

NEWS & LETTERS

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

VOL. 2—NO. 13

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1957

13

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

A Flood of "Green" Leaflets

By CHARLES DENBY

This is what I heard a worker telling some other workers last week:

"The heat is on in our shop. After the Reuther supporters lost the election committees they got frightened and also desperate to win the delegation for the coming UAW convention.

"They have flooded the plant with their green leaflets every day since. The first leaflet told the workers to vote for them, the 'green slate', because the Rank & File slate are company stooges.

"The second leaflet carried the Reutherite program and told the workers that they have been accused by the Rank & File of not having done a thing for workers in the past 10 years since they took office. (Many workers say that's a true accusation.)

"Then the Reutherites tried to show that workers' wages were \$1.25 an hour 10 years ago and now it's up to \$2 an hour and the Reutherites claim credit for that. They concluded by asking the Rank & File to put out a leaflet on what they stand for. This, the Rank & File (the slate of many ranks of workers) have completely ignored. Instead, they said they will put out a leaflet on what they are against.

AGAINST

"Against workers having to make appointments to see Union officers.

"Against not being accented in their supposed-to-be own Union hall to see an officer on grievances; 85 per cent of the time they never see one even after accepting appointments.

"Against calling for a committeeman and he never shows. And when he does he first consults the foreman; then calls your chief steward and tells him to tell the workers what has been agreed upon and if you fail to carry it out you are subject to be fired; and do not call them any more.

"Against Reutherite chief stewards taking the place of the foreman in bossing the workers.

"Against the way Union meetings are run.

"Against the bad working conditions the bureaucrats have helped the company create.

"Against a few workers working overtime 6 and 7 days a week when thousands of members of our Union are unemployed.

'MUSCLE-MOB' ACCUSATION

"The next day the Reuther boys' leaflet accused the workers' slate of being a 'Muscle-Mob'. Practically all the workers laughed at this. But a few said it was serious because the Reuther boys are planning on vicious attacks against the Rank & File slate and are putting out such leaflets to be able to say they had to 'defend themselves against mobs'.

"They are not fooling all the workers. In this shop the Reuther boys have built up the most powerful machine of any local in the UAW. This machine consists of every type of man you can find anywhere. Many of them, a few years ago, were in opposition to them. At that time, the Reuther boys told us what type they were: every type of politician including the Communist; every type of thief; every type of hoodlum. Now they are part of that machine.

"No. The 'green slate' has been handling the elections their own way until now. Now, the newly-elected committee of the Rank & File are going to handle it as they see fit.

'GREEN SLATE' BLASTS TRIM SHOP

"The Reuther boys say these workers learned this 'muscle-mob' action from the trim shop workers. No. They know they won't get a vote out of that department. They haven't for several years and it is the largest in the shop.

"Many workers say they see the end in sight so they are not worried about the green leaflets and what they say. They have no time for answering them. The Reuther boys have access to all the facilities of the local including its funds and also the International. We have to organize our caucus and build it with rank-and-file workers who know what we stand for and what Reuther's 'green slate' stands for."



Chrysler Production Workers Jubilant as Rank & File Opposition Sweeps to Victory Over Reuther's 'Green Slate' in Election

By A Group of Trim Shop Workers

DETROIT—On Thursday, Feb. 21, workers in the Chrysler-Mack plant defeated the powerful machine of Reuther, Mazezy and their supporters by almost a 2 to 1 margin, to sweep the entire slate for Local 212 delegates to the coming UAW Convention.

When we learned the good news on Friday, one worker in the trim shop

said, "We're on our way to be free at last."

THE BRITISH HANGED HIM!

General Dedan Kimathi of Kenya

On February 18, 1957, Dedan Kimathi was hanged by the British authorities at Nairobi Prison in Kenya. He had been sentenced to death on November 27, 1956 for "illegally" possessing a revolver.

The handful of British authorities — who rule nearly 6 million people of Kenya by terror, branded Dedan Kimathi a "Mau Mau terrorist leader" and so they hanged him.

They hanged a man, but they cannot kill man's unconquerable spirit to fight against oppression and for the dawn of a new world.

"I am explaining clearly," Dedan Kimathi wrote in August 1953, "that there is no Mau Mau, but the poor

man is the Mau Mau and if so, it is only Mau Mau which can finish Mau Mau, and not bombs and other weapons. . . .

"God who created everone helps them and feeds them and protects them from trouble. If we humans do not know what the end of this trouble is going to be, God knew it even before it started. Let us pray to God to grant us peace in our hearts and loving kindness so that the present daily bloodshed may cease."

The British cannot destroy this spirit in Kenya; nor can the Communists in Hungary; nor can the White Citizens Councils and KKK's in the South; nor can their blood-stained kinsmen wherever they are in the world.

(The full letter by Dedan Kimathi, from which the above quotations are taken, can be found in THE PEOPLE OF KENYA SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, by Mbiyu Koinage.)

Another worker was jumping around, laughing and saying, "I don't think a lifer in prison who gets paroled could feel any happier than I do about this."

MACHINE TRIES INTIMIDATION

The action of the Reuther "green slate" machine was so powerful before the election that many rank and file workers were in doubt about what would happen. One said, "If we lose this election we're done forever." They shoved leaflets at us day after day (See Worker's Journal).

These machine boys attempted to intimidate us beyond reason. Many workers who put on Rank & File buttons were forced to pull them off.

One rank and file worker, who had never been an activist in the union, was handing out some Rank & File slates. A Reutherite bully-boy told him it would be wise if he did not come over to the Union hall the next morning.

He asked, "Why?" and was told that he wouldn't want to show up at the plant the next day looking battered and bloody.

This worker said it brought tears to his eyes because it hurt him to think that for 10 years he'd been paying dues into this Union and they were

(Continued on Page 3)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

NO WAY OUT

Miners Often Trapped Behind Tons of Coal

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—They've got another continuous miner coming into No. 15. I've heard a lot of guys talk about that job. I don't want any part of it. It's bad enough the way it is with the regular cutting and loading machines.

I know these guys who work on the machines. I just don't have that much weight to lose as they have lost since they've been running the machines. The dust and heat are bad enough, but there is more to it than that.

ALWAYS GOING

You take the way they run it here. There is the continuous miner at the face, gouging, ripping out that coal. Always going. You've just got to keep that machine going and no two ways about it. It's there for production and has to keep going every minute it can operate.

Since they keep it going all the time, they have the regular loading machine behind it. The loading machine loads the loose coal the miner throws behind it into the buggies. The loading machine can stop. But not the miner. It keeps going.

TRAPPED

Because it keeps going, there are plenty of times when those guys on the miner are trapped there with the machine. They have put out so much coal that it is piled up to the roof, from rib to rib.

Now suppose something happened? Say there was a roof fall, or an explosion, or the machine caught on fire. Where could you go? You couldn't go anywhere. You'd just be trapped there. You have no way out.

That might suit some guys all right, but it sure wouldn't do for me. I want a way out every time. Too much can happen to you to be caught in a position like that.

Running a buggy might be all right. At least you'd have a chance to get out if something happened. But that's about the only job I'd take on a miner section.

A SPLIT SECOND

Even the loading machine operator has it tough. They say it is dangerous for one man to run a machine by himself. I know that from past experience. And that loading machine operator is by himself all the time.

