

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Ranks Win Gains — Leaders Claim Credit

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has recently concluded its Convention here in Detroit. Its national leaders say it was the greatest and most successful convention in the history of the organization.

Many workers say it was the greatest from the point of view of leaders patting themselves on the back, and patting each other's back, for the achievements and gains that rank and file working people have struggled for and won.

ACTIVE & INACTIVE WHITES

Others say that, for the first time, they realize who controls the organization—so-called liberal whites. Though it bears the name of a Negro organization, they were stunned to know how many of the leaders are white people, whose names you never hear in connection with taking an active part in the fight that Negroes are waging throughout the South.

In contrast, you see or hear about the leading whites, who are a part of the White Citizens Councils and KKK—wherever they are and whatever they call themselves—such as Mayor Hubbard of Dearborn, Mich., and Kasper from Washington, D.C.

The Convention consisted mainly of singing and speeches by national figures. The only one who spoke with feeling packed in every word was Rev. Martin L. King, the leader in the Montgomery bus strike. This struggle went on for 5 or 6 months without the support of the NAACP. It was not until the majority of the working Negroes and preachers throughout this country threw full support behind it, that the leaders of the NAACP came rushing there. Now, every time the door opens on some national situation, they invite Rev. King to stand up and speak.

This is the method of operation of the leaders that many rank-and-file fully understand. Many workers, among the thousands who attended the last day's session of the Convention (Sunday, June 30), said they went to see and hear Rev. King. To their disappointment, they also heard Thurgood Marshall speak on what he had gained, through legal process, for the Negroes in America: housing, civil rights, etc. Then he said that we will have to do something for ourselves and not wait for the leaders to drive a Cadillac to our doors and take our colored children to the nearest white school!

NOBODY WAITS FOR MARSHALL'S CADILLAC

The Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., did not wait for Marshall and his Cadillac. Neither did they wait before Marshall's time. Past history can teach this Marshall and the other leaders. Nat Turner, and the Negroes with him, struggled for freedom before they were making Cadillacs. Denmark Vesey, Harriet Tubman, and others, would turn in their graves at such statements. Thurgood does not live in the South. He is well secured in New York. If he did live in the South, many doubt whether he would have enough nerve to go and face what the Negroes and their children are facing down South.

Maybe he is saying what the whites were saying about Autherine Lucy: that she drove to the University of Alabama in a Cadillac when she was fighting for admission. No one will say it was Thurgood Marshall's car. If and when he, and the present leaders of the NAACP, pass on, the Negroes will continue their fight for their complete rights and justice. Not Marshall nor the NAACP leaders, but the objective situation forces us in that direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE RANKS

When they presented Rev. King an award, he said he was not accepting it for himself. He dedicated it to the biggest majority of the 45 thousand Negroes in Montgomery, who carried on the struggle along with the preachers of that town. That is what made his speech different. He spoke with the feeling of the lowest layers as he is still a part of them. On the other hand, Marshall and the majority of the others never were and never intend to be.

As JET, the Negro magazine, reported: while the Convention was in process, a Negro soldier was being murdered in Mississippi because he was too friendly with a young white woman—the niece or cousin of the white men who committed the murder.

These leaders yell long and loud about a white minister, who attended the convention from Mississippi, getting a threatening call, but there was never a word uttered about this Negro soldier being murdered. No one has heard any reports from our government about it, and if the Negro ranks do not rise up in protest we will not hear from either.

If Marshall thinks it was he, or the other leaders of the NAACP, that brought out 13 thousand to the Convention on Sunday, he is badly mistaken. Many said they went to see the black Moses, the one who has stood in the face of untold odds of violence from the KKK and White Citizen elements, and who is still there in the deep South, in Alabama, and is still fighting for freedom.

Only Freedom Can Solve The Crisis

(Editors' Note: Because of the timeliness and scope of the following article—which was originally submitted for the "TWO WORLDS" column, page 5—we are printing it, instead, as the lead article for this issue.)

According to late reports, it seems likely that the State Dept. will finally allow American newsmen to travel to China so that the American public may at last receive "first hand" reports about what goes on there.

At the same time, Chiang Kai-Shek, writing from his crisis-torn island of Formosa, has just published a book in America, in which he makes what amounts to a last plea to be restored to power on the Chinese mainland, "in the interests of democracy."

Nothing and no one can whitewash the corruption and oppression of Chiang Kai-Shek's regime. The truth of Communist China's totalitarianism cannot be learned from him nor those who speak for him. But it can be glimpsed from an examination of the conflicts within China itself. It can further be approached by an analysis of what Communist Boss, Mao Tse-Tung, revealed in his speech on "Contradictions," that was released to the world on June 18th.

STATE CAPITALIST

The Chinese Communist regime is a state capitalist society. It was born out of the revolution against the corrupt feudal-capitalistic society under Chiang-Kai-Shek. There is no doubt that when Chiang and his Kuomintang regime were overthrown, a much wider base was created for the new state capitalist regime. Chinese Capitalism was finally stripped of its feudal trappings and its corrupt war lords. Honest or otherwise, however, state capitalism is an exploitative society. Exploitation of man by man has its own consequences.

3 CHARACTERISTICS

The three primary characteristics of this development in China are: (1) Forced labor to build water conservation projects, highways and railways. Forced labor for excavation and construction of defense works, and timber-felling. This mass labor army was supposed to consist mainly of "counter-revolutionaries." But it was soon clear that there were not enough "bureaucrat capitalists" and "imperialists" to fill the mass labor projects, and the rebellious workers were its actual base.

(2) Under state capitalism, the function of free, or trade unionized labor, is not to increase its material benefits, but to fulfill the production quotas set by the State. Indeed, the Constitution openly boasts that the function of the trade unions is to increase production, raise labor productivity, and achieve the production plans of the State.

(3) Since 80 percent of the work, in a country as under-developed as China, is

agriculture, the State must ask for what it calls "voluntary cooperativization." That is to say, instead of outright confiscation of the land from its landlords, or its collectivization, only the land of those landlords who did not cooperate with the Chinese Communist Government was confiscated.

Otherwise, as in industry, so in agriculture, there are private farms as well as State farms, as well as joint private-State farms. The lot of the Chinese peasant is still the bowl of rice, and no more.

'LET FLOWERS BLOOM'

The internal crisis, in this limited state capitalism, has produced dissatisfaction among all layers of the population, including the intellectuals. The totality of the crisis produced Mao Tse-Tung's sensational speech, which ordered, "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom, Let a Hundred Schools of Thought Contend."

From this abstract freedom, however, Mao's particular totalitarianism was showing badly. Despite the many "flowers," it seems that one, and only one, party, the Chinese Communist Party, must rule. Mao rejected the two-party system as a bad capitalist plot. It is clear, that the so-called democratic, that is, capitalist, parties can exist only insofar as they do not contend for power by any test of vote, much less of mass strength. Thus, has forced labor produced its own type of forced brain work.

MAO "DISCOVERS" CONTRADICTION

Mao Tse-Tung, ruler of China, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, and leader of its Army, caused a world sensation with his speech on "Contradictions." The speech was made to a closed session of the Supreme State Conference, on February 27th. It was not released until June 18th, after substantial "editing."

It would seem, from the unofficial version of the speech, which appeared in Poland, that Mao had claimed to be the discoverer of contradictions. He stated that "Marx and Engels did not know about these problems . . . Lenin mentioned

them but did not enlarge upon them."

In the officially released text, Mao toned down the "originality" of his discovery by attributing it to "Marxist philosophy." He magnanimously stated that "Lenin gave a very clear exposition of this law" (of contradiction).

The official text might as well have made him the sole discoverer of the law of contradiction, since there is no doubt whatever, that in the manner in which Mao expounds this law of development, it is neither Marxist nor Leninist. It is revisionist.

Not by accident, there isn't a single mention of the whole philosophy of which contradiction is a part: Dialectics. Marxian dialectical philosophy centers around contradiction as the motive power of development, but it does not stop there. The contradictions of capitalist society are resolved only through the attainment of freedom.

MARXIST—HUMANISM

It is the solution of contradiction which distinguishes Marxism. At one and the same time, Marx took contradiction out of its all-too-general context, concretized it as the law of development of capitalist society, and showed that the class struggle, in overcoming the antagonism between worker and capitalist, will thereby abolish the class structure of society. This specific contribution characterizes Marxian dialectical philosophy, or Humanism, as the theory of liberation.

Mao, on the other hand, trying to pass off Chinese state capitalism as something that is socialist, is compelled to tread along two diversionary paths: (1) the objectively-based antagonism between exploiter and exploited, he transforms, from an antagonistic contradiction, into a contradiction which, "if properly handled, can be transformed into a non-antagonistic one and resolved in a peaceful way;" (2) out of the differences within the capitalist class, he creates a new antagonism between bad capitalists, whom he calls "bureaucrat capitalists" and "imperialists," and good capitalists, whom he calls "the national bourgeoisie."

