

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

Rand & File Opposition to Reuther Grows

By CHARLES DENBY

We are getting ready to elect delegates for the coming UAW Convention. For the first time in the past seven or eight years it appears that the Reuther and Mazey supporters will have some real opposition: the opposition of many rank and file workers who never opposed them before.

For the first time in all these years, workers who were afraid to oppose this powerful machinery of the Reuther group are speaking out openly against them.

For years the Reuther boys have plastered the plant with stickers and torn down any and all they would see of opposition. After continually defeating the opposition, they bought to their side those opposition leaders who accepted. Others were put into a position where they were afraid to open their mouths.

NEW OPPOSITION CAUCUS

There is an opposition caucus now being organized. Workers are giving it their support. Some of its leaders are old trade unionists who could get top positions in the Reuther group. They are calling the Reuther boys porkchoppers and opportunists. But these leaders are the same. If they defeat the Reuther boys workers will soon be faced with the same problems: unsettled grievances, speed-ups, and bad working conditions.

But, as some workers are saying, if it is the same afterwards, they will still get pleasure and happiness out of the fact that the stranglehold of the Reutherites has been broken from around their throats. At least they would like to let them know that they cannot keep our votes locked in their pockets forever.

The opposition has plastered the plant with leaflets and stickers. Their program is against the dues increase; against more porkchoppers being put on the payroll; and for the strike fund money to be distributed equally among workers if and when on a strike.

They did not mention those thousands of unemployed union brothers and sisters (as we call them and felt for them in the early days of the union).

They did not mention workers' problems in production; foremen's working; unsettled grievances; safety hazards.

They say nothing of the worker's life, most of which he is forced to spend in the shops.

THEIR WEALTH, OUR TAXES

Many workers say the proposed dues increase is a shame since the International boasts about its wealth. In the same way this government boasts of being the richest in the world and the next day comes out with such a budget that workers will be paying more taxes and working for less money.

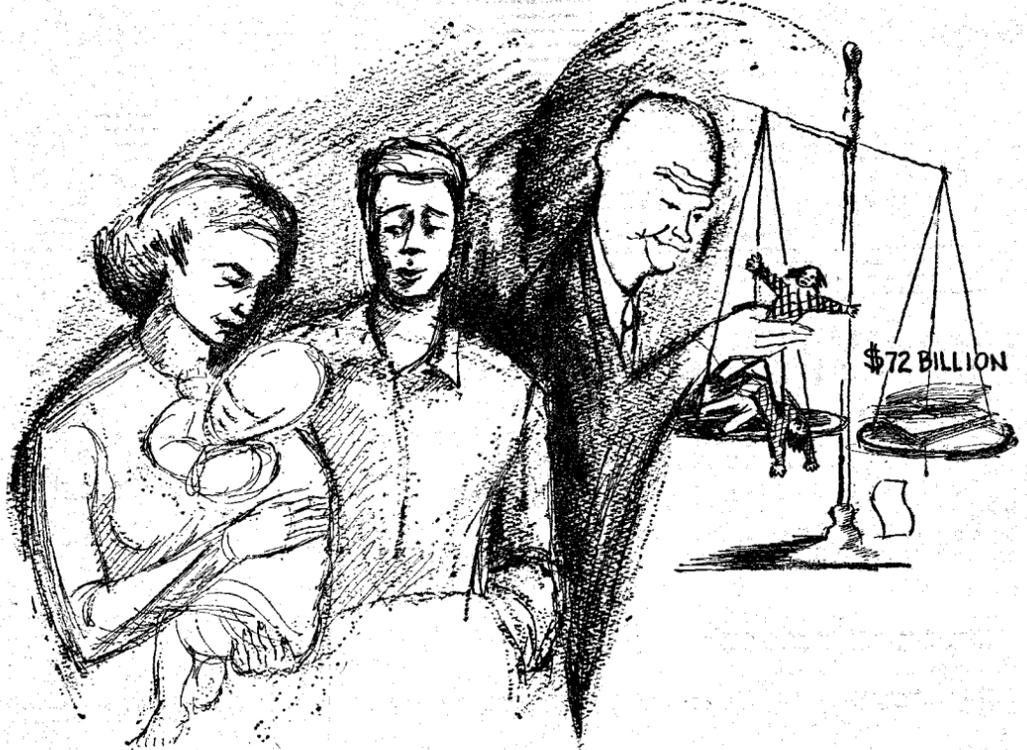
The Union is not saying that we should work for less, but they figure on the workers' wages just as the government does. And they proclaim today that the only way to build a strong Union is by workers giving their earnings that they so desperately need to keep existing. Any worker knows that is not the way the UAW came into existence.

The Reuther boys once claimed that all opposition were communists of some sort. Most of these same are now on his staff. Today, they are calling the opposition, company stooges. They are saying that "if the opposition were serious and good unionists they would come with them."

OUT OF OUR HAIR

As a worker said, "It's good to see them afraid. When we have shop problems we have to make special appointments to see a union officer. Nine times out of 10 you cannot ever see him. When we have a wildcat strike they curse workers like we are not human. And they still think we are so dumb and backward that we forget it when election time comes around."

"Their stickers and leaflets are being torn down now and the new people's, the opposition's stickers are the ones that are staying up. This year we mean to get them out of our hair forever."



Our Lives in the Balance

The same week that the Administration presented its national budget to Congress, each worker got a slip from his employer which listed his earnings and showed how much was taken out for taxes. This slip showed that he still owed the government more money, despite the deep gulf between earnings and take-home pay.

At home the worker found his wife complaining that every time she goes shopping she finds that everything has gone up again. The so-called balanced budget of the government meant a very unbalanced life for them, she said.

For once the reaction of the white collar employees was the same as that of the factory worker and his wife. The common remark in all offices that day was: "With what should I pay more income taxes? I'd almost rather go to jail."

One reader of News & Letters wrote us indignantly: "President Eisenhower at his press conference kept speaking about how good Congressmen ought to find it possible 'to save a \$1 here and a \$1 there' as if it were a question of a few dollars instead of the fantastic sum of \$72 billions."

DO WHAT?

"Every radio announcer, in reporting the President's homey phrase, kept repeating, 'The people ought to do something about it,' but kept far away from saying what should be done."

"To me, the final insult was delivered by Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey who blames the increase in the budget on inflation and blames inflation on the people. I suppose it is the people who spend all those billions on jet planes, guided missiles, arms and armies, H-bombs, not to mention anything about the thousands of government bureaucrats like him!"

BIG BUSINESS, BIG GOVERNMENT & PRICES

Inflation is, of course, not due to the people. The biggest cause of inflation through the ages has been war. It is not only that the labor put into the manufacture of guns serves no useful purpose. It is that the destruction of war has a hefty handmaiden in cost-

plus contracts granted Big Business.

Instead of prices going down because labor productivity makes it possible to produce something in less time than previously, monopoly keeps prices up by cornering the market, whether the market be that of steel or aluminum; housing or food; coal or auto.

The mark of the age is government interference in the economy, bigger and bigger segments of which are monopolized by ever fewer, but ever bigger Trusts. Whether this takes the form of totalitarian Russia or the Cabinet form of Private Monopoly, it is this which keeps prices up.