How is it safe for him to run the machine by himself when it isn't safe any other time on the other sections where they don't have the continuous miner?

If he was caught in a fall when that coal was piled up behind the miner, the men working on the miner couldn't get to him. He'd have to wait until the buggy man got back to him. And too many times the difference between life and death in the mines is a split second or a couple of minutes.

YOUNG MINERS AND OLD BUREAUGRATS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—I have just run across my notes of a half-hour's interview with old K. C. Adams back in April 1948. K. C. is now dead, but at that time he was still editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal and our conversation took place in his office in the UMW building here.

The UMW, K. C. told me, is not like the CIO or AFL who have to put out all kinds of public relations stuff because they're still trying to get fully organized. This is not the problem of the UMW, he said, because the miners are fully organized. And, he added, coal is the most organized industry on both sides.

UMW'S BIG PROBLEM

For the UMW, he said, the big problem is the interpretation of contracts. The only thing they might issue public statements on is mine safety — but they don't have to because they accept the government's standards in the determination of which they have representation just as the operators do.

Then he went on: the big problem in coal is the lack of new miners, shortage of labor. The supply of Mountain People, he said, is exhausted and no new-cut labor is coming in (this was back in 1948).

As a result, he said, coal here was beginning to face the same problem as in England: young people refuse to stay in the mines.

YOUNG MEN LEAVE

He blamed it on the war which changed many things. It took the younger men out of the mines and showed them California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Chicago and Paris. They met and fell in love with girls from the outside and didn't want to be stuck in isolated mine communities anymore.

KILL & HIRE

They're out for that production. They don't care too much for the men except where they have to pay compensation costs when someone gets hurt. That's the only reason they are concerned with the men at all. If they have too many accidents, they have to pay more in compensation costs.

If they didn't have to pay that, they'd never worry about the men. Kill one today, hire another one tomorrow would be the rule of the mining industry.

Also, K. C. Adams said, these young men had learned to be self-sufficient in the mine communities where they grew up. They were handy with tools. They were willing to work hard because you have to work hard in the mines. As a result, the younger men found that they could get and hold jobs elsewhere.

The pay elsewhere may not be so high, but the young men accepted it in order to avoid isolation and to be able to marry the girls of their choice.

NO APPRENTICES

Another reason, he said, they couldn't recruit young miners was because the UMW, unlike other unions, doesn't offer apprenticeship training. That's up to the man himself. He's got to pass a test to get his certificate of competence before he can go down. While tests are given by the state mining departments, not even the mine superintendent will go down with green labor because one mistake can blow them all to eternity.

Even Lewis, as I recall it, was worried in those years that miners were getting old with no young miners to replace them.

"IRRESPONSIBLE HOT-RODDERS"

Well, the years have passed and it appears that young miners are back in the mines and, as News & Letters has reported over the last months, they were in the forefront of last year's wildcats and of the opposition that appeared at the most recent Union convention

How does Lewis refer to them now, especially in District 31? He calls them irresponsible hot-rodders and excitable young men who had to be taught the responsibilities of life.

—Newspaperman

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

It Is Time

How much worse can this kind of time get to be between the American white people and the American Negroes?

The Southern whites and the Southern Negroes start a fight to get that segregationist law settled so that Negroes can speak as freely as they wish to, and sit wherever they please on buses, and go into any public place they want to. Then the Northern white people get busy trying to start something against the Negroes up here, like dare them to move into a white settlement.

'NEVER NO MORE'

Will they put a mask over their face to try to frighten the Negro people back, like they did in the older days?

But that just does not work any more against the Negro people because they can see that you are just a white person trying still to rule the world as in the past. Oh, no! Never no more.

There is another thing that the white people are trying to do, and that is to try to push Negro History Week clean out of existence by bringing in Brotherhood Week without saying a word about this being Negro History Week, too.

'I WONDER WHY'

I wonder what makes them want the same week for Brotherhood Week when there are 52 weeks in a year. They had to bring in Brotherhood Week the same time to try to cover up Negro History Week just to say that they are keeping the Negroes down.

I wonder why Rev. King doesn't quit telling the Negroes not to fight when some of the white people do something to the Negroes, because the law will straighten it out. But Dr. King can see that things aren't getting any better. The whites are still doing what they want to do. They still kill and beat up the Negroes. I think it is time to fight for our right.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

This Authoritarian Life

Everything in this society so far has been authoritarian. Every stage of my life, as I remember, has been so.

You seem to have to fight for every bit of human freedom you want, whether it's in school, or working on a production line, or in relation to wars and many, many other things.

CLOSED-IN FEELING

Because of this, two articles in the last issue (Feb. 19) struck me real hard. One was "A Doctor Speaks" on "What is Schooling for?" because it pointed out again the feeling of being closed in, and wanting so much to break out, knowing that there must be more to life than what it has been so far.

The other was "Our Life in the Balance," because it pin-pointed it in a total view of life. The title alone makes you think: There they go again. They think they can do what they will with our very lives.

It points out that prices should be much lower now because we can make things faster and cheaper, but being the kind of society it is these monopolistic bosses see in this the bigger profits that come from it for themselves.

It's not for a better way of bringing freedom, like reducing the hours of work on a production line in half. It's not to bring necessities—and luxuries too—to the American workers, and to people all over the world, say to the thousands in Saudi-Arabia who lack everything.

So production becomes production for production's sake, and not for human kind. And what kind of people are these? To keep their production going they deal with people like King Saud; they would have H-bombs, and use our lives to balance their production.

THEY BLAME WORKERS

They blame inflation on workers. Mr. Coleman, president of Burroughs Corporation, came out with the statement that workers got too high a wage. I told this to one of Mr. Coleman's laid-off workers. All she could say in amazement was that he had a lot of nerve when you looked at who said it.

That's it. Who is he? But another who would plan, order and deal out our lives. Another authoritarian.

Chrysler Workers in Los Angeles Resist Company's Overtime Maneuvers

LOS ANGELES—This Friday nearly everybody in our plant went home at the end of 8 hours work. The company is attempting to break a 20-year custom of no overtime on Fridays. The men want time off on payday to take care of their own business.

Three weeks ago on Friday, when the men in auto were scheduled to work overtime, they walked out after 8 hours. 160 men were written up by the company for refusing overtime. The company threatened to give each of them 2 days off. This was to be done in 5-man groups in order not to disrupt production.

MEN HOLD FAST

The Union then held a special meeting and voted no overtime on Fridays. This vote carried in spite of the fact that the International, the executive board, and the union lawyer stated that, according to the contract, the men had to work overtime whenever the company scheduled it.

Right now Chrysler is eliminating its defense work and has, for the first time in 3 years, scheduled overtime for defense workers including Fridays.

At the next meeting of the Union, the defense workers showed up in force and wanted to rescind the no-Friday-overtime motion that had been passed by the local at the previous meeting. But they were defeated.

The missile workers had to follow the Union rule of 8 hours on Friday. Ill feeling developed among them against the auto workers for preventing them getting the extra hours' pay. They felt that the auto workers had had plenty of overtime and an extra hour didn't mean anything to them.

