

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Vote-Seekers vs. Human Rights

The American people are gearing their thoughts towards another Presidential election which will take place in 1956. They will choose the man to direct the affairs of this country and to protect the interests and right to justice of all people in America.

The Negro people, especially those below the Smith and Wessen line, cannot believe the President who is, or the one who will be elected next year, has any thought of protecting their interests and justice.

MURDERS BUT NO CONVICTIONS

Practically every week or two, the news flashes a story of another Negro murdered in the South. Mississippi is mainly the base. As yet we have not read or heard one news flash where there has been a single conviction of any whites who commit these crimes.

Very soon now, both the Democratic and Republican Party vote-seekers will be yelling to the world, to the American people and to the Negroes in particular, what their candidate stands for along the line of civil rights and human justice.

They will yell long and loud to the Negro Americans about their big legal victories, the Supreme Court decisions, but they will be as silent as a tomb about the death of those who were murdered by the reactionary white South to keep those laws from being enforced.

Their actions and the continuous crimes have put many of the so-called Negro leaders on a spot. The South, especially Mississippi, should have made them bow in shame wherever they go trying to sell democracy.

Congressman Charles Diggs, of Michigan, stated in a radio broadcast, that at the \$100 a plate dinner of the Democratic Party, an interview with Stevenson, Kefauver, Harriman and Michigan's Governor Williams revealed that all except Williams had taken a reactionary position on the question of integration.

GOOD CANDIDATES? BAD CANDIDATES?

All of these are potential candidates for the Presidency. If Governor Williams does not run, will the Negro leaders try to sell the Negro people these reactionaries? They are still Democrats. So is the South. How far and how long can the labor leaders and Negro leaders stand as a wall between the Negroes and those brutal murders in the South? How long can they play with the question at the expense of human lives?

They are using words that this fight must be looked upon as the fight for all minorities. Meany says the persecution is because some people have "darker skin." Any one knows the Negro people are at the bottom layer of American society. If or when they are fully integrated, with full freedom and protection, all other minorities will reap the fruits of the blessing and gains of the Negro American.

These tricky politicians are hoping they can evade the question, play around with it just enough to get Negro votes. The continuous pressing forward of the Negroes and the venomous back-lash of the frightful and dying South will not let one American forget it.

NEGROES PAY WITH THEIR LIVES

Negroes in the South are paying a dear price. They are paying on the installment plan with their lives for cash. No President elected seems to care enough about this to let the American people feel and see that law and order is to protect all people against tyranny. Or is it?

How easily these labor leaders go to the Middle East to try to sell democracy. How easily these Negro leaders go to Jerusalem to try to bring peace between foreign people. They come back home to be honored with a Nobel prize. But none of these can go, or be sent, to the South to say or do one thing in the interest of their own suffering citizens and race.

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Growing Crisis in the Middle East

At a recent lunchtime discussion in the shop, about the Middle East, everyone took it for granted that whatever the outcome of the present arms race there, neither the American people, nor those behind the Iron Curtain, nor the Arabs nor Jews of the Middle East, would benefit. All of the power politics was seen as a question of oil, military bases and trouble for the workingmen throughout the world and in the Middle East particularly.

The only road offered by the ruling groups in Israel and in the Arab States, is to divert the attention of the people from the real problems by maneuvering them into becoming pawns in the struggle for power between the United States and Russia.

ARABS AND JEWS

It is plain to anyone looking at the social structure of the Middle East, that the big landlords of the Arab states prey on the labor and misery of the Arab peasants and workers.

It is becoming increasingly clear, despite the propaganda which floods the United States, that Israel is not a workers paradise, but a place where the working people must fight for their rights.

THE EARLY STRUGGLE

For many, many years and particularly since Hitler's time, Israel had been the symbol for freedom from terror and murder for the tortured Jews of Nazism.

Though Hitler was the source of the terror, Great Britain was the actual enemy to be fought in the Middle East, a vital part of the British colonial empire, where Britain oppressed millions of Arabs in colonial servitude. As a result, the early Jewish struggles against British imperialism, in some cases actually gained the sympathy of the Arab masses and, at the very least, tended to neutralize them in spite of occasional outbreaks of Arab-Jewish hostility stimulated by the British through the Arab landlords who served them.

SUCCESS AND FAILURE

In 1948, after a bitter war in Palestine, with the Jewish people fighting and defeating British imperialism and its Arab tools, a section of Palestine was made into the new State of Israel. The bitterness created by this war has been exploited ever since by the ruling landlords and military class in the Arab states as a means of diverting attention from the poverty and misery in their own countries.

Israel's policies strengthened the landlords in their maneuvers, as did the fact that the Arab masses know there is an extreme right wing faction in Israel which, taking encouragement from official policy, presses for total domination of the Middle East.

