

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

What Happens to Workers Money, Labor, Sweat

In the daily press you read that the International of the U.A.W. is operating in the red. One of the most important questions to workers (and they have been discussing it in the shop for the past few weeks) is not about the union operating in the red, but the money that the union has collected from workers in the past ten or twelve years. Workers have no say on how it is spent or what it should be spent for.

Today thousands upon thousands of workers are out of work. No one can go to the International or his local union and get a dime. Workers also say that if one half of the money that is going for Democratic candidates went into an unemployment relief fund things would be much better for many workers.

FROM THE LABOR OF WORKERS

They are also talking about the staff of union bosses and secretaries on the International payroll and their salaries and the expense accounts double their salaries. Not one is elected by workers, they are appointed by the bosses of the International. All of it comes from the labor and sweat of the workers in the shops. One worker said, "I wouldn't feel so bad about it, but many of these so called leaders are just on the pay roll. Why does and how can the International keep adding to its staff, when the lay-offs for the workers started back in 1955? This past year four or five bureaucrats have been put on the International staff from our local alone." Another worker said that he doesn't believe a thing coming from the mouths of union leaders. He said as soon as he read that the union lost the recent court case and will have to pay Renda \$400,000, and as soon as Mazey said the International would appeal the decision, it meant they would use some trick to appeal to workers to pay it. Some other worker said that it is also a trick they are trying to pull, first saying that they are operating in the red. We are now paying \$8 a month dues. When the three month period of assessment is over the International will probably say they are still in the red and we have to continue paying the higher dues.

When Reuther and his machine pushed the check off system down our throats, that was the biggest trick that has been pulled since we organized the U.A.W. Reuther said it was to help workers from getting behind in their dues and save them from making trips to pay it. Yes, it sounded okay then, but many see now why he wanted it. Anytime he wants to gouge deeper into a worker's pay check, he finds a gimmick for the International needing more money then tells the company to take it out of the pay checks.

WHERE HAVE UNION LEADERS GONE?

They say if we don't have a strike the money will be refunded. I have not heard one worker say he believes this. Union leaders are always using the words that we are grown up now since the early days. 20 years ago it was a principle that International Representatives would leave the shop and work for the union for the same pay they were receiving while working in the shop. It was a crime to lie to workers. Their expense money was money for union work, and could be proved as such. 15 or 20 years ago, the leaders were a part of the workers struggles, especially in production disputes. What they really are saying with "we are grown up now" is that they have grown away from the workers. Today workers are only thought of when they want to clip them for money and more money, or try to fool us to get votes for some politician. One worker said, "I will have to defend the union against the company and the McClellan investigation committee, but they know some of the rank & file feelings against these leaders, that they are not a part of us any more. That's why I think they are beginning to attack the U.A.W. leadership." He also said, that next the union leaders will yell that the rank and file are to blame and are the cause for them operating in the red.

REUTHER'S SHIP SINKING

Never before in the history of the U.A.W. has it been that not a worker knows what his union is bargaining for with the auto companies. One worker said it's tighter than a military secret. The leaders of the union are asking for a 3 month extension of the contract. The companies said they want a 2 year extension. In all previous years it was the company that asked for extensions first.

Today the company notifies the union that the contract is to expire, something unheard of in past years.

Workers are saying we are going down, down, on this ship of Walter Reuther's. When they gave the company all rights over production the ship started sinking.

IKE SAYS THE DEPRESSION'S "MINOR," BUT —

Workers Know It's Getting Worse

An unemployed miner told News & Letters: "I know I'm in worse shape than a lot of the guys laid off like me. I've got 7 kids. I get extra for the kids—\$9 a week more than a guy with nobody but himself to keep. \$39 a week. If I paid the rent and utilities, there'd be nothing left for food; and I'm not going to see my kids starve."

"I'm lucky, my father-in-law pays the rent and utilities. If it wasn't for him, I'd have been thrown out months ago. But I've got two good hands, only what good are they when you can't find any work? Something has just got to be done. Not only for me, but for everybody else who is in the same boat."

MILLIONS OFF

This sentiment, expressed by a laid-off coal miner, is being echoed by millions of workers throughout the country. Every day new statistics indicate that the depression is getting worse. lay-offs continue among the mine workers, steel workers, auto workers and those working in affiliated industries.

Every one knows that the official statistics—over 5 million unemployed—are false for they do not count those not on unemployment insurance, and not getting relief. Nor do the figures count the youth who will be getting out of school in June without hope of jobs. Nor do the figures count the 2 million whose compensation benefits are now expiring.

The statistics don't show those workers who are officially employed because they work only a single day a week. That was the method all the big auto companies used to prevent the workers from getting unemployment insurance. A man with a wife and 4 children cannot live on \$25 a week, so Big Business hoped to demoralize the workers with starvation. They did not succeed.

Now, management is using the unemployed statistics to try to shackle the worker with the worst working conditions and the highest inflation he has had.

"BUY NOW" CAMPAIGN

Those who are out of work can but grimly laugh at the "expert" advice from President Eisenhower to "Buy." They not only don't get enough to maintain a decent living standard; most of them are in debt, losing cars, homes and appliances on which they cannot make payment. "Yes, I'll buy more," said one worker, "if Eisenhower or Ford will give me the money."

Those who are still working don't know but that they will be laid off the next day. The fact is that with the reduced work week that is the general rule in most industries, there are some unem-



"Have you been out of work long?"

An Appeal To Our Readers

We appeal to our readers for money to help publish News & Letters. These past three years, the financing has been done mainly by the group of workers and intellectuals who first started this workers paper, which is the only one of its kind anywhere. We can do so no longer.

We frankly admit that the paper's growth, nationally and internationally—and it has grown—has not meant a matching growth in finances.

Subscriptions alone do not, and never have paid, for a workers' paper which carries no ads, and which opposes capitalism and Communism and fights against totalitarianism on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Above all, ours is the only paper which publishes the workers' daily struggles against the labor bureaucracy.

The best way to make this appeal is to print a letter from a Chrysler worker who wrote the following:

"As we production workers realize and know, times are getting rough with all of us. We have now come to the crucial time of having to ask you to help us as much as possible so that we can all keep on letting the world know how the production workers feel.

"We know how hard it is to find any paper that will print exactly the conditions that occur in our shops; a paper where we can do our own writing and feel sure that it will be printed and delivered the way we write it.

"News & Letters is the only paper that will carry the production worker's individual theories of the conditions of his work. And this includes the union papers too, which are printed by the Union but do not and will not print for the workers.

"As you know, the printer has to be paid before we can get the paper.

"We know our working conditions, the cost of living, and the amount of unemployment are hurting all of us. We also know and realize that this paper needs to be widely distributed as much, and more now

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COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

1957—Banner Year for Death In the Mining Industry

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—The human sacrifices to the great god Coal, and its handmaiden, profits for the coal operators, continue on an ever increasing scale. The total of 473 miners who had their lives brutally ended in 1957, with a frequency of fatalities amounting to 1.17 deaths per million man-hours of exposure to the hazards of the mining industry, is nine per-cent higher than the frequency rate for 1956, which was 1.09 per million man-hours of exposure and claimed 445 human lives. The figure for '57 is the highest for the past ten years.

Coupled with this staggering loss of life is the even greater number of men injured. There were 17,960 lost time accidents. Official statistics put the number of coal miners employed in 1957 at 214,000. It is the opinion of this writer that this figure is too high in the light of the many lay-offs and closing down of operations that have taken place in the last several months. Be that as it may, even using the official figures, the loss of human life and the maiming of men outrages every human instinct. Taking an average of 200 working days, which is a high estimate, the figures show that for each day the miners worked, approximately 90 men were injured; and for every two days, five men lost their lives.

SPEED-UP, TECHNOLOGY INCREASE DANGER

It would seem incredible that this ruthless carnage could be tolerated in a country as advanced in the field of technology as is the U.S. But it is precisely because of this advance in technology that the conditions of the miner are aggravated. The technology goes into the perfecting of the machines to produce more and more coal in shorter periods of time, with little or no consideration given to the men who must operate these machines, or to the conditions which are brought about by this tremendously increased rate of production.

