady got on. This girl started to say that she just couldn't stand the Mexican people. She considered them low and vulgar in their ways. Well, she just didn't like Mexican people, she just couldn't stand them. I just let her talk. I can't remember exactly all of what

she said. When she finished, I just quietly turned around and told her, "Well, you'd better get up and leave because I'm Mexican."

I wasn't born in Mexico. I'm of Mexican parents. I've got a little bit of mixture in me. Maybe that's why she said, "Well, you don't look it. I don't believe you're a Mexican. You don't look Mexican."

Not all Mexican people look Mexican. Not all American people look like Americans. You don't have to look like something to be something. There are just little incidents like that. It happens in school too.

Write for
NEWS
&
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Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

When you move into a new neighborhood, you size up a situation and choose sides in the same way as in a shop. In a shop you know who the supervisor is, but in a neighborhood it takes longer to find out. In one place I lived, the woman, who in a sense bossed the whole neighborhood, was the PTA president. The only women who weren't her stool pigeons were a couple of housewives who finally refused to go to PTA meetings.

WANTS TO BE QUEEN BEE

When I first saw this woman at a PTA meeting, I noticed right away her dominant personality. You could see in five minutes that she wanted to be the queen bee in any situation. She would ignore the women without any prestige, except when she couldn't help it; but let an important speaker come and she would be all over her. She could afford to dress better than most of us too, and I always saw her with the women who dressed the best. She would make most women feel a little inferior because she looked so well and talked so well and could do things so well, but not a one of them wanted to be like her.

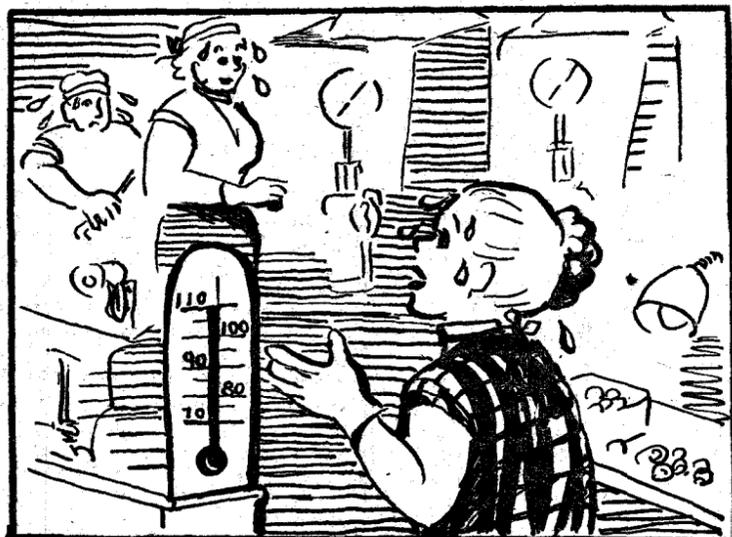
DOESN'T FOOL ANYONE

Once I went to a PTA tea at her home. She made a

pretense of being polite but she didn't fool anyone. She hated people who didn't have any prestige. Her friends were women like herself who wanted to go ahead.

Her husband had an important white collar job and so did most of the women who supported her with the exception of her best friend, whose husband is a cop. The women she didn't care to associate with were the wives of men who did manual labor.

And these housewives, although they were outside the social circle in their own neighborhood, would get together and make jokes about the big frog in the little puddle. They knew that you can't be friends with everyone and they were glad of it.



"This is one time I MIGHT appreciate the boss breathing down my back."

W O M E N

Read
NEWS
&
LETTERS

SHARING SHORT-CUTS

Fish and onion odors can be removed from cutlery and dishes by adding a little ammonia or vinegar to the warm dish water.

She Guarantees Her Annual Wage

Al told me of a woman factory worker who, for the last three years, gets three months sick leave just before she gets laid off. She brings a doctor's letter as soon as the lower seniority women get it as she will a

Overtime and Installment Plan Seen as Necessary Evils

I had a discussion with the women on the block on overtime and the installment plan. Most of the women on the block on overtime and the installment plan. Most of the women have very old things or they're in the process of getting new ones little by little. Three other women besides myself, who just moved into this new tract, agree that we cannot get the things we want for the house

on a 40-hour wage. We cannot exist on a 40-hour wage.

I said, "Labor fought so desperately for the eight-hour day and now you can't live on an eight-hour day. You have to have a ten-hour day, at least."

The other women laughed and one of them said, "You can't really live without the installment plan."

She ought to know, because she doesn't really have anything as a result of fighting against living on the installment plan for so many years. She finally gave in under the pressure.