(Continued on Back Page)

Below the

"Smith & Wesson" Line

I just don't understand those Southern whites. Every one of them that can afford it has to have a colored cook, a colored houseboy, a colored nurse and a colored chauffeur. They make sure they have colored all around them—cooking their food, cleaning their homes, driving their cars, nursing their children. But while they insist on having colored surround them, they still insist they don't want them with them.

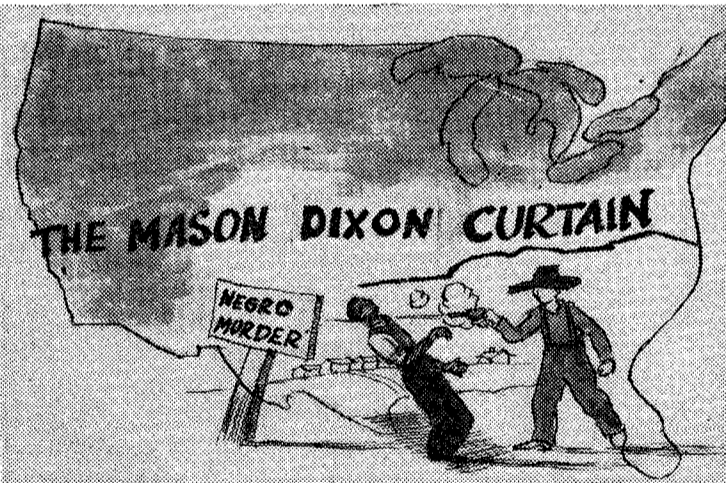
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We used to laugh at old Bilbo. It's a known fact that while he had three white wives, the only wom-

an that gave him any children was a colored woman. He raised his three colored children and educated them and gave them everything. He wouldn't stand for any man, white or colored to even look straight at his colored woman.

He made sure that when he was home, he was surrounded by colored. But when he got to Washington, he'd make speeches about wanting to whip every n—r and send them back to Africa. It sure doesn't make much sense.

Miner
West Virginia



Here's a part of what's going on down South. Most of the farmers and sharecroppers I know made a terrific crop last season. But the shortage of labor—especially Negro workers leaving the land—left those crops just spoiling in the fields. One white farmer went so far as telling Negro families they'd share half the crop if they'd gather it. The Negroes ask all the whites they meet about desegregation in schools.

Farm Worker
Alabama

The Georgia Tech incident is one of many that have Southern rulers shaking in their boots. And well they should for they are getting lonesome standing in the way of a force of millions. Old Jim Crow is going to be buried under a sour apple tree and millions of feet, both black and white, are going to trample on that grave.

Printer
West Virginia

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A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

At a meeting of a national organization of surgeons recently, very little attention was given to the subject of cancer other than to the surgical technique of cancer operations. There were papers and discussions on whether to remove larger or smaller portions of a diseased organ, or the whole organ; and if it is worthwhile to re-operate at regular intervals for a second or even a sixth search for recurrent cancer.

TOLERANCE TOWARD CANCER

There is growing a depressing awareness of the inadequacy of our present treatment of certain very common types of cancer. This frustration has produced a sort of tolerance toward the decrease in an atmosphere of stagnation and waiting for someone to uncover its nature and cause.

TOLERANCE TOWARD INTOLERANCE

Not long ago, I read a newspaper article in which a columnist, advising a reader on how to conduct himself when he meets with racial prejudice, concluded, "the completely tolerant person must even be tolerant of intolerance." It brought to mind a meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union held in my town some time ago. There was discussion on whether a prominent and outspoken promoter of racial hatred and fascist ideas should have the right to use a public school assembly hall for a meeting of his followers. A high official of the Civil Liberties Union, made the statement that his organization would defend the fascists' right to speak.

TOTAL SOLUTION

I am completely intolerant of this sort of tolerance. There is something false in it. It assumes that there is uncertainty and vagueness in the minds of people about basic rights and wrongs. It asks a person to wait for a blow, rather than take action to ward off the injury. It prevents total solution which can come from direct action in response to natural feelings and emotions.

There is no good substitute for direct action. The sit-down strike in a factory, which clears the air quickly of confusion and uncertainty, is the simple evidence of this.

Strange as it may seem, neither the solution to cancer, nor to a satisfying work day, nor to a decent relationship of one person to another, will come as one piece. The only permanent solution in harmony with life, is in the constant movement for something better. In this everyone and everything is involved.

Experiences and Expectations

MASSACHUSETTS—Many years ago I was an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. I recall the organizing drive in Boston which brought most of the garment industry in that area into the I.L.G.W.U.

The campaign was planned from the top by the big shots of the union with Halpern, of the out-of-town department in full charge. The strategy of the campaign was a closely guarded secret, even to those of us who were conducting the strike.