In the operations of a mine involving the continuous miner, the rate of movement forward into a seam of coal is greatly increased over the rate of conventional mining methods. One of the consequences of this is the increased liberation of methane gas, which is highly explosive. And the drive of the operators for ever greater production often results in the ignoring of adequate ventilation to drive off dangerous accumulations of the gas.

INHUMAN PACE

The pace which the continuous miner sets on the mar is inhuman in the extreme. It is indeed significant that back in 1949-50, when the machines were first being introduced, the engineers expressed no qualms at all about the per-

fectability of the machine; but they cautioned against the strain the machine would place on the man. Efforts in the meantime were directed toward perfecting the machine, with no consideration for the human element involved.

Under the pressure of the machine and the boss, who can watch all men by simply being at the machine, the men often are dulled to even the most elementary requirements of safety.

With these ever increasing pressures brought to bear on the men, coupled now with the all pervading fear of being laid off, unnecessary chances are taken, with human lives as the stakes. Whereas these conditions should bring about even greater safety consciousness, every influence which is brought to bear on the men is in opposition to safety considerations. And in such conditions, just one brief lapse can result in a deadly accumulation of gas which a spark from any one of the several motors on a continuous miner can explode into a blazing inferno of hell and destruction.

MAKE MINING HUMAN

If the infamous record of death and maiming which the miners are forced to suffer was to suddenly be the same in the atomic industry, there would be such a howl go up as to deafen the nation. No expense would be too great to protect the people working in this industry. Yet, year after year, the miners, who are just as human, if not more so, must live in constant dread of their death-dealing, mutilating working conditions. It is past time that the emphasis on progress be shifted from the machine to the man, and nowhere is this more necessary than in the mining industry.

"If There's One Thing Worse Than a Boss —It's a Guy Who Is Bucking to Be One"

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—This man we have on our section is bucking to be a boss. He's bossed extra, and he's always trying to put his 2c worth in any time our boss has anything to say.

Our boss isn't such a bad guy. He's been around and he knows the men. He knows that he can't get away with anything with us, because he's tried it a couple of times and it just hasn't worked. So he knows where we stand, and we know where he stands.

But this guy, who is trying to get regular bossing, is something else. He thinks that there is no one who knows as much as he does.

BOSS MAKES MARKS

One night, the cutter was supposed to start a cross cut, and our regular boss put up the chalk marks for him to cut by. Now, a cutter is going

LAY-OFF EASES FEAR OF DEATH

SCOTTS' RUN, W. Va.—I was glad when my husband got laid off. I guess this sounds silly, but the conditions the men have to work under in the mines are so bad, I was always worried about whether he was going to get killed or not.

THIRTY DOLLARS A WEEK

We only get \$30.00 a week, which isn't very much, but I can have peace of mind. My husband thinks the kids should have everything they ask for, but I don't think that's good because when you can't give it to them, they don't understand why you can't.

My husband is going crazy because he got laid off, but I told him that as long as we can pay the rent, a little on utilities and have food to eat that we were better off. We would like to live better, but we have to take matters in our stride.

CRYIN' THE BLUES

Some of the guys that are laid off are crying the blues and driving everybody crazy. They are doing good, because they have their own homes, new cars and station wagons, collecting their \$30.00 each week, and they are still crying the blues.

WHO IS LUCKY?

I told my husband that the guys laid off are luckier than the ones still working. My neighbor works on the roof-bolter on a continuous miner and he can't eat in the mines because of all the dust. He can't do anything but drink liquids. He can't even rest at night for talking in his sleep about how tough the working conditions are.

CONSCIENCE BOTHERS SOME

Some of the guys that are laid off are going crazy because of their guilty consciences. They didn't contribute anything but a pay check when they were working, and they think their wives don't want them now that they are laid off.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

What Has the Working Man Got

The world is so full of hate, especially the American white man who thinks the other countries and the Negro people are so backward and crazy, until they can say and do anything they want against them. But they have found out that they are wrong. The Russians have learned to make things ahead of the Americans and to trade with other countries who are for them and on their side. They are learning to make and build anything that the United States makes. The Russian workers oppose their leaders, even as the Americans.

Not only is Russia in a mess but it seems as if the United States has gotten itself in a little trouble by trying to use every country and all Negro people as fools, and they can't see what a big mistake they are making by building all these automation machines that put men out of work every day of the week, so that they can gain all of the profit that comes in, if there is any coming in.

Well we know the rich man will buy one or two cars a year, but they don't seem to realize what a bad condition they are putting the

United States into. It looks as if they are trying to bring on a revolution before they get ready for it themselves. I hope they don't think a man will stand by and see himself die from starvation. Especially when he knows that the rich man has all that will keep him and his family living. So why not take the chance of fighting to get some of what he has given his whole life to, in working to help the rich man get to where he is today. Now the working man is being thrown out into the street, without any old age security to live on.

"NO HELP WANTED"

People today know what they have gone through to keep the United States ahead of these other countries. It's been done by fighting wars and working themselves to death. The rich man and the government never have to face such things like work or fight wars, that is for the poor man to do. The government will kill you if don't do what they say. It is a big question for the poor man to ask: "I wonder why does everything bad have to happen to me? There is work to be done but no help wanted."

MY FIFTH BIRTHDAY: 1934

The sky on my fifth birthday was a jewel.

Any man could have it for the reaching.

The blossoming earth belonged to any fool,
I thought. And seeing bugs and birds were snatching,

Humanly, the human race's plunder,

I primed my water-pistol, set off sneaking

Behind big trees and bushes, dread avenger,

And drew a bead. But O there rose a clanking

And a marching, heavy marching. Was it Death

Or someone else's game? On the hill, blackening

The sky six Negroes marched in chains beneath

Their pace, yelled, "Halt!" Dogs yapping at their heels,

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ing the cross-cut up the way the marks showed.

"RIGHT IS RIGHT"

Our boss couldn't explain it. He didn't know what had happened. So I told the pit-boss. "Wait a minute," I said, "this man can't be all over the section at once. He can't know what's going on all the time. He put those marks up right, but they were changed by somebody who thinks he knows more

than anyone else and wants to be a boss himself. Right is right, I don't care who it hurts. I saw this thing; and you can't blame the boss for what happened here."

The pit-boss didn't say anything more. He just walked away. My boss thanked me, but he didn't have to thank me. If there's one thing worse than a boss, it's a guy who is bucking to be one.

—M. G.

What Kind of Labor?

'58 UAW CONTRACT NOT HELPING PRODUCTION WORKERS, UNEMPLOYED

DETROIT. — Production workers throughout the auto industry have been anxiously waiting to find out what the President of the International will come out with now in the great 1958 contracts.

As all production workers know, Walter Reuther and his staff claim they have put in a multitude of hours, as well as months in drawing up their profit sharing plan.

WHAT AVERAGE WORKER THINKS

We are not interested in the profit sharing plan at all. We cannot see where it can help any of our brothers that are on the unemployment lines, or even those that are working in the shops.

If our President and his staff had been as interested in us as they claim, why the heck didn't they bring in this profit sharing plan back at the end of World War II? Maybe it would have helped us all by now. As late as it is now, with 415,000 or more unemployed in Detroit alone, how is this plan going to feed and clothe and school all these people's little ones. We see each and every day that Reuther is not interested in the production worker's families, nor their problems. For the last 5 or 6 years he has let our contract slip away from helping the production worker.

NOT INTERESTED IN PRODUCTION WORKER

Now this 1958 contract looks as if he has shook

UNEMPLOYED MINES WORKED OUT NO JOBS IN SIGHT

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — I was sitting in a local beer garden, drinking a glass of beer and listening to a basketball game when an old acquaintance, whom I hadn't seen in years, came in.

The mine in which he worked was just about worked out. While work had been fairly regular before, the situation had reached the point where the men were lucky to get 2 days a week. Every day they would go out to work, only to find that there was some reason that they could not. It had reached the point where the costs of traveling and preparing for work were more than could be made working under these conditions.

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?

