

NEWS & LETTERS

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

VOL. 2—NO. 11

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1957

13

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

The Courage of Southern Negroes

By CHARLES DENBY

About a year ago for the first time in American history Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama, began to show the world what America is by their courageous stand in boycotting the bus system in an effort to gain full recognition as any others, by sitting in any seat they please. For years Negroes have felt this way. There was discussion among them, but when the face of a white appeared among them, they immediately changed the conversation. As the years passed, new and younger Negroes began to replace and fulfill the hopes of the older ones with a new brand of determination with little or no regard for their personal safety.

As one young Negro stated in Montgomery: We have waited for years for some kind of law that would say we are right, it is not a crime or against the law. The Supreme Court said that, and we knew we had to carry the ball, and we are determined to do that.

After the shooting of Mrs. Rosa Jordan in Montgomery during the Christmas holidays, her statement was: If they had not got me, it would have been some one else.

RADICALS, LIBERALS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS

Some years back when all these radical parties were in their highest activities, the line of the "Party" was that this courage and determination could be shown only by Negroes of their parties. It was heroic because it was good propaganda for the Party and it was "leadership" for the rest of the American Negroes. Not a single group in the radical movement ever had the revolutionary courage that Southern Negroes today show.

Northern Negroes, especially those who left the South in the 1920s and early 1930s, have made statements and jokes about fear and backwardness of the Southern Negroes in regard to the white man. Today they are all stunned, asking: Who are the Negroes of the South and where did they come from? They never realize that the hardest oppressed peoples of any society are the ones most likely to revolt against it. They do not now see that Negroes in all Southern cities want the boycott.

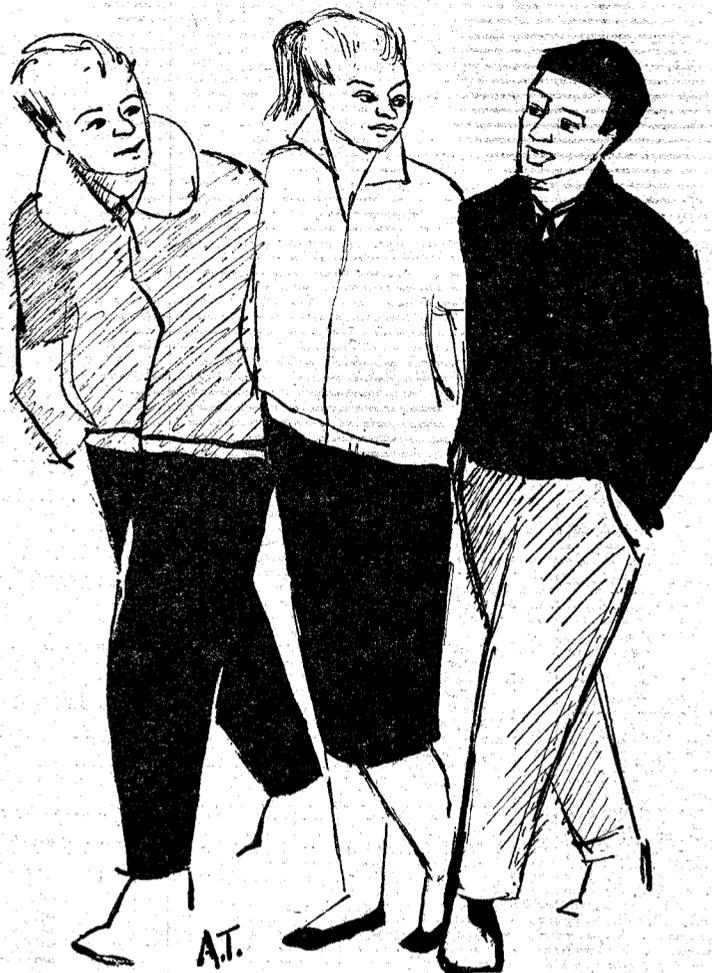
Few can look out upon a calm sea and tell when a storm will rise and the tides will sweep all filth to shore. No one can set the time, date or place for the self-activities of the Negroes, as the Communist and other radical parties have always tried to do. They all cling to the conception of plan and think that if they had not planned it for the Negroes, it would not be done, and if a Party leader did not lead the movement it was a useless movement.

This was also the line of the trade union leader. That is why the Montgomery Negroes have not only stunned and surprised the Southern reactionary whites, but America as a whole, including the radicals, liberals, Northern Negro leaders, and the trade union leaders.

WHY NOT PRACTICE SOME DEMOCRACY AT HOME

Today many of those are trying their utmost to get in on the movement, not so much to support it, as in the hope of gaining some basis of leadership in the hope of directing and controlling what these Southern Negroes have so strongly organized themselves to carry on such a tremendous battle for their democratic right in the face of untold odds.

You have to struggle for the minds of the American people as a whole. Those Negro leaders who have been used to go abroad to sell democracy in other countries, to sell themselves as the representatives of the 16 million American Negroes, should bow in shame at the news that a group of Negroes from Georgia sent the President of the United States a telegram asking him to send Vice-President Nixon to the South to tour there instead of touring Europe and Asia. No reply from the President, and no news from these representatives of the American Negroes.



Rebels With A Cause

One youth was talking about the high absenteeism in school today and said, "About half the kids who are absent could come to school, they're usually not that sick. I know because I'm always looking for reasons not to go. It's just that you so seldom find a kid who doesn't hate school."

The Hungarian Revolution and the part that youth between the ages of 13 and 15 have played in it has been in all the papers for weeks.

The youth were the heroes of the street fighting in all of Budapest. A 13-year-old girl, singlehanded, destroyed three Russian tanks with Molotov cocktails before she was killed. She was found with a Hungarian flag over her body and a verse which proclaimed she hadn't died in vain.

Teenagers were the most effective of the tank fighters. They situated themselves on the tops of roofs with part of the gang on the ground. When the tanks appeared the youth on the rooftops would

throw stones at them so the tanks would raise their guns, and when they did, the youth on the ground would go in under the guns and destroy the tanks. When they were asked where they learned to do this, they replied that they had been taught by the Communist Party. A case of the pupils excelling their teachers.

PRAISE & PUNISHMENT

While the American press was praising these young heroes to the skies, they never once looked to the signs of American youth's rebellion. It, to them, is still "vandalism," "juvenile delinquency" and nothing more than that, as long as it is in this country and not against Russia. If any American youth

acts in the same manner as the Hungarian youth he will find himself in Juvenile Court and from there to Reform School.

It's true in this country we don't face the Red Army and Russian domination. But that doesn't make American youth's rebellion against his present life and future war any less real or just.

In Russia the Communists recognize the fact that high absenteeism in the factories is a form of rebellion and offenders are sent to Siberia.

DISGUST TAKES MANY FORMS

The disgust of youth with school takes many forms: Acts of "vandalism" with school property; breaking windows; setting ashcans on fire. These are not just mischievous pranks; they happen far too regularly.

This same youth reported that there were as many as two or three fights a day in school. She said the tension seemed to be so great that these fights would start over nothing.

She summed it up by saying, "It's a lot easier to rebel in school, than at home."

When there are hundreds of students together in one school they find a strength they don't have in the home.

Appeal for Academic Freedom

(News and Letters has received the following appeal from Boston which we herewith reproduce in full for the information of our readers.)

