

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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13

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

Why Should the Union Raise Our Dues?

By CHARLES DENBY

Workers are discussing the proposed dues increase that the International Union is now talking about leveling against them.

The first reaction was: What are we getting for the \$2.50 we are now paying?

ALL FOR \$2.50

Nothing but abuse from our local Union officers, and the International, when we mention a problem concerning workers at the shop level, like speedup, foremen working, and company abuses. Those are the things workers are receiving for the \$2.50 they now pay.

Many are getting fired by the union and company, for their \$2.50, with a guarantee of never being reinstated.

Secondly, why did the International mention the dues raise to the newspapers and the public before letting a breath of it be known to workers?

They started by saying it would be a dollar-and-a-half increase. Then it was a sliding scale—the more pay a worker gets, the higher his dues.

THEN & NOW

A year or so ago, the UAW secretary-treasurer, Emil Mazey, said they need a strike fund of 25 million dollars, no more than that. But, he said, if the fund sinks below 20 million, they may ask workers to put it back to 25 million.

Now, they are saying it's 21 million but they want 100 million in the strike fund.

As one worker said, "For what? They never have a strike. If they stop wasting our money on those Democratic candidates we would have had that amount in the treasury."

A daily newspaper stated that Reuther said no worker should mind giving two or three hours of work a month to the Union.

The majority of workers mind it; maybe all but those on Reuther's staff. He knows this. That is why they go after it in the way they do. Let workers have the right to vote on it and we will see.

Workers did not mind it in the early days of the Union when they had something to say about running it.

Of those who went to the International, many would not accept any money above what they were earning in the plant. Now, it is a professional, big salaried job to think of an International representative.

LOYAL OPPOSITION AT FORD—600

Stellato, president of Ford Local 600, can get in on the limelight and get publicity on this question of a dues increase. He is supposed to be opposed to the increase.

By his statement to the papers, he is only opposed to the way they are going after it.

He also stated to Reuther that workers at Ford are intelligent. In that he is correct. Workers as a whole are not dumb. That's why they are opposed to the dues increase. Period. Opposed to Stellato's or Reuther's method as long as it equals taking extra money out of their pay checks.

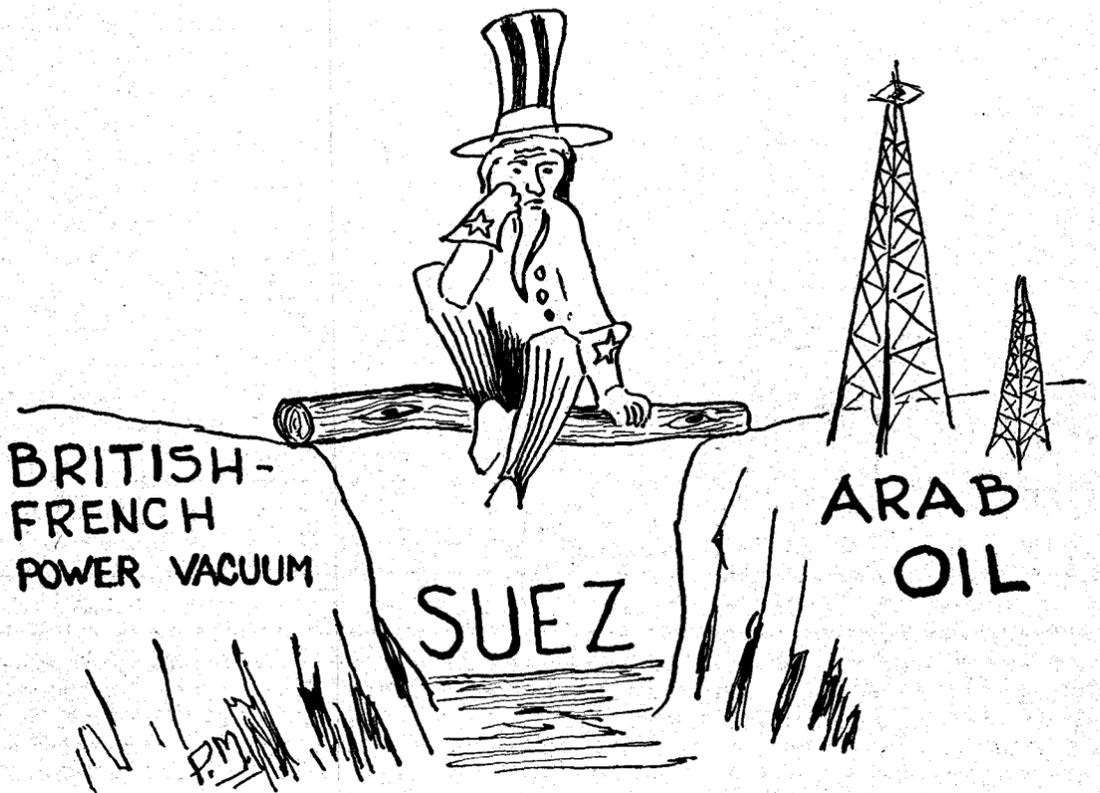
Stellato also mentioned that this increase is for the purpose of paying union expenses. Yes, paying for the living and travelling all over the world by Reuther and the International representative. Paying for those representatives that don't travel and do nothing else than be on the staff. Paying for the ones he expects to give jobs to in the future.

If this 100 million was going to be distributed among those workers who are unemployed and those who have been fired for trying to fight for better working conditions, then a worker would say, "Yes. We will give two, three or four hours a month's work and more."

WHEN THEY RUSH & WHEN THEY WAIT

They are in such a rush to reach down in workers' pockets, they are talking of calling a special Convention. They cannot wait.

But when it comes to authorizing strike action by these same International members, they wait, they put it off, and many times workers never get them to authorize a strike.



Preparing for War?

In the auto factory where I work there was great resentment against Britain, France and Israel for their invasion of Egypt. There was discussion of the fact that it is not only Russian imperialism which brings the people of the world to the brink of war, but the oil interests of the Western Allies as well.

One worker quoted from a column by Drew Pearson to demonstrate that American oil interests dominate the U. S. State Department to the point where America also has no constructive policy for settling the crisis in the Middle East. He said very bitterly that the State Department has absolutely no concern for the peoples of the Middle East and is preoccupied only with making sure that U. S. oil interests dominate that area and not British, French or Russian oil interests.

One worker had been planning to vote for Stevenson until the invasion occurred. When Stevenson came out for support of the invaders this worker decided that this showed Stevenson was completely for big business and had as little interest in the common people of the world as the Republicans. In protest against both major parties he voted for the Prohibition candidate. He came into the shop the day after the elections quite proud of the decision he had made.

WORKERS DISTRUST POLICIES

The attitude of the work-

ers in the shop taken as a whole was a distrust and disavowal of the policies of all governments involved including the Israeli and Egyptian.

One worker, however, undoubtedly representing an important minority viewpoint claimed that Nasser represented the legitimate claims of the Arab people for national independence and therefore deserved support. Another worker, representing another important minority viewpoint, said that since Israel was the most progressive state

in the Middle East it deserved support.