We both knew of men who had gone to other cities to try to get jobs, only to come back after a short time—victims of lay-offs in other industries. A man with no seniority had no chance whatsoever to last long, even if he was lucky enough to get a job in the first place.

We grimly mentioned men with families of 6, 7 and more who we knew were laid off, and wondered how long they could take it before they started to take action to help themselves. The

hands again with the capitalist and to blazes with the production worker. Why didn't Mr. Reuther come out with ideas somewhere in the neighborhood of this: To have the company pay all of our Blue Cross Insurance. A "paid up" policy with Blue Cross for the same amount of years of each worker's seniority. Also a life insurance policy under the same plan. This would benefit every worker and his family. We won't receive any benefit out of the profit sharing plan or a raise in pay either. Everytime we get 5c or 10c more, our groceries are always raised and usually a month ahead of time, plus all other expenses go up. All the benefits we fought for and enjoyed in the shops have gone down the drain. We are now back working harder, or as hard as we ever worked before the union.

WHAT HAPPENS TO UNEMPLOYED

Most workers realize we have not been getting backing from our union officials. They don't seem to care whether the production worker lives or dies, just as long as their pay checks come in regular.

Workers haven't heard, or read, of Reuther trying to do anything about the hundreds of workers the company laid off a few days before deadline for being eligible for vacation pay. Neither Reuther nor the locals did anything about it.

Now you read in the papers that the auto industrialists' profits are dropping. Now tell me, how can we look forward to benefitting out of the profit sharing plan?

The companies seem to be ganging up on the union and don't even want to talk about anything new, just extend the present contract for 2 years. What happened to the profit sharing, what happened to the shorter work week and most important of all what is to happen to those unemployed and those working so hard in the shops?

—Production Worker, UAW Member

\$30 a week might pay for the rent and utilities, but it left mighty little for food. The pitiful bit of government surplus food, being doled out to the unemployed who could get it, would hardly provide anything like the needs of a family. And nobody is going to see his family starve.

NIXON VS. THE UNEMPLOYED

At about this time, the sports announcer made a statement quoting from a speech Vice-President Nixon had made at some athletic banquet: something to the effect that things were looking good, that this was no time to be pessimistic, that we should look to the future with optimism.

"NOBODY WILL TAKE ANOTHER ONE"

My friend said, "Yeah,

G. M. LAY-OFFS SOLVED NOTHING

Los Angeles—The General Motors assembly plant in South Gate is down to about 1300 workers from a peak of more than 5,000 several years ago. The lay-offs have solved nothing. The current work schedule, now that the plant is on one-shift production, is one week on and one week off. Rarely do we get forty hours even during those weeks we work.

The situation is much the same throughout Los Angeles. The curtailing of production at the Ford, Chrysler and GM plants has resulted in severe cut-backs at the smaller companies that supplied parts such as radiators, bumpers and cushion room materials.

If there is any increase in missile production, here in the center of the aircraft industry, it sure doesn't show in any increase in employment.

GM Worker

COMPANY TRIES BULLDOZING WORKERS

LOS ANGELES.—The older workers with twenty and thirty years seniority at the bumper plant where I work, are so worried about their jobs because of the layoffs, that they talk of accepting the company ultimatum that either a reduction in wages or an increase in production standards is required for the company to stay in business.

The union negotiating committee rejected its plea of poverty on the part of the company so the company went straight to the men. They called a meeting of all employees and showed us charts to prove that we were making more money than workers in similar plants. They claimed the company was losing contracts because its labor costs were too high.

Because this doesn't seem like a good time to strike, the union countered with a proposal to extend the contract for one year. The company refused this offer and said that when it was time to discuss contracts they had their own ideas about how the contract should be revised. What are we going to do about this?

we could tell him plenty right now. But you know, people aren't going to take what they did before. There are too many veterans around for one thing. They sure aren't going through another depression. If things don't straighten up, and straighten up fast, we won't have to be worrying about what's going on some place else. There'll be plenty going on right here. And you sure couldn't blame the people for it, either. With everything we're supposed to have in this country, you just know that nobody is going to take another depression."

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

Workers Think Their Own Thoughts

In re-reading my column in the last issue, I realized that a statement I made needs a lot of expansion. In speaking of MARXISM AND FREEDOM I wrote "today it becomes a life and death struggle that we have such a philosophy, a theory" (as Marx meant). What I really meant was that workers were not looking for a theory in others, but that theory itself has become a life and death question. I do not know if I can explain what I mean, but thoughts keep whirling in my mind I just must get out onto paper.

Perhaps the best way to begin is to say that most of the time I find it difficult to take theory from an intellectual. To me if you cannot see theory as a life and death struggle, you are unaware of the struggle of mankind for freedom as a flow of blood. In that case, you do not really understand theory either, even if you can recite dates of revolutions; you still live in a dream world, apart from the real lives of real men.

The very intellectuals who seem to have a mortal fear of being dominated, of being told they are "followers," are the very ones who have freed themselves from serious theory. They are independent of Marxism, O.K., but their dependence on bourgeois thought shows itself in every word they utter, in the attitude to workers, they seem to be completely unaware of the fact that workers think their own thoughts. Then if you tell them that, their answer is "Why should I do anything if the workers are smart enough to get there by themselves."

MARXISM AND FREEDOM

The reason I was so excited with the book MARXISM AND FREEDOM is that I

felt here was one intellectual who did not separate theory and practice, workers and thought, and thereby thought became the real world and the real world became thought. For example, when she talks of the East German Revolt and the Hungarian Revolution you can see how her thoughts flow from the struggle of workers and their thoughts.

Another thing I felt strongly was that if you do not see theory as a life and death struggle then you create a void and that void gets filled with something like Russian Communism or American McCarthyism.

NEW WAY OF LIFE

I noticed in the December issue of NEWS & LETTERS, to take another example, some articles by workers that show that workers think their own thoughts. Take the article "Production Workers Want Their Rights In The '58 UAW Contract."

In it a worker says of Lyndon Johnson, "if Johnson has his way, we'll be working a 90-hour week and the Union will be gone. It won't be Reuther who stops him—it'll have to be the production man." Of Reuther, "How can Reuther get us the shorter work week with more pay if he doesn't care how many production workers get fired and how many of us are speeded-up?" He also gave 5 points for the '58 contract.

Or take the UAW delegate who got up and stated to the union and to the public "We want a new way of life," not just "profit sharing" but a new way of life. He said it to Reuther at a Reuther controlled convention when the opposition wasn't given any chance to express itself. That takes a lot of courage, a lot of thinking, and, to me, he clearly is looking for a new philosophy. I know I am.

SHOWS "TWO WORLDS" COLUMN ON UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENTS

LOS ANGELES.—I read the Two Worlds column (See Vol. 3, No. 2 issue) on the unemployed movement of twenty years ago with great interest. My own local union has shrunk to about one-third its usual size because of layoffs. Those of us who are out of work are just left to go our individual ways.

The union makes no attempt to even keep in touch with the unemployed, let alone provide them with an organizational form where the unemployed could get some protection against repossession, foreclosures and hunger.

As the Two Worlds column pointed out, unemployed men are not just an inert mass but have the best reason of all for thinking about social questions. Furthermore they have the time as well as the desire to think. Labor schools could be organized. Real Labor

Schools where the rank and file could discuss and develop their ideas on everything from history to current political problems and projects, **This would be a sharp and welcome break from the classes on the contract, held for officials and committeemen that passes for education in the labor movement today.**

Aside from projects to specifically benefit the unemployed there are such areas as the popular and vital fight against the so-called right to work bills.

In closing, I would like to mention that I have shown the "Two Worlds" column to several worker friends of mine. We would be interested in seeing more articles in News & Letters on the unemployment movement of the 1930's.

Young Auto Worker
Los Angeles, Calif.

EDITORIALS

NUCLEAR POWERS PLAY AT PEACE

In preparation for any possible summit meeting between Khrushchev and Eisenhower, there is a new attempt to make that brink-of-war strategist, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, look like a peace diplomat.

