

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

THE UNEMPLOYED

With more than five million people unemployed and that many more on short work week, the national leaders are still saying that this country is in a short recession, working people are calling it a depression. **Whatever the situation is called is not too important to those who have to work for their living and find themselves without a job, and without any source of income.**

As one woman said, "Those that have a little income, to buy food, can say it is a recession, but I can remember the last depression when we had nothing, no food and no way to get it. No one really knows how a person feels and suffers unless they have met and gone through the same thing." She said after this so called recession is over according to these national leaders, workers will continue to go through it for years, paying up back bills and trying to reorganize their lives. With food prices at the world's record high and still climbing, gas rates for home uses are higher, train and plane fares going up, the Government announces it will raise postage from 3c to 5c. Add to this the proposed raise in bus fare from 20c to 25c, plus the UAW raising the dues of its membership from \$3 to \$8 for three months. (This raise in dues is supposed to be for a strike fund, but the betting odds are already eight to one that the union will not call a strike and the odds are expected to go higher.)

LABOR LEADERS AND THE BARGAINING TABLE

Many workers are saying that every day they are coming out with something to adjust us tighter into this economic squeeze. They say, something will give if the 300,000 organize themselves together and march down to the City Hall, or to the Capital at Lansing. **One worker said, "They would be joined by thousands of others from many plants who are working short days and short weeks. But we will have to find some way to get by those labor leaders, who will be the first in the streets yelling not to go, that the way to solve it is across the bargaining table."**

A few weeks ago there was supposed to be a big settlement across the bargaining table between Reuther and Co., and Chrysler president Colbert and Co., but nothing changed in the shop. Workers were sent home as they have been for the past 4 months. 4 hours a day, 4 days a week and no work on Fridays. They all have admitted that those that are laid off and getting unemployment insurance are better off with money to live on than those that are working for 14 and 16 hours a week.

PLAYING POLITICS WITH WORKERS' LIVES

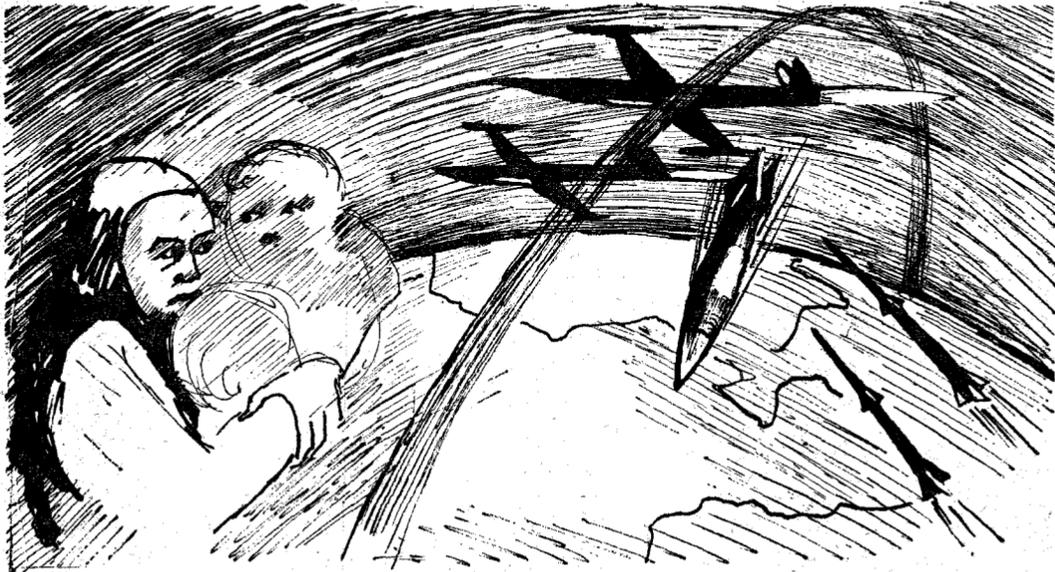
We have heard the use of such words as "stabilized economy," "prosperity," "the high standard of living among American workers," and this may have some meaning to workers in other countries who earn far less than we, but ask the average worker here about these fancy words. Ask especially those that are out of work and those who work short weeks. The radio newscasters reported that the city and county jails were so crowded they have no place to keep any more people. This is due mainly to the heavy unemployment situation here. This was also true in the early thirties. Many workers deliberately committed minor crimes because they felt this was one way to get food and have a place to sleep.

"EXPLORER NO. II" AND 5 MILLION UNEMPLOYED

The national leaders do not want workers to object against the money they are sending to other countries, supposedly to buy friendship. Nor do they want any criticism of the millions they are wasting in their desperate attempts to send up their space missiles. As one worker said, "Every week we hear of another billion dollars gone to waste because either the 'Explorer No. II' did not reach orbit, or, the 'Vanguard' flunked." These are the every day things that are of number one importance to these leaders **but the millions of unemployed workers are secondary and are only important when it comes to playing politics.** Such as the things that ex-president Truman said about Eisenhower and the Republicans. They are true but he forgets that prices made some big leaps under his administration. He and his administration also imposed a huge fine upon the miners union for striking against the owners in 1950.

Reuther doesn't say a word either about the unemployed until he is ready to use it politically against some opposition.

Only those who are going through this situation understand and are saying what they feel and mean without any strings attached. **There's no time for them to play around with politics.**



World Tension Mounts As Unemployment Grows

The ruthless bombing of a Tunisian town by the French Air Force, flying American aircraft, shooting American machine gun bullets into non-combatants, in a never ending war against the Algerian people, is more than an international scandal. It is in reality a capsule picture of the state of international capitalism in 1958.

CENTER OF CULTURE

France is normally considered to be a country of the highest order. **One whose culture and love of liberty and freedom stand second to none.** Yet, when the chips are down and the future of capitalist exploitation is at stake, **France can and does**

act in the manner of brutal barbarians.

I am sure that individual Frenchmen, even government officials "feel sorry", but the laws of capitalism, being what they are, compel them to go on bombing, taking the lives of Algerians, seeking to protect their

"rights" to exploit the Algerian people who want independence. **The useful lives of over 300,000 French youths are wasted in the task and the finances of France are being bankrupted in the process.**

FEAR WORKERS

England, the United States, even Russia stand by and watch but do nothing. True, they sometimes "abhor" the slaughter, but without their help, France could not continue. **In the United Nations "deals" are made not to investigate the activities of any of the great powers without their prior consent. Thus Russia gets away with the rape of Hungary, England slaughters the people of Kenya, the United States provides the cash, the guns and the ammunition.**

It is the common fear of the working class which they all feel, which binds governments together in a common conspiracy to ignore each other's sins, in a mutual security arrangement, which transcends the antagonisms of the cold war.

Turning the cold war into a shooting one is held back only through the fear of the consequences, the fear that the working class, once involved in the fearful struggle, will turn against the war makers and establish democratic governments of their choosing and begin for the first time to manage their own lives.

CRISIS THROUGHOUT WORLD

In every country the signs of working class discontent

WORKER ATTACKS BRITISH TAX SYSTEM

Editor's Note: A British worker sent us the following letter for publication. We print as much of it as space allows. He sent it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Secretary of Treasury). It concerns the Pay-As-You-Earn system, which is the British form of withholding tax.

TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

"As a sufferer under your Pay-As-You-Earn system, I have decided to write you a prebudget open letter.

"A little while ago I started work after not being gainfully employed for some time. I wrote the local tax office some time before starting, in the hope that I would not have to pay tax when I did start work, as I realized that none would be due, and I have had experience of the emergency system before . . .

"Apparently an employer does not have to give any receipt for taking tax. But it is not merely a question of principle and injustice, this procedure can cause hardship. You will not be surprised knowing the inland Revenue Authorities far better than I do, that they just ignored my letter.

"The day before I started my employment I phoned them and they were very rude and personal (I suppose that is what we can expect from an arrogant dictatorship, the officials of which cannot be dismissed. Whatever else may not be sacrosanct, these permanent uncivil servants are and well they know it!) They said that in the circumstances I did not owe them any tax and that there would not be any to pay before April. However in view of my request they said I would have to play ball with them, that is pay them money they were not entitled to, until April, when they said it would be given back. I told them I could not afford to do this, that I had no confidence in their promises to pay it back. Furthermore, I pointed out to them what they were doing was blackmailing me. I regard blackmail by the state as the lowest form of it, since an individual has no legal means of redress. Your tax inspector . . . said I should not blame bureaucrats for carrying out their orders—it struck me that we should not by this logic blame Hitler's Gestapo, for committing atrocities, with a

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COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

IN MINE AREA

Men Moving to Represent Themselves

Scotts Run, W. Va. — Day by day, as lay-offs continue to plague the miners, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the only answers to the problems facing the men, both working and laid-off, will come only from the men affected themselves.