(Continued on Page 5)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

The Slaughter of Miners Continues

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—On March 25 1947, the nation was shocked by the news of the disastrous explosion which blasted through the Centralia No. 5 mine at Centralia, Illinois, and which dealt horrible death to 111 minors. Investigations revealed that the explosion resulted from negligence to conform to safety precautions as prescribed in the Federal Mine Inspections Law, which was passed in 1941.

LAW WITH NO TEETH

This law, however, did not empower the Federal Mine Inspectors to enforce any of the recommendations they made when they found unsafe conditions. They could recommend, but the operators could, and did feel free to ignore these recommendations.

In Congressional hearings, centering around the Centralia explosion, John L. Lewis quoted statistics showing the staggering loss of life caused by coal production.

SLAUGHTER IN COAL

From 1942 through 1945, there were an average of 413,500 miners working, even then, being reduced very much each year. In that period, there was an average of 60,097 non-fatal accidents each year and 1,324 fatal accidents each year. The grand total in loss of life and those injured: 5,295 dead, 240,388 injured.

Lewis wanted teeth put into the Federal code. Mine inspectors should have the "right to close mining operations not in conformity with (the) code of standards," Lewis said.

LAW WITH TEETH

The proposal made by Lewis has been realized. Laws now in effect, authorize any Federal mine inspector to close any mine he considers unsafe. In truth, some mines have been closed by the Federal mine inspectors.

But the more forcible truth is that the needless slaughter of miners continues unabated. Indeed, if anything, the rate has increased.

(Only about 75 per cent of the miners, now employed, work underground. The rest are used in the expanded processing requirements above ground.) From 1952 through 1956, there were 1,750 fatalities in the mining industry, or an average of 438 killed each year. In that same period, there were 92,907 non-fatal accidents, or 23,227 maimed each year. And this with some 225,000 miners working, a figure that is constantly decreasing.

This means that, on the basis of a miner working an average of 200 days a year, every day the miners work, there are more than 2 men killed, and 116 hurt in accidents.

Cries have been raised to the high heavens, especially when a disastrous explosion occurs, protesting this brutal loss of life and limb. Yet it continues. Putting "teeth" into the Federal Code, to enforce the safety standards as they are prescribed, has not halted this needless butchery.

PUT ON SHOW

When the Federal and State inspectors are to inspect a mine, they are advertized in advance. The result is that the company puts on a show for the inspectors.

At all other times, management concerns itself exclusively with coal production. Don't worry how you get it; just get it. Thus, the tragic loss of life and limb continues.

A mine may be safe at 10 in the morning, but with the

terrific pace that the miners work and rip and tear their way into the coal seam, with modern productive methods, it can become completely dangerous in the space of a few hours. By 4 o'clock in the afternoon this same mine can be deadly ripe for an explosion.

The pit-bosses know about it. But they are under the constant pressure of production.

THE ONLY SOLUTION

No, it is not management which can or will stop this terrible loss of human life and injury. Only the men, with complete power and control over production and the method of production, can effect this. When the men have this control, then, and only then, will this greatest shame and disgrace to industrial America be eliminated.

Emphasizes Mine Conditions District 31 Convention

WEST VIRGINIA — District 31 had its Scale Committee Convention, on June 7 and 8, in Fairmont, W. Va., at the Moose Hall. Delegates from the various Locals in the District were elected to represent the men in determining which of the resolutions submitted were to be adopted, for guiding the Scale Committee (which was also elected) when, and if, they were called upon to sit in on negotiations for a new contract.

CONDITIONS EMPHASIZED

The great majority of the resolutions, submitted by the rank and file, dealt with conditions of labor, better seniority, better enforcement of a revised safety code to meet the present dangers of mining.

As for direct money issues, a resolution, calling for equal pay for all inside and all outside miners, was adopted, with each getting the top rate for his respective work. The other money matter dealt with vacations, with slight increases for those who have worked for a year or more, and greater payments for those who have worked for 10 years or more.

DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE

The procedure of the convention was quite democratic. Any delegate could, and many did, speak on any subject that came up. No attempts were made to "put anything over on the men."

Actually, there was no need to try to circumscribe the convention. With only Lewis and the coal operators' representative constituting the negotiating team, as has been the case for the past 6 years, there is no reason to be concerned with what the men pass in District Conventions.

As one of the Scale Committeemen said, "In the past 4 years, I've had 3 days' work as a National Scale Committeeman." All they do now is ratify what has already been negotiated by Lewis and the coal opera-

tors. But they no longer are allowed to participate in the negotiations themselves.

COMMITTEEMEN ELECTED

Three National Scale Committeemen were elected to represent the District in National negotiations. Whether they will actually participate in negotiations is questionable, but what they represent is not.

Two of the 3 men have a long history of opposition to the District and its policies. They have been leaders in strikes and disputes for many years, actions which were generally taken in opposition not only to the District, but the International as well. The men who were elected certainly do not represent a vote of confidence for the District and its policies. As a matter of fact, it was almost a complete repudiation of the District's policies as they have been practiced.

District Official OKs Segregation

Fairmont, W. Va.—Those District officials don't have much sense. Here we are at the convention at the Moose Hall. Instead of keeping his mouth shut, Urbaniak (District President) tells us that those of us who belong to the Moose can eat our lunch here after we adjourned the morning session.

EXCLUDES NEGRO DELEGATES

If he wouldn't have said anything, it would have been much better. Anybody knows that the Moose don't allow Negroes to join. When Urbaniak made that announcement to the men, I and a few of the other colored delegates just looked at each other. We all had the same idea. Here was the District President telling the men, or some of them, that they can eat in a place that has discrimination.

—Negro Miner

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

NEGROES WANT TO BE FREE

What will the Southern cities do next to try to keep the Negro people down and back as far as they can? The Negroes of Montgomery, Ala., are going on to fight to win their rights in Montgomery, no matter what the NAACP leaders say about "Wait until you hear from us."

WAIT FOR WHAT?

Wait for what? The Negroes of Montgomery have things going their way and getting so many things changed from the old backward way that they used to be when I was living there.

In my visit to Montgomery I saw where the Negroes fought and made a way where they can now park their cars on the main streets, like Dexter Ave., Court St., and so many other big streets.

When I was there, in this visit to the South, I saw where the Negroes had the White Citizens Council going into the court house to have a meeting about signing the civil rights bill for the Negroes of Montgomery, Ala. But they didn't come to any agreement. I went by to see if I could make a way into the meeting, but no Negro was allowed in except a few Uncle Toms.

EMPTY BUSES

Now, about the buses. You never see a loaded bus like you used to see before they had the bus boycott. There may be 6 or 7 Negroes and 3 or 4 whites on each bus now.

Now, in the city of Birmingham, Ala., the Rev. Stallworth is trying to get the Negroes to join up with the Negroes of Montgomery in fighting for civil rights for all Negroes of the South. So the bus drivers of Birmingham, Ala., are trying to do something to keep them from starting a boycott there.

MOVING SIGNS

When a Negro sits in front of the sign marked "for white only," the driver gets up and moves the sign forward up to the first cross seat so he can say that he only asks you not to sit in the very front seat.

But the poor bus driver doesn't know whenever that time will come for the Negroes of Birmingham, Ala., to get the bus boycott to start. It can just start all at once. The bus drivers don't have to worry about trying to hold things back like they used to be because Negroes want to be free.

READER CRITICIZES DUNBAR'S COLUMN

I read one of your papers at the NAACP Convention. I was so surprised to read the column of Ethel Dunbar. She must be a hater of the white to write such things in the April 2nd paper. It made my blood boil for I am a Negro also and the white folks I know are not against us Negroes. They try to help us. But some of the Negroes I know won't let the white people help. They say the whites interfere.

My children go to school where there are a few white children. They tell me the Negro teachers treat the white children awful. They say to them, "Why don't you whites go to your own school? We don't want you here." And the little white children just cry.

ASHAMED

I have been in this white family's home. They treat me as if I was one of them. If I need any money all I have to do is to ask. Or if I say I need something, they will say, "No, Annie, you take this money. You have done more than this for us."

I say, Ethel, you write apologies. I have read other papers you have written too, and I say I am ashamed of my color to know they say such things about the white people.

—A Reader
Detroit

P.S. I am enclosing a dollar to help pay for this to go in your paper.

EDITOR ANSWERS

I wish to thank the reader for her contribution, and to assure her that her letter

would have been printed whether or not the dollar was enclosed.

