

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

ELECTIONS IN LOCAL 212

The elections of union officers, bargaining committee-men and executive board members, have just been concluded in Local 212. These elections left the majority of the production workers at the Mack plant, where the largest number of members are, stunned by the victory of the Reutherite Green Slate. Many were asking what happened. "We won the election committee two weeks ago. In all previous elections when you win the election committee, you also win the election." Another worker said, "Practically every leading Green Slater told me they would lose this election because the workers in this plant, and the 8 Mile plant have turned against them." Something did happen.

Not just one thing but many. First the Green Slate officers refused to have voting booths put at the plant gate as had been done in all previous years. Many, many workers were so beat at the end of a day slaving in the plant they were just too tired to walk that 1/4 of a mile to vote. Secondly there were three slates organized just before the election, mainly to disorganize the workers. Thirdly, there were independent candidates all over the place.

THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE

As a worker said, "Every vote the Unity third slate got was taken away from the Rank and File. Every vote the independents got was taken away from the Rank and File." He went on to say, "But the leaders of these slates are no different from those of the Green Slate. They just seem to want an easy job in place of the others. From now until the next elections in 2 years you won't see or hear from them. They're like dogs that had a fight and got licked. They will go into a hole and lick their wounds for 2 years. When the production workers are battling the company and union about speed-up, these opposition leaders will still be licking their wounds. If they by any chance happen to be at a meeting their mouths seem to be glued together. In some cases when they do pry it open they tell us we have to go along with the officers and support them."

The Green Slate wanted a small vote and they maneuvered and got it. They had every International Rep. that ever worked there to come out to vote for them. Some have not been around for 20 years. Out of some 20,000 in Local 212, only 7,000 voted.

NEGRO OFFICERS OUT

They maneuvered practically all Negro officers out of all leading positions in the union. There is only one on the shop committee. They had 3 running for recording secretary. One white, an ex-Reutherite, ran independent. He was in a run off with the Negro Green Slates and some said that the union officers were telling workers to vote for the white independent rather than the Negroes on the same slate with them.

A worker said, "The Green Slate had the sanction and blessing of the company."

THE UNITY SLATE

The Unity Slate was organized a few months before the election mainly by skilled workers, some former Reuther bureaucrats and fellow travelers.

The workers in the plant see no difference in any of these slates.

SHACKLED BY CONTRACT

If the Rank and File had really answered the problem or explained to workers, that in the past 2 years since they were elected at the shop level to the bargaining committee they have not been able to solve their grievances because of this contract that the Reutherites have shackled us with and now the Unity Slate appears to divide the votes but are never around when the workers are fighting speed-up. I am sure the workers would have walked that 1/4 of a mile to vote.

STEEL CONTRACT TO EXPIRE

STEEL CORPORATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION LINE UP AGAINST WORKERS

Homestead, Penna.—Steel contracts affecting some 500,000 steelworkers employed by approximately 70 steel companies will expire June 30.

Two months before the steel contract is to expire, before a single negotiations meeting was held between union and company, and at a time when no strike deadline was even mentioned, Eisenhower rushed into public print with his warning that the government would use force "if the public interest is threatened."

Naturally the steel corporations took quick advantage of this free help from the Government to announce that it would not "give in" to the union demands for higher wages, a shorter workweek and fringe benefits. As "Iron Age" magazine, spokesman for the steel industry, reports, R. Conrad Cooper, chief industry negotiator, is "the coldest pineapple Dave McDonald has ever come up against."

See Related Articles on Pages 3, 7 and Two Worlds On Page 5

Thus the stage is set far in advance of the strike, with the power of both the government and steel corporations in firm alignment against the steelworkers' Union.

RANK & FILE SPEAK UP

Steelworkers have their own ideas about the most important issues they face, and as one steelworker said, "We had a strike three years ago and got our contract. But since then, the company has put in a lot of radical changes affecting working conditions — all of them against the men. Grievances have been filed by the hundreds, but they just keep piling up. You never hear anything about them. What we want changed most is our conditions of work, but the union isn't doing a thing about them. If we can't get anything done about this now, how can we expect our conditions to be different after a contract is signed?"

"What's this business about four days a week every fourth week?" asked another steelworker. "Maybe McDonald doesn't know it, but all the men here know that for practically a year before this stock-piling speed-up, we were working four days a week, and I mean every week!"

Concerning the shorter work-week, another steelworker said, "Sure, we'd like to have a shorter work-week. It might give us some job security, give a few more guys a job and give us a breather from this terrific speed-up. But I just don't think we're going to get it. Not because we don't want it, but because that's what McDonald will give in on."

SPEEDUP AND MORE SPEEDUP

Although the men have been forced to condition



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Editorial On . . .

THE WHITE SOUTH

The kidnap-lynching by whites in Mississippi, and the rape of a young Negro student by four white men in Florida have turned the feeling and thoughts of many American Negroes more sharply against the white South than toward the world crisis, whether it be Berlin, the Middle East, or the coming summit conference.

These lynchers, murderers and rapists are seldom apprehended, and when they are, the courts are likely to set them free, or they are given such light sentences that it is only further proof to Negroes that white justice is no justice.

THE F.B.I., KKK, AND THE ADMINISTRATION

Here in a country that yells to the world that Democracy prevails, in a country that has one of the largest secret services, neither the FBI nor all the other forces of the Administration have been able to find the lynchers in one single small town in the South.

The latest is that the F.B.I. has left the case, daring to say that no Federal law had been violated!

The recent reorganizing of the K.K.K. and the White Citizens Councils with their staunch position of defying the "laws of the land," make one wonder just how much the Administration opposes these organizations. It has spent millions in tracking down people they call "subversive"; with dispatch and force they intervene in strikes involving thousands of workers and crush them. Every Negro knows through years of experience that for them

(Continued on Page 4)

BE SURE TO READ . . .

CITY EVICTS FAMILIES

L. A. Report on Chavez Ravine Page 7

Also:

AUTHOR WINDS UP CAMPUS TOUR

Thinking It Out Page 6

Watch For Special Issue

(Continued on Page 3)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

CONTINUOUS MINERS BRING CHANGES—ALL BAD

SCOTT'S RUN, W. Va.—They're bringing in more continuous miners all the time. When they are brought in, the company starts moving men around in classifications according to their own rules.

Just like they are changing cutters to pinners and putting them on the miners. You can say anything you like about a miner being a new machine, but pinning isn't a new job.

With the miners coming in, men are sure to go. And the company is changing classifications to try to get men they want in them so they won't be laid off when the lay-off hits. Seniority according to classification is getting to be a bigger joke all the time.

'MINER' BRINGS ROOF FALLS

Drilling to put in pins to hold the top up has gotten very hard on my section. The company has gone from

CO. CHEATS DISABLED MINER ON COMPENSATION

PURSGLOVE, W. Va. — One of the guys I used to work with on the track gang was a big husky bruiser. He was what the company would call a good worker.

No job was too hard for him to do; no demands of the bosses were too unreasonable. If a heavy lifting job that would ordinarily require two men came up and our boss sent him alone, he would do it.

NEVER LISTENED

It was one thing for him to push himself the way he did. That was his business, so long as he wasn't involving anybody else. But when a job did involve someone else, as it often did, it didn't sit too well with the other person, and on many occasions that other person was me.

I grew tired of telling him to take it slower and easier; that continuing to knock himself out the way he was would lead to the boss piling even more work on him; that he couldn't keep up what he was doing without coming out the loser in the end.

He was ordinarily a safe man to work with, but this was not always so. For the boss knew when he was mad, he worked like a demon, as if he was taking his anger out on his work. And the boss would purposely needle him about something to get him worked up. There were times when he was in this state that I would simply stand and not even try to grab hold of a rail, even though we were supposed to be working together.

INSULT TO INJURY

He was working with another guy one day and hurt his back. He reported it to his boss, but no accident record was filled out.

using seven foot pins to using four foot pins. The outcome has been that ever since the miner has been on the section the top keeps falling in.

And with the coal hungry operators we have, and the bosses even hungrier, it's a lucky thing that someone hasn't been caught under a fall. But you can push your luck so far and it'll catch up with you.

