

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

Racist, Labor-Hating South Invades UAW

By CHARLES DENBY

Some of the rank and file workers, who attended the recent 16th UAW convention, have returned to their shops very disappointed over their first experience with a UAW convention.

As they said, it was miserable to suffer 5 days of Reuther's dictatorial leadership, but what was worse was that nothing was accomplished in the interest of the workers in the shops, especially the production workers. They said it appears that the only purpose of the convention was to take 50c more a month from the members of the UAW and put it in the pockets of the International people.

They wondered how it was possible for Negroes on the International Union staff, and for some Reutherite Negroes from the shops, to vote with these leaders on every and any decision, some of which were felt to be completely in opposition to rank and file workers in the shop.

There was a Negro alternate delegate from the International Harvester Union, Local 988, of Memphis Tennessee. The daily reporters credit him with being a good active Union man who served as secretary of the resolutions committee at the 1955 UAW convention.

BORING FROM WITHIN

After the Supreme Court decision on integration, the White Citizens' Council-type leadership of that Local Union threatened to pull out of the UAW. But they decided later it was better to stay in and use the Union to fight against integration. That is why the Negro was only made alternate delegate.

Three whites were delegates from this local. One of them was killed in an accident. The Negro was to take his place at the convention. This was against the policies and principles of the 2 Southern white delegates. But it is the principle, policy and procedure of the UAW. Reuther said the Negro alternate would be seated with voice and vote.

WHITE SUPREMACY

These two White Citizens' Council-type members said "No" and walked out to wire the McClellan Committee in Washington to investigate Reuther. When this was reported, Reutherites pressured the Negro to decline and he did. Thus, 2 white, race-hating Southerners changed the whole convention, changing what the Union has stood for (on paper at least) for 20 years.

Rank and file delegates have said that Reuther ran the proceedings of the convention, but the 2 white Southerners turned it and made Reuther go along against the Negroes. Negroes on Reuther's staff did not have a word to say about this. The Union's FEPC men were present, the International staff were there, they heard nothing, saw nothing and are afraid to say anything.

POLITICAL FOOTBALLS

No question in the history of American politics has been more used as a political football than the question of the Negro, civil rights, and Fair Employment Practices. Because of the UAW's militant and liberal stand on this in its early stages, it is now able, with the help of a few Negroes on its staff, to play with this question more than any political organization this country has ever known. The No. 2 political question that is being kicked around is the question of the working people, especially the production workers.

As these rank and file delegates said, the trend toward the skilled and white-collar workers at the convention means that the Negroes along with the white production workers will face, in the not-too-distant future, the worst dictatorial power the world has ever known. In fact, they will be a forgotten force in the UAW if it is left to these same leaders.

The most reactionary elements of the workers and of the Union are not leaving but are staying in and using the Union, using the workers' money, to fight against them on anything progressive they hope to achieve. This was shown at the convention in more instances than that involving the Negro from Local 988 of Memphis, Tenn. Yet we still hear the cry that the UAW proposes to organize the South. On what basis? A segregated one?

AUTOMATION
LILY-WHITE DEPTS.
SKILLED TRADE PRIVILEGES



What's Next For Labor?

A Rank & File delegate, from Chrysler Local 212, returned from the recent convention of the United Auto Workers and told News & Letters, "If this 16th convention was going to be held again next week, and if I was elected again, I would refuse to go back.

"Reuther's machine turned the convention against us production workers. But we're the ones who built this Union. We built it on a local level long before the International ever took it all over, and that's the way we'll have to take it back from the machine—on the local level.

This was more than just another biennial convention of the million-and-a-half-member UAW, until now the country's largest industrial Union. Far more than the sterile merger of the AFL-CIO in 1955, this 1957 convention of the UAW sounded the death knell of the CIO as an industrial Union. The man who tolled the bell is Walter Reuther, former president of the CIO and still president of the UAW.

UAW CRAFT UNIONISM

On the basis that white collar workers, including office employees, technicians and engineers, are becoming more important than production workers in this age of Automation, Reuther's convention turned the emphasis of organized labor to separate units for white collar and skilled trades groups with separate bargaining contracts. Reuther will thus subvert the fundamental strength of production workers, who built the CIO, to organize craft unions inevitably against the interests of the industrial workers.

As that magazine of industry, BUSINESS WEEK, correctly described it, Reuther's "newly adopted program makes the auto union an industrial headquarters for a collection of craft unions . . . Only Walter Reuther's great stature and respect among auto unionists make such a shift of course possible."

What the Rank & File delegate called "Reuther's

machine," BUSINESS WEEK called "Reuther's great stature and respect." DIXIE'S OPERATION

Another result of the convention was that the Union leadership, in a situation where not words but action was demanded, turned its back on the rank and file Negroes. The Reutherite leadership yielded to the pressure of 2 white delegates from Memphis, Tenn., (Local 988) who refused to allow the Negro alternate from their Local to be seated in place of the third white delegate who had died. (See Worker's Journal, this page.)

That 2 white Southerners could turn the entire convention away from the Union's traditional procedures and oft-repeated principles of equality is a direct result of the shift back to craft unionism.

Not only has this allowed the labor-hating white-supremacy South to become a destructive force within the labor movement itself, it has made it absolutely impossible for the AFL-CIO to organize the most exploited unorganized workers, white and Negro, the bulk of whom work under brutal sweatshop conditions in the factories of the South.

LILY-WHITE SKILLS

Not only can't they organize the unorganized in the South, the new turn to craft unionism makes it absolutely impossible for Reuther to eliminate the lily-white departments in the organized auto plants

in the North. These all-white departments are primarily in the skilled classifications. For years a major grievance among Negro workers has been discriminating in up-grading. For 10 years now, the Reutherite leadership has done nothing to eliminate these lily-white departments. The new favored position of the skilled trades has driven the wedge deeper between the rank and file Negroes and the bureaucracy.

Not only can't Negro production workers break into these lily-white departments. White production workers can't break into them either.

Just as the bureaucracy's turn away from the production worker has opened the door of the labor movement to attack from within by the white supremacists, so the independent Negro struggle, in the vanguard of opposition to the bureaucracy, must inevitably draw the white production workers into natural alliance. That's how the CIO was built in the first place.

LOYAL OPPOSITION

It was expected that the question of dues increase would be an explosive issue at the convention. Yet the opposition to the 50c increase just folded in the face of the Reuther machine.

"Last week in Atlantic City," BUSINESS WEEK reports, "Stellato with much fanfare summoned (Continued on Page 8)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Anybody Want Coffee and Doughnuts?

SCOTTS RUN, W. Va.— Before, it was a safety prevention course; now, it's a first-aid course. Consol is going all out in giving courses.

MEN KNOW IMPORTANCE

The men know and feel the importance of being and working safe as no other men know or feel it. Most of them have taken courses for years. There is not a man who will not say that these things are good to know and should be lived by. But they say other things too.

The other things they say pertain to what they see happening every day in the mine in actual practice. This is quite contrary to what they hear at the courses.

PREACHING VS. PRACTICING

At every turn the men remark, "What's the use to take the courses? Sure, they preach all this stuff to us, but we go inside the mine and see a million and one violations every day. Any one of them could hurt someone. But you're not supposed to say anything about that. All you're supposed to do is get that coal, and you've gotta get it any way you can."