MONOPOLY GROWTH

There was a time when prices reflected value, that is to say, the actual hours of labor that it took to produce a thing. A rise in labor productivity should have meant a constant cut in prices since the skilled labor that it took to produce an automobile, for example, was now replaced by unskilled labor and the autos rolled off the assembly lines in mass proportions. The growth of monopoly however kept prices from reflecting actual value, no matter how the growth of technology and labor productivity made things

actually cheaper to produce.

Ever since the turn of the century, and the establishment of the first billion-dollar trust (United States Steel), the government has done a lot of "trust-busting"—in words. In deeds, the do-nothingness has reached its highest point in the present Administration which has more industrial tycoons in its Cabinet than ever before.

A single look at the budget will show that not only is fully 60 per cent of the \$72 billions for "defense," but if to that is added the billions we have accumulated from past wars, it will be clear enough that we can never get out of debt, whether that budget is "balanced" or not.

When the Republicans came into office they made a big show of cutting the budget by some \$10 billion, from \$74.3 billion in 1953 to \$64.6 billions in 1956. Four years in the White House and they are only \$1.5 billion short of the 1953 all-time high, and we were then in the Korean war!

Eisenhower was elected on the promise to stop the Korean war. We are at peace now. The budget is "balanced." And yet it keeps rising so that it is

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Our Life in the Balance

(Continued from Page 1)

Where Teddy Roosevelt's "trust-busting" at least produced an anti-trust law on the books; and F. D. Roosevelt's big talk produced a congressional investigating committee known as the Temporary National Economic Committee — whose hearings were spectacular enough though its deeds were nil—President Eisenhower merely purrs like a kitten.

What is the result of it all? Big Business is bigger than ever before, and Big Government keeps pace with it, despite all President Eisenhower's protestations that Government "should" not intervene in "private enterprise."—And the liberals who were such big talkers during the depression keep their mouths shut.

A CUSHION FOR TOTAL CRISIS

The liberals, who can see no further than their noses, if they can see that far, have now joined the chorus of Big Government, Big Business and Big Professors from the university campus — intellectual bureaucrats all who let the National Association of Manufacturers get away with the hue and cry that labor has become "too big" and is using its "organized strength to gain too great increases in wages."

Evidently it is the only place where all three big shots see a chance "to save a \$1 here and a \$1 there."

Where the President's Economic Council of Advisers say it is necessary both "to balance" the budget and to keep profits high enough "to induce greater capital investments," the liberal fools himself into thinking that the fantastic budget is "a spectacular cushion against a major downturn in business." As

if, when the totality of the world crisis explodes, it matters whether it is in the form of a depression or total war.

When civilization as we have known it explodes in the form of the H-bomb, what good will a cushion do you?

If the expenditures for war keep the millions from selling apples, as in the last depression, what will happen to the rubble of human lives when these expenditures for war become war?

No doubt you will not see people selling apples—they'll all be in trenches getting killed or in basements trying to avoid getting killed from atomic warfare that will make no distinction between war front and civilian front.

PRICES, PROFITS & WAGES

To say that the budget is the biggest in peacetime history does not give one any idea of how really fantastic a budget it is.

Just 10 years ago, the budget was only \$33 billions, less than half of the present \$72 billion one. Just 20 years ago it was less than one-tenth of that, it was only 7 billion!

At that time, 1937, millions were unemployed and it was suggested that the government appropriate \$2 billion for road building and other essentials to relieve the depression. Anyone who endorsed that suggestion was looked at as a wild radical who wanted to break the bank of the United States. The \$2 billion would have saved thousands of human lives wasted by depression. Instead, a short cut to get rid of part of the human race was found through the war, and now the military, in peace time, takes up more than tenfold that each year.

(Continued on Page 8)

Nothing Wrong With His I. Q.

HE WANTS NO PART OF THE CONTINUOUS MINER

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—"I. Q. tests! I. Q. tests! That's all I've heard you guys talking about all day. Just what is all this business about I. Q. tests anyway?"

"Yeah," chimed in another miner, "just what is this? Buggy runners, cutters, a lot of guys are talking about it. I know they are giving them. But they were giving them to all men that were being hired. From what I heard about it, it had something to do with the psychology department up at the Univer-

sity. Something about getting the I.Q.'s of miners compared with other workers. But you guys are talking about it like it is something else now. What gives?"

One of the men who had just taken it spoke up. "A lot of guys are taking it. I took it to see if I could qualify to get on the mechanic force. I want to get off that cutting machine. You have to eat that dust all day long, and the only way you can get away from it is to get away from the face.

"I know that we are go-

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners' Objections to New Contract Get Brush-Off From John L. Lewis

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—The following are some excerpts from the proceedings of the last UMW Constitutional Convention. The particular quotes taken here are representative of the objections raised to the last contract in discussion concerning the acceptance of the contract, which was presented to the delegates for their approval.

* * *

LIKE THE DONKEY

Delegate: "Prior to the mechanization of the coal mine where I worked we had 1100 workers. With the introduction of machinery that cut us down to 800, and now there are 400 working. There are 200 on the panel. Others have gone elsewhere to seek employment. There are 200 who expected us to come out here and try to get an agreement calling for a shorter work day so some of these men could be re-employed.

You know those who are working will receive an increase in wages, but those who are on public assistance and on pension and those who are working slack time and who are not working at all will get nothing out of this agreement."

* * *

Delegate: "I suppose I am a little bit like the donkey charging at a windmill, but I do want to express my resentment against this contract, which fails to recognize the economic time of day in the coal industry. Just a while ago Mr. Lewis said the United Mine Workers can't be destroyed by the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or the Communist Party. Yet he would bring the machinery into the mines without shortening the working day and they won't have to destroy us. There won't be any of us left.

"I was on the third shift

the night the report came about this rumored contract. I will say one thing, I never saw one man in our mine satisfied with the increase in pay without reduction in the working hours . . . it has been over 50 years since we established the eight hour day . . . if we are ever going to have a reduction in the working time, it is about time for us to start talking about it. . . . I think probably what you ought to do is this, the International Officers, our Executive Officers, should get together with other segments of organized labor and start a rallying call for a seven-hour day or a reduction in the working time because I know that there is only one answer to machinery, and that is by reducing the hours. There is no other answer to machinery in the mines."

MAN WEARS OUT

Delegate: "According to Mr. Kennedy (vice-president of the UMW) when he was commenting on the contract, he stated he thought the increases in wages were the best for the economic condition. I wonder whether that is so, whether a shorter week would be better. We work in the mines in my district, jump on a belt line and ride maybe a thousand or two thousand feet, put a respirator on and go to the face and work. When we grab a drink of water or a bite to eat, there is a man standing behind us with a stop watch. We work a machine and try to keep up with that machine. I wonder which wears out first, the man or the machine.

"In our mine a shorter work day would be of much greater benefit to us than a wage increase."

* * *

Delegate: "There is the seniority clause, job classification. I had men laid off at our mine that had had 10, 12 or 14 years, and men who had been there only 6 months were working and some of them were paying for cards that still remained on the job. That is why I disagree with the seniority clause.

"I think the seniority clause should be the last man hired should be the first man to go at a layoff. Mr. Chairman, they are putting coal moles in our mines, and I hope they don't put them in anybody else's mines.

"We had one man die from the effects of that procedure. We have to give them a 15-minute shift. We have had any number who have had to get off because of health. It seems that someone forgot the miners

who have the moles. Who created them I don't know. Who created a 3-man shift and agreed on the policy . . . I don't know.

