

# NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

VOL. 5—No. 1

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## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

### WORKERS VIEW AUTOMATION

Three workers were sitting together discussing Automation. They were discussing the idea of those who say that Automation means progress, of those that have the idea that it makes work easier, and others who say it creates jobs for workers. Bill said, "Maybe in its early days on the farms those machines may have eliminated some of the hard work." Joe said that the refrigerator that replaced the old ice box and some of the things that are used in the home, that kind of Automation is progress but when it was developed for production in the mines, steel mills and auto factories, when it eliminated jobs by the thousands and slowly murdered those that were left to work, that is not progress.

Wilson, the third worker, spoke: "Man, I work for Chrysler on the fender job. One man has to lift those big fenders and put them in. That monster takes a fender out and hands it to another worker to feed it into another machine. Many of the pieces weigh two hundred pounds and you work at a pace as fast as you can move. Workers on that job who never felt any misery or pains before will tell you that after a week on that job their intestines are hanging out of their rectums. If you report it to the first aid they give you a lay-off on code 85, saying, you are unable to perform the work. This means you can not draw compensation. You will be called back to work when the company has a job that you can do. In every instance it is the same job or one worse than it that you are called back to. I usually have to wait for the guy I ride home with on the bus, but one day he waited 10 minutes for me before he left. The next day I told him that I was so tired I went to the toilet and had to sit there a half hour before I could get enough strength to walk out and catch a bus."

#### "THE MACHINE WORKS YOU"

Joe said that the people that still say that Automation is progress should come and see where he works on the frame job. "Before the union, there was a saying that Ford's foundry workers were the hardest working people in any factory in the world. But it was not automatized. They had the continuous drive of the foreman and the rugged work, but a worker could hold himself back and maybe sometime the foreman would let up on the workers. With Automation you are geared to the machine. There is no let-up. It is worse than before, the machine works you. You have to keep pace with it. It isn't progressive but destructive to the worker who has to work on it. It destroys the relations between husband and wife. Many workers cannot have regular sexual relations with their wives because they are so tired they go to sleep as soon as they get home from work.

"One would have to see this frame job to believe it or to understand what we are talking about. The company says the worker must stay on his job and not stop the machine. Now that may not sound bad to people that do not understand, but you have to keep up with every movement of that machine and the company sets its pace. The foreman can go away but if the count meter read 1,000 pieces for the first hour and it was less for the second hour you have to tell him why. If the worker cannot say that the machine broke down he is told if he wants his job he must not let that happen again.

"In some departments they have paper hanging on a wall and every time a worker stops he is supposed to write on it what he stopped for and for how long. They time the machine and you to it and want you to time yourself when you are away from it or when you stop it.

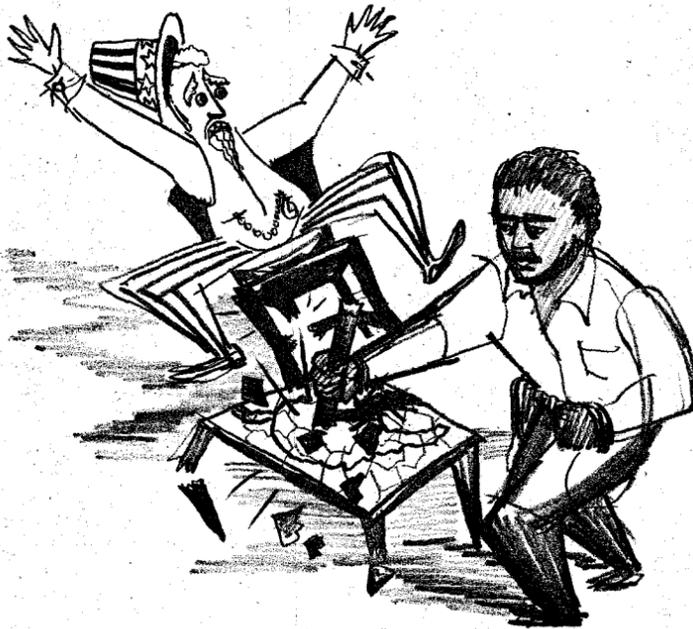
#### AN AUTOMATED LINE

"The frame of a car is heavy and very thick steel. These frames are put on a conveyor line one after another about a foot apart from the other. It all works by automa-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Cuba Jolts State Department Domination in Latin America

As the leader of the 26th of July Movement which ousted the hated State Dept.-supported dictator Batista from Cuba, Fidel Castro became the symbol of liberation not only to the Cuban masses but to the masses in all of the vast under-developed and over-exploited continent of South America. He has jolted U. S. domination south of the border. This is one of the prime reasons that top Administration leaders, from Eisenhower down, are now planning to rush to South American countries on "good will visits." These are timed to coincide with the Inter-American Conference to be held in Ecuador in February.



Though Castro issued a pamphlet, the day after Christmas, in which he denied trying to foment revolution among any of his neighbors, his name, or that of his lieutenants, is linked with every opposition movement that erupts, whether it is in Venezuela or the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua or Paraguay, or within the Caribbean states. Indeed, the State Dept.-supported Brazilian government charged, last month, that the the "little revolt" in Brazil, early in December, aimed to copy the "Fidel Castro model."

#### LATIN AMERICAN UNREST

Every independence movement in Latin America is immediately linked with the revolutionary demand for the redistribution of farm land and the expropriation of the immense holdings of U. S. capitalists.

Over half of the total acreage of land in South America is owned by only 1½ per cent of the population, and U. S. capitalists' investments amount to over \$9 billion. But this is no more than the annual interest on our national debt. Moreover, it is not used to industrialize any part of Latin America, but to keep it tied to U. S. capital as a one-crop type of raw material economy.

Although this is a key factor in the opposition to American domination throughout Latin America, none is as blissfully unaware of this as the American Secretary of State, Christian Herter. He decided to use the old, but not so almighty, American dollar to threaten Cuba with a cut-off of American purchases of Cuban sugar.

But this fell on deaf ears, and not only in Cuba but even in tiny Panama, whose economy is totally dependent on American capital. Panama too could demonstrate against State Dept. arrogance in the Canal Zone, and, except for diplomatic maneuvering, the State Dept. has to take it.

#### LAND REFORMS

Even more striking is the way in which Cuba—hardly 100 miles wide at its widest, (Continued on Page 8)

### JOHN L. LEWIS:

The announcement by John L. Lewis that he will soon resign as president of the United Mine Workers Union marks the passing from the stage of the most powerful, eloquent and dominating figure created by American labor.

Before the creation of the CIO John L. Lewis was in no way distinguished from any other labor bureaucrat who had substituted business unionism for mass action and red-baiting for leadership. The mass movement of the unskilled, the spontaneity of the American workers in creating the SIT-DOWN, the surge which changed the industrial face of America—these transformed John L. Lewis into the labor leader who lashed out at labor's foes.

The higher placed the foe, the more daring was he in reducing him to size. Thus, when President Roosevelt in 1936 came out with his complacent "a plague on both your houses" against the steel industry and the union struggling for recognition, Lewis thundered back:

"It ill behooves one who has supped at labor's table and who has been sheltered in labor's house to curse with equal fervor and fine impartiality both labor and its adversaries when they become locked in deadly embrace."

His struggles with other labor leaders were as well-pointed as those with Presidents and industrial barons. He was alone in the actions undertaken against the Taft-Hartley Act.

"This mighty house of eight million workers in the AFL, led and flanked and having their thinking done by intellectually fat and stately asses . . .

"On this particular issue, I don't think the federation has a head. I think its neck has just grown up and haired over."

While addressing a rally of Ford workers in 1951, Lewis pinpointed the narrow vision of UAW President Walter Reuther:

"I was opposing Communism before Walter Reuther ever read Karl Marx's 'Das Kapital' and failed to understand it."

Unfortunately, John L. Lewis's own social vision was as narrow as that of Walter Reuther. The militancy and daring nature, which faced unflinchingly the full power of capitalists, government, and a hostile press when it came to the economic demands of labor, folded into the stupidities of his Republicanism.

The failure to recognize the class divisions in society, except for union aims, was the limitation John L. Lewis could not transcend. The 1960s will witness the creation of other leaders who can meet the challenge of our times as he met the challenge of the 1930s.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

**Stagnation of U.S. Economy**

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**Strike-Breaking and Globe-Trotting**

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## Miners' Unemployment Puts the Spotlight on Human Distress

Morgantown, W. Va.—No people like to have their problems paraded around for others to "gape at." Last year our coal communities became the focus of a good bit of attention.