Then there comes the steady flow of conversation, the reciting of experiences:

"You take that man-trip motor we had this morning. If I have reported that thing once, I have reported it a dozen times. It has new trucks on the back and old ones on the front. That throws the motor at an angle, and when we're coming up that hill out of our section, the motor uncouples from the man-trip. I refused to run that motor this morning. So, what did they do? They just took it off my trip and switched it around to another one. That motorman who got it maybe didn't know it was bad. But management knew, and they sure didn't do anything about it. That's how they practice safety.

"You guys are talking about safety. This is first aid we're supposed to be taking now. From the way things are here, first aid might be better to know. When we get ourselves messed up in this hole, we might be able to help each other get patched up before we get to the hospital.

WHAT FIRST-AID?

"Patched up? With what! On my section, the blankets we're supposed to use if anyone gets hurt are nothing but holes with a little bit of blanket material around them.

That first-aid box hasn't been checked in 6 months and it's back 10 blocks from the face.

PAPER BANDAGE

"Last week I cut my finger pretty bad when I was splicing a cable that blew up. The boss is supposed to have a first-aid kit, only he didn't have nothin'. No merthiolate, no band-aid, no kind of bandage at all. I had to put a piece of paper over the cut and tape it up with the friction tape we use for splicing cables.

"Yeah, but that was last week. Did you guys notice that all the bosses are now carrying those small first-aid kits?

"That's this week. They are giving the first-aid

course now. Wait 'til the course is over. It'll be the same old thing it was before. Just like when we were taking the safety course. Then you could talk to the bosses about safety. But try it now and see how much they'll talk about it.

"Sure, we know it and they know we know it. Look at what the pit-boss said when he came around just now. He didn't say, 'Come on to the first-aid course.' He said, 'Come on and get your coffee and donuts.'

"So they're giving coffee and donuts if you attend the course. Personally, I'd rather have safety and something to fix me up if I get hurt than coffee and donuts."

Another Kind of Mine Explosion

OSAGE, W. Va.—I was on the motor and was going back to pick up a string of empties. The empties had been set in the empty track by the pick-up crew but they had pushed a couple of them off the track.

My snapper was at the end of the empties, blocking them back on the track. We had got all but one of them on when the pit-boss came around. He wanted to know what was keeping us. When he got there he saw what the trouble was, but he wasn't satisfied with the way my buddy was getting the empties back on the track.

EVERYTHING SET RIGHT

I had the brake-wheel tightened down pretty tight and had the motor on sand. That way, I could either move slowly with a steady pull, or, if a hard jerk was needed, I could open the power controller up and move fast. It all depended on what my buddy would signal.

But, like I said, the pit-boss wasn't satisfied with what my snapper was doing and told him that he'd do it.

He yelled for me to come back to him. I loosened the brake a little and gave the motor a little power to move it slowly. I was unscrewing the brake wheel, watching to make sure that the motor wouldn't go too fast. This takes a little while when you're trying to get everything just right to be able to stop in a split second, as you have to do most of the time.

"COME ON BACK!"

The pit-boss yelled again, "Come on back!" I loosened the brake a little more, but it still didn't release quite enough.

The pit-boss was in a big hurry now. And he was getting mad. He started to curse and bawl me out.

"What's the matter with you? Can't you hear? I've been yelling for you to come on back. I mean for you to come on back. Can't you run that motor? Come on back!"

When my buddy heard him ranting like that he moved back out of the way into a cross-cut. He knew what was going to happen.

WIDE OPEN

I guess it's the same with everyone. You can take just so much and then you've got to blow up. You might not do it for a week, or a month, or a year. But, sooner or later, it catches up with you and you have to let it out.

I had taken enough. Me and my buddy had worked hard to get those cars on the track. Everything was going all right for us until that pit-boss got there. If he'd acted like a man it would have been all right. But he yelled and cursed just too much for me to take. I knew what I was going to do. I knew that the very least it would mean would be a lot more work. As for anything else, I just didn't care what might happen.

I opened the controller wide open. With the motor on sand, when I opened it up, it shot forward like it was shot out of a cannon. Those empties piled up every which way against the face. It was a good thing there was a cross-cut where the pit-boss was standing. Otherwise, there would have been one very dead pit-boss in that pile of empties.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

When Will This Wide World Settle Down?

When will this wild world get the people to settle down and work together without fighting and killing each other for a piece of money just so one man can say he is called "Boss" and does not have to work hard?

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

When some people get a little money ahead, they want to be called big shots. They get one or 2 big cars for their families, and another one for themselves, so that they can think they are so much above the working people.

Do you know who should get the credit for being a boss and a big shot? Well, that is the farmer who does all the hard work in producing food for us all to eat. If it weren't for the farmer, how could anyone live? Who can live without eating what is grown on the farm?

So don't forget the poor working farmer who tills the soil and raises food for the boss and the big shot so they can live too. Money isn't everything.

WHO BELONGS WHERE?

Do you know that white people of the South are putting out a paper that they don't want the Negro people to read?

All their talk is about Negroes. They print, in this paper, that some white found a book and saw somewhere in it that God made all nations of people to stay in their own country where He created them; and that all nations should be one of a kind just as God put them here; and that God did not mean for them to mix because if He wanted them to be mixed He would have put them all in one country.

And, too, this white "found out" that God made

ONE MORE WORD AND—

He had been quick enough to jump in the clear. Now he was hot. He came up to me and said, "If you ever hurt me, you'd better do a good job of it."

I was still burning up myself. I hadn't gotten it all out of me by a long shot. I looked him dead in the eye and said, "If you don't get the hell out of here, and right now, I'm going to climb down off this motor and you're going to find out if I'll do a good job of hurting you."

He knew I meant it, and he knew what I meant. He took off, I mean he took off right now. We both knew what would have happened if he would have said one more word.

all kinds of animals who are staying one of a kind. So why, he asks, can't each nation of people stay the same?

Now we can see why these whites don't want Negroes to read their paper — because they found out that they don't belong here in America anymore than any other nation of people.

This was the Indians' country. When the white men found this country they drove the Indians to the outskirts of America and called all the rest the white man's country.

In the same article, this white man found out that his mother did tell him how come the world is in such a bad condition: White men messed up the whole wide world because they wanted things to go their way.

Now how can they get things straightened out before Negroes get hold of this paper and see the mess that's in it?

SOUTH IS AFRAID

WEST VIRGINIA—

When I was in Alabama, I talked to quite a few people. One fellow was an orderly in a Vet's hospital. He told me that they had brought a cop in for treatment. The cop asked this orderly just what he thought about desegregation.

He told the cop he didn't want to talk about it. Instead, he wanted to talk about the police force. He wanted to know just why, every time someone called the cops for a colored man, why didn't one cop come instead of a squad?

The cop's reply was, "Because we are afraid of you people." He said, "The cops are not the only ones afraid of you people. The whole South is afraid because this time they really bit off more than they can chew."

There was a dance one night while we were there. Some guy got into it with his girl friend. She went to the cop who was at the dance. He told John Doe to beat it.

The guy said that he was talking to his girl friend and it was none of the cop's business. One word led to another and more cops were called. They took the fellow out and beat him very severely.

Just like we were told, they have to send a riot squad to take care of one guy. When they take him out, they work him over because they are afraid to do it where the rest of the colored people are. They know what would happen.

—Negro Miner.

