

NEWS & LETTERS

"This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It"

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10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Sen. Eastland & Jenner - - and Communism

The problems of this country are so tense that we wonder which will come over us first—fascism, war, or depression?

It appears that fascism is in the lead by a wide margin. Reading the daily press, I see where Mrs. Grace Lorch was called before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. She is the white woman who sat on the bench with and tried to comfort the Negro girl who was turned away by the mob at Central High School, Little Rock.

ACROSS PARTY & STATE LINES

This Senate committee is headed by Sen. Eastland, a Democrat from Mississippi. He and Sen. Jenner, a Republican from Indiana, gave her the business.

They refused to let her speak. They said she was a trouble-maker, accused her of being a Communist, and cited her for contempt because she didn't say she was a member of the Communist Party. Jenner yelled to her that the committee did not want to hear a word of integration, but just on her past life.

NEGRO RIGHTS

Some people try to say a Democrat is better than a Republican and vice versa. Some try to say and believe that a Northern liberal is better than a Southerner, but here you have them all, and the question of Negro rights is the testing ground.

In the rural areas of Alabama I am told that fascism is rising to the peak where Negroes must carry guns for their protection. A young woman who visited her relatives there said a person is taking a chance on his life to go to another home at night without letting them know you are coming.

A man's son was walking outside of their home at night. The father thought it was some white Ku Klux Klansman, and he blasted a shot, narrowly missing his son's head.

This young woman said that if fascism is defeated the Negroes will be the ones to do it, because they are determined not to be pushed back but to move forward. She says it is a crime in the South to be a member of the NAACP.

A white politician was raising a fuss because he lost an election by saying he was a member of the KKK. He said he is going to reorganize the group because the KKK is not the organization to stop the Negro from moving forward, and that is why he lost the election.

The liberals, the labor leaders, and many radicals can utter not a word against this race to fascism. They know without any doubt that the NAACP is not Communist, and limits itself to taking part in some legal cases.

Any resistance, however, by rank and file workers against their Union leaders is called Communist. Those Union leaders never care to discuss the issue involved, they just call you a "Communist" or a "trouble-maker."

DEPRESSION OR WAR

Many workers are talking about a depression. They feel that it is around the corner if war doesn't take us first. Some older workers say that when the stock market starts dipping the way it is now, it is a sure sign.

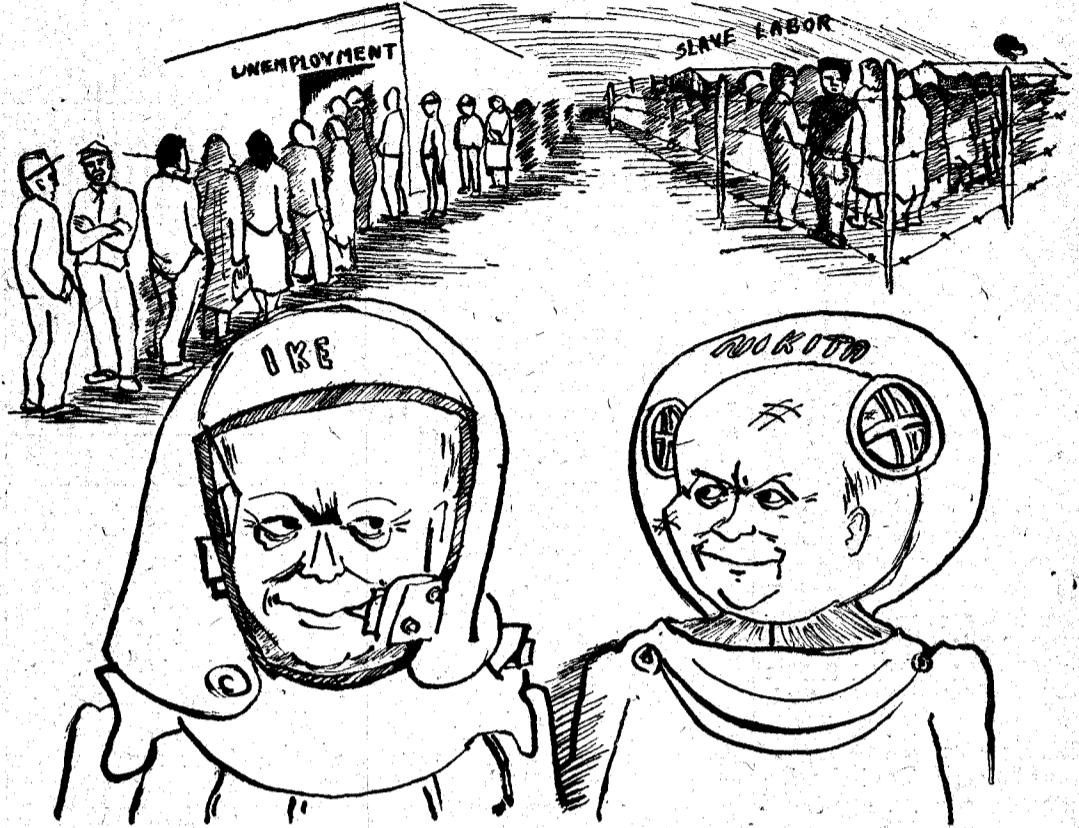
The many thousands of unemployed workers are already in a depression. The daily papers are saying that employment will not rise in Michigan, but rather that the auto factories will work overtime to keep up production standards.

In all of these situations the Union leaders are as quiet as a mouse. They can only say workers should go out and vote for Democrats, but they are all the same.

Judge Davenport, a Negro, and a so-called good Democrat, just fined a white worker \$25 because he was brutally beaten by some fascist-minded policemen. The Judge was at the plant gates during his campaign asking workers to vote for him, and he said he would support them.

I have read and heard many things on how Hitler came to power. It was the Jews and the labor movement he first attacked.

Here, it is the Negroes and labor who are under fire. The outcome in Germany was total destruction. Now, the American people are faced with the same thing today, especially the liberals, labor leaders, and so-called radicals.



"ANYTHING YOU CAN DO I CAN DO BETTER"

Unemployment and War Preparations

There is no question but what the United States is in a period of economic recession, with all the symptoms present to build up to a major crisis. The workers of the country are the first to feel the pinch, with hundreds of thousands being laid off.

As one Detroit worker put it, "We know that Automation and speed-up are cutting us out, but the way that we are being sold out by everyone, the Union and the government, makes you wonder what we are paying Union dues for."

Department 91 of the Chrysler Corp. in Detroit is a typical example of men being replaced by machines. One shift for the 1955 model required 950 men; in 1956 it was 900 men; the '57 model took 740 men; and the 1958

model requires only 450 men to produce more than 950 produced in 1955. Another department which employed 1,000 men in 1955 now employs only 200 today.

Last year, Walter Reuther was all hot and bothered about the "guaranteed annual wage". In practice his contracts with the auto companies have a mounted to supplemental payments for 3 or 4 weeks of amounts ranging from \$8 to \$12 a week. Hundreds of Union members have used up their unemployment insurance and Reuther's supplement and are out on the streets.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AIRCRAFT

15,000 aircraft workers are out of work in Los Angeles. Farmingdale, Long Island, is a New York suburb built up within the past 10 years around the new Grumman Aircraft and Republic Aviation plants. Thousands of aircraft workers are now laid-off in Farmingdale and the whole community is worried about massive foreclosures.

The launching of Russia's Sputnik No. 1 and No. 2 has made military aircraft all but obsolete. United Aircraft in Connecticut has just laid off 2,000 workers. Pratt & Whitney laid off over 1,000. Orval R. Cook, president of Aircraft Industries, predicts that the cutbacks in plane production will cost another 100,000 jobs. The workers in these industries are saying

(Continued on Page 8)

Land and Freedom

Out of the darkness we are coming
Out of the pit where you have kept us,
Out of the squalor and decay,
Caverns of hunger in our cheeks,
Dead joys heavy in our hearts,
Weals that scream upon our backs,
Out of our nakedness,
Out of our wretchedness,
Out of our misery
We are coming.

From the dark forests of tortured dreams,
From ugly cities of walled-in lives,
From mountains of our people's bones
From stagnant lakes of our people's tears,
We are coming in our millions,
Our awakened, angered millions,
Singing our song of Land and Freedom.

LAND AND FREEDOM!

LAND AND FREEDOM!

Roaring through the dark locations,
Sounding on Nigerian streets;
Wild wind moving desert sands,
Murmur penetrating forests;
Song rehearsed in steaming slumtown,
Taught in village, sung on farm;
Covers lakes and cloud-stained mountains,
Sung in the heart of Mother Earth.

LAND AND FREEDOM!