BOSTON, January 17.—Richard DeHaan, 27, a former graduate student at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., has filed suit against the University in Federal Court here. He charges that last Spring the University expelled him, denied him degrees for which he had already qualified, and revoked his scholarship and teaching fellowship without a statement of the reasons, if any, and without a hearing. The complaint asks DeHaan's full reinstatement without prejudice as a graduate student, doctoral candidate and teaching fellow and payment of \$2,000 damages. In the event that the court does not order reinstatement, the suit asks award of \$100,000. A preliminary hearing on the case is scheduled for January 28.

(Continued on Page 2)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

North & South:

...LOOK IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

WEST VIRGINIA—
The bombings down South aren't anything new. Just before I got to Birmingham, about two years ago on our vacation they had blown up a whole row of houses there.

The difference between Pratt City and Birmingham is only about two miles. But in Pratt, white and colored have lived together for years just like we do here, and in Birmingham everything is segregated.

The people got tired of it, I guess, and made them let the colored people buy. Then they came back and bombed the place, a whole block of Birmingham.

In another case, one colored lady had built a real nice house and took a white lady in to show it to her one day. A couple of days later, her house was bombed. Nobody was home. But they hurt some in the block that was bombed, though it was just luck that none were killed.

DRIVING SOUTH

I didn't have any trouble myself once I got to Birmingham. I had my trouble before I got there. I never let my tank get under half full. I pulled up to a filling station just out of Pulaski, Virginia, and talked to the man just like I would here. I said, "Fill it up."

He looked at me real hard and then walked around to look at the license plate. Then he filled it up, but when I asked him how much I owed him, he just pointed at the tank. He never did speak to me. But some of the stations we stopped at were very nice, and even invited us back.

When I got to Knoxville one guy tried to run me right off the road. Our friends had told us that any time you get into trouble in Knoxville and a white man goes to get the cops you're just wrong. All you have to be is colored to be wrong when you're in the South. I figured the guy pushed us off the road because he had an older car than we did, and when he saw a colored guy driving a better car than his, he just started moving in our lane.

Like the preacher from Cleveland who took his new Cadillac South and pulled up in a filling station, and the next thing he knew the police

were there and took his car. The finance company had to go get it. If he had had the car paid for, he'd have really been lost!

When that guy pushed me off the road I forgot where I was and started to go after him. If my wife hadn't reminded me I was in Tennessee I don't know where I'd have landed up. But when she did, it sure didn't take me long to get moving. The signs said if you go 40 miles an hour you'd get to Birmingham in four hours, but I cut it in half!

"NICE MANNERS"

In Birmingham I didn't have any trouble, because my old man took me everywhere with him. When the woman my dad works for first met us and said, "Well, how are you-all?" I started to get mad, 'cause I thought she was making fun of me. But they talk like that! After I got used to it, I really got a kick out of listening to them.

She asked my wife if I was her husband, and my wife answered, "Yes, I am."

The woman said, "Your husband has very nice manners." I guess it was her way of saying my wife didn't, because she never did say "Yes, ma'am," or "No ma'am."

My dad had taken me aside when we first got there. He said we were just visiting, but he had to live there after we were gone. I knew what he meant—he wanted me to say, "Yes, ma'am," and "No, ma'am." A lot of times I'd forget, though—and he'd kick me—bam! It was my dad I'd be saying "Yes, ma'am" to. And brother, my shins were sore by the time we left.

WHITE TALK

We went all around while we were there. I noticed that among the white fellows, they were talking about desegregation the same as they were talking about it up here when it first came up.

The Communist regime in Poland has had to admit that Polish coal miners are beating up mine bosses and hauling them out of the mines in wheelbarrows. It's what miners call a "fire-the-boss" campaign.

All the white fellows had to say about it was, "I hope such and such a colored fellow gets to go to our school, we could sure use him on the football team."

It seems as though the only thing that's stopping them having he colored on their teams around here is that they couldn't play in the Southern Conference. But last year when Pitt had all their trouble in the bowl game, they just told them if Grier didn't play, none of them would. And that's what all the teams could do if they wanted to, and that would settle it.

You don't really have to take a trip South to learn what it's like, when you get right down to it. That news reporter from the North who played the part of a colored man for 30 days down South to get "the facts" a few years ago didn't have to go South. He could have looked right in his own back yard. Why keep looking just at the South? We've got plenty to take care of everywhere.

AN APPEAL FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 1)

The Brandeis administration has replied to these charges only that it was not obligated to provide a statement of its reasons or a hearing, and that the lawsuit threatens "the right of the University to determine its own admissions policy."

In view of the complete denial of academic freedom and due process, DeHaan states, he has also filed grievances and requests for investigations with the American Association of University Professors, American Civil Liberties Union, Veterans' Administration and other organizations.

A "DeHaan Defense Committee" has been formed for the purposes of publicizing the case and raising funds to defray legal expenses. The Defense Committee, which has its headquarters at 51 High Street, Newton Upper Falls 64, Mass., is appealing for all persons and organizations interested in academic freedom to support this campaign. This should be done in the first instance, it states, by addressing letters of protest to President Abram L. Sachar, Brandeis University, Waltham 54, Mass., with carbon copies to the Defense Committee if possible.

DeHaan issued the following statement this week:

"Despite repeated requests for them during the past nine months, I have as yet been able to secure neither a statement of the charges against me nor a hearing at which I could answer them. The University has fired and expelled me on the pretense that it is not bound by its own catalogue and regulations, by its contract with me for teaching duties nor by the principles of academic due process as traditionally honored in all legitimate colleges and universities.

"Through its action my good reputation has been blackened and my career destroyed. Despite my academic record here of straight A (with two A-), I have been unable to secure admission to other graduate schools. Despite a good record as an undergraduate and during three years' of graduate work, Brandeis University has been able in a fit of pique to expel me from my chosen profession. It is not right that it should exercise such power."

Always Listen to Your Boss

— And You May Not Get Home

SCOTTS RUN, W. Va.—
I was snapping on this track section and me and my buddy, the motorman, had just gotten four empty cars and started to go into the heading where the loading machine was. I was in front of the cars and saw the loading machine operator testing for gas. He got a cap on his safety light (a sign that there was gas in the place). When I saw that, I blew for my buddy to stop.

When the loading machine operator saw the cars stop before they got to the machine, he asked me what was wrong. I told him that I saw him get a gas cap on his safety lamp and I wasn't going to be working in gas. He started to fan the face of the coal. I told him that wasn't going to drive it out; what we had to do was run a line canvas up to the face to get enough air in to drive the gas out.

'MY BOSS IS UP THERE'

When the loading machine doesn't run for a little while, you can bet your bottom dollar that before long your boss is going to be right there. Sure enough, he came around the corner and asked my motorman what the trouble

was. My motorman said he was waiting for me to blow for him to move.

The boss told him, "I'm the boss on this section, and I'm telling you to get those empties to that loading machine."

My motorman told him, "My boss is at the end of these empties up there. I move or don't move depending on how he blows that whistle. He blew for me to stop; and until he blows that whistle for me to move, I'm staying right here."

'I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KIDS'

The boss came up to where I was and started to jump on me. I told him

that I wasn't going to move those cars until we had some canvas up. The boss asked the operator what the score was and he told the boss that he had got a cap on his lamp. The boss said, "Only a cap?"

"That's all it takes," I told him, "and you know it. If you can detect gas with that lamp, there's too much to be working in. That much gas, the right amount of oxygen and a little spark and—Kabooie!

"I don't know about you, but I've got a wife and kids waiting for me at home. I just bought a TV set and I want to lay on the floor and look at it with my kids. And I'm going to."

Will You Come Out As You Went In?