AGREEMENT ON '57 MODEL ONLY ENDS 38-DAY CHRYSLER STRIKE

LOS ANGELES—The 38 day Chrysler strike has officially come to an end. At the meeting called to vote on returning, and where the Union claimed to have won 90 per cent of their demands, the highlights of a 19 page agreement were read and explained.

This agreement holds, however, only for the balance of the 1957 model.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Union says that for the first time all line speeds are in writing; that 128 men are to be added to the labor force in different foreman groups; and that the minimum number of men in each foreman group is now also in writing.

It was also agreed that no more than 550 cars were to be produced in 2 shifts. The shifts are to be equalized in manpower. Previously, the company had been using the night shift, which has fewer men on each job, to set up their standards.

There's to be a standard method of mixing cars by running standard models in between station wagons and hard-tops.

SKILLED WORK

Outside contract work that can be done by the skilled workers in the plant is to be done by them whenever possible. Before this if there was carpenter work, for example, it would be sub-contracted and then the company would lay off their own carpenters.

SHIFT HOURS

They agreed to change the starting time in the missile department to 1/2 hour earlier. Before this the workers in the missile department had voted to start earlier, but the superintendent of missile turned it down.

There is also to be one hour between shifts to avoid parking congestion. Before the strike, the company had reduced the time to 45 minutes to give the foremen of the day shift and the night shift time to discuss their problems.

There is to be no working overtime on Fridays and all grievances against those who had refused to work on Fridays are to be dropped and reprimands torn up.

Women are only to work 8 hours a day, without any overtime except Saturdays for 8 straight hours. The women had wanted to work overtime.

WILDCATTERS

All men who had been fired due to speed up, and stewards leading walk-outs were put back to work with a clean slate.

Four men who were fired are to be taken back 60

days after the strike is settled. The workers voted to keep them on the Union payroll at 40 hours per week until they get back into the shop.

STRIKE RELIEF

The International came through with what they called a gift to the men in the relief program. They agreed to continue all the food vouchers until the first payday, but on a pro-rated basis.

This means that some people will not get their full 2 weeks voucher. The vouchers should be from Friday to Friday, but due to the poor set up of issuing relief vouchers by the Union, everyone couldn't be paid on Friday, and so they were given out on different days of the week. Your week is figured from the day your voucher was issued.

If you were lucky and got the voucher on a Friday, you get a full 2 weeks voucher. The rest were beat out of as much as 5 days. For example, a married man with one child received \$65 for the 38-day strike period from the Union. The Union is claiming they have paid out \$75,000 a week during the strike.

LAST WORDS

The meeting ended with a rah-rah speech from a representative of the International. He said this was a historical strike because for the first time the line speed was written down. Then he thanked the membership for their co-operation. He ended by saying that no auto plant would be run by the blood and sweat of the UAW.

I'd like to know how else they ever run them. Now let's see how this agreement works out after we've been back for a little while.
—Production Worker.

Before the Strike Ended

LOS ANGELES—As the Chrysler strike was going into its fourth week, there was a report that the Union and company had come to some agreement the week before. But when they went out to dinner and came back, the company had changed its position altogether.

The company insisted that there were 150 too many men in the body and white metal shops, and that any agreement would have to include laying off 50 of these men immediately.

It seems that every time they come to some agreement the company will find too many men over here or over there.
—Production Worker.

New Mill Bosses Don't Know Steel -But Are Great Word-Twisters

PITTSBURGH — They used to get most of the bosses in the mill from the ranks. They'd get men who had worked in the mills for a long time and knew their business.

But the other day one of the guys from the office told me that the proportion is running about 25 per cent to 75 per cent now. They have about 25 per cent of the bosses from the ranks, and the other 75 per cent they get fresh from college.

I guess you have to have bosses now who have taken a lot of those psychology courses. A boss these days has to be a pretty good talker if he's going to be over the common working man.

It probably doesn't matter much in the engineering department or some place like that. A boss there just has to know what to tell the men to do. But a boss over the workers has to be ready to do plenty of talking.

FAST TALKERS

The way it works, when you start out talking to one of the supervision you have a pretty good idea of what you mean. But by the time they get finished talking, they've got it so twisted around you wonder what you started out with. They never really change your mind, but they can sure twist things all around before they get finished with you. And that takes plenty of talking.

As far as the actual work goes, a lot of the bosses don't know the first thing about it. Most of the time though, if they're smart, when they come up against a real tough problem they just make themselves scarce and let the men figure it out. That's just the way it works—the men usually do figure it out.
—Steelworker.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

We're Human Guinea Pigs

Nuclear bomb tests, tornadoes, snow blizzards, fires, accidents, murders, and so on. That's a part of the picture of what is called civilization today. It is something that the average person is very much aware of.

One of the girls at work today was talking on this. She said, "you don't have to worry just about wars killing you today—look at all the things happening, tornadoes, murders, etc. I don't remember it ever being like this. What's happening anyway?"

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

What is happening? Even the threat by the Japanese seaman to enter the H-bomb test waters near Christmas Island won't stop the bomb-testers. They just said anyone entering these waters does so at his own risk. That's their answer.

It is the Japanese people, and the other people who live around that area, who will have their fish poisoned—and maybe some human lives too.

There is danger of radiation fall-out, but they won't stop until someone comes down with some new atomic age disease. Cancer and the like aren't enough for them.

HUMAN GUINEA PIGS

They won't stop then either, they'll just set up another kind of health fund to give to, "to combat" the disease. That's the mentality that goes with power. We will just be guinea pigs in their experiment. Just as the Fascists, before World War II, used a Spanish city with its people, Guernica, as a testing

ground for mass air raids. One girl said (I believe in desperation), "They should drop the bomb on Russia now. That's the only thing that would stop them."

She was saying drop the bomb on her own people. Her people are from the Ukraine. She's scared and she also knows that the Communists too have no regard for human lives. Her relatives have been moved from their farms in the Ukraine to farms in Poland.

But she's wrong if she thinks that getting rid of one set of planners will bring her peace. This power-hungry, production-hungry society has to turn into a free society where not one single person in the whole wide world is in want of food or other necessities of life. Only from that point on can we know what peace will really be like.

ONLY THE PEOPLE

Only the people who do all the work can bring that about by determining their own lives. Not just by someone giving us the right to vote. Look what they did here in Detroit when the people voted to cut the Firemen's week from something like 63 hours to 56 hours: They just called it null and void.

Your vote doesn't really count unless they want it to. It will be only the workers who stop nuclear bomb destruction, feed all the people, and run production. Only after this will true humanity really begin.

Letters from Management

LOS ANGELES — The workers at Goodrich are on strike against speed-up. Management sent a letter to the workers saying: We don't know what the strike is about, ask your union.

In their letter Goodrich management said just what Chrysler said some months ago to the Chrysler workers. They said they just can't compete with other companies and if the workers want a job they'd have to produce more.

60% Lay-Off in W. Va. Plant

There's been a recent layoff at the Chemical plant here, which resulted in about 60 per cent of the men losing their jobs. Grievances have been raised, by some of the men who remained, as a result of the company's attempt to have those men double up on some jobs.

The men were giving one of the bosses such a hard way to go that he went around to a couple of guys trying to explain his position.

He said that with the cutback in production the company was losing money and it was his job

to cut down expenses.

