

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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13

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

English Workers Have Same Problems As We

By CHARLES DENBY

We recently received the following letter from an English worker on why they went out on strike. Whether it's speed-up or high cost of living, it seems to be the same miserable conditions workers have to fight everywhere.

LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH STRIKER

I note that our strike trouble here is felt by you people in the United States. To put the whole shocking state of affairs in the right perspective you have to go back for the last 2 years when the Conservative government started doing its very worst to subject the working classes to go cap-in-hand for everything. Well, it just won't work and millions of working people are showing them how to stop this rot and get out.

GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A MESS

This government has made just as big a mess of industry with this strike action as they did with Suez. It's only natural for a man to strike when he is dissatisfied. Your wages simply go nowhere here at present. When my children were young Mom and I could keep quite a good standard of family life on \$14 per week. Now it takes 3 times that amount to live up to any standard of good taste.

The government has allowed everything to rise and rise with one exception: wages. If prices had been pegged then the workers would have had no cause to go on strike for better wages. But after working full time and overtime it just takes you all your time to pay your way.

Now don't get me wrong about overtime: this is general. The basic work week is 44 hours at straight time. We work overtime on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning to bring the normal week up to 53 hours. Well, it's just time to strike if you can't manage on 53 hours and that's the trouble all round. Transport, Coal, Iron and Steel, Doctors, Dockers, in fact all the workers, are up against the same bad government.

Now the Ship-Building and Engineering Industries are on strike we are told over the wireless that some 252 million dollars worth of shippings is held up. I would like to know how much of that \$252 million do the workers get?

"A BAD SHOW"

Take my wage for the normal week of 44 hours. When I am on day work (paid by the day) my wages are \$22.40 for 44 hours. When I am piece work I get \$23 per week and I have a chance to earn more by doing the job fast and making bonus. But take it from me, the employer will keep your bonus earning down to suit his purpose.

If you don't work overtime or for health reasons you can't work overtime it's just a bad show and this sort of thing has been getting worse. If we don't stop this rot it will be a tragedy for the industries of this country because even now our young people are getting out of it whenever they can and I can't blame them.

These are some typical prices. Packet of cigarettes: 50c; Petrol (Gas): 80c; Joint for Sundays' dinner: \$2 dollars (three in family) — and everything in this proportion and even worse. Now they have a new rent bill which will bang up rents double.

The rich are getting richer at the workers' expense and we intend to stop it. One way to make the money-bags understand is to withdraw your labour and at long last we have struck like an over-worked horse will.

— — Machinist



Both Sides of the H-Bomb

Brothers of the Common Life

Glasgow, Scotland, March, 1957.

My Dear friends

I understand and appreciate the tribute that lies in your quick publication of "Walk the Proud Road." (Personally, I think this is one of the best I have ever written—could it be because I have seldom written in so worthy a cause? If at any time you think that any of my poems can underline an issue, illustrate a point, or strike a chord—please do not hesitate to use them.

That is why they are written.

* * *

As you surmise, I have my poems printed privately. Who would touch them? So Mohammed goes to the Mountain. It's expensive, but, when people like yourselves think I've said something—that's my reward, my brothers.

* * *

A few details about myself. I'm 25 and a worker (at present a telephonist). I've been writing for about 5 years now and it hasn't made me richer. Oh, no? But you and I know that just isn't true. It has made me richer by extending my country and increasing my people. The brothers and sisters I have spoken to, these are my nearest and dearest. The cities and towns where my voice has been heard, there is my country.

May they both keep growing!

Wherever men will listen, I will speak. Wherever they won't, I yell my damnfool head off!

You, my brothers of the Common Life, can understand this thing that is in me, I know.

Be sure I'll write again,

Aye yours,

Tom Malcolm

* * *

From Valley Forge to the Proud Walkers of Alabama has been a long way.

Maybe the road from the Pentagon to the Commonweal will be as long.

But time is on our side. Time, and people like you all.

Malcolm

(Editor's Note: In our March 5th issue we printed Tom Malcolm's poem of tribute to the Negroes of Montgomery, Ala., *Walk the Proud Road*. The above letter is the poet's response to *News & Letters*. On page 7 of this issue we print another of his poems, *Kikuyu!* This too, is taken from his collection of *Poems of Political Passion* which he recently published in Scotland.)

The Bermuda Conference revealed itself as little more than a strategy meeting between U.S. and England for global nuclear war. This could have been seen in advance.

The shock isn't that the West has now openly declared itself as ruthless and indifferent to human life as the tyrannical Communist world. The shock is that a satellite power like England is forced by crisis to spell out so plainly that atomic destruction is the only end in view in the struggle for world domination between the 2 state-capitalist giants, U.S. and Russia.

"UNITY"

Nothing so clearly revealed Eisenhower's arrogance as the fact that he left most of his "technical advisers" at home. He went to Bermuda to lay down the line to the English satellite and Macmillan was there to take it. But it wasn't to be quite that simple.

The sudden and hurried trip to Bermuda of Deputy Secretary of Defense Ruben Robertson Jr., Secretary of the Air Force Donald Quarles, and Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Lewis Straus, tells far more about that Conference than do the press releases before, during and after the Conference.

While America and England could find nothing, or very little, they were for, they found one thing they were both against: Russia.

(Continued on Page 8)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Militant Miner Out to "Better Himself" Becomes—

THE "DIFFERENT" BOSS: WORSE!

SCOTT'S RUN, W. Va.— This guy is a young man. He had served as a committeeman for the union, and fought the company time after time over any issue that the men would bring up.

He would say, "If we let the company get away with anything, it's our own fault. Those bosses are out for themselves and we all know that. If we don't look out for ourselves, no one else will."

At Local Union meetings, he'd blast the company and the Local Union officers for letting the company get away with too much.

"The give and take that the company is always talking about means just one thing: we give and they take. It's always been that way, and it'll keep on being that way until we do something about it." Many thought, like himself, that he was a good Union man.

KEEPS MOVING UP

He moved around from job to job, always taking one that was better than the one he had before. He finally ended up on the cutting machine, making top rate.

After several months on the cutting machine he de-

cid to get his bossing papers. "Not to be a boss," he explained, "I've got too many friends ever to be a boss. I'm just getting my papers to learn all I can about this business. It's good for guys in the Union to know this stuff. You can learn more about what the company can or can't get away with. We need someone who knows the score and isn't afraid to say something about it when they try to pull something on the men."

TAKES BOSSING JOB

He had no difficulty in getting his papers. Soon after he got them he was offered a job as a boss. He took it.

This is how he explained crossing the line, "I don't see why a man can't be a boss and still be a good Union man. I've always believed that a boss could go along with the contract and still do his job. You know that I'll not be doing anything against the contract."

"I've known a lot of bosses in my time, but you know that I could never be like some of them. I'm still the same guy. I'm just bettering myself, that's all."

Tells Boss: "Leave Me Alone"

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.— I was shooting on a section and the boss was really putting it on me. He wanted me to do the shooting, rock dust, hang canvas and any other odd job he could find for me to do. Just keeping up with the cutting machine kept me plenty busy. With this other work he wanted me to do, I knew I couldn't do it all.

