

DISCUSSION
BULLETIN 5

REPORTS ON THE PAPER

NEWS & LETTERS

MAY 1956

2511

2 5 1 2

EDITOR'S REPORT

What the Paper Has Accomplished

This is the paper we have put out for 17 issues. Time and work and everything else has gone into it. Everyone will see it's a completely different paper from any other they have read. The tremendous amount of learning and feeling I have got out of the paper -- not only as editor, but in referring back to articles -- could have come from no place else because this is a Marxist paper with the right understanding for workers of politics and society. I'm sure if we weren't Marxists and didn't have the right understanding, the paper would have been nothing. Full credit must be given to this from the point of view of the improvement from #1 to #17. This tremendous improvement has taken place regardless of all the obstacles.

As editor, I hope for a paper hundreds of thousands of workers will want to read, not only in the shop but all over. We have come pretty far, but more has to be done to get that type of paper hundreds of thousands will want to read. I have been wrestling with my own thoughts to think what kind of paper we should have. It is not easy to state, one, two, three. The paper is part of all of us and each should express his ideas so we can collect all these thoughts into the kind of paper we want which expresses the working class.

First, I want to talk about what we have accomplished. Some may feel there is a separation between the paper and other works of the organization. But there is no separation and I can show that by concrete examples.

A few years ago, no one would have even thought that a worker like me would write, or could write an article; and the idea of a worker editing a paper would have been considered utopian. Now it's a reality. That is what this group has done, the organization and the paper in particular.

A few years ago, rank and file people had no knowledge or conception of writing, yet they have a profound grasp and conception that intellectuals can learn from. Both workers and intellectuals are in the paper because both point out the need for a new society and are trying to find the road to a new society.

That is the conception that runs through all the issues of the paper and is in all the work we do. If you read the book that is now coming out, you will find that parts of it have been written in the paper, especially those parts written by workers. I am saying this to show the relation of the paper with all the other works. It is a total part of the organization as a whole.

The Obstacles and Drawbacks

The paper hasn't yet come to the point where I feel it could be. We have come pretty far, but more has to be done. I don't mean the last four or five issues. I have no such hold-back on those. I mean the issues up to the point of the last four or five issues.

If we look from #1 to #17, we can see the terrific improvements in spite of the obstacles and drawbacks. But we have to look at what the obstacles and drawbacks were.

1) When almost a third of this group left, I felt uncertain about how we could continue, especially since two important columnists had left. But this didn't hurt the paper. No one has asked where is "Experiences & Expectations." No one has really missed Kegg's columns, though her columns were very good. It is a tribute to what a few can do when they have the understanding of Marxism.

2) I have often wondered, when an issue came out, how could it be so good? I wondered about it because it didn't seem to have had the amount of work done on it that such a paper requires. The work was done, but it wasn't always easy to see because there was often the strain of material not coming in. Material not coming in early enough and in enough abundance, means we can't study the material at length before sending it to the printer and we can't choose what is best but have to use whatever we have.

3) Another drawback to the paper has been the finances. If we don't have the finances to come out regularly, we can't develop the way we have to and we can't really see where we're going. We have to take this seriously and show that we are serious about our paper if we want others to be serious about it.

A Guide to Improving the Paper

One section of the paper stands out more than any other and that is the coal section. It is a model for the rest of the paper. It has more stories of what's happening, not only in the mine but in the beer parlor and in the home. They have also sent in more material for all the other sections of the paper than any other committee. That is because they are constantly seeing people and getting material from them and getting them to talk about material. This is a regular feature of participation. If we all can do this and get the material in, we can have a backlog so we can discuss and choose and help make it the kind of paper we want and the kind of paper hundreds of thousands will want to read.

I have gone through all the issues and selected material which impressed me most. If we could put all into one issue, I believe we'd see what kind of paper we want. There are many articles which I thought were very good, some were outstanding and all are worth discussing. But I will just select a few of each type to show what I mean.

"Workers Journal" in #14, for example, deals with the lay-offs the way a worker in the shop experiences them and #17 was a follow-up on the same subject which took it further because it comes out of the shop and the situation keeps getting more critical.

In #8, the WJ was on a wildcat which showed the gap between the leaders and the ranks and what the workers themselves are doing in the struggle against the bureaucracy and management. The same thing was developed again in #15, right out of today's experiences. From a different point, #9 WJ showed how the union has changed in ten years.

