

# NEWS & LETTERS

'The Leap to Freedom Is from Necessity'

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## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### WHITE COLLAR WORKERS IN THE UAW

The situation is so tense in the shop today. Workers are wondering how long they can continue to go through this life of hardship from the company and from the union. The production workers, who were the main force in organizing and in building the UAW, are now the forgotten ones in the union. They are only used as a tool for the white collar workers and engineers.

Several years ago while we were working in the plant, some workers who go out for lunch came back with some daily papers with a headline that said that our local would go on strike within 24 hours if the company did not bargain satisfactorily on back grievances of the production workers. Every worker was amazed. They could not believe this. No one had heard that the International officers were bargaining on our grievances. We all knew we had many back grievances and for years workers had tried all they could to force the union officers to do something about them, with no success.

### PRODUCTION WORKERS USED

Many workers said, "OK, if we are striking to get grievances settled, I will be ready." The officers ordered the flying squadron to be ready one hour before the deadline. Then the daily press and radio announced that it was settled; that the company had agreed to terms. They had agreed to accept the office workers into Local 212, and the union agreed that all back grievances would be discussed later.

No worker has heard of one back grievance being taken up since that day. Many workers realize how they were used. The International union used our strength to force the company to put the office workers in our union—only to bring more money into the local treasury.

There has been for some time a resentment against the office workers on the part of the production workers. The office workers seem to be part of the company; they have always had a hostile attitude toward the production workers—a wish to separate from them.

### STRIKE WORSENS RELATIONS

A week ago the office or white collar workers, along with the engineers, called a strike that drove a deeper wedge between them and production workers. These are some of the reasons: every worker in production is yelling about speed-up, working conditions and intimidation. None of these confront the white collar workers and the engineers in the same way, and the union forces a contract down our throats without doing one thing on these situations.

The white collar workers and engineers are asking for more money. They want so much above these production workers, who struggled to build the union, while they walked through our picket lines thumbing their noses at us.

As a worker said, "They have been in our union three years, and all the benefits must go to them. In fact they seem to think they own this union and we are the forgotten fools that built it," he continued. "Not that I am against a big union with white collar workers and engineers when it is based on unity and solidarity for all its members. But not when they are in it as a separate unit. We have to struggle and try to solve our problems ourselves, but when it comes to them we must take part for them to get what they want."

The company also knows the production workers' attitude to them and to the white collar workers. The company sent every production worker a letter stating what the office worker's salary is and how much they are asking above the production worker's wages. Workers say this is an old trick of the company's to divide, conquer and rule, but many things are true in this letter.

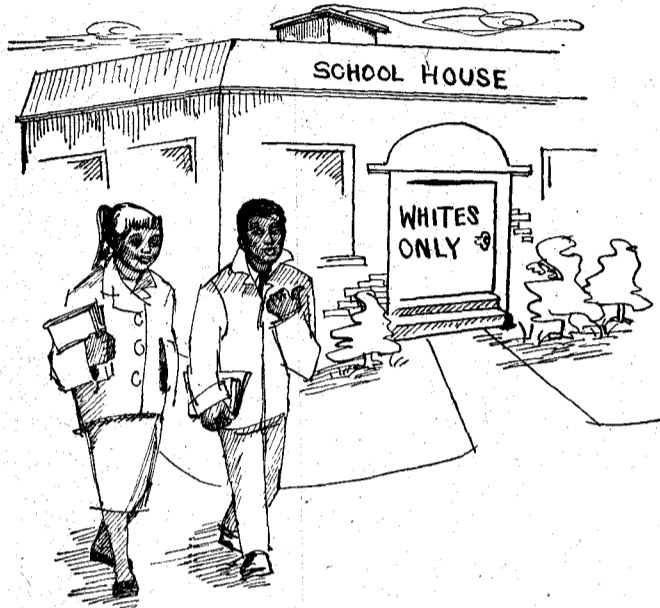
Another worker said, "We do not need the company to tell us about the white collar workers and engineers. We know about them ourselves. They look down on us, and all they can think about is how much more pay they should receive above the production workers. That is not the thing we are worried about. It is full employment, job security, working conditions, and grievance settlement here in the shop, or at the local level."

## EDUCATION BOWS TO WAR PLANS

BY ROBERT ELLERY

A Negro welder reared in Alabama told NEWS & LETTERS, "It's the most criminal thing in the world to keep an education from a person who wants to learn. The nearest high school for Negroes, where I lived, was so far away only the boys who rode a bread delivery truck could go."

A white Detroit teenager said, "Who needs school? I like hot rods, they can't teach me anything about them. The things I know about I know they don't know how to teach. So why should I believe they know the subjects I don't know? They seem more interested in having you obey rules than anything else."



"Let's Give This One a Try!"

What Johnny does know is that he is even more dissatisfied with education than the educators are with him.

The refusal of the Southern school system to desegregate and the failure of the government to do anything about it, has focused the attention on all in education. The launching of the first earth Satellites by the Russians instead of America, panicked government circles and the focus on education sharpened. The terrorist school bombings in the South and the pronouncements by the "experts" have kept alive the discussion on education.

Those who would like to see what the educational system has to offer are refused, and so many of those who are exposed to it don't want it. One out of every two youth that complete the 9th grade doesn't remain to finish high school, and the percentage of these that leave school because of financial pressure is small.

The problem of education is not solely a national one, but, like everything else today, has become a world problem. This was highlighted by the countless cries that the Russian educational system should be imitated.

### CHILD LABOR IN RUSSIA AND SATELLITES

Capitalism, private and state, has been unable to meet the simple problem of free public education for all. The Russian State, past masters at planning, never achieved it. Production dominates all else. There co-education is frowned on, the 6 day school week is the law, higher education is for the elite and now the "de-Stalinized" Khrushchev has reintroduced child labor.

All elementary school students will perform some measure of manual labor. After seven years of education all but the elite who go on to higher education, will work full time in the factories and on the farms, with the privilege of going to night school or taking a correspondence course if they have the energy to continue their education. Khrushchev's plan has been accepted as ideal by Mao's China and Gomulka's Poland.

East Germany has climbed on the bandwagon by forcing its 12 year olds into the factory one day a week.

Democratic England has not shed any light on the

(Continued on Page 8)

## NEGRO-WHITE RELATIONS

### Osage School Bombing

Scott's Run, W. Va. — The bombing of the Osage school, I believe, was done by outsiders, who were probably from the South, and trying to leave the impression that we are having integration problems here.

There was no reason for there to be any incidents here because before there was even a thought of integration of schools here in Osage, W. Va., the white people and the colored people were friends with each other. I guess the reason for this was that they lived in the same neighborhoods and worked for the same companies and were continuously around each other. In this way they could not help but to see each other as individual human beings instead of just two different races.

Since I have graduated from an integrated school, I know that sometimes there are small differences made. But I'm sure this will always be. I know also that these small differences cannot cause people to bomb a school that promises not one race, but all races an education.

—Negro Reader  
This has been under cover for a long time; the bombing is only an indication of it. There is a certain element around town which is violently opposed to integration.

Lay preacher  
Morgantown, W. Va.  
\* \* \*

It's true that the miner they are holding is prejudiced and a lot of people don't like him. But that's true of a lot of people around here. Only it's something else again to try to pin the bombing on him. I don't think he's smart enough to have done it.

Miner's Wife  
Osage, W. Va.

**BE SURE TO READ:**  
**THE WAY OF THE WORLD — PAGE 2**  
**General Strike in Italy — Page 3**  
**Automation Takes Toll — Page 3**

## COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

### Wildcats in Mine Area

## FIGHT FOR SENIORITY PRODUCING RESULTS

Morgantown, W. Va.—As was reported in the last issue of NEWS & LETTERS, the miners in northern W. Va. are engaged in a struggle to realize full seniority rights. Preliminary wildcats and mass meetings had set the stage for the District and International officers to negotiate such an agreement with the local coal operators.

### NO RESULTS LEAD TO WILDCATS

A temporary tactic of the District had been to leave the problem with the local management and mine committees to reach a solution. This tactic proved fruitless and time consuming. The lack of results prompted another wildcat strike, which stemmed from a local grievance over seniority at the Jamison No. 9 (Consol) mine.

A meeting was called by the District to be held at the Jamison local union hall to go over the problems, report on the present stage of negotiations and get the men back to work.

