

NEWS & LETTERS

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Taxes, Lay-Offs, and Sputniks

The leaders and rulers of this country are all up in the air over the failure of their satellite. This is top news in their everyday existence. Working people are worried about job security and a common way to exist. Many are not seriously interested in this man-made moon.

Workers, all over, are talking about the unemployment mounting throughout this country, and the misery and suffering many workers are facing. As the daily papers state, 4 million or more will be on the streets in 1958.

Some workers say they cannot see why so many companies are moving out of Detroit when unemployment is the same down South, and all over the country.

UNEMPLOYMENT ALL OVER

In Birmingham, Alabama, the industrial center of the South, the lay-offs are so severe that workers with 10 and 15 years have no chance to hold their jobs in steel mills and pipe shops.

A Ford worker says it looks the same here in Detroit. At one of the company parts plants, there will be a 50 per cent lay-off beginning the first of the year. Any one can see this takes priority over the U. S. moon in the minds of many workers.

WORKERS CARRY THE HEAVY LOAD

Another worker said that the workers who remain employed will have to pay higher taxes to make up for those unemployed, the same as workers have to pay higher dues to keep up the same money going to the International union treasury.

The records show that 83 per cent of the government taxes are paid by wage earners who earn \$6,000 or less. The records also show that the big 3 auto companies made a profit from 85 to 100 per cent more than last year. Chrysler topped the field with over 1,000 per cent more profit than in '56—with at least 25 per cent less manpower.

How can the working people think of the satellite as the most important thing today? As some workers said, when the officials released the statement that it had bugs in it, they knew it wasn't going to work. It takes several months working on a new model auto to get the bugs and kinks out of it. Maybe those scientists should work in the factory for a year or so, and learn from workers what to do about bugs and technical difficulties.

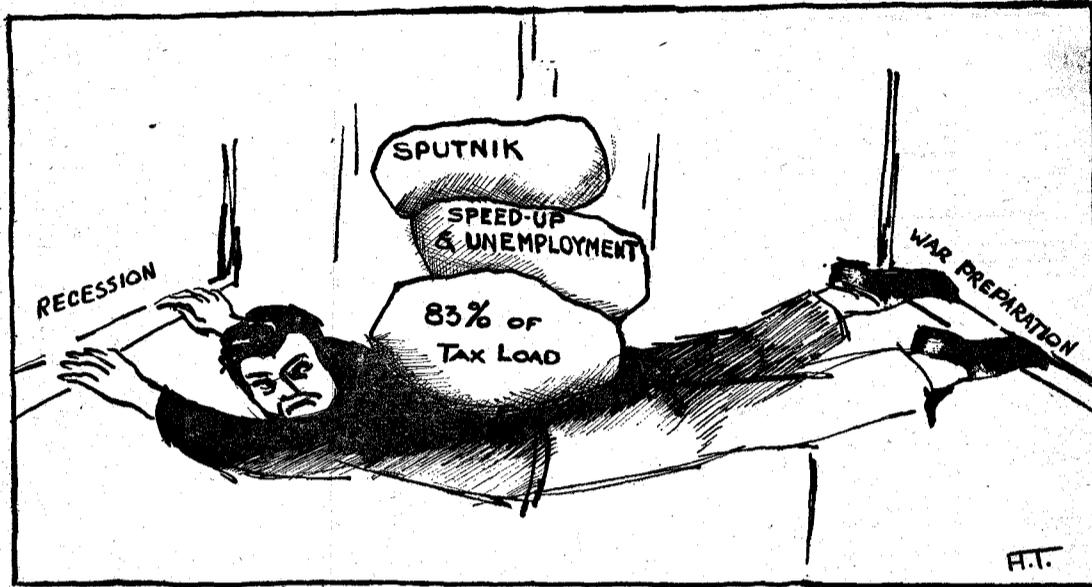
The \$64,000 question is: Will the American workers go through the loss, suffering and misery that they went through in the 30's?

Working people know they pay the big majority of the taxes. The corporations and the rich get by without paying through phony exemptions. In '29 and '30 workers did not have as much to lose in comparison with what they have today. Many are saying they are not losing it or letting anyone take their life earnings away.

WORKING CONDITIONS UNBELIEVABLY BAD

Working conditions in practically all plants are unbelievable. Safety does not exist any more. Speed-up is at its top peak. Workers are beat after a day's work. Union leaders and committeemen and stewards, some years back, would say to a worker, "Take it easy. You don't have to kill yourself." Today, they say there is nothing they can do; you will have to do what the foreman says.

Everything, in this total crisis, is directed against the working people. We pay the bills for this world and suffer first and most for what happens in it. We give our blood and life to defend it in wars, and only get the crumbs that are handed out after it is over.



YEAR'S-END REVIEW OF U.S. ECONOMY:

Things Look Worse for '58

The day after America's Sputnik flopped before it even left the ground, newspapers and commentators across the country were busy writing millions of words about the calamity, while statesmen and official scientists were tearing their hair over the crisis.

That same day in Scott's Run, a mining community of West Virginia, a large group of unemployed miners gathered in a long line in the rain, waiting for surplus food rations for their families. It was a scene undoubtedly repeated all over West Virginia that day, for the lay-offs have been hitting so steadily and widely throughout the coal fields, that the area has been placed high on the distressed list.

It is a safe bet that the frantic commentators, statesmen and official scientists cared little if anything about the unemployed miners that day. It is equally certain, from what the unemployed miners were saying, that they cared little if anything about the satellite that failed. To the unemployed workers, the loss of their jobs was far more important than the State department's loss of face.

When Russia's first Sputnik so alarmed the country's "intellectuals," spokesmen for them were heard on TV and radio berating the average American for his lack

of concern; for his unawareness of how serious the matter was; for paying too much attention to things like unemployment and Little Rock, and too little to outer space.

TWO NOSE-DIVES

As usual, the ordinary American was quite justified in his own concerns. Of the 2 nose-dives with which the year 1957 has ended—one, the much ballyhooed "American Sputnik," and the other, the even more ballyhooed "American Prosperity"—the nose-dive which the American economy has taken is much more serious. It gives every promise of

growing even more serious in 1958.

The official economists are unanimous in their gloomy prediction that the United States is in for a real recession next year. They even admit, what most non-experts have known for some time that the recession has already started. The happy optimism with which official economists and big industry looked forward to the year 1957 has turned to grim soberness at the actual developments which characterized the economic life of the country.

A record high of \$39 billion were invested to increase the productive capacity of industry in 1957. Plants were retooled and more automated machines were introduced throwing hundreds of thousands of workers out of jobs. The jobs that remained were speeded-up to give the same or greater production.

Of all of the leading industries listed Business Week, the magazine of big industries listed in Business operation is 82 per cent, whereas the average desired rate of operation is 90 per cent. The production index fell an alarming 1½ per cent during the 5-month period from April-September, 1957, as compared to the 6 months from October, 1956, to April, 1957. Manufacturers plan to spend 16 per cent less in 1958, than they spent in 1957—which means that they will spend even 9 per cent less than in 1956.

Season's Wishes

THIS I BELIEVE

This I believe . . . a day shall come
When not on all Earth's lovely face
Shall there be even one lone slum
To mock us with its foul disgrace;

When never more the human ear
Shall shudder to the sounds of war;
When men shall face life free of fear
And wonder what a bomb was for.

A sun shall rise shall smile upon
An Earth where none shall starve, nor grieve
For youth's bright dreams now dead and gone
Unrealized . . . This I believe.

A world unsoiled by hate and pain,
Where age shall smile and children dance
That man has entered once again
That Garden . . . Our inheritance.

—Tom Malcolm

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COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

The Only Thing "Union" About Hand-Loading Mines Is Dues

WEST VIRGINIA — My husband was laid off from one of the mines here. He has been out almost every day, looking for some work.

He got a job working at one of these small hand-loading mines. This is supposed to be a union mine. At least, that's what they call it. He paid the dues the same as where he worked before; and the operator pays into the welfare fund the royalty that the union mines are supposed to pay into it.

DOG'S WORK AND DOG'S PAY

He got a job there all right. But after 3 days, he quit. He just couldn't take it — and he's worked in a lot of places in his time where the work has been plenty rough.

For those 3 days he made \$19. Out of that \$19 he had to pay \$6 for his powder, which left him \$13 for working like a dog for 3 days.