One worker told him that he could see that his job was to cut expenses, but the job of the men was to keep as many men working as possible.

He said that when you got right down to it, he couldn't even see the point the boss was trying to make about cutting expenses. He said that if they were so anxious to cut expenses they could have laid off some of the supervisors. They've had a cut-back of 60 per cent in the workers, but not one supervisor has been laid off.

West Virginian

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Workweek,
Labor
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& Profits, on
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EDITORIALS

Again We Ask: Who Will Watch the Watchdog?

An auto worker has told us, "Beck did the working people of this country a great favor, and so has the Senate investigating committee by bringing out in the open what a crook he is, because it has showed us just what we are up against and what we got to fight.

"I keep thinking that Beck is a crook and the rank and file Teamsters have no democratic rights. But nobody says the UAW is run by racketeers, and even Reuther's enemies say he is a very honest man, but the rank and file auto workers don't feel we've got any democratic rights either.

"I don't know why any worker would fight to protect a man like Beck. But I'm afraid if that committee tries to put up a law the way they've been talking, it'll wind up by being used against us. That's why I say Beck has done the working people of this country a favor by bringing out in the open so everyone can see what we're up against and what we got to clean ourselves."

And Reuther, that master of substitution, has taken the traditional stand of the labor movement against outside regulation—has taken the fundamentally democratic principle of self-regulation by the ranks—and has brought outside regulation into the Union by setting up a so-called watchdog committee whose every member is distinguished by the fact that he is not a worker.

At the same time, the Reuther convention has made a new emphasis on trial procedure whereby members may be tried for conduct unbecoming a Union member and detrimental to the Union and its members. Presumably, if a member feels that he has been the victim of bureaucratic injustice, he can appeal to the new "watchdog" committee which can rule against the leadership's decision.

Monsignor George G. Higgins, who accepted membership on the public review board, and who declared to the convention that the board would not be a "rubber stamp group" for the officers, also said he didn't think that the leadership was the cause of the problems of organized labor. He not only thought that the leadership in general is pretty good, he added, "It is probably a little better than the rank and file deserve."

In the last week or two, since the convention and particularly as Local elections approach, workers who are openly criticizing the leadership are being warned with increasing frequency that if they continue to "sound off" they will be brought up on charges of slander. They are growing quite concerned lest this new procedure, with its impartial review board, will prove itself to be a standing investigating committee where the standard of "undesirability" for Union membership will be opposition to an incumbent leadership.

'Defense' of Whom, for What?

The National budget, now under discussion, is three quarters devoted to war—past, present or future. To talk of economy, in any realistic sense, would include a broad discussion of the actual military needs of the country in relation to the basic needs of the population, any sensible person would assume. But, to the contrary, the scared cow, "defense" is, like Caesar's wife, beyond either reproach or discussion.

Lack of any controls over the military has resulted, as any GI can tell you, in immense waste of both manpower and money and material beyond the imagination of the civilian. One item last year, \$900-million wasted for planes, now obsolete, that even the military now admits were not needed.

There is more to defend at home, Negro rights, jobs, employment, democracy, the civil liberties of the people, than there is to be gained by spending \$47-billion a year on potential destruction of everything. \$47-billion would buy more things for American people than we ever suspected our money would buy.

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Readers'

RANK & FILE OPPOSITION

Ever since we got the Rank & File opposition to grow so strong in the Local the Reutherites have started talking militant again. I don't know when was the last time I heard Pat Caruso talk so strong before.

But I must admit there's been more Rank & Filers the company's been cracking down on in the last few months, too. If management thinks you stepped out of line, and a committee-man or chief steward comes up, and you're wearing a Rank & File button, he just walks the other way. And you're out.

Maybe they talk militant now, but their actions speak louder than their words.

Rank & File, 212
Detroit

Last Thursday night a worker in Dept. 99 punched in 1 minute late and was given a 3-day disciplinary lay-off. That was on the sixth floor and it only took a few minutes when all the other workers on that floor walked out. In less than an hour all four floors, right down to the third, walked out.

I asked my steward what was going on. He didn't know so I walked out anyway. Those stewards don't know anything except when they got to bawl us out for not getting production.

We had the green slate in Dodge No. 3 for a long time and got so disgusted with them we kicked them out. Now we have the blue slate for a few years and we're just as disgusted with them. We got to get something new but you can bet it won't be green or blue.

Dodge Main
Hamtramck

There was a recent TV program with Reuther facing a panel of youth. They shot all kinds of questions at him. He is a very clever man and used all their questions to present a very powerful picture of the integrity, strength and purpose of the Auto Work-

ers Union and of unionism in general.

That's all to the good. However, what he didn't present to the millions who were watching is this fact: even though his Union has its books audited by certified public accountants (and therefore couldn't be corrupt like the Teamsters) the mechanism of control that's accepted as perfectly normal, in the Union and everywhere in this country, has, in itself, the elements of degeneration.

Reuther continually spoke of the masses of Union workers and their leaders. You get the feeling that he was on top manipulating things for these masses; that there was a tremendous division between leaders and workers with the leaders knowing more and acting more than the ranks. In that basic concept lies the seed that is bound to grow into the degeneration we see in the Teamsters.

Professional
San Francisco

The big shots have made big plans to bust up the Unions. These Congressional hearings are just a part of the plan to get public sentiment on the side of union-busting, so that when they move to break the Unions they won't have so much opposition from the public.

Miner
Morgantown, W. Va.

It used to be they wanted the guys to stand behind the Union. Now the guys want the Union to stand behind them.

Student,
West Virginia

NEGRO STRUGGLE

I don't know if you're aware of the fact that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has just voted 6 to 1 that Unions have the right to bar Negroes from membership.

I feel certain that the failure of the UAW to win the Kohler strike after all these years has contributed to this brazen Northern decision for segregation.

I cannot understand why any Union would

want to bar Negro workers from membership, especially today when Unions are under such attack. The Negroes seem to be the only Americans left who have the courage and principles to fight for justice and human dignity. Surely the labor movement should welcome that.

Heartsick White
Madison, Wis.

The South is being torn up again. Only this time it's not the people who are doing it—it's the tornadoes and hurricanes. Looks like nobody likes what's been going on down there. Even the Weather's against them.

Miner
West Virginia

POLITICS

I have nothing against helping people. But it sure doesn't make any sense the way our government does things. They're always so free about helping somebody else but they never look to the needs of their own country.

Take this recent post-office mess. The government couldn't find the money to see to it that the American people got their mail delivered. But they can find billions to send overseas for others. They look everywhere but their own backyard, and tend everybody's business but their own!

Working Man
West Virginia

Ike finally did one positive service in office. He threw out the first baseball to open the season!

Student
West Virginia

WAR & PEACE

The way things are set up now, if one 4-star general went crazy, he could cause a heck of a lot of damage, before anyone even questioned it. No lesser officer questions a 4-star general, whether he's received a presidential order or anything else. It makes me wonder about the military taking over a country—and if that couldn't happen even in the U.S.?

There's been so much controversy among the politicians, and they can

Views

wrangle and debate and argue back and forth—but one general with a few technicians to press the button could blow up the world, while they were still talking.

When they talk about "power in the hands of a few"—that's what it means today. What scares you is that they have that power, regardless of how the majority of the people in a country might feel about a war.

—Ex-G.I.,
West Virginia.