"The Joy (conventional loading machine) of today had another lay off. We went from the duckbill operation to the Joy operation. We had 192 men laid off again. We are going from the Joy now to the mole; where it took 9 men for the Joy operation, it will now take 3 men for the mole. Understand this: 24 tons per man on the Joy, \$2268. Put the operator on the mole and he gets 72 to 78 tons per man for the same wages as he got when he was running the Joy. He stands up there and inhales the fumes and the oil and the steam that is created by the heat from the mole. He doesn't get sufficient oxygen running 40 to 60 feet to a breakthrough.

" . . . we were instructed by our Local to do this, and I am going to carry it out if possible. If there is any way that I can possibly get the 6-hour day, to increase the employment and return these men back to the mines, I will do it."

* * *

NOT WANTED

Delegate: "If it is at all possible to get seniority in our contract, I would like to see it there, because when you deal with some of the operators like we have . . . you have a problem on your hands because he doesn't listen to anybody and takes it as far as he possibly can.

"I can also say this, that a good union man today isn't wanted around the coal mines. I believe most of you gentlemen know what I am referring to. If you are a union man you are a radical, you don't want to listen . . ."

* * *

LEWIS BRUSH-OFF

John L. Lewis: ". . . The negotiation of this agreement is another great triumph for the United Mine Workers of America . . . a tribute to its constructive policies. It comes at a time when the industry is moving forward, economically speaking, to a new day and guaranteeing operating in the future under more modern policies . . . when the mine workers who produce the coal are privileged to participate in the modern advances of the industry and the increase of the per man per day productivity of this industry.

"It is a dividend upon the policy of our Union adopted some decades ago when we highly resolved to encourage the modernization of the American coal industry . . ."

Rank & File Defeats Reuther's "Green Slate" in Early Test

DETROIT — We held a meeting for the purpose of electing a committee to be in charge of handling the procedures for the coming election for convention delegates. For 10 years, the Reutherites "green slate" has won these positions; many times without opposition.

'GET THEM OUT!'

In the past several months workers have said, "We are going to get them out!" They formed a caucus called the Rank & File caucus. Some splinter and old opposition bureaucrats, who could not find a position on Reuther's slate, came running to this meeting.

Sunday they had a caucus meeting. Workers were saying, "We are going to defeat the 'green slate' today. We told workers in our department to be at the union hall."

They were there and defeated Reuther's 'green slate' boys for the first time in 10 years.

The joy of the air in the shop was much different the next day. Even the old bureaucrats and politicians who are part of the Rank & File caucus were saying, while the voting was going

on, the rank and file did not have a chance to win.

The Reuther boys were mad and vicious at first, but when they recognized that the workers are ready for anything they dropped their heads as though they had lost their last loved friend.

GM Workers Wonder:

Will It Be Depression or War?

LOS ANGELES. — A number of workers came into the shop Monday, January 21, with a clipping from the Sunday Times titled, "Business Boom Shows Signs of Slowing Down." Of particular interest to these workers in Southern California's Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac assembly plant was the following paragraph:

"Meanwhile, General Motors slammed the brakes on one segment of its expansion program, postponing construction of a new Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac assembly plant scheduled

to be built at Sunnyvale, near San Francisco. As originally planned the factory was designed to assemble 100,000 cars a year. No reason for the delay was given."

MIXED FEELINGS

This news was greeted with mixed feelings by the men in the shop. One worker speculated that perhaps General Motors has advance knowledge that there is going to be a big war soon and they are waiting for the government to finance the completion of the new plant. Other workers, who had been worrying that the new plant might endanger their own jobs in Los Angeles by next year, felt that the news was not entirely bad.

No one was very happy about the news, however, because whether it is an indication of war or simply that General Motors is not selling enough cars the postponement of work on the Northern California plant is another sign that bad times are coming.

Ambitious Type

LOS ANGELES — There's a fellow in my shop whose ambitions represent a certain type of guy.

He hired in because he is a friend of the supervisor. He knows his work well and is trying to get our old foreman's job when he retires soon.

He says that some of the things that Hitler started out to do were good. He admires that type of philosophy.

He has all kinds of ideas for improving production and finds fault with the way everyone does things. He doesn't have a good word to say for anyone, and tries to start all kinds of intrigues. He sits by himself, and one poor fool who tried to be friendly to him lost face with the other guys. He soon got fed up with him though.

The fellows are talking about quitting if he becomes foreman.

What the sight of power has done to him is something to behold.

Sheet Metal Worker, Los Angeles.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

We Know That It Is Time

Today, discrimination against Negroes has become a worrisome thing for the white people. They try going on with their low-down ways against the Negro people, when the Negroes have learned to speak up for themselves.

No matter what the whites may think, we know that it is time for the white Americans to give up and let us have our rights because we are Americans too. So be fair with us, just as you are with the foreigners who you bring to this country to live, and treat them as kind as you do any white American.

So why try to get up a KKK to frighten us to death or shoot and kill us for nothing? We know that you are just a white man with a mask over your face.

LIVE & LET LIVE

You can believe me if you may: we are going to live and let those live who are willing to let us have our rights, because we know that we got to fight for what we want — and that is our rights.

The white South will have to give up their wrong way of life or the Negroes will break up their business and go to a Negro, where they can be treated right, no matter how far it is from them. They will go in order to be treated right.

THEY WILL LOSE

You know, when Jackie Robinson told the news re-

porters that Negroes were wondering why the Detroit Tigers did not have any Negro on their team, that includes the Boston Red Sox too. They know if they keep up this kind of discrimination against the Negro in the ball park they will soon lose their Negro fans.

But the truth is, the Tigers do not want any Negroes on their team. Not because, as they say, they can't find a Negro who can play ball. We know that is not true because there are some Negroes who can make a fool out of some of the Tigers playing ball.

No matter what the manager said about not wanting to get into an argument with Jackie Robinson because they have Negroes on their farm team. What they say is no good when we see just what they mean, and that is: "No help wanted from the Negro people."

SOME DAY

That may be all right now, but some day you will need our Negro help in your Tigers' struggle to win a pennant, to play in a World Series, to get a little extra money, to hold on to your white supremacy team.

But we will do unto them as the Negroes in the South are doing: We will stop doing business with them and they will soon stop discrimination against us.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

It Can't Go On Much Longer Like This

It seems to me that some skilled workers can find as much intellectual satisfaction in turning out a shiny piece of metal correct to the thousandth of an inch as in reading a book or writing or thinking.

The point is: does he know what an unskilled worker has to go through, and would he be able to adjust to that, or is that beneath him?

Could he take the pressure of knowing that he is expendable at the slightest moment, whim or production schedule of the boss or foreman? That his work is one monotonous operation after another?

HOW MANY TIMES?

After all, how many times can you wire up a switch or radio and feel that you have contributed vastly to mankind? Or how many almost good cars can you put a screw in or weld together? Or, every human instinct that you have during the day has to be expressed behind somebody's back.

It feels good to put something over on the foreman. But is this the relationship human beings should have? Who are these people that say we must work this way? Foremen, supervisors, superintendents, managers? Who created such?

Produce! Produce, that is our function. Production is what counts. "Production for production's sake."