NOW—NOTHING

Now, he's getting nothing. He quit working there, and if you quit working some place, you aren't entitled to unemployment compensation. He would have been

better off, and so would our family, if he would have just signed up for unemployment compensation when he was laid off instead of getting that job where he made less than unemployment compensation would pay him. But I guess he feels that he has to try to get something. **A man just doesn't feel right if he can't make a living for his family.**

THROWN OUT

We've been through some rough times before and this looks like another one of those times, because I know they'll never call him back where he worked before, even though he has 18 years at that mine. They laid off some men who had 25 to 30 years there. **It just doesn't seem right for a man to work so long at a place and be just thrown out like he was nothing.**

I know the coal operators don't feel that way, but I sure would like to see them be in our shoes for a while. Maybe they'd learn something about how people have to live.

—Unemployed Miner's Wife

This Is Ridiculous

SCOTTS RUN, W. Va. — They've reopened the Rosedale Mine not very long ago. All the men had been laid-off, but now they're starting it up again. I'm not a member of that local, but I went to their local union meeting with a friend of mine who was working there. You talk about a mess. Boy, they sure have it.

You might as well say they don't have any union at all. They had all those men working there before, but the company is getting anyone they want.

What they call the mine committee there went to see the management about getting the panel and seniority list, but the company said they didn't have one! **The company is hiring men who have never worked in that mine before, while men who have spent years there are still walking the hard road. The company told them that they would make a panel and seniority list, but that it wouldn't affect any of the men they have put on. Now this is ridiculous!**

Whose Future Is Bright?

OSAGE, W. Va. — There have been lay-offs at 2 of the large Consol mines in this area. They knocked off the midnight shifts at both mines, knocking some 300 men out of work. At Kelley Creek mine, also in this area, one of the Valley Camp mines, there was a general lay-off of some 75 men. In the Fairmont area, it is reported that Consol is also cutting out the midnight shift coal producing crews.

POOR SENIORITY HURTS OLDER MEN

At best, the miners have a poor system of seniority, which is based upon classification. The bitter fruits of this agreement are now being realized, as they have in the past, where men with 10-15 or more years seniority are being laid off and men with but a few years seniority are kept working. Most of the older men can do other jobs, but have no opportunity to bump someone in another classification. They are just out.

The evils of this agreement have time and again been very forcefully brought to the attention of the miners when lay-offs have occurred. It was brought with equal force to Lewis' and the International Officers' attention at the last UMW Convention. The pleas of the men have fallen on deaf ears. Lewis and a host of coal operators and government officials have painted very bright and rosy pictures for the future of the coal industry. They talk about the increasing need for coal and how many more millions of tons will be needed in 1965.

WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?

The future for the coal in-

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

WHEN WILL OUR DAY COME TO BE FREE?

When will our day come for us to be free in a time like this? It seems to me the politicians of the United States can't get their Sputnik to go up because they spent too much time thinking how to make up some kind of "law and order" to put the Negroes under.

Just like the article that was in the daily paper last week: A white man down South says that there should be a law against white people who call a Negro man and his wife "Mr. and Mrs." and by their last name. He says that is giving them too much honor, and that it will make them think that they are as much as the whites.

CRAZY IDEAS

That put me to thinking: How can some white people think of such crazy ideas, when the Negro people can think for themselves? Because it looks crazy when white people start saying things like this white man, or when they try to get it fixed so that the Negro people can't vote.

It sounds crazy, but do you know that sometimes the government lets things like this go through by not doing

anything about it? Is that what we call man-made law? **CAN MAN BE FREE?**

The biggest question of today is: **Can man be free?** Well, I want to say that I believe if poor white men who write crazy articles would change and write something to help all poor white and Negro people, **it would be a chance for all mankind to be free without having to fight for it.**

But, if they keep on writing such powerful articles against the Negro people, the politicians sometimes make laws out of these things and use them against the poor white and Negro people both.

STOP & THINK

If the poor whites stop and think over how the politicians do, and how the 60 rich families, who control just about all of the money that is in the United States, they will see what a big mistake they are making by not writing articles to help themselves — and the Negro people — fight to make mankind free. **If they stop and think, we all can live a free life forever.**

Miner Spends Last \$20 for Kids' Thanksgiving (What Could He Do for Their Christmas?)

SCOTT'S RUN, W. Va. — On Thanksgiving Day, I was talking to a miner who had been laid off from one of Consol's mines in this area. He has a large family, but, like so many others who have been laid off, this makes no difference.

The company doesn't figure on what the families or the miners need, they figure on the basis of what they need in terms of production and how they can make the most profits in terms of money. Men working are just figures to be put with other figures — that don't feel or know any want — like machines and acres of coal.

DEAD DOMINATE LIVING

You have so many acres of coal; so much machinery and so many men. You put them all together and you get so much profit in terms of money — something else which is also without feeling but which is the aim of all coal operators. If it requires fewer men to get their profits, the men suffer, for they are the ones who feel the consequences because they are human beings. Coal cannot feel anything, nor can machinery. **The dead dominate the living with this scheme of life.**

This may be the way the operators of the coal mines operate. The miners who have been laid off, and the ones who still remain working do not see, or feel, that way.

THE KIDS SUFFER

"You know," this miner told me, "I don't mind so much for myself or my wife. We're old enough and have been through rough times and we know what rough times are. But with the kids, that's something else. When I was working, they'd go to the frigidaire and get themselves some fruit. An orange, an apple or what they might want.

"But now it's different. I'm not working and we can't have the things we had. It's not much, but it means plenty. Just like last week, my boy said, 'I want an orange', and he went to the frigidaire. He expected for it to be there. But it wasn't. We just didn't have the money to get the things we had always had before. So he goes to the frigidaire and there is no orange there. That's what hurts. It brought tears to my eyes."

MORE THAN MONEY

"O.K., I said. Today's Thanksgiving. I'm going to see to it that they have what they want. I went out and spent my last 20 bucks. So my last 20 bucks is gone, but at least, today they're going to have the things they want. Now this is gone; I don't know where the next money is coming from. But at least I can see them laugh again. **That's worth more than any money to me.**"

Worker Praises Negroes' Non-Violent Struggle

LOS ANGELES — In both Montgomery and Little Rock, the Negro people have won their battles through a strict adherence to the tactics of non-violent resistance. However, after the Negro adults were beaten in Little Rock, one white reporter told of being unwilling to go into the formerly peaceful Negro area after sundown because of the great anger of the people there.

It is quite possible, then, that the continued use of violence by the fascist anti-Negro element in the South will force the Negroes to go beyond the passive resistance that has been such a useful method up until now.

EXPERT VIEW

Even that leading spokesman and theoretician for non-violent resistance, Mahatma Gandhi, agreed that while "gentleness" was preferable there were times when the oppressed should resort to other means. In his book, **"Non-Violence In Peace**

And War," he said, "I do believe that, where there is only a choice between cowardice and violence, I would advise violence. . . I would rather have India resort to arms in order to defend her honor than that she would, in a cowardly manner, become or remain a helpless witness to her own dishonor."

THE VIOLENT SOUTH

It is the great credit of the Negroes of the Southern States, of course, that they have not been provoked into a rash and unplanned attack upon the reactionaries of the South.

The eyes of the world have thus seen that it is the Southern reactionaries who have repeatedly used violence and that the Negro people have answered with serene human dignity.

Who then will be able to blame these oppressed human beings if finally they are compelled to go from passive to active resistance?

—Factory Worker

industry and the coal operators may be bright for '65 and '75, but the immediate and long range future of the coal miners is anything but that. The miners can look only to more of what they have been experiencing for the past 7 years — continuing lay-offs with the men being displaced by machines that run at ever greater speeds. The increasing automation of mine equipment as the continuous miner has conclusively demonstrated, does not lighten the labor of the men. **It speeds them up beyond the limits of physical endurance.**

Another related, but more important, consequence of this trend on the emphasis of "better" machines is the complete disregard for any values based upon the human being. The miner more and more becomes just an appendage to the machine, and is the most expendable. "To hell with the miner, save the machine," will become even more of a byword than it is at present. For, as the company will tell any miner, the machines cost thousands of dollars. And they can pick up an unemployed miner any time.

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

Production Workers Want Their Rights in the '58 UAW Contract

DETROIT. — Walter P. Reuther has just made another pretty speech in Atlantic City about going after more pay and the shorter week for our 1958 UAW contract negotiations with the auto industry. He also said he's against that Texas Sen. Lyndon Johnson's plan to make the 40-hour week illegal.

He is doubling up his tongue as usual. How can he be against Johnson when he thinks we are dumb workers if we don't care about the Democratic politicians he says we ought to vote for?

If Johnson has his way, we'll be working a 90-hour week, and Union will be gone. It won't be Reuther who stops him—it'll have to be the production man.