LAND AND FREEDOM!

We have sold our lives to freedom,
Freedom to eat the grain we grow,
Freedom to milk the cattle we herd,
Freedom to burn the coal we hew,
Freedom to own the houses we clean.

(Continued on Page 6)

Read: CHAS. DENBY ANSWERS
"FEATHER MERCHANT," Page 7

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

UNION STILL DOES NOTHING

Mine Lay-Offs Bring More Contract Violations

OSAGE, W. Va. — The company is getting away with plenty on this lay-off. We didn't even have a seniority list drawn up before this lay-off took place. Men who have been working for years on their present jobs still have classifications that don't even exist anymore. The company is handpicking all the men they want.

They have made a new classification of utility man — a man who can do any number of jobs. While many of these men have less seniority than men working on their regular jobs, these utility men are all being kept and men who have done their regular jobs for years are being laid off. The utility men are more important to the company.

BOSSSES DO CONTRACT WORK

The lamp men are now getting 5 days a week. Before, they got at least 6. The bosses are doing their work on the week-ends, which is contract work.

They have cut off the inside tipples. They have put two electric buttons on the loading ramps and the buggy men are supposed to move the loads and empties so they can unload their coal.

The bosses, who are more than ever afraid of losing their jobs, are pushing for more and more production and they are doing the tipples man's work to get more coal. This is also strictly against the contract, but they are getting away with it.

The mechanic force was cut down, too. Before, they had a mechanic for each section. They still have a mechanic on each continuous miner section, but on the conventional sections, they

have two mechanics for three sections. Someone said that these mechanics stay in the inside shop and wait for a call from the sections if any machinery breaks down.

MAINTAINENCE WORK ON MID-NIGHT

It was a rotten deal all the way around. They cut out all production on the mid-night shift. Only the day shift and afternoon shifts produce coal. The maintainence work will be done on the mid-night shift. Men are on mid-night now who have never worked on the shift, and they have more seniority than plenty of men and can

do their jobs just as well. But they are maintainence men of one classification or another, and they have no choice in the matter.

BOSSSES ALL STAY

Now we've had all these men laid off, but not one boss has been laid off. It was hell before, but you can just about figure what it will be like all those extra bosses around. And all of them bucking to stay there. They will cut each others throat under ordinary circumstances; it's not hard to figure what they will do to the men now if they get the chance.

LAY-OFFS RECALL YELLOW DOG DAYS

MORGANTOWN W. VA. — A bunch of us were sitting around talking about the lay-offs that are taking place right now. Some of us were working; and some of us had just been laid off. The conversation swung from the present and the desperate circumstances that the men who had been laid-off and their families were going to be faced with, back to the time of company rule with yellow dogs, company guards and company towns.

TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE

"Sure," a laid off miner said, "I can remember those days real well. I remember one day that the company guards came to our house. They were going to throw us out on the street right then. My mother was washing clothes that day and my father wasn't home; I think he was out looking for a job. One of the company guards told my mother that they were there to put us and the furniture out of the

house—right then, not after a while or the next day. My mother just took a big pan of scalding water off of the stove and doused them with it. They took off in a hurry. She really handled that situation. We had to move in the next couple of days, but we sure didn't move when they wanted us to."

MOVING — COMPANY GUARD STYLE

"I remember when we were in Pennsylvania," another miner who was working said, "Yeah, they moved you all right. There were those 2-story shacks that were supposed to pass for houses. And those company guards had their own way of moving people. They threw the stuff out. You were lucky if you lived on the first floor. The furniture didn't have too far to fall and didn't get broken up too much. But the second floor was something else. They'd go up and take out a window, then throw all the furniture out of it. Those boys weren't going to carry any of that stuff down any stairs."

COMPANY CARE OF FIGHTERS

"They had their own way of taking care of fighters, too," another miner chimed in. "We all know about a lot of things that happened, but I remember one guy, but good. One day I saw a bunch of company guards carrying this one man that they had it in for, up a ramp to a burning coke oven. He was kicking and fighting, but a guard had him by each arm and leg. They got him to the top of the coke oven and—swish! in he went. That happened more than one time. Guys would just disappear and you'd never hear of them again."

THEN AND NOW

"I don't remember a lot of things that happened then, I was a little young at the time," another laid-off miner started. But there are some things you never forget. Like this guy, he was fast as a rabbit anyway, and he went out this one night to shoot out the search light the company used to have by the machine gun on the tipples. He got the light all right, but they put two bullets in him before he could get away. He's still alive, and he

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

HALF THE TRUTH HASN'T BEEN TOLD

Who knows how much trouble America is in? No one can really tell, what with those two sputniks flying all around the world. They have fenced America in, as if it was a great huge pasture.

The Russians are letting America know that it may rule here, but that the Russians will sure rule over in Russia and not let the U.S. come over into Russia and mess it up like the U.S. messes up at home.

The Russians and all the other foreign countries know how bad Americans treat the Negro people and other peoples too.

NEW LYNCHINGS

Just look what happened a few months ago in Burkville, Alabama. Rogers Hamilton, a 17-year-old boy, was lynched because he went to see a colored girl, a girl of his own race. These white men went to his house, got him out, carried him down the road a piece, and killed him.

Another thing happened in Birmingham, Alabama, and Haynesville, Alabama. The white men said that too many had resigned from the Ku Klux Klan there. They wanted the Klan to get warmed up and get started fighting and killing some of these Negroes before they lose their own freedom.

If colored people say any-

thing against these whites or do any good to help make a decent living for their own race of people, the whites start calling them "Communists."

The whites think the Negro will get too far ahead of them, so they start beating and killing Negroes for no reason.

WHITES MESS UP

Those are some of the things that the Russians are talking about — how the white man will mess up their country, with their no-good "law and order" that they have here in the U.S. Russia knows that law and order don't mean a thing to a white man. When he gets ready to do what he wants to do, good or bad, he just goes right on doing it. He thinks that since he isn't interfering in white folks' business, why bother about him?

In fact, half the truth hasn't been told about how low-down some of the American white men really are. It isn't known until they do some unreasonable crime, and then they will pretend they are crazy and nothing will be done, because many white people will agree that they did a foolish thing.

But if these whites don't straighten up and fly right, the next sputnik will take care of the U.S.

Lily-White Dearborn Has Lily-White Election

Mayor Hubbard of Dearborn, Michigan, has been re-elected for his ninth 2-year term. His opponent in this last election, Mills, was interviewed on TV on election night. He is supposed to be a knight in shining armor opposing the evil Hubbard. Hubbard is evil, all right, but this man is no crusader.

THE MAIN ISSUE

The interviewer asked him what the main issues of the election were. He hemmed and hawed for a long time, and said he didn't care to discuss it on television. Finally, he said that the main issue is the Negro question.

The interviewer said Dearborn is all-white, and the Hubbard-fighter said that isn't correct; that there is one Negro family in Dearborn who have lived there for 30 years.

When asked why Negroes, who work in Dearborn by the thousands, cannot live

there, this man said that it was "the natural inclination of the two races to keep separate."

He said the Negroes don't want to come to Dearborn, but he would not admit that it was because of what the whites would do to them.

"GREAT PRETENDER"

So it seems that Hubbard and his opponent agree on keeping Dearborn white. What then did the opponent campaign on? He said that the reason Hubbard is a crook is because he is personally taking credit for keeping Negroes out, and is "pretending" that unless he is re-elected, the Negroes will pour in!

So we have the situation of 2 men running for office; one Hubbard, is the avowed friend of White Councils of the North and South; the other is a phony who only wishes he had as much power as Hubbard does. Both admittedly agree on one thing: the all-white "purity" of Dearborn, Michigan, must be preserved.

Detroit Reader

still has those two bullets in him.

"These are things we all know. But if something isn't done, and done right quick, we're going to have that same stuff or worse. When a man can't make a living, he's going to want to know why, and there are plenty of men in that boat right now."

PENN. MINERS STRIKE FOR SENIORITY

PENNSYLVANIA—The week before Veterans Day, the coal fields of southwest Pennsylvania were hit by a strike which involved some 10,000 men. The strike started at the Crucible mine, scene of many previous strike actions, and involved the seniority provisions that the company was trying to get the men to take.

There had already been a lay-off at the mine, and mine management was recalling some of the men. Mine management recalled some men, but refused to rehire anyone over 60 years old. The result—strike.

MINERS OUT IN SYMPATHY

Three years ago, this same area was involved in a seniority strike which began at the Buckeye mine at Nema-colin. Roving pickets from the Crucible local went around to the various mines, and the miners struck in sympathy with them.