For many months, even years, miners have been forced to hang up their caps and lights in the lamp house. Jobs were running out,

### Issues Unresolved

## Steel Contract Is Signed;—What Next?

The steel strike is over, but the most important point in the negotiations—the matters of working conditions—is unresolved.

While banner headlines in newspapers throughout the country announced the settlement of the steel strike between the steel union and industry negotiators, the steelworkers in the plants were announcing the issues that they were concerned with and were not settled.

\* \* \*

At Great Lakes Steel in Ecorse, Michigan, largest steel producer in the Detroit area, over 100 local grievances were reported remaining to be negotiated, including the rehiring of three union officials the company had discharged.

The three officials were fired because they insisted on being present at a meeting in the mill that management had called to talk to the men, while management demanded they should not be present. Management called this misconduct and fired the three officials.

Meanwhile, at McLouth Steel Corp. in Detroit, Adolph Schwartz, president of the steel local union, voiced the sentiment of the men when he said, "We still have serious local problems of safety and working conditions to resolve."

"It doesn't mean much to the workers to go back with a pay raise one day, and be carried out dead the next."

The central point during the strike had been management's demand for control over the men. The demand for a written clause in the contract was dropped by the industry, but the rank and file do not feel that they have won. That is why, Schwartz, when pressed by reporters as to a possibility that the men might strike over this issue, said that there was "a very definite possibility."

LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 8 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVE. (Cor. Washington Blvd.) ROOM 207

being gobbled up by monstrous machines.

### "DISTRESS AREA"

1957, '58, '59 and after a while, when enough caps hang silently and enough lights go out, when life has gone on with silent dignity for many months, the checks run out. Then the silent suffering "breaks through"—a thousand whispers become a voice, a thousand stooped shoulders, a thousand anxious eyes are finally seen on the busy street corner of our prosperous times.

Then the public spotlight is focused. We were analyzed and labeled "Distress Area," 15% unemployment, "Pocket of labor surplus." For us it was not a "pocket," but the only world we know.

### PROGRESS?

It is hard to say how much of the "adjustment" and "leveling off" is behind us. One thing is certain, the news angle has played itself out. And we are wondering if others are aware of a cloud of unsolved puzzlement which lingers after the storm:

Why must "progress" and "change" bring with it such upheaval, such competition between men and machine, and take with it such a dear toll in human suffering?

## Workers View Automation

(Continued from Page 1)

Workers practically touching each other are arc welding on both sides of it. The frame is bedded down beneath them and they have some twelve seconds to finish the job. A warning buzzer sounds letting you know that is all the time you have. The frame then leaps out of its bed above your head and beds itself a few feet beyond you.

"At the same time the next frame is bedding in the place of the one you have just worked on. The company is speeding it up to seven seconds. Everytime they try it something dangerous happens. The frame leaps out with such force that one time some unwelded pieces flew out and struck a worker on the side of his head. They had to take twelve stitches to close the wound. Every one said he was fortunate that the thing hit him lightly.

"The company said that if a worker is not through when the buzzer sounds, to get out of the way. But as soon as a worker lets a piece by the foreman comes running saying do not let another one come down unwelded. They have an emergency button to stop the line if a worker sees a danger. When someone uses this it is like shifting a car in reverse when it's traveling at a high rate of speed. Some of the frames stop, some go backward and some continue forward. Then there is a bang and a crash as if two freight cars have met head on. The superintendent comes running and wants to know who stopped it. He is not interested in what is happening to the workers. It is production that counts.

"Some may want to know what is the union doing about it? A dozen or more workers had gotten hurt before this worker got seriously hurt. The day after he got hurt all the local officers were in the plant talking to the company and looking over the jobs. The line was running at a rate of twelve seconds that day. The next day it was set at seven seconds again and some crossbars flew out of the frame narrowly missing several workers' heads. They want to blame it on the men that put the stock in the job. The men said that they do not have the time to examine it and see how well it is secured in the frame. They are not going to stand there and get killed."

Joe concluded by saying that if this type of Automation is progress—machines that put millions out of work and destroy those that remain—that is the kind of progress he's against and anyone else would be if they had to be a slave to a machine.

Ike and Khrushchev plus all the leaders, especially Reuther, can yell all they want to about peace and freedom for the working people. Every one of us in that plant worries all the time we are away from there with the dread of returning. We know we are forced to go back to fight the company, the union bosses and to go back in dread of that Automation machine.

# Chrysler Demands Man-Killing Speedup on New Automated Line

DETROIT—The welding machine I work on breaks down 4 or 5 times a day. When that happens we got a man to do manual welding. The people that make that machine say that it can't do more than a job every 12 seconds. That isn't good enough for Chrysler they want a job every 9 seconds. Every 63 seconds that's 7 jobs, 420 jobs an hour. They want the man on the fixture job to speed up 8/10 seconds. I can't see how you can divide a man up in seconds.

They speeded up another line so fast it was throwing stock off the line. They couldn't even hang any more stock onto it.

### MORE & MORE PRODUCTION

In another section of the plant where they build stationary fixtures—they put the stock on the line and it runs up to another line, that's where an electric eye comes in, when the stock crosses the eye another piece of stock jumps up to the line. When you pull that piece of stock off the line another jumps right in its place.

The company still says they're not getting produc-

tion. Well they're not. Something is always breaking down.. The guys on one line haven't put in 40 hours since we've been called back.

### THE MOON HAS NOTHING ON DETROIT AUTO SHOPS

The loading machine is automatic too, but they have never been able to set it up all the way. A man has to punch the buttons, but that loading machine is not sup-

posed to have a man do that either. The engineer said in 8 months time they'll have it so it will work completely by itself.

That machine takes the job and goes by the line and the line hooks the frame and no one is needed whatsoever.

They have two stackers, the first takes a job and skips one and then it goes to the next and it fills in. All the guys have to put in is the spacer. That's the only thing the machines haven't done yet. They need those men to space the jobs.

Now everything is strictly Automation. It's amazing. A person never in a shop before would think they're visiting the moon.

## Bulletin!

DETROIT—On Wednesday, Dec. 30, there was a combined wildcat and lock-out in one of Chrysler's assembly departments. It resulted from a worker being seriously injured on the frame job.

Chrysler's mad rush for production and more production, with workers bound to the inhuman pace of Automation, is very dangerous to the lives of the men on the frame job. Workers have been severely injured by the cross bar flying out from the frame before it can be welded. Minor injuries are a daily occurrence.

On this last Wednesday in 1959, a bar flew out and struck a worker across his back and head knocking him unconscious.

After the unconscious man was rushed to the hospital on a stretcher, the foreman yelled for another worker to come and work the same job. The worker refused, saying, "You're crazy as hell! I wouldn't work there for double the pay I get. This never happens when the machine is running at a normal pace."

Several other workers refused to work the job saying, "I know according to the contract we are not supposed to refuse a job. But when it endangers my life, to hell with the contract."

After half an hour of discussion the company got angry and ordered the department home. Then they yelled that they had just received word from the hospital that the wounded worker would recover.

Nevertheless, the workers walked away, punched their time cards and went home.

—Assembly Worker Chrysler-Mack

They say Christopher Columbus discovered that the world was round, but with the graft, fixes, and payola, it still looks crooked to me.

Auto Worker Detroit

## Coal and Its People

When a miner loses his job, sometimes the only job he's ever known, it is not a recession, nor a business cycle, nor a depression—it's an earthquake!

Reader West Virginia

\* \* \*

When summer came, garden plots began to yield, and noticeable relief came through "outdoor" work. More and more miners' wives have found day work around the dormitories and cafeterias of the University. But some families continue to move out and take their place fearfully as marginal workers in the cities.

Reader West Virginia

\* \* \*

Miners' children returned to school with laughing faces and smiles somewhat freed from burdens and cares which at best were never meant for children's shoulders and which should not rightfully ever be placed upon an adult. And other children come to school . . . trying to forget their home world "of make-shift meals, make-shift clothes and make-shift hopes and dreams."

Reader West Virginia

### DETROIT NEWS & LETTERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES

## The World We Live In

TIME: SUNDAY EVENINGS 7 TO 9 P.M.  
PLACE: 8751 GRAND RIVER

January 17: Importance of the new "British Labor News"  
January 24: Steel Contract and the American Economy  
January 31: Report on Europe  
February 7: Negro History Week

BE SURE TO ATTEND — BRING YOUR FRIENDS

# BRITISH LABOUR NEWS

## Long Hours and Low Pay Condemn Workers to 'Hard Labour for Life'

LONDON—We are constantly being told by Macmillan that we have never had it so good. We are told by the Labour Party's smooth boys that the workers don't want Socialism any more now that they have TV, cars and high wages.