We just had a couple of men crushed in a fall a couple of months ago, but some men have short memories or figure it won't hap-

Consol—A Modern Mine

PRODUCTION, PROFITS PAID FOR WITH MINERS' LIVES

Morgantown, W. Va. — Plans for the Loveridge mine of Consolidation Coal Company at Fairview, W. Va., indicate that it will be the largest coal mine in the world, as well as the most modern.

Consol is big all right—the largest commercial coal producing company in the world. And it is modern, too, with a lot of continuous miners that eat up coal.

But Consol also eats up men in a big way in its big drives for big production for big profits.

The fact remains that only one thing is important to Consol, and that is big profits. There are thousands of grave markers, wheel chairs, filled hospital beds and broken families to show at whose expense Consol has grown big.

MODERN MINE, OLD DEATH

One of the more recent grave markers which Consol added to its long list came out of the "modern" Loveridge mine.

Joe Nagy was an operator on a continuous miner there. He could really handle that machine, and the miner is designed to keep going all

It didn't seem to be too important.

But it was important, and after a few days his condition reached the point where he had to take off from work. His case was diagnosed as a ruptured disc and required an operation. The operation was not successful and he now has to wear a brace on one leg just to stand up. He will be crippled for life. But the irony of it all is that the company beat him out of compensation for his injury—because no report had been filled out.

When I ran into him later, he was a bitter man. "When I think of all the things I did for the company," he said, "of all the times I knocked myself out for them, I get so mad I don't know what to do. The thanks I got from them for all the years of service I gave was to have them even beat me out of my compensation."

pen to them, just like the two men who got it. You just can't be too safe in a coal mine.

NO EIGHT HOUR DAY

We seem to be going backwards in a lot of ways. I know the contract says you don't have to work more than eight hours a day, but if you work on a miner section, you might as well tear that part of the contract up.

If you are on a miner section and don't stay in after quitting time, you won't be there long because they will move you.

Its bad enough working on a miner section for eight hours. It just doesn't make any difference what you feel or think.

the time, continuously chewing its way into the face of the coal and throwing the coal behind it to be further carried to the outside.

But there is more than just coal that is produced. There is also deadly methane gas being constantly liberated and enough air must be provided to dilute and drive the gas out to prevent explosive accumulations.

The company, by federal law, is charged with the responsibility to provide adequate ventilation.

The gas is odorless and colorless, and men are supposed to be provided with a flame safety lamp which detects gas accumulations. Joe had his safety lamp, but noticed that it was not burning and it must be burning to detect gas.

He was about 35 feet back from the face of the coal when he attempted to light his lamp. It was the last thing he did, for the flame was immediately pulled out of the lamp by the great accumulation of explosive methane gas, setting it off and blasting Joe to instant death.

The investigation which followed revealed that the rate of advance, the speed with which the miner was moving into the face, was too fast for the air that was provided to adequately dilute and drive off the gas.

So Consol marked off a number on its records—and the next day hired another man to take Joe's place and gave him a number.

The company has been moving our pace up so fast to get steel ahead for the strike that the men just can't take it. It's getting too tough for the men who have been working steadily, so you can imagine what it must be like for those who haven't worked for a while. Some of them have been off for as long as a year. Next month when it's hot we'll really have it.

Steelworker
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO

The life of Negro people is so miserable to live anywhere in the world, especially in our own country.

I don't care how the Negro might honor and obey some of the white people. Just let some white man put on a black face and attack a white woman. Then look out, colored man, because one of you will have to die. The white woman had better say it was a Negro so that same white man can go out and get a mob together to kill some innocent colored man for nothing.

The Negroes should ask themselves what they can do to protect themselves from getting killed for nothing. Times aren't getting any better for the Negro in the South, or in the North either. Should the colored people do unto the white race what they do unto the black race?

NORTH AND SOUTH

In the South they are getting away with raping colored girls and killing colored men. And in the North they're discriminating against the colored people for moving into some special part of the city—like Dearborn in Detroit, or Queens in New York, or the Northside in Chicago. These cities have some of the worst ideas about colored people living in the same neighborhood with whites. They claim to be afraid the colored men will rape their daughter, or

the colored women will take their husbands, or that they make too much noise in the neighborhoods, or drink or clown too much.

But just come through one of those white neighborhoods late at night and you will hear some of the worst language any colored person ever heard.

WHO DOES THE HARM?

The colored people have some of the worst lies told on them. Yet it is the white people who do all the harm in the world to colored people and then say that because they are white the colored can't kill them for what they do.

The colored people just have to learn to work together the way the white man does. They will have to fight to hold onto the little freedom that they have left.

There is no time left for the colored people to say, "Let us wait and see what God will do to the white man for beating and killing some colored person for nothing." God just doesn't do things to somebody because you want it to be done. He works out things in His own way and His own time. We will have to fight to save our own race, because the white man never says that he will wait on God to do something to us. The white man just does what he wants done and never thinks of God at all.

"You had better—all you people of the South—prepare yourselves for a settlement of this question. It must come up for settlement sooner than you are prepared for it, and the sooner you commence that preparation, the better for you. You may dispose of me very easily—I am nearly disposed of now; but this question is still to be settled. This Negro question, I mean. The end of that is not yet."

—John Brown, 1859, facing the gallows.

IWW Exposes New York Job Agencies

NEW YORK, May 11—The Industrial Workers of the World, still an active union although thought of by many people as a thing of the past, today initiated a boycott against employment agencies "selling" jobs to restaurant workers.

According to an I.W.W. survey, a restaurant worker can rarely get a job without paying a private agency a fee of from \$25.00 to \$40.00. Standard pay for restaurant workers is \$1.00 an hour, sometimes less.

I.W.W. officials point out that restaurants are compelled to rely on private agencies to supply kitchen help because the State Employment service is inadequate in this area.

In order to alleviate a situation which forces the city's lowest-paid workers to buy jobs, the I.W.W. is

establishing a free employment service. The union's stated object is to meet the restaurant industry's personnel needs without placing the individual worker in a position where he must buy a job. According to the plan, there will be no cost to any restaurant. Any individual who wishes to use this service may do so by paying \$1.00 to register with the employment service.

A permanent picket line will be established at certain employment agencies selling jobs to restaurant workers, union officials stated. Those restaurants which persist in dealing with such private agencies will be the object of information pickets telling their customers about the workers' plight, it was said.

One I.W.W. official described the boycott as "an appeal to the common decency of the restaurant owners, some of whom do not know that employment agencies are selling jobs in their establishments at exorbitant prices."

STAYING ON THE JOB

**'Just Keep Telling Yourself
That Our Husbands Are Laid Off'**

When you are out of work for over a year and a half you begin to think that you want any job there is just so long as you can work and get some money coming in. Well, last week I got a job after being off that long and in 2 days my whole outlook changed completely.

19TH CENTURY

One thing I am sure of — this factory comes straight out of the 19th century, the work, the dirt, the machines. In the outside world you hear of Automation. In this plant I believe that their motto must be, "If you have to do it, do it by hand." Automation isn't progress when it deprives workers of a livelihood or drives people so that it nearly kills them; but there have been some tools designed that have helped people in their work. However, no word of these has leaked into this factory. It is the heaviest, hardest, dirtiest work I have ever done. It is a job for several 200 pound men but there are only 2 of us women doing it.

We make up the electric cords for irons and such. First the strands of wire have to be put together; then

UNEMPLOYED
IN LANSING

Lansing, Mich. — The trip the unemployed took to Lansing was a little different from the trip we took to Washington. At least the unemployed people got to talk in Lansing, and that meant a lot to us. In Washington not one unemployed person got to say a word. Actually the Lansing trip was meant to be smothered even more than the Washington, D.C. deal was. But it didn't work so well for the big shots this time.

In the beginning everyone who wanted to go was supposed to. Then they started talking about taking only one bus load of unemployed for each Senator. That would have been 7 bus loads of 37 people each. It was voted down and in the end we got to take along 14 bus loads plus plenty of car loads.

The International guys got up and started talking first, of course. Gus Scholle spoke and then Mazey and then others. The unemployed started telling them to cut it short and let us talk for a change. And that's how we got the floor.

