

## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### The Gap Between Leaders & Ranks

The NAACP and the middle class Negro leaders seem afraid of, or opposed to, the actions the colored people are carrying on by boycotting and striking against the Montgomery, Alabama segregated system on its city buses. This is also true among Negro leaders in the trade unions up North.

#### THE RANKS ACT—THE LEADERS ARE SILENT

This historic demonstration in Montgomery is greater than anything Negroes have undertaken for their rights, anyplace in this country, since the Civil War.

After nearly four months of continuous struggles during which the national NAACP was absolutely silent, they have finally come to some kind of support of the Montgomery protest. This organization, that proclaims itself as the sole leader and representative of the fight for Negro rights, has hinted that the reason for its long silence is that before this, the Montgomery struggle wasn't really against segregation, but now it's openly against segregation.

The unions—especially the CIO with its many Negro staff members who also sound their notes to the world about their stand on civil rights—have deaf ears so far as giving support to the struggle of the Montgomery colored people.

#### WHO IS THAT GOOD CANDIDATE?

Recently, I was discussing the Montgomery situation with a Negro lawyer. Some years ago, this lawyer was making militant speeches for civil rights and, at that time, also blasted the NAACP leaders for their do-nothing activities and their failure to participate in the actions of Negroes in their everyday life. That was four or five years ago. Today, he holds some elected office in the state.

It is very shocking to see how one can turn into his opposite. He started, now, by saying that the Northern Negroes do not have civil rights. So why worry about the Southern Negroes? What the colored people must do, he said, is first of all get a registration card, go to the polls on election day and vote for good candidates (meaning himself).

I pointed out that Northern Negroes have voted since the Civil War. Who is that good candidate?

No one is opposed to voting. But it seems only to replace one politician for another one who simply gives lip service when he comes up for re-election.

I talked with several middle class Negroes on what is taking place in the South, especially Alabama. They all seem to have the same politician's trend of thought. As one Republican said, "Those whites in the South who are committing the crimes are all Democrats."

#### A SHOW FOR MONEY

One lawyer mentioned the Till case. He said that over half a million dollars was raised nationally by the NAACP for the case. As he put it, he knew the case was closed, settled, period, when they acquitted the defendants in Mississippi. But the NAACP, he said, was in a bad financial position. He knew it was only a question of raising some money for the treasury, but he also-knew nothing could be done. The leaders knew this too. As he continued, "It was a little crooked. Not entirely double-crossing, just a little." So he kept his mouth shut.

We said, "They did with the case what the Communists would have done and they said that's what the Communists would have done. Yet you criticize the Negroes for not registering and voting. It seems now that you should understand why there seems to be such a problem to interest people to rush to the polls."

The Negroes in the union leadership will have to get an OK signal from their head officials before they can utter a word no matter what is involved with the ranks of the colored people in these United States. But the ranks alone are in a continuous drive, pushing forward for full human rights. (Continued on Page 6)

## Where Does The Money Go?

MINER, STEELWORKER SAY: "SOMETHING'S WRONG"

WEST VIRGINIA.—In the last few weeks, the miners got their income tax statements. At my mine, the work has been steady. The statements of the men ran from some \$4,000 to \$7,000 made for the year. Most of the difference in what was made was due to overtime. But there was no difference in the reactions of the men as they looked at their statements. In one way or the other, they all said the same thing: "Now I see how much I made; all I need is for someone to tell me where it all went to. I'm sure I don't know."

On the tax statement was a part of the answer. Income tax deductions. The common reaction to this pretty figure was, "No wonder the government can spend so much money. I worked a month (or two) just for them." This was but a small part of the answer.

Nor was the answer to be found in the buying of expensive items, like cars or TV sets. Those who had bought these things would be paying on them in the months and years to come, since these things were bought on credit. The answer was simply in the high cost of living, that day to day living that doesn't seem to amount to much in terms of daily expenses, but amounts to plenty in terms of one year.

#### MILLIONAIRE'S PHILOSOPHY

There are always some people who say that they can do without things right now because they expect things to get better for them in the future. A friend of mine called this a millionaire's philosophy. It might work out all right for a millionaire, but for a working man, it just never happens. A miner knows his past and present.

For those who have been working steadily, things will get worse before they get better. They feel that they should have those things which will provide for a decent human life. And they are getting them, knowing full well that they may be faced with the prospect of losing them. It will not be easy to take these things away from them.

#### NOT SO PROSPEROUS MINERS

These are the miners who have worked steadily. But there are many others who have worked only two and three (and even one) days a week. For these men and their families, the talk of high wages that a miner gets does not mean much.

I can't help thinking about the men who are laid off and being laid off. I was laid off for a year. Not only could I not find a job in this area, most of the other cities I went to were also hit with unemployment.

Every time I read about the high tonnage of coal produced in the last year, the highest since 1950, I can just get one thing out of it. A lot less men are putting out a (Continued on Back Page)

## MONTGOMERY NEGROES

### SHOW THE WAY

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Negro citizens of Montgomery have forced the officials of Montgomery and of Alabama, to recognize the powerful success of their boycott against the city's segregated buses.

December 5 has been reported as the day the boycott started. Actually, the boycott started in the middle of November when increasing numbers of Negroes themselves decided to boycott the humiliating conditions they didn't want to put up with any longer.

The spirit was already growing strong in the community, on December 5, when Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white man. She did not look to make a "test case" by deliberately sitting in the white section. She was seated in the colored section. A white man was standing because all the "white" seats were filled. The bus driver ordered her to get up. She refused and was arrested. It could have been anyone else at the time. This incident, which arose from the growing boycott, speeded up its total spread.

There are about 100,000 people in Montgomery. Three out of every five are Negroes. Practically everyone, 60,000 strong, took an active part in organizing the boycott and holding the line.

Day after day, the buses run empty while Negroes walk or ride in car-pools.

At home, at work, in social clubs and churches and barber shops, where

ever people get together; they talk about the boycott and make their plans and pledge to each other to hold fast.

In cowardly desperation, the white supremacy officials have called this firm stand, by thousands upon thousands of Negroes, a "conspiracy." These officials, many of them members of the notorious white Citizens Councils, have singled out a number of the active participants in the boycott. They have termed them "leaders" and have arrested and indicted them.

There aren't enough jails in the whole State of Alabama to hold all the people who organized the boycott. They are the majority of Montgomery.

Those who were arrested are prominent but they did not order the boycott to begin and—even if they wanted to—they cannot order it to end.

Mayor W. A. Gayle bragged that he didn't care "whether a Negro ever rides a bus again if it means that the social fabric of our community is to be destroyed so that the Negroes will start riding buses again."

At the same time, the City Commission refused an application by a group of Negroes to start a jitney transportation service of their own and the police cracked down on Negroes.

To date, Montgomery's bus system has lost over a quarter of a million dollars.

Now, a 1921 anti-labor law has been dug out to try to force the Negroes to ride the buses. They will not ride on the white Citizens Councils' terms.

No matter what happens now, the Montgomery Negroes—by their spontaneous and courageous action which has been going on for four months—have won a victory for all of us.

In Our Next Issue:  
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# A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

(READING TIME—3½ MINUTES)

The American Medical Association (A.M.A.) has sent out a special letter signed by its President, to every member. The heading says: "Reading time — 3½ minutes."

There are over 200,000 doctors of medicine in the United States. Most of them are silent, dues paying members of this professional organization.

Accompanying the letter is a description of a bill H.R. 7225, now in Congress, already passed by the House. The letter urges that pressure be brought to insure its defeat in the Senate. The bill would provide monthly cash payments to permanently and totally disabled persons, who are over 50 and covered by Social Security.

## SURPRISING URGENCY

The tone of urgency in the letter is surprising and even startling. The measure is called subtle and dangerous, as well as a threat to our national economy.

The reason given by the A.M.A. for the alarm is that physicians would find themselves under constant pressure from politicians, administrators and patients, seeking to get disability certification. There would inevitably be governmental regulation of medical services to the disabled and this, says the A.M.A., would be a step to government medicine.

## GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

I do not like government interference with medical care any more than the next man. It may be that the A.M.A. spokesman has before him a picture of Russia, where doctors and medical care are used as instruments to punish, reward and control people. Or perhaps the A.M.A. president is thinking of medical care in the military services, where the individual patient or doctor has little to say in determining treatment and policy.

One can add something else, not referred to in the letter. In industrial medicine, as practiced in the United States today, thousands of doctors are influenced and even pressured, by factory management and insurance companies, in the course of caring for the sick and injured. The A.M.A. has said little on this situation.

## EMPTY WORDS

It is peculiar that those who talk and write most expansively and most beautifully about democracy and about faith in the American people—all in big general words—when it comes down to something specific, show little respect for the individual American.

The bill in Congress stipulates that a disabled person will not be eligible for cash benefits, unless he accepts vocational rehabilitation, that is, special treatment or

training, where possible, to enable him to return to work. On this proposal, the A.M.A. statement is as follows, "Cash handouts would hinder rather than promote rehabilitation, because successful rehabilitation would mean loss of cash benefits."

## HUMAN NEEDS

I would like to take the proposed bill for what it offers—help to those in need. At the same time, I know that good medical care, like every other side of a good life, can never come about through a law of Congress. Good medical care will come when the central purpose of all human activity will be the complete, the total development of the human being.

The A.M.A. criticism of the bill is lacking in a fundamental appreciation of the medical needs and wants of the American people, because its analysis does not begin with nor flow from human values.

# COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

## MINERS ARE THEIR OWN BEST LEADERS

WEST VIRGINIA—People who think that the miners are dumb and follow Lewis blindly make me laugh. Whenever I hear that, I remember the time when Lewis okayed the "three-day" week.

### MEN GET TOGETHER

My husband was doing maintenance work in the mine at the time. He was getting four days because there was always work to do clearing up falls and things like that. I was working, too; and we only had two kids. We were getting along okay. But there were lots of men who had big families and were only getting three days a week at the most. They were really hard hit. They couldn't take that for long.

I remember when they got together. They had figured it all out and decided that if they couldn't make them give a contract with more than three days guaranteed, then they'd just have to have a con-

tract, with a wage increase.

### OWN PLANS MADE

The whole thing was that the companies had big stock piles of coal. They could keep on filling their orders on three days work for the men. But the men knew that if they stopped work altogether and went on strike, those stock piles would go down fast and the company would have to go along with them.

They called a big meeting. Guys came from all over—all the mines from Fairmont, Carmichael and all around here.

Lewis made sure he didn't come himself, but he sent his representatives to try and push the three-day week down their throats. The miners never even gave those stooges a chance with their baloney. They threw them out and went on with their meeting and their plans for the strike themselves.

### LEWIS FALLS IN LINE

This is where Lewis was smart. When he saw how the men were acting—and realized they meant business—he said he was with them. He put himself in there as their "leader" again. But it wasn't him—it was the men who were "leading." He was

just smart enough to see it. Because the men stuck it out, they won. It was a rough time. They might not have been able to stick it out, if they hadn't had help.

### SCHOOL TEACHERS HELP

Even the school teachers helped. It was never publicized and it was never "official," but the school teachers around here were feeding the miners' children out of their own pockets.

I was working for a school teacher at the time and I asked her how come they were doing it. She told me she had wondered if the men could stick it out. She said that they knew the miners' union was the most important one in the whole country. She said if they broke the coal miners' union, that would be the end. They'd be able to break everything.

The Red Cross refused to help. They said they'd be helping the strike if they helped. They haven't been able to get a penny from a miner since. But the Salvation Army helped. And the people around here helped. And when the miners kept sticking it out and got enough help, the strike was won.

But it wasn't Lewis—it was the miners who did it.

## A Report -- and Appeal -- to Our Readers

Dear Reader:

News & Letters was made possible by a small group of workers and intellectuals who met together in the spring of 1955 and pledged themselves to put out such a paper for six months. This pledge has been kept.

We went to press for the first time on June 17, 1955, with a full account of the wildcat strikes then covering this country, especially in the auto industry. Such information appeared nowhere else except in the conversations workers had with each other.

The very same issue also commemorated the second anniversary of the popular uprising by East German workers against the Communist tyranny over them.

In all, we have published 15 issues to date. In each issue, we have brought the words and deeds of the people who are the foundation and the heart of America.

Now, the continuation of the paper is in danger. That is why this appeal for help is being made here.

Practically all of the work is done on a voluntary basis. What must be paid for is kept at an absolute minimum. With all the economies, this is a picture of what each issue of News & Letters costs:

Printing .....	\$250.00
Postage .....	60.00
Minimum technical help .....	100.00
Rent .....	30.00
Utilities .....	5.00
Stationery and supplies .....	5.00

Total—every two weeks ..... \$450.00

Your help is needed. How much can you give? Can you contribute a single substantial sum of money—\$50 or \$100 or more? Or, can you make a regular contribution of \$1 or \$5 or \$10 a month?

How many new subscriptions can you buy for your friends, or encourage your friends to buy for themselves, at \$2.50 a year (26 issues)?

Money is needed to continue this paper. The key is in your hands. Please fill in the coupon below and mail it at once.

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8067 Grand River  
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Here is my contribution of \$..... to help assure that News & Letters will continue to appear.

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I enclose \$..... for ..... subscriptions @ \$2.50 each. Please send them to the people whose names and addresses are listed on the sheet I am attaching.

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## Accidents Can Sometimes Happen

FAIRMONT, W. Va. — Any man who has worked in the mines for any time at all runs into all kinds of bosses. Some are bad, and others are worse. With some of them, the men can get along for a while. When you have this, the boss can stay; when the men can't get along with him, he goes.

There are a million and one things that the men can do to get rid of a boss that he would never suspect. Regardless of how smart a boss is, the men are just too smart for any one man to keep up with. The smartest kind of boss is one who will leave the men alone.

### ON MY BACK

You take this boss that I once had some years ago. I was running a loading machine and he was always looking down my collar. That's something no miner likes, and I was sure no exception. I'll admit he wasn't too bright.

Every once in a while he'd come up to me when I was loading and have some suggestions to make on how to run the machine, how to get more coal, how to save more time and stuff like that.

Like I say, his suggestions weren't too bad, but he had a habit of staying back of the machine, squatting back against the rib of a place and watching me load. He did this regularly—and this was bad. It would never do.

### OFF MY BACK

As every miner knows, there isn't a day that goes by that you can't hurt some-

one if you want to. There are just too many things that can "accidentally" happen.

I tried to help the boss out by letting him know that being watched wasn't good for me. I just didn't like being watched. His trouble was that he didn't get it.

One day, a perfect situation came up. The ribs were loose due to a squeeze in one place. There was a big slab that was loose at just about the spot the boss liked to hunker down and watch me. I took my pick and worked that slab back and forth and got it just right. Just a little pressure would bring it down.

I went back to loading and in a little while the boss came into the place. I didn't pay any attention to him and kept on loading.

All of a sudden, there was a yell and a big crash. I turned around real quick, turned my machine off and ran back to him. The slab had come in on him, but he wasn't hurt much. I helped him get up, making "Oohs" and "Aahs" patting him, brushing the coal off him, asking him if he was hurt, if there was anything I could do, mumbling about the dangers of a coal mine.

He said he was all right, thanked me for my concern and agreed that you can never tell when an accident will happen in a coal mine. Then he limped out of the place and I didn't see him too much after that day. Must have figured I was a jinx to be around—or something.

LABOR

Poor Inter-Union Support Causes Long Strikes, Worker Says

LOS ANGELES—The editorial in issue No. 13 (Jan. 6) on the "Life and Security of Workers" which tells of the number of recent strikes going on and the reluctance of the mighty leaders of the AFL-CIO to move in and give full support, hits the spot as far as Los Angeles is concerned.