NOT FRANK

Ethel Dunbar's column, "Big Leaders Are Falling Apart," in the April 2nd issue, strikes me as a very forceful and powerful column, telling the truth about life as she sees it and lives it. The reader who raised objections in her letter, cannot truthfully say she is being frank with herself.

Every Negro knows there are such things as prejudice and hate by the whites towards the Negroes. That's why there is an NAACP, and that is supposed to be why they were holding their Convention when the reader read the paper.

Some people will not express their feeling about it for fear it will antagonize some of the whites. When the reader says, "White folks I know are not against us Negroes," I don't feel she's honest with herself.

CAN'T CLOSE EYES

Many Negroes have friendly relations with some whites, but this doesn't close their eyes to the situation they are faced with. They see, hear, and read, every day, of brutality, oppressive laws and mob violence against Negroes. They also see these so-called good whites sitting very quiet. Ethel Dunbar's column dealt mainly with Negro leaders betraying the Negro people.

—Editor.

Time-Study Means Job Elimination

DETROIT—I've never seen a time-study man time study a job the year round. It used to be that they couldn't do anything once a job was timed, till next changeover. Now they time constantly and eliminate jobs.

They had two of us welding a place on hard tops—weld, heat, and bend down—one on one end, and the other on the other end. We do every third and fourth job. The shop steward and time-study man came down and called the committeeman. They said that one man could do the job. They argued with me.

JUMP OVER CARS

I said, a man has never been made to jump from one job to another. They came back and built a walk-bridge over the cars, so I could go from one car over to the other. The committeeman told me I didn't have to do it, or I could take care of it so that every time I go over the bridge the job is taking off before I can work on it.

JOB KILLED

Two weeks later they built a stationary job, on a bench at a far end of the department. I didn't know about it and the other worker didn't know about it. They brought down another worker from the fourth floor to do it, and he's working, bending right and left. They timed him and put the jobs away.

They came over to us and said they had eliminated the job because it can be done on the table. I said I wanted to see that because it is my job.

The guy said, do I want it. I said I wanted to see it. I went over and asked the worker how many he was doing. He said he didn't know. They asked if I wanted the job, so I said I would try.

After a couple of days,

they came over and asked for 67 an hour.

I told them I've only been doing 25 to 27 an hour.

SPEED-UP

They told me I wouldn't be there much longer if I did only 27. I got a guy to help. The time-study man came over and said production is 54 an hour, and in a week there are supposed to be so many jobs left over that my helper would only have to work two hours and then be sent somewhere else.

I asked the foreman and time-study man how the job could be done; where did they get 54? I asked the time-study man, how many jobs did he time?

He said he didn't know; he gave it to the foreman.

I said, "You didn't count the jobs?"

He said, it wasn't his concern; I should speak to the foreman. The foreman told me he would give me a guy in the morning, for an hour, trying to suck me in. Then he said, "Keep up with the line."

PRESSURE

The pressure is, that after you do it, and take a break, they might come back and raise it.

The night shift left me a note on how to do the job. Now, I can do the job easy and get my break. So what are they doing now? They're eliminating the job. They've built some kind of die to do it.

—Production Worker

Over 5000 Lay-Offs Expected With Chrysler's '58 Model

DETROIT — They claim now that 5,000 workers at Chrysler, will be out of jobs permanently with the new, 1958 model. We also know that this changeover won't pick up like last year's, because it usually runs one year good and one year bad.

MORE AUTOMATION

They are bringing in some Automation again, this time it is going into the paint department.

We had a sitdown in our paint department. They got a machine sitting inside of the booth where two men used to work, blowing out the dust, one on each side. Now they put the machine there. The machine has slot holes about 2 feet long. It does a wonderful job on the roof but doesn't get the lower panel and side of the job.

The door hangers and fitters have to eat the dust from the machine. When we worked in the booth, we

would blow it off so it wouldn't go into the workers' faces.

BLOOD TESTS

We get a blood test every month, but the hangers and fitters get it every 3 months, and by that time you could be all dried up. So, one night, we just sat down and wouldn't do the job. They had to go back to the old way of doing the job.

The committeeman blamed supervision. Anybody could see the lead on the bodies. Now they are building blowers to go with the machine.

TOO CLOSE

It was never this close before, because General Motors and Ford had Automation first. There's a lot of talk over the shop, not just in one department, we're going to have to fight Automation and hold these men. They are getting laid-off because of it.

—Production Worker, Chrysler

WORKER FACES MANAGEMENT WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

DETROIT—A fired worker, at the plant where I work, said it is awful that workers are paying Union dues for representation. He was fired for having whiskey on company property. His work record was nearly perfect, never had a word to say in union politics or anything.

His supervisor told him that because he was discharged by the plant guards it was impossible for him not to be paid-off. But, because of his good record, he would

attach a statement to the payoff slip that may help when he is brought before the labor relations man.

UNION NO HELP

This worker said this was more than the Local Union officers did to help him. They told him he should know better. He should go to see the labor relations man and no matter what he says, he should keep his mouth shut. Maybe then he will get his job back.

This worker has 14 years seniority. But, in the office of labor relations, that morning, he was alone. He felt that the Union officer should have been there as his counsel.

Years ago, a worker was told never to face management without representation. In the past several years, workers had to go on their own while the Union officers play golf or just lounge around in office swivel chairs.

As this worker stated, "You have to accept all and any type of abuse from the labor relations man. All kinds of

name calling and you have to sit and take it." He said he was so angry, it felt like he was going to burst open.

The labor relations man said he is lucky his record was pretty good, "but I see where you were not at work 2 days in 1948. Where the hell were you? I see, again, you were late one day in '52, why?"

RUDE ABUSE

He got a 10-minute abuse like that. When labor relations told him they shouldn't take him back, but would give him 3 weeks off and then rehire him, the worker said he was at the point of striking this man, but managed to hold back. If he had been fired definitely he would have.

The company also took away his two-and-a-half weeks' vacation pay because his name wasn't on the payroll as of June 1.

The worker said, "We must work out some method of protection against this situation. They are so rude, the average worker can not believe it but we will have to convince them before it is too late."

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

THE BOMB'S HAVOC — WITHOUT WAR

No matter what happens these days—tornadoes, hurricanes, electrical storms, and floods — no government agency or scientific stogie will be able to convince the people I work with that these things are not the effect of the bomb-tests. They can come out and say "clean" bombs or "dirty" bombs, it makes no difference. The average person is not as dumb as some think they are.

First, they tell you they have harnessed the greatest power on earth. Then, test after test, they expect people to believe that these explosions do not really effect many changes.

STORMS

The papers reported that the last one tested here in the U.S., lit up the sky from Oregon to Mexico. Three days before, the girls at work were saying, "Watch, we will have a bad storm."

Sure enough, Detroit had what one neighbor called the worst electrical storm he has seen in the 50 years he has been living here. This storm resulted in floods throughout the city and suburbs.

GERMS

Now, stomach pains seem to be going the rounds. One girl even said she was convinced they

were practicing germ warfare on us.

EARTHQUAKES

The paper also reported earthquakes in Siberia, where there has never been one but where Russia tests out her bombs.

It seems the rulers in both countries show the least concern for the ones they claim to do everything for. They stop at nothing, wars or the like, so why should the effects on our lives from H-bomb explosions stop them?

CLEAN DEATH?

As a friend put it, "The feeling I have, and I think many workers have, is that things are at a high pitch. Guys bring in issues of daily papers that report on these storms and say, 'Look at these houses and people. They're all poor people.' They separate their mind from God, asking, 'Why does He pick on poor people.'"

"They tell us they need to drop the bomb to stop Russia. But, the way they keep going, if and when Russia comes here, there won't be anything left of us.

"Nobody can convince me it is not the bomb. Now, they're trying to ease our mind and soul by saying they have a clean bomb."

WHO'S RIGHT?

"Automation holds out the promise of vast improvements in living conditions, leisure and national strength. It promises the elimination of routine repetitive jobs."

—Walter Reuther
President, UAW

"Let us remember that the automatic machine . . . is the precise economic

equivalent of slave labor. Any labor that competes with slave labor must accept the economic conditions of slave labor. It is perfectly clear that this will produce an unemployment situation in comparison with which . . . the depression of the '30's will seem a pleasant joke."

—Norbert Wiener
Professor, MIT

Detroit Headline: 108,000 Unemployed

"EFFICIENT" MINE MANAGEMENT

Pursglove, W. Va. — A couple of men on the section were talking about how "efficient" mine management was, and how much "consideration" they gave to the men. They were talking about the trackmen.

TWO HOLES

From where we were eating, we could see them working over a couple of places. The section was being changed. Old track had to be pulled out and placed in another heading.