Just who do these fools think they are kidding? A worker's life today is worse than ever before. His few luxuries do not compensate him for his frustrating existence nor do they change by one iota the real nature of his existence.

You get up at around 6 a.m., spend from 2 to 3 hours a day getting to and from work, sometimes waiting three-quarters of an hour for a bus, and this in central London. You slog along hard all day to make your little bit of bonus and get home around 7 p.m. or later still if you're lucky enough (?) to get any overtime. The wife has to work full-time, so at 7 p.m. you have to start helping with the evening meal and the washing up. By 8:30, if you are lucky, you can both sit down and watch TV for an hour before going to bed.

### Too Tired to Do Anything

At weekends you both have all the odd jobs to do that should have been done during the week. (Some chaps that I know actually admit that they have to do the family washing while their wives do the housework and the shopping; and this shopping has to be done for the whole week as the wife cannot get to the shops during the week.) On Sunday you can rest, but to tell the truth you are just too tired to do anything else but rest. Then it's Monday and the roundabout starts again.

When we take strike action we are called wildcaters by all the daily papers, and our union leaders call us disrupters, splitters, and trouble makers. If by any chance we do win a wage increase the boss steps up productivity so that we work harder than ever before.

### WIFE HAS TO WORK

A chap at work I know told me the other day that his basic wage was only 15/

### THEY'VE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD —

At the beginning of December, the Central Statistical Office announced that October's industrial production was 9 per cent up on a year ago.

On the same day, the Ministry of Labour showed that with unemployment at 431,000 on November 16th, a further 12,000 families began to live on the dole. (Unemployment Compensation.)

—(approx. \$2.10) more a week than he would get on National Assistance and when you realize that N.A. is based on the minimum amount necessary to keep the worker and his family alive, you will see just how little his basic wages are worth. To provide his family with a few of the little luxuries that make life bearable he relies upon overtime, bonus, and the fact that his wife has a full-time job.

As one of the lads said to me the other day, "This ain't living. It's just hard labour for life."

Engineering Worker  
London

## Railwaymen Ask Feb. Strike If BTC Denies Wage Increase

(This article is written by a railway porter. He is a member of the Shop Stewards Committee in High Street Goods Depot, Glasgow)

GLASGOW—The Manchester District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen demands a "National Strike" early in 1960. At a meeting representing 21,000 railwaymen organized in 41 Trade Union Branches, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That this Council having considered correspondence regarding application for a wage increase instructs our Resident General Secretary, and the National Executive Council to pursue a more militant and vigorous policy, and to give notice to the British Transport Commission that we shall withdraw our labour unless a

substantial increase is received within a month from January 4, 1960."

This is as it should be. British Railwaymen tolerate the lowest wages of all British industries. They are downtrodden, poverty stricken, and a wagon's length richer than "Old Age Pensioners."

In the Goods Depot where I work, porters take home,

on pay day, £6 10s. 7d. (about \$17.85) after tax and health insurance deductions. A loader walks away from the pay grille with £6 16s. 3d. after deductions. Those married are more generously treated: porters' wages are £7 5s; loaders, £7 8s.

A checker holds a responsible post. He may check, and be responsible for, loads valued at £1,000. Sometimes, as when the load is expensive carpets, the value is far higher. If a mistake is made the police pounce on the checker. He may "carry the can" for a theft he did not commit. His basic pay is £8 9s. If single, he receives £7 4s. 4d; if married, £7 18s.

It is ironic that those who do the least work, the non-producers, receive more wages and enjoy better conditions.

Railway clerks start at £8 per week, rising to £11 after 5 years. They can stay home two Saturdays in the month. Foremen and supervisors are privileged. They stay home every third Saturday, and every third working week they work a 7-hour day. For them, sickness brings no fears of insecurity. For at least one year they are on full pay.

### OVERTIME & LAYOFF

Because of miserable wages, Railwaymen make themselves more miserable by working longer hours and on rest days. Overtime is

(Continued on Page 7)

## EDITORIAL

### "... a New World being born"

This, the new British Page of NEWS AND LETTERS is the forerunner of a new type of British paper, one which is written and edited by workers, their wives, and the youth, themselves. It marks a complete break. Not only with the "millionaire" press in which no worker's voice is tolerated, but also with the many political 'Left'-overs of a bygone era which insist on teaching the workers "politics."

Of course, the workers by hand and brain are not "taught" politics; they learn, from their daily lives. The voice of the worker struggling for freedom against those who would lead him (this way and that) is as accurate a compass for our age as it is universal. If we listen we can hear the sounds of a New World being born. It will not be confined by any party lines or censorship. Neither will this page. It is yours. There are no snags.

On behalf of ourselves and our sympathisers we should like to express publicly our profound thanks to the American News and Letters Committees for unreservedly placing this page at the disposal of the British working-class movement.

We are confident that the workers who will read this in Fords, Briggs Motor Bodies, Plesseys, Stratford Rails, the London docks, London Transport, Industrial Chemicals, East London's power station and in many smaller workplaces and offices as well as those in the many branches of the AEU, ETU, ASW, AUBTW, NSP, AESD, plus the stalwarts in other varied organizations of the common people, will not only support the paper with donations, group subscriptions and distribution, but will USE IT by writing in to make known matters of interest to all.

Please remember too that while thousands of miles separate us from our white and Negro brothers in America, the world has so shrunk that a 6d. airletter reaches them in three days. The world-circling urge for a New Society, in which all to a man decide their own destinies, is the hallmark of our age; not the sputnik. This Page, this paper, in reflecting this urge to freedom continues the development that began with the Humanism of Marx and which will end only when the common peoples of the whole world freely stand in terms of equality with each other.

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or 9d. per copy

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"MARXISM AND FREEDOM" (see advertisement on other page) can be obtained, price 32s., postfree from either of the British Editorial Committees.

## Readers' Views

If, like me, you were a decorator, who is very proud of his craft and still studying it, you would feel continual frustration every minute of your working day that sometimes leaves you in despair. We haven't automation in the strict sense of the word but I know what it is to feel wasted . . . Robert Tressall ("Ragged Trousered Philanthropists") also knew it. I have discussed it for years. Raya Dunayevskaya is to be thanked for putting it in print in her book in the manner she has. Keep punching!

Union militant  
S. London

\* \* \*

It was good of you to include my remarks in NEWS AND LETTERS. I am glad there is such a journal. It makes a welcome change from the many "Unite and Fight" rags; the advocates of such twaddle have, in many cases, left 'the fight for socialism' and joined Mosely to get "Something Now." Enclosed is 2/6d to help the paper. Good luck to your efforts.

Old Hand  
Walthamstow

\* \* \*

By the time you get this I may well be in prison. I am now on the list of volunteers to go to Harrington—and we are expecting to be picked up in advance. See you, if I am lucky, about Easter—my best wishes all round.

"Once more into the Breach"

Editor's Note: On December 15, 6 of the 7 members of the "Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War" were imprisoned. Within half an hour a shadow committee was set up to continue the planned demonstration.

(More Views on Page 5)

## 500 Clydeside Workers Strike to Reinstate Sacked Shop Steward

CLYDESIDE—About 500 workers employed by John Brown Land Boilers are on strike in support of a demand that their shop steward, who was dismissed because he was caught drinking tea, be reinstated. The tea break is not officially recognized but it was well known the workers did stop for tea and the eyes of the management were usually closed to the practice.

The sacking of shop stewards has become common on Clydeside in recent months. On this occasion the employers seized upon a well-known militant worker. He is Ian Clark. He is Chairman of the District Committee of the Plumbers' Trade Union.

All the workers, regardless of their crafts, employed by the establishment are on strike. The Clydeside shop stewards have met and have declared their readiness to extend the strike if Ian Clark is not reinstated. At time of writing the strike has lasted for three weeks.

# EDITORIALS

## We Welcome the British Labor Page

On page 3 our readers will see a new page called "British Labor News" which is written and edited by two new Editing Committees in London, England, and Glasgow, Scotland.

NEWS AND LETTERS has always carried British as well as international labor news. The American working class is deeply concerned with conditions of labor, struggles for freedom throughout the world. But heretofore, these were individual reports. Now, for the first time, British workers and intellectuals, who aim to have a workers' paper such as ours, are themselves writing and editing news from Britain.