Every worker knows this, but the way it's shown in the paper, the worker can't read any place else. It shows that it's not only conversation but new ideas.

One of the most profound articles was WJ in #16, on how do the unions propose

to organize the deep South? This developed everything together: the self-activity of the Negroes and what it means to labor and the role of the bureaucracy against both. This article came so far because we have been seeing it develop for months. I have been reading in the Detroit papers about White Citizens Councils moving into Detroit and Highland Park. Mayor Hubbard of Dearborn says he's not joining because he has no race problems because he keeps Negroes out of Dearborn, but he wishes the WCC success where they are needed. We knew about this coming months before the Northern papers reported it because friends in Montgomery sent us clippings which reported Hubbard's statements when he communicated with the Montgomery Advertiser in support of the WCC.

In this connection, the editorial in #15, "Sham of Gradualism," is the finest I have read anywhere.

Something else our group has done, and it shows in the paper in particular, is the way rank and file people write their columns.

Take two columns by Ethel Dunbar in #13 and #14. The way she writes about the people as different from the talented tenth. The #14 column is directly about the talented tenth. It made me think of Nat King Cole and what he said after that attack in Alabama. The NAACP put pressure and he had to change real quick. See how different Dunbar's column is. Cole spoke only as an individual but from Dunbar you get the feeling of the people and how she separates the people from the leaders but at the same time you get how the people feel about their own organization. In #13, she shows how the people are different from the talented tenth who make gains from the struggles of the everyday people.

There is the other rank and filer, Angela Ferrano. What she wrote on automation is superior to anything written or said by Reuther or the capitalists on automation. There is a total difference in understanding and feeling and that's being used in the book.

There has been something missing in the Labor section, but many of the articles show the direction we have to work on. For example, in #1, "Strikes in the South"; in #3, "Foil Scabs at Willow Run"; in #7, "Chrysler Workers Ratify New Contract But Don't Like It"; in #9, "Auto Worker Makes Foreman Back Down." This made a great impression in my shop where a worker stuck it up on the board. In #15, "Worker Blames Leaders for Poor Inter-Union Support." In #17, we had the best section so far and all of the stories were very good. I just want to call attention to three of them: "The Detroit Milk Strike," which was something we haven't had before; "From GAW to SUB to NOTHING," which said everything that had to be said in a short space; and "Nine Fired for Boycott Prayer." When a steward came around trying to collect a buck for COPE, a worker showed him that last article and said, "You know all about politics and you want to educate me about all these things, now tell me about this." The steward didn't even ask the rest of the workers in that department for a dollar he just went away. The worker told me that's the kind of paper he wants to have on him all the time to back those guys down and make them answer the questions they want to dodge.

There are other articles I could name just as well, but these will show the different kinds of material we can get from ourselves and from the people we know on the outside. You can't read this kind of material any place else and this is the kind of material workers want to read and will want to read.

Next to the Coal section, the Negro section has been the best in the paper. The Negro struggle has been the sharpest and it shows in the paper if we pay close attention to what we are doing. I'll name some of the articles which show the different ways the self-activity of the Negroes is affecting this society. In #3, "Negroes Songs Make American Music"; In #4, "Letter From South Africa." In #7, "Police Abuse Mixed Couples." In #13, "Negroes and the AFL-CIO." In #14, "Eagle Eye." In #15, "Anti-Labor Law Used Against Boycotters." In #16, "Montgomery Protest Grips Nation." Also, little stories like "This White World," in #8.

The Youth section has had its own problems but there are some features that are very good. Ellery is terrific on youth in regards to war. His columns in #13 and #14 are different but they deal with the same thing: no matter where they are, youth today don't feel free because society as it is doesn't offer them anything. It made me think of my son and I just began to understand directly how youth needs the new society, which I always know in general. Some of the other articles which bring this out are: in #5, "Children in 1941 — Soldiers in 1951." In #8, "Students and Parents Oust Principal." In #14, "Russian Pupils Burn Record Annoy Pravda." And Ellery's latest column, in #17, on Rock 'n' Roll which the WCC and Northerners, both, have started a campaign against to keep the kids from mixing.