The only thing was that in the heading where the track had to be laid, there was a block stopping that had been put in to regulate the air when the section was heading south. They were turning it west and the stopping would have to come out. But the boss wasn't of a like mind. He told the trackmen to knock two holes out in the bottom of the stopping where the track was to go.

Handling track, under the best of conditions, is one of the roughest jobs there is in the mines. But having to drag the rails to those small holes,

then getting them through and placed up on the other other side was murder.

ROUGH AND UNNECESSARY WORK

The trackmen were really knocking themselves out. And they were mad. They knew that a couple of pieces of canvas, properly placed, would have allowed them to knock out the stopping completely and given them the freedom to move that they really need to do their work. But the boss was going to have it his way. And his way it was.

What added insult to injury was that after the men had laid up the track and gone through twice as much work as there should have been, the boss had a couple pieces of canvas put up and told the men that they could knock out the stoppings.

One of the men said, "You know, I thought that the army was the worst place I'd ever seen for doing things the hard way. But compared to you guys, they do things real easy."

MOONLIGHTING

One out of every 18 workers, in this country, is holding down 2 jobs simultaneously. The total, according to the United States Census Bureau, is a whopping 3,700,000 workers involved in this rat race.

The Census Bureau revealed that the dual jobholder is usually a married man between 25 and 55—the group raising families and financing big purchases. Moonlighting, as it is called, has doubled since 1950.

EDITORIALS

INFLATION

The cost of living in the United States reached an all time high in July and is still going up. Now, U. S. Steel Corp. has raised the price of steel by \$6 a ton. This would not seem like much if it were to be passed along in proportion to the weight of steel that is found in common commodities. But that is never the case.

In a new automobile, the increase would amount to about \$10, but when the new cars come out in the fall their prices will be up over \$100—ten times the amount of the steel hike. Every manufacturer of commodities will raise the price 5 to 10 times the cost of the steel, and then blame the whole affair on organized labor.

Michigan raised the cigarette tax by 2c per pack, on July 1. The price in the store rose 4c a pack. The State figured this tax would bring in \$25 million a year. The extra 2c tacked on by the manufacturers will bring them 25 million a year in extra profits.

The big daily papers are fond of blaming the wage-price spiral on the workers. Nothing could be further from the truth. Inflation begins when capitalists bid against each other for scarce commodities or raw materials, and then raise their prices. As prices go up, labor needs more money to live. Every wage increase, won by labor, is followed by a price increase which not only wipes out the gain but in most cases is double the amount of the gain. So it is with U.S. Steel. The workers' wage increase amounted to no more than \$2 per ton, yet the price increase is \$6 a ton.

In a period of inflation, the workers never win. They are never able to catch up with prices. But the profits of the corporations continue to reach new peaks.

As one worker expressed it, "You have to run pretty fast these days, just to stay where you are."

NAACP CONVENTION

The NAACP has just concluded its national convention in Detroit. The hand-picked delegates were subjected to a week-long parade of speakers: reverends, labor leaders, like Walter Reuther, self-styled experts on law, housing, labor and discrimination. All of these people were full of advice for the Negro people, how they should act, think and vote.

For the NAACP lawyers it was a field-day. They wrote long and important sounding resolutions which are always passed unanimously. Yet, when it was all over, the delegates were as speechless as they had been during the convention.

The convention is not the highest body in the organization. It serves only as a sounding board and, at best, as an adviser. Any and all resolutions and actions of the convention can, under the constitution, be countermanded by the National Executive Board. This board, made up of Negro newspaper editors, lawyers, ministers, white liberals, etc., set and establish all policy, and in every way dominate the entire life of the organization.

Members pay their yearly dues of \$2 but have no say in policy. Membership meetings are called only during the annual membership drive. The only point on the agenda is how to get more new members. Demands that the organization take up the defense of some poor Negro, half beaten to death in a local police station, are ruled out of order. Only one case out of a hundred submitted gets any kind of attention.

If the NAACP were controlled by the rank and file Negroes it could become the most powerful voice of the Negro people. If the leadership were not deathly afraid of the real voice of the Negro people and their aspirations and activities, the NAACP could become a powerful instrument that would end all segregation within a year or two. The policy of "gradualism," followed by the present leadership, has not even gained them the right to exist legally in a number of Southern States. Yet they continue to confine their fight to lawyers' arguments at the very time when some States have passed laws declaring the NAACP a "subversive organization."

"Whether, in self-defense, the NAACP will push to a more militant line is doubtful since, at the moment, they are holding on to a coat tails of Eisenhower and the Republican Administration. If, however, they are determined thus to tie their own hands, they will not succeed in hampering the movement of the Negro masses, as was shown by the Montgomery bus boycott and is shown daily, North and South, in the activities of the Negro people.

Readers'

LEADERS & RANKS

The working man has had a hard fight for Labor Leadership. This same Leadership is now his worst enemy. The Reutherites will stop at nothing. What more can they do to prove that they are for the capitalist instead of the worker?

* * *

I watch the Reutherites work every day. They are in favor of the company's policy to pay the production worker on afternoon shift on Friday night. Yet they know the banks are closed on Saturday. This leaves Monday of another week to take care of business for his family.

The company does not care a thing about this. While the rank-and-file of Mack Ave., walks out to make the company change its pay day back to Thursday, the Green Slate at Outer Drive says Mack Ave. is crazy, and the company is right. This is only one of the items which the Reutherite Green Slate bosses are guilty of.

* * *

The Green Slate has 3 slogans:

- 1) Keep the production worker behind its iron-clad curtain of "No Representation."
2) Always have a job for a Green Slate brother and to hell with the others.
3) Always fight for the production workers by favoring the company. After all, the production worker is too stupid to know the difference.

* * *

This is the national Reutherite slogan: Always have the company on our side and the production worker in the middle.

I close in saying: This is taxation without representation.

Chrysler-Outer Dr. Detroit

* * *

Reuther's sure putting on an all-out drive to put that old craft-union monkey back on our backs.

Even in the elections, the Reutherites got it to where we all vote on different ballots. The new voting instructions read: "TOOL & DIE Division workers MUST request the 'SKILLED TRADES COMMITTEE' ballot. SALARIED EMPLOYEES MUST request an 'OFFICE WORKERS COMMITTEE' ballot."

That's the end, brother. They want our strength, but they want to use it against us.

Production Worker Detroit

While the elections were going on, a worker at Canfield was cursing and raving so they thought he wasn't quite all there. He was saying, "Workers' money pays the Local officers, and workers' money pays the International Reps, so how can they possibly campaign? We can't get out the door for all of them are there, but when we go over to the Local hall to see them, they're in bed till 10 o'clock. When this guy got through, workers said, all of the International Representatives and Local officers just disappeared.

Production Worker Detroit

* * *

It's rightly considered a crime if a union leader goes about in a limousine and generally lives far beyond the standards of the workmen he is supposed to represent. But, if a big industrialist or executive lives high on the hog, that's considered normal and proper.

It seems to me that the industrialist should also be brought to public shame because his rich way of life is also unjustly based on the hard work and tight budgeting of the working man and his family.

Machinist Los Angeles

* * *

INFLATION

Mass production, boon to society. Automation, its crowning glory. The laboring man has never been able to produce so much so quickly. In some places, 2 can now do the work of 20, and much more quickly. Cars, washing machines, television sets, radios, and so forth, are produced at unbelievable speed.

Five dollars down, and 2 years to pay — or \$500 down and 10 years to pay. "Take a small loan and consolidated your debts." (At a real interest of more than 20 per cent at least.) "Finance your car on a long-term loan at less interest." One thousand dollars down and in 20 years maybe the house will be yours.

Why is it, man can produce so quickly, and yet it takes so long to pay? Is it the interest or the lender, or the gigantic war machine that we "must" build to stay "free?" Or is it a lot of people sitting on their money, claiming to do something they don't?

"In Debt" Los Angeles

The President of The Standard Oil Co., Monroe J. Rathbone, commissioned a group to study and to report to him the causes of inflation in the United States. That report is now in, and is being suppressed by the man who commissioned it. When asked why, he replied, "It is an indictment of some in industry."

Standard Oil made, after taxes, in 1956, \$808 million. When asked, "Where will this price trend end?", he replied, "I don't know. That's what scares me more than anything else. I don't know the answers."

This admission of failure to understand the world around him, could lead to chaos for the thousands who work for Standard Oil

Chemical Worker Detroit

* * *

Even President Eisenhower has admitted that the soil bank plan is rigged to benefit the rich farmer.

The facts are that the big farmer who needs aid less than the small farmer is making a living out of the soil bank program. He can afford to set aside a lot of land and get government payments while the small farmer cannot afford to set aside any land.