We more than welcome this; we take this as a manifestation of the high stage of the class struggle in Great Britain, not only for different conditions of labor, but in the search for a totally new way of life.

No small part in this development has been the African Revolution. One has to be in Great Britain to feel the impact of this march to freedom upon the British working class and youth.

For example, the Africans in Great Britain were very positive in their attitude that the British Labor Party was not fundamentally different from the Conservatives with regard to the African march toward independence. The same view of no fundamental difference between the two major parties was held by the youth. A substantial part of the working class, as well, was looking for a more total answer to the world crisis heading towards war than that contained in a "vote."

As can be seen from the development of Marxist Humanist groups in Great Britain, far from an existing apathy, which was the analysis made by many old radicals in explanation of the elections, there is a resurgence both of wildcats, which are as numerous in Great Britain as in America, and of the search for a total philosophy, that is, perspectives of a new society.

The appearance of the "British Labor News" in our paper is unmistakable evidence of these deep probings. We welcome it and hold with the British that this is but the first step, a very important first step, towards a paper of their own.

\* \* \*

## Strike-Breaking and Globe-Trotting

On the heels of invoking the Taft-Hartley Act to compel both the dockworkers and steelworkers back to work, President Eisenhower took off on a globetrotting tour. With a wave of the hand and a broad grin he is supposed to have achieved nothing short of world peace.

But the truth is that just as he returned home to find his Big Business friends dictating the hard line against labor to him, so his smiling triumphal tour was stopped cold when he reached Paris. It was not his "soft" line that carried the day there, but the Adenauer-DeGaulle "hard" line. The Big Four will thus meet Khrushchev next spring exactly at the spot over which it all broke up—Berlin.

The one independent venture that Eisenhower accomplished in his own name—he could not even get Macmillan to favor that one—was the stopover in Spain for a visit with Dictator Franco who had put down bloodily the Spanish Civil War of 1937 and kept his fascist rule ever since.

THIS VISIT WAS TIMED when Franco is so universally despised in Spain, particularly by the workers and students, and the revolutionary underground is so active throughout Spain, that Franco dare not test his strength by bloody mass suppression.

It was this mass murderer's hand that Eisenhower's visit strengthened. Two days after Eisenhower's visit, an emboldened military tribunal in Madrid reviewed and doubled the sentence of a group of recently-tried anti-Franco demonstrators.

NOW THAT HIS TERM is running out and he wants to hand the next presidential election, if he can, over to his heir apparent, Richard Nixon, Eisenhower is trying to revive the "man of peace" myth which won him the election in 1952.

Whomever the masquerade may fool, it's not going to fool the American workers, particularly the dock and steelworkers, who know Eisenhower for what he is, and who know that Nixon is a younger and more viciously anti-labor successor to "the chief."

### News & Letters

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Charles Denby ..... Editor  
I. Rogers ..... Managing Editor

Second class mail privileges authorized at Detroit, Michigan.

# Readers'

### THE WORKING DAY ... IN AUTO

The old worker who took the floor for a few minutes after 3 hours of speeches by the big leaders who were giving us the UAW convention report was the high-point of the whole meeting. He talked about the dues increase that has made all the workers in the shop so mad.

He said, "When we started out and were paying \$1 union dues, we had good conditions in the shop and worked one machine. Later on they raised the dues to \$2 and we had to work 2 machines. Then they raised it to \$3 and then to \$4, and we were working 3 and 4 machines. Now, they've raised it to \$5 and I know what's coming. But I'm through. I just can't work 5 machines!"

Auto Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

Where I work, I would rather take home less and work under more human conditions. Reuther made a big speech in Germany, all about peace. It burned me up to hear him talking about democracy over there when we have slave rights right here.

When I work we work 8 hours. Some years ago you could get to work 5 minutes before the bell and have plenty of time but now you have to get there half an hour early because you have to change clothes before you start working.

They've cut our relief time on the job, too and the men figure that the union is ready to give away the few minutes relief we still have. Some don't call this speed-up, but it is.

They've already speeded up our machine so it puts out a job every 12 seconds, and now they want to put one out every 9 seconds. The machine started to mess up, so they called the man who made it. He told them the machine wasn't built to go so fast. That's all they really worry about — the machine and how fast it will go. They don't worry about us.

Welder  
Detroit

\* \* \*

This paper is the only one I've seen that is concerned with the working people. All the big daily papers are concerned about the big shots.

They claim that by 1975 there will be 3 million more jobs than there are today. That may be, but I've been working in the plant for 15 years, and each year I see more men in the streets, and the

ones who are left wondering how much longer they'll stay. The newspapers said that Automation will create more jobs. They didn't say how long you'd have to go back to school to get one of those new kind of jobs.

We're going backwards everyday. Our conditions get worse and worse. The way I see it, we've got to get organized and News & Letters is a very good way to get to the working people.

Auto Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

### ... AND IN STEEL

The steel workers have a lot of the same problems the auto workers have, as far as working conditions and speed up. They have time study men in the cranes watching every thing that goes on. We've had them around for 3 years now. The union can't say a thing about it. Now they want to give full authority to the foreman to fire you at his will. That's the contract they want us to sign.

Steelworker  
River Rouge, Mich.

\* \* \*

The steel workers seem to have a situation so close to the auto workers that it's hard to see any real difference. I feel that I know what they go through even though I'm an auto worker and not a steel worker. I was reading about the continuous miner they have in the coal mines, too, and I felt that it was all the same—the union set-up and speed-up conditions the auto workers and the steel workers and the coal miners face—it's the same situation all around.

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

### NEGRO STRUGGLE

Whenever Negroes try to do something independently to win some measure of equality, all the labor leaders try to avoid answering their points by telling them that they're disrupting the unity of the labor movement. They will probably say that about A. Philip Randolph's new committee that met in Cleveland recently to fight discrimination and segregation inside the unions.

I'm a little suspicious about some of the things that I've heard so far, such as that they only wanted hand-picked Negro labor leaders to attend that meeting. But I'm sure that every Negro in our shop would want to get into it and make it a fighting organization, if they could. In our department we have 300 men, and about 90% are Negro, and they've been talking

for a month about organizing something to break the stranglehold of the Union on them.

Negro Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

The way it looks to me, the leaders in Africa aren't doing what the African people want to do. But if everybody is for the same thing, they can do whatever they want to do. Everybody in Montgomery — everybody — was for the bus boycott. They stuck to it and got what they wanted.

If the whole of Alabama had done the same thing that the people in Montgomery did, we'd all have a better life.

Birmingham and Mobile are much bigger than Montgomery. If they had started the boycott the same time as Montgomery, nothing could have stopped them. Everything would have shut down.

Ethel Dunbar  
Detroit

\* \* \*

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

All the reports say that this year's Christmas shopping surpassed last year's. What they don't report is that most of it was bought on charge accounts. That means we'll be paying all of 1960 for what we bought for Christmas 1959.

A.T.  
Detroit

\* \* \*

### LEADERS AND RANKS

When most organizations start out, they have good intentions. When Reuther was coming up, he had a lot of good intentions, too. But now he's got fat, and wants to be top hog. He used to have stewards who had responsibility in the plants, but now he wants less competition and is getting rid of as many as he can. Some of the Chrysler plants don't even have chief stewards. They have a committee, and if you have a grievance you write it up and drop it in the box. It may not come up for 3 months, and by that time you've already lost. Before long, Reuther won't even allow us to have a shop committee.

Auto Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

As far as I am concerned we put those big guys like Diggs and Reuther where they are. They're human, they're weak. We should just let them know how we want things done and if they don't like it out they go.

Negro Woman Worker  
Detroit

\* \* \*

I asked one of the guys at work who the green slaters were I had seen wearing their jackets

# Views

around the shop, and he said, "Oh, they're Reuther's boys." Then I asked him who the blue-slaters were whose leaflets I saw on the bulletin board, and he said, "They're Reuther's other boys." I got the point.

New Worker  
Detroit

How should a labor leader act? Walter Reuther might do well to study the advice of retiring John L. Lewis who said, "Not in the quavering tones of a feeble mendicant asking for alms, but in the thundering voice of a mighty host demanding the rights to which free men are entitled."

Ex-Pittsburgher  
Detroit

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

I also sympathize completely with your indignation over the official attitude towards and treatment of juvenile delinquents. These children have had excellent masters in criminality, many of them among those very enforcers of the (often basically unjust) laws. They are told not to rob, but they see the workers being legally robbed by their bosses every day, they see little business men terrorized by racketeers who have bought the indifference of the police force. They are told not to be brutal, but they encounter brutality in the police who arrest them for it. Whether through sadism, apathy, weakness or stupidity, their elders pay no attention to the obvious fact that children learn not by precept but by example. And, aside from the specific brutality and corruption of the police, is not our whole acquisitive system an admirable example of brutality and corruption?