CHRYSLER MANEUVERS

I think that the company is maneuvering to split the union by using a small minority—the 300 men working in missile against 4,000 auto workers—to make the auto workers put in overtime according to the demands of the company. The company is using any dissension as a wedge to make the Union ineffective.

On Friday, the company scheduled 9 hours but stated that nobody would be given time off if they went home after 8 hours.

That day all the auto workers walked out after 8 hours and all but 10 per cent of the defense workers.

The schedule for next Friday again calls for 9 hours, but the company has made no statement as to what it will do this time as far as discipline is concerned.

The Union said if anybody is given time off for not working 9 hours Friday, the whole plant will walk out. But there was a question in the minds of the men on Friday whether the union would back up anyone who was given time off for following Union policy.

In spite of all the talk about wanting overtime and needing the money, and in spite of all the shortcomings of the Union, if there is a fight between the company and the union, I'm with the union.

—Chrysler Worker

L.A. GM Worker Says Grievance Procedure is Better "Back East"

LOS ANGELES—The Unions on the West Coast aren't anywhere near as good as the Unions in the East. When we have a grievance here it gets tangled up in a lot of red tape and we don't know what is happening. When we do find out it's usually to learn that we've lost it.

Back East I was chief shop steward in a small shop. The boss was riding one of the apprentices until the apprentice finally got mad and called the boss an SOB. The boss fired the apprentice on the spot.

I called up the business agent and he came right over.

SETTLE OR STRIKE

We told the boss that he had provoked the outburst. When he refused to hire the apprentice back, the business agent and I went out into the shop, and explained to the men what the situation was. They shut off their machines, packed their tools and went out the door. We weren't out there 5 minutes when the boss called us back and settled the grievance on our terms.

Unless workers have the right to strike right then and there when a grievance occurs the Union isn't worth anything and there will probably be a sell-out.

—GM Skilled Worker

Workers Jubilant as Rank & File Sweeps Election

(Continued from Page 1) supposed to be his representatives and this is how they tried to pressure him. **OUT IN FORCE**

On Thursday morning, the day of the election, as we came up to the plant to punch in at 6 o'clock, we saw the machine out in force yelling, "Vote the 'Green Slate!'" They had everybody out, not only the Local officers and their staff but also members of the International who had been members of Local 212.

Some workers yelled at them, "It looks like the 'green slate' has put a picket line around the plant. This looks more like a big strike of the old days than a convention election."

One worker yelled, "It's only 6 o'clock. For many years when we'd come to see you about grievances in the morning we were always told that the office staff didn't get here till 9 and the officers couldn't see us until 10, if we could even see you then. How come you got up so early today?"

THRU THE MILL

In order to get to the voting booth, workers had to walk between two solid lines of "green slate" boys pushing green slates at us.

One worker threw a "green slate" down and one of the machine boys yelled, "Are you gonna vote the white slate?"

The worker said, "Yeah." The bureaucrat said, "You'll be sorry."

The worker yelled back, "I've been sorry for 10 years. Now you're gonna be sorry."

TO MAKE SURE

Many workers took a green slate into the booth with them to make sure that they didn't vote for any name on it by accident.

One Reutherite who had been around the tallying said "confidentially," that over 500 ballots were thrown out as void because they had 25 names marked instead of the 23 we had to vote for.

The workers were so careful not to vote for Reutherites that they even voted for the 2 independents who ran plus for the entire Rank & File slate.

Not a single green slate name appeared on any of these void ballots. If these had been added to the final tally, the results would be even more sweeping, and that's the way the workers felt.

In past years, the morning after elections, especially when the Reutherites won, results would be posted on every time clock where workers could see them. This Friday morning, Feb. 22, no results were posted when we punched in.

ELECTION RESULTS

Workers were asking what were the results and the first report came down that they weren't finished counting the ballots yet but the rank and file were leading about 2 to 1. About 30 minutes later the actual report came down and every group of workers who got the news let out a yell and a shout.

One worker said, "I feel I've been living with a crust baked over my head for the last 10 years. And now for the first time we're beginning to break through that crust to see some light and breathe some fresh air again."

The workers were yelling and shouting as the news spread through the plant like wild-fire.

One old-timer said, "This is the way we felt when we won our first bargaining agreement against the company in the early days when we built the union."

THE FIRST TIME

This is the first time in history of our local, and many of us feel it's the first time in the history of any local that unknown rank and file workers swept to victory.

Workers unknown in their own department carried more votes than the president of the local who is well known as a leading activist and held top position for at least 8 years.

Local president Pat Caruso, and recording secretary Steve Despot, polled the highest vote on Reuther's "green slate." Caruso got 3,241 votes and Despot got 3,017—but this was hundreds behind the lowest man on the victorious Rank & File slate whose recorded vote was 3,779.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Reutherite supporters in Local 212, along with many so-called politicals and radicals on the outside, are wondering what really happened. They just can't be-

lieve it. They can't understand it. They go around asking how could workers win such a victory?

One of these Reutherites was saying, "It's unbelievable. What kind of program is it just to oppose a dues increase? It's only 50c a month."

Then he said, "The talk around the International is that Reuther will get the 50c anyway, and after the Convention, when the workers see he got the raise in spite of this election, they'll go back to voting for him again."

'OFF MY BACK'

One worker answered him, "Man, I don't care if these Rank & File guys want \$5 a month. I'll gladly pay it just to get you guys off my back."

That's all those bureaucrats know. Programs and promises. Nickels and dimes. We voted them out to get rid of their vicious ways against us.

The Reutherites are making many statements that some of the leaders of the Rank & File caucus are no different from them and aren't even as good as they are.

Many workers who strongly supported the Rank & File caucus said, "This is true. But they don't have the machine as Reuther has and we can take care of them more easily."

"The first thing we have to do is to break up the stranglehold of this Reutherite machine and put those bureaucrats back to work."

WATCH OUT

During the rejoicing, one worker yelled, "This is a tremendous victory. But the fight has just begun. The Local elections take place in May and the Reuther 'green slate' boys will start working in force to try to defeat us there. We have to watch out against them. If they get over us again, we will really begin to suffer."

Rank and File Oppose Dues Hike Leadership Presses to Get It

LOS ANGELES—I attended a Union meeting to see about the dues increase. There were two motions on the floor.

In our local we have been paying 50c extra for some 4 years to pay off the building. This has never been stopped. One motion was to continue the 50c as regular dues. It was defeated. The second motion was to add 25c on top of the old dues, increasing it to \$3.25 a month.

On the second motion, one old timer spoke against the increase, saying the union was not here to make money and had no right to ask for the extra money.

There was more money in the treasury than ever before.

The leadership of the local stated that we need the increase, since the treasury could be depleted overnight. He sounded like a TV commercial when he said it would only be the price of a pack of cigarettes a month. The second motion was defeated at this meeting also, but the night shift voted for the increase unanimously, due to the small turnout at the night shift meeting. Most of the people were in the union leadership and nobody took the floor against the dues increase.

—Chrysler Worker.

EDITORIALS

Rank & File Opposition

The entrenched labor bureaucracy in basic industry has been stunned by the recent eruption of a forceful rank and file opposition such as they have never faced in ten years. These pages are full of current developments in Auto.