There was just concluded here a strike of some 90 days. A strike of workers in the rock and gravel industry. The union involved was the Teamsters. It doesn't make too much difference what the issues were. The main issues were finally agreed to be arbitrated in any case. What seemed to me to be important was the fact that there was absolutely no reason for the strike to have gone on that long. If the official leaders of the AFL-CIO would only use the force at their disposal there would have been no drawn-out struggle like that.

In the small shop, in the building trades, in which I work, we were discussing the strike. The strike had already been going on 30 or 40 days and seemed to be getting nowhere.

One fellow said, "I'd be willing to give a dollar a day toward that strike and if all the union men in this town would do the same thing the strike would be over in a week."

Everyone agreed. I'm sure no one thought money alone would turn the trick. It was just a matter of letting the industry know that the rest of the workers were behind the strikers. That's what needed. But that is exactly what you can't expect from the whole union set-up today. The whole thing is designed to keep everything within certain limits. Above all, not to let loose the real force pent up in the workers of today.

—Construction Worker.

Strike Threat Against Speed-Up

LOS ANGELES—As a result of the lay-offs the problem of speed-up has appeared in all the auto plants in Los Angeles. At General Motors production has been scheduled for a few less per hour but almost every man on the line is now expected to do more than he did before the lay-off. In some departments the workers have filed as many as 15 grievances over speed-up.

In violation of the contract, foremen all over the plant are working and getting their white shirts dirty in order to keep production going at the scheduled rate. These foremen are working while the laid-off men are looking for other jobs.

The situation over speed-up has become so critical that the union is setting a date to call a strike vote on this speed-up issue.

Nut Head Says—



"Quit griping. Things'll get better by Spring."

Now Who's Keeping the Workers From Buying Milk for Their Kids?

DETROIT—For the past several years, whenever auto workers took strike action against the company because of unjust treatment over production standards, the union officers always condemned the striking workers for "unlawful strikes" and attacked them in leaflets which they passed out at the plant gates the very next day.

BLAMING THE WORKERS

These leaflets always said that the workers who caused the strike just want to starve other workers' families and force their children to go hungry. They said that many workers need the time they were forced to lose by the wildcat, in order to buy milk for their young children.

'WE TOLD THEM SO'

For the past month or two the company has been sending workers home for several days a week. Paychecks have been cut in half. At this time, the union has passed out only one leaflet. All the leaflet said was that they had told the company over a

AN ACT OF GOD?

LOS ANGELES — During the recent flood, here in Los Angeles, many big companies advertised over TV and radio for the men not to report to work on account of the plants being flooded or the surrounding streets being impassable.

Many men did show up, though. When they got to the gate the guards turned them away.

The next day the men filed grievances saying they had not been properly notified and the company should pay them for a half a day. The feeling was so strong that many companies scheduled Saturday work.

The union contracts state that if work is stopped by an "Act of God", the company doesn't have to pay the workers. The men were very angry and said that it was no "Act of God" that they were not properly notified.

Company Uses Incident, Intimidates Workers

By Angela Terrano

Being without a union makes it easy for the company to use any incident to intimidate the workers. I don't know how much a union would do, but I know there are some things the company would not be able to get away with.

Since Christmas time one of the girls has been sulking and doesn't talk to any of the people around her. Although we sympathize with anyone's problems, we resent her attitude. As one of the girls said, "We all have our problems but we can't take it out on the people we work with."

INTIMIDATION

Just last week she explod-

ed at one of the girls and, with a flurry, marched into the foreman's office. She stayed over an hour. When she came out, they called each worker in her section into the office, one by one. They not only asked who was making slurring remarks against her, but also, "Is any one trying to tell you how much work you should put out?" They said, "There's too much talking going on and there are going to be a lot of changes made back there."

Everyone was furious. No one will talk to this girl now at all. And we know with a union no such thing could have taken place.

I have worked in this type of shop before. This kind of patronizing shop thrives on keeping the women fighting among themselves and telling on each other. The foreman acts like a big father and loves it when you go to him with a problem. More often than not he expects you to act like his obedient child.

UNION WRITES; COMPANY ANSWERS

Recently the UAW sent the company a letter saying that the workers need the union to add strength to their bargaining power in the labor market. The company came back with a statement that they were shocked that the union's purpose was what they said. The company said that their employees "are not commodities to be sold and bought in a market but are human beings." The union then asked for a debate with the company in front of the workers, which was declined.

They have been going on with this foolishness for quite a while and will probably continue using words and fooling around with people's lives. They might not think much of human-beings, but we do.

We do have a commodity to sell and that's our ability to work. But it cannot be bought at the price of fear, intimidation and words.

year ago that their production schedule was too high and now, of course, every worker can agree they were correct.

No worker ever heard of the union officers saying this to the company. The truth of the matter is that many workers wanted to reject overtime but were pressured by the steward and committeeman to work overtime.

As some workers said, when they read this leaflet, "The union does not seem to think that when the company sends us home it hurts in regards to not having enough money to buy milk for the babies. They only use that line when we strike against the company because we are trying to settle it ourselves.

"But when we cannot make a full pay for weeks, the only thing they can say is that they advised the company not to work overtime."

When you have a short check every week it hurts worse when the company causes it than when workers do it to make better working conditions.

Union Helpless in Face of Lay-Offs

DETROIT — I attended a union meeting of my local union on Sunday. Some very important things were said in regards to this lay-off. The president said that those workers who are getting laid off will not be called back. He doubts whether they will ever be called back by the company. He hopes that he is wrong but that is the way it looks.

He said the company is planning to put in automation machinery at our plant to do practically all or most of what it will be doing on production.

They are still laying off. They are saying that this week-end we will be cut back

to 1946 seniority. I have barely made three days a week for the past four weeks. I am home early today. They said no one had to come back until next Monday; if they have 1946 seniority or more then come in if you want to, but all others come in Monday.

Motor Products Co. laid off so many it seems like they closed down.

All the talk in the shop is on depression, automation and over-production putting us in the streets. I never before in my whole life heard so many workers talking about the fact that they are not going to lose their homes, cars and so on.

Workers Talk About Scientists' Missile Research

LOS ANGELES — One of the Jig and Fixture Builders in the shop recently left for a job in the aircraft industry. In discussing this, another skilled worker pointed out that the work in aircraft was usually nicer work in that it requires closer tolerances and more skill than automobile tooling.

I had to agree with this but I said, "Since I'm getting paid as much here as there I'd just as soon help build cars than guided missiles that can kill thousands in a single blast."

He immediately agreed with me as to that but went on to say, "I think that the scientists in guided missile work also agree with that." I was a little surprised at his opinion so I questioned him further about it.

He asked, "Have you read in the paper about all of these guided missile scientists quitting over at Lockheed?"

I had seen this in the papers but all it seemed to me was that the guided missile men were objecting to aircraft men managing their

work and making the policy decisions. My friend's interpretation was that these guided missile scientists were really rebelling against policies which would use their fundamental research only to make bigger and better weapons. He was convinced that they were sincere men who wanted to do missile research so that transportation of cargoes and so forth could help make a better life for everyone.

I didn't think that anyone working for these aircraft companies could have the freedom to set the policies away from weapons-making. He said that whatever the outcome, he was convinced that these guided missile men were real scientists who were concerned with humanity, not wars, and that the men who control aircraft today are primarily concerned with war-making. He pointed out that the matter was serious enough for these men to quit their jobs. He also told me that over at Douglas Aircraft there has been a similar dispute but he didn't know the details.

## EDITORIALS

## THE SHAM OF "GRADUALISM"

This is the year of the presidential elections. The year when the American people begin to think and talk about the proposed candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties: What is their position on issues and what has it meant with regard to advancement and progress in the past? Whom did it help? What are they promising now in order to get votes? What happens to the promises after the election is over?

It has been stated thousands of times that President Ike was elected, four years ago, on his promise to end the war in Korea. The open war ceased after his election and, as many have stated, he too ceased on the majority of important issues that have faced him since.

Candidate Stevenson played with many pressing issues—as the friend of labor, the civil rights issue and the issue of the white reactionary South—by putting Sparkman of Alabama as his running mate. No one was fooled. Certainly not the Negroes.

