

## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### Abusing the Workers' Strength

A Chrysler worker was telling me of a recent union meeting called by the leadership for the purpose of taking a like vote in the recent contract negotiations with Chrysler. He said that according to a leaflet passed out several days prior, the meeting would be held one day and the strike would be taken a day or so later.

#### MEN UAW AND CHRYSLER NEGOTIATED

Emil Mazey, one of the International union's top brass, gave a report at this meeting of the situation in the Chrysler negotiations. He pointed out that the hold-up in the progress was that the company refused to grant a 7¢ increase to the highest classification in engineering. These workers make \$3.84 an hour or more. The next problem was a raise for the tool and die workers who made somewhat near the same. Another problem was the office workers to whom the company did not want to grant an Annual Wage because they are paid on a yearly basis. The last problem was the Steward System: the company wanted to reduce the number of stewards to less than one-third of what it is today. The remaining stewards would have an hour free in the morning and one hour in the afternoon to take care of grievances.

#### NOTHING FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS

Mazey said that was it. Not one thing did he say about production workers, the mass force of the workers.

This worker told me he noticed that the stewards had not been very friendly to the workers several days before, urging the workers to attend the meeting. As this worker said, "They always want the production workers' strength to do something for someone else." No engineers were there at the meeting and no office workers. Production workers were at the meeting and they take home less pay than most of those mentioned and their working conditions are unbearable in comparison. Yet not a word was said concerning them. The union just asked them to give their votes and their strength so that pressure can be put on the company to get what the union wanted.

As workers, we would be glad to see every one of the present chief stewards working every day and all day. But we have to vote for them because the company will have complete control over every minute of production without any representation that we can protest to. The workers want a change in the Steward System. We want more and better representation, to have some control of our destiny in production. This the company and the union leaders are against.

#### UNION AND COMPANY AGAINST WILDCATS

This worker also said that the big brass made quite a big speech against wildcat strikes. The workers had had one that day and the company used this against the union brass in bargaining. It hurt those union leaders and in reality it hurt the company too. It shows that neither the company nor the union leaders have complete control over the workers. When they bargain, the union leaders always tell the company how well they have the workers under control. They are proved wrong every time workers take action in their own hands.

#### SQUEEZED IN THE MIDDLE

Many workers asked each other what they thought of Mazey's speech. Some said it is another bunch of lies to use our strength for their own use and against us.

One worker said, "Did you see the vicious attitude expressed against those workers who had the wildcat strike? The implication was in the speaker's talk about firing them if they don't return tomorrow. They said the voting would begin tomorrow but they are asking us, who are here, to vote today. They do not trust us to come back. It will give us time to think over the speech.

"It all adds up to this: The production worker is caught in the middle between the union leaders and the company. We will be squeezed to a point where we will be forced to burst out."

## Workers Are Restless In All Industries and Unions

A West Coast construction worker, who is a regular reader of NEWS & LETTERS, has written the following which we publish as the lead article for this issue:

"Over the past few weeks, NEWS & LETTERS has carried stories and articles that show how greatly displeased workers are with their particular unions. Both Charles Denby and Jerry Kegg have told stories along these lines. Other articles have shown that this same struggle is going on in different parts of the country. In particular, I've read the articles that are pointed against the leadership of the United Auto Workers and the United Mine Workers. Workers in those unions have shown their displeasure by wild-cattling against contracts negotiated by their leaders.

"The same attitude prevails in the union I belong to. I don't mean to say that the workers are against their union as such. As a matter of fact, if some outsider says something against their union, he might have a fight on his hands because workers are right in distrusting outsiders who just criticize. But

overwhelmingly rejected the contract and sent the committee back to get a better one.

"They even gave the committee the power to call a strike at the beginning of the week if the bosses didn't make a much better offer. Most of the men expected a

has 3,500 members. It is considered an 'unruly' local. The meetings were always lively. The men never did take kindly to the old do-nothing officials that came with the local when it was recognized at the beginning of World War II.

#### TRY TO DO SOMETHING

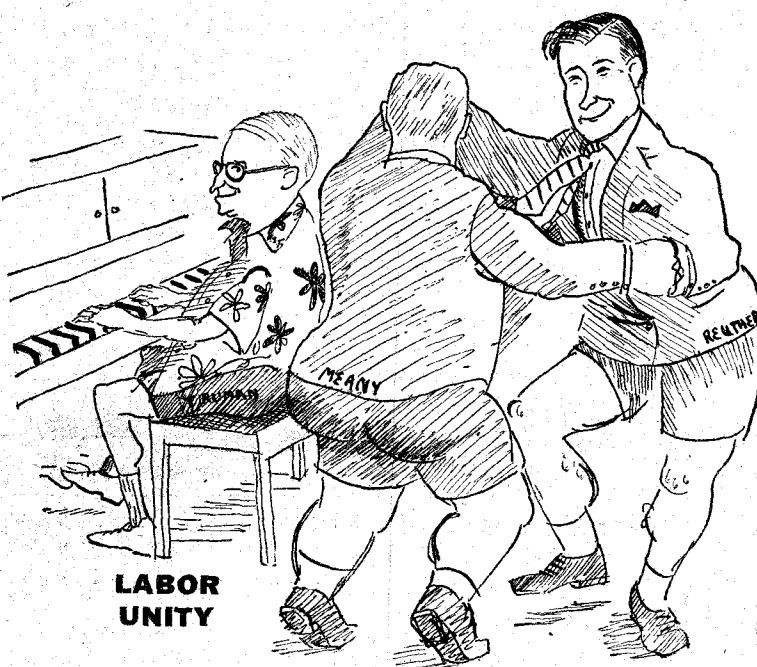
"After the war, some of the men tried to do something about the local leaders. After several years of agitation they were able to elect a better man. At least, he was more energetic and wanted to do something about the large number of open shops in this town. Well, he was elected. In a very short time he got sticky fingers. Some members brought charges against him and found him guilty. We elected another. A real militant too. He always fought selflessly for the union without any thought of personal gain. He served his term and then he was replaced. He himself admitted that there was only so much he could do.

"They elected another guy. He was an even better fighter than the one before. In just three years this guy went the way of all the others. He began to accept money from the employers and from the men, too, for 'special favors.' What finally got him kicked out was the fact that he was in on a plot to take the international president's place.

The result was that the international president lowered the boom on him and kicked him out on charges of 'irregularities.' I've seen worse irregularities in this international.

#### THINGS DON'T IMPROVE

"Here you have a sad story. A large group of workers who are ready to strike to get a better contract but their leaders sign behind their backs. Any number of (Continued on Back Page)



it is clear that a situation has been reached that is not restricted to one industry.

Things might vary from industry to industry and from union to union but, by and large, the situation is pretty much the same the country over. Let me give you my story.

#### MEN REJECT CONTRACT

"I belong to one of the AFL Building Trades Unions. Last week, something happened which is pretty common in all unions these days, AFL or CIO or independents. Our contract was up for negotiation. The employers offered quite a bit less than what the men wanted. Negotiations had dragged on for months. Not only wages were involved. A number of other issues were involved. The issues themselves are not so important. What is important is the fact that the men did not like the contract. They

strike and were ready for it. Then, suddenly, we got the news over the radio that we were to report to work on Monday. In the daily papers we finally saw the gist of what the committee had settled for. It was virtually the same thing that the men had rejected just a few days earlier.

#### UNION ACCEPTS CONTRACT

"There you are. The contract had been signed. What could we do? We had to go back. To add insult to injury, there wasn't any way we could protest because our local is under an administrator and all meetings are called only upon the permission of the international president.

"Our union grew with this town. Our particular local

**AN APOLOGY**  
We are very sorry this issue reaches you late. Because of conflict in printing schedule, we were forced to change our printing day. With this issue, we begin our new printing schedule on Wednesdays instead of Fridays.

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## A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

### WHAT DOES TIPPING DO TO YOU

Not long ago a TV repair man came to our home to check the set. We could hear voices but not see the picture. In about three minutes he had replaced a tube which had to do with voltage regulation and the picture was clear.

When I was paying him, my young son and his sister, concerned over the fact that the man was working on a holiday, urged me in loud whispers to give him at least a dollar tip.