The more common view of most of the workers was to be neither with Nasser nor with Israel but rather to fear that a general war can come from this crisis.

In this respect, not even Britain and France, in spite of their actions, played a substantial part in the views that were expressed. Everybody, that is, the majority, went straightway to the two real contenders for world power, Russia and America.

EGYPT ENSNARED

It is plain to see that in attempting to escape the terrors of Western imperialism, the Egyptian government under Nasser has become enmeshed in the snares of the equally terrible Russian imperialism.

Consider but one simple fact among many: Russia and its satellites, by own-

(Continued on Back Page)

Coming in the Next Issue (Jan. 22)—

1957 started like 1956—with the eyes of the world on Negro Americans determined to gain their basic human rights.

A FIRST-HAND REPORT FROM THE SOUTH
BY OUR EDITOR, CHARLES DENBY

Watch for It!

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners Pay for Coal "Progress" With Sweat and Blood

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—John L. Lewis keeps saying that he's always been for "progress" in the coal industry. Well, let's see what this has meant for the miners.

The United Mine Workers Union was organized in 1890. From then until 1914, hand manual labor produced and moved all of the coal mined in the United States. During that quarter century a miner produced on the average between 2½ and 3½ tons of coal a day. Today, in deep mines, the national average is 11 tons per man, per day. It is considerably higher in strip-mining where giant shovels lift 20 tons and more at a bite. Production varies by this method. In Montana, for example, the average is very high—some 85 tons per man, per day.

What is important in the comparison is that from the beginning of World War I until today, the rebelliousness of the miners, and the constant crises in the industry, made the operators turn to greater and greater mechanization to increase production and reduce the number of miners employed.

In 1905, for example, there were about 600,000 employed miners. In 1947 there were some 425,000. Today, there are little more than 200,000. Throughout this half-century period, even the miners with jobs suffered from unemployment an average of 100 days a year.

FROM WAR TO DEPRESSION

Machines, introduced during World War I, for drilling and undercutting the coal face, began the process of mechanization. Mule-drawn carts were replaced by electric locomotives drawing a string of cars.

The ten years between 1914 and 1924 saw an intensification of the miners' struggles against the ruthless exploitation of the operators and, at the same time, a rapidly accelerated process of mechanization that reached a peak resulting in a depression in coal

mining six years before it hit the rest of the economy.

The miners' Union was all but smashed. There was a great increase in the number of mines operated side by side with unemployment that hit practically one out of every two miners. (The unemployment among miners in 1924 was similar to the "reduction in personnel" between 1947 and today.)

FIGHTING BACK

By 1933 the miners had begun to fight back. Despite bloody brutality by the mine operators—who not only hired private armies of thugs but also received the aid of local sheriffs, state police and National Guard—the miners rebuilt their Union to full strength.

Facing a well-organized working force, the coal operators stepped-up the mechanization of the mines, eliminating jobs wherever possible.

The following description of the development in mining methods, and the comparison of their productivity, is based upon the Pittsburgh seam which is six to seven feet high on the average.

HAND-LOADING

Our first example is a typical hand-loading operation, as it used to be, in the Pittsburgh seam. Here, it was necessary to keep 18 to 20 rooms in the mines open for operation. Fifty men were employed, two at each coal face in each room.

This large working area had to be supplied with trackage and power; it had to be maintained, ventilated, timbered, supervised, pumped out, etc.

The 50 men drilled the coal face, blasted and loaded the broken coal into mine cars which were carried off to the loading point. On a seven-hour shift they could produce 300 tons of coal.

John L. Lewis, Labor Capitalist

Recently John L. Lewis worked out a deal and formed a company to export American coal in the European markets. His partners are the coal operators and the railroad magnates. They are using 50 government-owned surplus mothball liberty ships for the operation.

In typical Lewis fashion, Lewis used his District 50 as the union for the ship's

officers, rather than the Masters, Mates and Pilots Union.

The Maritime unions protested, issued a complaint before the N.L.R.B. and set up picket lines on the docks.

Now, the N.L.R.B. must issue a decision on the issue: Is John L. Lewis, Capitalist, unfair to organized labor?

MECHANIZED TRACK MINES

The next method is the typical mechanized track mine. The operator has to maintain only ten underground rooms, half the number required with hand-loading. Here, 16 men of a seven-hour shift can produce the same 300 tons of coal.

This process involves drilling the coal face with mechanized drills capable of producing 700 holes, 2½ feet in diameter and seven feet deep, during a seven-hour shift. The coal seam is undercut by machines and blasted loose through the use either of explosives or of the new compressed-air chambers that are being substituted for explosives in coal mining. The coal is then loaded by mechanical loader into mine cars drawn by the electric locomotive to the dumping point.

TRACKLESS MINES

The next step in the evolution of coal mining was the introduction of the trackless mine using shuttle-car haulage or the buggy system.

When we consider that West Virginia and Pennsylvania have more miles of railroad tracks, underground in the coal mines, than there are on the surface for all types of above-ground transportation, we get a rough idea of the number of men needed to maintain coal mine tracks.

The introduction of trackless mining is steadily eliminating thousands of jobs in the coal fields.

The mine owners, playing upon the lack of seniority system in the United Mine Workers Union, place the more militant miners and the older men on the track crew. When trackless mining is introduced into the mine, the entire track crew is laid off.

A typical trackless mine, using shuttle-cars with rubber track-type tires, needs to maintain only eight rooms and employes ten or 11 men to produce 600 tons of coal. These men are employed as follows: one loading machine operator, one helper, one cutting-machine operator, one helper, two shuttle-car drivers; two men drilling and blasting, two timber men, and one boss.

CONTINUOUS MINER

The latest innovation in the evolution of coal mining is the continuous miner, first introduced in 1949. The continuous miner eliminates the need for undercutting the mine face, drilling and blasting. It can work a seam of coal as low as 39 inches and as high as 100 inches.

It operates within a single room, tunnels into the furthest point from which coal may be profitably extracted, and then proceeds to mine its way out.

It can produce some 700 tons in a seven-hour shift with one operator, one helper, two shuttle-car drivers, one hopper-car operator, and one boss. Five men and one boss. The mine owners are constantly pushing now to cut this to three men.

Throughout, the operators are putting on pressure to eliminate helpers. The miners have replied by wildcatting. (See News & Letters, Sept. 18, 1956.)

FOR "OVER-AGE" MINERS

The only place where hand-loading operators are used today are (1) in small mining operators where insufficient capital is available for mechanization; (2) where seams are so narrow that mechanized equipment cannot enter; or (3) where mining conditions are so bad that the owners refuse to risk machines.

It is here that unemployed "overage" miners have to work, if they can get it, because they can't find work elsewhere.

STRIP-MINING

All this that I have described is in underground mining. Another type of mining that is constantly increasing its yearly tonnage is strip-mining. Giant shovels, lifting from 20 to

100 tons at a bite, strip off the overburden and load trailer trucks that carry up to 38 and more tons per load. It is now possible to recover coal with as much as 90 feet of overburden at a profit.