The present strike lasted a week for all but the 400 miners at Crucible. At a meeting they held on Veterans Day, they voted to forego any further picketing of

other mines, but they voted to keep their strike in progress. They are fighting for full seniority rights, which only a few locals in the UMW have, and which has been obtained after long and bitter struggles with both mine management and, at times, with International representatives of the UMW who are always called in on any large action to get the men back to work.

One miner, whose mine has a comprehensive and fair seniority system that was won years ago, said that now was the time to get this thing settled once and for all. If all of the miners in Pennsylvania and West Virginia would get together, they could force an agreement between Lewis and the coal operators for a good seniority system.

A good seniority system for the miners has long been sought. With the increasing trend toward Automation and the lay-offs that that will bring, the miners are going to continue to press for a fair shake on seniority. And they are going to fight any and every way they can to get it.

DETROIT EDITING
COMMITTEE
MEETS
EVERY SUNDAY
EVENING
7 TO 9 P.M.
AT
8067 GRAND RIVER
(1 FLIGHT UP)

Chrysler Wages War Against Workers --How Is the Union Fighting Back?

Last Minute Agreement Averts Loc. 212 Strike

DETROIT — Our strike deadline at Local 212, was set for Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. The Union asked, at the last minute, to extend it until 11 p.m. because they felt they were reaching an agreement with the company. Just before the new deadline, they announced an agreement had been reached.

When we went in the next morning, no one knew anything. Everyone was disgusted because the Union didn't put out any leaflet giving information or anything. All we knew was what was passed around word of mouth: that there was going to be a Local meeting the next morning, Saturday, at 11 a.m. to ratify the agreement.

On Saturday morning was the biggest turnout to the meeting I've ever seen since we have this Local hall. As a matter of fact I think it was the biggest turnout I've ever seen at any Chrysler Local meeting.

BOOED BY EXPERTS

Norman Matthews, the International vice-president in charge of the Chrysler department, got up to talk. The men booed him for 5 to 10 minutes.

He said it was our democratic privilege to boo him if we wanted to but it didn't bother him since he had been booed by professionals and they didn't bother him either. He said if we didn't like him why didn't we vote him out.

He didn't say what the agreement was they had just reached with Chrysler, he just said it was the best agreement they could get whether or not we ratified, and that was that.

WHAT DID WE WIN?

Then the Local president, Bruce, read the agreement. It's hard to know what it's all about even if you're a Philadelphia lawyer.

The 14 men who have been fired and have been out for over 6 weeks were reinstated, but without back pay. The company is going to call back 375 men they originally refused to call back. And they got the company to keep our relief at 6 minutes on the hour instead of cutting it to 3 as the company tried to do—but even 6 minutes isn't enough relief with the kind of speed-up Chrysler has forced on us.

We didn't win anything, we just slowed down the company's speed in taking more away from us.

The big issue, the speed-up and lay-offs, the question of the company bringing in outside contractors to do jobs that union members in the shop could perform — that they lost completely and hushed up about it mighty fast. They just said there were loop-holes and flaws in the contract which the company can get around so we can't strike on this because

What's Happening in Plymouth's Strike?

DETROIT — What kind of strike is the Union running at Plymouth? The Plymouth Engine workers at Mound Rd. are walking the picket line, but the Plymouth plant on Mt. Eliot is working. They're both in Local 51. What kind of strike is that?

While the strike is on, Chrysler has been moving engines out of storage and keeping production going in the other plants.

First, the company tried to move the engines by truck but the teamsters wouldn't cross the Plymouth picket line. Now the company's moving the engines from storage by box car. They say they have a permit to do this.

Who is authorized to issue such a permit? Did Local 51 issue that permit? Or did the International issue it? This kind of strike is a fat Christmas present to Chrysler. The Plymouth strikers are losing pay and unemployment compensation, while the company uses up its overstuffed storage at the expense of every Chrysler production worker.

—Dodge-Main

then the company could take legal action.

RELUCTANT VOTE

The Local president admitted that the agreement left some to be desired but it was the best they could get even if we voted against it. But if we voted against ratifying, 20,000 men would be out of a job.

One worker got up and asked, "What did we win even if we settled?" He never got an answer.

They took a hand vote and a good 25 per cent of the men just didn't vote. I would guess that ratification passed by no more than 10 per cent. A lot of the workers are saying that if it had been a secret ballot, and you didn't have to vote right in front of their eyes, they wouldn't have had a chance to get that agreement ratified even the way things are now.

PLYMOUTH STRIKE

When their strike deadline passed and the Plymouth Engine workers walked, out, on Monday, Nov. 18, the workers all over the Mack plant were and are saying that those Local 51 boys did what we should have done but didn't have the guts to do.

The talk is that the Union knew good and well that they have strike votes in a lot of the Chrysler plants. Why didn't they and why don't they let us all go out at the same time? Then Chrysler would have to settle on our terms. This way, they force us to settle with Chrysler, Local by Local, on the company's terms. How can we win anything this way?

—Production Worker, Local 212

LOS ANGELES — About 20 or 25 per cent of the members of the Chrysler Local 230 attended the meeting where the holding of a strike vote was considered. Probably there were not more than 800 men present out of the 4,000 in the local.

FINE WORDS

The feeling at the meeting was that there's a war going on with the Chrysler Corporation. We said it is being fought with speed-up, manpower shortages, threats, disciplinary lay-offs, reprimands, firings, and a general wave of fear on the part of the company.

We felt we have to fight back. I think it was pretty accurate to compare this situation to a war. But that's the most I can say. When the Union leaders then started to speak about the weapons the Union was going to use to fight this war it was really pathetic.

NO AMMUNITION

The President of the Local got up and said that in the event of a strike we would get the same benefits we got last year: \$12 per man and \$3 for each dependent up to a maximum of \$30 per week. You can't fight a war with that, not when you know there are 25 million dollars in the strike fund.

Then came the real blow of the whole meeting. The International Representative gets up and he makes his little speech.

We can't stand for any wildcats, or the company is going to lop some heads off. He said that in a wildcat all heads are going to roll. That is a real good thing to fight a war with! No walkouts!

The International man then went on to say that we can't refuse overtime.

That's another good thing to fight a war with! We're to work 10 hours a day for 6 and 7 days a week while 500 men still have not been called back from lay-off and while other workers in the plant are getting less than 40 hours a week.

ON WHOSE SIDE?

Then they spoke of how we are going to start to fight, how we are going to have a real war. First of all we can't start any war for 42 days. It will take 7 days before we can hold the strike vote. After that we have to wait through a 30-day "cooling off" period, notify the company of our strike intentions, and then wait an additional 5 days before actually striking. And in those 42 days the company can work us all the overtime they please, produce all the cars they need and be ready for a layoff, let alone a strike!

The International man was just like a cop up there, telling us what we could do and what we couldn't do.

—Production Worker

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GET OLD?

What happens to you in this society after you get old? Nothing. You're just old. They have all kinds of organizations whose purpose is to make older people feel they are wanted, useful and "constructive citizens" in order to counteract the feeling of having "one foot in the grave."

It's either get yourself a hobby, or work in the community, like collecting for "charity organizations." This is supposed to make you feel that you're a human being, but whichever one you choose it's just to keep you busy till those last few days.

LIFE ENDS AT 40
For a while, it was that people could get a job and work till they were 65, and then retire. Now, with Automation, first the jobs don't last that long and many defense jobs hire people for a year or two and then lay them off; and secondly many places won't hire men of 45 and over, or women 40 years old or over.

In the auto shops, a worker with 33 years seniority said his job will be eliminated in a year or 2 by a machine. As I have already reported, the company where I work is closing down and moving out of state.

These days it is hard for

any one to find work, young or old. There are so many people out of work that plants like Bendix Aviation and Chrysler Guided Missile can hand-pick the people they want. One worker told me of a company that is closing down and turning over all their personnel records to one of these big companies.

THE LONELIEST WALK

It was a sad sight, the other day at work when the lay-offs started, to see one of the older women leaving. She had been ill for the past year. She is divorced and is all alone. She is in her 50's and has suffered two strokes. She recently was ill and was laid-off before she returned to work. She came in for her belongings and went around to say her goodbyes.

As I understand it, she doesn't have to worry about money to support herself. Her problem now is that of being alone and without work.

Neither management nor the Union had the decency to walk this woman, who has spent many years working in this small shop, to the door.

My friend and I jumped up and left out jobs and walked her to the door. She was crying as she left. It was one of the loneliest walks.