I suppose that I tip about as often as most other people, but still I don't like the idea of tipping. Perhaps the word has become a bit shop-worn and hollow-sounding of late, but I don't think it is American.

There are, today, a lot of words spilled on the term "Americanism." It has become so covered up that it is hard to see what it actually is.

To me, America would be meaningless if people did not feel in it some answer to their search for human values — for an appreciation of the worth of each human being.

There is something false about tipping. It is as though one were receiving a bribe to perform well. Basically, it undermines human dignity for it assumes dishonest effort. Practically, it helps to maintain poor wage levels.

Many physicians are generous tippers. I have often seen them leave a 25c or 50c tip for a cup of coffee in the hospital restaurant. I know one doctor who is extremely lavish with tips and gifts. But the fees he charges his patients are tremendous but he is not overly concerned with the patients' ability to pay them. Still, he is a generous tipper.

### Experiences and Expectations

Los Angeles. — Harry is a man I worked with in an aircraft factory. I want to tell his story here because wherever I have worked I always meet workers who, as individuals, preserve for their friends the history and lessons of modern working class struggle. When workers face problems they bring to bear not only their immediate, individual responses but a wealth of group experience accumulated in many towns, cities, countries and industries.

Harry was born in Germany. As a machinist's apprentice (he was about 17 then) he went through the years of German revolution following World War I. He saw whole cities go out on strike, workers battling with troops, workers organizing the general strikes in their shops. When he came to this country after the defeat of that revolution, in the early '20's, it was not long before he was plunged into the struggle for recognition of the unions here.

#### THE DOUGLAS STRIKE

When he came to Los Angeles he worked in a small job doing sub-contract work for Douglas. When the Douglas workers went out on strike to get union recognition, he and the other workers in this small job went out on a sympathy strike to prevent Douglas from transferring from the strike-bound plant to job shops throughout the city.

Not long after the Douglas workers won their strike, Harry quit his job and went to work at another one of the large aircraft plants. When this plant went on strike for union recognition Harry was right there with them.

#### THE NORTH AMERICAN STRIKE

Other workers listen to Harry with great respect because of his great experience in the labor movement. One time I was at his home during the recent North American Aviation strike. He told me that it was his opinion that the company was far better prepared for the strike than the union. He pointed out that the Republican government in Washington was hostile to the workers and would use the laws against them. He noted how the company was able to promote scabbing by hiring unskilled newcomers to Los Angeles. His conclusion was that the union could only win the strike by extending it beyond the boundaries of the plant, by calling a General Strike to cut off supplies for the plant and to prevent North American work being done in the many small job shops throughout the city. Since the union leaders would have nothing to do with such a bold attack against big business, the workers lost the strike after being out for many weeks. I don't know if Harry's strategy would have won the strike but I have heard workers employed elsewhere in Los Angeles speak of General Strike also.

#### ONE AMONG MANY

Harry is just one worker among many. But he is also only one of many who have had vivid and sharp experiences in the struggles of workers to get a better way of life. I hope that this new paper will be a place where they can interchange and share their experience and knowledge with everyone interested in a more human existence.

## COAL AND ITS PEOPLE Miners Resist Saturday Work

BARRACKSVILLE, W. Va.—A couple of weeks ago the District was down at our local. Leonard Pnakovich, District vice-president, was down to set the men straight on the contract and what they had to do.

#### RAILROAD CAR SHORTAGE

The situation at our mine. Like most of the mines around here, is that there is now a shortage of railroad coal cars for the coal company to work as much as it would like to. We work three and four days a week, depending on how many coal cars the company gets.

This is not the first time that this has happened. We had the same thing ten years ago and it hasn't changed much since then. We get our cars from the B&O Railroad. They say they only have 45,000 units of rolling stock and need 60,000. They say they have 10,000 more units ordered, but this isn't helping us now. By the time they get the 10,000 units they'll probably have worn out 10,000 units they have on hand now.

#### CONTRACT AND SATURDAYS

The contract says that we have to work on Saturdays if it isn't the sixth consecutive day that a man has worked. If it is the sixth straight day, we get time and a half. If not, we get straight time. But the way things are now, we float during the week and are expected to come out on Saturdays for straight

time. We know that Pnakovich was there to try to get us to work on Saturdays. We had let the company know that we didn't like the set-up and weren't going to go along with it. The District, as usual, was going to do the company's work for it.

#### "WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS"

Pnakovich quoted contract. The men knew the contract. They were completely against it, and let it be known in no uncertain terms. A miner said, "This happened not once but plenty of times: We work two days a week. Monday and Saturday. How come the company can get cars on Saturday and can't during the week? Let them get the cars during the week. You never know when you're going to work during the week. You can't plan for anything except for week-ends. Now they want to take that away from us too."

Another miner chimed in. "The only time we have for ourselves is the week-end. If you take this away from us you might as well treat us like cattle. Keep us penned up until it's time to work, then let us out. But we're not cattle, we're human beings and we're not going to take it."

"How come we're always getting the dirty end of the deal," another said. "We'll work during the week if the company has the cars. Don't blame us for something the railroad company doesn't do."

### What Hoover Taught Me

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—Some people say working people like us are poor folks. But I really figure that I'm a rich man. In fact, maybe better off than the rich man I know as long as the rich man has something to eat, I will, too.

Herbert Hoover's the one who taught me to eat before the rich. I was like lots of folks during the depression. No job, and one day the wife told me that she had used the last flour in the house.

I went out walking up and down the streets as usual. And I met a buddy of mine. We were both in the same fix — not a thing left to eat in the house. We were standing near a warehouse, and could see men loading crates of meat from a truck. We looked at each other, me and my buddy, and he asked me if I was game. Neither of us was fixing to starve; and I figured that even if we got caught, at least they'd have to feed me. So off we went.

We found a place to crawl under the loading platform. My buddy got him a big box, but I wanted something I could run with, so I took a long narrow box. We met some place further away and opened them up. He had hams and I had pork loins. So we swapped half and half.

#### SWAPS AND VARIETY

I started home with my

food and I started thinking—well, I have our meat, now we need some bread. So I took one of the hams and asked a man in a store if he'd swap me some flour and shortening for the meat. He said any time.

There were reports in the paper after a while that bread was being missed at the warehouse.

And sure enough, one day I saw a policeman walking toward me and I was walking down the street with a box on my shoulder. When he got close enough he recognized me. We knew each other pretty well. He said, "What in the name of Pete do you have there?" I said, "Now what does it look like? It's a bread box." "Well," he said, "you'd better watch out. Someone is taking bread from the warehouse and we're looking for him. You'd better get on home with that box or someone might think something." I said, "Okay." And went right on by.

#### TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE

I guess we could have begged from the neighbors. But I wasn't going to go to them. They weren't responsible for the fix we were in. I figured it was only right to take it from the ones that were. I figured the warehouses could afford it. Our neighbors couldn't.

Get on them to do so thing."

#### "WERE YOU A MINER"

At one point in the argument, Pnakovich had nerve to tell the men that we didn't want to work Saturdays to go somewhere else and work. One man asked him, "Were you a miner?" Pnakovich said had been. The miner replied, "Well you sure don't act like it!" The men rose their agreement.

Pnakovich couldn't stop the men at all. The meeting ended with the men still determined that they would work on Saturdays as a floating during the week. They let Pnakovich know that the only story that wanted him to go to the company with was this and nothing else. The men were going to be punished because of the failure of the B&O to provide cars. They had much weight on their backs already. They wanted more.

#### Paying For Others

BOBTOWN, Pa.—It looks like Lewis is trying to make an example of Cavalcante, has it in for all the miners account of the wildcat strike we've had to go on. So he's trying to get even with us by knocking Cavalcante. He's trying to show who's boss.

If Lewis wants to do something, he might try looking at the men that he's put in office, not someone else who have put in. There isn't a safe man in the whole District outfit we have over. And if there's anything a miner wants it is a man that know is going to be look out for their safety.

The thing that gets me that when we were work two and three days a week you didn't hear Lewis tell the operators that we had to work more. He can't tell that, but when we get back from vacation, he can tell that we have to work on Saturday for straight time—that was the fifth day we would be working.