It seems that he may well be chosen again as the Democratic candidate for president. The issues have sharpened and are more clearly seen today than in 1952. The Negroes have forced them into the wide open spaces. Stevenson is forced to open his hands and mouth quicker and wider than he did in the previous election on the question of civil rights. He and his Democratic party of so-called liberals have yelled out loud that they hope it is not used against them as a political question.

The question of 16 million people is a political question. The question of the Negroes in America has had a definite political bearing ever since before the Civil War. The Negroes know this and, at every opportunity since then have pushed it forward in all phases of American life.

They have forced Stevenson to state to the world that he is against integration.

Gradualism, Stevenson's position, is also the position of the reactionary South and of many Northerners. It can mean another hundred years to play with the question of integration.

He says he is opposed to force. That is a joke. He is only opposed to force when it comes to protecting Negroes' rights.

No. He is hoping that this position will give him the vote of the Southern States. He is also hoping that the labor leaders and Negro leaders will get him the votes of the Negroes in the North. On both he is wrong.

For years, the labor and Negro leaders have been trying their utmost to keep some peace between the Negroes and "the solid South" within the framework of the Democratic party. The issues were kept apart to a degree. Today, they are making contact. A lion and a tiger can be kept in the same circus so long as they are apart.

This question of the Negroes has wrecked the Southern States. It is shaking the foundations of American society. They are making democracy the headline news the world over. They are forcing many liberal leaders to come out openly for all to see. They are wrecking the two-party system which, according to some divine wisdom, should stand from the beginning to the end of time.

The Republican party is so near its end, it has had the world waiting for nearly six months before it could give any direct information as to who would run on the Number One position on its slate.

The Democrats seem to have to gamble with Stevenson, not because they want to but because there doesn't seem to be anyone else.

Some hope that Stevenson can speak with two different tongues as he did in the last elections: One for the reactionary South, the other for the liberals, labor leaders and Negroes.

When AFL-CIO president Meany cautioned him about letting Negroes force him to state his position, Mrs. Roosevelt quickly rushed to his aid stating her confidence and belief in his good intentions. She has long played the role as the one who always spearheaded the fight for civil rights. But the issue is so close since her days in the White House, it has begun to burn her and she is ready to move away from the flame.

The everyday life of the common Negro man and woman will not let this situation slow down or stop. Their feelings, their intentions are for full integration into all phases of American life. Yelling to them about compromise is something they have listened to for centuries.

## LAY-OFFS

The TV and radio workers in New York are like migratory workers. The unions won't do a damn thing about it. If the workers slow down or strike, the company just fires them and hires a whole new crew. There are so many unemployed radio-TV workers just floating around looking for work.  
Electrical Worker  
New York

I drove past the Plymouth plant the other day and there was a double line of men and women, two blocks long, standing out in the snow waiting to get into the employment office to be paid off. It was almost as long as the line around the unemployment compensation office when I signed up last week. You know the compensation line will be twice as long next week.  
Unemployed Auto worker  
Detroit

A lot of the men who were laid off were told they'd be called back on March 5. Many of them got telegrams last Saturday to be back in the plant on Monday. They thought sure they were being called back earlier. When they got to the plant Monday morning they were told to clear out and turn in their badges at the employment office.  
Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

You may not believe it, but this town depends on Chrysler. When Chrysler laid off all those thousands of men I saw it in here right away. Guys who used to drink whiskey now drink beer and not much of that either. Ask any tavern keeper. These last few weeks have been rough and they're going to get worse.  
Bartender  
Detroit

It wasn't two days after the first lay-offs when I began to see the effects in my office. Patients cancelled appointments and decided against having dental work. Even serious cases felt they couldn't afford it and just didn't show up, not even to discuss their problems with me. If it's this way when prosperity is supposed to be at its height, how is it going to be later?  
Dentist  
Detroit

At the super-market, Saturday, they were handing out some balloons for the kids. A man on the check-out line said, "This is what we get for spending our money here. Prizes. Two or three balloons. They are giving us this to give our children for Easter because we won't have

money to get them anything else.

Housewife  
Detroit

## WESTINGHOUSE STRIKE

The Westinghouse plant here doesn't have one colored person employed. Not even one colored janitor. A lot of people wondered about it and started asking questions about it. A lot of them were just given a run-around and it seemed that no one knew why they wouldn't hire any colored.

But it finally was found out, and it was the Chamber of Commerce that was behind it. When the plant first came in some 14 years ago, the C. of C. made the Westinghouse Co. sign a contract before they could put the plant up, that they would not hire any colored people. The company agreed to the terms and there has not been one colored person hired from the first day the company came in.

Miner  
Fairmont, W. Va.

In Atlanta, the Westinghouse will not hire Negroes. The Chamber of Commerce there makes them agree not to because the white people down there wanted the Negroes to work as domestics. They knew that if the company hired Negroes, they would belong to the union and get better wages and conditions than they could as servants. It would mean that the whites down there would not have the Negroes working for them in their homes, and they were not going to have any of that.

Negro Miner  
West Virginia

There isn't any trouble about the Westinghouse workers around here. They just aren't going to work. There are just too many miners around here for any of them to think of scabbing.

I think a lot of people still remember what happened when the telephone operators were on strike. There was some scabbing and the miners turned up on the picket lines. I know a lot of miners who would put in their shift and then go out to the picket lines with the telephone operators. Miners aren't the kind of people who can be fooled around with when it comes to this kind of business. The company looked around and saw what they had there—and they ended that strike in a hurry when they saw what kind of support the telephone operators were getting.

Miner  
Fairmont, W. Va.

## LEADERS &amp; RANKS

Thousands and thousands of auto workers are being laid off and, at the same time, the union leaders are spending thousands and thousands of dollars out of the union treasury buying and building new, expensive union halls. An old hall is good enough if they are going to do something.

UAW Member  
Detroit

With all the lay-offs and short weeks they suddenly deducted three weeks advance payment for insurance and hospitalization. The union excused it by saying they didn't want our policies to lapse if we were laid off. I didn't take home \$40 last week. Do they think the lay-offs are only going to last three weeks?

Auto Body Worker  
Detroit

They have ads in magazines lately that frighten me more than anything else about what's happening even to office work these days. They had such an ad in Time, January 30, on page 7. The heading is "Hot 'n Cold Beverage Center Cuts Coffee-Break Time 50%." They've reached the point where you can't even take a break for a cup of coffee or a coke out of watch. They have a machine right in the office where you can always be under the boss' nose.  
Ex-Secretary  
Pittsburgh

You have to go through an experience really to understand it. The ones who know, are the ones who've had the experience. A lot of people who are supposed to be "experts" don't really know what they're talking about. I remember how burned up I felt at that woman psychologist on "The \$64,000 Question". During one interview she said she had written a book on child care. But when they asked her if she had followed the book with her own child she said no, she threw the book away. I kept thinking that was so typical. She could give plenty of advice, but she found out she couldn't follow it herself! I gave up believing in those books by "experts" a long time ago. I let just plain old love take over.

Working Mother  
Charleston, W. Va.

# Readers'

# Views

## NEGRO AMERICANS

God bless the Negroes from Alabama.

Negro Housewife  
Chicago

There are a lot of men in my shop who never used to go back South to visit their folks from one year's end to the other. Lately they've been going home to visit whenever they get any time off. I wouldn't be surprised but what they're visiting so much in order to bring presents and help their folks out back home.

Steel Worker  
Pittsburgh

The Northern papers and Northern Organizations have hurt the Negroes down South with all they've been saying about the way the Southern states have been violating the court decisions. When a white Southerner reads, that the only thing organizations like the NAACP are going to do is complain to the law, he knows he's got nothing to worry about. The white South have always terrorized and killed Negroes but they used to try to hide it. Now, for the first time I can remember in my whole life, they openly brag to the whole world about how many Negroes they killed.