Around 2 p.m. we marched to the Capitol and once around it. Then we went inside. Arrangements had been made to talk to various officials and it was all supposed to be over in 35 minutes according to their schedule. But once we got hold of them we held them there to

they're coated with rubber (a man does this) then they have to be coated with asbestos; then they're twisted in what I call a monster machine (it looks as if it came straight out of a horror film). From the monster machine it goes to the braiding machine. As the wire develops into the cord it goes on bigger steel spools and gets heavier and heavier. They must reach 500 lbs. in weight. The diameters of the wheels on the spools are about 2½ feet wide.

BENEFICIAL TO HEALTH

Our job is to roll these spools of wire to each machine for the different operations. To get one into the machine we have to use a bar that goes through the spool and then we lift, tug and pull to finally get it into the machine. I can remember in school being taught how to lift heavy objects so that you do not hurt your back, but in doing this operation it is not humanly possible to do it correctly.

Besides the heavy lifting (which I am sure is against the law), during one operation you breath in asbestos; at another time the whirling noise of the machines is so great that it remains with you for at least 10 minutes after you shut the machines off. After the first day I worked on these machines I couldn't keep my balance and was walking as if slightly intoxicated.

THIS IS A JOB?

The UAW has had this shop organized for the past 3 years and the workers fought hard to get it in. I asked the girl I work with what changes had occurred after the union got in and she said, "I don't know. All I know is that before the union we had 6 girls working these 32 machines and since, we have had 2 or 3."

After my first day on the job this same girl had said to me, "Just keep telling yourself that our husbands are laid off."

This is called a job. I am sure someone at the statistic bureau on unemployment is happy that they can now list me among the employed and boast how the depression is over.

4 o'clock. After we broke the bureaucrats down, I thing many who wanted to get a chance to speak up.

It seemed to do a little good, too. At least, after the publicity we got, some of the people who had been to the Welfare half a dozen times trying to put applications in, suddenly found the doors open.

It made me feel good to think that the pressure we were trying to put on the big shots did a little good somewhere. It sure did more good than that phony March on Washington, anyhow.

—UNEMPLOYED

STEEL WORKERS
FACE STRIKE
DEADLINES

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — It appears that McDonald meant it when he said "No contract, no work." All the locals have passed the word down, so there doesn't seem to be much question but that the union plans to go through with the strike.

With all the stocking of steel, the men figure there will be a strike, and a long one at that. But anyway it goes, the company is going to win out. If the men get a raise, the price of steel goes up and the price of everything else goes up. The feeling in the mill is that the men will come out on the short end no matter how things go.

But if there is going to be a strike, they'd rather be out in the summer time. The ones who have been working steadily would sure appreciate a strike because it would give them some let up from the terrific pace they've been working.

Employment is about back to normal in my department, what it was before the big lay-offs; but there still are not enough men to do the work. The results are short crews and stepping up the pace of work to the point where men can't take it. Before this speed-up, there were always "extra" crews to do the work that would always be coming up and had to be done. Now you don't find an extra man or clean up men around anywhere. That's also why guys ALWAYS SAME STORY

More than anything else the men want their conditions changed. Grievances just keep piling up when the men file them and the union doesn't press any of the issues. The men just don't know if they're coming or going. They are asked to file grievances when they feel they are being treated unjustly. They do this and the grievances are just pushed aside. Its always the same old story, "It's past practice". The men send the committees to get something definite from the union, both local and international, but with no results.

AUTO—DETROIT

A Reutherite in our shop just came back to work on production after having been out of the shop for about 3 years. Before that he had been a chief steward, so he hadn't really worked on production for 10 or 15 years before that. He told us, "I've heard the guys griping about working conditions, but I didn't believe it could have changed so much in 3 years." He said that he had even had a little experience in a penitentiary in Jackson. He said, "I used to think nothing could be worse than Jackson Pen. But this is. The only difference is that at Chrysler you go home at night."

No Joke
Detroit

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

LOOKING FOR WORK IN DETROIT

Going around looking for factory work can be one of the most discouraging jobs there is. First there are very few places that are hiring. Secondly when they are doing a little hiring they seem to be mystified if you have been out of work for over a year. They seem to be completely ignorant of the fact that there is a depression and so they look at you through one eye and seem to say, "Well, what's wrong with you that no one will hire you?"

THE OLDER WORKER

It is even tougher for the older women. They sit in the waiting room and ask around, "Do they have an age limit here?" They sit it out hoping that they will get hired.

A few years ago you used to get fairly well dressed when you were looking for work. Recently the women look very shabbily dressed, many going without stockings on not the warmest of days.

MORE PROFITS—
MORE UNEMPLOYMENT

When Automation began throwing people out of work I can remember Reuther and

many other people saying, "well that won't be for long, those machines can't buy back the cars."

It was a very bitter lesson to learn that it is not buying power that keeps the economy going, and whosoever uses this is just sowing illusions.

More machines are being added every day. More cars are being bought. More profits are being made than ever before and more people are being laid off.

There are very many people that are still working in Detroit. However the ones that are not seem to have been forgotten. It is now the "American Way of Life" to have between 3 to 5 million unemployed, so why worry about them.

STILL OUT OF WORK

A woman worker who has been supporting herself and her husband for many, many months on a \$60 a week job, told me, "People act like this recession is over. They don't realize how many people are still out of work and are having such a hard time of it here in Detroit." She knows from bitter experience.

EDITORIAL

NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR CALLS OUT
NATIONAL GUARD TO BREAK STRIKE

Striking textile workers, in the Southern mill town of Henderson, North Carolina, are barred from picket demonstrations by the National Guard who were called, on May 11, to protect the scabs at the Harriet-Henderson Cotton Mills.

Using the time-dishonored cry that he has to protect "everybody's" safety, North Carolina's self-styled liberal Governor, Luther H. Hodges, called the guard in a new move to break the 7-months old strike.

SCAB VIOLENCE

The Henderson strike has been marked by violence since the company arrogantly refused to honor its agreement with the Textile Workers Union of America (AFL-CIO), locked out the striking workers, and replaced them with scabs.

They fought back and forced the company to cancel its plans for a third shift with the national guard patrolling the company street, strikers are now doing missionary work among the scabs as far as 18 miles away, letting them know what it means to cross a picket line, steal another man's job, and then get the company's boot when the dirty work is done.

'CHEAP LABOR'

Behind Governor Hodges' calling in the troops is the fact that North Carolina led the lily-white South in luring capital with the bait of "cheap and unorganized labor." In 1958 alone North Carolina snared almost \$2½ million in new-plant investment.

Hodges wants to do better than that in 1959, but he's afraid Northern industry will think twice about moving in if he can't end the long Harriet-Henderson strike in a hurry.

Hand in hand with the North Carolina's anti-union violence in Henderson, goes the current Jim Crow violence against Negroes in Monroe, Union County.

In bloody Harlan County, Kentucky, and Jellico, Tennessee, exploding tipples and national guard bayonets marks the continuing strikes by miners to force scab coal operators to negotiate with the United Mine Workers.

In the last half year, the national guard has been used in the South for breaking strikes more than at any time since the 1930s. It is clear the Southern rulers are out to break the unions and re-establish company unions with their inevitable sweatshop conditions of labor. White labor is learning that to the bosses and politicians of the South "lily white" means docile, scab labor.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS AND LETTERS

EDITORIAL

THE WHITE SOUTH

(Continued from Page 1)

to deal with the white Southerner where Negroes are involved is practically impossible.

The young student in Florida was raped and kidnapped by force. That is a Federal offense, so the Attorney General of that state issued a statement that kidnapping would be waived in this case. It was also waived in the Emmett Till case and the lynchings were set free.

It is now being said that Mack Parker, the latest victim of the lynchings, was innocent of what he was accused of. Negroes knew this from the beginning. **Through the years, Negro after Negro has been murdered or sent to prison because of the white women who, to hide their love affairs, cry rape and point their fingers at Negroes. These crimes are very, very seldom committed by Negroes but they are paid for with their innocent lives.**

The whole world knows that the law of the South does not apply to the whites in crimes they commit against Negroes.

The latest prime suspect is a white Southern preacher. Every Negro knows no one has ever been sentenced for lynching a Negro. Three or four years ago a Negro man was a witness in convicting a white man in Mississippi. The day he was paroled, the white man broke into the Negro's home, killing his entire family and leaving the man paralyzed from gun shot wounds. He was sent to prison for another ten years. His two white accomplices received five year prison sentences.