#### TRIPLE SQUEEZE

The miners are all caught in a triple squeeze play—between the government, the company and the District. It looks like all of them have the same ideas about the miners. They say you just have to work. It makes no difference what kind of conditions you have to work under just so long as you work when they tell you to. I keep on working and pay to help everyone else make out all right in what they want, but to hell with what you want. We pay taxes to the government, dues to the union and you know when work that the company making money off of our labor. It looks like we're keeping everyone's head above water—all but our own.

LABOR

**Speed-Up and Lay-Off Plague  
New York Factory Workers**

NEW YORK.—When they opened up a new line in the radio shop where I work they hired a group of workers that had been laid off for seven months from another big electronics factory. One was a young girl who found it next to impossible to keep up with the line. About the middle of the day she called the union guy over and said to him, "Hey Daddy-O, what are you going to do about this mess?" All he could say was "What do you mean, you just have to try and keep up with the line, that's all." She said "Daddy-O, this got to go!" In two days she and six other workers quit because they wouldn't work the pace of these radio lines.

**SPEED-UP IS FIERCE**

The speed-up in radio shops is at a crazy pace. Something is going to give one of these days. When I started as an assembler five years ago they were doing 45 sets an hour with eight connections for each operation and working full weeks. When I started at this job last October, they were doing 45 sets an hour with eight connections for each operation and working full weeks. When I started at this job last October, they were doing 75 sets with eight connections and just before vacation they tried to raise it to 110 with six connections, but that was impossible. Somehow, at the beginning the girls did it but at the end of the line we just piled the sets up and began laughing at the different shapes they took, and gave them names like the "leaning tower of Pisa," "The Empire State," according to how big they got. They had to lower the line to 85 to clear it off.

These lines are so fast that

you're just about dead when you leave the place. I was lucky because I didn't have any kids that I have to go home and tend to. But many of the women have children. A lot were divorced too, with one or two kids to bring up.

**WORK ISN'T STEADY**

I would like to explain something—although I was hired about 10 months ago, I have worked here two months with only two full weeks and two other jobs in between.

That's how all these places are working now. Although the wages have gone up 40c an hour in five years, the speed has doubled, so that you average around three days a week. I figure that they must be getting more sets out now and it costs them less.

**UNION DOES NOTHING**

One woman told me that they had a big fight with the union about the speed up. A union official had to come from the union office to tell the workers that they had nothing to do with production, that it was the bosses' business to set the speed of the line.

One day the shop steward was telling us what they were asking for in the new contract. He said, "We're asking for a 25c raise and two more holidays, but we'll probably get 5c and one holiday."

It seems pretty quiet now, but there have been fights in these shops. Some that I have heard of and one in particular that I saw. They had a riot in the plant itself, after which they had Pinkerton men with their clubs at the head of each line . . . and they still had a sit-down strike.

These companies have set it up now so that most of the

time they have a hand-picked crew. When it gets busy and they hire a lot of new workers who can't do or say very much because they need the job and because the steady workers have set the pace and there are stooges among them. One friend told me that before they took her back she had to promise that she wouldn't complain about the work. Someone had gone to the forelady and said that she was always complaining to the girls on the line.

**MANY SHOPS, MANY UNIONS**

There are some very large plants out on Long Island . . . with thousands of workers. But there are a lot of them all over New York City that have only 100 to 300 workers. There are many shops where there are only 20 or 30. There is a different union in practically every place. Although I am for unions, I am very cautious about paying my \$10 initiation fee because two weeks after I might be laid off and get a job in another place with a different union and another \$10 initiation fee.

I have worked in shops that have had the AFL electrical union, the CIO electrical union, the United Mine Workers, a carpenters union and the United Auto Workers. This UAW shop has the worst conditions I've heard of. Two years ago they started with 75c or 85c an hour.

Most of the places that have the AFL or CIO electrical unions start with \$1.40 but, as I said, if you average three solid months, with full weeks, in a year, that's good. If you have steady work, you are either lucky, which won't last too long, or you have sold your soul to the company.

**Nut Head Says—**



"If you work hard and mind your own business, maybe you won't get rich but you'll die happy."

—Production Worker.

**Skilled Workers In Auto Industry**

DETROIT—My friend, who is a tool and die worker, dropped over on July 18th. It was a day or so after a new society of skilled auto workers had been formed in Flint, Michigan.

He told me that UAW Locals 155 and 157 of Detroit were against the new organization and that some of them had gone to speak against the split. He said this could be an expression against the Reuther leadership, but instead it seemed to be taking the form of bargaining for more money and better conditions. He said this Society of Industrial Skilled Trades of North America are still seeking to become a separate union in the UAW-CIO, but that he would rather see them non-affiliated, as then they could go further and wouldn't be held back by Reuther and the International UAW-CIO.

I told him I had heard that the Communist Party line was taking another turn with this the new Geneva

Peace Offensive and that they would now most likely, support the status quo and even Reuther. Now I also said that usually, when everyone is in one union, like skilled or unskilled, or AFL-CIO, a lot of red tape can be eliminated, but being large, this red tape could also slow up progress. However, I said, even in different organizations, workers of all types can rally and unite and help each other.

He said that there is jealousy and hard feeling between the skilled and unskilled worker, especially since the wage gap is decreasing.

I said, "Do you think that a program of a 30-hour week would unite skilled and unskilled workers?" He said he thought it would as it would mean increase for everyone. The hungry skilled workers would be satisfied as they would make so much more for overtime over 30 hours.

**Brain Washing In American Factories**

By JERRY KEGG

The American papers recently have carried numerous stories of the disgraceful treatment of American soldiers in Communist prison camps. One of the soldiers who lived through the experience was quoted as saying: "Next to the loneliness we endured, the hardest thing to take was the brain-washing. Their propaganda was pounded into us day after day. It always ended on the same note—the promise of a better world."

Conditioning the mind with promises is an old method of trying to get people to accept things as they are without attempting to change them.

Brain-washing has been used by management in American industry since the introduction of the assembly line.

**BRIBING THE WEAK**

The conditions under which the men had to work were so much against human nature, that management arrived at the scheme of drawing a few of the weaker ones aside and promising them a secure future if they cooperated with management in increasing production. This only hastened the birth of the CIO.

As years go by, management's brain-washing becomes cruder and cruder. They still try to bribe a few workers with promises of good times if they will be their stooges. But they don't promise women anything.

**NOTHING BUT WORK**

When 50 of us women were hired into General Motors, we were given the usual rules and regulations of the plant. They only want women in the shop at their convenience. But women are there to stay. Management's promises are empty as long as the majority of men and women have to work under the conditions we have today. Management is getting the same results the Communists did in brain-washing the American prisoners. Most of us spit at their promises.

**Read  
NEWS  
&  
LETTERS**

**Company Prefers Committeemen**

LOS ANGELES—A friend mine who works in auto assures me that the company won't give up the committeeman system for what he calls the "steward system" about a long and bitter struggle.

Under the steward system, there would be a union delegate representing a small number of workers in his immediate vicinity, just like the man system the company have. The union delegate would be working right on the line. If something was going wrong he would be in position to do something about it right away.

**COMMITTEEMAN SYSTEM**

Under the present committeeman system, one union delegate, often full time, represents a very large number of workers. He can fight a grievance only when the worker involved files a formal grievance. But there are a lot of workers who, for one reason or another, don't want to stick their necks out like that.

One case in point, I am told, is happening where my friend works. There is one operation, which, before the recent negotiations, needed 10 men. Since the negotiations, however, one man has been doing the work of two. As a result he has lost 25 cents this last month, is getting very nervous and can't sleep well at night. He is inexperienced union-wise, lacks seniority and needs the money so he hasn't filed a grievance.

**KILLING THE JOB**

The way things are going is not only killing himself. He is ruining that operation for anyone who follows on the job. He himself probably won't last more than another month.

If there was a steward working right on the line who had the authority to take such a matter up with the company without having to wait for the men to file a grievance, working conditions for everyone in auto could improve. There would be an additional advantage. The union would be starting the fight to remedy something—not an individual worker who can't afford to lose his job.