In the mine areas, tempers and passions are reaching a white hot peak. What pitiful seniority rights the miners have is being made a sham of, and the men who are retained are being forced to work in such speeded-up conditions that many who are still working say that they're not so sure they are the lucky ones by still having a job.

SENIORITY A FARCE

As was reported in the last issue of NEWS AND LETTERS, on January 13 of this year, 126 men were laid off at Consol's #15 mine in Purs-glove, W. Va. Men who thought they had specific classifications, classifications that had been established for many years, suddenly found that they were thrown into other classifications which was to the company's advantage. The District officials, particularly L. Pnakovich, District 31 vice-President who was called in on the lay-off, went along with the company proposals. Many of the cases arising from this, as well as the three months formula that he introduced to determine classifications, are still not settled.

Since then, another lay-off of some 60 men has taken place. Now the company is pulling a new trick. It deals with the mechanics, but will affect every man who works there if they get away with it. The mechanic classification, at the time of lay-off, was divided into mechanic, continuous miner mechanic, electrician, and welder. By doing this, the company can keep men who have but a few years seniority and lay off men with 20-30 years seniority.

This is strictly against the

contract, which states that a man is to be laid off according to his seniority in his classification. It is small enough protection to have classification seniority, but the company is not willing to grant even this to the men anymore. But what is even worse, the District officials are going along with the company in these moves against the men. Not satisfied with this, the company is pushing still further by trying to make the mechanics start two hours later than the rest of the men. This, too, is a violation of the contract, which has an established starting time; and here again, the District is going along with the company's wishes.

MEN WANT REPRESENTATION

The flagrant disregard of the District to the wishes of the men has reached the point where the men are demanding the presence of the District heads to answer to their misrepresentations. Attempts by the men at #15 mine to get the President

and Vice-President to a meeting, special or otherwise, have so far met with failure. They are either out of town or have previous commitments. These delays are adding more fuel to the fires that are burning within the men.

Talks of strikes and cleaning out the District is heard everywhere. So far, the thing that is holding back a strike is the knowledge that if a strike is pulled, the men who are laid off will not get their unemployment compensation. But how long this will stop them as the conditions get worse, remains to be seen. Many are demanding this action right now as the only way to get the issues settled. No one wants to see anyone else suffer, but if something isn't done, and done soon, these men are going to take action. Now they have no illusions — they know without doubt that they are the only ones who can represent themselves, and their way of knowing is by doing.

(See Reader's Views)

FLAT ON HIS BACK—FOR A BOSS' MINUTE

Morgantown, W. Va. — The top was bad. Head coal had fallen, the slate could be seen hanging down where it had broken. It had to be timbered to be made safe.

Two men went after a post to shore the top up. They brought it to the bad place and set it down to cut it to size. One of the men said, "Let's get back out from under this bad top to cut this post. That top might come down any minute."

BOSS SAYS NO

The boss was standing there, in a hurry to get the post set so the men could get back to their jobs. "No," he said, "Cut it right there. The top will stay up that long."

The men started to cut the post for size — and the top came in. One of them was completely covered up. The other was badly cut by fall-

ing slate. The top was still working, and the man who was covered up was still alive. One of the men on the section, not the boss, braved the falling slate, was hit a few times, but dug the miner out and brought him to safety — just before another fall came in that would have squashed both of them.

ALL FOR A MINUTE

The miner who was covered up had his hip fractured on the left side, a bone broken in his right foot and his face severely cut when the fall forced his face into the saw that was being used to cut the post. He'll be flat on his back for months — because his boss was in a hurry and couldn't wait the minute it would have taken to have the post cut out of the danger area.

Mine Injury—Treatment & Mistreatment

Morgantown, W. Va. — We saw them wheel the guy in on an emergency stretcher. His right foot was bandaged; and you could tell by his clothes that he was a miner. He was also young, and looked a great deal like Elvis Presley.

They cleaned him up a bit, gave him some shots and took him to the operating room. He was brought back in a couple of hours, his foot now in a cast.

The next day, after he had recovered from the ether and felt like talking, we learned the details of what had happened, as is always the case when a guy is brought into the hospital ward.

CUTTING CHAIN CAUGHT FOOT

His was an interesting tale. He was working in low coal, 32 inches high, and had

gotten his right foot caught in the cutting machine chain as he lay next to the machine. The chain has cutting bits sticking out which rip into the face of the coal, but it had caught his foot and pulled it back into the guard. The chain had to be reversed to get his foot out. By this time, his foot was fractured, chipped, dislocated and in general pretty well messed up.

SPORTS CAR AMBULANCE

The men on the section came to the place where he was to help, but the boss told the men to get back to their work. The hurt miner pushed himself out on the seat of his pants. When he got outside, there was no ambulance waiting for him. Instead, he was crammed into a sports car and taken

to the nearest hospital, some 10 miles from the mine. There were no bone specialists at this hospital. He had to be sent to Morgantown, some 30 miles away. At least, he thought, I'll go there by ambulance. But nothing doing. He was squeezed back into the sports car and driven to Morgantown to the hospital.

FINISHED WITH MINES

"You know," he said, "I figure I'm through with the mines. Last year I got the little finger of my left hand cut off when I got it caught in a machine (he held up his hand, showing the missing finger); this year, it's my foot. Maybe the third time I won't be so lucky. It all happens too fast when you work in the mines; you don't have too much of a chance in there."

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

HOW CAN WE CATCH UP WITHOUT WORK?

Between you and me, how can we catch up from being so far behind with our bills when there is no work to do? The big leaders of industry have it all tied up in their hands because this Automation machinery has taken jobs from so many working men who are just worrying themselves to death knowing they will not be called back again.

The way I see it, the big leaders have got stuck with so many cars on their hands, and no one to buy them because the working man is down and out with nothing to do but hope to find something in order to live through this depression — which the government is calling a recession.

RECESSION

It is a recession to the leaders because they are in recess trying to figure out some way to hold on to the money they have made, and to see how much more they can make off their machinery without paying the worker to do the work.

They also found out how weak Reuther is. That's why he had to call a special convention here in Detroit to get things "straightened out" from the way they went at the real convention last sum-

mer. He said they did not finish their plans then.

To get things started, he asked the workers for more dues to get them all upset with him. Then he goes on to tell them what trouble he is having with the company so they will have to pay more dues.

CO. MESSED-UP U.S.

The company has messed up the whole United States by putting in these Automation machines and taking jobs away from men who would buy their cars every year just to keep a job. But president Reuther said that Automation was the greatest progress for production in the U.S.

WE SEE IT NOW

When you stop men from working, the whole world is in a mess. We see it now. The problem now is: can they hold on to these machines, which produce so many cars, without putting the men back to work and still let the United States go on being the greatest country in the world.

I hope they won't let this country be as far behind in putting men back to produce cars as it is in producing the Sputnik, because workers produce the wealth which has put the rich man where he is today.

NICE WHILE IT LASTED

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — We were all sitting in the dinner hole, just at the beginning of the shift. Our boss came along and told all of us to stay where we were until he made his run of the section to make sure it was safe. He made his run of the section and came back.

IT'S THE TRUTH

"Now men," he said, "you all know that mining is a dangerous job. We have to depend on each other to make sure that we get out of here at the end of the shift."

"I know that you men who run the machines know more about it than I do. I know that there are a lot of times when I will ask you to do something and I'll be wrong. I want you to tell me any time you think I'm wrong, because most of the times you are right."

"You know your job better than anyone else can. But, the company says that you have to have a boss. I know that you don't need anyone to tell you what to do, but the company feels otherwise about it. And if they want to pay me a salary because they think you're all dumb and that they and the bosses are smart, that's their tough luck."

"If anything is unsafe, you know it. No one has to tell you. If the top is bad, don't work in it. We'll get a buggy and get some bars and fix it up until you think it is safe. And there won't be any

2 men trying to handle those bars — they're too heavy — get 3 or 4 men on it. That way it will be easier for everyone. And don't be carrying any heavy stuff when a buggy can carry it. That machine can do the work much easier than any of us can.

"We all know that the company is only interested in coal. The only thing they ask me after the end of the shift is 'How much coal did you get?' — as if I'm the one who gets the coal."