Automation is great, they say. Why? "We can produce more and, best of all, without those pesty things called human beings. The machines won't talk back to us."

If we can produce only so many cars and such, we can always "adjust" production for supersonic jet planes, atomic cannons, atomic-fueled underwater crafts. What are those things? Submarines? Or, some monsters created by the most advanced science the world has ever seen?

WHOSE JUDGMENT?

Whose judgment is it that these are the most advanced people, because they can bring death into the world by such speedy and super ways?

What worker doesn't know that because he is the one that has to do all this producing that he is also the one that will suffer all the horrors of these new feats of science and engineering.

Whether he says, "Yes, you're right" or "No, you're wrong" or sings "My Country 'Tis of Thee", he knows it is he who will have to stand up to these "men of the future", men that will use our futures for their own purposes. No, it cannot go on much longer like this.

Automation Also Worries Foremen

DETROIT. — Automation has not only every worker but the majority of the foremen feeling that they are just hanging on to something that is likely to fall any time. This is especially true among older foremen. The one in our department, who tries to be human with workers, was telling us the other day how much fear there was among foremen about their jobs. They have no protection and they are being cut back to the workers on the line, and some are out on the streets. He told us that Ford, GM, Chrysler, and all the automobile companies throughout the country, he just can't keep up with the pressure. He kept saying, "I cannot make it. No, I cannot."

supervisors. He said they are running ads for metal analysts. He said he has 34 years with the company, and the average worker with only four or five years knows more about metal than any college grad will ever learn. If they want metal analysts they have workers there who can do that. He said what worries him most is that he started working for the company at the age of 18. He is 52 years old now and has 34 years seniority and 16 years to go to retirement, but with automation and the hiring of college students by the company, he just can't keep up with the pressure. He kept saying, "I cannot make it. No, I cannot."

EDITORIALS

Only the Workers Care

One of the most important facts today is the lay-off of workers throughout the country when this is supposed to be one of the highest points of prosperity.

In our last issue there was a small article on lay-off warnings in Los Angeles. Another article told of lay-offs here in Detroit in a shop that has the reputation of never laying-off.

This is nothing new. For a long time now workers have been writing us of the havoc automation has caused in the auto shops and mines.

Here in Detroit you can just talk to people in the street whom you have never seen before, and before you know it they tell you that they've been laid-off for three months though they have 16 years seniority.

* * *

One worker told of her husband being laid-off permanently. He worked in a pharmaceutical factory that has gone automatic. It used to employ 1,500. Now less than 200 can do the job.

* * *

A General Motors worker with 22-year seniority said 11 men used to work with him. Now he's the only man turning out the job and all he does is push buttons. He said, "I better get my pension fast before they put in a machine to push the buttons."

* * *

A Ford worker says there's a machine in his plant a block long. There used to be 40 or 50 men on the operation. Now, only two men do the job; one feeds the stock in at one end and the other takes out the finished piece on the other end.

* * *

At a recent UAW Local Union meeting a production worker took the floor and said, "What's all this talk going on here about whether we have prosperity or depression? Those people who've been unemployed for 3 or 6 months are in a depression of their own right now."

Another worker, who'd been laid-off since six or seven months before model changeover, got up and said he'd just been called back this month. He asked, "Why was I called back just now? What does it mean? This call back makes me real jittery. They need me now, but how do I know I won't have another lay-off next month. The Union knows this is going on all over the industry but they're still talking as though seniority gives you job protection."

* * *

What are people supposed to do? It isn't only that you won't have bread and butter, but your mind and body are wracked with tension when you begin worrying how you will pay your bills and what you're going to do.

No one seems to care about this but the workers who have to suffer it.

LEADERS & RANKS

I read Denby's article on the dues increase in the UAW.

In the steelworkers union there was a genuine opposition and apparently not dominated by any political elements loyal to David McDonald who is the president of the union. I didn't read about this myself but there was talk in the shop that he was actually defeated on a proposed dues increase by upsurge came from the It seems that the main upsurge came from the Pittsburgh local.

Auto Worker, Los Angeles.

* * *

About McDonald, president of the steel worker's union promising to demand three months paid vacations and a four-day week—it's just a pipe dream. He's just talking to get himself some votes. He won't seriously fight for these demands.

Sheet Metal Worker, Los Angeles.

* * *

I object to a small article that appeared in a recent issue of News & Letters called, "A Janitor Shows Them Up."

To me it doesn't say anything. I didn't like the title either. Almost implies without saying anything concrete, that a skilled worker is nothing but a snob. The antagonism almost makes you feel like they're talking about a bunch of flunkies or a part of management.

I don't think all skilled workers are like that. Besides they are a part of the working class and an important part.

Skilled Worker's Wife Los Angeles.

* * *

I would like to say a few things to the wife of a skilled worker who replied to the article, "A Janitor Shows Them Up."

What is important in the article of the janitor is the attitude expressed. These skilled workers help to dominate this janitor. He is just expressing an attitude that will eventually make him free of all domination.

You have often heard a poor person say, "If I had all the money that rich person has I wouldn't have any worries." Again in this particular case the poor

Readers'

man is wrong because rich people have plenty of worries. But the fact that he is wrong is not important. What is important is the attitude expressed. Again it is the feeling of a person that is underneath trying to get rid of those on top of him.

That's what's going to change this world to a better place. Just such attitudes of people trying to get those who dominate them off their backs.

Los Angeles

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

Your "Report from the South," (Jan. 22) was a first rate piece of journalism. I haven't read any to equal it anywhere.

Newspaperman New York City

* * *

... It's the type of news which should be everywhere, but this is the only paper it's in.

Negro Housewife Montgomery, Ala.

* * *

This is just the thing we should have had long ago. I am sure the men I work with will want to subscribe.

Steelworker Birmingham, Ala.

* * *

I watched Ike's inauguration on TV. Marion Anderson stood next to him and sang during the ceremonies. All I could think of her was what a fool she looked. What good does all that "show" do for her people in Alabama? It sure doesn't help them.

Miner's Wife West Virginia

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DEPRESSION'S "HAIR-CURLERS"

About once a week we get a Newsletter in our economics class that has information and statistics on where the best employment possibilities are, where people are leaving, where they are going to, and so on.

I remember one in which West Virginia was included high up on the list of those areas not to go to if you were looking for work. The only people that were urged to go to West Virginia were those interested in setting up new industries here. This is one more indication how bad the employment situation is

in this state. Student, Morgantown, W. Va.

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It's hard to believe the circumstances under which some people are living right in the heart of Los Angeles. There are blocks of tenements where people are jammed in. Old people, pensioners and people with language barriers who don't know how to negotiate with governmental red tape to get their rights.

A lot of times government agencies get away with things because people ignorant of the laws have no idea how to push through their claims and are shamefully taken advantage of.

Worker, Los Angeles.

* * *

Discussion went on in my shop the other day on the opening of wage negotiations. Some of the fellows said, "What difference does it make if the cost of things does go higher. If your wages go higher at the same time it doesn't make much difference one way or the other."

One of the fellows said then, "What about people who live on pensions? If you live on a pension it's practically fixed. The adjustments the government makes to take care of these things always come much slower than the actual rise."

Sheet Metal Worker Los Angeles.

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There is a new law in California which says that if a father leaves his family, the wife cannot collect from the Welfare department for 3 months after his departure.

