

# The Answer To High Prices And Big Profits

An Editorial

Prices (and profits) were never higher in this country's history. And we haven't seen anything yet. The new "controls" bill, which Truman signed with such phony reluctance, will send prices (and profits) to still higher levels. The rich will get richer, and the poor will have to spend every cent they can get hold of on the barest necessities of life.

What is to be done? The leaders of the unions have no answer. They raved and they blustered before the new bill was signed. But after it became law they didn't even have the guts to get off the wage Stabilization Board where they have been serving as window-dressing for the anti-labor practices of Big Business.

Now the union leaders are trying to pretend that things are not so bad after all because the Wage Stabilization Board has voted in favor of allowing "escalator" wage increases in line with increases shown in the price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

We are 100 per cent in favor of escalator clauses; in fact, The Militant was the first paper in this country to propose them; and we denounced the WSB for holding up the working of the escalator clauses now in effect. But the union leaders are trying to kid the workers when they pretend that the WSB ruling makes everything hunky-dory.

In the first place, only about 3,000,000 union members are covered by escalator clauses. The other 12,000,000 unionists will first have to go out and fight to get such clauses in their contracts. And what about the other 45,000,000 wage earners who don't even have the protection of unions?

In the second place, the Bureau of Labor Statistics price index is loaded against the workers. It doesn't accurately reflect the real cost of living, and it is not likely to do so as long as it is compiled by a government which is partial to the interests of the capitalists and landlords. To get the full benefit of escalator clauses, it will be necessary for the unions to get them tied to a price index drawn up by labor's own statisticians.

In the third place, most of the existing escalator clauses do not permit the workers to benefit from their increased productivity, and those unions which do have productivity allowances in their contracts get no more than a token bonus.

## All Political Questions

In the fourth place, escalator clauses do not offer protection against one of the worst of all threats to the workers' living standards — the ever-rising chunk of taxes that the government takes out of their pay checks each week. Already taxes are as high as in the worst days of World War II — and now the government is demanding that they be boosted stiffly once again. Getting more wages won't help if the government taxes away even more than the workers win in wage gains.

All these are political as well as economic questions. Taxes depend on politics. So does price and rent control. And so does the right to strike, which is threatened by such political measures as the Taft-Hartley Law and the no-strike pledges given by the union leaders.

Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, says: "Inflation since Korea has cost the American people 15 billion dollars. At that rate of evaporation of purchasing power we'll be lucky to eat horsemeat." And so he denounces the 82nd Congress as the "Horsemeat Congress."

But whose fault is it that the members of the Horsemeat Congress got elected to positions where they could deal such blows to the workers? Reuther himself, and all the other labor leaders who fought against the formation of an independent labor party that would elect workers to Congress to defend the interests of the majority of the people.

## Political Action

Political problems require political solutions. And the problems of prices and profits can be settled only by the establishment of a labor party devoted to the job of creating a Workers and Farmers Government which, among other things, will establish genuine price control and put the profiteering capitalists out of positions where they can fleece the people to pay the costs of imperialism war.

This is not a substitute for, but an addition to, a program of militant union action — an addition which is indispensable for the defense of labor's sorely-battered living standards.

# Marshall Plan Flop Hidden By Faked Claims

By Thomas Raymond

After three years of the Marshall Plan, Europe is sinking into a more desperate plight than before, recent reports indicate.

The Marshall Plan, which goes under the name Economic Co-operation Administration, or ECA, was originally sold to the American people, and to European workers and farmers, with the story that it would boost living standards for the people of Europe, and in that way, help to "defeat Communism." Ten and three-quarters billions of dollars have been spent in this effort to stimulate dying capitalism in Europe, or an average of well over \$100 per family in tax money.

CONSUMER GOODS But this doesn't tell the whole story. As a matter of fact, in many of the industries that count the most for the average man, the consumers goods industries, production is not higher, but actually lower than the depression year 1938! Production of cotton and wool clothing, for instance, is down 4 and 5 per cent. Since ECA started, France's tractor production has dropped 19 per cent. Machinery shipments from the U.S. actually fell off 28 per cent in that country the year after ECA started.

A FAILURE However, all indications are that the ambitious effort to prop up a dying system is proving to be a disastrous failure. At least, it is proving to be a failure in terms of the living standards of the European masses, and since the raising of these living standards was stated to be the central object of ECA, the program as a whole may be headed for the rocks.

For example, ECA administrators, in desperate efforts to justify the expenditures they have made, point to the fact that industrial production has jumped some 39 per cent above prewar. But they take as their standard of comparison, 1938, the bitter depression-unemployment year. Furthermore, they do not bother to explain that much of this rise

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## Why Cadets Were Purged At West Point

By Harry Frankel

The violent storm about the cribbing incident at West Point has its funny side.

Here you have Senators, Congressmen, Cabinet members and top daily newspapers acting as though 90 cadets had confessed to being Red spies, just because they admitted passing on a few examination answers to each other.

What is this comic-opera "crime" story? What are they all so excited about? Surely no one had any idea that the West Pointers act any differently from any other college kids, when exams are coming up; maybe even co-operate a little more because their so-called "honor" system gives them more opportunity.

### A FARCE

It looks as though the newspapers and big shots in the army and government are all pulling together to act out a hypocritical farce. The idea that this farce is supposed to promote is an old one. You've seen it before in the papers and magazines, and you've seen it over and over in the movies.

The idea is this: Army officers, and especially West Point officers, are a special and unique breed of men, not only officers but "gentlemen," and not only gentlemen, but also "honorable" men. Every cadet at "the Point" is a clean-scrubbed, crew-cut, young Sir Galahad. He would sooner leap into the Hudson River with a 37 mm. cannon tied around his neck than tell a lie. Even the miscreants among them sooner or later confess to their crimes, and vindicate the "honor" system. In the movies, they sometimes head for their quarters right after confessing, and, after putting on fancy dress uniform and white gloves, blow their brains out with an Army .45.

