

# NEWS & LETTERS

"This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It"

VOL. II—NO. 2

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13

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## WORKER'S JOURNAL

### Who Speaks of "The New America?"

By CHARLES DENBY

I am sitting with a group of workers listening and looking at Adlai Stevenson's opening campaign speech on TV.

John asked Robert, "How can politicians say the things they do and know that they themselves do not stand in agreement with what they are saying?"

Robert said he listened to Stevenson saying that if Ike takes the stand that Gov. Clement of Tennessee has taken on integration, things down there in the South would be different.

#### POLITICIANS' DOUBLE-TALK

John said, "That's what I mean. Several years back, when Stevenson was Governor of Illinois, a Negro ex-soldier bought a home in a white neighborhood. A mob was organized. Stevenson did not say a word.

"Negroes asked him to send his State Troopers. Stevenson refused and the Negro family was forced out. The same happened in this city this year. And this is up North."

He continued, "This is what I mean. Take Congressman Diggs. Several years ago he was acting as a representative of Negroes. This year he stated that if the Democratic Party does not take an open and firm position on civil rights he was leaving it.

"Several months ago he said that Stevenson, Hariman, Kefauver, all had a position of Moderation on civil rights. The only one who did not was Gov. Williams. He left the impression that if Williams did not run, the Negroes should not vote for any of the other three.

"Now, today, he is saying that we have the best civil rights platform ever written, while whites who are not for civil rights say it is not worth the paper it is written on.

"Diggs is for Stevenson-Moderation. On his radio program he said: We do not ask for troops to be sent into the South. We do not want another Civil War. God help us to stay from that."

Robert said, "You know, these politicians think that people are what they were 30 and 40 years back. These fine speeches, people accepted them then. Many believed what they were told or what the politicians said.

"But today, people are wise to their talks and the politicians are dumb to think that they believe them."

#### "THE NEW AMERICA"

He said, "But one thing Stevenson keeps saying, I wonder does he really see it as we do? He continues to mention this 'New America.' Just how much of this is he aware of? Or is it something he is diving after to catch votes?

"It is a new life we are in and it is the beginning of a New America. Look at the changes happening in the shops, in the community, and especially in the South.

"What the Negroes are doing in the South must be given as much—and more—credit for the beginning of the 'New America' as any one thing else.

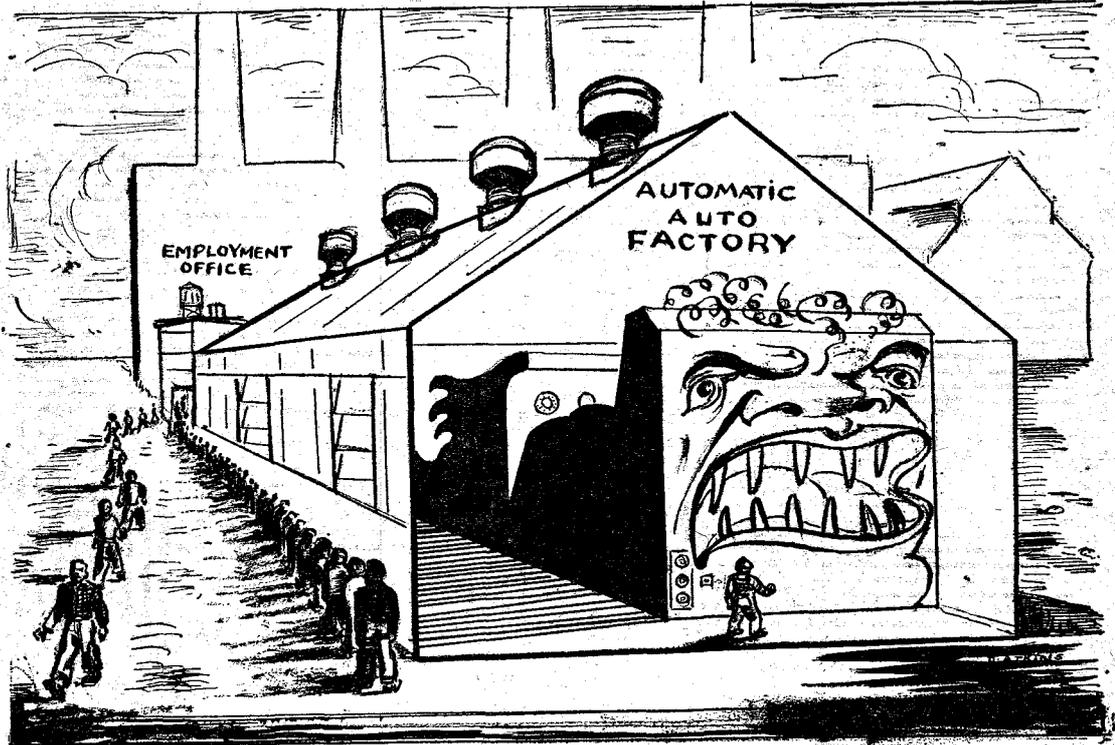
"In fact, they are New Negroes. Fifteen and 20 years ago we did not have entire Negro communities that would openly stand up and do as they are doing today. They are doing this not only to white Southerners but to the whole Southern state apparatus. And they are doing it without any fear whatsoever.

#### "CAN ONLY STARE AND WONDER"

"This is new. The white South can only look and stare and wonder 'What has happened to our submissive Negroes? What has happened that we can't frighten them any now? We can't force them to do as we say and as we want them to'.

"When, in the last 50 or 75 years, have you heard or read of one Negro woman, in a town where there are practically no Negroes, to defy all the whites and take her children to an all-white school? Today, there is such a woman in Clay, Ky. And she is making those whites crazy. They have to try force and low legal tricks to try to stop her.

"This is the New America I see. But it isn't what Stevenson is talking about with his Moderation position on the Negro question."



The Man Doesn't Use the Machine—The Machine Uses the Man

## Automation Brings Chaos

Tension, Hazard and Unemployment Rise, Workers Fired

"Our shop is a crazy house," a Chrysler auto-body worker, told News & Letters. "It's in a turmoil. Worse than I've ever seen before.

"I've been there over 15 years," he said, "but when I went in, two weeks ago Friday, I was lost. It looked like a new plant—all full of electronics machines. One foreman said that, in my department alone, one thousand workers who worked on the 1956 model won't be called back to work on the 1957 Model."

With the new 1957 model, Chrysler has introduced automation, for the first time, in body production. The changeover has affected every worker in the Chrysler plant. It has practically eliminated the comparatively few women workers.

#### TENSION & INSECURITY

Fully one-third of the force will not be called back. In some departments it will be as many

as two-thirds.

On one small line, for example, they used to employ some 60 men. The foreman claimed he will now get the same production from 18 workers.

As another high-seniority worker said, "There was a time," he said, "when the hardest work used to be on the regular production line, the moving line. But on the smaller 'stationary lines,' workers could arrange it

so they had some time off each hour to catch their breath.

"Now, we'll have to work constantly. With these new electronics machines, the operation is harder than it ever was and it will continue to be harder."

#### STOOGES & OVERTIME

In the tool and die department, there were a number of men who refused to work on Saturday because, they said, it's against union policy to work overtime until all laid-off are hired back. The company immediately fired the chief steward and six of the skilled workers.

"Some stooges in the department," according to one tool-maker, "signed a statement and handed it to management, that these six workers were trouble makers. The union called the six before a trial board to answer charges that they were disrupting production.