They made this 3-month period because they say too many fathers are leaving their families and when the father does this the Welfare department has to take over the financial care of the children.

They think that a lot of women don't want to see their husbands return. They don't want to make it too easy for the wife to collect, hence this three-month period.

They even go so far as to say it probably was the wife's fault for making him leave in the first place and not maintaining a proper home life.

House Wife, Los Angeles.

News & Letters

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Charles Denby Editor Saul Blackman Managing Editor

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Views

Most of the guys I work with do the weekly shopping for their families. They say they won't buy anything unless it's on sale. They won't go to a market unless there's a sale going on there. One of the fellows told me where to buy meat at the wholesale price.

The price of food is going so high that unless it's on sale some workers can't afford to buy what they used to.

Auto Worker
Los Angeles.

* * *

A girl I work with told us of her experience with the welfare department or rather the Community Chest about 20 years ago.

She said her mother was sick. It was during the Depression and the girl was trying to support her on some \$8 a week and she needed hospital care.

The girl applied for aid. They went out to see the mother and had her fill out forms for about three hours. Then they turned her down flat because she was right on the edge of a different district. Another social worker came out for another three hours. This jurisdictional dispute went back and forth. In the meantime the mother needed hospital care and finally died because she didn't get it.

This girl will never give a cent to these agencies.

Working Girl,
Los Angeles.

* * *

WAR AND PEACE

Today, the headline in the daily paper was, "AFROCKET FIZZLES, PERILS MISSILE RACE." If a rocket weighing several tons and loaded with explosive fuel "fizzles" when people hear it crash with a terrific blast, I suppose an H-bomb "pops" when it destroys an island or chunk of desert. Let's hope that the experts can build a bomb big enough to "boom" when it makes a continent disappear. That would be real progress.

When I read about the Florida fizzle, I immediately wondered, "How many people were killed or maimed this time?" I remembered the stories that have been appearing every few weeks, about jet planes that crash into residential areas near airports; about atomic radiation on all of us that does more damage than anyone understands; about the rocket that got lost several weeks ago and blew up in a South American jungle.

Today, as always, the daily paper played down the danger to people and played up the arms race. In the long column devoted to the Florida fizzle, only about an inch covered the question of casualties: the Pentagon, as usual, gave an evasive answer. The rest of the article told the gripping human interest story of how the Air Force is falling behind the Army in developing a super-duper rocket that will help save us from the barbarous Russians.

—Detroit

* * *

I had a horrible feeling as I listened to the inauguration speech and watched the parade on television.

Eisenhower's speech was all for peace and freedom and it sounded like real heaven. Then he went to lunch and from there to the reviewing stand. He no sooner sat down than the parade started with missiles and other war equipment.

I had the queerest feeling. It made me think of Hitler and Stalin's celebrations. After this speech, you think well that's real nice. That's the kind of world we really should have. You no sooner catch your breath, than there goes the war equipment.

House Wife
Los Angeles

* * *

The elections in Poland have produced a strange sight. The candidates were all communists. Gomulka, who was last week toasted in the Kremlin for his victory, was the leading candidate.

The Catholic Church and its leading Polish spokesman, the Cardinal, all participated and voted

in the election. It is rumored that even the American State Department secretly supported Gomulka on the old, worn out "lesser-evil theory." They are even ready to offer financial aid or farm surpluses.

Politics makes strange bed-fellows, their kind of politics.

* * *

If Eisenhower had campaigned in November on what he said in January, no one would have voted for him.

Auto Salesman
Detroit

* * *

— Kadar! One Man! Hungarian People! Ten Millions! Ike! One Man! American People! 165 Millions! It is absolutely ridiculous and stupid that one man can tell 10 million or 165 million persons what they can do or can't do. How is such a phenomenon possible? No way except by "compulsory ignorance"!

What would the "Eisenhower Doctrine" amount to? "Compulsory ignorance"!

No nation is lord of the earth! . . . It is the prerogative of the people of any country to think and be whatever they choose . . . as long as the people make that decision themselves and retain control of their own lives and affairs.

I have an idea that if everyone considered him or herself a "walking steak" there would be a pretty fast mutual get-together to find a better way of life, and there would be no organizing from top down. There would be no top. Everybody would be equal.

E. L.
Santa Rosa, Calif.

* * *

TWO WORLDS

I don't know if I understand the "Two Worlds" column as well as I should, but I know it's good when it stirs me emotionally. I was deeply stirred by the column on "Youth and Workers in Present Revolts," (Jan. 22). *News & Letters* seems to be the only place where youth are given credit for being in the human race.

Woman Worker
Detroit

TWO WORLDS

The Terrible Split in the Scientist's Personality

The world crisis is so total that it pervades not only the relations of people at the point of production, but in every sphere of society, and none more so than the field of so-called pure science.

There was a time when the field of abstract theory was the most remote ivory tower and the scientist was assured complete privacy and non-interference from the everyday world with its cares. The splitting of the atom in World War II also split the scientist into a dual personality, and tore apart his individual pursuit and the social consequences of his discoveries.

The greatest scientist of this age, the late Albert Einstein, tried to suggest that the Japanese be induced to peace terms, not by destroying their cities and raining death upon the people, but by inviting the Japanese leaders "to watch" the havoc of an A-bomb explosion in mid-ocean or some deserted spot. Needless to say, the military brass paid no attention to him. So far as they were concerned "his field of specialization" was science—not military strategy or politics. Men of smaller stature than Einstein attempted not to think at all rather than face the consequences of their discoveries, as they are put to use (abuse) by the capitalist world.

Recently the American Association for the Advancement of Science attempted to take one step out of its neutral position by recognizing the right of scientists to define their views on their own discoveries. To judge by the immediate hostility of the capitalist press, you would have thought that the scientists were a group of minors, a little on the retarded side. They were reminded that being a good scientist is no sign that his opinion on other subjects would be of any value. Evidently having enough money to own a newspaper and hire writers entitles you to an opinion on every subject and makes you a judge of "true patriotism."

THE CRISIS AMONG THE SCIENTISTS

The greatest stumbling bloc to the scientists' finding out their relationship to society, however, comes not from those outside the field of science, but from the scientists themselves. If the totality of the crisis is so all-pervasive as to take in the field of science, the impact of that crisis, on all intellectuals leading two lives, makes most of them anxious to conform, and some even willing to commit intellectual prostitution.

Where the pressure upon scientists is such that a Robert Oppenheimer would show his conformity and lecture the youth of this country what a great, "free" exciting field science is, an Edward Teller would whiten-wash every Administration move, including the exclusion of Oppenheimer from access to scientific data because of his hesitation to give the go-sign for the H-bomb fast enough.

The present so-called father of the H-bomb, Edward Teller, now writes that nuclear attack need not be totally destructive. This scientist has a practical plan which he makes sure does not become a point of agitation among the people by publishing it in the journal, *Air Force*. He states that it is possible to store away two years' supply of food, medicine, and all things that would sustain life when the industrial plants have been blown sky-high if we built, for storage and the saving of lives, thousands of "deep underground shelters that any in the densely populated areas in this country can walk to a shelter within 15 minutes . . . These things will be extremely expensive . . . I am not sure it can be done. But I think there is at least a chance that it might be done."