As an organizer in a city 20 miles north of Boston, I worked to organize the three local garment shops. On the day of the strike everyone in the shops walked out on strike. It was a model strike in every way. The strikers were solid, there were no strike breakers, no violence or any other incidents. The spirit in the union hall was very high. Food was served daily to the strikers, and when not on the picket lines, the strikers organized recreation and dances at the union hall.

All of the local shops belonged to contractors, who did work on contract for the big shops in Boston. Therefore the main struggles took

place in that city. The outcome of the local situation depended on the settlement in the big shops.

During the strike, Halpern occupied an entire floor in a big Boston Hotel, from which he would sally forth to get himself arrested in a framed-up picket line brawl for the benefit of the newspapers. He controlled the union purse strings and made all settlements. He finally settled the strike and signed contracts with the big shops.

I asked him to make a settlement with the local shops and he replied, "They are not big enough to support a full-time business agent." He ordered the local strikers to go back to work without a contract or without a union.

Business agent unionism was a factor even in the early days of the birth of the CIO. It is part and parcel of the labor bureaucracy's functioning now. When I look at the merger of the AFL and CIO, which is done all by the tops, I can see why the workers are so skeptical of this merger. They see a constant reorganization of the organized instead of an organization of the unorganized, and they are right.

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Gas Explosion on Continuous Miner Section

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—On November 30, at about 4:30 a.m., a gas explosion blasted through the 8 West section of Consolidation Coal Company mine #15, at Pursglove, W. Va. This section is the only one in the mine using the continuous miner. A machine cable had blown up. This set off the gas accumulated at the working face. There were five men working at the machine, including the boss. All were severely burned about the hands and face. Two other men escaped the fury of the blast. One was a buggy runner who was not in the area of the explosion; the other was a pin man who was taking his dinner at the time.

OSAGE MEN NOT INFORMED

Osage mine #3 and Pursglove #15, two of Consol's mines in the area, cut into each other. The men of both mines go in at the same portal, but Osage goes in a half hour earlier than the Pursglove men.

When the next shift of #15 men arrived for work that Wednesday morning, they found the men of Osage holding an informal meeting in the shower room. The Osage men had not been informed of the explosion and were justly angry. Something going wrong in one of the mines could easily affect the other, but the company had not seen fit to inform the Osage men of the explosion.

The Osage men were told that Federal inspectors had said the mine was safe enough to work that day,

although the mine safety committee of #15 had not yet made their check of the mine. The Osage men refused to go in and went back home.

MEN ARE BITTER

The #15 men had already decided not to work as soon as they heard of the explosion, though the company tried to get them to go in. They milled around for a while, bitterly criticizing the company. They all recalled incidents when they had escaped with their lives because of unsafe conditions. Often it was just luck that had kept them alive.

Most of the criticism was of the continuous miner and the practices on that section. In the short time that the continuous miner has been in operation, about six months, there have been three previ-

ous fires on that section. Work on other sections is bad enough, but on that one, it is murder. Men working on that section have tried to get off of it, but no one will trade places with them. The men hate that section and that machine.

"THINK FOR OURSELVES"

One of the men said, "Why do we let them butcher us like this when we know it isn't safe! We know all they care about is coal. If we go back to the way it was before, letting them get away with anything for that pound of coal, we deserve what we get from now on. It's only been a year and a half ago that we had that big fire, now we have this. How hard do we have to be knocked before we start to think for ourselves?"

Facts vs. Company

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—From newspaper and radio reports given out by the company, a person would think that the explosion was hardly anything at all. Almost an everyday thing. They didn't even report it as an explosion. They preferred to call it a fire. There was fire all right, but that fire was gas exploding.

FACT AND FICTION
The report said there was no serious damage to the mine and that Federal inspectors had declared it safe to work that day. As for the men who were burned—well, they had first and second de-

gree burns and were doing "fair" at the hospital.

There might not have been damage to the mine, but the men were plenty damaged. A mine can't feel anything, but those men sure could.

Not one of the injured men was recognizable. Their heads were swollen to tremendous proportions. Not one of them could see, their eyes were swelled shut. Bandages were swathed around their heads and hands. What could be seen of their faces was nothing but puffed and burned flesh.

One woman went in to see her brother. He had a bed out in the hallway and she walked past him to ask the nurse where her brother was. When the nurses pointed to him, she gave a startled cry and tears streamed down her face, "My own brother, and I couldn't recognize him."

WHAT PRICE COAL?

Another of the men, who may lose a hand, said, "Well, one thing is for sure, it came as a surprise to no one. Everyone knew it was just a matter of time before it caught up with us."

It is true, for the men have always talked of the pressures they are under on that section. They would always end by saying, "One of these days that section is going to blow."

Fortunately, the section was a wet one. Had it been dry and had the dust been set off, the destruction this would have caused can only be imagined.

The general feeling was this: The company doesn't give a dam about anything but coal and we all know it. If any one of us is crazy enough to let them get us in a position that we can get hurt, it's no one's fault but our own. The only ones that can make that mine safe are the men. No one else can be depended upon.