WHAT ABOUT THE 'GAINS' OF THE NEGROES?

The official Negro leadership is saying the Negroes should not think in terms of violence, but go through the courts, abide by the laws, and the world will hear the truth.

The Negro press reports the discovery of a second Negro body floating down the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi, where Emmett Till was lynched. The Negro had evidently come down from Chicago for the funeral of his uncle. The sheriff had the gall to state that since the body had no mark of violence, the man apparently had "walked into the river." No one of the family viewed the body.

A grim enough ending? But, no, there is more to it. A white undertaker called the latest victim's wife in Chicago and said he had buried the body and she owed him \$500 for the job. A Negro has never been buried by a white undertaker in the South. Indeed, there is no record of any white funeral home burying a Negro in the North either. No doubt the Negro had no funeral of any kind. That is the ending of one more unrecorded lynch victim.

The white South does not care what the rest of the world thinks or says. First on their list is the murdering, enslaving, and domination over the lives of every Negro American. **One can yell from here till doomsday about the gains the Negroes have made. As long as these crimes can be permitted with the sanction of state laws and state officials, and what seems to be the silent support of the Administration, those gains mean nothing—in fact, less than nothing.**

When one thinks of all the laws on the statute books pertaining to human rights and how the Negro people are deprived of every one of them in the South, how some are forced to leave their homes and others to say "Yes, ma'am" to the whites, we can just measure those so-called great gains against the daily life of the Negro people.

THE LIMITS OF HUMAN ENDURANCE

An illiterate Negro man once said that there are some highly educated people who use words he cannot understand—and they say he speaks such terrible English, they cannot understand him. But, said he, "When I show them my gun, they all understand that."

This language they understand clearly because it represents death to them as well as to anyone else. He said, "This is the best talk that the white Southerner will be educated to in regards to Negroes."

This is the language they teach the American soldiers, Negroes and whites. However, when the fighting is over, they say the Negro should not fight for his life, his very existence. No wonder that Robert Williams, president of the Union County (N.C.) Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, cried out that if these injustices continue, the Negro will have to "meet violence with violence." **It is not that this would solve the problem of human rights. It is that there is a limit to what human beings can stand when their rights are constantly violated.**

—C.D.

Readers'

THE COMING STEEL STRIKE

When you hear anything about the coming steel strike on the radio, all you hear about is the money involved or the money the union is asking for. The money isn't the thing working people are most interested in. It's the conditions the men want changed, but you never hear about those things on the radio.

Auto Worker
Detroit

We had short weeks and a lot of unemployed before this big push. We figure that once the contract is signed, the work force and the working time will be cut down just like it was before this run on steel. Nothing will really be changed for most of the steelworkers.

Steelworker
Pittsburgh, Pa.

There have been over 100 recalled in my department, since the stockpiling began, and of that number only about 10 are Negroes. Before the lay-offs, Negroes made up about 50% of the working force. The picture for upgrading of Negroes is still very dim. They are still being given the run-around, with the company and union both working to keep it that way.

Steelworker
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Whatever McDonald does, he's going to have somebody against him. The men who have been working want the strike for more money and shorter hours and just to get a breather. The men who haven't worked are so far in the hole they'd like to work long enough to get out of it.

Steelworker
Homestead, Pa.

A friend of ours with 7 kids, and the 8th on the way, now has the July steel strike to look forward to. He was laid off as a Christmas present in 1957 and was off the whole 12 months of 1958. His seniority dates from 1940. He was taken back 2 months ago in the spring of this year in the labor gang at \$1 an hour, and has just recently been moved up to \$1.25 an hour.

My own finances are pretty desperate, but credit keeps me going, and the fact that I still have a job keeps the credit going.

We are made to feel fortunate by the example of other people who are unemployed and pinching for food. This hasn't happened to us yet. But it is obvious that there must be a better way to run a rat race.

Reader
Pittsburgh

LEADERS . . . AND RANKS

The super came around to my section a few days ago. He came up to me and said that he was surprised that I haven't had any cases against the company for some time now. I told him that as long as he or any of his men never bothered me, there was no need for cases. But as soon as they did, they'd have plenty of trouble out of me. He hasn't said anything more to me.

Miner
Scotts Run, W. Va.

A guy at work was so mad about a newscast he saw on TV the other day that he was still cursing about it. He said the TV showed Reuther coming back from Europe and saying that what they needed in Europe was to bring the wages of European workers up to the standards we have. This guy said, "Reuther has a lot of nerve. He doesn't mention a word about the runaway shops, the speed-ups, or the lay-offs we have. All he talks about is money."

It just shows how they think of workers, to me. They think they can buy a human being out. A man is sold like a tool, so far as they are concerned. But workers don't think in those terms.

I don't really care what the company makes or what I make in terms of money. I know that no matter how much they raise my wages they're going to fix it so that I just barely exist anyhow. All the guys I know seem to feel the same as I do. We don't expect to "get ahead" of the game, no matter what. **So if we're just going to barely exist, why not exist in a human way? That's why people in the shops are more interested in conditions of work than the wages the union is always bickering about.**

Auto Worker
Detroit

It was a delight to read John L. Lewis's testimony in Congress, where he described the McClellan committee as "a re-establishment of the principle of the Star Chamber of the Tudor and Stuart kings, with a slight touch of the Spanish Inquisition." In contrast to the pussyfooting Meany who is for labor-busting bill introduced by Senator Kennedy, Lewis called it "66 pages of misery" that is not quite so strong as the "88 pages of misery" of a bill by North Carolina Representative Barden. The only other labor leader who has spoken out against the union busting legislation being introduced in congress

was Hoffa. Where was the "radical" Reuther? Well, he is for the "reform" bill!

Intellectual
Washington, D.C.

Each issue I am impressed by the vast difference between your paper and others I see. Just reading *News & Letters* gives one a sense of participation in the class struggle of the American white and colored workers, so many workers' voices speak. It is a distinct change from the hitherto "workers" papers in which the workers are written about and "called" to do this and that with no attention given to what the rank and file actually think. In your method I think you have the key which will eventually unlock the floodgates of popular action, in a way that "old" radicals never were able to do.

Reader
England

UNEMPLOYMENT

There are articles in the papers now that talk as if the depression were over just because of some new statistics they've come out with. They write about how many more will be employed "by the end of the year" but the end of the year is 7 months away! And there are almost 300,000 unemployed right here. They act as if people were just going to exist somehow until "the end of the year."

I have the feeling that they just want to push workers until they're under the ground.

Employed Again
Detroit

I burn up every time I hear somebody say women shouldn't be working now when so many men are laid off. Five adults depend for their livelihood on what my husband and I make. If I wasn't working they wouldn't even be able to exist.

Working Woman
Detroit

I thought we were having it rough until I heard about a woman at the welfare office who had 5 children. Her husband had been in the hospital with a brain tumor and they had been on welfare then. When he got out of the hospital the welfare sent him to a doctor who said he was able to work, so they put him on some sort of job at Belle Isle and took him off welfare. He soon fell ill again of course and was right back in the hospital in even worse condition than before. But his wife had to really struggle to get back on welfare.

They didn't have a cent coming in for 5 weeks.

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Charles Denby Editor
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Views

After she had been to the welfare office 5 times, they finally issued her an emergency check. That was right after the unemployed had been to Lansing, and she said she figured that must have had something to do with it because they even spoke more decently to her.

**Finally Working
Detroit**

A friend of mine who has been out of work almost a year has gone around every day hunting work. He went to one place where they just glanced at him and said, "We don't want gray-headed grandpaws, we need young men." He's only about 40, but has plenty of reason to have gray hair. He was shocked at the way they talked to him and said gray hair or not he had a big family and needed work. They just told him, "We have welfare for people like you."

**Old Friend
Detroit**

THE NEGRO STRUGGLE

London, Eng. — A few days ago, during the Whitsun recess, a young colored worker was attacked in Notting Hill and stabbed; he died in the hospital soon after. This was the scene of the race riots last September.

Fascism is trying to establish a base in this area. Anti-semitism was never the explosive mixture that the "colored" question is being cultivated up to. Former blackshirt leader Mosley is the parliamentary candidate at the next general election for this very division and they are working hard on the electoral rolls, and using other methods of getting publicity.