The chief advantage of this type of mining, for the operator of course, is the saving of labor costs.

PRICE OF "PROGRESS"

What has been the price of all this "progress?" In the past ten years, one out of every two miners has been eliminated.

Those who are still working have to work harder, under greater hazards, and face the constantly increasing threat of unemployment, injury and even death.

—Engineer

The Good Boss

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.

—We had just come from our local union meeting and were having a couple of rounds of beer. Somehow, bosses got to be the topic of conversation and there was a free exchange of opinions concerning this very usual subject.

Many colorful adjectives (unprintable) were being used to describe them, when one young guy who is something of a joker came over waving a beer in front of him.

"I've heard what you guys have been saying," he said. "And I want to say here and now that I disagree with you. To hear you guys talk you'd think there wasn't such a thing as a good boss. Well, I can tell you that I saw one once. I was his pall bearer."

"Efficiency" Means Speed-Up & Absenteeism

LOS ANGELES—Automobile industry isn't the only one with speed lines.

Many plants in Los Angeles have hired efficiency experts. A wage incentive is used in most of those places. All it does is squeeze more work from workers for a few extra cents.

The expert tells the worker that the result will be a better, easier and safer method of doing the work. What happens after standards have been set? Your methods are the same and accidents increase. Yet if these so-called experts were to do your job they

wouldn't know where to start from.

Absenteeism in these plants is tremendous, because employees have come to the point where they don't care. As one girl said, "We are nothing more than nervous wrecks."

Even machines break down and need repairs. Yet they expect human beings to keep right on working faster than a machine without breaking down.

The morale in these plants is very low. Sooner or later employers will find out that the harder they push people the less work they will get.

Three Months After Strike

GM Back to Normal ... Speed-Up

LOS ANGELES—There are few workers in the General Motors assembly plant in South Gate, California, who would say that the strike of several months ago was a complete failure.

Many workers feel that the strike was in the nature of a reminder to General Motors that workers are not powerless against abuse from the company no matter how inadequate the contract.

STRIKE SETTLED NOTHING

On the other hand, it is clearly recognized now that the strike actually settled very little, if anything. The company removed some reprimands from workers, paid some back pay where there were disciplinary layoffs and said they would add a man here and there to reduce speed-up.

But now that the changeover has been made to the 1957 models, all the operations have been changed. When the promised additional manpower has been available it has not lessened speed-up of the individual worker.

The final strike agreement stated that where speed-up existed the foreman would have to get additional manpower or take other measures to reduce the workload on the worker.

Some union activists felt that this was in effect a negotiated line-speed. In practice it has not worked out like this because it is up to the foreman to decide when additional help is needed.

"FILE A GRIEVANCE"

All that a worker can do is file a grievance. By the time it is settled through official channels weeks may have gone by

and the particular problem no longer exists.

The only way to settle a speed-up problem effectively is if the workers involved can negotiate right then and there and stop the line if necessary.

The problem is complicated because if they run one Buick, and immediately following, three Pontiacs, a speed-up condition might exist.

On the other hand, if they schedule three Buicks and one Pontiac, the workers might have it easy depending on their division of operations. The problem can only be settled right then and there on the line.

Some workers felt the agreement would permit this means of settlement but they were proven wrong.

FOREMEN WORKING

It was also stated in the agreement that the company would live up to its contract obligations and not permit foremen to do production work on the line.

In practice the foremen did not work for a few days but when the line started really moving, the foremen were right back doing work on production. Under the contract provisions they can claim that they are working just to overcome an emergency.

It seems that there is always an emergency on a G.M. production line.

The strike showed once again the gap between union leaders and ranks. As a result of the failure of the union leaders even to communicate with the ranks there was much confusion when we got back to work. We didn't know exactly what had been negotiated.

Many workers, like myself, were not at the meeting to vote on the agreement simply because we didn't know that a meeting was scheduled. Even those who were at the meeting came away with ideas that speed-up was forevermore being eliminated in the plant.

It took me two weeks to get an actual copy of the agreement and then I had to swipe it from a foreman's desk.

EVERYTHING 'NORMAL'
The plant has fully returned to normal conditions of speed-up, inadequate relief and poor working conditions.

We got it from a plant protection man that every day, in one recent week, 200 men were quitting or being fired out of a total work force of about 5000 in the whole plant.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

Workers' & Negroes' Problems Hard to Solve

What good is the Union to the working people these days when the president has gone against all the workers?

He talks with his fellows about raising the union dues, so they can have more money in the treasury to pay high salaries, so they can go from place to place just to say they are doing something for the worker.

It looks like the working people's problems are just as hard to get settled as the Negro people's problems are.

IT WOULD BE BETTER

I think that if the workers would put their heads together and think over what they can do to get things straightened out, so that the workers could handle their own jobs without having a foreman to be over them, it would be better.

The only way for the Negro people to get their problems settled is to do just like the Jews who have their own organization set up for themselves. It seems to me they do just as they please and won't be called communists.

But whenever the Negroes set up an organization of their own, the white people just have to start

calling them communists. We are only trying to live the same life that any other person tries to live.

"PRETTY TOUGH"

They do not want that to be true about Negroes. They do not want Negroes to be equal with whites because they once were slaves. But that was in the older days.

When the Negroes first came to this country, they had nothing to help themselves like the white man did.

The white man came from somewhere and took this country from the Indians, who had learned to raise their own food by planting grain of all kinds. The Indians made a way of their own to live, and the white man ran them away to take this country for themselves, so they could call it a country of their own.

The Indian and the Negro people have been catching it pretty tough ever since the white man has taken over this so-called good America.

HERE TO STAY

But, after all, we colored people will still stay here and fight to make our way bright, to show them that we are here to stay.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

What Factory Work Does to the Body

I went to see a doctor in New York a few years ago. I was amazed that this man, who had cultivated a charming bedside manner, had so little knowledge of what working in a factory does to the human body.

Sitting in his reception room I could see that many of his patients were working people. When I told him that I was tired and nervous and wanted to take two weeks off from work, he asked me what I did. I told him that I assembled watches into their cases and did 400 to 500 a day. **'NOT HARD WORK'**

He kind of laughed and said, "Well that's not hard work."

Sitting there I felt a little foolish, a feeling that often accompanies visits to a doctor. Then I began to think. This man is supposed to heal people, but his attitude is such that all he can see is the obvious wound and the \$5 for the visit. It kind of made me furious. Especially that I had to give my hard-earned money to him.

A YEAR AND A DAY

Recently I have been to a doctor in Detroit who happens to be a specialist. After the first examination he had an idea what was wrong. I went to the other doctor for almost a year and he didn't see what this one did in the first visit. He just had me going to

him for a year, dishing out \$5 bills.

It might be because Detroit is a large industrial city that this Detroit doctor understands what factory work does to you. Not only understands but is indignant of the companies' hold on people.

A girl from my shop was having a miscarriage and he said she had to go to the hospital immediately, straight from his office.

The girl said she couldn't. Her attendance at work had not been too good lately and she had to report in the next morning with a note from him and then she could go to the hospital to take care of her health.