Not Like Old Times

FAIRMONT, W. Va. — I was talking with a miner who has a great deal of experience in coal mining in the State of West Virginia. He talked of the old times; the bitter battles that were waged against the coal operators — and sometimes against the state and local governments—in the early organizing days. He talked of his early work in the Southern part of the State. Then he had moved to Logan and Mingo counties where a virtual civil war had been whipped into white heat in the attempts of the miners to organize themselves. He was full of pride for the traditions that have made the miners in this country a symbol of courage and determination.

No one became a representative of the men by simple appointment as is so often the case today. In those days, a man proved himself in the field to be worthy of being a representative. That was why the coal operators feared the sight of these men and avoided them like the plague.

These men were all fighters and took this spirit with them when they met with operators over disputes involving the men.

In contrast to his feelings in relation to these early representatives was the contempt and hostility he felt toward the men who operated out of the District Offices today. The change came with the reign of Cecil Urbaniak as District President. Urbaniak weeded out the old timers and replaced them with men more suitable to his temperament of compromise and general lack of principle.

BIG DIFFERENCE

As a result of his policies, the miners have a deep distrust for the District representatives. It is common to hear a man say that he will not take up a dispute because the company will have the District in on the dispute and "you know what side they'll be on." It makes you wonder about the kind of organization you have. It sure isn't what it used to be."

Professional Labor Leaders Took Unions from Workers

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—The one bad thing about unions nowadays is that we've got professional union men. Now, I don't mean guys who fight for the workers, but those guys who fight each other to see who's going to stay up there in those plush jobs. They make good money and never work. I mean by work that they haven't worked for so long with the other fellows, they've forgotten that losing a day's work means a loss of a day's pay. They don't have to face the boss every day as we do.

They come in once a year, fuss with the owner and get us something that maybe we didn't want at all. Then they leave, God knows where to. They say, "See what I got you." If it wasn't much, they say, "We'll do better next time."

Every year that's what they say. After they go, a letter comes from the International and says we got to pay more dues. With what the government gets in taxes, we haven't got a thing, especially not what we want.

Those guys have a nice little clique and they're a new class. They're professional labor leaders. You don't even have to be a worker to get up there in some unions. Just be a college man or a good talker and they take you in. And those guys who did work soon forget about punching a clock.

They pretend to fight for the rest of us, but if we don't fight for what they want, we're just "trouble-makers," and agitators.

The union can stay, but those guys gotta go.

A Reader Asks About "Take-Over Strikes"

How could a take-over strike be used by workers in American industry? I first heard about take-over strikes when someone described two strikes that took place in Japan after the war. In one place the bus drivers struck by continuing to carry passengers but refusing to collect fares. They figured they would lose their pay anyway and this way the whole town was behind them. In another place the power plant workers gave service but cut off all electricity to the homes of the bosses.

When you think of it, the take-over strike idea is quite an advance. In the ordinary strike you let them know they can't carry on production without you. In the sitdown strike it goes further and you say "Whose factory is this anyway?" In the take-over strike you show that management needs you for production but you don't need them.

Non-production Worker
New York

UNION'S ARROGANCE ANGRERS NEW WORKER

LOS ANGELES—A new man where I work recently had a beef with some union officials who think they own the union. Not long after hiring in, he asked a committeeman about joining the union because in our plant you have to sign up within 90 days. However, this new hire wasn't just being forced to join the union, he wanted to belong. The committeeman just wasn't answering any questions. All he said was, "You have to sign up within 90 days." This made the new man angry. He decided, if this was going to be a matter of obligation, he would wait the full 90 days before signing up.

\$30 DEDUCTION

After he was there three months he went down to the hall and signed up. When his next check came he found that nearly \$30 had been deducted for various back union dues and assessments. Although I don't understand exactly how this could happen, it seems that the amount was so large because he had delayed joining so long.

He went down to the hall as soon as possible to see if something couldn't be done about this. He has a large family and couldn't stand that kind of deduction out of one check. When he asked if the amount couldn't be spread out over several checks he was told, "If you don't like it here, get a job someplace else." In words no different than a company man could be expected to use, this union official right at the union hall showed he didn't give a dam for this new member he presumably is representing.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING WITHOUT MEMBERS

Back in the plant, the new union brother spoke about this to an older member of the local. Between them they decided to go to the next membership meeting and raise hell. When they got down to the meeting some days later not enough members were present to hold a meeting. Just a handful of officials and would-be officials were down there out of the thousands who belong to the local.

Despite the lack of formal meeting, the new man and his friend sounded off. It came out that really the union couldn't have done anything about the deductions. Because of a check-off agreement with the company, the company automatically deducts union dues and assessments. But this could have been simply explained at the beginning.

The new man and his friend let the union know that with their attitude the officials represented nobody and stood for nothing except the union treasury.