"In past years, the UAW would have been against the stooges who informed against their union brothers. Now, they're against the six who spoke up."

Everybody's talking about "How many workers will (Continued on Back Page)

## Something New In School

By Helen Moreno

As summer ended and another school semester opened, it became clear that this was not just another school year, but the year which began school integration in the South.

In one town after another the National Guard had to be called out in order to protect the few Negro students who enrolled in the all white schools for the first time. Armed police escorted these young Negroes to and from school, through the picket lines set up by the white students.

#### STUDENT STRIKES

I remember, during the Student Strike in 1950 in New York City, how the newspapers all

had a note of hysteria in them. They called the youth who took part in it, anything from "Communists" to "vandals" and "juvenile delinquents." But the white students who are striking in the South today against having Negro students go to school with them have not been smeared.

It seems to be all right with the press for kids to strike against human freedom but all wrong for them to strike for any rights.

The thought of Negro and white teenagers mixing in public schools struck fear into the hearts of the White Citizens Councils involved.

(Continued from Page 6)

## COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

### MINERS FORCE INTERNATIONAL TO A NEW DECISION

WEST VIRGINIA.—The strike, as it was reported in the last issue of *News & Letters*, involving the miners in Northern, W. Va., has a couple of footnotes which demonstrate the force with which the miners struck against the UMW bureaucracy to meet their demands.

#### AGREEMENT THROWN OUT

The action taken by the rank-and-file miners, which is unprecedented in recent years, forced Lewis to meet with top negotiators of the Consolidation Coal Company.

In these negotiations, the miners won more than they thought they had immediately after the strike was over.

The impression among the miners was that the agreement signed by Higginbottom and Judy for Consol, and by Urbaniak, Pnakovich and Ferguson for the UMW would mean a concerted drive by Consol to get one man, not only on roof-bolting machines, but on other machinery as well. This would unquestionably have led to further wildcat strikes over the issue.

There is little question that even Lewis recognized this. That's why he entered the negotiations which resulted in the "Higginbottom Agreement" being thrown out completely.

In place of this agreement, another was substituted to the effect that whatever situation existed at the various mines on the date of May 23rd would prevail.

Since virtually all of the mines directly involved in the strike had two men on the machines at that time, that meant that there would continue to be two men on the machines and that they would remain there.

#### UNION RETURNS FINES

Another development was the change of union attitude toward the locals directly involved in the strike, which had been fined by the International.

The various local unions petitioned the International, protesting against the fines as being arbitrary and unjustified.

The men were not apologizing for having struck, they were burned up at the high-handed action taken by the International in trying to penalize them for doing what they felt they had to do in order to preserve themselves.

The men knew that in their actions they were carrying on the best traditions of the mine workers.

They had fought a battle that the official union should have waged from the beginning. It was only after their determination was forcibly demonstrated, that the International took steps to try to keep up with the men.

As a result of these protests, the International has refunded the money it fined some lo-

cals and will probably return it all before this is over with.

The miners don't feel that the International is doing them a favor. They feel that it is way past time that the International got in step with them. They should have been congratulated, instead of fined, in the first place.

#### How the Miners' Fight Went On

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—The situation in the mine fields is far from settled.

At Consol's Owings mine, a pin-machine operator was pinning by himself. He was trapped in a roof fall. It was about 30 minutes before anyone knew about it. He had a broken leg.

#### 1,000 MINERS OUT

The Owings miners pulled out the Williams' miners and those working at Consol's Monogah

mine—in all, about 1,000 men. This was as late as July 19. The wildcat lasted for one day.

The local press reported the wildcat but no reason was given. All that was reported was a statement by Higginbottom of Consol indicating that he and Lewis were "negotiating" the problem concerning the roof-bolting and that "apparently these fellows are getting impatient for a decision."

#### "No Money Down" Existing . . . Not Living

BOBTOWN, Pa.—People have themselves all tied up in knots on the installment plan. Nobody lives on what he makes anymore.

Nobody seems to look at the years ahead. They hear they can get a TV set or a car or a refrigerator for a few cents down and a few dollars a month, and there they are, reaching out their arms and pulling it all in.

It doesn't wind up a few pennies a day, like the advertisements say. It winds up your whole paycheck.

Take a new car. You put down the down-payment. Then you start the monthly installments. You can hardly get a new car for less than \$80 to \$90 a month.

You work all month for J & L in their coal mines, but you hand your check over to GM. You might just as well say you're working for GM instead of for J & L. Either way you're not working for yourself.

During miners' vacation, everybody on this street had his vacation money spent before he even had it in his hand. All week long, the delivery trucks kept pulling up the hill. I used to sit on the porch and watch that truck driving up and then back for more—ali day long.

In a way, you can't blame people for biting on the credit angle. For one thing, if the poor people couldn't get things on credit, they'd never have anything. I've bit on it myself.

—Miner

### Woman Worker Plagued By Sweat-Shop "Chiseler"

LOS ANGELES.—Having been looking for a job for about two weeks, I was glad when I finally hired into a little garment shop close to my home. The boss said I'd only make a dollar an hour, but he would train me to use a power machine.

#### PIECE-WORK

I worked there for a week with the boss breathing down my neck. After a few days, he told me he was putting me on piece work the following week. He didn't guarantee a dollar an hour then. Whatever I made, I made.

I said there was a state law providing a certain minimum for women piece-workers, but he denied it.

When I checked in the following Monday, he said he had bad news for me. He had hired some experienced girls and didn't need me any more. When I asked for my check he casually told me to drop by Friday and he would give it to me.

#### IT'S NOT LEGAL

When I arrived home, my husband told me that my ex-boss was violating the law. If he fired me, he had to pay me up to the last minute immediately. Also he had to pay me four hours call-in pay under the California law for women workers. Not only that, but if he refused to give me my check when he fired me, he had to pay me on a 24-hour basis for every minute I had to wait for my money.

What my ex-boss was

trying to do was have me advance him the use of my money for a week. Since I wasn't in the mood to give him credit, I went back and told him about the law. He still refused to give me my check so I went home and called the Labor Commission. Apparently, he must have called them too, because when I called him back and told him I was going to file a claim he said to come right down and pick up my check.

—Disgusted Housewife

#### How They "Obey" Fair-Practice Law

DETROIT.—This conversation recently took place between two high class executives: the Chief and his Assistant:

Chief: "Now you've got us in a fine mess."

Assistant: "What have I done?"

Chief: "Those two Negroes who came in the other day looking for a job have filed a complaint against the company."

Assistant: "Oh, that! What did you expect me to do?"

Chief: "But you were so stupid. You didn't even give them an application."

Assistant: "I could not be bothered, you know company policy."

Chief: "You never learn. I always give them an application. I'll give them 50 applications if necessary. Let them sit there all day and fill them out for all I care. I always tell them I will call them in three days."

#### No Picnic for Faucet Workers

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—The faucet company used to throw a big picnic every year for all its employees. But after this last big wildcat they called it off. I think they had a bigger reason for cancelling that picnic than just being mad at the workers. (See story, *News & Letters*, Sept. 18).

The way I figure it, the company doesn't want those workers out where they can all talk together. They might iron out something, if they had a chance like that.

The company knows that it's been that union (District 50) that's been keeping the guys in their place. But they know what the men think of the union now, too.

If the company could have their picnic and still keep the buys separated, it would be all too their advantage to throw the picnic. It doesn't really cost them very much and would do them "good" in the long run.