### NO AGREEMENT YET, BUT A CONCESSION

At the meeting, much time was consumed going over the particulars involved in the Jamison dispute. The discussion proved inconclusive and the men grew weary of discussing the problem of one mine—they were concerned with seniority in general which would pertain to the entire membership. The local dispute was returned for local settlement.

The District and International gave their reports on the stage of progress of their negotiations. They reported that there was still no agreement reached, and this was due to the unwillingness of the operators to agree to the provision the men wanted: that when a lay-off occurred, the oldest men at the mine in terms of service, regardless of their classification, would be retained. This meant that the men with the most seniority would be given an opportunity to learn a job that was available if they had never done it before.

The operators had made one concession, however. This was that they would agree to keep the oldest men provided they had done the work in a particular classification at one time at the mine. This would mean that seniority would be based on qualification, determined by previous service, and length of service, instead of classification and length of service. And while this offered more protection than had been the case with classification seniority, since most men have performed many jobs during their work in the mines, it was still short of the full seniority the men wanted, and which they firmly demanded.

### PRACTICAL MINERS, TO NEGOTIATE

One of the results of the meeting was that the three members of the policy committee, miners who worked in the mines, were to be included on the negotiating team. The motion to include the policy committee members came from the floor. In discussion, the men said that since these men worked in the mines, they would know conditions as they were and could answer some arguments that the operators might raise. The District and International officers, on the other hand, might know some formal arguments and some phases of the contract very well, but they did not know what it was to work in the mines and feel the daily pressures the men felt at work or the economic pressures the men felt at the time of lay-off. The District presented some weak arguments against the proposal, but the motion passed unanimously.

### WILDCAT LEADS TO ONE AGREEMENT

Since then, there has been another wildcat strike. This strike arose over a lay-off at the Four States mine, of the Rochester Fuel and Coke Co. The District and International had told the men at the last mass meeting at Monongah, during the early stages of the dispute, that the operators were not considering a lay-off and would hold off such action until the seniority dispute was settled.

The miners at Four States were immediately joined by Consol miners in the area in sympathy. The district was immediately on the scene and a local agreement on seniority based on qualification and length of service at the mine was signed.

### MEN ARE FORCE FOR HUMAN PROGRESS

The negotiations are now being conducted with coal operators' associations, and latest reports indicate that a national, as well as a regional, agreement is in the making.

The men have again demonstrated that they are the possessors of both the ideas and the means to translate these ideas into reality. The idea was a simple one, based on human considerations: the job protection for the oldest men at a mine. The means they employed was the chief weapon in their arsenal—the strike, in opposition to both the coal operators, and initial opposition to their own representatives. The result is another step forward in terms of human progress.

### RECESSION IN W. VA.

Even before things got rough as they are now down here, the depression was so bad for some families that plenty of kids weren't going to school because they had no shoes. One young girl passed out in school and when they took her home they found out she had fainted from hunger. Her younger brothers and sisters not only had no food either, but had been kept home from school because they didn't even have clothes. The other families who lived on the same hill and who weren't much better off, chipped in with whatever spare clothes their families weren't actually wearing, to help them out. It's situations like this that make you want to scream at those who say that automation puts people out of work temporarily only.

Technician  
W. Va.

### Osage, W. Va. School Bombed

Osage, W. Va. — On the morning of November 10th, at approximately 2:15 a.m., a dynamite blast ripped through the Osage grammar school. The explosion left in its wake a twisted and shattered wreckage which had provided educational facilities for some 400 children, mostly sons and daughters of coal miners.

Schools in general were integrated in this area some four years ago, immediately following the Supreme Court decision. In this particular school, of some 400 students, approximately 95 are Negroes. The transition from segregated to integrated education was effected smoothly; no incidents marked the transition.

### INTEGRATED COMMUNITY

Indeed, the community itself has been integrated for many, many years. The racial harmony which exists in the area is due in large measure to the common lives the people here have lived. Coal mining is the major source of employment for these people, and the colored and white have worked in the mines together for decades. They have fought, suffered and died together throughout their lives — in the early union organizing days fighting the coal operators, during bitter strike periods and in the daily hardships and common danger they face by simply working in the mines. In times of disaster, both physical and economic, there is no thought of color.

### RESIDENTS ANGERED

With this common history, the bombing was met with anger and indignation by the townspeople. Their immediate reaction was that it was the work of outsiders

## Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

### A LETTER FROM THE SOUTH

A letter was received from a man living in the South. It is printed below.

"The way to a new life for the poor white and the Negro people is a little tough but they will make it some how. Even if it means using guns and rifles, just as the so called bad white men do. Some say they don't mind dying, don't mind that is, until people start shooting back at them, and they have to start running as we have to.

"They talk about the poor whites disobeying and the Negroes disobeying law and order. The law and order that the rich and big leaders passed sometime ago, in the old days. The time has come to have some changes made in that law and order that looks as if it was made only for the Negro people to obey.

"Any kind of white person can go out and do anything against the Negro people and not be obeying the law the white man made for all people to go by. To go out and shoot and kill Negroes as the white man does means there is no law and order for the white man to go by here in America. Unless the Negroes make some kind of law and order against the whites like Governor Faubus of Arkansas, men like him will continue to make their own law. He makes his own law by running the schools in his state as he wants to.

"The President of the United States is not trying to do a thing about Faubus keeping children out of school, just because a few Negro children say that they are going to school just as sure as the state pays for the teachers.

"Things will have to change in the Negroes' favor somewhere down the road, if they continue to stick to-

gether and don't let the white people push them around. If the whites can fight for what they want the Negroes must do the same. If the whites change with the new ways of life why can't the Negro do likewise? Why should we stay in the same old shoes that our foreparents were in for years. We are going to have to fight back in a way they will understand so that our children can walk and talk in peace like the white people who think Negroes are not human beings."

### "NO GOOD CONTRACTS"

I understand what my friend is talking about. Walter Reuther is another hell cat in the ring with those low down Southerners who think Negroes should never be free. Reuther thinks the working people should never go against him for none of the crazy things he does such as signing those no good contracts. They are for the worker to go by just so the company can treat him good.

Reuther has found that he has made the biggest mistake in the world by selling out the worker. Now he is afraid to go out of his offices because he has messed up the contract.

### BIRMINGHAM BOYCOTT

The truth about the Birmingham bus boycott is that they waited so long to get started but they will make it as long as they stick together and fight. They will make their way as bright as the Negroes of Montgomery who walked their way to freedom. The only thing I hate is that it did not take place at the same time throughout the whole state of Alabama so that it could have made the way to a new life, a better tomorrow.

## The Meaning of Liberty

"Liberty is meaningless, where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist . . . There can be no right of speech where any man, however lifted up, or however old, is overawed by force and compelled to suppress his honest sentiments . . . When a man is allowed to speak because he is rich and powerful, it aggravates the crime of denying the right to the poor and humble. . . ."

"A man's right to speak does not depend upon where he was born or upon his color. The simple quality of manhood is the solid basis of the right—and there let it rest forever."

—Frederick Douglass

trying to create the impression that there are strong racial tensions.

### INVESTIGATION PRODUCES "SUSPECT"

The FBI, 20 strong, and local authorities launched an immediate "vigorous investigation" of the remains of the school building and quizzed local townspeople to try to find some clues. In the course of the investigation, it was discovered that some dynamite and detonating cable had been stolen from a local mine and it was assumed to have been used to set off the blast. Several suspects were

rounded up and one of them is being held for further questioning. He is a white miner who has recently been laid off. He was booked on a charge of vagrancy by the mayor of Osage and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The mayor was immediately put under fire for his action, and by way of explanation said that the FBI had told him that they wanted the miner held for further questioning. The miner's clothing was sent to FBI laboratories for examination which revealed nothing incriminating. The miner has denied any knowledge of the bombing.

## Automation Toll In Steel, Rubber, Auto

Millions of workers who are now out of work will remain out of work. Even if production picks up, it will not mean that very many workers will get back their jobs in basic industries. Automation has killed their jobs for good.

Take, as an example, the steel industry. When production in June dropped to 61.6 per cent of capacity employment dropped from 153,000 to 117,000. When production recently climbed back to 70 per cent, only 34,000 men were rehired.

As for the rubber industry, 96,000 workers were needed to produce 87 million tires. Now it takes only 83,000 workers to produce 110 million tires.