Needless to say, the practical Mr. Teller has not dared propose that any of the \$72 billion dollar budget be used for building these numerous shelters to avoid total destruction. No, but he is free with the type of advice that sows illusions in the people.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

If the head of the A-project during the war, Oppenheimer, is not kosher enough to have access to high priority scientific data; if what a Teller tells becomes "the truth"; if you must, to enter the field of science, give up all idea of any privacy in your life and pursue discoveries only in directions acceptable to the Administration; then what precisely is the difference between "democracy" and "totalitarianism?"

Now that science is firmly wedded to war, and the time lag between pure and applied science has gone down from 20 years at the turn of the century to 5 and in some instances 1 or 2 years, then on neither side of the Iron Curtain does there seem to be any room for in-between. No wonder that the scientist himself is split in more ways than the atom itself.—R. D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

A Peek Into the Future

There are some who always say that people are just naturally prejudiced, selfish and so forth, and so a thing like socialism would never work.

I can't help feeling that in the past few weeks I was given a peek into the future.

A year ago I became acquainted with a very meek, quiet-spoken welder. He was always complaining about one illness or another, doing his best to stay out of the foreman's way and, in the main, was very unsure of himself.

The part of the department where he was working was made up almost exclusively of new men who did not have enough time in the shop to permit any of them to become steward. The older men wouldn't take the job on a silver platter and they talked this Casper Milquetoast into taking it.

A TRANSFORMATION

What a transformation! Caspar is a regular tiger. Every day he's dragging the foreman into the office. The foreman is just about ready to go stark raving mad. He claims this new

steward doesn't know anything about how grievances should be handled, and he can hardly write his own name.

"The old steward who transferred out of this department could understand reason," the foreman complains. "But this guy is begging for trouble."

KEEP IT WARM

Our department is right off the shipping dock and when they throw the doors open to the trailers and railroad cars it gets cold real quick. Everyone always has complained about the cold. Now for the first time, something is being done about it. Our steward has told the foreman that he'd better find a way to keep his department warm.

The foreman is flabbergasted. All he can say is, "No one ever complained about these things before." The meek welder now seems sure of himself and doesn't complain of aches and pains.

Those who say you can't change human nature don't maintain sufficient contact with their fellow humans to know and recognize their real capabilities and potentialities.

Raising Kids Is More Than Parents' Problem

LOS ANGELES—A few weeks ago there was a story in the paper about two children in Chicago who died because of eating bad food out of garbage cans.

Their father had been too ill to work for over a year and the county welfare agency allotted the wife only \$7 a week to feed the two adults and two children on.

Neighbors said they finally got tired of the children always coming around asking for food so they quit giving them any. They also admitted seeing the children eat out of their garbage cans. Finally these two little children died on this diet.

The City of Chicago is holding the parents responsible, and they are being kept in jail. But what about the responsibility of the welfare department that allowed only \$7 a week for a family of four to live on? And what about a country that sends millions overseas in order to tip the balance of power against Russia, but in reality, it cares so little for human beings,

that two of its own children die for lack of the simple necessity—food.

And what about the rest of the children in this country who are finding their food in garbage cans, who is going to take care of them?

Kids Disagree With Empty Talk

My son tells me that every class at school has been discussing the Hungarian refugees. The teachers are trying to tell them what a wonderful thing it is, but my son says that all the kids are getting up and disagreeing. I told him I hoped he had asked the teachers to explain how it was that someone from another country could come and immediately have more rights and freedom than American-born Negroes. Because they do.

I even cut a clipping from the paper that reported a case in Virginia where a Negro janitor

LONDON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS:

British Workers March in Mass Demonstration

LONDON, Jan. 28—

Three to five thousand engineers and shipbuilders, from all over Britain, marched from four meeting points in London and converged on Trafalgar Square, the traditional meeting place of the London workers. (Note to American workers: In Great Britain machine shop workers are called "engineers.")

They met together in demonstration to protest the flat rejection by the bosses of the 10 per cent wage rise demand.

The Engineers marched proudly behind their banners and their bands, including a pipe-band. Engineers carried placards with slogans supporting their demands.

* * *

Waiting at the Nelson Column, hundreds more workers gave cheers of welcome as the marchers arrived to the skirl of the pipe band. The pinnacles of the Column were covered by the trade unions banners of the workers as they assembled around the Column to listen to speeches.

Joe Scott, of the National Executive Committee, Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions, in a rousing speech, said: "If this refusal is persisted in, a series of running battles with the employers will result. They may take the form of token demonstrations or embargoes on overtime . . . In every factory this week there must be meetings to tell the management we are determined to get this raise."

Joe Scott went on, amidst a roar of approval from the demonstrators, "We must have token strikes, demonstrations and overtime embargoes. We must organize any and every protest on a mass scale in the factories."

* * *

Another speaker, Arthur Skeffington (Labour M.P.), stated: "There has been a staggering increase in production since the end of the war and profits have increased 159 per cent. Those who have made this increase possible

must have a share in the results of their efforts."

* * *

At the end of the demonstration the engineers carried with acclaim and with unanimous voice a resolution:

"In view of rising living costs and increased profits and productivity, this refusal can only be regarded as a provocation . . . We pledge ourselves to support with every action, including a stoppage, any call the Confederation might make."

* * *

STRIKE BY FRENCH YOUTH

From France I have received news from a trade union source that Paris post office youth cyclists, age 15 to 18 years, went on a strike on December 19th in protest against their wages being based on their age and to demand a shorter week of 36 hours instead of the present 45-hour working week. The youth are also making other demands for various additions and bonuses.

—Victor J. Lloyd

We Have No Angels

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going.

NOT MUCH FUN — BUT A LOT OF MONEY

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —At the UMW convention held last October, the executive officers of the Union waxed very eloquent that one of the major factors, if not the major factor, in the achievement of what they labelled "the greatest contract ever negotiated," was the sound financial condition of the Union's treasury. In the report it was stated that there were some 24½ million dollars in the treasury, in addition to what was invested in banks, ships, docks, transportation company—which must run into many millions more.

The last time the miners got a raise, the Union placed a \$20 assessment against each miner. This time, it is \$10 we are being assessed. This is an extra assessment and does not affect the regular dues we must pay.

The reasons given were to guarantee the sound financial condition of the UMW treasury, which had the added expense of half a million dollars last year for the convention, plus expenses of law suits and so on.

While it may not seem to

be a very large amount of money to some people, there is more than the money that is involved when the miners speak about it, and many have.

The time when the miners look to the treasury—and they should have every right to do so—is when they are out of work, either during a strike or when they are laid off or sick. Yet, during those periods when financial help is most needed, the treasury of the UMW is closed to them.

As one miner summed up his attitude, "You know, it's funny. The treasury has all kinds of money for banks and railroads, and just about everything. Everything but for the miners when they really need it. We always hear about how much we've got until we need it, and then we might just as well have nothing so far as what we are able to get out of it. Whys should I be glad to give my hard earned money to it?"

West Virginians Resent Management's Exploitation of Hungarian Refugees

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The News & Letters committee member, who sent in the following Readers' Views, wrote:

"I don't know what the rest of the country is talking about, but down here just about all anybody wants to talk about is the refugee business. No matter what subject you start out with, the second sentence is always, 'What do you think of all these Hungarian refugees?'"