Workers Fight Boss and Union on Speedup

DETROIT—In spite of the complete reversal by union representatives who have turned against the worker for the company, workers continue to carry on strikes and struggles against them. With all the firing and threats of firing, the company and union leaders have not been able to stop workers from rising up when they feel the company is going too far.

A stoppage occurred on our job over speed-up. Every day or so, the company removed a worker from the section but production remained the same.

WHY FIGHT & ARGUE?

When workers asked the line steward why he let such things happen, he said: The company has it figured out on paper. Why fight and argue with them? They are going to take the men away and we will still have to get this production out.

Finally, there were three men left on the section. They were working side by side on the same operation and each man turned out 67 pieces an hour. One day, the stewards and company agreed that two of the workers would do 87 pieces an hour each and the third would do 32 jobs an hour. They used the argument that time-study showed that the job was too much for two men to do 208 pieces an hour, but it was not enough for three men. Therefore, they said, the third man is actually an extra or half a man.

One worker yelled, "When have they started hiring half-people and where do they

come from? Some other planets?"

Another asked, "Will he get half pay for his day's work? Who figured this one out and who agreed to it. Why weren't we told about it?"

STOPPAGE

All the men in the department quit work. The super tried to get the men back to work. He said that the third man would be used for extra work by the foreman after he had run his production of 32 pieces.

The workers did not want that. All of them, including the third man, wanted each of the three to run 67 pieces. If one had to do extra work, they wanted to decide that too.

The workers asked for a written statement, signed by the company, to this effect. They wanted the agreement to state the entire job set-up; what every man's job is; and the amount of production scheduled. This they received from the super.

The men all yelled, "With this written agreement we do not need a steward."

One said, "Did you notice how they tried to divide us? The company and steward kept saying, 'No one is involved but these three. Why are the rest of you arguing? Go back to work!' They were trying to make this worker a stooge by letting him do half production and go some place to sleep."

Since the stoppage, they have not come around moving anyone.

RANK-AND-FILE IGNORE AFL-CIO MERGER

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—I see by the newspapers where the CIO and the AFL have merged into one organization.

You would never know it from talk in the shop in which I work. It has never been discussed. Such an important event apparently doesn't strike the members involved as one that will change their lives very much.

Feelings about the future of the labor movement were not always like this. I can recall back in 1937 when the CIO had smashed the open shop in this country. It had brought to terms the big companies in American industry and was busy mopping up the smaller stuff.

HOW IT WAS

A group of us in one of the smaller shops in St. Louis had just organized the place in which we worked. There was some enthusiasm about the problems of unionism. The local meetings of the union were well attended. At least 75 per cent of the men attended and the other 25 per cent were asked the next day the reasons why they didn't attend.

Everyone was concerned with what was going on. If an organizing committee of another shop needed help, there was no trouble in getting plenty of help. If leaflets needed passing out, there were plenty of men willing to go and do the job. And to pay their carfare there and back and think nothing about it. If there was a conference to be held to help in organizing, there wasn't always the feeling that there was a big chunk of expense money in it for the delegate. There was business to be done.

HOW IT IS

In contrast to this is the situation where the main emphasis is on the top officers in the union setup. They are the ones concerned with what's going on. They're the ones concerned with securing their positions in the new organization. Why they wouldn't even drop their old names in the organization. It is still called the AFL and CIO. You can bet they won't give up any of their old privileges to further the interest of the members who work for a living.

Girls Fired Before Christmas After Weeks of Uncertainty

LOS ANGELES.—When I was laid-off from where I worked, it was almost like a party. Usually those things are very depressing—someone comes by at the last minute, hands you your check and that's that. But at this place it was different.

LAY-OFF RUMORS

We had been hearing rumors of lay-offs since we first started—but none of them ever panned out, so we got used to the idea that we couldn't believe any rumors until a lay-off actually happened to us.

Finally, the first lay-off came. We knew it wouldn't be long for us. We got so we were expecting every day to be our last and hoping we could at least get a full week in.

LAY-OFFS

The day arrived. Fifteen minutes before quitting time, my girl friend and I were told we were laid-off and to report to the personnel office to pick up our checks. When we got there, we were the first ones. For a while we thought we were going to be the only ones. But soon girls started coming in by ones, twos and threes. As they saw all their friends and the girls they were hired in with, it became almost like a reunion. Everyone was saying to everyone else, "You too?"

We stood around in groups, joking and comparing how long we'd been there. Finally the personnel manager got up to make the "painful announcement."

He said, "Well, I guess you all know why you're all here . . ."

One of the girls yelled out, "Are we going to get a raise?"

It broke us all up. I sure miss those girls.

—L. M.

Nut Head Says—



"So what if Chrysler had some Christmas lay-offs? That don't affect the general prosperity. It's tough to be laid off just before Christmas, but they were probably goldbricks anyway."