NO WEEKS & NO PAY

How can Reuther get us the shorter week with more pay if he doesn't care how many production workers get fired and how much the rest of us are speeded-up? What happened with his "great" '55 contract? We can all see: No weeks and no pay.

Automation has thrown thousands and thousands of men out of the industry. Brother Reuther forgot them before their compensation ran out. We now have no security except the street. Reuther's '58 contract will be worse—unless we production workers make it better.

FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS

1) We want security for our men. We want to get all those men back who have been eliminated in the last 3 years. Their families had to suffer and they're still suffering. The few who got back, got back without pay. Most never got back.

2) We want a more concrete basis of representation. We want representatives who will stand fully for, with and behind the production man.

3) We would like to have it specified that shop grievances be settled in the shop and immediately. We don't want grievances by the hundreds carried over from one week to the next until months pass and the grievances finally die in a new model, and new grievances pile up.

4) We want it where each and every production worker can feel that he has a voice in the way a grievance is settled. We don't want to have to make an appointment to go to the Local, and then way out to Outer Drive (main headquarters of Chrysler Corp.) and still not be satisfied.

STOP THE GIVE-AWAY

You have bragged about what you have done, Brother Reuther, now let's see you get off the pay wagon and get some of these things for

the production workers so that we may be able to see and feel that we are getting something out of the Union we built, instead of giving it all to the Company.

5) Let's force into our next contract of '58: No Discrimination, and force out these lily-white departments. And let's be Union brothers instead of race and craft conscious.

OUR BACKBONE

Let's get these departments to where seniority rights hold regardless to whether a man is a production worker or a skilled craft worker, or white or colored.

We have been told by these bureaucrats, that the colored man has not got the education to hold skilled jobs and is not qualified. That might have been so 100 years ago, but we have plenty of production workers, white and colored, on those lines who have education and ability to hold down any job in office or skilled trades—but they fence us out.

I remember when Brother Reuther made his talk from a loud speaker, when we were organizing, that these things that I have spoken of were the backbone of our Union. Where does he think our backbone is now?

Southern-Born White
Production Worker

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

WHAT ARE WORKING PEOPLE TO DO?

I often wonder what working people are supposed to do these days. Every week the unemployment office seems to be more crowded. There are very few jobs available. Those that are available are either defense jobs and out in God's country, or salesgirl jobs, many of which pay below the minimum by using one trick or another to get around it.

HOW TO LIVE?

On the bus, coming home from the unemployment office today, I met a woman who worked in a factory for more than 10 years and was laid off 3 weeks ago. She's gone to food packing houses—no help needed. She said she went to a branch of the A&P and the guy didn't even let her in—just stuck his head out the door and shook it, "No."

She was furious because she had to spend 40c to get there and back. Her husband just went back to work after 5 weeks on sick leave and the insurance company still hasn't sent the last 2 checks. She said, "How are people supposed to live?"

This little story may not seem very important, but the same thing is happening to thousands of people. Most of them are men with families to support.

GIVE-AWAY

After spending a day like that, you go home and sit down and watch TV. "Queen for a Day," "64,000 Ques-

tion," "Beat the Clock," or "The Price Is Right," where thousands of dollars are given away by one company or another.

The other night, on "The Price is Right," a man won some luggage and, as a bonus, he received up teen leather jackets, coats, vests, etc., etc. for him and every member in his family.

I don't begrudge this man his winnings, and I wouldn't mind being in his boots. But doesn't it seem funny—in this land of ours, where so many people are out of work and have to live on \$30 or \$50 a week while their compensation holds out—that these T.V. programs give all this money away? Why can't it be given to some unemployed workers?

PREFER WESTERNS

No wonder people are turning to Westerns on T.V. If it is not these quiz programs, you might be watching George Jessel, in whose expert opinion nothing can happen to our American economy.

Or, worse still, you might see Bob Considine who has just returned from visiting Russia. He tells the American audience that after meeting Kruschchev, and seeing the new apartment buildings going up, he is now certain there will be no war. Mind you, not a word about the Russian working people, not a word about the Sputniks, but just that Khrushchev has a sense of humor.

Chrysler Corp. Punishes Los Angeles Workers for Exercising Union Rights

LOS ANGELES—Following a 3-day walk-out, at Chrysler, over the firing of the chairman of the Shop Committee and two chief stewards, the men returned to work on Friday.

The day shift worked one hour, and the night shift worked 4 hours. This was due to the new company policy that Chrysler announced: if, at the end of 4 hours, management doesn't think that all the cars produced are 100 per cent OK (meaning "good enough to be shipped"), the men will be sent home because of poor workmanship!

This means 4-hour shifts for everybody. Management has forced such a brutal speed-up that they have to work every week-end just on car repairs.

COMPULSORY OVERTIME

In the meantime, the Union says they have cut out all overtime. I was under the illusion that no one had to work unscheduled overtime on the week-ends unless he wanted to.

But tonight, the foreman passed out week-end passes to those with enough seniority for Saturday and Sunday overtime.

They weren't asked if they wanted to turn it down or not. They were told that if they didn't show up on the week-end, disciplinary action would be taken.

—Chrysler Worker

LITTLE ROCK EVENTS SPARK NEW PROTESTS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN PITTSBURGH MILLS, STEELWORKER SAYS

PITTSBURGH—It seemed to me there was a lot of tension in the mill after Little Rock. There's about 3,000 Negroes at our mill, and in the area we're working the Negroes are maybe 45 per cent of the total force. They do all the hard work.

TENSION

In our gang especially there seemed as much tension among the Negroes as among the whites. Something would happen and somebody would say it was like Little Rock. Almost no matter what might happen, guys would accuse the boss of discrimination.

The thing was that he was getting that sort of thing from both sides—the whites accused him of discriminating against them, too. He was in one heck of an awkward position — no matter what the issue was, everybody put it down to discrimination.

"PUT UP A SQUAWK"

If you put up a squawk you can get some things accomplished, but in a lot of the labor gangs they're still working them the way they want to. And they'll keep on if the men don't say anything.

They're still taking whites out of line by saying they need them in the machine shop or some other spot like

that just for that one day. Then they keep him again the next day. And after that, they just keep him permanently. They don't put the job up for a bid and that way, they keep the Negroes from trying for it.

"GETTING UP THERE"

I was talking with one of the master mechanics out there the other day. He was talking about how "my people" were getting up there.

I told him about how many times I'd tried to get off the labor gang—and never had yet. But he wasn't talking about that—he was talking about some Negro who had been upped to boss in the sanitation department!

He said the white men had taken the country from the Indians, and now we wanted to take it from them. I told him, "We don't want to take anything—we just want a fair shake."

His kind of argument always gets me. Out of 3,000 Negroes out there, one gets a "break" in a department somewhere, and the other 2,999 are supposed to be satisfied. That's no progress so far as we can see. It'll take more than that to make up a fair shake—let alone take over the country!!

—Steelworker

GM Worker Defends News & Letters, Asks Why Union Leaders Oppose a Paper Which Is Written by Workers

Someone showed me a copy of the UAW paper ("Feather Merchant") where News & Letters was blasted by the Los Angeles Chrysler Union President for being anti-union and carrying anti-union articles. (See News & Letters, Nov. 1957).

NOT ANTI-UNION

News & Letters is not anti-union, it is anti-bureaucracy which is far different. It is completely devoted to the basic union principle that working people must organize in the defence of their own interests and furthermore states that no one should rightfully speak for workers except themselves.

If the so-called anti-union articles in this paper are read on their merits as creative thinking by workers it can be seen that the labor bureaucrats are attacked only when they act against the interests of the men they are supposed to represent, which unfortunately happens much too often.

It can also be seen that far from being mere gripes, each criticism contains within itself a worker's thought as to how he would like to see his work, his union, and all of

society reorganized on human principles. This constructive criticism will never endanger the labor movement or give comfort to the real enemies of labor.

WHAT IS ANTI-UNIONISM?

What then is anti-unionism? Anti-unionism is today personified by such as the McClellan committee and its infamous right-to-work bills whose aim is to break up the organized labor movement so the critical ideas and actions of the ordinary worker can be stifled in the interests of more production.

Anyone who dares identify News & Letters with the McClellan Committee it so bitterly opposes is, in actuality, engaged in a slander campaign the sole purpose of which is to destroy a paper expressing precisely the ideas and actions of the working people. It is the slanderers who are anti-labor!

Why do the union leaders so fear a paper which is written by rank and file workers? Will the Chrysler union paper answer that?