The auto industry is hardest hit of all. The Chrysler Corporation is now employing 70,000 as against 140,000 in 1955 when Automation first came to stay. The Ford Motor Co. now employs 106,000 as compared with 134,000 when they began the 1958 model. 25,000 fewer workers are now employed by GM than were last fall. Even the official estimates admit that on an overall basis more than 150,000 of the presently 420,000 unemployed in the state of Michi-

gan will remain permanently unemployed.

### UNEMPLOYED DEMONSTRATE

Unemployed workers demonstrated in front of Solidarity House, the UAW International headquarters, and at plants that are scheduling and working overtime despite the tremendous number of unemployed. They stopped production at Chrysler, De Soto, Plymouth and Dodge.

The closeness of workers in other industries than auto is seen in the following letter:

These demonstrations by the unemployed have a lot more in them than the papers tell you about. I know I am from a different union than these UAW workers who are out of work. Yet even the Executive Board of this AFL Local 566 of the Sheet Metal Workers said we would absolutely not cross those picket lines. So you can see that it is much deeper than it looks. Somewhere there is a key that will unlock a new mass development. You can see that from the fact that some workers said of NEWS & LETTERS "It is a tremendous news organ. It tells our side of the story but where do we go from here?" The workers want action.

AFL worker  
Detroit

## RETIRED WORKERS ARE PAWNS BETWEEN REUTHER AND CHRYSLER

The biggest day in a worker's life is the day on which he retires, no more to face the problems of everyday production, the bossing of the foreman, getting up early in the morning not knowing from hour to hour if he is employed or facing the poorhouse. Such is the life of a worker approaching the age of 65.

One such man, employed by the Chrysler Corp., had reached his 65th birthday and, having notified the company of his intention to retire, followed the usual procedures in such a case. He came in to work, dressed in his best clothes, ready to walk around all day shaking the hands of his fellow workers, bidding them good-bye, accepting the gift that they had all contributed to. Such a moment is, for the worker, something that he has spent 20 to 35 years looking forward to.

### ORDERED TO WORK

At the Chrysler Factory where this man worked, he was doing just these things when his foreman walked up to him and said, "I was ordered to tell you that if you want to get paid for today, you will have to work." The old man said, "I have put 30 years of my life into this work and I am not working on my 65th birthday. I am retiring today. I do not have my work clothes with me and I do not think that I would work if I had them."

The workers in Local 212 who heard the conversation were so mad that they rushed the foreman. One worker asked him, "How low can one human being get toward another?" The foreman said, "It is not my idea, the superintendent told me to ask the old man to work for the rest of the month."

With the present "Reuther Contract" the company has the right to either retire a worker or to demand that he continue to work, decisions of "company policy" being a field that Reuther has left to the company where it concerns the workers' welfare, instead of its being the prime concern of the union as in the past contracts.

The old man said, "Tell them that they can fire me if they like, call plant protection and throw me out, otherwise I will be here until quitting time."

The other workers standing around said, "You say the word and no one will lay a hand on you." The foreman walked away to report to his boss and the worker remained for the rest of the day.

Reuther has recently issued a "white paper" from his little "White House" that he is all through bargaining for those who are already retired.

## General Strike Threatened In Italy

### Italian Trains Halted by Strike

On November 25th railways in Italy ground to a halt as the railway workers began a 24-hour nationwide strike on Government-owned railroads. Premier Fanfani called an emergency cabinet meeting to try to halt the wave of strikes. He cannot blame the conditions on "Communists" since conditions are so bad that the anti-Communist unions joined with the Communist-Socialist controlled General Confederation of Labor (CGIL).

In addition to railroad workers, the post office, telephone, telegraph, shipping, dock, and state employes, including gasoline refinery workers and even newspaper reporters, are threatening strike.

Wages have remained stationary while cost of living index has continued a steady climb in the past two years. The official rise is 8 percent. The workers are asking a 10 percent rise in salaries and pensions as well as an escalator clause which would give them automatic wage rises as the price index rose. An indication of the extreme disgust of all with the conditions there is seen in the Rome Press Association's decision to strike "as soon as possible and without notice."

A coast-wide merchant marine strike was called to protest the placing in drydock of two liners whose crews asked for higher wages and were fired. Italy's largest seamen's union decided to hold a day-long strike but no date has been set. But already some vessels bound for South America have been hit by walkouts in Genoa.

1,200,000 Government workers are involved. If joined by other workers, as presently planned, it would mean the entire economy would come to a halt. The mood of the Italian workers is uncompromising, but whether the trade union leadership will come crawling to Premier Fanfani is anybody's guess.

A salary paid in 1939 must, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes, pay 100% more today in order that the salary have the purchasing power it had in 1939. In addition, if there had not been an aggregate increase of 37% since 1939, then the employee had not shared in the growing productivity of America to which he and millions of other Americans have contributed. And on top of that, if there had not been sufficient increase to account for the 25% increase in taxes, then the salary is still behind where it should be merely in terms of increases in productivity and increased costs.

## The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

### DO YOU REMEMBER THE 5 MILLION

(Continued from  
Previous Issue)

When Sandra was taken to a German concentration camp she had to work in a munitions plant. It seems we should be aware of the realities of a concentration camp, but lest we forget...

The women were separated from the men. The section that Sandra was in was overseered by a woman. Every day she would go to the barracks to choose some women for the gas chambers. Sandra used to hide as much as she could. The "boss lady" coined the name of "mouse" for her.

### "STAFF" OF LIFE

The biggest problems beside dodging the sadistic guards was to get food. Many of the women would let the guards do what they willed so as to get some food from them. Their main staple was soup (hot water) and bread, for which they had to stand on line many hours. Sometimes, Sandra said, in the middle of winter the matron would call them out to stand in the cold for hours before breakfast.

Their one thought was to keep alive from day to day, and in trying to get food they were often shot. She described marches that took place, the memory of such a thing as a turnip lying at the side of the road, someone stooping to pick it up to eat just to be shot dead, is still very vivid.

### THE MUNITIONS PLANT

In the munitions plant she and another girl had to carry 100 pound sacks from floor to floor. One of her earliest and most horrifying experiences was to find the cut-off fingers of a worker on the previous shift, still in the machine.

The factory had military guards all over. The prisoners were not allowed to talk to each other or to the German workers. However the German workers would bring in food to pass on to the prisoners. Being caught at this meant death for all involved.

Sandra was in the concentration camp until she was

17 years old. She still wonders how she escaped the sadistic matron and the gas chamber.

### A NEW LIFE?

When she was freed she was sent to Sweden where she lived with another girl in dormitory-like fashion near the factories in which she worked.

During the few years before coming to this country she worked hard to get girls to go to Israel and also gave much of her money. She thought she would be going to Israel some day, however when that day arrived she chose not to go. She had found out that if you did not have friends or relatives in the city to help you you remained on the collective farms and she had had enough of "collective" living. When she got married she and her husband decided to come to the United States. A Jewish organization sponsored them and they arrived to face a new but not so different problem, that of being Jewish and finding work in American factories. After months they finally landed factory jobs that did not pay very well but that they were happy to have. She always used to say to me, "Don't think this country is so different."

Between the ages of 11 and 17 Sandra witnessed some of the most horrifying crimes of men. Men out for power, with power men backing them up. Today this power struggle goes on at an even more terrifying pace. It's more than a decade since Hitler, weapons are 100 fold more powerful and no spot on earth is outside of this circle of destruction.

Yet how can those holding these weapons assume that the people of the world will let civilization's doom take place. The desire to live is too strong in people the world around. No brain washing can erase this. People are looking, searching, stretching and finding that the answers lie in their own thinking and their own doing.

## "RIGHT TO WORK" LAW PHONEY

The Right-to-Work issue in the California elections was taken up by a lot of big money. I talked to a lot of people on it, teachers and people who were not acquainted with the union movement. They would ask me, "What does the average union man feel about this Right-to-Work Law that they tell us so much about on T.V. and radio? Does he want the right to belong or not to belong to the union?"

My only answer to them was to quote the articles in the newspapers where G.E., So. Calif. Edison Co., and Standard Oil Co. all came out in favor of it and said it would "protect the working-man's rights to

belong to the union, to elect his officers and to keep them in line." You just have to sit down and analyze—it seems awfully strange to me that G.E., So. Calif. Edison Co., and Standard Oil would pay millions of dollars in advertising to protect my rights as a union man!