The Political Side-Show In America

Since the heart attack of the President, the Republican Party is making a spectacle of itself. The public is treated to pictures on television of the President in hospitals, getting on and off planes, traveling about, tending his farm, receiving gifts and well wishes. Always followed about by a group of Republican politicians, most of whom are trying to take his place as candidates for the post. The "Party" is trying to keep them from declaring their open candidacy and thus exposing their bankrupt policies.

The illness of the President makes such good newspaper copy that some Republican leaders feel they need make no announcements until mid-March.

The people are supposed to be so concerned that they will patiently wait until the spring. The public is concerned, but not with the president's illness or with the Republican policies. They are concerned with the incompetency, the callous and cynical attitudes of the administration of the richest country in the world at the height of its so-called prosperity.

The working class is deeply discontented with their lot. An all-involving sense of uncertainty, of insecurity, of instability, fills their minds. Their pay checks fail to cover their living costs and they are deeply in debt. Their conditions of work grow worse. They have complete lack of faith in their union leadership. They live in a world of unending time-payments, facing an unknown future about which they have nothing to say. This too, during the most prosperous period in American history.

The crisis in agriculture in the United States, where there is an over-abundance, as in the agricultural crisis in the rest of the world, where there is scarcity, underlines the inability of world capitalism to solve any of the problems which beset the world.

The possibilities of war have been heightened by the Khrushchev-Bulganin tour of India and the East. Their saber-rattling statements and the inept responses of Secretary of State Dulles have done little to restore a calm atmosphere.

These two contending forces of State Capitalism will continue with their cold war, carried on by propaganda and cash outlays in every corner of the globe until the stalemate is broken by the force of arms. It is this, rather than the Washington side-show, that deeply concerns the people.

The crisis of the administration is total and covers every sphere of its activity.

FOR A NEW WAY OF LIFE

There is a new politics struggling to emerge. It is not the politics of deals and back-room maneuvers. Its platform is as grand as it is simple: a new way of life.

The essence of the newness is that the American working class has adopted a new form of the class struggle. Picket lines, wages and hours, union bureaucrats and even the union meetings do not command the lively interest of the workers that they held in the past.

From the stories that we get every day from the shops, we can see a new form of struggle emerging. It never seems to be carried to its complete end, yet its existence is continuous.

Each scrap with the boss, each manifestation of discontent with things as they are, all tend to smash down the old and help the new emerge. This is the struggle to establish here and now a new culture, a workers culture.

From earliest time man has chosen various forms to express his feelings, the ideas that motivate his life and express his desires. The cave man scratched these things on his cave wall with stone implements; later, others expressed themselves in their architecture. The middle ages found feudal lords gathering around themselves artisans, craftsmen and artists to give expression to their idea of culture. Today things are different. If we fail to recognize that difference then it will be impossible to give expression to it.

Culture for the American worker does not necessarily mean attending lectures, visiting museums, reading or writing books. For him it is a way of life; his relations with his fellow humans on the job; his relations with his neighbors; the kind of house he lives in; what he does in his spare time; the things he likes or dislikes.

We know the vital force of our society to be the working class. We must observe the forms that this class uses in expressing itself. In the shop it may be marked by an aggressive attitude toward the boss, by the attitude of the worker toward his machine, the men around him. His activities outside the shop are a vital part of the same. This is the expression of the things he feels, his own attempt to build for himself and his family the kind of life he wants to lead.

Here is to be found the struggle for a new politics, a new way of life.

STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

You were right about contracts (Dec. 9). The worker doesn't have a single right under the new contract. Everything is completely in the hands of the company. Nothing is in the hands of the union let alone the workers. For a few years, the union used to write the contract in such a way that you could not see this so clearly. Now it's very plain even in rapid reading.

Dodge Worker
Hamtramck, Mich.

There've been plenty of wildcats in auto since the last contract. The reason there weren't even more is that everything is so centralized now. The local isn't allowed to air its own grievances. All grievances have to be handled by the International which doesn't handle any.

GM Worker
Detroit

If those bureaucrats who just merged the AFL and CIO were as interested in their workers as they are in themselves, it would be a darn good thing. They are just interested in power, that's all. I don't guess the merger will affect us.

Reader
Charleston, W. Va.

A superintendent said the reason so many supers and foremen get heart attacks is because of the pressure of production and the long hours. The company is rough on them and the workers are rough on them. Then he said, "Not really heart attacks, just a nervous condition around the heart."

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

OVERTIME

Some guys who have been working a lot of overtime were speaking about it the other day. One swing shift worker said something that really hit home. He said, "On weekend nights I come home two and three o'clock in the morning after working a ten-hour shift. I'm all beat and just have enough energy to shuffle in the door. Yet all around me, in the homes of my neighbors who only work 40 hours a week and have their evenings and weekends free, the lights are all on and they're enjoying themselves. Those guys don't make the money I do but they are having a nicer life."