It seems that everything this Administration does benefits the rich and pushes the poor down still further.

Green Thumb Los Angeles

* * *

You know what I hear, when I hear Eisenhower's name? Unemployment, and hungry people. That's all that name means to me. When he comes to TV, my husband and I race each other to turn it off. Just to hear his name makes me that angry!

I really believe that if I knew my vote would save him, I wouldn't vote for him!

Miner's Wife, Sabraton, W. Va.

* * *

The Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions have accepted a \$1.65 weekly raise with a wage freeze for one year.

However, due to the increase in the cost of living, Members of Parliament have received a weekly raise of \$28. An MP's wage is now \$86 per week while a skilled worker gets about \$28, and an unskilled worker about \$23 based on a 44-hour week.

Housewife Manchester, England

News & Letters

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Charles Denby Editor
Saul Blackman Managing Editor

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

Views

I have just heard the British budget news over the radio and feel very thrilled. Income tax is to be reduced—for anyone who makes 5 times a working man's salary—while the television license tax has been increased.

Just think, the poor hard-up \$150-a-week men are getting tax relief; but the poor, sick and needy have yet to dig deeper for the privilege of watching 2nd rate entertainment. Oh well, people will vote Tory, their Ministers of Parliament are such nice men.

London Housewife
England

SOB-SISTER?

I have been reading *News & Letters* very carefully for the past 2 years. The last issue (June 18) seems to me to point up the most basic fault in the paper . . .

In article after article, *News & Letters* pities the poor worker. Why? I don't pity the worker, and I'm sure he doesn't pity himself either . . . it is he who will create a new society.

But you'd never know it from reading *News & Letters*. "A Woman's Viewpoint," written by the Miner's Wife, is a foolish and backward piece. Your publishing it without any editorial comment can only mean tacit approval of what this woman has to say . . .

It may be perfectly true that the man she speaks of is an educated fool. It may be perfectly true that she knows more through experience than this man will ever know through books. But her hostile attack against education . . . is unforgivable. While college certainly does not guarantee intelligence; by the same token, it does not guarantee stupidity . . .

This column by the miner's wife was especially significant because every issue of *News & Letters* thus reveals its own intellectual and theoretical poverty . . .

Nowhere is this more clearly shown than in the column by Angela Terrano. "I was wishing that while these learned men were talking they could look into the eyes of one, just one of those 20,000 workers . . ." Has it never occurred to this sob sister that automation can become a powerful tool of the working class? Has it never occurred to her that it is not automation that is evil, but its distorted use by the bourgeoisie? Or perhaps she would rather go back to picking seeds out of cotton by hand.

. . . Terrano should realize that only through the inevitable struggles of capitalism will workers take the products of their labor, the tools of production, for themselves. Only in a Socialist society will the full potential of automation be realized. For automation, in its most profound and accurate meaning, means, for the first time in human history, the possibility of freedom for the whole of mankind from fragmented and burdensome labor.

Three Friends
Balboa, Calif.

* * *

● We thank "Three Friends" for this free expression of their considered views, about which, of course, it is their privilege to pontificate. On one point we agree: While college certainly does not guarantee stupidity; by the same token, it does not guarantee intelligence.

—Editor

WAR & PEACE

The Chinese Communist regime is now plagued by the fact that it has educated millions of Chinese youth and now does not have advanced educational facilities or job opportunities for them. This internal failure of this so-called planned economy, which is sending youth trained for a modern industrial economy back onto the land as peasants, has resulted in widespread student discontent.

Just as in Hungary, the youth are refusing to attend standard party lectures. At Chengting, 150 miles southwest of Peking, students staged a march on the capital and Communist officials had a rough time persuading them to return to classes.

Reader
Los Angeles

* * *

Khrushchev sounded like a real pitchman on television. He took a lot of liberties speaking as he did about socialism and

progress for mankind and how the Hungarian people want Kadar and Soviet troops. He lied all over the place but the newspaper men couldn't pin him down.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

* * *

For the first time, I picked up one of the Negro papers published in Los Angeles and saw the term "Cotton Curtain." This phrase stuck in my eyes because there is a cotton curtain in the United States just as there's an Iron Curtain in front of Russia and a bamboo curtain in front of China.

Inspector
Los Angeles

* * *

The American newspapers made it appear that the Algerian rebels are just as barbarous or more cruel than their French oppressors. Much was made of the fact that Algerian rebels recently raided an Algerian village. But even the newspaper reports couldn't conceal that the villagers aroused the anger of the Rebels because they were informing on rebel troop movements and otherwise collaborating with the French.

War incidents of this type aren't pleasant and certainly should be avoided when they can be but has the American press forgotten that the whole Algerian war was provoked by the colonialism and terrorism of the French. The over-all aims of the French can be seen in the fact that they have recently crushed the entire Algerian trade union movement.

Skilled Worker
Los Angeles

* * *

You don't really know the truth when you read the daily papers. One paper says one thing and another paper says another thing. Unless you're there, you don't know.

Housewife
Los Angeles

"LET 100 FLOWERS BLOOM"



TWO WORLDS

ONLY FREEDOM CAN SOLVE THE CRISIS

(Continued from Page 1)

To deny that contradictions exist in China, says Mao, "is to fly in the face of objective reality." That most certainly is true, but it is this, precisely, which is the supreme manifestation of the class character of the Chinese regime.

Because he tries to reconcile the restless Chinese masses to the existence of capitalism, Mao has been compelled to re-define everything, including the concept, "the people."

WHO ARE "PEOPLE?"

It seems that the people are not the working people, but all those who accept the Chinese Communist regime, which Mao defines as the leadership of the Communist Party and its Army. That is how he smuggled the capitalists into the concept, "the people." Mao says: "In our country, the contradiction between the working class and the national bourgeoisie, is a contradiction among the people. The class struggle waged between the two is, by and large, a class struggle within the ranks of the people."

That fits neatly into the concept that the N.A.M., and the Administration, as well as Reuther, in this country, call "a people's capitalism." Just as, what we need to re-define in this country is not capitalism, but the class character of the labor leadership, so what needs re-defining in China is not "the people," but the class nature of Chinese Communism.

CONTRADICTIONS— WITH & WITHOUT MAO

Mao warns: "Certain people in our country were delighted when the Hungarian events took place. They hoped that something similar would happen in China, that thousands upon thousands of people would demonstrate in the streets against the People's Government."

He thinks that by admitting contradictions, which he says is facing up to objective reality to the extent of recognizing limited strikes, he will thereby avoid open revolution. That accounts for his pride in "discovering" the law of contradiction, Mao thinks that the translation of the law of contradiction into Chinese will make everybody happy as if to recognize the crisis is to solve it.

Now, it is not Mao, in the year 1957, who discovered the law of contradiction. Nor is it Marx who did. Marx recreated it from the great bourgeois philosopher, Hegel, who in the period 1807 to 1831 gave this law its most profound interpretation in *The Phenomenology of Mind, Science of Logic, and The Encyclopedia of Philosophical Sciences*.

What Marx did, that was new, was to show that it summed up the law of capitalist development, all of which he proved in the three volumes of *Capital*. In brief, Marx held that, whereas all class societies developed through contradiction, only under capitalism does it reach the intensity whereby it can be transformed into its opposite—freedom from capitalist wage slavery. Capitalism, he maintained, produces its own gravedigger in the working class.

TRANSFORMATION INTO OPPOSITE

Just as Marx concretized this law for capitalism, so Lenin concretized it for the working class organization itself. At the outbreak of World War I, when the Second (Socialist) International betrayed the working class, Lenin demonstrated that it was due to the fact that a part of the working class had become transformed into its opposite—the aristocracy of labor that profited from the super-profits of imperialism, and thereby undermined the working class nature of the Second International.

In a different historic period—World War II—this is what happened to Communism, which became transformed from its Marxist-liberating base into its opposite, a state capitalist, totalitarian philosophy.

CHINESE & RUSSIAN REVISIONS

Mao admits that, just as under ordinary private capitalism, the basic contradictions in Chinese society "are still those between the relations of production and the productive forces, and between the superstructure and the economic base." This is precisely the Achilles' heel upon which Mao's father superiors—the Russian theoreticians—also fell, when, in 1943, they were compelled to revise Marx's economic theory of value.

No matter by what name it is called, capitalistic relationships, at the point of production, reveal their exploitative nature. Why Russia "chose" to revise Marx's economic theories, and why China "chose" to revise Marx's philosophy, is due both to the totality of the world crisis and to the important industrial differences between the two countries.

Russia has become an important industrial land, a country that possesses values China is a vast underdeveloped land, whose main possession is not the machine, but the human being.

