

# NEWS & LETTERS

'The Leap to Freedom Is from Necessity'

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Union Shop

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## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN AUTO

#### WILDCAT—OCT. 3rd.

On Friday, October 3rd, we had a wildcat. We had been having wildcats for more than 3 weeks but this was new, and in more than one sense. Usually after a wildcat strike runs a week it is crushed by the union bureaucrats. They abuse, curse, pacify, do anything so that the strike is minimized and the workers return to work.

These strikes were different; every day it was different. A few weeks ago we would work 5 or 6 hours a day; the week of October 3rd, no one worked an hour. The first week it started in the paint shop, the second was the truck drivers and the third week the trim shop was leading it.

That Friday morning, a picket line started with just a few, but in 10 or 15 minutes it grew as large and as long as any in past years, and shut the plant down. From what I found on that picket line, workers have a pile of grievances on everything in the plant and on the contract. That is what broke it down from working 5 or 6 hours to just walking out.

Everyone was asked or told to go over to the union hall where we were supposed to meet with the union officers at 10 o'clock. Over 3,000 workers went. The hall was packed 10 o'clock came. None of the local officers came in. At the regular meetings the local officers come in at the very last minute to make sure workers can't corner them. Workers asked one of the stewards to call the meeting together, and the first point was a motion for re-call of local officers for shirking their duties. It was carried in a voice vote by at least 95%.

The workers started making concrete proposals. (1) What are we to do about shop conditions? (2) What are we to do about speed up? (3) What are we to do about the contract? The last motion was to continue the picket line on Monday and after we were through picketing come to the union hall to see if the officers would be there.

#### WILDCAT—OCT. 6th.—

The picket line was large on Monday; no one went in. At ten we dispersed and went to the hall. The officers were there with a few International Reps. Again the chief steward conducted the meeting. The union President spoke first. He spoke through boos and catcalls.

One worker after another got the floor, pointing out what was and is happening in the shops, and showing that no support was coming from them. They blasted the top union officials, who sat there not saying a word.

Rank and file workers taking the mike and expressing themselves in opposition to the company, to the union officers and to Reuther, was something that never happened before. Any one could see and feel that they had grievances and problems in the shop that they wanted solved. They were ready to do it themselves.

One Negro worker spoke. He started with our shop and then pointed out that it was a national problem in the UAW. He said, that since 1946, when Reuther gained full control of the UAW and came out with an 18½c raise from the long G. M. strike of that year, he has thought of only one thing, to get a few nickels from the companies for the life of the worker, telling the company they can get it back in speed-up. Today the workers don't get those nickels and dimes. They are put in trust funds that the company controls and pays out to workers in dribbles.

Finally the International Rep. started putting fear into the meeting by saying: first, there will be an authorized strike by the skilled workers next week; the International has sanctioned it. We should work one week and save some money for striking. Secondly, the company is moving many jobs out at the end of the model. Thirdly, there were 35,000 in our plant 5 years ago. Today from all Chrysler plants in our local we have 9,000 and in the next 2 years there will be only 3,000 men working.

That was three weeks ago. No skilled worker had a strike. We had a meeting to ratify the contract. Reuther called the local officers and committeemen beforehand and gave them the business about that meeting. One worker said, "I was told that Reuther said that if our local doesn't ratify the contract we won't have a local in the future. The local officers and committeemen will be held responsible for it. They are caught in a vice, but that's no worry of the workers."

## WHAT KIND OF LABOR?

### RECESSION, AUTOMATION AND STEEL

"Nixon is a jerk," was the consensus of opinion reached by most workers, as they read the title of Nixon's speech, "Recession Has Ended." This being an election year, even The New York Times sent its reporters out to get workers' reactions to this speech of Nixon's. They reported that a young Negro woman elevator operator in a downtown office building in Huntington, West Virginia, said: "Where at? I'd like to go there." In fact, however, the workers that had been streaming out of West Virginia to industrial centers in the mid-West have begun streaming back home because the recession in the industrial centers is just as bad.

It is bad, not because labor productivity is poor, but because it has been truly phenomenal. Among production workers productivity is up 7 per cent from a year ago, and, if you limit yourself to the worst months of the recession since April, it has been precisely here that it is at its best—no less than 12 per cent rise in labor productivity since April. Not only that, industrialists do not expect any decline in this high rate of labor productivity because they know that all the Automation machinery they have put in, the unemployment which they aimed at and achieved, the speed-up of those still at work, all these should continue to result in "full benefits of plant modernization."

Profits are rising and rising and all that the top group of capitalists advising the Commerce Department—Business Advisory Council—can foresee is 5 to 6 million unemployed by next winter! NEWS-WEEK of October 20, 1958, is predicting this.

SEE:

"THE PLANNED RECESSION"  
Editorial on page 4

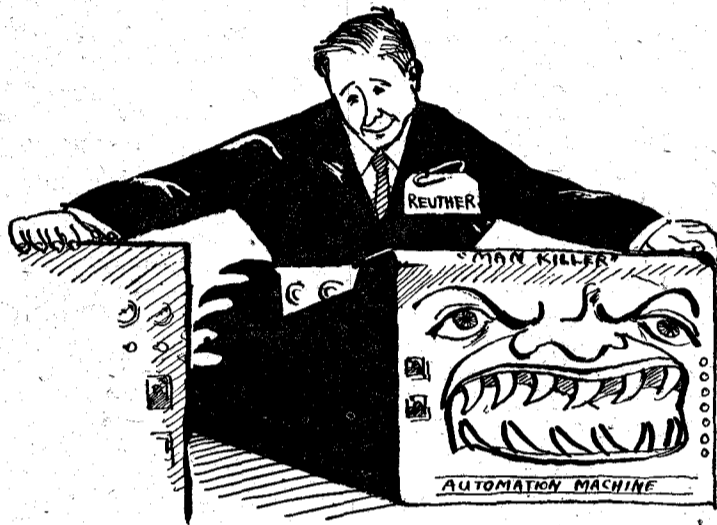
This being the most planned depression, stemming from Automation as run by capitalists, government officials and labor bureaucrats, we sent our reporter to a basic industry—steel—to find out the workers' thoughts not on the elections, but on their conditions of labor.

#### STEEL WORKERS CONVENTION

"The only time the union was any good was at the beginning when everyone was behind the wheel. Now everything is at the hub; the spokes aren't getting any support." This was the sentiment summing up a steel worker's thoughts about the circus called the United Steel Workers convention held recently in Atlantic City.

This steel worker went on to say that 158 points were brought out at the convention—points that the men wanted action taken on, points that originated at the local level and were eventually by-passed by the "goals."

(Continued on Page 8)



"I Got the Contract, You Stay on  
The Job and Get Production."

### REUTHER JAMS CONTRACT DOWN WORKERS' THROATS

As every one knows the contract negotiations this year were punctuated with more wildcatting than at any previous period. These wildcat strikes came to such a climax that there was not a single shop working at the time when the contracts were actually signed.

At first the labor bureaucracy tried to pretend that their word counted for something because the question of local grievances had been left open for local settlement; however they could not continue fooling themselves for long.

The President of Chrysler Corporation in fact went so far as to claim that there were 700 strikes in 3 years which, if you took him at his word, would mean the workers in the auto industry worked 20 days in the entire year. While in fact, this is not true, he does have the correct class view point for he respects the hostility of the workers towards the company, a hostility that is as active in a mere stoppage of 10 minutes as when there is a walk out.

The union bureaucracy has not been that honest and when confronted with an entire local such as Fleetwood voting against the contract they still pretend that it was "overwhelmingly" approved.

#### CHRYSLER LOCAL 212

The truth is that their well oiled machine broke down completely with the result that at 2 meetings of Local 212 the workers came out in real numbers, in thousands instead of the hand full that come out for regular meetings. These 2 spontaneous strike meetings you will find analyzed in Worker's Journal on this page.

That the bureaucracy learned from this only one thing—to increase its intimidation of the workers—was seen on Saturday, October 25, 1958. Suddenly Chrysler, which was barely putting in 2 or 3 days a week, scheduled work for 6 full days the week of contract ratification. Because of this the union called 2 meetings on Saturday, one for the day shift and another for the afternoon shift, thus separating the workers.

(Continued on Page 5)

BE SURE TO READ:

'THE CONFEDERACY, THE CONFEDERACY'  
in the "Two Worlds" column on page 5

## COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

### Miners Strike Again For Seniority

FAIRMONT, W. Va. — Another wildcat strike has broken out over seniority in the northern West Virginia coal fields. Again, it was the Consol miners, the hardest hit by the lay-offs over the past seven years, who spearheaded the action.