He was furious that a job could do that to a person. When she left he told me he was quite worried about her. She was out from work for almost two months.

He says women shouldn't work. Not because he thinks they belong in the home, but because so many of his women patients who work in factories, and want to have children, can't.

He says, "Working in a factory, doing housework, being exhausted and nervous, with the husband working a different shift, are not the best conditions for the conception of children."

Steelworkers Resist Dues Raise

McKEESPORT, Pa.—The angry membership of United Steelworkers, Local 1408, chased their president, John J. Donahoe, out of the union hall, down the street, and into the arms of the cops.

Donahoe called the cops to protect him when the membership became angry over his refusal to accept the nomination of Don Rarick, who is running against President David J. McDonald in February.

When Donahoe refused

to accept the nomination, the membership rose and surged toward the platform, demanding the right to vote on the issue. In the scuffle that followed, Donahoe was knocked down twice, lost his glasses and ran out of the hall.

Rarick is the chairman of a United Steelworkers "dues protest committee" which seeks to eliminate the recent \$2 monthly dues increase imposed on the membership by David McDonald.

Accidents and Deaths Pile Up In Steel

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—They're crying about safety in the steel mills now. And then they cry about getting the job done faster and saving material.

If we go on a hot job, the less time we spend the more money we get. To get a bigger piece of pie, you'll get on a job. Everybody's working at the same time. You've got bricklayers, carpenters—everybody's supposed to be busy.

I don't see how they're going to cut down on accidents when they have you

working with bricklayers over your head and carpenters under your feet. Somebody's going to get hurt. How's that going to work? It can't work.

The foreman gets a memo every day on safety and he's supposed to have a little safety caucus with the men. But when you get on the job to start work, you've got everything a man could throw in your way. And the accidents and deaths keep piling up every week.

—Steelworker.

EDITORIALS

Pills, Automation and Production

Two seemingly opposite facts have crept into the news in the closing weeks of 1956.

One concerns low labor productivity today, and is buried in the financial pages.

The other was a short item on a recent secret conference between doctors and industrialists on the effects of "nerve pills" on auto workers.

Despite all the automation machines, labor productivity, in 1956, has shown the lowest rise since the end of World War II. It is no more than two per cent.

Such a tiny rise, despite the heavy changeover to automation, means an actual decrease in labor productivity. It has the Administration and the economists worried about the future of the economy.

When World War II ended they were worried about the very same thing. At that time, the Administration called for a frantic round of conferences on productivity, or, in simple English, on how to make the worker produce more.

After about five years of search and research and conferences among "responsible" labor leaders, industrialists, specialists in technology, engineers, personnel experts, public relations consultants, popular writers, and what have you, they came up with the golden answer: Don't depend on the worker, depend on the machine.

So, they launched the new age of automation—and they're still worried about low labor productivity.

Now, it turns out, the doctors are also worried about low labor productivity.

They're worried that perhaps the "nerve pills" so many workers have been given to relieve them of the tension which kept them from producing may be making them feel too good to produce. And they're worried that perhaps this widespread use of tranquilizing medicines may actually be harmful. Hence, the recent conference behind closed doors, between doctors and leading industrialists.

This may be news to the medical consultants of big industry: the workers' resistance to the speedup and to capitalistic discipline in production is not due to nerve pills any more than it is a result of automation.

With or without automation, and with or without nerve pills, the workers do not want to continue as part of this crazy inhuman system of "production for production's sake."

The workers have long since asked the question: What kind of labor shall man perform, and for what type of society?

In asking the question, the workers have already posed the answer in general: In a new society where every worker runs his own life; where, to a man, each decides what to produce and how to produce it in relation to his fellow man.

Nothing short of this new society will bring about a rise in productivity.

Readers'

YOUNG WORKERS & OLD WORKERS

Some workers are being fired at Ford Rouge for refusing to work the seventh day.

It's the newer people in Rouge who are putting up the biggest fight against working more than eight hours, five days, because they're the ones who are being hit the hardest by these long hours.

Newly-hires are the ones talking about walking out now.

Ford-Rouge Worker
Detroit

DUES RAISE

Many weeks and months workers' paychecks are short. If their check amounts to \$20 or \$30, the first deduction is income taxes, the second is union dues, with nothing left to take home. It matters so little to the International that they now want to raise the dues.

Auto Body Worker
Detroit

Some workers are saying that automation has put so many of us out of work that the Union wants a dues increase to keep the International treasury up to where it was when we had practically full employment.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

WOMEN WORKERS

LIFE magazine is bragging about its new copy glorifying the American woman. In all the pages of pictures of women, there's just one picture of a working woman and she's a garment worker. All the rest are glamor girls and professional women.

There's about 21 million women working today and I know they're not all garment workers and I know they're not all glamor-pants. Do you mean to say that all those millions rate only one picture in LIFE? And that's supposed to be a write-up of the American woman?

Working Woman
Brooklyn, N. Y.

LEADERS & RANKS

It's funny how the big brass in any country thinks exactly the same even when they're supposed to be fighting each other.

The most fantastic claim put forth in our country was the claim that Mindszenty was leading the Hungarian revolution. In all the weeks, when the Workers' Councils were bearing the entire weight of the struggle all we heard from our big brass was how the revolution was lost.

Now, here comes the puppet Kadar and, to prove his "democracy," he too is forming a coalition in which he offers the Catholics a part, but the Workers' Councils are strictly outlawed.

"For the Workers'
Councils"
Kansas City, Kansas

An A.P. dispatch from Hungary quoted some workers as saying that the leader of their Workers' Council was 23 years old. When they returned to work after a 48-hour strike the young leader was called to a conference building never again to return.

The workers said, "We should never have let him go there. We made a serious mistake. We should have made them come to the factory. There we could have kept him safe indefinitely."

Housewife
Los Angeles

I notice that large sums of money are being contributed for "Hungarian Relief." Yet it seems to flow into the coffers of those organizations who already have plenty of money to help out, if they were really interested in doing anything.

The Red Cross, Reuther's CIO-AFL relief organization, the churches etc., all conduct their own private drives for funds, yet none of them are able to get the funds to those who really need it, the people who are still suffering INSIDE Hungary.

I also recall the N.A.A.C.P. conducting a fund drive for the Montgomery Bus Boycotters. These people who needed it had to run their own fund drive, since they

got so little out of the NAACP.

As a veteran of World War II, I cannot recall being given anything free by the Red Cross organization. Many others have been through similar experiences.

It is tragic to see the suffering of the Hungarian People being used to fatten the private coffers of so-called "Relief Organizations."

Vet, World War II
New York City

THIS WHITE WORLD

September in Alabama—November in Budapest.

"Its littered rooms testify to the haste in which its owners left."

The above is not a description of a household in Hungary whose occupants fled Russian tyranny but a description of the tyranny against a Negro household in Shady Grove, Alabama, a "95%" Negro community as described in LIFE (2-10-56).