### STOOLPIGIONS

Furthermore, this honor system is supposed to make them all merry little stoolpigeons, since they are "honor-bound" to report infractions of the rules by their buddies.

Now of course these kids haven't been acting this way and nobody could ever make them act this way. West Pointers are mostly rich men's sons; that's true. They may also be prigs and snobs, arrogant and supercilious. But they are not out of their minds, and they don't possess that fantastic kind of "honor" which exists only in the bemused minds of old-lady pulp-magazine writers of both sexes.

Of course, nobody really believes that they do. Anyone who has ever been in the Army, and lots of us have by now, and is acquainted with large numbers of these officers (and gentlemen), knows the breed. We don't have to dwell on it.

### THE PURPOSE

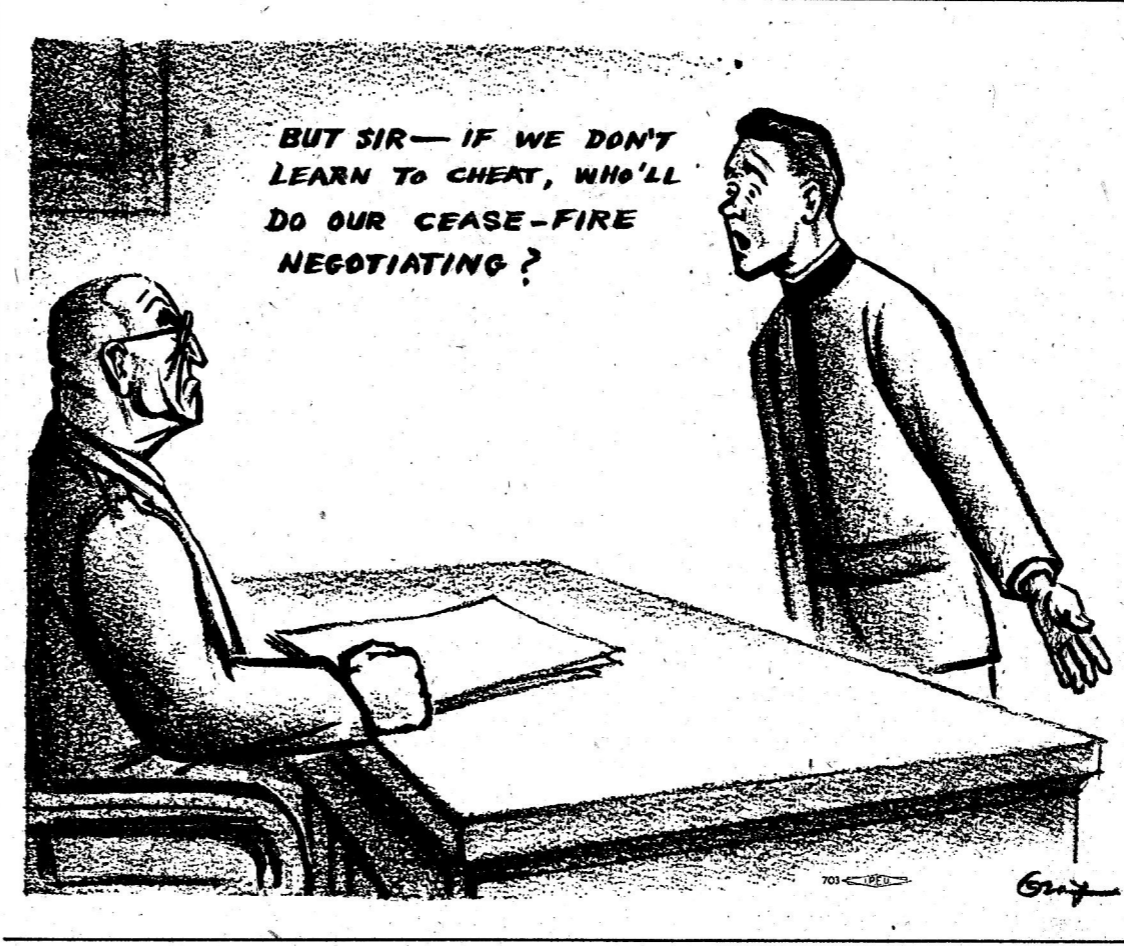
But the honor system has a point. The point is, it is designed to surround the officers of the U.S. Army with an aura of superiority which it is hard for them to get in any other way. They don't possess the talents, abilities and leadership qualities that are found in leaders who

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## Pennsylvania CIO Backs Kutcher

The Pennsylvania CIO Industrial Union Council, representing hundreds of thousands of workers in this key industrial state, last week donated \$100 to the defense fund for James Kutcher. This is the third state CIO organization which has recently aided the legless veteran to carry forward his three-year fight against Truman's loyalty purge. The Michigan CIO and California CIO Councils previously contributed to his case. Kutcher's request for reinstatement to his job will be taken before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington this fall.

# Pentagon Out to Wreck Cease-Fire Negotiations



## Trenton Two Appeal Plans Move Ahead

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced last week that it had joined with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Princeton Committee for the Trenton Six to form a new group to be known as the Joint Committee to Free the Trenton Two. The committee will work in behalf of Collis English and Ralph Cooper, the two men who were convicted at the frameup retrial in June and sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of killing a storekeeper. Four other defendants, tried on the same "evidence," were acquitted by the jury.

Under terms of the agreement among the three organizations "there will be full cooperation in arranging the legal defense of the defendants through appeal, as far as the Supreme Court of the United States, if necessary, and through a further trial if the appeal proves successful."

The new committee is seeking a defense fund of \$50,000, to be jointly raised by the cooperating organizations.

## WAYNE CO. CIO DEBATES DETROIT FEPC ISSUES: DELEGATES ASK ACTION

DETROIT, Aug. 6 — The Wayne County CIO Convention, held here last week-end, took on life and fire for a brief period in a sharp and bitter discussion on the FEPC question which is now before the workers of Detroit.