"I TRIED"

I tried for a while. I was running all over the section. I'd get through throwing a little rock dust when the boss would come around wanting some canvas hung a couple of blocks away. I'd be there hanging the canvas and he'd run up saying that I'd have to hurry up and shoot the place the cutting machine had just pulled out of or he'd be out of coal to load.

The cutter saw what was happening and stopped me. "Look," he said, "You're going to knock yourself out. You can't do everything he tries to make you do. Take it easy. You're throwing that rock dust now. Just keep throwing it. The loading machine is about ready to come into the place I just cut. Don't go there right now to shoot

it. Just keep throwing that dust. When that loading machine has to wait on coal, the boss will get off your back soon enough."

I kept right on throwing that dust. The loading machine ran out of coal and the boss had to get the loading machine operator and his buddy to shoot the place. The same thing happened in the next place. When the boss found me he started to give me hell for not keeping my work up.

CAN'T BE DONE

But I was ready for him. "Now look," I said, "you're the boss on this section. I'm supposed to do what you tell me to do. You tell me to rock dust, hang canvas, shoot or anything else, and I do it. I'm just following your orders. You make up your mind what you want."

"But I can tell you right now that if you want me to keep that coal shot for the loading machine, I'm not going to be doing the things you're trying to make me do. It can't be done."

He didn't say anything but he must have done some thinking. He hasn't bothered me since then.

MEN KNEW BETTER

There were plenty of men who knew different. They had seen this same thing happen time and time again. They told him what he could expect.

"I don't care what you might have been, what you have said, or what you are saying now. Once you're a boss, you're no longer a Union man. You'll do what the company says—or else. They'll be paying you to get coal. If you don't get it, you're out as a boss and you know it."

"Just wait until they start putting pressure on you for that coal. You'll be singing a different tune. You won't have the men to protect you from the company then. You'll either go their way or go down the road."

At first, he tried to go along with the men on his section. Then he began to change. The men missed nothing. There was plenty of talk:

"You can't tell him anything. He thinks there isn't a thing he doesn't know."

And later, "That guy wants you to do everything. He keeps saying, 'You don't mind helping me out a little bit do you?' But every time, it's for that extra pound of coal."

"Now he's trying to get one man to run a machine by himself."

"That guy is just plain coal hungry. He said he'd be different. Well, he sure is. He's worse than the other bosses."

The men complained against him so much that even the pit-boss on his shift cautioned him about the pressure he was putting on his men. He ignored the warning.

THE MEN ACT

The men on his section finally took some action. What they did happens but rarely at that mine. The entire crew went into the super's office and told him they wanted a transfer to another section.

This "good Union man" boss couldn't believe this was happening to him. He knew now that the men had turned against him, but he still couldn't see where he had turned against the men.

If he could recall some of the things he had said when he had been one of the men, it would be very simple to figure out.

He is the company. The men know what the score is. They're not afraid to say something about what he was trying to get away with—and they are more than willing to do something about it.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

Skilled vs. Production Workers

One thing that most women workers can't see is someone, whose husband is a tool and die worker or any highly-paid skilled worker, working for more money. It isn't only that they think she is crazy for coming into a factory for 8 hours, but that she takes a job away from someone who needs money to live on, not to save.

MONEY-HUNGRY

The wife of a highly-paid tool inspector was telling me how her husband is money-hungry and won't take a vacation at all. We began talking about the union they formed for the skilled trades, separate from the production workers. She said they did it because they felt the UAW wasn't doing enough for them. They should get more money than the rest.

I am not against any one getting more money from the company, but I asked her why should a skilled worker get more than a production worker?

Her answer was that he takes a long time to develop his skill and he has to

study for at least 4 years. I couldn't help laughing.

SWEATSHOP

Just the other day the girls were talking about a Detroit sweatshop, a place called Fitzsimmons, where they make auto parts and their production is 400 to 500 pieces above other shops.

A cousin of one of the girls called her up. She was actually crying over the phone from tiredness and sheer exhaustion as a result of working on the production line at this place. And they constantly try to raise the quota. This woman not only works on the production line but goes home and takes care of 4 kids.

WHO IS TO JUDGE?

I asked my friend, the wife of a skilled worker:

How do you judge, and who is to judge, who should get more money for his or her work—the person who spends a few years studying or the person who takes a few years off his or her life by working on a production line?

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

How to Stop the Big Crook

Don't make that great mistake as so many people have done: don't try to set up some kind of crooked deal to make a lot of money by not working.

They are just racketeers who go around robbing and beating the poor working people out of all their money for nothing. Just because they may be friends with a governor, and have the lawyers, and sometimes get the presidents of all kinds of organizations to join up with them, they make a big racket out of this kind of big leadership.

HOW CAN IT BE?

The truth is, how can a leader, as in the NAACP, or union leaders, or the big Democratic party and Republican party, let such a person take over a crooked deal? How can it take so long before they can see what a great mistake they made? How can they let these big crooks make such a big fool out of them, by letting them take in all the money through their hands, and then pay all their expenses, too?

That is just like the white people used to treat the Negro people in the olden days. But Negroes have learned to keep something for themselves. That is why the white people rob and beat their own people out of so much money today.

The biggest mistake the Negroes ever made was when our foreparents let these white people fool them over here to be made slaves for them; to be worked to death. Those whites took all we made for themselves, and left us with nothing.

WE WON'T LET THEM

But since we are Americans we won't let the big crooks make a big fool out of us any more.

The Union leaders will have to judge their own way. The workers are going to work their way from under so much pressure and hard work so that they won't be so tired and broken-down anymore. Then, the big crook won't get so far into peoples' affairs.

UNION BUNGLES L.A. STRIKE, CHRYSLER PICKET SAYS

LOS ANGELES—I don't understand why they have a picket line now at the Chrysler strike in Los Angeles. They might as well not have it! What's the use of having a picket line from 6 in the morning to 6 at night? They leave the plant unguarded all night. There isn't even any picket line on Sunday. I don't believe that everybody is religious and I don't think that the company is that religious.

You can go down and picket any time you want to. As long as you get in 8 hours a week you're eligible for Union help.

Some guys have put in a lot more than 8 hours a week and have credit for several weeks ahead. I wonder if the Union is going to honor those extra hours and not require these guys to picket in coming weeks. I doubt if they will.

"NO OVERTIME"

BACK EAST

The Local has got assurances from Chrysler Locals back East that they wouldn't work any overtime and build any extra cars to make up for the production being lost here.

Reuther Turns to Skilled Workers For His Support

VAN NUYS, Calif.—Now that Reuther is receiving some set-backs from production workers in former strongholds of his, he is turning to skilled workers for support. He is promising them the moon; everything from 50c across the board to better representation.

It seems very funny. Skilled workers often regard unskilled workers as a lower form of humanity who didn't take the opportunity to get "educated," and who therefore aren't as "smart."

But here they are, being taken in by promises from a man who has been selling the auto workers short for more than 10 years while the "dumb" production workers are wised up enough to say, "we've had enough."

Incidentally, if there is anyone around who still likes Reuther I wish he would write in to News & Letters and let us know why he thinks so. This paper seems like a good place to argue things out and get them straight while it is hard to find the time or opportunity to do so down in the union hall.
—Skilled G. M. Worker.