—General Motors Worker
Los Angeles

EDITORIALS

DISORGANIZING THE ORGANIZED

The second annual convention of the top bureaucrats of the AFL-CIO has just ended after a week of speech-making in Atlantic City. Now, when the rights of American workers are under the heaviest attack in years, these leaders of the most powerful labor movement in the world have laid the ground for further retreats.

Even Reuther has had to admit that Taft-Hartley will be child's play compared with the Union-busting, wage-cutting, speed-up laws now being worked on. Yet the only way they prepared to meet the expected attack was to concentrate on the expulsion of over a million and a half workers, or more than 10 per cent of the total rank-and-file membership, whose voice was nowhere heard at the Convention!

Every expulsion these "responsible labor statesmen" have ordered during the last 5 years, has grown a new crop of "irresponsible leaders" by clearing the ground for more sweetheart contracts and open shops.

For months, led by Meany and Reuther, the top AFL-CIO brass have fallen all over themselves to "clean house" along the lines laid down by Arkansas' labor-hating, segregationist Sen. McClellan. He showed his contempt by charging Reuther's UAW with corruption while the "house-cleaners" were still in session. Their only answer was to beg him not to go too far.

By evading the issue of segregation, they proved their criminal inability to organize Southern sweat shops. But they found time to warn Negroes not to let their anger against Southern Democrats keep them from voting for Northern Democrats. Given this encouragement, Texas Democrat, Lyndon Johnson added to the Republicans' demands for wage freeze by calling for the abolition of the 40-hour week.

Ignoring the massive lay-offs and speed-up, Reuther answered for the Convention with a hollow plan for more pay without "any nation-wide extension of the statutory (40-hour) work week." This master of substitution has substituted a pretented defense of the 40-hour week in place of the shorter week he pretended to demand only a few months ago.

For the production workers laboring under an unbearable speed-up, for the increasing millions of unemployed, these 1,200 assembled delegates, who claimed to represent 13 1/2 million workers, had nothing to say. For the many millions still unorganized, they could only offer further disorganization.

As one auto worker, spelling out the production workers' demands for '58, puts it (see page 3): "We now have no security except the street. Reuther's '58 contract will be worse—unless we production workers make it better."

WAR, PEACE, AND THE NATO CONFERENCE

Once again our lives are held in precarious balance between brink-of-war statesmanship and possible actual war. Yet the voice of the people is not to be heard either in the halls of the N.A.T.O. conference, or in the Bulganin letters that are now flooding the N.A.T.O. countries.

When the Sputnik was first launched, Eisenhower was quick to explain that this was a "scientific" venture, not a military race. Now that the Bulganin missals—the other face of Russia's intercontinental missiles—are going around America and Europe, Eisenhower is trying to dismiss them with the word, "politics."

The truth is that the Sputnik has set the time, the agenda, and even the tone of the conference. That brink-of-war strategist, Secretary of State Dulles, can no longer simply high-nose the European countries. Even the lesser member of that Western imperialist alliance — West Germany—declares it is tired of learning about military decisions through the medium of the newspapers.

Britain's Prime Minister McMillan—who but a year ago was told in no uncertain terms that America, not England, was boss also in the Middle East—is now played up as such an "equal" that Frances Premier Gaillard is complaining that some allies are "a bit more equal than others."

Whether the IRBM's are operational or otherwise, the Administration will have some explaining to do to the European countries which fear that they lie within range of strategically based intermediary missiles already "zeroed in" on their vital target areas. It is precisely this fear that Russian totalitarianism is banking on to carry out its politics. But what is Eisenhower playing except politics, whose other face is war?

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Readers'

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

All Automation has one thing in common—it doesn't work! The human being still has to do the work and the work gets harder all the time. I hate Automation!

Ford Worker
Highland Pk., Mich.

Automation means the breaking up of jobs and men. It gets so you just stay angry all the time. Since Chrysler split up jobs, sending some to Twinsburg and some to Delaware, parts are made one place and assembled in other places.

Parts we used to make are now made in Twinsburg. They ship them from Twinsburg by box car to Detroit. A conveyor carries them to the Automation machines here for a few spots, and then back on the conveyer belt to the box car, and out for assembly hundreds and maybe thousands of miles away.

I can't see any sense in the way they moved men and machines out of town, since they're moving the same parts back and forth from plant to plant. The only reason I can see is because they want to break us up and wreck our solidarity.

Chrysler Body Worker
Detroit

They are firing and disciplining workers at the Chrysler plant for any reason they can find. Last Thursday they wrote up 950 men for not working the previous Saturday and Sunday. They're giving 3 days off to the 168 repairmen who went out on the last walkout. But because they won't want to lose production, which would happen if all 168 were given 3 days at the same time, they are staggering the disciplinary lay-offs and spacing them out one day at a time.

I used to think that you had 3 days to learn a job in an automobile factory. It just isn't so. Sometimes they will fire you the first day. If, because of the layoffs, they put an old timer on a new job that he can't do they fire him outright. They're getting rid of them that way.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

I was feeling pretty low until I read in News & Letters ("Readers' Views, Nov. 1957) about a worker with problems similar to mine. He had troubles on his job relating to certain holes that were supposed to be drilled a certain way in the part he was assembling.

My trouble is that if I

drill the holes in my job the way the blueprints call for, it turns out wrong. If I drill them to my own judgement, they usually come out right. The only drawback is that my boss want it done strictly to the blueprints. If not done according to the prints, he says he won't be responsible if the part come out wrong because, as he says, "You didn't do it right to begin with." It seems as though I've got one of those jobs you can't win for losing.

With the current lay-offs looming constantly in my face, it wouldn't be very wise just to walk off, although the thought has passed through my mind several times.

At first, I thought I was the only worker faced with the above situation, but I guess there must be considerably more.

This condition will continue to exist until labor and management, skilled and un-skilled, engineers and production workers all get into a permanent huddle and work out their problems as a team instead of the enforced separation that exists today.

Production Worker
Los Angeles

They keep a close watch on everything that meets the customer's eye — the trim on the car and the fit of doors and hoods in the body shop.

But they don't care so much if something under the car is put in without the right care because no one will ever look under there until the guarantee has run out.

The workers are so speeded-up, of course, that they can not replace many stripped bolts, or shims that may fall out when they're trying to hammer a stubborn part into place.

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

UNEMPLOYMENT & TAXES

Here at U. S. Rubber they closed down one unit because of a cut-back in production. One of my friends has been off for a year and, with his family, he can't afford it. He's drawing a little compensation but can't find another job. He lost Blue Cross because he couldn't keep it up. People tell him that a factory is hiring but by the time he gets there it's not. He hurries, but what's the use?

U. S. Rubber Worker
Detroit

The younger workers in my shop have all bought homes under the GI Bill. But the way taxes have risen this year, and the way overtime has been

cut out, they are all worried about losing their homes.

I remember some years back, when we used to discuss the possibilities of another depression, these veterans would say that they would use their military experience to retain possession of their homes even if they couldn't find sufficient work to keep the payments up. I wonder what is going to happen if taxes rise so high that these men will actually be taxed out of their homes even if they put in 40 hours of hard work for their weekly wages.

Veteran
Los Angeles

In recent years, the low and middle income groups have shared very little in tax reduction, if at all. Most of the tax benefits are granted to Big Business. So why haven't they placed the greatest burden of taxation on those enjoying the largest incomes and profits?

To my way of thinking the Administration has shown tax favoritism to big business and we in the lower income groups are the ones who are paying.

Taxpayer
Los Angeles

LEADERS & RANKS

When that president, Richard Gray, of the AFL-CIO Building Trades Dept., came out for a total wage freeze, a carpenter I was working with said: "Who the hell is Gray? I never heard of him. I never voted for him for anything, and I'm a member of this union for 25 years."

Construction Worker
Detroit

There is a new TV program in Detroit called "The Arbitrator." Every week they re-enact an actual labor dispute that has been brought to the arbitrator. When the station first announced it, I thought it would be one of those "impartial" and "fair" handlings of a controversial subject. However, every time I have watched it so far, management has won the case.

An auto worker told me that in past years the Union would take lots of grievances to the arbitrator and they would win about half of them. But ever since the Union started paying half of the arbitrator's salary (management pays the other half), the union loses most of them.

So now the Union has another excuse to hand to the workers to explain why they never settle any grievances.

TV-Viewer
Detroit

Views

I had a real hot discussion with two of my neighbors about John L. Lewis the other day. It all started about the \$40 and 3-day holiday that John L. says the men aren't going to get this Christmas.

My neighbor and I were pretty hot about it, but this other woman said, "You shouldn't talk about Lewis that way, you should wait and see what his point is."