OSAGE, W. Va.—
There are a lot of people, even some miners, who say that a miner doesn't worry about whether he'll come back each day from the mines. That just isn't true.

When he goes down in that cage at the beginning of the shift, the thought is on his mind, "Wonder if I'll see my kids again this evening?" Don't let anyone tell you that we don't worry about that.

The mine we're in is

plenty hot (gassy). It can be safe all right, but it's only as safe as you make it. I figure that every man is like me, and when I go through those revolving doors to get to the man trip, I wonder if I'll be coming out the same way that I'm going in.

So you just wonder until you get to the section. Then, when everything starts running, you've got your job to do, and you forget about it.

Accidents in Steel Mount with Speed-Up Squeeze

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—The accident rate in the mill has always been high. You never know what's going to happen. The company even posts the accidents for the day on the bulletin-board, to remind you when you come in the mill to "be on the alert."

That's the main purpose of it—to scare the guys. But then they turn around and get the bosses on you to "put out." They have more bosses than men in the mills these days—and all they care about is keeping you working.

"Safety" for the company amounts to giving you a safety talk every day, plus a memorandum that's passed around letting you know what accidents happen and who had them.

ONE MORE HEAT

The last shift I worked is a good example of what happens any time. We were working and all at once the roof of the furnace fell in. Steel spattered everywhere, and plenty of guys came

close to getting burned bad. You never know when a roof will fall in. It may be getting thin—but they'll hold it up for "one more heat." A heat's worth about a quarter of a million dollars. They figure they can squeeze another one out. And they just keep on squeezing.

GOOD EXCUSE

The company could shut it down. But they can always find a good excuse for keeping it going. They'll tell you that they've got one furnace down and that if we keep this one going for a while, they'll shut it down when the other one starts up again.

Under certain conditions you can refuse to work because of dangerous conditions. For example, if we're going up to repair a roof and the damper sticks and all the hot air is blowing out, the men can refuse to work. But as far as a furnace man whose job is working on the furnace—he can't very well refuse.

NOT MUCH SENSE

He may know it's thin. But when the company's making money, he's making money—they have the incentive system out there. He figures if he can hold the heat on for one more heat, he'll do it. The average second helper can make \$27 a day, and a first helper makes better than that.

It may not make sense to you, but that's the way it goes, and that's the way the mills are run.

—Steelworker.

Company Rules

Foul Up Production

Detroit—It seems if you make the foreman make the decisions he's supposed to make, obey him and company rules strictly, things are bound to foul up. We didn't feel like doing very much the other day so we decided to let the foreman confuse things.

Generally the smaller parts to the jobs we build come from the stock room on a skid. If the parts are missing a stock man is supposed to hunt them down.

DON'T EXIST

The blueprint and order on the job we were to make called for screws with holes drilled in the ends to take cotter pins. These screws don't exist, that is, whenever we need these screws we get some the same diameter and length and drill the holes ourselves, an operation we are not supposed to perform.

We told the foreman that the stock chaser couldn't locate the screws. He decided to take care of it himself. We stopped work since it was impossible to continue without the screws.

BY THE BOOK

It took the foreman a couple of hours of searching in a few stock rooms before he decided there were no such screws.

Then he said, "Why not drill a hole in a regular screw?" We told him what a fine idea that was and suggested that he take some screws over to the machine shop. This took another forty-five minutes. Superintendents and foremen had to agree, orders to fill out and more procedure. Ten minutes after the screws came back it was time to go home.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

Law & Order For the Lawless White

What do the words, law and order, mean to the white people when they do not take time out to obey any of the laws that they put out for other people to go by. They do not obey the laws themselves. They are the first ones to break the law, whether it is running a red light, driving a car while they are drunk, bringing foreigners to this country to give them a better job than to the Negroes. But they will be sure to ask the Negroes to send in some money to help the refugees.

The whites were the first to say: Thou shalt not kill. But they are the first to kill some young child for nothing, just go crazy all at once like Singer. Yes, that is the way a lot of white people get by—they pretend that they have lost their mind. But that isn't true. It is just when a white man sees he cannot get to do a thing like he wants to. When uncle Rill fell on his knees to pray his last prayer, it was to let God know that he did not rule down here on this earth.

SOUTHERN INCIDENT

The white people of the South and a few up North thought that everything they say and do the Ne-

groes must go by. While I was in the South this year, I had to straighten out "the law"—the sheriff. He came down to the place where I was, jumped out of the car, and ran into the house without anybody asking him in. He went through every room until he came to my sister's room.

SEARCH WARRANT

I asked him what was he looking for, and he said, "whiskey." I said: "Do you have a search warrant to go through the house like this?" "No," he said, "I don't need one."

So I said: "But you would have to have one if it was a white man's home you were running through. When you come to my room, don't you dare go in. I do not make whiskey and I know something about law and order and you can't go into my room unless you show me a search warrant." I put myself right in front of my door.

He just walked out of the house then.

So the Negroes of the South have to learn to straighten out the law and order there as they are doing now by fighting to have some things go their way because the time has come for the Negroes to do something for themselves.

Their Talk Isn't Cheap—It Costs Us Plenty

Twenty-two years ago the Democrats created a scandal by plowing under wheat already planted while people were going hungry. Part of the present Republican farm program is to "incorporate into the soil" part of the 1956-57 winter wheat crop. There doesn't seem to be much difference, does there?

Incidentally, in a recent interview Congressman Harold Cooley, the Democrat from North Carolina who is Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, was asked, "Will Congress do anything to

help the little farmer stay on the farm?"

He replied, "Well, I'm sure we will try, if there's any plan that can be devised; but, actually, I have no plan, and I don't know of anyone else that has proposed one."

So now that the elections are over the farm problem will return to normal with farmers suffering, city folks paying high prices and Democrats and Republicans doing darn little except talk.

—Machinist
Los Angeles.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

Some Workers Make Trouble for Others

If there are some people that think workers are just an anonymous mass I wish they could work in this particular department I work in.

There is one girl in particular who would instigate one girl against another or a group of girls against another. And was unhappy unless she was involved in some kind of intrigue. And it was obvious if you didn't pay much attention to her you would sooner or later feel the brunt of her talents.

UNBUSTWORTHY

This same girl was the one that was supposedly trying to get the union in when I just hired in. At the time I trusted her but when I began to see that she would talk to every white shirt (and they know her) that would come into the department I knew something was wrong.

One day a girl she had had a fight with over the fans was placed next to her at her bench. Now there is more than a yard and a half between them but she made such a stink about it that not only did the whole department get the gossip about the other girl but we who were close and saw what happened, even her friends, were just plain disgusted that any one should do that. Not only that, but it became clear that she was a privileged character since no

one else could change their place but she not only changed but chose where and made another girl move to a place she didn't care for.

NO JOB-KILLER

This last day I was watching a new job they had begun on. Well she was working on it and so was a girl friend of mine. My friend is not a job killer or a company girl but she has a desire to do the neatest and best job she can. This being a non-production department you can do that easily and use it to your advantage in keeping quotas down. It's easier to wire and solder and you have to take your time. But after a while you pick up speed and then have more time for yourself. They saw the way this friend was doing it and told the other girls to do it the same way.

CRY-BABY

No one objected till this girl started crying about it and saying she would never be able to put out her production this way. She told every man in a white shirt about it. She told the foreman that she does four pieces like every one else but could do five but not this certain way. So to be able to win and gloat over the victory she was willing to raise the quota. Which on a job like this is the difference between working at an average pace or like a horse.