WHY LA WORKERS VOTED TO STRIKE

LOS ANGELES — When I went to work in the middle of September, the first rumor that I heard was that there was going to be a strike because of the company calling people back out of seniority. Men with 2 years seniority were working while men with 10 years were on the street. The reason they didn't strike was because the maintenance workers didn't want to. So the company continued its policy of calling back whoever they wanted to and putting anyone they wanted on day shift or night shift.

FEWER MEN — MORE PRODUCTION

They cut out about 500 men. They just weren't called back, but they're producing as many cars per day as they did before the change-over. The production has been increasing every day to where now it's got to the point that the men are having a hard time keeping up. There's no limit as to how fast they plan to run the line, and the lines are always run short of men.

In these recent weeks, they've had a lot of men ab-

sent due to the flu. When a man is absent, there's no replacement. They just break up his job and add it to the rest of the men on the line. The line keeps going as fast or faster.

On Wednesday, October 30, the night shift front-end repair walked out because there's been too much work per man. Even in the company there've been foremen who've quit because they won't push the way the company wants them to.

The Friday before this, the company attempted to work 9 hours but body-in-white threatened to walk out in 8 hours because we never work overtime on Fridays. Also, due to the speed up, body-in-white has refused to work overtime since the October 30 walk-out.

On the Wednesday walk-out, the day shift was sent home in 5 hours because of alleged "poor quality of work." The Union has issued a call for a special meeting to take up the speed up and to take a strike vote on Tuesday, November 5.

Chrysler Production Worker

News & Letters Proudly Presents a Lecture by

Raya Dunayevskaya

"THE RUSSIAN SPUTNIKS — DO THEY MEAN WAR OR PEACE? EMPLOYMENT OR UNEMPLOYMENT?"

Sunday Evening, December 8, 1957 — 7:00 p.m.

at the Lucy Thurman Branch — YWCA

569 E. Elizabeth, Detroit, Mich.

(See Ad on Page 8)

EDITORIALS

Northern Industry & Southern Tradition

Some years back, when people heard or read about things they would say it's good news, or bad news, or exciting news. Today, the news is horrible and unbelievable.

General Motors Corp. made a statement to the press concerning its new plant in Georgia. On the hiring of Negroes, they said their policies are not to try to change the traditions of the State of Georgia. They have hired three Negroes as janitors and that was all.

This is shocking news coming from one of the world's wealthiest corporations. Negroes, through their labor value as well as their purchasing power, have played an important part in General Motors' growth to wealth. But the corporation feels they can get (and probably will) their labor cheaper in Georgia and the South.

They will also be able to exploit those white workers more ruthlessly by telling and threatening them that they will have to get more and more production or, if not, they will hire Negroes. No one can have any doubts that this is the reason all these plants and corporations are moving away from many leading Northern cities to those deep Southern cities.

The biggest majority of the Southern Negroes buy General Motors cars and products. It is unbelievable that GM would make such a public statement. But so callous and brutal are they in their attitude to workers that nothing stops them in their lust for more production. Many years ago, Negroes in Detroit labelled GM as the most prejudiced corporation in the auto industry. Some say that in the early '20's the company refused to sell Negroes new Cadillacs. Up until 1936 and 1937, until the rise of the CIO, they maintained segregated eating rooms in their plants.

Working conditions at GM were worse than at any other plant. That's why the workers exploded in strike action against GM before they struck any other auto plant. This opened the road to the organization of the UAW.

In Georgia, today, and throughout the South, these companies use race hatred to keep out the Union. General Motors and all others know the history and tradition of the South. They have known and exploited this tradition for many, many years. It is clear that the so-called Southern tradition is maintained and fortified by "good" solid Northern capital.

Sputniks and Scoundrels

Never was the statement, that patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel, more true than in the weeks since the birth of the Sputnik. Southern Democrats of the stripe of Speaker Sam Rayburn and Senator Lyndon Johnson saw a way to get out from under Little Rock and help President Eisenhower shout about the need for greater expenditures for "defense."

Other stalwart patriots, like Senators Eastland and Jenner, renewed their interest in the "un-American" activity of a white woman who came to the aid and comfort of a Negro girl student when she was jeered and threatened by white males in Little Rock.

As for those "Vanguardists"—Khrushchev & Co., who succeeded in launching the first satellite ahead of the one planned by America's Vanguard Project—they just "by accident" timed the launching of the second Sputnik the day after Zhukov was dismissed as Minister of Defense. While no tears need be shed for that butcher of the Hungarian Revolution, the truth is that his master, Nikita S. Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Russia, was diverting attention not alone from Zhukov's dismissal but from the deep internal crisis in Russia. (See "Two Worlds," page 5).

While the Administration here was shouting about the need "to catch up" with the Russians in Sputniks and ICBM's, Khrushchev and his ever-dwindling "collective" leadership were busy laying plans—Fifteen Years Plans—"to catch up" with America in steel production. Needless to say, the leaders on both sides of the Iron Curtain are too busy with the race to the moon to bother with the people on this earth—except to ask them for "more sacrifices."

News & Letters

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Readers'

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

A method being used in the body shop for some time now, is for a foreman to draw a chalk line on the floor where a man is working. If the man goes past that chalk mark, he's written up for not keeping up with the work. Last Friday night at quitting time, several repair men were written up for going past the chalk line.

This method compares to any slave labor methods used by Hitler or by Russia.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles
* * *

They'd been having trouble with one of the jobs in my department for years. A question of holes not lining up. The men who worked the job have consistently said that the only sure way to get the holes to line up was to drill them after the job was completed. Nothing was done about this for years. The job was always fixed up in the field or the customer made out as best as he could.

Last week, 2 foremen went around telling the men how the job was to be done. Drill the holes last. No one said that the men had been right all along and a lot of the guys were burned up about it.

One of the guys involved said, "It's always that way. They watch you close to find out what you're doing. They ask you to explain something. Then, the next day they come back and tell you to do what you taught them as if they learned it somewhere else. I don't show them anything anymore."

Metal Worker
Detroit
* * *

Don't you think it is a shame that so many were concerned about the inhuman treatment of the dog in the Russian sputnik and not at all concerned about the inhuman treatment we need to submit to every working day?

Ford Production Worker
Detroit
* * *

Congratulations on your last issue! (Oct., 1957). It was magnificent throughout, especially the lead on Little Rock and the editorial. I was also especially impressed with the article, "What Kind of Labor?" by M. D.

It has been my experience that an intellectual, even when he sees how labor under capitalism fragments an individual, thinks only of factory labor as degrading. M. D., on the other hand, wrote feelingly about the kind of labor which is "a kind of death in life."

He included all labor, mental and manual, under capitalism, contrasting it to a different kind of work which will not simply be an occupation, "merely an external act, but an internal transformation, an evolution that is a true transformation." I feel he was reaching for a new human dimension which will assure a new social order not degenerating into a new tyranny like the Russian.

Intellectual
New York City
* * *

EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

This year's change-over was the first time my husband was covered by the SUB (Guaranteed Annual Wage). He was off for 3 weeks exactly.

It's a rule that you don't get paid for the first week. One week was split up so that he wasn't entitled to get paid for it. That is, he was laid off on a Thursday, which meant a 3-day paycheck that week, and he was called back the third week on a Thursday which gave him a 2-day paycheck.

So it worked out, that out of 3-weeks unemployment, he was entitled to only one week's pay. He says he would have made more money if he'd been laid off longer.

Auto Worker's Wife
Los Angeles
* * *

If Chrysler gets all tied up in strikes, what are we with large families going to do for money to buy groceries and pay rent with? Are we supposed to hold our breaths until the Union gets the strike fund started?

Maybe if they do strike we will find out where our strike fund is. If it's gone maybe we can find out where and what for. If we people with large families are set out in the street, is Chrysler going to be kind enough to rent us a place?

I tell you, it's something to worry about, when your little children look you in the face and ask why are our things set out. I feel that if our money was coming in as regularly as the local officers' money is, regardless of the strike or what not, we could make our payments and pay our rent. Then our little ones wouldn't have to be out in the cold.

I remember very well back in 1936 when the shops were striking in trying to organize the Union. Our car was driven to pick up men to walk the picket line. We pulled up in front of a man's house who was supposed to go with us.

His wife came to the door and said he was already gone.

Later we found out he was in bed and wouldn't serve on the picket line. Now this man holds a position as an officer in the union. I feel sure there are a lot of people who know the man I am speaking of. I hope so.

A Housewife
Detroit
* * *

You know what one economics expert we studied says about the current permanent unemployment? He says the people who are displaced in industry by Automation are going into the entertainment field!

It sounds ridiculous, but he was serious and it really isn't funny. What he apparently was looking at was that in a population estimate, for 10 years from now, they predict that there will be proportionately more entertainers. He wasn't looking at the present generation that's about to be laid-off, and have a bright future of living as paupers the rest of their lives.