"We all know that you are the ones who get the coal. Without you there would be no coal, no company, no nothing. So you are the ones who are important."

"If you are working your machine and the top starts to come in, look out for yourself. Don't worry about the machine. The machine doesn't have any family. It can't feel a thing. And it can always be replaced. But you can't, so don't worry about the machines or production when it comes to a matter where it might hurt you. I know I don't have to tell you guys this. As a matter of fact, I don't even know why there has to be such a thing as a boss . . ."

"Ouch!" I said. My wife had just thrown her arm across the bed and hit me on the side of my head.

"Ah, well," I thought, "it was a nice dream while it lasted."

THEN & NOW

Reuther Excludes Unemployed

Reuther offered to resign from the labor movement if a committee of clergymen finds him a greater threat to the United States than Russia. As usual, this conceited demagogue is willing to submit to check by anybody — except the production workers.

His brazen agreement with Chrysler's president Colbert, means that additional thousands will be unemployed while those who are still working are forced to submit to Automation's inhuman speed-up. That's what he gave in exchange for Colbert's empty promise that Chrysler will work 40 hours a week — if possible.

Always the master of substitution, Reuther has substituted unemployment relief for the shorter work week, and speed-up for the workers' demand to control their own conditions of life and labor.

A LOOK AT HISTORY

The depression of 1884-5 saw workers' wives and children at the very edge of starvation while the men had to work 14, 18 and more hours a day. As a result the movement for the 8-hour day gained new strength.

The young Federation of Organized Trades & Labor Unions (which became the AFL) passed a resolution that, after May 1, 1886, it be illegal for any worker to work more than 8 hours a day. Throughout the country workers rallied to strike on May 1, for the shorter day.

The daily papers, and the preachers from their pulpits, blasted the workers as ignorant mobs led by selfish subversives. Manag-

ment, militia commanders and police chiefs secretly armed to shed workers' blood — which they did.

UNION SELL-OUT

At the same time, the Knights of Labor — which had been organized in 1869 as America's first national federation — issued secret orders: "No assembly of the Knights of Labor must strike for the 8-hour system on May 1 under the impression that they are obeying orders from headquarters, for such an order was not, and will not, be given. Neither employer or employee are educated to the needs . . . for the short hour plan . . . Can we mould the sentiment of the millions in favor of the short hour plan before May 1st? It is nonsense to think of it. Let us learn why our hours of labor should be reduced, and then teach others."

This betrayal meant the end of the Knights of Labor. The workers joined and built the AFL to win the 8-hour day. Despite such great beginnings, the AFL soon degenerated into "business unionism" because it excluded the unskilled workers at whose expense it secured extra privileges for the skilled crafts.

No fundamentally new gains were won until the depression of the 30's when industrial workers built the CIO.

Today, the CIO has degenerated into the "business unionism" of Reuther's "profit-sharing." By excluding the unemployed workers he ignores the demands of the production workers in favor of the technicians.

Chrysler Auto Worker Brands Reuther-Colbert Pack "a Fake"

DETROIT — Here at the Mack plant we didn't gain a damn thing from the agreement Reuther and Colbert worked out on March 3, and I can't see how the Dodge workers, or any other Chrysler workers, gained anything out of it either. Management and the International call it a "Memorandum of Understanding," but I'm obliged to call it a fake.

SANCTIONS UNEMPLOYMENT

The agreement talks about laying-off more workers so they can make out on unemployment and supplementary. When could you ever make out on that?

There isn't a single word about the rest of us working short weeks, except for Chrysler's promise to sched-

ule 40 hours — if they can. I don't remember the last time we worked 40 hours, not since Nov. or Dec. anyway — and we haven't put in 40 hours since the agreement either.

AGREE TO NOTHING

If you read that memorandum — and very few of us Chrysler workers have been able to get hold of a copy to read — you will see that they agree to the production rates as of Jan. 19, 1958. How dumb do they think we are? Jan. 19 was on a Sunday. What were our production standards then?

Even if that is a legitimate day to go back to, that's exactly when all the trouble started. If it wasn't good then how can it be good now?

WHAT'S INVOLVED

The way it happened at Mack, and it was pretty much the same story all over Chrysler, there was a big lay-off on Friday, Jan. 17. When we went back in on Monday, Jan. 20, with the cut in manpower they upped our production to 1000 cars in 24 hours, or 500 on each shift. Men just couldn't keep

CUT-BACKS IN STEEL

Pittsburgh — The steel mills today are working very short handed. They are trying to get the most work out of the fewest laborers they've ever had. Like in my gang, we used to have eight or nine brick-layers. Now we have four or five. They've got it geared up now to where you work steady from the time you start to the time you quit. Before, you might have some time for a break once in a while, but not so now. There's always something else for you to do, there's no let up at all.

Since the cut in production slumped in January they have kept all of their bossing staff and paying them their regular salary. While the working force is being laid off or working 32 hours a week.

WORKERS HARDEST HIT

The workers are the ones who are hardest hit. The only ones that management has laid off are a few industrial engineers, and they can lay all of them off as far as I'm concerned. But the rest of top management have stayed—no cut in pay, nothing. They go on the same as if nothing has happened.

They are also trying to run the open hearth furnaces from the front office. Which means that the first helper has no say so what so ever. At one time he was in charge of its operation and conditions. Now he is told when and what to do. As if he is green on the job. There are so many bosses to see to it, too.

WHERE'S THE UNION?

Most of the men dislike the way they are being moved around the mills. The bosses have been ordered to keep their men working or they will be among the missing.

Our big union seems to be playing ball with the company. One day you have one set of rules, come to work the next day and there's another. All to serve the company policy.

Most of the men who are working are in very low spirits because of so much company pressure. The company is sending the bosses to school to learn their job better, yet.

up with that kind of production. Guys had to ride the line and were getting fired for it. With such standards, and not enough manpower, management ordered us to produce more than anybody should be expected to do. Its more than we can keep up.

COMPANY WINS

Those are the standards this "Memorandum of Understanding" sets us back to. There's nothing in it to help us solve our problems, and the Dodge workers will have the same thing to face again that they faced before this agreement. How can it help when it's no more than the company wanted to give us in the first place?

— Member, Local 212

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

"MARXISM & FREEDOM" PRESENT DAY INTELLECTUALS

There is a chapter in Marxism and Freedom by Raya Dunayevskaya, called "Worker, Intellectual, and the State — At a Turning Point in History." Those little words "turning point in history" are the key. That is to say that at critical points in the past, such as 1848 to 1861 when the working class first became conscious of itself as a class, you see an illumination of the past and also a great illumination of the future. That is why people like Reuther are not just the individuals we think they are but are certain social types, having their counterparts or anticipators in the past.

I felt I could be reading modern day history and jumped from 1848 in France to 1905—1917—The Russian Revolution and to the revolt of the East Berlin workers against the Communist in June 1953. To the 1950 miners strike here and the Hungarian revolution. With a clear light shining on the role of the workers, and that of the intellectuals, in these critical points in history.

Everything in modern society that has human values for each individual was achieved by workers. In the French Revolution of 1848-1861, Marx wrote "Democracy, thus, was not invented by philosophic theory nor by the bourgeois leadership. It was discovered by the masses in their method of action . . . They linked their demand for bread and work with their demand for political freedom and full citizenship . . ."

In the 1860's here, it was; the abolition of slavery, the fight for the 8 hour day and public education. In 1950-58, workers in Berlin, in Hungary, in Russia itself, "destroyed the myth that the system of a totalitarian state was invincible, unassailable."

G. M. CHEATS ON VACATION PAY

SOUTHGATE—They have knocked off the entire second shift at the General Motors plant in Southgate. The plant has been gradually slowing down for months. There have been short work weeks and "small lawoffs" of a few hundred at a time. Now close to a thousand workers are getting it all at one time.

The company timed it carefully. In two more weeks many of the men would have put in the 75 per cent of the year necessary for them to draw a vacation check next

I did not understand Reuther fully until reading this chapter and also seeing him at the UAW convention and his way of doing and thinking. One worker said, if he got them the equivalent of 35c or 40c an hour more, it would be taken out in the mental and physical stress of the rank and file. Reuther, turned around and said if that is so, there is something wrong with his local union.

WHO MAKES HISTORY? Stalin thought that history stopped in 1917 and Reuther thinks it stopped when he came into the labor movement. But it is not these men that make history. If you link their thinking with what the workers have accomplished in each period, you begin to understand not only "all thought no matter how great, even the thought of a genius is due first of all to common activity of man," but also that "the motive force of history is the working class."