But workers in auto won't get a better union representation system, or anything else they want, without a long strike. The companies could sign for the limited Annual Wage plan without a strike but these other issues involve the question of who is in control on the assembly line.

The company isn't going to give away some of their control over production like they have the so-called Annual Wage away. Of course, they don't want to "give-away" union recognition or seniority system or anything like that. They had to be forced to do so.

## EDITORIALS

## IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE

When hurricane "Diane" unleashed its torrential rains over New England and the Eastern States, the normally peaceful rivers went on a destructive rampage. Waves, sometimes reaching a height of 30 feet, swept all before them. Homes, farms, factories, textile mills, paper plants, roads, railroads, cities and towns, all were forced to give way to the might of the rivers at flood stage.

Not a newspaper or government agency exists that claims that any human agency is to blame. All cite it as "an act of God" or "One of those acts of nature which unfortunately happen," yet they are all completely wrong.

From colonial times Industry has concentrated their plants along the beautiful valleys of New England and the East Coast. Many of those which were wiped out in the recent flood, were built many years ago to take advantage of the cheap water power available from the numerous rivers of the region. The dams which held back the river were privately owned. The plants were old, many constructed of field stone and wood timbers. Even the newer plants were but additions to the old outmoded plants of the last century. The towns and cities around were the adjunct to these mills and plants.

Workers and farmers took advantage of the natural beauty of the region to build their homes and to plant the fertile valleys. For years, minor floods have plagued these people, but nothing compared to the floods which recently hit them. Almost all of these rivers pass through several states. Any measures which the Federal Government might suggest to control these rampages were met by the old cry of "violation of states rights." Any attempt to rebuild, or to re-inforce, the ancient dams was stopped by laws of "private property." Thus the groundwork was laid for last weeks devastating floods.

When the hurricane hit the region, the unprecedented rains filled the dams upstream, breaking them and sending the torrents down to hit the next dam, bridge or railroad span. All was swept before the flood.

Eisenhower made a gesture to the misery of the thousands of homeless, jobless workers by flying over the region, shaking his head in sympathy with them allotting to them 75 million for relief and making available 800 million in loan money to the industrialists of the area to rebuild their properties. The mere relationship between what was offered to industry and labor shows his thinking. Ten times the amount offered to the people of the area was made available to the capitalists of the area.

The American Red Cross was on the scene of course. They were ready to lend money to good credit risks, but will expect to be repaid in full later on.

Workers are constantly called upon to contribute to the Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Community Drives, etc. Walter Reuther took \$100,000 out of the workers treasury to contribute to the Red Cross in the flood area. Yet, after the workers generously has paid the Red Cross bills, the huge overhead, administrative expenses and salaries for their full time staff, the Red Cross presents the battered communities with a bill for services rendered, as every Flint worker will remember after the 1953 tornado hit Flint, Michigan.

It should be clear that the greed of the capitalist class who built these flimsy plants in dangerous areas for the sole purpose of greater profits, who owned and failed to maintain proper dams, are the people primarily responsible for the loss of life, jobs and homes that took place. It is equally clear that their government will now provide money, taken from our taxes, to help them rebuild these same plants on the same dangerous sites.

The worker will loose both ways. Out of a job, without a home, furniture or other possessions, the worker must face life all over again, with only his bare hands and his labor power to create a home, pay for it and at the same time, through taxes, help the capitalist rebuild his properties.

This is only a small part of the chaotic conditions which have been created by capitalism. It is incapable of preventing either the "natural disasters" such as these floods, or the brutal consequences of them, which are man-made.

After generations of existence in the most advanced country in the world, in the atomic age, a disaster of this magnitude must arouse sober thought on the real reasons why so many lost their lives and others their livelihood.

## CONFLICT BEHIND PEACE TALKS

I believe that every issue of NEWS & LETTERS should carry material similar to the lead article "Conflict Behind Peace Talks," (Aug. 19) It was good to get behind the smiles of the politicians and see how they are motivated by the relations of people at the point of production."

"Conflict Behind Peace Talks" was long but that didn't bother me. Combined with the other material in the issue about how American workers criticize the American factory system it made this issue a memorable one which should have the widest possible circulation.

Factory Worker  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Congratulations on "Conflict Behind Peace Talks." Your theoretical article on the talks at the "summit" was superb and the concrete material in the other sections rounded it out admirably. I have not seen material like that anywhere else.

Labor Columnist  
New York

I am glad to see that you finally have a political cartoon on the front page. I never realized the facial resemblance between Eisenhower and Khrushchev before. I'm surprised that no other cartoonist caught that.

Reader  
New York

It was an inspiration to portray those two as grinning scratching, Cheshire cats. It caught the political situation without re-working the worn-out theme of "Tweedledum & Tweedledee." It's the best political cartoon I've seen in a long time and I think any publication would be wise to reprint it.

Cartoonist  
Chicago

As soon as I read about those satellites they're getting ready to send into space I figured the big shots are getting worried. They're afraid of the trouble they've made themselves, and they're getting ready to take off and leave. That is the only way they can see to get out of it.

Miner  
Fairmont, W. Va.

## Readers

If those leaders think they're going to leave for one of those satellites and leave the rest of us behind in their mess, they've got another think coming. They may not care what happens to the little guys, but us little guys do. If they take off, I'm gonna be right there with them.

Miner's Wife  
Fairmont, W. Va.

There was a time when the only measure of the workers revolt was indirectly, through the ANTI-labor "labor legislation", and the millions thrown into concentration camps. This is still true. But ever since 1953 there was an open revolt in Vorkuta, the forced labor camps which supply Leningrad its coal, we have gotten a more open view of the rebelliousness of its workers.

Old Politico  
Detroit

The sentence in "Conflict Behind Peace Talks", (Aug. 19) reading "The low productivity of the Russian workers is the measure of his resistance to the totalitarian regime," brings to my mind a story a machinist told me about Fascist Germany.

During the war he was an officer in an army Ordnance team in Europe whose job was to put captured enemy equipment into working order. Then the equipment would be sent to the United States and England so any improvements in German equipment could be incorporated into British and American weapons.

He told me that after one big battle his team moved in and had to repair some 60 German tanks. Though they had access to a whole warehouse of spare parts they could only get 14 of the tanks running. The spare parts would not fit.

I expressed some amazement at this. After all, the Germans have a reputation for craftsmanship. They knew and practiced all the principles of mass production long before the war. How could it be that spare parts would not fit their tanks?

My friend said that during the war the Germans forced the skilled craftsmen of the countries they occupied to produce for the German war machine. Naturally these workers did not like to work for the Fascists (many native

German workers had this attitude) but was a matter of imprisonment or death they did not do so. They produced tanks that would run and guns that would fire. But when machined parts were out of tolerance (which can very easily be done deliberately by workers) they would make the mating parts to fit the original deviation instead of working to the blueprints. Spare parts instead of being interchangeable could not be used except for the particular device for which they were made.

The tanks ran all right when they left the factory but when the machining broke down they could not be repaired unless new parts were hand-made.

This lesson that forced labor can be made to work but not efficiently cost the German dictatorship dearly. It is evidently also costing their Russian counterparts a similar high price. But the fact that only freely-associated labor can and will produce efficiently is as completely alien to a totalitarian dictatorship as it is to the captains of American industry, who produce with the forced labor of the wage system.

Machinist  
Los Angeles

They ought to take all those leaders—both sides—and put them in a circle. Let them fight it out and leave us in peace. That's how they did it in the old days.

Housewife  
Fairmont, W. Va.

I've waited a long time for an article like that. I'm glad you put them both sitting on the same pot. We were just talking about this at work, wondering what the Russians were up to and why all those big shots were going around smiling at each other while things keep getting worse.

Woman GM Worker  
Detroit

# Views

## STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

There is no doubt that a steward and committee-man system is better than having only committeemen, but this isn't the main reason why the conditions are better at Chrysler than at G.M. and Ford. Usually with more representation it is easier and less red tape if your delegates want to back you up. However, even at Chrysler now, the men begin to feel hostile towards the stewards as they seem to be on the side of the company in enforcing the contract.