The little seniority protection which now exists is due in large part to the strike over seniority in '51 which involved 13 Consol mines in northern West Virginia. The wishes of the rank-and-file, which were for full seniority protection, were frustrated by the action of District and International representatives who were ordered by Lewis to break the strike. The rank-and-file withstood their pressure, but their local union leadership did not, and the men finally had to settle for seniority according to classification which was negotiated locally. The next year this type of seniority was negotiated in the national contract and has not been changed to date.

#### NO REAL PROTECTION

The inadequacies of this type of seniority have been felt with every lay-off that has taken place since, and there have been hundreds of thousands laid off. The anger of the men has accumulated to the point that with every lay-off, there is either the threat of a strike or an actual strike by the men.

#### YOUNG MEN GET NEW JOBS

The greatest source of dissension is the provision that a man has seniority rights only in his work classification. For with the introduction of the continuous miner, old classifications have been wiped out, and new ones created. The coal operators are free to choose any persons they wish for the new classifications, which are generally younger men, since there is no provision for the upgrading of miners.

With this situation, when a lay-off hits a mine, a man who may have 30 years seniority in a mine may be laid off if the classification in which he works is wiped out; whereas another man may have as little time as a month at the mine, but because his work classification is not affected, he remains at work. And there is nothing the miner with the 30 years seniority can do about it according to the contract.

#### RESENTMENT FLARES OUT IN WILDCAT

The last round of lay-offs in the Consol mines in northern West Virginia was the occasion for the accumulated anger of the men expressing itself in a wildcat strike. The strike spread to non-Consol mines, where the men readily came out in sympathy. Within two days, some 1,500 miners were out on strike, demanding full seniority rights.

A mass meeting was held at Monongah, W. Va. to consider the further course of action to be taken. District

officials were present at the meeting, and the men aired their grievances arising from the inadequate seniority protection. They demanded full seniority rights, threatening to spread the strike if they did not get it. The District officials said that they would contact the operators of the various mines in the area to work out some agreement satisfactory to the men—but only if the men returned to work. For the operators were given the right by contract to refuse to negotiate with the union if a wildcat strike is in progress. The men agreed, and gave the District and International representatives a week to negotiate and report back to the men.

#### "PROGRESS" AND "PRINCIPLE"—NO SENIORITY

The reports given by C. J. Urbaniak, District 31 president, and Joseph Yablonski, International representative, were nothing but evasions. They had nothing down in writing, but they had made "progress." They had been

### MORE LAY-OFFS MORE MACHINES LESS MEN

Pursglove, W. Va. — Another round of lay-offs hit the Consol mines in this area. The first round began in October of last year and additional lay-offs have occurred every two or three months. The result is that in most of the mines anywhere from one-half to three-fourths of the men who had been working a year ago are now laid off.

The policy of the company has been to lay-off as many men as possible and reorganize the ones left to produce more "efficiently." This simply means that the men left are speeded-up even more—more work is thrown upon their already overburdened shoulders. A necessary consideration by the coal company in this respect is the elimination of conventional coal producing sections and the exclusive use of the continuous miners wherever possible.

#### DOUBLE-BARRELED INJUSTICE

The effects of this policy are many sided. The principle of seniority is made a laughing and bitter mockery. Men who had been working in the mines from the time they were first opened, some thirty or forty years ago, are laid off. Others who have worked there for a few years—or even months—are retained because they are in a classification which is not affected or eliminated by the lay-offs, for the miners have seniority according to classification.

There is a double-barreled injustice in this seniority ar-

able to get the coal operators they had talked with to agree "in principle" to protect the oldest men in their mines. Without any provisions worked out to put this "principle" into effect, such an agreement wasn't worth the paper it wasn't written on. But things would be worked out, the men were assured. How was this to be done? Each local union would work it out with the local management; and to really start the ball rolling, the presidents and mine committee—men of each local were to meet separately, except in cases wherein one company owned several mines, with the District president in the District office to discuss the provisions they wanted. The men accepted the conditions and voted to keep working while negotiations were in progress.

#### DISCUSSIONS BRING NOTHING—STRIKE THREATENS

Since then, several meetings have been held in the District—but nothing even beginning to indicate that any local agreement has been reached has resulted. With the smell of the double-cross in the air, the men are beginning to strike again.

agement. Not only is there no real seniority plan to protect the men with the most time at the mine; for there are many men in their late fifties and early sixties who easily adjusted to the tempo of pinning on conventional sections, but are suddenly forced to pin on a continuous miner with the associated speed-up or lose their jobs.

The completely new and alien features of working on a continuous miner places their own, and fellow miners', lives in increased danger. Their age and inexperience, coupled with the speed-up, produces in them and their fellow workers conflicting emotions. For no worker wants to see anyone else out of a job, there is among the miners an extremely keen awareness of the potential dangers which would be aggravated in such circumstances.

#### INHUMANITY OF PRODUCTION

These strong and conflicting emotions take their toll. A sense of uneasiness can develop into personal antagonism. And a boss is quick to play on the sentiments of the men, adding to their anger to get them to produce more and to disregard fundamental safety measures, which goes on until a mangled or dead miner is carried out of the mine.

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

## Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

### A TRIP SOUTH

The biggest upset in the South is the Negro people who start trouble by running to the white man to tell him something against each other. Some to try to build up their reputation in the eyes of the white man so that they can be called a great person by some of these whites.

#### SOUTH UPSET

It looks to me that it is mostly the educated people, mostly teachers, that do this. They keep up this kind of disturbance among the colored and white by trying to be called big leaders among the Negro people. That is why the South is in such an upset situation today. White against white and Negroes against Negroes. Whites against Negroes. Jews against Negroes.

The only thing I can see is that the white man's time is running out and he is trying to do anything and everything to hold on to that old way of keeping the Jewish people and the Negro people down. But the uneducated Negroes and Jews have to get together in the South so that they can do something for their own without the whites' say-so. It is a little tough, but they are still going on, trying to make the way clear.

#### BOMBINGS

Those low down Southerners have gone back to that old low down way of trying to scare the Negro and Jewish people out of trying to be free men. They brought the K.K.K. back into action. They've gone back to bombing Negro churches, bombing some Jewish homes and synagogues. They get in cars

and drive up and down the highways every Saturday night in droves, shouting and cursing, trying to hold on to that old segregation way. Negroes are not stopping for anything until they can find that open space for freedom for all.

#### WHITE QUESTIONS

Just go from the North down South and see just how those whites run up to the Negro to ask some of the craziest questions, that is, if the Negro is driving a nice looking car or has on some pretty nice looking clothes. The white will ask you, "How did you get enough money to buy that car or to buy good looking clothes?" just as if you were allowed too much money to get the things that you really need when you are down South. If you would go down there looking any way the first thing they would say is, "those white Northerners are not any better to you Negroes up North than we Southerners are to our Negroes down here. The only thing is that we white folks down here are going to make the Negro stay in his place."

#### STICKING TOGETHER

Everyone knows just what the Southerner means when he says Negroes must stay in their place, that is he better do everything he's told and take every lick that's put on him. That is what the white man calls Negroes staying in their place.

But the Negro people see just what it takes to win their freedom, that is to stick together and fight just like the white man does. The Negro people will get what they want.

## Death in the Mines

73 miners have lost their lives in Springhill, Nova Scotia so that the Dominion Steel and Coal Company can continue to show a profit for their stockholders. This is the same mine in which 119 men were trapped and 37 men lost their lives in 1956. In 1891, 125 men lost their lives in the same mine. Two of the survivors of the 1956 explosion lost their lives today.

On the same day 3 miners were killed and one injured in Kingwood, West Virginia, in a slate fall.

Another three men were killed at Shippingport Penna., when the rock ceiling fell on three young coal miners as they were working.

These are the casualties in only one day of the operation of coal mines in

the United States and Canada. The black day was October 24, 1958.

BISHOP, VA., Oct. 27—22 miners lost their lives today at the Pocahontas coal mine where 37 lost their lives last year.

SOMERSVILLE, West Va., Oct. 28 — 13 coal miners lost their lives and another 4 who were rescued are in the hospital as the result of a mine explosion.

It is a sad commentary on life in North America, and the kind of labor that men must perform, that 114 men die in a week earning a living so that owners can grow rich on their death.

The labor of digging for survivors and bodies is done by the miners themselves, who are paid only for tons of coal delivered.

