

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Unemployment Is Rising

Over the past few years, the auto industry has moved part of its plant production out of the Detroit metropolitan area to small towns or cities in other states. Several plants have moved all of their production out. This has caused undue hardship and untold unemployment to many workers and their families, who have given from one to 20 years of their lives and the value of their labor to those companies. They are now left here by the company as a man stranded on some island, realizing that no rescue will ever come.

MORE LAY-OFFS IN SIGHT

There are more plants that are supposed to move out in the next year or two. Some are going out of business.

Motor Products, a parts manufacturer which employs eight or ten thousand workers, will close down, it is said, for lack of a steady contract with big auto companies.

Chrysler is supposed to move its Plymouth body plants to some small towns in Ohio and Maryland. This will affect the jobs of another 15 or 20 thousand workers.

The company calls it "the expansion program to keep up with the automation age." Those who have lost their jobs call it "the age of back to Depression." The union is helpless in regard to the seniority or security of these workers.

SENIORITY IS A MOCKERY

It has been stated that when a plant moves, those workers who go along start in as new workers without seniority, regardless of how many years they have given service to that company.

It is also stated that if a worker is lucky enough to be transferred to another Chrysler plant in the city, he starts in as a new worker without seniority for one year.

Many workers can clearly see and understand how workers with 10 to 20 years seniority are walking the streets. This is happening to many workers who only have three to five years before they can retire on pension. Seniority has become a mockery of those it was supposed to protect—the older workers.

Some are saying the companies are moving out to hire new and young workers who won't be able to reach retirement in this age and whose vacation pay will be far less. The companies will save millions of dollars each year.

NAILING THE LIE

Several years ago, the daily papers stated the reason these plants are forced to move is because of the many strikes the workers stage against the company. The big corporations and their representatives want the public to blame the workers.

Why didn't these corporations move out in 1937, or any of the years that followed, when they were faced with real strike action and more often than today! Those companies are hoping that the hardship they are heaping upon workers will be understood by the public as justified unemployment.

Workers who are facing unemployment, plus the 125,000 who are already on the streets in Detroit, will force the world to admit that automation does not and cannot create jobs but on the contrary is putting workers out of jobs by the thousands, not only in auto but in coal and steel and many other kinds of work throughout America.

'THE HALF WILL NEVER BE TOLD'

The big industrialists, and the union leaders as well, have tried to sell the workers the story about progressive development through automation. But they never mention the unemployed workers in relation to this.

Many of the workers now unemployed and facing unemployment have put in years of struggling to help build the union. Physically and financially they are forgotten by these labor leaders as though they never existed.

To speak about the unemployed would force open the demagogic role they are playing for the politicians and industrialists with the talk about the abundance and progress and how the workers are living better and higher today than ever before.

As an old religious song says, the half will never be told. A worker cannot expect these leaders to tell that half.

"Unions at Dead End," Worker Says

"I just received a letter from my international union," a California building trades worker writes. It deals with the proposed organizing drive by the AFL-CIO. Here is the opening paragraph: 'We are in a dangerous situation. Our traditional craft jurisdiction is threatened by other unions seeking to encroach on our jurisdiction and take away our members.'

Face of Fascism: Dearborn's Mayor

When that Mayor of Dearborn, Orville Hubbard, took advantage of his public office to send his best wishes to those whites in Montgomery fighting a last-ditch battle to keep segregation, he certainly gave courage to a lot of skunks to show their true colors. It didn't take long before they pushed the poison of their White Citizens Councils up here to try to organize in Michigan. We don't want them.

People like Hubbard are a disgrace to the human race, whether they come from the North, East, South or West. I'm glad to see that the Bar Association is talking about investigating Hubbard's anti-Negro remarks. While they're at it, they might just as well look into the whole Dearborn picture.

After all, old Henry Ford is the patron saint of Dearborn and without the Ford Motor Co., Dearborn wouldn't amount to a hill of beans. They have their main plant and main office in Dearborn and they don't mind sweating thousands of Negro workers in that plant. How come these workers can't live where they work?

Ex-Serviceman
Detroit

Until a few years ago, Negroes, couldn't even drive through Dearborn after dark unless they were Ford workers wearing their work badges in plain sight.

Chemical Worker
Detroit

Let Hubbard and the rest of the white people go out as far as they can to get rid of the colored people. But they'll be sorry when the next war comes because the bombs will sure get there first and they'll be glad to come back to the city then.

Negro Rubber Worker
Detroit

When I read Mayor Hubbard's statement that Dearborn has no race problem

because it is 100 per cent white and ever will be, I wondered why people who live happily in interracial neighborhoods never print statements that they have no race problems. It's time we spoke up.

I asked some people what they thought and it wasn't easy to find one completely free of Hubbardism.

A young white neighborhood girl, just out of high school and working in a factory, who had never seemed to dislike living in our interracial neighborhood, said that she would feel "safer" in Dearborn.

"I've been wanting to go to Wayne University," she said, "but there are so many Negroes down there at night I'm afraid."

I couldn't convince her that she would feel safer and happier there than a good many all white neighborhoods. But when I got down to school, I wasn't so sure I should be happy, because a student told me with a grin, "Mayor Hubbard is brighter than the Southerners. He doesn't owe the Negroes anything and so just doesn't fool with them at all." Of course he quickly admitted that Hubbard was unjust, but couldn't forget how smart he had handled the problem.

The most disgusting opinion I heard, was from a "Practical man," a teacher no less. He said, "Mayor Hubbard gives the Dearbornites a big park that's only for them. He promises to keep up the real estate values by keeping the colored out. It's unfair, but it pays off. The Mayor is playing his cards like a smart politician. No one can stop him with a better hand."

I think breaking up segregation is "a better hand." That would stop Hubbard.

White Wayne Student
Detroit

"The rest of the letter simply explains that if we are to prevent this, we have to get in the field first. Then they ask for a dues increase to finance this and that's all that 'organizing the unorganized' means to them. Even though they put millions of dollars and hundreds of men into the field little will come of it.

"The AFL-CIO arouses no enthusiasm in the shops as far as I can see or hear," the letter continues. "All action takes place in the top leadership. They hold conferences, conventions, take trips to Europe, lobby and beg in the halls of Congress. Yes, beg. While they have at their back 15 million members to get more than they are begging for. The members see this, know this and it fills them with disgust. The unions are at a dead end."

20 YEARS AGO & Today

Twenty years ago, the AFL had reached a dead end. As a movement of organized labor, they were incapable of keeping what the workers had gained, much less of moving out and organizing the unorganized.

Today, the CIO has reached a dead end. It has nothing to offer its own rank and file, let alone the unorganized. It devotes its energies to crushing the rank and file movement which breaks out in constant wildcats at moment's notice; and, on the other hand, it devotes its energies to building its own political prestige in Washington, Europe and Asia.

"Workers don't give a darn about the AFL-CIO," a Detroit auto worker told NEWS & LETTERS. "Everybody knew the merger to be for only two reasons: 1) to tighten the hold of the top leaders over the workers; and 2) to build the political prestige of these bureaucrats. Many workers are saying this and practically all of us know it.

"All the time, things keep getting worse, management keeps cracking down and the union won't help us fight back. We've got to fight management and our own leaders as well if we want anything, because the union tops really think management is right."

(Continued on Back Page)

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

THE MOST CRIPPLING OF HUMAN DISEASES

I have always enjoyed watching young children and never particularly thought about the reason for it. Recently, I saw a woman of 32, shortly after the birth of her seventh child. She seemed to get the same pleasant feeling in looking at and talking to little children as I did. She said, "They are so innocent and helpless." But for me, there was something more than an appealing picture of immaturity and inexperience. In the activity of these youngsters, I saw no separation between feeling and doing.