Auto Worker  
Detroit

Just before Chrysler and the union signed the new contract the union was all for calling a strike right now when most Chrysler workers are laid-off for model changeover. This would even have robbed us of unemployment compensation. If they'd wanted to strike, they should have planned it for after we go back to work when the company would be trying to catch up on production. I gave them my strike vote thinking they'd hold it until we were working again. In the past when we were working during negotiations they'd always compromise and extend the old contract. Now when we're not working they said, "No compromise. Strike." How phony can you get?

Worker — Detroit

That Chrysler contract must have been in the bag long before they announced their agreement. In the middle of "crucial" talks Reuther turns up making big speeches in Israel. Would he have left if the Chrysler contract was in doubt? Or does he think that contract talks is a good time to play travelling salesman for the State Department in the Middle East?

Reader  
Detroit

The trouble with most intellectuals is that they think workers are dumb. They think that working people should listen to them and be led by the nose. But workers lots of times know what he's going to say before he says it. They know things before he does, and just sort of turn deaf when he starts talking. They know from experience.

Then sometimes they talk so way in the future instead of here and now, you can't follow them. I

remember one fellow that would talk to me. I'd ask him a question, and to answer it, he'd go way around—and before I knew it, he'd be way off somewhere. I'd figure, "That fellow is too far away in the future for me." If there was another miner around, I'd just manage to turn to him, and start talking about something in the mines. We could talk to each other.

Miner  
Fairmont., W. Va.

I don't know why anyone would say that skilled workers led the wildcats here in Detroit and are more militant (READERS' VIEWS, Aug. 19). Production workers have led 95 per cent of the strikes in ship shop. If you think keeping quiet is being militant, then skilled workers are more militant.

Detroit Skilled Worker  
Chrysler Auto Body.

We're all workers together, but not even Reuther would dare say the skilled workers are more militant—certainly not to a body of production workers. Of course, when he can't find anything else he'll play around with skilled workers but everybody knows it's the production workers who have led the action in auto.

Skilled Worker  
Detroit

The tool and die conference in Flint said that Reuther is only interested in the production workers' welfare in the new contracts. That's because the skilled worker works the year around and GAW means nothing to him but it does mean a little to the low-seniority production workers. The nature of work of the skilled workers is so different from the production worker there's no comparison.

Production Worker  
Detroit

My husband might make a pretty good sum by payday. But by the time Uncle Sam reaches his long arm in your paycheck, it comes out pretty small. I never knew there to be a time before when they could tell you how much you could earn. They keep telling you more and more what you can do. Now, even how much you can take home.

Miner's Wife  
Fairmont, W. Va.

## NEGRO AMERICANS

My construction-worker partner pays \$115 a month rent plus utilities for a house in East Detroit where he and his family can be away from colored, and the "skid row white" section of Second and Third streets of Detroit. To do this his wife has to work too. He said just before he moved, he still had to pay \$96 a month rent for his wife and four kids on Second Street. My next door colored neighbor, through desperation, bought this house for \$8000, when the original owner just sold it to the realtors for \$5500. He bought it because of the low down payment and the need of a home for all his children. Buying homes or renting homes in a mixed neighborhood for colored costs a lot more. A white friend of mine with three children was able to rent a fairly large home in a mixed neighborhood for \$75 a month plus utilities.

House Painter  
Detroit

## YOUTH

I liked "Working for Independence" (Aug. 19) quite a bit. It's something of what I think I've always wanted to see in the Youth section. Something about what someone really wants and feels.

Eighteen  
Los Angeles

I liked it. It wasn't a gripe or anything like that.

School Boy  
Los Angeles

I thought it was very fine. I've wanted to see something like that in the paper for a long time. What a young couple feels when one of them has to go overseas, especially in peace time.

Young Wife  
Los Angeles

## WOMEN

I don't think, even if I could have a "schedule" I'd ever want one. I know what has to be done. But I don't want ever to feel that I have to do it at a certain time or else. If I want to wash, I'll wash. When I feel like ironing, I'll iron. It's got to be done, but a rigid schedule is too much like having a guard standing over you. And I don't ever want to feel like I have a guard over me.

Housewife  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

In spite of all the Labor Day speeches hailing the forthcoming unity between AFL and CIO, never has there been such a division between workers and the union leaders. This underlying unrest has encouraged the caucus builders.

I am reminded of a typical, opposition - caucus builder, Bert Cochran. Recently, one of Cochran's followers claimed to have "the best anti-Reuther caucus in Flint."

During the depression, Cochran was a student at the College of the City of New York. It was when young intellectuals like Cochran joined the strike movement of the workers and the unemployed and give it "leadership." In 1934 when he was active in the famous Auto-Lite strike in Toledo, Ohio, Cochran met some Trotskyists to whom he was greatly attracted as "theoreticians" of the class struggle. Where the Russian Revolution of 1917 made James P. Cannon, the founder of American Trotskyism, break with the Industrial Workers of the World and accept the doctrine of "a vanguard party to lead the workers to power," the American crisis in the 1930's made Cochran accept the doctrine of the party to lead the workers.

His glib tongue and facile pen soon made him a "specialist" in trade union work. But Cochran's specialty was not to organize masses, but caucuses.

## WORKERS, UNION LEADERS AND RADICALS

The average worker was in the struggle for unionization because he wanted a total change in the conditions of work and the relations at work. The workers were ingenious in the ways they devised to fight the corporations and the fledgling bureaucracy. To keep themselves in leadership, the young labor bureaucracy was in need of an ideology, a system of ideas that would attract these workers. This is where the radicals came in. They wrote the programs for the union leaders. Homer Martin's was being written by Jay Lovestone; Wyndham Mortimer's by the Communist Party; Reuther's, it was generally believed was also written by the C. P.

When GM first recognized the UAW it still had no intention of taking the union seriously enough to let the workers decide the conditions of work. Immediately there was a division between the union leadership and the union ranks as to how to enforce the contract. The workers took the road of "quickies." Homer P. Martin, president of the UAW, opposed wildcats.

When the C. P. succeeded in prying Martin's first lieutenant (Frankenstein) away from him, Bert Cochran saw his chance to play a leading role. He came to Martin with a 20-point program which ranged from a fight against the "big corporations" to fighting Communist "collective security." In a word, Martin got from Cochran the program to fight the Communists, and Cochran got from Martin the post of UAW-WPA director.

The partnership didn't last long. At the very first strike Martin fired Cochran. That was a lucky thing for Cochran for Martin was soon to bolt the CIO.

Cochran never worked with the rank and file of the union for whom he had nothing but contempt. The few times he worked in the shop, he was known to the workers as a sloppy worker, one whom they had "to carry." But on the platform or in the caucus room, he talked down to them. He was as synical as any labor bureaucrat from the smirk around his lips, the slouch of his shoulders, to the thumb pointed at the audience as his voice rose to a roar.

## THE PARTY LEADER AND THE LABOR BOSS

A petty type like Cochran respects neither fundamental ideas nor rank and file people. He responds only to his own restlessness and to that bureaucracy which gives him a little hope that he can function as a leader.

About two years ago, he glimpsed some hope for the future in the "reforms" proposed by that all-but-forgotten Russian, Malenkov. Claiming to understand "the reality of this world, and this country, and this labor movement," he led a group of dissident Trotskyists into an organization of his own which would "cut a path for itself in the next struggle and developments."

This sudden involvement in international politics had nothing whatever to do either with actual world events or theoretical developments. What was bothering Cochran was not Europe, but the United States; not Communists, but the native labor bureaucracy. So long as the trade union leaders needed these radicals to write their programs, Cochran, the petty intellectual, was satisfied. But the period following World War II is one of total crisis, and no time to play at radical politics. The labor bureaucracy cleaned house, throwing out not alone the Communists but the Trotskyists from all union positions. And Cochran began to display the signs of a well-known political type — the man who is desperately determined to get out from where he is.

Accordingly, he is now busy trying to build an opposition caucus. This harvest is reaped from the theory of "a party to lead the masses."