But you can't have a picnic and keep the people from each other. Rather than risk that, they just cancelled it.

—Ex-Faucet Worker

Miner  
West Virginia

# GM Workers Strike in California

WHAT LED UP TO IT; WHAT CAN FOLLOW

LOS ANGELES.—The workers at the General Motors plant in South Gate, California are now out on strike against the terrible working conditions in the plant. The strike comes after many months of dissatisfaction, negotiation and discussion among the workers as to what to do.

Throughout 1956, there were lay-offs and short work weeks accompanied by increasing speed-up, lack of relief, unfair and intolerable disciplinary measures and a refusal by management to settle grievances.

## NEITHER GM NOR UAW

The dissatisfaction of the workers with General Motors was equalled by their dissatisfaction with the union.

When short work weeks went into effect, at the beginning of the year, the union proposed to management that enough workers be laid off to insure a full week's work for the old seniority workers.

The company agreed to this "proposal" by the union. Naturally, even after the lay-offs, short work weeks continued and speed-up increased.

## GRIEVANCES PILE UP

Over the months the grievance machinery became clogged up with all the unresolved grievances and new ones were being added daily. Committeemen even refused to file some grievances on the grounds that they did not come within the rigid limits imposed by the contract.

In all fairness, it should be added that some committeemen tried to do their best for the workers but they could not do very much. Their hands were tied by the contract.

It was a constant conflict between the human standards for work demanded by the workers and the contract standards for work insisted on by both company and union.

## WILDCAT BRINGS RESULTS

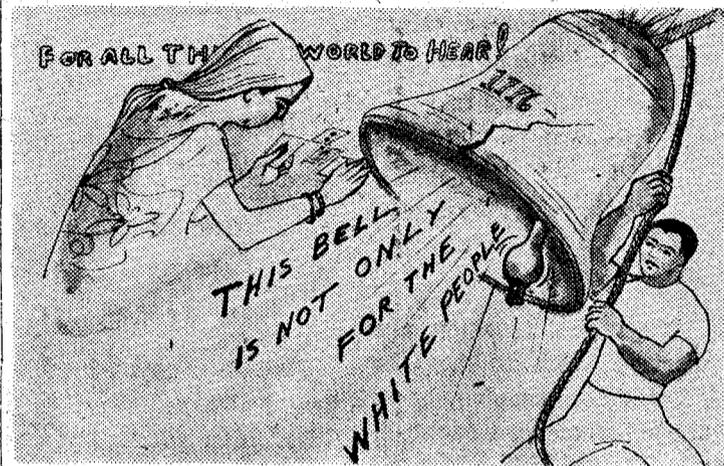
The only grievance I know of that was settled immediately was when there was a wildcat strike in the body shop over disciplinary lay-offs given to some inspectors. These inspectors were promptly given their jobs back and received back pay for all the time they lost.

The union leaders became convinced that the only way to settle the issues and get themselves off the spot they were on with the workers, was to move toward an official strike.

Some workers were for this. Others didn't think such a strike would settle anything about line-speed as long as the contract still had two years to run. But when the union asked for a strike vote, 98 percent voted for it.

When management still refused to settle the grievances on the table, the union proposed to strike the week before the Labor Day weekend.

(Continued on Page 6)



## "We've Got to Control Our Union,"

### Chrysler Trim-Shop Worker Says

DETROIT — Just before the changeover, we were having all kinds of grief in the trim shop. We had to fight the company and the local officers, both. Men were getting fired and the speed-up was killing us and nobody would help us so we had to help ourselves.

## NOBODY LOVES US

We went down to the local office and the man said, "You're the damndest bunch of wildcatters. Nobody loves you in Detroit. You're messing up everybody in Detroit."

We're in a helluva mess. Eleven hundred people and he says nobody in Detroit loves us.

He says, "Go back to work and keep working. We'll take care of you. We can't help you if you're going to wildcat every time. Leave it to us. But keep working."

So we go back and it gets worse so we have to wildcat. We get the same answers from the union that we get from management.

## DON'T KNOW ANYTHING

Pat Caruso, the president of our local, said he'd like to see the faces of people who got only one day pay. He just didn't believe anybody got one day pay in their check. But one-day pay hurt everybody.

We asked the adminis-

trative assistant to the president of our local what was going on. He said he hasn't heard of anybody having trouble in the trim shop. Eight people fired and he has no knowledge of trouble.

He was sitting at a meeting we had. The president was sitting there. Seventy-two jobs, 327 people going to be thrown out, and that's the way it's going next time, and he says he knows nothing about anybody having trouble in our department.

## STEWARDS SCARED

The attitude our local officers have taken has shaken our stewards. Anything happens, they pull their button off and put it in their pocket. They're that scared to be identified. Which is exactly what Chrysler wants.

It looks like the top union officials in my local have sold us out. They have forgotten why they were put there in the first place. They're not on our side regardless of who gets hurt.

We used to have regular monthly meetings. The local even stopped having these monthly meetings. We've got to start having them again. We've got to control our local and our officers the way we used to. If we can't, we've got to get something different.

—Trim Shop Worker

## "It's a Prison"

It's not alone that almost ten hours of the day goes to your job, but once you get there, they have all kinds of records and charts, personalized of course. There's a record on your lateness, one on your absenteeism, one on your character, and a nice big chart on your daily production. One day a friend said loud, so the foreman could hear her, "This isn't a job, it's a prison."

# Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

## READ THE CARDS

Once I was told about a white man who went to a gypsy to have his fortune told. The gypsy read the cards and said that a Negro is earnest, but a white man is so lowdown that they take our little ones from the cradle and kill them and cut them up like they do a chicken.

So that is why we say that we will do unto the white people as they wish to do to us.

Why would we keep going on, letting these white people tie us down when we can make our way, fight by fight, for our right?

No one can see why white people have to go on this way, hating the colored people so long for nothing. We have done no harm to them for them to go on this way they do about colored people.

But I do hope that some white will write in and tell me why do they hate us so bad. Is it something that we have done?

Since we know that we are here to stay, then get your cards; tell us our fortune so that we can live in peace.

What will they try to do to the colored people next? Since I have been large enough to know myself, they have done everything in this world that they could do to the colored race of people. They have poured gasoline on some of them and burned them alive, which was the worst crime that they could do to the colored race.

So there is nothing else to do to the black race but fight them from now on because of their black face. And the white race will surely learn that we colored people are somebody: to walk the street, to be on the job, in the churches, up North, down South, in the colored peoples' homes.

## WHAT DO WHITES THINK?

I wonder what do white people think? Because they are white they are better than the black people?

But oh, No. You just seek us and you will find that the black race is as good and as human as the white race.

The time is coming, fastest now, because we have learned to fight back for our freedom.

# The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

"It's a great life," or so the saying goes, however they should add, "but a hard one." Especially if you're a working woman.

It's not that men don't work hard, but women just never seem to be able to cease working.

## THIS IS LIVING?

Beside working a regular job, most working women have to spend one or two nights a week ironing, another night washing, at least one day cleaning house, and a million and one chores that have to be done. This is living?

They say people used to work much harder, and many died, to get what we have today. Our heart goes out to them in appreciation, but brother, this day has got to go too.

This day is not just filled with hard labor but tensions that are so great that they equal the hard labor in the energy they seep out of you.

What happens to the feeling for life that you had when young? I used to feel that the whole world would open up and I would be there to see it all.