CRIPPLED LIMBS AND DEFORMED MINDS

The seventh child was born with a club foot. This is not the tragedy it was some years ago, for the foot, through the application of plaster casts, can be restored to normal. As I visualized how the limb would be moulded through the gradual application of force, I also saw a picture of how, within a few years, this child's mind would be shaped into something more abnormal than the deformed foot.

THINKING SEPARATED FROM DOING

The Nazis in Germany and the Communists in Russia made a determined effort to raise the young in their image. Hunger and isolation, reward and punishment are potent persuaders and can create desired monstrosities. But such physical methods are not necessary to deform the young mind. Continually, from the life about us, we receive messages through our senses which almost unconsciously condition us to a particular way of looking at the world. We thus become infected with an old widespread disease; that only special people have the ability to think and all others must look to them for direction.

This separation of thinking and doing produces millions of people whose capacities have not been touched and who therefore remain incomplete. The stamp of inferiority and uncertainty overshadows everything they do. Many men have never experienced the stimulating living, the strength and pleasure which comes out of the combined activity of the work of the mind and the hand.

THREE HEROIC ATTEMPTS FOR FREEDOM

Within the past century, three heroic attempts were made to destroy this division within human beings. They all failed in the end, but the zest for living and the resourcefulness and unity in thought and action of just ordinary people during these periods was something amazing to behold. The first was the Paris Commune of 1871. The second, the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the third was in the early days of the Spanish Civil War.

There is little known in the United States about the last attempt, which took place only twenty years ago. The late George Orwell, an Englishman, the author of *Animal Farm* and 1984, also wrote a small book in 1936 called *Homage To Catalonia*. It is a personal account of what Orwell saw during his six months in Spain. He went there as a reporter for a British newspaper but became a common soldier in the army against Franco.

In his particular group, he found himself among those people who were fighting not merely for a change of ruler but for a total change in living. In the end, severely wounded in the neck, he barely escaped from Spain pursued by agents of the Communist Party seeking to kill him.

There are some sections of the book which describe magnificently the spirit, the friendship, the co-operation, the strength and enthusiasm that comes to those who look upon and work with one another as human beings—an experience that comes only from activity in which there is a total involvement of the individual in complete freedom.

Failure came, not because of the military strength of Franco and his allies, Mussolini and Hitler, nor entirely because of the opposition and treachery of Russia and its agents in the Spanish Communist Party. The orders and lack of orders from those the Spanish people looked to as leaders, were often in opposition to what the people themselves saw and felt, but most men, still dependent on those in the lead, were hesitant and paralyzed and did little about it.

Just as was the Russian Revolution, the Spanish attempt for freedom was destroyed by the rapid formation of a special group to direct and organize—a bureaucracy that could come into existence only because the thousands of common people failed to see the necessity of themselves being at the center of all things at all times.

It is this which constitutes the most crippling of all human diseases.

**Do Your Friends Read
NEWS & LETTERS**

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Fixing Paddy's Wagon

WEST VIRGINIA. — My father and my uncle were on a cutting crew during the hand loading days after the first World War. The cutting machine was all they had in the mines during those days. The cutting crew would go in during the night shift and cut coal for the loaders to shoot and load out on the following day shift. My uncle was the cutter and my father was the scraper, his helper.

MARKED TO CUT

Then, as now, the boss would put chalk marks along the top to show which places should be cut and how wide they should be.

Their boss was an Irishman named Paddy and he was marking some rough places for them to cut. There were a lot of times they could feel the undertaker reaching down for them in some of the places.

It finally reached the point where they had enough. A place that was specially bad was marked up for them to cut. They looked the place over. The top looked like it would come down any minute.

'YOU'RE STAYING HERE'

My uncle said to my father, "Let's go find that boss." When they got him, my uncle told him, "Paddy, just what kind of places are you marking up? Come over here for a minute, I want to show you something."

The boss looked the place over and said, "Why there's nothing wrong with it. You won't have any trouble here."

My uncle said, "That's all I wanted to hear." Then he turned to my father and told him, "You get back and stay in the clear. Paddy here is going to stay with me until I get this place cut."

The boss turned all kinds of colors and started to stutter, "Now, now wait a minute, I didn't say that, I just said . . ."

"I know exactly what you said," my uncle told him. "And you heard what I said. You're staying here with me until I get this place cut."

SWEAT AND SHAKE

My father told me that if there had been some way to get out of that mine, he would have been gone. But he just stayed back and watched while my uncle cut the place. He said that he never saw a guy sweat and shake so much as Paddy did while my uncle cut. The thing of it was that all of them were pretty sure that the undertaker was going to have some business that night. But luck was with them and the top stayed up until the place was cut.

My father and my uncle never had any more trouble with Paddy marking up any bad places after that.

My First Week Back in the Mines . . .

The Way I Think

I'm a new man in my mine. Do you think that an older employee should try to pile his work on a newer man? They did that to me all week. I started to bring it up at my union meeting this week, but I thought—well, I'm just being initiated, maybe I'd better keep my mouth shut. After all, it's their union, and I just joined.

"SAME AS YOU"

The guy who was piling his work on me happened to be one of the safety committeemen. We had an argument right in the coal mine. I said, "Buddy, I've worked in coal mines for ten years before I started here, and I never put up with this sort of thing. I'm not a boss and you're not either. I'm just here to make a day's wages, same as you are. In fact, I don't think it's any of your business whether I work at all." We had a few words back and forth. I just gave him the understanding he wasn't going to push me around. But the next time it happens, I'm going to bring it right into the union meeting, and we'll see what we can do about it.

They brought his name up in the meeting today for something else. He's really a company man. He works six days a week, every week. He wasn't at the meeting, but from what I could gather, the company's been giving this sixth day to a certain few people week after week.

THE WAY I THINK

I was supposed to work Saturday this time, with them. Only I didn't. I didn't think it was fair. It was my first week there, and I was hanging wire, getting another section ready to work. I figured if I worked that sixth day it might look bad on my part. The other guys would figure I was just another company man. I could sure have used the money, but I figured the hell with it. I missed a \$30 shift

just for the way I think.

It just wasn't fair. I think an older man should have had that shift. And that's important to me.

—H. M.

West Virginia

Worth Any Man's Money

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —I quit the mines because I wanted to get out of them. I went back in again to get more money. In a way, I guess you get coal dust in your veins—once a miner, always a miner. But what made me go back was the money more than anything else.

I was working in a gas station just before I got back into the mine. I was averaging \$40 to \$50 a week. This past week, my first one back in the mine, I earned \$125 and a few odd cents. You tell me where I could go outside and make that much.

The mine I'm in now is a low mine. Our seam varies between 45 to 49 inches in height. I'm a buggy operator. I guess you have to be "buggy" to run one of those things!

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

There are a lot of places at our mine where you have to crawl. To go in, you have to lay down on a flat car. You have a choice—you can either lay on your back or your stomach. The cars are wet. It's just like laying down on some wet ground. All the machinery is built low. The loading machine operator has little pads he puts over his knees, and he gets down on his knees to operate the machine. The buggy operators are half sitting and half laying down, the way their machines are built.

I made \$125 in one week, instead of \$40 or \$50 like I made before. But you know, it's worth \$25 a day of any man's money just to stick your head in a mine.

—H. M.

West Virginia

A New Twist in Seniority

PENNSYLVANIA.—When mines introduce the continuous miner, there is generally a squabble over seniority in the placing of men on the continuous miner sections. When the machines first come in, there are many miners who would like to be on them. There is a general feeling that if you get on a miner section, you have more security in your job.

I was talking with a continuous miner operator who has been on the machine for about a year. We were comparing the seniority setups of our respective mines. At his mine, there is a strict seniority agreement between the local union and the mine management. At my mine,

the vague and general terms of the national contract are in force.