Graduate Student  
Massachusetts

I have a word of free advice for Nixon who's so sure of the Republican nomination now that Rockefeller has dropped out. If he wants to be sure to lose this election all he has to do is repeat his '58 line that "we are in a booming recovery." That'd do it!

Old Reader  
New York

I wonder if Ike would consider making one of his tours a trip to an unemployment office right here? He could compare how many Americans would cheer him with how many millions cheered him in Europe—lined up for him by fascists like Franco.

Disgusted  
Detroit

## MARXIST HUMANISM

Our aim is to get workers' ideas to the people of the United States. To me when a steelworker wants a better life, whether he ever heard of Marx or not, his story is Marxist Humanism.

When I go to the campus to sell our pamphlets, my object isn't just to sell. My object is to have the students stop and talk and to get them to meetings. I ask them what they're studying, because no matter what it is—philosophy, sociology, economics, history, anything—I can assure them that they'll understand it better after they've read our pamphlet.

If they insist that they are not taking any class that's related to Marxist Humanism, I simply say, "But you're human, no?"

Committee Member  
Los Angeles

The kind of reception the paper gets "floors" you sometimes. Once or twice we've gotten the question about "what's the purpose," but so seldom that I'm sure that's not an important problem anymore. The paper is so readily accepted, when we get it to new readers, that I think I've never been so impressed with what activity means as during this period when we've all been concentrating on it and seeing the results.

Committee Member  
Detroit

## IEWS FROM BRITAIN

Peter Mallory (Our Life and Times, Nov., 1959) refers to Mikardo and Foot, two Lefts in the Labour Party, as pro-Stalinists—this is nonsense; reformists they obviously are, Stalinists no, and if this label is chucked at them it's the beginnings of the return of the time—not so long ago—when anyone to the Left of Bevan was called pro-Communist, whatever their position in fact was.

Also of course if you put the 'smear' on them you put it on the C.N.D.

Foot in fact is one of the C.P.'s betes noir. He attacked their French line (at the time of De Gaulle's rise); their line on the Bomb accusing them of being responsible for Gaitskell's majority on the question in the Labour Party, and saying that all British Bombs should be engraved 'By courtesy of the British Communist Party.'

I am not in any way carrying a brief for two glorious political careerists (though I think Foot has a spark of honesty).

Mikardo was responsible for the putsch when the group of seven M.Ps

took over Victory For Socialism—on condition that "TRIBUNE" no longer print letters from Trotskyists. This caused "TRIBUNE" to purge its sellers, since the 'Friends of "TRIBUNE"' were all Trots—now all "NEW LEFT REVIEW"ists (then it was "ULR"). Anything that has the faintest tinge of Stalinism or Trotskyism would make Mik run a mile.

The term pro-Communist should ONLY be used of those who ARE.

East London friend

## African Appeal

Your office is the only medium for presenting our views to the world; and I must thank you for your fine efforts.

I wish to appeal to any Negro organization in your town, or any sympathetic organization for that matter, to send our organization, in care of me, "the Secretary," any sum they can afford to help us function. The full name is Ga-Adanne Social and Cultural Association, it is known in short as G.A.S.C.A. It is a branch of the Ghana Cultural Society, but autonomous.

Please do your best to publicize us and thereby help us maintain our cultural functions.

General Secretary  
G.A.S.C.A.,

30 Southbrook St.,  
London W. 12, England

Editor's Note: G.A.S.C.A. is an organization of Africans in London whose purpose as their publication, "The African Outlook," states, "is to unite Africans . . . and serve as a forum for Africans and sympathizers, and to work for progress and prosperity in Africa."

It seems that changes are about to take place in the British Labour movement. To those of us who want working class control of the means of production, the debate in the Labour Party on nationalization is not the most important matter in the political world. To many Labour Party members, however, nationalization is Socialism. When it is dropped at the next Labour Party Conference, as it will be, these members will lose their enthusiasm. They will not work for the return of a Labour Government. Nothing the C.P. or the Trotskyists will do can secure the return of a Labour Government in these circumstances. The perspective will be completely changed.

Scotland

# TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya, Author  
of Marxism and Freedom

## STAGNATION OF U. S. ECONOMY

"They willed it so" sounds like a subjective analysis of the capitalists (in and out of Government), and unemployment. The point can be easily proven, but for the moment we will leave it aside and turn to the supposedly objective analyses of the economy which speak of "the soaring '60's." The one fact that even these analysts must admit is that this "continuing boom" has been interrupted by the recessions in 1949-50, and again 1953-54, and yet again in 1957-58.

These periodic recessions that come every 3 years do not measure up to the Big Depression, but are they really only "correctional" to an ever-expanding economy?

Were we as inhuman on the question of unemployment as Eisenhower, and the Big Business men who set his line for him, we would have to be blind as well not to see that, like the Nazi generals who won the battles but lost the war, Big Business is running the American economy into the ground. Just take one look at the "United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics for April 1959" and you will see that U. S. ranks 33rd in percentage growth of industrial output for the period of 1953-58 and is probably the only nation in the world which has made no gain in industrial output during this period.

## THE 3 POSTWAR RECESSIONS

There is nothing accidental about the 1958 recession. It is the third in a series of post-war recessions, each more ominous than the last.

Take the period from the recession in 1953 to the one in 1958 and you will see that, while the value of goods and services rose from \$408.8 billion to \$441.7 billion, population during this period increased 9% as against the rise in production and services of 8%, and thus on a per capita basis, the Gross National Product was 1% below the level it was in 1953. If this "pace of progress" isn't stagnation, then consider the empty stomachs of the 4 million unemployed who, with their families, add up to 10 million.

The same period, in terms of rate of growth, witnessed a fall from the increase of 4.6% during 1947-53 to only 1.5% in 1953-58. Thus, on a per capita annual rate of growth what was a growth of 2.7% in '47-53 became a minus, 2% in 1953-58. All this, you must not forget, occurred during a period of Automation and a fabulous rise in labor productivity. Since 1945, for example, the industrial labor force has gone up only 8%, but it produces 40% more per man hour.

## ECONOMICS OF WORLD TENSIONS

According to Alan Dulles, who isn't likely to exaggerate Russian success nor to underplay our own, the gross national product in Russia has increased at the rate of 9% annually as compared to the American rate of annual growth of less than 3%.

The standard consolation prize under such telling circumstances used to be to point to American accumulated wealth and advanced techniques as against the backwardness of Russia. There is no doubt that Russia still is backward or, more precisely put, it is the only one of the advanced industrial countries that still has more than 50% of its population in agriculture. Nevertheless, this argument is as phony as the one that all would be well in America "if only" we used our advanced technology in full. The actual, not the potential, utilization is what counts in growth or lack of growth. We are not dealing, moreover, with a Russia that began its serious industrialization in 1928, but with a Russia that has already achieved a sufficiently advanced technological base to have entered the nuclear age with a forward sprint in missiles.

Finally, it is not only in relationship to Russia, that our rate of growth measures up to a standstill. It is true in relationship to Europe as a whole. No matter how high the accumulated wealth and advanced the techniques, if, for growth, we substitute mere conservation, it spells ruin. It is this exactly which is felt the world over, and nowhere as much as in the underdeveloped countries that look for aid in industrialization from the advanced countries.

The United Nations "World Economic Survey for 1958" shows that the poor primary producing areas have lost more as a result of the deterioration of their terms of trade than the whole of their foreign aid. Despite the aid, alleged and real, that the advanced countries are giving the underdeveloped areas, the truth is the inequality between rich and poor countries is actually increasing. At the same time the industrial proletariat of the advanced countries has not much to show in gains. It is here, in the relationship of labor to capital that we have to look for the causes of the world crisis.

Some serious bourgeois economists (See Thomas Balogh in New Statesmen, Dec. 12, 1959) see the American recession growing into an international depression, and argue that "if we are to survive" we better take a second look at the economics of world tension.

There is no escape, however, "East" or "West" from

(Continued on Page 6)

# YOUTH

## Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

NOTE: The following guest column on how youth look at their lives and the world around them was specially written for this issue by a Detroit high school student.—R.A.

### "... Without Adult Domination"

Why do youth join gangs and become beatniks? Why do they give their parents, the police and their school teachers such hard times? Most of all, why do youth rebel against society in general? These are the questions that the adult world is trying to answer, but without much success.