## IT CAN'T GO ON

I sat down at my bench the other day and the girl across from me said, "Angie, what am I going to do? I ask myself if I am

going to do what I'm doing today for the rest of my life, it just can't go on like this."

This hit home. Not 20 minutes before, at the lunch table, we had been talking about the same thing. A girl started talking, "It's a great life... You get up in the morning to come to work then, go home, fix supper, clean house, fall asleep in a chair wake up with a stiff neck and go to bed to wake up the next morning to come to work. It's a great life for sure."

It was so true we were laughing our heads off, when another girl said that when she got home the other night, her daughter had supper ready so she thought she'd rest for awhile. She woke up in a half hour, yelling "I'm late for work, I'm late for work."

## WONDERFUL HUMAN BEINGS

I hope no one goes to a factory gate, after reading this, to see the bodies being dragged out. That's what is so wonderful about human beings and what will save humanity. The ability to see through all these tensions, to laugh, and to want to change them, to want freedom for oneself and one's fellow man.

EDITORIALS

Outside Agitators Down South

Some few years ago, the Southern whites were yelling at the top of their lungs that if the "Northern agitators" would shut their mouths, they could and would handle all problems that pertain to race relations between them and the Southern Negroes.

As those who were accused of "meddling" quit under the pressure of the South, the Southern Negroes arose to stand on their own feet.

They have taken their place among those Negroes in past history such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner and others like them who never yielded an inch in the struggle for complete rights.

The white South, on the other hand, has begun to solicit agitators from the North against Negro rights.

When the Negroes in Montgomery showed the world, almost a year ago, that it was not a question of agitation but of doing, the white South found and accepted their first Northern agitator in Dearborn, Mich., in the person of its city mayor, Orville Hubbard.

In the past several weeks, anyone can see it most clearly after schools opened. The Southern Negroes are determined to force the Supreme Court decision to become a battle symbol. The Northern White Citizens Council agitators have rushed from New Jersey in the person of John Kasper. To join such Northern agitators are the Southern meddlers like Carter from Alabama who go to interfere in the affairs of Kentucky and Tennessee.

No one is saying to them: "We can settle it. Leave us alone."

The daily press has been very quiet about outside interference in relation to the situation in Clinton, Tenn., and Clay, Ky., and other tension spots of the South where these "new" outsiders are rushing to.

When the Negroes in Montgomery started the snowball to rolling, the momentum throughout the Southern States grew so large and powerful, that the whites are yelling as loudly for outside help as they did against those who spoke for Negro rights some years back.

Life's Cheap — Automation's Expensive

We have received many stories from workers, as our lead article on page one shows, on the strains and stress of automation. The emphasis in all of them has been on the strange capitalist mentality on finances.

The automation machinery is expensive while the worker's life means nothing to management.

The worker who told us that one worker lost a finger the first day, and, within the week, two more lost fingers, also spoke about the fact that first aid is completely undermanned.

The nurse told him it was because there are so many fewer workers at work on the 1957 model, that management cut the hospital staff. There is only one thing management evidently failed to take into consideration: their wonderful new automation machines are man-killers.

There was a time when model changeover meant the older workers were given some freedom of movement. There never was a time when the machine worked as it came off the blueprint. It was always the workers who took the kinks out and made it work.

Since production depended on that, the workers with the most seniority would work out their own methods of operation those first weeks. Management just stood by and pretended not to snoop.

Now, however, the automation machinery is so complicated and "automatic" that only the "electronics man," as the workers now call the engineer, can work it.

What has been the result of all this brain work? The result has been that not only are there mechanical kinks, but it is completely unsafe to operate. The experiment that goes on is therefore with the worker's very life. That seems to be the cheapest item for management.

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Charles Denby ..... Editor
Saul Blackman ..... Managing Editor

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Readers'

AUTOMATION

It's getting so that I almost don't give a damn if I work or not, with this kind of work. When I walked into the shop and took a good look at these new machines it hit me hard. I said to a fellow, "Before, the company only tried to work us to death. Now, they're trying to electrocute us too."

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

\* \* \*

Even the foremen are worried. With all the jobs eliminated they've got three foremen on each job now. Two out of those three will have to go. Management told one foreman, who's been with them for 20 years, that he'd have to go back to the line or leave. He actually broke down and cried, "After 20 years, this is what the company tells you." What did he expect anyway? A gold watch?

Automation Worker
Detroit

\* \* \*

The stock handlers' superintendent was telling me that in 1954 we had 1000 people in our department on days, and 600 on afternoons, and about 300 mid-nights. It was about 2000 on all shifts. Now, there won't be over 400 with these new machines.

Chrysler Stock-Handler
Detroit

\* \* \*

One of the stock handlers told me that over at the Plymouth plant they have found 120 parts missing on every body turned out by the new automation machinery.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

\* \* \*

At Chrysler, when the guys saw the lay-off coming, they just quit in droves. About 400 or 500 did that.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

LEADERS & RANKS

An International representative died while playing handball with Emil Maze. Somebody pasted the clipping on the board. One old worker dashed over to read the notice and then he turned away.

"I wouldn't have bothered to come up to read it," he said, "but I thought you said Maze had dropped dead. That's what I came over to see."

Auto Body Worker
Detroit

\* \* \*

Skilled workers are practically set up like a dual union within the union, which I don't approve of for the simple reason that it's like a house divided that isn't going to stand the wind.

There's been quite a wrangle back East over this. It's not going over so good. Some of them are threatening to start an independent union. I don't think we should have a dual union because I think the production workers are as much skilled in their line of work as the maintenance workers.

Production Worker
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

I asked my father, who was a member of the Machinists Union in 1918 at the General Electric Co., to tell me how the company succeeded in breaking up the union when the men were so well organized. He told me that they did it through "reorganization." The departments that were most militant were transferred to Erie, Pa., or Pittsfield, Mass. The men were told that they could follow the job, but few followed since their homes and friends were around the old plant. When labor trouble hit the other plants they used the same tactics there. Men were shifted all over the plant and the spirit was broken.

The same type of "reorganization" is taking place today in the Detroit plants of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

Professional
Detroit

Lots of times the union has an organizing drive in different plants and they call on the officers of our local to help talk to the unorganized workers.

Some of the fellows we see are former General Motors workers. They say, "Hell, you can't offer us nothing. You've got worse working conditions than we've got here so why should we take in the UAW? We've worked at GM. We know what you've got and we sure don't have it here that bad."

Local Union Official
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

They say the working man is much better off these days. They have clinics and health insurance (which they pay for) and a number of ways to get medical care. But what good are they if something has to be taken care of fast so that another serious illness can't develop?

Working Wife
Detroit

\* \* \*

THIS WHITE WORLD

My husband and I went back to Chattanooga this summer for our vacation. I was really disappointed in the South this time. I've been back before and I always loved it, but it's different now.

I don't like this race trouble. Why can't people live in peace? The people I used to know showed such a deep prejudice to Negroes that it disgusted me. I know I used to have that prejudice too, because I lived in the South all my life except the last few years. But now that I've gotten away from it, I don't feel that anymore. I guess it's grown out of me. I can't see why they can't all live together peacefully and get educated together. . . . I'd never want to go back to the South to live again.

Tennessee-Born
Los Angeles

# Views

## WAR & PEACE

Following the leadership of Dulles in the Suez crisis, I have thought of a plan of my own. I am going to gather together a large group of users of the Detroit Windsor Tunnel. We will go down with our own pilot and demand free passage through.

If we get away with it, I have another plan. I will assemble a mass of Ford users and prance over to the Ford Motor Co. and tell them that we want to run the company in our own best interests.