## NEGRO NEWS

## I Found Out

By Ethel Duubar

One day a white woman came over to visit me and sat down and started talking over first one thing and the other. After we talked for a while, I asked her could she tell me why so many white people discriminate against us so bad. Is it just because we are black, or do they think that we are dirty because of our color?

She said to me, "Well, Ethel, I can tell you a little about what some whites think about the Negro people and that is this. They think that if a Negro touches them they would turn black too. But I have learned better now since I started going around with colored people. They are just as good as white people. One day a white friend told me that if I keep going around with colored people I would come to like one of those black men. So I told her that would not happen to me. But I found out that colored men are just as sweet as the white man."

It was then I found out that white people thought that if we touch them that they would turn black and especially the white women.

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## SCHOOL DESEGREGATION DOWN SOUTH

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—Now that the schools are desegregated, the schools are segregated, the kids are together in classes and on the sports teams, too. But the kids still can't eat together in the drug stores in town. One young student said that when his football team went into a drug store, after practice one day, for cokes, he went to the counter and asked for one to be taken out. The manager didn't hear him say it was to take out and told him he couldn't drink in the place. They had a bit of an argument, and the boy finally told him to keep the coke and walked out. But we were wondering what would have happened if the whole team had got into the argument. He said that if they had, probably no one would be eating in that place for a long time—there just wouldn't BE a place.

is sister said that not too far back, that was just what had happened in a restaurant up in Uniontown, which is only about thirty miles north—and north of the Mason-Dixon line. The colored band had been invited to Uniontown for an affair with the Uniontown school band. While they were there, the white kids took them to a restaurant in town for something to eat. When they walked in, the white kids told

A friend was telling me about a levy that the voters of several communities here were asked to vote on. It was to raise funds for a swimming pool in Sabraton. She said that it was "understood" that if there was enough money, two pools would probably be built, one for white and one for colored. But if there was only enough money for one . . .

She said that she got into a discussion with a storekeeper when she went to pay her monthly bill, who wanted to know how she voted. My friend said she figured she'd be a fool to vote to pay a levy for a swimming pool she couldn't swim in. The storekeeper argued a bit and said that the colored wouldn't want whites in their pool, either, would they?

Finally, my friend ended the argument. "Look," she said, "When I come to pay you my bill, you don't have two cash registers, do you—one for white money and one for colored. It all goes into the same till! You can see that pretty easy."

The store keeper got pretty flustered, and walked away. But my friend told me that she didn't think she'd be buying at that store any more. If they can't swim in the same pool, why should she put her money in the same cash register.

Reader  
West Virginia

them to sit down and they would order for them. The manager came out and told the whites that he would serve them, but not the colored. The white boys told him that they were ALL eating. They asked all the other kids if they were with them.

The kids had the place jammed—there were over 50 of them at least. They all agreed, and gave the manager 15 minutes to serve them. Everyone just waited, watching the clock. When the 15 minutes were up the manager had not made a move to get any of their orders, the kids just tore into the place. They overturned the tables and when the manager called for the police, they just waited for them to come.

Six policemen came in cars—and found the kids waiting. The manager was still shouting that they would all have to pay, when the judge told him that there wasn't anything he could do to the kids. The judge told him there was no law on their books that colored couldn't be served, and that that must be his own law.

Sometime later, some other kids from Morgantown went up to Uniontown and went to the same restaurant. They reported back to their friends that there was no trouble at all. Everybody was being served.

## Why Are Negro Leaders Silent?

The recent incident that happened to the diplomat from India in Texas, shows the role that Negro leaders are playing in protecting discrimination.

When Congressman Adam Clayton Powell made a statement, at the Bandung Conference on Asia and Africa, that this country had canged its position on discrimination against Negroes over night and that everything was well and good, the leaders of this country shouted long and loud in support of those remarks.

Prime Minister Nehru of India was chairman at that session in Bandung. Now, in such a short time, his ambassador is visiting here and he is refused service in a white dining room in Texas. They apologized, saying they had mistaken him for a Negro.

## INSULT TO NEGROES

That is worse than refusing him service. It is a slap

in every colored American's face. The contributions Negroes have made in building this country and here is a human with a complexion darker than many Negro Americans' and this white society says, "If we had known you were not a Negro you would have had service without moving."

Many Negroes were more disturbed by this statement than by the incident. They were angry at Powell's statement at Bandung and they are angry because they have heard no word from Powell or any leading Negroes in regards to this incident.

## TALENTED TENTH KEEP QUIET

Brutality continues. Two Negroes were shot to death in Mississippi, the last one recently, for supporting and campaigning for a white candidate. Powell and the rest of the talented tenth Negroes are quiet about it.

The Ku Klux Klan has openly started its drive against Negroes, organizing its members as it did years ago. The only thing that the ranks of the Negroes can hear from their "leaders" is after these crimes have been committed they say, "It's a shame. We are sorry." It's the same as the statement that was sent to the Indian Ambassador.

No words and no actions come from Negro leaders in the labor movement. Neither from the labor leaders as a whole. But when election rolls around they ask you to vote Democratic ticket. Or even if they ask you to vote the Republican ticket they are asking votes for these same people that are committing these crimes against Negroes.

These talented-tenth Negroes are abating on every incident that confronts Negroes in America.

## PREJUDICE

WEST VIRGINIA.—It doesn't really make much sense. White folks have us do their cooking and cleaning for them. We use our hands to smooth down their sheets and put our hands into their food and wash their dishes. They praise our cooking to the skies. Yet they treat us as if there is something dirty about our hands that will contaminate them.

I've had white people I worked for eat at the same table with me and others who had me eat in the kitchen on a different table. I don't mind that so much—that doesn't hurt me very much. But there was one woman I'll never forget.

She called me, from my work at her house, to eat. First thing I noticed was that she had spread newspapers out on the table under my plate. Then I saw that she had the chair I was to sit on lined with newspapers, seat and back. I thought plenty, but I didn't say anything. Later, after I was finished and went on with my work, I noticed a strong smell of lye somewhere. I went back into the kitchen and found her daughter washing the dishes I ate off of in lye soap.

I still didn't say anything, but I asked her where her bathroom was. When I left, she went right in after me, and washed all around the seat and the bowl with lye soap.

I finished out my day, but when I was ready to leave, I went over to her and said, "You'd better get somebody else to work for you next time. It must be a lot of extra work to have to wash up after everything I touch with lye."

It'll take something pretty big to wipe all that out of those old ones with so much prejudice in their hearts. The young ones don't have it—except what is put there by the older ones.

## INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the fifth installment.)

One of the biggest things that ever penetrated me in my kidhood days was a white funeral. When anyone passed they had to bury him the next day. There was no embalming. They'd go around and get six or eight friends to dig the grave. Sometimes the ground was very hard. When a white person would die they ask Negroes to dig their graves. One day I went with some Negroes to dig a white woman's grave. After my friend dug the hard dirt they sat off to the side to see the burial. People who dug always stood by until the pastor said, "Ashes to ashes—" then one would take a shovel and shake a little dirt in the grave. One young Negro had no reason not to believe they did the same as with Negroes. When the pastor opened the book he started to shake a shovel of dirt over the grave. A white man asked what he was doing. He said he was helping with the burial. The white man told him to put down the shovel.

"You are all done, go on home."

We didn't think we were done, we stood there with our shovels.

The man said, "Look, nigger, you're not that much of a damn fool. As long as you live you're not going to throw dirt on a white man's face."

This was shocking to everyone of us. One said, "That's crazy. How we can hurt someone after they're dead, I can't understand. I can't understand the whites. They say we're crazy and ignorant but if they're not crazy then I don't know what crazy means."

In my early days, many of the white barber shops in the

South had Negro barbers. No Negroes could go to them, only whites. This is still true in some parts of the South today. A friend of mine used to tell of the insults they would get from whites who were sometimes sober and sometimes half drunk. One day a white man came into my friend's shop and sat in the chair. He had long whiskers, and bumps all over his face.

"Nigger, you see I have some bumps on my face. Several times I have been cut. I find blood on my face after I am shaved. I get mad when I see my own blood. I get mad especially if it was a nigger caused me to bleed. I want a shave. Now, if you think you can't shave me without blood appearing, then say so right now. I'll shoot hell out of you if you shave me and I find even one drop of blood on my face. He pulled out a pistol and put it in his lap.