The discussion was provoked by the presentation of a resolution by the Reutherite leadership of the CIO Council sharply condemning the petition campaign initiated by the Detroit Labor Council to place the issue of a Detroit FEPC Ordinance before Detroit voters for a referendum vote in the fall election. This question has occupied the attention of the Detroit labor movement for some weeks as the petition drive by the Detroit Labor Council, initiated by the Stalinists but having the active support of Ford Local 600 and other union groups, has been in process.

### LIP SERVICE

Content for years to give only lip service to the idea of FEPC, the Reuther leadership of the Detroit labor movement and its politician friends have been terror-stricken at the thought that they might be compelled to take a four-square position on this im-

## Capitalists, Top Brass Have Big Stake in Korean War

Events last week made it increasingly clear that Washington does not want a cease-fire in Korea. The U.S. negotiators have been making every effort to blow the

cease-fire conferences sky-high, and to do it in such a way that the blame will fall on the Chinese and North Korean authorities.

Far East Command have broken off negotiations again, this time on the pretext that a squad of armed Chinese soldiers was seen in the vicinity of the conference site. The Chinese command made an extremely apologetic explanation, saying that this was a mistake, and that the responsible company commander would be disciplined, but Ridgway found even this unsatisfactory.

Plainly attempting to goad the Chinese and North Koreans to break off the negotiations, Ridgway again refused to accept the apology. He asked the Chinese to submit a declaration which would virtually admit that they had sent troops into the area on purpose, placing the onus for any future break on themselves.

### BAD FAITH

The fantastic exhibition of bad faith by U.S. negotiators makes it plainer than ever that U.S. imperialism would like to bust up the talks and continue the war. They are doing this because, short of armed conquest, they don't have a chance in the world to install a U.S. puppet government in Korea, or even any part of Korea.

### A DISGRACE

"The verdict is a disgrace to the white race, a disgrace to this county," Grady told the jurors. "No man who would render such a verdict on the evidence offered in this case is fit to serve on a jury."

Hattie Louise Hoggard told the court that Frank Newsome came to her home Saturday, June 30, and asked her to sit with his children while he and his wife attended a movie. She said he then drove her to the home of her brother, choked her, threatened her life and raped her five times during the afternoon and evening.

Despite the indignation of the judge it is doubtful that a new trial will be held or that a conviction could be obtained under the jim-crow jury practices of North Carolina.

Coming shortly after the conviction of Mack Ingram, Negro farmer, of nearby Yanceyville, N. C., who was found guilty of attempted assault, solely on the accusation of a white girl that "he looked at her" from a distance of 75 feet across a field, the acquittal of Newsome is causing anger in this farm county whose population is 62 per cent Negro.

### PEACE A THREAT

Further, peace in Korea takes the gun away from the head of the American public; the threatening gun which the administration has been using to get immense military appropriations approved by Congress and tolerated by the American public. Truce

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# Reuther Tries to Suppress Speed-up Fight

DETROIT, Aug. 5 — For the second time in as many weeks International officers of the UAW-CIO on July 28 defeated efforts of Dodge workers to stop the Chrysler corporation speed-up campaign.

At a meeting attended by 8,000 Dodge workers, Richard Gosser, International Vice President, and Norman Matthews, East Side Regional Director, flatly stated that the top officers would not support the Dodge strike which had been in progress three days. They further stated that no aid would be forthcoming from the International officers regardless of how many union men were fired or disciplined because of their struggle against speed-up. The top officials took this position, they said, because the workers had not followed "proper procedure" in their fight against the Chrysler corporation.

### COMPANY DRIVE

At the meeting, Jimmy Solomon, Chairman of the Dodge

Local 3 bargaining committee, outlined in detail the company provocations which led to a series of departmental strikes and two plant-wide strikes of the 25,000 Dodge workers.

The high point of the company provocations was the firing of Jimmy Solomon, long-time officer of the Dodge local and one of its founders. He described how in the early stages of the speed-up drive, he had tried "giving in" to the company on some of the easier jobs. Solomon stated he had "given away" 100 jobs, sometimes behind the backs of the rank and file, in order to avoid a strike.

But the company would accept no compromise. Solomon reported that "you could only give in to the company so much and still feel like a union man."

### FIRED BY DODGE

When the last walk-out occurred, he felt the Dodge workers deserved all-out support. For this rejection of company demands

and support of union members, Solomon was fired. At the mass meeting he received a huge ovation for his defense of the working standards of Dodge workers.

Bill Furman, foundry committeeman, in defense of Solomon, said that the company openly planned to eliminate 200 jobs in the foundry by speed-up. If Solomon could be fired for protecting production standards, Furman said, neither he nor any other committeeman would be safe — or production standards enforced.

To these statements and facts presented by Dodge workers, Richard Gosser could only say that this may all be true, but nevertheless the International will not back the strike at this time.

have the International Union of officers' support.

### RETREAT FORCED

Although Gosser and Matthews were booed throughout the meeting, the threat to starve the strike forced the Dodge workers to retreat.

At the end of the meeting a rank and file member made a motion to return to work and to take an "official" strike vote within a week, asking the International for strike sanction. This passed overwhelmingly.

Even this strike vote has since been postponed by the top officers without authorization from Dodge members to do so. The explanation given for this action was to provide more time for officers to negotiate with the company.

But the fight against speed-up cannot be handled by ordinary bargaining procedures. The only way to stop speed-up is to refuse to do the added work. The only way a union can aid a group of

workers in a speed-up fight is to back them up at the time of the showdown.

Reuther's glib talk is not sufficient to slow down a production line.

The hostility of the International to the militancy of the Dodge workers leaves the impression that they resent these "picayune speed-up issues" intruding upon their time. They are busy men these days developing Reuther's new schemes for mass-producing the tools of war and destruction.