To the youth though, these questions, and their answers, aren't so all-fired mysterious. The answers can be gotten simply by looking at the way the adult acts toward the youth.

### THREAT OF EXPULSION

In school we don't have to punch a clock, but we do have to carry school identification cards. These ID cards supposedly give students more access to school activities, but they are being used mostly for disciplinary measures. If a teacher takes an ID card, it can be very hard to get back. Also it makes the student liable to suspension or expulsion from school.

Not long ago at my school, some counselors and a few teachers went around to the three hang-outs around the school, and collected between 70 and 80 ID cards from students skipping classes.

When 70 or 80 kids can get picked up in 45 minutes there has got to be something wrong with the school system. If classes held more interest for youth, there would be a sharp decrease in truancy.

The new clothing styles seem to be clashing with the Board of Education's idea of how youth should dress for school. A girl I know was called down to the main office recently for wearing a short skirt. (It covered her knees.) She was met there by about 30 other girls who were all sent down for the same reason. They were threatened with suspension or expulsion from school if they wore such skirts again.

In order to stay in school, we have to have two wardrobes: one for school, and one to keep up with the styles—and not many people can afford that.

### ARROGANT TEACHERS

Many of us who work after school have to put up with teachers like the one I have for math.

Because a guy was chewing gum, the teacher told him to make up an hour after school. He protested, saying he had a job and couldn't stay. The teacher told him that math class was more important than his job.

Nobody is going to tell me that a math course is going to butter my bread for me.

### DOUBTING PARENTS

Our parents, the ones who should be the closest to us, seem to be the farthest away from us. Instead of listening to our side of the story, they, for the most part, put more faith into the other guy's story. They read the stuff that goes into the daily press about the crimes that youth commit and, for the most part, overlook the good things that youth do.

I'm not blaming parents for all the foul treatment of their kids, because they get pretty much the same treatment from their bosses at work. But why can't parents realize that we are not the cause of this society's condition? We are suffering from it more than they are because we are the ones who are rebelling against it, and we are blamed for it because of our rebellion.

Last April's Youth March on Washington for the integration of schools down South, where 35,000 youth from all over the country turned out proves that today's youth aren't just interested in rock 'n' roll or having a good time.

### POLICE BRUTALITY

Nevertheless, cops go out of their way to ticket students on their way home from school for hitch-hiking or J-walking. They stop us for the slightest thing and search us or beat us up.

Just recently, a local Detroit boy was fatally shot through the chest by a cop for resisting arrest and flashing a table knife. There were two cops, and they didn't have to kill him to disarm him.

After all the complaints of police brutality thrown at the teenagers, it's no wonder youth are skeptical when they say they are here for our protection. I get a funny feeling when I walk down the street, as I wonder if the next cop I see is going to stop me just because I'm young. I imagine a lot of other youth feel the same way.

Because of the regimentation of civilian life, I see more and more kids looking to the army for a way out of it.

After trying to prove to society that we are not "rebels without a cause," but young men and women, we find that the only ones who agree with youth are other youth. This accounts for the gangs and beatniks who look to find a life without adult domination.

## Student Reports Campus Protest Against ROTC

LOS ANGELES — There has been a great deal of discussion about, and protest against, the Reserve Officers Training Corps at U.C.L.A. Government supported schools are required to have an R.O.T.C. program, but it is not required that this training program be compulsory. At U.C.L.A., however, it is a compulsory R.O.T.C. program for freshmen and sophomores. For two years the students are required to attend two class hours and one drill hour a week.

### WASTE OF TIME

Most of the students feel that the program is a waste of time. They know that they are going to be drafted, so why should they be required to have a military program while going to college?

The program is run on a very childish level. A student receives demerits for being absent or tardy to the class sessions. Each student is issued a uniform and shoes. He is responsible for keeping the uniform clean and the shoes polished. He is required to wear the uniform during the drill period. Here again, demerits are issued if the uniform does not meet with the approval of your commanding officer. When I attend the R.O.T.C. class or drill, I think I am attending a grammar school not a college.

### STUDENT PROTESTS

Recently the Regents of the University of California decided to review the university position on compulsory R.O.T.C. However what is believed to have caused this review was a protest from a student. This student, when informed that he could not attend the university unless he took the R.O.T.C. program, staged a hunger strike on the steps of one of the university buildings. He stayed there until his father, an Air Force officer, came from back East to get him. It was only then that the Regents of the university announced that they would review the R.O.T.C. program.

It seems fantastic that a student who is not interested in a military career should have to waste his time taking military courses. A time which he could use for taking courses which he needed.

—College Freshman

## Hits at Apathy In America

I can't understand why you Americans do so little in fighting for nuclear disarmament. Certainly you can't trust Khrushchev or Eisenhower to do it. The latest Oxford March in which 700 participated may not compare with the Alderston March we had before, but at least we keep going all the time.

British Marcher  
London, England

## The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

I would like to turn my column over this issue to a worker who has just hired into a shop here in Detroit—A.T.

### "... TO KILL HIMSELF EVERY DAY"

Budd was hiring I heard so I went down for a job. It was well into the afternoon and the office was filled with guys and more were coming. They hired a few guys and rejected a few. Why they accepted some guys and not others is hard to tell. If they just handed you an application you were past the biggest hurdle. If you got the application you still had to weigh in. Anyone weighing over 150 pounds was out of luck.

A twenty one year old guy I hired in with, worked all last year for 94c an hour cleaning pots in a restaurant. It was the first job he ever had that paid over \$2 an hour. He was born and raised in Detroit and he said, "I never had a job that paid more than a dollar an hour."

### BUDD'S SPEED-UP

From what I have seen and heard Budd has not yet introduced automation into its plant. Each machine has a tag on it telling how many jobs should be produced each hour and each shift. The company isn't getting full production in my department at any rate, and it doesn't look like anyone believes the signs on our machines.

The foreman put me on a machine and he told me that after I got 2000 pieces I could take off. He winked

his eye, the guy on the next machine laughed. Even the speed demons are frustrated because when the men don't break down the machines do.

### NOISE AND NERVES

I've worked in several shops in the last ten years. It's not as though factory noises are new to me. I don't know why the noises at Budd were annoying. The first couple of nights after work I couldn't sleep for hours because of the ringing in my ears. The old timers I spoke to were barely aware that there is any noise at all. By now I've also made the adjustment. But it makes you wonder how much your senses must be deadened when the most nerve shattering banging, clanking, thundering, screeching sounds go on unnoticed.

### WHO GETS KILLED?

My 94c an hour buddy said, when they told him he could make over twice that much, who did he have to kill? He found out. He said he knew there was a catch. He has to kill himself every day. His operation was getting him down and he complained about the boredom. One of the guys eating lunch at our table said, "You're still all right kid, wait'll you start liking the job, like some of these guys. That's when you're finished."

## Stagnation of U. S. Economy

(Continued from Page 5)

the dictum of Marx that "The real barrier of capitalist production is capital itself."

### PROFITS AND THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The steel industry has always been the perfect example of an insatiable appetite for profits as well as an ability to compel the Government to be on its side by sabotaging production, especially in wartime. Though in mass its profits were lush enough, it cried so much about the decline in the rate of profit that it refused to modernize its plants during the Korean war unless it was promised such quick write-offs, tax-wise, as actually to put the cost of modernization back on the people. It won its point and achieved an artificial rise in the rate of profit.

By the first half of 1959 labor productivity had risen so high that with only 1% more industrial workers, it could produce fully 50% as many tons of steel as were turned out, say, in 1947. Nevertheless, when confronted with the fact that Europe had spent \$4.38 billion on steel modernization since 1954, the American steel industry could think only of ways to improve its competitive standing and that is (1) to try to break the union, especially insofar as any say over conditions of labor; (2) to try to keep wages from rising by taking up the Eisenhower refrain of "fighting inflation"; and (3) bring conditions of labor to match the sweatshop conditions of the 1930's and the absolute rule of management. Hence its uncompromising stand in forcing a prolonged steel strike, in winning use of Taft-Hartley Act to compel return to work, and presently to continue its stubborn stand in face of world tensions.

In the decline in the rate of growth, the compulsion to unemployment so that wages and conditions can be worsened, there is all around us growing up an uncomfortable resemblance to the factors that produce the 1929 crash. Indeed, no one even in America is willing to go beyond 1960 for predictions of any continuing "boom." 1961 will see us once again plunged to "ordinary" depression—or to war.