600,000,000 HUMANS

It is precisely this backwardness which has pushed China forward to pose—only to pose but not to solve—its crisis in human terms. Six hundred million human beings will not long be bottled up in contradictions. They are sure to find the true revolutionary solution.

—R.D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

Sometimes, if the men aren't happy with the way production is going, they'll even go so far as to change some of the personnel.

About 8 months ago, this guy hired into a department in my plant. Let's call him "Smith." Right away, everyone could see he was a wheel. If you couldn't see, he'd tell you. To hear him tell it, it was a shame he had to work for such a low salary because he was used to three times as much. To hear him tell it, he must have flown about 5,000 missions in World War II, and now he's a commander in the VFW.

KNOWS IT ALL

He'd buttonhole men, as they walked down the aisle, and give them long explanations about the job he was working on. He acted as if it were his own personal invention and he was the only one who knew anything about it.

At first, it was a joke. Everyone began asking, "Did you hear about that guy, Smith?" His actions and stories were something to talk about in the locker rooms.

PANTS ON FIRE

Pretty soon, though, he became a problem. He worked as though his pants were on fire. Some guys would tell him, "Slow down. Work like everyone else." He didn't pay any attention. All, but a few, completely stopped talking to him. When this happened,

he just got more chummy with supervision.

Smith had been bidding on higher classification jobs all along, but never had the qualifications. One job, he bid on, was in a department where all the guys act like a select clique. Some minds began clicking, and the guys in our department figured it would be sensational if they could help Smith into that department. We figured that would get us rid of Smith and he'd really fix those snobs up in the other department (and we'd kill two birds with one stone).

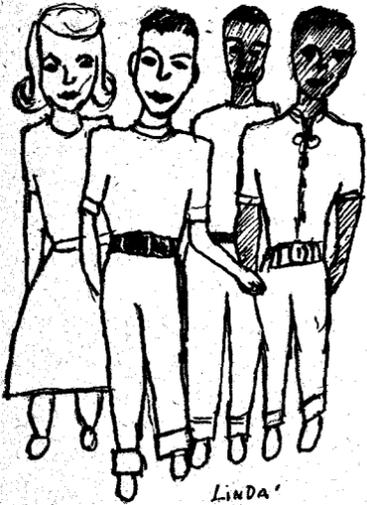
HELPING HANDS

Smith is a fast but careless worker. So, everyone began to help him out, catch his mistakes, act buddy-buddy. One of the guys from the floor was recently made a foreman. Those who were close to him told him what a smart guy Smith is, and wasn't it a shame that a guy like that wasn't up-graded. The steward offered to write up a grievance for him. Meanwhile, Smith continued his own brown-nosing.

The other day, Smith was told he's going to be up-graded. He and the whole department are pleased as punch.

Our regular foreman, who just came back off vacation, knows everyone hates Smith's guts. He says he thinks he's now beginning to understand what happened.

PREJUDICED MOTHER CHASES NEGRO BOY — YOUNG DAUGHTER LIKES HIM



LINDA

WEST VIRGINIA—A woman I work for doesn't speak very kindly of Negroes. She had two little girls, one 5 and the other 4. Down the road from the house, lives a colored family and there is a little colored boy of 4 there. He comes up to play with the youngest girl.

KIDS PLAY

But the mother I work for doesn't like this, and she tells the young boy to go away. I was in the basement the

other day and I overheard the little girl talking over

WONDER WHY?

the fence with the little boy. She told him he had such a pretty sun-tan, and she pulled up her skirt and said, "I'm getting a sun-tan like you."

He just laughed. He asked if he could play with her, and she stopped to think. I guess she was thinking about who was looking after her right then, her mother or me. Then she saw me, and she said sure he could play with her.

Her father likes for her to play with him. She came in for kool-aid one day, and when I gave her some she asked for some for him, too. Her father told her never to take a drink for herself without taking one to her friend as well. That evening, she told her father she thought she was going to marry her little friend.

It makes you wonder. If a child of 4 can have that attitude, why can't grown-ups?

—Baby-Sitter

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?

West Virginia—I am one of the graduating seniors from High School. I am a Negro. After the handing out of the diplomas, all of the children, that I went to school with for three years, were going out to the dance hall for a party which was being given for all the seniors of the High School.

Well, I went along, but I didn't get to enjoy the party like the rest of the kids.

'WRONG' COLOR

I went into the dance hall with the rest of my classmates. We were all laughing and having a good time. Then I went out to the bar to get a couple bottles of pop. I was waited on by the owner of the place. He said that I would have to leave. **Why? Because I am a Negro. Not because the kids didn't want me there, but because the owner didn't like the color of my face.**

Well, I left the place, but I returned about an hour later by request of my classmates who came and took me from a record hop which was going on at a place not far from the dance hall.

I knew that I was not wanted in the place by the way the owner looked at me. So I said to him, "You don't want me in your place, do you?"

He replied, "No, I like white trade in here only."

LOYAL FRIENDS

Well, my friends got pretty angry and were going to tear up the place. But I told them that was the wrong thing to do.

Then they said, "If you leave, we leave."

I told them to go ahead and have their fun, no use their spoiling their celebration on my account.

The owner said he would call the law, and I told him to go ahead and call the law. Finally, he agreed to my staying. But why did all that have to happen because I am a Negro and the owner didn't like the color of my face?

A Woman's Viewpoint

WOMEN STAND ON THEIR OWN

WEST VIRGINIA—When we were first married, my husband started out handling all the money. I was used to managing my own budget until then. I had worked and supported myself, and it was pretty tough to take at first.

I wasn't used to not having any money to buy what I needed, or having to ask for a dollar for something I wanted. I never had a cent in the house, even to pay a bill, or get anything on my own.

On pay-day, we all went to the store together, and the kids and I could put anything we wanted in the cart, but my husband held the money and paid the bill. Finally, I just couldn't take it any longer.

NO BREAD

I waited until we were out of bread one day, and didn't say anything about it. I just didn't put any bread on the table for the meal. When my husband came to the table and wanted to know why, I just told him we were out and I didn't have any money, so I couldn't get any. He had to go to the store after it, before he could eat his meal.

Next pay-day I just stayed around the house and didn't get dressed to go to the store like I usually did. When he wanted to know why I wasn't dressed yet, I said "Why should I bother being dressed? I don't have a penny to buy anything with. You have the money, you go to the store and get the groceries."

That broke that business up, right then.

It wasn't really so strange the way my husband had been, either. That's the way a lot of men used to be. What broke it up is the women just not taking it anymore.

WOMEN MANAGE MONEY

Women are standing on their own now. They've worked out themselves, and they just don't take what they used to. As a matter of

fact, now, it's the other way around. Now, my husband signs the check and asks me for what he needs.

NOT 'BOSSY'

It isn't that I really control the money in our family, but that I manage it. Whatever he asks for, I give him. Whatever we spend, we go over together. Every pay-day I make a list. I put down an estimate of the groceries we'll need, and list all the bills that have to come out of that pay. At breakfast, we over the list item by item. If he questions anything, I have everything worked out, so I can show him why we have to pay that bill this pay. If he still objects, I'll cross it off. I don't feel that I'm being "bossy"—I'm just giving him the "facts."

Some people can't live by a budget that way. But if we didn't do it, we'd just go and buy and wind up with nothing when we really needed it. There are all kinds of ways to keep within a budget. I do a lot of canning, for example. And when we have to go skippy for a while, we don't buy certain things at the store, and use some of the canned supplies instead. We often make some things substitute for others that are too expensive to buy.

KEEPING A BUDGET

The main thing that keeping a budget means to me is that my conscience is clear. It doesn't always work, but at least I know that I've tried, and that means a lot. Otherwise, if things got tight, or he got laid-off and we ran out, I'd be blaming myself for not managing right.

I couldn't live skippy all my life, even so. When things get too bad, even a budget doesn't help. That's when you have to leave the kids and go out to work yourself. I've done it before when he was laid off and there was no other way, and I know I can always do it again.

—Miner's Wife

A Housewife's Views on Married Life

A true marriage is made in heaven. There are some people that marry in name only, but those that are not united together by God don't get along. They end up in separation and divorce.

Give and Take

Some married people just don't try to get along and don't pull together. You have to give and take and work together to have a happy married life. Some men take their wives for granted for they know they are there when they need them. If a woman doesn't take care of what her husband brings in, they cannot ever expect to have the things they want.

Sometimes, it's good for both husband and wife to be apart for a few days. Then they know how to appreciate what they have together, and they know how much they miss and need each other.

Married 28 Years

I have been married to my husband for 28 years. We married during the Depression. Our 28 years hasn't been a bed of roses, by any means, but we have trusted each other and worked together. We have laughed together, as well as cried together when we didn't know where our next meal was coming from. But we made it somehow.