This reactionary die-hard proponent of unceasing H-bomb tests, and his chief war-mongering nuclear physicist, Dr. Edward Teller, have been drumming it up for "limited nuclear war" without any regard to Russia's propaganda victories since Khrushchev's unilateral announcement of the cessation of H-bomb tests.

It is true that Khrushchev did not make that announcement until after Russia had set off the "dirtiest" nuclear bomb. But it is even more true that the people of the world are so hungry for peace that even that totalitarian's doubletalk is taken seriously.

OPPOSITION TO H-BOMB TESTS

The signatures of 9,000 world scientists, asking cessation of H-bomb tests, are on the desk of UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold. Actually, the most significant statement, one which reflected the American people's desire for peace, was the one by Dr. Pickering of the need for "A unifying principle" to stop the mad rush toward war.

In any case, the desire for some respite from the war tensions, is so widespread that it is even affecting our politicians. Thus, the present new disarmament adviser to the President, Hans Bethe, has clashed with both Strauss and Teller who, it is felt, have lost all sense of proportion.

WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF TOTAL WAR

This new play at peace diplomacy was necessitated on both the international and national fronts. On the international front, Russia's Foreign Minister Gromyko, suddenly accused the United States Strategic Air Command of bringing the world "within a hair's breadth" of total war.

To make sure that Western Europe heard him, Gromyko stated: "Reckless flights of American bombers extend the fearful shadow of atomic war to the British and the French, to the people of Western Germany, to the peoples of all countries who have been bound hand and foot by military commitments to the U. S. and who have allowed American atomic and rocket bases to be built on their territory."

PROPAGANDA AND PUBLICITY

All the American State Department could counter with was that the Russian blast was "pure propaganda," that "it was completely untrue" that a war could be triggered off accidentally by these Arctic flights.

Suddenly, however, the peacemongering on only one side of the Iron Curtain has been taken out of Russia's hands. President Eisenhower asked Russia to join in a military control inspection system for the Arctic zone as "a significant first step."

PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR PEACE

Sheer publicity it is, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, since neither intends to stop the headlong rush for world domination. Presently, however, the United States is in the midst of a recession. While Big Business and Congress are trying to break the unions and shackle labor with anti-labor legislation which would make the Taft-Hartley law look like child's play the great unrest among the American people is forcing the Administration to take a second look at its specialists in creating war tensions.

The deep desire of the people the world over is not for "peace diplomacy" but for genuine peace which can only come when the people have power in their own hands.

Readers

UNEMPLOYED

After the first of next month I lose my hospitalization so then I have to worry about what happens if I get sick. There's nothing in this world for a working man unless he has a job. If something happens when you're out of work you don't have a bit of security. And then when your unemployment insurance runs out after six months you're nothing but a pauper.

Unemployed Los Angeles, Calif.

Nixon might think that there can not be a depression here because the economy is so stable. I don't think, however, he could convince an unemployed worker who reported to the compensation office that he had earned \$10 the week before and was told he was then entitled to 1/2 a check and got another \$10 making the grand total of \$20 for him and his family to live on.

I wish Mr. Nixon had to live on that for just one week.

Unemployed Detroit

They do not even try to get you a job at the unemployment office. They just go through the formality of asking if you looked for work and then hand over the check.

What strikes me most of all when I go down there is how the hundreds of men and women standing in line represent a tremendous waste of human talents and energy. It is a terrible waste of labor.

Unemployed Los Angeles, Calif.

People think the crime wave is bad now, they haven't seen anything yet. Wait until the unemployment checks run out, the families get hungry, and it will really be a crime wave. They won't wait until night, either, to do their stealing. They will do it in broad open daylight — and be ready for anybody that tries to stop them.

Laid off Miner's Wife Scotts' Run, W. Va.

Probably everyone has read about the ex-cab driver in Los Angeles who held up a bank with a water pistol and a bottle of colored water that he pretended was acid. He has seven kids and a pregnant wife and couldn't find a job to support them. He was caught a block away from the bank but so much publicity was given his case that within a week he was released from jail, given a choice of several jobs, a four bedroom home, new furniture and clothes and piles of groceries.

The police are reportedly very unhappy about all of the publicity given to this case because obviously a precedent is set which makes it open field day on banks for a hard up unemployed family man.

The papers have been full of letters to the editors on the subject. Most of them are written by other unemployed people. They write in about their gas and electricity being shut off, how they eat "meals" of potatoes and white gravy, about evictions. They wonder if they can or should or will invest in a toy pistol.

Reader Los Angeles

The official government line implies that the whole reason for the depression is the stupidity of the worker who won't spend his money but piles it up in the banks. Presumably if the worker would spend all the money he has accumulated by cheating the poor capitalists the wheels of production would start turning again.

They don't and won't make it clear that it is, in fact, the usual and not the exceptional thing for huge sums of money to accumulate in banks during a depression. But it is not the workers' money. That is a big joke but the kind of joke that is not a laughing matter. The rich themselves put their own money in the banks precisely because they don't have any place to invest it profitably. Instead of being the cause of depression the money in the banks is a sign of the actual depth of the depression.

Wiped Out Los Angeles, Calif.

Every time I see them advertising about CARE packages to help the people overseas, I get so mad I feel like throwing something through that TV screen. Here we have millions of people who don't know where their next meal is coming from, and they still want people here to send food to people overseas.

Laid off Miner Scott's Run, W. Va.

LEADERS & RANKS

We've got the cards all stacked against us. The company and District get together, throw out something that benefits the men and has been established for years and years. They then establish something new, against the men, and say you can't do anything about it because it has already been established. What they establish in a couple of hours throws out what had been established for years.

Miner, West Virginia

We have to understand the trade union situation here. The workers themselves do not attend trade union meetings. We are fortunate indeed that we live in these times when the situation is clear to the rank and file workers. I used to work in the union but not now. The method of operation since Reuther won complete control is entirely different from what it used to be.

Take the vote in the elections just recently held, only 300 out of 8,000 workers in the shop turned out to vote.

Workers said it was the first time they've even known a worker to have his name on a slate and not even go to vote for himself. This worker told friends, even if elected to any post there's no way to function independently with the workers. The only possible thing you can be is a dupe or stooge for the Reuther controlled machine.

I know if something really happened I would be there, like during the rank and file revolt.

Production Worker Detroit

There is a strong feeling among the workers I know that a strike should be avoided this Spring.

The big question is whether it will be possible to avoid a strike. The companies might force one on us and in that case there will be nothing to do but fight it out to the bitter end.

The real tragedy is that the UAW proposal for profit-sharing is not inspiring anyone at this time to fight. The unemployed, in particular, are far more concerned about sharing the hours at a living wage with those who are still working.

GM Trim Shop Los Angeles, Calif.

I was very excited to read in a tiny article buried in the back pages of a local newspaper about the sitdown strike organized by some 60 women in a textile mill in Rhode Island.

The strike must have lasted four or five days. The women refused a company demand that they each be responsible for running 8 spinning machines. The women felt they were being worked hard enough by the four machines that each had been running up till then. The women left the plant only when they had won agreement from the company on this point.

Reader Los Angeles

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Charles Denby Editor I. ROGERS Managing Editor

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Views

Who says that people get government jobs because they have more security. A friend of mine is seriously ill, has used up all his life savings for hospital bills, and now when he needs help, he neither has medical insurance or sick benefits. Nor can he get relief because he worked in another country and has not been living in the States for the past 3 years. This is what happens to a working man after working all his life.

Disgusted
Los Angeles

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

I have read a series of articles from J. Edgar Hoover's book that is currently being run in a daily paper. He deals with the Communists especially their methods of operation and their objective. No where in the book does he pose anything positive to oppose Communism. The only other thing he poses is thought control which to me is no different from everything that I have experienced all my life in the South, where I couldn't speak or think as I wanted.

I have also read some letters sent out by White Citizen Councils of Georgia and Mississippi. They sent them to Northern newspapers and say that every leading Negro in the South is Communist or has a connection with them. Every principal, in Negro schools, every nationally known Negro minister and every white liberal is accused. Their letters carry little else but the names of these people, from Mrs. Roosevelt on down. Any one known to associate with these named or any branch of the N.A.A.C.P. is a Communist. The letters concluded by saying this is a Christian view of Communism versus Segregation. Their main purpose is to get as many Northerners to support their views. I wonder where Hoover stands on this. Will he mention the White Citizen Council in relation to the Negro?

