

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

VOL. 4—No. 2

Printed in 100 Percent
Union Shop

FEBRUARY, 1959

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

WORKERS' ACTIONS CHANNELIZED BY UNION LEADERS

At the McLouth Steel plant in Trenton, Mich., 3 workers were killed in the past 2 months because of the mad rush for production and the company's complete disregard for the safety of workers. The last death was as much as the workers would take. They walked out closing the plant down. More than a thousand went to the union hall. Before the local president arrived the police came with riot guns and gas masks. I heard one worker in the shop say, "I believe the union officers called for the police force before they went to meet those workers, for their first statement to the workers was that they should go back to work because the company is as anxious as they are to do something about safety in the shop."

Once again direct action by working people was headed off and channelized by the union leaders.

HAZARDS ON THE JOB

In the shop where I work safety is a forgotten thing by the company and the union. We hardly ever see a safety man and if a worker attempted to refuse a job because of dangerous hazards he would be paid off. Several years ago when a worker was injured on the job, he gave a fully detailed report to the first aid. Then the safety man and the union representative came on the job to determine the danger. Today when you are injured the first aid asks no questions, no safety man or union rep comes around. If it's too serious for the first aid they send you to the hospital. As soon as you are patched up you return to that same job. If you can not do the job you are sent home until you are able. Before, they would let a worker do some minor job until he got strong enough to go back to the regular job, but with the hazard removed.

LEADERS AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Unemployment in Michigan is the highest of any state in this country and Detroit has the greatest number of any city. State and city leaders do not seem to care. In regard to what they are doing and saying the union leaders seem to care as little. The unemployed, their families and working people are the only ones that are concerned.

Several months ago some unemployed workers began to organize themselves, hoping to build up enough support to force these leaders to open up jobs and stop overtime work scheduled by the same company that laid them off. They are trying to stop the inhuman speed-up by the companies who are forcing one worker to do the job of three.

The court ruled that it is a criminal offense for the unemployed to picket to stop the overtime work. Not only can they be put in jail but they can lose their re-call rights and seniority with the company. Also their rights as union members. It also means the same to the employed if they walk off the job in a dispute with the company and set up a picket line.

Not one of the labor leaders had a word to say on this nor did they come into court protesting against the decision. Instead they came armed with the line: all Democrats are good and all Republicans are bad; when you go to the polls, vote Democrat, The truth is that neither have the interest of working people at heart. The so called great governor Willams is yelling this state is broke. The daily papers say that people receiving state aid can not get their children in hospitals because the state can not pay the bill. The Mayor yelled back that the city is in the red and cannot accept any patient that is the state's responsibility. They both are good Democrats.

If the unemployed workers can keep their movement on independent lines and not let the politicians and labor leaders stifle it thousands would soon join them and thousands who are employed would give them full support. These leaders know this and moved in quickly to try to nip it in the bud.

Their line is that the work must be through the former union locals. One worker said to me, "This is the end of this movement but we are going to be forced to do something. We can not exist on speeches and promises."

SING:

"Recession Blues"

Page 7.

Be Sure to Read:

ON THE UNEMPLOYED See Pages 2, 3, 4, 7

CUBA'S REVOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS MASS UNREST IN LATIN AMERICA

An ex-G.I., who had been stationed in Japan, told NEWS & LETTERS, in talking about the revolution in Cuba, "I'm glad of one thing. At least we didn't interfere this time, and hurried up to recall Smith."

This ex-GI expressed the disgust most American workers feel in regard to the Administration support of South American dictators. State Department intervention in Latin American affairs has been so brazen with regard to the masses of people, and so sympathetic to the ruling cliques, that one of the first acts of the victorious Fidel Castro regime was to demand the recall of American Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith, who acted as a front man for Batista both in minimizing his bloody atrocities against the Cuban people, and in securing approval for military aid to the vicious dictator.

HATRED OF YANKEE IMPERIALISM

The State Department backed down in its support of Batista only after he himself fled Cuba. When it looked as if the Administration would once again try to intervene in the internal affairs of Cuba, Castro found an enthusiastic response to his statement: "If the Americans do not like what is happening, they can send in the Marines; there will be 200,000 gringos dead."

It is clear that the hatred of the Cuban people for "Yankee Imperialism" was second only to that they bore for Batista — and deservedly so. After a near century of American domination, Cuba, whose sugar plantations have enriched the American Refining Co., is impoverished. Ten years of Batista's rule have brought the country a raging unemployment. Fully 40 per cent of the workers are unemployed.

Whether the political revolution will be followed by a true social revolution, land redistributed and conditions of labor changed, no one can at this moment tell. But by its political revolution, Cuba has put the spotlight anew on the United States' role in Latin America.

THE "NEW" POST-WAR IMPERIALISM

Ever since the end of World War II, the world has been divided into but two giants—America and Russia—fighting for world domination. Truman's "Point 4 Program" was supposed to have heralded a new day. In place of what Truman himself called the "old imperialism", came the help of the U.S. to the so-called under-developed countries. Between Russia's penetration of the area and the newly-emergent nationalism, U.S. would otherwise not have had a single foothold in the Middle East. Since the U.S. did not seem to have been challenged in Latin America, no such aid was extended to Latin America. Then came Nixon's hostile reception throughout most of Latin America and the U.S. was forced to take a second look at its century-old domination over Latin America.

AMERICAN DOMINATION

Since the very birth of
(Continued on Page 8)



Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

This is supposed to be Negro History and Brotherhood Week, through these United States. Here in the North they call it Brotherhood Week. The Southern whites do not accept Negro history and would rather die than say they should be brotherly with the Negro people.

It's all a joke to me, and it makes me feel awfully bad when I see and hear of the inhuman treatment that Negroes are faced with here by some whites, even on the same day that they are supposed to be brothers. There are restaurants, bars and many other places colored cannot get service and communities they cannot live in because their skin is a different color.

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM

These Northern white so-called liberal and Negro leaders have gotten together and diluted and transformed Negro history. They say nothing about the role that Negroes like Frederick Douglass played in the Abolitionist Movement, nothing of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, or the whites that helped to make Negro history, like John Brown and many others. Today these Negro and white liberals want you to

say that Negro history is to be intelligent and educated and the whites will accept you, and those that come to accept you are your brothers.

Negro history to me is what the Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama started and finished in the bus boycott there and what they are doing in Atlanta, Georgia; in Little Rock, Arkansas; in Virginia; and in Birmingham, Alabama. Negroes have carried on the struggle before and through the Civil War and they have made great contributions to the building of America.

... AND PROMISES OF FREEDOM

A white Southerner on TV last week, answered to a question of a news reporter, that God believed in segregation. He said that God made black birds and other birds and they do not mix. He made white bears and black bears and did not intend for them to mix because they do not. I was so mad I could have burst. Here is a man educated as a leader who puts human beings down with animals and fowls, as if the Negroes do not have a mind, culture, art and science. And after all the years we are forced to accept his segregation, he
(Continued on Page 2)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

With Almost 300,000 Miners Unemployed

BOSSES DOING MINERS' JOB WHILE UNION DOES NOTHING

Scott's Run, W. Va.—The subject of bosses doing contract work is something that has come up time after time at our mine. We all know that the bosses are doing it—we see it every day. They run machines, do clean up work, shoot coal—they just do everything they can.

What it amounts to is that they are getting production as if another miner is working on the section. Only that man is still out on the street, looking for work.

OFFICERS KNOW

The contract is specific in this case — bosses are not supposed to do contract work. Everyone knows about it and it has come up at union meetings to try to get officers and committeemen to stop it. The officers say it is a bad thing and tell the men not to allow it.

Now it is true that this is a concern for all the men and should not be permitted. But as one miner told the officers, "You say that the bosses shouldn't do this work. We all know it is wrong, but what do you expect the men to do when they see you officers on the sections working right there with the boss? You say it should be stopped, only you don't do anything about it

MINERS STOP ONE BOSS TEMPORARILY

Pursglove, W. Va.—I was going to shoot a place when the cutter and his helper stopped me. The helper said, "Say, do you know the boss is loading coal? He sent the loading machine operator and his buddy to eat, and he's loading out the cut. We've got to stop him."

"I know," I said. "It came up at the last local meeting and the men are plenty hot about it. They passed a motion to have a grievance filed against any boss that does contract work, only I don't expect much out of that. The president (who works on my section) said at the last meeting that he had talked to the boss about it, but it didn't seem to make much difference since the boss is still working. Maybe we can do something about it though. I've got an idea."