In Steel, rank and file Donald Rarick has challenged the Union presidency of McDonald. With neither a machine nor huge funds, but with the support of other workers, Rarick has dealt McDonald powerful blows, apparently defeating him in his own local in Pittsburgh.

Whether it's Reuther in Auto, or McDonald in Steel, or Lewis in Coal, these bureaucrats react with one voice: "You've never had it so good. We're experienced and tested. Things are getting tight now. Don't change horses in mid-stream or you'll lose everything."

To which the workers are answering: "You've got it backwards. You've been riding us like management. We've got to get you off our backs or we'll drown."

* * *

Hungarian Refugees

Word has come from workers, in depressed areas like West Virginia, expressing opposition to the influx of Hungarian refugees. Our Readers' Views, in this issue as in the last, reflect some of the objections: 1) the Hungarian refugees are being used by factory management against the American workers; and 2) the Administration covers up its discrimination against Negroes with hollow words of democracy and humanism to these refugees from Russian totalitarianism.

The very workers who show hostility to Hungarian refugees now, were the ones who hailed the Hungarian Revolution against the Russian oppressors.

The American workers were in no way diverted from their feeling of solidarity with the Hungarian workers, either by the slanders of the Russian tyrants that this revolution was a "fascist counter-revolution," or by the Administration's attempt to use the revolution for its own purposes.

As one worker-reader put it to News & Letters, when the Workers Councils were bearing the whole brunt of the counter-revolution, "It is always the workers who get the short end of the stick. But it is they who stick it out and continue to fight. It must be the rich who are leaving."

That was the first attitude to the Hungarian refugees. Then, when freedom fighters were shown on the TV screens, the American workers were anxious to have laws that would make it easy for them to come to this country. The truth, however, is that the extremely reactionary laws on the book of this country, like McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, excluded the bulk of the Hungarian revolutionaries who, in any case, chose to face their fate by continuing their resistance in the underground of their own country.

The present objections come mainly from West Virginia where, it must be admitted, the capitalists are using the Hungarian refugees to enforce conditions in factories, like the Ruby faucet factory, against which the workers have been fighting for years. As one worker wrote us: "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."

This put in a nutshell the true working class spirit of the American worker, who even when hostile to the Hungarian, feels that they will soon be together in fighting capitalistic management. In the same way, the American workers recognized that it was the Workers Council which gave the revolution its direction, stamina and daring.

News & Letters

VOL. 2—NO. 13 Tuesday, March 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'

LEADERS & RANKS

Two workers ran up and shouted me a paragraph from a leaflet put out by the Rank & File workers slate here at Chrysler's.

It said that if the Reutherite's Committeemen and top officers had been one-tenth as active on workers' grievances and shop problems in the past 10 years, as they have been in the past 2 weeks in passing out leaflets to try to influence workers to vote for their delegates for the coming UAW convention, we would have a perfect union today!

Chrysler Worker
Detroit.

* * *

A night shift steward was fired recently for telling the men to slow down. He made the mistake of writing a message on a cardboard and put it on a jitney. Two skilled workers signed a complaining statement that the steward had told them to slow down.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles.

* * *

PUBLIC "WELFARE"

Over where we live, 3 children got killed within 6 or 7 months. We don't have any signals at all and the children have to cross with the cars going 60 and 70 miles an hour. Mothers wrote a petition for signals and the county officials told them that you have 7 deaths before they will put in a signal.

Working Mother
California.

WE APOLOGIZE to our readers for the typographical errors in our last issue (Feb. 19). The worst of these was in the front page story, "Our Lives in the Balance." To correct it, eliminate the last 3 paragraphs on page 1. They are repeated later on, where they belong, on page 8.

What does it mean to have small amounts of money doled out to people in need?

Here is the accumulated wealth of this nation in the hands of the present leaders of this country. We've gone through for the last several weeks this budgeting they do every year. They plan so many billions for this and so many for that. Here is this money that has been taken from millions of people and put in the hands of these governmental agencies and these people have the right to dole it out as they see fit.

There is a certain creed that goes with these professional dolers and handlers of our money.

They get diplomas, you know, for holding it and doling it out. They get graduations of advancement depending on how they dole it out to people. That's the social worker. It's a part of the bureaucracy of government.

Professional,
Los Angeles.

* * *

If they didn't take the tax money out each week they wouldn't get it at the end of the year. The government would have to put 90 per cent of the people in jail every April for non-payment of taxes.

GM Production
Worker
Los Angeles.

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

Things sure have changed. And it seems as though the colored people in the South have changed the most. It used to be that they were scared. But they're not scared any more.

I wish sometimes my grandmother were still alive so I could show her how wrong she was. She used to believe the craziest things. She used to take us aside and tell us that the white man was always right. "A white man never lies," she'd tell us. And she really BELIEVED it, I think. Poor soul! She even had ME believing it until I grew up and found out better.

I just wish she were alive right now so I could show her how wrong she was, and how MUCH they lied!

Grandmother
West Virginia.

I'm afraid there may be a lot of people who will never really know what freedom is. A lot of people are going to die before freedom really exists. But they will be building it all along, and keep on building it. The structure has already been laid, and little by little it will keep going up, until one day the building will be finished. It can't be stopped now.

Retired Miner
West Virginia.

* * *

Eisenhower can't go South in answer to the Negroes' appeal for help in getting human rights. His schedule won't allow it. So where does he go to play golf the following week? Georgia. Or was this Northern Georgia?

Veteran
New York City

* * *

I have nothing against helping others. But the way this country is acting with the refugees doesn't make sense. What I mean is this. If I had neighbors whose children were hungry I would share what I had with them. But I would be a fool or worse if I let my own children starve and gave their food to the neighbor's children. A normal person would make sure all the children were fed.

What doesn't make sense is providing the refugees with homes and clothes and good jobs, when I can name plenty of people right around here who have absolutely nothing—and are getting nothing from their own government!

West Virginia
Miner's Wife

* * *

Everybody knows why Ruby was so anxious to hire the Hungarian refugees. There is even a rumor that he plans to bring as many as two or three hundred into the place. He wants to know he can "count on them" if anything happens.

They printed an article in the daily paper where he told them that they were not to feel indebted to him for anything. But you don't have to tell people in a position like they're in whether or not they're "indebted." You can tell them anything you want, they know they are. And so does Ruby. And so does everybody else.

New Reader
West Virginia

Views

One of my friends told me it sounds just like her mother described what happened to her when she first landed in America as an immigrant.

She said that as soon as the boat landed and the immigrants started down the gangplank, rich and well-dressed men and women were there to look them over and point out which ones they wanted. All they were interested in was cheap, "dumb" labor. Only today, they pass it off as being "big hearted."

West Virginia

● See Editorial "Hungarian Refugees"

BATTLE FOR MEN'S MINDS

I read the UP release about the revolt that was planned in East Germany during the height of the Hungarian revolution by university students there. The report said that one of the leaders was a young university instructor, who was "ironically, a lecturer on Marxism."

I fail to see anything "ironic" or "strange" about that fact at all. It seems the most logical thing in the world to me that those who understand Marxism, everywhere in the world, will be in the forefront of the fight against Russian Communism. Yet, in the face of everything, the attempts still continue to pretend that Marxism and Communism are the same thing, instead of the exact opposites which they are.