LAY-OFF WARNINGS IN L. A.!

The workers in the General Motors plant in South Gate, California are already worrying about lay-offs even though it is only January and new model production has not been going on very long.

The workers are noticing that they are not seeing many new Buicks or Pontiacs and Oldsmobiles on the road. They know that the plant is only working 40 hours per week, which is somewhat unusual at the

beginning of model production and indicates that there is no great demand for new cars.

Despite all the talk by the big shots in Detroit that this will be a good year for automobile production, the foremen and committeemen are telling the workers not to be surprised if lay-offs start at the end of January or in February.

—G.M. Worker
Los Angeles, Calif.

EDITORIALS

Prosperity, Depression and War

The daily press has suddenly become interested in the "family budget." Not that they intend to do anything about revealing the holes in our present "prosperity" and show that a worker's family still cannot make both ends meet, but only because the press wants the average man "to understand the nation's budget." Since the figures for 1957-58 appeared one runs into the astronomical figures — and that for a single year — of \$72 billion. The press is finding the explanation tough going. As one commentator put it, "It would be easier to make a person memorize the whole of Encyclopedia Britannica."

The President feels differently. He just dismisses the third of the nation that still remains ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed, and says that since we have "unparalleled prosperity," we need not worry about what debt we are piling up for future generations, nor about the taxes, especially on the working people, of this generation. All we need to worry about is every other part of the globe, especially anywhere "Russian Communism" is about to penetrate.

As it happens, the Russian Communist leaders are telling this same story to their people, with but one difference: where President Eisenhower says, "Russian Communism threatens," Nikita Khrushchev says "Western Imperialism threatens." Meanwhile the people in each country have to bear the burden of the greatest military budget in so-called peacetime history. The talk in the shops was: "I have to think about my own family's bills; I can't think about the government's. But I know war cannot be far off."

Where in all this is the labor bureaucracy? When they are not out blowing their own horn for what "they" did twenty years ago to establish the CIO, they are quiet as mice, little ones. They cannot criticize the expenditures for "defense" because they themselves use this as an excuse to fight "Communism." Read: rank and file who wants to see the unorganized organized and to better the conditions in the automatized sweat shops. At the same time they too are so worried about a depression which even Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey says "would curl your hair" that they do not dare propose that the moneys be used for more useful purposes than war.

So they look at this budget, fully 60 per cent of which goes for current defense; and, if you count the debt on past wars, then fully 80 per cent of it is for wars, past and present and all they worry about is "tight money," that is to say, more liberal credit. That is literally all they said thus far. Why say more when lives of the people are as cheap to them as to the big brass in Washington. As one worker put it, "War looks like a fixed thing. It is always in their budget and it is always the biggest thing in it."

News & Letters

VOL. 2—NO. 11

Tuesday, February 5, 1957

News & Letters is published every two weeks by News & Letters, 8067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich. Telephone: TYler 8-7053. Subscription: \$2.50 for 26 issues (1 year); single copy — 10c; for bulk orders of ten or more — 6c each.

Charles Denby Editor
Saul Blackman Managing Editor

Application for entry as 2nd class matter is pending at the Post Office, Detroit, Mich.

Readers'**NEGRO STRUGGLE**

We went to church Sunday to hear the sermon on segregation. The preacher really laid it on the line.

He said that too many of our people were satisfied here in Pittsburgh, and thought they were living in Heaven, when Hell was right here. He said there's a lot we could be doing right here, if we weren't satisfied with what we've got.

There's plenty we've got to fix up right here, all right. The preacher was sure right.

Steelworker's Wife
Pittsburgh, Pa.

It's really something when the President can send Nixon all the way to Hungary to check on what's happening there, but can't manage to send anyone just a few hundred miles South in his own country to check on what's going on in Alabama!

He had special envoys to meet Nehru, all the way from India, but wouldn't send a soul to meet the representatives of the Boycotters from the South.

They're really knocking on his own back door right now. The boycotters are in Atlanta now — and that's right near Ike's second-home in Georgia, where he goes to play golf. I figure he probably won't be playing golf down there for a while.

—Steelworker
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I went to the AAA to have my route mapped before I went South a few years ago. The man talked me into joining and it sounded like a good idea. I looked everything over before we left and everything looked real good — before we started off.

But once we got going and started thinking of a motel to stop at, it suddenly hit me like a thud: "If you stop there, man, somebody's going to burn that shanty down."

The man said they have to give you something at an AAA place,

if you stop. But it turns out that you have to make previous arrangements. Only then can they provide for you at some colored hotel or something. But nothing doing with just ANY AAA place.

The only part of the AAA that's any good for a colored person is up North. Otherwise you're just wasting your money.

—Miner
West Virginia

More is happening in the mill concerning upgrading for Negroes. It even got into the "Pittsburgh Courier" this time.

It started when one of the grievors in zone 5 kept trying to get his men placed on the jobs that were posted and that they were eligible for.

He'd have the guys sign up for the jobs, and make the Union go through all the procedure, even though nothing would come of it. The job would be filled and nothing more would be done.

This guy finally got on to the head griever about it, and the head griever told him he was going to relieve him of his job the first of the year.

He got good and mad and went to the "Courier" and had them investigate the matter.

One of the head men in our District is a colored fellow — and he was supposed to represent the Union, naturally. But all he had to say was that the Union had nothing to do with it. The Union says they can't up-rate anybody if the company won't allow it! It sure makes the Union a laugh.

It's the same thing they always tell you: they can't do anything about it. I don't know what will come of this latest business, but I'll let you know how it develops.

—Steelworker
Pittsburgh, Pa.

When Ike says he can't manage to send anybody down South to see what's going on in his own country, he reminds me of our

president, John L. who can't ever seem to manage to make it down from Washington to see us about what's going on in the mines, either.

Miner
West Virginia

Eisenhower's Civil Rights program is now threatened by a block in the Senate. It is about time that our little playboy politicians quit their acts of bamboozling the American people. Eisenhower, in his campaign, could have gotten down to brass tacks "so to speak" on this integration deal. He knows full well the various men who will try, and probably succeed, in blocking his program in this Senate. By not doing this he showed very clearly that all he wanted was a second term — let the Negroes keep on wanting their first-class citizenship.

He could have acquainted the people with the facts as they stand and to indicate in their state elections that he is not capable in himself of getting his plans through. He could have told the people that if their Senators and Delegates did not vote the way they wanted them to, to use petitions, letters, etc. to indicate how they really wanted them to vote.

I don't know how this would work in practice, but it seems to me that if a country is really democratic, and it could be shown that the majority of the people did not want segregation, it would be done away with.

Ex-G-I
West Virginia

Do you know that Eldon Lee Edwards, the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia, is a General Motors worker in Atlanta and a paid up member in good standing in the UAW?

Journalist
New York City

LEADERS & RANKS

A woman worker was telling how G. M. got around paying many women in her plant vacation pay by asking what women would like to take their vacation in April instead of later in the summer. Those that did were laid off for several weeks and not rehired until after June 1st. The union contract stated

Views

that a worker must be on the payroll the first of June to collect vacation pay. The union said that there was nothing they could do, they were just out of luck.

Union Man
Detroit

* * *

MD's last column (Jan. 22) refers to Dr. William Gomberg, of the ILGU, hailing piece-work as a solution both for management and labor.