They are still discussing on the line that there was no advantage to waiting 10 days after the wildcat to go out on an authorized strike. They might as well have struck when they were out.

If you're going to strike, you strike, and don't fool around. It was ridiculous to let the company have 10 more days of production.
—Chrysler Picket.

Detroit Workers Discuss

CHRYSLER OVERTIME BAN

DETROIT — The daily papers reported that Norman Matthews, a UAW vice president and the leading negotiator with Chrysler Corp., said that Chrysler workers will not work any more overtime.

Workers are having their say about this statement. Some said that if this had been the Union's position in 1955 many hundreds of laid-off workers would still be in the plants today.

TOO LATE

Why didn't Matthews and the Union propose this at the beginning of the '57 model when some workers were working 9 and 10 hours a day, 7 days a week? They waited until the company had worked all the overtime it needed.

Matthews' statement said that because of the

Chrysler Strike Relief Worse than Charity; Los Angeles Striker Describes Red Tape

LOS ANGELES—There had been talk of strike relief for the Chrysler strikers here, but nothing was definitely said on how much we were to receive.

Finally, in the beginning of the third week of the strike they started giving it out: \$12 for a married couple, plus \$3 for each child. This is in the form of a voucher

which can be spent only in one designated market.

This is the aid the International is giving the striking workers after the Local Union gave Chrysler 10 more days of production—and then delayed the strike further to get International approval.

The relief interviews are most disorganized affairs. It reminds me of the unemployment and State relief set-up. You wait in long lines. The interviewing is done one man at a time. There are 3,700 men to be interviewed.

BY THE NUMBERS

Everyone gets a number and by late Friday afternoon they are interviewing No. 80. They expect to close the office at 3 p.m., and not reopen until Monday. My number is in the 900's. I doubt if they will

"IN THE HOLE"

A guy at unemployment told me he was laid-off but he could go to the Union for 2-to 4-hour odd jobs here and there. "But," he said, "What's the use? I'd have to pay them \$5 for every job they send me on, just like an employment agency, and I wind up in the hole."

—Construction Worker, Detroit.

Los Angeles Chrysler strike and the company's refusal to settle it, and other long-standing grievances, there'll be no more overtime. He also said that according to the contract a worker cannot refuse overtime if the company schedules it.

One worker said, "This leaves us holding the bag. Like today, we don't know what to do. The company says, half-hour overtime. The Union says nothing. We're caught in the middle. No steward or committeeman said a word, whether we should or should not work. No news from the Local hall."

Workers are saying: When this mess is over, no union leader or company official will tell me to work overtime.

—Production Worker.

Working Woman Resents Management's Slander

LOS ANGELES—I recently read a short article on working wives which is more callous and idiotic than anything I have ever heard on the subject. The article was from a steel industry magazine. This is what it said.

"Is the 35 hour week or 4 day week an urgent issue? Doesn't the steadily growing number of women in the work force indicate that families want more money but not more leisure each week? Some industrial relations people think that management can satisfy the need for leisure by employes more satisfactorily by longer vacations, not shorter hours."

THE FACTS

There isn't a woman I have worked with who wouldn't have some bitter remark to make at this so-called observation.

I remember how our foreman used to beg and threaten us to work overtime on Saturday. I remember also how feelings of guilt would plague the women with children at having to leave them in order to make an extra dollar. The extra dollar wasn't extra, either. It was needed to pay the bills be-

cause the husband's wages couldn't always meet the cost of living.

TOTAL FATIGUE

I wonder what women this article is referring to. Certainly not the working woman who has to come home after a day's work and make supper, wash dishes, take care of the kids, straighten the house, wash and iron clothes, bathe and flop into bed!

Leisure is an unknown quantity. The need for more money to meet debts has become so acute that leisure is a luxury a working woman can't even think about. It's not even leisure you dream about, but simply more sleep.

However, these industrial

RUNAWAY!

A few weeks ago, when the "experts" were saying that the average worker's wage would be about \$8,000 a year by 1960, a girl I work with said, "If we'll be making \$8,000 a year, you can be sure it'll cost us \$10,000 a year to live!"

—Woman Worker, Detroit.

relations people put 2 and 2 together and got 6. They try to use the fact, that women work, as a weapon against the struggle for shorter hours. If they asked some of the women they so glibly write about what they think, I'm afraid they'd be in for a rude awakening.

—Working Wife.

"NO SPEED-UP" Is the Slogan

LOS ANGELES.—The General Motors plant at South Gate is really putting together some lousy cars. As a result, it is rumored in the plant, some dealers are insisting that their orders be filled from other plants. That is one of the explanations going around for the fact that we are sometimes working only 4 days a week and sometimes not even 8 hours a day.

The company is sending mailings to all the workers asking them to let the company know of any suggestions they may have to improve quality. They are also running a quality slogan contest with a TV set for the prize.

However there is no

get to me by next week.

From what I have heard, they ask if you have any money; if you own property; if your wife is working; if you own or rent your house; if you have any money in the bank.

If your answer is "No," to all these questions, you take a pauper's oath and they write out a voucher.

TOO LITTLE

There is no money to cover any other expenses except some food. And for this you must put in 8 hours of picketing a week.

This is the Union that has over \$25 million in the strike fund. This is the same Union that has lawyers and politicians "fighting" to raise unemployment insurance a few dollars a month.

When it comes to helping people get back their own money, they are worse than any state, social, or charitable organizations.

There has been no general meeting of the membership since the strike started.

—Chrysler Striker.

LAY-OFF AT PONTIAC!

LOS ANGELES.—They have just laid off 1500 men at the General Motors plant in South Gate: 900 on nights and 600 on days. Some departments have been cut from 2 shifts to one-shift production.

It really got me angry, in view of this situation, to hear the radio commercials of the Pontiac dealers. In these, a housewife calls Mr. Pontiac on the telephone and tells him to keep on producing cars because so many people want them.

Another commercial in this series has this same housewife ordering a dozen eggs and 6 Pontiacs from her grocer. She then says, "Oh, that's too many!"

The grocer says, "Too many Pontiacs?"

She replies, "No, too many eggs. We can't get enough Pontiacs."

Who do they think they are fooling when it's in all the papers that a local plant producing Pontiacs is laying off so many workers?

—Angry GM Worker South Gate, Calif.

magic slogan to improve quality as they'll soon find out. They are just going to have to improve working conditions and get rid of the speed-up.

—GM Worker

EDITORIALS

Who Will Watch the Watchdogs?

Workers are talking about Reuther's plan for a committee of "leading citizens" to be appointed as a watchdog over the UAW treasury. Some say it's like around the police department when a policeman is to be tried. The trial committee or trial board is always policemen or ex-policemen, and the verdict is always, "Not guilty," regardless of how strong the evidence is against them.

This has just recently been proven all over again in the case of police brutality against Negroes. The Negro, Mitchell, who brought up this case, got as far as the trial board, and this trial board whitewashed the policemen who beat him up.

* * *

Some of the workers are saying that the Senate Committee isn't investigating labor leaders like Beck and Hoffa in the interest of the rank and file worker, but only to see how much these bigwigs have swindled the government of income taxes.

Other workers say that Reuther's invitation to the committee to investigate the UAW is like a man playing poker, hoping his bluff will back them down.