When I think back to that time, I don't hardly see how we did make it

but we did, and we have had 8 children that we are very proud of. We had 4 boys and 4 girls. We lost one of our little girls in 1937.

"Production Line"

It was said I was running a production line for my husband. That hurt for a time, for I feel that if there were more women who would start running production lines, as they call it, and try to keep their homes together, and their husbands happy, there wouldn't be so many homes torn up today. If that is what it takes to keep my husband happy, I'm willing to start another production line.

—Happy and Contented Housewife
Detroit

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE . . .

"Unemployment & The '58 Model
Changeover"

. . . WATCH FOR IT

RANK & FILE WORKER ASKS:

WHY SHOULD REUTHERITES GET PREFERRED TREATMENT?

DETROIT — There was a Reutherite committeeman, who called himself "Alabama", and who was defeated in the May elections of Local 212. The Reutherite boys that lost out in the May elections were supposed to go back to work according to their seniority rights.

6 YEARS, 11 MONTHS, 25 DAYS

As I understand it, the "great" Alabama got the Local officers to negotiate with the company to give him 6 years, 11 months and 25 days more seniority than he legally has a right to have. This way he is able to hold a job in Chrysler 59 Dept., which is the skilled trades dept., and which pays top rate. Otherwise, he would not have enough to work in 59 Dept. and would have to go back to work as a production worker.

The men in 59 Dept. are not liking this, as you can imagine and they have asked the Local officers for a departmental meeting. The officers refused to give them a meeting on this particular case.

"UNIONISM" OR "REUTHERISM"?

The skilled trades workers think they are better than the production workers. Many times they act for their own benefit and don't give a hoot about us production workers, though they want our strength when they need it. And the Union has turned its back on us in favor of the skilled and white collar classifications. But right is right, and in this case one has to ask: Is this Unionism or Reutherism?

I can understand that a

Union brother is entitled to protection from the Union. If he is defeated for office the Union has to look out for him and not let the company take advantage of his defeat. But why should Alabama get a special deal, the way it seems, when there have been men who were anti-Reutherites who have lost everything when they were defeated — their seniority and vacation pay — and had to start anew.

ONE CASE—

This man has seniority that goes back to when the Union began, '36 or '37 — but as a production worker. It took him a few years to work his way on to the bargaining committee. That's why he was a little slow getting up-graded to a skilled code. The Union generally negotiates that kind of up-grading to top rate — for white committeemen.

Negro committeemen — not even Reutherites — never get up-graded that way, because no Negro breaks into the lily-white skilled departments. If he gets defeated he's got to go back to his production seniority.

This man who calls himself "Alabama," was up-graded to a skilled code classification in 1942. He was paid-off in January, 1945 and was re-hired June 18, 1954 on skilled code 2067. He was paid-off again, September, 1945; re-hired, March 1946; paid-off, November 1951; and re-hired January 25, 1952. According to the contract, his seniority should go back to January 25, 1952. Why should he have got his seniority dated back to June 18, 1945, when others don't even get what's coming to them?

—AND ANOTHER

Here is another case. There

is a man, with a perfect work record, who was given a leave to go home for 30 days, for a personal emergency. He couldn't get back in time so he sent a telegram. He wasn't paid-off by the company. When he did return to work, the company put him back on the same job that he had before. But when the company put out a new seniority card for the man (which they do every so often), it didn't carry his back seniority. They gave him seniority only from the date he returned from his leave.

He went to the committeeman with this grievance. The Committeeman sent him to take it up with the Local officers. One of the Local officers said he'd check, and then he came back and told the man he had been paid-off and there was nothing they could do.

The man said, "No. I never was paid-off. I have lost time, but only for layoffs. Never for a pay-off."

The Local officer said that the man had been paid-off and that he had seen it in the record. But the company has no record of the man ever being paid-off. They claim to be willing to give him back his seniority, but they can't unless the Union agrees. The Local officer, however, said he'd fight against the man getting his seniority back before he'd agree. Why do they treat this man this way, and then turn around and give Alabama such preferred treatment?

OPPORTUNISM?

There are men who work in the cushion and trim departments who will tell you that, along about 1945 or 1946, when Alabama was working in those departments, he started a sitdown against Negroes coming into that department. There are others who will say that he uses the name "Alabama" so Negro workers will think he is a colored man and will vote for him when he runs for office. The rank and file workers must not have had much use for him or they would not have defeated him in the last election.

We, the workers, organized our Union to cut out brother-in-law and son-in-law deals and to respect seniority rights regardless of who the man is, colored or white. If they get away with this deal, the production workers are wondering what next step will they take against us in the shop.

WE CAN WIN

There is a way we can win out, for we have won before and we can win again.

If we turn out overwhelmingly we can show them that they are not going to run the Union this way; that we are not as dumb as they think we are; that we are the Union and they, the local officers, are just the workers for us.

The quicker we production workers come to realize this and force them to that issue, the quicker we will have our Union again and can stop the making of deals behind closed doors against the working force.

—White Production Worker

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

A NEW MEANING TO WORK

Though approximately one out of every 50 employed persons in the United States works in a hospital, there is a shortage of hospital workers. This is true of interns and nurses down to food handlers. A large percentage of interns now come from among refugee European doctors and from Latin American countries. Hospital services are very expensive these days, and patients waiting for beds indicate good profits. Still hospital wage rates are and have been traditionally the lowest of any field.

The most acute problem is the nursing shortage. Continued appeals, for more women to enter nurses' training, are heard everywhere. In some hospitals, at present, inadequately trained people are assigned to some nursing duties of which they have little knowledge. There is now also a move to cut down the length of nurses' training. I think a better remedy is to be found in higher salaries and freedom to organize for improved working conditions.

OLDER PEOPLE ARE COMPETENT HUMANS

For a time, I was in opposition to the growing trend of employing elderly women for nursing work. Many of these are trained nurses who come out of retirement. Others are women well along in years who more recently took a short vocational training course in practical nursing. I no longer oppose this trend because in one hospital, with which I am connected, I have seen how much better care these women gave patients, and how much more comfort and support they often give the sick than the formally trained nurses. Though there are emergencies in which younger people, with quicker reflexes, are preferable; for understanding, interest and sympathy, the older women are often better than the younger.

The carrying on by elderly people of both physical and mental activity is very important for their own health. While this is an oft-repeated phrase, we now realize it as a fact with a sound scientific basis. I have always been interested in the remarks of very old people regarding the reason for their longevity. Not infrequently, one hears strange things: smoking cigars, drinking whiskey, wearing long heavy underwear, eating only meat, living only on fruits and vegetables, remaining single, etc. The most significant reason to me is continued activity. Movement seems to be inseparable from life.

WORK PROLONGS LIFE

In a medical publication, devoted to the elderly, GERIATRICS, there recently appeared an article, on Automation and aging, in which it is stated that the present social economic order is harmful to the elderly because it denies them the benefits of work and continued activity. A man is often considered unemployable at 45. The aging process — degenerative diseases and decay of the human body — is facilitated by today's living. The disability caused by the common type of arthritis in the elderly is due more to overweight and lack of use, rather than the over-use of joints.

However, it is not only the elderly who need a new approach to work. On occasions, when talking to people about a different kind of living — one in which the central motive of action would be what is good for the human being — it is difficult for some to accept, or even to understand that human beings will do what is necessary without the pressures that drive them today. Given a choice, they say, no one would be willing to do hard or dirty work. They are also certain that there will be some people who will not want to do any work.

NEW APPROACH NEEDED

We certainly have turned work into something abnormal, something apart from good living, something alien, and have divided it into physical and mental, into drudgery or a superficial act to get by with. We have turned something essential for human life into that which produces disease.

For generations we have been told by religious leaders and pillars of society that work is human salvation. This is true, but not in the sense that it is often used as a means of drowning oneself — as an escape from troubles and sorrow. Hitler used it to liquidate human individuality in the totalitarian State. Work, as creative activity, is our fulfillment as conscious living being. It is as necessary to human health as breathing. The present trend toward the 4-day week or the 4-hour day may be desirable as the way of escaping the horrors and pressures of present-day labor. This however, is not the answer to the problem of human health. It is not merely a quantitative change in work that is needed but a new understanding, a different qualitative approach to all human activity.

LETTER TO A POLITICAL PRISONER

There may be times, my brother,
When you will feel abyssmally alone,
When your fingers will tremble through you hair
And your eyes will close against those walls.

When the long days are hard and the long nights are cold

And the Earth seems a faraway planet
Circling with all its wonderful millions
A million miles beyond your eyes.
You will long for the voice you loved,

For the hand that was warm in yours,
For the footsteps that measured your own.