#### TO OUR READERS:

Please note that there is a new masthead on the front page of News & Letters. For the next few months we will print, on an experimental basis, suggestions by our readers. News & Letters com-

mittees authorized the Editorial Board to then choose one, to be submitted for a final vote.

This month it is "The Leap To Freedom Is From Necessity."

Please send us your suggestions!

# STEEL SPEED-UP AND LAYOFFS KILL WORKERS

Pittsburgh, Pa.—There are tens of thousands of men who have been laid off in the steel mills. Thousands of others who held skilled or semi-skilled jobs have been reduced to general laborers and must now clean up after the men who are doing their old jobs. This has resulted from a

trick on the part of management. Job classifications have been changed in the steel mills. The old classification of "general labor" is now called "general services and transportation" and has resulted in many being laid off and those who remain being shifted around in a pool. They are available for practically anything previously done by general labor and for the jobs of many previously classified as semi-skilled.

The result is a neat scheme to get the men doing skilled or semi-skilled work to do their own clean-up jobs after they have done their regular work. The laborers have been fired, the others speeded-up, and the net result is an increase in productivity which produces greater profits with fewer men.

The former safety rules of U.S. Steel, as far as both the union bureaucrats and the company are concerned, are a thing of the past.

The company approaches the union representatives behind the backs of the men, agrees on policy, then unites and puts it into effect against the men. When the men in the shop complain or file a grievance they first find out that the new policy

is also union policy. The workers and their complaints against working conditions are ignored.

Take the case of the open hearth burners. This is a very dangerous job which requires a burner and a helper. The company removed the helper. When the burner complained and was joined by several other burners, they filed a complaint with the union. Nothing came of the grievance except a warning by management to the man who filed the grievance that, if he "did not keep his mouth shut he would be sent to general services." As the steel worker said, "They'll work one man until they get him killed, then maybe the company will consider putting the helpers back to work."

Steel Worker

### To Our Readers

We would like to apologize for an error that appeared on page 3 of our last issue (Sept. 30th) in the small article "Chrysler Wildcat." The date given for the strike that took place is "August 3rd" when it actually took place the Friday before going to press, October 3rd. For more on that strike see "Worker's Journal" this issue. —Editor

## 'RECESSION' ACCOMPLISHES ITS MISSION

LOS ANGELES — From the latest reports in the press, on radio and TV, the Recession is over—for everyone except the unemployed. At least it is over to the extent that they are now taking applications.

### RECESSION FORCES WAGES DOWN

One thing the recession has accomplished is that it has forced wages down. There are jobs for \$1.25 per hour. If you ask for more than this on an application that is the last you hear about that possibility of a job.

### SHORT CREWS, LONG HOURS

There are jobs but the companies would rather work a short crew overtime rather than increase the work force. The Chrysler plant here formerly ran two shifts and employed around 3,800 men. Now at the season's peak they are running one shift with around 1,800 men. The other 2,000 men are out looking for these \$1.25 per hour jobs.

It appears that the more workers they can force into the low paying jobs, the stronger the recession upswing becomes.

Now you don't even have to change jobs to get a wage cut. The Young Spring and Wire plant in L.A. is on strike. The pickets' signs say they are on strike because the company wants to cut their wages by 37½ cents an hour.

The only difference between a recession and a depression is that if the recession succeeds in cutting workers' wages, there is no need for a depression.

—Unemployed

## UAW CONTRACTS MEAN NOTHING TO UNEMPLOYED

DETROIT—Oct. 20 — The talk among the union members is that they are not going to ratify the contract, but you don't know what will happen after Reuther's brain-washing. If he shows up at all, his main talk in this brain-washing will probably be on what will happen to Local 212 if they don't ratify.

Last week, Oct. 19, Reuther was to come to the meeting where the vote was to be taken. He sent his boys instead. They read a letter from him that said the vote that we were supposed to take that day would not count in any way or form.

Where has the production man benefitted by such a contract they are trying to pull off now? I want to know where or when.

I think they went in with that contract in their pockets and waited till they thought the workers were tired. Then they came out with what they went in with — and worse.

I have made \$2.70 an hour in the plant and all I get on SUB is \$7.95 a week. What have I gained out of it? If I get it for the rest of my

# The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

## DO YOU REMEMBER THE 5 MILLION?

The recent bombings of Jewish synagogues and the threats to schools, in this democratic land of ours, made me remember the 5 million Jewish people wiped off the face of the earth in a single decade and the story of a friend of mine. A story of the horrors of the "Christian" world against minority groups. My friend was born in Poland, a Polish Jew.

When I first met Sandra, we were working together in a small shop in New York. I used to catch her sitting at her bench just staring, her eyes overflowing with tears. Sometime later I was to learn what all this meant.

She was supposedly friends with another girl, who constantly called her "Jew." Even though I was new at the job I finally had to ask her what this was all about. I found out that her main preoccupation day and night was to show to the others that she was no different, that she was not "stingy." She would spend what little money she had buying things for the other girls. She was making the glorious wage of \$42 per week. Her husband was making \$50 per week. These kinds of wages are very common in small shops around New York City.

We became friends and she told me about her life in Poland, Germany, Sweden and finally when she came to the United States, where she still found prejudice and was unable to find work because of it.

It seems so hard to believe that human beings can do such things to others but the Faubuses and the bomb planters are living proof. It seems that their "day of reckoning" should be at hand.

### POLAND

The country in which she was born—Poland—is the country she never wants to see again. She has no family, no relatives left living.

To earn a living in the factories in Poland was impossible so the Jews had to turn

life what have I gained? That can't even feed one in my family.

The man with under 12 years seniority in the plant hasn't got a chance. He is not even counted as a union member any more, he's out!

According to Chrysler you're still considered an employee until a new contract is ratified. But the unemployed member is not going to be asked to ratify this contract. All other contracts we got letters to go to the meeting to vote.

Not only that, but what is happening to the steward system? Steward elections won't come until a few months from now. They're not stewards any more just group leaders.

We used to have 35,000 members in Local 212, now there's approximately 9,000 and by the time Plymouth takes over there will be only about 3,000.

Unemployed Union Man

to farming and trades. She described the huge signs on factories: "No Jews Hired Here." Almost in desperation she would explain that that is why so many Jewish people become small tradesmen or small business men. "In Poland you could not go into the factories, you had to learn a trade." She was answering the prejudices that she met in this country.

She said, every morning they learned of another Jewish farmer that had been hung on his way back from the market. They would find the bodies still dangling by the rope that broke the last breath from them.

Of her family, she told of the warm human relations between parents, brothers and herself. Out of necessity they were as close knit as any family could get.

### POLISH WORKERS HELP WITH FOOD & SHELTER

Then one day the Germans came. They carried her father off and moved them to a ghetto. She was but 11 years old. Being the smallest in her group she would sneak out at night, under the barbed wire and go house to house begging for food, and then return, under the barbed wire.

Her mother died, her brothers and their families were sent to concentration camps in Germany. She learned of one brother, a socialist, being killed. A sister-in-law while waiting to be herded into a box car, had her baby taken from her and dropped from the roof of a building. Her sister-in-law was shot to death trying to save her child.

She used to interrupt herself and say to me, "You don't believe people can do such things do you, but worse than that happened." Her husband had to dig the graves for his parents as they were shot in front of him.

### THE "IRISH" HELPED

She escaped from the Ghetto, fleeing from the Nazis, finding shelter in the home of a Christian Polish family. She kept calling them "Irish" and it took me a little time to find out that that meant Catholic to her. She had to leave again because of the threat that any one caught helping Jews would be severely punished.

She came to a little town, and decided to walk through it. Some one yelled, "There's a Jew." To this day she does not know what made that person yell out. They put her in jail and sent her to a concentration camp in Germany where they put her to work in a munitions plant. A child of 11.

(What happened in Germany will be written up in the next issue.)

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**EDITORIALS**

**THE PLANNED RECESSION**

The recession we are living through is proceeding according to plan: There are a sufficient number of unemployed to create depressed wages and make it possible to railroad through union-busting legislation such as the misnamed "right to work laws," in many states. Prices have not fallen because the big corporations have been able to control them through their monopolies of the important sectors of the economy. Profits have risen much higher than either production or prices warrant. Labor productivity has been phenomenal.

To the working people and all other men of common sense it may seem fantastic to say that any human being would plan a recession. Who would want once again to live through those horrible depression years of the 1930's with their nearly 20 million unemployed, and the crises leading straight to fascism and the holocaust of war? Yet, last September, when everything was booming along, a large number of companies suddenly cancelled their orders for supplies and new plant equipment. They all did it within a week of each other. The planning was so obvious that even TIME MAGAZINE has been forced to openly call it "planned."