My friend shaved the man. When he had finished, the man went over to look in the glass. There was no blood. The man paid and said, "You have a lot of nerve. You didn't cut any bumps but what would you have done if you had? I would have shot you."

My friend said, "I wasn't worried. I had you laid back in the chair, I was holding your head with my arm and I had the razor in my other hand."

The man looked upset and nervous and walked out of the shop real shaky. My friend told the other barbers that if he had cut any bumps he would have cut the man's throat before he'd let him shoot him. He said the man was crazy to get in his chair and threaten him with a pistol.

(To be continued)

## Working For Independence

By ANGELA TERRANO

I was speaking to a friend the other day, who grew up during the Depression and went to war in the '40s. He was telling me about the kids he grew up with and the trouble they got into.

He told me of one kid in particular who lived in a housing project with his parents. His father was a painter for those houses and had a pass key to the apartments. The kid stole the key and looted about three apartments before he was caught. He wasn't sent to a "progressive" farm for "juvenile delinquents" or given a jail term with a heavy fine. The neighbors and his parents figured it would be better for the kid if he was not punished but given another chance.

### DEPRESSION YOUTH

What my friend was pointing out to me was that these kids that were given another chance are the same generation that went through the war and are now parents themselves. Some of them will turn their kids in to "juvenile authorities" because their child doesn't obey him. He asked what has happened to these people that they would see their children off to jail? That they could forget what they did? It wasn't that you were "bad" but

what you were living through that had a lot to do with it. **POST-DEPRESSION YOUTH**

I sure don't know what it is. But when you think of what everybody, even kids who were born afterwards, went through since the Depression, you're not too surprised. A second World War where millions were killed. A world that produced the Hitler Youth, as anti-humanitarian a group as ever existed.

A friend told me that when she was around 13, she escaped from a German concentration camp and had to walk through a German town and a boy no more than 10 or 12 called out to the Gestapo officers, "There's a Jew." She kept walking as if nothing happened but then the Gestapo fired over her head and she was caught again. She said to me she has always wondered how that little boy knew she was Jewish and what was in him to turn her in.

After that, you had the Korean war and all sorts of wars in between, and all over. A world where you have to go out on strike for something that should be yours.

I don't know. I think these are things that you can't sit around and think out "why?" but things that have to be stopped.

New York. — The first time I ever worked on a moving-belt assembly line was in a television factory in Long Island City. Most of the employees in the shop were women. They made up the majority of the wirers and solderers on the other lines. The line I was on had all men working on it, a few old but the rest were young—just going to the Army and just coming from the Army.

### MEN SHUT LINE OFF

The first couple of days I worked were pretty soft. The chassis came down the line a good distance apart. That didn't last long. When things began to move too fast, the guys would run up and shut the line off. Our crew leader would come over and explain to us that we couldn't do that. That not even he could turn off the line. The foreman gave us the same story. But everyone just kept running up and shutting off the line.

The shop always seemed to be in a mess. Time study men, foremen, executives scurrying all over the shop. If the men in white shirts were right on top of us we would have to bear the line until some mess in another department drew them away.

### STEWARD DOES NOTHING

The shop was organized by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL. Our steward was somewhere at the end of the line. He didn't seem to know what was going on. The only time we ever saw him was when he came up the line to collect money for somebody who had just gotten married or something like that. They said he spent most of his time smoking in the men's room. Nobody was very hard on him. He hadn't wanted the job but no one else would take it.

### COMPANY GETS STRICT

They got stricter about shutting off the line and posted some wheel to see that no one shut off the line. The belt was about waist high. The top section of belt carried TV sets down the line and the guys used the bottom section of the belt to trade notes and sandwiches up the line when the sets moved down. Some guys began to throw screws, extra speakers and all kinds of junk down on that part of the line. Then we began to have a series of breakdowns. Some times we did nothing for hours.

### LINE JAMS UP

The union said nothing about the number of sets we

did; there would be no break-period no matter how many sets we did in any hour. Some days, the sets would begin coming down the line a certain distance apart then gradually they would start piling them on the line closer together and before you realized it you'd be working your arms off.

Our part of the line was separated from the guys further down by a partition. When the sets began to go down too fast, we'd all end up at this partition and then we just let the sets go and they'd pile up.

The TV sets are moved around the shop on overhead tracks and are lowered from ceiling to floor by an automatic elevator. The day I was laid off one of the automatic elevators was stuck at the floor level. We were letting the line go by because we had just found out we were laid off and we all swore to each other that we weren't coming back. We could see about a half-dozen sets coming down the ramp to where the elevator was caught. None of the supervisors noticed anything. Then boom! Down came the first set. The whole shop roared. As each picture tube exploded the shop cheered. And we didn't even expect a going-away party.

## Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

Although, I have been a housewife for nine years, I have gone out to work three or four different times and have kept the jobs for three or four months. At least half the housewives I have known have done the same thing.

### WORKING WITH OTHERS

Working with other people is exciting and interesting after working all alone for years at a time. It is a wonderful cure for the loneliness a housewife often suffers from. Relations with people develop much faster when you are only living in the same neighborhood. A housewife goes about these friendships much more slowly. She does not often have to get along at close contact with people she does not like as much and as often as a woman working outside of her home does.

When you are with other people, you have to keep up with the latest news and not only that, you have to state your opinions and be judged by them. A housewife in her home is not forced to take an interest in anything outside of her husband's work, her children and her neighborhood. That is not to say that she doesn't, but simply that she can choose and limit her interests. A

working woman cannot. Everything that goes on in the world comes up for discussion and in order to be respected, she has to know what is happening.

### HOUSEWIFE'S SKILLS

In contrast to this, a housewife, though she may not care to discuss the latest international developments and may not know some of the things that are going on in the world unless they directly affect her or are of interest to her, slowly becomes an expert in her field.

A mother and wife is forced to keep her homelife a place of contentment for her husband and children. And keeping them happy together is one of her jobs. So, although, it is a fine thing to go out to work, and a housewife benefits from it as much as anybody, a housewife is not as limited in her ideas as it might appear.

If she spends hours a day discussing children, and how to fix real Italian spaghetti and how to fit a pattern to a small child for a school dress, let all those who believe that she is narrow in her interests remember that her concern with human beings stands in opposition to the philosophy of our time which declares that human beings are not important.

## W O M E N



"No, Dear. I don't think you should get a job. The doctor said you shouldn't do anything strenuous."

## Wife Learns To Be Independent

When we were first married, we were 18 and I had gone straight from the over-protection of my family right into marriage. My husband was a strong personality and I allowed him to make most of the decisions for any of the important things we had to do.

One of the ways it showed itself was that he didn't want to have a baby. He didn't want the responsibility of a family. He didn't want anything to tie him down. That problem never bothered me, I just wanted to have a baby. He could always out-talk me on the subject, but he never took the feeling away from me.

After six years, there were many things that were wrong

## "I'd Rather Work Out Than Stay At Home"

WEST VIRGINIA. — I've worked all my life. There have been only two years that I haven't worked at a steady, regular job ever since I've been old enough to work. Those were the last two years, because I've been sick and had two operations.

When my grandson, whom I look after, starts to school next fall, I'm going to start back to work. I can get him off to school, and be back in

time to look after him when he gets home.

I'd rather work out than stay at home any day. The doctor said it would be all right, so long as I looked after myself and didn't do anything too strenuous. There can't be any work that's harder than work around the house.

When you work out and take care of your house after work, you have to make a schedule for yourself. You know you've got to do it, so you just make the time. If you set your mind on something that has to get done, you do it if it takes you until two in the morning.

But when you're home all the time, you never get done. There's always something to do. I have a kind of a schedule. I know what has to be done. I sort of set Wednesday for washing, Thursday for ironing, and Friday for cleaning house. But no matter what, there's always more to do. You're never through.

When I start working again, I'll probably be doing somebody else's housework. But it's not like doing your own. It's a job. And you get paid for it. It's housework, but you're working to get something to put into your own home.

Now we have a small child.