Not so long ago Gomberg left the labor movement for a teaching job in the engineering department of a university. The bitter joke, however, is this:

When Gomberg was with the ILGU, he had the reputation of being a liberal trade unionist who fought against Communist influence in the Unions. Yet in 1956, he hailed piece-work in practically the same words with which Stalin hailed it in 1935 as a "gift from heaven" for the Russian workers.

Regardless what political name they give themselves, these administrators reach the same ruthless conclusions when it comes to squeezing the last ounce of exploitation from the workers.

Writer
New York City

* * *

WAR & PEACE

It's coming out how the Red Cross is making their usual distinctions about who gets help in Hungary, too. One report said that they were refusing aid to anyone who was participating in the strikes there.

They did the same thing during the miners' strikes around here. They'd tell the strikers, "You have a job, all you have to do is go back to it, if you need money." They were real strike-breakers, or trying to be.

In Hungary, the reports said that they weren't helping anyone who was participating in any demonstrations — students or workers. The way it sounds, the only ones left the Red Cross is willing to help are the "commissars!"

—Reader
West Virginia

Most of the people around here are pretty suspicious not only of the Hungarian "refugees" coming into the country, but of the big "show" of aid to the Hungarians from the government, too.

One miner's wife summed it up this way: "If they want to be so generous, there are plenty of people right here who need their help. They can start sending some of their "Care" packages right to W. Va. But they just want to make a big 'show' to the rest of the world, and to heck with what's going on right in their own country."

—Miner
Cassville, W. Va.

* * *

I passed a Civil Service test for clerk-typist. But when they showed me the job, I wouldn't take it. I've done all kinds of work from factory to housework to saleswork. But that was one job I wouldn't touch!

The typists were all in one huge room. They all had electric typewriters and the noise was deafening. They had half an hour for lunch, and the rest of the day they just typed, all day long.

I decided I just could not take it! If you weren't crazy to take the job, you'd be driven crazy soon enough.

—Working Woman
West Virginia

* * *

That picture in "Life" on "The American Woman" of the roomful of typists lined up one behind the other gave me the shudders. The line of women working side by side at a canning factory just below it sure looked preferable to me! It reminded me of how fast "office-workers" are becoming a big assembly-line themselves. Only they can't even talk to each other. They have to just type. At least on a factory assembly-line you can talk to each other. It sure seems an awful price to pay to stay a "white-collar" worker!

—Factory Girl
West Virginia

* * *

The Life article on women was written by a psychiatrist who, apparently, thinks that what men need to exist as human beings is to have women sit home and admire them. I think this is an insult to men.

—Housewife
Los Angeles

STRUGGLE FOR MEN'S MINDS

In regard to a recent poll conducted throughout the country by two analysts to find out people's political views, it's noteworthy that people referred to themselves as the "little man" even though they might own several material comforts. This is especially noteworthy since there is a constant attempt to make people believe there is no such thing as the "common man," or the "little man."

You see the differences between classes concretely in state run institutions like mental hospitals where thousands of people are herded together. This is where the concept of big and little is obvious, because if you're little you get treated like cattle. If you have money, it's very different.

—Subscriber
Los Angeles

* * *

I was selling News & Letters at a plant gate the other day when a young guard came up to me and asked me what I "have there."

I thought at first it was going to be the usual routine of asking for about 10 papers to hand out to the officials of the company. He looked through it and when I told him it wasn't a communist paper he expressed some disappointment.

I must have looked amused because he quickly explained that Plant Protection isn't what it used to be in the old days of Ford.

He asked me if I ever heard of the Unitarians and said he's lectured for them. I know of the Unitarians as a semi-religious, liberal group.

He whipped out his union card and told me his union was trying to organize Plant Protection in other factories.

When I asked him what the guards would do in case of a strike, he said they weren't permitted to touch anybody and he showed me that he had no gun. He said, "We're caught in the middle, but we're having our fights with management constantly!"

—Committee Member
Los Angeles

TWO WORLDS

The Confidence Man In Literature & Life

One hundred years ago the great American writer, Herman Melville, wrote *The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade*. It was a story about a trip down the Mississippi in an old steamer called Fidele, or Faithful. Everyone on board was either a con-man or a sucker. Everyone was in the game, trying to get something for nothing or at the next man's expense.

They talked about faith when they believed in nothing. They bragged that no one could fool them when they swallowed every lie. Although there is no violence aboard, it is a tale of horror, the horror that comes from man himself when he is a "man-charmer" as certain East Indians are called snake-charmers." Melville sums it up as "the mystery of human subjectivity." The mystery, however, is dispelled when you look at the objective forces swaying the America of his day, 1856.

America was then four years away from the Civil War that was to tear out the old poison of slavery. But on the surface life went on unchanged and hypocrisy pretended it would never change. The confidence racket was being played for stakes as large as life—the life of the Negro slave. It was this crisis of a nation that transformed the cheap, egotistic, self-centered con-man into "a social type."

IT IS MORE CLEAR TODAY

We can see this clearer today than in Melville's day not only because we look at it with hindsight, but because we too live in a birth-time of history when the great masses have not yet come on the historic stage to decide the form of the new society. The totality of the crisis the world over weighs one down oppressively and makes of us all prey to the braggadocio who now says "Have confidence in me and I will lead you to the new."

This is especially true of Europe where small working-class political groups look doubly impotent by the massive Communist parties they must face daily. Under the circumstances the adventurer who promises to overcome all this by the wave of a thesis has the ear of people who should know better, were it not for the fact that they too are out "to get rich quick." I know one such con-man whom I shall call Jim. In America he posed as the European expert who could bridge the difference between American and European politics by becoming an American. A decade that added up to zero returned him to Europe where he now poses as the American expert who has yet maintained his European origins and "grasp." But although he breathes the free European air (insofar as civil rights are concerned), he remains incognito. Naturally this social type whom Melville long ago had called "man-charmer" as certain East Indians are called snake-charmers" would be swept away the moment the small working class groupings get into the stream of the mass movement. But for the moment he is there to plague small groupings even as American labor bureaucrats are there to prey on the mass movements.

TWO TYPES OF BUREAUCRATS

Two types of American labor bureaucrats swarm over Europe and Asia these days. One is the roving type and the other the stationary, vampire type. Both wear fancy ties and smoke fat cigars and try to sell "the American way of life" as if the American world were one instead of two: that of the capitalists and that of the workers. Reuther is the roving kind. He flies in to deliver a speech at a hand-picked labor congress, rides in a U. S. Army jeep, and talks as the long-lost brother. He returns to America to tell the American workers how much better off they are than the Europeans, not to mention the poverty-ridden Asian masses, after he had just told the latter how much better off they are "free."

Irving Brown is the stationary kind. He is the international representative of the A. F. of L. who lives in Europe, is always there to meet and brief the roving kind of bureaucrat whom he distrusts. It is true the two are as alike as two peas, but the stationary kind has gained the knowledge through bitter experience that he must sell Europe something more genuine than the legend that all Americans are millionaires, and that American workers, despite their constant wildcatting, dutifully follow his "labor leadership." He knows he cannot win the mind of the European masses with mere "anti-Russianism." These people are as much anti-American as anti-Russian for they are fighting for a totally new way of life. In that we see the elements of the new society already present within the old which sweep away once and for all both the con-man preying on small political groups and the vampires of the organized labor movement.

—R. D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

I think the "Two Worlds" column in issue number 10 that dealt with the spontaneous character of workers and youth revolt here and abroad penetrated deeply when it pointed to 1950 as being "the first sharp dividing line between the youth of this generation and the so-called 'lost generation.'"