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

Readers

Every day I hear workers say, "If we could get this week's pay (the one you worked overtime) for regular work, we never would work overtime."

Ford Worker
Detroit

Pressures are so great that any enjoying yourself ends up in nothing but drinking.

Buick Worker
Flint, Mich.

PROSPEROUS AMERICA

There's another thing about cars and credit that I don't think European workers know because I do not think they know racketeering like we do in this country. Take gambling, especially numbers, that has become part of everyone's life struggle to make ends meet. It is true of all working people, but especially so of Negroes. The odds are against you, but the stake is so large—500 to 1—for a penny you might get \$5 and since one worker once in a while actually gets that, then that keeps the racket going and the people are robbed every day.

Negro Worker
Detroit

It's a surprise to a lot of people, how some working people have to live. They put the price of a shoeshine up from 15c to a quarter down here not too long ago. A lot of people were complaining about it. But one shoeshine explained that they just couldn't make a living on what they had been getting. He said that when they were paying 15c, the shoeshine got a nickel and the proprietor got the dime. Now when you pay a quarter, the shoeshine still only gets a dime and the proprietor gets the rest.

I suppose that's the real "free enterprise" system working. To think that the man who does the labor gets such a small part of the price. And the man who does nothing gets the most. That's the way it is with all the working men. The ones who sweat and do the work get the short end and the one who stands and watches you work gets the gravy.

Miner
Fairmont, W. Va.

NEGRO AMERICANS

That Sugar Bowl business was a disgrace. They may talk about Negroes being "trashy" and ignorant—but they can't find any excuse for this thing. Here was a boy who was

trying to get his education and better himself and they refuse to let him come down and play a game. If Negroes are Americans, they have the right to be treated like Americans. They treat foreign colors and races better than our own Negroes.

I've heard other whites say, "Give them an inch and they'll take a mile." Why shouldn't they take all they can get? They know that if they don't try to get that mile, they won't get anything! I'd do the same.

New Reader,
Morgantown, W. Va.

This incident exposed clearly that segregation is the business of Southern State governments. Here, the Georgia State Governor was opposed by 2,000 students who had the sympathies of millions. The incident showed clearly that the State intends to enforce the division of the races whether anyone likes it or not.

Reader
West Virginia

It seems to me that the fuss about the Sugar Bowl game was a little bit of early electioneering, as the Governor went. He was elected on a program of strict segregation and he was just making sure that he would get elected again. Those speeches were actually his next election speeches.

The students who rioted wouldn't be voting for him, it's true—but their parents are the ones that count in the elections. A lot of those students will have something waiting for them when they get home. It shows that it's not the younger elements—it's the older ones that keep the segregation going.

Miner
Fairmont, W. Va.

The desegregation laws the Supreme Court passes are a joke. They have so many technicalities attached to everything that they don't mean anything. A should be very specific. If they really wanted a desegregation law, they could do it in three sentences or so. With no quibbling, and no technicalities. They could say in so many words that free and equal does not mean the same but separate. The new one they just passed reminded me that elections are coming up next year. It's just another vote-catcher as far as I can see. But it's not serious — it doesn't mean a thing.

Ex-GI
West Virginia

Views

They have an FEP law in New York but that doesn't stop discrimination. It only gives them an excuse to ignore it. One summer recently, I called the new York NAACP and asked them where a Negro could go to enjoy his vacation. They said, "Go anywhere. There's no discrimination here. We have a law against it." I told them to quit giving me that phony talk and just to tell me where they went when they wanted a vacation. That's when they admitted that if I really wanted a vacation I had better check on the resorts advertised in the "Amsterdam News," that's what they do.

Disgusted
New York

Things like that Till lynching can be stopped. But it will take people in force to stop it. If a whole force of people went down there and started dishing it back to those whites, it wouldn't take long to get this whole mess straightened out.

Some people say that those whites down in Mississippi are on the cultural level of savages and you just can't deal with them like they are civilized people. But those people are living in what is supposed to be a civilized country, so the only way to deal with them is as if they were civilized.

What gets you is that they pick on little kids. The Till case isn't the only one. After the Till case, a 12-year-old child was killed in that same state of Mississippi.

I know a lot of times when I'm walking down a street some little white kids will make a remark or do something that would ordinarily burn me up. I don't even look back at them. If I took it seriously, I might do something that I know I'd regret. They're only kids; why pick on them?

Those Negroes down South would rise up and fight, if they just had a leader, I think. What keeps them down is how they've been treated. They have learned the hard way over years of experience that they have no human protection under the law. It will naturally take a lot to get them moving, but when they do start, it will take a lot more to get them stopped.

Northern Negro

The FEP law has gone into effect in Michigan but not another thing has been said since. It's the same story again.