Negro production worker
Detroit

* * *

WAR AND PEACE

All this missile talk and planes carrying H-bombs mean they want to go to war so bad. They don't want peace, things are so messed up they want a war.

This time it will be here. People in Europe have gone through all the other wars but the first time a bomb drops here not only with thousands be killed,

the whole nation will go crazy.

White Southerner
Chrysler Worker

* * *

They talk about the Russians have this and the Russians have that. All this rocket business is just a waste of money to me.

Bus rider
Detroit

* * *

I just noticed that this year the Albert Einstein Medal and the \$5,000 award of the Lewis and Rosa Strauss Memorial Fund will go to Edward Teller, "father of the H-Bomb."

The award is made to "an outstanding contributor to human knowledge in the natural sciences."

What a travesty that the medal struck in honor of Einstein, the scientist and humanitarian, should be awarded to Teller who pooh-poohs danger of radio active fall out and is so casual about the prospects of the annihilation of mankind through Atomic War. It is a slap at all those millions now demanding the cessation of atomic bomb tests.

If making bombs is a contribution to human knowledge, what candidate can we find for an award for acclaiming in-human knowledge?

Young worker
Detroit

* * *

READERS ABROAD

It is one of the tragedies of capitalism that the working class and the intellectuals are cut off from each other; I should like to work towards bridging the gap from both sides. The article "TWO WORLDS" seems to run counter to your advice to me not to "be too anxious to have immediate practical answers." I think that in a world of H-bombs we need immediate practical answers, or at least we need to seek them, and fast! In a world where the Right gets its way through political parties, the Left needs political organization too and in America needs it badly. I hope to see more articles in the spirit of "TWO WORLDS" in coming issues. We need many other things, too of course but we certainly do need a new working class party. The working class can't go on being politically impotent, having to depend on squabbles between the essentially palsy-walsy Democrats and Republicans to get a few crumbs now and then, and not even those with any certainty.

As for Russian Communism being the greatest tyranny, I think French

colonialism, Franco's falangism, Trujillo's dictatorship in the Dominican Republic match it any-time—and who helps finance them?!!!

American in Paris,
France

* * *

When Russia crushed the Hungarian Revolution, it smashed the C. P. in Britain. The best, free thinking, independent members left and membership fell by about 9,000, the cream of the party. The majority of these went into the Labour Party, where they split into two main sections, Trotskyist and Marxist Humanist. . . .

You probably know the record of the Labour Party which has constantly betrayed the British Workers. They also supported the dropping of the A-Bomb on Japan, and introduced "nationalization."

The C. P. switches its policy with the needs and wishes of the Soviet bureaucracy. I feel therefore that the ILP can be the Marxist party of the British workers. . . .

I think we'll have a lot of unemployment here in the fall Seasonal lay-offs, government financial policy and the backwash of the American depression will hit us badly. On top of this my father is out on strike. . . .

19 year old
Leeds, Gt. Britain

* * *

I am a keen reader of your paper and have a few regrets. One is . . . that you don't seem to be getting any contributions from Britain despite the fact that we have no paper like yours here. It's a vital paper to the working classes, who suffer far more in Britain than is generally realised in America. . . .

British papers carried the incident of the Atom bomb that was dropped by accident in the U.S. Many people have no confidence in the statement that it would not happen in Britain as precautions would be more strict. The American authorities, the papers reported, said they were happy that the bomb had dropped as it proved their point that it could not explode due to lack of connection. People wrote in to the papers protesting about this statement for people had been injured. At present the nations are flirting with death and one day something terrible will surely happen.

V. T.
Gt. Britain

TWO WORLDS

One-Half Hour From Total Destruction

Dr. W. H. Pickering, director of California Institute of Technology and responsible for the successful launching of the Explorer, warns that mankind is 30 minutes from total destruction: "We are sorely in need of some principle that will save mankind from mutual annihilation. . . . We can't find it by building anti-missiles to shoot down other missiles. We need a unifying principle. I don't know just where we will find it, but find it we must."

This awareness of being one-half hour away from total destruction permeates the young generation as well as the older one, with this very fundamental difference: instead of retreating to the ivory tower that now builds these destructive weapons, college youth are turning toward the Marxist theory of liberation which would unify mental and manual work in a totally new way of life. This became especially clear to me in the tour of West Coast colleges where I spoke on MARXISM AND FREEDOM.

COLLEGE YOUTH TURN OUT TO HEAR LECTURES ON MARXISM AND FREEDOM

The first thing that was outstanding about the present tour, as contrasted to a tour a year ago before publication of MARXISM AND FREEDOM, was the attendance. Where, before, the usual attendance was 25-50, this time each appearance brought out between 100 to 200 and, in one case, over 500. Where, before, the audience was mainly "a captive one"—that is to say, it was the regular session of some economics, sociology or philosophy class—this time the attendance was voluntary. No credit was given for attendance and the meetings were generally held either at noon time or at 4 p.m., that is to say, at the end of the school day. In one case, in San Francisco, the meeting was held in the evening and this brought out an adult audience, with a goodly number of workers, longshoremen, among them. In addition to the total of 2,000 students that heard me, many more thousands saw and heard me on radio and TV.

The second significant feature of the present tour was the urgency of the questions, as contrasted to the academic nature of the questions a year ago. For example in a lecture on "The Present Trends in the Russian Economy," I spoke about the fact that the Russian people themselves would overthrow Communism. I was then asked whether the Russian people, especially the youth, would follow "the West." I said that I doubted that because they wouldn't be overthrowing Communism, which is just another name for state-capitalism, in order to get back to private capitalism which brought this world crisis about; that the Russian people were searching for a totally new way of life and we weren't helping them by the Little Rock situations which were exposing the Achilles heel of American democracy. One student said: "You mean it isn't the Communist propoganda that created Little Rocks; that we did by our failure to give the Negro people full democratic rights? And if that is what you mean, what can we do about it?"

In another lecture on "The American Roots of Marxism," I was asked why was the least known part of Marxism; its American heritage. "Is it because our educational system does not teach us all that we should know about our own history?" When I replied that from the days of the Abolitionists through the CIO to the present wildcats on Automation American humanism has moved in a direction that paralleled that of Marxist thought, when he lived and even now, I was asked whether I considered Marx had the answer to today's Automation when he pointed out that it was not the machine which shortened the working day "but the struggle of the workingmen."

WORKER AND INTELLECTUAL

The question that kept cropping up, whether the talk was on Russia or America or the programs of both for the so-called under-developed countries, was how could the intellectuals help workers when the lives of one and the other are so different and why should they "give up" their mental work, which is so much more interesting than that of manual laborers. When I asked if they were satisfied with the fact that their intellectual work had brought about the ICBM but not the unifying principle, that could win the global struggle for the mind of man, some one asked, could science have developed differently "if, instead of development for war purposes, science could have developed alongside the struggles of the workingmen for a different society?"

There is no doubt that the hardest thing for intellectuals to comprehend is that the impulses for a new society come from the workers and not from themselves; that intellectuals aren't "giving up" anything except their own fragmentation when they associate with workers, and that they, as well as workers, must meet the challenge of the times: When civilization as we have known it is but 30 minutes away from annihilation, it is not the time to think that 1958 would be a turning point in history where history would fail to turn. That is a fatal illusion that is not shared by the great majority of the American youth.

—R.D.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

WENDELL PHILLIPS

Wendell Phillips was one of America's greatest Abolitionists. He devoted his life to the cause of emancipating the Negro slave. Much of his work was done on the lecture platform, as he was a great orator. He had a great talent for speaking and writing, and so he took this talent and used it for the freeing of an enslaved people.

There are many of his speeches that are particularly profound and brilliant, but there is one quotation of Phillips that, as a youth, I am particularly impressed with. He was an Abolitionist, but he spoke for youth when he said, "... And to you, my young friends, who have been cautioned against exciting topics and advised to fold your hands in selfish ease, I would say, 'Not so; throw yourselves upon the altar of some noble cause. To rise in the morning only to eat and drink, and gather gold—that is a life not worth living. Enthusiasm is the life of the soul.'"