Housewife,
Los Angeles

BATTLE FOR MEN'S MINDS

I can't help contrasting the equivocal role of the Catholic Church in East Europe with the revolutionary role of religion in Montgomery, Alabama, where for months Negroes stuck together against the local dictators by meeting regularly in churches, singing hymns about freedom, and behaving very much like the earliest Christians, whose belief in human equality and freedom defied the Roman Empire and led to their persecution.

Protestant Churches have been as repressive as the Catholic, so that it is very rare these days to find that Christ's teachings are seriously applied to the world's injustices.

I was sorry to read recently that some of the ministers who had supported the bus boycott are now prepared to call it off. Are they too beginning to equivocate?

Of course religion does not win freedom. Men act with other men to make the world they want. They may have to act as the Hungarian workers are doing. They do not rely on God or the Church to win freedom. But the Church always gains—or loses—from what the people do.
Detroit Teacher.

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Views

WAR & PEACE

I haven't read about or heard of any interviews here in America with any actual Freedom Fighters, only with professionals mainly and students.

Worker
Los Angeles

Nixon isn't going over there to look into the Hungarian refugee situation. He's going to see if it can be used as an outpost of Western democracy.

Housewife
Los Angeles

I met a friend from Latvia who said it's going to be a little tougher for the people in her country to revolt because the Russians forcibly took a good many Latvians and pushed them into Siberia and replaced them with groups from central Asia.

Subscriber
Los Angeles

The people of Haiti went on a sitdown strike because the president, when he finished his term of office, instead of stepping aside, put all the other candidates in jail and declared himself dictator. The whole country stopped working and he finally had to quit and leave the country.

I think that a lot of these people in Haiti got their idea from what's going on in Hungary.

Professional
Los Angeles

I just read where the foreign ministers of NATO finished their get-together and admitted that nothing was accomplished.

Worker
Los Angeles

HEALTH & SAFETY

After a lapse of over two and a half months, we are finally hearing something again about the building collapse at Jackson, Michigan which killed 10 men. However, this investigation was merely a preliminary

one, and they found no basis for the issuance of criminal warrants.

After talking to the workers at the scene, the investigators came up with five complaints which might possibly indicate the cause of the disaster. They all boil down to the fact that the job was rushed, and insufficient time was given for the mixing and ripening of the concrete. The head of the committee "emphasized that these were the opinions of the workers and that while they were experienced in the construction field they did not qualify as experts." If they don't who in the world does? Some bureaucrat in Lansing?

Interested Non-Expert
Detroit

A NEW SUBSCRIBER

I received the sample copy of your NEWS & LETTERS

and wish to state that as far as I can see it is the greatest single step forward in history to eradicate ignorance and misery.

I am losing no time in sending in my contributions to your paper. If some of my articles seem too emotional for you, you may tone them down, but I believe there are times when the human reason can be stimulated into action by arousing the emotions. My intention is not the intention of the rabble rouser, to destroy reason by arousing the emotions. I am putting forth common sense things to think about that intelligent reason can embrace.

Sincerely and best wishes,

E. L.
Santa Rosa, Calif.
● See Below

FROM A NEW SUBSCRIBER

When you go to work some morning and find you have been laid off, or are out of a job, that situation and condition didn't "just happen" . . . It happened because someone, or ones, was or were lying in bed, walking, riding, in a smoke-filled room, planning scheming how to get a mortgage on your home and by economic control over your life put your body in service to his ego.

If you had been thinking while he was thinking he could not have deprived you of your job. But you weren't thinking. You were letting him do your thinking for you because that is the custom.

That sort of thing is going on right under our noses all the time. It is going on on a worldwide scale right now with the focal point on Egypt and the Middle East. If the ones who control the lives of everybody, such as Dulles, with an inanimate thing like money can starve Nasser into asking help . . . it may be thousands of years before mankind can organize against the power of laws made by a few . . . Looks hopeless, doesn't it? Well, it's not. Those four words can whip it . . .

We need only break the backs of the power of men-made laws made by a few, and the power of man made money and we will have whipped all dictators and putrid little "tin gods" like kings and queens and princes and princesses and those of their ilk by any other name.

Britain's grip is just about torn loose from its enslaving hold on its colonies by a more enlightened and aroused slave mind of those exploited nations. Those trips of the Queen and now Princess Margaret . . . aren't just "sightseeing" trips. Britain knows she is slipping.

I say now is the time to forever rid the world of its human parasites by letting those nations who enslave other nations collapse from a lack of oil. Allow them only enough to keep body and soul together but none for their war machines such as Naval and Merchant Fleets.

The Middle East can soon enough build up a self-supporting economy if all its countries will get rid of their parasitical Princes and what-not who are working with anybody who has money to enslave their own people.

We must get our heads out of the sand and out of the clouds and "take a look around" and see what is going on.

E. L.
Santa Rosa, Calif.

TWO WORLDS

Hungary and Kenya: Two Fights for Freedom

Freedom has become the most abused word in the language these days. Everyone from Eisenhower to Nixon, Walters and Hartley (co-author of the Taft-Hartley Law) are suddenly "for" the Freedom Fighters in Hungary.

They do nothing to help the Hungarian revolutionaries who are carrying on the fight in Hungary itself. Instead, they pick and choose which of the Hungarian refugees they will allow into the United States, that is, those who would be "good security risks." But they wax poetic over the word, freedom.

TRANSFORMED INTO OPPOSITE

It all goes to show that there is nothing on earth that cannot be transformed into its opposite. When one fights for freedom from Russian rule, you play it big. But when one fights for freedom from British rule, as the people of Kenya have done for much longer than has Hungary, then not only do you not play that up, but you call that freedom fight the "fight of savages."

This was brought out at a lecture I gave and I wish here to report it.

Two young workers were discussing with an older worker the attitudes in their shops to the Hungarian Revolution. One thing they all agreed on was that the effusive sympathy of the Administration, culminating in Vice-President Nixon's trip to Austria, was alienating the American workers' sympathy for the Hungarian refugees.

At the beginning of the revolt against Russian totalitarianism, the same workers were all talking not only about how to help the Hungarians but also how they "should do the same thing here in organizing our own factory committees to do our negotiation instead of the union leadership." Now, the workers are asking, "How does it happen Washington is all for Hungarian refugees getting jobs, but they still use the Taft-Hartley law against us?"

The older worker said: "Let's not mix up the refugees and the Hungarian workers who have remained behind and are carrying on the fight there."

One of the young workers agreed, and said he noted that the Hungarian refugees were either professionals or highly skilled workers. None seemed to be production workers, at least none they showed on TV.

WHY NO 'CARE' PACKAGES TO AFRICA?

"But," he continued, "many of the guys in the shop were right when they said they wouldn't send CARE packages. They were asking, how does it happen that none of these packages were sent to Africa? Look how the people of Kenya have fought the British but all we ever hear of them is that the Africans who want Africa for themselves are 'savages'."

There is no doubt that British brutality, in putting down the Mau Mau, more than matches the Russian brutality against the Hungarian revolutionaries.

There is no doubt that the Administration has its own reasons for allegedly being "for" the Hungarian Revolution. They are certainly against Russia and Russia has given them a golden opportunity to appear as if they were for the Hungarian revolution.