The U. S. Army at last has something to show for the \$40 billion poured into it! It has come up with a completely dehydrated menu which, it claims, needs but the addition of some water to make it most palatable. It even claims that dehydrated pork chops are most delicious (ugh!).

Now that they have the fully developed (most secret) process, there are are other applications that suggest themselves. For example: there are many Congressmen and Senators (already in a high state of dehydration) to whom they might apply the process.

It would be most interesting to dig up these fossils 100 years hence and subject them and their acts to public scrutiny. I am sure that the people of that age would be most interested in the the barbarians of this age.

Archeologist
Boston

This year is one of the rare occasions when our Julian calendar and the Hebrew calendar coincide on Easter. Thus, 1957 has the same holy week for all the Christian sects—Catholic, Protestant, Coptic, Greek Orthodox—and for the older Jewish faith.

It was in such a year that Jesus, the Jewish radical, was arrested as a subversive element while celebrating the Passover with His Disciples. He was seized by the Italian invador, the Roman Governor of Ju-

dea (now Israel) Pontius Pilate.

By what stretch of imagination do the alleged "Christians" of today persecute the Jewish victims of aggression in our age, or those whose color is darker than white, and yet point the accusing finger and call others, "Christ killers?"

Catholic-Born
Chicago

As my friend and I were watching a war movie on television the other night, she suddenly turned to me and said, "What is all this madness? How can people go out and kill each other? It is absolutely insane."

I had been thinking exactly the same thing. Obviously it is not that simple, but sometimes it is good to see a thing like war in a simple, fundamental way. War is just a particularly horrible part of our whole sick society.

—Subscriber,
Detroit.

YOUTH

A test given to Electrical Engineers here at the University was worded so that none of the students actually knew what the teacher wanted. A student who was not doing too well in the class asked the teacher to re-word the questions.

The teacher said that it was clear enough. The student said it wasn't. He didn't stop there, but continued, "I know that 99 per cent of the times a student complains, it's his own fault, but there are exceptions, and this is one of them!"

This just about floored the instructor, who was not used to that sort of thing. He was looking for a way out and asked one of his "A" students if he thought the test was clear. The "A" student replied, "To tell the truth, I couldn't understand it."

—Student,
West Virginia.

I've read lots of letters in the local paper from parents who are complaining about the half-day sessions in the schools. One of the teach-

ers told me it was hard to teach in 4 hours what the children are supposed to learn in a full day. As it is, they don't even have 4 full hours because an hour is taken up for play-time.

This teacher told me that there is no time to use psychology with the children. "We just have to push it into them."

Many of the letters in the local paper point out how all the money is being used for freeways and ball parks but not for schools. The kids from back East put the kids out here to shame with how much more they learn.

Housewife
Los Angeles

They have companies on the campus here every spring to interview students for both summer and permanent jobs. Very few students are accepted for the summer jobs if they have not finished their junior year. They interview a lot of sophomores and freshmen, but they say, "Come back next year."

A lot of the students don't like this and say that they don't think they will interview those companies. If they don't want us now, we won't want them when we're seniors.

Sophomore

West Virginia
In Switzerland, the government is going to drastic lengths to cope with the problem of "juvenile delinquency." They have slapped down a curfew on all youth of 18 and under. This prohibits these young people from attending any movies, dances, public shows of any kind, or nightclubs.

The rate of juvenile crime in Switzerland is one of the lowest in all of Europe, but officials are alarmed because it is increasing.

The new curfew has met with some opposition from those who say that it will only make the youth more rebellious and more ingenious in finding ways of getting around the rules.

Puzzled Parent
Detroit

TWO WORLDS

The Shorter Workweek, Productivity & Profits

The mentality of the labor bureaucracy is so completely capitalistic that Reuther transformed the demand for a shorter workweek into a complete abstraction. He couldn't spell out how the Unions would fight for the shorter workweek for the simple reason that he sees labor productivity under capitalism not as the extra sweat of the workers, but, as he put it, "the increased productivity of the tools of production."

I have underlined the word, "tools," because that is precisely what the capitalists and their theoreticians claim as the reason why they are "entitled" to the extra profits from automation and need not "pass it on" to the workers to whom machinery has always meant just two things: speed-up and unemployment.

"THE NEW CONCEPT" AND MARXIAN THEORY

It is not by accident that the present-day bourgeois economists have re-discovered the trick of measuring labor productivity by attributing to the machine, instead of to the laborer, the power of creating profits. They now call this "the new concept," and they openly admit that the inspiration for it is the "profit margin's downward trend."

It is doubtful that many readers of News & Letters go in for reading the big business weeklies that have raised this hue and cry about the decline in profit "margins." And there is indeed no reason to cry for the profiteers, like General Electric, for example, who complain they "only" got a profit margin of 10.4 per cent on \$4 billion sales when in 1950, on only \$2 billion sales, they got as high a profit "margin" (rate) as 18.9 per cent.

DECLINING RATE OF PROFIT

There is no doubt, however, that as great as the mass of profits have been, there has been a decline in the rate of profit when you compare it to the total investment in machinery and payrolls. There is nothing new in this either.

Over 100 years ago Marx showed: (1) that only living labor creates surplus value (profits); (2) that technological revolutions compel the ever-greater investment in machinery, and, relatively, the ever-smaller investment in living labor; and that, therefore, (3) there is a decline in the rate of profit, no matter how great the mass grows with mass production.

"In order to produce the same rate of profit," he wrote, "when the constant capital set in motion by one laborer increases tenfold, the surplus labor time would have to increase tenfold, and soon the total labor time, and finally the full 24 hours of a day, would not suffice, even if wholly appropriated by capital." From this Marx concluded: "The real barrier of capitalist production is capital itself."

One hundred years ago, even as now, the capitalist theoreticians just laughed at this inherent tendency in capitalism toward collapse. No doubt the present-day "new concept," which, in reality, is as old as capitalism itself, is good for the souls of the capitalists. But it is doing nothing for the "everlasting permanence" of capitalism as is shown by the fact that once again the capitalist theoreticians must face "the profit margin's downward trend."

WHAT KIND OF LABOR AND "TREASON"

Ever since the end of World War II, the workers throughout the world, and especially in America, have raised the question of labor productivity on an entirely different plane. They have repeatedly rebelled against the kind of labor that has produced all these crises and wars. They have shifted the question from one dealing with the fruits of labor—wages—to the kind of labor where the worker is more than an appendage to a machine.

The 1946-1947 series of strikes — from the GM general strike, to the power strike in Pittsburgh, to the GI's demand for a speedy return home—spelled out for the capitalists the concrete matters of control of production and profits, unemployment and shorter workweek.

The capitalists' reactions were brazenly specified in their magazine, BUSINESS WEEK: "We couldn't fight another war without dictating to everyone where to work, what to do, what to get paid for it . . . (and to treat) incitement to strike as 'treason'."

Nor did they leave this simply as a matter for discussion—they enacted into law the Taft-Hartley Act which tries to impose on this country the slave labor law operative in Russia and its satellites. At the same time they began to look for more automatic machinery in order to rid themselves of rebellious labor. Automation was the result.

(Continued on Page 7)

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

The Need for Equality and Ideas

In the last issue (April 16) we printed a letter from a Michigan high school girl whose school newspaper refused to print in its entirety an article she wrote protesting the lengthening of classroom time. The school authorities refuse to take the student opposition seriously and are bent on using the students as "unwilling guinea pigs."