Then suddenly in the painful night
Your nerves will leap to wakefulness,
Your eyes will shudder around the cell . . .
As suddenly,

in the deep warm bed
I shall awaken
And in that brutal lightning moment
We shall be together.

That is the tremendous fact . . .
That is what they cannot place on trial,
Cannot imprison,
Cannot kill . . .

The brotherhood that lets us scorn their jails,
The love that mocks their iron doors
Their corridors of silent stone.

You stand
feet astride
in the prison cell,
In a strange and terrible voice
you cry

With thunder over the land,
And wherever I am in the darkening city
I hear and answer your heart's proud call . . .

—Tom Malcolm

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BRITISH TRADE UNIONIST SAYS:

Automation Needs Legislation

(Editors' Note: We have recently received some correspondence from a British trade unionist, Mr. W. G. McLean, Secretary of the Hartlepool Trades Council. We are happy to print below, both Mr. McLean's article and his covering note. The question he raises is vital for our time, relating, as it does, to the worker's life under Automation. Our readers are invited to comment.

Indeed, our next issue will be largely devoted to general comment on the problem, and to the specific impact that will be felt here, in Detroit, as a result of the 1958 model change-over.)

I enclose herewith a short article of approx. 450 words for your consideration, which poses for your readers what may well be described as a 'Sixty-Four Thousand Dollar Question.'

Even though for many years a keen student of American social history, and after having put the same question to Mr. William "Bill" Gausman, the U.S. Embassy's Labour Relations Officer in this country, I have yet to hear an answer that rings true.

I would be most grateful for your readers' opinions, or any editorial comment that you may wish to make on this yourself.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Your sincerely, W. G. McLean

A Case for Social Controls

Here, in Britain, no one—least of all the leaders of the unions—believe that the problem now confronting the Detroit automobile workers can, or will, be solved by purely industrial action. Already, when throughout most of British industry automation is merely in its planning stage, forces are in motion to ensure that when the prospects of its general introduction becomes immanent, appropriate social legislation will be waiting that will assist in affecting a smoother transition.

Of course, no one can give any guarantees of how smooth that transition will be! Nor would it be possible to predict the eventual outcome of these same forces in the United States that are, at the moment, causing such heartbreak and misery in the homes of so many of our American colleagues.

British Worker Looks To Politics

The one outstanding feature, in the attitudes adopted by the one section of the community most likely to be hard hit by its adverse affects, on both sides of the Atlantic, is that whereas the British working man—because of a deep-seated mistrust of the profit motive and its bedfellow, avarice—has never believed that his problems could be solved purely and simply by industrial action and so made political preparation, our friends in America have

tried to give Eugene Debs the lie.

Even though the essential characteristics of us both, whether we come from Detroit or Chicago, Nottingham or Bristol, is an inherent longing for some stable form of economic security; the sources of our ultimate salvation appear poles apart. Perhaps here, out of the social chaos it can create, automation will give the "rat race" the lie?

To display a little of that looked-for English eccentricity, I would even suggest, that the mass introduction of electronic controls into American industry will, in the end, not only prove the earlier "ravings" of Gene Debs right, but right even beyond his own wildest dreams!

Not only would it require a drastic alteration in the social outlook of the present Heads of the vast American Corporations to disprove that prediction, but, and here one can only judge from current popular opinion, it would need an equally drastic change (toward politics) in the present outlook and constitution of American unionism.

Reuther Is Important

The simple truth, that so long as the Corporations strive to achieve the greatest possible output with the barest minimum of manpower, means that someone, somewhere, will be compelled to introduce social legislation to re-regulate the purchasing power that will consume that output. By the very nature of this process, Walter Reuther and the whole mammoth industrial organisation he leads are left as impotent as a fly in a pot of treacle.

Unless it can seriously be anticipated that the owners and operators of industry would rise to the occasion by enacting such legislation themselves, for what reason has political action been ignored?

Why No Mass Labor Party?

Why is it, I ask the readers of News & Letters, that American labor has never given mass support to its own political party? The answer to that question today, may not be of much use to Debs, but I for one am certainly interested.

W. G. McL.

RUSSIA

The latest purge of the Soviet High Command disposes of Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich and Shepilov, and places Khrushchev firmly in command as the leader of Russia. Khrushchev, who rose to his present prominence as the advocate of "collective leadership," and the foe of "the cult of personality," has now done away with the collective leadership and substituted his own for the cult of Stalin.

The capitalist press hails the change as a good omen for peace. Many radicals, including Trotskyists, seek a road to a rapprochement with the new boss of Kremlin. All of these people have short memories indeed.

Khrushchev rose to prominence as the butcher of the Ukraine, a henchman of Stalin. He was the author of the fantastic plan of the Agro-gorods, the agricultural cities in virgin lands of Russia, which transplanted millions of Russian workers and peasants. He also commanded the Soviet forces that drowned the Hungarian Revolution in blood. This dictator is no more merciful than Stalin.

Khrushchev now possesses total power, as Stalin did. His example will end the squabbling in the Communist parties throughout the world, and finish the discussion about whether several points of view can exist side by side in the same organization. The state capitalist economy, of the countries under the control of Communist parties, will continue in Russia, China, Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria, etc. The total exploitation of the workers of these countries will continue unabated.

The newest purge was brought about by the ever-increasing dissatisfaction and unrest in Russia and its satellites. The blows delivered by the Hungarian Revolution to the pretensions of a better world fostered by Khrushchev, required a shot in the arm. The disarmament discussions in London, required some assurances that the "West" was dealing with a man of power to carry out his promises. Khrushchev has demonstrated that he is in control. His de-Stalinization is, however, mere window dressing. Nothing essential to the workers of the world has changed in the slightest.

HUNGARY

Despite the world-wide protests from every quarter, including such well known Communists as Pablo Picasso and Louis Aragon, the Kadar regime in Hungary has executed

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

the young medical student, Ilona Toth and her three comrades. She was the one who openly defied the court when she was charged with treason, after the bloody Hungarian Revolution. She aroused the sympathy of the world by her defiant plea.

Among those protesting her death sentence were Bertrand Russell, Julian Huxley, Jean-Paul Sartre and the President of Peru, Manuel Prado. The U.S. State Dept. was not on the list.

GERMANY

Konrad Adenauer is campaigning for re-election. He has the full backing of German big business to the extent of a \$14 million campaign fund, plus the blessings of the American State Dept.

One of the major issues is the nationalized industry, which the Social Democrats want to maintain and big business wants returned to private hands and profit. Adenauer stands for turning over such successful firms, as Volks-Wagon, to private hands.

In Berlin, it is reported that conditions are at a boiling point, very similar to the conditions that led up to the events of June 17, 1953.

Recently, 5,000 students staged a mass parade and demonstrated, in East Berlin, protesting a cut in their living allowances as students. The demonstration was conducted as a silent one, just the marching and massing of students at government buildings.

JAPAN

Japan emerged from World War II defeated, but fundamentally a strong industrial nation. General MacArthur, a firm believer in capitalism and in private property, would tolerate no looting or destruction of industrial plants. He stopped the production of aircraft and munitions, nothing else. The machinery of the country was relocated and devoted to "non-military" purposes.

The net result has been that Japan, today, is as strong an industrial nation as it was on the eve of World War II. But, along with this fact, lies the problem that Japan faced in the same period.

The low standard of living of the Japanese people, the unemployment, the need for more living space for a steadily rising population—these problems remain more pressing than ever. Anyone who has witnessed the Japanese attempt to cultivate the sheer sides of mountains by means of small terraces, cannot but sympathize with their herculean efforts to provide food for themselves.

Japan cannot exist without international trade and the exchange of their goods and services for the food that others produce in overabundance. The United States will not exchange its food surplus for manufactured products which compete with its capitalist industries. England and France maintain similar positions.

Where, then, is Japan to turn? It is turning to its neighbors, Red China, Indonesia, Burma, India and the countries of the Far East. Japan was quick to join England in abandoning the U.S. boycott of Red China, its best market.

The new Premier of Japan, Nobusuke Kishi, a one-time convicted war criminal, rides the crest of a wave of popular sentiment for his policy of a Far East trade block, to be financed by U.S. funds, if he can get them.

Despite the signing of a peace treaty, Japan is not free to control its own destiny or to put policy into effect that would improve its world position. Everything must be "cleared" with the U.S. State Dept. first. American troops and planes are still stationed on Japanese soil.

It was such troops that led to the famous Girard Case. The only eye-witness, the soldier McNichols, now admits that Girard shot the Japanese woman after first enticing her to come closer. This contempt of some American soldiers for other people, especially those who are not white, has led to deep resentment abroad. If American soldiers are permitted, with immunity, to use colored people as targets then America can earn nothing but hatred throughout the world.

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