Committee Member
West Virginia

The Hungarian revolution has been cheered for a variety of reasons by people of very different politics . . . I am one of the cheerers. Yet nowhere have I seen or heard any criticism of the revolutionists for their Secret Police-like methods of liquidating the Secret Police. . . .

Let us assume that everything we have heard concerning Hungarian police methods is true. Does Revolutionary revenge then become admirable—or even justifiable? I don't believe it does. . . . This is not sufficient grounds for opposing the Hungarian revolution. . . . But on the other hand . . . there is also the extreme of

irresponsibly uncritical support . . . that most radical (and non-radical) groups have been guilty of, with News & Letters no better than the rest.

I am aware that some readers will consider my attitude unrealistically finicky. But if protest against sadism is being finicky, then we are all flirting with totalitarianism and should in all honesty renounce claim

to be fighting for a better society. . . .

Anarchist Well-Wisher
Detroit.

● It seems strange that, despite his good intentions, Anarchist Well-Wisher's criticism all seems directed against the "sadism" of the freedom fighters, and his compassion for the sadistic Communist secret police.—Editor.

READERS REPLY TO OUR APPEAL

Several weeks ago we sent letters to our readers appealing to them for help in financing the publication of News & Letters. The response so far has been most encouraging—even from those who could not afford to help. Here are some of the letters we received.)

I have your letter of February 8 asking for financial assistance to keep your paper going. I am a retired man living on a pension and cannot send you anything at just this moment but from my next pension check you can be assured of \$5. . . .

The rank and file have allowed a Labor government to be created that is taking on the same powers over their lives as the Federal government.

These people ride in Cadillacs and tour the world and live in mansions and operate in plush offices entirely at the expense of the rank and file . . .

All the working man and woman have to do is to see that they don't have to support all the parasites riding on their backs, according to the laws that the parasites themselves make.

Whatever you do, keep your paper going. . . . The rank and file can find the answers (if they don't already have them) if they can talk to each other and swap opinions and facts.

Edgar Leslie
California

P.S. If you wish to publish this letter you may use my full name.

I am 79 years old and my total cash income is only \$30 a month, so really I cannot afford to send you the \$2.50. Sorry.

Olympia,
Washington

I have not subscribed because I am not working for the past 2 years. . . . I feel you have a

(For additional responses see "News & Letters Committees," on page 8.)

good paper and wish I could help.

San Francisco,
California

Enclosed you will find a check for \$15. \$5 for a 2-year subscription and \$10 for a contribution. If I could contribute more I would but this is the best I can do.

Old Subscriber
Pennsylvania

Thanks for another copy of News & Letters. There is much in it that every American should absorb and digest. However we may feel that the workers of Hungary put up a heroic fight for freedom, there are those who hold that those who stayed are the real heroes rather than those who fled only to add to the unemployment situation that 21,000 can effect here in the U.S.A. . . .

As you intimated in your paper, Eisenhower whoops it up for the poor Cardinal Mindszenty and his sheep while under our noses he won't even drop his golf club to speak a word of comfort and encouragement to our own people in the South.

The great R.C. Church is out to woo the Negro in the Southern states pretending tolerance, while people in Spain, Colombia, Italy and everywhere she is in power there is much the same persecution as the Negro has suffered. . . .

Well this is only a farmer's point of view, but I've been a victim of Fascist tyranny and having tasted the bitter gall of "holy righteousness" . . . I'd like to ask where do we go from here!

Michigan Farmer

TWO WORLDS

Exclusion of Negroes Warps Mind of Whites

This is the time of the year when many books appear on "The Great Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln. As if the Negroes are not part of this nation, this is also the month of Negro History Week, celebrated almost exclusively by Negroes.

The split of this country into two worlds—white and Negro—warps the mind of the white much more than it does the Negro.

In a small way this warping can be seen in the books on Lincoln. The current crop are as superficial as they have been for nearly a century, because the white historian will not seriously grapple with the life and time and the activity of the Negro people in the era of the Civil War.

It is as if, during that great turning point of history—1861 to 1865—history didn't turn at all. At best, the Second American Revolution is presented as a mere economic development which made this country the great industrial land it is, without in the least remaking, or being remade by live people. Let us turn instead to one of the live people of that critical era, the Negro David Walker. He made history then, and his utterances are more alive today than this month's crop of books on Abraham Lincoln.

DAVID WALKER'S APPEAL

In 1829, so extraordinary a sensation was caused by the appearance of a pamphlet entitled, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the United States*, that legislatures in the South were called into special session to enact laws against free Negroes as against slaves for reading it. They put a price of \$3,000 on the head of its author, David Walker.

David Walker was a free Negro from North Carolina who had settled in Boston where he earned a living by collecting rags. His *Appeal* was addressed to the free Negroes. He took them to task for their meekness. He urged them to make the cause of the slave their own because the wretchedness of the free Negroes' conditions was due to the existence of slavery.

Walker urged them to make freedom their business. He pointed to the superiority of Negroes, in numbers and in bravery, over the whites. He took the great to task as well—especially Thomas Jefferson. Prophetically, he wrote that race prejudice would yet "root some of you out of the very face of the earth."

50,000 copies of this 76-page pamphlet were sold and circulated from hand to hand. Those who could not read had others read it to them. The South trembled at the simple words of an obscure Negro.

The Cambridge Modern History writes that "the excitement produced by Walker's *Appeal* had not subsided when the danger of writings of this sort was brought home to the slave-owners by a rising of slaves in Virginia—an outbreak known as 'Nat Turner's Insurrection'."

What the historians fail to see is that it was not "writings of this sort" that produced the revolts, but the revolts that produced the writings. Before Nat Turner and the *Appeal*, there was Denmark Vesey and the Underground Railway. The revolts of the Negro slaves were in fact one continuous chain of struggle from the moment they were brought to this country in chains of bondage. These slave revolts not only produced the writings, but the actual Civil War.

The Negroes had no money, no press, no vote, no party. They were armed only with their feelings for freedom and the certainty that they were right and could not and would not be kept down.

THE ABOLITIONISTS & TODAY'S HISTORIANS

Out of the genius of America, with no assistance from any alien tradition, there emerged the great Abolitionist movement which combined white and Negro in the cause of freedom.

As Wendell Phillips put it: "We do not play politics; anti-slavery is no half-jest with us; it is a terrible earnest, with life or death, worse than life or death, on the issue. It is no lawsuit, where it matters not to the good feeling of opposing counsels which way the verdict goes, and where advocates can shake hands after the decision as pleasantly as before."

This great American saw more clearly 100 years ago than the intellectual sees today. He saw that even the Civil War would not establish new human relations unless "the blacks (became) the very basis of the effort to regenerate the South. We want the 4 million of blacks—a people instinctively on our side and ready and skilled to work; the only element in the South which belongs to the 19th century."

Until the historian today begins where Wendell Phillips left off he will be unable to understand either the history of his country or its future perspectives.

—R.D.

YOUTH Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

J. Edgar Hoover Thinks Youth Are Mobsters

So J. Edgar Hoover has come up with a brilliant solution to juvenile delinquency. He has written an article demanding harsher treatment for juvenile delinquents.

He has reached the conclusion that the problem youth of today present the same challenge as did the mobsters of the 1920's and prohibition era.