The possibilities seem to be unlimited. Possibly Dulles can even arrange a half billion loan for us.

Planning Ahead  
Detroit

\* \* \*

To build the High Aswan Dam in Egypt would have cost about \$200 million and would have meant a better life for 20 million Egyptians.

Secretary of State Dulles, after breaking his word to lend the money for its construction, is now ready to spend \$500 million to finance a fruitless boycott of the Suez Canal that will help out a few British and American oil companies.

Fresh from leading us to the "brink of war" Dulles now teeters on the brink of stupidity.

Commentator  
Chicago

\* \* \*

I hope your readers will be as amused as I was—and worried—by this remark in Fletcher Knebel's syndicated column, "Potomac Fever":

"The United States will join Britain and France in a Suez Canal Users Association. For further details consult your local draft board."

Sales Clerk  
Washington, D. C.

\* \* \*

Why did you bury the little article on war jitters entitled, "Jitters", somewhere on page 7 among some articles on women (Sept. 18)? It seems to me if a simple thing like declaring war on rats can bring about war jitters, then it deserves a better display than you gave it. Moreover, that piece by a typist from West Virginia is not regional news. I am a New Yorker and no subject is more often discuss-

ed these days than war, which everyone fears may break out at any time.

Intellectual  
New York

\* \* \*

## TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

The Christian Endeavor member certainly has gall to take up the space in a workers' newspaper (Sept. 18) with a defense of that McCarthyite and favorite of all race-haters and race-baiters of Negroes and Jews, Nixon.

Convention Viewer  
San Francisco

\* \* \*

I wish all Kefauver supporters would read this: In July 1948, he said in the House of Representatives: "I have always opposed and will continue to . . . oppose, the FEPC, the anti-lynch bill, and any non-segregation provisions . . ."

"The FEPC is . . . a dangerous step toward regimentation . . . The anti-lynch law is an unjustified encroachment on the rights of States . . ."

"There is no real demand for anti-segregation laws in the South. The Negroes . . . are not interested in this kind of legislation . . ."

Registered Voter  
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

I tried to start a conversation, one break period, about the Democratic convention when it was being televised. No one wanted to talk about it and the guys turned instead to talk about the negotiation for a new contract coming up soon.

Machinist  
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

I wasn't very satisfied with the Democratic Civil Rights plank but it's better than having Eisenhower. It looks to me as though we'll have to have a Labor Party. You can't go in the middle of the road on the Civil Rights program forever. What bothers me is that I don't see any working class leaders. I wouldn't go for Reuther for any money.

Auto Worker  
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

I liked Stevenson's speech, particularly when he mentioned that people wanted something more than modern gadgets. But I doubt that he can give us a better life any more

than the Republicans can. His speech reminded me of those made in the past by candidates. When they got into power, they didn't change things for the better for the American people.

Housewife  
Los Angeles

\* \* \*

I sure was disappointed when the Democrats took Stevenson. I think Kefauver was the better man. He's a Southern man and a lot of my people, the colored people, probably wouldn't have voted for him because of that. But at least he seems the straightest man and the kind that upholds and enforces the laws. That's the kind of man you need in there these days. That's why they were afraid of him. They were afraid he would get in Washington and stand up for his position on the Supreme Court Decision. Anytime the South is against a man, I'm usually for him.

Miner  
West Virginia

\* \* \*

What's all this business about who you "like"? I like Ike all right, too. But not for President!

Housewife  
Pennsylvania

\* \* \*

Right after the Democratic Convention was over, I went to a party given by a nurses' alumni organization. They sounded real fiery on Stevenson's speech and very proud. One of them said to me, "I feel like going out and ringing door bells right now." Another one said, "Truman purposely put on that show to put some life in the Convention and show up the Republicans."

I was wondering, as I watched the Convention, what happened to all the liberals? It looked like the millionaire Harriman and the Pendergast machine from Missouri were the ones that carried the liberal banner. What really dominated the Convention like a ghost from the grave was Civil Rights. The Dixiecrats had six lawyers watching the few sentences on Civil Rights to make sure it had many interpretations. Sparkman was very proud of their work, namely, the Supreme Court is only part of our government.

N&L Reader  
Los Angeles

## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

## NEGRO STRUGGLE & LABOR BUREAUCRACY

Two kinds of politics face each other down South. One is in the voting booth which has legally perpetuated the White Supremacy South. The other is the living, thinking, acting determination of Negroes for full human rights.

Despite all the power of the state and the economy and the artificially inflated prejudices, the Negro has continued his struggles for full freedom to this point. It has thrown fear into the reactionaries. The voting-booth politics has been backed up by the open counter-revolution in the streets—both in the form of the old Ku Klux Klan and its new "more respectable" face of the White Citizens Council.

## THE INDEPENDENT NEGRO STRUGGLE

The independent struggle of the Negro people has never been in the voting booth which is exclusively white.

In the South, it has always been the politics not of voting but of doing. The superiority of the Negro struggle lies in this: their deeds open all the elements of a new society, a new way of life.

By their bus boycotts, they not merely served notice that they will no longer tolerate the status of second class citizens. They showed their talent for organization; their ingenious way of self-activity which, as a people, rose to full dignity; and their ability to run their own lives.

## TWO FRONTS

At the moment, the war in the South is proceeding along two fronts: 1) the bus boycotts; and 2) school integration.

The Deep South remains solidly anti-Supreme Court, to the point of voting to transform public schools into private schools to maintain segregation. At the moment, it seems not to face the battle of the streets on school integration. There, nevertheless, is where the battle will be decisive. The battle has just begun.

It is to be noted that precisely in the deep South—Montgomery, Alabama; Tallahassee, Florida—the Negro has displayed the greatest talents and determination not to stop his march to freedom. Everyone knows that except the labor bureaucracy, the self-styled "friend of the Negro."

## FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE MOUTH

The labor bureaucracy is busy talking out of both sides of its mouth.

Before the convention of the Democratic Party, Walter Reuther was busy shouting: "You cannot have Labor and the Eastlands in one party."

At the convention, he swallowed his tongue—even to the point of not fighting for the mere mention of the "revolutionary" Supreme Court Decision!

Now that the South was satisfied not to repeat its walk-out of 1948 and 1952, he is busy shouting once again that Republicanism means "depression". Therefore, he counsels, the Negro better forget his struggles and line up with labor—in the Democratic Party!

This self-appointed messenger boy for that strange capitalist party fears touching the race question, although it is precisely that which has kept the South unorganized.

Politicking to keep labor and the Negro tied to the capitalist machine, Reuther also fears fighting automation as the workers fight it. To him, unemployment is the necessary price for "progress." He never once asks, much less answers: Whose progress?

## THE OPEN TAKING OF SIDES

This is news to no one, of course. It is stated here only in order to contrast it with the very open taking of sides by the "cultured South."

Thus, it is not only the monstrous face of the Ku Klux Klan, or of Governor Talmadge, or of the White Citizens Councils that wants the South as is. "Cultured Southerner" Faulkner is ready to spill Negro blood to maintain that reactionary system.

Robert Penn Warren—the "cultured" author of that "expose" of Huey Long (*All The King's Men*)—is busy counseling "gradualism" and "explaining" the South, although it does not differ in any fundamental way from South Africa's apartheid.