Alabama Born  
Detroit

So, now it's Georgia. They shot seven bullets into that man, and the white man says he doesn't know who did it. Seven shots. If anyone shot ONE shot in my house, I'd know who it was. And so would he! He wouldn't shoot the second one.

Miner  
Fairmont, W. Va.

When Stevenson talks about Negro rights in 1965 it's like the first 15 years after the Civil War. That was the "reconstruction" period. That was the period when the Negroes lost everything they had won by the Civil War. By 1965, just like then, the whites will have it all worked out. There won't be any "gradualism". There won't be anything!

Miner  
Fairmont, W. Va.

Stevenson has finally been forced out into the open on where he stands on Negroes' rights. Many people already knew this when he was governing the State of Illinois. His position was clear when he refused protection to a Negro veteran of World War II who, with his family, were attacked by a white mob and were forced to give up their home in that neighborhood.

Negro Worker  
Chicago

If Eisenhower is so dumb that all he knows about the South is "allegations" that Negroes can't vote and he would like to set up a commission to make an inquiry about it, then he has no business being in the White House.

Auto Worker  
Detroit.

What gets me is how practically all of the Negro leaders hailed Eisenhower's speech as an advance for us. How long are they going to keep asking us to put our faith in "commissions of inquiry?" If that's what they call "practical politics" they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Day Worker  
Detroit

Whenever I re-read my story ("This White World," Dec. 23) about that vicious Southerner who insulted me and a Negro woman on a New York bus recently, I get sick all over. His viciousness against Negroes and his anti-Semitism go hand-in-hand. Terrible as it was, I know it can't begin to compare with what's happening in the South.

Needle Trades Worker  
New York

America and the Anglo-Saxon world give lip service and hypocritical documentary evidence to racial equality, but little or nothing is being done to hit at the roots of the evil of race prejudice. They better do something about the roots because that is what is going to defeat America and the British Empire in the 21st century unless they completely change their hearts and minds in their racial attitude and patterns. They will be defeated as no nations have ever been defeated before.

Reader  
Pittsburgh

## MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS

Neighborly relations existed in many areas right up to and through the beginning of the war between Israel and the Arab States. I know of an instance where friends ran great risks to keep communication open between the Jewish settlement and the Arab village and to straighten out misunderstandings arising from rumors and war incidents. But in the end they failed and each had to go with his "side" in the struggle.

Reader  
New York

The majority of the Jewish settlers in Palestine have always been nation-minded, but within this, there were divisions roughly according to class. The extreme nationalists, who were anti-labor as well as anti-Arab drew support among the established rich; on the other side the Marxist Socialist colonists who established workers' collectives stood up for Arab-Jewish cooperation and generally had friendly relations with their Arab neighbors. In the years of the British Mandate the standard of living of Palestinian Arabs rose to be the highest in the Middle East, with the effects that Arab immigration into Palestine increased while the large Arab landowners were up in arms. In 1936-39 paid armed gangs roamed Palestine, ambushing Jews and threatening and carrying out reprisals against Arab villages that maintained friendly relations with Jewish settlements. Despite this there was often local cooperation between Arabs and Jews against the terrorists.

Professional  
New York

## THIS ONE WORLD

The UN has a lot to say about Human Rights but even the advanced countries seem to fall far short of some of the Rights they believe in. We are still a long way off from equal pay for women workers and we certainly don't have freedom of movement. Our schools are segregated by religion, sex, class, etc., and our Government has no money for roads, bridges, houses and vital things as they spend so much on armaments. This takes a fantastic amount of money and although we work morning, noon and night (many of us all night) we still remain poor. At present it's all work and precious little at the end of it for the working classes.

V. T., Southport  
England

It seems to be quite impossible for an ordinary British citizen to go to America these days, as our Government won't make an allowance. Of course we can go to other countries where a dollar allowance would not be necessary, but the amount they allow is very small so one can't tour or stay long. We can go to Russia for a holiday, but their rate of exchange is most unfavorable and a visa is required too, just as would be required for America if we could go.

British Reader

## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

### "THE FRENZY OF SELF-CONCEIT"

A colleague of mine has written the following:  
"You wrote recently ("Two Worlds," Jan. 31) about the ex-radical who wanders through the world sneering at everything. In a "frenzy of self conceit" he cannot accept the world as it is, but he knows not how a new one will emerge. Above all, he scorns any serious attempt to understand the conflicts and contradictions in this cold-war world, while at the same time he has nothing but contempt for the common man's instincts for a better world.

"There are people I know who fit this bill to a 'T.' They grew up during the dark days of the Depression and, during the 1940's, were full of 'the heart-throb for the welfare of mankind.'

### FROM 'HEART THROB' TO CONTEMPT

"Today, they are between 35 and 45. Very sentimental about the idealism of their youth, they are equally positive that it was unrealistic because it glorified the worker who isn't interested in anything but his belly.

"One of these men told me he was working up a catalogue of all different kinds of tensions which can arise: from racial tensions in a mixed neighborhood to strike tension in an industrial community.

"His job was to break down the most complicated situations into the way any given individual is affected. For example, how it affects a prejudiced white or an angry Negro; a Jew or an anti-Semite; a young worker or a middle-aged housewife; a storekeeper or a cop on strike duty, and so on.

### DEGRADING MAN TO A COG IN A MACHINE

"Since we know from psychology, he went on, 'how to solve the individual's problems, if we analyze the tensions on an individual basis, we can work out the solutions. By organizing these simple solutions on punch cards, whenever community tension arises we can feed the problem into the machine and come out with the correct answers to restore harmony.'

"He said, 'It's harsh but it's true and as a scientist I have to deal with truth. That old stuff we used to talk, about the common man changing the world, was just sentimental childishness. The masses never changed anything. A few of us can do more good than 20 million workers.'

### IDEALISM OF YOUTH

"Another one is a professor in a large university and his specialty is 'city planning'. He told me angrily that the 'old stuff about the common man' was a lie when we were young. But he's glad that he was part of the movement of the '30's because all young people need the exaltation of idealism, which has no place in the adult world no matter how much he, personally, misses it.

### THE TOP SERGEANTS OF LABOR

"A third, who holds a post in one of the large international unions, assured me that labor relations are so complicated that it takes special training to conduct successful negotiations and that untrained rank-and-filers would only foul things up.

"A fourth is now a business man. Until five years ago he was a UAW committeeman. He said Reuther had grown 'too big' and had moved too far away from the dues payer. He also said he never let any of the men on the line force him to process 'unjustified grievances'.

"Like top sergeants many of us have known, the only one he hated worse than the captain was the enlisted man.

"I could go on for 10 pages describing such people that I have known and still meet. One thing identifies them all: they were heartsick boys during the Depression who suddenly found a goal and a purpose in the unemployed movement and the tremendous sit-down strikes that marked the rise of the CIO.

"The rising labor bureaucray, working hand in hand with the New Deal, suddenly created openings for them. By one road or another, (some actually went to work in the factory for a few years) they made their way to jobs in the unions and out, as educational directors, public relations counsellors, labor relations men, advisers, consultants and analysts of all kinds. That's all their 'radicalism' turned out to mean.

"Twenty years ago they knew that capitalism was choking the world. Today, by word or deed they're all for 'people's capitalism' which is the State Department's line about what we have in America.

"If they were on the other side of the Iron Curtain they'd be just as strong for Russia's 'peoples' democracy'. Caught in between, they'd be for some kind of popular front between 'peoples' capitalism' and 'peoples' democracy'.

### 'OLD STUFF'

"If they believed what they said 20 years ago, they don't believe a word of what they say today.

"The one thing they won't do is to keep quiet. They've got to give you their 'honest opinion' which always boils down to this: Everyday men and women, especially the workers, are dumb. The common man has never done anything and can't do anything.

## NEGRO NEWS

## The Way of The World

By Ethel Dunbar

A Christian life is a miserable life to live. Everything bad gets in the way to make you do and say some horrible thing when you are trying to live a Christian life.

Today, many colored people have laid aside their religion for a while to see if the Lord will be as good to them as He is to those Southern white people who don't mind killing every colored person they meet; and a "God damn" at every word they say; and never a word of prayer to be found in their life.