Just as Marx could not and did not draw the answers out of a book or out of his own mind but was constantly looking, always with, the working class, so today it becomes a life and death struggle that we have such a philosophy, a theory. There is no one that can separate himself from this world and its crisis. We are even encircled by 4 earth satellites. There has to be a combination of the workers way of knowing today, and of the past history of workers that is buried and hidden from them. Theory is a life and death question because we live in "the age of absolutes." Absolute destruction or absolute freedom. As history has shown it is only the workers, because of their relationship to production, that those for absolute freedom must be with and follow.

June. Being laid off now they will lose their vacation check unless they are called back for two weeks work before June, which is very unlikely. These workers wanted to know why the company couldn't keep the short weeks with no layoff for two weeks more so they could qualify. The answer was pretty obvious. GM can spend hundreds of thousands on TV shows and publicity stunts and Golden Milestone Contests but think it necessary to cheat a few hundred workers out of their vacation checks.

Laid Off
South Gate, Calif.

MARX ON AUTOMATION

"An organized system of machines to which motion is communicated by the transmitting mechanism from a central automaton, is the most developed form of production by machinery . . . The lightning of the labor, even, becomes a sort of torture since the machine does not free the laborer from work, but deprives the work of all interest . . ."

LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 6 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVE. (Cor. Washington Blvd.) ROOM 203

EDITORIALS

THE UNEMPLOYED RESERVE ARMY

With unemployment spreading like a cancer, the attack against the welfare and life of all workers and their families is growing more naked and vicious than it has been since the CIO was built through bitter struggles 20 years ago.

Accounts of the present Senate Rackets Committee hearings, on the UAW strike against the labor hating Kohler company of Wisconsin, make it seem that the aim of the probe is to brand organizing activities by workers as a racket and thus to outlaw Unions.

The present drive is in high gear because there are over 5 million unemployed today. Management and all who serve them have always seized upon the unemployed army, which capitalist production inevitably throws on the street, as a whip against all workers.

The cut-backs immediately after World War II and the first use of Automation—in coal in 1949—threw thousands of workers on the streets and brought in the Taft-Hartley Act. The recession of 1953-54 brought new union busting laws, among the most vicious of which are the "right-to-work" laws now covering a third of the United States.

The Washington investigators have heard testimony that Kohler secretly stockpiled a private arsenal and recruited a private army to crush the strike. There is testimony of Kohler's repeated arrogance and ruthless determination to break the Union regardless of the cost. There is testimony of the inhuman working conditions in the plant.

Reuther and Mazey seem to be the target of attack today. Their policy of so-called "responsible labor-statesmanship"—with which they bargained away so many hard-won rights of the rank and file for a mess of pottage—has brought them to this. But they only sowed the wind. The workers are now being forced to reap the whirlwind. Just as the workers themselves beat back the anti-labor skirmishes of 1949 and 1953 so they will have to do it again. Though management and its servants, in and out of the administration, have always used the unemployed reserve army to open new ferocious attacks against all, how can we forget that there were 20 million jobless when, employed and unemployed alike, the workers built the CIO 20 years ago.

THE FRAUD OF "GRADUALISM"

The permanent expulsion of Minniejean Brown from Little Rock's Central High, is further bitter proof that "gradualism" is but another hypocritical mask to whitewash the vicious reality of white supremacy.

Minniejean was the special target of abuse—to which she never submitted. She was expelled because she disobeyed the "orders" of Central High's Principal, J. W. Matthews, not to "retaliate, verbally or physically, to any harassment," however vile, by white students.

The 8 Negro students, who still remain in this allegedly de-segregated school of 1,200, symbolize the Negro people's never ending struggle to secure their rights. Without their determination, the leaders would never have won the court victories of which they boast.

The administration is so determined to appease the Southern politicians that the new Civil Rights Commission is even more limited-to empty words than usual. In Michigan Republican legislators have just killed a bill which might have put a few teeth into the ineffectual state FEPC law.

Truman set the Democratic record straight by acknowledging Arkansas' Faubus as a "good Democrat." Prior to Minniejean's expulsion, the party had arranged a dinner with Truman as main speaker. Reporters said they didn't think Truman would want Faubus to attend. Truman on TV, said, "Faubus is welcomed. He's a Democrat and my friend, all Democrats are my friends."

A Negro auto worker called the turn accurately when he said: "I'm not surprised that those guys aren't doing anything about civil rights. The white Southern politicians control from Washington all the way down, and the Northern Liberals follow behind with words and fear. This expulsion of Minniejean proves it. We won't win anything if we don't win it ourselves."

News & Letters

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Charles Denby Editor

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Readers

LEADERS & RANKS

When the District and company get together and make a ruling that is directly against the contract—it's there in black and white for anyone to see—and the committee doesn't say anything about it either, what can you do? The union is a good thing, but the way things are going sure doesn't look like what my idea of a union is.

Laid-off Miner
Scotts Run, W. Va.

What we all ought to do is go up there and clean out that District. That's the only way that we can get anything done. Maybe then they'll get enough backbone to do something for the men, and if they don't, we ought to get men in there who won't be afraid of the company.

Working Miner
West Virginia

One thing is for sure. Whatever is going to be done is going to be done by the men. They can't depend on anyone else.

Miner
West Virginia

I know we can't look to the company to give us a fair break. But the least we can expect is that our own union representatives see to it that they live up to the contract. That's what we're paying them for. But we're not even getting that. Why are we paying our dues? The company is kicking us in the teeth enough without the District officials helping them.

Miner
Scotts Run, W. Va.

The front page article in the January 1958 issue on "Reuther Turns Against Jobless Workers" was very good. Our local is in favor of the 30-40 proposal and yet when the delegation reported to the membership they essentially called for unity with Reuther, just like you reported Stellato did right at the convention. I doubt if the delegation succeeded in convincing the membership of the need for unity with Reuther. I doubt it for the simple reason that the membership doesn't

show up at meetings anymore.

GM Body Shop Worker
Los Angeles, Calif.

The men are all climbing the backs of the committeemen. What can we do? If we don't come to an agreement with the company, we fill out a grievance. They (the District) come in and rule against the men. What can you do? When it goes to them, they're supposed to settle it. We can protest all we want, and it still makes no difference.

Committee-man
West Virginia

Due to the conditions that exist in the world today, the working class are carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. These conditions are brought about by high-brained thinking of intellectuals, who believe that the answer to the problems is higher wages, which only brings about a higher cost of living.

The intellectual thinks only in terms of money, whereas the working people would be more satisfied with less money, but better working conditions, a shorter work week and less taxes to pay.

Miner's Wife
Osage, W. Va.

UNEMPLOYMENT

There should be a law that when workers get laid off and are willing to work but can't find work, that payments on his debts should be postponed until he can get a job. They are actually tougher on a person, now, in actions like quick repossessions, than they were in the big depression of the 1930's.

Bottom of the
Seniority List
Los Angeles, Calif.

Now I'm single, and I'm still working. I wouldn't mind at all giving up my job for a man with a family. But things just aren't being done right. Not in the mines with the men working, or in the layoffs. I think we ought to strike the mine. They (the District) would come running then. We've tried to get them down, but they won't come. That would get them down in a hurry, and we would be able to have our say then.

Miner
Scotts Run, W. Va.

My husband works in the steel mill. He told me in October that rumors were going around about lay-off and cutbacks. He said it was going to be hard on everyone.

Last December, we decided Christmas would be different. We sat down

and talked, and decided that instead of buying and running our store bills up we would try to pay. What we couldn't pay cash for would be left in the store. This way our children still had a nice Christmas and it didn't leave us with an enormous bill hanging over our heads.

More than this, the thing that meant the most to us was that we didn't stick our neck out to buy a new car which is needed. We thought better of it and had our old one fixed. We can still go places, even if it is not in a new car.

We learned from rumors in the mill how to cope with the things that are going on around us now.

Housewife,
Pittsburgh

The steel workers are supposed to get a raise in July, but who's going to be around to collect it? The people in steel now are either real old timers or supervision. All of this talk about the rehiring of men who have been laid off may sound good, but something they aren't saying is that when they do hire the men back into the mills, they won't hire anything near the men that are laid off. With all this automation, it just won't happen.

We have seniority, and they follow it pretty well. But you take some of the old timers. If they're laid off for more than 30 days, they have to take a physical examination. And if the company doesn't want them, the report comes in that the man isn't able to do the kind of work that is open, and that's about it. If you can't do the work, they don't have a job for you.