Getting back to the 40-hour week, you can't live on the amount your husband you can't live with your husband when he works on a 72 or a 60-hour week. One of the women says she has a "hello" and "goodbye" relationship with her husband. She only sees him weekends. She has three children and they want another but she doesn't know when they're going to have time to work on it.

Actually, you're torn in two. For the first time in my life I own nice things and at the same time I wish my husband had more time to relax and enjoy them.

few days later.

When asked why she does it, she replied that she gets her guaranteed annual wage this way. Three months sick leave benefit as \$32 a week and five months unemployment compensation. She says, in her shop, women are lucky to work four or five months a year.

Ellen said some women workers, even if they don't get laid off, have to take sick leave to be with their children during the summer months when there is no school. Also that man and wife working all year leaves much housework to be caught up on. You can't make it on your husband's wages alone if he is an unskilled worker, and if you also work, it is tough as there is so much to be done after the day's work.

Experiences and Expectations.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS — THEN AND NOW

FOUNDED ON THOSE WHO TOIL

When the IAM was founded in 1888, its Charter said:

"Believing that the right of those who toil to enjoy to the full extent the wealth created by their labor is a natural right and realizing that under the changing industrial conditions incident to the enormous growth of syndicates and other aggregations of capital it is impossible for those who toil to obtain the full reward of their labor other than through united action; and recognizing the fact that those who toil should use their rights of citizenship intelligently, through organizations founded upon the class struggle and acting along cooperative, economic and political lines, using the natural resources, means of production and distribution for the benefit of all the people, with the view of restoring the Commonwealth to all those performing useful service to society; Now, Therefore:

"We, the International Association of Machinists, pledge ourselves to labor unitedly in behalf of the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our Association on the basis of solidarity and justice, to expound its objects, to labor for the general adoption of its principles, to consistently endeavor to bring about a higher standard of living among the toiling masses."

THE POLITICIANS TAKE OVER

In 1955, the IAM sealed into the cornerstone of its new building being built in Washington, D. C., the following statements:

"The cooperation and support of your international in securing the enactment of forward looking social legislation has always been an inexhaustible source of encouragement to all of us in the Congress who champion the cause of organized labor and share your liberal outlook . . ."

—Sen. Hennings, Missouri

"Its performance and leadership in the forefront of labor's ranks in the United States have earned the respect and good will of all who recognize that a vigorous responsible labor movement is an essential element of American progress . . ."

—Gov. Freeman Minnesota

"The strength of our country is the collective strength of the people who reside in it."

—Sen. Magnuson, Washington

"It is to your credit, as history has shown, that high standards, ethical dealing and sense of moral and spiritual values can be part of the liberal cause as expressed in the membership of this magnificent labor organization."

—Sen. Anderson, New Mexico

"Dedicated to the perseverance of the American tradition of democracy, the members of the International Association of Machinists have served the United States ably in war and constructively in peace."

—Gov. Williams, Michigan

The pressures of a new crisis are now building to a boil in Italy, which for ten years has been in the grip of chronic unrest and mass upheaval. Ever since they killed Mussolini and hung his body by its heels, the Italian workers have pressed to take power and reorganize their own lives.

Using every resource at its disposal, the State Department has poured millions of dollars into Italy to support the Christian Democratic coalition which now sit uncertainly in the seat of government. This coalition is composed of the most reactionary elements of Italian society — the traditional landowners and industrialists and the Church.

With this coalition as the obvious enemy of the Italian masses, the Communists have been able to head off the mass movement. Twice, they deliberately refused to take power when they could have had it for the asking because the Russian Army was neither at the frontiers nor within the country itself. Before the Communists will take power they need the assurance that they can destroy the workers movement by the might of the Army and the terror of the secret police.

At this moment, however, the opposition of the Italians is so great that the Christian Democratic coalition — which seems to be a mass movement itself — is in serious danger of collapsing. Unofficial and semi-official observers in Europe are frantically warning the State Department to take a more conciliatory attitude to the so-called left and not to pull all its eggs in the basket of clerics and industrialists.

They are going so far as publicity to criticize the American Ambassador to Italy,

Clare Boothe Luce, for her unabashed alliance with the reactionary clerics. They openly hint — and more than hint — that she carries her alliance to the point where she is blind to the value of the so-called left.

Grasping at the straws of the recently ended Geneva Conference, they are welcoming a new popular front with the Communists, because they know their own impotence and are willing to rely upon the Communist power to stifle a mass outburst of the Italian people. This under the guise of "peace and stability."