But since the whites see that the Negro people have forgot about all of that, Lord have mercy on poor me when I come to die.

### WE MUST FIGHT

And, O Lord, will you please go along with me and stand by me when these white people come to kill us. We must fight to save our lives, for a little while longer, to see if we can win a place in the United States for the colored race to live in peace.

Today, the presidents of the U.S.A. are trying to take back what they said about the Negroes in the South having their rights.

### GRADUALISM

But since it is time for election, the Republican president and the so-called Democratic president candidates have changed their minds on giving the Negroes their equal rights in the South.

In order to get the white South's vote, they will take back what they said about giving the Negroes their rights.

Even the former president's wife, Mrs. Roosevelt, has turned her back on the Negro people since it is time to vote. But when she and President Roosevelt were in the White House, they spoke well about the Negro people having their civil rights. But now she is for gradualism.

### HERE TO STAY

But the Negroes in Alabama are taking advantage of what they said some time ago about the South giving the Negro people their freedom.

They started in time to try to get freedom for themselves and all the Negro people.

I was glad to hear about my people in Alabama trying to break up segregation against us. Because we know that we are here to stay.

## Inside Montgomery

### BOYCOTT'S BEEN COMING A LONG TIME

The idea of boycott has been around Montgomery for a long time. People waiting at the bus stops were often passed by with the buses half empty in front and crowded in the rear. If they could get on they'd be crowded to the back and had to stand a lot more often than they could sit.

As far back as 1947 or 1948, one Negro bought two or three old buses and tried to organize a service to carry Negroes to and from ball parks.

Wherever and whenever people would get together, they'd talk about getting their own bus system; they'd say to each other that they didn't have to stand for such treatment. This time, they took all they were going to take and they did something about it.

### "WE DON'T RIDE BUSES NOW"

The firmest supporters of the boycott are the everyday Negro men and women. They don't argue; they just say, "We don't ride buses now." And they don't.

A young man visiting his folks in Montgomery around Christmas time, learned this when he got off the train 11 o'clock at night and asked where he could get a bus.

A man near the station told him, "You either walk or take a cab. We don't ride buses."

The visitor said, "It's too far to walk and too far to pay for a cab. Where's the bus?"

The man said, "We're boycotting." The visitor took a cab.

(Alabama law prohibits white cab drivers from carrying Negro passengers.)

### SOCIAL CLUBS IN MONTGOMERY

Groups of Negroes all over the city began to organize their own social clubs about eight years ago.

These are the first decent places where Negroes can go for recreation, to eat, drink, dance and talk things over in general. There are many such clubs in and around Montgomery today.

Before they organized their own clubs, the only bars Negroes were allowed to patronize were miserable dives. One of the best of these dives was the "Silver Moon", half-owned by a Negro and half-owned by a white city official.

### "STRANGE AND FOREIGN ACTS"

About six weeks ago, the home of a prominent Negro minister, Rev. M. L. King, Jr., was rocked by a dynamite blast.

Following the bombing, the white Central Alabama Citizens Council offered a \$500 reward for a solution to the

bombing and said they wanted to fight against integration by "legal" means and that they "deplore this type of demonstration."

State Senator Sam Englehardt is president of the Central Alabama Citizens Council.

Mayor Gayle of Montgomery also posted a \$500 reward for a solution to the bombing. Mayor Gayle and his two fellow Commissioners on the City Commission announced that they would not tolerate such "strange and foreign acts" as the bombing.

They also announced that they had all joined the white Montgomery Citizens Council.

A week-and-a-half later, a bomb was exploded in front of the home of E. D. Nixon, a pullman porter active in the boycott.

No one has been arrested for the bombings.

Rev. King and Mr. Nixon are among those who have just been arrested for "conspiring" to boycott.

### ANTI-LABOR LAW USED AGAINST NEGROES

The Alabama law under which 90 Montgomery Negroes have been indicted, in a desperate effort to break the boycott, was passed in 1921 to break the miners' strike in Birmingham.

In addition to this anti-labor law, Birmingham mine operators tried to lure Negroes from the farms to work as scabs. Negroes who went and came back to the farms said, "Sure, you can go up and the white man will give you a job, but this is one time when you don't be on two sides. You got to declare where you stand and you better be with the strikers."

Scab laws like this were being passed all over the country at that time in a furious attack against the American workers.

This is the law being used against Negroes in 1956.

### Setting It Straight

Since the Negroes have forced the politicians to make their position clear on civil rights, representations of the life of Abraham Lincoln have rapidly appeared and reappeared on TV.

One cannot help but believe it is for politics only. On his latest appearance, on Omnibus, Lincoln's position was openly stated: it was not for bringing about social and political equality of Negroes but for the preservation of the Union.

This, the average Negro knew. But it was the rebellious slave, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Abolition movement that would have kept the Union apart if the slaves were not freed.

History will tell you that many of the leading Negro Abolitionists, Harriet Tubman among them, did not think very much of the so-called Negro god, Abraham Lincoln.

## Worker's Journal

(Continued from Page 1)

### NO COMPROMISE

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, too, has finally broken his silence. He has asked Negro workers to stop work on March 28th in support of Montgomery.

Why does he wait for March 28th? Is he hoping it will be over by then?

The one-hour proposal adds support but that's regardless of Powell. He tells what's in his mind when he also requests management and the labor leaders to cooperate. They can evade taking a stand on an hour.

If he had called for a one-day stoppage, he wouldn't have to hope for the cooperation of management and labor leaders. A whole day enables anyone who wants to support Montgomery to stay away from work, including white workers.

This would force management and labor leaders to take an open and clear stand for or against Montgomery. It would take on a complete national aspect. It would show the independent strength of the workers in support of the Negroes of Montgomery. This, Powell wants to avoid at all costs.

### FOR THE WORLD TO SEE

We notice that Congressman Adam Clayton Powell is speaking of minimizing his proposed bill to Congress before it gets to the floor for a debate.

The Negroes in the South, fighting against tremendous odds, are not asking or seeking for a compromise. Nothing short of full integration is the aim. Nothing short of complete integration will stop their forward movement which is breaking up the old Southern system known for hundreds of years as the Southern white way of life.

They are stating their grievances firmly and openly to everyone. They have carried to the extent that it is as much an international question as it is a national question. They have exposed, before the eyes of this world, this so-called American democracy.

## 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 fourteenth installment.)

### INCIDENT ON A BUS

One of the hardest days I had was unloading steel. I was just beat. After work I caught the bus and got on downtown. Two Negroes were standing and I was one. The bus company had a system. As the bus would go away from town toward the Negro neighborhood, and the whites would get off, the remaining whites would move toward the front and the Negroes could sit down. This afternoon there was a white woman sitting beside another woman near the back. Her husband was up front near the bus driver with a little girl about five years old. The seat ahead of the woman had only one woman in it. After two stops the woman in front, sitting alone, got off too. I thought the woman would move up as she was supposed to do and I could sit down. Instead she called to her husband to push the little girl back. She put her in the empty seat but she didn't move up to sit with her. This meant she, her husband and child were enjoying three seats in the bus while we were still standing.

It looked as if she was deliberately making me stand up because she saw me there. She didn't get off at the next stop and I sat down in front of her.

Her husband jumped up and said, "Nigger, get up. You're sitting in front of my wife. Get out of that seat or I'll knock hell out of you."

The bus driver got up and said, "Let me go get him."

I told him, "Come on. You look just like the other man. As long as you're white. I'll do the same to you if you just get in reaching distance."

"If you don't move back, I'll call the police."

"Call everyone in the city. I won't move. I got on here to get home and I don't intend to get off this bus until I reach my stop. If I go off this bus it will be my dead body going off."

The majority of the Negroes stayed on the bus encouraging me.

The bus driver went into a filling station and stayed for awhile. When he came out he stepped in with a half-way pleasant look and asked, "Did that fellow run who was making trouble?"

I said, "No," and one elderly woman shouted out, "There are no damn rabbits in this bus."