While on the other hand it is not so strange that the unions themselves should spend money to protect my rights, simply because they were representing me. It's very easy to decide which way to vote, just look at who is for the issue and who is against it.

Union Man  
Los Angeles

**EDITORIALS**

**NEGROES FIGHT SOUTHERN BARBARISM**

A boycott is developing to end segregated buses in the city of Birmingham, Ala. In an attempt to break this movement, the Southern representatives of "law and order" entered the home of Rev. Shuttleworth, a leader of this movement, and arrested three ministers from Montgomery, Ala. who were visiting him, on the charges of "vagrancy."

**Far from breaking the boycott, the Negroes have deepened it with their resolute determination to do away with segregated buses in Birmingham as they did in Montgomery two years ago.**

**TURNING THE CLOCK BACK**

The Southern whites, on the other hand, are so determined to move the clock backwards that they are even cutting out education for their own children.

Unable, by threats and violence, to prevent the brave Negro children from attending Little Rock's Central High School, the white "lawmakers" outlawed free public education there. The result is that 40% of Little Rock's white children are getting no schooling at all, while the others, who go to the private schools, are bored, disgusted and thoroughly dissatisfied. All know that the private schools are a stupid mockery of educational facilities.

**THE SOUTHERN WAY OF LIFE**

The latest case of white racist stupidity occurred in Monroe, N. C. There, two little boys, age 8 and 9, were sentenced in secret trial to indefinite imprisonment in the state reformatory two days after a little white girl was supposed to have kissed one of them. The Negro children just happen to be the same age as the children of Robert F. Williams of the same southern community who has sued to seek the admission of his children to public school. His children have been threatened with mutilation and death.

**This is the "Southern way of life" that the President is temporizing with. This is what encourages the white supremacists in their desperate attempts to hold the clock back. A child could tell the Commander-in-Chief that depraved acts such as imprisonment of eight year olds for "kissing" are not a measure of strength of the white supremacists, but of their weakness.**

As of November's end, a telegram of protest from Williams to President Eisenhower remained unanswered while the president was busy playing golf on segregated golf links in Georgia.

**ELECTION AFTERTHOUGHTS**

The decisive defeat of the so-called "right to work" laws in the industrial states was the outstanding achievement of the recent elections. Where that law had been railroaded through previously, like Indiana, the workers turned out to defeat the leaders associated with that law. The workers voted into oblivion Republican leaders who made that the issue of the campaign—like William Knowland in California, and Bricker in Ohio.

In industrial Michigan, hardest hit by the layoffs, workers slapped down the Republican slate which openly campaigned on the platform of attracting new industry by disciplining labor and forcing workers to be "cheap and contented" in the manner of the Democratic South.

On the national scene, not only have the Southern Democrats passed "right to work" laws in their home States, but even the so-called liberal Northern Democrats are committed to a more subtle far-reaching form of labor control under the guise of "cleaning up" the unions.

Democrats who interpret the Democratic sweep as a vote for their "party" better remember that the Truman victory in 1948 did not keep the workers from turning against "the party" when it turned to war. Just as the Korean War meant the end of Democratic hold on the electorate, so the workers presently repudiated the brink of war international policies of the Republican administration. The new in the present elections was the notice the workers served to both parties on the questions of labor laws and war policies.

**Readers'**

**NEGRO STRUGGLE**

Even if someone around here did the bombing, it is still true that the influence was from the outside. It all started with that Faubus business and the fact that nothing was done about him or the others that have started this bombing business.

Miner  
Scott's Run, W. Va.  
\* \* \*

They're holding that miner on a charge of vagrancy and they say it's because he doesn't have a job. If that is the case, most of the miners around here either are now or have been vagrants in the past few months.

Miner  
Osage, W. Va.  
\* \* \*

It's the work of outsiders. No one around here feels that strongly against Negroes. Someone wants to cause trouble.

Engineering Student  
W. Va. University  
\* \* \*

I saw an interview on TV of an ex-member of the Little Rock School Board, who is running again. He said he's the only member that hires Negroes as clerks, and he wants to help the Negro people, he donates to Negro colleges, etc.

He said he wanted to comply with the Supreme Court, but that in order for Negro children to get an education they must first "qualify." That is, they must first pass a medical examination, and second pass an I.Q. test. Then he said that he didn't think Negro children would pass because they are inferior.

Disgusted  
Los Angeles  
\* \* \*

**LEADERS & RANKS**

Ken Morris, an International Representative, has a record of having caused more stoppages and of having led more wildcat strikes than anyone in the local, when he was just a worker. Today, as an International Rep. he is saying that one of the reasons they had to accept the contract is that Chrysler used the workers in Local 212 as something separate and apart from the rest of the Chrysler plants. He called Local 212, "The old Briggs workers." He said that the management was able to point out to the other local presidents that the working conditions the "Old Briggs workers" have are much better than the other plants. The hold back in reaching an agreement on the contract was that the Representatives of Local 212 didn't want their members to work as the members of other locals were working. This, he said, divided the local

officers of 212 and the officers of the other locals.

In previous years the position of all these local officers was to fight for the best working conditions possible. Many times they used Local 212 contracts as their model, now they have turned everything around, trying to drag Local 212 down to the low working conditions of the other locals of Chrysler, Ford and G.M.

Now isn't that a shame—after all the fighting we did to get good working conditions, the company is back calling the cards in their sweat shops.

An Old Briggs Man  
Detroit  
\* \* \*

Chrysler Corporation has passed out summons to 23 of the unemployed workers who have been demonstrating in front of its plants that are working overtime. These men have to appear at the new City County Building for a hearing on December 5. I think everyone that can, should go down in support of these guys.

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit  
\* \* \*

Ike has issued a call to "fumigate the unions." Now, it is understandable that he detects a bad smell in his nostrils, as we all do, but investigation would show that it comes from within his own administration rather than from the unions.

We know what's wrong with the unions and we are the ones who will root it out. We don't need the help of either the military or Dulles, who seems to have his hands full. We will take care of our own troubles.

Union Man  
Detroit  
\* \* \*

**ELECTION VIEWS**

I think one of the reasons for the victory of the Democratic Party in California was the little gathering in Washington D.C., where I guess Mr. Knight was told that he was going to run for Senator because they'd already picked the man who was going to run for Governor, Knowland.

I was just waiting to see what kind of a man Knight would be under these circumstances. The thing that definitely proved to me that Knight was "macaroni spined," as Mrs. Knowland put it, was that I couldn't see that Knight should run for Senator just because the Republican Party had the man picked out who was going to run for Governor. I would have liked for Knight to have said, "Well, I think we should vote on it. Knowland can run for Governor and so will I, and then the Republican Party can nominate either of us." That way

they would have both been on the primary ballot. And too, I think that Knowland's stand in favor of the Right-to-Work Law really killed the Republican Party in California.

Employed Voter  
Los Angeles  
\* \* \*

I think the Recession has caused a restlessness among people. I know a lot of voters who didn't vote for the Republicans or the Democrats as parties. They just went down the ballot and voted against the incumbent, no matter what party he belonged to. They wanted a change and they figured any change would be better than what has been in the past.

Voter  
Los Angeles  
\* \* \*

**MARIAN ANDERSON**

**Did you notice the statement of Marian Anderson at the United Nations when she read the official United States government's position against a special session on the Cameroons? She said, "Like many of the representatives, I am a member of an instructed delegation, and we are here to carry out what is wanted; otherwise we would not be here." It was a brave thing to do to show her opposition, but the question remains why should she represent the imperialist position of America and Britain and France, who have kept the Negroes in Africa in subjection for centuries?**

Reader  
New York  
\* \* \*

The Edison Co. sent a letter to its employees listing its expenses for the past year and saying how bad things are now with expenses mounting and profits falling off. The letter said the biggest expense is wages.

I guess they think we don't know how to read, because about a month later they published an article in a magazine called "Electrical World," which said that they have made more profit in the first 9 months of 1958 than they made in the entire year of 1957.

Edison Co. Worker  
Los Angeles  
\* \* \*

About 3 weeks ago I gave a Negro man directions on how to find a certain street. A white boy, apparently just up from the South, came up to me and demanded to know why I was talking to a Negro man. I told him that it wasn't any of his business.

He told me how he hated "that race of people" and even more so "the white people who loved them." I told him that was his privilege but not to

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Charles Denby ..... Editor  
I. Rogers ..... Managing Editor

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# Views

talk to me about it. The argument ended up in a fight.