"BE PRACTICAL"

This quotation is as timely as if it had been said today. Parents are still fighting their sons and daughters on what is "practical" when planning a life, and what is not. You are told that no matter how rotten this world is you must live in it and like it. Above all don't waste your time trying to better it. "It isn't practical."

For myself I don't want to sit back "and fold my hands." I may be young, but I know that happiness doesn't come from "gathering gold." Our parents would have us believe that to be able to live in comfort and to be socially ac-

MY VICE PRINCIPAL

About two weeks ago, my buddy and I lit up a cigarette on the way home from school. We were two blocks from the school when who should appear, but the vice-principal of the school. He took our cigarettes and marched us back to his office. He then gave us a lecture on everything else but what we were picked up for.

When I asked him for a few good reasons why he objected to kids smoking after they got about two or three blocks away from school, he said, "Supposing you were a grown man and had a wife and family and you died of lung cancer because of smoking. I would have to pay more taxes to feed your family!"

When I told him that I wasn't married and still in school, he said, "Most fires at school are started by kids who smoke." What I don't get is that we were two long blocks from school at the time.

cepted is the only "practical way of life." If you can have these things, fine, but I can't see sacrificing an ideal, my only reason for living, for these "practical" things. I want more from life than what I see around me. Life is a struggle, and if I must live and struggle, it's going to have to be worth the trouble.

ALLOWS NO QUESTIONING

I know an English teacher who would have her students believe that they must not question, they must merely accept. She became very indignant when some of her pupils wrote reviews on some classic essays and criticized them. According to her, these were great and established, and the students had absolutely no right to criticize. On the contrary, **anyone** has the right to question anything. It is questioning and criticism from youth that will help to bring us to total freedom.

When Wendell Phillips talks of these things in youth, it is not idle talk. He came from a wealthy, socially established family. He had a brilliant future as a lawyer. He broke from all this, and became an Abolitionist, and thereby made himself an outcast. He refused to practice law under a Constitution which upheld slavery. From the accounts of his life it seems he led a happy and full life. He had a difficult life, of course, but it is not the difficulties and struggles that makes life unbearable, it is when all you do is, "To rise in the morning to eat and drink and gather gold—this is a life not worth living." I want my life to be something different.

—Caroline Goldsmith

MOTHERS CALLED

A few days later he picked me and the same kid up again for the same reason, this time about five long blocks from school. He said, "Bring your mothers in tomorrow, you're suspended."

We brought our mothers into school and everything was settled. But my buddy's mother told the vice-principal off good. She said, "Don't you have anything better to do than to sneak up on kids from alleys and side streets to see if they're smoking?"

Teenager,
Los Angeles

I believe in the idea of free college for anyone who wants it, but if that education is only aimed at creating more scientists to work on missiles, I, as a woman, wouldn't want any part of it.

I think science should be pursued for the purpose of making people's lives easier and better, not shortening those lives.

—Housewife

MARXISM & FREEDOM

—The Paris Commune

I have been reading "Marxism and Freedom," by Raya Dunayevskaya. It is a powerful book showing the road to freedom being taken by working people in their search for a new and totally human life. There is a section on the Paris Commune which brought to mind the time when I was a teenager, although the section does not deal with youth.

It took me back because I remember that as a teenager I was convinced that there must be something better than the world I lived in, where the cold war could become hot at any moment and the whole of civilization wiped out by either of the two major powers, where life seemed meaningless and cheap, and where the future of humanity is not only a question mark, but the present is so intolerable that everyone lives for that mystical "future" when they can retire.

VISION OF THE FUTURE

This section on the Paris Commune shows me that "something better" that I was so desperately searching for as a youth. It shows a vision of the future in the activity of ordinary people who broke up, if only briefly, the old forms of labor, voting, education, etc., which were stifling their creative abilities, and created new and free forms of labor where every day of work seemed an adventure in social living rather than a burden you endure in order to eat.

Although the Commune lasted only two months before it was bloodily put down, it left us a heritage of democracy where to quote Marx, "The condition of freedom for one becomes the condition for freedom for all." Parliament became a working body instead of a talking shop. All judges and representative were subject to recall. Public servants were put on a workman's wage. Education was open and free to all. And above all, workers decided their own conditions of labor. Workers appointed shop and bench foremen and could also dismiss them. A factory committee met every night to plan the next day's work.

To see that the Paris Commune existed at all is to see what could be today, and most important, what truly freely associated laborers are capable of doing. That vision of a human way of working and living arising from this chaotic world we live in is exactly what "Marxism and Freedom" gives to its readers.

VALUE OF HUMAN BEING

Los Angeles—In an American Literature class there was a discussion of an essay that Ralph Emerson wrote called, "Compensation." After a while the discussion turned to the compensation of war.

One student started the discussion by saying that war brought many scientific advances faster. He said that the airplane was developed much faster because of World War II.

Another student immediately said, "How can you compensate for the life of a human being? What is his value?"

Some of the reasons given in favor of wars were: Overpopulation, women were given a chance to show that they can do men's work, and preserving the American way of life.

One of the reasons given against war was that if all the money that was spent for war and defense was spent for scientific advancement, we would be further ahead in science than we are now.

I wonder if our government, or any government thinks of what this student said, "How can you compensate for a human life? What is its value?" when they vote for war.

Co-op Nursery

LOS ANGELES.—The Co-operative nursery school is different from any other nursery school or place of learning I have ever come in contact with. Every other type of school acts as an institution apart and separate from the family. The basic idea of the Co-op is to bring together the process of learning and the family unit.

How is this done? The mother is required to work one day of each school week on the grounds with the children. The father is requested to donate two hours a month for maintenance. There are membership meetings for parents and teachers to take up all problems. Fees are much lower than any other type of nursery

WENDELL PHILLIPS

—On the Southern Way of Life

"And by the South I mean likewise a principle, and not a locality, an element of civil life, in fourteen rebellious States. I mean an element which, like the days of Queen Mary and the Inquisition, cannot tolerate free speech, and punishes it with the stake. I mean the aristocracy of the skin, which considers the Declaration of Independence a sham and democracy a snare—which believes that one-third of the race is born booted and spurred, and the other two-thirds ready saddled for that third to ride. I mean a civilization which prohibits the Bible by statute to every sixth man of its community, and puts a matron in a felon's cell for teaching a black sister to read. I mean the intellectual, social aristocratic South—the thing that manifests itself by barbarism and the bowie-knife, by bullying and lynch-law, by ignorance and idleness, by the claim of one man to own his brother, by statutes making it penal for the State of Massachusetts to bring an action in her courts, by statutes, standing on the books of Georgia today, offering five thousand dollars for the head of William Lloyd Garrison. That South is to be annihilated. (Loud applause). The totality of my common sense—or whatever you may call it—is this, all summed up in one word: This country will never know peace nor union until the South (using the word in the sense I have described) is annihilated, and the North is spread over it. . . . Our struggle therefore is between barbarism and civilization!"

What's Right for One Should Be Right for All

OSAGE, W. Va.—With the changes made behind the scenes, in the lay-off at No. 15, a lot of men were not aware that decisions were made affecting their seniority or their classifications. Every time a new decision was made, one of the mine committeemen would go around to all the men he knew might be affected and told them about it.

The result of this was that many men were coming into the super's office to get themselves straightened out. The super was not happy about this development and told the committeeman to "quit bringing all of these men in here."

The committeeman told him, "Whenever any changes are made, the men ought to know about them. Every man out there needs his job, and I don't want to see any favorites played. What is right for one man, should be right for all of them, and I'll keep on bringing them in so long as a man is right."

school because of this participation by parents on all levels.

The last membership meeting showed, however, how difficult it is to put the full ideals of the Co-op into practice today. The question arose of how to get the fathers more involved in the educational process. All kinds of schemes were proposed but the fact remained that much as everyone wanted the school to be a true co-operative the men just don't have the time to come down and be with their kids at school during the day. It was not only the time question. The women felt that the men by and large had the age old conception that children are "women's work."