HE DIDN'T KNOW

It wasn't long before the boss came to the place where I was working, and said, "The cutter was saying something about your wanting to see me. Is something wrong?"

"Well, yeah," I said, "in a way there is. It has to do with your running machines." "Why, what do you mean?" (as if he hadn't heard of such a thing before). "I mean that you're

yourself. You can't expect a man to go up to a boss and tell him not to do contract work when there's a committeeman or officer working right along with him."

"HOW MUCH PROTECTION?"

"And that shows something else, too. If a man sees things like that, such a clear violation of the contract and nothing being done about it, just how strong is he going to think the union is? How much protection is he going to get if he sticks his neck out? And that is the whole point. Because when a man feels that he's sticking his neck out to do what is right, the union is going down hill, and you get the kind of situation we have right now—with the company getting away with things that they wouldn't even think about doing before."

Welsh Miners March In Protest

National Coal Board Shuts Down 6 Pits As Unemployment Reaches 630,000 In Great Britain

London, Eng.—Three weeks ago 10,000 anthracite miners and their families marched through the streets of Swansea (South Wales) to protest the National Coal Board's closing down of six "uneconomic" pits in that area. This mile-long procession is the largest local demonstration since our General Strike in 1926. On the other hand the N.C.B. is importing coal from the U.S.A. and Poland! We have yet to hear of an N.C.B. official's salary being cut because "his" pit was "uneconomic."

The snag is that "bureaucratic" nationalization has

become as big a menace to the miners with its concern for profit and capitalist relations of production as the old mine owners. The difference being that these placemen are assured of their salaries (unlike the miners) whereas the old "private" boss had a keen interest in keeping the pits open as long as he could. At the same time, the interlocking of the Labour Party officials with these bureaucrats has obscured the class issues involved, though some light is now showing through.

On the other hand, Lord Manscroft, enjoying a government salary of 3,000 pounds a year (about \$7,000) since June '57 as Minister Without Portfolio (plus his private income as a barrister) has resigned, unable to maintain his wife and five children on this pittance!

The latest figures for unemployment in Britain are 630,000 and this national average, as in the U.S.A., hits some areas very hard.

In my own chemical works, nearly 400 were sacked over Christmas, in line with the redundancies at other chemical factories.

The recent smog blanket over Southern Britain, combined with the bitter cold, has paralyzed the activity of the general Labour movement; when in a few weeks the brighter days of the English spring come, we will find that a lot of the workers will be keen for some action. It is then that a general election is forecast, but the twin bureaucracies of "Labour" and "Conservatives" are very unlikely to whip up any enthusiasm for battles which have left the workers cold for a long time now.

RESTAURANT DISCRIMINATION

I haven't heard much recently about the committee that is trying to abolish discrimination in restaurants here. The last I heard about it, representatives went to see some of the restaurant owners who said that they would think things over. It seems to me as if they are begging the restaurant owners, instead of telling them that something has to be done about it or else. I think it's just the wrong way to go about it. If they left the students handle it they'd accomplish more. I honestly don't think that they'll accomplish anything, unless they change their tactics.

Miners' Wife
Morgantown, W. Va.

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WAY OF THE WORLD

(Continued from Page 1)

comes in and mixes with the Negro woman, especially in the South. Maybe they would claim that God said this was right for him but no one else. I have heard many arguments that some white men wrote the Bible to protect themselves and their way of life, and when this man said this on TV I could not help but believe those arguments.

NEGRO HISTORY HIDDEN

Crispus Attucks was the first Negro to give his life in the Revolutionary War in 1770. Some 5,000 Negroes fought for American Independence. Some were slaves who were promised freedom after the war, and in every war since that time Negroes have fought and

died, and are still getting promises of freedom.

What American has made more contribution to tennis than Althea Gibson; to boxing than Ray Robinson, Archie Moore and Joe Louis; to jazz music than Louis Armstrong; to spiritual music than Mielia Jackson; to football than Jim Brown, who as most valuable player of the year broke all records. And the highly educated Southerners are saying that Negroes have not made contributions to America.

If Negro History was brought up to where it should be, I am sure many Negroes would be happy over Negro History Week. We and many others would appreciate it, and learn from it.

NOW AND THEN

UNEMPLOYED MEETING IS ONLY A START

By Esther Douglass

Editors Note—We are very happy to introduce a new columnist Esther Douglass. Our readers will recall an article that appeared in issue Vol. 3, No. 7 on the "1933 Hunger March," by a woman marcher. That contribution prompted us to invite her to write for News & Letters regularly.

I went to the unemployed meeting here in Detroit held at the Labor Temple on January 20th. I didn't think much of it, but it was a start. How it will end up nobody knows.

You could see already, by the way labor leaders like Gus Scholle ran the meeting that the workers would have nothing to say.

At one point in the meeting everything was stopped so that pictures could be taken of the labor leaders and politicians because the photographer had to leave. At the same meeting a worker had gotten a call from home but no one had interrupted the meeting to call him out. They just waited till the speaker was through and then told him of the call.

WORKERS ASKS TO PICKET

They did have a question period. No one asked any questions. What could they ask when they just had seen what happened when a worker had yelled out to have a picket line. Right away another leader, Edith Van Horne, shut him up. She said that the latest ruling by the court made such picketing on Saturday a criminal offense.

I began to think of the unemployed in the 1930's. The workers certainly had more say-so then. They never would have accepted such a statement from a leader about picketing being a criminal offense. They would have concluded that she must be repeating something from the bosses. First they would have asked, how does it happen that she alone and those on the platform knew about it and none of the workers? When was it put into a law? Some one would have suggested right there and then to put up a picket line and set up

a committee to see that it was done. Where was she getting her information from?

WORKERS STOPPED EVICTIONS

The kind of information we accepted in the 30's was information about evictions. We would stop them. We wouldn't let them repossess the furniture either but make them place it back.

The meeting on the 20th wasn't anything like that. But, as I said, it was a start. It was a start on the part of the unemployed to do something. If it is followed up with more meetings and more actions, then maybe we will get somewhere. Like on the colored question. I saw only two colored women workers there and a dozen colored men. I was hoping more would attend for there are thousands unemployed right here and I know they want to do something.

NORTHERN PRESS QUIET ON SOUTH'S PROPAGANDA

New York.—What kind of shenanigans are going on between the "liberal" Northern Press and the "Democratic" South with its white citizen councils?

A flood of treacherous segregationist propaganda is being received by the northern newspapers but not a word appears.

One letter that I saw was an appeal sent to President Eisenhower. It was sent out by the White Citizens Council of Mississippi, using northern writers as their spokesmen.

Does the ignoring of these letters by the press mean they refuse to print anything about this wave of filth from the South or does the failure to expose it mean that they are succumbing to it, and do not want to offend the Southland.

I wonder how is it that this scam is allowed through the U.S. Mails without a word from the post office department? The envelopes that carry these words from degenerates are covered with degrading slogans. Surely the post office department could have something to say on this.

—Disgusted Citizen

UNEMPLOYED GET IN TO SEE REUTHER

Detroit—For the first time since the unemployed movement started here, Walter Reuther consented to have his Executive Board meet with their representatives at Solidarity House.

When he told them that he sympathized with them, one worker said that he "could not possibly sympathize with us because he wasn't in our position. It would be impossible, I think, until he walked into his own house and saw his own kids hungry. You can only sympathize when you know how it feels."

"NO DEFINITE STATEMENTS"

Another worker said, "What I got a kick out of was that we told him, and right in his own house! It's good but it's not good enough. We want 30 for 40 first; then old age retirement lowered to 55; all overtime banned for the duration of the lay-offs; and that the company has to pay compensation for the duration of anyone's lay-off. That way they'd not be so anxious to lay a man off. Reuther said those things were good, but he didn't make us any definite statement as to what he'd do."

The workers felt, he said, that they could easily "get

100 thousand to demonstrate on Cadillac Square, and if Reuther shut the shops down for a day we could get 200 thousand out there. Reuther didn't say anything. He just listened."

Another worker said, "I know what Reuther is, and so do the others. But if he'll come along, we'll take his help. I think it was the first time anybody went to his house, and that's what Solidarity House is, and sat and told him what was what, and he didn't cut them to pieces. He didn't like it too much, I guess, when 500 of us picketed his place. He didn't like it, but he never came out with anything, until now."

LOCAL 212 UNEMPLOYED MEET

Detroit — I attended a meeting of the Local 212 unemployed group. Reports by officers that attended a "Legislative Conference" in Lansing, were given.