No worker felt that the so-called watchdog committee members would be any better than Beck, Hoffa, or Reuther, so why would the UAW invite them to investigate?

Why shouldn't the UAW ask the workers to constitute a committee to do this? It is the workers' money that is involved, and it is supposed to be their Union.

* * *

For years the Union leaders have told us they mistrust those big city officials; that the city budget is always in the red because somebody has sticky fingers. Now, they propose that same type of civic leaders to be the watchdog over the Union's finances. Workers don't trust them.

They want to know why not a rank-and-file committee, elected from the UAW itself, to watch over their money and over their leaders. They certainly are a much better judge of how the money should be spent.

Reuther, in the midst of the UAW convention, said that 97 per cent of the delegates approved the "watchdog committee" of people outside the union. It's funny how 97 per cent of the rank-and-file workers get only 3 per cent of the vote, and 3 per cent of the bureaucrats count up to 97 per cent of the vote.

Here, in Detroit, the workers were saying that one point on all their minds is the purpose of the dues increase. The overwhelming majority of the rank-and-file workers are opposed to an increase in union dues. They know what happens to their money in the hands of these labor leaders. Some workers pointed out that John L. Lewis has interests in a bank and shipping company; that he, Beck and Hoffa are all the same; that maybe the only difference is that those were caught and others were not.

* * *

No worker believes that Reuther's so-called leading citizens committee will be any different from those "leading citizens", who are still writing to the daily papers to express their high esteem of Hoffa. He was even re-elected to some city post here. It's all a swindle, they say.

* * *

Those labor leaders are always looking for some one above to handle the affairs of the ranks who put them where they are. The last thing those control over their own affairs. They just want the workers to accept what is handed down to them. The Workers are sick and tired of all this and are talking of how to get the union back into their own hands.

— C. D.

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Readers'**RANK & FILE
OPPOSITION**

Some workers read that Stellato opposed the 50c dues increase and that he was trying to hustle support from the Rank & File opposition to fight against this increase and propose a \$100 million strike fund instead.

They started to suggesting among themselves how they could call up right away to the Rank & File delegates at the convention and tell them if they go along with the 50c dues increase—or with Stellato's proposal — they better stay in Atlantic City and not return to the shop.

—Rank & File Worker,
Detroit.

* * *

CHRYSLER STRIKE

I saw some of the articles you just received from the Chrysler strikers in L. A. (See page 3), and told some of the men in my plant that their strike relief is only \$12 a week, plus \$3 for each dependent—any you have to go through the same test to be eligible for it as a person does to get on relief.

One man said, "It's true! During the long Chrysler strike here in 1946, my brother-in-law was working at Dodge. He got pneumonia during the strike from being on the picket line every morning.

"After he spent 3 or 4 weeks sick in bed, his wife called his Local Union for aid.

"They told her he would have to come and get it. After she explained that he was in bed and couldn't come, they told her if he couldn't come in person he couldn't get anything.

"She called me and told me what happened. I called the International representative of that Local and told him that if they didn't give my brother-in-law some aid this day I would flood the plant with leaflets and tell the workers here who were paying \$1 a week to aid the strikers not to pay another penny because this is the way the union acts when a worker needs help. That evening they were there with \$20."

—Chrysler Worker,
Detroit.

During the first week of our strike, one man came over to talk to the pickets. He had read about the strike in the paper.

As an owner of a small store near the plant he has time-plan dealings with many Chrysler workers. He assured the workers on the line that for the duration of the strike he wasn't going to press for payments on their accounts. He said he sympathized with our aims.

—Chrysler Striker,
Los Angeles.

* * *

On the Thursday afternoon before the strike, a lot of people were ready to go 4 hours before the strike was called.

They tried to have a walk-out but it didn't pan out. In the body shop they started beating on the cars and walking down the aisles but they went back to work in 5 or 10 minutes.

—Chrysler Striker,
Los Angeles.

* * *

STEELWORKERS

Conditions in the mill are a lot different than in the mines in a lot of ways. In the mine, the other fellow's safety depends on your safety. But in the mill everything seems so individual. It's the way they have it set up. Each department seems separate from the others, and each does things their own way.

A mill-worker seems like an individualist, the way it's set up. Each is working for himself, instead of all together.

—Steelworker,
Pennsylvania.

* * *

Negroes have the dirtiest jobs in the steel mills. White steelworkers may start in the dirty jobs but before long they manage to maneuver around and get better jobs. But Negroes are stuck.

I know a lot of white guys who started when I did and are making top rate now. But I'm stuck.

A lot of the Negroes have wanted to do something about it, but a lot of them have worked there for so long and seen they couldn't go any further and just go on putting their time in.

If the Company and the Union changed their policy they could easily break the production records they're setting now. But the way it is, if a man knows he can only go so far, he just "puts his time in."

—Negro Steelworker,
Pittsburgh.

* * *

**"BUSINESS
UNIONISM" AND
RACKETEERING**

A headline in the Detroit News sums up the Beck-Hoffa mess pretty well: "Truck Firms Trust Hoffa in Dealings on Contracts."

The article says that Hoffa has "a sizeable cheering section among businessmen who deal with him across the bargaining table." It goes on to quote from various heads of trucking firms, all of whom are unanimous in their agreement that Hoffa is an expert in preventing "labor troubles."

One said that when you deal with Hoffa you never have to worry about strikes, wildcats, or labor slow-ups. And that is exactly why Hoffa is a real racketeer. He is in league with the companies to keep the teamsters down.

—Student,
Detroit.

* * *

In an Electrical Shop where I used to work a few years ago, the Teamsters got in with the boss who made a deal with them to organize the place because the girls were talking about organizing in a CIO Union.

The Teamsters sat around intimidating the women workers and that's how they organized us.

—Electrical Worker,
New York City.

* * *

A year or two ago, Beck used about \$2 million in Union funds to back Montgomery-Ward in the financial fight they had. As a reward, he got the right to "organize" there. That wasn't called a scandal but now it's called a scandal because Teamster funds are used to finance bars, etc.

The real scandal is that no Union has any business in business.

—Old Militant,
Flint, Mich.

Views

Dubinsky is supposed to be such an honest labor leader and his International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is supposed to be such an honest Union, and I suppose it is. How come that right now 3 Union bigshots are being investigated for racketeering?

They didn't just start. They've been around for a long time playing the same game but it wasn't "stylish" to call them racketeers before.

Now, the new style is to tell everybody how honest you are by proving that the other guy is a racketeer before he gets the chance to prove that he's honest and you're the racketeer.

—“Through the Mill”
New York City.

I see where in Indiana the legislature has passed a “right to work” law. It doesn't surprise me. Every year, out here in California, the same bill comes up. So far it has been defeated. But even so, it is one thing to pass laws like that and another to put them into effect. Take the Taft-Hartley law. It is designed to destroy labor, but so far it has had little effect.

The union leaders make a big pretense of fighting Taft-Hartley. They have put millions of pieces of literature out against it. But when the chips were down and there was a chance to keep it off the books in 1947 by the general strike that everyone was talking of then, they ran away from a real fight.