He would deal with today's youth as the mobsters were dealt with. The same penalties to be meted out to the youth as to adult offenders of the law. He would encourage newspapers to give full publicity to youthful law breakers.

RUIN THEM

Many newspapers now follow a policy of withholding the names of minors involved in alleged crimes. His suggestions, if adopted, would ruin the lives of thousands before they grew out of adolescence. If imprisonment doesn't ruin them, public condemnation in the newspapers should turn the trick.

LIKE HITLER . . .

Mr. Hoover's plans aren't new or the least bit original. The same legal hostility to youth was true of Hitler Germany. More recently, the Communist governments of Eastern Europe earned the spotlight for their brutalities to youth.

It appears to be an inevitable step in the march toward complete totalitarianism. First, the effort to stamp out political freedom, and then to crush any opposition whatsoever to the regime.

With the suppression of Civil Rights, more things become criminal and so more crimes are committed. Even the liberalism of therapy for youthful offenders, or the idea of "corrective" institutions is swept away. Mr. Hoover isn't talking about helping anybody, he's talking about removing them.

. . . AND STALIN

In April of 1935, Stalin's government decreed: "Minors over 12 years old detected in theft, violence causing bodily injuries, murder or attempted murder are to be tried in the criminal courts with the application of all the measures of criminal punishment." This included the death penalty.

Over 20 years have passed, and Russia is no closer to solving its youth problem. J. Edgar is bound to meet with the same success as his totalitarian co-thinker.

You're Not Hungry If You're Well-Fed

— Some 25 Million
Americans Aren't

LOS ANGELES — Mrs. Sullivan, Congresswoman from Missouri, has again introduced into Congress her food-stamp plan for distributing government owned surplus food to 5 or 6 million needy Americans presently receiving old age pensions, relief, unemployment compensation and so forth. The estimated cost of this plan would be one billion dollars.

The Department of Agriculture, however, is not in favor of food-stamp plans which it considers a form of socialism. It is attempting to sabotage Mrs. Sullivan's plan by revealing that a food-stamp plan to assure an adequate national diet would embrace about 25 million Americans and would cost upwards of 2½ billion dollars. It is also arguing that food stamp plans do not help reduce the major agricultural surpluses which exist in wheat, corn and cotton. Mrs. Sullivan's plan would, it is recognized, reduce the surpluses held in such perishables as cheese, butter, dry milk, shortening, cottonseed oil, dry beans and beef.

The Department of Agriculture, in attempting to ridicule so-called socialistic food stamp plans, has therefore revealed that almost one-sixth of this prosperous nation is not able to afford the proper kinds of food.

have been workers for many years. Their beliefs, their gullibility, their lack of curiosity result from their wish to be as middle-class as possible. I am not blaming them as individuals. I simply want to say that teachers are not the fundamental obstacle to student learning, that "freedom" in the classroom may result in everyone nodding in agreement with certain prejudices, and that teachers sometimes hope desperately that an independent, rebellious student will speak up.

—Detroit Teacher

SIMPLIFIED TAX FORM

1. How much did you make?
2. How much did you spend?
3. What do you have left?
4. Mail it in.

BRITISH AUTO WORKERS ON STRIKE

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Last week over 20,000 Ford auto workers employed at the Briggs Motor Bodies went on strike over the suspension of 5 shop stewards. The auto workers refused to go back unless the bosses reinstated the five men.

After promises by management they went back to work. However, as it turned out, the negotiations between the management and the unions broke down.

Once more the workers struck. This went on and off for days and at the time of writing the deadlock is complete.

The British workers are known the world over for their strong class loyalty. They always fight on the principle of "one out, all out." The Briggs auto workers are considered by most people as the most militant and the most politically advanced section of the industrial workers.

At the Scottish Co-operative Party annual conference last week-end, a demand from a local branch of the party advocates a nation-wide 24-hour general strike to prevent the

Rent Bill from becoming law. This demand was put to the conference by the Cambuslang Co-operative Society.

Mr. Claud McKendrick, the director of the Society, declared: "Anything we have achieved has been by demonstrating to the powers-that-be that we are strong in our protests—not with our pen but by the withdrawal of our Labor." The conference, representing over one million co-operators in Scotland, carried unanimously an emergency resolution which condemned the Rent Bill as "a purely partisan attempt to make landlordism more profitable."

* * *

The struggle against the Rent Bill is gaining momentum. The Clydeside workers are approaching factories in this famous shipbuilding center for their views on the formation of a workers' council of action by the rank-and-file trade unionists' bodies and the tenants' defense organizations. The Shop Steward Committee at British Polar Engines has decided to take this step.

* * *

—London Correspondent.

A Woman's Viewpoint

WEST VIRGINIA—The woman who wrote in the paper about being so proud to only have one child made me just a little mad. You have to have a houseful of children like I do, to know what it is to be really proud. What made me a little sore about the article was that she seemed to think only "dumb immigrants" would have a big family.

KIDS ARE WONDERFUL

There's a big difference, of course, between having a big family just because you don't know what to do about it—and having a big family because you want one. If you have a big family and don't like kids, there's nothing worse.

I have 6. I had 5 boys and finally got a girl last time. Every time I have one and it starts to grow up, I keep looking for one more. If I live to be 100 and am still able, I'll probably still be having them!

There was only one time when we didn't have a baby in the house. But it was such a habit to have one around, every time the older boys would start making a racket, I'd automatically tell them to be quiet or they'd wake the baby. It got to be a joke when the boys would have to tell me, "But mom, we don't have any baby now."

LIKE A SISTER

In our house the home belongs to all of us. People often think at first that I'm their older sister instead of their mother.

In a way it's true. I had my first when I was 17 and I've been growing up along with my kids. I had them close together so they play with each other and help take care of each other.

TREAT THEM RIGHT

I learned a long time ago to treat them like I'd like to be treated myself. If I ask them to do something, it's good as done. If I tell them, it's a different story. I also learned early that yelling at them made them worse instead of better. Frankly, I'd rather hear them making noise, playing and laughing, than crying!

A friend of mine who visited us once couldn't get over how smoothly everything went. She couldn't understand why a little noise didn't upset me. She asked me if the kids didn't ever get on my nerves? I told her I didn't know whether I just didn't have any nerves or whether the kids had just worn them out a long time ago. All I know is that we just enjoy each other.

—Miner's Wife

Students Resist Free Inquiry, Teacher Complains

DETROIT—As a teacher I have often wondered "What Is Schooling For?" M. D. underscored what every teacher should know—and what many of the younger ones, having recently been students themselves, realize: that "Teachers are often major obstacles to student learning." (Feb. 19)

Many of the older teachers deliver the facts and the "accepted" interpretations in lectures, holding students responsible for writing these down in exams and papers; curiosity, disagreement, independent investigation are generally discouraged. But many younger teachers, believing that education is not simply brainwashing, stress the major disputes within each field and try to encourage free discussion and investigation by the students.

RARE STUDENT

But even with this "fundamental respect for the individual student who must be allowed the freedom to be different, and encouraged to challenge"—which

M. D. stresses — teachers find that it is a rare student indeed "who challenges statements and accepts nothing without supporting evidence."