WORKERS KNOW TRUTH
It was good to see that the unemployed workers are trying to do something about the unemployment situation. However, I felt quite angry when it became apparent that some will divert the action and energy of the unemployed into a

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Shortly after this meeting with Reuther, some of the unemployed made a trip to Lansing, at their own expense, where 800 delegates, representing the 750,000 UAW members were in session. The unemployed were well received by the delegates there, and it was at that meeting that Reuther made his proposal for an unemployed March on Washington.

"Somebody heated the pot a little under him," said one unemployed worker. "And we're going to have that March on Washington whether he helps us or not."

US STEEL CONTRACTS OUTSIDE JOBBERS WHILE MILL WORKERS WORK SHORT WEEK

Pittsburgh, Pa. — The US Steel Company has a policy of getting outside contractors to do jobs in the mill. The company claims these outside contractors get the jobs done quicker and cheaper than the mill men.

The thing about this setup that makes the men sore is they know the company just uses this excuse to keep the mill men working four days a week. It isn't that the men can't do the work; in fact, work got so slack a few months ago that the company "gave" the mill men a contract job.

CHEAPER AND QUICKER?

The argument that the work is done quicker just doesn't hold up. When a job is contracted, the outside men doing the work only have that job to do, period. But when the company puts mill men on the same jobs, they are on call for anything their boss might consider more important at any moment, with the result that they are shuttled from job to job. You sure can't make any comparison about time when you have that kind of situation. And it can't cost the company more when the men working for outside contractors get paid more than the mill men.

If the mill men would be doing the work contractors get, they'd be working five, maybe six, days a week. But the company wants the men to know we are in a depression. This is something we have known for a long time.

OFFICERS TAKE "STAND"

The union officials did take one stand on this outside contracting work. The company had contracted for work that is done by boilermakers and riggers. It so happens that our union officials do this work in the mill. They threatened the company with a wildcat strike if their work was contracted; the company backed down; the mill boilermakers and riggers got the work.

The men have good reason to wonder why the officers don't take the same stand when the work of the rest of the men in the mill is contracted.

Recession Is Over?

Los Angeles—I have been unemployed almost seven months and a couple of weeks ago I went to apply for a Civil Service job. There must have been about 1,500 people there to take the test, which lasted for four hours. I haven't heard if I passed the test yet, but many people there thought they didn't even have any jobs open, but were just taking a waiting list.

I also went to an oil company out here to apply for a lab assistant job. They wanted someone with two years college chemistry, and I had only one, so I was told I didn't have enough education. I then asked about a job as a laborer which pays \$2.30 an hour. The man said they were hiring laborers, but I had too much education for that!

letter writing campaign. As two workers said at the meeting itself, "Congressman and politicians don't answer cards and letters that are sent to them until just before election time."

All the pretty speeches in the world can not put aside what the worker knows to be true in his daily life.

The first question a young worker asked me before the meeting even began was, "When are we going to have another demonstration downtown?" This worker had been out of work for over a year and on welfare.

RED TAPE

Other workers during the meeting got up describing the red tape at the relief offices and one worker asked about SUB and the fact that he had been laid off since September and had been told he would not get his SUB. A local officer that was present told them to come to the union office during the week and they will see what they can do. I am sure he has the best intentions at heart in helping these workers, but what happens to the individual worker in such situations is anybody's guess. Why shouldn't people discuss these questions back and forth at the meeting itself and come to a decision themselves?

Reuther's suggestion for a March on Washington was reported on. Every one at the meeting seemed in favor but that too was left up in the air. It seems a shame that the officers won't take the initiative and present a date and make arrangements for such a March. It seems to me that the workers are ready.

It was very good to hear workers say, at the end of the meeting when I handed *News & Letters* out to them, that "What is in this paper is the truth."

—New & Letters Reporter

DETROIT EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 8751 GRAND RIVER (1 FLIGHT UP)

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

THE NEGRO WOMAN WORKER

I have heard it said many times that the Negro woman worker is the most oppressed worker there is. First she is oppressed as a worker, then as a Negro and then because she is a woman. It has become, I think, one of those phrases that is very easily said and then just as easily forgotten.

"SUBTLE" DISCRIMINATION

There are some plants in this town that hire one or two Negro workers for each department so they can say they don't discriminate. When you work in such places or any "good" paying job and some of your co-workers are Negro women, if your face is white you tend to lose sight that there are thousands of Negro women that cannot find such jobs. I am talking about an industrial, unionized city like Detroit, not the South, New York or the West Coast.

I recently met an unemployed laundry worker. She told me that when World War II broke out they began hiring Negro women in the war plants because they needed workers, but she

UNION MAKES HOMESTEAD STEEL BACK DOWN

Pittsburgh, Pa. — At the Homestead plant, the company tried to pull a fast one over on the men. They tried to make a ruling that if you missed one day's work, you had to have a hospital check-up before you were returned to work.

GIMMICK FOR LAY-OFFS

In this way, they hoped to be able to get rid of a lot of the men in the mill. It is true that there are men working in the mill who are not well—but this is a result of all the years they have put in the mills. Of course, this doesn't make any difference to the company. The only time they want you is when you're in good condition to do a lot of work. When they wear you out, they just throw you out on the scrap heap if they can get away with it.

There is another angle to this, too. Because they could also get rid of some guys that they don't want in the mill—guys they had it in for. It is a simple thing for them to tell a doctor to fail a man, especially when the doctor is on their pay-roll.

UNION FIGHTS COMPANY

The company has been getting away with plenty of things recently, mostly with the co-operation of the union officials. But this was just too much. The officers knew that if they let something like this go through, they wouldn't have any chance at all with the men. The result was that this was something that the union turned thumbs down on and made the company back up.

would never work in a plant because before the war she was told she "was not good enough to even sweep the floors in the factory."

DETROIT LAUNDRY WORKERS

She got jobs working in laundries. I have never worked in one, but I can see as I pass by some that they are as bad as the sweat shops in New York's garment district and the speed-up is on a par with that in auto plants here. I am sure the heat and moisture is not as beneficial to one's health as Warm Springs.

What do they pay people to work in these sweaty, rat racing shops? Five years ago in New York they got 75c an hour. That is what some white workers got, at any rate. I, paid as "high" as \$1 an hour to \$2.14 when I can find work, lived under the illusion that they got at least \$1 an hour, which doesn't exactly allow you to live like a king.

A couple of weeks ago my friend went to apply for a job in a laundry out on 6 Mile Road. She said the man had two young Negro girls working like machines out there and offered her the salary of 35c an hour. Yes, 35c an hour. Not only that, but you have to know every thing and you are quizzed on your ability. I couldn't believe my ears. I was struck completely dumbfounded when she told me the regular wage is 45c an hour, depression or "prosperity."

WHERE ARE UNIONS?

Place this \$18 a week alongside the National budget. It's less than the speck of dust you wiped off your clothes without even thinking. What has happened in this union town that these workers have not been organized? Are they too small, too unimportant for the big unions?

What could my friend have felt when I was telling her how angry I was because I couldn't find anything except a \$1 an hour job as a sales girl?

Can the heart belonging to a white face ever feel and understand what is in the heart of a Negro worker?

Supermarket Workers Win Strike

Los Angeles—The retail clerks employed in the major supermarkets here, who have been on strike for the past month, have won an important victory through their strike action. The settlement which ended the strike resulted in a base pay of \$112.00 a week for retail clerks with many fringe benefits including medical care. The contract which covers a five year period will automatically increase the earnings and fringe benefits of the workers each year over the five year period. Cost of living increases are automatically taken care of in the contract.

EDITORIAL

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LABOR BUREAUCRACY

The latest of many surveys on unemployment reveals that the great industrial centers, producing autos, steel and electrical equipment, are well on their way to becoming depressed areas, like coal and textiles have been ever since the 1930s.

With production at its peak in Detroit, an eighth of the work force is admittedly unemployed.

In Pittsburgh, steel and coal center, there are now, when we are supposedly over the recession, twice as many unemployed as there were in the admitted recession month of January a year ago. Indeed, applications for relief—3,000 in the month of December—are the highest since World War II.

In New York, one out of every 13 is jobless.

Fully one-third of all those registering for unemployment insurance are between the ages of 25 to 34. Yet as everyone who looks for work knows, any one over 35 is considered "old" for the automated plants. Along with the obsolescent plants capitalism rejects the older workers. The squeeze against the younger workers in the older plants where seniority counts is followed up by the squeeze against the older workers in the newly opened plants where management has full sway.