But even with the Taft-Hartley law on the books it has not really hurt labor. I can't see that it has kept us from getting a wage increase or keeping our closed shop or from many of our other benefits. I don't deny that they would like to use it but it's one thing to have and another to enforce.

Construction Worker
Los Angeles

Who Will Control?

When people say that politics doesn't mean anything to them, what they mean is that Democrats or Republicans — what difference does it make? Once they get in, Democrats or Republicans, it doesn't make any difference in the way I live. My life is just the way it has

always been.

Housewife.
West Virginia.

What struck me most in the **Two Worlds** column (March 19, p. 5) was the next to last paragraph.

“They (the old radicals, labor bureaucrats and program-writers in general) fail to see what is new: the workers' confidence in themselves. While old radicals have reduced the question to ‘program,’ the workers have reduced it to the decisive question: **Who will control production standards in the factory: workers or labor bureaucrats in cooperation with management? Who will rule in the Union hall: rank and file workers or the so-called leaders who haven't seen a production line in the last 20 years?**”

This paragraph seemed to me the key to the whole column. I can't make any speeches about what it means and so forth but this is what struck me most.

—Youth,
Los Angeles.

NEGRO STRUGGLE

A white woman I have known for a long time has 5 or 6 kids of school age. She told me that white people are saying they'll take their kids out of school if they integrate.

She said, “But when it comes to the show-down, I think they'll change the way they had to on the bus.

She said, “If Negro kids go to the same school, they'll go, but nobody's going to make me take my kids out of that school.”

—Montgomery Negro,
Alabama.

I think “The Big Story” is an above-average TV program, especially in their use of Negro actors.

A couple of months ago they had a story about a Negro newspaper reporter and a juvenile gang. The ending was rather corny, because the “hoodlums” were saved for society by being given tickets to a boxing match, but at least a white man was not the hero.

This week they had a story about a loan shark, a white man, in North Carolina. It was a Negro worker who had the courage to stand up to him and expose him to

the newspapers.

This Negro gave a very exciting speech to his fellow-workers (both white and Negro) on how they had to stand up for their rights. And I think he meant civil rights, too.

Also, it showed friendships between Negroes and whites in the South, and they were true friendships, not Uncle Tomism.

—TV-Viewer,
Detroit.

WAR & PEACE

Some people think money can buy anything. That's the way this country acts toward foreign countries, too. They think giving out money solves everything. It reminds me of the way some rich people hire governesses to take care of their children, and give the children money and gifts — but never give them what they really need, their own love.

It doesn't seem to me that what the people in those foreign countries (like Hungary, for instance) need is money and planes and that sort of thing. What they need is some moral support. Then they could handle their own affairs in their own way.

Housewife.
West Virginia

Whether we are used as a soldier or a policeman or a working man or woman or private servant the results are all the same: the minds and muscles of the rank and file in all societies are enslaved and commandeered to perpetuate the elegant life of the elite parasite, whether it be King, Queen, Dictator, President, Labor Leader, Businessmen, Banker or the Professions. They all take a free ride on the backs of the working man and woman.

We haven't eradicated slavery in the USA so that makes us qualified to offer our tax dollars and more important the lives of our boys to protect a parasitical slave master like Saud of Saudi Arabia.

Our laws seem to cause nothing but confusion and misery, yet here we are trying to set up a world government with International law and the USA as the “Chief of Police!”

—Edgar Leslie,
California.

TWO WORLDS

NEW CRISIS IN RUSSIA

A new internal crisis is brewing in Russia. On March 30, the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party passed an edict for the “decentralization” of Russia's highly centralized, planned economy.

The report of Nikita Khrushchev, spelling out the meaning of this shake-up of the Administration of the State Plan, took up no less than two-thirds of all the leading newspapers' space

RUSSIAN WORKERS IN CONTINUOUS REVOLT

As usual, the daily press in America sees only the maneuverings on top and is blind to — or deliberately ignores — the revolt of the Russian workers from below which causes the maneuvers on high.

I do not mean to say that the workers want this decentralization. They know that whether the desk of the State-Planner is in Moscow or in the district where the factory is located they will have to work harder. Like Ford's “decentralization plans,” the Russian decentralization will not give the worker any voice in production.

No, neither the reorganization on top nor the fact that it was caused by revolt from below is the key to the internal crisis in Russia. What is crucial is that the present decentralization will not stop the revolt from below.

Russian workers cannot strike. Their resistance to exploitation must therefore find other ways to express itself. The most common forms of resistance are continual slowdowns and high labor turnover. So great is the labor turnover in the building industries, for example, that the Plan approved at last year's 20th Congress had to promise building workers that 10 per cent of all they built would be used for their own housing. But when First Deputy Premier Pervukhin reported on the success of the 1956 Plan he had to add that plans for an increase in labor productivity were “underfulfilled in the coal, lumber, machine tools, and building materials industries.” And he also had to add that there had been “losses of working-time and uneven work.”

THE OLD TUNE: LABOR MUST PRODUCE MORE

Over the years and decades the Russian workers have been in continuous revolt against the State Plan. Millions of them are in forced labor camps as a result.

What is new now is that even among the millions of workers and peasants who are not in forced labor camps, who constitute the normal working force, the slowdowns have reached such a high peak since the 20th Congress (See NEWS & LETTERS March 30, 1956) that the Sixth Five Year Plan has had to be entirely scrapped.

A few months ago it was announced that the “planned rate of increase of economic expansion” had been cut from 11 per cent to 7 per cent. But the new Plan is no more acceptable to the workers than the old one because no less than 80 per cent of the total increase in industrial output in 1957 was “planned” to come from increased labor productivity

During the past few months both Communist Party paper PRAVDA, and the government paper, IZVESTIA, as well as the so-called union paper, TRUD, have been full of sudden stories about “Violations of Labor Law.”

Management is blamed for dismissing workers without cause and trade unions are blamed for being “careless in analyzing worker complaints.” While Khrushchev has carried out a campaign to get the lesser bureaucrats away from their desks and “into the fields,” management has blamed government for the housing shortage. As one manager put it, “It is rare that housing is ready at same time as factory building . . . (and this) greatly complicates recruiting of workers.”

But all the bureaucrats — government, management, and “the intelligentsia” — are united in one thing: to take it out of the hide of the worker.

“Some persons,” says the outraged, well-fed, well-housed manager, “take a job only to obtain housing and then leave jobs in search of better circumstances for themselves.”

At the head of all the bureaucrats, of course, stands Khrushchev, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party and the political boss over all planning, the new “decentralized” kind as well as the “centralized” kind. As usual, it all rests on “raising labor productivity.”

The struggle over labor productivity is the class struggle which is tearing at Russian totalitarianism. It will not rest until the workers have finally succeeded in overthrowing it. —R. D.

YOUTH

L.A.-H.S. Students Boo and Walk Out at Racist Meeting in School Auditorium

LOS ANGELES—On March 28, Gerald L. K. Smith and his group rented the Hollywood High School auditorium to hold a meeting.

When the news of this meeting became known to the students at Hollywood High School, there was a great deal of argument about Mr. Smith. Students from high schools and colleges around Los Angeles decided that freedom of speech applied to Mr. Smith as well as to anyone else, but that we, the students, had a right to express what we think of Mr. Smith.