The role played by the top UAW-CIO officers in the Dodge situation is being repeated throughout the union. This is their response to the company drive to wreck the hard-won work-standards which represent part of the great victory of the auto workers in 1937 and the ensuing years.

The auto workers will not long tolerate such a betrayal of their basic needs by men supposed to represent them.



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A Union for N.Y. Cops

There must be something to Michael Quill's claims that he has signed up a large proportion of New York City cops in a local of his Transport Worker's Union.

This is shown, first of all, by the hasty action of the New York Board of Estimate in cutting the pension contributions that the police and firemen make to their pension fund from 45 per cent to 25 per cent of the total, which means a saving to the men of between \$220 and \$290 a year.

Second of all, the sudden change of tactics by the police commissioner backed by the city administration towards the police union also shows that the union is gaining strength.

This is exactly like the panicky reactions of employers in the past who have tried to stave off unionism by playing "hard cop" "soft cop" and we wonder how the cops themselves will react to it now that it is being tried on them.

Regular readers of The Militant, who have followed our accounts of police brutality, strikebreaking, etc. might wonder why we worry about the cops' union at all.

A Lounge for Servicemen

At a ceremony dedicating the lounge of Washington's Union Station as a recreation center for U.S. soldiers, Truman called Aug. 8 for better treatment of servicemen by the American people.

The regime imposed upon the men and women in the armed services by the imperialist brass hat clique is an abhorrent one.

The best way to better the lot of the soldiers, if Truman is seriously interested in this, would be to use his position as Commander-in-Chief to abolish the brutal and repugnant officer-caste system.

If a poll were taken on the question, there is no doubt that the overwhelming majority

to unions should be defended. If they lose their right to unionize, it is but a short step from there to taking the union rights away from all government employees.

There is another reason why we favor unionization of the police. Cops have been so brutal towards strikers, demonstrators, racial minorities in the past that we would like to see them get a little education in the problems of unionism.

That is why we say to the new police union: go ahead and show them, and workers in the city of New York will be 100 per cent behind you.

An Imperialist Advocate's Plan for Asia

By Murry Weiss

William O. Douglas, U.S. Supreme Court justice, has just returned from a long summer vacation which he spent touring Asia.

Douglas' sweeping scheme is positively breathtaking: Build a vast network of TVAs across Asia with American capital.

Now, what could be more generous and fair than this proposition? The Asians suffer from economic backwardness, disease, famine and floods — we should help them.

OAKLAND REAL ESTATE LOBBY SPEEDS PLAN TO BOOST RENTS SKY HIGH

OAKLAND, Aug. 3 — The immediate prospect of sky-high rents now faces the people of Oakland, who have already been burdened with rent increases up to 25 per cent

The new council, headed by Les Grant, himself a business and real-estate man, is clearly the spokesman and governmental functionary of the business interests of Oakland.

The people of Oakland can expect even more rent gouging unless they fight for real controls, for controls of their own.

With the opening of military bases and the development of war industries in the area, the housing shortage in Oakland will become worse than ever.

economic development. Some foreign power has for centuries bled those nations white.

HELP THE ASIANS

This plan would be different, Douglas assures us. Of course, "American capital will largely build it (TVA). We therefore can attach conditions to it —"

He reports: "There are grumblings in every village I have visited. Revolution is brewing. It's the kind of a revolution America once brewed."

"If we in America knew the facts and appreciated what was at stake," Douglas says, "we would be on the side of these miserable tenants."

the forces that hold them in eternal serfdom."

ATTITUDE TO U.S.

Then making a 90-degree turn Douglas admonishes the Asian peasant for his poor opinion of America. "This criticism of America is not fair," he claims.

But the Asian peasant isn't criticizing the "intentions" of the American capitalists. They hate the "consequences."

Why should the Asian peasant trust American imperialism or any of its spokesmen? What value do Douglas' honeyed words have to the Chinese peasant?



JUSTICE DOUGLAS

ment stores mountains of surplus food in caves, and farmers dump their products in garbage trucks.

U.S. FLOODS

And what faith can you place in Douglas' promises about TVA's all over Asia when right here in the United States it is impossible to crack the power of the private

capital utilities monopolies and build a Missouri Valley TVA to prevent disastrous floods such as recently occurred?

There is another side to the Douglas program. It is absolutely true that the Asian people desperately need a gigantic TVA to raise the countries out of their backwardness, starvation and disease.

Not Douglas and the exploiters he represents, but the American workers are capable of giving real aid to Asia.

Wayne Co. CIO Council Debates Detroit FEPC

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The UAW-CIO, devoted considerable attention to a lashing condemnation of the sponsors of the petition drive.

Other speakers among the delegates speaking against the administration resolution were, William Hood, Recording Secretary of Ford Local 600 and President of the Detroit Labor Council, Layman Walker, Recording Secretary of UAW-CIO Local 742, and William Grant, Financial Secretary of Ford Local 600.

NO PROMISES

Al Barbour, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, let the cat out of the bag, however, when he said that the six Council members who had agreed to sponsor the ordinance in the City Council had not agreed to vote for it.

As William Grant, Financial Secretary of Ford Local 600, stated, "We have been told for years that on economic issues and problems in the shop we must use our economic strength and on other issues we must use our political strength — our strength at the ballot box."

Union officials assured them

FEPC legislation, we are told it is wrong to do it." He concluded, "It will be a shameful disgrace if the Detroit labor movement of more than 300,000 members, who together with their wives and families constitute the overwhelming majority of Detroit's electorate, should permit defeat of this necessary legislation."

DULL CONVENTION

CLEVELAND TEAMSTERS DISCONTENT MOUNTING

CLEVELAND, Aug. 6 — As members of AFL Teamsters Local 407 await Wage Stabilization Board approval of contract gains reported in the Militant last week,

that an 18-man local Wage Stabilization Board will be set up this week to act on their contract, and that prolonged delays in Washington will not be necessary.