The Woman's section has seemed to me to be one of the weakest sections. Somehow it has been a very difficult section for those responsible. I think the difficulties in clarifying it at the early stage had a lot to do with this. It never rounded itself off in form and type of material. It seemed something was missing in regard to the kind of articles. But there have been some very good articles and I will name some of them to show what I am thinking: "Working a Full Time Job," in #5; "Just a Housewife," in #6; "Working on a Good Marriage," and "Sticking Out a Bad Marriage," in #7; "Life in a Miner's Family," in #8; "Stand Up for Yourself — Or Stop Complaining," in #16; "A Case of Rank Injustice," in #17. There have been others but not as many as there should have been.

"Two Worlds" and "World Outlook" are written by intellectuals. These columns are as important to the paper as those I've spent most time on in relation to workers understanding their own life. WO, in #16, was history, yet it meant so much to my life. In #1, the WO on the June 17th revolt is another example of the type of column that means a lot to me.

Among the "Two Worlds" columns that have been very important for me are: in #8, "Eugene Victor Debs: American Socialist." "Towards a New Unity of (#13) Theory and Practice," is one I read over twice and studied. "A Little Bit Mad," in #14, is another one. "Underground Ways," in #8, I thought was something new for the paper when it appeared. It took one comment from a woman on bourgeois society and brought out everything.

Most of our lead articles were very good, many of them were outstanding. Those that were most important to me were: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16. I won't name them all because you can check back in the issues of the paper. The three leads that were most outstanding were in #5, "Conflict Behind the Peace Talks"; #14, "American Economy in Human Terms"; #16, "Where Is Russia Going?"

We haven't had enough cartoons, but whenever we've had them, they have strengthened the paper. Some of the cartoons that stand out most in my mind are: the cartoons in the Woman's section, #1 and #2; the front page cartoon in #9; the cartoon on Negro leadership on p. 6 of #10; the cartoon on Eastland on p. 6 in #16.

I also want to mention that I always get a lot out of the MD column. Among those that impressed me most are: in #3, "The Social Nature of Illness"; in #8, "What Can I Do About It?"; in #15, "Reading Time — 3½ Minutes."

I also want to say that whenever we can we should have articles like "The Great World Series," which appeared in #9.

What We Will Have to Do

1) We will have to make sure that we can come out with a bi-weekly. That means we have to solve the problem of finances. It's a burden we can't overlook if we have to worry how the paper's coming out.

2) If we come out every two weeks, that means we have 26 issues a year. We must make sure that we cover what workers and intellectuals do. We must be sure to cover so many articles of the main areas — workers, Negroes, international, cartoons, etc. For example, we will want 50 articles on the self-activity of the workers in opposition to the bureaucracy and how far the bureaucracy has gone in opposition to the workers. Or, in 26 issues we must be sure to have another 50 articles, at least, on the way Negroes are struggling for their full rights and their difference from the talented tenth. Another example is, we must make sure to have, let us say, 26 articles on how working women are trying to face the problems in their daily life; and another 26 articles on youth, whether it's in relation to rock 'n' roll, or to the army, or in school.

3) The paper must deal with the everyday life of people which means it must be a way of life with every one of us. I always carry a copy with me because I always get in conversation with different people I meet and with the paper I can show them and discuss with them what I am thinking and doing. The way the Goal section is produced is the model I have in mind. We have to see "outsiders" and talk to them naturally about the material and send it in. Many times a conversation you have doesn't seem to be so important until it's printed and you can see it in relation to other articles. This is the way we will be able to get a steady flow of material, always on time, so we can discuss it fully before printing.

4) One thing I have missed, as editor, is not having an abundance of material. If there was an abundance of material, I'd be able to work on it and study it to the exclusion of everything else until I finished and stated my views on it. If I had done this and if I had been able to do this for the past nine months, it would have helped the paper.

Part of the fault is that I haven't been enough in the paper to go over each and every article and express myself on it. Part of the fault has been that not enough material has come in regularly enough for me to do this. That is something I will have to do and something each person in the committees will have to do. Every issue should have enough material — and more than enough — on time so I can absorb the paper totally before sending it to the printer. That's the type of editor the paper should have.

We have to see many on the outside and make the paper part of us. All the discussions that we have, personally and in the committees, must be presented so that we can make clear the total of what we are doing in putting out the paper. If we can round out our thoughts in relation to the future, we will come out with a paper hundreds and thousands will be glad to read, support and circulate. And it will be a paper which lives and grows by people coming in, writing in and bringing others in.

I left the international aspect for the last, not because it is the least important, but because I didn't want anyone to think that the problems we have to solve are anywhere but here.