STRIKE AGAINST JIM CROW AND ANTI-SEMITISM

It stirred memories of two New York student demonstrations that I witnessed in 1950. The first and least remembered was the strike of City College students against the Jim Crow and anti-Semitic policies of a couple of professors. There was a fair amount of enthusiasm that attended it, but it was organized to death. The "Young Progressives" seemed to pull most of the strings. There were picket captains, placards of professional quality, mock funeral marches, people burned in effigy, leaflets showered all over the place. Some self styled "Marxists" felt that a student struggle should be linked with the working class. They worked it out by having Stalinist labor bureaucrats to harangue the milling throng. This stifled spontaneous expression more effectively than any police force could begin to do.

The Two Worlds column characterized the High School strike as taking a working class form. Mass action.

Some radicals know this only at the top of their heads. I had to chuckle at

a small band of young "old radicals" at the city college demonstration who maintained their own private picket line at a side door purposely isolating themselves from the crowds of students a block away.

THEY KNOW WHAT THEY WANTED

Contrast this to the High School student strike that followed on the heels of the City College demonstration. It was spontaneous from start to finish. Transportation to City Hall, the center of the demonstration, was accomplished by the youth swarming over turnstiles into the subways. The small radical groups couldn't get a foothold anywhere. The placards were crude. The slogans and activity were created on the spot. Tens of thousands of students wild with enthusiasm. There were no funeral dirges here. All the participants knew they were in control. All that they had in common was that they were youth and they were gleeful that they could show the world that they protested and wanted a say.

This is what the radicals did not understand in 1950 and understand even less today. I had to chuckle when I heard a radical of the old school question a Hungarian student at a protest meeting held here as to "what kind of theory" the Hungarian youth were discussing during the revolution. Even from the Hungarian fight for freedom this old radical didn't "get" what they wanted!

Youth Don't Want to Be Scientists

LOS ANGELES — Not too long ago I read an article in the daily press which stated that today's youth are not interested in becoming scientists, especially atomic scientists.

The article said that today's youth "would rather be storekeepers, sales clerks, or mechanics than pioneers in the unknown atomic field."

These are some of the reasons the students gave for not wanting to become scientists:

1. "You can't raise a normal family and be a scientist at the same time."
2. "Scientists don't have time to enjoy life."
3. "Scientists are willing to sacrifice the welfare of others to further their own interests."

4. "You can't be a scientist and be honest."

The article went on to say how misinformed these youth are and at the very end it said that maybe some of the cause of this misinformation "may stem from the part which science has been required to play in the development of weapons."

Even Einstein said that the regimentation and lack of freedom as an atomic scientist was so great that he would rather have been a plumber.

It seems to me that the things the youth feel about atomic scientists are true. And they're true because of the part they are forced to play in the "development of weapons."

LONDON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS:

British Workers Restless; Eisenhower Plan Assailed

British Workers Vote to Strike

Last week nearly one million engineers demanded a two-day strike of all engineers in the workshops and shipbuilding industry. This demand was made by delegates of the Amalgamated Engineering Unions (AEU) National Committee.

The decision to strike was passed by 38 votes to 13, with one abstention. The National Committee of the AEU instructed its Executive Council to press for the two-day strike at a meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions (SEU) at York on Jan. 9.

The CSEU represents three million workers in the engineering and shipbuilding industries organized in 40 unions.

On Jan. 10, CSEU decided to fight for "our claim for a 10 per cent increase." They also decided to take action if the bosses resist this claim.

The nation-wide demand for all-around wage increases comes at a time when prices continue to rise; and at a time when the Financial Times reported this week that industrial profit reached its highest level.

Industrial profits reached £2,095,000,000 (nearly \$6,000,000,000) in 1956. This is an increase of £174,000 over 1955 (nine per cent). Out of these huge profits about 230 millions pounds went to the share-holders.

'Eisenhower Doctrine' Assailed Abroad

In Britain and elsewhere there is widespread criticism of the now-famous Eisenhower Plan for the Middle East. I give below some selections of the criticism which I received from all over the world, especially the Asian countries:

Mr. William Warby (Labour M. P.) said on Jan. 7 that the Plan "seems to introduce a new definition as an excuse for war, namely an attack by a country under the control of international communism, leaving presumably the U. S. Government to determine which countries are alleged to be under the control of international communism. Communism . . . is the label for anybody that the powers-that-be do not like."

Mr. Ian Mikardo (Labour M. P.) stated that the "Eisenhower Plan suggests that America's real motive was to remove British and French influence from the Middle East solely in order

to replace it with American influence."

Pakistan Times (Jan. 3) stated that the Eisenhower Plan desires "to accelerate America's strategic, economic and political penetration of the Middle East."

The Urdu daily, Al-Jamia (Jan. 4), said that the American Plan is "the most dangerous step for Asia and the Near East."

The Bengali daily, Swadhinata, commented that the Plan was to "maintain imperialist domination over the Middle East countries."

The Plan is designed to introduce a policy even more sinister than anything the British imperialism could conceive, declared Anwar El Sadaat, editor in-chief of the Al Goumhouria, in an editorial dated Jan. 9.

—Victor J. Lloyd.

London, January 14.



Do American Women Work Because They're Backed at Home?

I've been working for a year and a half, since my youngest child has been in school. And I'm not working because I don't know what to do with myself at home, or because I'm bored; I'm working because I want

to have a nice home for my children to grow up in. For ten years I've lived with apple crates and second hand furniture and no rugs except what we could find in the Want Ads for \$5 or \$10.

I've never had a living room couch that cost more than \$30. It isn't that I want brand new things, not at all. I'll be glad to settle for used furniture, but I just want something that is nice so I don't have to be ashamed when I have company. An awful lot of women have kitchen appliances too, like rotobroils, mixers, electric fryers, blenders, coffee makers and so forth, not to mention garbage disposals; I've never had a one.

One rich woman I used to work for once asked

me how come I seemed to be so much happier than she was. She said that with all her money she was still looking for something I seemed to have, and asked me what it was. She couldn't understand why she was unhappy.

Poor people aren't happy to be poor. But I'm sure they do have something rich ones don't have. When you work for what you have you have a feeling of accomplishment you can't get from just being given everything.

I'm sure not happy at the time. But when I'm mad or blue, I don't go around wondering why like she did. I know what gets me down, whether it's a bill I can't pay or something else. It's no mystery at all!

—Miner's Wife
West Virginia

YOUTH & CHURCH

There is a T.V. program in Detroit on Juvenile Court. They are reenactments of cases brought before the juvenile division of the police department.

The police officers who question the youth remain in constant bewilderment. Particularly confused if the youth being questioned attends school and church regularly.

R.E.
Detroit

Negro Charges Police Brutality in Detroit; Commissioner Finally Acknowledges Complaints

For years the Negro people of Detroit have experienced police brutality. It was not the knock on the door at midnight they feared. They feared being anywhere they wanted to out in the open for it could strike them even on their own front porch if it so pleased some sadist on the police force. The cases remained "unsolved" not because the Negro people did not report it to the proper authorities, but because the higher authorities took no action.

OUT IN THE OPEN

Now one case is out in the

open and the Police Commissioner admits that he has received over 25 other signed complaints of police brutality. Here is the incident that is bringing some of the things out into the open:

A meeting of local Negroes have organized to press the case. 100 attended the first meeting. It is this which forced the admission from the commissioner of police that he had other signed complaints of police brutality on file. Previous complaints to him, both by individuals and by the local officers of the

NAACP, have not resulted in any actions on his part. Indeed this attitude has intimidated many Negroes who fear to testify because the police, they say, would hound them on some trumped up charges. The whole Negro community is closely following this case now that it is in federal hands to see whether they will get any more justice than they did from the local police.