INJUNCTION THREAT

The Akron Trucking Association today threatened to use its political weapon against the strikers — court injunctions.

Disatisfaction with the ineffective "business unionism" of officers elected for five year terms has reached the exploding point, and may well erupt in rank and file action that will challenge the authority not only of the bosses' "stabilization" boards, but of the unstable union bureaucracy as well.

The Twentieth Century

"Socialism will win the world, and change the world, and make it safe for peace and freedom," says James P. Cannon in an article entitled "The Trend of the Twentieth Century" in the July-August 1951 issue of the Fourth International, now on sale.

That is the supreme task assigned by history to the 20th Century," says Cannon in an article which gives a panoramic view of the development of society over the past century.

Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in his vigorous defense of the socialist perspective, bitterly castigates the pessimists:

"Many people have been overwhelmed by great events which they could not foresee and do not yet understand. They have seen their theories and beliefs refuted and swept away by reality and have not been able to find new ones. For such people this is a time of great confusion and discouragement, and despair of their own fate, and even of the fate of humanity. The pessimist optimism, which presided over the

inauguration of the 20th Century, has given way to profound pessimism. Those people who look only at the surface of events, and refuse to see the social reality which underlies them, wake up in the morning with pessimism, and go to bed at night with despair."

MARXIST OUTLOOK

Cannon contrasts with this the optimistic outlook of Marxists who have confidence in the socialist future of mankind.

"We Marxists face the struggle for this future with full confidence," he says in his Fourth International article. "And we bring to this struggle faith in men and good will to work for the common good of all. Faith in man, and his capacity to survive and improve his lot, is not a religious superstition, as the skeptics and snivellers say. It is the recognition of reality, the most important and decisive reality there is. Faith in man and his communist future is at the core of Marxism, the central element of its unshakable optimism. The gloomy prophets of the eclipse of civilization and perhaps, even the obliteration of human society, ignore the history and the evolution of man, which demonstrates above all else his unconquerable will and capacity to survive and go forward."

stand on his feet and look the world in the face; shall man who has come so far and done so much, fall victim now to his own inventions and achievements? Shall he cease now to do and dare and aspire and achieve, and even to exist? We do not think so."

Cannon's article constitutes a broad and vivid review of the outlines of human history and the class conflicts which shaped it over the past century, and a bold sketch of the future course towards which the social conflicts are tending.

Together with this, there is also published in the current issue of Fourth International an article by the brilliant European Marxist, Ernest Germain, entitled "First Balance Sheet of the Yugoslav Affair." In this article, Germain contrasts the working class internal policy of the Tito regime since the break with Stalinism in June of 1948, with the opportunist foreign policy of the regime. His conclusion is that "... the restoration of capitalism is becoming a real threat for the Federated Republics of Yugoslavia, as the rightward course of foreign policy is now beginning to be extended into domestic affairs."

The Fourth International, which may be ordered direct from 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y., or from your local branch of the Socialist Workers Party,

is 25c. for a single copy, and 20c. for bundles of 5 copies and 50c. for bundles of six double issues cost \$1.25.

Among the features of the July-August issue are two articles by Leon Trotsky, reprinted for the first time since their original publication. Dealing with the class nature of the Soviet Union and the policy of Marxists towards it, they were originally written for party bulletins in Nov. 1937. They are republished now in commemoration of the 11th anniversary of Trotsky's assassination by a hireling of Stalin.

A further article by William F. Ward explores Trotsky's analytical writings on the role of U.S. imperialism on the world scene.

The FI opens with a discussion of negotiations for a cease-fire in Korea. An editorial on this topic reviews the lessons of the Korean war and analyses the prospects for the future.

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# An Intrepid General

By Patricia Stall

Brig. Gen. David J. Crawford, chief of the Detroit Automotive Tank Center which grants \$5,000,000,000 worth of army contracts a year, was fired from his post and severely reprimanded for accepting free hospitality from firms trying to obtain defense contracts and for using government property and services for his own personal use. This action against Crawford was taken after a House subcommittee probe into scandalous practices in the awarding of defense contracts.

The polite phraseology of the army's reprimand stated that the dismissal was due to "Gen. Crawford's failure to meet the high standards required of any Army officer." In more everyday language he was fired for what the average workingman would call war profiteering, cheating and stealing. On June 21 Crawford occupied, without charge, a hotel suite at the Congressional Hotel, Washington, which he knew was being rented by a representative of firms which were negotiating for war contracts with the TAC. Crawford accepted a boat keel as a gift from a steel firm representative who was negotiating for contracts. Crawford further converted "to his own use Government material in the construction of pleasure boats at Fort Wayne and (transported) personal property at Government expense from Detroit to his home at Cobb, Island, Maryland."

Crawford's testimony to the House subcommittee shocked some people with its utter disregard for honesty but it was revealing as a testimony of how army brass treat the questions of moral integrity. He refused to see anything wrong with accepting hospitality from firms to whom he was giving millions of dollars of defense contracts. He freely admitted using an army truck driven by an army sergeant to transport trees from Detroit to his home in Maryland. After admitting all this and faced with the

damning facts, Crawford still insisted, "I believe the best interests of the government were served. If I had to do it over again, I would."

Rep. Hoffman of Michigan who served on the subcommittee questioning Crawford, favored the general's smart business deals with these words, "Gen. Crawford was just doing what most of them do, and he got caught at it." He further added that he was "sorry that a man who has done such a good job for his country had to get into this mess." The unearthing of more facts about the TAC proved just what a good job Crawford had done for his country — or better still, what he had done for his country. Joseph Wiesner, president of the Fairfield Engineering Co., revealed how contractors made a 300 percent profit on material sold to the TAC.