# WORLD OUTLOOK

## Workers Are Restless

(Continued from Page 1)

men ready to work for better leadership in the union—they proved this over and over again—and it all turns to nothing. Where do we go from here? It is not a question of the men. They are ready all the time. Is it a question of leadership? We have replaced the leadership four times in the last eight years. What is it? It is certain that within the confines of the present organizational setup and the contracts that go with this setup, we have reached a blind alley.

"From what I've been able to see just in the past ten years, it is not only in our local that the workers feel this situation.

### WHAT TO DO?

"Now the \$64,000 question is what to do about it. That is not so easy to say. And it is not easy for a small newspaper like NEWS & LETTERS to say what to do about it. I know lots of people would say, "Well, just go down to the union and elect some honest officials." But from my experience and many others like me, I know that this is not the answer. I know that as long as we have the present setup in organization and contract, things will turn out the same whoever is in.

"I remember back in the early '30s there was a general situation similar to the present. It concerned the mass production workers. Take the auto workers. For years they had been trying to organize the shops with the

different crafts separate. It just wouldn't work. It wasn't until they organized the CIO along industrial lines and not craft lines that they were able to go anyplace. A whole new form of organization had to be created to do the job that the AFL had not been able to do.

"But now the CIO has gone the way the old organization went. As a matter of fact the CIO and AFL are now getting together. And the workers concerned are in a position where their basic needs cannot be satisfied with the old form of organization.

"I think that one of the most important things to bring about a change in this situation is for workers, in whatever industry they may be, to realize that the situation is pretty much the same everywhere and that workers generally feel the same way about it. At least, that's my observation.

**Will NEWS & LETTERS open its columns so that workers can write in about their experiences where they work? It is very important for workers to have some place where they can exchange experiences freely and see how things are and where they are going.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Most of the articles in NEWS & LETTERS are written by workers. Our columns are always open to them.)

## Unusual Hobby

LOS ANGELES.—There is a man in Los Angeles who has a very unusual and profitable hobby. His name is Alex Ramati and he is law editor of the *Legal Journal*.

He sits up all night listening to short wave radio broadcasts from the Communist dominated countries. During the war, when he was in the Polish Army, he had been assigned to monitor foreign broadcasts because he knew all the Middle European languages, including Russian and German. He has continued listening to these broadcasts just as a hobby since coming to the United States.

At present he is submitting articles to the local press in Los Angeles because he finds he is getting news not yet in the papers. He knew about such things as the Chinese releasing the American fliers long before anyone else did.

He says that sometimes the serious Iron Curtain news is very humorous. One night, Radio Bulgaria announced that their leaders had found a way to insure that factory workers attend Party meetings. They just locked the factory gates and didn't let the workers out until after the meeting was over.

## FLAMES OF REVOLT

Millions of Americans, within the last few weeks, have seen pages of pictures in LIFE magazine showing the shock and grief of French colonists in North Africa who felt the fury of rebellious Moroccans rising for their independence.

Particularly, these pictures showed the numb and hysterical faces of women who had seen their friends and relatives struck down in this civil war. Pathetic as the personal suffering of these colonists may be, their shock is as nothing compared to the untold suffering and degradation they and their French government have heaped upon the Moroccans for generations.

When this latest outbreak for independence unleashed itself a few weeks ago, North Africans killed and wounded several hundred Europeans, mostly French, mostly in the Oued-Zem area of Morocco.

Within days, the French Army, especially the Foreign Legion, threw themselves upon Oued-Zem and massacred thousands of old men, women and children. These had heroically remained behind as a cover while the able-bodied men took to the hills to continue the fight.

So brutal are the French military operations against the natives, that not even newspaper men are permitted to accompany the Foreign Legion as they open fire against women and children.

The Moroccans fought back not only with their lives but with their brains. Native mine workers, who knew exactly what they were doing, destroyed millions of dollars worth of mining equipment in an effort to drive the French out of Morocco economically as well as politically.

## ECHOES IN PARIS

Just days before the recent outbreak in North Africa, several thousand Moroccan workers in Paris staged a demonstration against French colonial policies. Parisian police charged into them. Since then, hundreds of North Africans working in France have been rounded up and thrown into jail for "subversive activities."

## GRAVEDIGGERS OF FRANCE

One of the most powerful political forces shaping French governmental policies today is the North African lobby. They have caused governments to fall at the slightest hint of modification of French colonial policy in North Africa.

When France was driven out of Indo-China last year, North Africa became the

sole important remnant of its colonial empire. The French rulers depend upon North Africa both for investments and markets. They have exploited millions of Arabs in their interests represented by a few thousand French colonists. This reactionary North African lobby enforces its exploitation of the Arabs by the terror of the French Army and the willing connivance of the most reactionary Arab politicians in North Africa.

Part of this colonial clique even pretends to be humanitarian and liberal. Rene Mayer, a leading Radical Deputy and one of the most eloquent hypocrites in the French Assembly, addressed an audience of American Socialists last winter. He said that the rise of nationalism in Asia and Africa was proof of the growing "political maturity" of the natives. However, he added, it was the sacred, democratic duty of the Western world not to give the colonies sudden independence and thereby abandon them as helpless prey to Communist imperialism.

## NOTES FROM THE PAST

In the midst of World War II, while these same politicians were talking about the death-battle of democracy against fascist barbarism, French authorities kidnapped an Arab trade union leader in North Africa. In order to discourage trade union activity among native workers, they flew him in a military plane above his native village and threw his body to the ground as a grim warning.

## FOUR POINTS IN THE COMPASS

One of France's small colonial holdings is French Togoland, a tiny spot on the map in Southwest Africa. The native population are predominantly of the Ewe people. There are scarcely any French colonists — nor, for that matter, many whites — in French Togoland. All of the agriculture and most of the business is carried on by Ewe people, but they have no rights under the French rule.

In 1952, a representative of the Ewe people came to New York once again to lay before the United Nations his people's plea for self-government.

During his stay in New York he pointed to the map of Africa. First he put his finger on Kenya, a small spot on the map of East Africa, where the popular rising of the people of Kenya had just erupted. Then he put his finger on South Africa where the native population was in restless opposition to the rule of White South Africa. Then he put his finger on the Gold Coast, next-door neighbor of French Togoland, where the natives had just ousted British rule. Then he put his finger on North Africa which at that time also had demonstrations against the French.

He said, "Look at these four points on the African map. They are separated by thousands of miles of impassable jungle, mountains and rivers. There is no easy means of communication and years of colonial rule has kept the natives from contact with each other. Nevertheless, what you see openly in these four points on the map represents an irresistible wave of popular movements that will swept through Africa and nothing the white powers do can stop it."

## THE SHADOW FALLS

As Autumn begins and in spite of Summer reports of great prosperity in Western Europe, Europeans are looking nervously at signs of inflation and are wondering what will happen. Uneasily also, they eye the signs of inflation in the United States and they ignore the glowing reports of 65 million employed.

Already in England the press is carrying on a campaign against labor, urging workers not to rock the boat by asking for wage increases. There is open talk in Government circles in favor of creating a "healthy" amount of unemployment in order to keep inflation in check.

The British labor bureaucrats, now preparing for a new round of contracts, are nervously expecting a new wave of wildcat strikes.

## DISSENT

**Dissent**, an independent socialist quarterly published in New York, features in their Summer issue, "The Social Implications of Freudian 'Revisionism'," by Herbert Marcuse, author of **REASON AND REVOLUTION**. This selection is part of a new book by Mr. Marcuse which will be published this Fall by Beacon Press.

## Carpenter

My life is the trip to the hiring hall  
And pay day on Friday,  
And singing in the flying sawdust  
And hammering in the sun.

My trade is wood-butcher-ing.  
I am a carpenter  
And hate the noise and the weariness  
And fear the firings and the lay-offs,  
And love the brotherhood, the earned respect of one construction man for another.

The concrete truck, its drum rotating  
Like a huge animal vomiting concrete;  
The cranes,—their booms raised like fingers pointing to the sky.

The banging, man, the banging of hammers,—  
The firm feel of an old friend, the tool that built the world,  
The forever swinging, strong, multitudinous hammers.

## NEWS and LETTERS

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