**END OF WAR AND BEGINNING OF AUTOMATION**

The truth is that the very first worry of the capitalists after the war was the low labor productivity which resulted from the workers' returning from war to the same miserable conditions of labor they left when they set out "to save the world." The Government helped big business by sponsoring all sorts of conferences and most obligingly rushing through the Taft-Hartley slave-labor Act. When that didn't work, business and science united and came up with Automation.

When the Korean War brought us out of that recession, the end of the war landed us in a new 1953-4 recession.

We are now living through the third, and worst, of the post-war recessions.

**POST-MORTEM ON RECESSION?**

The financial pages of The New York Times, with a straight face, are reporting a "post-mortem discussion of recession." If you read the report carefully, you find that the same report speaks of a "relatively high percentage of unemployed workers in relation to total working force," and that capital expenditures for 1959 are expected not to rise, but to drop, 3 percent. Indeed, where the general drop in investment in plant expansion is 9 per cent, the drop is as high as 35 per cent in the coal mining industry.

At the same time, BUSINESS WEEK is gloating over the fact that the corporations are going all out in their fight against unionization because they feel the strength of the rise of labor productivity due to Automation. NEWSWEEK puts it more openly: "Weeding out of less efficient workers, plus the impact of billions spent on new plant and equipment, has brought spectacular productivity gains since the end of recession." (sic!)

The New York Times admits that in West Virginia two years ago, 11,976 were drawing unemployment compensation while this year over 50,000 are on the rolls with other thousands living with "in-laws" since compensation has expired. In Michigan 17% of the total labor force is unemployed.

**THE ADMINISTRATION WISHED IT SO**

The Administration is gloating about the fact that there is no "federal wheelchair", to quote the latest inept phrase of Eisenhower in face of 5 million unemployed. A "healthy economy" to Ike means high profits, high unemployment, low wages, and a reserve army of unemployed ready to swell the ranks of the armed services without disrupting the economy. In campaign promises he hopes to "fumigate corrupt unions" but would like to smash all unions.

Big shot economists have told him that unemployment is good for the economy if "it doesn't get out of hand". Blind to human needs, these people see only their own class interests, their profits, which they call the "natural laws of capitalist development".

The Republicans will be defeated in the November elections, but the alternative, a Democratic Party dominated by race-hating Southern reactionaries offers the workers no choice.

One day, when the voice of the workers is heard, then, and only then, will recessions be no more.

**Readers'**

**STEEL SPEAKS**

The men are up in arms about erratic work schedules set up by the Steel companies. The men are recalled to work when an order requires it. With this situation men can be called any hour of the day or night. A voice on the phone tells him when and where to report for work.

The men used to have some idea of their working hours, but now they don't. Enough Hell has been raised by the workers so that now the union is getting into the picture to try to get some understanding from the company concerning steady work schedules.

Steel Worker  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

At my plant, in 1946, there were 4 open hearth furnaces going full blast, open hearths 2, 3, 4 and 5. Now they have just 4 and 5 going, and that on a reduced schedule. Back in '49 there were 11,000 working at my mill, now there are 6,800. The company has so many plants just laying idle.

Steel Worker  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**CONTRACT CRITICISMS**

Ken Morris did a better job in frightening the members than anyone else at the meeting, by referring to the jobs the company has moved out of the Mack plant. He said, if they hadn't accepted the contract the company would have moved more jobs out, and the workers wouldn't have been able to transfer with the jobs because Chrysler has stated time and time again that they don't want Local 212.

An old worker that helped organize the union had said, "I have been very militant through the years. I've fought for union traditions and principles but now I don't have a job so what good is my fighting?" This was the first time I ever heard Morris refer to a worker. He said, a worker can feel militant when he is being abused at his job "but what is more important, being militant or having a job to fight over?" That's what he said! If you haven't got a job, if you're unemployed I guess you can just die.

Union Man  
Detroit

I was hoping that every guy would vote against the contract but I know some of the guys were scared.

Those guys sitting at the head of the meeting were more afraid than anyone else. They were afraid they might be sent back to negotiate a new contract. The workers were afraid they would be out of jobs.

Local 212 Member  
Detroit

Some of the strongest supporters of the Reuther machine were attacking the local officers at this meeting. They know what it is like to be under company pressure since they lost in the last election and are back working. They see no hope of getting another post. They want to say they are on the side of the rank and file worker. It's their dream that through the rank and file they will get a new post in opposition to their old Reuther pals. It's just a dream, but they don't know it yet.

Rank & Filer  
Detroit

At Ford the company is working some of the men Saturday and Sunday at straight time. This is just one of their many grievances. One worker told me they're coming out on wildcats because "Reuther didn't get anything we wanted."

Union Brother  
Detroit

**LOCAL 15 REJECTS CONTRACT**

The Fleetwood Local 15, General Motors, has rejected Reuther's contract. The skilled workers accepted it 216 to 83 and the production workers rejected it 744 to 689.

Despite the expressed wishes of the workers, Walter Reuther sent telegrams to the local officers ordering them to return to work. This is typical of Reuther's tactics in getting the contract approved.

The skilled workers of Local 212 also rejected the contract, but they too were ordered to work while Reuther musters up votes to accept his sell-out.

UAW Worker  
Detroit

That was a pretty forceful picket line we had on Oct. 3rd. 2 or 3 police cars came over. When 2 trucks went in one of the men from the truck driver's department came over and asked, why didn't a few of us walk over by the drive way. He said, "If you walk across and block the driveway the trucks won't go in." A few guys went over and the cops said we couldn't do that. So the whole picket line moved over to the driveway.

Production Man  
Detroit

You know while we were picketing we were waiting for our pay. First, they said, we would get it at 1 o'clock, then they said, at 2. We started yelling that the money was ours and we're going to get it. The guards and foremen came out at 8:30 a.m. and we lined up for our checks.

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

No matter what the vote was on the contract they will do what they please with it.

Woman Worker  
Detroit

The contract we voted on is held together with two staples at the top. Take those staples away and the contract will fly away with the wind. That's exactly what is going to happen to it anyway.

12 Years Seniority & Unemployed, Detroit

I don't see what's holding those guys up on top unless they are nailed to the walls over at Solidarity House. We pushed them up but now they nailed themselves in so tight we can't get them down.

Dodge Worker  
Detroit

Anybody would be a fool to think that the union leaders are not selling us out. The Auto companies asked for a two year extension to the contract, which anyone in the shop knows would have been better than the new contract signed by Reuther.

Disgusted Auto Worker  
Detroit

**AUTOMATION JAILS MOTHER**

A young mother was kept in jail "awaiting trial" for 6 months because of an error in the automation machine which classifies the individual by punch cards.

Mrs. Ethel Bell, 26, was held in Philadelphia jail when she was called as a witness (code 11) and her card was punched code 0011 (riotous destruction of property) and held "awaiting trial" which never came off because there was no case.

The Judge discharged her. He must have been cleaning up the jail. She ought to sue the pants off of them.

Justice lover  
Boston

**DEFENCE?**

Recently in Detroit an R.A.F. delta wing bomber with a crew of 6 crash-landed on a populated section of the city less than 2 miles from the heart of the city. While the firemen were fighting the flames devouring a number of homes, the radio was still trying to identify the plane.

Selfridge Field, the main Air Force Base, knew nothing of the plane; neither did any Michigan military base.

If a British bomber of the jet type can reach the heart of Detroit without detection of the "Defence Command" then something is rotten in the defence system.

Veteran W. W. II  
New York

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# Views

## THE QUEMOY MESS

The Red Chinese offer to shoot up Quemoy only every other day, and Dulles' flying trip to dictator Chiang-Kai Shek, which brought forth firm promises that the little fly would no longer entertain hopes that he could conquer the elephant, only bring laughs to any serious political discussion of the far east.

Neither Red China or the U.S.A. is interested in Quemoy as important real estate. They both want something to fight about, yet neither wants to get shot at.

The U.S.A. has about as much right defending Quemoy as Russia would in defending the rights of the people of Staten Island against the State of New Jersey!

Military Strategist  
Detroit

## DISAGREES WITH M.D.

I had a chance to read M.D.'s column this issue before it went to press. If I understood correctly (I hope I didn't) M.D.'s friend is against socialized medicine and thinks that medical care is great in this country. If he does mean this then I don't think he is living in this world. I would rather have thousands of people receive some medical care, factory fashion or not, than have just a few that have a proper relationship with their doctors.