This week we got a letter from a teenage girl in Los Angeles who tells what attracted her to *News & Letters*: "A place where I was treated equal." Here is her letter:

* * *

"I originally came to the Youth because it offered me a place to express myself, which I needed very badly.

"Then I found that you had ideas I agreed with wholeheartedly and some which had been my own. Two of the things that attracted me were your attitude against racial prejudice and wars.

PEOPLE NOT STUPID

"On the other hand, I

had always blamed this type of society we live in on people. I was firmly convinced that the population were stupid, selfish, worthless, and a lot of other things. I found out I couldn't have been more wrong.

"I also found something else I needed. A place where I was treated equal and as an adult instead of something a little less than human. I think that was more important to me than anything else.

MAKES SENSE

"Since then I have adopted your ideas and come to believe them. The *News & Letters* committee has been the only thing that has ever made any sense, or offered any answer, to the present-day mixed up world. I think those same things that first attracted me can attract other youth.

"I have the feeling that once I know Marxism and what it means to the adult, I will be able to realize, for myself, what it means to me and other youth."

—15-Year Old Girl.

Competition and Submission

In my daughter's school they have started giving grades of A, B, C, D, and E to the kindergarten kids. The whole class gets a grade, as a group, and so does each individual child. Of course these 5-year olds have no idea of what it all means, except that it boils down to the fact that if they keep quiet then they get an A.

I realize that the teacher is resorting to this method as a last desperate way of getting the children to settle down. What else can she do when there are 30 to 40 energetic kids in one classroom all morning? But it is awfully sad to think of these little kids having to be graded.

Our society starts out so early to teach these future citizens to be docile and submissive to authority, but at the same time to be competitive with one another.

School is very boring to them because they are always being told to sit down, and be quiet, and wait, and do what the teacher says. All part of this "civilizing" process in our over-crowded, understaffed, and worst of all, authoritarian school system.

—Kindergarten Mother, Detroit.

A Woman's Viewpoint

There Are No Delinquent Children

WEST VIRGINIA—I believe our minister was absolutely right when he said there is no such thing as a delinquent child. He said it would be more correct to talk about delinquent parents; that delinquency starts in the home.

When, however, you ask what makes "delinquent parents" you have the real question. You can't just blame the parents for what is happening in so many homes.

I think that when you get right down to it, it's the state the whole world is in that's at the bottom of everything.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS

When we were growing up, we weren't especially interested in the affairs of the world. We were interested in the things "kids" were supposed to be interested in—our toys and our games. Kids today are different. Everything concerns them: the state the world's in; the way things are going at home; what's happening here and what's happening down South.

Kids have so much on their minds today, it seems as though it would almost be too much to take. They grow up so fast these days because the problems of the world affect them as much as anyone else. Adults don't give them credit for what they are concerned about.

It isn't even just "teenagers." My little girl is very young, yet a lot of

times she pops up with things that amaze me. I'll shoo her off—and then realize I shouldn't have. I know I don't satisfy her with my answers and that I often don't give her questions and ideas the respect I should.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED

If adults would just look around them they might find out that the kids are way ahead of them. Just take the South today. It's the kids down there who aren't willing to take what their parents took before them. The times have changed and the kids are the ones who aren't satisfied with the old way anymore.

As a matter of fact, I think if the kids were left alone they would settle things in no time at all. A lot of the trouble down South is caused by the older ones, not the kids. That goes for the schools and the busses and everything else. The younger white children weren't the ones raising the fuss. That's a perfect case of delinquent parents, not delinquent kids.

When you look at the world and what's going on that way, it makes you stop and think. There are so many ways in which the kids are way ahead of the adults—but they are the very ones who are treated as though their ideas and feelings don't count.

—Mother.

A Mental Strait-Jacket in an Ivory Tower

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—Last semester I took an introductory course in Philosophy at W. Va. University. The first class period was taken up by the instructor's glowing speech of how democratically he was going to run his class and how he was going to take philosophy out of its "Ivory Tower."

'DEMOCRATIC' DICTATOR

In the class period that followed he ran his class in the most undemocratic manner I have ever seen a class run. That even goes for high-school classes.

He shouted down every student who tried to get in a word (although he had prompted students to speak freely in his first lecture) and accepted none of the students' words as having any validity at all in their "undeveloped" manner. His grading system was nothing like he had said it would be.

A bad habit of his that caused the most agitation among the students, however, was his habit of acting like a sort of "pusher" in class. He continually re-

minded us to "Study hard"; or "Get this in your notes"; or "Now concentrate on this and really get down and wrestle with it!" Is this much different from the action of a "pusher" in a factory?

UNIFORM THINKING

Engineering subjects are not taught in this manner. But, in the production of philosophical brains, this instructor thought it necessary for all to think the same and in the same manner. Assembly-line type of free thought.

As for getting Philosophy out of its Ivory Tower, he just built the tower higher into the clouds. Although the students many times would try to discuss concrete things, the instructor continually shouted them down and took the discussion back to the Ivory Tower. It almost seemed as if he actually feared to get his feet on the ground.

If that is the action of a Philosopher, I'll never be one.

—Undergraduate.

Ready, Willing---But Where To Go?

LOS ANGELES—I used to go to high school but my Uncle told me that a lot of people went through high school only to do work with a pick and shovel. He convinced me to go to a vocational school to learn the machinists trade. I went for a year. I had to quit because I didn't have anyone to back me up with money.

I wanted to get a job in a machine shop so I went looking. No one would give me a break because I had

no experience. Finally I went to one shop where they had all different kinds of machines.

I told the boss I wanted to work and learn. He put me to attending 5 automatic milling machines. I learned that the place was making drills, and that's about all I learned because the boss wouldn't change me around to different machines. So, I quit.

Now I do leather work. The man is teaching me the trade.

THE POSTMAN DOESN'T RING TWICE

The recent mess over appropriations for the U. S. Post Office Dept. warrants a look at how other countries conduct their affairs of this nature.

In England the people get 3 deliveries a day (4 in London) and wind up with a profit of over £5 million.

West Germany gives 2 deliveries a day and has a profit of over \$38,000,000 per year.

Italy delivers 3 times a day and pays its own way.

France delivers 3 times a day, pays its own way and has a pneumatic system in Paris which permits letters posted there to be delivered the same day (not 2 days later like in the U.S.A.).

Spain has the same frequency of delivery as most other countries, 2 a day, and has a profit of \$4,500,000 a year.

In Moscow you get 4 deliveries a day. The rates are higher (about 10 cents a letter) and no profits figures are available.

Japan gives you 3 times a day service and turns in a profit of 3 billion yen a year.

India delivers 4 times a day.

So-called "backward" Pakistan delivers no less than 5 times a day.

Now for the poor old United States. The common citizen gets a mere one delivery a day. The businessmen gets 2.

* * *

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS—WHOSE?

Until recently, \$73 million per year of Post Office money went to subsidize the airlines. Before that, untold millions went to subsidize the railroads. The "Special Services" of the Post Office Dept. use up millions each year mainly to demonstrate that "government has no place in business."

A Run-in With a Small Town Sheriff in Georgia

OSAGE, W. Va.—While going to Alabama to see my sick father, we went through Chattanooga, Tenn., and had to fix a flat. We got that taken care of and started on to Birmingham, Ala.