Steel Worker,
Pittsburgh

EDUCATION

I was moved by the deep feeling with which Caroline Goldsmith wrote about John Brown (Jan. 31, '58). I can appreciate what she must have felt to discover the truth about this great man — which you can no longer find in the re-written history texts that the schools use.

If she continues to dig for the truth she will find that, unwittingly, she did the many dedicated Abolitionists an injustice by implying that they talked rather than acted. Actually it was their inflexible principle to suit actions to words. They were conductors in the vast Underground Railway. They provided stations where slaves could hide along the perilous route to freedom. In countless instances forcibly rescued runaway slaves from the slave-

NOTE TO READERS

Because of technical difficulties it was impossible for News & Letters to appear with a February, 1958 issue. We are therefore extending all current subscriptions for one month in order to assure subscribers that they will receive the full number of issues for which they have paid.—Ed.

Views

catchers authorized by the infamous Fugitive Slave Act.

Civil War Student
New York

* * *

In colleges in the U.S. today there is by and large an almost total ignorance of the history of the American labor movement and the history of class struggles that have taken place here. It has been consciously suppressed and what has been written up has been in such a way as to completely denigrate the role that the American worker has played in his own development.

How many know anything about the great Homestead Steel strikes and the police action against the coal and iron workers in the South? The Tennessee coal mine police or what they call Bloody Harlan County? What the miners had to go through in Harlan County to organize themselves? How they would be shot down in the streets. How when you had to go for a job in the coal fields there weren't any roads. You had to walk on the railroad tracks from one town to the next and you were met there by the sheriff and were told there are no jobs in this town, keep going. If you didn't keep going you'd wind up in jail. It sounds like pages out of the dark history of Russia which they are willing to play up in the pages of Life. Their own dark pages of American history are completely out of the picture as far as anything that is taught in any American University today.

Construction worker,
Detroit

* * *

About News & Letters

News & Letters has excellent features. It is unique as a direct expression of workers' conditions and attitudes. Worker's Journal I like especially. I keep telling people about it, and hope it reaches more in Detroit.

Naturally, only the current problems of the auto workers and others can determine the main subjects of the paper. Aside from that, it seems to me that detailed and practical problems resulting from automation are the first stage of long-range problems. It may be that white-collar workers will be even more displaced by automation than assembly-line workers; but this is not as important for News & Letters. People I show it to are always most interested in workers' letters.

Reader,
Penna.

READERS ANSWER

I see N. Smith's (Jan. 31, issue) philosophy in practice by the articles he picks out as "no interest at all." It's the philosophy of the Kremlin that does not look toward the workers for anything, but attempts to crush them as Hungary is the bloody proof.

Production worker,
Detroit

* * *

All I have to say to Mr. Smith is that if "ability to stay in power" is his criterion for judging a society, then Capitalism should be the thing of the future for him, for it has been around for 200 years. I guess it is for him since Russia is governed by the same fundamental laws of capitalism—but there the

state has become the "abstract capitalist", taking the place of the private capitalist.

School teacher,
Detroit

* * *

What does N. Smith think the Hitler-Stalin Pact, and the no-strike pledge that the Communist supported during WW II, were? Are these signs that the Communists kept the Socialist torch burning?

Add to the above Poland, Hungary, East Berlin. Since he asked for comments; Mr. Smith do not be so fast to hand over to butchers, the fight of the peoples of Asia and Africa for freedom.

Young worker,
Detroit

Notes from England:

Unemployment, Missiles & Elections

More and more are becoming workless in Britain and it has been estimated that a very great number are going to be deprived of their livelihood in the coming months. In South Wales the workless are on the march again in the thousands. Automation in steel has put them out of work. It is said the Government was warned years ago, they have done nothing.

* * *

The Merseyside building workers have banned overtime, because there are so many workless in the industry and it is surely wrong that workers should be killing themselves with overtime while others have no work at all.

* * *

There is much hostility here towards the British alliance with America, which has resulted in H bombers overhead and now the new rockets which are to be manned by American servicemen. Our Prime Minister thinks he will win back popularity by just getting some little concession at the Summit talks. He seems to make it clear, like Dulles, that he does not really want them to be a success, although he must put up a pretense that he does, but he won't even hold back the rockets until after the talks.

* * *

The Tory government which represents the interests of the employing class, is very unpopular. At Roachdale they suffered a very bad defeat and it seems clear they could not face the electorate with any chance of winning. A Labourite won the election, and a liberal gained twice as many votes as the Tory candidate. However the Labour man got less votes this time than the last time when he lost the election. If the Labour party wins the next elections, as seems certain, they say they will continue to nationalize even the Englishman's castle (his home) and it will be taken over by the state. The big brother state landlord is certainly no less evil than the wicked Tory landlord of bygone times. The people want to be owner-occupiers, but the present government which claims to believe in that, turned against the tenants and brought in the rent act in favour of their friends the Tory landlords, rents will rise and people will be evicted. It is bad for those who want to buy their own homes; furthermore to do that, one must have a secure and reasonable income. This the vast majority have not got and the politicians don't want us to have it either apparently, they are all for keeping wages down.

* * *

There seems to be a complete lack of idealism amongst the politicians and those with authority in general—their attitude is: "beggar you, Jack, I'm all right!"

—Lancashire Correspondent

TWO WORLDS

UNEMPLOYMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS TO FIGHT IT

The present unemployment situation has everyone from Eisenhower to the Sunday preacher talking about it. But no one is doing anything about it. A look at the organizational forms which the last depression produced may have some value for us today, if only to reject the old forms and create entirely new ones. It is for this reason that I am turning the pages of history back to the 1930's.

The last depression gave rise to a number of small political parties, the chief of which was the American Workers Party (AWP), officially formed in 1933. Actually, it had existed from 1928 when it was called the Conference for Progressive Labor Action (CPLA). It was formed originally to defend Brookwood Labor College from attacks by the AF of L that the college was harboring Communists. The actual reason for the attack was that the college taught industrial unionism. The chairman of the college, the CPLA and the AWP was A. J. Muste.

In 1931, they launched the great organizing strike in Paterson, N.J. They were in the forefront of the campaign to organize the West Virginia Mine Workers Union as well as the Illinois miners in 1932. They soon found themselves at the head of some 10,000 unemployed in the Midwest. They organized Unemployed Leagues in opposition to the Unemployed Councils organized by the Communist Party.

In 1934 a strike against Auto-Lite broke out in Toledo, Ohio. An AF of L local called the strike, but it soon became obvious it was impossible for it alone to fight all the forces of capital and the police arrayed against it. The local called upon the Musteite Unemployed Leagues for help on the picket line. When the organizing talent of the Musteites was added to the tremendous activities of the workers, Toledo, Ohio, became the birthplace of the auto workers union. Thus the Musteites were in the forefront of what became later the mighty upsurge of labor called the CIO.

THE "AMERICAN ORIENTATION" AND POLITICAL ACTION

But already in 1933 they had come to the conclusion that neither the struggles of the unemployed for relief, nor those of the workers for industrial unionism would be sufficient to change the world crisis into a workers world. Political action was needed. At the AWP founding convention in Pittsburgh, resolutions called for the formation of a genuine mass labor party, "an American orientation."

Pulling in the opposite direction was Louis Budenz, who was looking at the Communist Party with its daily paper, posts and behind it a whole country—Russia. Before that force the "American orientation" crumbled.

WHAT TO TELL THE WORKERS

There is no doubt that these intellectuals had turned to the working class because they believed that the capitalists had led the world from world war to world depression, and that only the workers could change society fundamentally. The difficulty was that the task for them as intellectuals did not end with their turning to the working class. It first began there.

What, between Fascists, Communism and the New Deal, would the intellectuals of the "American orientation" tell the workers?

The situation was a concrete one: in the unemployed leagues and in the strikes one strong force (the Communist Party) and one small force (the Trotskyists) were pulling at the Musteites. The ranks were hungry for ideas. They were attracted to the Trotskyists who seemed to have a body of ideas from plan to world revolution and who were saying to the Communists, "You went down before fascism without a fight. It is because your leader, Stalin, subordinates all struggles to the dictates of the usurping Russian bureaucracy. Only we stand for true workers interests on a world scale."

After the merger with the Trotskyists the ranks were the first to drop out. Trotskyism was completely isolated from the great upsurge that became the CIO.

COMMUNISM, TROTSKYISM, WHAT NOW

Part of the Musteite leadership, represented by Budenz, joined the Communist Party where he became the managing editor of the **Daily Worker**. He has now become the total stool pigeon.