The meeting was attended by approximately 400 high school and college students who wanted to hear what Smith had to say. I was one of those students who attended. Here is a brief account of what happened at the first hour of that meeting.

A woman introduced Mr. Smith and included in her introduction a "thumbnail sketch" of his career. During her introduction, the students applauded loudly at everything she said. This rattled her quite a bit, and fortunately we were unable to hear much of her introduction.

Bubble Gum Protest

LOS ANGELES.—Three teen-agers were arrested at the Gerald L. K. Smith meeting at Hollywood High School Auditorium on March 28. One of them had punched a Juvenile Officer in the jaw, knocking him to the ground, and another teenager tossed an officer over his head with a judo hold.

An estimated 2000 persons, about evenly divided between adults and students from colleges and from Hollywood and Fairfax High Schools, attended the meeting.

The students almost broke up the meeting, from the start, with catcalls, boos and applause (when it was not expected or desired.)

Prior to the meeting, Paul Coates, columnist for the Los Angeles MIRROR, interviewed several Hollywood High School students. Among the items in his column, as a result of this interview, were the following:

It seems that one group of students in the school were so against Smith that they wanted to have a bubble-gum protest, "Where all of us would go to the meeting and sit in the audience and blow bubbles while this Mr. Smith was talking. To sort of distract him."

THREATENS STUDENTS

When Mr. Smith came to the microphone he told his audience he would not begin his prepared lecture until he had spoken with Mr. Stevens, the head of the Hollywood police station, about the disturbances in the audience.

Over and over again Mr. Smith assured us that he did not hate anyone, even those who disagreed with him.

But, he was very careful to inform us that there were hundreds of policemen who were there to be sure that "nothing happened."

We decided to refrain from any applause from then on, just to be on the safe side. Mr. Smith lectured about what he always lectures about. I won't go into that here. I would like to mention that when

Mr. Smith referred to a well-known columnist in Los Angeles who has publicly stated his contempt for Mr. Smith, the students in the audience cheered and applauded for several minutes.

WALK OUT

Mr. Smith is not against anyone. He doesn't hate anyone, at least that's what he said. He spoke about the Jews and then the Negroes. After a few warm-up remarks he said, "We cannot let the Negroes mongrelize us..."

At this statement, about 300 students shouted, booed, and walked out. We were followed by about 100 more people a few minutes later. That's all I heard about Gerald L. K. Smith and that's all I care to hear.

—High School Student.

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

"In the Name of Progress"

Senator Clifford Case, Republican from New Jersey, spoke to young delegates from 33 foreign countries in attendance at the recent annual New York Herald Tribune High School Forum. The theme of the forum was "The World We Want."

Sen. Case said, "America does not have an ideology—it is one." He declared that under this political system the United States

Tin God Saves Face

WEST VIRGINIA.—Not long ago, here at the University, a boy yawned in class one morning. The boy next to the one who had yawned was accused by the instructor of doing it. Although he denied it, he was immediately thrown out of the class by the instructor.

The student went to see his advisor and, through him, was allowed to re-enter the course, but in a different class.

At the beginning of the semester the teacher had told the students that he could make plenty of money on the outside. He said he liked teaching because in the class-room he was a little tin-god, and furthermore, that he expected the students to recognize this fact.

How can there be any understanding between teacher and student; how can there be a class-feeling conducive to learning, when a teacher's main purpose for being there is to be a little tin-god?

—Undergraduate

has "managed to obtain the highest degree of economic activity in the world, the highest production, the highest material wealth that any society has ever known."

I only hope that some of the delegates were able to see some of the other America. Those that get out the tremendous production and to whom economic activity means higher prices, layoffs, and strikes, who create the material wealth by the sweat of their brow and have an entirely different idea of the "World We Want" than Sen. Case.

I have just received the following letter from a high school girl of Highland Park, Michigan:

"Progress is great, but why must we play the parts of unwilling guinea pigs? This is the general attitude of the student body of Highland Park High School.

"As things stand at present, the students have eight 40-minute classes each school day. But lately there has been a rumor that a vital change is hovering over our heads. Some of the changes are: nine 55 to 60 minute classes each school day; 20 to 25 minute lunch hour (this is impossible because it takes 7 minutes to get to the lunch room and 15 to 20 minutes to eat, providing you're eating and talking with your friends, of course), and no more home-room periods or study halls.

"Now I ask you, do you believe that any change will succeed just because it's in the name of progress?"

—Distraught Teenager.

A Woman's Viewpoint

Things Don't Just "Work Out"

WEST VIRGINIA — I don't think anyone can expect his mate to be "perfect," any more than you can expect to be perfect yourself. You have to expect rough spots, but for a good marriage you have to smooth the spots out as you go along.

There are some women who have got themselves into a really bad situation because they just went on "taking it." I have no sympathy for a woman who just goes along and complains and does nothing about it.

WHEN IT'S TOO LATE

If you don't "have it out" right from the start, and get things straight early, you keep your hurt to yourself until it gets so big you don't think you can stand it. Then, one day, you just don't care anymore, and that's the worse thing in the world. That's when it's too late to do anything—you just go along from one day to the next.

I think a girl friend of mine had the right idea. When she first got married she told her husband what she was going to stand for and what she wasn't. She meant it. When he did something they had agreed was "no go," she let him know how she felt.

Right from the start they'd talk everything over. They had even decided right from the start that they weren't going to take any chances on getting on each other's nerves. They agreed that she was to have a night out, and so was he. They've really worked things out and get along real fine.

No real woman wants a hen-pecked husband. I want my husband to feel free, just as I want to feel free. Nobody wants to feel like a prisoner. But you want to feel that with the freedom there's also trust in each other. You want to feel you're being honest with each other. If either one isn't satisfied, it seems to me that two adults should be able to sit down and look each other in the eye and tell each other just exactly how they feel.

FREE TO TALK

I don't want to keep someone tied to me like a prisoner if he isn't satisfied. You have to be able to talk to each other to get things straight.

What ties you in knots is when you can't get your husband (or wife) to talk. You want to share things. I want to talk with my

husband about the mines. I want to tell him what's happened to me during the day. If he just says, "I don't want to talk about the mine—I'm glad I'm away from there for awhile"—and won't listen to what's bothering you either — you're just a stranger there.

I've tried to think things through myself, to figure out what's wrong, but it's hard to figure out by yourself. You just wonder. You know you're not alone. There are so many marriages that aren't working out today. But that doesn't make it any easier to take.

NO CURE

My nerves got so bad the doctor gave me some of those new "tranquilizers." But he told me that they weren't any cure for what was bothering me. He said the only cure was to get rid of the problem.

That's easier to say than to do. Not every woman can just pick up and leave, and that doesn't solve the problems for every woman either. Lots of times that's just changing your problems.

What makes you stop and think is what made most of our parents happier than we are today? Why are men and women so dissatisfied today? I think it's not all just what's happening in the home. What's happening outside the home is where it starts.

CAN'T GO BACK

Women aren't the same as they used to be either. A woman used to think that whatever happened, a woman's place was in the home. She was supposed to put up with whatever happened. Every woman did it. But a woman knows better than that today. They see other women who aren't putting up with just going along. That's why they're even more dissatisfied.