We've all had experiences with the old radical organizations. They are so far away from the workers that whenever they think "nothing" is "happening" here, they start filling their pages with long articles and opinions about international affairs. We, on the other hand, never pretended to anything we didn't have. At the same time, we were most conscious of establishing genuine international relations and, most of all, of giving the American worker the feeling that America is not the beginning and end of everything. This is a big world that has an awful lot to contribute to us as we have to it.

I have never, in serious discussion, heard a worker say anything chauvinistic. When Reuther just came back from India, full of all kind of talk about Nehru, many workers were saying, "All he's doing is playing politics. At least if he'd come back and tell us something about the Indian workers and how they're doing. That's what we'd want to know about his trip to India."

I have heard a lot of workers pick out any article we did have about world events, especially if it was written by a worker of another country. I received more comments about the letter from South Africa than about any other article in that issue. The same was true of the letter from North Ireland.

When we translated "The Carrot and the Stick," from the Italian paper, I know I was thinking couldn't we get more of that kind of articles because it gave me a feeling about the Italian workers I could get from nowhere else. I'm sure that the European worker has felt the same about our paper.

You all got notices when the two Italian papers reprinted articles from News & Letters. Their emphasis on the type of paper we have, edited by a worker, shows they feel as much as we the importance of it and recognize that there is another voice in America than what they play over "Voice of America."

One thing we want to develop is a regular exchange. It was wonderful to have spontaneous reactions from as far away places as South Africa and Germany, but there is nothing to take the place of a feeling of worker solidarity that you can expect as regular as any of our columnists. That remains a job for us in the future.

You will see from this why I put this point last. It is because I wanted it to remain freshest in your memory when you discuss this bulletin.

May 1956

- Charles Denby

2 5 1 8

WHAT FORM FOR THE PAPER?

With the form of the paper, divided into sections, as it is at present, we have experienced an impressive development in content from #1 through #17. However, the problems we have met, over the last few months in particular, suggest that it is now necessary to develop a new form for the paper. A form which will express the impulses of ever deeper layers of the population so that the struggles and desires of workers in any part of the country are seen as part of, and deepened by, the struggles of Negroes for total integration, inseparably linked with the youth in revolt and women seeking to overcome the barriers which stand in the way of truly human relations in the new society.

In other words, we are looking for the universal form in the paper which will contain, reveal and develop the total class forces for the new society. First, I want to state briefly how the paper developed and where it came from. Then I will suggest a new form and layout for the consideration and discussion of the committees.

Where Does the Paper Come From?

Newspapers were first developed in this country to deepen and preserve the revolutionary opposition of the colonists against the tyranny of the English king. It was a new form embodying the new impulses of the revolutionary period and it became traditional.

It took on deeper development, 100 years later, in the Abolitionist paper, the Liberator. Here, the serious intellectual and the runaway slave came together in constant struggle for the emancipation of the Negro slave.

Now, still another century later, News & Letters is in direct line of this development.

* * * *

For 50 years, radical papers have appeared in America, calling for a better world in the name of the working class, as part of the international movement for the emancipation of the workers. These papers, edited by intellectuals, set out to "educate" the workers to their "true interests" and to confine the workers' struggles in the strait jacket of a party to lead the workers to the promised land through a plan for state control of industry.

Nowhere in these papers -- from the old International Socialist Review, before World War I, down to the Trotskyist papers today, does the worker speak for himself of his own needs; of his never-ending struggles against the labor bureaucracy and the management bureaucracy; of his own visions of the future and the new society to come. There is no point even to mention the Daily Worker as a worker's paper; since we all know it for what it is, a mouthpiece of the most totalitarian bureaucracy.

In 1951, we openly rejected what had become the standard form of radical paper. In what finally became News & Letters, for the first time in history, the American revolutionary tradition of newspapers came together with the international revolutionary traditions of workers striving for their freedom. Without Marxism, this would have been impossible.

- 2 -

Our First Experience.

For our age, Marxism is embedded, philosophically, in the Absolute Idea: "The self-determination in which the Idea alone is, is to hear itself speak." That is to say, the movement for the new society, for freedom, is to be found in the feeling, thinking and doing of the working class and nowhere else. Not only need no one else speak for them, but unless they speak for themselves, a new and more powerful bureaucracy will entrench itself and subjugate them on a vaster scale than before.