—Correspondent
London

I didn't see a word in the daily papers here about the Youth March, even though 74 went from Detroit. I think it was a planned silence. The only reason I can see for not letting any news seep through on the March is that integrated schools is just too hot an issue, and they figure the less said about it the better.

**Marcher
Detroit**

I was certainly glad to get the information you carried on the Youth March for Integrated Schools. In L.A. the TV and papers carried news of the local March on city hall, but we couldn't find a thing about the National March.

**Interested
Los Angeles**

Whenever they talk about fighting over the Berlin crisis, they try to pep you up by saying there are two million West Berliners, and we can't just let them down. How about the South? There are more than two million Negroes there, yet a lynching and a rape occur and I don't see any American troops rushing down there to protect the Negroes' rights.

**Working Mother
Los Angeles**

AND THE PRICE OF WHITE SUPREMACY

The report of the National Education Association is worthwhile re-printing because it shows what price white supremacy: the Southern states are the last rungs in the U.S. educational ladder. Mississippi, the lynch state, for example, pays its classroom teachers an annual salary of \$3,070, lowest in the nation. It spends \$181 a year for each student in average daily attendance, less than any state except Alabama which spent \$164. But Mississippi tops the nation in one respect: almost 50% of its young men who registered for the draft in 1957 failed to pass the pre-induction mental examination.

**Teacher
San Francisco, Calif.**

THE WORLD AROUND US

The sudden bombardment of Matsu by Communist China has gotten the "specialists" talking of the previous coincidence of the Quemoy shelling with the Russian efforts to get a Big Four Conference, not to mention the outbreak of the Middle East crisis. Such coincidences certainly cannot be dismissed. However, it was more than a coincidence that the restlessness in the "communes" was at its height at the time of the Quemoy shelling. Mao is no different than any other state or private capitalist whose principle is: when there is class conflict at home, get an international incident going. Presently the revolts there have reached such a stage that the totalitarian state has had to give in on at least two counts: 1) more food and less work around the clock, and 2) do not separate wives and husbands "except as a temporary measure." Moreover the shelling of Matsu might get the minds of the workers of the cities away from their conditions of labor and shortages of food. Hope springs eternal in the breast of the ruling class until the day they are overthrown.

**Old Politico
Detroit, Mich.**

I see that newspapermen covering the Geneva conference total no less than 1,174. Are there really that many different ways of writing up the question of round vs. square tables?

**Student of Journalism
Berkeley, Calif.**

Two Germanies, two Koreas, two Viet Nams, two Berlins. If this didn't tragically tell the tale that World War II settled nothing except the battlefields for World War III, we could laugh at the Geneva circus. As it is, we can only hold our breath (that which is not already filled with strontium 90) till the next summit to see whether war is already upon us.

**Journalist
New York, N.Y.**

The nuclear business continues to stir some murmurs in the scientific community. The amount of open fraud on the part of the AEC is a lesson in "vested interests" and "scientific objectivity" for those who know some of the facts and care to learn about society.

The recent statement on fall-out by the Advisors to the AEC is a case in point. They point to the fact that "total body external radiation" from fall-out is less than 5% of the average naturally occurring radiation.

Yet I recently saw a report published by Swedish investigators (a book called "Bone and Radiostrontium" by Arne Engstrom et. al.) in which the "internal radiation" due to concentration of Strontium-90 in certain parts of the bone is many times that average external dose figure.

Well, as the statement says, the AEC should conduct research to insure that its activities are conducted safely. Its activities are being well protected! That's the trouble!

**Concerned Scientist
New York**

To me it's a joke — but not a very funny one—the way each side tries to blame the other one for the dangers of radioactive fall-out in the air around us. What difference does it make to the human beings who are being affected whether it's the Russian fall-out or the American fall-out that kills him?

Still, you have to expect that the government leaders would act that way. What is the worst thing is that the leaders who are supposed to be on the people's side — like the labor leaders — are not saying a thing about it.

**Disgusted
Detroit**

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya, Author
of Marxism and Freedom

MAY 1 AND THE SHORTER WORK DAY

During the first week of May this year the United Steel Workers presented its demand for a shorter workweek. That it is a ludicrously low demand—a cut from 40 to 38 hours a week—is contributing to the fact that even the so-called radical press is giving it little publicity. The demand is of great importance, nevertheless. It is the first time in long, long decades that a union at contract time put such a demand on the negotiation table.

No doubt it was accidental on the part of the present union leaders to issue this demand in the first week of May. But, again, the significance cannot be lost in the accidental nature of their timing when, historically, May 1 is indissolubly connected with the struggles for the 8 hour day. The initiation of the struggle for the 8 hour day coincided with the founding of the first National Labor Union in America.

Eight-Hour Leagues sprang up everywhere. "In the United States of America," wrote Marx, "any sort of independent labor movement was paralyzed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the republic. Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new vigorous life sprang. The first fruit of the Civil War was an agitation for the 8-hour day."

The severe financial crisis of 1873 dealt a death blow to the Eight-Hour Leagues, but not to the idea for an 8-hour day. In 1884 not only the idea, but the actions to put it into effect, were once again initiated, this time by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, later to be known as the American Federation of Labor. It was this organization which specified that the date for the struggle in the form of a general strike would be May 1st.

The struggle for the 8 hour day during the decade of 1880s received a real blood bath from the counter-revolution initiated by the companies with the help of the government. The anarchist labor leaders, Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engel, were railroaded to the gallows.

This unfulfillment of the counter-revolution did not stop the movement for the 8 hour day. On the contrary. The conservative head of the A.F. of L., Samuel Gompers, looked for international help. As he put it in his reminiscences of the year 1889: "As the time of the meeting of the International Workingman's Congress in Paris approached, it occurred to me that we could aid our movement by an expression of world-wide sympathy from that Congress."

They got more than sympathy from the International at its Paris Congress, which immediately adopted the following resolution: "The Congress decides to organize a great international demonstration, so that in all countries and in all cities, on one appointed day, the toiling masses shall demand of the state authorities the legal reduction of the working day to 8 hours . . . Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon for May 1, 1890, by the American Federation of Labor at its Convention in St. Louis, December 1888, this day is accepted for the international demonstration."

THE UNITY OF PRACTICE AND THEORY

Just as the Marxist world organization had adopted the American choice of May 1 as the holiday that would combine strike action with demonstrations in support of labor's demand for the 8 hour day, in practice—so, in theory, the struggle for the shorter workday became the axis of Marx's greatest theoretical work, CAPITAL. Building on the impulse, action, and philosophy of the working class, for a shorter working day, Marx drew the conclusion that the "development of human power which is its own end, the true realm of freedom . . . can flourish only upon the realm of necessity as its basis. The shortening of the working day is its fundamental premise."

THE PENDING STEEL STRIKE

As words, Marx's phrase—"the development of human power which is its own end"—may sound outlandish. But the thought behind it, the development of the human being instead of greater and greater machines, is precisely what is preoccupying the steel workers presently.

"It will give us a chance to catch our breath," said one of the steel workers at Homestead, Pa. "We sure need it," said another. "The speed-up is just killing us." "Automation has made everything worse," said a third, cutting both our employment and security. This cutting of the workweek, if we can get it, would help some."

It is not that anyone thought that all problems, either of the employed or of the unemployed, would be solved by this minor cutting of the workweek. It is that a beginning must be made somewhere. Reuther is great at shouting about a reduction not only of the workweek but workday when he addresses a meeting of the unemployed. But at negotiation time he is as silent as an Egyptian tomb. The whole question of the kind of labor which has been raised by the American workers since Automation has now been made more concrete by the attempt to limit the time when the worker must work for others, and extend the time for his own thoughts.

YOUTH Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

AUTHOR OF MARXISM AND FREEDOM WINDS UP CAMPUS TOUR

"The truly breath-taking creativity lies, not in the music or the dance, but in the slave labor revolt in Vorkuta which killed once and for all the myth of totalitarian invincibility." This view was presented by Raya Dunayevskaya, author of *Marxism and Freedom*, to an audience of 800 university students in California who came to hear her lecture on the topic of Russian Intellectualism and Creativity.