Muste himself dropped out of the movement soon after the merger of his group with the Trotskyists. He now heads the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist grouping. Burnham broke with Trotskyism during the war. He saw a new society emerging, not from the workers, but from managers and planners. He is now the outspoken campaigner for "all-out Americanism." Sidney Hook is the advocate of "democracy" for all those who agree with him. It is hard to distinguish between him and Attorney General William P. Rogers.

The unemployment situation and the crisis it will bring will certainly throw up groups of radicals who more than ever will need a system of ideas which will enable them not merely to agitate for the unemployed and take part in the workers' struggles, but will help them to meet the crisis. The time to do that is now. Every page of NEWS & LETTERS is engaged in this task.

—R. D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

THE UNBEATEN GENERATION

They call us the "beat generation." They say that we, the youth of America, have no morals, no ethics, we are wild, and we are rebels without a cause. They publicize this in magazine articles, pictures, newspapers, television, etc.

Everyone has a different reason and solution for this, from cars and Elvis Presley, to a lack of religion and poor homes. They can't understand why we won't listen to them. They are supposed to be more experienced and wiser, and therefore are to have the right to tell us how to conduct our lives.

REBELS WITH CAUSE

It is true that most of us are rebels in one way or another, but we have a cause, although, we ourselves sometimes fail to put our finger on it. We are looking for a better way of life. Our morals and ethics? We have them, but they are not those of our parents, they are our own. We choose our own because we look at the existing society and we do not like it, therefore, we can see no reason to follow the morals and ethics it is based on.

It might seem that we have nothing to rebel against. It might seem, at first glance, that we have a good way of life merely because we have material things such as TV sets, cars, and automated machinery, that our parents

never had. This is not what we want! We want freedom — total freedom — freedom from H-bombs and missiles, freedom from war, freedom from being a little less than human because you are a teenager, freedom of thought and expression in our schools and at home, and freedom from labor that is more alien than any foreigner, for even teenagers are a victim of that kind of labor.

I am not, however, blaming our parents, I blame the society of which they are all a victim.

Adults do have a lot to offer us in their years of experience, but we have something just as important to offer, and that is our **youth itself**. We have our fresh and uncluttered minds to offer, but they are not accepted.

YOUTH SEE CONTRADICTION

M.D. in his column in News & Letters once said, "The young often see, with eyes and minds clearer than adults', the contradictions in school, home and the world outside—all of which fail to measure up to human values." I think his words clarify mine.

My vision is one of a new free society in which, among other things I will not have to wait until I am 21 to be admitted into the human race.—Caroline Goldsmith.

Tunisia

My advanced Composition teacher started off our class with a bang by explaining to us that, in relationship to the recent Tunisian-French crisis, we must understand the French problem, and we must forgive France for sending 25 American made bombers to bomb a Tunisian village, killing seventy-nine people, eight of which were children, and wounding 130. **I am sorry, but I do not understand!**

In spite of denial, it is evident that the French inflicted this bloody slaughter on the Tunisian people as a warning not to harbor or give aid to Algerian rebels, which the Tunisians have been doing.

My teacher stated that we must understand that France is dependent on her colonies, thereby implying that France is justified in her mass murder. **I do not know the economic condition of France well enough to realize the authenticity of this, but I know that France, England, and other countries like them, will have to learn to live without exploiting the peoples of other lands.**

The root of the Tunisian-French problem lies in the fact that Algeria wants her independence from France, but France says she can not let them have this independ-

ence because Algeria is a part of France and they can not, in view of this, cut off a part of their country. The determined Algerians, therefore, are fighting for their independence. What France neglects to tell you is that she has recently discovered oil deposits in Algeria. I do not know if Algeria is actually a part of France, but I do know that it is oil that France is after, and not good geography.

FRANCE OFFERS MONEY

France has offered to pay Tunisia for the damage done in Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef, the bombed Tunisian village, if she will withdraw her plea to the United Nations, **but how can you pay for human lives.** What amount of money will France pay to Tunisia? **What is the value of a human life today? All the gold in the world will not bring back to life eight dead children and seventy-nine dead men and women.** It seems that not only the value of the dollar has depreciated, but the value of human lives as well.

Through all of this the United Nations and the United States take the same action they did during the Hungarian Revolution. They sit on their hands and relay worthless sympathy.

Education & Sputnik

LOS ANGELES — Recently I read a letter to the editor in a local paper. It said: "In the Soviet Union kids in school learn algebra and languages in elementary school." The author went on to say that he was ashamed of the teen-agers of America. What he forgot to say was that only a select few in Russia get the education he speaks of.

These are the few so-called "bright" children, who will become the scientists, engineers, etc. But what about the others, the greater part of the Russian children, what happens to them? They end up in trade schools, factories, and some with no education at all. Perhaps that is what the writer wants here in America.

The writer also said, "By the time they are 15 most of them are adults, responsible, and know pretty well where they are going — and why." But is it right to deprive children of their youth?

As to why they are going to be scientists, engineers, etc., they know that it is either that or slave labor for the rest of their lives.

Is that what we want to imitate?

—Student

WORK SHOULD BE DIFFERENT

Los Angeles — I was talking to a teenage guy who's married and has a baby. He was telling me how he has to work to support them.

He works in a tin shack. He said on those real hot days we had last summer, that shack held in all the heat, it was like working in an oven.

Why does anyone have to work like that?

HATES JOB

He told me how much he hated his job and how he hates to get up in the mornings to go to work. He said, "I go to work and I work with the same man every day on the same machine. We don't even say hello. We know we have to be there and put up with that machine and with each other for eight hours. We just watch each other and that machine, and if either one of us makes a mistake and the other one has to make extra motions, we give each other dirty looks. We only talk after lunch when we know the day is half over."

I want to know why a person should have to work at a job that is so apart from him?

—18 year old

TEACHING THE YOUTH

Marxism is a closed book at school. It isn't so much that the kids accept the ideas of the big leaders, it's just that they don't hear anything at all about Marxism.

College Student
West Virginia

Integration Or Outer Space?

Russia has two Sputniks up in outer space. Maybe they are doing that so the people on earth will just think about moons, and not about the earth. Then Communism can just step in and conquer everything.

I don't think that because Russia had two Sputniks and America had only one, that made the Russians superior. We've had a lot of other things here like integration to think about. I don't think they have that there. Why can't Americans stop fighting the Negroes? The Sputniks have made people stop thinking about Little Rock.

Teenager,
Detroit

70c An Hour

The owners of the big farms in California have threatened the State government that if the State sets and enforces a \$1 minimum wage for women and children in agriculture, that the growers will no longer hire them. The prevailing wage in the Imperial Valley today is 70 cents an hour.

These big farmers, by the way, are fairly happy about unemployment according to the newspapers. It makes available a large labor force for them. When factory jobs are open there aren't many takers for jobs paying 70 cents an hour.

Green Thumb
Los Angeles, Calif.

EDUCATION IN NEW YORK CITY

The New York City Board of Education in apparent belated response to President Eisenhower's edict to get the schools in shape to produce more war technicians, suddenly on Feb. 9, suspended over 700 students as "troublemakers."

POLITICAL FOOTBALL

So called "juvenile delinquency" has been steadily increasing in New York City for over twenty years. It has been used as a political football and it has been used as a stimulant to waning newspaper circulation. The Board in a statement issued Feb. 4 said it noted "that delinquency among the young is not a modern phenomenon that it springs from no one cause and is susceptible to no one cure." They sounded almost tranquil. Yet three days later 700 students were suspended without hearings and five days later Governor Harriman says he is ready to "work out a crash program with the Mayor and the Board of Education." Despite the fact that New York State law requires that "immediate steps shall be taken" for the suspended students' "attendance upon instruction elsewhere."

The mastermind who launched the attack made no provisions for the educational requirements of the kids. Abandoned, dilapidated century old school buildings are being pressed into service to quarantine and "rehabilitate" these youth. Superintendent Jansen and the School Board have their critics. The ACLU and various teachers organizations have protested, calling the suspensions "shocking" and "ineffectual." But all, the board and critics alike agree on one point. The solution to the problems dramatized by the antics of Jansen and the board is more money, more schools, more teachers, etc.

WHO WILL LISTEN TO YOUTH?

One writer in the "radical" press deplores the fact that in one of the best manned schools in Brooklyn there is only one guidance counselor to 200 students. Ask the students if they think the world needs more guidance counselors? **Education must make delinquent society look rational and rational juveniles look delinquent. Why will no one listen to the youth?**

The students who have totally rejected the plan of the school board are called the "incorrigible hard core of troublemakers." Khrushchev sends the dissident Russian students to work in Siberia and now there is talk of setting up work camps in New York.