"But America is doing nothing for those who bear the brunt of the whole fight in Hungary itself: the Hungarian Workers' Council. If there were a way to help them," concluded the older worker, "that is where I would send the help."

NEW WAYS OF FIGHTING

The nub of the question is what the workers inside Hungary itself are doing, and how they are doing it.

First, they are fighting in the factories which they are using as their places of refuge. The leaders of the Workers' Councils were arrested only after they left the factory and walked to the Parliament building to negotiate.

Secondly, the workers seem to have worked out new ways of fighting, both on the job and when they walk out on strike.

For example, the miners are refusing to mine coal until the Russian Army leaves Hungary. Nor are they letting anyone else mine the coal "for the workers"

When the Russians tried to take over the running of the mines, the workers threatened to blow up the mines. In fact, they did just that to some uranium mines and blew the whole plan to kingdom come. That the people of Kenya did the same thing to the British plans can be seen from the weakness of the British Empire. Nor has the last word been written to the Administration's pretense of being "for" freedom everywhere—except where they rule. —R.D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

Absenteeism Among Young Workers

A few days ago three young workers in my department were called into the office by the foreman. They were given an official warning that they had been absent too often. They were told if the company decides their attendance isn't improving, further disciplinary measures will be taken. This means a two-day layoff and then the possibility of being fired.

WHAT'S EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM?

The guys didn't think they had been off that much. The contract doesn't specify what is considered too much time off. The company doesn't publicize what it considers to be excessive absenteeism. I asked an old timer what was the company policy.

He laughed and said, "Any time off is too much time off."

As a group, young workers I've known take off a lot more time than the older guys. There are a variety of reasons, and matters concerning absenteeism have always been of interest to them.

THEY FORCE YOU TO LIE

Work has slowed down in my shop during the last couple of months, but still the company refused the guys who requested it, time off to go hunting.

One worker thought he had things all figured out. He said he wasn't a liar and wasn't going to fake

illness. He would explain to the foreman that he was going to take a couple of extra days off during the Christmas vacation so he could spend more time with his daughter whom he was going West to see. This he did.

Supervision said, "Nothing doing." It made no difference that he hadn't been out a day in five years. He suddenly became ill and left work in the middle of the day.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

The company thinks that the days you work or don't work should be strictly up to the company.

There are times when there is little or no work to perform and still the company tells the men to come in. Only the most naive think this is for the welfare of the men.

At times like this the foreman stands over you and the bosses all sneak around, peeking here and there, as if they expect to see you working. They let the men know that as work picks up they expect them to make up for the slack period and some guys feel obligated. It's real psychological warfare.

Any new UAW contract, to begin to appeal to young workers, will have to start with the conditions of work. It will have to back the workers' struggle to own themselves.

It All Depends On Teacher

LOS ANGELES. — It seems like the behavior of the kids depends almost completely on a teacher. I've had different classes where I've realized that.

I've seen the roughest kids in the school buckle down and work for some

teachers, the ones who treat them like human beings and try to help them.

On the other hand, I've seen kids, who work hard, not work at all for other teachers. They seem to recognize a flunky as soon as he walks in the room.

—16-Year-Old

Abusing the Young Newsboys

DETROIT—I got a route on a newspaper here in Detroit to make some money. But after a month or so I found out all the work and lugging the heavy papers

around and they don't pay the boys enough for it and they make you think they're doing you a big favor.

—12 Year Old Boy

Notes From Overseas:

Correspondent Reports Workers' Unrest in England & Russia

GT. BRITAIN

All over Britain workers are preparing themselves for the coming economic struggles in 1957.

Wage Claims

Six millions workers are putting in claims for wage increases varying from 4/8 (about \$1.65) per week of the building workers to £1 (\$2.80) per week of the London bus workers. Railway workers are demanding an increase of ten to 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, as the result of the Anglo-French imperialists' attack on Egypt, prices continue to rise, and are expected to go on rising. The only people who are happy are the capitalists who go on making still more profits.

* * *

Rent Raises

In addition, workers are facing possible rent increases during the New Year as a result of the proposed new Rent Bill before Parliament. At present the rents of privately owned houses are controlled by act of Parliament; and the proposed Bill, introduced by the Tories, aims to de-control the fixing of rents.

* * *

Already, before the Bill has a chance to be debated in Parliament, the landlords and property owners are raising their prices on houses for sale, since the proposed Bill raised the market value of houses.

This in spite of the fact that in the current fiscal year the total income of the 24 property-owning companies increased from approximately £6,000,000 (\$16,800,000) to nearly £6,500,000 (\$18,200,000). The total net profit of these twenty-four companies rose from £1,509,929 (\$4,227,801) to £1,609,217 (\$4,505,970).

* * *

If the Rent Bill becomes law the above profits will inevitably rocket still further.

* * *

Strike Committees

What are the workers doing to meet this attack on their living standards?

The rank and file in the trade unions are organizing themselves and forming strike committees. Workers who belong to different un-

ions in an industry are forming rank and file industrial action groups or committees. All the signs point to a revolutionary revival among the militant workers.

Thousands of workers are organized in tenants & residents associations, coordinated by the National Association of Tenants & Residents, a non-party but militant in their outlook. Their militancy is shown by workers of the new post-war town of Crawley in Sussex during 1956.

The Crawley workers not only went on a rent strike but also took strike action in the Crawley factories. They were joined by workers who live in the nearby towns and villages but work in the Crawley factories. Needless to say that the workers won the day.

* * *

The New Year will find the British working-class ready to meet any attack on their living standards. I believe from all I have seen that we shall see gigantic economic and political struggles surpassing the 1926 General Strike.

* * *

RUSSIA

Just before Christmas and since, reports are reaching London of widespread strikes and students demonstrations in Russia.

* * *

Leningrad Strike

The workers of the famed Putilov factories in Leningrad downed tools over wages and unsatisfactory conditions in general. Putilov works gained fame in the 1917 revolution when the Putilov workers were in the vanguard against Czarism. Recently the Putilov workers struck for eight days. Other reports stated that the Putilov workers also made political demands; they have protested the Soviet's action in Hungary and the lack of news of the true picture there. Apparently, they are confused by the contradictory statements by the Russian government regarding the situation in Hungary; and in addition, by the possibility that many of the Putilov workers have relatives in the

Soviet forces in Hungary who in their letters home, and from returning soldiers, learned the true facts about the workers' revolt in Hungary.

* * *

Moscow Strike

Moscow workers in the equally famous Kagonovitch works downed tools. Workers in the armaments plant near the capital also struck. Waves of strikes are also reported among workers in the Donetz Basin and the Urals industrial centres.

* * *

Students Protest

Students in the universities of Vilna, Reval, Leningrad and Moscow are demonstrating against Party officials.

* * *

According to the Moscow press, students are even producing their own magazines.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports that the students at Leningrad College of Technology have published a magazine entitled KULTURA, which expressed views criticising the Communist Party. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA complains that the KULTURA has the support of the college's Party committee and its secretary. In its December 16 issue KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA also reported the appearance at the Leningrad Institute of Railway Engineering a handwritten magazine called NEW VOICES which supported the "Nihilistic views about socialistic realism."