I have been out of work for over a year. I have not been able to go see a doctor or visit a dentist for the simple reason that I haven't got the money. I am quite willing to let them have their relationship with me but I am afraid they would rather have it with my money.

What kind of medical profession is it that allows a polio epidemic to run away with a city like Detroit before Polio shots are given for \$1 instead of \$3, \$4 or \$5?

M.D. spoke of an English doctor saying that under socialized medicine "there is too much work with too little pay." This means to me that he thinks a doctor deserves more pay than others.

If you start with that, then you are lost. You fall into the trap that the educated in this world are the important ones, etc. No one can show me that any one deserves more than those Nova Scotia coal miners buried deep in the earth. All they got for their labors was a belly full of gas.

Unemployed  
Detroit

## MARXIST HUMANISM

Your workers' newspaper, *News & Letters*, has reached Athens, Greece, through one of your Italian readers. I find it very interesting.

I quite agree with your views on the French crisis and with your criticism of the French Communist Party and its role in the restoration of bourgeois democracy after World War II. The Greek Communist Party played a similar role.

With the firm conviction that a new era of scientific progress on social problems is now opening, and for the final social struggle under the banner of Marxist Humanism I remain,

A New Friend  
Athens, Greece

Enclosed is a money order for \$4.50. I hope that the special offer on *MARXISM AND FREEDOM* still holds good. If it is too late please credit me with the amount enclosed and I will send the remainder. I am very anxious to receive the Dunayevskaya book. If you have any other publications expressing your point of view, I would be interested in them.

Mill Valley  
California

The special offer for

*MARXISM AND FREEDOM* is still open. Why don't you plan to send out copies of the book as holiday gifts this year? See our advertisement in this issue for the special offer.

—EDITOR

My main criticism of class society in Britain, Russia or America — or even the type of managerial "Socialist" society that some envisage for the future—is that it divides society up into those who produce and those who control the means of production. It is out of this—and because of this basic division between "workers" and "thinkers"—that the dehumanisation of human relations, the irrationalism of capitalist production, etc., arise.

It follows for me at any rate that a real socialist society is one in which there will be no hierarchy of police, foremen, managers, planners, irrationalism, social prejudices, etc.

Would you say that the alienation of capitalism is increasing in American society? If so, what evidence exists? Are American workers who take part in unofficial strikes displaying greater maturity than they did in the 1930's?

J. Y.  
England

## REUTHER JAMS CONTRACT DOWN WORKERS' THROATS

(Continued from Page 1)

### BUREAUCRATS WOO OPPOSITION

The ratification meeting was preceded by visits of various bureaucrats to known rank and file oppositionists. Where they could not buy the person with offers of jobs they made sure that that person would not get the floor. Both meetings literally swarmed with bureaucrats strategically placed in various parts of the hall, ready to take down badge numbers of any oppositionists and above all making sure that none except the phoney oppositionists that have the approval of Reuther got the floor.

The workers received copies of the contract as they walked into the meeting. The Local President took almost 2 hours to go through the 77 pages, for the afternoon shift. At the end of which one question was asked and the meeting adjourned for voting. **The question period was given no more than 5 minutes.**

In his talk the Local President said that there were complaints that the union was forgetting all about shop conditions but that this was not so because the wording on shop conditions was the same as in the '55 contract. **Shop conditions to him meant the break period, clean up time etc. The shop conditions the workers were talking about are the work standards, the insane and inhuman speed-up by the company in the form of automation machines.** The Local President told the workers that the work standards would come up under the grievance procedure as soon as the contract was ratified and they returned to work. He had been well prepared by his teacher in the art of substitution.

In the second meeting when the day workers were through working a 6 day week, the local president took less than an hour to go through the contract, but his boys made 45 minute speeches after him. After 2 such haranguing speeches the top bureaucracy magnanimously let 3 or 4 ex-bureaucrats take the floor. By then everybody was so disgusted and tired that they got an approval of the contract. However the dissatisfaction is so deep that many strikes can be expected in the future. The columns in *News & Letters* are always open to our readers and we will always keep you informed of all the latest developments among the rank and file workers.

# TWO WORLDS

## "THE CONFEDERACY, THE CONFEDERACY"

by Raya Dunayevskaya,  
author of *MARXISM AND FREEDOM*

A new low in righteous indignation was reached by President Eisenhower when he lost his temper not so much at the fact that hoodlums had bombed Jewish synagogues as at the fact that these hoodlums called themselves "The Confederate Underground." In a high pitched voice and with bulgy eyes, President Eisenhower shouted that he had been raised and educated to have "the highest respect for the Confederacy."

Which side of the Civil War was he on anyway?

Not that President Eisenhower is alone in this "high respect" for the instigators of the most bloody, most costly, most unjust rebellion. Historians have been busy rewriting our civil war history ever since President Andrew Johnson got away with his treacherous conduct on the whole question of Reconstruction. That is the unavoidable consequence of Bourgeois wars that dare not carry through what they themselves have started—a revolution against slavery which was the way of life of their Bourbon co-rulers.

Because the only way to reconstruct the south on truly new, human beginnings was to have the Negro at its base, the victorious industrial North preferred an unholy compromise with the defeated plantation South. They wrote off four long years of destruction and a million American lives in order to re-establish the South as the white man's land.

### THE UNION

It was not by accident that "the principle of Union vs. states' rights" was never so firmly set down that some smart lawyer couldn't find his way around it. To this day we suffer from this.

Three long years have passed since desegregation in education did finally become "the law of the land." But not a whiff of this law rules the Deep South. As for the rest of the unreconstructed South, what we are witnessing today in the bombings of desegregated schools is only the natural outgrowth of demagogues in high office from the President down, inspiring litigations that will go on and on and on till they have rolled the clock back to days of "white supremacy."

The lawless short cut to the same end is the legitimate offspring of the legal way around the law: where Governor Faubus, who has state power, reassures his cohorts that he will create legal ways to protect their disregard of Federal law, the Confederate Underground reassures its hoodlums that it will find legal, and illegal, ways to protect them.

The inspiration for their arrogance is the FBI that could not uncover the KKKer who set a cross burning at the home of Supreme Court Justice Warren, not to speak of finding those who had bombed Negro churches, desegregated schools and Negro homes.

The inspiration for their illegal acts is the legal act of the justices of the Alabama State Supreme Court, who refused to reverse the death sentence against a Negro worker for allegedly stealing \$1.95. These high and mighty dispensers of Southern justice defended their barbarous action on the basis that "it is not the amount stolen that counts, but the principle." What principle? Which uncivilized planet do these rulers of ours inhabit?

The inspiration for these acts, legal and illegal, comes from the man armed with the office of Presidency and the power of the Commander-in-Chief.

### TIME AND PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

Recently President Eisenhower gave vent to his personal feelings that the Supreme Court had acted in haste—that we must "understand" the South and give it "sufficient time."

How many centuries is "sufficient time"? In 1954, at a time when the United States' contention with Russia for world power was suffering setbacks in the struggle for the minds of the colored peoples of the world, the United States Supreme Court finally moved to make desegregated education the law of the land—only to find that the ever-patient admirer of the Confederacy, President Eisenhower, was incapable of enforcing so elementary a democratic principle.

### NEGRO INGENUITY

Desegregated education never will become the law of the land until the Negro enforces it. The Negro youth that braved the troops of Gov. Faubus to enter Arkansas high schools have now been shunted aside by the purely legal battle the N.A.A.C.P. is carrying on. The Negro youth that came to the aid of the brave Rose Parks who refused to give up her seat on an Alabama bus have, again, been left outside of the actions planned by the one who came to lead that movement, Rev. King, who is content now to write books. The white labor bureaucracy, whether of the old school, like Meany, or the so-called new school, like Reuther, have their consciences all too easily satisfied by mere money contributions to the legal battle. If you walk into any Negro community you feel at once the dissatisfaction with the established leadership and the devising of their own ways to win full democratic rights. Therein lies the only way out.

## YOUTH

### Thinking It Out

By ROBERT ELLERY

A 19 year old stock chaser I know was just laid off. The general foreman told him not to worry, "A young fellow can always find a job." The stock chaser asked him where. Needless to say he got no reply.

The administration and its supporters are all speaking of the recession in the past tense. Over 4 million in the unemployed army is fine with them. Productivity has increased while the work force decreased.