The 50,000 New York high school students that went on strike in 1950 were all liable to suspension. Not a whisper was heard from the Board of Education. Now they claim all their troubles are caused by 1% of the student body.

NOT "MORE" BUT "NEW"

On Feb. 8, a student conference sponsored by the Riverside Neighborhood Assembly was held at Walden High School in Manhattan. Some 250 teenagers from 14 schools were present. They not only rejected the school board's new policy but registered themselves in opposition to the competitive atmosphere that has been created in the school and noted that good marks on a report card don't necessarily reflect a good education.

The students that attend this kind of conference usually would be among the last to find fault, yet because they are students they are raised a head taller than the school planners who don't know what the school day is. These youth are asking not for something more, but for something new. — Robert Ellery.

DEPRESSION NOTES

L. L. Colbert, President of Chrysler Corp, earned \$488,900 in 1957. The 11 top officials of the company received \$3,552,412.

Eisenhower is considering a tax cut to help out. Put 10% of no salary at all against 10% of \$488,900 and see what you've got.

THE UPS & DOWNS IN AIRCRAFT

LOS ANGELES—It started around October of last year, that is the lay-offs in aircraft in Los Angeles, particularly, at my plant, North American. Recently, Time Magazine wrote what caused such a drastic cut-back at N.A.A. It was brought about by a mis-judgement in Air Force funds for that fiscal year and hence, the cancellation of the government contract to North American and its Navaho guided missile.

It also said the government, realizing its tragic error which brought untold suffering to thousands of people in aircraft who were hit by the lay-offs, decided to attempt a "peace offering" in the form of a new contract for a revolutionary new rocket-type plane, and N.A.A. and Boeing Aircraft would compete for the contract.

Everyone at N.A.A. I talked to was joyous at the prospect that we would receive the go-ahead for the plane. Mostly, the thoughts were that with the contract, the severe lay-offs experienced would immediately cease. A worker could make plans again for that new home or car, the thought of weekly visits to the unemployment window would be a thing of the past and once

more, a man could feel he had job security.

Finally, the big day arrived and it was announced officially in the company paper that North American had been awarded the big contract. There was relief in many workers' faces as though they felt their hopes had been answered. That was until it was learned a few weeks later, that the plane, not being a conventional type required extensive research, engineering experiments and numerous other time consuming factors that had to be tested before the ship actually found its way down the production line to the workers. A conservative estimate by company spokesmen said it should take, before the finished plane is in the skies, about five full years!

Needless to say, this prediction would have little influence on the continuous lay-offs as was suspected earlier. Today, at the plant, one could mention the fact that seldom, if ever, the conversation centers around the five-year-away plane. The main thought right now is: Who will be laid off next?

The union and the company have been negotiating on a new contract for the last two or three weeks and today I learned, there is a strong possibility that if the union isn't satisfied with the company's offers, there will be a strike.—Aircraft Worker.

You're Not Alone!

PITTSBURGH — I was talking to a friend, over the phone, in West Virginia. She was telling me about how bad her husband was feeling because he was laid off. She said the way he was acting you would think he was the only one laid off.

I told her this was silly and didn't make sense because there are so many others in the same boat, that I don't think any one person should feel this way. He's not the only one with bills to pay and mouths to feed. Some people have a lot more to pay and feed than he. As far as bills go if you don't buy, they won't go up. Our utilities are the ones that really add up.

There is one thing sure. With so many millions out of work, creditors should know what is happening and shouldn't hound you to death to pay your bills.

My husband is still working a short week and I guess it won't be too much longer before he's laid off. Then we'll be in the same boat with everyone. I'd be worried if it was just us. When there are that many people out of work, you know something will have to happen. If you were in the boat all by yourself, you'd be in pretty bad shape.

Book Review

THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS. By Vance Packard. David McKay Company, New York. 275 Pages.

* * *

In a very readable way Vance Packard's, **The Hidden Persuaders**, tells how ad men use tricky psychological gimmicks to force all kinds of junk on us.

Politicians also have started to use the same gimmicks—both ad men and capitalist politicians hire psychologists to find the best way to trick us and to sell us their products, whether the products are soap, or capitalist ideas or capitalist candidates.

For example, the politicians deliberately projected Eisenhower as a "father image" to gain him votes.

And the ad men found that most women are very attracted to red. So they package many products with fancy and striking red labels. This makes many women in super-markets reach for red packages even before they have read the labels. Some firms have psychoanalyzed little girls to find the best ways to sell them home permanents.

Packard says that eventually advertising gimmicks of today may become old fashioned: "biocontrol" may come in. He quotes "Time" magazine quoting electrical engineer Curtiss R. Schafer of the Norden-Ketay Corporation:

"The ultimate achievement of biocontrol may be the control of man himself. The con-

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

UTOPIA

Margaret Mead is a scientist—an anthropologist of repute and prominence, and a student of the cultural development of mankind who has contributed much information through observing the life of existing remnants of primitive societies on islands of the South Pacific. She is one of many people in the sciences, arts, and professions who are dissatisfied with present day existence. In a lecture before the American Society for the Advancement of Science she spoke on "Towards more vivid Utopias".

HEAVEN OR HELL

She raises the question as to why the visions of heaven in this world and the next, commonly held by people, have a tasteless and pallid quality compared to the vivid pictures of intensity of hell and terror. She believes that dictatorships, with concentration camps and thought control, appeal to human beings most shared and least differentiated responses. Pain, hunger, thirst, isolation, fear, fatigue, and weakness are experiences that ultimately cause almost every human being, except martyrs, to break down.

3 WAYS TO UTOPIA

To make our image of Utopia more vivid, she says, it must have a wide enough appeal to every different member of society, to the separate experiences of different regions, different classes, different vocations, to peoples of different temperaments and cultures. It must create conditions in which a child can grow, an idea take root, a man's hand can grow keen, mind sharp, and imagination wide.

She suggests three sources for a desired Utopia; 1. Using the imaginative capacities of the child to create something unique and new out of his perception of himself and the outside world. 2. Using the knowledge obtained from other cultures of what has been done before. 3. Establish "Chairs of the Future" in universities for wise men who will realize the possibilities for the future emerging from scientific discoveries of the present, and who will know the scope of what man has achieved in the past.

UNITY OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL POWERS

The ideal can be the real, but only in and through the activity of living man.

The abnormalities in the life of millions of men, here and now, the contradictions which sicken and irritate him, build the negativity; the opposition to an existence that makes of him the adjunct to a machine. It is only here, in a daily activity which has become the means for the production of more and more surplus values, that a change can come about which will have meaning. This is the change which will set free his humanity.

Utopia on this earth is impossible without the living unity of the physical and mental powers of man. Such wholeness has no dependence on automation or to any number of chairs of special knowledge in universities.

trolled subjects would never that the electrodes "cause no be permitted to think as individuals. A few months after birth, a surgeon would equip each child with a socket mounted under the scalp and electrodes reaching selected areas of brain tissue. The child's sensory perceptions and muscular activity could be either modified or completely controlled by bioelectric signals radiating from state-controlled transmitters."

Packard apparently is not a socialist. But his book shows the trend of capitalism: Unless workers end capitalism it will move toward a state capitalist dictatorship of the fascist type—and it will use the advertising and propaganda techniques described in Packard's book.

Packard's, **The Hidden Persuaders** should be read as a supplement to Orwell's, 1984.—John Loeb.

The capitalist engineer added the reassuring thought

WORKER ATTACKS BRITISH TAX SYSTEM

(Continued from Page 1)

vengeance—since they too, were presumably carrying out their hateful orders!

"My money was taken from me by the employers and without a receipt, it was an excessive amount. I wrote and phoned them without getting satisfaction. Afterwards they said I should have called, yet their hours are shorter than mine and it would have been impossible without asking off from a new job... They refused to tell my employer there was no tax due, and they refused to return my money direct, "as these were not P.A.Y.E. procedures!" However, the head office decided they could send my employer a suitable slip which would show no tax was to be taken, as a result my money was paid back to me.

"An employee has no definite way of knowing if officials go around snooping on him, if his employer should make enquiries, he is not to know what information may be given out, which is confidential and may be to his detriment. **There is one tax law for the rich and a different one for the poor; those who take the workers tax under P.A.Y.E. do not have to suffer under this rotten procedure themselves...**

"There must be many people paying more tax than they should and this is the most taxed country on earth. If I pointed that out to them I imagine they would say, it is a matter of no concern to them, this is a phrase they enjoy using. One official told me sarcastically to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer... I have taken the advice..."