I told her, "I'm not interested in what his point is. I'm interested in what he's doing to the miners."

But when she said, "You know, Lewis has done a lot for the miners," we really jumped on her. We told her that was just the point, and she didn't have to tell us what he had done, we knew that better than she did.

He's only a "has-done" anymore, and the point is what is he doing now. He has all the money he wants for himself by now, and he's not worried one bit about the miners themselves.

She tried to smooth it over by saying that he's pretty old anyway and he'll be gone pretty soon, but we couldn't let her get away with that either. We told her that the day he dies, there's another one, just like him, who'll step into his shoes and do the very same thing he's doing.

Things got pretty hot at that point, so we changed the subject. But nobody can argue away the fact that Lewis today is nothing like Lewis yesterday. Today he's nothing but a politician, I don't care what he was yesterday.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

UNION CORRUPTION

The keynote theme of the AFL-CIO convention — "clean unions vs. crooked unions" — is a sham.

If Hoffa were even more crooked than they say, he's primarily corrupted himself. But Reuther has corrupted a whole generation of intellectual youth who came to the labor movement 20 years ago for idealistic reasons. Then, they wanted to help the production worker to liberate himself. Today, their function is to help shackle the production worker to management's needs and wartime production.

Intellectual
Chicago

Too many people say that Hoffa is crooked for me to doubt it. But it infuriates me that the "rank-and-file" tag is given those 13 Teamsters who are contesting his election in the Washington Court.

What kind of "rank-and-file" can they be if their

attorney is Godfrey Schmidt? Schmidt was the head and guiding spirit of Aware, Inc., a thoroughly fascist-type of organiza-

tion which was launched about 4 years ago presumably to root out subversives from the entertainment industry. Its full aim, however, was to dominate the entire labor movement by instituting a massive blacklisting operation against every industrial worker.

Journalist
New York

Why are they making such a fuss about Hoffa tapping wires at the Teamsters' Union Hall? An electrician I know, who worked on the new administration building that Ford put up out at Southfield told me that every department is "bugged" right into the top office.

Dearborn Twp., Mich.
Electrician

NEGRO STRUGGLE

"American Bandstand" is a teen-age dance party on TV. It originates in Philadelphia but is shown all over the country. There are no Negro kids shown on it. Why? Because it goes down South, and that would be too much for the gallant white South, to see white and Negro teen-agers having fun together. Who knows, they might even have to endure the sight of a Negro and a white dancing together!

Northern White

One of the things that astounds me most about this Little Rock problem is the insistence that "you can't force this on those people," as if the people who are prejudiced are the ones who are suffering.

The only thing we can't tolerate is intolerance, and those who are standing on other people's rights. Yet, I've heard more written about the prejudiced whites there than I have about the nine Negro children who had the courage to try to go to school.

Student
West Virginia

Ike pretends he's done such a great thing in sending the troops to Little Rock. But he didn't do a thing he wasn't forced to do. They just forced his hand, until he couldn't do anything else but send the troops. Even in his TV speech about why he was sending the troops he point-blank admitted that it wasn't because of the way the Negroes here felt, but because the United States was looking so bad to the other colored people

throughout the world. He as much as said that it was because the Communists were making so much propaganda out of the incident that he had to do something about it.

I know that it must be true, that America did look bad in the eyes of the rest of the world, especially in the eyes of all the colored people. That's the thing that makes me so mad to hear them speak of us as a "minority" race. The truth is that the colored people are the majority, on the world-scale. Only when it suits their purpose, they just forget that "colored" includes not only the American Negro but Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, African, Indian, and all the rest. We're no minority, by a long shot, when you look at it in those terms. That's what Ike was thinking about when he made that speech.

Negro Mother
West Virginia

When the business with Faubus first started all the President did was play hide and seek. He had to say one word and that would have been it. But he waited around and waited around. For my money, the Justice Dept. should have taken Faubus and Ike both and done what my daddy used to do with us when we were ornery—give them both a good whipping.

Miner
West Virginia

WAR & PEACE

With all the Sputniks up there, they're talking of forcing the kids to work harder in school. But the kids won't take it.

Just watch, they'll act like the boy on TV who robbed peanut machines and got drunk because his father tried to force him to go into his business. Even the Judge said the father was wrong. The said he would join the Navy and never return home.

That's what all the kids will do if the teachers get tougher, fight back somehow. I don't see any reason for these drastic changes.

I wonder how the Russian people felt when we dropped the first A-Bomb, more afraid than we are, I'll bet. More rockets won't make us feel any better—or the Russian people either.

Detroit Worker

What is the Sputnik? Every day you hear about the Sputnik, in school, at home and from your friends.

Is the Sputnik a bomb? Or is it some joke the Russians are trying to play on us? What is the Sputnik?

14-Year-Old
Detroit

TWO WORLDS

An American in Paris

One of my colleagues has written the following:

"A friend of mine returned from Europe last month and told me about an old college mate of ours. Let's call him Joe. Since Little Rock and Sputnik I, he wanders unhappily around Paris on the verge of a breakdown. He is stunned by the polite sneers he now receives in circles where, until recently, he was a welcome guest. Even his American friends have begun to avoid him because he keeps begging them to help him decide whether or not to return to the United States for psychoanalysis. He's terrified that war will cut his "cure" short if he begins it in Europe.

BIOGRAPHY OF AN INTELLECTUAL HACK

"Joe was a bright pupil in grammar school. He entered high school in 1932, a terrible year for the family. That year, his father didn't work at all and finally had to go on relief for several months. But nothing was allowed to interfere with Joe's education. He was an honor student in high school, where he was attracted to the Young Communist League, although he never joined.

"Joe entered the College of the City of New York in 1936. That was also the year when the murderous Moscow Trials shocked the world and marked the beginning of his opposition to Communists as the enemies of democracy. He thereupon drifted to the anti-Communist radical youth at City College.

"He was preoccupied with the problem of poverty and unemployment in this land of plenty. He worked out all kinds of plans for the national organization of wealth so there would be plenty for all. He opposed private capitalism in the United States and American imperialism abroad. He detested the AFL craft unions and argued passionately for the organization of the backward, oppressed, unskilled workers in the new CIO. He decided then that he would be a writer or educator for the organized labor movement.

"He attended meetings of the Trotskyist, Socialist and Lovestoneite youth. All showered him with great attention, hoping to recruit him, but he never joined. He said he agreed with all on certain points and disagreed with all on others. In this climate, Joe's sympathy for the working class reached its highest point.

THE LURE OF "CONTACTS"

"He graduated with honors in 1940 and got a civil service job as a clerk in Washington, D. C. For the first time in his life he actually met a number of political, labor and literary personalities. He decided that contacts were essential to his career.

"Shortly after he was drafted, in 1943, he was assigned—with the aid of a contact—to a military research project. Except for his uniform, which he enjoyed wearing, his life continued in its usual pattern. After V-E Day, he longed for the excitement of Europe and wangled himself an administrative assignment in France, where he learned to speak French fluently. The world was his, until he was discharged late in 1946 and had to return home and find a job. Radicalism, he decided, was fine for a young student youth—it trained him in disciplined activity. But an adult had to be realistic. Anyway, the common man no longer figured in his mind as a positive force in today's streamlined cold-war world. Only the liberal minded public figure, he argued hotly, could engineer deals to ease the crisis. Irresponsible actions, like wildcats, angered him as the sure way to throw the country into the arms of the reactionaries or the Communists.

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

"He became a busy little public relations man for national liberal groups, and he met all the big shots. With the Korean War he maneuvered himself into another overseas assignment, again in France, where he felt most at home and where he has lived since.

"With the blessings of the State Department, and the direct and indirect support of the Ford Foundation and the AFL, he established himself as a social lion in the intellectual circles of Paris with frequent trips to England, Germany, Italy and Austria as well.

"Through the intellectuals he hoped to sell American capitalism to the European labor movement. After a while he became one of the most ardent salesmen for the American Way as expressed by Reuther's "Peoples' Capitalism,"—a line that didn't last very long.

"In his youth, this intellectual hack made a career of never quite becoming a Marxist. As an adult, he made a much better career out of the fact that in the past he almost became one. But the crisis moved too fast and, in the global struggle for the minds of men he lost his own.

"He indignantly denounces Russia's barbaric suppression of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters. The European intellectuals agree and point angrily to America's failure to help them; and then, in horror, they point to Little Rock; in derision, to Sputnik; and in fear, to Russia's IRBM. Joe has nothing to sell except an anti-Communism that is hardly better than Communism, and he's caught in the cross-fire with no place to hide."