AND THE PERMANENTLY UNEMPLOYED?

Fully 3 million people have already used up all the unemployment benefits to which the law entitles them. How many of these have become permanently unemployed? None of the figures show us this. Because eligibility to unemployment insurance depends on the length of time one has been employed the previous year, and because the unemployment figures are based on this list, we can expect nothing but more and bigger lies on the whole question of unemployment from now on.

EISENHOWER DOESN'T WORRY

Eisenhower has set the tone for the entire capitalist class when he said he "wasn't worried about unemployment." Why should he worry when profits are high enough, and production automated enough, to permit war expenditures to shift emphasis from tanks, heavy equipment and aircraft to electronic devices and guided missiles, without any added expenditures? Once his budget balances, why care about people?

There is certainly nothing surprising about the inaction of the Administration on the question of the unemployed or employed, but what about the labor leadership?

AND REUTHER WORRIES AND SHOUTS

Reuther began last year's contract negotiations by giving up both the fight for the shorter workweek (which the rank and file had voted for) and "sharing the profits plan" (which his bureaucrats thought up). By the time he ended the negotiations management praised him for leaving in their hands complete control over production standards (read: speed up of line).

Presently Reuther is shouting at Eisenhower, calling for a shorter workweek, and in general making noises that accompany his many brainstormers. No doubt another Plan is in the offing. Meanwhile he neither allows the employed to fight the insane speedup, nor the unemployed to organize for action of their own.

The unemployed movement in the individual UAW locals no sooner got a head start by picketing plants that were working overtime, demonstrating in front of federal courts against the legal moves to stop picketing, talking about concerted action by employed and unemployed alike than Reuther "offered" these locals the use of the halls provided they worked within the confines of the "community service" do-nothing sections of the UAW.

Gus Scholle made a big speech about the fact that without the help of "organized labor" (read: UAW leadership), the unemployed could not win. We don't know about "winning", but they got to first base without the overlordship of the labor bureaucracy. Where have they gotten since Reuther took over?

It is true he has suddenly taken the headlines with his "suggestion" of a March on Washington. But he made sure (1) to specify that what he called an "officers task force" be headed by himself, Mazey and Woodcock, and not the workers employed and unemployed; (2) to see that no date was set for the March. Indeed no preparations for making that march a reality were discussed.

Meanwhile unemployment figures have not gone below the 5 million level while the welfare rolls are made ever more difficult to get on. The employed are worked to exhaustion, although few see a full workweek's pay. The youth have no seniority, and the old cannot make ends meet.

Employed and unemployed, young and old alike, are striving for united action. The labor bureaucracy, however, stands in the way.

The question is not: do the unemployed want the help of organized labor? The question is: will the labor bureaucracy allow these two forces to cooperate freely? Thus far it is chaining them to the tail of the Democratic Party while that master of substitution—Reuther—transforms a mass activity into its opposite—a lobbying conference.

The answer to the unemployed problem will not be sounded in the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., but on the production line, around the factory gates in the industrial centers, and in a mass march on Washington.

CUBA AND CASTRO

I saw a TV program in which a reporter from the United States was interviewing people in Castro's new government. He asked them different questions about their functions, but he wound up asking each and every one the same final question: Do you think this means no more strikes or work stoppages?

The way I figure it was that the U.S. didn't really care whether it was Batista or Castro in power, so long as they could be sure the workers wouldn't interfere with American interests there.

The Cuban officials answered about the same way Reuther would answer here, that they could handle things. None gave me the feeling that they were for workers' activity. To me, I don't care what else they say, if they don't come out with a clear position for workers keeping their right to strike, it's a dictatorship all over again.

Auto Worker Detroit

The reason I'm so suspicious of Castro as a "revolutionary" is simply because he's so popular with the American press.

Intellectual Detroit

LEADERS & RANKS

Why can't we get one contract throughout the country? Why should each local have different contracts? In our plant, one department can have trouble and walk out and another department works. If they have trouble in California they work overtime here.

This contract is no good. Mostly everyone feels that we've been sold out.

..When they're negotiating for the contract, and anyone asks about it, the union leaders say, "No comment." They just come out when they're through and say, "Sign." Now if you've hired a man to do a job you want to know what he's doing. If a man hired you and asked you what you were doing and you said, "No Comment," he'd fire you!

Production Worker Detroit

We'll never get anywhere until we get rid of Reuther. They always leave it up to the delegations. If it was by a direct vote of the rank and file I don't think he'd be up there.

Chrysler Worker Detroit

The bureaucracy can take over a situation for just so long but you can be unemployed for just so long too.

Miner W. Va.

I don't understand this two years' research that Reuther said we need on unemployment. We need some action right now. I was down to the Welfare office today. It was pitiful. People coming in and out with nothing to eat. Two women were screaming and crying. I don't understand how anyone in his right mind could expect those people to wait for two years.

Unemployed Detroit

I hear that President Eisenhower is not disturbed by the unemployed situation.

No wonder, he's not unemployed.

Unemployed 1 Year New York

UNEMPLOYMENT

We know a lot of men can't get back because the work just isn't here any more. It's been moved away. Or else automation has taken it away. What we're after is to stop the speed-up and the overtime of the men they've kept, and equalize the work for everyone.

Unemployed Worker Detroit

If the highest seniority worker gets the job, the other man doesn't. One of them is out of work, regardless. To me, the question is to get work for everybody.

The man working today because he has more seniority than the man on the street, will be on the street with his buddy tomorrow. And those on the street are coming to the unemployed movement. They'll have to.

Still Working Detroit

I didn't see any worker at the unemployed meet-

ing at the Labor Temple who was any younger than myself, and I'm in my late 20's. I was surprised about it, because if seniority is anything, it is the young worker who is laid off first. The average age at the meeting looked to me to be in the 40's. Where are the young workers? Why doesn't the Unemployed Council try to get young guys too?

Young Worker Detroit

The women have been pretty hard hit by the layoffs. At Chrysler there was a frame job they were moving in. It involved steel-welding and work like that. The company said, when the women asked about it, that male or female, the highest seniority persons would get the job.

They know women can't do a lot of jobs. But that's how they've always got rid of the women when when they wanted to. They just put her on a hard job, at the same pay as the man would get, because they know she'll have to quit sooner or later.

Father of Five Detroit

I wonder about this "30 for 40." I just got my income tax statement for last year and found out exactly what I made. I made \$2.41 an hour, and for the whole year all I earned was a little over \$3,000. That's how few hours those of us who were working got in—and there were plenty, in fact thousands, who were laid off completely. What it looks like to me is that I already have the 30 hour week, or less. The only thing I don't have is the pay for the 40.

Employed? Detroit

NEGRO STRUGGLES

I was very impressed with the speech I heard Rev. Shuttleworth, the leader of the Birmingham, Alabama, bus boycott, make here at the A.M.E. Church. He made some wonderful points.

He said that one of the leading white "good" Democrats down there was talking to a Negro and said, "You people are always yelling for your rights. But I'd like to know one constructive thing you've done to help American progress."

The Negro answered him, "We've stopped scratching and have started looking you square in the eye. Is that a contribution to progress or isn't it?"

Negro Auto Worker Detroit

It was good to hear first-hand from Rev. Shuttleworth the news that the

Readers'

News & Letters

Vol. 4, No. 2

February, 1959

News & Letters is published every month by News & Letters, 8751 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich. Telephone: TYler 8-7053. Subscription: \$1 for 12 issues; single copy — 10c; for bulk order of ten or more — 6c each.

Charles Denby Editor I. Rogers Managing Editor

Second class mail privileges authorized at Detroit, Michigan.

Views

bus boycott in Birmingham is continuing. He explained that the city is so big that not everybody can walk, and some have been forced to ride the segregated busses to get to work. But he said that the boycott is strongly supported by the colored working people there and that they have made sure the leaders of the boycott keep on.

I liked what he said about an old preacher who said they had to keep fighting, and maybe they'd have their victory in another 50 years. Shuttleworth told him that with THAT philosophy, by the time they won they'd have to be helped on the bus.

**Supporter
Detroit**

* * *

All through history, it's the "old heads" that have been messing things up. Not the young kids. The same is true with this integration business down South. The kids would solve it in a minute if they left them alone. But I don't think we should let the North get off the hook, either. You don't have to go any farther than right here to find bars and restaurants and plenty of places that won't serve a Negro. Neither North nor South is free of it.

**White Worker
Detroit**

* * *

What gets me is how they can make headlines about 14 Negroes or so going to school finally with 10,000 whites and call THAT "Desegregation."