W.V.U. Student
West Virginia
* * *

LEADERS & RANKS

Lewis claims that the reason he's not going to ask for the miners to have a 3-day Christmas holiday with \$40 pay this year, is because a bunch of miners complained last year that they could have made \$65 if they had worked those 3 days instead.

I'd like to know what miners he's talking about. I know I don't know any who didn't want that time off, and I work with a couple of hundred of them every day. As for me, I don't particularly want to go down in that mine any day!

Miner
West Virginia
* * *

When I saw your paper and read it through I liked it very much. But I was shocked to read what you say about Reuther. I always considered him the liberal in the labor movement. On this question I am not sure because I don't know enough about it, but on the question like Little Rock, and what you say about it, I agree all the way.

Student
Detroit
* * *

Two weeks ago I went to a union meeting at which they spoke about unity; about workers being united and sticking together. But what can

Views

you do with a pedigree like Walter Reuther? We have about 700 in our department and only about 50 showed up. Where is the unity? We were negotiating a strike deal. I went in every day hoping to hear something about it but heard nothing. We gave him a 100 per cent strike vote. What else does he need?

Now we have the manufacturers throwing us back one way, and the other behind kicking us back the other way. Before, we had just the company, now it's both the company and Reuther.

Production Worker
Detroit

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

Another young Negro boy has been lynched. With Emmet Till's murderers still on the loose, the white men who killed Rogers Hamilton have not been identified or brought to justice.

Rogers Hamilton was a 17 year old Negro boy of Burkville, Alabama. Like most teen-age boys, he had a girl friend. Although the girl is a Negro, she is supposed to be the "friend" of a white man, and therefore off-limits. Rogers Hamilton did not commit the "sin" of whistling at a white woman. He was not "guilty" of crossing the "sacred" barrier of the races. But he is dead for his "crime."

In the "gallant" white South, all these words have lost their meaning. It is only the Negroes who, in their brave struggle for freedom, are showing the ancient virtues of courage and honor. The white South follows the code of hate, oppression, and brutality.

B. G.
Detroit

* * *

The Cherrylawn incident in Detroit is still boiling. In January, Miss Ethel Watkins bought a home in an all-white neighborhood and the result was violence, intimidation and mobs. A police guard was necessary for a long while.

Under the pretense of Halloween, some white bigots threw pumpkins and rocks through Miss Watkins' windows. The police passed it off as a prank. It serves to remind us, if any reminder is needed that Detroit too is a potential Little Rock.

White Detroiter
* * *

Where do they get that stuff about "saving our way of life" in the South? It's their way of life, not mine.

Negro Housewife
West Virginia

A friend of mine told me about some letters she wrote to Faubus and several of the other Southern governors. I can't remember all she told me that she put in those letters, but among other things, she told them that you could enter heaven with a black skin and a white heart, but never with a white skin and a black heart.

She said that she felt those mothers in Arkansas who stood at the school and tried to keep those Negro children from entering would see a similar scene enacted when they stood waiting to enter their heaven, only they would be on the outside with someone else barring their way. But what struck me the most in what she wrote was her last remark — that those colored people in Little Rock have proven there is a superior race, the human race.

Committee Member
West Virginia

* * *

It would make more sense if all the protest about Russian barbarism because they used a dog in the satellite had included some protest about their barbarism to their own people and the people under their heel in their earthly satellite countries.

It was a point to note, too, that Irene Castle, who was one of the loudest spokesmen for the protest, comes from Little Rock. But I didn't hear any protest from her about the treatment of Negroes there. Maybe they don't mind having people treated like dogs, only having dogs treated like people?

Contributor
West Virginia

* * *

PEACE & WAR

If all these intellectuals who are "suddenly" so alarmed about Russia's latest feats are as up on things as they pretend they are, they should know that a long time ago there were enough hydrogen bombs to pretty well mess things up, without waiting for an intercontinental ballistic missile. All you need is an old B-29 and an H-bomb. The "powers" have had enough to blow things sky-high for quite a while. Why all the "sudden" alarm?

Ex-GI
West Virginia

* * *

I know who I'd like to send up in the next Sputnik—my boss.

Miner
West Virginia

I see the politicians who are "out" are telling the truth again. Truman sure hit it on the head with his speech to the miners at Welch about the reason for the dearth of scientists in the country being the witch-hunts that made a lot of them leave government and take other jobs. You can always count on ex-presidents, or defeated candidates to tell the truth about their opponents.

Miner
Wana, W. Va.

* * *

Ike is obsessed with militarism! The military under him are having a field day with humanity. Ike is so obsessed with it that he gave his wife a medal "for meritorious service" as a wife. Silly? No, it merely shows how his mind runs.

Let's stop acting like ignorant little kids with our "top secrets" and all other kinds of secrets. We will never find the world by hiding it! If we can't straighten out human affairs with the truth what we can accomplish by deceit is not worth the trouble.

If a law has to appear something it isn't and a law man something he isn't to capture another who is breaking the law the law man is no better than the "law breaker"! And the law itself is only a farce. So how is it possible to make a good society by doing the things that make a society rotten?

E. L.
Santa Rosa, Calif.

* * *

It is sad indeed, that the 40th anniversary of the Russian Revolution was watched with close interest to see what new destructive weapons it had developed.

After 40 years, to be forced to count the concentration camps, to recount the role of the Red Army in putting down the Hungarian Revolution, to look upon the instruments of destruction paraded through Red Square, to see the most powerful totalitarian state in history parade as a "workers' state" is not only sheer mockery, nor even great tragedy. That is to say, it is not a story, put within the covers of a book to read. Rather the proclamation of this monstrosity as a "workers' state" or "Marxist" is the enticement with which the present Russian rulers hope to fool the workers of the world, especially of the colonial world. They will not succeed.

Architect
Boston

TWO WORLDS

Russia's Internal Crisis

UNREST IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

Russia's scientific achievement in launching the satellite has all but hidden the manifold crisis in Russia—in agriculture, in industry, among the youth, and especially in the Red Army where a Russian marshal gets 114 times more pay than a private. (In the American Army a 5-star general gets about 15 times more pay than a private).

Nevertheless, during World War II the Red Army soldiers flocked into the Communist Party, and were encouraged to do so. When they reached the capitalist West—even such backward areas as Rumania—the soldiers were surprised to learn of the standard of living and plenitude of consumer goods as compared to Russia. They showed their dissatisfaction with the Communist Party and immediately the latter retaliated with a vicious campaign against "bourgeois deviations" in the Army. That was in Stalin's time.

In Khrushchev's time, the restlessness of the demobilized Red Army men—particularly those who had been on occupation duty—was such that he sent thousands of them, by regiments and divisions, into the wilderness of Siberia in his attempt to transform that arid land into a new bread basket to compete with the Ukraine. This year, Khrushchev had to admit that the drought has led to a decrease in the harvest. As for the Red Army men that were sent to put down the Hungarian Revolution, there was too much fraternization between the Hungarian revolutionaries and them to please either Khrushchev or Zhukov.

In a word, it wasn't Zhukov's non-acceptance of the Party's leadership but the rank and file soldier's non-acceptance of the Party leadership that led to Zhukov's dismissal. Making him a scapegoat gave notice to the Army that the Communist Party will not tolerate any revolt.

THE REBELLIOUSNESS OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTS AND WORKERS

No one's memory is shorter than that of our "Russian experts." One would think that because the scientific achievement of the man-made moon signifies the achievement also of intercontinental missiles that, thereby, all the Russian claims of industrial superiority are justified. Yet, it was only recently that the Russians openly reported that they had to scrap the Sixth Five Year Plan launched with so much ballyhoo at their 20th Congress.

That plan was based on nothing short of a 100 per cent rise in agricultural productivity, and a 50 per cent rise in labor productivity in industry. Since then, the revolt in the countryside has been so great that they have returned to a good deal of private capitalistic incentives, abolished the agricultural taxes to the State from private plots, and launched an unsuccessful campaign to get the farmer into the Communist Party.

The scrapping of the Sixth Five Year Plan was not done lightly. It was the rebelliousness of the Russian workers which compelled this. The Russian leadership has had to 1) pass a minimum wage law; 2) reduce the work week by 2 hours and promise a 7 hour day by 1960; and 3) promise that with the new Fifteen Year Plan which will soon be instituted, first consideration—directly after heavy industry, of course—will be given to housing, in 10 or 12 years Khrushchev thought.