We decided, therefore, that the greatest thing we could do, would be to create and establish a workers paper where the everyday people could and would speak for themselves. There, in expressing their own thoughts and needs and in telling of their own actions, would be expressed the revolutionary strivings of our time linked with the revolutionary traditions of the past. This would call forth the best in all sections of society and, for the first time, would be the living link between worker and intellectual on the basis of the original creative ability, which only the worker has, to transform society on new beginnings.

It was an enormous advance simply to decide to publish such a paper. Actually to publish this workers paper meant that tremendous obstacles had to be overcome. The domination of the daily press (and the same is true of union papers as well as radical papers) means that "news" is taken to be the words and deeds of bureaucrats, whether in government, industry or labor, here or abroad.

For this newspaper, however, the words and deeds of workers, of everyday people, had to be the source of all news. And the people themselves their own reporters. For this, a worker had to be the editor of the paper and, another worker, Danby, became the chief columnist. His columns, as we all know, are models of writing for anybody. In News & Letters, he is not only front page columnist, but editor.

In the beginning, it was necessary that new writers develop and that the workers find confidence in their own ability to write as to make the news. To encourage this and to safeguard it, the paper was divided into sections, with each section, generally speaking, representing a powerful living force for the building of the new society: Labor, Negro, Women, Youth. A different committee undertook responsibility for the editing of each section and the function of the worker editor was to assemble all into a unified paper which, in his judgment, rank and file people would recognize and support as their own and through which they would keep in constant communication with each other.

One of the sections was the work of one committee which is deeply part of a miners' community. In "Coal & Its People" they write about anything and everything that concerns them and it has consistently been the best feature in the paper.

With this section form for the paper, the activities of the committees revolved around collecting, writing and editing the material for each issue. The rank and file people decided what to write, how to write it and how it should appear. It is the first time anything like this has taken place. From a narrow newspaper point of view, everyday people discovered that they could

2519

- 3 -

write. They discovered that in their everyday experiences, whether in the shop or in the school or in the corner store, news is made.

From this experience and knowledge our finest columnists had developed: Denby, Terrane, Dunbar, Ellery, H.D. From such experiences, we knew and felt that the paper would grow and the future form would develop. There was no precedent for a paper like this, but to guide us we had the living experience of workers illuminating and deepening the theory of Marxism.

However, with each committee organized and functioning to produce its own section, the enemy within revealed himself. Anti-Marxist elements within each committee began to regard their section as separate from and in opposition to the paper as a whole. They tried to turn generation against generation, housewife against worker both male and female, and intellectual against worker. Most strenuously they plotted against the paper being dominated by the feelings, desires and experiences -- and thought -- of the workers as the source of theory today. In the end, they seized and destroyed that paper which had been called Correspondence.

But the finest elements, worker and intellectual, who had started and developed with the paper, went on to establish News & Letters.

One Year of NEWS & LETTERS

Freed from the enemy, we felt that the new paper could now develop further as a workers paper with the form that we had first established. We kept most of the original sections because we were the people who had developed them. Experience brought new changes and developments. While the committees were still organized around writing, editing and producing separate sections, each actually wrote articles for all sections. Datelines in each section show that articles come from all the committees and, increasingly, from new readers.

However, after a number of issues of the paper in the present form of section breakdown, weakness in this form began to be felt both organizationally and editorially. Denby reports on this in detail. Many of the individual articles, as he points out, were very fine and new writers were developed. But in the various committees, periods of great activity in writing articles alternated with periods when few articles were written. As a result, the quality of the articles became very uneven, sometimes very good and sometimes very bad.

Since the paper was committed to the form of separate sections, with a given amount of space allocated to each, in practice it was often necessary to include material which in the editor's opinion was of inferior quality. This was particularly true with regard to the Labor, Youth and Women sections.

Looking at the paper now, it is obvious that the best articles overlap the sections. A few examples will show this. In #17, on page 3, is the story about nine Negro workers fired for punching out to pray for Montgomery on March 28th. It could just as well have appeared on page 6. It was put in the Labor section because it obviously strengthened that section. But it also suggests the present artificiality of maintaining such separate sections as page 3 and page 6.

2520

Or another example: When a working mother writes about the problems she faces with regard to her child's education, where does that belong? Labor? Youth? Women? Obviously, the editor's judgment plays a decisive role as to what page that article appears. But the present division of sections limits the freedom of judgment he must have.