TEST WITH F.B.I.

Robert F. Mitchell, a Negro bar owner, was stopped on the street by two police officers, Robert Lessnau and James Davis of the notorious Vernor Station. He was driving a car with one light out. After he had produced his license and registration the officers searched him and found a quantity of small change, which he was taking to his bar. They accused him of being a gambler, beat him up and dragged him off to the station on a charge of "resisting arrest."

The victim was treated for wounds on the head, an injured hand, one tooth knocked out and two others loosened. Then he was released on \$500 bond.

Mitchell immediately issued a complaint, not with the local police, but with the F.B.I.

Jackie Robinson at Detroit NAACP

DETROIT—Jackie Robinson appeared in Detroit for a meeting of the NAACP to aid their annual membership drive. He apologized for being 40 minutes late, but explained that the UAW officials had detained him to make a tape recording for them.

The audience of about 1000 people kept busy by reading *News & Letters*, which was distributed before the meeting. Many requested extra copies for their friends.

Robinson explained his position on his resignation from baseball and gave his reasons for taking the tour for NAACP. He stated that without the fight of the NAACP, people like himself would not be in the positions of prominence that they are.

He told of an incident on his recent trip to Japan. During a ball game there, an American umpire tried to call off the game in the sixth inning due to rain. The 40,000 fans just sat there in silence. The officials were forced to continue the game.

Robinson said that if the American Negroes acted the same way, they could get their first class citizenship within a year or two at the most.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

The Link Between Mental and Physical

Recently I talked to a pre-medical student, about a new book I was reading, "Eros and Civilization" by Herbert Marcuse. I told him of this absorbing study of the wholeness of life, its treatment of the intimate connection between the mental and physical aspects of men as well as the realness of the link between the present and the past experiences.

The student, however, was more concerned with escaping from "impractical" problems and "deep" ideas, and preferred to stay in his vocational cell. This at a time when not only the increasing complexity, but the oneness of the world is confronting us.

We have long known of, and accepted, the passage of life into death. Now scientists are coming very close to turning "dead" matter into living tissue. This achievement will not remove the mystery of life. It will emphasize the need to break down old barriers and old concepts and to show the essential unity of life and death, which are both as separate and as united as pain and pleasure, as growth and destruction.

LIFE & DEATH

In "Eros and Civilization," Herbert Marcuse, basing himself on the studies of Sigmund Freud, brings forward the element of time, and merges the past with the present. He shows that their relationship is of the same order and quality as life and death.

Freud had the genius to understand that in the total life of the individual—in the subconscious as well as the conscious activity, and in the world between these two—in imagination and fantasy—can be read the pre-history of humanity. Just as the science of Embryology—a study of the individual developing in the womb—reveals the evolutionary changes from the single cell form of life to the complex animal, so does Freud, the pioneer, through the study of the mind and the images brought from the sub-conscious, chart the development of the human race from its earliest association in the "primal horde," where there was no separation of feeling and doing, to modern man, whose thinking and acting have become divided and opposed.

"Eros and Civilization" is concerned with man in modern industrial society, and the impossibility of the human being to maintain his instincts for life in present day civilization. It is a study of how the human race, through increasing repression and domination, has arrived on the brink of the total repression and destruction of nuclear war.

The "performance principle" has become the accepted way of life. Rewards follow doing the right thing, and the accomplishments must be in line with those held by the dominating elements in society. Non-compliance means failure, and failure is synonymous not only with deprivation, but is also a mark of personal deficiency. This is why and how many human beings today deform their lives, ignore inner needs and wants, and bend and shape themselves to the rhythm of a competitive society.

The tendency of the present-day psychoanalyst is to make the patient fall in line with the repressive influence in civilization. They help the individual to accept, to adjust, to sublimate even further.

NOT COMPROMISE BUT REJECTION

It is to the great credit of Marcuse that he clearly and persistently points out the dynamic revolutionary core of Freudian psychoanalysis: that the life instincts—the instincts for growth and health—require not compromise but rejection of the present society, not sublimation, but confronting the sickness that is disturbing modern life. In this understanding, he is in complete opposition to those psychiatrists, called neo-Freudian, who are emasculating Freud.

Curiously, even while Marcuse has been pointing out the deformed life of the individual in modern society, and the many forms of rejection that men take in the drive toward an existence that will bring them closer to the life instincts, he apparently fails to see how this very negativity in the "most lowly" of men is today creating the moment for an entirely new type of social existence.

In the actual practice of living, working people present the idea of liberation, and the reaching out for that total unified living that Freud saw as normal to human nature.

The intellectual hesitates because of his separation from the daily experience of the working man and the lack of confidence in their wisdom. In this Marcuse fails to keep faith with the very essence of Freud that he has been rejuvenating.

A Woman's Viewpoint

OSAGE, W. Va. — The women they had in *Life* magazine's special issue on "The American Woman" are no more typical of the average American woman than the man in the moon is.

The whole thing was about either rich women or some professional ones. If they wanted to write about a representative housewife, they could have come a lot closer to it by coming down to Osage than by getting some woman whose husband makes \$25,000 a year!

I can just see any housewife I know parading around the house in an off-the-shoulder gown. Most of the time we don't even get a chance to comb our hair right in the morning. I'm lucky to be able to get my overalls on and my shoes both on before the kids start hollering for their breakfast!

MY DAY

My day starts by getting my husband off to the mine, feeding the kids, getting them dressed and out—and then catching a breath before I start in on the real housework.

Life's "housewife" said she's free of much of the drudgery. What drudgery does she have left at all—with a full time maid, and a gardener, and all the rest of it? So she does "much of the cooking." It's a "little" different when you have to do all the cooking, and the washing and the cleaning! She's mighty proud that she keeps "busy." That type of woman keeps plenty busy—cooking pretty all day long!

Every article in that issue was ridiculous. Take the one on the housewife's dream house. I don't know a miner's wife who could even dream of a home like that! Or really want one like it. I want a home I can feel at home in—not a modern museum.

I wonder where a kid could live in a place like that. They have a beautiful play-room, all set aside, just for the kids! My whole home has to be for my kids. The home belongs to them, too. I don't want them pushed off into a room—no matter how beautiful it is.

They have an article on a working woman whose husband doesn't mind her working. I looked to see what she did. She plans weddings! That's work? And the problem of the kids? They have a housekeeper!

The working women I know can't afford a babysitter, let alone a housekeeper. If they could afford a housekeeper they would not be working to begin with. They have to work and they have to leave the kids with a neighbor to watch until they get home.

BIGGEST JOKE

The biggest joke of all was the article by the psychiatrists. They took the problem of the "suburban wife" and then said the same thing could apply to the "factory wife." They make the problem sound real simple: what's wrong is that the women feel housework is degrading, and don't want to be "just a housewife."

But they don't see the problem at all! The way it seems to me is that the "suburban wife" they talk about doesn't like housework because she thinks she's too good to do housework. The poor class doesn't feel that way. If your relations at home are happy, housework can almost be a pleasure. But if your relations aren't right, it becomes pure drudgery. It's drudgery when it's just taken for granted that "the woman's place is in the home."

What that means to a lot

(Continued on Page 8)

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

(Continued from Page 7)

of men is this: Woman's place is in the home, to be there at all times, and his place to be there when he feels like it.