In class discussion it is a fact, corroborated by students themselves, that few will challenge the arguments of another student—not because they are afraid of the teacher, who may express no opinion at all, but because they are afraid that other students will look upon them as trouble-makers or radicals.

PET BELIEFS

It seems that many college students will not tolerate criticism of some basic beliefs: First, that everybody deep down believes in God. Second, that some people are born to lead and that untrained people ought to follow the leader. Third, that the most important goal in life is personal security—a happy home and a pleasant, well-paying job.

These students are not all middle-class. Many are children of workers; some

Pace Is So Fast, People Live on Tension, Miner's Wife Says

WEST VIRGINIA—Everything is set at such a fast pace today, that it almost seems as if people are living on their inside tensions. Even home life is paced by the conditions the family has.

Take a working woman especially. She more or less sets the pace for the whole family when she comes home. If everything she has to do when she gets home has to be done in a rush and tension, the whole family is set moving at that same pace.

YOU FEEL IT

No matter where you work, or what kind you do, it seems as if the pace of the day is getting faster and faster all the time.

The past 20 years seem to me to be the period where the greatest change in the tempo of work has taken place. It might seem that if you work steadily at one place for so long, the changes would come so gradually that you would get used to them and not even realize what a drastic change there has been. But that's not true. So many people I know have talked to me about it, and how drastic the differences are, and how much you feel it.

SHIRT FACTORY

A friend of mine who has worked in the shirt factory for 20 years, was talking to me recently about how fast the work is now, compared to the "old days." Before, all the sewing machines were moved by one long shaft that turned all the machines in the line. Each girl controlled her own machine to start it or stop it, but when it was going there was a top pace you could run the machine, no matter how hard you pressed the treadle.

MACHINE RUNS YOU

She was always a good worker and put out her work very easily, generally more than the average operator. There were times when she would have liked the machine to go faster, but there was a top speed you couldn't get over, so you just had to sit and guide your work at that speed. She could get plenty of work out and not feel rushed at all.

Now all that's been changed. They've installed all new Singer machines. Each machine is run individually. She said they run so fast the minute you start them that you can hardly keep up with them. You have to work at the speed the machine sets. You have almost no control over it any more.

She said that with these new machines she is putting out at least 4 times as much as she used to. She can't help it, that's what the machine puts out. But she feels it—she comes home so tensed by the speed she's been running all day that she's nerve-wracked.

SAME IN THE MINES

In the mines it's the same thing. My husband talks about how different the work is now than it used to be. It used to be that the huskier guys could sometimes put their day's work out in maybe half a day—when they felt like working fast and hard—and then take it easy and loaf through the rest of the shift.

Or, on the days when they weren't feeling so good, they could plug along and still get their work out, taking it more-or-less at an easy pace all day long. But, he said, there's no such thing as an "easy pace" in the mines today.

It's true that the machines they have now do a lot of the work the men had to do with their muscles and sweat in the old days. Instead of that making it easier, it actually makes the work harder.

Now they just press buttons and the machines do what men used to do with the picks and shovels. But the pace that the machine run is something they no longer control the way they could control the pace they worked those picks.

The machines all run smooth and quiet and continuous, and the men have to be on constant attendance.

He said he often wonders if the new men in the mines can know what a difference there is, the way the older men can. He told me that when they talk about the "old days" and describe what the work used to be like, the younger guys will say, "Boy, mining must have really been hard work in those days!"

My husband thinks it's just the other way around. The work in the mines today may be done by machines, but when you get right down to it, it's really harder on the men today than it was then. He tells them, "Give me the old pick and shovel days, anytime."

When you put out a day's work today, you really feel it. You feel it in your whole body—and your nervous system most of all.

—Working Woman

When They Compete for Votes Bureaucrats Expose Each Other

DETROIT—To show how bureaucrats operate when they're pushed, let me tell you about one that is in on a worker's caucus. He is a character and not one bit better than all other bureaucrats, but the workers like him because he'll show the others up.

At a recent meeting of about 300 workers, he got up and told a story against one of Reuther's bureaucrats. He said that while he was president of one of the Local Unions they were fighting discrimination in restaurants around the plant. This Reuther man

came over to him and said, "I noticed that you just elected a Negro for Recording Secretary of your Local. How did you fellows let this happen?"

He told him it looked to him that his Local should have some Negroes holding top offices, too. The Reuther man replied that "Negroes are too backward and dumb" to hold top offices.

By being one of the first bureaucrats to expose another on this point, he drew the sympathy of every worker at that meeting, especially Negroes. But we realize that it was said for a political reason and many say he is no better than the one that spoke it.

—Auto Worker

NO SLEEPING PILLS

The man who sleeps the soundest is the man who is broke. If you have a little money you worry about what to do with it. If you have a little more, your head keeps going round and round wondering how to get more. But if you're really broke, you have nothing to disturb your sleep. You can't lay awake wondering what you're going to do with money you don't have.

Sound Sleeper
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

Benjamin Rush—M.D. & Revolutionist

Most doctors have found their place alongside conservative and even reactionary groups in maintaining existing conditions of living long after these conditions have turned into a cancer on society. Their allegiance appears to lie with those elements among us that hold a privileged economic position.

The medical profession's lack of serious influence, not only in government and industry but on the thinking of ordinary people, is explained away by the need to concentrate on an ever-expanding science as well as the limitations necessitated by specialization.

IGNORE SOURCE OF SYMPTOMS

But while there is increasing perfection in the management of symptoms and disease that is local, there is little concern with what is defective in the total living of millions of Americans as a source of these symptoms.

However, organized medicine and its leaders (which must be distinguished from the individual doctor) feels itself somewhat isolated. It has therefore entered upon a campaign to bring the profession into favorable public light by advocating better relations with patients and by encouraging political activity among physicians. But, in view of the fact that organized medicine discourages any fundamental change from what exists, it is difficult to foresee any success in these ventures.

A recent issue of the weekly Journal of the American Medical Association reported that over the years 359 physicians have "helped to shape the destiny of the country as members of Congress." A sketch is given of some of the more prominent physicians. Here is the one about Benjamin Rush, M.D., a close friend of Thomas Paine.

SIGNED DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"Benjamin Rush of Pennsylvania, another practicing physician who signed the Declaration of Independence, was easily the most famous American physician and medical teacher of his generation. Dr. Rush was a rugged character, brash and bold in debate and in conduct. His correspondence was so indiscreet—he feuded violently with Washington, among others—that his family kept his private secret until recent years . . . It was to him that Jefferson wrote the famous line: 'I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of men.'"

AGAINST SLAVERY

In 1773 this is what he had to say on slavery: "The first step to be taken to put a stop to slavery in this country is to leave off importing slaves. For this purpose let our assemblies unite in petitioning the King and Parliament to dissolve the African Company. It is by this incorporated band of robbers that the trade has been chiefly carried on to America . . ."

"Let such of our countrymen as engage in the slave trade be shunned as the greatest enemies of our country . . ."

"Extend the privileges we enjoy, to every human creature born among us, and let not the journals of our assemblies be disgraced with the records of laws which allow exclusive privilege to men of one color in preference to another."

AGAINST DEATH PENALTY

In 1792 he urged the abolition of the death penalty. He argued for a complete change in the treatment of civil prisoners who, often jailed for no worse crime than debt, were sent to labor on city streets chained with heavy iron balls.