Hoffman's definition of what doing a good job for one's country means differs sharply from that of the workers who have to pay the 300 percent profit to war racketeers. While Brig. Gen. Crawford can use hotel suites to live in comfortably because he awards defense contracts, thousands of Detroit families live in slums and inadequate quarters because they can't give away millions of dollars. While soldiers are fighting and dying in Korea Gen. Crawford uses troops to do his personal moving. When Gen. Crawford wants a new boat keel or a pleasure yacht he drops a hint or just uses some government material; a worker can only write letters to Santa Claus. When Gen. Crawford's dealings become public and the army is forced to act the resulting punishment is only a transfer or perhaps even the decision to retire — on a comfortable army pension.

From childhood on the average person is told "Honesty is the best policy" but as soon as he can use his senses he can see that cheating and stealing are the special privileges of some and the time worn adage applies only to himself and others like him.

# Hats Off, Mr. Spector!

By Bert Deck

They say if you put enough thick heads together for a sufficient length of time you're bound to come up with a solution for almost anything. And the problem of saving capitalism has certainly attracted its quota of thick heads. Therefore it should be a surprise to no one that at last the nut has been cracked.

The answer has been brought forth by Nathaniel Spector, manager of the New York joint board of the Millinery Workers Union, AFL. It will undoubtedly rank among the achievements of the human race along with the founding of the United Nations and the invention of the wheel.

It seems that Mr. Spector has just returned from one of those inevitable "getting a feel of the situation" tours of Europe. It was there that the idea took form; Mr. Spector was "appalled" to see "fewer than a dozen women wearing hats at the Paris Opera," and he was deeply distressed to note that "hatlessness was even more widespread in other sections of Europe" (despite all that wonderful Marshall Plan aid we sent those people). He began to realize the gravity of the danger that "Tourists who visit the great European centers of culture and fashion and find no one wearing hats are likely to come back to the United States feeling that they should go without hats, too."

After a nine-week study of this unfortunate situation, Mr. Spector came rushing back to New York with his answer to the major problem of our time. All along we had thought that the things

we had to abolish were war, depression, Jim Crow, the witch hunt and things like that. How wrong we were! The really important evil, Mr. Spector assured us, is hatlessness.

Figure it out for yourself. If people stop wearing hats, hat workers will lose their jobs. That's bad enough — but consider the even more dreadful consequences: "that unemployed workers would succumb to Communist propaganda and that the virus of hatlessness would spread from the Continent to this country." Hat workers stop buying Cadillacs, and that drives more unemployed into the hands of communists. The unemployed have friends and neighbors whom they can infect with the red disease. It just spreads and spreads and spreads.

The solution? There is nothing to it once the clue has been provided by Mr. Spector. But he takes no chances and presents it to the press himself: an international conference to discuss ways and means of promoting hat wearing and curbing communism. In no time flat this should have the spiral turning in the other direction and we'll be chugging along just like the good old days. Before you know it, we'll even have those reds wearing hats.

For days we have been stilled with humble admiration for the genius of that intellectual giant, Mr. Spector. Now we can restrain ourselves no longer. This far-sighted union leader deserves the tribute of every patriotic American. Hats off to Mr. Spector!

# Washington Dialogue

By Fred Hart

Scene: An office in the new building of the State Department in Washington; a high official of the Department, Dean Scratchenson, is talking to a technical expert, a cattle butcher, who has been called in for special consultation. Scratchenson is immaculately dressed with the most dazzling striped trousers and bow tie. The cattle butcher, who was rushed directly from his job is still in his work clothes. His apron is dirty and his arms are smeared with blood up to the elbows.

Cattle Butcher: Well, Mr. Scratchenson what can I do for you this time?

Scratchenson: Must you come here dressed in that (ugh) attire?

Cattle Butcher: What's the matter, Mr. Scratchenson, are you getting weak in the stomach? From reading the newspapers I didn't think you were so finicky. . . You seem to be doing pretty good at this racket. But how about getting down to business?

Scratchenson: Very well, I have a problem I thought you might help me solve. How do you keep them happy and quiet while you're taking them to the — er — place? I mean how do you make them think it is all for their own good?

Cattle Butcher: That's easy. We feed them plenty, fatten them up, you know; and besides we rely on the leaders of the herd to carry the others along.

Scratchenson: Oh, we have that part of it solved. Our standard of living is the highest in the world and the labor leaders, churchmen and

community organization officials are lined up to a man. . . almost. But still we have lots of trouble. Look at this item in the July 31 Christian Science Monitor, reporting on one of our chummy "briefing" sessions with a cross section of the American people. After my "long range" policy man gets through speaking a lady in the audience speaks up: "The American people don't want to be associated with undertakings like 'Operation Killer,' they don't want bigger and better atom and hydrogen bombs. They are tired of wars and talk of wars." Now, what can I do about people like her?

Cattle Butcher (hesitantly): Well, you know, Mr. Scratchenson, our fields aren't exactly alike. You get some problems that I don't know much about. Couldn't you get the FBI to take care of her?

Scratchenson (in a rage): Those idiots! How can I depend on them? The first thing they know she would disappear and J. Redgear Booher wouldn't know where she was. Besides, you can't arrest everybody.

Cattle Butcher: Okay, okay, don't get hysterical. I'm sorry but I don't think I can help you. The trouble with your job is, you got to deal with people and people are funny — they think.

Scratchenson (screaming with anger): Think! I don't need you to come here and mess up my office to tell me that people think. What do you think my problem is if it isn't that?

Cattle Butcher: Well, I'll have to be going now. (He walks towards the door muttering to himself: "Thank God, I've got a clean job.")

# School Days

By Susan Jeffers

DIVE! That's the signal for a sneak attack. All the kids crawl under their desks. At least they try to. Usually we end up bruised and filthy, as those desks weren't built to get under. When we have a real bomb drill, the lights go off and we line up, the teacher at the head with a flashlight. If you're unlucky enough to be at the end of the line you can't see very well; and you fall as I have done many a time.