Since the appearance of *Marxism and Freedom*, 1½ years ago, Dunayevskaya has lectured to student audiences totalling over 5,000.

Dunayevskaya castigated the Russian intellectuals for abetting their own stagnation saying, "the willingness of the artist to live in luxury and glory in his specialized status has done more even than the political commissars to stifle creativity."

The American intellectuals fared little better at her hands. She reminded her audience of Nobel Prize winner William Faulkner's barbaric statement that he is willing to spill Negro blood "To preserve the Southern way of life."

It was evident from the reaction of the audience that the remarks made against intellectuals who traded their souls for gratuities, hit home. A lengthy letter printed in the campus newspaper following the day of the lecture tried to justify intellectual conformity as being "realistic." However, others who heard the lecture said for the first time they recognized intellectuals as a class that currently played the role of public relations

men for the system, be it Russian or American.

SPEAKS ON TROTSKY

Dunayevskaya completed her recent tour early in May, speaking before two college audiences in Chicago. She spoke of her book to an audience of 200, and to another 250 students she lectured on the evolution of the political attitudes of Leon Trotsky in his later years. Of Bernard Wolfe, author of a recent novel, *The Great Prince Died*, that imputes to Trotsky a change of political attitude in his later life that he wouldn't admit she said, "Only people who have no thoughts of their own can so misconstrue the thoughts of others." She contrasted Trotsky's development to that of Lenin.

Trotsky's inability to bring Marxist theory up to date, to recognize in a later epoch the class roots of Stalinism made it impossible for Trotsky to seriously combat the counter-revolution despite his personal heroism and optimism that the working-class would win out.

The last lecture was extremely well received and the students who heard it requested a typescript so that they might continue to study the subject in class.

To me the most outstanding fact of the lecture tour has been the numbers who have turned out to hear the author of *Marxism and Freedom*. This generation of youth has been the most slandered of all. We are constantly being dished out statistics to "prove" how "delinquent," "conformist," or "beat" we are. Yet youth, by the thousands, turned out to hear and participate in discussions of a theory of liberation that would underline an entirely new society.

YOUNG MARCHER SAYS, 'YOUTH KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT, WILL FIGHT FOR IT!'

Detroit — Despite the fact that the adults who "led" last month's Youth March on Washington for Integrated Schools tried to keep the demonstration down to a conference between A. Phillip Randolph and President Eisenhower (which didn't take place), the response of the youth was greater than they bargained for. The youth did get their feelings noticed.

The Detroit committee for the March got a late start, but the way Detroit's youth and adults rallied was great. For example, a downtown demonstration proved very worthwhile. About 20 or 30 kids marched down Woodward Avenue to the old City Hall building with signs waving and singing songs. This got a good many petitions filled.

Reporters and photographers from the daily papers were on hand and interviewed the marchers. But

for all the fuss they made not a word was put in any of the papers. They ran a whole section about Easter flowers but not one line about the Youth March for Integrated Schools.

In the weeks before the actual trip to Washington, both Negro students and white students in the various high schools showed an enormous amount of eagerness for the cause. Many took petitions from their friends to circulate and get them signed. They did this in spite of rules against petitions set down by the principals, many of whom, in private, display all kinds of prejudices.

The fact that we faced suspension or expulsion from school, if we were caught circulating the petitions, made no difference. We know what's right and will fight for it.

—High School Marcher

Mixed Student Group Picked Up by Police

Detroit — I heard some University students, 2 Negro fellows, 2 white girls, and one Negro girl were walking down one of the main streets of Detroit 2 weeks ago and a patrol car passed by and picked them up and took them to a police station in another area.

The students kept asking why were they picked up and one of the white girls was told that "I don't know why these boys would want to walk with you. I wouldn't even spit on you." The student replied that she didn't know if she would spit on him either, and wasn't this a free country where you could go walking with whom you please.

They held one of the fellows for over 2 hours.

The students went to the N.A.A.C.P. for help but were told that they didn't have enough of a case, so they decided to picket the police station. 7 began to walk. The Police became embarrassed and invited them in the station to talk things over. Inside they were told that the policeman that picked them up that day must have been upset.

I wonder what they think of how upset the students felt, and mind you this is Detroit, Michigan.

—Student

L. A. MARCHERS DISPUTE PRESS COVERAGE

Los Angeles—I would like to compare two reports of the Youth March for Integrated Schools that took place around City Hall here on April 18. One report is by a local TV station and one is from me, a participant.

The local TV channel news report said that City all was picketed today, and this was a group that could only appear after school or on a Saturday, as this was a youth march for integrated schools, and the participants were students. The reporter was "impressed" by the apparent sincerity and orderliness of the demonstration. (Perhaps he expected a riot?) The reporter went on to say that later on, some people wearing "30 hours work for 40 hours pay" buttons appeared and began to pass out "left wing" literature. He continued that since the students wanted no part of that, they broke up early.

NO ONE SCARED OFF

What happened was, the youth arrived at 12 and were greeted by the "leftist literature" being passed out from the beginning, which seemed to horrify no one, and no one ran away. There were about 75 marchers and we marched from 12 noon to 1 p.m. when our permit to picket City Hall expired and we had to leave.

Next year, if the youth march is repeated, I hope that this local TV channel's report coincides more with the facts.

Youth Marcher

AS OTHERS SEE US

Book review by Fred Thompson, reprinted from *INDUSTRIAL WORKER*, March 17, 1958

"MARXISM AND FREEDOM — Relations of worker to job.

"This book by Trotsky's former secretary is a weighty addition to the bit of socialist literature that clearly argues for a world of free men as distinguished from a world of puppets directed by a bureaucracy of planners. This book further argues that this libertarian socialist view is the Marxism of Marx. . . .

"To this reviewer, the author's central argument appears to run thus:

"For capitalism to develop there must first of all be a class of wage-workers, men looking for a job because they find no other workable way of making a living. The labor-power they offer for sale is thus already an alienation of their creative self-activity. They do not go to work producing the things they feel some inclination to produce. They hire out to do as they are told. . . .

"All this, the author points out, is a description of what goes on alike in capitalist America and Soviet Russia. There is a steady resentment against it on the part of the machine-tending wage-workers. This resentment is over the relation of the worker to his work. It may appear as "simple trade union demands" for shorter workdays and bigger pay checks; in fights against speed-up, in demands that objectionable foremen be removed. It may blossom forth. . . . But whether it is the uprisings in East Berlin or Budapest, or the revolt in the slave labor camp of Vorkuta, or the Western Electric fight against time-study, or the rank and file dislike for automation, it is all the revolt of a man who is being used, and who doesn't like it because he finds that being used is necessarily being abused. . . .

"That, as this reviewer understands it, is the author's central argument. Perhaps it isn't, for the author is steeped in the Hegelian dialectic. . . . Now this Hegelian dialectic, again as this reviewer understands it, is the rather obvious proposition that what is to be must grow out of what is and be brought about by the actual forces in operation as the result of preceding an-

tagonisms. There is nothing very mysterious about that and it is plainly useful for sifting out the meat in any study of what goes on from the plain verbiage. But the forms of speech customary among devotees of Hegel are baffling. They probably account for the lamentable fact that Marx is so much more talked about than read. And they may stop a worker who should read this book from reading it. . . .

"Dunayevskaya tends to illustrate her point with references to how the Paris Commune generated activity and forms of organization that surprised Marx for he had not anticipated them, and similarly the soviets grew without benefit of any intellectual's planning them, to surprise Trotsky and Lenin both in 1905 and 1917, and make Lenin change his thinking. . . .

"Then come some chapters on Marxian economic theory written with refreshing clarity, completely readable even though they tackle the intricate point that popularizations usually gloss over. . . ."

Reprinted from *CURRENT HISTORY* July, 1958

"The author, formerly secretary to Leon Trotsky, seeks to re-establish and re-define the humanism inherent in Marxism and give it meaning within the context of modern industrial society. She deplores the veritable conspiracy to identify Marxism, a theory of liberation, with its opposite, Communism, the theory and practice of enslavement. To counter this tendency, she traces the growth and development of the industrial revolution in terms of its leading strands of thought, from Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* in 1776 to the methodology of Marxism applied to contemporary America.