What I don't understand is how he can feel like that in the first place and then be foolish enough to pick a fight in a Negro neighborhood.

White Teenager  
Detroit

## STUDENT VIEWS

About three or four weeks ago there was a big stir at UCLA. There are a group of girls who act as hostesses at school functions on campus and at dances etc. There are Negro girls in this group. When the Florida team came to UCLA, UCLA took the Negro girls out of the group and sent only the white girls to hostess the dance so that "the boys on the team wouldn't be offended."

There was a great deal of reaction against this by the students, who weren't informed of this until it was too late. But the fact was accomplished and there was nothing they could do.

UCLA Student  
Los Angeles

I don't think education today is very realistic. Too many things are never brought up. Both students and teachers feel restricted as to what they can say. I read that in Northern California the teachers passed a resolution not to repeat anything students say in class to possible employers, to encourage students to feel free to speak in class.

Student  
Los Angeles

The other day I was talking with some of my colleagues at the school where I teach. These women make about \$4,700 for 10 months work and have husbands in executive positions. They all have maids. They were surprised to learn that I do all my own work around the house without any help, teach all day, and help my husband through school.

One woman said about her salary, "It's pretty good, but of course you couldn't live on it." How do they think workers live? What about those who are unemployed? It seems that in the suburbs these questions are never raised.

Woman Teacher  
Detroit

## LIKES EDITORIAL

I was very impressed with the Editorial, "The Planned Recession" in the October 28 issue. Depressions and Recessions are always presented as "acts of God," that no one can foresee or help. It reminded me of an article I read on a Negro cowboy

picture which is being made now. It said that during the Reconstruction a Negro cowboy had no trouble getting a drink in a bar, he simply went in with his guns on and was served. The article stated that the reason it doesn't appear in the history books is that there were no Negroes around to write it up and the whites were not going to do it. I feel that way about the articles on the Recession, if no one wrote it up, it would still be "an act of God."

Stevadore  
Los Angeles

## DISPUTES EDITORIAL

How does this Recession differ from the Recessions in '47 or '53? If this one was "planned" were the other two "planned" also? And if not, why not? I question the word "planned" because Capitalism has always meant "planlessness" to me.

I bet that if you look back at '47 or '53 Recessions you'll find that a lot of companies all cancelled their orders within a short period of time. They did it because they couldn't see enough profit in expanding.

Skilled Worker  
Los Angeles

## EDITOR REPLYS

How can you say capitalism means "planlessness" when ever since the Great Depression there was not a country from Russia to Nazi Germany and from "free enterprise" America to "feudal" Japan that did not come up with a Plan of its own? Depression and recessions, however, always catch the capitalists by surprise, although they are the ones who bring them on, and aggravate them by the cancelling of orders as well as the more important ways of stopping investments and laying off workers. What, however, made this present recession truly planned was the fact that ever since the New Deal there are so-called "built-in measures" such as public works, price control, etc. to see that it doesn't get to the level of a full-scale depression that might threaten the whole system. Eisenhower refused to use these "built-in stabilizers." His Economic Council of Advisers, furthermore, stressed inflation, which they did nothing to

stop in any case, as the "greater danger." Finally **BUSINESS WEEK** and other magazines of the big corporations were urging all industry to take advantage of Automation machinery to create an unemployed army with which they hoped to beat down organized labor. In 1947 that was not so because labor was very militant and open in its defiance and was helped by the returning GIs. In 1953 Truman did say some unemployment was 'good' for the country but that so boomeranged that the recession did not have the planned character this one had and still has.

—EDITOR

## DISPUTES DOCTOR

I usually like M. D.'s views but I'm not so sure I like them last month. It is not for a doctor to take it into his head to withhold treatment for anyone. Condemned murderers receive treatment, and a doctor has no excuse for being judge, jury and executioner as M. D. implies.

I told someone that I hated our medical services under the state. If you want treatment, instead of slow torture, you have to pay for medical treatment in taxes and pay again privately. This person told me a lot of people commit suicide in America because they can't afford treatment, but that isn't true, is it?

V. T.  
Lancashire, England

## LIKES BOOK

Thank you very much for the books you sent me. **Indignant Heart** was very moving and deserves to be widely read. As to **Marxism and Freedom**, let me say that I think it is of great importance. This work, and Gillman's **Falling Rate of Profit**, are the most significant works on Marxism in 30 years. They have broken new ground, as it were, which will be developed as the situation of Soviet state capitalism becomes more apparent.

I do not see how Stalinism can be explained except on the basis of state capitalism. In this respect Dunayevskaya has exposed the myth that there is Marxism in the Communist party.

New Reader  
London, England

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# TWO WORLDS

## AMERICAN SOCIALISM AND EUGENE V. DEBS

by Ray Dunayevskaya,  
author of **MARXISM AND FREEDOM**

This month socialists are celebrating the 103rd anniversary of the birth of the American Socialist, Eugene Victor Debs. Like the Communists who try to hide behind the name of Karl Marx although they have transformed that theory of liberation into the practice of enslavement, the Socialists use the name of Debs to cover up their compromise with capitalism. The praise of this native revolutionary is strictly for memorial purposes only, as if the new society for which Debs had given his life will come to be without the type of revolutionary struggles Debs had to carry out in his days.

Eugene Victor Debs had been a militant trade union leader. It was during the great Pullman strike in 1894 that he was convinced to socialism. When the Federal troops were called out to put down that strike, he wrote: "In the gleam of every bayonet and the flash of every rifle the class struggle was revealed. The capitalist class. The working class. The class struggle."

This is where the Socialists of today stop. It was only the beginning for Debs. His greatest development came with his opposition to World War I. Once again he found himself in prison, this time for his anti-war views. For the first time in American history a man in prison was selected to run for President. A million Americans voted for him. The problems that faced Debs when that "war to end all wars" only ended in a depression are still with us. It is only the Socialists who have changed, not the objective situation.

## LINK TO ABOLITIONISM

Debs was the direct link to the great Abolitionist movement. He was proud of the fact that when he was a young man he chaired a meeting for the Abolitionist leader, Wendell Phillips. Debs was then secretary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and in that capacity had invited the great orator of the Abolitionist movement to speak to his union. Phillips was then 70 years old, but still in the forefront of every social movement.

A new relationship of men to women was also first worked out in that movement to abolish slavery. From the first, women were active in the anti-slavery societies. The world anti-slavery movement forbade women's participation and this split the movement. The American Abolitionists not only welcomed their participation but some of them, in turn, became involved in the women's movement for their own rights. Frederick Douglass was among the first to come forward and champion the independent movement of women. It was he who chaired the first meeting of the Women Suffragist Movement when the women still felt they needed a man to chair their meeting.

The masthead of William Lloyd Garrison's **LIBERATOR** was: "Our country is the world—our countrymen are mankind." Finally just as in the struggle to abolish slavery, Wendell Phillips felt that true freedom could be achieved in the South only if the freed black men were made the basis of the new South, so now he felt that only labor itself, white and black, could reconstruct society on totally new, truly human beginnings. That vision Debs too saw and that need for a new society is still with us.

## THEORY AND PRACTICE

No doubt there were many ambiguities in Debs' behavior for he suffered from the greatest weakness of the American socialist movement—its lack of a theoretical grasp of the very ideas which are the basis of the movement.

For example: he had hailed the Russian Revolution of 1917 as "the greatest, most luminous and far-reaching achievement in the entire sweep of human history." At the same time he remained in the leadership of the Socialist Party which opposed the Russian Revolution. The fact that that workers' state has since become transformed into a state capitalist society does not excuse the socialists of today to whitewash "democratic" capitalism, and least of all does it give them the right to parade as "Debsians."

Debs had dedicated his life to the creation of a new society free of all tyranny, capitalist exploitation and war. There is no doubt that courage and struggle and dedication to a cause are insufficient for the creation of a new society. Without a totally new philosophy, such as Marxist Humanism, which unites practice with theory, philosophy with politics, the struggles lack the granite foundation for that vision of the future which becomes the unifying principle that assures final victory. But those who treat the struggles of the past as "history," instead of the future still striving to be born, besmirch rather than commemorate the name of that great American socialist, Eugene Victor Debs.