About 12 or 14 miles away, in a small town in Georgia, we noticed the hick sheriff take out after us.

We were driving about 10 or 15 miles an hour in a 20-mile speed zone.

The sheriff followed us through the town and stopped us in front of a filling station. He started to search the car. He couldn't find anything and asked the boy who was driving, for his driver's license. He didn't have it on him and the sheriff started to give me a long story.

I got mad and told him that I didn't want to hear all that junk. I said if he was going to give the boy a ticket, to give it to him so I could get on down the road.

He unbuckled his gun and backed away from me. I knew that he would use it on me in a minute if I tried anything. But he quieted down some and took us to see the local judge. The boy was fined, and I paid the \$20.

STATION LADY ANGRY

At the filling station, the lady and her husband who owned it, told my wife just what I was going to have to pay before I got to the judge. And boy, was that lady mad. She said that we were the third or fourth person that sheriff had stopped in front of her place.

She told her husband to tell him not to stop anyone else in front of the station; and that if he didn't tell him, she would. She also said that she'd bet that he wouldn't get into office again. And she carried a lot of weight around there.

NO REST ROOMS?

We passed through some places where we needed to go to the rest rooms. I stopped at some stations and asked if my wife could use their rest rooms. They said they didn't have any. But we were looking right at the rest rooms and could see white people going in and out.

It really burned me up to see things like that—for someone to tell you they don't have something when you can see it's a lie.

If I had something and I didn't want you to use or have it, I would say that I

had it, but that you couldn't use or have it. Why lie about it?

In 1955, I had stopped at one of these places and bought some knickknacks, but I wouldn't stop there anymore for anything.

—Gary Scott.

Miners Deserve Every Penny They Earn

PENNSYLVANIA—

White-collar workers do a lot of griping about the difference between their pay-checks and other workers' pay-checks. But I have seldom heard one begrudge a miner any penny he makes.

I was listening to some lab technicians the other day who were talking about the "racket-busting" that Congress is making such a big stink about. The conversation got around to the usual condemnations of all the Unions today.

One of the technicians ended that discussion simply by reminding the others what conditions around here used to be like for the miners before they won their union.

ANTI-UNION TECHNICIANS

The anti-union technicians retreated and concluded that unions are necessary, but . . .

Then they got around to discussing the vicious cycle of the Unions' demanding wage increases, only to have the workers pay it all back in higher prices. They all insisted that workers don't gain a thing by striking for wage increases.

One of them said, "The Unions don't really win anything, but the guys who really get hurt the most are the non-unionized, like us. We get all the price increases, but we don't get the same wage increases to keep up with them. The white-collar man today is really being squeezed between the whole thing."

As soon as they all chimed in, in agreement, this same technician added loudly, "But I don't want to hear anybody complaining about one penny the miners are getting! They deserve every cent they make and more." Again there was immediate and complete agreement.

I guess the miners command a lot of respect everywhere. But in a coal region, the respect is unquestioned.

—White-Collarite.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

Emotional Stress and Disease

A short time ago a report appeared in medical literature on the recurrence of a surgically removed malignant tumor in a woman who had been completely free of any signs of the growth for over 8 years. The reappearance of the cancer followed an emotional breakdown after the accidental death of the patient's only child. The question was raised of a possible connection between the two events.

In the past 15 to 20 years greater attention has been directed toward the functions of the body rather than its structure. This change has come about through the realization of the enormous part the emotions play in producing disease.

EMOTIONAL STRESS & DISEASE

At present, much medical thinking is still dominated by structure rather than function. However, in the thinking of ordinary people, the role of the emotions in producing sickness has taken a firmer hold than in the medical profession.

The increasing interest in medicine by the ordinary person has, in turn, tended to stimulate the physician toward a study of the whole man rather than to a single structural defect.

There are conditions where the relationship between stress and disease, between the way we live and the way we function, is not a matter of conjecture but fairly easy to understand.

LOSS OF FUNCTION

I saw a man of 40 who complained of loss of sexual power — a subject about which there is little to be found in medical literature. In the past, this disturbance in a man led one to think of venereal disease or tumor of the central nervous system. Today, such patients may seek help from a psychiatrist — often with unsatisfactory results.

This particular individual was an "Idea Man" in a TV advertising agency who suddenly ran out of ideas. In addition to loss of sexual power, he also complained of a lump in his throat — something that his doctor could never find.

When one takes the time to talk with patients like this man—and I believe there are many thousand like him — it becomes clear that the loss of sexual interest is but one element of a much bigger loss: They have lost pleasure in living their lives; they do not look forward to the coming day with any enthusiasm.

Continued activity that brings no pleasure may eventually result in a tension that interferes with the functions of various organs.

ZEST IN LIVING

The feeling of pleasure — of zest — is something that has deep roots in the well-being of man. It cannot be long supplied by the "happiness" drugs that are now so popular.

It must come from the very way a man lives. It must come from the stimulus, the achievement and the relaxation that flow from man's full use of both mind and body in his labor.

It calls for one principle to guide us in our association with one another; the use of human values in all human activity.

L. A. AUTO WORKER Recalls '37 Flint Strike

LOS ANGELES—A recent copy of the United Auto Workers paper celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Union by relating how the union seized Chevy Plant 4, in Flint, Mich., by faking an attempt to take a less important plant and thus diverting guards from Plant 4. It was a very critical moment. Plant 4 supplied motors for all Chevrolet assembly plants and had worked throughout the strike.

The present Reutherite Union leaders gave the impression in the article that it was they who thought up this scheme and carried

it through. They were, in effect, saying: We did a good job then and if you support us now it will be best for all workers.

The truth of the matter is that the leaders of Plant 4 proposed the maneuver to Walter Reuther. He said it was impossible and foolhardy. When the workers still persisted in their views, and Reuther could do nothing about it, he threatened the leaders of Chevy 4 if the plan failed. When the maneuver succeeded Reuther, of course, took full credit for the whole idea.

—GM Worker.

Two Worlds

(Continued from Page 5)

LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND THE SHORTER WORKWEEK

The first year of automation, 1950, did give the capitalists their biggest profits. But we are now back again to the fact that only living labor creates all the profits.

While the capitalist looks at living labor through his own out-of-focus spectacles of profits, his theoreticians face it from the point of view of labor productivity. That has become the hot issue. In 1954 and 1955 labor productivity increased by 4½ per cent. Suddenly, in 1956, there was a sharp drop to a point where labor productivity increased only by 1 to 2½ per cent. Not only that. These figures do not include the non-production workers.

Productivity figures never include non-production workers because only production workers produce all new values. Despite their public propaganda the capitalists are realistic enough about their own concerns. This year, however, that hard fact of life has a special significance.

Spokesmen for management, no less than big labor leaders like Reuther, have been playing up Automation as the new wonder which has created so many jobs, particularly in selling, distributing, servicing — white-collar jobs in general. Now, they have to confront the fact that these non-production workers are such a brake on increase in productivity that they have nearly wiped out any gain in labor productivity this year.

NO CUT IN HOURS FOR 50 YEARS

This truth, however, does not change the fact that it is the production workers who do create the new products and whose sweat creates the extra profit for the capitalist. They have not gained any shortening of the workday since 50 years ago when they first won the 8-hour day. It is these production workers who now want the shorter workweek.