My friend took it all in, then said, "Well, we have a strict seniority agreement with the mine management. I have a lot of time at my mine and that's how I got on the miner in the first place. But that thing is a man killer. I wish they would give all company men jobs on that miner. They're the ones who deserve it. No man can take it. I'm using my seniority to try to get off of it. The first time I see an opening, I'm getting off that machine. I have plenty of seniority, so I hope it's not too long before I can get a transfer to another job."

Steward Blames Workers for Lay-Offs

DETROIT — A couple of weeks ago we went back on a four-day week at Chrysler. The way it was explained to us was that the union talked it over with management and they agreed to spread the work because there are already too many lay-offs in Detroit.

One of the workers said, "Hell, I don't mind working a short week if it helps other guys not being put on the street. But I bet we get short weeks and lay-offs, both."

That's how it is.

Detroit Milk Strike

IMLAY CITY, Mich. — This is the largest milk receiving station in Michigan. A farmer here told me, "After a milk farmer deducts his expenses from his earnings at the end of the year, he finds he's made about 15c an hour and he puts in ten to 16 hours of work a day."

That was behind the Detroit Milk Strike last month (March 25 to April 3).

THE STRIKE & THE STRIKERS

The strike began in Detroit on Sunday, March 25, when several hundred dairy farmers from all over Michigan, some from the Upper Peninsula, formed large picket lines around the Borden and Wilson dairies which supply 27 per cent of the city's milk.

The Michigan Milk Producers Association, which supposedly represented the milk farmers, condemned the strike as a wildcat and began using convoys of cars and trucks to move milk into the city under the protection of local sheriffs and city police.

The strikers extended the strike to all dairies by blocking trucks with their bodies and stopping the scab drivers. Farmers in towns scattered in a hundred-mile radius around Detroit, succeeded in cutting off most of the normal milk supply for a week, until the dairies were forced to negotiate.

FACTS & FIGURES

Farmers told me that in 1921 they got \$4 a hundredweight for milk that retailed at 13c a quart. Before the strike, they were getting only \$4.18 a hundredweight for milk that sold for 21c a quart.

The dairies, on the other hand, are making enormous profits: 15 per cent in 1955, which was 5 per cent more than in 1954. When the Detroit dairies recently cut payments by 43c a hundredweight, they still charged the consumer the same price. Now, that the farmers have won a few cents from the dairies, the dairies passed the cost right on to the consumer, plus a little more.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

The way Chrysler is moving its plants out of town workers are wondering what's going to happen. They say this time they're not going to lose their homes and break up their families, no matter what.

I was talking to a chief steward the other day and I asked him, "What's the union doing about all this?"

He said, "We're doing the best we can but, you guys aren't cooperating. It's your fault these plants are moving out. The way you guys are laying down on the job you're driving the plants out of town."

What made that steward mad is how we try to organize production to get a few minutes break every hour and not kill ourselves all the time.

Nine Fired for Boycott Prayer

SAN FRANCISCO.— Nine Negro aircraft workers, in Chino, Calif., punched out last March 28, to pray for five minutes in support of the Montgomery boycott. They were fired immediately by the foreman for insubordination.

This is not surprising since the union leadership told their members in advance that their internationals had not endorsed any walkout over the Montgomery boycott.

This point was made very clear by the president of the Los Angeles UAW-General Motors local.

ON BOTH SHOULDERS

One Negro worker warned, "that the demonstration would not be effective unless the Negro workers campaigned to bring the non-Negro workers with them, at least in sympathy."

This would entail a fight with the union leadership which is the last thing Rep. Clayton Powell wants. He stumbled badly trying to carry water on both shoulders.

The pressure of his Negro constituents forces Powell to call for militant mass action. The pressure of his "civil rights" buddies in Congress, Humphrey, Roosevelt, etc., causes him to emasculate that action as far as possible.

This shell game tactic isn't fooling the Negro worker for one moment. He has experienced this many a time in his union. He does not feel that he can put much faith in a leadership that can back down so rapidly, whether it's Negro leadership or union leadership.

Nut Head Says—



"All these plants are shutting down and moving out of town because you guys don't give them a fair day's work."

One out of every six auto workers are out of work at present—and more are coming.

Law of Jungle at Ford's

DETROIT — With production at an all-time low and lay-offs at an all-time high, many sinister happenings are occurring among workers in the Ford-Highland Park Tractor Plant.

Much has been said about company against workers and union against workers. But I'm referring to workers against workers.

There are those inclined to assume that this situation doesn't exist. Let's not kid ourselves.

When jobs become scarce the desperate worker clamors for a job at any cost. Low seniority men assist the company in disqualifying high seniority men and women.

Fear of being disqualified is driving workers to do any amount of work to stay employed.

Older aged, high seniority workers are being forced into the streets by this crushing competition.

Many workers who have geared their standard of living to overtime pay (a legend) are trying to supplement this lost time by writing "suggestions" to the

Hints Layoff If Workers Unionize

By ANGELA TERRANO

Burroughs has just given their employees a 6c raise. They keep up with the union raises so they won't be unionized. They seem to go out of their way to be paternalistic to the workers, except of course where it counts—in production. As a matter of fact, everyone is wondering how much more work they will want for their six pennies.

A little while back the skilled workers in the plant joined this new skilled trades union. The company sent out letters to every employee. A friend gave me one to read. It was really something.

They say that this skilled trades union grew out of a dispute within the United Auto Workers and will probably end up back in the U.A.W. They also say that the leadership of this organization is not trained or experienced enough to lead a labor organization. The letter goes on and on, tell-

ing the workers that this information is for their own benefit, so they have all the facts before making up their minds. Then comes the most important sentence, their warning. They tell you that if such an organization gets in, the company cannot assure job stability in the future, as it has in the past. They're telling you, you might not have a job if you make a free choice.

The production workers have been trying to unionize also, but the company hasn't shown its hand so openly because there doesn't seem to be a real threat yet. They just keep repeating that when the workers want the U.A.W. to represent them, the company will talk to them. But here they also hint about no "job stability" in the future. That's a laugh. What job is stable these days?

The company won't let either union in easily. My question is: Why do the skilled workers separate themselves from the production workers? Do they think they are better?

Union Furthers Company Speedup

LOS ANGELES.—When I was young I used to like the piece work system they have in our factory. I'd go in, do a hard day's work and enjoy seeing that big check at the end of the week. But now that I'm old—I'm 30—I can't see it. I just can't see myself at 40 working so hard.

It's crazy. In the plant you can see a group of men working side by side doing the same operation. Once in a while they run out of material before the stock man has a chance to come over. When the material does come I've seen guys get real angry and even come to blows over who is going to get the material. They just want to keep on working steady so they can make those few extra dollars a day. They don't even need foremen in that place to keep production going.

Every year they keep on raising the standards. When the guys objected once to a new standard, a team of time study men from the CIO Time Study Committee came down. Their recommendations were worse than the company's.

When we protested to the union they said, "You've got to go by the contract. The company has the right to set standards. If you boys don't want to make piece-work, just do the standard."

Now every time we argue with the company about standards they threaten us with calling in the CIO Time Study Committee. They know very well that we don't want those union time study men here again.

company that eliminates workers.

DOG EAT DOG

And what has happened to the union! Union officials are fighting union officials. As the workers are dwindling so must the committee men be reduced.

Each union meeting is a civil war to stay employed. Contract changes; seniority challenges; skilled against unskilled; men versus women; group against group; department against department. This is the prevailing agenda.

Meanwhile, the company is cutting to the bone with any opportunity. They dare us to strike. They don't need us! They can't sell what they're making, it's just too expensive to close down.

The company is winning the first round for we are fighting among ourselves. It's easy to be exploited when you cooperate with the exploiters. The workers must return to the main objective of fighting the system that makes us animals of material gain.