#### SHARE THE WORK

It's the young workers who have been hit the hardest. Seniority, which offers some job protection for the older workers offers no solace to the young workers. A welder in my department said, "I'm laid off every three months now. I don't own my home, my car isn't paid off and I've got three small kids. These guys with twenty or more years seniority own their own homes, their kids are grown and they can't remember the last day they were laid off. We all pay the same dues to the union. Every one ought to take their share of the lay-offs. Let every man work as much as the next. If some of these old timers were hit by a lay-off maybe there would be a lot more interest in the idea of working thirty hours for forty hours pay."

The youth have no representation as such in the union. It is the young workers whose attendance at work is the most erratic. It takes a while to break a human to factory discipline. It's the youth that the union bureaucracy hesitates to de-

fend in a fight with the company. "Why should we go out on a limb for these young punks who just don't want to work?"

#### UAW AND YOUNG WORKERS

What is the attitude of the "most democratic" of the trade unions, the UAW, toward young workers? If a young worker is fortunate enough to get a job these days, his chances of steady employment for more than a couple of months are mighty slim. This is particularly true in auto. Yet the UAW International insists that a new worker pay his initiation fee after thirty day of employment, even though he can expect no protection from the union until the end of ninety days of employment, his probationary period with the company. Thousands have been laid off and fired in between the time they pay their initiation fee and establish seniority. The past year has seen the UAW bureaucrats raise the initiation fee and dues, cut down the time in which the initiation fee must be paid to the union, but they have done nothing about shortening the ninety day probationary period in which the worker is completely at the mercy of the company.

Is it any wonder that so many young workers stay away from union meetings, when their initial contact with the union is so sickening? The new worker wrestles the company alone for a quarter of a year, while the union stands by, only to pick his pockets.

### A Parisian Youth Writes On Life in France

I want to tell you what goes on in Paris . . . One has the impression that we're going through a historic period, a period where events are happening very fast, unfortunately they are not good events.

On the 4th of September, De Gaulle was to speak to the Republic, in the center of Paris where the "leftists" often congregate. A veritable provocation. A counter-demonstration was immediately organized by our side. The others, the Gaullists, mobilized 6,000 police. (Here they are called "flics.") The other part of the square was entirely blocked, and one could enter only by invitation. The Gaullist crowd was 5,600 people. The police charged the 6 to 8 thousand counter-demonstrators, with unheard of violence. A street was torn up and the stones thrown at the "flics." They fired twice. I have never seen such bestiality. They attacked and beat people with clubs. (Generally the old people, because they couldn't run away.) They then set upon those who had fallen.

There were two amusing

incidents. Some demonstrators said they were Gaullists and they came to hear De Gaulle. The cops looking at them asked themselves if that were true, or if they were some awful Marxist hypocrites.

Another thing, 5 Swedish reporters had been arrested and placed in the police vans (the "salad-baskets") where the cops broke their ribs. When they told them they were Swedish, the cops said, "We thought you were Dutch."

Other problems shake France, since the F.L.N. (Algerian Nationalists) began its attacks. Racist attitudes have been expressed by not only the middle class but the working class. As long as the F.L.N. killed policemen it was accepted, but now they've turned to the military. (Here military service is compulsory.) The population accepts with indifference, sometimes even with satisfaction, the measures of curfew on the Algerians who are not permitted to go out at night from 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., and the internment and torture—now they torture not only in Algeria but

### STUDENT TEACHES

In my literature class we had to learn a poem by Edwin Markham, called "The Man With The Hoe." This poem was written about a worker. My teacher started telling the class what the poem means. She ended by saying, "If the workers start thinking too much for themselves it would be a pretty cockeyed mess!"

After class I walked up to her and asked, "when the class was talking about workers, did you, honestly know what you were talking about?" She tried telling me exactly the opposite of what she told the class.

She didn't do a very good job of it. I asked her if she knew why the workers were striking and wildcatting. She said, "They strike because the union says so." I said "that's fine for striking but what about the wildcats?" I had to explain what wildcats are!

I had to get to my next class so I cut it short and left.

That teacher says she reads the papers. The impression I got was that she reads the comics, point blank.

High School Student  
Detroit

also in France—especially in Argenteuil, a suburb of Paris.

In fact the situation is very unstable. Last night I heard gun shots near my home. An Algerian was killed. A liberal paper called "Le Monde" has recognized in an article on Algeria that they have used jelly bombs. Finally, in Africa—Guinea which is the richest territory (it has deposits of bauxite,) has decided to choose independence. In Cameroon, one of the chiefs of the resistance, Um Niobe, has been assassinated by the troops of the oppressors. Yet, the resistance continues to increase.

A few days have passed since I started this letter, which permits me to talk about the referendum. You surely must know that De Gaulle has passed by 80%. By a vote which unfortunately no one has contested he finds himself now, the "legal representative of the majority of the population." Many working class centers have voted for him. This is nothing astonishing. The return to the old republic, where they used to whip strikers, where the liberties of the unions were reduced more and more, where the opposition newspapers were seized every two weeks, was not enthusiastically looked for. What else did the C. P. offer? Now De Gaulle will apply the program for which the bourgeoisie put him in power: To make peace in Algeria and establish a strong regime in France. **The working class has not been beaten, its fighting potential remains intact.**

—Marcel

### THEN AND NOW

#### 1933 Hunger March

If another unemployed council comes together I'll be their first member. I can remember I was living in Pontiac when I went on the Hunger March in 1933. The Unemployed Council called the march to Washington and delegates came from all over the United States.

There were 4 delegates from Pontiac and around 50 from Detroit. When we reached Detroit, we all stayed overnight at a hall. We had to have a guard during the night because the police tried to break in. We left the following morning and the Michigan police came all the way to the Ohio line, then the Ohio police followed us. In Ohio we stopped at another hall. During the night they slipped a little boy in with us. The next day they accused us of kidnapping him . . .

We had this kind of trouble clear to Washington. In Delaware the police said we weren't going through, we weren't leaving Delaware. They had bales of hay across the highway with machine guns resting on top. The leader of the march told us to get out of our trucks, that we were marching through Delaware. The police then said, "Can't you take a joke?" Our leader told them we weren't joking about what we were doing.

In Washington we were told we couldn't see the President. "He couldn't be bothered with tramps." We were called everything but people. We said we were going to march. We marched four abreast—police on either side.

I can remember part of a song we used to sing. "Oh those beans, bacon and gravy

They almost drive me crazy

I eat them till I see them in my dreams

When I wake up in the morning

Another day is dawning And I know I'll have another mess of beans."

When we got to the White House we sent in a delegation. They told us the delegation was too large, they also called us some pretty horrible names and told us we wouldn't be allowed into the White House. We asked them what would they rather have come in, the two or three in the delegation or all of us. The papers said there were 28,000 marching. We were on the March for 15 days; it was in November and it was cold.

You have to be very strong because you're called everything but men and women. But one thing, if there ever came a time for another one I'd try to go again.

Detroit

—Woman Marcher,

#### HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

On Oct. 25, 1958 a delegation called "Youth March for Integrated Schools" which included among the marchers Harry Belafonte, the noted singer, and Jackie Robinson the baseball star, marched to Washington to see if they could get Eisenhower to see them and tell the world what his position is on the question of integration.

Just as the Hunger Marchers of the '30s got a cold reception from Herbert Hoover, the Youth Marchers were refused an audience with Eisenhower.

### LONDON LETTER

#### LABOR PARTY DISCRIMINATES

Dear Editor:

I would have written long before now if I had not been busy. For the past few weeks I have been helping tenants to fight against eviction. The infamous Tory Rent Act is now being used here on a large scale to evict those workers who either cannot or will not pay the landlords the excessive rents that they are asking. I have also been a victim of the Act, and am now moving. In my case the landlords are leading Communist intellectuals!!

#### THE RACE RIOTS

The Labour Party, of which I am a member, undoubtedly helped to create the social climate that made the riots an ugly reality in Nottingham and Nottingham Hill. A few personal experiences may illustrate this.

A few months ago I recruited six West Indians to the local Party. They told me they had had a tough time in "democratic Britain." They had been forced to put up with a stupid, irrational color bar. They had found apartments very diffi-

cult to obtain; and they had been given the unskilled jobs that white workers had previously refused. Naturally I was proud that I had persuaded them to join the Labour Party to fight for Socialist ideas.

Then I was informed by the Labour officials of the local that "they could not accept those particular coloured people into Party membership." The official excuse was that my West Indian comrades lived in a bad area. I threw up the secretaryship in utter disgust. I also sent a strong letter of protest to the editor of the so-called Labour paper, TRIBUNE, but he had not the guts to publish it.

I suspect that many similar incidents have happened in other branches. So by playing up to color prejudice the Labour Party as a whole left the way open for the fascists. And the fascists have cashed in on the Labour Party's inertia.