Another example: "Life in a Miner's Family," appeared in the Women section. "Miners' Wives Aren't Scabs," appeared in the Coal section. Each could have appeared equally in either section. Both were written by the people responsible for the Coal section which revolves around the life and struggle of the miner and his family. This is the one section which indicates how future sections can develop: From the specific interests, experiences and needs of a given group of people. I'll come back to this point a little later.

Proposed Changes in the Form of the Paper

For now, I propose that we break down the present sections — Labor, Negro, Youth, Women — to allow the paper to develop more freely. Before I indicate the actual changes proposed, I think it is necessary first to state the deep reasons behind establishing these sections. In most concentrated form they motivated the Negro page. We insisted that there must be a separate Negro section in the paper to recognize and demonstrate, beyond any doubt, the fundamental importance of the independent Negro struggle. This was in open opposition to the theory and practice of the labor leadership and of the old radical parties who deny the importance of the Negroes' struggle unless it is part of, and subordinate to, their own narrow aims. It was also in opposition to the talented tenth and various liberals of all stripes and colors who pretend the problem doesn't exist because they are not directly affected by it, or who have experienced personal gains and improvements and so speak with the voice of the gradualists. The separate section was established also to create the physical space where Negroes would feel free to write whatever they wanted to write without interference by any white, however well-intentioned. As a result of this policy, it must be added, Dunbar developed her magnificent column.

Many serious Negroes, on first seeing the paper, have questioned us about the separate section, suspicious that it hides a form of segregation. Once it was explained, they accepted the explanation. By now, however, the principle and the practice are firmly established. At this stage also, particularly with Montgomery, the independent power of the Negro struggle has so permeated every relationship within this country, that it becomes an arbitrary choice where to put such articles in the paper.

The following proposals for changing the form, are very tentative and are subject to the fullest discussion in the committees and the convention will decide.

I propose that pages 1,4,5,8, remain as they are at present. The articles and columns which have appeared on these pages have been consistently good. The form which has developed in these pages has both the vitality and flexibility which both the articles and the paper as a whole need.

The changes involve pages 2,3,6,7, as follows:

p. 2 -- cols. 1,2,3: Coal & Its People as at present

p.3 -- cols. 4 & 5, top half, Dunbar
bottom half, Terrano

The columns in between for cartoons and articles arising from the self-activity of the deepest layers which have generally appeared hitherto on pages 3 and 6.

p. 5 -- cols. 1 & 2, top half, Ellery
bottom half, a woman's series

p. 6 -- cols. 4 & 5: M.D., same general length as now appears on p.2.

As a possibility, I suggest a new feature, tentatively called "Then & Now," to appear bottom half, col. 5, p. 6 and col. 1, p. 7. This to have such material as has sometimes appeared under the head "Experiences & Expectations." Other examples might be the article on Women and the Vote which appears on p. 8 in #17; or the type of article that appeared in World Outlook, # 16.

The rest of the columns on pages 6 & 7 for articles and cartoons as have appeared, for the most part, in the present pages 6 & 7.

To demonstrate exactly what is proposed, a paste-up copy of the paper is now being prepared in which articles selected by Denby from past issues will be laid out according to the above proposals.

There is always the danger, in changing the form as here proposed, that we will eliminate sections entirely. "Coal & Its People," suggests a safeguard and a method for the future development of the paper: When and if a group of people, who find their voice and interests in the paper, want to establish a section in which to discuss their specific relations and experiences in combination with others, the space be made available to them. These may be a group of Montgomery Negroes, or high school youth, or production workers, or a group of working mothers, and so forth. We can't predict how or when this will develop but it is necessary to anticipate and we should bear it firmly in mind.

There is another danger in changing the form as here suggested. The present sections, Labor, Negro, Youth, Women, name the prime human forces in the movement to the new society. Just having these signposts means that such articles have to be written. Whether good or bad, a minimum balance has to be maintained. With the broader form proposed here, while it makes possible greater freedom and deeper content, it also makes it possible for the easy writers and easy talkers to take over the paper. Unless we are vigilant, this is possible simply because each page has to be filled with material and that offers a wide choice.

This puts upon Denby the serious responsibility to see that each issue of the paper maintains the balance and direction which has built and distinguishes News & Letters. In turn, it puts upon the committees the responsibility to work ever more closely with the worker editor in the development of the paper. As he states in his report, this must be of constant concern to him and to each person in the committees to see "many on the outside" and make "the paper part of us...so that we can make clear the total of what we are doing in putting out the paper."

May 1956

-- Rorty

2522