—A Ford Worker

From GAW to SUB to NOTHING

DETROIT—The big joke of the week is the new "supplementary unemployment benefits" we can maybe get, starting this month, if we're laid off. That's the new name they call the "guaranteed annual wage" Reuther made such a noise about last June.

The way it works out in Chrysler, if you're laid off after May 2, and if you qualify for maximum benefits, you get \$10 a week for

four weeks. That's all the money they have in the kitty for us.

How about the thousands and thousands of auto workers who were laid off before May 2 and are still on the streets? They're good union men. They paid their dues. The company made profits off of them. Now they're forgotten men.

That's what Reuther's big GAW contract with its "21c" raise means. Nothing.

EDITORIALS

TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY

There is talking among workers as to the future perspective of their jobs. The talking and thinking by the industrialists and labor leaders, in the past years, that automation and the continuing development of machines mean progress and more jobs for the working people is just a lot of hogwash.

With all their skilled technicians and mathematicians, they are trying to convince the public about the progress it will mean when automation is fully developed. No worker in the shop can believe this.

The worker asks: How can it be progress when one machine can take the place of from five to 25 workers? Where are the jobs it creates? Where is the progress it will mean to us, when in the past year it has put thousands of workers in the streets? Can these machines buy back some of the commodities they produce as we have done in the past?

These and many other questions that the so-called "backward" workers ask in relation to automation, cannot be answered by the smart industrialists or brilliant technicians or the almighty trade union geniuses.

Automation is also wrecking and breaking up the life of workers' families. Machinery is forcing workers to leave the city and seek employment elsewhere. They have to leave their families behind, and the little they have achieved in the past ten years, to try to hold on to their homes and the other commodities they are indebted with.

At this late date, the union leaders say they must call a special executive meeting to discuss automation and unemployment. But management has already given them their future plans along the lines of building new plants in other cities—many of them in the deep South—and closing down present plants or using them for storage. No one knows or cares what will happen to the jobs of many more thousands of workers.

A worker came into the plant with a picture of a newly developed steam shovel. It can take up 100 tons of dirt in one dip. It is capable of moving as much dirt in one day as five of the previous best steam shovels. One worker said, "There goes the jobs of five or ten steam shovel operators. When they build a truck that can carry 100 tons, then that many more workers will be left in want."

The question was asked: "Is this atomic age really progress? If so, who is progressing by it?"

How can a working man possibly exist, when his social security check expires and he is still unemployed for four or five months, in the face of his debts and high prices? These plans that the labor leaders have been handing out are surely no answer. Each day they become more useless.

They can only show statistics that the worker already knows. They say the first quarter of this year production was higher than last year. Then they say that some two or three hundred thousand fewer cars were sold this year than the same period last year. They also advise workers not to go into debt, saying that we are headed into inflation. How they can talk out of both sides of their mouth—or with two mouths!

Workers are saying more than any industrialist can tell them of what automation means. They know more of what it means in relation to their lives than any labor leader can say. They are there with it. They see what it has done in eliminating jobs.

A TV program showed a debate among college students that the development of automation in the next 15 or 20 years means that there would not be any work for man to do. It asked, what would a person do with himself then?

If they had started from the relation of a worker to the machinery and the relation of worker to worker in production; if they had tried to see the knowledge and skill that workers have gained and given through production and what this productive force of workers has meant to society and the world, there would have come an answer.

But to say that machinery will soon replace the working force of man, and to ask what will man do with all his time is abstract and foolish.

Workers want to have control over their own destiny. They want to control machinery in production and not have a few planners with automation to decide this for them. This is the basic reason every answer they come to out of their plans always explodes back in their faces.



HARD TIMES

There's about 6,000 of us at Motor Products. About 1,000 are 20-year seniority men. Do you know what's going to happen to us? They're closing down Motor Products, probably by June 1. Three hundred of those 20-year men are going to be kept on for a skeleton crew and the rest of us—out on the street.

At the meeting the other night we asked them what is the union going to do about all these men being laid off. The union said, "What can you do when a company closes its doors?"

We ask them what about all the money we'd been paying into the union for all these years?

They said that was to pay for our protection while we were working. But now is the time we need the protection, or the money. It like to come to a fight over that right on the floor.

Motor Products Worker
Detroit

* * *

That Kohler strike is going on three years. Do you know why they don't win it? Because the union doesn't want to win it. You need a plumber to install every piece of Kohler equipment. Most every plumber is in the union and now we're supposed to be all together in the AFL-CIO. We could win that strike in three weeks if the union wanted to win.

Disgusted UAW Member
Detroit

* * *

What the hell good was the merger—just to get votes. And now it seems like we're going into another depression.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

* * *

Even for the men who are working steady, there's no feeling of "security". It's been that way ever since I can remember. The miners are never sure. You work good for a while. But it never lasts. I have a poem I clipped out from somewhere, that ends up with the line "This too will pass away." That's just the way I feel all the time.

It reminds me of the miners. When they work, they make out good. But when a strike comes, things are really tough. No matter even if you do try to save a little when you do work steady; you can never save enough to tide you over the hard times. That's the way I feel about all this "prosperity" business. "This too will pass away."

Miner's Wife
Morgantown, W. Va.

WITH SOBER SENSES

News & Letters has changed my thinking and raised new problems that have not yet been resolved. First, it reaffirmed my belief in individual freedom, which you have elaborated in the idea of the unity of theory and practice in the individual. I accept this idea without reservation. Just when I had been lulled by ignorance and indifference and, I suppose, by deception, into believing that workers today are generally satisfied with their lot, along came News & Letters to prove to me that they are not. The question remains: "But will they simply gripe and wildcat or act to change the economic structure?"

Intellectual

Detroit

* * *

I've listened to you discussing that fellow Marx. I can't word it like him, but I know exactly the meaning of it. You go into any industry and work eight hours for so-called pay. But in that eight hours that man makes enough off you to cut your throat. He's just drilling your life away, generation by generation.

When that generation dies out, he's got a young one coming in. We poor working people are keeping them. Such as Montgomery Ward, Consolidated Coal, or any big concern. It doesn't matter how smart you are. You may think you're smart, but you're nothing. They keep grinding us down and we can't make them enough money fast enough. It's "Hurry up. Let's get this here. Loading machine's coming. Here comes that boss" and that kind of stuff.

Miner

Scot's Run, W. Va.

* * *

The men are killing themselves now. That's the fear that they have in them. They don't care about themselves or their fellowmen. There are so many who will do what management says, even if they kill themselves. If we could only get them the knowledge and the fighting spirit. I think the trouble with labor today is that we're just too jealous of one another. I don't care how much you write or print, sometimes you have to take a ball-bat and beat it into their brains.

"Old Miner"
Morgantown, W. Va.

You know, I laid there this morning about quarter after six. I looked out the window. I said to myself, "You just got to get up there and go, whether you feel like it or not." I just said it to myself. I didn't even speak it to my wife. I just said to myself, "Now you call that a free man?" You got to go.

You either got to go or tell the reason why. Or tell a lie or something. And if you don't go, that man's going to mark it down on your slip. He's going to tell you, "We are depending on you." It's as good as telling me, If you don't be there, I'll get somebody in your place. He doesn't care how I feel. You call that free?

Miner
West Virginia

* * *

The kind of "presidential race" I'd like to see is this. Line up some miners, some farmers, some ordinary factory workers. Shoot the starting gun and let them race toward the White House. The first one there gets to be president. That's a presidential race that would mean something. Can't you picture how fast things would get done? Instead of all these "diplomatic" talks, I can just see how a farmer would handle a situation. He'd probably pick up his pitch fork and shove it into some diplomat's seat! Things would get settled fast with an ordinary worker or farmer in there.