"Her interpretation of the essence of Marxian theory is excellent. However, it is likely that there will be some disagreement with facets of her post-Marxian analysis. The appendix contains the first English publication of several writings of Marx and Lenin. A serious study of interest and importance, this provides some understanding of the reasons for the persisting appeal of Marxist ideas and interpretations.

—A.Z.R."

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CITY Zone STATE

CITY EVICTS FAMILIES DONATES LAND FOR BALL PARK

Los Angeles—The scandal over the evictions of the last families who lived in Chavez Ravine has been on the front pages of all the papers here. The families were told that they must sell, in order that a low rent housing project could be built there, but instead the land will be turned over to a private, profit-making corporation. It will be given to the Los Angeles Dodgers as the site for their new ball park.

PRICE OF A BALL PARK

There were pictures in the papers, also, of the girls of one family being dragged out of their house by four policemen each, like bags of laundry. The younger children were crying, as the houses were emptied and bull-dozers began destroying them minutes after the evictions.

The families were separated, the children taken to jail because "They had no place to live," and attempts were made to have the older members of the families committed to psychopathic wards "for study."

FAMILIES LIVED THERE 35 YEARS

The City Council has been investigating what it calls the "ruthless" way these people were removed from the homes they'd lived in for 35 years. The council finally

agreed to provide "suitable temporary housing" for them, without compromising the people's right to fight the case.

The grandmother of one of the families asked a pertinent question. Since the Dodgers just had a big benefit for Campanella, why didn't they do the same for the people whose houses they were destroying in order to build their ball park?

Every city has a place where poor minority people (in this case Mexican-Americans) live because no one else wants it. But when it suddenly becomes valuable, they are never permitted to make the large profits that a financier would. Instead they are treated like dirt.

The City sent people to the individual families in Chavez Ravine offering them two or three thousand dollars cash. Some sold at that price. But then the others started figuring and saw that if they went out and bought another house, they could never get anything for \$3,000. They're older people and they can't start all over paying for a \$10,000 home.

The families were always told that they had to sell, because it was for a low rent housing project.

My father sold his house for \$8,000 cash. But he

owed \$4,000 to the County Hospital, and they paid themselves from the house money, so he only ended up with \$4,000. He bought a house that's no good for \$9,000 and he's been paying on it for years. By the time you pay \$5,000 off, the interest and taxes run it up to \$10,000. That's why he didn't want to sell.

Working Woman Los Angeles

* * *

The people who were exicted from Chavez Ravine on May 8 never did sign a way or sell their houses to the Housing Authority. But the Housing Authority sold their property right out from under them to the Dodgers.

Every time the family went to pay their taxes to the City, the City would not take them. So now the city says that these people have been living free of taxes and of rent and that they owe the City!

They offered them \$10,000 for their home, but deducted \$125 a month in rent and taxes for several years, which added up to a deduction of \$9,000, leaving them with only \$1,000. Finally after the stink everyone made at the City Council, the Council said they would not deduct the rent.

Friend of the Family Los Angeles

COMPANY FOREGOES SAFETY TO GET OUT MORE STEEL

Pittsburgh, Pa. — There was the incident in the mill recently when steel started to run out of a tapping hole. The metal foreman told two men to put water and dolomite on the leak. One of the men didn't have his asbestos jacket on, the other didn't have his safety helmet on, but they rushed to carry out the order. When the water and dolomite hit that hot metal, there was an explosion that threw that molten steel all over, burning

both of the men very severely.

BOSS SAID "HURRY UP"

The usual report was turned in concerning the circumstances of the accident, and as per usual, the men were held at fault. One was charged with negligence for not having his helmet on and the other for not wearing his asbestos jacket.

Not a word was said about the fact that not only the metal foreman but also the assistant supervisor were

right there when the accident happened and the men were following orders of their boss to hurry up.

You can say something about the men being careless all right. But they got hurt because the boss was more concerned about saving the heat than he was about men getting hurt.

JUST "TALK" ABOUT SAFETY

There is still the bulletin board with the accident record on it, but this is just so much fancy dressing and does anything but tell the real story concerning accidents. Now that the company is going full blast, they don't want any lost time accidents. And what would ordinarily be a lost time accident is covered up by them.

Take for an example a man sprains his back and takes off from work one day. The next day he'd ordinarily stay home; but it isn't like that now. If a man gets hurt now and can stand on his feet, the company sends a car out to his home and brings him in to work. He doesn't have to do a thing, just be there so they don't have a lost time accident on their record.

As long as you're producing and no accidents occur, everything is o.k. When an accident does occur, there is talk about safety—but that's all. Nothing is done about it.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Not long ago a patient of mine who is a Negro died of high blood pressure. He was only about 35 years old, and one of the gentlest and quietest persons I have known. His blood pressure mounted to tremendous levels following a relatively minor surgical procedure; and then his kidneys ceased to function. He had a type of high blood pressure or hypertension that is called malignant. This is most often seen in the Negro race.

For generations the Negro in the United States has been living in an atmosphere of stress. There has been little external outlet for the tensions and violence within them. They have often had to maintain a quiet smooth exterior, while the interior was boiling and churning. Hypertension in its severest form can be the expression of this repressed conflict.

Many things can cause blood pressure to be elevated—disease of the heart, the blood vessels, the kidneys and other organs. There is however a much more common and widespread kind of hypertension which is called essential—for lack of a specific cause or known organic basis. A special subgroup is the malignant hypertension.

Much of what we are as human beings we inherit from our parents. This is true of the nature of the individual organs and systems that make up our body. To what extent the genetic factor determines the function of the whole person is not at present clear. It is however quite evident that our environment often plays the major role in making us what we are.

RECENT MEDICAL STUDIES

In recent years a number of medical studies have been made on minority groups in this country — Chinese, Japanese, Puerto Ricans and Negro. Blood pressure levels and heart disease have been compared with the same racial group outside the United States—the West Indies, Hawaii, etc. In general it has been found that there is more high blood pressure and heart disease among groups in the United States than in the same racial type outside this country.

The pressure of the blood in the arteries is a measure of the resistance of the blood

vessel wall to the flowing liquid. It is also a measure of the work of the heart—the organ that pumps the blood through the various channels.

All living things respond in a more or less typical manner to a variety of different agents such as infections, trauma, nervous strain, heat, cold, muscular fatigue or irradiation. Though these injurious agents are quite different, the common feature is that they place the body in a situation of stress. This stress is the internal or resisting force brought into play by external forces. The individual reacts to injury whether the injury is physical or emotional.

One of the stress responses is an elevation of blood pressure. This is part of the alarm reaction and mobilization of the body defences. Repeated exposure to environmental influences which normally raise arterial pressure eventually leads to a sustained hypertension. At first this is reversible. Normal adoptive patterns of the body designed for short term needs, after repeated use, finally become the persistent end result and the disease.

POINT OF NO RETURN

About twenty years ago I planted two almost identical Eucalyptus trees in my back yard. They did well but one was not quite straight. To correct this a rubber hose ring was placed around it as a collar, and attached to a stake. This collar remained in place while I was away in the army for about four years. On my return I found a remarkable difference in the growth of the two trees; the dwarfed one had not been able to escape the collar. Removing the collar then did not help very much. A point of no return had been reached; and now, many years later, one tree is two feet in diameter and the other six inches.

Reaction to pressure is inevitable. A person's unwillingness to go along with what is injurious and harmful—his negativity; his inability to accept a stressful situation as normal—leads to reactions which overcome the harmful element. But living tissue can only take so much punishment and remain healthy. Without relief the damage becomes irreversible. That is why the unity of mental and physical activity is an absolute necessity.

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STEEL CONTRACT TO EXPIRE

(Continued from Page 1)

themselves to an exhaustive pace, with the steel hungry companies operating at break-neck speed, even harder and faster work is demanded now. Men are already feeling the effects of it, and it is commonplace for a man to take off during a shift because he just gave out — especially those who have just been recalled. This situation will get worse next month when the weather gets hot.

Going hand in hand with this man-killing pace is a corresponding lack of safety precautions. At Homestead, the boiler tenders have reported that the furnaces are being fired beyond the pressure limits permitted by state regulations to provide a margin of safety for the men. Everything is going by the board except production of ever increasing tons of steel in ever shorter periods of time, with the men, as usual, suffering the consequences.