Everyone spoke intensely at the meeting. Even shy women who are not used to expressing themselves gave voice to the idea that husbands should be drawn into the educational work of the school.

—Teacher

News & Letters Criticized

Comments on a Production Workers Article

I was very pleased to see that you printed an article by an auto worker in which he stated how he would like to see the rights of the production worker incorporated into the 1958 contract. (News & Letters, December 1957). **WHAT KIND OF WORK?**

Central to his conception were the demands that shop grievances be settled in the shop and immediately, that workers fully control the union and their representatives, that lily white departments be completely eliminated, that the men eliminated from their jobs be restored (presumably through the 30-40 proposal). He showed how these demands were once the backbone of the union, not the struggle for a few pennies.

I have seen a lot of programs put out in the unions. None of them so concretely

defied the existing order as to call for the abandonment of the grievance procedure steps and have the concerned workers do the negotiating. Every election time the cliques — Reuther and anti-Reuther — are willing to promise you the moon but they make clear that there are certain "practical" limitations. These limits are twofold.

One is the "hard core" attitude of the company on questions which relate to its fundamental control over production and discipline. There is no point in proposing to change these, so the clique says, because the company will not agree.

The second "practical" limit is that the clique leaders are so convinced of their inherent mental superiority over the rank and file that they can not visualize a sit-

uation where the rank and file could win any demands without their silvery lawyer tongues. Any worker who thinks otherwise is to them a trouble maker, unrealistic, anti-union and a dupe of the company.

HUMAN RIGHTS MORE IMPORTANT

In sharp contrast to these false attitudes there are many articles in past issues of News & Letters which incorporate an entirely different approach. The basis of this new approach is that the human rights of the workers are far more important than the production code of the company. Almost every workers' article contains, either explicitly or implicitly, exactly how he would reconstruct his union, his factory, production, his family life and all of his relationships with other people to gain this end.

But as it is I have seen workers in my union shop read several issues of News & Letters with great interest and approval and say, "This is O.K. I recognize that, this is what workers are saying. But so what?"

What is wrong? I believe that the answer is to be found in what happens to the workers' article after it is published, the way it is in a certain sense ignored. Take the present article under discussion. It is a typical case. The very next issue (January) did not mention it. The very fine lead article in January did call for putting the union back in the hands of the workers but this was far less concrete than the other worker proposed in December when he said grievances should be settled at the shop level and immediately.

What I am getting at is that once a worker's article is printed and he shows he is coming to some concrete solutions News & Letters does not meet this worker half way and develop a form where his contribution could be carried from issue to issue and be a basis for discussion and development by others, workers and interested intellectuals.

Skilled Worker
Los Angeles

Editors Note: Because we could not come out with a new January issue in time for the UAW Convention, we reprinted two thousand copies of the December 1957 issue for distribution to the convention. The front page was marked to call attention to the article, "Production Workers Want Their Rights in the '58 UAW Contract". That is how we "ignored" the production worker's contribution on the contract-to-be.

The January 31 issue had the front page report on short work week, which the workers wanted, for his "profit sharing" scheme. Finally 3 full columns were devoted to what workers at the convention did want in the contract. We were the only ones in the whole country who quoted the workers' own statements under heading "Opposition to Reuther's Profit-Sharing Centers on Shorter Week, Production Standards, Unemployment."

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

STRESS IN OUR TIMES

Homeostasis is a condition in which body activities are in a state of equilibrium. This does not mean stagnation, but a process of balance, wherein the mental and physical, the chemical and hormonal relationships are harmoniously coordinated. This is a state of health.

To maintain homeostasis, continual fine adjustment of the body to its environment and of the organs and tissue to their internal milieu is going on. The response to stimuli received by our senses is rapidly manifested by changes in our internal organs, the lungs, the heart and its blood channels, the stomach and intestines.

Whenever impulses enter the body that are too intense or too frequent for normal adjustment to follow, a state of stress sets in. Here there is internal pressure—violence, and the body seeks to re-establish equilibrium on a new level by releasing various hormonal and chemical substances from its factories, the nerve center and glands. It may be able to create a balance at a new and higher plane but at a price. For the pressure on any particular target organ may cause it to falter, and the functional and structural adjustment required to support it, bring on a state of disease. It is this concept of disease from colds to cancer, that is making headway in modern medicine.

HIGH PRICE TO PAY

Stress dominates much of our living today. Here is an interesting item from a recent medical journal:

The conductors of London buses who run up and down between the upper and lower seating areas have lower rates for heart attacks than the driver who remains seated on duty. The drivers are subject to stresses far beyond those affecting the conductors; particularly the need for tense alertness.

There is a critical period in the lives of men who retire. It is a phase of adjustment during which stress is high and mortality greatest. Worry over how to manage financially, and fear of helplessness are the underlying factors. Adjustment is greatly facilitated by retiring to something rather than from something. The significance of human activity should certainly be no less after than before separation from the wage system.

What characterizes life in our times is the disregard of its inner necessity—equilibrium in motion or homeostasis. For this we are paying a high price in sickness.

REPORTS FROM THE SHOPS:

Joe, a friend of mine, told me of a talk he had with an International Representative. He is expecting to be cut off from his position and put back in the shop to work. As International Representative he is making over \$8,000 a year, plus his expense account. Now he is yelling how he will not be able to live on what he'll make in the shop.

Joe told him he made it all right before he got the job on the union staff. He told Joe, that now he was buying a \$20,000 home in an exclusive neighborhood and his associates are higher class people. He was crying that he will lose all this. Joe asked him what he thought of all the thousands of workers that had no job? Before he could answer, Joe said, "but you guys never think of workers anyway."

A railroad worker said that in his union the leaders of his local have just worked out an agreement with their International office, to the effect that a worker in production can not send a grievance or any complaint to the International without the sanction of the local union officers first.

In other words the union officers have to hear or read your complaint and if they reject it that is as far as it gets. Sometimes they tell a worker they will revise it for him. When this happens they not only revise it but re-word it so that not a word the worker wrote in his original statement is included.

DEPRESSION NOTES:

Unemployed—Mid April—5,120,000.
Working short weeks—Mid March—2,300,000.

We reprint, without comment, from the CAPITAL TIMES, Madison, Wisconsin, Monday, April 28, 1958:

YOU SAY: "Sen. McClellan (D-Ark) has thrown a searchlight on the misuse of labor union funds."

But why was McClellan so indifferent to the use of oil company funds when it was found that \$2,500 had been left in \$100 bills for Sen.

Case, of South Dakota? This was only a small part of the big sums paid out by oil to pass the Natural Gas Bill.

The majority leader of the Senate, Johnson of Texas, and the minority leader of the Senate, Knowland of California, both oil states, picked McClellan for the cover-up job. Sen. McClellan's law firm in Arkansas has been the representative of Big Oil interests.

An Appeal To Our Readers

(Continued from Page 1)

than ever before. We all have to share the load together, and all you readers are welcome to come to the editors' meetings."

NEGROES recognize the truth in News & Letters because we pull no punches in our columns. Our articles go to the heart of the question because they recognize the basic truth that the everyday struggles of the most oppressed are of the greatest importance for total freedom and emancipation.

Our "Report From the South," (January 1957); and our report on "Little Rock, U.S.A.," (Oct. 1957) show why workers and Negroes say "This paper tells the truth."

YOUTH, who today are among the most abused and slandered in the whole world, welcome News & Letters because here is a place where they can write what they think and feel and want, without someone telling them what they "ought" to write.

INTELLECTUALS also welcome NEWS & LETTERS not only because they are frustrated in their daily lives and professions, but because here they can read and learn of events, and daily struggles, and workers' movements, and a way of thinking which hold a promise for the future.

READERS from as far as England, Scotland, France, even from as far away as oppressed South Africa, have written how important it is for them to get the picture of America which appears in News & Letters. They are happy to see a paper where workers can write what they think.

Invariably, they say they wish there were such a paper as ours in their country.