We climb down the four flights to the boiler room and sit down. We each have a piece of cardboard to sit on. About 75 kids are all in the same room and I find it quite stuffy.

When we are all there, we are told to put our coats over our heads until the teacher counts ten; then we begin to sing songs like "God Bless America." But if a bomb is really falling isn't it a little late for God to bless America?

Another thing I've always wondered about is why we get in the bottom of the building. Isn't the building going to fall on top of us then? I

guess there's only one answer to this question, no place is safe.

Some of the kids are still scared by the drills but most of us just take it in stride, like fire drills.

A few weeks ago we got papers telling us what to do if a bomb falls. They say when you hear the siren you are to find your nearest shelter and if no shelter is near get under a bed or a table. Frankly I don't think I could do any of these things in three seconds. If I heard the siren, instead of dashing around madly I would stand there and hold my ears. The siren has such a melancholy sound.

It's really not funny when you think about it. I come to school to learn how to read and write — not to learn how to save my life if a bomb falls. I want to grow up in a happy world — not one full of hatred and wars. If you ask any child I think they will agree with me. I have nothing against the adults, believe me, but I do think the world would be better if the children ran it.

# THE MILITANT

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# Recent Developments in Labor Movement Show Militancy and Democracy Still Alive

By Joseph Andrews

Recent developments in important sectors of the labor movement indicate that the traditional militancy and internal democracy of American unions, although threatened and restricted, are by no means destroyed.

Despite efforts by Walter Reuther, International President of the UAW-CIO, to impose a totalitarian control over the dynamic auto union, the opposition to his regime, led by powerful Ford Local 600 is very much alive. Far from being cowed and

intimidated, it is very aggressive and bold.

The huge 10th anniversary rally of the Ford local at which John L. Lewis was invited to speak illustrates this point. Lewis was invited not only because he did in fact play an important role in the founding of the local, but as an act of defiance against Reuther. This enthusiastic rally showed the auto workers are not yet tamed.

The current outbreak of a whole series of strike struggles against the intensive speed-up drive of

the corporations in the auto industry also show the reserves of independent spirit in this union.

In the face of threats and intimidation by the UAW-CIO International Board, the Desoto, Chrysler, Dodge, Hudson and other workers have waged a militant fight in defense of their working standards. Speakers from the top officers of the union are booed at union meetings on the speed-up issue.

In Flint, while there is no clear-cut opposition grouping opposed to Reuther, the militant tradi-

tion still prevails; Reuther does not control the Flint unions.

As a whole it can be said that Reuther's domination in the auto union has been weakened. The opposition to his bureaucratic leadership is not armed with a clear program; it is not well-organized; but it seems definitely to be developing and growing.

## TEAMSTERS REBELLION

In another union, the AFL Teamsters, which the corrupt Dan Tobin machine has held down by violence, corruption and the abolition of union democracy, a new rebellion has occurred in Cleveland.

The recent teamsters strike in that city was conducted in open defiance of the top officials. Rank and file strikers took the reins and forced the local union officers to go along with the membership's demands. Such an upheaval in a union like the Teamsters is indicative of a developing mood.

Within even the most bureaucratic of unions, the workers are struggling for a more aggressive program and a new leadership.

At the root of these movements is discontent among the workers brought on by the Korean war and its consequences.

Skyrocketing prices, increased rents, taxes on low incomes, combined with tremendous profiteering and widespread exposure of corruption in government, have tended to arouse the workers. With inflation completely out of control, and wages alone frozen, they are taking it in the neck.

And their leaders are doing nothing effective to stop this process. The shortlived walkout of the labor leaders from the government boards last February was followed by a cowardly capitulation to Truman and his policies.

Big Business control of the government, correctly denounced by the United Labor Policy Committee, now has these same labor bureaucrats back in its service.

It cannot be expected that the American workers will tolerate such a situation for long.

While labor has been comparatively quiet in the recent past, storms are ahead. The speed-up fight in the auto industry is only a small warning of what is to come. The teamsters rebellion is only a beginning.

The heavy burdens of an armaments program which grows bigger each week, the unrestrained profit-grabbing of the corporations, the role of the labor leaders as window dressing for the capitalists, is preparing the ground for a new left-wing in U.S. labor.

## NEW PROGRAM

Unlike opposition movements in the unions in the past, a new left wing will necessarily have to develop a new and more radical political program. All the problems confronting the workers are political: prices, taxes, wage freeze, and the like.

The need for an independent political party of labor will become more and more obvious. The demand for a genuine labor party will become the rallying cry for the new opposition movement in American labor.

## Ford Local 600 Rally



On its 10th anniversary, UAW-CIO Ford Local 600 held a mass rally, attended by 50,000 auto workers. John L. Lewis was the main speaker. Although they were invited by the local president to speak, CIO President Philip Murray, and UAW-CIO President Walter Reuther, refused to attend.

Reuther demanded that the auto workers boycott the celebration. But his orders were ignored. Lewis, opening his speech, declared that all that is needed to guarantee a successful rally, is have it boycotted by Reuther.

## N.Y. Political Deal Exposed By SWP Candidate Bartell

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 — The announced intention of the Democratic and Liberal parties to support Charles D. Breitler, former counsel to Governor Dewey, in his

candidacy for the State Supreme Court on the Republican ticket has been denounced by Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers candidate for President of the New York City Council, as revealing "the complete collusion between the three parties."

In a statement released here today Bartell declared, "The old shell game is back at work in the elections. When they start shifting those three shells with the Republican, Democratic and Liberal labels, it's sometimes quite a trick for the human eye to figure out which one the pea is under. We can at least be grateful to Boss Flynn and Carmen Di Sapio for lifting the three shells at once and revealing that the pea, of course, is really in their palm."