# YOUTH

## Thinking It Out

Robert Ellery

Two fellows in my department after working 8 hours in the shop, go to electronics school for seven more. They don't want to spend the rest of their life in the factory and they feel this is the way out. Neither of them have any particular interest in electronics but they are spurred on by the promise of steady work and the spectacular salary an electronics technician is supposed to be able to command. That is what education has come to mean to them. Prestige doesn't mean anything to them. It is simply the gimmick by which they expect to make more money, work in cleaner surroundings and do less physically fatiguing labor.

They brought back into the shop a story of the fantastic living possible in this electronic era. Members of the graduating class in their school were offered fabulous salaries to man radar stations, with 3 others, in some remote part of Alaska. It meant living a hermit's life for three years. These two fellow workers said they'd rather stay in the factory.

The government publicizes the desirability of education in the same manner. Radio and T.V. public service announcements drone repeatedly the hard cold facts that the more education you have the more money you will probably earn and they sup-

port the argument with the proper statistics.

The clincher that is used to inspire greater learning, finally, is that it is for national defence. It is imperative that we keep pace in nuclear weapons development, along with guided missiles and allied sciences. You will make money in this field. The question is however will you live to enjoy it.

### EDUCATION AND WORK

That is the shape of education today, but there is evidence of what it could be. Individuals have become torn apart. Work means just "more production." There can be very little interest in such work, but in the shop, when we get a chance to forget our bills, and worries and "money" we talk about everything. There is an interest shown in all kinds of diversified subjects—physical bodies, the universe, the seasons, morality, Shakespeare, medicine, religion, chemistry, geometry—I could go on and on.

These men are interested in knowing things about the world around them. Just as their labor is alienated from them so is education something apart from the ordinary person.

Certainly education could be far different from what it is. This however will be true only when the division between those that think and those that do the work no longer exists.

## L. A. Schools Crack Down

The Los Angeles School Board is beginning to crack down on 16-year-olds in order to be able to expel them more easily from school. The daily newspapers reported that the code governing discipline of students has not yet been changed, but is now to be enforced more often since there have "only" been three expulsions since the end of WWII. Most students are transferred to other schools for "social adjustment."

16-year-old pupils may be expelled for: habitual profanity or vulgarity, smoking on campus, theft, use, sale or possession of narcotics, use of alcohol, wilful disobedience, defiance of teachers, hazing, and membership in illegal clubs.

Spanking children is also quite legal, but Superintendent of schools Jarvis explained that it was not practiced widely, and only in the presence of the Principal or vice Principal. He admitted that spanking and paddling had not helped.

The article also stated that the teachers or principal would keep a dossier on students who are to be expelled, to use as evidence so that the parents can have little or no grounds to contest the decision.

### FACULTY TO BECOME POLICE FORCE

These rules prove to me that our public schools are far more interested in disciplining students than in educating them. In order to discipline them more "efficiently," the faculty is to become a police force along with having the powers of a judge and jury. It also looks to me to be a method of getting rid of as many students as possible. Since 16 years old is the minimum schooling that the state requires, the Board of Education evidently feels that schooling should not be "wasted" on students who are not going to go to college to become our American Sputnik makers.

### DETROIT SCHOOLS ARE FIRETRAPS

The Citizens Advisory Committee on School Needs issued a report this week on the condition of the buildings of the Detroit School Board. They found that at least 38 of them were "combustible" apt to catch fire

and that 52 were unfit for students. Not one of the 270 schools has adequate grounds around it according to national standards.

The condemned schools were found to have too little fire protection equipment, poor sanitation facilities, wooden stairways, poor heating, inadequate classrooms etc.

## COLLEGES DON'T TEACH IDEAS

LOS ANGELES—I picked up the issue on China in the school library the other day. It seemed to point out some of the things that haven't seemed right to me. It is hard to get any ideas in school. There are controversies discussed, but always within the bounds of what we're being taught. For instance, a controversy about the distinctions between Nixon and Ike.

News and Letters pointed out that in a world with so many manifestations of problems, there must be something basically wrong. Somewhere it said something about a "sick society." In school they try to deal with each problem separately, like integration, but no one ever gets down to really explaining why there are so many problems in our world.

College Student  
Los Angeles

### Think for Yourself?

When a friend of mine was a college student he decided that he wanted to finish his education in Europe. He found that he couldn't leave the country without the permission of his draft board, as he hadn't yet been in the service, so he went before them to ask their permission.

The board asked him if there was anything wrong with the colleges in this country, and he replied that there wasn't, but that he simply wanted to go to Europe to study. When the board informed him that the best colleges in the world were in the U.S.A. he replied that he didn't want to argue the point, he only wished to go to Europe to be able to see for himself. They denied him permission.

He quit school in disgust and joined the service, and as he put it, "Three years of my life were torn out and thrown away." He is out of the service now and is again a student, but in the U.S.

### Coal Town School

A friend of mine who is teaching in West Virginia and in a one-room schoolhouse for the first time said it was one of the most awful experiences of her life. She is learning plenty, but she said that the majority of the kids in her class come to school so hungry that she can't understand how they can learn anything.

She is supposed to collect money from them for their books, but wants to know how do you collect money from families who don't have enough to feed their children? That is not an unusual experience, for the little unemployed coal community she teaches in has hundreds of counterparts all over this state.  
Committee Member  
W. Va.

## YOU CAN BE SURE IF IT'S WESTINGHOUSE

Los Angeles — There has been a lot of talk about utilization of Atomic energy for peaceful means. A young woman was telling me that where she works, she is terrified all the time because of the circulars she sees being put out on the danger of these missiles. This young woman said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could use that energy for peaceful means, like the reactor at Shippingburg, Pa., which supplies the electricity for a whole city?"

Another friend who was listening to this conversation said, "Yes, that's why

my father, who's a miner, lost his job. He used to work in the mine that supplied the electricity for that city."

### "FIRST WITH THE FUTURE"

Later on that evening, I saw "Studio One," sponsored by "You can be sure if it's Westinghouse." The sponsor informed us that they are "First with the Future," in producing the Polaris Missile that can destroy the enemy in no time flat. These are the wonders of science. Then they proceeded to give us statistics on how short we will be of workers, and since they are "First with the Future," they are building automatic factories.

## LONDON LETTER

### BRITISH PAPER OBJECTS

TRIBUNE, LONDON, ENGLAND

I note in your issue of Oct. 28th, 1958 that your London Correspondent says he sent a letter to the "so-called Labour paper TRIBUNE," and that the editor of the paper "did not have the guts to publish it."

The particular subject with which he was dealing was his allegation that a Labour Party official had told him that six West Indian workers were barred from entry to the Labour Party because they came from "a bad area."

Your London Correspondent—who reveals his identity only with the initials J. Y.—must, I am afraid, be mistaken. He may have sent his letter to some other newspaper. He certainly did not send the letter to this newspaper. Nor would it—had it arrived—have been suppressed, if he could give full details of the name of the official in the Labour Party who refused to admit six West Indian workers.

In the circumstances, I must ask you to publish a retraction of the story, unless your London Correspondent is willing to give more details and prove the point he makes.

Mr. J. Y. says that he is a member of the Labour Party. I am also a member of the Labour Party and I have no hesitation in signing my name at the bottom of the letter because what he alleges is totally against Labour Party policy and something which I have no doubt is untrue. Your correspondent has no doubt read the Labour Party statement on race relationships, which was passed at the Labour Party Conference. He knows that the next Labour Government is committed to legislation outlawing the colour bar and making outcroppings of racial intolerance illegal in this country.

It has further stated that it is opposed to deportation, even of criminal elements, who are coloured. There are many individual matters on which the TRIBUNE might find itself at odds with the official Labour Party line. The stand of the Labour Party on this matter is one which we certainly find ourselves in full sympathy with.

I would be obliged if you would publish this letter in the next issue of your paper and send me a copy.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Clements

Editor's Note: Because the above letter from the TRIBUNE arrived as we went to press, there was not time to communicate with our London correspondent, in whose integrity we have every confidence. "J. Y.'s" answer will therefore appear in the next issue. The choice of initials rather than full name is ours, not that of our correspondent. We do that as a matter of course to protect our worker-correspondents from persecution by management and the labor bureaucracy in this country.