WHEN THE rank and file auto workers, particularly at Chrysler, and especially at Local 212, revolted against both management and Union bureaucrats for their brutal introduction of Automation, some of them went to all the papers in Detroit—but none would print their stories.

News & Letters did, and we were the only paper to report opposition which appeared against Reuther at the special UAW convention last January.

WHEN THE MINERS fight the man-killing policies of the coal operators and the callous arrogance of the District Union, News & Letters supports their struggles editorially and by telling the world.

That's why we ask all who read and like our paper to contribute as much as they can to keep it going.

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Workers Know It's Getting Worse

(Continued from Page 1)

employed workers, those receiving supplementary benefits, who are actually getting more money than those who are working 2 and 3 days a week.

Neither the unemployed who do get supplemental unemployed benefits, share the "confidence" that Ike and his made-to-order experts have in this system. The memories of both the Great Depression and the wars are too vivid in their lives.

"EMERGENCY BILLS"

The bills being introduced by the politicians are all designed to give a boost to business in the sphere of the market. Even the defense spending, although billions are being proposed, can have little effect on unemployment. The work there, primarily on missiles, will provide work for but a handful of highly skilled technicians.

A tax cut cannot help those now out of work; spending for public works on a municipal and national basis can have but a piecemeal effect. The road bill will provide money primarily for machinery and materials—modern road construction requires a lot of machinery, but few men. As for these machines, there are thousands of them in storage just waiting to be ordered.

The only measure thus far proposed which will "help" those laid off is the extension of unemployment benefits. This can hardly be called a solution to the problem.

Of all the proposed programs designed to counteract the continuing downward trend, none of them touch on the contradiction that produces the economic crises.

ALL FROM THE BACKS OF THE WORKERS

The miners can be taken as

an example, but the same applies to every worker in every industry.

Last year the Consolidation Coal Company had a net profit of \$26 million. This is after all the salaries of the officials were paid; after all the equipment was bought; after paying expenses for remodeling and building new plants; after paying 40c per ton of coal mined into the UMW Welfare Fund; after paying the wages of the clerical workers; after paying the wages of the miners who actually produced the coal.

Yet every penny of this money was made by one group and one group alone: the miners who actually produced the coal in the mines.

This is not to indicate that some of the things that the other people do are not necessary; it simply points out that the whole organization of the coal company is built on the backs of the miners at the point of production. It also gives some indication of how little the miners receive in terms of the sum total which they produce.

The same thing applies to every industry, and it takes little imagination to see that the whole structure of society, local, national and international, is built on the backs, and from the sweat, of the workers the world over.

All that the workers get in return is the greatest unemployment since the depression days; and partially employed workers without enough money to support their families. Facing them as an "alternative" is a nuclear war that might destroy civilization altogether.

Everything from education to the Sputnik, from "help" to the "under-developed countries" to brink-of-war strategy, is going in the same direction as Russian state capitalism—only from the opposite side of the Iron Curtain and for its own type of domination. Only one thing the Administration is failing to remember and that is the American people will not passively see itself brought either to a totalitarian type of government or to war. Indeed the war tensions and the restlessness caused by the recession are compelling the Administration to have a second look at both its domestic policy, and its foreign policy. (See EDITORIAL).

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

UNITED STATES

William Heikkila, who was born in Finland and entered the country at the age of 2½ months, was picked up after work in San Francisco, by the U.S. Dept. of Justice and within an hour had been flown out of the country. He was not permitted to notify his wife, call a lawyer, pack a bag or to obtain funds. A U.S. Government plane took the man to Vancouver, B.C., where he was placed on a commercial plane to Finland.

Heikkila, who is accused of being a former Communist, said, "Sure I was a Communist in 1929 to 1939 in Minnesota. But from the time I left there for San Francisco I have had nothing to do with politics. For many years I have applied for American Citizenship but it has not been granted."

Federal Judge Edward P. Murphy has ordered the Dept. of Justice and the Immigration Service to return the man to the United States. In issuing the order he stated, "The action smacks of Gestapo, rack and thumbscrew."

The nationwide publicity on the case has just prevented another man, William A. Mackie, who came here, age 10 months, from the same fate. But it takes not too much imagination to see that the Immigration Department, the FBI, and whole Department of Justice is acting with lack of concern for the civil rights of people who have lived all their lives in this country.

POLAND

To save his regime, Gomulka was forced to grant very limited forms of Workers Councils as the result of the 1956 demonstrations. Now under pressure from Russia the rights of the Workers Councils are being abolished.

Speaking to the Polish Trades Union Congress, Gomulka urged that the Workers Council give way to organizations more susceptible to party control and discipline. He further declared strikes to be illegal. Trade Unions can no longer be independent of the Communist Party.

As the result of the 1956 revolt against Communist tyranny, the workers set up over 5,600 Workers Councils as a means of in-

roducing democracy into production and into the government. These councils were the base of Gomulka's power in demanding more freedom from Russian domination. Strikes were legalized and a limited measure of self-government was permitted.

Now, Gomulka feels that he can no longer tolerate any organ of workers control apart from the organs of the Communist Party.

A clue to what he is planning, once the Councils have been abolished, is seen in his warning that soon production quotas will be increased. It is the productive rate in Poland that determines the workers' wages.

Stalin used these same measures in 1929 when he wiped out the Workers Conflict Commissions and established piece work as the production norm. It was the beginning of the end of the Russian Trade Unions and the end of all workers' democracy.

SOUTH AFRICA

A strike planned by the African National Congress on the eve of the national elections has failed because of threats and the use of government violence against the workers.

In Sophiatown, the segregated community outside of Johannesburg where the Africans live, a flying squad of 40 police under a Lieutenant Colonel charged through the town, beating up the people and running their clubs along sides of the corrugated iron buildings where the women and children were hiding in fear. The Colonel shouted, "Hit them, hit them."

The Africans were trying to draw attention to the fact that 10 million Africans cannot vote in the elections and are required to carry identification cards.

NATIONALIST STRUGGLES

The 10th anniversary of the founding of Israel, being now celebrated, shows that they have thus far failed to solve their basic problem, co-existence with their Arab neighbors. The continued existence of Arab refugee camps with 900,000 displaced Arabs is a major block in the road of obtaining Arab agreement to the full use of the waters of the Jordan River, without which the future development of Israel is hampered.

On the other hand the Arab crisis is producing a new bloc under Nasser, which seeks to divert world attention from the starving Arab people to the field of international maneuvers, which has

failed to produce a better way of life for the Arab masses.

In Ghana, Prime Minister Nkrumah presided over a conference of the leaders of Africa's independent nations. The Foreign Ministers of Liberia, Tunisia and the Sudan, representatives of Ethiopia and the Arab Federation sat down to discuss Nkrumah's "Hands off Africa" proposals.

But it was the Algerians who stole the show. They demanded from the conference that they be given diplomatic, political and material support in their struggle against France. The Conference wound up by supporting their demands and passing a resolution favoring their struggle. It may result in some material help from Ghana, Liberia and Ethiopia who have hitherto expressed only vague solidarity for the Algerians.

In the British West Indies a new nation has emerged. The West Indies Federation links 10 Caribbean Islands into a new nation under the leadership of Sir Grantley Herbert Adams. He is a middle of the road socialist who faces the task of uniting the Islands under a single leadership on the meagre budget of \$5,300,000, for a population of over 3 million people. It is obvious that not much relief can come from the expenditure of \$1.50 per person per year, no matter how hard you try or how well intentioned is the political party in power.

The British at this stage seem to be content to let the West Indies Federation work out its own problem in its own way as long as the British are free to exploit the islands for their own profit.

THE PHILIPPINES

President Garcia and his regime are under heavy fire on charges of grafting and corruption on a huge scale. One Senator says, "I can safely say that we have in the Philippines today the dirtiest government in the world."

The Vice President, Macapagal, has been cut out of his share of the loot and is not on speaking terms with Garcia. He says, "When we get the necessary evidence assembled, we plan to bring criminal charges against this man and then we will impeach him." There is never enough "evidence" to impeach those in high office when they are backed by US money and military might.

The government of Garcia is planning his visit to the United States where he will press for a further loan of 300 million dollars.

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