**Disgusted
Detroit**

* * *

There have been no further developments as far as solving the bombing of the Osage school. The FBI hasn't found anyone else to pin it on. As far as the white miner they were holding, everyone here was very angry because they put him in jail. They're still walking around, using up the taxpayer's money, supposedly trying to get clues, but I think that they are stumped and just running around questioning people.

We think that it was an outside job, ourselves, to try to make people outside of this area think that things didn't go off as well as they seemed to here. Everyone here who read the paper liked it and agreed with what was printed in *News & Letters* about it.

**Miner's Wife
Osage, W. Va.**

* * *

THE WORLD AROUND US

"All will be fine in '59."
That's the craze that has

swept over the disc jockeys on one of the popular radio stations in Detroit since the beginning of the new year.

Though the above quote is mostly related to music, the D.J.'s have been heard to apply it to everything—to segregation and workers' problems, for instance.

Listening to this and then looking at the world situation, I get the impression that the D.J.'s are either optimistic or just plain refuse to recognize what's going on in this day of automation, Sputniks and racial prejudice. I just don't get it.

**High School Student
Detroit**

* * *

The bright light on the political horizon here is the meteoric success that the Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War has had in their demonstrations against the guided missile base in Norfolk. Many chose jail rather than renounce their right to act against the murderous policies of the political parties here, and in jail, some went on hunger strike and were fed forcibly; this is the beginning of organized popular resistance. It has its obvious weaknesses—as are all too well pointed out by those who only sit and talk about action against "the system"—but it is bound to generate new and advanced forms of resistance as a result of these experiences, among some of the participants and supporters.

**British Reader
London, England**

* * *

For years we heard how happy, contented and docile the Negroes in the huge Belgian Congo were; how grateful they were to their father, the Belgian king. All of a sudden we learn of the shooting of hundreds of Negroes and rioting in Leopoldville. Things move in the quietest of places.

**Reader
Los Angeles**

* * *

GOOD RIDDANCE

In the *Detroit News* Letter Box, "Fourth Generation American" asked, "What right had Hungarian refugees to stage a riot when Mikoyan visited here?" First, it was not a riot; and secondly, they had the same traditional American right to protest injustice as the 500 auto workers who demonstrated the same week against an inhuman economy that leaves 200,000 capable workers out of work in Detroit alone, not to speak of the rest of our "prosperous" nation.

Can society editors' appeals for "good manners" toward Mikoyan, can the benevolent smiles of such

as Ford, Cisler, Eaton, and Johnston, can the clowning of Jerry Lewis conceal the Freedom Fighters' blood that drips from Mikoyan's fingers?

**College Instructor
Detroit**

* * *

I heard people around here saying that Mikoyan's visit wasn't what he pretended it to be, and that the people that attacked him should have been allowed to have their way with him. I think the reason the Hungarian refugees attacked him is because they know him and his kind.

**Miner's Wife
Scott's Run, W. Va.**

* * *

MARXIST HUMANISM

I have completed (except for the Appendices) reading *Marxism & Freedom* for the first time, and will constantly have it by me for reference and re-study. Right now it is on loan to a friend in my factory, who is impressed... I find your material extremely valuable and inspiring. A point I have noticed clearly is your emphasis on production relations as the key. In *News & Letters* I see that nowhere do you place any emphasis on "fruits of labor" (wage increases and the like) which is made the chief feature of most British propaganda. This has re-orientated and clarified my ideas especially in relation to Russia.

**Interested Reader
London, England**

(See: AS OTHERS SEE
US—Page 6)

* * *

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending me every issue of your newspaper, *News & Letters*. It is a new type of publication and it has an important role in creating a new theory and practice for socialism.

**Reader
Japan**

* * *

You will be interested to hear that the dockers in Grangemouth who read *News & Letters* were quite excited by its contents and approach. Of course they only numbered six or seven, but that is always a start.

**Reader
Glasgow, Scotland**

* * *

I've found no other place where ideas are discussed freely and where one takes a real look at the world. I'm impressed with the fact that we say it is what the workers do and say that counts, that there is a union of theory and practice and if our ideas appear not taken up it is because we are not looking at the practice.

**Student
Los Angeles**

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya
Author of *MARXISM AND FREEDOM*

A FORGOTTEN PAGE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

ROLE OF THE NEGRO IN THE POPULIST MOVEMENT

As the latest crop of books from white Southern "liberals" once again proves, the plea for time to "read-just" (another civil war?) is based on the most popular white fetish that the South has "always" been solid on "the race problem."

The truth is that one of the greatest pages of our history—the Populist movement—had its Southern chapter written by white and Negro acting together. "Never before or since," writes the historian, C. Vann Woodward*; "have the two races in the South come so close together as they did during the Populist struggles."

The simultaneous growth of monopoly and depression during the turbulent eighties and "heart-breaking" nineties found the agricultural South at the mercy of the city merchant and ground beneath the wheel of the railroads with their high tariffs, established by an unholy combination of railroad tycoons and the Government. In sheer self-defense, the farmers—white and black, middle class and poor, West and South—united to challenge not only the unbridled rule of Eastern capital, but also their own race prejudices.

One of the incidents during this period will show just how strong the unity of action between white and Negro was. A Negro Populist, H. S. Doyle, was confronted with a lynch threat. A white Populist leader, the Georgian, Tom Watson, then declared:

"We are determined in this free country that the humblest white or black man who wants to talk our doctrine shall do it, and the man doesn't live who shall touch a hair of his head, without fighting every man in the People's Party."

In those days Tom Watson meant what he said. He followed this declaration up by giving Doyle shelter and sending out riders on horseback for assistance. We have a description of this from the biographer of Tom Watson: "All night armed farmers roared into the village. The next morning the streets were 'lined with buggies and horses, foamed and tired with travel'. All that day and the next night they continued to pour in until 'fully 2,000' Populists crowded the village—arms stacked on Watson's veranda."

POPULISM AND NEGRO SELF-ACTIVITY

Populism was a power to be reckoned with both in state and national politics. It was instrumental in the election of Populist governors as well as state and national representatives. The National Colored Farmers' Alliance alone numbered no less than 1¼ million. Although separately organized, from the white agrarians, it waged its battles together with them. At one blow the unity of white and black not only shattered the Solid South but threatened to do the same to the two party system.

Tom Watson gave expression to the Populist principle of a united front of white and Negro in these words:

"Now the People's Party says to these two men: 'You are kept apart that you may be separately fleeced of your earnings. You are made to hate each other because upon that hatred is rested the keystone of the arch of financial despotism which enslaves you both. You are deceived and blinded that you may not see how this race antagonism perpetuates a monetary system which beggars both.'"

It is true that by the time of World War I the old Watson became a race-baiter. The greater truth, the one that will live in history, however, is that, under the impact of the objective situation, that man was spokesman for, and a practitioner of, black and white unity. Of course, he buckled under when the different classes within the agrarian movement separated. When industry won the battle over agriculture, planter and cotton picker found different class alignments. The irresistible power of an idea with a mass following was no longer irresistible when the mass—in this case the National Colored Farmers' Alliance—called for a general strike of Negro cotton pickers.

Poor and rich divided, and so did the South. The president of the National Alliance (white) advised the farmers "to leave their cotton in the field rather than pay more than 50c per hundred to have it picked." The schism within the movement made it easy for the industrialist to unite with the planter to thwart the strivings for a truly new social order.

The point is that while the Populist movement did sweep the country, it had found its most radical expression in the South. This was seen both in the white agrarians' attitude to the Negro, and in the Negro's trying to push the movement forward by mass action of the cotton pickers. As we have seen, at the very height of the prejudice-ridden post-Reconstruction period, when the South was supposedly solidly white in thought and action, the unity of white and black shattered both the Solid South and the two party system. In the same way, the self-activity of the Negroes foreshadowed the class struggles to come and which we are living through today.

*Prof. Vann Woodward is one of the very few white historians who have made a great contribution to the study of American history by not neglecting the role of the Negro. See especially his work, *TOM WATSON, Agrarian Rebel*, from which the quotations in this article are taken. (Rinehart & Co., New York, \$5)

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

"EXPERTS" ON AMERICAN YOUTH

In the past few weeks Dr. James Conant, who recently completed a Carnegie Corporation-sponsored study of American high schools has gotten a good bit of publicity. It seems Dr. Conant spent much of his time visiting individual high schools to get to know the problems. His recommendations for their improvement are something less than earth shaking, like, all students should take 4 years of English in high school, and that the study of a foreign language for only two years is completely inadequate to gain any mastery over the language.