"The Faucet business is a real loaded one. Ruby is considered such a d—d that everyone feels he's doing it to load the place with some imported 'homesteaders' even more indebted and enslaved to him than some of the 'homesteaders' he has there already.

"Then there's the glass factory here where they have also placed some refugees. A neighbor who works there says they also had a lay-off recently and, in addition, have now speeded-up the piece work from 700 to 1,700 pieces.

We are certain that the Hungarians who fought against Russian totalitarianism will soon recognize the game being played by the capitalists and the Administration and will not allow themselves to be used against the American workers.

In the same way, Negroes used to be imported from the South to act as strike-breakers. Yet, only a few years later, they were in the forefront in building the CIO.)

When I heard about Ruby, dictator of the Faucet plant, bringing the Hungarian refugees here to work for him, the first thing I thought was that they had only traded a Russian slave-labor camp, for one of Ruby's slave-labor camps. Reader
West Virginia

The local papers here gave a front page spread to the story of how big-hearted Ruby, of the Faucet factory, has given jobs to 15 Hungarian refugees. He has a man posted at Camp Kimer to "hand-pick" them. No one seems to know just who Ruby thinks he's kidding, but nobody around here is "buying"

any of that kind of prop-aganda. They all know what Ruby's "generosity" is for!

West Virginia

A friend of mine told me that her mother, who is a Slav and lives in a Slovak neighborhood, was really burned up about what is happening with the Hungarian refugees.

One of their neighbors has taken in two of them, and was telling her mother about the good jobs they had got in one of the mines near here.

Her mother really blew up and asked her what she thought about the man next door who had been begging for a job in that same mine for almost two years, and couldn't get one. He finally did get work and was killed on the job. He left a wife and four sons, the oldest of whom is 17.

Her mother said, "They wouldn't give him a job and he was an American. His wife was supporting the whole family all the while he was out of work. And he was desperate because he wanted to get those four boys through school—so they could be the cannon fodder for the next few wars!"
West Virginia

The fellows in Mason-town, where they laid off a bunch of miners and shut down the tippie, and then started up again with some Hungarian refugees working there, figure that the reason they did it was because they don't understand English and don't know how much they're supposed to do. There would be a place to get a story for the paper!

New Reader
West Virginia

I figure the Hungarian refugees don't know the score now, but it won't take them long to find out—and become just as "hard to get along with" as the Americans.

Railroad Worker
West Virginia

—Housewife

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

WHAT IS SCHOOLING FOR?

It is written in the Talmud—that custodian of the experiences of the Jews of old: "There are four types among those who sit before the wise: the sponge, the funnel, the strainer, and the sieve. Some are like the sponge, which absorbs everything; some are like the funnel which takes in at one end and lets out at the other; some are like the strainer which allows the wine to go out and retains the dregs; some are like the sieve which lets out the bran and retains the fine flour."

There is much wisdom to be found in this study of the physical and spiritual life of an ancient people, comments on education and human nature, but the simple statement that appeals to me is this: "A person can learn only those portions which his heart desires."

Going to school today has impressed me as a period of hibernation rather than the period of development it should be. It seems often to be a time of separation and isolation from life, rather than the entrance into living. It is this that produces the indifference, the lack of interest and the opposition in many attending school.

'PEOPLE LEARN WHAT THEY WANT TO'

Recently a study was made by a small group composed of medical school faculty members, from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, on the subject of medical education. I believe that their findings are applicable to other fields as well. From this study of the teaching—learning process, four principles have appeared. It is remarkable that the first of these is similar to the one emphasized in the Talmud many generations ago. "People learn what they want to know."

It was brought out that if a student of medicine knows the batting average of every player in a ball club, or knows 17 different ways to make alcohol tasty, but is unable to remember a chemical equation, shall the teacher call him stupid, perverse, or say that he is obviously not interested in becoming a doctor? This type of thinking helps the teacher feel relieved of responsibility, but it helps the student very little. It also implies that the teacher can decide what the student should want to know—which is a fallacy. If, however, the teacher of chemistry can establish a relationship between learning the chemical formula and what the student wants to do and become, he will be unable to stop him from learning eagerly and enthusiastically. Unfortunately, today, many young people enter a field of study not because they like it, but because it offers the easiest way to earn a living.

The second point uncovered in the study is that knowledge and learning are different. The strongest and most disagreeable memory I have of my medical schooling is the nightmare of cramming the night before, for examination after examination. True learning is an emotional experience. The things we retain are those that somehow kindle a spark, arouse curiosity, incite anger, disagreement or even laughter. For each of us these things are different, for learning is also very personal. To concentrate merely on cold facts, to have a great deal of accumulated data, and make this the subject of an examination, is to take away the very vitality of the process of learning.

LEARNING REQUIRES FREEDOM

The third element is that true learning implies change. A great deal of time and energy is spent in resisting change, in defending our own position, even when its unsoundness is evident.

We use methods such as shifting the focus of discussion when it comes close to tender spots, obscuring the issue by vagueness, hair-splitting, hostility, and tardiness. These are all defensive techniques when we feel endangered. Condemnation by moral judgments or decrees will only strengthen the resistance. Movement and change will inevitably take place, but only in the direction that is possible and necessary.

The final principle that naturally follows is that learning requires freedom. Our educational system is authoritarian. The usual tendency of teachers is to encourage growth only in their own image. The student who does what he is told, gives back the official, accepted opinion when he is called on, is usually looked upon as a good student. The one who challenges statements and accepts nothing without supporting evidence is looked upon as an annoying character who probably needs a psychiatrist.

Teachers are often major obstacles to student learning. There is need for a fundamental respect for the individual student who must be allowed the freedom to be different, and encouraged to challenge.

A Woman's Viewpoint

Which Women Are They Talking About?

LOS ANGELES—I saw the TV program put on by the General Motors Corporation which dealt with women.

They spent 20 minutes telling what the modern woman faces in childbirth.

The thing that struck me was how Margaret Mead showed how a new born baby is cared for today. She showed all the care that a pregnant woman gets.

It really surprised me because I never experienced anything like what she said women are supposed to experience. The doctor is supposed to show so much attention and answer all her questions, etc.

All I know is that I was shoved in a door, the doctor said, "You're all right."

All the questions I had written down to ask him were answered with "You are all right—goodbye," and out.

Even when it came to the birth of both of my children, the special requests I had to make of my doctor were completely ignored. They didn't show any consideration for my feelings at all. I was just a dumb animal until I got the babies into my own home.

My main objection to the LIFE series on women is the way they lump all women together as though they were all in the same class.

They speak about women in various fields of endeavor, housewife, working women, etc. and yet they portray a sort of stereotype.

All working women, or the average women according to them, have the same problems. They don't see different classes of women faced with very different problems and different ways of handling them.

I've worked in factories and I know that the women I worked with are different, and they work for different reasons than the up-and-coming career girl.

I suppose in the broad sense you could call them all "working women" because they both make money by working. But the working women I know work because they darn well have to.

Many knew nothing but work and speed up with a hopelessness of never being able to stay home. I have yet to see serious articles, except in News & Letters, dealing with the life of these women.

Our Life in the Balance
(Continued from Page 2)

A single look at the budget will show that not only is fully 60 per cent of the \$72 billions for "defense," but if to that is added the billions we have accumulated from past wars, it will be clear enough that we can never get out of debt, whether that budget is "balanced" or not.