THE REVOLT OF THE RUSSIAN YOUTH

Finally, there are the Russian youth who have been reared in Khrushchev's Communism and want none of it. The Russian papers are full of stories about "hooligans," "delinquent youth and delinquent parents." They are now discussing the new law for exiling "parasites." In the 40th year of its existence, the monstrosity they dare call a "workers' state" is passing a law "On Measures for Intensifying the Struggle Against Anti-Social Parasitic Elements"—"able-bodied citizens who are deliberately avoiding socially useful work and engaging in vagrancy!"

No country in the world has more laws designed to force the youth to labor, military service, ideological conformity. The State Labor Reserves draft youth into labor schools and then force them to work wherever the State sends them "at prevailing rates of wages." Thus, when Khrushchev decided on his scheme "to transform" the Urals, 150,000 youth were sent out there. There is, besides, compulsory universal military service, and of course there is "the Party" or rather the youth leagues. Nevertheless, they have run out of words of abuse against the youth, and have now invented a new word for those they call "cynical, bored youth." It is Nibonicho—neither God nor the devil.

The nibonichos, plus the workers, plus the peasants, plus the Red Army soldiers, make up the majority of the Russian people who are in continuous revolt against the One Party Totalitarian State. But we have our eyes turned skyward and fail to see this great human force for freedom.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

From the other side of the iron curtain comes word of "Nibonichos" (See **Two Worlds**, page 5), Russian youth with a cynical attitude toward the values of their fatherland. This news out of Russia together with past reports of "Styliagi" and "hooliganism" in the youth is worth consideration.

DIFFERENT TYPES

Interestingly enough these labels aren't interchangeable and refer to different strata among the youth. The "Styliagi" are style-conscious jazz lovers who reject completely the thought of subordinating themselves for the good of the State. They live off well-to-do parents if they have them; if not, they try to hustle a ruble as best they can without resorting to serious work.

The young workers, out to get some enjoyment out of life even if they are driven to drinking and brawling, are dubbed "hooligans." "Nibonichos" seems to refer more to the intellectual youth.

Peter Burg, a former Soviet student, reports in the "Bulletin of the Institute for the Study of the U.S.-S.R.," that even those youth who seem to accept the system do so on their own terms. "The modern Kom-somol leader is first and foremost a calculating careerist".

MYTH & REALITY

The American press is falling all over itself in pointing out the superiority of Russian education. They report that Russian students are subsidized. Burg says stu-

dents get a "State grant of between 250 and 400 rubles per month. After paying for a bed in the hostel and for transportation, there is very little left."

The American press says that after their studies Soviet student-engineers and scientists are immediately placed in jobs.

Burg sheds a different light. "Every year thousands of young specialists, who have completed their studies at universities or technical institutes, refuse to leave the cities and their families to spend the prescribed 3 years in the remote provinces."

Moscow University, which has been heralded as being so many times larger than Columbia University, is where the Russian students actually went out on strike and picketed, in 1956, because of the miserable cafeteria conditions.

FROM BAD TO WORSE

Every one who has had an experience with it knows the inadequacies of the American educational system. It won't be made better by transforming it into a cog in the war machine.

Neither the Russian nor the American rulers consider that the welfare of their youth has any vital importance in itself. Neither has reached the young generation who are clearly rejecting what is offered them. The "styliagi" and the "juvenile delinquents" testify to this.

The fate of humanity depends on its youth, not on H-bombs and Sputniks.

Little Rock and Free Speech

LOS ANGELES—I have read a great deal, in News & Letters, about Little Rock and the integration scene and I find many views expressed. I would commend News & Letters for the fact that any and all opinions are printed, and that it really is a paper belonging to the people who read and write it.

When the Constitution of the United States was first written, Thomas Jefferson immediately noticed the lack of a Bill of Rights. When that Bill of Rights was added, included in it was a clause guaranteeing the freedom of the press.

Indeed, freedom of the press is a vital and necessary thing for the survival of any free nation.

It is this freedom of the press that I, as the editor of a high school newspaper, find vitally lacking. It is to be recognized that the views expressed in any paper must be those of its owners and readers, in my case, the student body. But by the same token, I fail to see why the letters to the editor must express those same views.

As editor, I mentioned the Little Rock situation in my column. This was quickly censored by the principal. If the principal does not feel that my views on integration (that our student body should write to the student body of Central High) correspond to those of the majority of the Student Body it is his right and duty, as the person who is legally responsible for the school, to say so.

Soon afterward, I received a "letter to the editor" saying virtually what I had said on integration. This too was censored. As I said, it may be the right of the principal to censor the words of the editor, but it is not his place, or anyone else's, to censor any letter to the editor.

What is a "Letters to the Editor" column for, if it is not a place where a reader, any reader, can express his views?

—Senior

To Vote or Not to Vote?

DETROIT STUDENTS WANT VOTE AT 18

DETROIT — We had a panel discussion at school on the question "Should 18-year-olds have the vote?" Some said that they wouldn't know anything about the elections and wouldn't know how to vote.

I said that the adults don't know any more. Adults murder, steal, violate laws, and are in reformatories. But 18-year-olds are really adults anyway, and some know as much or more than some adults.

YOUNGER IDEAS

Younger people have their own ideas, and they don't get them all from their parents. I think it would help if they could

vote because there would be some younger ideas around. Also I think young people are less prejudiced.

Most 18-year-olds have had quite a few experiences in high school. They have come in contact with lots of people, and lots of them have decided what they want to do in life.

One girl said that dogs don't have the vote, even though they were used in the war, just like the 18-year-olds. But I don't class dogs with humans. The majority in the class thought 18-year-olds should vote.

—Teen-Ager

Boy's Undecided Prejudice Puzzles Friend

LOS ANGELES — Last week, while walking my dog with a friend, we got into a conversation about the problem of segregation. I asked him why he didn't particularly like Negroes.

He told me that if the odds were uneven against a Negro, he would even the sides. He gave me a "for instance." One day, a Negro boy he knew was talking to a white girl who he also knew. Three white boys came up to the couple and

started saying that the Negro was "black trash." The Negro stood up to them and said that they were "white trash." Two of the whites came over to the Negro and were ready to manhandle him. My buddy evened the sides. It was settled without a fight.

What I don't get is that my friend said he wouldn't want to associate with them for too long, yet he would stick up for them.

—14-YEAR-OLD

"Automation" on the Campus

Desite the emphasis of professors and student organizations on "academic freedom," colleges and universities have served ruling classes throughout history and in America today serve capitalism. Students "invest" in a degree, which is worth about \$100,000 — the average difference between the life income of a man with a degree and the same man's income without one.

ASSEMBLY-LINE SCHOOLS

College administrators handle these "investments" with the callousness of capitalists. They try to cut costs by resisting demands for wage and salary increases. They enthusiastically welcome automation, such as the fantastic idea for a completely automatic school.

Already, students of some foreign languages sit in booths with earphones, listening to recordings; and one day a handful of teachers may "operate" a huge university. Furthermore, the administrators are beginning to cut down on scholarships and ordinary short term loans and substitute long-term loans which tie up part of a student's income for years after he graduates.

Hope for substantial federal aid was ruined recently by the President's Committee on Education beyond High School, which reported that students should pay more for their education. The result will be that colleges will help maintain class divisions even more than they have done in the past, receiving students primarily from bourgeois homes and training them for high salaried jobs.

GRAY FLANNEL SUITS

More students graduate from business colleges than from any other kind (Liberal Arts, Education, Engineering, etc). These "organization men" aim at office jobs in large corporations and ultimately at executive positions. In college they learn how to get along with superiors at any cost to their own in-

tegrity, how to control their "inferiors," how to make plans and get them executed.

Generally they believe in nothing but what sells. Truth, justice, beauty, freedom, every achievement of man throughout history, are regarded by them simply as commodities.

They seem to have more confidence, more sense of purpose, than any other students. They make demands on their professors that no other students dare to make. Behind them is a powerful clique of professors and administrators supporting their "mission"; before them lies "success."

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

It is no wonder that in most universities there is a traditional rivalry between the College of Commerce and the Liberal Arts Colleges, which dully and unceasingly maintain that the study of history, literature, art, science, philosophy, etc., "broadens" a student, prevents him from losing himself in a speciality, and makes him a "whole man." But most Liberal Arts graduates are nothing but intellectual bourgeoisie or, at best, bourgeois intellectuals isolated from or, at worst, openly at odds with the working class. Instead of blindly fighting its rival, the Liberal Arts College should re-examine its concept of the "whole man" in terms of the role of the common man throughout history, and particularly of the workers in the modern era.

True academic freedom begins with the Marxist Humanist recognition that human wholeness can result only from abolishing the division of labor between mental and manual and thereby creating a classless society. This can be done not through traditional education — which merely serves the division of labor — but only through the creative activity of the working class.