In terms of statistics to show who is reaping the benefits from the sweated labor of the steelworkers, a little research reveals that from 1952 to 1958, the cost of labor to the steel industry has remained virtually the same, and represents about 42½ cents of each dollar the industry has made in the sale of products. In the same period, industry's profits, after taxes, have more than doubled — from \$143,678,740 in 1952 to \$301,558,231 in 1958.

The steel industry has not had to pay more in overall labor costs since 1952 because the Automation machines they brought in threw 200,000 men permanently out of work and increased the work burden on the men still working. This is the horrible mentality of the steel magnates who demand ever increasing profits at the expense of every human instinct a worker possesses. The companies have a total disregard for the misery and suffering they impose on the families of laid-off workers.

WAGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The capitalist press is full of reports of the "high" \$3 average wage per hour of steelworkers, but it is completely silent on the short work-weeks they have had for months, the terrific pressure of speed-up and disregard of safety and the enormous profits of the steel industry.

One steelworker painted this picture, "The steel companies have plenty of plants not only along this river, but throughout the country. They have facilities that can produce cheaper than others. As soon as the contract is signed, they will do what they did before this demand for steel. The plant that can produce the product cheapest will get the order, even though others can put it out. As a matter of fact, I look for them to completely shut

down two open hearth furnaces where I work. What good is a contract going to do us walking the streets?"

As the issues are being drawn, the steel industry's plans include not only frantically pushing the men to fill stock-piling orders, but also plans to lay off top supervision, a step which is taken only when a long strike is seriously considered by them.

LONG OR SHORT STRIKE

The workers are preparing for a long strike. They remember the long drawn-out negotiations in auto and the sellout there, and they do not expect McDonald to be much different from Reuther, judging by the fact that the problems that concern them most — speed-up, safety, shorter workday — are the ones that McDonald either didn't raise at all or made subordinate to the question of a pay raise. The company keeps throwing men out of work and increasing the work load, while the union permits grievances to pile up. They therefore expect McDonald will try to settle for a few wage raises that are "non-inflationary" (also non-helpful) and then companies, union, and government will try to shove the contract down the steelworkers' throats.

One thing the auto workers did not face was Eisenhower's threats — because autos, contrary to steel which is needed in armament making, are not part of the cold war. The world tensions however have a direct bearing on them. Geneva is no further away from Pittsburgh than is Washington, D.C. The breath of cold war on the steel workers is hot enough. It means they will not be allowed to work-out their relations in basic industry but will become a pawn between the two great powers — U.S. and Russia — fighting for world domination.

Short or long strike? Ask the summit. And yet it is not these big leaders negotiating in Geneva who know anything about Automation. Neither do the leaders of the company or the union who are negotiating — not in Pittsburgh — but in New York.

WORKERS DECISIVE

The workers are the only ones who stand face to face with this crucial problem of man-killing production relations. The solution to their problems does not rest with McDonald, Cooper or Eisenhower. The steelworkers, together with auto workers, miners and workers in other industries who are faced with exactly the same conditions of labor and a future of permanent unemployment are the only ones who feel the driving necessity to change their present conditions. Their actions over the next months will be the decisive ones.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

TOM MBOYA IN THE U. S. A.

At an overflow meeting of several thousand people in Detroit, Tom Mboya, the leader of the labor movement of Kenya, presented the case for freedom for Africans.

Mr. Mboya is himself a reflection of the constant terrorism facing the people of Kenya. He speaks very well but in the carefully couched terms to which he has become accustomed. He is reluctant, understandably, to cite names, places, or events in the struggle for African freedom, since the lives of those active in Kenya are in constant danger.

He makes a strong case for his countrymen and the 210 million Africans who are all seeking independence. Among the things he said was, "It is difficult for me to tell my people to support the British after they have just shot 51 of my people dead in Rhodesia." On the issue of the cold war he said, "How can we spend hours in endless debate on whether the world will go to the East or the West? Someone will have to prove to us that the evils of communism are worse than the evils of colonialism which we know."

He asked Americans to think about the way money is spent here. "One of your satellites costs as much as the entire national budget of an African country for a 32 year period," Mboya said. He felt that the world would be better off if more time, money and effort were spent on the defense of human rights instead of military aid.

Walter Reuther, who was chairman of the Detroit meeting, sounded positively revolutionary in condemning the colonial powers. He is all for widespread change elsewhere. Talk is cheap when he does nothing to improve the working conditions of American workers.

MORSE vs. LUCE

Senator Wayne Morse has won his one man fight against the appointment of Claire Boothe Luce as Ambassador to Brazil, mostly because she opened her mouth just once too often at the wrong time. Having won confirmation from the Senate over Morse's objections, the lady ambassador nevertheless proceeded at her very first conference to say: "My difficulties, of course, go some years back, and began when Senator

Wayne Morse was kicked in the head by a horse."

The appointment was, to begin with, an insult to the South American people. It came directly after the callous, imperialistic statement of Time to the effect that the best thing for Bolivia would be to carve it up among her neighbors. This provoked anti-American demonstrations in Bolivia and anti-Yankee-imperialist feelings throughout South America. But Eisenhower, far from being deterred, proceeded to fulfill his political obligations to a couple that have been among the heaviest contributors of the Republican Party—Mr. and Mrs. Luce.

Mrs. Luce, besides being married to Life, Time and Fortune, served the American oil interests, the State Department and the Catholic Church in her post as Ambassador to Italy. The Italian people can certainly congratulate the South Americans for escaping such politicians of ambassadorial ranks. Republicans and Democrats who had voted for her certainly required strong stomachs and weak minds to believe her story that the lead content of the paint falling from the ceiling of the U.S. Embassy into her soup was sufficient to send her to the hospital.

The Luce organization and the Eisenhower administration are inseparable. It was men from the Luce staff who ghosted the "I will go to Korea" speech of Eisenhower in 1952. Life first fostered the "brinkmanship" policies for which Dulles is so infamous. U. S. China policy and the close friendship of Madame Chiang with the Luces are not unrelated. The near revolution which resulted from the Time statement that Bolivia ought to be carved up certainly did not add up to a recommendation for Luce as Ambassador. Yet our Senators had voted in their overwhelming majority to confer the honor for a political hack job done well. But when the lady put her foot in her mouth to hit back at her lone critics, others finally spoke up and the hubbub created led to her resignation, but did not cool the warm support of Eisenhower who still contended that the expose of Luce would present "no major impairment of her usefulness for the post we intended." So much for the "good-neighbor policy" of the present Administration and its imperialist callousness to the feelings of the South Americans.

COMMUNISTS LOSE

Communists are beginning to lose ground for the first time in the Orient. As a result of the suppression of the Tibetan revolt, there is loss of Communist strength throughout Asia. For example, the active membership of the Japanese Communist Party has dropped more than 60% during the last nine years.

This is true not only of the Orient but also in Western Europe. Thus the election of shop stewards in Turin, Italy, revealed that, in comparison to the 65% of the votes last year, the Communists attained only 59% this year. At Fiat they are at one-third of their 1954 level. The fact that the strikes and class struggles are at their height in Italy and at the same time the Communists are losing is a very good sign indeed of the development of the Italian proletariat.

* * *

GUINEA

It is 6 months since Guinea accepted the challenge to leave the France of DeGaulle and become an independent African republic. It was not easy. Food on the ships at sea was sent by De Gaulle to other ports. The administrators, currency and all forms of assistance were withdrawn overnight as an open threat to any other country who might withdraw. De Gaulle expected immediate capitulation, but he underestimated the African people.

The Guineans continued on their path to freedom. Guinea was given aid, \$28 million, by Ghana. Last week Guiana and Ghana formed a loose federation which they hope will become a framework for the federation of African states.

* * *

VATICAN

Pope John is expected to give his approval soon to the work of the French Worker-Priests.

After World War II the Church in France had fallen to a low state and the workers stayed away in large numbers, distrusting the clergy. A movement was started where priests changed their frocks for workers' clothes, entered the factories and lived outside the seminaries. The last Pope stopped the movement and permitted them only 3 hours a day in their new role. Now they will apparently get the green light to resume their role in the factories and in the unions, with the intent of breaking down their revolutionary resistance to DeGaulism and the Vatican.