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

SPUTNIK

My Government teacher, after a lengthy report on Sputnik by a student, expressed her feeling about it: "I don't know what all the fuss is about, it will probably fall to earth in a few weeks anyway." This shows me either her great stupidity, or that she is trying to bury her head in the sand.

Sputnik, and the Missile behind it, are not something you can very well ignore, or be unconcerned about, no matter how much you want to.

I asked a friend of mine what she thought of Sputnik and she replied, "I wish it would go away."

We both laughed, realizing Sputnik was there, and we were not being very realistic. But realistic or not, perhaps that expresses my feelings somewhat. But you have to come down to earth and realize it is here, and so is the Intercontinental Missile.

CONCERNED & FRIGHTENED

I, like everyone else, am concerned and, I might add, frightened over Sputnik, even more so over the Intercontinental Ballistics Missile. I am not, like most of the people I have talked to, concerned because Russia has it, and the United States does not. I am concerned because it is had by anyone.

Those who are concerned only because Russia has it and we don't, think so be-

cause to them the two opposing forces in this world are Russia and the United States. But the only opposing forces are the working class of all nations vs. the ruling class of all nations. The ruling class has the power to destroy us all; this concerns and frightens me.

When certain top officials of this country think it would be a good idea to strike at Russia first because they are afraid of her scientific supremacy, I can't possibly see that humanity would be any safer if Sputnik and the missile were in the hands of the United States.

"PIECES OF FREEDOM"

As for the controversy on the educational system of Russia and the United States, it might be that Russia got there first because of their educational system, but how can they speak of freedom in one breath, and imposing the Russian militaristic and dictatorial school system on American youth? It seems as though the leaders of this country hand you pieces of freedom when it suits their purpose, and are ready to take it away just as fast.

When the time comes that the leaders of this world, corrupt, incompetent, and vicious as they are, have in their hands the power to destroy us all, it is time for a change, a total change.

—Caroline Goldsmith

Paper Route Takes Advantage of Youth

DETROIT — My brother has a paper route. I don't think the paper is fair at all to the carriers, but it must be legal.

My brother has about 70 people on his route and he always has a hard time collecting his money. He has to pay the paper company \$37 a week, whether he has collected that much or not. Some weeks he only makes a dollar profit, or none at all. Sometimes, on a good week, he makes \$8.

The people who are on welfare just pay him once a

month, so he has to pay his bill out of his other payments. He is supposed to make about 15 cents profit a week from each customer, but he never does.

The boys have to give in a \$5 deposit to get the route in the first place. Then they take out \$2 every time for a savings bond. They do this whether the boy wants to buy it or not, and if he doesn't pay the \$2, they take the bond away from him. Also they have to collect insurance, and they don't get anything for that.

Not a Slip of the Tongue

LOS ANGELES—There is a boy in school who is from deep Southern Alabama and he is very prejudiced. He says he isn't used to having colored people around and he makes a point of it.

One day I lent him a couple of books. A few weeks later I asked for them. He said he forgot them and he would bring them the next day. He kept saying that, so I told him to bring them or pay for them.

The next day, when I asked him again, he asked me how much he should pay. I told him 50c but he said no. A few of my friends were

with me and one said, "Why don't you give him the money?"

The boy turned around quickly and my friend thought the boy was going to hit him, so he hit the boy first. At first the boy looked as if he was going to fight back, but instead, he turned and said, "I don't fight with N—," and ran into the gym to hide.

Later the Vice-Principal called me and my friend into the office. We got it settled. The boy said he had a slip of the tongue. But my friend and I knew better.

—13 year old

Marxism & Freedom

A Review

(The following is a book review which was written for a High School English class.—Ed.)

* * *

About the author: Raya Dunayevskaya is an economist. She is a specialist in Marxian economics. Between 1940 and 1943 she analyzed the Russian Five Year Plans.

* * *

Miss Dunayevskaya showed, in theory, that Russia was a totalitarian state and is the exact opposite of the Marxist theory of liberation. In 1943, when Russia revised Marx's theory of value, she translated this revision and brought it to the attention of the American public. Her commentary showed the significance of the revision for the world, namely, Russia's drive for world domination. These articles appeared in the "American Economic Review" in 1944 and 1945.

I feel that the purpose of the book is to show what Marxism really is. The book shows that Marxism is a theory of liberation and is the exact opposite of Russian Communism, which is a theory of enslavement.

AMERICAN HERITAGE

Another purpose is to show the influence that our Civil War had in shaping Marxist theory. With this knowledge of human development, the author hopes to help us understand the meaning of the struggles of our times, such as Hungary, Little Rock, and the struggles around Automation.

This double purpose of dealing with the past and the present in terms of man's struggle for freedom gives the book its exciting nature. For example, I found it interesting to read about certain pages of American history like the Abolitionist movement and have the author relate it to Marx's own activities at that time. The author deals with all her material in this way. She gives the background of Marxism in the American, Industrial, and French Revolutions. She shows how Marx learned from other great men: from Adam Smith's political economy, from Georg Hegel's philosophy. She shows how Russia under Stalin was perverted into the tyranny it is today.

* * *

From what I could understand of it this book shows that Marxism points the way to a new life, a life where people are treated as human beings and are more important than commodities and money.

—High School Student
Los Angeles

A TALE OF WHITE-COLLAR FUTILITY

Life At The Office

Monday had begun badly for Norton Binkley. The automatic elevator, ignoring signal buttons, had carried him and others past their floors to the top of the Corrugated Trust Co. tower. It ignored them on the way down too: sent the passengers back to the first floor.

All the cars were in the same fix. Nobody seemed to know what to do about it. Some had started to walk up, while others had taken the cars to the top and walked down.

* * *

Arriving at the 20th-floor offices of Viscolin Products Division of Viscous Industries Corp., Norton Binkley hung his hat and coat on an aluminum tree that had his name on it. Two years ago he had been using the employees' coat room. The aluminum tree, like the 30c an hour raise, had some with promotion to General Materials Handler. His desk stood next to the tree. That morning, coat tree and desk stood in isolation on a big expanse of clear floor space.

He had heard the week before that the corporation was setting up a guided missile department. But the gossip had left him quite unaffected. Now, he watched the drafting boards being moved into the space around him. Draftsmen stood around, talking and reading newspapers as Norton B. set to work. From near the water cooler came the sound of laughter. The Materials Handler looked uneasily toward the group of clerks and stenographers who were obviously joking about him and the draftsmen.

* * *

When the tables were in place, the draftsmen moved toward them in a body. A chief draftsman assigned them. As he passed Norton B. he looked at him questioningly but said nothing. Norton gave him a blank look.

It was hard to work with all the chatter of this new group. Some sat on stools and read newspapers, others visited around. Certainly no work was done. A chorus of wolf whistles went up as Jane Nesbitt went about giving out sheets of office rules and getting forms filled out. She wore a tight knitted dress and Norton thought that somebody had goofed in giving her this assignment.

* * *

The head draftsman returned with a load of drawings. "Here, take this," he said to one man. "At 11 o'clock I want you to look busy."

The man told him in a confidential tone that he had to leave at 3 to meet an important relative at the airport. "Tell George about it," said the boss impatiently.

At that moment, George came up. Excited about his blueprint, he ignored the draftsman's story about the uncle at the airport, and wailed, "Andy, they sent us the wrong print! This is for the 'Diogenes' bomb!"

"Oh, no! Oh no!" said Andy as they unrolled the print on a long table. "Now don't get excited," he said, looking at the print for several minutes. Then, "I tell you what you do, George." There followed some inaudible instructions at the end of which Andy slapped George on the back and asked, "O.K.? O.K.?"

George was off like a whippet to return 10 minutes later with another bigger print. He upset Norton's clothes tree saying, "Sorry," as he dashed up the aisle. Norton got up and straightened his coat on its hanger and put the crease back in his hat.

The new print was unrolled and appeared to please Andy. It was 10 minutes to 11. Andy walked down one aisle, George down another. "Come on boys, let's bear down," said Andy.

"O.K. fellas, give it the gun," said George.

Newspapers were put away; men moved to their boards; sleeves were rolled up; tracings were taped down; pencils were sharpened and triangles slapped against straight edges. Heads were bowed over the boards. George and Andy pored over the big print.

* * *

The quiet so impressed Norton Binkley that he looked up just in time to see a group of men come through the doors at the end of the department. The new vice president and his staff.

They came to Norton's desk. The vice president beamed down at him. "Mr. Stack," said the V.P., "I want you to meet . . ." and he introduced his staff one after the other.