Nowhere in the recent interviews with Dr. Conant or in the articles written by him in various magazines has he taken a stand on school segregation or even recognized its existence, despite the fact that his study is supposed to be concerned with utilizing the talents of American youth most effectively, and that any consideration of American education must of course deal first with school integration. Dr. Conant does say, "Our democratic tradition demands local control of schools . . ." This makes us quite suspicious of Dr. Conant for it has been the argument of the Faubuses who have insisted on local autonomy to maintain the most undemocratic school segregation.

It seems to us that any study of education would have to grapple with the fact that the number of un-

employed has swelled to 5 million. Whatever kind of counseling the student gets won't get him a job in any of the plants of the heavy industries. Conant isn't really concerned with the students who don't go on to college. He feels that the communities train them adequately to meet the needs of local industry and business. He feels special attention should be given the top 3% of the school population and to those who have particularly low reading ability.

The feeling we got from reading Conant was that he wasn't too interested in his findings. Certainly there was none of the passion and fire that moved Judge Samuel Liebowitz as he appeared before a Senate Committee investigating another aspect of the life of American youth—delinquency.

Sam Liebowitz began his career as an ace mouth piece for New York City's underworld. He apparently feels he is atoning for past sins by jailing children. It was also disclosed at the Hennings Committee hearings that "Although our child population has increased only 25% from 1948 to 1957 appearances before juvenile courts have increased almost 150% in the same period."

It is surprising to us that American youth are as well behaved as they are. The pollyannaism of Dr. Conant and the ruthlessness of Liebowitz, "experts" on youth affairs have not yet incited any to riot.

MIKOYAN AT U. C. L. A.

Los Angeles—This week, Mikoyan visited our campus. Most of the students didn't know anything about the visit until they read about it in the local newspaper. Apparently the only students who knew about it were Communist sympathizers. There are many foreign students at our school, and I am sure that they would have liked to have had a chance to express their feelings about his being on our campus.

I have a friend who happened to be walking near the administration building when a large crowd of policemen with Mikoyan and some school officials approached him. He said that before he knew what happened, he had shaken hands with Mikoyan, who was busy shaking hands with many of the students, most of whom, my friend said, were as surprised as he was.

VISITS BIG BUSINESS MACHINES

I heard that Mikoyan visited some of the big business machines at our school and talked with many business experts. It seems he was mainly interested in talking to these men. I heard a student say that he was next to the group when Mikoyan

started to shake hands with the students. My friend said that it was all the idea of the Chancellor of our school who told Mikoyan, through the interpreter, to do it.

Later in the week, I heard some of the students talking about the visit. Some of them wondered why they hadn't been told that he was coming; others were wondering why he didn't appear before the entire student-body as many other visitors do. Our school newspaper showed a picture of Mikoyan next to one of the big computers; under the picture it said, "One of these to plan our economy."

—UCLA Student

INTEGRATION?

The most fantastic thing I have read in a long time is this segregation issue in Virginia. They close a whole school down in order to exclude four Negro students.

It's a laugh to call a school de-segregated which only has four Negro students, anyway. What kind of democracy is this?

Student
Los Angeles

PROFESSION VS. EDUCATION

Los Angeles — The other day I read that the president of the University of Chicago thinks that students today are too concerned with security and therefore are not very inquisitive or adventurous.

I think the president is blaming the students for something which is not their fault. Education today has become only a way to "buy" a future. It is oriented that way by the colleges and universities themselves. If you don't want to become a professional, their attitude is, "What are you going to college for? Just to learn?"

WHO ARE SERIOUS STUDENTS?

When we were enrolling at LACC we were given a speech which in essence said that if students were taking courses required to get a degree, that was fine, but if not, this would be the last year that the rest of us slobs who wanted to go to school could go. They said they only wanted "serious students."

What's more serious than a student who takes a course just because he wants to learn it, whether or not it will fit into the prescribed courses for a degree? I think that's a lot more serious than a student who goes to school just to get himself a plushy profession.

LACC Student

No Thinking In Class

Los Angeles — Recently I have been thinking about the educational system in the United States. This brought to mind my U. S. Government class. When I first started the course I thought that it would be very interesting. But I soon found out that it was a dull and uninteresting course.

Every week we do the same thing. The class is assigned two or three chapters to read and for the rest of the week the teacher talks about the chapters. Then on Friday we have a test. No one has to think in that class, all you have to do is take notes on what the teacher says, read and memorize the chapter, and take the test. This routine is followed every week. It is not hard to get a good grade in the course, but what have you learned?

—High School Student

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1904 S. ARLINGTON AVE.
(Cor. Washington Blvd.)
ROOM 207

AS OTHERS SEE US

Reprinted from:

THE SOCIALIST LEADER

Glasgow, Scotland, September 13th, 1958

Excerpts from Eric S. Heffer's Book Review, "Marxism and Freedom"

"Is Marxism a theory of freedom, or does it mean despotism as many thinkers believe? That is obviously a fundamental question, one which has increasingly come to the fore since the Khrushchev revelations, and the Hungarian revolution. Many look at Russia, and believing that it is a Marxist state, rightly recoil with horror. They then develop illusions about the West, and equate Western capitalism with 'freedom.'

"Freedom exists neither in the East nor the West, although the potential exists for its complete development. This is brought out most clearly in an epoch making book by Raya Dunayevskaya (one time Secretary to the great revolutionary Leon Trotsky) entitled *Marxism and Freedom*.

"In its own way this book is a landmark, and all those who call themselves Marxists should seriously study it. Unfortunately it has not yet found an English publisher and must be obtained from the U.S.A.

MARXISM AND COMMUNISM

"In her introduction the author sets out clearly the objective of the book. 'This book,' she says, 'aims to re-establish Marxism in its original form, which Marx called a thoroughgoing Naturalism, or Humanism. Does she do this? I am not quite certain. I am sure, however, that this book is an important contribution towards that goal, and is the most serious work on Marxism for many years. I say this without reservation, and also without necessarily accepting all her conclusions.

"Marxism is a theory of liberation or it is nothing,' she says. Communism on the other hand she condemns as 'the theory and practice of

enslavement.' Communism as we know it in Russia, China, Hungary, etc., she argues, has nothing in common with Marxism. Therefore it is not correct to call the Communists, 'Marxists.'

WIDE SCOPE

"Miss Dunayevskaya's book has a broad canvas. She traces the development of Marxism from 1848 to the present day. Of particular interest are her chapters dealing with Marx's support of the Abolitionists in the American Civil War, and the roots which Marxism has in America, also the one dealing with the famous Trade Union debate in Russia in 1920-21. She puts great emphasis on this debate as the decisive one for the future of Russia. . . .

"I have not of course been able to do justice to this book. It is brilliantly written, and is clever in its arguments. It is a positive book, a helpful book, and above all else a book which opens up new fields of thought and possible action.

"As one who has been trained in the leadership complex, and who has accepted much of the 'Vanguard Party' theory, I find difficulty in accepting many of her arguments, especially those connected with what could be too great a reliance on spontaneous action by the workers. Perhaps I have misread her here.

"I would, however, urge all those who can to get hold of this book, read it, study it and discuss it, especially by writing to the author. I understand she is particularly keen to know what British workers think of it. The book apart from Miss Dunayevskaya's writing, is valuable in that it contains Marx's *Private Property and Communism* and his *Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic* plus Lenin's *Hegel's Science of Logic*."

Discrimination

Detroit—I had been put on the committee for the Red Cross drive in the Ford plant I worked in, more than 10 years ago, and just about the end of the drive I heard how the Red Cross was discriminating in many places. I decided to take a trip that week-end and see for myself.

I went to Ohio first and saw how they had two lines set up, one for used and one for new children's clothing. There were Negro and white in both lines. About the only difference in the two lines was that they were giving the new clothing mostly to the girls and the used clothing for the boys. That was okay with everyone.

When I got to Louisville, Kentucky, though, they had the same two lines, one for used and one for new things. Only, here, all the Negroes were in the line for used stuff, and all the whites in

Sears and Roebuck's Discrimination Policy Broken Down

Bronx, N. Y.—Picket lines thrown around the stores of the Sears and Roebuck Co. on its busiest shopping day, Saturday, have resulted in the hiring of Negro employees by the company, which pursues non-union policies.

The N.A.A.C.P. was given credit for the victory by relying on active picketing to get results instead of waiting for enforcement of the N. Y. State FEPC laws, which have so far resulted only in futile investigations.

the line for the new things.