Detroit Teacher

Land and Freedom

(Continued from Page 1)

Deny us this freedom,
 Forbid us this freedom
 And you will have to kill us too,
 Yes, you will have to take our lives
 For we have sold our lives to freedom.
 A new song throbbing in the night,
 The dark, dark night of Africa.
 A heavier step in the thundering dance,
 A louder cry from the pulsing throat.

Out of the darkness we are coming.
 Out of our nakedness,
 Out of our wretchedness,
 Out of our misery
 We are coming.
 Maturing to our splendid manhood,
 Standing straight and proud and strong;
 We have buried our many dead,
 We have sung our saddest songs,
 Now we seek to serve our living,
 Now we sing our proudest song;
 Out of the darkness we are coming
 In our angry, surging millions
 Singing now our proudest song:
 Our song of LAND AND FREEDOM!

—Tom Malcolm

Sputnik Is No Good

This sputnik is no good. Suppose it fell down and busted up the whole world.

The preacher at church says God made the universe and we shouldn't make new moons. But if we went along with that, then we would have to stop looking for a cure for cancer and other things in medical research. I think the scientists would have an answer to that preacher.

—Eight Grader
 Detroit

Chas. Denby Answers 'Feather Merchant'

"Feather Merchant" is the Union paper of Chrysler Local 230, UAW-CIO in Los Angeles. The lead article on page 1, in the November, 1957 "Feather Merchant," written by Tom Smith, president, carried the following:

"NEWS AND LETTERS"

A newspaper known as "News and Letters" has been distributed at the plant gates on occasion, and because of questions from members I would make the following observations:

While the paper does not so state, it appears to be an organ of the Socialist Workers Party, and I respect and defend the right of free speech of those publishing and distributing "News and Letters."

However, if they are honest trade unionists they would be better advised to work in their local unions for the common good, rather than in distributing what in many cases is anti-union material and can only result in fostering dissension.

* * *

I am glad to see one trade union leader who still respects the right of free speech and the distribution of working class papers.

But it appears to me that Mr. Tom Smith is trying to say that the workers in his plant won't know what type of paper News & Letters is unless he labels it for them. I believe, on the contrary, that the workers know this is not the paper of the Socialist Workers Party—not only because that is the simple truth, but also because they feel a kinship with the workers who write in News & Letters.

They know that the workers who write in our columns are not caucus builders who pose as a so-called vanguard with a program for the rank and file workers to follow. News & Letters prints the story of the production workers just as they tell it, feel it, and know it on that production line.

I feel sure that the president of Local 230 must be referring to leaders as the only "honest trade unionists." How else could he dismiss the stories of rank and file workers who oppose the Union leadership as if they were "anti-union"?

Isn't the Union the union of all workers, and especially of the production workers? Or are we to believe that only the trade union leaders are "honest trade unionists" but the rank and file are "anti-union"?

The rank and file worker who is criticizing the leaders is showing his seriousness about the organization which he built and which he wants to remain his. What these rank and file workers who write to us are pointing out is what the leaders are not doing for the workers today. If that is considered "anti-union" it can only mean that the Union has become the private property of the leadership rather than an organization of the workers for the workers.

Finally, I want to state that News & Letters is not the organ of the Socialist Workers Party, nor of any other radical party, nor of any party. It is exactly what its banner head says: "This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It."

News & Letters was started by a group of workers, with some intellectuals. At no time did the intellectuals try to write "for" the workers. All articles by workers about their conditions of life in the factory and out are written by the workers themselves. Some are skilled workers, but most of them are production workers.

Each News & Letters committee, whether in Detroit or Los Angeles, not only write their own stories but edit them as well. The over-all editor is also a production worker. We will continue to welcome stories from workers and if they use the paper in any struggle with the labor leadership, as well as against management, we are glad we are that forum for them.

—Charles Denby, Editor

CO. CRACKS DOWN AS UNION WAITS

LOS ANGELES — On November 5, 1957, we had a special meeting to authorize a strike vote. On the following Tuesday, November 12, at noon, the day shift walked out of Chrysler as a result of two chief stewards and the chairman of the plant committee being fired by the company.

At the special meetings on the 12th, the union decided not to go back until noon on Friday. At the previous special meeting on November 5, which authorized the strike vote, the feeling was that this is a war between Chrysler and the union. But the Union was going to wait for 42 days before they started "the war."

The company, however, took the offensive following the meeting, by firing the chief steward in the trim shop for not doing his operation while he was writing up grievances.

Another steward in the body shop was fired when the company accused him of being in a "conspiracy" with someone to frame a foreman who tried to take a poke at a man who didn't jump as fast as the foreman told him to. Four other union members signed statements that the foreman tried to throw him up against a car and take a poke at him.

After several weeks of browbeating and threats by the company, 2-hour talks in offices, and "Gestapo methods," some of the men changed their statements. Armed with this, the company called the steward in and told him he was discharged, but if he was willing to tell who was in the "conspiracy" with him, to give them a ring the next day.

On Tuesday, the plant committee met with management as they do with any discharge. After 15 minutes of meeting, the chairman of the plant committee was handed his check and was told he was the man behind the "conspiracy," and he was fired. After this the whole plant walked out.

After a previous walk-out a couple weeks ago, the local President was given a 5-page write up holding him responsible for all walk-outs. When we go back on Friday, he may be the next one to go.

It now appears that the company's method is to wipe out the leadership of this local, and anyone else who stands up to them, which is a campaign that's been going on for the last year and a half.

Chrysler Worker

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

WHAT KIND OF LABOR?

It has surprised me to learn how many people there are who make a living through selling. Ever since one summer high school vacation, when I went from door to door for magazine subscriptions, I have been repelled by the thought of selling something to someone. In the United States, millions of people spend their lives persuading others to buy something. For every man who works in production there are probably a dozen engaged in selling the product. This is an occupation that adds little to human development; yet it is the most important activity of our competitive and commodity-oriented society.

THE HIDDEN "GIMMICK"

A woman from whom I removed a diseased uterus brought me 2 insurance forms to fill out after the surgery. On each was the question "Is this condition peculiar to both sexes?" I knew then that she would collect nothing from either policy. When I told her this, she said that she had been paying premiums for close to 10 years and had not known of such a limitation.

Having expected to meet the hospital and doctor bills through these policies, she became very distressed. At her request I wrote a letter to one of the insurance companies in which I expressed the opinion that it was basically dishonest to sell such a policy. Within a few days an agent of the company paid me a visit.

IT'S LEGAL

He was a very agreeable man. In fact he appeared to agree with everything I said about the worthlessness of such insurance. He said, however, that his company was under state supervision and control, and that all of its activities were legal. Furthermore, everything was written down in black and white. In defense of the company he said that most of their clients are Negroes; many from the south, who in the past could not pay for anything better. He added that he didn't particularly like to sell such a policy but it was better than none at all.

Not entirely to be funny, I asked him how he could live with himself and carry on such work. "It is legitimate to make a profit wherever possible, and this is a dog eat dog world," was his reply.

I was less interested in the legality of his work than in what it was doing to him as a human being. He appeared to see people as fish to catch on a baited hook and he didn't want to be concerned about their feelings. His occupation had conditioned his thinking and acting.

I find myself in agreement with a person who recently expressed this thought in a letter to a newspaper: "It would be a good idea to set aside a period like the International Geophysical Year, but dedicated to the exploration of the human being instead of the planetary system. It is more important at this time to know man than it is to know why the stars shine."

PRODUCTION WORKER ASKS MR. MARQUART ABOUT DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM

I have in front of me the Local 212 Voice. I was reading the educational director's article. I noticed the smooth words that he put in speaking of the AFL-CIO. I just wondered if he has forgotten the election that was held for the 16th convention delegates when the officers were defeated in a big way.

Immediately they got busy to stop the democratic way of voting and holding elections. They went about pulling a sham membership meeting, packing it with all the International representatives and everyone else they could get to vote their way—to change the by-laws so that the Green Slaters could direct the election the way they see fit. Is that democratic to your membership?

"SAFEGUARDING" OUR STRIKE FUND

Since Mr. Marquart made the statement that he would bet \$10 to a stale doughnut that the production workers don't know what is going on to safeguard our Union funds. There are thousands of us who would like to know what is being done with our fund and how it is handled.

For instance, our strike fund was taken out of our checks. It was \$15 per member. We would like to know where it was used or where it is.

Marquart says that in his next column he will explain how a democratic Union operates. The production worker members of Local 212, are asking him not to lie about it.

SLATE-ISM

We realize you have been appointed educational director, not elected, but let's see the facts. Let's see if you are a man or a mouse which is crawling around snooping for a job while undermining the democratic members.