But it is these production workers whom Reuther has subordinated both to the skilled and to the white-collar workers, whom he does not have, and who already work a shorter workweek than the production workers. Until they open his skull to their power, no shorter workweek will be won.—R.D.

What's Next for Labor?

(Continued from Page 1)
 an 'opposition caucus' on the matter of a dues increase. Paul Silver, rather than Stellato, appeared to be directing the caucus. A Reuther leader, asked if the administration had an observer at the Stellato caucus, answered, 'Oh, no. Paul will tell us all about it in the morning.'

As the Rank & File delegate said, "At the beginning, I was proud that a man like Stellato (president of Ford Local 600) was against the dues raise and I was hoping he would be the man to lead the opposition. But when he got up at the convention and said he wasn't opposed to the increase, he was even for \$1 increase if it went to a special strike fund and some other double talk, I got sick and disgusted at the way he wrecked any chance of opposition at that convention."

UP TO RANKS

He said, "I knew right then, and all the other rank and filers knew it too, that we'd have to sweep them out in the local elections in May just as we swept them out in the election for delegates last month. These bureaucrats are just the same, whether their name is Stellato or Reuther.

"As far as they're concerned, it's just a question of dues increase. As far as the ordinary working class of people is concerned we turned against them on the dues increase to get rid of them.

They are the ones who carry out management's policy of speeding-up production, and laying-off men, and keeping us under pressure, and ignoring our grievances.

"There's thousands of workers walking the streets. We've got to spread the work and cut down on the speed of the line. We've got to win a shorter week or we're lost. And we have got to do it ourselves, because if we leave it to the machine we're lost."

36-HOUR WEEK

How different this is from Reuther's announced goal of a shorter workweek for 1958 can be seen from this fact: Reuther will not announce his concrete demands until after a special convention in 1958. The rank and file workers have their concrete demands today. They know that in the 1957 model changeover, Chrysler alone eliminated 20,000 jobs and that closer to 40,000 workers are not working for Chrysler this year who worked last year.

Not only has Reuther already written off these unemployed workers, he has accepted the fact that Automation demands greater

production from fewer workers. (See Two Worlds, page 5.)

He is delaying his demands for a 36-hour week until after the 1958 model changeover when many more thousands of workers will be eliminated on the basis of new Automation speed up. Those too will be forgotten before he "bargains" with management.

Nor is it likely to be a shorter workweek for production workers, but for top-rated workers in his now-favored skilled and white-collar classifications. This "shorter workweek" of the future will probably mean, not fewer working hours, but an earlier time for figuring overtime rates to a shrinking group of favored workers. At the same time, an increasing number of unemployed production workers will be used as a club against the already over-sweated production workers.

RANK & FILE CAUCUS

Against the Reuther machine are the rank and file production workers. That they are ready and able to organize themselves can be seen from the clean sweep they made of the Local 212 delegate elections. Yet so deeply entrenched is bureaucracy and opportunism in the Union that the machine is grinding back for the coming Local elections.

Even within the Rank & File caucus itself the bureaucrats have begun to maneuver. "When a movement comes up as fast as ours, you're bound to have some opportunists come in. I'm sure the bureaucrats even worked to get on our steering committee to try to wreck us," one man said.

"At our first caucus meeting to nominate a slate it was pitiful to see these bureaucrats squirming for a position for themselves and their buddies. But the workers wouldn't let them get away with it at that meeting.

"I'm pretty sure that the most of the workers in the Local will vote for anybody to get shut of the Reutherites. But we also got to keep their blood-brothers from trying to wreck our caucus. All the ordinary working class of people have is what we can win—and we've got to win that Union hall back or things will be worse in the Union and in the plant than they've been up till now."

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

ALGERIA

French Premier Guy Mollet has denied brutalities against the Algerian people by the 250,000-man French Army now occupying that country. His denial cites as proof the fact that in this French Army there are over 50,000 Communist voters; none of whom have issued any complaints.

If what Mollet says is true, and if the reports of newspapermen on the scene are true, the only conclusion that can logically be reached is that these Communists in French uniform are participating in the brutalities against the Algerian people, holding them by force from their objective of national liberation and independence. Their objectives and those of the French Capitalist class coincide.

The French government is now engaged in the most foolish adventure of their recent colonial policy. The war against the Algerian people is costing France one billion dollars a year and is taking a half-million men out of production in France.

The immediate result in France itself is higher taxation, men taken for the draft, and sorrow among the many families of those killed in the struggle. The total economy of the country is in bad shape.

The moral and political issue is tearing France apart. Riots and demonstrations take place in Paris. The Algerians in France are in constant turmoil. The people who are taxed are shouting bloody murder.

The French, who lost Indochina through the same process, will lose Algeria eventually within the next few years. Yet the capitalist class is so greedy for the profits of the newly discovered oil fields that they are ready to bankrupt the nation to hold onto Algeria.

(In my next column, the story of the Algerian Labor Movement.—P.M.)

TRIALS IN BUDAPEST

The behavior of the accused Freedom Fighters, before the courts of the Communist Kadar government, has been such as to strike yet another blow before they go to their doom. The sight of Ilona Tóth, a 25 year old medical student, standing up in defiance of the court and telling her own story in her own way, serves to encourage others to continue the struggle.

When Miss Toth and her co-defendant, Gyula Obersovszky, told their stories in court, they did it defiantly. They admitted killing a secret policeman. They said they did it for the good of the country and that they would do it again. They were sentenced to death.

These 2 stand as symbols. Since the government had a wide choice of victims and the trials were public, they must have expected good publicity from the trial. Instead, the victims used the trial to speak out once again against the brutality of the regime.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

Chile is in the midst of a deep crisis in which street rioting has cost the lives of over 70 people. Defying emergency military law, the people swarmed into Santiago and attacked the police and troops.

Army machine gunners, tanks and armored cars fired repeatedly into the crowds, killing many. The entire population of 6 million is up in arms against the regime.

The present crisis was caused by sliding prices for copper, which is the mainstay of the Chilean economy. 70 per cent of the national budget comes from copper, and the dropping prices have sent the country into an inflationary spiral from which they have not been able to recover.

The final straw was a raise in street car fares from 2c to 3c. This, in a country where wages are \$3 a day for miners, was enough to set it off.

All business has been closed down and the firing squads are at work.

JORDAN

The country of Jordan did not exist before World War I. If all present indications are borne out it will not exist for much longer. It was originally created by British diplomacy to satisfy the promises made to Lawrence of Arabia, a British Agent who rallied the Arabs behind England in World War I.

Jordan has no natural boundaries nor population any different from that of the rest of the Arab world. This area was divided long ago by the British in order the better to rule the Middle East.

When Israel fought for its independence, the British subsidized the Jordan Arab Legion to fight against the Israelis. The result — a divided Israel, Arab refugees, a rising Arab nationalism, and the threat of World War III.

Jordan today is being occupied by three other Arab nations: Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Jordan's King Hussein, who is trying to sell the country on support of the West, is beset by forces supporting Russia, Egypt and Arab nationalism. Having lost the support of his army, he is nothing and is lost.

The only thing which has held Jordan together is its British subsidy of \$60 million a year. Without it, the country becomes the prey of its ambitious neighbors, each, in its own way, the ally of the twin branches of state capitalism, Russia or America.

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