"With taxes, railfares and insurance, a poorly paid worker, will ask himself what he is slaving away for! In other words what incentive is there to work hard. Some people literally working themselves to death while others have no work (about 400,000 in the United Kingdom I believe and still rising!)"

"I have heard Government spokesmen say that inflation had to be fought and that wages should only rise with production. While increases were being denied production and essential workers, the Government was substantially raising the salaries of luxuriously paid big bureaucrats, despite the fact that **bureaucrats produce nothing...**

"At present we seem to be on the road, not to industrial democracy, but industrial slavery!... one is bound to wonder what our future will be.

Already we are a second rate power under the thumb of America and deteriorating fast..."

V. Turner

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World Tension Mounts As Unemployment Grows

(Continued from Page 1)

are evident. The United States is in a depression with bread lines forming in the major cities. When America sneezes, England gets pneumonia. Russia pushes for a summit meeting to divert attention from pressing internal problems. France passes from crisis to crisis, one government after another. No country is immune. Revolutions pop in South America, Cuba has a civil war, India is in crisis, Indonesia has an active civil war, Russia's satellites seek only the opportunity to revolt. In the Middle East new groups of Arab states seem to be forming weekly. Africa is demanding independence. Where in this tormented world is a country at peace, without the burdens of armament for the next war, without unemployment, misery and fear? Where is a working class satisfied with production relations as they are? Where is a capitalist class satisfied with what they have, not greedy for more profits, more territory?

Yet, there are those who say that the workers are backward, satisfied with their conditions and their institutions. These people fail to see the new developing forms the class struggle takes in 1958.

SHORTER WEEK—NO PAY

In Detroit the Chrysler Corp. has taken the offensive against the working class. Anticipating a bitter union struggle for the 1958 contract, they have since before New Years instituted a 16 hour week which neither makes a worker unemployed nor does it pay him more than \$30 a week. Many workers with children would draw unemployment compensation up to \$55.00 if unemployed. By continuing "employment" on this restricted 16 hour a week basis, the Chrysler Corp. is slowly driving their workers into bankruptcy. Many have complained to us that they are losing their cars and their homes. The finance companies are foreclosing on furniture, TV sets, anything that is not paid for. Credit in Detroit is finished for the auto worker.

Ford and General Motors are more subtle. They lay off workers for a week, every other week or so. When a worker's "waiting period" is about up and he is about to get a check then they call him back and he is cut off unemployment compensation before he has started.

REUTHER & COMPANY

Walter Reuther demanded a conference with Chrysler. His program: lay off workers and share the profits with those left. Chrysler complied by laying off 18,000 and keeping the biggest profits in its history. The workers' demand of "a short-

er work week" was ignored by both.

Just as the American State Dept. publishes pamphlets in Europe explaining "People's Capitalism" to make it look like the socialism the people want, so Reuther's pet radical Frank Marquardt appears in the European radical press as a "socialist" while in the states Reuther plays the "anti-socialist."

It is a far cry from the bombing of a Tunisian village where innocent workers are murdered, to the American industrial capital of the United States, Detroit. Yet the contrast serves only to prove the identity.

NEW METHODS

Formerly people looked to Europe for signs of world wide workers' discontent and signs of revolt. Today, in 1958, the workers of Western Europe as well as those of Russian slave states look to the workers of the United States for a sign. They look here for a road out. They are but waiting for the new forms to emerge from the working class that will aid them in the struggle against their labor bureaucracy, against their oppressive governments.

The form which the struggle will take is not ours to either dictate or to even predict. Faced with the necessity, the workers of Hungary found in a few short weeks the method of holding off the Red Army. The sit down strike and the formation of the C.I.O. was the workers' answer in 1937 to the apathy of the AFofL and the aggression of the capitalist class.

The forms of these struggles emerged from the working class itself. No one could or did predict even a week in advance, the course of these struggles. Witness Poznan, East Germany in June of 1953, the slave labor revolts at Vorkuta, the current revolts throughout the world.

No, the working class is not backward. Push them far enough and the day and the age of the pushers is finished for good.

ALGERIA

The French have killed 3,900 Algerian people in the Algerian war during the month of February while suffering the loss of 297 Frenchmen killed.

The world is shocked to hear that a 21 year old girl, Djamilia Bouhired, is under sentence of death by the guillotine for her part in terrorist activity. Her sentence is being appealed before the French clemency board in Paris.

INDONESIA

The widely heralded revolt against the government of Sukarno has broken out into open warfare in Indonesia. The country seems rather remote from the United States, but it has a population of over 85 million, the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population, covering an area of 3,000 islands over ocean space equal to the size of the United States.

President Sukarno is the popular figure who has headed the new republic since its birth after W.W. II, when independence from the Dutch was won. He refuses to openly support "the West" in the cold war, and has taken Communists into his government as representatives of the 6 million who voted Communist. He has seized Dutch assets in the islands but he has not confiscated American oil and chemical firms.

The "rebels" seem to be high officers of the army, bank officials, rich planters and other "respected elements" who find favor with the American State Dept. and get good publicity in the American press. They state that they demand only that Sukarno rid himself of the Communists in the government.

Sukarno, on the other

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

hand, seems to be a rather unpredictable character easily impressed with his receptions in Peking and Moscow. He seems to have overwhelming support from the poor and the middle class in Indonesia. His politics vary from day to day and he seems a master at getting himself out of his troubles.

RUSSIA

Another "election" is about to be held in Russia. The outcome will surprise no one. Only the percentage of voters supporting the administration is unknown but it will hit about 98.2% when Krushchev gets through juggling the figures.

Americans are familiar with these one party elections, they have the same thing in the south, where only candidates of the Democratic Party are elected.

POLAND

We are often told that there is no unemployment behind the Iron Curtain, yet this item appeared recently in the press.

"The axe is falling for thousands of employees in Communist-ruled Poland's state industries. More than 100,000 are to be laid off by the end of the year. The layoff is part of a campaign against low productivity and absenteeism."

This has a familiar ring to it. The normal complaint of the capitalist bosses against the workers.

ITALY

The age old issue of the Church and the State are back in the news. Brought back by the conviction of the Bishop of Prato for slandering a couple who were married in a civil ceremony outside the church. The issue is complicated by the fact that the government is Catholic dominated, yet it cannot give in to the Pope.

The Pope is taking a personal hand in the affair, demanding his rights under the Lateran Pacts, which made the Roman Catholic Church the only recognized church in Italy.

The incident brings back to mind that the Catholic Church is no believer in democracy of any kind, that it supports only autocracy. In countries like Spain and Italy and any other country that they can control, they suppress all other religious thought.

CUBA

The rebel forces of Fidel Castro seem to be able at will to create incidents, even in the capital Ha-

vana, which demonstrate the weakness of the Batista government.

The latest incident is the calling of a general strike of all workers. Little is known of what Castro stands for, but it is known that he is the son of a prosperous planter. It is also known that the Catholic Church in Cuba has been hinting that Batista form a coalition government which would include Castro forces and dissolve the civil war situation.

Batista has responded to the General Strike call by suspending all civil liberties for 45 days and setting up an absolute dictatorship.

U.S.A. (SOUTHERN SECTION)

The "gallant sons of the confederacy" in the true traditions of their slave holding ignoble ancestors have struck again. This time they have bombed two Jewish centers in the South. First struck was a Jewish Center in Miami Florida with \$30,000 damage. Then they struck the Nashville Jewish Community Center with \$6,000 damage. Both attacks were preceded by phone calls from "the confederate underground". Next they promised to murder a U.S. Federal Judge who had made a ruling favoring the integration of southern schools.

The phone informant said, "This is the Confederate underground. We have just blown up that integration center and our next target is Judge Miller. We are going to shoot him down on the street." Rabbi Silverman also received a call warning, "the Temple is going to be next."

The vandals stole the dynamite from the construction job of a Jewish Temple.

It is clear from the activities of these contemptable people that they link Negroes, Jews, Catholics and dogs in the same category. They are represented in the U.S. Senate and Congress by representatives in the Democratic Party who feel as they do, and vote for their aims and desires.

EAST COAST

The ILG boasted in their recent strike of not having struck the garment industry in 25 years. Wouldn't it have been a much more meaningful boast to human beings, if they had struck through all those years to rid New York of those dirty sweat shops, that have now taken 24 more lives in a fire.

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