"The donkey and elephant have informed the electorate," Bartell continued, "that this is war to the death. The Liberals would have us believe that this time they are going to give the big boys a real run for their money. However by their plan to elect the Republican wheel horse Breitler to the Supreme Court they demonstrate their complete collusion. The Democrats propose to endorse him in a swap for Republican endorsement of two of their candidates. The leaders of the Liberal party shyly announce 'in private' they will support him 'on his merits!'"

"The collusion demonstrated in this dirty back room deal," Bartell concluded, "holds true up and down the line on every major issue at stake in this election. During the course of this campaign we will prove this charge to hilt."

Bartell's campaign will be officially launched at a combined election rally and Trotsky memorial meeting which will be sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party on Friday night, Aug. 24. In addition to Bartell, the meeting will be addressed by Clyde Turner, Socialist Workers candidate for member of the City Council in Philadelphia. Joseph Hansen, Business Manager of The Militant, will preside at the rally which will be held at the Hotel Capitol, Eight Ave. and 51st St., in New York.

The drive to secure the petitions necessary to win a place on the ballot for Bartell was opened last Saturday night when a thousand signatures to his petition were obtained. A minimum of 7,500 signatures are required. Readers of The Militant are urged to help circulate the petition. Copies can be obtained by calling or writing the Socialist Workers Party at 116 University Place, New York.

## What Is Behind The West Point 'Cheat' Scandal

(Continued from Page 1)

rise to the top democratically, on merit, and by the choice of the ranks. They are a caste, artificially imposed from above, and so they must be fortified with artificial privileges (which they get from the Army's caste system), protections and immunities (which they get from the Articles of War), and myths about superiority (which they get from the "honor" system, the officer and "gentleman" legend, etc.).

A graduate of West Point, Class of 1920, who served as an instructor at the military academy himself for several years, told reporters that this system of passing examination answers along started before the cadets now being punished "were out of knee pants." He ought to know.

But the funniest part of the whole thing is that the poor kids who hang on to the honor system are the very ones who are being punished. Ninety of the cadets admit that they cribbed, but now they tell reporters indignantly that hundreds of others did the same thing. They are not being punished because, when they now fib and say they were innocent, the Army chooses to believe them under the mythical West Point honor system!

One cadet burned with indignation as he told reporters:

"I'd rather have these men who told the truth lead me into battle than the others." Well, feller, it doesn't look as though you're going to get your pick.

A "guilty" cadet said: "At least 200 others in the corps did the same thing. We shot square, and are getting the shaft."

"That's the army for you, kid. You might as well find it out now, because if you ever see the inside of the army again, it will probably be from the bottom looking up, just like the rest of us ordinary, non-honorable cads. And we can tell you, buddy, when you shoot square in the army, you always get the shaft."

## The Negro Struggle

# Dewey Lies About Cicero to Asians

By Jean Blake

Nailing every lie about race relations in the United States is an impossible task, but when a prominent spokesman for imperialism like New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey tells a bunch of whoppers to a Singapore audience, and the New York Times reprints them without comment, it's worth one column to answer.

According to an AP dispatch dated July 31, Dewey told "leading citizens of Malaya and Singapore at a luncheon given in his honor by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:"

1. That he was "shocked to find that an incident of racial prejudice (Cicero, Ill.) involving a few hundred people out of a nation of 160,000,000 people is front-page news in Singapore and elsewhere, and is considered worthy of a four-column photograph on the front page."

— Even the white press in the U.S. admitted the mob numbered thousands for several days, reaching a high point of 6,000.

2. "To present the occurrence of such an incident as the major news from the United States on any one day is shocking and grossly misleading."

— What news from the United States on that day was more important? What other incident here involved 6,000 persons directly and affected millions by demonstrating that local police openly aid and abet those who use force and violence against minorities? — To play down such news would be shocking and grossly misleading!

3. "What is wholly ignored is that the incident shocked the public conscience and was abhorrent to all our people, and was both vigorously suppressed and prosecuted by public authorities. This is the true reflection of the American point of view which I find entirely omitted (from the Asian press)."

— Compounded lies. If Mr. Dewey thinks violence of this type is "abhorrent to all our people" he should check the number of Negro homes that were burned and dynamited here in just the last few months. If he thinks the mob was "both vigorously suppressed and prosecuted by public authorities" he should explain the beating and abuse of the Negro victim by Cicero police officials, their failure to provide any protection against the mob, and why the mob was permitted to grow for days and to destroy the apartment building before the National Guard was called to the scene.

4. That it is communist propaganda to imply that "a rare incident of ruffianism represents anything basic in our country."

— Mr. Dewey's propaganda certainly is crass when he calls Cicero a "rare incident of ruffianism." He should read the lead of a story this week in the Pittsburgh Courier, a paper editorially friendly to him:

## Organized Racial Terror

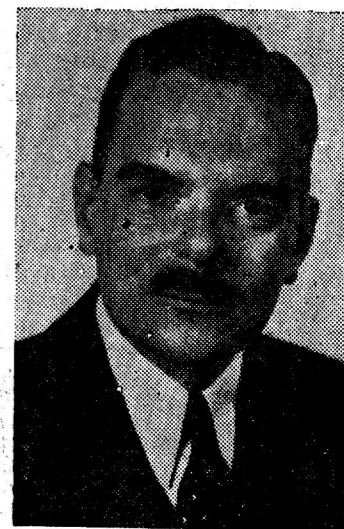
"KKK crosses burned last week in several Dixie towns: homes were bombed in Los Angeles, and two top Georgia KKK officials were indicted for bombing Negro homes in Atlanta. In Florida, a top Democratic committee executive was accused of aiding and abetting KKK activities."

And has Governor Dewey already forgotten the incidents in Peekskill and Freeport, in his own New York?

5. In the U.S. "every race, every color and every religion have mingled in the creation of a peaceful, happy life based on freedom, equality and justice for all."

— Really, Mr. Dewey!

We don't know what the Asians replied to the Great White Father from America. But we know what they should have said: "Go home and tell that to the Negroes of the United States! See if you can convince them!"



DEWEY