The problems of a woman whose husband makes \$25,000 a year, and a miner's wife whose husband is considered one of the highest-paid workers because he makes \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year aren't the same by a long shot! And they're not so simple either.

DRUDGERY FOR BOTH

My best friend and I have talked about it a lot—the problem of being stuck in the house all the time, with no chance to get out. Housework wouldn't be such drudgery if a man took some of the responsibility when he got home, and let his wife get out once in a while, too.

But, she's said lots of times when we're talking about it, that you can't really blame them either. Our husbands also have to get up and get to work every morning whether they want to or not, I'm sure their work seems like drudgery to them. It's how they work, and how tired and disgusted they may be when they get home, that

makes them what they are and the way they are lots of times.

I know I'm no different than most of the women I know. There's one thing I have never done, and never will do—and that's insist he go to work if he doesn't feel like it. On the rare day he doesn't want to go down in that mine, I'd never say a word. I keep thinking if I ever did, and something happened to him (and so many things do happen to miners) I'd be responsible for it. And I know I expect the same thing from him: when I don't feel up to something that has to be done around the house he'll always say, "Let it go. The work will be there when we're not around any more."

NOT SO SIMPLE

No, our problems aren't so simple. But one thing's sure — we solve our own problems. Nobody I know goes running off to a psychiatrist to solve them for them!

It doesn't always work too smoothly, but by now I know pretty well how to handle my husband, and my problems, when they can be handled at all. And I have a feeling that most of the average women feel the same.

—Miner's Wife

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

South Africa

There is news from the class war prisoners held by the Strydom Government of the Union of South Africa. In their cells the prisoners have established a solidarity between themselves and the entire prison population that bears comparison between themselves and the best traditions of revolutionists who have fought their oppressors in the past.

The women prisoners, African, Indian and European, have volunteered in a group to do the laundry for all the prisoners.

They have established contact through the singing of African Freedom songs. The entire prison sang "Happy Birthday" for Sonia Bunting, the wife of a member of Parliament, a prisoner in the jail.

All are held for opposing the segregationist laws of South Africa.

Saudi-Arabia

King Saud, of Saudi-Arabia has just promised to give Jordan 36 million dollars a year, the same sum that the British formerly gave. With that question settled, he is now off on a trip to the United States to jack up the ante from the Americans. He will not only get his money back, but a good profit to boot.

Ireland

The Irish Republican Army, symbol of traditional Irish revolt against the British, has again become active in Ireland. Through a series of demonstrations, bombings, raids and other terrorist acts, it seeks to gain the unity of North and South Ireland. These recent demonstrations have resulted in a crackdown on the outlawed organization by the Irish Government.

Unity or not, the plain fact remains that the primarily agricultural economy of Ireland is incapable of supporting the population. To industrialize the country would require the importation of the machinery and raw materials as well as the export of the finished product. Ireland lacks the capital for such an undertaking.

The net result is that it exports Irishmen, 3600 a month go to England alone in search of work.

The unity of Ireland will give satisfaction to the Irish, but terrorism will gain nothing.

Togoland

Joins Ghana

Togoland, lying along the eastern border of the Gold Coast, has long been divided into two sections, one under British and the other under French rule.

The British section of Togoland is now to be united with the new state of Ghana, which will become an independent nation in March.

The fate of the French territory is still to be determined.

Kenya

There are today 1,200,000 Kikuyu, Meru and Embu families living in British concentration camps, surrounded with barbed wire and armed guards. It is possible to leave these camps only in the company of an armed guard. Yet the United Nations does nothing for these people.

To add insult to injury, the Kikuyu are forced to pay more taxes than the others because of their association with the Mau-Mau.

Hungary

The Hungarian Communist Government has decreed the death penalty for strikes, demonstrations and any other acts of resistance against the government. Two of the worker leaders of the recent revolt have been executed. Under the new law even "loitering" can be considered an offense leading to the death penalty.

There are over 100,000 unemployed in Hungary as a result of the coal shortage, and production is at a very low level.

Despite their hardships, the Hungarian workers still find time for a joke. One of their cartoons shows a worker holding his last paycheck and standing outside the factory. "If this factory belongs to me, why have I fired myself," he asks.

Paris

The Communist Party took a licking in the first election to be held since the Hungarian revolution. The election was for one seat in the National As-

sembly and covered six Paris districts.

The Communists received only 20.6% of the votes cast, 6% less than a year ago in the same district. The winner was a conservative who supports the policies of the Socialist premier, Guy Mollet.

Russia & China

The workers' revolts in the satellite countries have been played up, but what remains unpublicized in the daily press is the unrest within Russia itself. One correspondent—one of the Alsop brothers—has just come from Russia to assure us that the Russian empire is far from cracking. Yet so wide is the unrest that this totalitarian land of total planning had to back down in its recent meetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Russia. The leaders now claim they will do better in housing and some consumption goods. The Russian workers are not getting this for free. It means that they have carried on such resistance to the norms set by the Plan that the leaders have had to back down if they want production to go on at all.

Not only that: Russia has had to appeal to China to help it put through its totalitarian hold over its own satellites. So we witness Chou-en-lai going back and forth between Hungary, Poland, and Russia, singing the praises of "the socialist fatherland." Whatever deal was made to get this ally it certainly is no testimony to the unshakableness of Russia. The beginning of the end of Russian totalitarianism began over three years ago when the East German workers were the first to challenge the Russian might. It was challenged in Russia itself shortly thereafter by the revolt of slave laborers in Vorkuta. There is unrest right now among the youth of Russia. That may not be seen at the gay celebration that American correspondents attend, but it is fact nevertheless.

News & Letters Committees

In this column we report on the experiences of NEWS & LETTERS committees in different parts of the country. The information is taken from letters written by various committee members in which they tell of the impact the paper has in their shops and communities, and of the people who come to editing meetings to work with, and join, the committees.)

New Year's Eve parties had been held by the local editing committees throughout the country to help maintain the paper. The letter from Detroit is typical of the results: "The New Year in Detroit began on the very happy note of having the youth do the entertaining. We had a teenage quartet—the Romeos—sing for us and become so live a part of the party that we had the finest social ever. We cleared \$50. But the best part is that the spirit carried into the next regular editing meeting which voted to make itself responsible for \$200. Also a \$10 contribution and two new subs came in by mail so that as a whole Detroit will contribute \$265."

West Virginia held its first meeting after New Year's with a steel worker and his wife present, and a miner and his wife and a

student as visitors. Everything was discussed from distributions—two of which had already been made—to the Report from the South for which a special meeting was set. Some of the discussion on the situation in coal and steel and a working woman's reactions to the Life magazine articles on women has been transcribed for regular articles in the paper.

The best news of all comes from Los Angeles which gained two new members in recent weeks. A new, deep stratum of the Los Angeles population was reached thereby. While, on the whole, as in all committees the main purpose of existence is the paper, the new friends showed especial interest in an educational on The American Roots of Marxism. Two new subs were gotten as a result of neighborhood circulation.

DETROIT EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 8067 GRAND RIVER (1 FLIGHT UP)

LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY EVENING, AT 8 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVENUE (COR. WASHINGTON BLVD.) ROOM 203

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE! SUBSCRIBE NEWS and LETTERS 8067 GRAND RIVER, DETROIT 4, MICHIGAN Please send me NEWS AND LETTERS for the period checked below and bill me [] payment enclosed [] 10 issues, 1.00 [] If renewal please check [] 26 issues, 2.50 [] (Please Print) NAME ADDRESS CITY ZONE STATE