My mother tells me, "Don't worry, things will work out." But she's wrong. Things don't just "happen," and you can't just wait for things to work out by themselves. You can't go back to the old days, and things can't go on the way they are now, either. You have to try to do something to make your own life better.

—Miner's Wife.

KIKUYU!

Kikuyu! Kikuyu!

They smear the blood of your children
Upon my people's forehead.
They slaughter your people in thousands
And the shadow of a Cross lies on our cities.
They steal your cattle and your lands
And we hear shame's small voices.

They have sown the Garden of Evil
And forced our lads to water it
With the blood of ten thousand innocents.

"We are men made in Christ's likeness;
And yet we are treated like beasts."

They have hunted you like game,
Branded you like cattle,
Shot you down like crazy dogs:
And that is half their crime.

They have made my folk your hunters,
Our hand has held the branding iron,
Our finger squeezed the trigger;
That is the other hellish half.

O friend, my heart with yours is beating
In the startled forestland,
My feet upon the mountainside
Touch the echoes of your own.

I would be a living shield,
A wall of flesh and bone and love
Protecting your sweetheart and your sister.

You brave the hounds and the long black rifles,
I would be the door ajar
That you may flee the thundered street.

Your eyes seek peace among the stars
Above the concentration camp,
I would be the soothing stars.

For this is the time of opening eyes,
Seeing real day in the naked light,
Knowing the image from the mirage.
This is the time of reaching out
For the eager hand of Africa,
Seeking the brother's good strong fingers.

—Tom Malcolm

(See: "Brothers of the Common Life," page 1)

ITEMS IN THE NEWS

Cases Against Cops

Three white police officers broke into the home of a Negro woman in Hamtramck, Mich., recently, smashing furniture and pushing her guests around.

The woman has filed a suit for \$25,000 in the Circuit Court. The suit charges the officers with illegal entry, destruction of property and humiliation.

* * *

Robert F. Mitchell, Jr., who was beaten by 2 white policemen when they arrested him in Detroit, got no satisfaction from the Police Trial Board hearing. The hearing has already cost him \$700.

He plans to bring a civil suit against the officers for \$100,000, but is having difficulty in raising the money for legal expenses. The lawyer who presented his case to the Trial Board "lacked fire," according to Mitchell, who says he may get a new lawyer.

* * *

White Citizens Councils

From an estimated 250,000 members a year ago, the White Citizens Councils, dedicated to the maintenance of white supremacy, have grown to approximately 350,000 in all the Southern states.

* * *

Less Than \$1,000 a Year

There are nearly 1½ million farm families in the United States with incomes of less than \$1,000 a year. Of these, nearly one million live in the South.

Although Negroes constituted only about one-tenth of the total of the 5,226,000 farm families in the country in 1954, they made up almost one-third of these one million in the South with annual incomes of less than \$1,000.

* * *

(Editor's Note: The last 2 items are taken from *The Condition of Farm Workers in 1956*. Report to the Board of Directors of National Sharecroppers Fund, Inc., 112 E. 19th St., New York 3, N. Y.).

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

We Must Face Stress Directly

As I drive between home, hospital, and office, I see new and expensive-looking office buildings of modern design being erected in the choicest locations. Nine times out of 10 I am right in guessing that the structure will be occupied by an insurance company. Insurance, today, is perhaps the biggest of all business and seems to have its fingers in every industry. Selling protection is a form of extortion that is very profitable.

I see something unwholesome about the very idea of insurance. Looking clearly at insurance one finds it inseparable from fear and impending disaster. To meet these, each one attempts to build his own wall. I find this separate existence in the shadow of catastrophe abnormal.

Nowadays, not too many people read the essays of Charles Lamb. His story "Roast Pig," still remains with me from high school reading. While thinking about insurance, I happened to read his essay on, "The Superannuated Man." It concerns Lamb's retirement, at the age of 50, in 1825.

LOOK OF GLOOM

For 36 of those 50 years he had worked as a clerk in a London counting-house, writing figures in books for the East India Trading Company. Finally his face came to wear a look of gloom and anxiety. He had a constant dread of crises. He had nightmares during which he dreamed he was making false entries in his books. Fortunately, his employers retired him on a pension of three-quarters of his pay.

Lamb then wrote that he felt like "A man that's born and has his years come to him in some green desert."

When people remarked that he was a simpleton to think of years ahead of him at his age, he replied that though he had lived 50 years, "If one deducts out of them the hours I have lived to other people and not to myself you will find me still a young fellow. The only true time is that which a man can properly call his own. The rest, though he may have lived it, is other people's time not his own."

He figured he could therefore properly multiply the years left by 3. The next 10 years of his life would then truly be 30 years. Lamb was fortunate to enjoy another 9 years.

He lived at the beginning of the industrial era, but in some ways, our life has not changed in the past 125 years. Today many millions are not living their own time. They are looking to insurance, from their employer, their union, or the government, in order to live a life of their own "later." There is something immoral in giving up the present.

"THE AGE OF ANXIETY"

The same conditions that brought the expression of gloom to Charles Lamb's face have extended far and wide. We now talk of the present period as "the age of anxiety."

In our times, 35 million prescriptions for tranquilizing drugs are written annually. Anxiety is reported to be found in 25 to 50 million Americans today.

One cannot blame people for seeking relief from unpleasant symptoms of stress. Medical groups are, however, becoming concerned over potential dangers from the casual use, without supervision, of tranquilizing medicine. The drugs are not without danger from habit formation and from disorders to internal organs and tissues.

What appears more important to me, however, is this: Tensions, alarm, fear, anxiety, are responses to stress and are produced in order that we may rise up, defend our selves, and overcome a stress-producing situation. When, however, victory is not attained and the stress becomes prolonged, keeping the body in a state of alarm, it is inevitable that exhaustion and breakdown will follow.

There are tensions that a doctor cannot and should not relieve. Men must face these situations directly together and resolve them in the only rational way, transforming that way of life that creates the tensions into one that does not.

**Your Subscriptions and Contributions
Keep News & Letters going.**

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.)

LOS ANGELES—Last night we had a party and heard the General given by the Los Angeles Motors workers present editing committee of News & Letters. Among those present were several workers from the nearby General Motors plant and their wives. Also present was a young intellectual.

At one time during the party I was talking to the intellectual about News & Letters and the confidence it has in the American working people.

He said that the paper was of no use because the American workers are "backward." As "proof" of this, he offered his one fact: "I know them."

A few minutes later I

EVERYBODY WELCOME	
<p>LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 6 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVENUE (COR. WASHINGTON BLVD.) ROOM 203</p>	<p>DETROIT EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 8067 GRAND RIVER (1 FLIGHT UP)</p>

Both Sides of the H-Bombs

(Continued from Page 1)

Prime Minister Macmillan had an asking price for turning England once again into a battlefield, and he brought his experts to spell it out.

THE KEY

Macmillan knew as well as anybody that the whole world has become part of "America's sphere of influence." But he also knew something that his American boss did not. He knew that without England, America can have no 5th column in Europe, which remains the key to the world situation.

Ever since World War II America has built up its domination over Europe, first through the Marshall Plan, then through the Truman Doctrine and, above all, through NATO. Without NATO America would be like Samson shorn of his hair.