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# Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

## "THIS UNFAIR WORLD"

It's always a struggle to keep the "free world" free. The people in the world have such a grudge against each other making it so hard for the people that try to obey the law and do what they think is right.

These big leaders can twist things so crooked and mislead their following so bad until it looks as if they've gone crazy and don't know what to do about straightening things out for themselves.

That is why the leader can get away with so many crooked ideas like the things Mr. Walter Reuther, Hoffa, and the Administration get away with by fooling the people on what they are going to do for them in this unfair world. They beat them out of all the money they can and help the company to work them to death.

That is just what the leading whites get the leading Negroes to do in this country, to go out and make some kind of crooked deal for the whites to stay in power. Today the leading Negroes are getting to be just as crooked as the white leaders. They have such hateful grudges against each other. They are grafty about taking in all the money that they can. They take it from their brothers and kick them around if they don't do what they say the white man said.

The Moslem religion says a Negro must think of his own people if he means to be a true brother to his own kind and then goes and supports his enemy. That shows that leading educated Negroes can be misled as much as those without education—that is why the Negro problem is hard to solve.

# Railway Strike

(Continued from Page 3)  
paid at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for an ordinary working day; on a Saturday, time-and-three-quarters.

During the summer of 1958 and 1959, the British Transport Commission (B.T.C.) reduced the working staff. While workers were signing on at Labour Exchange, their fellows on the railway worked as many as 60 hours regularly every week. This they were doing in the interests of capitalist economy and efficiency.

## LORDLY BOSSES

Thirteen men govern the British Transport Commission on a full and part time basis. The majority of them hold "Directorships" in 37 British companies. Among the Directors are 4 "Knights," 2 "Lords," a "General," a "Captain" and a "Colonel." One Knight is a former N.U.R. leader.

Sir Brian Robertson, the chairman, receives £8,500 annually. Other full time officials receive £5,000 annually.

The workers carry this burden—and another—the £50 million compensation to the former owners. This must be met before a penny is paid in wages.

Strikes are not popular with the leaders. The last General Strike was in 1926. Since then, "Peace in Industry," and "Never Again!" have been their watchwords. Class conscious workers have dropped out of the struggle disgusted with opportunists and careerists.

While in office an E. C. member receives approximately a daily allowance of £3 6s. They can never earn money like this working in the Railway. Those who have motor cars are given a petrol allowance. At one time the Union advanced loans for house buying. Once in London, those at the top soon forget the sufferings of the men they represent.

With Nationalisation, leaders have become more reactionary. They serve with the employers on "Productivity Councils." They support the "Modernisation Plan" that already has caused hardships and redundancy (unemployment) in Railway workshops. Sidney Greene, the slick cocky General Secretary, has said that he would rather see half the Railwaymen paid off so that the other half can get a better wage.

Still, all is not gloom. Recently, the Dining Car attendants were on unofficial strike. The privately owned Pullman Car Co. decided to extend its service to the detriment of working conditions on the B.T.C. dining cars.

The North Lincolnshire District Council has asked the N.E.C. to declare a 24-hour national stoppage in protest against the wage claim rejection. The London District Council has made the same demand. It may be that Glasgow will also follow Manchester's lead.

organized by and for the human beings who live under it, would not Automation be the blessing that cuts each man's share of uncreative labor to a minimum, thus vastly increasing his leisure time, his opportunity for realizing himself to the fullest as a human being? As I see it, not the evils of Automation, but the evils of a system which turns such a potential blessing into such a curse, should be your target when you attack this problem.

One other thing which worries me: much as I realize your hatred for the warmongers, wherever they may be, I cannot help noticing that your furious irony at Khrushchev's visit comes perilously close to that of those who would rather see the world go up in an atomic holocaust than compromise with what they call Communism. I can understand your irony at Khrushchev's hypocrisy; but on the other hand, since unfortunately at present the workers of the world do not control the world and we are all caught up willy-nilly in the vast machines of political power that do control it, are we not entitled to a sigh of relief when—whatever may be their cynical reasons—the bosses of the world decide to stop threatening the existence of that world, even if only for a little while? Rather than fuming at Khrushchev, oughtn't we spend our energy figuring out how best to use that breather, which, after all, does, indirectly result from the people's clamor for peace?

Graduate Student  
Massachusetts

## DISCUSSION ARTICLE

# Reader Thinks NEWS & LETTERS Errs in Condemning Automation

Editor's Note: For workers' views on Automation see "Worker's Journal," page 1; and "Chrysler Demands Man-Killing Speedup," page 2.

After following your paper for some two years, I continue to feel that I agree with your basic philosophy and aims, and at the same time to be puzzled by certain of the specific positions you consistently take.

There is no question in my mind but what a society which condemns the majority of its people to a life of senseless and empty leisure is a sick one and should be radically re-organized in the interests of, not only that majority, but all the human beings who comprise it. The "privileged" are no less sick than the other members of such a society; the enslavers become mutilated, as human beings, by the mutilation they impose on the enslaved. This is perhaps the deepest meaning of Lincoln's warning that "no nation can endure half slave and half free." And on this point—on the fundamental evil of our society—we are in entire agreement.

But I confess I have always been irritated by what seems to be your stand on Automation. Of course the immediate effect of Automation within our society is an aggravation of the evils inherent in the wage system, bringing out with tragic clarity the fact that, under this system, men are treated exactly like things, to be used and scrapped at the will of the boss. But your constant harping on the workers' hatred of Automation disturbs me; for it seems to me that this hatred, if it is really as widespread as you lead your readers to believe, is dangerously misplaced. The demon is not Automation, but a social system which so grossly misuses it. In a social system

# A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

## THE NEED FOR MORE SELF-AWARENESS

There are moments when I am frustrated by ignorance of the "simplest" workings of the human body. In such periods I have visions of some day looking into a TV screen, seeing the inside of the belly, and being able to pin-point the cause of a pain. Yet there are times when even with the abdomen open and the tissue in my hand, I'm still unable to decide on the nature of the abnormality. In surgery it sometimes seems that the more one sees and the greater the experience, the less certain one may be about a diagnosis. Living tissue has infinite variety.

## ELEMENTS WITHIN US

What continually amazes me is the marvelous complexity and variability of the chemistry, the physiology and the structure of living tissue. The more we search and uncover, the more wonderful we find the elements within us. What is even more striking is the unity, the intimate relationship of the processes within the living body as well as the world outside.

We know now that living and nonliving matter in this universe are not strangers to each other; there is no rigid wall between them. Out of hot saline solutions of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen, protein particles were formed whose giant molecules, virus like, became living matter. For millions of years living creatures, weird in shape and form, larger and smaller than men, roamed the earth. Finally the human form emerged and with it was added a new entity—consciousness—to the four already existing.

The one underlying principle of this universe is growth. This takes place through motion and organization, and is true of living and non living matter. In the inanimate world the fundamental particles, electrons and neutrons, form into atoms, then molecules, and

then into complex crystals and colloids as well as the various elements—from hydrogen with atomic number 1 through uranium with atomic number 92. These are controlled in space by gravitational force, and the spectrum radiations, from X-rays to visual light, through micro, radio, and other waves.

Until the appearance of the human being, organization took place without consciousness. With human consciousness, a new quality entered the movement of the organization of living matter. The result has been the amazing development of human activity in the relatively short period of its existence since man began to mold his environment and himself.

## MIND AND BODY

Man has now become so overwhelmed by the machines he has created that the gift that makes him human—the use of mind and hand in unity—is impossible for the great multitude of people. Man's daily activity, his labor, has therefore become a burden instead of a joy. Human life threatens to become an even more monstrous deformity.

The abnormal system of production we have created separates the activity of a man—his labor—from the living man, and thus makes true human growth impossible. Millions of men today lead incomplete and impotent lives, unable to use their heritage—to cultivate and expand whatever they are capable of. This is modern society organized as it is around the production of commodities. Man's labor too has become a commodity to be extracted from him at the maximum rate and degree, while rewarding him with the minimum of necessities in return. This law of motion of present day social organization has a greater crushing effect on human life than the slave systems of the past.

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# Cuba Jolts State Department

(Continued from Page 1)

and scarcely 700 miles long—whose economy has been traditionally dominated by American sugar interests, can not only defy the Administration's attempts to interfere in its efforts to reorganize its economy, but gains the moral support of the oppressed masses throughout South America.

At the same time Mao Tse-Tung, seeking to capture a propaganda advantage in the cold war, offered to buy all of Cuba's sugar output when Herter threatened not to, and to pay gold for it to boot.