As soon as I got back home I made up a handbill and I really did a job on that drive. They fired me, but I am proud to say that I was responsible for cutting that drive 45% in Ford Motor Company that year.

—Negro Worker

"Recession Blues"

We print below, with the permission of the author, the lyrics to "Recession Blues", the words and music of which were written by an auto worker. Sheet music for "Recession Blues" can be obtained through the offices of News & Letters.

I rang my card this morning and the boss kind of grinned. And then he said to me "I've sure got too many men." I started working hard and at the end of the day, He handed me a slip and then said, "This stops your pay."

CHORUS
I took the blues,
RECESSION BLUES,
Those awful blues,
RECESSION BLUES.

And when your cupboard's empty and your rent's overdue, You start to think and wonder just what you're going to do. Your clothes are getting ragged and your shoes are run down And you have gone to all the shops for miles all around.

CHORUS
I looked all over for a job but every boss said, "We're doing no more hiring, just laying off instead." I took an application but the chances were slim, The competition's keen about a million to one.

CHORUS
Can automation help us I can't figure out how— Deprives us of a living by the sweat of the brow. Your taxes are arriving and you can't float a loan, You know there's every chance perhaps that you'll lose your home.

CHORUS

Early CIO Fighter Writes On Unemployed Dilemma

Detroit — The auto companies are throwing more and more workers out in the street. The Ford Motor Company laid off 15,000 workers the first week of February and stepped up production 15%. General Motors is expected to take more drastic action by mid-March. These developments have increased the unemployed fight for the 30 hour week for 40 hours pay, continued compensation and increase in welfare. This militant move has forced top brass like Reuther, Scholle & Company to join in the unemployed fight. However, they do not say how much money the UAW will spend to support such a march. Nor do they call a regional conference to build labor support behind the unemployed. Should any of these moves be taken we could at least say that the UAW-CIO was officially supporting the unemployed workers.

1938 UNEMPLOYMENT—LABOR ACTED

When we examine the past history of the unemployed particularly the auto workers, it's difficult to think that there is any serious effort being put forth today by labor's top brass. Let's briefly take a check on labor's past unemployed problems. Take 1938 for example, there were 235,000 unemployed in metropolitan Detroit. The UAW called a conference of 245 local unions to take up the question of the unemployed. R. J. Thomas, then President of the UAW, chaired the meeting, and they heard reports from all sections of Detroit. The conference recorded the conditions of the workers, those most affected by unemployment, loss of homes, loss of furniture, utilities, the educational handicaps arising out of unemployment. Labor asked representation on state relief boards and got it. Labor asked for representation on local welfare boards and got this cooperation too. Local out!"

unions immediately set up welfare committees and provided these committees with letters of introduction to welfare boards, eliminating red tape previously encountered when attempting to get welfare aid.

ORGANIZE AND BUILD

The unemployed must realize that top labor brass has said little and done less about unemployment until recently, why now when you have decided to move collectively? It is doubtful that the 30 hour work week can keep pace with automation and its devastating effects. One thing is sure the stronger we are organized the better it will be for workers everywhere.

—Old Hand

WORKERS HALT PAPER'S RIDICULE OF UNEMPLOYED

Detroit—The UAW Production and Skilled Workers Unemployed Committee staged a demonstration on Jan. 27 around the offices of the Detroit Free Press to protest a cartoon printed in that paper on Jan. 21, which pictured an unemployed worker as a ridiculous idiot carrying a sign which read, "Unlimited Jobless Pay! Make Unemployment Your Career!"

They succeeded in winning an immediate personal apology as well as a public apology in the next edition of the Free Press.

One of the demonstrators said, "The Unemployed Committee wrote them a letter as soon as that cartoon appeared, and said we'd retract it. But they didn't even answer the letter. It only took a few minutes after about 50 or 75 of us began to walk up and down in front of their building carrying our signs, though, before the officials came right out and called the Steering Committee in to see what they could work

NEWS BRIEFS

DESEGREGATION

The recent desegregation of Atlanta trolleys and buses has brought to 34 the number of Southern cities which have desegregated seating in public transportation, according to reports in Negro newspapers from the South.

A bus boycott movement in Atlanta, Georgia, began early in 1957, close on the heels of the victory of the boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, the most outstanding because it was not only the first, but also accompanied by the most violence from the white supremacists. Desegregated seating was reported in: Montgomery, Alabama; Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith and Hot Springs, Arkansas; Miami, Miami Beach, Daytona Beach, and Tampa, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana, Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, Winston-Salem, and Raleigh, North Carolina; Spartanburg, Columbia, and Charleston, South Carolina; Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, Tennessee; San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Dallas, Texas; Richmond, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Petersburg, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, and Roanoke, Virginia.

BELGIAN CONGO

Continued unrest marks the Belgian Congo's struggle for independence. 13 million Africans are ruled by 100,000 whites, the whites are permitted to carry guns while the Congolese are not.

Prior to the riots, a series of public mass meetings had been held in the various administrative districts set up by Belgian law. These meetings were under the auspices of local leaders of the Abako Party and were peacefully conducted but increasingly raised the question of independence for the African people. After the meeting of Dec. 28, the Belgian authorities became alarmed at the popularity of Mayor Kasavubu. He was denied a permit to hold his meeting of Jan. 4 at the last minute when the crowd was already assembled. When it was announced that the meeting was to be called off, some members of the Abako Party raised the traditional African cry of "Independence" and the white police began to break up the meeting. The riot resulted and 50,000 unemployed joined in it.

It has been reported that 89 Congolese were killed and over 100 injured, while no whites were hurt. The police apparently fired at anyone who stood still and killed many innocent bystanders.

Despite the arrival of 300 paratroopers, the arrest of several African Mayors and the banning of the Abako Party, the Congolese continue to demand independence.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

THE AIR WE BREATHE

The pollution of the air we breathe with material injurious to our health has in very recent times become of serious concern because of the great danger of radioactive substances not only to our individual survival, but to the well being of future generations. However, many of us have been subjected to a poisonous atmosphere ever since the arrival of modern industry.

EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS

The air sac and filter in our chest cavity—the lung—which extracts oxygen from the air, appears pink and rosy and soft, not only in the newborn and infant, but also in adults living outside cities and away from industrial and manufacturing regions. The lungs of the factory and mine worker, on the other hand, appears a dirty grey-black in color and are often nodular and firm instead of spongy and soft. This condition may become the basis for bronchitis, tuberculosis and other serious conditions.

When I was a youngster in a large city, there was a huge garage near us where repair men were continually working on cars. The fumes were so irritating to me that every time I passed the only opening to the place I almost ran to escape them. Yet the mechanics worked away in this atmosphere all day. Chronic carbon monoxide poisoning, I believe, is something real and prevalent today among garage workers. On warm days attendants at gasoline pumps also inhale a dangerous quantity of poisonous fumes.

Too little attention is paid by the average factory worker to the physical atmosphere he works in—to the air he breathes. He seems to feel that it is a sign of strength that he can take it and that only weaklings and "trouble makers" complain of such things. After working in strong odors for a time, a worker may become insensitive to them and even lose his sense of smell. This absence of smell doesn't mean that the effects of the chemicals have stopped.

There are many industries where the poisonous chemicals offer no odor or sight to the human senses. There are fine particles given out which are directly taken into the lungs. Recently I saw a tire being buffed preliminarily to retreading by a man

working without a mask. I am sure the interior of his lungs was coated with the same dust particles that covered his face.

COMPANIES DON'T CARE ABOUT DANGER TO HEALTH

The average worker often tends to take it for granted that the employer, the state inspector, or the health department have investigated and OK'd the situation under which he is working. This is a false sense of security. It is the man at the bench who is in a position to know that something isn't right. He is the one that must be conscious of the air he breathes and do something about it before the damage to his health is beyond repair. Alertness and questioning is essential. There must be continual investigation and not an acceptance of old standards and conditions; for industry is continually changing. Newer irritants are appearing and the necessity to earn a living can lead to acceptance of dangerous conditions, with crippling and shortening of life.

Recent investigations have shown that in the dye industry certain chemicals which are taken into the body by the worker are eliminated through the urine and may lead to cancer of the bladder wall. Evidence is accumulating that chemical and physical pollution of the air over certain cities are probably involved in asthma, emphysema and even lung cancer. Smog composed of auto exhaust fumes and some factory discharges has transformed Los Angeles from a health resort to a health menace. In highly industrialized England 10% of the work load of general practitioners concern chronic bronchitis.