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## A SCOTTISH WORKER'S STORY

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

### A Chapter In Autobiography

by James Douglas

(Continued From Previous Issue)

But life in a working class community has its compensations even under the most difficult circumstances. My mother would sit around the fire with my brother and me during the long winter evenings and read the comic and satirical poems of Robert Burns. In later years when we were older—and when social conditions were more tolerable—she read his revolutionary and political poems to us. But at that time life was far too serious for serious poems or stories. She would also read the stories of Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson; and she'd often draw on her own store of folk stories concerning our national heroes and martyrs. So by reading Burns, Dickens and Stevenson during these terribly wretched years she helped to lift us out of our drab and dreary world. That is why I am reluctant to criticise Dickens today, though I think he is bourgeois through and through. Robert Burns is still our family idol; for he, more than any other poet, expresses the common man's aspirations for a new and happier society. So that it is not for nothing that he occupies a special place in the heart of the Scottish working class.

I sometimes think that Robert Burns was "responsible" for my lack of respect—and lack of fear—for authority in any shape or form. When my mother read "Holly Willie's Prayer" and "An Address to the Deil" we knew that Rab Burns was poking fun at the devil himself. This led me to question the very foundations of the Protestant religion. I wanted to know why the working and middle class people had different pews in our Church. Why were not working people able to sit in the front pews beside the local gentry if we were, as the minister said, "all equal in the eyes of God." Thus was the conception of class distinction driven into my consciousness by the pillars of our community.

God had to know the answers to my questions. How could God help knowing? Wasn't He all powerful? But he failed to answer my questions. Moreover he failed to do anything for our community materially. "Man cannot live by bread alone," says the Bible; yet he cannot live without it. The inability or unwillingness of God to give us bread lost him at least one hitherto supporter.

In 1937 my father left the railway and went to work in the docks. For the first few months after this our standard of living was higher than ever before. Then the ships failed to come in; and down went our standard of living. Now my mother and father would argue with each other constantly. She'd shout: "Why don't you go out and look for work?" (She jokes about this now; but it was no joke at the time.) She really knew that he was not to blame; but she had to blame someone. Unfortunately for my father, he happened to be closest to her. Thus did the capitalist system wreck havoc on human relations. So I decided that I'd again pin my faith to God. But then I wondered why God would not give my father work. If only my father could get work perhaps my mother and father would not argue so much. Perhaps they would even be happy again. Such is the faith of a working class child. Nevertheless their God—the God of the local gentry—did not respond to my prayers. Then I began to doubt the existence of God all over again. After torturing myself and my mother—and anyone who would listen to me—I came to the firm conclusion that there was no God anywhere. After that I worked on my brother for the next 13 years before I finally convinced him that God was a myth of primitive man kept alive by the bourgeoisie. I am afraid that I have not yet won him over to Socialism; but then he comes to conclusions less quickly than I do.

(Continued in Next Issue)

## DeGaulle France

What I like about American reporters is the care with which they report on what is happening in Paris now that their new favorite, DeGaulle, is rushing to introduce fascism.

Thus all the headlines presently speak about how great the Gaullist vote, and that it will have no less than 180 seats in the next "Parliament." What they fail to add is that the Communist Party actually got the biggest popular vote — 18.9%. Out of such a vote they will have 20 representatives. DeGaulle's new party, Union for the New Republic, with 17.6 percent have six-fold that representation. That is DeGaulle's type of democracy. The Socialist Party drew 15.5%, Independents 13.7% and Catholic Popular Republicans 9.1%.

In a word, even now after months and months of gerrymandering following counter-revolutionary terror, the De Gaullist is actually a minority party.

Disgusted Parisian  
In New York

## Mixed Neighborhoods Are Here to Stay

Having lived happily in one for four years, I'm convinced that mixed neighborhoods are here to stay. When we arrived in Detroit, some white acquaintances — I won't call them friends — tried to scare us with the familiar lies that the Negroes are "taking over," that they would resent our moving in beside them, and that we should live with whites only. After telling them off, we moved into a flat that exactly suited us. There is a large, all-white apartment building across the street and flats and houses occupied mostly by Negroes on our side. Although the whites are stand-offish, the Negroes have been universally friendly to us, especially the family downstairs. By contrast, our acquaintances in the all-white suburb constantly complain of fights with their neighbors.

### "NEGROES' CAUSE IS HUMANITY'S"

Those riots in Levittown, Pa., over the first Negro family there demonstrate the desperation, futility and inhumanity of the segregationists. The fact that the second Negro family moved in there without incident proves that when Negroes show they are there to stay, the segregationists wither, and people learn to live together.

I would not blame Negroes for resenting white neighbors after having struggled against the whole white world for every freedom. Instead, they welcome whites who will live beside them peacefully as equals. Why? Because they know, I think, that the William J. Levitts and Mayor Hubbards are fighting a losing battle against humanity and that the Negroes' cause is humanity's.

—White Detroiter

## A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

### THE UNITY OF LIFE AND WORK

The unit of life is the single cell. This is a microscopic particle of gelatinous material surrounded by a membrane and composed of the elements carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. Characteristic of all life is the ability to react with its surroundings—to work—thereby changing its size, shape and direction of motion. When over the hundreds of thousands of past years cells multiplied and joined to create larger new forms of life there developed special organs with which to maintain contact with the environment. What had once been the functions of the single cell wall became the work of thread-like filaments—nerves—in special organs which responded to light, sound, odor, taste, touch, heat, cold, pain and motion, and brought information into a central clearing house—the brain. Those forms of life that most effectively responded to what was going on about them survived and prospered.

The well being of all animal life, the highest form in existence, also is dependent on contact between the environment and the central control area which is the granary of knowledge not only of the individual but of the species. Knowledge from past generations has left a pattern in the storehouse, which we call instinct. The function of our special senses, our hands, eyes and ears is to gather information from the outside which can fuse the past with the present. Through this union of practice and intellect, a two way stream, the animal is able to truly live.

### ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

Nature will not tolerate, and deals harshly with, any organ or part of the body unable to carry on the work of this communication. Thus a hand with nerves cut so that it cannot use its fingers shrinks and deforms to a useless tool, even though it receives as much food as before. A lung unable to expand through paralysis of the diaphragm shrinks to a small useless mass. When a neck is broken, as from a dive into a shallow pool, and the spinal cord crushed, the greater part of the body below the injury becomes paralyzed and even shrinks. The reverse is also true. Where it is necessary for an organ to do extra work it will increase in size. In surgery, I have seen patients with bowel obstruction whose intestines above the point of obstruction enlarged and thickened with the work of overcoming the obstruction. I have seen a liver, which lost one half of its mass following a tumor operation, regain its original size under the influence of body need. In each instance the labor of the organ determines its state of health.

From time to time I see patients who are reluctant to return to their jobs after an illness or after surgery. Occasionally the efforts of one of them for time off reminds me of the acute fear of a GI leaving a hospital during World War II to return to active duty. Often these patients are willing to sacrifice very high wages.

What is clearly evident about most of these patients is that they do not enjoy their work. Many detest it. In janitor, shirtmaker, file clerk, typist, salesgirl, punchpress operator, TV assembly line worker as well as auto assembly line worker common symptoms appear. Their day's labor has drained them of energy and done something to disturb them. It doesn't seem to have given them anything. There is no sense of accomplishment; only of stagnation. This stagnation, which comes from a separation of the mental and physical aspects of the worker, is of the same nature that leads to atrophy and death of an organ.

Human work is meant to be a coordinated harmonious activity of the whole body; a necessity freely entered into with full approval and direction of the central clearing house. Only through this kind of work can man unite the experience of the past with the problems at hand, and increase his own stature. Thus, work can be the unifier and developer of the whole human being. It is this work that made him a man and it is similar activity that will keep him human. But just as a part of the body dies when internal communication is severed, so does the whole individual wither when the work he performs does not involve full use of his communication and free access to the storehouse of knowledge and judgment.

### WORK AND CREATIVITY

Work then, should be synonymous with the development of the individual's powers, for only in this way can it be a creative act. Under the method of labor so common today work is a mutilation of human activity. Only that part of a man used to run a machine is encouraged, the rest is ignored and even suppressed. Such abnormal use of human life stems from present day society which looks upon man merely as one of the machines in a factory; a maker of commodities. Labor power is separated from the laborer; and human needs are governed by capitalist need to pay the laborer the minimum and extract from him the maximum. It is fortunate that there exists in man the awareness—the deep consciousness—of the sickness and death that flows from such abnormal kind of work. It is the opposition to such labor that is his wisdom.