J. Y.

London Correspondent

**A SCOTTISH WORKER'S STORY**

A Young Scottish worker was inspired by a reading of **INDIGNANT HEART** by Mathew Ward, to begin writing his autobiography. He finds much in common between the struggles of Negro workers in America and Scottish workers in England.

**A Chapter In Autobiography**

by James Douglas

(Continued From Previous Issue)

But I am sure that my father was not a rebel by nature. He was, on the contrary, a quiet, shy, reserved, man: a man who was very slow to anger. He was, in my opinion, turned into a Socialist by the "inevitable workings" of the capitalist system. To this day I do not know where—or even how—he picked up his peculiarly Socialist way of looking at the world. There certainly were not any Socialist (i. e., members of a militant Socialist group) in the coal mining village where he was reared as a lad. And yet I was able to fall back on his fundamental ideas in subsequent years in heated arguments with "important" Communist theorists and intellectuals.

My mother, however, was the quintessence of rebellion. She was a constant champion of the working class and a fervent hater of any form of social injustice. She really believed that man, and particularly the working man, "makes his own history" in association with others—though she has never read a line of Karl Marx in her life. She told my brother Peter and me—he is two years younger than I am—that we should not ever resign ourselves to fate. As she put it: "Never take anything lying down."

Although my mother had her "suspicions about the Labour Party's promises" as early as the thirties, she actively assisted the local Party's campaign against the "means test" and the campaign in defence of "Republican Spain." But she would not join the Labour Party, because she thought that the Party leaders "were out to feather their own nests." (And considering that Cripps, Strachey, Bevan and the others lived in expensive hotels in the heart of depressed areas during their speaking tours of the provinces, perhaps she was not so far wrong even then.) She was then, as she is today, the heart and soul of Socialism.

The hated "means test"—a government imposed scheme under which municipal tenants were compelled to pay rents in proportion to their total family incomes—imposed still greater economic hardships on working people who were already living at, if not always below, subsistence level. It also helped to break of the solidarity of the workers.

That is why I have got little patience with those present day Socialist theorists who are waiting for the capitalist slump to bring a Socialist society into being. If Socialist intellectuals cannot do a hand's turn with workers who are already trying to change society, it is time that intellectuals were abolished and intelligence substituted.

How many of this type of Socialist theorist have seen or felt the effects of a slump on a working class community—the wretched poverty, misery and dehumanisation? I saw those things through the eyes of a working class child; and a few incidents are indelibly burned into my consciousness. So that nothing short of a Socialist society—a society free of all forms of class rule and distinction—will satisfy me.

In our community in the early thirties workers were literally falling like ninepins with tuberculosis and malnutrition. There were thousands of workers on the dole; and workers fought with each other like tigers for half a day's work at the docks. In our street alone one woman gassed herself and her baby girl after her husband had died from tuberculosis. This woman committed suicide and destroyed the life of her child, because she had no prospects of keeping her family together. Her other children—two boys and a girl—were sent to a Home by the "authorities." The boys were subsequently killed in enemy action at sea in the war to defend democracy against fascism. Her daughter—I was told later—turned to prostitution. The story of our street in the thirties was a history of man's inhumanity to man.

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)

**G.I.s FIGHT SEGREGATION**

There is a teacher I know that works near the Georgia border. She told me that the oppression of the Negro people is at its sharpest but the Negro people have organized themselves. On election day more than 200 people walked into the streets carrying their guns and revolvers. Every one of them went to vote.

She said that in the leading restaurants discrimination has been broken down. One night some white and Negro soldiers from a near-by base went out together. The whites went into a restaurant and ordered for all the soldiers. When the food was served they called the Negro soldiers in.

The manager came running over and said, "We don't serve colored here." A white soldier said, "What do you mean you don't serve colored? We eat together over at the barracks, sleep together, and when war comes, die together. We're going to eat together here too!" They pushed the plates away and walked out. A week after that all the restaurants were serving the Negro soldiers.

**In addition to Harriman and Rockefeller, there's another millionaire for New York voters, the Stalinist millionaire Corliss Lamont running on the Independent Socialist ticket.**

**Disgusted Voter  
New York**

**STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF**

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1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: News & Letters, 8751 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich.  
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Managing editor: I. Rogers, 8751 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

I. Rogers, 8751 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly and triweekly newspapers only.)

I. ROGERS.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1958.

(SEAL) Carol A. Mason.  
(My commission expires April 24, 1959.)

**A DOCTOR SPEAKS**

By M.D.

**TWO MEDICAL PROBLEMS**

I ate lunch with a doctor who had recently returned from Europe. We talked about two problems facing the medical world, the need to understand cancer and what to do about "Socialized Medicine." He had attended an international gathering of doctors and scientists in the related fields of biology, chemistry and physics. Some were in active practice but most were engaged in research and experimentation.

Much of the material was hit or miss, trial and error. In spite of the many frustrations and failures the atmosphere was stimulating and much different from the ordinary office or workshop. Here were human beings attacking a problem, using mind, senses and hands, taking any direction, following every lead that presented itself. It truly seemed to be a labor of the whole, the undivided man.

A field of intense concentration at this time was the study of the reproductive activity of the unit of life, the cell, the complex chemistry which controls the building of the hereditary material—the genes. More and more it was felt that the answer to the wild unlimited growth of cells that constitute cancer lay here. The movements of the ultra-microscopic protein molecules are as difficult to understand as the motion of huge constellations of stars in the universe. The further one penetrated into what makes a thing alive, the closer one came to the non-living elements. One thing seemed clear: life was not something from outside in a soul, but right there in the physical nature of the material substance being examined. What was necessary for success was more knowledge and more patience.

**"SOCIALIZED MEDICINE"**

Interested also in the social and economic aspects of medicine, my friend had also attended a meeting of the World Medical Association. Here were official delegates from many nations as well as representatives of the World Health Organization of the United Nations. Of the many countries represented, in only one, the United States, was medical care still on a private basis. My associate felt that in the U. S. people were getting better medical care than anywhere else and that the doctors were performing miracles. Governments had taken over in poorer, less developed and less wealthy nations because the average person could not afford the luxury of private care.

In talking and listening to doctors from different countries he heard some of the bad and some of the good in so-called socialized medicine. A British doctor told him there was too much work to do and too little pay. A German doctor said that the attitude of the patient has changed. Modern man does not accept illness as his personal fate, part of his lot on earth, but reacts against it as a tiresome disturbance. With "Socialized Medicine" larger groups of the population had access to doctors' care without resorting to charity, but a sort of automation developed which tended to destroy the advantages. Special organizations or bureaus were formed which tended to influence the behavior of both the patient and the doctor. The conflict between the insured, the state insurance group, and the doctor is fought out in the doctor's office. This undermines the confidential relation of doctor to patient. The doctors are fighting for self-preservation. The crisis of the medical profession does not consist mainly in its economic difficulties, but in the dangers to the vocation of medicine. He admired the type of practice we had here in the United States.

It seemed to me, however, that with the spread of insurance contracts, in medicine in the U. S., that these private insurance agencies are playing the same role as the state does in European countries. It is they who have the final word in medical care.

We continued our discussion on returning to his office. There I overheard his secretary make a hospital appointment on the phone for the entrance of a Negro patient. She repeated the letters "XYZ." After the patient had left I asked the secretary what this meant. She explained that this hospital always wanted to know when the patient was colored and the admitting office had arranged a code with the doctors to signal whenever the patient was colored, in case he or she might be sitting close to the phone and might understand what was going on. Something was missing in the "miracle" of American medicine.

**LEBANON**

It seems to me that another abortive effort in the brinkmanship policies of the incompetent Secretary of State Dulles has reached another of his unhappy, inconclusive results.

Allegedly invited to invade by the lame duck outgoing Premier of the country, he was likewise

invited to get the hell out of there by the present premier, who was elected under the point of his guns.

The net result is that absolutely nothing has been changed in Lebanon, either for better or worse. United States foreign policy has, however, suffered still another blow at the hands of Dulles.

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RECESSION, AUTOMATION AND STEEL

(Continued from Page 1)

The steel workers convention limited itself to the aims the bureaucracy considered important—a wage increase from the steel companies and the tightening up of the power of MacDonald's bureaucratic machine over the steel workers.

The new feature in MacDonald's fight against Rarick and the other caucuses opposing him was that he "accepted" the most radical program. Promises are cheap and so he went all out to put into the steel union's program that it was for "40-30," that is to say, 40 hours pay for 30 hours' work.