In any case, despite Herter's threat, Castro is talking about expropriating the American sugar plantations after the 1960 crop is in, and paying for them, not in dollars, but in 20-year Cuban government bonds.

At the heart of Cuba's problem of reconstruction is the fact that of its 6 million population, 900,000 workers and farmers are chronically unemployed, or on the brink of unemployment and starvation, while, after the years of Batista corruption and American exploitation, a tiny minority wallow in wealth.

Even by averaging together the wealthy with the poor, the Cubans average annual income (in 1956) was only \$320.

When Castro took power last year, over 40 per cent of the Cubans were unemployed, and 200,000 farmers were landless peasants who had to be resettled on the land immediately.

With the agricultural question as the most crucial one for Cuban reconstruction, it was inevitable that the new National Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA) should become the most important agency in Castro's government. Not only is it charged with redistributing the land, but also with industrializing the country.

### "FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER"

In the half-year since Castro launched his agrarian reform program under the slogan of "fight against hunger," the INRA has expropriated almost 1-3/4 million acres from Cuban landowners. Although the basis is that only Cubans should own Cuban land, and none more than 1,000 acres, no American holdings have yet been taken.

Recently, however, the INRA has begun a show of expropriation proceedings against 275,000 acres of forest and coffee land in Oriente Province jointly owned by Americans and Cubans. Oriente is at the eastern end of Cuba from which Castro launched his guerrilla army which ultimately overthrew Batista.

What this program of land reform may mean for Cuban reconstruction is shown in an example cited by a spokesman for the INRA. In the Western tip of Cuba, 495,000 acres were expropri-

ated from only 3 landowners. Previously 25 workers were employed on all that land, now 3,000 men are working there.

In all, the nearly 2 million acres of land expropriated thus far have been turned into some 200 cooperatives on which 80,000 Cubans have been re-settled as agricultural workers.

One of the crucial problems facing Castro, however, is that 200,000 Cubans are landless agricultural workers who must be resettled. This is the legacy from decades of American exploitation. Because of his land reform program, and because of his defiance of American imperialism, Castro has the overwhelming confidence of the peasant masses.

### THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' STAND

But, if it was relatively easy for Castro to launch his guerrilla movement from Oriente which won the support of the Cuban masses to oust Batista, it is not so easy for him to solve the problems of the reconstruction of Cuban society.

So enmeshed is Cuba, with its sugar cash crop economy in the net of the world market, that even with Castro's agrarian reform program Cuban agriculture cannot escape the capitalist contradictions which plague the American farmers no less than they plague Russian agriculture.

The only way Castro can hope to escape these recurrent farm crises is if he can unite agriculture with industry—this means if the agricultural workers can unite with the industrial workers to reconstruct their lives on a new basis.

But Castro doesn't know what the city workers are going to do. Although they gave him critical support, he has never trusted them.

In April 1958, before he took power, he called the industrial workers out on a General Strike but they didn't respond to him. As his victorious rebel army moved from the country to the cities, he insisted that the workers be disarmed. They allowed themselves to be disarmed, but they kept their trade unions independent. Most recently, Castro showed his displeasure by calling their Congress "a madhouse."

The workers will yet speak in their own name. But this is small comfort for the State Dept. The one thing that still unites the urban workers hopefully to Castro is his strong show of opposition to American imperialism, with its \$900 million investment in Cuba, of which \$300 million is invested in sugar, and another \$272 million in the American controlled Cuban Electric Co.

Though Castro has taken

# Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

### IKE'S TRIP

If looked upon as a series of social visits, the trip of Eisenhower abroad could be considered successful. But since it was a political mission aimed at countering the effects of the much traveled Khrushchev it must be considered in that light.

Eisenhower chose the countries to be visited on the basis of the arena of the coming world struggle. He chose Africa, the Mid-East and Asia as the areas where he expects more trouble, where new countries are coming into being, countries who have not openly committed themselves to either side in the cold war. It is doubtful that anything concrete will come out of the visits other than goodwill generated which will soon be dissipated if huge sums do not follow in the form of financial aid to these areas.

The European countries visited, Italy and France, were another story. He was met in Italy very coolly. The rain which was blamed in Italy did not hold down the crowds elsewhere. In France he met a series of demands from DeGaulle which, if complied with, would give DeGaulle a free hand in Algeria and an independent role in NATO. Both demands would seriously undermine American policy abroad and American prestige with the uncommitted nations of the Afro-Asian bloc.

The fact that Europe was, by and large, ignored on this trip is but an indication that the control of Europe is no longer the basic bone of contention between Russia and the United States. The control of Africa, the Mid-East and Asia far outweighs in importance any immediate gains obtainable in Europe.

The former colonial countries, now either free or well on the road to freedom, can and will swing the balance of world power. They are not satisfied with mere promises and are free to deal with either side. From that point of view it is questionable that Ike's trip accomplished anything of lasting importance.

### JAPAN

The issue of a new U.S.-Japanese security treaty was the occasion for a demonstration by over 3,000 students on the steps

of the Diet Building, which houses Japan's lawmakers. The students of Tokyo University were led by an organization called Zengakuren which has 290,000 members among the students of Japan.

The Executive Committee of Zengakuren, a group of 30, all call themselves Marxists but have no use for the Socialists, Communists or Trotskyists. When interviewed one member stated, "Khrushchev, who shook hands with Eisenhower, is an international scab and strikebreaker."

### AFRICA

Mr. Tom Mboya, the leader of labor in Kenya, recently called for a conference of all of the labor organizations in Africa, to be held in Lagos, Nigeria. Kwame Nkrumah, the Prime Minister of Ghana was quite irked by the move and called a rival labor conference to be held in Ghana.

The result undermined the reputation of Nkrumah, whose conference was attended only by delegates from Guinea, Morocco and the United Arab Republic while Mboya's meeting was well attended by delegates from 29 countries.

After the conference Mboya said, "I have no quarrel with Nkrumah." But it is well known that Mboya as well as many African labor leaders strongly dislike the manner in which Nkrumah runs his unions as a government department and as an instrument of government power in the same manner as the Russians.

Mboya's conference set up an All-Africa union which embraces Nigeria, Belgian Congo and the French Territories as well as Kenya and the huge majority of the African countries.

### FRENCH BOMB TESTS

A group of 17, including 12 Africans, are planning a demonstration against the atomic bomb tests in the Sahara desert. They plan to enter the region to prevent the tests. Visas have been denied the group by the French authorities, but they are gathering in Accra, Ghana and plan to cross over into French Territory through the Upper Volta region. Mr. Tom Mboya and a

number of African Organizations have promised full support to the team and plan to organize demonstrations of sympathy in their own countries.

The demonstration will be led by Rev. Michael Scott and will include Michael Randle (U.K.), Bayard Rustin (U.S.A.), William Sutherland (Ghana), Esther Peter (France), and Frances Hoyland (U.K.)

### MILITARY PAYOLA

It has been revealed that the Cotton Bay Club on Eleuthera Island, Bahamas—a very, very swank resort for millionaires—has become infested with high ranking brass hats of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force. In the past 3 years no less than 25 top ranking officers have vacationed there at the expense of the Martin Co. (military aircraft and missiles).

Of course the military are the first to deny that these jaunts constitute a form of "payola," but there is no denying that the Martin Co. does 99% of its business with the military to the tune of \$800 million in contracts.

### Pacifists Protest Missile Firing

LONDON—Six British fighters against nuclear war have been sent to prison because they refused to keep the peace. They had decided to organize a demonstration at Harrington rocket missile base on 2nd January, 1960. They understood that the rockets would be ready then for 15 minutes firing. Leaflets issued on this proposed demonstration were read in court. Of the six, three are women.

Most members of the Labour Movement are far from sharing the views of those in prison, but there is resentment at the action of the authorities. Only working class resistance to war can stop the warmongers. There is, however, wide-spread sympathy for opponents of war who are punished by the authorities.

Protests are pouring in to the Home Secretary from all sections of the working class movement.

Two members of the D.A.C. are beyond the arms of the "blue-bottles" (cops), among the party trying to reach the Sahara to protest against DeGaulle's bomb-test; Rev. Michael Scott, and Mike Randell.

All offers of assistance and support to: Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, 344 Seven Sisters Road, London N. 4. Telephone: STAmford Hill 7062.

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Due to technical difficulties beyond our control, we were not able to print the December, 1959 issue of News & Letters. All current unexpired subscriptions will therefore be extended by one issue.

do not end with independence. That is only the first step.

The reconstruction of their lives on a new basis is both a Cuban and a continental problem, and in the solution to this the city workers have still to have their full say.