Andy, the head draftsman, had come up behind the group and, with a scared smile on his face, was nodding vigorously at Norton. The latter, realizing that he had better go through with it, shook hands mechanically.

One of the visitors asked a question. "Mr. Andy—uh—Mr. Andy—" said Norton as he looked toward the head draftsman. The group turned in the direction pointed to by Norton's pale face.

"Andrew Krogfoot," said the head draftsman reaching for each visitor's hand, "at your service, gentlemen. Now, if you will just walk this way."

—Fred Cornell

College Researcher Learns What Workers Knew From Beginning: Automation Is a Man-Killer

It appears that News & Letters isn't the only paper that is concerned with the evils of automation in the factories. Recently, in the latest issue of the United Auto Worker newspaper, there appeared an article titled: "Automation: Lonely, Nerve-Racking Jobs."

A survey was conducted by a member of the Michigan State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The researcher, William A. Faunce, interviewed 125 workers in 4 large machining departments of one of the most highly automated auto plants in Detroit.

MAIN COMPLAINT

Their main complaint, according to Faunce, is that automation makes them lonely on the job and isolates them from fellow-workers. Machine noises, increased distances between work stations, and the need for closer attention to work is eliminating the social exchanges between workers were listed also as some of the main gripes.

Other problems were: Increased tension because of faster production; too much supervision from foremen; the closer and more constant attention required by complicated machinery; frequent breakdowns and costliness of mistakes; lack of identification with the work; and a decline in conversation.

The majority of workers interviewed said that making new friendship was much more difficult because of the constant attention required by the machines and, since the automation system had banished so many jobs, there were fewer people to come in contact with.

TOO MANY FOREMEN

Faunce quotes one worker as saying: "It was better on the old job—nobody breathing down your neck. . . . Over here it's altogether different, just push, push all the time. They never say hello . . .

SOME FACTS BEHIND THE RECENT WILDCAT AT GREAT LAKES STEEL

cently, a wildcat took place at Great Lakes Steel. It followed the firing of an employee who used a few spare minutes while sitting in a truck for sleeping. The man was working in two shifts. The time he slept could not be productive anyway. For 10 days the whole plant was shut down.

THOUSANDS OF GRIEVANCES

On the surface, it might not seem like a good issue to go on strike for. A really good union man would not work two shifts in the first place, and in these days of wide-spread unemployment, the man who accepts overtime is not acting for labor solidarity.

But the grievance was only an excuse for thousands of other grievances which had been processed, but never got anywhere. Throughout the plant there was not a uniform set of plant rules. In one department a man might receive disciplinary action for something which

treat you like a machine. They used to be friendly. Now they seem to be under a strain. The foremen at the new plant have too much to do and too much responsibility and they get tired and cranky. They'll die of a heart attack yet."

The same worker said his department used to have 134 men with one foreman and one assistant foreman. Now they have 100 men with 5 foremen.

To show how the truth can be distorted, immediately after the findings of the survey were released, one of the major daily newspapers in Detroit published the same survey, only this time the wording was very much different.

As the daily newspaper put it, only the skilled workers, white-collar workers and other executives were dissatisfied with the Automated factories. The production workers were 100 per cent in favor of Automation, according to that particular paper!

—Production Worker, Los Angeles

Note: It's no surprise that the daily paper distorted the facts of Automation. They, and their capitalist masters, not only regard the production worker as a cog in a machine, they do everything in their power to tear down his mind as well as his body.

That the UAW paper prints the straight facts, however, is only a more subtle form of distortion. The production workers knew the evils the minute they walked into an Automated plant. But the UAW paper ignored them until a researcher "discovered" them.

Worse yet, what does that paper, or its master, do to overcome these evils in the plant other than rudely to order the protesting workers not to stand in the way of progress.

On the other hand, when a worker writes about Automation in our paper, it is not to shed crocodile tears but part of his total effort to reclaim his own life and control his conditions of labor. —Ed.

would go unnoticed in another department. Authority was left up to the foreman. Speed-up and lay-offs were everywhere.

RUN-AROUND

The union local supported the strike to some extent. While telling the workers to go back to work, they demanded a labor board investigation, and blamed the company for the walkout.

The whole local was fired, and when the men went back to work they had a new union body. Now when the men took their complaints to the union they were given the run-around. Seniority men, who were good union men, were laid off. Still, new men were hired.

NEED SHOP MEETINGS

This shows the necessity of having shop meetings right in the shop, where workers can put more pressure on their stewards and committeemen.

I used to know a fellow who printed a little mimeographed sheet weekly in his

BOYCOTT 'BUD' BEER FOR L.A. JOB BIAS

LOS ANGELES: The NAACP has organized a local boycott against the manufacturers of Budweiser Beer because of discrimination in employment policies. According to reports, all local beer manufacturers, except Budweiser, met with the NAACP to work out fair employment practices. The NAACP thereupon called the boycott against Budweiser Beer.

In announcing the boycott, the NAACP compared its local boycott with the Montgomery boycott, and said that it was more important to fight against discrimination in employment than against discrimination on buses.

PROTESTS COMPARISON

One auto worker who read this statement in the newspaper said, "It is a shame that the NAACP compares its little boycott, necessary as it is, with the great Montgomery boycott."

"In Los Angeles, the NAACP had been shadow boxing discrimination in the beer industry for 6 years before a few NAACP leaders, on their own responsibility, called for a boycott. How can they possibly compare that type of boycott with the Montgomery boycott, where 50,000 people were actively engaged daily, not only in the act of boycotting but in new relations with their leaders so that policy was decided by all!" —Reader

Aftermath at Little Rock Proves Need for Strong Civil Rights Law

AFTERMATH at Little Rock When rioting segregationists were arrested in Little Rock, 11 weeks ago, and Eisenhower took what looked like a firm step in introducing Federal troops, many were encouraged to think that at last something was to be done. Today, all those arrested are free and will not be sent to trial.

"INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE"

"The evidence is insufficient to justify prosecution," the Justice Dept. announced. To press the cases against those who beat up innocent Negro by-standers, the government claims that it must prove "conspiracy to deprive citizens of their rights under the Constitution or Federal laws."

If, after all that took place in Little Rock, from Governor Faubus down to the last of his goons, the government still cannot prove a case under law, then something is wrong.

We still need a new, strong civil rights law, which the new Attorney General says he has no intention of introducing at the next session of Congress.

department. Everybody got to know about every grievance. The company fired him about a dozen times for insubordination. But every time he got fired the men on the line would sit down and refuse to work until he was reinstated. —W. B.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

THE ROAD BLOCKS AROUND US

There are road blocks all around us: the oppositions inherent in living processes. The German philosopher, Hegel, over a century ago described the "negativity" generated within us in response to those obstacles. This "negativity" is a force which compels us unconsciously, through a self-movement, to the overcoming of the contradiction.

Failure is sometimes considered to be the stimulus to the kind of conscious activity that will lead to success. That may be true, but too much failure can make a person feel inadequate, and then further failures are inevitable.

BREAK-THROUGH IN CANCER IS NECESSARY

For some years now, our failure in cancer treatment has been obvious. We have reached a point where a new break-through in cancer management is necessary, not only for doctors of medicine, but for everyone else. This must be a qualitative change, a new dimension, a transforming of the ideal into the real.

Each time I have a patient with an inoperable cancer, or one which recurs after surgery, I go through a depressing experience. The thought comes to me that rather than make a fee watching a broken down human being in the terrible stages of disintegration, I myself would gladly pay another doctor to take over the patient. It also seems clear enough to me at these times that euthanasia (the putting of such a cancer victim into permanent sleep by the over-dose of a pain killer) should not be withheld.

THE PROCESS OF DESTRUCTION

Watching the body and mind of the patient for weeks and months, one becomes almost a part of him. Maintaining contact with a spirit that refuses to accept what the physical senses reveal all too plainly, is a very hard task. The patient's physiology and anatomy become transformed into a vehicle for a monster whose appetite will not be satisfied. I think a physician may at times suffer more than the victim.

Other members of the family often cannot bear to watch the process of destruction taking place, and too few are willing or able to keep the patient at home and personally help in his care. Since not many families can afford private hospital care for the months required, the sick person is often taken to a city or county hospital, where he is frequently placed in an isolated wing, or to some inadequate convalescent or so-called rest home.

Most of these institutions are understaffed to keep expenses down, and they give these people the minimum of physical care, with practically nothing of warmth and sympathy. Thus hidden away and rejected, human beings make their final escape from the living scene.

THE EXISTING SITUATION

I have emphasized the existing situation, though I have not exaggerated it, not because any way of dying from cancer can be much different, but in order to bring it into the light of day.