The Negro may have no one to look to but himself at the moment, but it is precisely the strength and sweep of his independent struggles that have brought the whites with him throughout American history from the Abolitionist movement to the early CIO. It will again call forth the rank and file of labor who, on their own are looking for a totally new way of life.

—R. D.

# YOUTH

## Thinking It Out

By ROBERT ELIERY

(This week I am turning the column over to Helen Moreno, a young Californian.—R.E.)

There has been a lot of fuss raised all over the country about Rock and Roll music. Recently Rock and Roll has been banned in many parts of the country because many adults feel that it's lewd and vulgar.

### PLATTERS BANNED

Here in Burbank, a Junior High School Dance Club was not permitted to have The Platters, a Rock and Roll singing group, at their dance which was to be held at the civic auditorium. The City Council banned them saying that Rock and Roll music had caused a riot in Santa Rosa and they didn't want the same thing to happen in Burbank.

The president of the club went to the City Council to get them to change their minds. He didn't talk, he just took records by The Platters and played them. The council lifted the ban, but The Platters refused to appear, saying that they had another engagement.

Youth's reaction to all this has been: We just like to dance to Rock and Roll.

### TWO OPINIONS OF ROCK AND ROLL

#### Mt. Into Mole-Hill

It amazed me to find that something like this could come out of a country of fairly intelligent people. The statement that Rock and Roll music incites riots is more ridiculous than it is anything else. The cause of juvenile delinquency has been attributed to a lot of things, but this is the most absurd yet.

In the first place, those teenagers who would be stimulated enough by Rock and Roll actually to cause a riot, are the kind that would do it regardless of music. There are (shown by statistics) three per cent of this type of kids, known as juvenile delinquents, as compared to the 17 percent in 1925. On the other hand those kids who would not riot are not going to do it because of a type of music.

Naturally if kids are pushed around, looked down on, and are classed as an inferior group of people called "teenagers," at a time when they are going through the most difficult phase of their lives, some of them are going to rebel. It's a wonder that more don't

Is that a crime?

Rock and Roll is being held responsible for riots and everything that is bothering youth today.

It seems to me that instead of looking at the music as the cause of all this, it would be better to look at what kind of life young people are faced with.

### GRIM FUTURE

Young people have a very grim future staring them in the face with the H-Bomb and the threat of a war which they will have to fight.

### SEPARATION CENTER

On top of all that is the crazy life they are forced to live right now. A life where they are told what to do and what they should think. Where they are divided, almost from childhood, into two groups — those who will lead and be "the planners," and those who will follow and be "the doers."

School today is nothing more than a giant separation center which divides youth into categories before they even finish high school.

Young people are always being told that they must wait until they are 21 first to begin living. The rebellion starts when they refuse to wait.

Three percent out of 100 percent isn't very many. Not enough to warrant all the publicity that juvenile delinquency gets. They are very definitely making a mountain out of a mole hill.

—Disgusted 15-Year Old

### Which Age Group?

LOS ANGELES — My opinion is that people who say Rock and Roll is to blame for all the violence are crazy. I don't think Rock and Roll does anything like that. The people who danced the Charleston were probably wilder than the kids that dance Rock and Roll.

One community here has banned Rock and Roll saying it's to blame for all the violence. Why that's plain silly. Only a few of the kids would go wild over it.

Anyway, most of the violence, in my opinion, is caused by people who are 21 to 24. Most of these people don't dance Rock and Roll. It is the kids from 13 to 18 who dance most of it.

—14-Year Old



### Something New In School

(Continued from Page 3)

#### "NORTHERN AGITATORS"

In the border community of Clinton, Tennessee the quiet beginning of integration brought with it John Kasper from New Jersey. Here was a man who had also been in Virginia and claimed the credit for delaying integration in a town there.

This man talked to the people of Clinton, particularly the high school students. He spoke to them about Negroes and racial purity, as, I've been told, Hitler spoke about the Jews in Germany before World War II.

I had the feeling that this was the testing grounds for recruiting youth into a fascist party, should one ever become powerful in this country.

#### TO CAPTURE THE MINDS OF YOUTH

All political movements, Fascists and Communists alike, have attempted to "capture" the minds of youth — and all have, at times, attracted them and then lost them. The Communist Party in Europe for instance has been losing its youth members by the thousands. But these youth who leave the Communist Party at the same time are not friends of American Capitalism either.

This apparent lack of response to any existing parties or ideologies has

the officials of both major world powers, America and Russia, worried. This generation is definitely uncommitted to either of them.

#### ADULT'S PROBLEM

The problem facing the adults is what to do about the youth of today who are obviously not sold on American Capitalism with its wars in which they are the heaviest losers, or with Russian Communism or Fascism.

These youth, some of whom will grow up to be the 60 percent of the people in the United States who never vote — and in this way, show their lack of support for any of the existing powers — are the same ones who, today, are busily Rock and Rolling and completely ignoring the concern of the adults over their "morality."

#### INTEGRATION

This generation of Negro and white youth in this "Land of liberty and justice for all," is finally being integrated into the same schools after nearly 100 years since the Civil War.

I sometimes think that most of the opposition by whites to integration and complete equality of the Negro is based on the fear that the youth who mix in school will find out that Negroes are human. Personally, I think the segregationists have good reason to be afraid.

### Getting A Summer Job

I am a boy of 14 and at the beginning of summer and during the summer I had been trying to get a job. But everywhere I went they wanted somebody who was 16.

I have gone to grocery stores, drug stores and even department stores trying to get a job. I feel I am old enough to handle some work but no one will give me a chance. I could probably get a job selling or delivering newspapers but you only get 75 cents or

so for two or three hours work.

I have only had a few odd-jobs but never a real one. I would like to find out what I could do and also to gain experience in working.

I would like to know if there are any other young people in the same situation, or if there is someone who can give me a suggestion. If so please write to "Readers' Views."

—14-Year-Old  
Los Angeles

### GM Workers Strike

(Continued from Page 3)

That week, production was scheduled for only three days. Thursday and Friday and Labor Day weekend the company was scheduling the skilled workers for model changeover work.

### UNION SOWS CONFUSION

Many workers felt the strike should be held after Labor Day so the workers would get their holiday pay. The union leaders felt the strike should be called immediately to disrupt the company plans for changeover of the lines. Many workers agreed with this, but everyone was confused by the International representative who left open whether or not the strike would be "authorized."

There was much confusion over what would a strike vote mean if the International would not give their approval, so that an immediate strike was voted down, 200 to 100 with 400 abstentions.

At the night-shift meeting an immediate strike was approved with over 300 voting and about 400 of those present not voting at all. So an immediate strike was approved by a 400 to 200 majority with 800 of the workers present at the meetings not voting. This voting took place on Wednesday.

Early Thursday evening the union called the strike. There were no production workers in the plant. The skilled workers doing the changeover work walked out. Some production workers close to the union leaders, came over to the plant though, and helped set up the picket lines and kitchen. At the last minute the International authorized the strike.

### DISSATISFACTION CONTINUES

Workers are saying that the strike will settle very little because all the operations will change with the changeover. Even if the union wins the company will start all over again to speed up lines beyond human endurance. They are saying that the contract is no good; that the present relation of the union and the company to the workers is no good. There is talk of a wildcat regardless of the official decisions between the union and General Motors.

DETROIT EDITING  
COMMITTEE  
MEETS  
EVERY SUNDAY  
EVENING  
6 TO 8:30 P.M.  
AT  
8067 GRAND RIVER  
(1 FLIGHT UP)

**The Suburban Commuter From 5 to 9**

LOS ANGELES—We went to the movies last night for some entertainment but when we left the theater I was more angry than relaxed.