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### EDUCATION BOWS TO WAR PLANS

(Continued from Page 1)

path to free education for all either. The barriers that separate the classes remain virtually unshakable. The British Labor Party remains undecided on what attitude it should take to privately owned schools.

Opposition elements have suggested that the National Committee's pussy footing is due to the fact that so many of the big wheels have children in attendance at these schools.

In their drive toward all out war, both poles of world capital, Russia and America, are straining to revamp the educational institutions to prepare for it. The guided missile has become the criterion of cultural achievements.

#### DETROIT STUDY AND NATIONAL PROBLEM

In Detroit, after a year and a half of research the self-styled "Citizens Advisory Committee on School Needs," made a report to the Board of Education through its sub-committee on curriculum studies. The sub-committee was composed of such citizens as the widow of an ex-mayor of Detroit, bank vice-president, and school officials together with George Romney, president of American Motors, and the AMC vice-president in charge of industrial relations.

No doubt these citizens had no problem in deciding what kind of curriculum should be meted out to the children of auto workers. Their suggestions were the usual ones and similar to those proposed by educational experts like Dr. Conant who will publish his study of American secondary schools at the end of the year, but in the meantime advises us regularly over TV that our brighter students should study mathematics and the natural sciences. Prosaic subjects like music, art, philosophy can be shunted aside.

All the propaganda makes it quite clear that the "experts" feel hamstrung by the fact that we call ourselves a Democracy and are committed to educate all. They always leap to consider the elite, the "brighter students," the top 20%. They plan for them.

**For the rest the attitude is, keep them off the streets and out of trouble. But even the top 20% have little to look forward to.**

The Russians have no monopoly on brain washing when a man like Robert Oppenheimer can go around lecturing the youth of this country on what a "free" exciting field science is, after he fell victim to thought control for failing to champion development of the H-bomb. He must really think the youth are backward and take no notice of what is happening in the world.

**Academic freedom in this country is a joke. The professors don't have any more than the students, but the professors are**

more easily domesticated.

The scientist who has anything to say about the dangers of radiation fall-out is gagged, "Pure Science," if it ever existed, is a thing of the past. Everything is classified as one kind of secret or another. Free scientific inquiry has been trod over by the MVD and the FBI.

#### WORKERS & NEGROES FREE EDUCATION

Free Public Education got its start in this country in 1829. It was not freely dispensed by educators but fought for by the labor organizations of New York and Philadelphia.

The educators offered staunch resistance, reasoning that if every one concerned himself with being educated there would be no one left to work in the factories.

Free Public Education in the South was unknown until the end of the Civil War and here it was the freed Negro slave who was the prime mover.

Negroes who had been educated in the North went down South to teach. The Abolitionists answered the demands of the freedmen and provided all the teachers they could.

Ironically, a great many of the Southern States that now bar the Negro from educational facilities owe the founding of their school systems to the Negro legislatures that existed during the Reconstruction period and sought to provide free education for all, black and white alike.

#### THE ROLE OF THE GI

The American GI accomplished a miraculous educational feat during World War II. Millions of men ripped up from their lives trained to myriads of different jobs, became "ambassadors" the world round, not so much for the State Department but for the real America. They taught and they learned. Farmers, mechanics, laborers compared notes: the boldest student exchange program ever. Scarcely a language remains intact.

Barrier after barrier was broken down within the Army itself and outside. It took the most horrifying war man has yet known to create the conditions. It provides evidence of the capabilities of man and that our thought on education need not be cramped by current forms.

New avenues of education will open up only when the common man clears the way himself, breaking down the separation between mental and manual labor and searching out the new in his quest for freedom and a greater expansion of his human facilities.

That is so in the South. Today even the great majority of Negro schools in the South are controlled at the top by whites.

The only ones who are going to change the situation in the South are the Negroes

#### HUNGARY

It is now two years since the heroic Hungarian Revolution against communist tyranny was put down under the weight of 10 divisions of Russian tanks. There are those who say it did little good, but they are either blind or stupid.

It showed above all the capacity of an oppressed working class to triumph, even, if for a brief period over the armed might of Russian Military power. It showed the organizational forms which the working class created spontaneously to manage their factories and their government.

It gave the lie to the "sympathy" the United Nations and the American State Department claimed, without providing a single gun or bullet to fight off the Russian tanks.

It exposed for all time, the faint hearted liberals and radicals who maintained that it could never be done, that the working class is fated to suffer in silence.

The creation of Workers' Councils remains the high point of the development the world over of the form of self-rule by men taking their destiny into their own hands.

#### BERLIN

The current crisis in Berlin brought on by the Russian threat to withdraw from the city, is nothing but another stage in the cold war. At stake is not Berlin, but the future of Germany and the balance of power in all Europe.

Neither Russia or the United States State Department is ready to sign a final peace treaty which would unify Germany or to hold free elections in the unified country. The longer the situation continues, the more difficult will be its final solution.

The provocative talk in the American press of using tanks to escort trucks to Berlin could lead to a shooting war, which neither side seems to want at this time. It will be used as an issue to make propaganda by both sides in order to get concessions on other fronts. There will be no real settlement without a unified free Germany.

themselves. The issue of education is not an abstract one and is not quiescent. The Courts have shown they have no intentions whatsoever of implementing the desegregation ruling.

One Negro member of a Detroit P-TA told News & Letters, "I don't know what they mean when they say the Civil War is over, it's just beginning."

## Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

#### JORDAN

The American taxpayer has shelled out over \$75 million over the last two years to keep the bankrupt Kingdom of Jordan from falling apart at the seams. The money has been used to keep the playboy King Hussein in new aircraft, support the hundreds of his servants in the Royal court, buy sports cars and other expensive toys. His army of over 30,000 men uses American arms to keep the starving people in submission but is unable to stop the crises of the Arab economy.

The joint development of the River Jordan with Israel, which would in a great measure help feed the people of both countries, remains a dead issue.

Meanwhile, Arab good will for the U.S.A. has been rented, not bought, for the duration of continued American funds.

#### ALGERIA

The DeGaulle government has used the guillotine to chop off the heads of Aouiffi Mohamed ben Mohamed and Aouiffi Mohamed ben Bashir, brothers in the struggle for Algerian freedom. This brings to over 150 the number killed in this way since the struggle began. The Algerians demand the status of prisoners of war for those captured in the fighting and maintain that France refuses to abide by the rules of war laid down by the International Red Cross.

The Algerians have consistently refused to have any part of De Gaulle's schemes for Algeria. Their position is shown in the following slogans of the M.N.A. "De Gaulle's plebiscite and the constitution of the Fifth Republic are the concerns solely of the French." "The Algerians will not vote for or against but continue their struggle for: Self Determination, Elections controlled by UNO, Democratic Government, a just social system."

#### FRANCE

DeGaulle will meet his first defeat in the elections for new members of the Chamber of Deputies. The Algerians are refusing to be candidates and are boycotting the elections. Even liberal Frenchmen like Jacques Chevalier, former Mayor of Algeria, have with-

drawn from the election and charged that the elections are rigged up by the French Army. The De Gaulle election campaign in Algeria is under the supervision of the army's Psychological Warfare Branch in order to "condition" the voters.

So powerful is the Algerian nationalist movement that the candidates know that they will not live to take their offices if they dare to get elected.

#### INDONESIA

The 85 million people of Indonesia are facing a rice shortage. When that occurs the government must spend \$100 million to import 750,000 tons of rice. Such a situation leaves nothing for badly needed improvements in the economy of the country.

The result so far is, that there are 6 million supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party, the largest outside of China in the far east.

#### GHANA

There is trouble in Ghana, the new Negro Republic formerly the Gold Coast. Nkrumah's strong arm man, Minister of Interior Krobo Edusei, used truckloads of policemen in midnight raids which arrested 43 people including the entire executive committee of the opposition party.

Edusei was asked to explain himself. He said, "The job of the politician is to uproot his enemies. Others who are involved in the plot have not been arrested but will be, one by one." He announced that they would be kept in jail for five years and anyone visiting them more than four times would be given a cell of his own. Asked what would he do if the people resisted him he said, "I would have brought out my armoured cars and slaughtered them like hell."

This was too much for Nkrumah. He fired him and took over the job himself.

There has been much talk of scandals, corruption and waste in the Nkrumah regime. Recently a \$25,000 statue was erected to him and there is talk of him buying the largest yacht in Europe. The British put it off as "growing pains" and voted to buy him a \$3,500 chair for his new parliament building.

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