The truth, however, is—and the workers knew this so well they did not even pay attention to this "program"—that they are already not working full weeks and they cannot get any raises in hourly pay, much less get paid for the hours they don't work. The yardstick they wish to use is the issues they meet daily in their work at the point of production which challenge their existence as human beings: first, the nature of the steel industry and the speed-up resulting from Automation; secondly, the spread in the wages; thirdly, the conditions of the Negro worker.

NATURE OF STEEL INDUSTRY AND AUTOMATION SPEED-UP

The steel workers are completely tied to their work by the nature and organization of the steel industry. This is a twenty-four hour day, seven day week operation, permitting no lapse in production. If production is interrupted, the result is millions of dollars lost to the steel companies in materials and equipment. It is all precision-timed work, requiring constant attention. The difference in a couple of minutes, let alone hours or days, means the loss or ruination of tons of steel. With this kind of industry, the steel magnates cannot permit any independent action by the men. And because the USW union bureaucracy realizes that it can maintain its position only by the strictest discipline over the production workers, the weight of both the steel companies and the bureaucracy is directed to keeping the production workers completely under control.

Automation has added speed-up, unemployment, and the short workweek. The anger of the steel workers is directed primarily against the union bureaucracy because of the union's lack of effectively handling local grievances over speed-up and safety conditions. The speed-up has reached such proportions that men are forced to work at jobs completely out of the line of the work they had previously done. Changes in the number of men on jobs often result in creating conditions that greatly increase the hazards to a man's life.

THE NEGRO WORKER AND SPREAD OF WAGES

One colored worker had this to say of the Homestead plant:

"The company and union aim to keep us on the bottom of the heap. When they put up notices for skilled jobs being open, there are plenty of Negroes who put in their applications and take the test. But the company is the only one that has access to them. They've called guys off the street and put them into skilled jobs rather than permit a Negro to take one. And all they have to say is that such and such a person didn't qualify for the job. With this kind of a set-up, you can't argue with them, even if you know plenty of people who took the test are qualified. In the past two years, there have been the grand total of two Negroes who have been upgraded into skilled jobs. But what kills you is when both the company and union point to these two men and say there is no discrimination!"

That workers have lost on every count is best seen in the tremendous spread in pay between the lowest and highest paid men in the mills.

There are 32 classes of work, ranging in pay from \$2.10 an hour for class 1, to \$4.10 an hour for class 32, which includes the cost of living bonus. The hardest work, of course, is done by those in the lowest classes. But not only do they perform the hardest work, the grade and speed of production of the finished product is dependent upon everyone, from the lowest to the highest paid. Yet the incentive plan set-up favors the highest paid.

This is a constant source of anger for the production workers in the lower brackets, where most men in the mill are classified. A case in point is that of the checker blowers. These men have the hottest job in the mill—keeping the checkers clear to enable a free flow of air to keep the heat of a furnace up. If the checkers get clogged, the heat of the furnace goes down, knocking down the top time for tapping the heat, which in turn knocks down the bonus. Yet, these men are in class 3, making about \$2.27 an hour.

AS IN STEEL, SO IN COAL AND IN AUTO AND . . .

The speed-up and increasing disregard for elementary safety precautions are a constant threat to life and limb, and not only in steel but throughout all automated industry. The atmosphere of fear and anxiety created by the depression moves the capitalists to strike ever harder against the men, to get more production out of them and to use every device to try to keep them disunited, white from Negro, skilled from unskilled, employed from unemployed. Whereas in the past a man had a job to do, and when it was done, he had a chance

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

RED CHINA

The internal life of Red China is in the process of undergoing vast changes on a scale so huge as to disrupt every phase of daily existence.

The peasants have been organized 90.4% into new agricultural "communes" of about 5,000 families each. The Chinese Peoples Daily reports, "In the peoples' communes labor is organized along military lines and things are done the way battle duties are carried out, and the people live collectively." Those of us who have served under military discipline can well imagine what happens to the individual who protests his quota of work, complains about working conditions or the food. Any semblance of democratic processes is done away with "for the public good."

So severe is the disruption of daily life that the millions who are being transplanted from one province to another clog up the railroad system. Despite a population of 600 million and a 15 million increase in population every year, there exists a shortage of labor to keep pace with the industrialization program. 350,000 crude blast furnaces are in operation, being hand-fed with ore laboriously extracted by hand and carried in baskets. 20 million people are engaged in the industry with another 100 million people engaged in trying to raise the output of iron and steel.

To achieve the stage of industrialization set up in Peiping, whole villages are being uprooted and populations shifted from one end of the vast country to another. The result is a chaotic condition where housing, food supplies and all types of machinery are in short supply.

SOUTH AFRICA

A number of trade union leaders and Negro leaders have received stiff jail sentences and fines for the simple act of urging the voters to stay

to rest, today he has two or three jobs to do, no time for rest, and is threatened with layoff if he does not perform them. With the general speed-up in production, this is not a simple addition of work, but a multiplication.

Thus the working man refuses to be fooled by the "progress" of Automation and raises, instead, these questions: What kind of labor should man perform? Why should the supposed end of the recession be measured by a production index instead of the human factor? Why don't we control our conditions of labor? Indeed the recession won't end until the conditions of labor are controlled by the men themselves.

at home during the April Elections.

Stephen Segale and Isaac Bokala of the South African National Congress received 12 months in jail without possibility of fine. Mrs. Christina Mathews, Sec. of the Canning Workers Union and J. Tsele of the African Cleaning and Dyeing Workers Union were also fined and jailed.

U.S. ELECTIONS

Many states face general elections in November, yet there is no feeling among the American workers that their fate is tied up with the outcome of these elections. A general state of apathy toward bourgeois politics exists throughout the country.

Some states have "right to work" union busting legislation up for general approval.

It is easy to understand this apathy. If the worker follows the advice of the Reuthers and the union bureaucracy, and votes for candidates of the Democratic Party, the net result will be capturing the committee chairmanships for the old line Democrats from the Southern states. It will give Eastland of Mississippi the Chairmanship of the Civil Rights Committee in the U. S. Senate.

At the same time, to vote Republican means a continuation of the brink of war policies of the administration.

What choice does the worker have among the boss-picked candidates of our outmoded political system?

NEGROES ABROAD

In this period of heightened racial tension in the United States you might expect the leading American Negro literary figures to be raising their voices in behalf of desegregation and broader educational opportunity. But first you would have to go looking for them.

Richard Wright, Chester Himes, Ralph Ellison, William Denby, Frank Yerby, Ben Johnson and a whole bunch of these people choose to live abroad in Paris, Rome and London. The painters, poets and musicians find life easier abroad without segregation. Talk to them

and they will tell you that they want to bring up their children in a better atmosphere than they find in the United States. In doing so they also avoid the national struggle, avoid having to speak out at critical points, avoid the responsibility of the struggle to make a better America, one where they could live in freedom.

GUINEA

French Guinea has obtained independence by the simple expedient of turning in a vote which was 95% against DeGaulle.

Sekou Toure, the leader of the new African state, has been confronted with independence at a speed which amounts to sabotage by DeGaulle. France has stopped all French aid, ordered its civil servants and administrators to leave the country within three months and imposed taxes on all goods entering France from Guinea.

Since 67% of its exports go to France, the new nation may be in trouble from the start, finding new markets for the bauxite, bananas and coffee which it exports. However Toure has a friend in Nkrumah, the head of Ghana, who has recognized the new nation and promised to assist. In any case the Guineans prefer, as Toure put it, "Freedom even if it means starvation rather than comfortable enslavement."

TOGOLAND

France is scheduled to lose another colony in 1960. The former German territory of Togoland which France governs under a United Nations Trusteeship, appealed for freedom before the recent French elections. It was promised freedom in 1960, if they would keep the deal quiet until after the election. Now they are celebrating and preparing for the day in 1960 when they will take over the government.

Togoland is a next door neighbor of Ghana and a region which students of history claim should be a part of Ghana. Already a movement is under way to achieve unity between the two countries when independence is achieved.

We Need Your Help

The last issue published a call for your financial assistance. We do not wish to repeat it, just to remind you that this paper is published only through the financial contributions made by the workers and the readers, who feel that its existence is the only guarantee that their voices will be heard and their desires made known. Won't you fill in the form below and send us a check?

NEWS & LETTERS, 8751 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich. Here is my contribution of \$..... to help assure that News & Letters will continue to appear. I shall send you \$..... a month. My pledge for this month is enclosed. Name (Please Print) ..... Address ..... City..... Zone..... State.....