Ex-GI
West Virginia

"STARS FELL ON ALABAMA"

When all the Northern reporters came down here to cover the trial of Rev. King, the white Montgomery paper, the Daily Advertiser, put on a campaign to expose racial discrimination in the North. They weren't concerned, of course, with abolishing discrimination. They were just telling the Northerners to stop being hypocrites and to preach what they practice.

The Advertiser won converts. Big national magazines like Life and U.S. News openly came out in sympathy to the White Supremacy South. The New York Herald-Tribune's reporter, Bird, became the Advertiser's favorite Yankee—and he pulled his paper with him.

Our fight for our dignity and our rights is making our enemies reveal themselves for all to see. We know who are our friends.

A Friend from
Montgomery, Ala.

Views

Mark Clark is another public figure who took advantage of his four stars to speak out right now against Negro servicemen and against integration, past, present or future—which reminds me that Clark was commanding general in Italy during World War II. There were plenty of Southern officers and enlisted men, too, who tried to make the Italians practice their brand of segregation. They even started a whispering campaign among Italian girls that Negro GIs were lower than whites because they still had tails. The Italians didn't go for that, but Clark still seems to.

World War II Vet
Chicago

* * *

It isn't always a matter of "speaking out" what you believe or how you feel. It doesn't have to be spoken out. It shows for itself.

If you go down South you'll see more half-white colored people down there than you do up North. To me, that "speaks" for itself. When they talk about keeping the races from "mixing" it's a lot of nonsense. They've always mixed.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

* * *

From the little talk there has been in my shop, it is clear that the majority of all the men are in sympathy with the Negroes. None of the men in my shop are Negro. Even those men that might want to express themselves on the side of the reactionary Southerners remain quiet. The tide is against them. They will have to change their ways.

It seems too that further action on the part of the colored down there will bring more over to their side. It is just the feeling I have.

This has been a long time coming and I really expect to see some real advances made on the part of all working people in this country as a result.

Construction Worker
Los Angeles

* * *

It's the guys who are saying "sit back and wait" who are the worst. They may think they're doing good for the country to say that, I don't know. But when you get down to facts, they are the guys who are keeping anything from happening at all.

Student
W. Va.

The girls where I work have been talking about Autherine Lucy, six of them who are college graduates, said it was awful and they are for equal rights in education.

There is a white Southern woman without much education who works there too. These six graduates look down on her. They are polite to, but they don't associate with, the two Negro women who get all the dirty jobs, either. But this Southern woman does.

I asked her what she thought of what's going on in the South, and she said, "I think God created all people equal and I just don't go for what they do down there, but I think the North is worse."

M. H.
Los Angeles

* * *

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

My boss is a Republican and a very conservative business man. He deplores Hubbard's statement and the White Citizens Councils, but he thinks they have the right to speak their minds. He doesn't think it's a political problem, but a social problem, and people will change.

Chemist
Detroit

* * *

The Democrats are making their speeches about waiting to get Civil Rights, but the Republicans' hands aren't any cleaner. I read that President Eisenhower decided to send his grandchildren to a private school in Virginia, to keep them from having to go to a mixed school. And I remember when there was talk about mixing the soldiers that he said it wasn't time for them to be put together. He's like a little child—throwing a rock and hiding his hand.

Miner's Wife
Jere, W. Va.

* * *

THIS ONE WORLD

I spoke to a lot of old fellows in Mexico. They told me that the Mexican Revolution was an uprising without leaders. The peasants got sick and tired. All over the country they just pointed their old gun and the Revolution began.

Right now Mexico is still supposed to be a revolutionary country. They have a constitution

which is supposed to be better than any other constitution. According to the constitution you are even supposed to work only five days and still get paid for the sixth and seventh days. But what good is it when you only make five cents an hour?

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

* * *

I think people are constantly pushing a head. Just look at the workers how they organized the unions. Well, now the unions aren't what they used to be, but who knows, maybe the workers will get something even better than that.

And look at women. You know in Mexico, a woman has to be afraid to look her husband's friends in the eye. They have nothing to say.

Here it is completely different. Women fought to be independent. If a man beats his wife in Mexico, there's nothing she can do about it. Here if my husband beat me up I'd haul him into court.

Working Mother
Los Angeles

* * *

What a difference it would make if the money we and other countries spend on destructive purposes were turned to construction. We would soon eliminate all that poverty, disease and squalor of the depressed peoples of the world. Surely in so doing we would be eliminating the causes of war. With social justice and equality for nations as well as individuals, a united and peaceful world could be brought about. People could go where they pleased in the world and meet the peoples of other countries. They could work where they please and, as the needs of the world's peoples were satisfied, we could shorten hours and increase holidays accordingly.

Working Man
England

* * *

APPEAL TO READERS

You all deserve tremendous respect and congratulations for keeping News & Letters going. We will send you more money as soon as we can.

Scientist
New Jersey

Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

THREE DATELINES

Three events have just taken place which emphasize the gulf between rank and file people, on the one hand, and the labor and government bureaucracies, on the other.

The first event was a meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, where the Negro people decided they will never again ride the buses on a segregated basis.

The second event was a UAW conference in Washington, D.C., which showed that the labor bureaucracy can play the game of politics as well as the Democrat and Republican politicians.

The third was a meeting at the summit—and the summits are so far away from the people it is hard even to remember that it is all taking place on the same planet. This newest "summit" meeting happened in England, which played host to those two totalitarians, Khrushchev and Bulganin. As during Geneva, peace was on everybody's lips while the most devastating preparations for war went on at full speed.

THE BIGGEST LIE OF ALL

The Communist Party frontiers, including the so-called left of the British Labor Party, as well as American liberals (not excluding Alger Hiss) all chorused: "Peace is more possible now than at any time in history."

To "prove" their grand illusion they say that never have weapons been more terrifying. As if that had ever stopped a war! The more terrifying the weapons, the greater the scope of war from national to international dimensions!

There is in fact no greater lie than this peace "theory". It is on a par with mouthing phrases about peace while dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

The hypocrisy of the labor bureaucrats is on a par with the government bureaucrats, whether on the international or national scenes. In the present conference of the UAW it was a case of double self-exposure.

Being out of power, Democratic hopeful, Stevenson, had nothing to lose when he dangled before the UAW bureaucrats the possibility of a cabinet post: "Who," he asked, "from organized labor speaks at this cabinet meeting now? There have been sitting at the cabinet table three men from one corporation—and no one from the 16 million membership of the AFL-CIO."

While Stevenson was bargaining for the labor vote, Reuther bargained for the Negro vote. "You cannot have labor and Eastland in the same party," he shouted.

When he plays politics, he counts the millions of organized labor as if he had their vote in his hip pocket; but when he himself gets to do anything for the cause of equality, all he can do is shout into the microphone. It is picayune, indeed. A typical example of that is the manner in which UAW Local 600 treated Rosa Parks who precipitated the Montgomery boycott.

Here is the largest union local in the world, numbering some 60,000. The leadership invites Rosa Parks to address the local but keeps it so deep a secret that only 200 show up at the meeting. The rest of the UAW members first heard about it when most of us first heard it—after the event when it was reported in the regular daily press.

How could Mrs. Parks have concluded anything but that just as oppression wears a white face down South, hypocrisy does up North?

THE GREATEST THING OF ALL: SPONTANEOUS ORGANIZATION

In contrast to the hypocrisy of the labor bureaucracy and the big lie of the "peace meetings" at the summit, there was the forceful voice of the Alabama Negroes who have taken the matter of their freedom into their own hands and have never let go in all these months.

Because the spontaneity of the walkout and the organization of their forces to keep up the boycott was a simultaneous action, it is here that we can see what is truly historic and contains our future. Just watch how they have never let anything slip out of their hands since the boycott first started:

1) They have been in continuous session; daily there are small meetings; three times weekly, mass meetings; at all times the new relationships.