The bus driver said, "Well, I'm not mad with you. I just called the manager of the bus company instead of the police. He asked me if I had asked the woman to move up front and that if the woman hadn't moved, then you had a right to sit in front of her. So I don't think anything else will be done."

"I don't care what happens or is done. I'm riding this bus home." And that's what I did.

(To Be Continued)

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**YOUTH**

**Thinking It Out**

By Robert Ellery

One of the journeymen I served an apprenticeship with, was named Paul. He served his apprenticeship in Hungary, somewhere around 1910. He said he received no money during most of his apprenticeship and had to be satisfied with room and board and saw his family only on weekends.

He came to this country and was active in organizing ironworkers in the East, during the 1920's. The union was different then, he said. Everyone was involved.

He was instrumental in organizing our shop, which was typical of the small AFL union shop.

**MISTREATING APPRENTICES**

There are only a couple of apprentices in these shops and they are invariably mistreated. Regardless of contracts, they are often required to run errands, buy lunch for the shop, sweep up and take orders from a host of bosses.

As part of my apprenticeship, I had to attend school a few nights out of the week. This time wasn't paid for, of course. Apprentices' wages

were very low and some guys with families took on other jobs to make ends meet and so skipped school. A lot of other guys didn't go for their own reasons.

The secretary of the local called a meeting of all the apprentices. He addressed the group: "Either you guys start going to school or I'm going to have you all thrown out on the street. Now get out of here."

That was the meeting. In the four years I knew the union, that was the closest they ever came to having a membership meeting.

Older workers try to console younger workers with stories of how much worse things were when they were apprentices.

**PHONY SYMPATHY**

Paul would agree that the apprentice very often got the dirty end of the stick. But he would always hasten to point out that it was more important to fight for the betterment of the rest of the workers in the shop because you don't stay an apprentice forever.

I told him he was beginning

**Montgomery Youth Hold Line in Bus Boycott**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The way the boycott started was people getting fed up and they just got together and stopped riding.

But, there's always a few Uncle Toms who think they can get special favors for themselves and there's others who are plain afraid.

A few young fellows here and there talked things over and agreed that if they caught anyone on the bus those people would be initiated.

Some continued to ride, but then they stopped.

to sound like the union bureaucracy he hated so much. I said I had to live now and not in the future.

It has occurred to me since, that young heads must be crammed to the bursting with this kind of sympathy. To the adolescent: "Patience, you're going through a stage." To the draftee: "It will be over before you realize it."

And, indeed, for some it was.

**Schools Don't Meet Son's Needs, Mother Says**

WEST VIRGINIA. — My son is 15 years old and he's very good at making all sorts of things. He's made book-cases and end-tables that are really good pieces of furniture, and he likes to do that sort of thing. He's already made all the things that the rest of the class is just beginning to work on.

He was all excited once about making me a shelf and cabinet for my kitchen. He knew I wanted one. He even took all the measurements and decided just where it would have to go. But when he went to the shop teacher and asked if he could make that instead of what the rest of the class was doing, the teacher told him it was too complicated and would take too much material.

My son said he would pay for the material, he was so anxious to see whether he could build the cabinet for me—but the teacher told him he'd have to do the same as the rest of the class—and no cabinet!

That's what gets me about the educational system. When a child is good at books the schools promote him and encourage him to go ahead. But if a child is good in vocational things, they hold him back. They

don't recognize that kind of skill or learning.

My son isn't too interested in "book-learning." He's not very fast with that sort of thing. He doesn't even have much interest in blue-prints or reading books on making things. He likes to make them. He doesn't seem to need blueprints. He makes more beautiful pieces without any blueprints, all on his own, than some of the other boys he knows can do with the blueprints.

Reading books and having a good "book-learning" is fine. There have to be people who know that sort of thing. But the way I see it, if all the people just knew how to read blueprints and how to read books—and nobody knew how to do things—not much would get done in this world. But that's not how the schools see it.

—Interested Mother

**N. Y. Students Protest**

NEW YORK CITY — Members of the student political clubs, at the College of the City of New York, have voted unanimously to take their clubs off the campus in protest against the administration's demand that they submit lists of their members.

**WOMEN**

**Just A Housewife**

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

(Note: Mrs. Martha Hunt, this issue, has turned her column over to a Los Angeles housewife.)

The other evening some friends came to my house to play a game of Scrabble. During a lull in the game, one of my friends said, "Doesn't it give you a feeling of luxury to be playing a quiet game in so lovely a living room?"

I should have felt flattered, but all I could think of saying was, "Man! You should see my payments."

**HOME-OWNER'S ITCH**

A few years back, when my rented apartment was furnished mainly with painted appleboxes, I would have been pleased as punch if anyone had said that. Then the home owner's itch caught us and installment buying came ext.

We had the feeling, as so many others do, that we were working our heads off. Why shouldn't we have something to show for it, some of the things we've always wanted? "No Down Payment" dinned our ears and finally we lunged in.

**LUCKED-IN**

We have lived in our house eight months and already our taxes have come to about 125 more than we were told by the company we would have to pay. They neglected to tell us a few things when they dangled the lovely house in front of our eyes.

It looks like my neighbors and I have been "took." Some are selling out fast and already little cards are being slipped under our doors saying: "We buy for the highest prices. Do you want to sell?"

Some neighbors—and I might say all of us are working people—furnished their houses completely new on moving in, unaware of how stuck we would be with taxes. Many say they would never have bought their homes if they had known what they were letting themselves in for.

**SPIDER TO FLY**

That is exactly the point. It's almost like the little poem that starts, "Come into my parlor said the spider to the fly." The web just drains everything out of us and it's a little difficult to appreciate the "luxury" of it all.

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**Your Chance for Success In Whose World?**

LOS ANGELES — Recently, the Sunday paper carried a test on "Your Chance For Success". Two girls where I work gave the test to each other.

The first group of questions was to determine "leadership". It was a joke to the girls because they both answered the questions "correctly".

In one group, which tested ambition, there was the question, "Is it true or false that in most ways the poor man is better off than the rich man?"

One girl said that in most ways the rich man is better off. But the other girl argued that people who work for a living don't have to put up with ulcers and false friends and wound up winning her friend over to her side.

The girls came through fine in the section on accepting responsibility until they came to the question, "Is it true or false that you would be ashamed not to use your privilege of voting?"

On this they felt that voting was a matter of picking the lesser of two evils. One of the girls felt that voting for political candidates was no privilege at all.

They "failed" the last four questions which showed that they would not "succeed" in their work and would never be "important" persons.

**Miner's Wife Says, "Politics Is a Racket"**

SCOTT'S RUN, W. Va. — Presidential candidates? Elections? I haven't given a thought to them.

I've voted twice in my life. That was because I was working at the polls and I had to vote or they wouldn't have called me back. I needed the money. And it's a good chance to be away from home for a whole day. I hope they call me this time.

But politics is one thing I've never cared one bit about. Politics is a racket. You vote for somebody; he gives out a lot of talk about what he's going to do; and when he gets in, he does what he wants to do, not what the people want him to do. It's never been the common people who benefited.

**NO DIFFERENCE**

I do wonder sometimes if Ike will get in again. I hope not, but in the long run it doesn't seem to make any difference. Republicans, Democrats, they're all the same.

I know that they said Ike got in last time because of the women's vote. They voted for him to bring the boys home. I feel that they should have stopped to think—out of all the years he spent overseas, what did he

do to stop a war? Nothing—so what could he do as President? It was a lot of baloney and he didn't get any vote from me.

I'm against wars too. But voting for Ike or voting for anybody isn't going to stop them. I've been noticing the news for a long time now. It looks as if they're itching to get into it. What do they want a war for—to kill a lot of women's sons?

**A BITTER JOKE**

They've always called them "wars to make a better world." What a bitter joke that is! The world is getting worse and worse; and they keep talking about a better place to live in.

I can't see people being convinced to go overseas and fight. We've got nothing against those people. There's plenty right here to fight, about to make it a better place to live in. You don't even have to leave your own back porch.