Victor Lloyd

London

28th. December, 1956

THE PEOPLE OF KENYA SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

By Mbiyu Koinange

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100 Years of Contempt for Workers:

The Intellectual Swamp That Grows More Dismal

The attitude of some intellectuals to the Hungarian revolution is both puzzling and disturbing. On the one hand, they think of themselves as "socialists" (admittedly in a vague, ill-defined way) but on the other hand they take a cynical, if not reactionary position on the events in Hungary.

At first, they seemed to be enthusiastic about it, but later they found fantastic ways of dampening their own good impulses.

DOUBLE-TALK

They say, "There is nothing that distinguishes this revolution from a purely nationalistic uprising; the whole thing can be explained by the fact that Hungarians hate Russians." Or, they say, "It is merely a religious war; Mindszenty is the hero of superstitious people."

When it is pointed out to them that it is difficult to see why people would starve and die for such nonsense, they answer that it is "irrational." They ignore all the concrete facts: first, that since it is Russian domination that is the cause of the Hungarians' suffering, naturally the first step in the revolution is to get rid of that.

Secondly, that the main targets of the people's hatred were the Hungarian secret police.

Thirdly, that in any revolution, the issues deepen as deeper layers of the population are drawn in.

THEIR OWN LEADERS

Fourth, that the workers and students, who spearhead the revolution, have set up their own forms of organization, which oppose not only the Russians, but also any kind of exploitation, oppression, or even planning for them.

The workers are their own leaders. This is what distinguishes it from the Nasser brand of nationalism for instance.

It is significant that every time the daily papers report that a leader of the revolution has been jailed, they give his name, and then add, "This name is unknown in the West." It is not the old political leaders who are fighting and leading, it is the workers and the youth.

BLIND TO REALITY

But all this should be obvious to any intellectual, or anyone else, who reads the daily papers. It must be something in their own lives and thought that blinds them to reality.

Marx faced this kind of intellectual in Proudhon. Marx said Proudhon, in his Philosophy of Poverty, was unable to see the categories of bourgeois philosophy and economics as the product of historical change. He saw them rather as absolute, fixed categories, into which changing reality had to be forced, by finding some kind of "equilibrium."

Proudhon, like these intellectuals of our age, could not conceive of a different set of economic relations, a different philosophy, a new society.

Our intellectual friends cannot see beyond the end of their noses. They truly believe that the present society, hideous as they admit it to be, is here to stay, or maybe to deteriorate somewhat.

When anything new happens, they are obliged to explain it away in terms of the old isms or categories, for example, nationalism, Catholicism, etc. They are so imbued with the life and thought of official bourgeois society, they are so separated from the workers

and their thought and action, that everything truly revolutionary becomes "old stuff" to them. They think up all sorts of theories to explain away the reality of what they see.

Marx says, "You will now understand why M. Proudhon is the declared enemy of every political movement. The solution of the present problems does not lie for him in public action but in the dialectical rotations of his own head." Thus too the planners.

Marx sums up Proudhon, and cynical American intellectuals too, in a devastating manner:

"From head to foot M. Proudhon is the philosopher and economist of the petty bourgeoisie. In an advanced society the petty bourgeois necessarily becomes from his very position a Socialist on the one side and an economist on the other; that is to say, he is dazed by the magnificence of the big bourgeois and has sympathy for the sufferings of the people. He is at once both bourgeois and man of the people. Deep down in his heart he flatters himself that he is impartial . . . A petty bourgeois of this type glorifies contradiction because contradiction is the basis of his existence. He is himself nothing but social contradiction in action. He must justify in theory what he is in practice . . ."

VAIN & CYNICAL

This is the truth about these liberal intellectuals. Their position in life is so contradictory, for they think but do not act. They espouse "socialism" but doubt a revolution when they see it.

Their only recourse is cynicism, boredom and a glorification of the contradictions that beset both them and the rest of society.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

Medical Care Has Become a Serious Problem

The understanding of disease today—medicine and surgery—is not a simple matter. It involves continual vigilance. The reaction of a person to an illness and medication may be extremely variable and subject to rapid change. Time is an important factor. Irreversible changes may quickly take place in living tissue leading to permanent damage or death.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MD TO PATIENT

The situation calls for specific personal responsibility of a physician to a patient. This is the hidden but most important element in medical care, and is frequently lacking in charity hospitals as well as in certain clinics that treat patients in an assembly-line fashion.

Today, for the average American worker in a factory or on a white collar job the cost of medical care has become a serious problem. Frequently it is not the doctor's fees, but the laboratory tests, hospitalization and the cost of the new miracle drugs that makes the load too heavy.

To meet this problem there has come into existence over the last dozen years or so, pre-payment medical insurance plans and pre-payment clinics.

A SUBSTITUTE

There are many varieties of pre-payment medical insurance plans now operating in this country. One labor union after another is rapidly including such benefits in contracts with employers.

Their rapid growth indicates that union leadership and managers of industry are using this as a substitute answer to the more vigorous demands of American workers for a new, free and healthy way of life.

The medical insurance benefits written into the contract are often inadequate and unsatisfactory. The payments may be limited in time and in quantity. The patient often has to supplement payments to the hospitals and to the doctors. The doctor's fee is generally below acceptable levels. The resulting situation is not a happy one.

UNHEALTHY ATMOSPHERE

The physician is dissatisfied because his fee is generally below acceptable levels. He feels that insurance profits are being made off of his labor. An unhealthy atmosphere may thus exist between physician and patients not conducive to good medicine.

An association of physicians—both general practitioners and specialists—in one unit for the complete study and care of the ailing individual is certainly a healthy way and a progressive step. It can be an efficient and fruitful way to practice medicine. The freely available consultations, thus possible, give the physicians a necessary feeling of security and certainty and bring to the patient complete and thorough care.

Many pre-payment groups, however, organized by doctors or laymen, cannot practice good medicine. The reason for this lies in the attempt to make a profit by establishing a belt-line type of care that is hurried and impersonal, and where there is lacking the specific doctor-patient relationship of responsibility indicated above.

DEFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

Certain defects of insurance coverage may be seen in the practice of industrial medicine today. Physicians are employed by either a large industrial organization or by some insurance company to look after the injuries and sicknesses of the plant workers.

The physicians employed in such capacity usually give complete allegiance to the insurance company or company management. The interest of the patient is not primary.

The patient's injury may be minimized. The responsibility of the company may be questioned or even denied, especially since the relation of a specific injury or disease to a person's occupation may at times seem obscure.

It is the nature of the company doctor to protect the company.

A JANITOR SHOWS THEM UP

A janitor posed a question to a group of 20 skilled workers. He asked, "If three people are 70 years old, and two of them are twice the age of the youngest, how old is the youngest?"

After long and fruitless trying, none of the skilled workers had the answer. Finally, this janitor yelled to another janitor, told him the problem, and in less than three minutes he had the answer, "The youngest is 14 years old."