FROM THE BEAR'S MOUTH

News of "disturbances in plants"—a fancy name for work stoppages—murders of collective farm officials Russian newspapers, Pravda and Izvestia. These throw a great deal more light on the so-called change of Russian heart than do the statements of her top bureaucrats. Here are two stories that tell more than a thousand pictures. Though they occurred last Fall and Winter, they were just recently reported in the press.

On February 15, a woman worker in Communist Armenia, Amalia Beniaminovna Abramyan, went to work at the Yerevan Machine Building Plant. "But soon," writes the official press, "began to violate labor discipline flagrantly."

"Day after day she shouted senseless and stupid phrases into the ventilator

and these were conveyed by the ventilating shafts to a the shops.

"Remaining unnoticed she created disturbances in the plant for 10 days. As a result the plant sustained losses totalling 200,000 rubles.

"The militia caught her at the scene and turned her over for trial and she was sentenced to three years deprivation of liberty with disfranchisement for one year."

The other story of the deep dissatisfaction of Soviet workers, concerns the Mikailov brothers, Mikail and Mali, and their relative Kasymov Azmamed. These three took things into their own hands.

"On October 12, 1954," the official report reads, "they armed themselves with crude firearms and entered the offices of the April 29 Collective Farm, murdered Aliman edov Ailmamed, chairman of the Village Soviet, Ganibarov Khasai, chairman of the collective farm, and his brother Gambarov Gachal, secretary of the primary Party Organization of the collective farm."

"They were sentenced to death by shooting." Why the report is so late is another incident not to be dismissed for it occurred when concessions to the farmers did not bring about the results the Kremlin counted on, and failing in these concessions, they then moved to the sending of thousands of youth and demobilized soldiers to plow up virgin lands in Siberia.

Life in the Committees

LOS ANGELES

We had a discussion at the Los Angeles committee meeting last night on the subject of material for "Life in the Committees." We have never been able to get across to our readers what actually goes on in the editing committees. We used to say that the paper was written, edited and circulated by its readers. But this was an abstraction which never brought much response. At least not many people came to the editing meetings as a result of that. And that feature actually makes our paper a new kind of paper. It is something like saying government of the people, by the people and for the people.

The problem is how to demonstrate this principle in the paper. The accounts of the socials don't do it. Not that such news shouldn't be there but any and all organizations have money raising

affairs of great variety. But the way we edit our paper should make people sit up and take notice — and participate with us.

WEST VIRGINIA

I believe that the response at the Easter gathering to the perspectives for the book, was indication that all of us felt the need, for ourselves, to regain that you have called a "loss of our politics," and a sense of our 100 years tradition.

Down here, at least, we have never thought of the lecture series as separate from the work on the paper; but as a very real part of it, which can enrich it. We were thinking of concrete people who are readers and friends for example, but with whom we have not yet been able to bridge the gap between friendship and all that we stand for.

Until last week, however, we were rather vague our-

selves when telling our friends about the series — October, for one thing seemed very far away. Last week we got down to work, when we realized that it is not so far away at all and concrete perspectives must be set. The response has been very good.

We have not limited ourselves to any narrow and select few to ask. We have spoken instead to almost all the people we have visited for their subscriptions. (Almost all subscribers down here are not strangers but people who know us and whom we know.)

We saw a man in Fairmont yesterday who, actually went over his calendar and asked us to try not to have it on the first Sunday. He seemed especially interested and felt that for such a series it should not be difficult at all to have quite a large group. He would have a great deal to contribute, with

his decades of experience in the mines. He started to tell us of some of the changes in the mines since he first went to work in them at the age 13!

There are many others down here with equally rich funds of experience to contribute. But what I think is most important, is that in this area, there is the very concrete opportunity to have a group composed of so widely varied people—mines and their wives, housewives, Negroes and white, and students as well.

We feel that we can get together a fairly substantial, serious group. There are many we have not yet been able to speak to. A great deal rests on what we do between now and then. We cannot put down a definite list this early, but we feel that from the response we have received, the lecture series could very profitably begin here.

There is one problem that has arisen already. (Other such as where to meet, baby-sitting, food, etc. can be taken care of fairly easily as we work it all out down here.) But the problem I refer to is that of the mines working a fairly steady six-day week. It means that it would be almost impossible for us to have the group over both Saturday and Sunday. If it would be possible to telescope the sessions into the two Sundays, we think we could work it out. But even that presents another problem, in that most could devote the whole afternoon, but could not devote a full day. Perhaps the problem is not as great as it seems, but I know the material must be quite extensive and we hope it could be worked out.

If the proposals become a reality, we will inform the friends in Pittsburgh and ask them to set those Sundays aside to join us.

NEWS and LETTERS

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