—Miner's Wife

Twenty million women are wage earners. More than half of them are married women who have to work to help the family make ends meet.

## Where Does the Money Go?

(Continued from page 1)

### lot more coal.

In '50 there were some 450,000 miners; today there are about half that much. There will be fewer in the future. As the continuous miner keeps coming in, there is continuous lay-off. And it is going to keep on coming in.

### OLDER WORKERS

The younger men who are laid off try to get jobs in other industries. The older ones have to scratch to keep themselves and their families alive. Any job, any pay will do. Some of these old men will go to small mines to hand load. Many of them take horrible conditions and risks at low pay, working in the small mines. The small operator will open a mine to make a quick killing when there is a high market for coal. And he is interested in but one thing—to get as much as he can and as fast as he can. These men don't like it, but mining is all they know, all they will ever know. They have no other choice.

The general situation has sent women out to work who had been staying at home before—when they can find jobs.

### WOMEN'S CONDITIONS ARE BAD

For the women, the conditions and wages are very bad. There is very little organization among them and, like most southern states, West Virginia does not have many large towns or much industry. The result is that there is a fierce competition among the women for jobs. The employers use this to keep their wages and conditions at levels that are almost unbelievable.

Top rate for clerical or department store work is about \$30 a week; most of them make some \$20 a week. Very often, the only thing left for many of them is house work which pays about \$15 or \$20 a week for hard work and long hours. In the winter, this condition gets worse. Farmers wives, not needed on the farms, during the winter are so in need of money that they will work for lower wages than the regular domestics who have a sort of established rate among themselves.

When the parents of a European war-bride heard about the conditions she had met here, they were horrified. They immediately sent her a letter, telling her to come

back home.

### CONDITION NOT LOCAL

This uneasiness about the "prosperity" is nothing local. A steel worker friend of mine said that the great rate of mechanization that is going on in steel is cutting deep into employment—even with the greatest production of steel the United States has ever had. Where there had been 25-30 men working on a job, there are now four or five.

This same steel worker spoke of a conversation he had with a friend in the mill. A credit manager for one of the large stores in Pittsburgh had told him that if credit buying was cut off, every store in Pittsburgh would be closed inside of six months.

### ALL PEOPLE CONCERNED

Another friend of mine, working in a professional field, spoke of conditions and attitudes of the people he works with. They are not crying that depression is just around the corner, but he noticed that many of them who had made a practice of buying a new car every two years are not doing so this year. They feel something they are not giving voice to, but are acting on it instead.

Talking about the overall national picture, he said that those who are defenders of our economic system are yelling about the high employment and are trying to make this the same as having a high standard of living. "But," he said, "to me a high standard of living would be adequate housing for everyone, adequate clothing, leisure time, money for recreation, travel and education. If you look at these things and the actual living conditions, the system falls terribly short."

It is obvious that people from all walks of life are more than concerned about the inability of the system to just keep going, let alone to get better. What prosperity is being enjoyed is a prosperity that is "on credit." There is no other reason for the great national popularity of the song "Sixteen Tons", and especially the phrase, "Another day older and deeper in debt." Yet the people are not crying depression. The answer to this, too, is simple. They know they will not take another one.

### A NEW YORK HOUSEWIFE WRITES

NEWS & LETTERS is getting more interesting every time. I like it."

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# WORLD OUTLOOK

## Short Weeks For British Auto Workers

British auto workers, like American auto workers, are now on short weeks.

The cut in employment, as in America, followed immediately on the new year announcements of how high production was in 1955. British auto industry, as American auto industry, produced more cars in 1955 than ever before. Now, 1956, spreading unemployment.

While the cut-backs are going on, British workers have suddenly been informed that their cost of living is also going down. In a striking parallel, American workers have also just been informed that their cost of living is going down.

\* \* \*

## First Terror Now "Compromise"

The people of Kenya have just been offered a compromise by the Kenya Government. They have been offered the right to vote for their own "representatives" in Government. Ignoring, for the moment, that they have been offered six representatives to represent almost 6,000,000 Africans, these are the proposed voting qualifications:

1) No Kikuyu, Meru or Embu people may join any political organization.

Yet the Kikuyu, Meru and Embu peoples are the bulk of the population of Kenya and have been both the spearhead and the base of the Africans' battle for freedom in Kenya.

2) No African may vote if he has been to prison.

How many Africans have not been in prison in the last three years? Three years during which the Government has repeatedly rounded them up by the tens of thousands and thrown them into concentration camps for varying periods of time.

3) No African may vote unless he earns more than 240 pounds a year (about \$700).

Very few Africans earn that much in five years.

The Kenya Government is clearly a representative government—it represents 30,000 whites.

They are now adding "compromise" to terror in a desperate effort to keep their depraved supremacy.

\* \* \*

## The Voice is Different The Arms Are The Same

Hardly a month has passed since Socialist Guy Mollet took over as Premier of France. The double-barrelled crisis, which overthrew the previous government, is already making Mollet very shaky.

Since the end of World War II, the French workers have lived on the barest subsistence level. For the most modest gains, they had to engage in furious wildcats last summer.

Now, France is on the verge of a merciless inflation which will further grind the workers' depressed conditions of life and labor.

Fearful of the workers demands and a new flaring of struggle, Mollet vaguely promised to improve their welfare by increasing some wages, raising the old age pension and increasing their paid vacations from two to three weeks.

Even this little bit caused a rift between Mollet and his running mate, Mendes-France, who warned that such "gains" for the workers would endanger the French economy.

But Mollet had to do something and he did manage to win approval for the third paid vacation week. At the same time he assured Mendes-France that welfare gains would not be at the expense of the "national economy."

\* \* \*

The most pressing problem facing Mollet, as he took office, was the violent struggle for independence in North Africa, particularly in Algeria.

His first act was to go to Algeria for discussions with Algerian leaders on how to make peace. He promised justice and fair treatment, but first, they would have to lay down their arms and later on they would discuss national independence.

No sooner did Mollet return to France than he received an urgent request from his "liberal" minister in Algeria for 200,000 additional troops to throw against the Algerians, whose underground army has steadily defeated the French forces for the last 17 months.

France already has about 200,000 troops in Algeria.

Mollet's immediate reply was a sugar-coated ultimatum to the Algerians: cease fire within three months or face an all-out war. In the meantime, 50,000 French troops are now being alerted for Algerian duty.

## Good Neighbor Policy

What has happened to all of the ballyhoo of restoring democracy to Guatemala, when Secretary of State Dulles and American arms backed Colonel Armas to become dictator of that country?

Here are some of the democratic gains:

The United Fruit Co. (which also backed Col. Armas) is intimidating dock workers and preventing them from organizing at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala's major port.

Guatemala's secret police are persecuting trade union leaders and intimidating trade union members.

Wages are being cut and working hours increased.

New social reforms of similar nature have been planned and will soon be "legalized" by the Guatemalan Chamber of Deputies.

\* \* \*

## From "Collective Farms" To 'Collective Leadership'

Now that the 20th Congress of the Russian Communist Party has taken place, the world headlines are full of the fact that Stalin has now been thrown on the official dump heap; that there will no longer be the myth and the glorification of one man rule; that there is now a "collective leadership."

To prove this new "collective leadership," one man, Khrushchev, harangued the obedient delegates for seven hours, laying down the line. The rest of the "collective leadership" spent the next few days praising the wisdom of Khrushchev's speech.

Khrushchev never gives up on anything. He appears to retreat while he waits for a new brainstorm to reintroduce the same thing.

Thus, in 1950, he first put forward the plan for "agrorods" or huge agricultural towns. Then he supposedly retreated while Malenkov took over for eight months, presumably to "transform" the basic policy followed since 1927. Then Khrushchev came back with his same plan, this time in the form of settling the virgin lands. Now again he appears to be retreating. His ace in the hole is that everyone, but he, is charged with being guilty of bureaucratism.

(Read, "Where Is Russia Going?" in the next issue of News & Letters.)