These skilled workers were as mad as all hell with those two janitors. Everyone laughed because we knew that they felt that a sweeper should not have the brains to expose them.

Chrysler Worker Detroit

Friends of News & Letters, in different parts of the country, have held New Year's parties to assist the committees in assuring the continued publication and increasing circulation of this workers' paper in 1957.

PREPARING FOR WAR?

(Continued from Page 1)

ing Egyptian cotton crops for many years to come because of the arms deal, have a perfect weapon of economic blackmail which Russia can use to bring Egypt further under its political control.

Egyptian cotton constitutes 90 per cent of Egypt's exports. This year alone Russia and its satellites are taking over half of this amount and storing much of it. All that Russia has to do to ruin Egypt's economy completely is to dump this non-perishable commodity on the world market at a price below Egypt's.

This is just one indication of how the Nasser government, having failed to alleviate the misery of the Egyptian people, has turned as a cover-up to international intrigue and has thereby led the movement for Arab independence into paths which can only ensure the continued oppression of the Middle East by foreign powers.

There is no question of measuring Nasser's sincerity. After taking power following the revolution of 1952 against King Farouk, Nasser embarked on a very bold program of social and land reform. A little of this program has been accomplished but it has not been enough to free the Egyptian worker and farmer from the pangs of hunger, from the high interest rate of the village money lender, from widespread crippling disease, or from the bureaucracy in Cairo which stifles every impulse of the common Egyptian to do things for himself.

This is why there is a police state in Egypt today. This is why Nasser did not order his troops to fight the British and French, preferring instead to keep the bulk of the Egyptian army away from the front lines and intact against a possible uprising of his own people against him.

This is why Nasser, in the style of all fearful dictators, kept his people inflamed against Israel instead of seeking a human solution to the very difficult problem of a seeming conflict between the rights of a million Jewish and a million Arab refugees.

Nasser can simply not escape the fact that his social and economic reforms still leave the Egyptian worker and farmer with only an average yearly income of about \$100. By the force of events, Nasser is compelled not to be a liberator but an oppressor of the Arab peoples, leading them from the shackles of one imperialism to the chains of another.

ISRAEL ENMESHED

Not much more can be said for the Israeli government. Internally, despite all the publicized democratic institutions, the prominence of union leaders in the government, the social reforms and the over-publicized social experiments in collectives, Israel is a sick country.

It is sick not primarily because of outside factors but because its basic economy is established on the capitalist principle of growth: demanding ever more sweat and production from its workers in return for less.

The unpublicized strikes against private owners, against government and union-owned enterprises alike, bear witness to the dissatisfaction of Israeli working people with their lot.

This crisis is aggravated and its true cause somewhat concealed because of the evident fact that Israel can not survive as a state, as a viable economy, unless it establishes trade relations with its Arab neighbors. Until this is accomplished Israel has nothing better to hope for than to limp along on the proceeds of American charity and German war reparations.

AMERICAN POLICY

Whatever the United States gained in prestige by being opposed to the British and French invasion it is now losing by re-establishing its own imperialist designs with its British and French collaborators.

It is compelled to do so. Not only is world domination impossible for the United States without Western Europe, but also because at this particular stage it has much to gain from Russia's brutal suppression of the Hungarian Revolution.

The world is still holding its breath wondering if the Middle Eastern developments in the power conflict will be the spark for World War III in 1957.

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Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

JOHANNESBURG

The dictatorial government of South Africa has conducted a series of Nazi-like raids in which 151 persons—23 whites, 100 Africans, 20 Indians and 8 persons of mixed blood—were arrested.

The arrests were conducted like a military operation, taking place in all parts of the country at the same time. All prisoners were then transferred to Johannesburg by special planes. The airport became the assembly point for the victims who were carried off in police vans.

Among those arrested were Dr. Ronald Press, national secretary of the Textile Workers Union; Prof. Zachariah K. Mathews, African head of Hare University; and L. B. Lee-Warden of Capetown, one of three white members representing Africans in parliament.

Those arrested are getting a speedy trial on charges of treason. The maximum sentence is death. Their only "crime" seems to be opposition to the government policy of "Apartheid", which means racial segregation.

Others on trial are Pieter Beyleveld, head of the Africaner trade unions; Albert Luthuli, a well known tribal chief; Sonja Bunting, the wife of a member of Parliament, and other women.

CYPRUS

The British have extended a limited offer of self-rule to the people of Cyprus, which does not include the liberty of self-determination. The functions of defense, foreign affairs and security would be retained by the British. The British Governor could, under broad powers retained by him, over-ride the proposed legislature and rule by decree.

The Cypriots have not only rejected the proposal, but have instituted another general strike to demonstrate their solidarity in opposition to all forms of British rule.

TUNIS

A smiling Moslem workman gave a French engineer a box of dates for Christmas.

When carefully opened the box was found to contain three hand grenades set to explode if the cover had been lifted a fraction of an inch higher.

HUNGARY

Central Council Chairman, Sandor Racz, a 23-year-old young worker leader of the Hungarian resistance, has been lured out of the protection of his factory and jailed by the Communist regime.

He had been protected up to now by armed worker guards as he led strike after strike against the regime. He went to Parliament house on the invitation of Kadar. Before leaving to his probable death, he left this statement:

"The Government is aware that the country is not behind it. It realizes that the only organized force in Hungary is the working class. Therefore it aims at dismantling the workers front. But the government will never succeed in crushing the will of the workers. The workers are prepared to die to defend their ideals."

ISRAEL

Histadrut, Israel's largest trade union, was the only one we know of, who answered the call of the Hungarian workers for a general sympathy strike. They limited it, however, to one half hour. The British and American trade union leaders remained deaf to the call of the Hungarian Workers Council's appeal. They are willing to play second fiddle to "relief agencies" but not to heed the call of fellow-workers.

TURKEY

Fear rules Turkey under the iron dictatorship of Adnan Mendres. Over 50 per cent of the national budget is used to finance the military establishment. Soldiers are to be found everywhere on the streets, and the listening posts of the

secret police are everywhere.

All group meetings for political purposes are strictly prohibited. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting more numerous and poorer. The middle class is disappearing under the dictatorship first established by Kemal Ataturk.

Istanbul is a mixture of races, of rats in the streets, poverty, illiteracy and of oriental splendor represented in the new Conrad Hilton Hotel which dominates the city.

Yet, since all this stands as a barrier to the advance of Russia, the U.N. and the U.S.A. choose to ignore the internal chaos.

LONDON

Satchmo Armstrong has captured the seat of the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. At a Hungarian Relief Concert there, the program was supposed to be divided between Satchmo and the Philharmonic.

After Satchmo took the stage, Conductor Del Mar was unable to regain the attention of the audience who constantly applauded his music.

Del Mar said, "I terminated the concert because it had ceased to be a concert and had become a shambles."

The great Satchmo was most sympathetic and said, "The things the professor should have done was to stop the cats shouting and play 'God save the Queen' or something."

Best Wishes

Best wishes for the New Year to all the friends and contributors; to all who read and write for this paper—and to all who will in the months ahead.

In 1957:

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