This is precisely what Russia is aiming at in its struggle for world domination.

THE TRUMP CARD

Presently NATO is being undermined from within. France has the bulk of its army engaged in putting down the North African rebellion against its rule. The German people object to being bled white to call up an army for NATO with Germany once again as the battlefield.

England—with its hands full in putting down Cyprus, Kenya and the general colonial revolts for national independence from British rule—is preparing to withdraw 13,500 troops from NATO. At the same time England is the key to the so-called North Atlantic Community. This was England's trump card to command military and nuclear aid from America.

The agreement arrived at revealed the mutual distrust. The British will handle only the tail sections of the guided missiles. The American Army will handle the atomic heads.

A DEADLY CHOICE

Nevertheless it is clear now that what was touted as a conference to patch up Anglo-American relations in the Middle East was in actuality a joint preparation for war. Russia understood that at once because this is exactly what she herself is doing from her end.

At stake, are the lives of the people of the world. Consider the Europeans first. There is no country in Europe which is not acutely aware of the nearness of the powerful Russian Army—not to speak of its H-bombs, huge air armadas and submarine fleets, and now its long-range guided missiles.

The only choice left the Europeans seems to be whose guided missiles will destroy their land, already ravished by two world wars, brought on by "free enterprise capitalism."

THE CAULDRON

Europe is not alone in its "neutralism." The people of the Middle East are not anxious to become pawns in the conflict between the two giants of state-capitalism.

Moreover, the Suez crisis revealed the inner conflicts also in the Anglo-American camp. The conflict between American and British oil interests may be dismissed by Macmillan as "spilled milk" over which he will not cry. It may have been on the "forbidden list" of topics for discussion at Bermuda, but the Middle East knows this is not the end of the story. They have suffered centuries of British domination and know that England wants more from Eisenhower than mere agreement that "Nasser isn't a nice man." America now means to fill that power vacuum left by Britain's colonial collapse. This is clear from U. S. consent to join the Baghdad Pact.

What the Balkan cauldron was in setting off World War I, the Middle East cauldron will be to the conflict of the entire African continent.

TROUBLE AT HOME

Whatever it is that Eisenhower and Macmillan patched up, in the relations between them, one thing is clear: the class struggle at home cannot be spirited away.

Britain is faced with the threat of a General Strike. 1,700,000 British workers were out on strike when called back by their Union leaders. That by no means ends the threat.

The Suez adventure has meant at least a 10 per cent increase in prices and a return to rationing. The huge cost of keeping up with the United States in military expenditures is bankrupting the British.

Even the middle class, the backbone of Macmillan's Tory Party, is restless and leaving the country at the rate of 200,000 a year.

Eisenhower, too, will be tested at home. The American working people want to rule their own lives, and not rule over the lives of millions of "subjects." The Big Power struggle has no reality for them except higher taxation.

While the Negro is concerned with his civil rights here and now, the youth is concerned with the continuation of the draft and the disruption of all normal life. And the workers know that the answer to unemployment and speed-up—the ills of automation capital-

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Ireland

Eamon De Valera, half blind and 74 years old, has won the leadership of Ireland once again in the recent election.

He was one of the leaders of the Easter Rebellion of 1916, fought to free Ireland of British rule. After a bloody heroic week, the Rebellion was crushed and all of the leaders arrested. Before they were executed by the British, they put on a dramatic hunger strike which attracted world wide attention to the cause to which they gave their lives.

The leader of the Easter Rebellion, James Connolly, was both a brave Irish Nationalist leader and a socialist. He was both a Catholic and quoted by Lenin. He starved himself when it meant trying to save the cause for which he fought. He gave his life rather than capitulate to his British enemies.

DeValera would have been executed with the other leaders except for the fact that he was an American citizen. That accident saved him.

The courage and determination of the Irish people, which eventually gained them their independence, is insufficient however to solve the economic problems growing out of the capitalist relations dominating the nation.

The low standard of living in Ireland, the lack of any substantial industry, and the lack of any prospect of improving the situation has resulted in 90,000 unemployed out of a population of 3 million. There is little hope that DeValera can effectively solve this problem

istically applied—is not in war.

"ONLY A FRACTION"—?

Contrast to those deep anti-war feelings the announcement of Eisenhower and Macmillan that they will continue with nuclear tests to "only a fraction more than" what is considered hazardous!

Some Japanese seamen immediately announced they would be in the vicinity of Christmas Island where Britain intends to explode its first H-bomb.

Only the actions and the strong anti-war feelings of the people the world over can stay the hands of the leaders on both sides of the Iron Curtain. It was the Hungarian Revolution, and not the Bermuda Conference, which shook Russian totalitarianism to its foundations.

any more than his opponent, Costello, could.

Senators of the Inquisition

The Very Reverend James A. Pike, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, has accused the Senate Internal Security Committee of having hounded to death the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt, Egerton H. Norman. Norman committed suicide when accused by the Senate Committee of past sympathies with communist causes. The charges had been investigated by Canadian government authorities and Norman had been "cleared."

The American Churchman, Pike, accuses the Senate Committee of "utter callousness" in uttering and publishing unsupported accusations.

World opinion, which is growing tired of American domination, has reached a fever pitch of indignation over the affair. The French, English and Israelis are already angry for being ruined by Dulles' Diplomacy. The Canadian people are now added to the list, indignant beyond belief that their diplomatic representative should receive this unjustified treatment at the hands of a Senate Committee.

There are even people who say that the committee should stand trial for "murder."

Western Europe

West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg have reached an agreement on trade and Atomic energy. The agreement, recently signed in Rome, would put into effect the following measures:

1. Tear down customs barriers and trade quotas from the North Sea to the Adriatic.
2. Permit free exchange of labor, capital and goods among the 6 nations.
3. Set these nations apart as an economic bloc with common tariffs on imports and exports.
4. Pool the resources of the 6 nations for the development of peacetime Atomic energy.

These measures will not go into effect until the treaty is ratified by all the nations involved, which may take years. Some "experts" think it might take as long as 12 to 17 years to adjust the economies of these countries to each other.

Meanwhile, this first step toward the long-discussed United States of Europe, remains a scrap of paper waiting for the day when workers' governments in those countries can put an effective end to all such nonsense.

Heads or Tails?

The Mac-Ike talks in Bermuda ended up sounding like a session of "Do You Trust Your Wife?"

Eisenhower is supposed to have made a big concession by giving the British the latest guided missiles. But he did not give them the whole thing, only the tails. The tail is the motor end, the part that makes it get there. He kept the atomic heads under American control. One without the other is no good.

Visualize a scene in the next war, now. The British are ready to shoot and the American crew stands along side.

"Please, American friends, may we have some heads?" the British might ask.

"Certainly, British cousins," the American Lieutenant replies, "you may fire when ready, but watch out you don't hit any of our industries in enemy territory."

Heads or tails, the worker loses.

South Africa

25 Africans were hanged recently despite the worldwide protest against the act. They had been accused of the murder of 5 policemen last August.

Even Judges and the Bishop of Pretoria, where the hangings took place in batches of 5, protested this barbaric act of mass execution. Not that it stopped the white barbarians who are the present leaders of South Africa.

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