When, at the very same time that I am watching a human being slowly undergoing destruction by a malignant growth, a voice blares out over radio or TV that billions of dollars, the work of thousands of men and women, are going into the development of military weapons. I cannot help but feel that there is being constructed a monstrous cancer for all of us—that we must be victims of an "insanity gas" introduced by men from outer space.

TEACHING THE YOUNG

Since the hubbub about Sputniks, they're putting on a "crash program" to make schools into assembly lines for turning out technicians. They want to eliminate the so-called "pipe" courses — in art, literature, music, philosophy, history (except for propaganda) — and concentrate on sciences.

What about the young people who don't want science and are interest-

ed in the arts? Will the local school boards say, "Work or Fight?" Or will they word it, "Work or Science Training?" Detroit Teacher

There is a teacher in my school that doesn't care what she says or who hears her. Profanity is not good for the ears. This teacher speaks unhelpful words.

Grade School Student Detroit

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Things Look Worse for '58

(Continued from Page 1)

MOUNTING UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment, which generally improves in the fall of the year, got worse this year instead of better. In October alone, total personal income decreased \$1 billion. The main cause was admitted to be the increase in unemployment.

Current official unemployment figures count two and a half million already unemployed, the unofficial count is about double that. Secretary of Labor Mitchell has predicted that by mid-1958 there will be just short of 6 million unemployed, adding that until it actually reaches 6 million, he will not consider it serious!

Aside from the fact that, by his estimates, the unofficial figure will be closer to 10 million (the very number that launched the last Depression), Mitchell's thinking that anything less than 6 million is "not serious" can scarcely be matched in callousness.

While it is easy for employed statisticians to figure out how many must be out of work before it is a "recession," and how many more than that before it is a "Depression"—the worker who is out of a job and has a family to support, is already in a state of depression. For the millions already jobless, the Depression is here right now.

THE "CURE" WON'T WORK

Recurrent recessions and threatened depressions are, of course, nothing new to the American economy. Since the first World War, the only "solution" to the crisis of a depression has been the alternative crisis of war, or preparation for it. What is new this time, however, is that what would ordinarily help to "solve" the unemployment no longer seems to help.

The crash program that followed Russia's first Sputnik, last October, has already increased defense spending, and accelerated the space-age arms race, at an unheard of and unprecedented rate. It is a conservative estimate that defense spending will be increased at least \$2 billion

next year. Some government experts say it may well be closer to \$10 billion more.

This sort of military expenditure has been growing steadily as capitalism and the power of the State have grown greater and greater. Before, however, defense spending, especially on a scale such as the present, would have meant the immediate end of the recession. The mass production of planes, tanks, bombs and so on meant more employment immediately — for destructive purposes it is true—but employment none-the-less. Today, the billions to be spent on defense mean primarily the missile program, and the employment of only a relatively few more technicians, scientists, engineers, etc.

For the millions of workers already unemployed, and the further millions soon to join them, the increase in military expenditures this time means only that the threat of war has come closer, and that they will be expected to pull their belts a little tighter.

WHOSE SACRIFICE?

Workers have already been bombarded with speeches about the need for them to sacrifice in the interests of defense. The President, while momentarily unwilling to talk of a tax-rise to finance the heavier military outlay, intends to ask instead for the reduction of nonessential expenditures elsewhere.

By "nonessential," Business Week reports, the Administration means "veterans' benefits, public works, farm subsidy programs, and such relatively lesser programs as slum clearance and urban renewal." (The one budget item, of course, that will not be touched is "foreign economic and military aid, this year a \$4 billion-plus item.")

That is why Sputnik has not so much moved us into outer space, as increased the human problems on this planet. That is why the American worker is perfectly right in showing more concern with the loss of his job than with the State Department's loss of face.

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Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

back in 1901. As the leader of the Philippine Insurrection he held the U.S. Army at bay, and lost only through treachery.

The American commander in the field, General Frederick Funston, carried a flag of truce to Aguinaldo's mountain hideout, and under the flag of truce, captured Aguinaldo and his flag of rebellion.

Recently the flag was returned to him in Manila. Aguinaldo, now 90 years old, accepted the flag from the hands of Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen. It was through this belated act that the world was reminded of the imperialistic methods the United States used to subdue the very ones they were supposed to be helping in their fight for freedom from Spanish rule.

KENYA

The proposed new constitution for Kenya has been rejected by the African Members of the Legislative Council. The proposal was made that African votes would count for least, Asian votes a little more, but the votes of the 30,000 privileged whites would count more than the 6 million African votes.

Once again Britain is showing its old imperialist face, and again to no avail, although they have put down the Mau Mau rebellion in the bloodiest fashion.

Mr. Tom Mboya, who leads the African Members, has declared firmly for a single vote universal suffrage democracy in which Africans, Asians and Europeans are all able to have independence and the right of self-determination.

YUGOSLAVIA

Tito has refused to accept further arms shipments from the United States on the grounds that the American State Dept. continually "reappraises" the value of Yugoslavia.

Tito, notable mainly for his dexterity in straddling the fence between Russia and the United States, can now afford to thumb his nose at the United States. Dulles needs him this week. So low is the prestige of the United States throughout Europe, that even that reactionary Robert Ruark is forced to state, "It is not a nice feeling to be an American abroad at this moment."

SOUTH AFRICA

Nelson Langa is a street sweeper in Johannesburg, obliged, like all non-whites over 16 years of age, to carry a reference book. This book contains all his permits, references, etc., and is his only passport permitting him to live in the city and work there. One day, returning from work, he was picked up by the police and told them he left his book at home, offering in its place his municipal identification disc.

The police refused to accept it or to permit him to phone his supervisor. Instead he was shipped under guard to the private jail of a large farmer in Bethal. There he was forced to work in the fields of the farmer.

His cousin traced him after a great deal of difficulty, and hired a lawyer to free him. The lawyer found no record of his arrest and subsequently was able to have him released.

The practice is quite common in South Africa. Over 600,000 Africans spent the night in jail during the past year for some "offense" against pass laws. For those found guilty the penalty is a week in jail or 6 months labor on a farm.

Funds to fight these cases in the courts are not available to one out of 10,000 picked up. Klaas Soko tried to fight a habeas corpus petition unsuccessfully. His brother was ordered to pay the court costs, and because he is too poor to do so, now faces a sentence at the same farm labor prison from which he sought to get his brother released.

COLOMBIA

Dictator Rojas Pinilla has been driven from office and into exile but the damage of his regime still cripples Colombia. He admitted that over 100,000 Colombians died during political struggles over the past few years.

Like other South American dictators, Pinilla started as a poor man, and in public office amassed millions stolen from the people. Under him all civil rights were abolished; press, radio and T.V. spoke only as he desired.

It was a general strike of the workers that finally drove him out of office.

PHILIPPINES

Emilio Aguinaldo was a man to be reckoned with

Don't think that Tito is finished. He is only using "Dulles Diplomacy" and the lack of American prestige abroad to be forced to reluctantly accept another billion or so.

AMERICAN TAXES

How many people know that 83 per cent of all American personal income taxes are paid by persons earning less than \$6,000 per year? In cash this is \$41 billion per year. It does not count the cigarette, gasoline, theater, luxury, liquor, city, state and county taxes which amount to billions more. The rich are immune through holding companies, "charitable trusts," and other tax dodge devices. It is the workers who will pay through the nose for Eisenhower's Sputniks just as the Russian workers pay for Russian boasts.

INDONESIA

Eight years ago the Indonesians won their independence from the Dutch who have extracted over \$10 billion from their labors in the last 300 years of colonial rule. Even after independence the Dutch still hold over \$2.5 billion in Indonesian industry.

Independence left many issues unsettled; who controls West New Guinea; the role of the Dutch; the future of the economy. These issues are being settled on the streets and in the factories of Indonesia today.

President Sukarno has appealed repeatedly to the United Nations in these disputes, but for reasons of international diplomacy, the issue has not been resolved. Now a 24-hour strike has been called. Walls were plastered with signs, "Kill the Dutch." Sukarno, who keeps straddling the fence, had the first bomb thrown at him, killing nine and wounding 150 persons. Premier Djanda, took steps, ordering the military to take measures to protect "anyone's personal property or safety."

Nevertheless, the Indonesians have gone on to seize all kinds of property, to ban the Dutch Airlines K.L.M., to drive out the Dutch, and to stage "wild-cat strikes" against all industry and business.

The main issues are far from settled, but the days of the Dutch are numbered and for that matter, so are the days of Sukarno.