In 1799 he advocated the establishment of a Peace-Office and asked that military uniforms and military titles be laid aside. "To affect the minds of the citizens of the U.S. with the blessing of peace" he asked that the following inscriptions be painted on the door of the office of the Secretary of War:

1. "An office for butchering the human species."
2. "A Widow and Orphan making office."
3. "A broken bone making office."
4. "A Wooden Leg making office."
5. "An office for creating public and private vices."
6. "An office for creating a public debt."
7. "An office for creating speculators, stock-jobbers, and bankrupts."
8. "An office for creating famine."
9. "An office for creating pestilential diseases."
10. "An office for creating poverty, and the destruction of liberty and national happiness."

Because of this, Alexander Hamilton blocked his appointment to the medical faculty of Columbia University on the grounds of his "too radical views".

Your Subscriptions

and

Contributions

Keep News & Letters

going.

WALK THE PROUD ROAD

by Tom Malcolm

"Black folk, walk!" Oh, that's the thing!
Listen to the voice of Luther King.
"Don't dare take the white folk's seat.
Well, we won't take any. On your feet!"

An' old John Brown
In lastin' grace
Sits lookin' down
With a smile on his face.

Alabama, Tennessee
(Meanest States in the land of the free),
Tom Paine's lan', Abe Lincoln's lan',
W.C.C. an' the Ku Klux Klan.

Must keep the negroes in their place,
Think they belong to the human race,
Gentle Jesus, meek an' mild,
Throw a bottle at a black schoolchild.

Black-skin man in God's own shape,
Open your mouth an' you'll die for rape.
Black-skin woman, use your vote
An' you'll feel a lynch-rope around your throat.

Black-skin folk are no damn good,
They don't act civilised like they should.
Think they're good as us by far,
Don't give 'em a chance, 'cos they sure are.

Look at what they've done to us
Just because of Jim Crow on the bus.
Hated to fight, started to talk,
Said, "Brother and sister, let us walk!"

Listen to those tramping feet,
Sounding out for justice on the street.
Broad backs straighten, shed their load,
Negro people on the Glory Road.

An' old John Brown
In lastin' grace
Sits lookin' down
With a smile on his face.

(Editor's Note: With Walk the Proud Road, we are happy to introduce our readers to the poetry of Tom Malcolm, a Scottish poet who has just sent us, from Glasgow, Scotland, his recently published Poems of POLITICAL PASSION. Mr. Malcolm has inscribed this collection of 27 poems "FOR THOSE THAT HUNGER for bread, for justice, or for freedom.")

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.)

I gave a copy of News & Letters to a friend at work. The next day he came over to where I was working and said he had read the paper and liked it.

He said, "Now the thing to do is to get it to a lot of people." He also said I should have given him the paper as soon as he hired in several months ago.

He gave me a \$2 contribution for News &

Letters which I immediately turned over to the editing committee for transmittal to the publishing center in Detroit.

Committee Member
Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Committee has just contributed an additional \$327 for the publication fund of News & Letters.

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(COR. WASHINGTON BLVD.)
ROOM 203

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Nixon & Diggs

Vice President Nixon will represent the United States at the celebration in Ghana, when it drops the old name of Gold Coast, and becomes a new independent African nation under the British Commonwealth.

At the celebration in March, he will be accompanied by Congressman Diggs, the Negro Congressman from Detroit. This appears to be a strange role for Diggs who has always made loud noises about how independent he is.

If the American Negroes had been permitted to vote on who would represent them at this gathering, they might have voted for Rev. Martin L. King of Montgomery, Alabama, and told him to tell the people of Ghana about the struggles for civil rights in the United States.

Instead of that, we find Diggs in the company of the reactionary Nixon, creating the impression abroad that American Negroes occupy high places in American politics. Two years ago, Congressman Powell of New York went to the Bandung Conference to create the same false impression in the Far East.

Mexico City & USA

As the schools of Mexico City opened for the new term, it was found that over 50,500 applicants had to be turned away for lack of space. The school system is already working on the 2-shift system and even this is inadequate to provide an education for the rapidly increasing population of younger children.

In a year when a 72 billion dollar budget is being discussed—58 billion of which is for past or future wars—the simple needs for education, both in Mexico and the United States, are a scandal.

President Eisenhower tries to whitewash the conditions of the school system in the South by demanding that the friends of desegregation keep quiet when the appropriations for education are discussed. The price tag attached to Federal Aid to schools is blindness to the fate of the American Negroes in the South.

Many people seem to forget that the very first public schools in the South were estab-

lished by Negroes during the Reconstruction period. They also seem to forget that there were no public schools in the North until the Carpenter's Union in Philadelphia, in 1821, demanded the establishment of a public school system there.

Without Negro and Labor demands for public education, there would be no public school system.

Italy

Two Italian Socialist Parties have voted to merge. The party of Pietro Nenni, who controls 75 seats in the government, is merging with the Social Democrats who control 19 seats. This action makes them the third largest political party in Italy.

The move came about after the reaction to the Hungarian Revolution, when thousands of Communist Party members tore up their membership cards.

Nenni had been a very close follower of the C. P. line and was often found in close alliance with the Communists in the government.

The loss of the 19 Social Democratic votes could topple the present regime of Antonio Segni, who depended on them for a balance of power.

Questions of whether Nenni shifted his line in order to further his personal ambitions are actually subordinate to the shift of opinions in the mass movement.

The fact remains that the Italian C. P. is still the largest C. P. outside the Iron Curtain. No mere recitation of the crimes of Russia is sufficient to destroy the mass base of the C. P. in Italy.

Only a working class solution to the basic capitalist ills of Italy—unemployment and a low standard of living—will arouse a response from the workers of Italy.

The ability of the new political party to answer this need will provide the real test of the new "unity" of the Socialist parties. Anything else

amounts to palace politics.

Haiti

Several months ago, President Magloire was kicked out of public office in a national scandal. He left with his family, and a considerable fortune, to spend his time in Paris. The country has been in a turmoil ever since over who is to succeed him.

A campaign is now going on for a new President. Pierre-Louis, who had succeeded Magloire, was forced out of office by Louis Dejoie, a rich planter who is a candidate for the office.

The issue was the failure of Pierre-Louis to clean up the corruption left behind by Magloire. Dejoie called for a general strike and put a neutral lawyer, Franck Sylvain, into the president's chair until the elections.

But the failure of Dejoie to estimate the temper of the people has cost him a great deal of support. Daniel Fignole, a left candidate, has picked up considerable support as the result of the dispute among the 7 candidates for President.

Kashmir

After a long series of disputes, India has seized the land of Kashmir. The territory, which lies between India and Pakistan has been a bone of contention between the two countries for several years.

India claimed it but 77 per cent of the population were Moslems, sympathetic to Pakistan. India tried to seize it in 1949 but was held up by the United Nations truce team.

The truce included a vote of self-determination, which India knew would turn the territory over to Pakistan. Therefore, Nehru annexed the territory to India while Krishna Menon held off the resolutions of the United Nations with a 7½ hour speech.

Filibusters are not limited to Southern racist senators. As we see, Communist fellow-travellers are as adept at the game.

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