Politics is all right in its place, but when the election is over and men's jobs are at stake, local officers and committeemen and chief stewards are supposed to lay politics aside and start representing the production workers and not slate-ism.

We are not specifying any slates. We see politics played every day with men's jobs, tie? You know about it. Let's see if you write about it.

—A Production Worker

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Unemployment and War Preparations

(Continued from Page 1)

that they won't get back into aircraft if they can help it. Their so-called prosperity depends only on war.

The American State Dept. uses Traverse City, Michigan, as a model small American city. Land and funds are available for industrial development. "We have not had a good nibble from any of the 2,000 prospects that we have contacted," says Merle Lutz, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Traverse City has a population of 18,500 which includes 11,500 workers, of whom 2,000 are unemployed. Thus 17 per cent of the workers of this typical American city are unemployed.

The construction industry shows new plant construction is off by 30 to 50 per cent. Architects and engineers, who had been in great demand, are now unemployed in large numbers. Skilled construction workers are working on short time. Despite the greatest road building program in history, the Caterpillar Tractor Co. which is the leading manufacturer of heavy construction equipment, has laid off 2,000 workers.

Unemployment in the coal fields is a scandal. (See "Coal and Its People," Page 2.)

Martin R. Gainsbrugh, Chief of the National Industrial Conference Board says, "We're not alarmed about it. The layoffs are a movement of employees from industries in which there is an excessive supply of workers and products to those with a short supply."

THE SOUTH AND ITS "CHEAP" LABOR

Louisville, Kentucky, is a Southern city which has been luring new plants with offers of cheap labor and low taxes. Plant, which accepted, like the General Electric Co. appliance division, are now in a slump and thousands are applying for relief.

The Daisy Air Rifle Co., of Plymouth, Michigan, is moving to Arkansas with the announcement that they can get labor for \$1 an hour cheaper there. General Motors, in announcing its new location in Georgia, stated that it would maintain "Southern traditions." This means full discrimination against Negroes and the Southern tradition of poor pay under bad conditions of labor.

U. S. RECESSION & WORLD CONDITIONS

Inflation is rampant in the United States, as it is in the rest of the world. Prices are rising faster than the income of the workers. Abroad the situation is even worse.

The average yearly income in France is \$730; in Great Britain it is \$774; in Belgium — \$790; in Adenauer's "prosperous" West Germany—\$510 (and this is supposed to represent the highest prosperity in West Europe); Holland—\$490; Italy—\$400. These countries constitute the so-

called advanced nations, with the highest standards of living in Europe. The average yearly income in China, India, Africa or Russia is too low to bear comparison.

SPUTNIKS, DEFENSE & LABOR BUREAUCRATS

Before the launching of Sputnik No. 1 the American economists had adopted an attitude that "a little depression would be a good thing for the country." Big Business, American capitalism, adopted a policy of driving the American standard of living downward by cutting wages and speedup; increasing productivity by means of more automatic machinery and the use of fewer workers. Government "investigations" of labor were aimed at tighter "right to work laws."

The launching of the second Russian earth satellite, on a scale even greater than anything now on the drawing boards of the Pentagon, is bound to cancel out any of the phony "economy measures" instituted by the Defense Dept.

The Russian Sputniks have changed the world outlook to the extent that it is now the Russians who have the initiative and who are forcing the Eisenhower administration to follow them along the path of expanded expenditures in the wasteful field of destructive research. It will affect science, education, and all government spending for years to come.

Walter Reuther has received wide publicity on his offer to "moderate" his demands on the auto companies if they in turn would reduce car prices by \$100. One worker said, "He is giving away something that is not his to give." This is even more true now that Walter Reuther is vying with the Administration as to who will "sacrifice" for defense.

While Reuther sells the workers short here, his counterpart in England, Bevan, has abandoned the pretense of a struggle for Socialism and stopped fighting H-Bomb tests. The new French Premier set as a condition for his accepting the job that he be granted dictatorial powers. Nowhere are the needs or desires of the workers even considered.

A depression as in the '30's may be averted in the United States today. But that does not mean that the American economy has "built-in" controls which will prevent large scale suffering. Already there are thousands of cases where unemployment insurance has been "used up" and workers are back on relief. If the conditions get too bad, the administration will resort to World War III to bolster the economy and divert attention from the economic situation.

One worker summed it up, "It makes me sick to my stomach. The only way that Washington can solve the problem of unemployment is to prepare for a new world war."

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

REFUGEE CAMPS

Throughout Europe exist camps for refugees. Some have existed for over 20 years. Some started as camps to shelter Jews persecuted by Hitler, and stayed in business to shelter refugees from Stalin. The ranks were swelled by thousands after the Hungarian Revolution.

The fact that startles is, there are children in these camps who were born there, and have now reached "teen age status", all within the barbed wire of the camps.

Are these youth to marry, have children in turn, and live out their lives all within a camp? Is the world indifferent to their fate? These are the concentration camps of the so-called "Free World", not Russia's.

RUSSIA & THE MISSING WAR PRISONERS

A bird brought a message. A white breasted stilt plover, which flies from Arctic Siberia to Africa each year. To its leg was attached a message: "Many messages but no hope. For 13 years we have been working in the mines. These men have slit eyes. One dies like a dog. We are in the Polar Arctic. We are 300 soldiers from Salara, Friuli, Verona, Padua, Rovigo."

The Italian government tested the paper and found it to be of Russian origin and considered the message authentic.

Over 800,000 German soldiers are also still listed as "missing". The Italians claim that thousands of Italians are held, like these men, in enforced labor camps in Russia.

Russia has made great scientific advances, but, be they 10 times as great as they are, they are nothing if the conditions of labor for the masses grow worse rather than

better. The conditions of the workers now are no better than during Tsarist times.

ENGLAND

In the British publication "Tribune," voice of Aneurin Bevan, appears a classified ad. It offers Shop Stewards and Committeemen "generous commissions" if they will induce the shop workers to buy their working clothes from the Lancashire Overall Supply Company. Apparently this concern knows who is out to make a little extra money and how to reach him. American capitalism, working through the subservient labor bureaucracy has never achieved such "cooperation" because the American workers would not stand for what Bevan, the "left winger," evidently considers an opportunity.

PORTUGAL

Dictator Salazar of Portugal has long enjoyed complete immunity from criticism in the American Press and has enjoyed the benefits of friendship with John Foster Dulles and his ilk in the State Dept.

Behind the false facade which he enjoys as an "anti-communist" and a "friend of America" lies a story of misery and corruption that would not exist without American support of his Fascist government.

Near Oporto, Portugal, a mere 50 yards off the main highway which tourists travel, lie the hovels of the people. They are about 4 feet high, made of old packing cases, strips of old iron, mud floors. In these the people live in conditions worse than the old cave men who were their ancestors. The bellies of the children swell out from their potato soup diet, they are more than

half naked, winter and summer, and the death rate is not published. It costs a native an 8 year prison term if he takes a "foreigner" into these slums which are owned and operated by the City Council of Oporto. 75% of the population, the peasants, live on an annual income of between \$140 and \$210 a year.

The salt miners receive the same wages that they did in 1926, while the price of salt has increased 12 times since then.

Who benefits from this Fascist regime? Number one is the Catholic Church. The Jesuits own and control the hydroelectric power industry; the Dominicans, driven out of the Inquisition business by the Marquis of Pombal, own a large slice of the concrete business. The Cardinal of Lisbon owns a substantial interest in the textile industry.

The Catholic Church is the largest stockholder in Portuguese industry. One Cabinet Minister has \$4 million deposited in Swiss banks.

Laws have been established by Salazar which have abolished all civil liberties, and persecution of individuals has become legalized. All political parties, except the one in power, have been abolished. Who votes? In the district of Moscavide, out of 866 names registered, 250 were priests, monks, nuns or lay brothers, 100 were members of Catholic Action and 50 were from a local religious college. This is but a sample of the type of priest-ridden community which exists throughout Portugal.

The police number over 100,000, twice the size of the army.

Liberal opposition exists underground in Portugal. They languish for the most part in Salazar's jails. But those still free have one plea. "All we ask from Britain and America is that, when the day of reckoning arrives, they will not come to Salazar's aid. Is it a lot to ask from the world's two greatest democracies?"

SOUTH AFRICA

The segregationist government of South Africa is facing a crisis by trying to reserve certain jobs in the garment industry for "whites only." The employers, who have evaded the government policy of "apartheid" (strict segregation) are now faced with the decision of paying higher wages to whites, which cuts into profits, or employing Africans and thus fighting the government's segregationist policies.

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