When the Republicans came into office they made a big show of cutting the budget by some \$10 billion from \$74.3 billion in 1953 to \$64.6 billions in 1956. Four years in the White House and they are only \$1.5 billion short of the 1953 all-time high, and we were then in the Korean war!

Eisenhower was elected on the promise to stop the Korean war. We are at peace now. The budget is "balanced." And yet it keeps rising so that it is indistinguishable from a war budget. Not only that, all this talk about "balanced budget" only means that the government expects to meet current expenditures out of current income of the people through taxation.

SOFT SPOTS

But present unemployment and various other "soft spots" in the economy point to a recession. For example, there is a fall in the construction of houses. Every one now admits that the prices for homes are so high that even the middle-income families are "priced right out of the market," that is to say, cannot afford to buy a home and don't.

The farmer has been in a depression for some time, and "pockets of unemployment" are present everywhere from New England to the South.

In Michigan for instance, state expenditures had to be raised to take care of the rising relief load. This is at the height of unprecedented capitalist prosperity in the richest capitalist land in the world!

PROFITS ARE IMMUNE

The truth is, as one professor had to admit, "Profits historically have proven much immune to wage pressures, thanks to the inflationary process of passing wage increases on to the consumer." The most scandalous of these recently is, of course, the big hike in steel prices which was nowhere justified by the measly wage increase for steelworkers.

The mass of profits keep rising to the most fabulous in history. On the other hand, the prices keep rising so that the workers' wage increases are eaten up before they are ever spent. As one of our worker readers put it, "Nobody owns anything in this town. Everybody just makes payments."

LIKE RUSSIA

The best way to see that is to take a country that does not have installment paying. Because a totalitarian country like Russia has the power to wipe out your earnings directly, instead of indirectly through inflation, income taxes, sales taxes, etc., one can see exactly how watery those high money wages we got for war work have become.

At the end of World War II Russia openly admitted that it was as much subject to inflation as ordinary capitalist countries for wars drew no distinctions. Russia thereupon ordered the cash ruble devalued at the phenomenal ratio of 10 to 1. This "currency reform" wiped out all the extra earnings the Russian workers got during those 12-hour days of war work.

Even as our leaders do, their leaders claimed that this was not done at the expense of the working class, but only to get rid of "speculators." It was as successful as American trust-busting.

IT "BUSTED" THE WORKERS

Lest anyone be in too great a rush to tell us the horrors of totalitarianism, we know them full well. We also know something they don't know. And that is that this country is heading in the same direction as Russia. Whoever tells us that the Russian "turn-over tax" (their fancy type of sales tax) is alone sufficient to finance the military budget, just remember that our form of "balancing the budget" is not fundamentally different—it is the income tax, which is always hardest on the working people, the sales tax and the taxes on so-called luxuries like movies.

The present whopping budget is only one more proof that it isn't only the workingmen's personal goods — whether it is the refrigerator, TV set, or auto—that he doesn't really own. He is in hock not only for his life but for that of his children and grandchildren as well.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Saudi-Arabia

King Saud, despotic ruler of the most undemocratic country in the world, has been entertained in the White House by bankers, oil men, and Eisenhower, at the expense of the American taxpayer.

His 7 million subjects have an average per capita income of 45 dollars per year.

He has 28 air conditioned palaces, yet 70 per cent of his subjects are afflicted with trachoma, an eye disease leading to blindness. Forty per cent have syphilis. The average life expectancy in Saudi-Arabia is 33 years.

A quarter of a million are slaves, human beings bought and sold in the market place. Africa provides most of them. Young European white girls are also kidnapped or drugged, are transported by ship from France and Italy and bring fancy prices in the market.

The United States and England have refused to sign international agreements which would put an effective end to the slave trade by sea.

Runaway slaves are beheaded and thieves have their hands chopped off if they are caught and brought before Saud's "justice."

You would imagine that it was horrible conditions that Eisenhower planned to discuss in the White House. But no, it was question of how much more American cash, how many guns and tanks Saud would need. Those were the pressing problems.

He and his 10,000 slaves, 100 concubines, fleets of Cadillacs, all are supported by \$300 million a year in American oil royalties. His every whim is catered to by the American government and he is ardently wooed by the Russian government.

Yet, he is not just an individual, HE IS THE GOVERNMENT.

Is this the type of progressive society which we are supposed to save from communism?

Montgomery, Ala.

Meanwhile, back in Montgomery, Martin Luther King, has had another bomb thrown at his home. Still another exploded between the home of a Negro and a Negro owned cab company. A white radio announcer, considered sympathetic to the Negroes, was shot at.

Fifteen incidents of white violence against

Negro homes, churches and businesses have taken place in the past 5 weeks. Yet the Department of Justice and the F.B.I. can find no cause to interfere in this playful game of life and death, the dead ones being American Negroes.

Rev. Martin Luther King invited Eisenhower to speak in the South and give his views on segregation. Presidential Aide Sherman Adams, in refusing, stated, "It is not possible for the president to schedule a speaking engagement such as you asked."

Can it be that all his speaking engagements are reserved for the slave-owner King Saud?

NATO

The day has now arrived when American troops will serve in Europe under an ex-Nazi General.

Lt. General Hans Speidel, who served Hitler well, and who was known for his ability to bring Hitler out of his fits of tantrums, has been appointed by NATO to the post of Commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Central European land forces.

Thus another Nazi fits into the pattern of the war to come.

The political bosses of the Free Democrats in West Germany have just selected Reinhold Maier as their new leader.

Maier is noted chiefly as the man who, in his role of Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg, under American occupation, pardoned some 2,564 convicted Nazi war criminals.

He is the man who will, in his new job, hold the balance of power in Germany after the elections next autumn.

By way of contrast, Dr. Otto John, who first served as chief of the German equivalent of the F.B.I., and then disappeared behind the Iron Curtain only to return again to West Germany, has been sentenced to 4 years for his odd behavior. The German press seems to resent the sentence.

"A Hard Sentence for Otto John," says Frankfurter Rundschau, "especially when one takes into consideration the incomprehensible mildness with which Nazi criminals are treated in German courts."

One thing is certain: the choice between an Otto John and a Reinhold Maier or a Hans Speidel, has nothing whatever to do with "justice" much less with the German people who want a truly new life. All politics, in the official Germany preferred by our State Department, is reduced to the question: "Who is for and who is against Russia?"

In the same crude and cynical fashion, the occupying powers of defeated Germany—a dozen years ago—restored any number of former Nazi officials to governmental posts on the grounds that this Nazi filth were the only ones who knew how to administer. Their working-class, concentration camp victims, on the other hand, were considered as not having the necessary "talent" to run their own lives.

The Russians do the self-same thing in East Germany.

France

Last week's election in France indicated a big shift in public opinion there. Pierre Poujade, the fascist leader of the disgruntled French shopkeepers, personally entered as a candidate. His followers shouted against "Jews and foreign interests" but he wound up with only 6.4 per cent of the total vote, a complete defeat for him and his ideas. Last election gave his political party 54 seats in the chamber of deputies.

The French Communist Party dropped from 130,000 votes to 60,000.

A loss of half its previous strength.

Mendes-France, who staked his political fortunes on the outcome, also suffered a humiliating defeat, one-third of his previous vote.

The winner was Julien Tardieu, a Moderate.

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