They really did it up with a million dollar cast: Gregory Peck, Jennifer Jones and Frederick March — all to humanize the free enterprise system.

It was "The Man With The Gray Flannel Suit," or "The Suburban Commuter," who returns home at five o'clock. That's when he wants some family life and human relations that poets write sonnets about—or so the judge thinks. All "big plans" for building the world will have to be done between nine and five.

I kept thinking of a friend of mine, a GM worker with 7 children, who had to take a graveyard shift in order to have some family life and help his wife with the work of the children.

**STRUGGLING ON \$10,000**

It seems there is something disturbing our \$10,000-a-year-man. Of all the thousands of "illegitimate" children in Europe — fathered by American soldiers during World War II — Gregory Peck's son, if Jennifer has her way, will have an endowment policy to see him through college.

**- BUT HONEST**

Hollywood no longer makes "Backstreet" as in the 1930's. Now, everything is "honest." In fact, "honesty" is the big punch in "The Man With The Gray Flannel Suit." We have Gregory and Jennifer to prove it with Frederick March, the big boss, throwing in the towel.

With "honesty" you will not be cheated out of your grandmother's inheritance; or the affection and understanding of your wife; or the sense of "moral" righteousness to your illegitimate son, or even your chance at the \$10,000 job.

These same fish sell for 65c per pound in the market.

**A Summer's Day**

CAPE COD, Mass.—One summer day, in a small New England fishing and resort town provided plenty of contrast in the relations of men to each other.

**WORKERS ON VACATION**

A small pleasure boat, belonging to a vacationer, was in immediate danger of being smashed up on the shore. A half dozen or so vacationing workers rushed to the rescue. Some held the boat while another, a painter, rushed to his car and brought his block and tackle.

Together they fastened firm lines to the boat and hauled it up on shore. No one forced them or told them what to do. They all pitched in to do what was necessary.

**WORKERS AT WORK**

Later on, at the fish pier where the commercial fishermen were bringing in the day's catch, the fish buyer had arbitrarily set up a quota of 10 barrels of mackerel for each boat.

Most boats had brought in 50 to 70 barrels each. The men on the boats work on shares, each being paid a share of the daily catch. They were plenty sore at the fish company and were giving away free fish to all who would come for them.

The company told the fishermen to go out in the harbour and dump their fish overboard. They had to dump the fish or sell them, for a few cents, to a cold storage company which freezes fish for mink food.

**"FIT TO PRINT"**

The letter about the police-commissioner's brother-in-law (who got blown up with the bomb they planted in the boycotter's house) that you printed in your last issue, was news that should have gotten a three-column spread in any paper.

That's what really gets me about the press. It isn't just that it didn't get printed down there—you could maybe understand that. But what about the papers other places? You can't tell me that news like that doesn't "leak out". If the big papers had wanted to print it, they would have had it. It's like the "New York Times" that prints "all the news that's fit to print". I guess they just didn't consider it "fit" for their point of view.

It was the same with the miners' wild-cat down here. That didn't get printed in any of the papers. The press is getting very conscious. They run all over the world for a "scoop" but they let something like this news get by. You just know there's something funny going on—if you can call it "funny".

Student Morgantown, W. Va.

**A Woman's Viewpoint**

SCOTTS RUN, W. Va.—The wages that some women work for are disgraceful. I just can't see working for \$3 a day. It just isn't worth it. And a lot of it is up to you.

I complain about the money you get doing housework, but it's shocking to hear what some women will work for, on other jobs as well as housework. Before I take a job, I let them know that I won't work for less than \$6 a day.

I make sure they know that my husband is working, and that I don't have to worry about eating, anyway.

Some people think, when you work for them, that you don't have anything. That you live with orange crates for furniture, or something. When they find out that you have a home of your own, just like they do, they seem amazed.

**DON'T TAKE NONSENSE**

I'm a naturally soft-spoken person and I have to force myself to speak a little gruffly. But that's the first thing I've learned to do on a new job. Even if they may not like it, they respect you a lot more. And you get what you demand.

Another thing you learn, after you've worked for a while, is that you can't let people walk over you. If you're too nice, they keep pushing more and more on you. The more you do, the more they expect.

The job I just took, doing housework, they paid me \$20 for three days. I found out that the girl they had before used to work four days for a paltry \$12. She did everything they asked, but they just told me that they didn't think they'd ever have her again. They said she was "too easy-going" for her own good. Maybe their conscience hurts them when they pay someone so little.

**WHEN I'M FINISHED — I'M DONE**

I don't know how others work, but when my work is finished I'm done, and they know it. They may try to find something else for you to do, but if I've done all my work, I'm finished.

The other day, I was through all the work at 4 o'clock. I was sitting down, waiting for the husband to come home, since he drives me back.

In a little while the woman came in hinting about a few dishes she had in the sink. I didn't even look up. I said my feet sure hurt from working on them all day. I just kept on sitting. You have to be that way, or they'll always be finding something else to push on you.

There's an attitude you have to have to yourself. A lot of what you get and what you do on a job depends on yourself.

Miner's Wife

**A DOCTOR SPEAKS**

BY M.D.

**ATOMIC RADIATION: WHAT CAN IT DO? (Part I)**

While much is now being written and said about atomic radiation, little information comes from the medical profession. Though radium and the X-ray tube became tools of medicine at the beginning of this century—long before the industrialists, politicians, or the military entered the picture—today it appears that the field of atomic energy has, with small ceremony, been separated from medicine.

**GREAT POSSIBILITY—SMALL DEVELOPMENT**

New possibilities for the use of atomic activity in medicine appear very great both in diagnosis and treatment of disease. Atomic medicine, however, is now but a minute offshoot to missile development. The primary concern of the administration, in atomic radiation, is not the saving but the destruction of lives.

It has been said recently, that most physicians are "babes in the woods" about the effects of radiation. This is so because the information is not available to them. The atomic pile is controlled by others, while the practicing physician stands passively by.

**WHAT KIND OF LIFE & WORK**

Yet the inherent responsibility for the direction and use of atomic energy lies not with any special group, be it military, industrial, or even medical scientist.

It is only the labor of the great mass of ordinary people that makes possible this costly development, and it is they who will suffer if it is not well used.

The appearance of this new and powerful form of energy again raises sharply one question: "What kind of a life do we want?" Or, to put it more simply, "What kind of work do we want?"

All the productive forces of modern industry, wonderful as they are, are now merely the means of using men.

The basic need of individual human beings—to develop themselves by their activity in our great technology—is made impossible, when the control of this activity is in the hands of others.

Is atomic energy to become another—a "better" means of using man? Power in the hands of special groups is power over the whole group — power to dehumanize life.

**NO CURE OR SPECIFIC TREATMENT**

Information about atomic radiation is vague, and seems to be deliberately so. The reason is not entirely a matter of security.

There is a fear of the reactions of people, should they learn of the enormity of the suffering and danger possible through its misuse.

There is, however, no hesitation in giving out information about the numbers of people that can be killed by an atomic bomb. Death apparently is easier to take than the horror of unknown disease. The fact is that we have no cure or specific treatment for radiation poisoning.

**THE BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING**

There is also heard the statement that ordinary people do not have the education and intelligence to understand atomic radiation. It is not a question of training scientists. No one claims that a scientist is made without special training. But this expression of contempt for the intelligence of ordinary people is merely a smokescreen for maintaining conditions as they are now.