"ONE'S SURVIVAL"

The individual worker in the factory must always maintain a high index of suspicion with regard to the vapors, gases, chemicals and dirt particles all around him. Governments continue to throw radioactive chemicals into our atmosphere in spite of the great dangers that have been pointed out by many informed scientists. They show little concern with the atmosphere in the factory. The man in the plant must first of all rely on himself and his fellow workers to detect and combat any menace to his health. It is neither a sign of weakness nor a disgrace to be concerned with one's survival.

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CUBA'S REVOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS MASS UNREST IN LATIN AMERICA

(Continued from Page 1)

the United States as a modern capitalist nation, America has had, as the foundation stone of its foreign policy, the insistence that the vast South American continent is its private colonial preserve and other imperialists had better keep out.

This was first expressed in the Monroe Doctrine over 125 years ago. It was first used against the remnants of Spanish rule in South America. At the time of World Wars I and II, it was used equally against the South American ambitions of British and German imperialism. It is now being used in the conflict with Russian imperialism.

After more than 100 years of U.S. domination, the only industrial development American imperialism has permitted in South America is for the exclusive benefit of American industrialists, and the puppet rulers who sit tyrannically on the working class in their country.

As a result, the native culture and development of each South American country has been destroyed and each has been reduced to having a one-commodity economy for the benefit of hated Yankee imperialism. Venezuela, for example, a beautiful country with a rich native culture of its own, is not known for its natural beauty and the creativity of its people, but for its oil.

Just as Standard Oil dominates over Venezuela oil resources, the Anaconda Copper Co. dominates over Bolivian copper and tin, Swift and Armour packing houses over Argentine beef, the United Fruit Co. over tropical fruit, etc. At no point—not even in the most independent Latin American country—Mexico—has there been any serious industrialization—certainly none with American help. What industrialization, shearing of American oil profits and agricultural reforms Mexico has achieved have been as a result of its own revolution.

Recently, without benefit of a revolution, but with plenty of unrest, Venezuela has forced a concession from American oil companies. They are to cut their take from Venezuelan oil to 40 per cent, with 60 per cent remaining in Venezuela, instead of the previous 50-50 split.

CONDITIONS OF LABOR AND MASS REVOLTS

After all these generations of domination by American imperialism, an approximate indication of the extreme poverty of the people can be seen in a comparison of the per capita income. This does not measure workers' earnings but divides the total income of a country (nineteenths of which, proportionately, goes to the capitalists

and their hangers-on) by the total population.

For example, figures for 1956, selected by the capitalists for comparison because they give a "most suitable" picture, show that the per capita income in the United States was \$2,027. The Latin American countries, on the other hand, all had less than \$300 a year except for Venezuela with \$588, Argentina with \$457, Uruguay with \$359, and Cuba with \$320.

If the American worker's per capita income is almost 7 times higher than the Latin American's—and we all know the misery and unemployment which keeps growing here—it's not hard to imagine how desperate are the conditions of life and labor south of the border.

While the Latin American people have suffered from the most brutal imperialist exploitation while its puppet ruling clique lived in luxury as their payment for suppressing the masses, the masses themselves have been in continuous revolt against both native dictators and Yankee protectors. So powerfully has the tradition of revolt been expressed that no dictator, as witness Peron, has come to power without pretending to do so in the name of labor reforms.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE COLD WAR

In the 1950's Russia began to penetrate what America thought was its private domain — Latin America. It granted loans and promised to help its industrialization. Thereupon U. S. imperialist intervention has become both more subtle and more penetrating. This was first revealed to the world during the armed unrest in Guatemala in 1954 when the United States outmaneuvered Russia to install an American puppet as head of state.

The 21st Congress of the Russian Communist Party has just voted a much greater allocation of funds for the so-called development of the under-developed countries, including Latin America. It is this which has spurred the new "good neighbor" policy of the State Department.

There is not a single conflict in the whole globe, there is not a single movement on the part of the oppressed for their liberation, which does not now fall within the shadow of the world conflict between Russia and America.

The over-riding importance highlighted by the Cuban revolution is that the masses are seeking a way out of oppression, native and American-dominated, without falling prey to Russia. The way to gain freedom on a new human basis has begun.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

RUSSIA

If a windbag talks enough he is sure to let a cat out of the bag every so often. Such was the case with the latest 6 hour speech of Nikita Khrushchev. In promising the Russian workers a 2 day weekend by 1968, he revealed the fact that Russian workers have not achieved the 40 hour week yet, despite their scientific advances. In setting the 40 hour week as a goal 10 years away from reality, and a pay scale of \$140 a month for unskilled workers as something to be reached by 1965, he reveals how bad things are for the Russian workers.

When I hear people talking about the "progress" being made by the Russians, I recall that other slave economies have been able to show "progress" too, if they work the slaves hard enough for long hours without counting the cost to the worker.

This does not equal socialism, but its opposite, state capitalist tyranny. . .

ITALY

Strike in Florence

In Florence, Italy, when 980 workers of the Galileo precision instrument factory were handed their lay-off notices, they decided to do something about it. The workers staged a sit-down strike and denied anyone else access to the factory.

They claimed that they were acting constitutionally under the law which recognizes the right of all citizens to work and promises to promote the conditions that render this right effective.

The entire community stands behind the strikers. Thousands of citizens mobilized in support of the strike and the fight for the right to work. Thousands of people went to the factory with food and money, and collections for the strikers were taken up on the streets. Everyone, including even the former

Mayor, came out in support of the strikers.

When the management sought to divide the workers by cutting the layoffs to 550, the workers rejected the compromise and said that everyone must continue on the job or the strike goes on.

What Is The Vatican Up To?

The unrest among the workers is naturally reflecting itself in a political crisis. Fanfani has handed in his resignation. The Christian Democratic Party is confronted with the possibility of having to share power with the Socialists — or with moving toward the extreme right wing of the monarchists and neo-fascists.

The Vatican which controls the Christian Democratic Party certainly didn't take long to make up its mind. They sent out feelers about a possible change in proportional representation. Why have that much "democracy," says the Vatican, when it only results in an "atheistic, Communistic, Socialist" majority? Instead it has been casting covetous eyes at DeGaulle's totalitarian Constitution. It is clear the Vatican doesn't care what means will be used to achieve its reactionary ends.

When Nazism swept to power in Germany in 1933, too many people didn't see Austria as next. Are we now to bury our heads in the sand when the Vatican attempts to roll the film of history backward? No doubt the Italian people will demand the Vatican put its cards on the table.

ENGLAND

I received the following report from a correspondent in England: "You might be interested in developments in Britain. During the last three or four years we have seen the traditional left in the Labour Party, under the leadership of Bevan, disintegrate. It has partly been as a result of their

lack of any coherent policy and partly because the plums of office in a future Labour Government have proved too tempting. This has meant that the left lacks any national figure and, at least superficially, it looks as if the Labor Party is becoming united on a right-wing policy. But underlying this is the emergence of a new left, with a distinctly Marxist outlook. As yet not itself united, its growth was greatly accelerated by Hungary and Suez. This "New Left" can broadly be divided into the following categories: 1. Intellectual ferment among youth and university students. This was partly created by many talented students leaving the CP at a time when comparatively large numbers of students were disgusted with the Government's imperialist policy. The University & Left Review and the 10,000 strong march to Aldermaston as a protest against the H-bomb were signs of this tendency.

2. The growth of discontent among rank-and-file trade unionists resulting from the Government's drive against the working class and the failure of the trade union leadership to put any serious opposition to MacMillan. In the docks, market and bus strikes militant committees sprung up, played an important part — and were largely responsible for the successful conclusion of these strikes.

3. The growth of Marxist groups. With the CP's influence on the wane, there has been far greater scope for the Peter Fryer Newsletter-Labour Review Group and ourselves to exert influence. Both groups have increased in power and influence. The Trotskyists have gained most of the ex-CPers. (Fryer, Kemp, Daniels, etc.) while we have been more successful among the youth and students.

Higher Productivity — Fewer and Fewer Jobs

The Federal Reserve Board has now released its official study which contradicts President Eisenhower's Economic Report.

In spite of the President's contention that re-employment is at a rate comparable to the end of other recession periods, this study shows the opposite. Specifically it points out that whereas auto output in December of 1958 was only 4% lower than in December of 1956, there were 20% fewer production workers.

Although the sales of cars are running ahead of 1957, employment has not returned to even pre-recession levels. There are 55,000 fewer auto workers now employed in Detroit than in 1957.

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