2) The decision is always their own. When the Supreme Court handed down its decision against segregated buses and the bus company, hungry for their profits, hung up notices they would obey decisions, the Negroes said: We also asked for Negro bus drivers. To the city fathers, who proclaim segregation as the "Southern way of life," they, as Southerners, said that if they never ride the buses it will be soon enough.

3) The organization of their own transportation, without either boss or political supervision, is a model.

Clearly, the greatest thing of all in this Montgomery spontaneous organization is its own working existence. It should serve as a living lesson to the many who see strikes, revolts and struggles but fail to see a new society emerging out of these struggles.

NEGRO NEWS

The Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

The greatest struggle that the Negro people have taken in order to get civil rights, has almost shaken the world. Especially the Negro in Alabama has made a new leaf in history. Which looks to me that it will change the whole South from so much prejudice and hateful ways against the poor innocent black people whom this white world has run over for many years.

And now the Negro people have decided to try out some of these promises that the United States has offered them for some time.

But I think it is pretty hard for the middle-aged white people to break the laws that the old white people have laid down against the colored people for years.

But the time has come for the colored people to have some changes made in order to live a better way of life. I can see that if we colored people stick together for what we want, I think that we will get somewhere in these United States.

THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN

I can see that this old world is getting in a bad condition over the whites trying to bring back that old law they had against colored people a hundred years ago. But that will never happen in these years to come.

In Chicago, they tell me, that the white people are trying to work their way back into the city by buying the whole South Side. They want to get some rest from the long traveling they have to do, to and from work.

And they have found out they went too far to get their proper rest, which means so much to them, that they got to make a way to get back in order to be a citizen of that city.

But all of this was to get away from living among the colored people. But they found out that Negroes will take over the city and run it—and that would be too much for them. So they have decided to come back to run the city.

It is truth that we can't see too much difference between North and South in giving the Negroes their freedom. Mayor Hubbard of Dearborn and other big leaders in the North spoke in favor of the South to hold on with their prejudice and hateful ways against the Negro people.

The North was rated so much higher over the South for giving the Negroes their rights. And now they have decided to set up a white organization to try to get Negroes back under the old laws.

But that will never happen because Negroes are trying to produce and improve their race of people and not tear it down like white people who are trying to build machinery to take the place of the white woman.*

It looks to me that white Americans are trying to destroy the whole world because Negroes are trying to get out from those prejudiced white people.

*Ethel Dunbar is referring to a recent article describing new automation machinery to take over the housewife's work.—Ed.

Discrimination In the North

DETROIT.—In a number of Catholic churches in Detroit and Dearborn, societies have been set up under the name of "Home Owners Association." Despite Catholic doctrine which prohibits its members from joining any "secret society," the basic secret behind these formations is the protection of their own lily white concepts on the Negro question.

These societies operate on the basis that any neighborhood Catholic who wishes, can sell his home to the society, instead of to a Negro. The society then finds a suitable white Catholic owner.

Hamtramck used to be "white only" and it's still plenty prejudiced. But that's being broken down and that'll happen to Dearborn too.

Dodge Worker Hamtramck

Terror in the South

GRENADIER, Miss.—Four weeks ago, an 11-year-old boy was arrested on the charge of "looking in a window." He has been held in a Southern jail over these four weeks while the white sheriff "investigated" the alleged "crime."

After four weeks of persecution, beatings, all in a white Southern jail, they finally let him go. When he returned home he was a very nervous frightened boy. His mother had to send him off to a relative in the North to recuperate from his brutal treatment.

Who came to his defense, or tried to get him released? His mother and family. Not the NAACP, which is too busy collecting money for its lawyers, too busy to be bothered with a mere little Negro boy in trouble.

CHARLESTON, Miss.—The body of a Negro man was found floating in the river here about six weeks ago. No one has been able to identify him yet. No one has stepped forward to investigate the case.

The NAACP was informed of the circumstances. They have done nothing about the case.

—Charleston Woman.

Some Changes Made

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Segregation in public transportation, in the bus and railroad stations has just ended here. For the first time since the Civil War, whites and Negroes mingled freely in public transportation. There was no trouble whatsoever.

The bus system in Little

Rock is owned and operated by the same company that owns the bus system in Montgomery, Alabama. Since this bus company learned its lesson in Montgomery, it does not relish the prospect of going through the same thing again. It ended segregation in several cities of the South.

Call Me Mister

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—I used to work with a white fellow I was pretty good buddies with. I knew him for a long time. We used to go hunting, we joked around and we talked pretty frank to each other.

One day he came to work and told me he was getting married.

I said, "That's nice."

He said, "There's gonna be some changes made around here about names."

I said, "There sure is. Does

she like the new name?"

"No," he said. "I mean other changes."

I said, "Meaning what?"

He said, "Meaning me. I'm getting married and you can't call me 'Bill' anymore. It's going to have to be 'Mr. William'."

I said, "Mr. William?"

He said, "That's right."

I said, "Like hell I will."

He cursed me and said, "Don't be a smart n—r!"

I quit that job.

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 concluding installment.)

THE U.A.W.

There was a big change in the U.A.W. from 1943, when I first went in, to the present day. We used to hold our meetings, in the auditorium of Cass Tech, a big high school. We had to hurry to get there. There were as many workers standing outside trying to get in as were inside at the meeting. There was a free and democratic set-up. Any member could bring his grievance to the membership as a whole. Now, if any worker, white or Negro, tries to bring up a grievance at a membership meeting, the union officers tell him:

"There are four of us at the union hall all the time. Come down and discuss it with us."

If we go down to see the union officers, as they tell us to, they either put us off or give us the business.

In the early days there was rarely a meeting that didn't mention something about our Negro brothers and sisters. There was a discussion around this at every meeting. Many Negro women were working in the plants then. Many of today's union leaders would discuss shop problems and issues that face our Negro brothers with the membership as a whole taking part.

Now, if there is an issue raised by Negroes, as Negroes, we are told by the union leaders that this is the most damaging thing we can do to ourselves. They say don't raise the question of Negroes.

THE N.A.A.C.P.

A few years ago, in Detroit, the N.A.A.C.P. membership fell from 23,000 to 3,000. If they took a leading

role they could have jumped the membership several thousands overnight. But on any question involving Negroes they wouldn't oppose anything advanced by the U.A.W. It was like a company town relation with the U.A.W. as the company. They were completely guided by the U.A.W. bureaucrats. The U.A.W. gave big donations. It gave jobs and a social life to certain Negroes. This was used as a club over the organization. They were afraid to take any independent position, especially if the rank and file was involved because it might get out of their hands and they couldn't control it. There were, and are, a thousand cases submitted every day of Negro mistreatment. They are completely ignored. The N.A.A.C.P. grew before the 1943 race riot. After the riot, the leadership was scared. They tried to divert all action into legal channels.

For the future I can't make any blueprints but I know where I feel best. That's in the plant with my friends on the line when we're fighting the company and fighting the union on an issue. I have a feeling this story of mine isn't nearly finished but I want to stop now for the time being. One last thing I want to say:

I am just like any one of you. I didn't have anything whatsoever to do with where I was born. I didn't have anything to do with whether I would be male or female, I didn't have anything to do with whether I would be black or white. But if you can absorb this story, it may enable you to understand who you are. I have never lived one day outside of the United States.

All of these things and many others, I have felt, seen and experienced here in America.

(CONCLUDED)

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A Frenchman's Report on American Negro Struggle
 Negroes on the March, which he considers "the most explosive progressive force in the United States." He describes racial oppression as America's biggest scandal and shows that it is "part and parcel of capitalist oppression as a whole."
 This is part of a larger work, **Whither the American People?** first published in Paris in 1951. The work was written when M. Guerin returned to his native France after a two-year stay in the United States (1947-48).
 The English translation has just been published and may be purchased, for \$1.50, from George L. Weissman, 325 East 17th St., New York 3, N.Y.