The necessary basis for understanding Atomic Energy, or anything else of human endeavor, is the total education that comes from alienated labor and the resistance to it.

Atomic energy will be misused unless the total of humanity becomes concerned with work that is self-developing instead of self-destroying.

In the following issues of News & Letters, I shall present some of the immediate and delayed effects of radiation on human beings.

I was struck by what MD said in his column (Sept. 18). "The life I had been leading was not satisfying." Here's a professional man, a doctor and he's supposed to have something special in life. But he feels the same way we feel working in the factory. It's amazing how everybody is feeling the same thing.

Angela Terrano  
Detroit

### Automation Brings Chaos

(Continued from Page 1)  
 come back?" During the first few days, if you asked the committeeman what's happening to the other workers, he'd say, "Oh, they were taken up to another department," or, "They were transferred to another plant."

#### HOW MANY WILL RETURN?

But go to any department and it's the same story: thousands will not be called back. Management openly admits that now, so the union has finally quit fooling and goes along with what management says.

The hardest hit are the women workers. One man said, "All the women in my department, who had the same 13- to 15-year seniority we have, were called back only to be told to go home again for three weeks because they had no work for them."

One of the women said, "The company made believe they lived up to their agreement by calling us back according to seniority. They finally found a few jobs, but most of us are still out regardless of seniority."

#### SAFETY HAZARD

Worker after worker says, "There's something about these machines that's going to mess up a lot of people."

One man said, "We weren't on the job a day, when a man lost his finger and had the one next to it crushed. Before the week was out, another man lost a finger and a third man had three fingers chopped off by the machine."

"The safety-man came tearing down to see why each man got hurt. He said, 'We have to determine whose fault it is; if it's the machine's fault or the worker's.'"

"Naturally, they decided it was the worker's fault. That way the company doesn't have to take responsibility for him. Then they can fire him because he's not physically fit to operate a machine and nobody else will hire him either."

#### WHOSE FAULT?

Mechanics began to tear the machines down after the accidents. The workers said, "If it's the man's fault, why are you tearing the machines down? You damn well know it's the machine's fault."

The mechanics said, "Don't get mad at us. The company sent us down to

see what's wrong with the machines."

#### "NOT SAFE ENOUGH"

There are signs all over the shop saying: "Are You Doing It Safely?" Inside half-an-hour after the man was hurt, the workers had written under all those signs: "This Machine Is Not Safe Enough To Do It With."

The company finally installed two buttons on the new machines. As an added safety feature, they moved the buttons to where the worker has to reach up and out of the way before the machine will operate.

#### THE FORWARD LOOK

To add to all these pressures, Chrysler has given advance notice that a speed-up is under way to go with the cut-back. All Chrysler workers received a "personal" letter, mailed to their homes, from L. L. Colbert, president of Chrysler Corporation.

"We . . . have developed new work standards," he wrote. "These standards are comparable to those of the same jobs at Ford and GM. . . Meeting these new work standards means only that each one of us will do . . . as much work as the employe doing the same work at Ford or GM. . ."

#### SKELTON CREWS

A worker, with more than 20 years seniority, said: "This is the first time I ever felt so bad about being called back. I go past Packard and it's a ghost. I look at Motor Products and I see them moving machinery and cleaning out."

"What's going to happen to all these workers? I have a feeling that next year the same thing will happen here and we'll just be skeleton crews running this plant."

A few years ago, when Ford first introduced automation machines, there was a powerful protest from Ford workers. They threw a picket line around the plant and were determined not to let the new machines cross the lines.

"At that time," a Ford worker said, "Reuther came down with a hard hand and forced the men back. He said we didn't have any idea of what we were doing. He said we didn't understand what was going on. He said this was progress and he ordered us not to stand in the way of progress. What I want to know from Walter Reuther, is: Whose progress?"

### ENGLAND

Automation is the main issue over which 48,000 British Auto Workers have been striking over the past few months. It all began with the layoffs of 6,000 auto workers — 12% of the entire force — as unnecessary due to new automatic machines.

The British Motor Corporation, who laid the men off, has resisted the compromise efforts of the British trade union leaders to "spread the work out" or to go on a three day week.

The strike, which lasted over 15 weeks, has the full support of the British labor movement, but the powerful Employers' Federation and the Tory government are backing the company to the full extent of their resources.

A small indication of how the men feel about automation can be seen in the fact that the Blackpool conference of the Labour Party has before it some 29 resolutions dealing with the automation issue.

\* \* \*

One 30-year-old London mechanic complained that his job on an automatic machine was very lonely. He said he spends nine hours a day in complete isolation doing nothing but push the same button. The nearest machine is over 50 feet away from him. He could not sleep, lost his appetite and longed for the activity of his old job. After a week of button pushing, he quit.

Another British worker complained that his machine has about 80 drills and 22 blocks going through.

This machine has over 90 lights on it and so many switches that it worries him checking to see that they are all in order.

The older men complain that they are losing out on the jobs, since they won't put older men on the new machines.

The women complain of the hardship of trying to make out on their three pounds a week (\$8.10), but they are solidly behind the men.

## Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Despite the conditions created by automation, the resolutions submitted by the local Labour Party call for:—

- a—The fullest use of all automated processes.
- b—Automated plants shall be introduced only in full consultation with the workers concerned.
- c—When automation is introduced there shall be:

- (i) all round reduction of hours of work with no reduction of wage rates
- (ii) training of displaced workers for re-employment at the old rates of pay, at the expense of the employer.

\* \* \*

### KENYA

Kenya today is a police state in every sense in which the term is applied to countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The main concentration camp, and there are many, many of them, is located on Manda Island. No journalists or members of the British Parliament are permitted to visit there. Over 41,000 Africans are held prisoner for opposing British rule. Of 1,015 executed, only 297 were accused of murder.

\* \* \*

One group of 21 children included 11 and 12 year old girls, sentenced to life imprisonment by British Magistrates. Their offenses were, "consorting with armed persons," and "unlawful possession of ammunition." They are held under miserable conditions and are the prey of the male British guards.

\* \* \*

Eileen Fletcher, who was in Kenya as a British Government worker, saw these conditions and made a loud protest on her return to England. Mr. Lennox-Boyd, British Colonial Secretary, was requested to explain these conditions before the House of Commons.

He could do nothing but quibble about the ages of the children.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile 45 children have died in Kikambu village of malnutrition. The people of Kenya are driven off the good land and herded like cattle onto reservations, much in the same manner that the American Indians were some years ago.

While this activity bears the name of "western civilization," those thus persecuted are known as the Mau-Mau terror.

\* \* \*

### SLAVERY—1956

The United Nations, meeting at Geneva, tried to deal with the problem of slavery for our day and age.

For most people slavery is something that died with the Civil War. Others, who know better, know that the Arab nations, particularly Saudi Arabia, import some 30,000 slaves each year, from Africa, Iran and Iraq.

England and France, to try to counteract the bad smell of their other international activities, sought to get agreement between 51 nations outlawing the slave trade. The conference ended with no agreement.

Russia which has its own forced labor camps was on hand, supporting the contention of the Arab nations that such an agreement would "interfere with the internal affairs of the member nations."

The United States, which was also represented, had nothing to say and refused to sign any agreement. The anxiety of Dulles not to offend King Saud, not to endanger the negotiations for the lease of the Dhahran Air Base and Aramco's oil concessions, condemn 30,000 more men next year to a life of slavery.

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