When the Kids "Go Wrong" ...

WEST VIRGINIA.—The way it is nowadays is a lot different than it was when we were children. When we were children, for example, there weren't near the automobiles there are today. Everything's different. When people talk about "juvenile delinquency" they sometimes forget that.

Take our family. Both my wife and I—as a matter of fact all of our family—work hard. We tell our kids what's right, and if they listen to us, O.K. But if they don't, they could go out and be doing something wrong, and we wouldn't know a thing about it.

It's hard to keep up with the kids. You're just too tired after you've worked all day, to be after them all the time. It's not such a simple thing to answer—this juvenile delinquency—no matter what they say.

—Parent

* * *

Raising a child isn't something that just "happens." You have to have a lot of time to give them.

Take television shows, for example. They show so much crime and fighting.

That's "life" I suppose and they always try to show that crime doesn't pay. But a child doesn't always get the "moral." You have to explain those things to him yourself. You don't just let him "grow up." You have to put in time with him.

—Working Mother.

"Tell It to the Marines"

DETROIT—I spoke to a lot of guys in the shop about this recent Marine punishment march.

"They must have all been young kids that didn't know what each other was going to do," a World War II veteran said. "If anyone tried anything like that when I was training, we would have known how to take care of him."

No one seemed shocked about the character of S/Sgt. McKeon. The general opinion being that all cadre in boot camps act that way.

Marine Commandant Pate professed shock at the disclosure that one of his non-coms had been drinking in the barracks. He said times have changed and you just can't entrust so much command responsibility to non-commissioned officers anymore.

One pre-World War II veteran said, "In the good old days the incident wouldn't

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Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

ROCK 'N' ROLL

Public officials in Birmingham, Alabama, as well as those in Cambridge, Massachusetts have declared themselves in favor of banning "rock 'n' roll" music. The Southerners claim it's just too vulgar to permit.

"Rock 'n' roll" otherwise known as "rhythm and blues" has been with us sometime. Blues have been around for as long as most Americans can remember. The bands and combos playing the style of jazz that characterizes "rock 'n' roll" have been around since the early '40's at least. A good case could be made for even earlier beginnings.

YOUNG MUSIC

What is newest about the music is the people who have been attracted to it. Not just Negro youth, who have pioneered in the performing and appreciation of it, but now the rest of the young population call it their own. In the last few years thousands of "rock 'n' roll" singing quartets have sprung up over the country. Mostly Negro youth so far. Writing, arranging and performing their own songs.

Not content to be merely listeners and spectators, but finding vent for their creative powers.

"THE CHICKEN"

A couple of Detroit dailies who hold that "the chicken," a "rock 'n' roll" inspired dance is ungraceful and perhaps suggestive, have interviewed selected youth about the matter. Under pressure of having their parents and teachers reading their statements, almost all agreed with the papers and hastened to add that the only reason they did "the chicken" was because everyone else did.

American youth has come up with something constructive. No vandalism, but music and dance. Still, civic leaders have turned thumbs down, shouting "suggestive," "vulgar," "lewd," etc. The more liberal attitude is, "What ever their dancing and singing, at least it's better than swiping cars."

This wild bellowing doesn't seem to threaten the existence of "rock 'n' roll." The young folks just go their own way.

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

I found myself working alongside a college graduate in my new job. She was so cold and unfriendly that it surprised me. Education and knowledge seem to mean more to her than people. The only people who interest her are other intellectuals. She has contempt for "common people."

We talked a little about television programs and she said she couldn't stand programs with real people in them. She gave the "64 Thousand Dollar" program as an example. She said, "I can see ordinary people everywhere. What I want on television is escape." By that, she meant fantasy or drama unlike life.

ESCAPE FROM WHAT?

This young woman graduated from college and traveled across the entire country to find work in a new city. She was married recently. In spite of all this, she still is searching for "escape."

None of her education has succeeded in giving her a great love for life, for people, for the world or for anything, except to escape from it all.

She is particularly fond of science-fiction. Some science-fiction admirably reflects the doubts and confusion in the world today about the possible outcome of it all. Some science-fiction writers take pleasure in carrying things out to their logical end. They describe

vicious tribes of mutants—victims and offspring of victims of H-bombs—wandering over the face of the earth and killing all strangers on sight. Mercy and interest in people has often vanished from the scene. It is no wonder that they present this picture. This is what we are faced with.

A Story of Rank Injustice

NEVADA—This is the story of a rank injustice.

When I was pregnant we were living in an apartment about ten minutes from the American base where my husband was stationed. I started to hemorrhage about 6 o'clock at night and my husband phoned the base for an ambulance. The man on the phone asked him what rank he was. When my husband told him he was a staff sergeant, the other man said they could only send the ambulance for higher rank and it had to be an emergency. He said he'd get in trouble to send the ambulance otherwise.

AN EMERGENCY

We called for a cab, but it never arrived, so my husband finally called the base again and told them it was an emergency. The man at the base told him to hold on while he checked to get an O.K. He kept ringing one exchange after another until he got an officer to talk to my husband. The officer said

WOMEN

What Happens When the "Perfect Wife" Grows Old?

One of the women in our office was having difficulties with her mother-in-law, who is living with them. It wasn't "in-law" trouble as much as the problem of an old woman who seemed to have no purpose left in life except to live with one of her children this year, another one, another year. She creates friction wherever she lives.

LOST?

Another woman said that she felt the problem of old-age came in large part from the fact that too many women have nothing left for them after their families have grown and left home.

She said, "The ones who are the biggest problem, so far as I can see, are the women who have been what they consider the 'perfect wife and mother.' The woman who has spent all her life cooking and sewing and making the perfect home and looking after her children—and never got out of the house.

"She's the one who is 'lost' when the children grow up and don't need her any more. But the woman who maybe wasn't so 'perfect' at being a housewife and mother, but who got out and got into some activities outside the home, made friends, and so on—she still has an active life after the children are gone."

* * *

problem. I know of a lot of richer women in our town, who hire nurses to raise their children while they go out to work for "charity." They forget that charity begins at home most of the time and that their kids need a mother more than a nurse.

I WON'T SIT HOME

But if a woman can afford to get out once in a while and doesn't, there really is something wrong with her. The problem most working class of people have is that they just can't afford it. If I could get a baby-sitter, I would.

When my kids are all grown, and I'm free to get out more, I won't sit at home and cry. There's always plenty to do. I have no fears that I won't have anything to do even when the kids are grown and gone.

A LIFE FOR A STRIPE

he'd send the ambulance, but he might get into trouble for it.

At 7:30 the ambulance arrived, but passed by the house and went into the village by mistake. It eventually came back and we got started, but when we reached the base, the ambulance kept right on going. When my husband tried to stop them, they said it had to be an emergency for that base, and that we had to go on to the next base hospital, 148 miles away. We finally got to a hospital at 9:10.

My baby was finally born by a Caesarian operation, but he only lived two hours.

A LIFE FOR A STRIPE

A few weeks later a tech sergeant's wife had her baby on my husband's base. It was widely published that it was the first baby to be born there.

With the difference of one stripe, we lost our baby. We wonder if this was justice, or rank injustice?

THERE'S MORE TO IT

I think the woman who said old woman are a problem if they didn't get into some activities while they were young, must have been talking about middle-class women mainly. Most of them can afford to get baby-sitters and run around doing this activity or that one.

Even they still have a

I think that for working mothers there should be some kind of after school entertainment for the children until they are picked up. Also when the teachers call for a conference with mothers they want to have it too early when lots of mothers are working. Why couldn't they have it at night when working mothers could go?

Working Mother
Los Angeles

Unions at Dead End

(Continued from Page 1)
SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOUTH

Most of the unorganized and sweated workers in the United States are concentrated in the South. Organizing the South cannot be separated from the question of integration. On this, the AFL-CIO is bankrupt and it has absolutely nothing to say to the unorganized workers of America.

"The White Citizen's Councils are attacking the union as harshly as they ever did," Charles Denby wrote in his column a few weeks ago (March 30). "And still there is no open fight from our labor leaders.

"On what basis," he asked, "do the unions propose to organize the deep South?"

Far from organizing the

unorganized, the top bureaucrats are publicly quarreling about how to reorganize the organization.

WHOSE DEAD END?

The heart and meaning of the rank and file movement, as shown in the constant wildcats, is that they don't expect the union leaders to do anything for them, much less for the unorganized. This bureaucracy is the real barrier to the development of the trade union movement.

The fact that the AFL-CIO has come to a dead end means that the revolt of the workers has gone beyond any form of organization yet found and beyond any form of control the bureaucracy is attempting to devise by mergers, or by playing politics. The bureaucracy is at the dead end, not the workers.

Women Who Don't Think Voting's All

There are many women who vote but don't think their vote really means anything — one party or the other, the politicians all eventually wind up the same. For the same reason, there are many women who don't bother to vote at all.

It took American women almost 100 years of organized campaigning to win the "right to vote." But those women who, today, want no part of "politics" are actually following more closely in the footsteps of those women who fought so hard to attain their political rights, than all the so-called "politically advanced" women put together.

NO BIGGER THAN A THUMB

The Woman Movement began in America shortly before the Civil War. In those days, the American woman had almost no freedom. No schools were open to her. Her husband had absolute power over their children, controlled her property, could collect her wages, and could legally beat her "with a stick no bigger than the judge's thumb."

But America was being torn apart with the question of slavery and women were thinking about it.

ON ALL FRONTS

The great figures of the Abolitionist Movement and of the Woman's Movement were indistinguishable. Lucy Mott, Elizabeth Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony—leaders of the Woman's Movement — were among the most active Abolitionists.

William Garrison, Wendell Phillips and Frederick Douglass were leaders of the Abolitionist Movement and among the most outspoken for women's rights.

They were condemned from the pulpits and ridiculed in the press. But

when the Civil War broke out, the work that women did, their courage and ability, did more to destroy the old ideas of "woman's place" than anyone could shout down.

When the war was over they found that their fight had only begun. They were told that men would "protect" them and that they did not need any rights from the government.

But it was hard to see how men were protecting women, especially women wage-earners, when the women's wages were from one half to one third the men's wages.

FIGHT TO WIN

In the elections of 1872, 150 women throughout the country tried to register and vote to test whether their rights were included in the new 14th Amendment.

Susan B. Anthony, who voted with 13 other women, in Rochester, N. Y., was promptly arrested by the U. S. Marshal on a criminal charge. The three inspectors who had allowed the women to vote were thrown into jail.

The campaign went on for another 50 years before the American woman got her suffrage. It wasn't given to her. She won it.

If, today, women do not use their vote as they are often told they "should," it does not mean that they are backward. Today, many simply do not see what "voting" alone will actually change.

Just as the struggle for Woman's Rights was born out of the desire to DO something about the conditions of the world then, so women desire to DO something about conditions now. The right to vote did not end the story. Women are adding new chapters every day.

WORLD OUTLOOK

First Automation Strike . . . In England

Since the first of the year, British auto workers—like the American auto workers—have been suffering from increasing lay-offs.

Adopting what they openly call the "American method" of laying-off men while new automation machinery is being installed, the Standard Motor Co., at Coventry, England, announced they were going to lay-off 3500 men while converting to automation.

On April 26, 12,000 workers at Standard, wildcatted in protest against the automation lay-offs. They insisted that the work should be spread so that no worker should be on the streets.

So powerful is the wildcat which is looked upon in government, management and labor circles as a test case—that it seemed certain the unions would sanction the wildcat and make it an official strike. But at the last minute, the unions refused to make the strike official and asked the wildcatters instead to return to work if management agrees to negotiate.

What there is to negotiate, is a mystery. Management has specifically stated "we are not spending four million pounds on a new tractor plant in order to employ the same number of men."

Among the reasons implied for the unions' refusal to support the strikers is the fact that the wildcat is allegedly led by Communists. Also the official leadership is pained by the strikers' refusal to "understand" that automation means "progress."

The hard fact, which is recognized by the 12,000 strikers, is that management's dictatorial control over production and over their lives, cannot go unchallenged.

In this crucial fight, the labor bureaucrats have once again turned their backs upon the workers.

More Strikes and Slow-Downs In Spain

Within the last month, Spain was torn by a wave of strikes during which no fewer than 40,000 and possibly as many as 70,000 workers walked out. Affected, were practically all of the industrial centers in Spain.

Though strikes are illegal, what is important in this situation is that Franco did not dare to resort to massive arrests. Instead, he forced the workers back by shutting down the factories and threatening massive

firings if they did not return. Forced back to work, in retaliation against the lock-outs, the workers are now carrying on a widespread slow-down.

At the same time as the strikes were going on, university students were demonstrating against the government. They even talked of joining the workers on strike.

This is the first time, since the defeat of the Civil War which brought Franco to power 20 years ago, that workers and intellectuals have come together in opposition against the oppressive government.

No sooner did Franco force the first strike wave to ebb, than it surged forth again. Currently, some 50,000 workers in Bilbao are striking.

France's All-Out War . . . In Algeria

France's Socialist prime minister, Guy Mollet has committed himself to an all-out war in Algeria. It is promised that by next month the French forces in Algeria will be increased to 380,000 troops. The next step will be massive bombings of the Algerian population from the air. The military leaders are already demanding this.

In addition, Paris police are arresting and screening everyone suspected of being a North African.

The latest "socialist" move by the French Minister in Algeria, Robert Lacoste, was to bar someone as conservative as Irving Brown—travelling salesman for the AFL-CIO—from entering Algeria. Lacoste is afraid that Brown will "encourage" Algerian labor to seek independence from France.

It is no wonder that the reactionary General Weygand, joyously exclaimed last month: "What a good thing that a left-wing government is in power . . . It can use its special powers in Algeria far more thoroughly than a conservative one would dare. And nobody can accuse it of Fascism!"

All this, has succeeded in unifying all sections of the Algerian population in opposition to French rule. Though the French military forces are being steadily increased, the Algerian armed forces are still fighting them to a standstill. At the present time, they are winning the war.

It's Legal Now

For the second time in ten years, the Russian rulers have been forced to grant a labor amnesty in the hope to gain some more production from the Russian workers

Khrushchev & Co. have just announced that it is no longer a crime for Russian workers to leave their jobs without permission. The announcement further said that workers, now in slave labor camps because of such crimes will be released.

The first time such a labor amnesty was declared was right at the end of World War II.

The truth is that Khrushchev isn't giving the workers permission to leave their jobs. He is desperately trying to keep them on their jobs and reduce the enormous "illegal" turnover of labor.

In 1954 alone, no fewer than 2.8 million workers left their jobs. This means approximately one out of every four workers employed in Russia's major industrial establishments. (See News & Letters, Mar. 30.)

The fact that this new "leniency" comes hard on the heels of the introduction of the newest Five Year Plan, can mean only that the Russian workers have redoubled their resistance to the new demand for a 50 per cent increase in productivity.

What Do You Read?

Here are two headlines from the same page of The Detroit News, Sunday, May 6:

EXPECT NEW HEAVY WEAPONS TO FOLLOW LATEST TESTS and DISARMAMENT HALF SOLVED, STASSEN SAYS

What else?

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