Auto Worker
Detroit

I heard that Mrs. Bradley, Emmett Till's mother, is angry at the NAACP. They convinced her not to address "unauthorized" meetings and she was willing to go along with them. But then they quibbled with her on expenses for a California trip for them and they subjected her to a vicious attack. Now she's threatening to expose the NAACP's exploitation of her son's murder. What are they doing with all the money they collected?

Negro Worker
Detroit

The North isn't desegregated either. There are about 5,000 workers in my plant but I've never seen more than one or two Negroes in any department. Except the clean up crew at night is about 50-50.

Electrical Worker
Detroit

YOUTH

In my shop the youth question is as burning as working condition. If we're not talking about the speed-up or the union sell-out, we're talking about the youth.

Auto Body Worker
Detroit

Kids today are different from when we were children. I'm even afraid to beat mine when they need it for fear they might call the law on me. You can't control them and you can't help them.

Auto Worker
Detroit

Many adults try to compare kids today with how we were raised. They don't see the changes that have happened in the world. These kids have problems we never knew about. I had a rough time when I was a kid. We were very poor, but I didn't have anything to worry about from the point of view of problems as far as society was concerned.

50-Year Old
Detroit

My father came to visit me a short time ago. We had not seen each other for two years. For the first time in 27 years we talked like two human beings just discovering each other's brains. He told me with much feeling all about his boyhood, about his father, things I had never known nor had any idea of asking about. He was there, he is there, he'll always be there, but I never really knew him.

Grown Daughter
Los Angeles

The Boy Scouts are run just like an army. When you first come in everyone bosses you around. It's no fun. (Dec. 9). I know a kid who's in the Boy Scouts now. He got into trouble with one of the kids there and that kid became assistant patrol leader—the top brass and the supervisor. Since the patrol leader had a grudge against my friend, other kids have been sort of privileged in the troop while he is just where he started out.

Adolescent
Los Angeles

In Detroit, I understand, the school children are forbidden to take school books home to study unless the parent signs a statement accepting financial responsibility for any books lost or defaced.

Professional
Detroit

WOMEN

Divorce is becoming a problem in Britain and there are many unhappy marriages. Equal pay has not yet been reached and there are a great many painted-faced, artificial and empty-head gold diggers and who are only concerned with man trapping. So you can well imagine the results.

V. T., Southport
England

Different kinds of men have different kinds of opinions on all ideas, religion, philosophy, etc. The differences in thinking of, say a miner and a painter, are very great. Each analyzes events differently. The Woman's Page has to show the specifically "woman's viewpoint" on all subjects. We have to find these conversations and bring them to the paper. A woman would have attitudes that would be different from any worker's on Ike's illness, on the slave labor camps in Russia, on living conditions and everything else."

A Worker
Los Angeles

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Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

THE GREAT DIVIDE BETWEEN THINKING & DOING

I have just completed a cross country tour during which I spoke to very different kinds of audiences:

One miner put it this way: "There is a time for praying. We do that on Sundays. There is a time for acting. We took matters in our hands during the Depression, building up our union and seeing that our families did not starve. There is a time for thinking. The time is now. What I want to know is: how and when will the working man—all working men—have such confidence in their own abilities to make a better world that they will not let others do their thinking for them."

That miner felt that the union wasn't much better than the company nowadays. The reason for this is that the rank and file had let "others"—the leadership—do their thinking and write their contracts for them. He pointed out that the change the worker had brought about through his activity had somehow turned into its opposite. The miners would elect some one to represent them in negotiations with management. Then the first thing anyone knew was that their representative became a labor bureaucrat who turned up in the District Office, not to fight with the workers against the company but to order the workers to produce more. This miner wanted to know: what made the miners stick together in 1943 and tell the senators that if they were so interested in production, they could dig the coal themselves, yet no one tells the same thing to the labor leadership today.

"The working man has a mind of his own," concluded the miner, "so why let others do his thinking for him? If only there was no division between thinking and doing."

THE MOVEMENT FROM PRACTICE TO THEORY

I was thinking how far we had moved from the birth of modern socialism which had pronounced: "The philosophers have interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it."

The miner said the change the workers brought about had "turned into its opposite." He wanted to make sure, before any more changes were brought about, that there be "no division between thinking and doing." He wanted to know how to bring about a unity of theory and practice from the start.

Naturally I had no answer, ready-made or otherwise. I did tell him that his very desire for a total outlook contained the answer. It was a sign of the maturity of the age that he was dissatisfied with piecemeal answers, whether these concern the pay check or the union organization.

The very fact that there was this movement from practice to theory imparted an urgency to a new unity of theory and practice. I had only one historical example to point to show that the movement from theory to practice had also dealt with this problem. It was what Lenin did at the outbreak of the first World War. I called it the great divide in Marxism.

THE GREAT DIVIDE IN MARXISM

The holocaust of the first World War had shattered everything, including the very working class organization which was built up to oppose the imperialist war. The name of the organization was the Second International and, though it was millions strong, it folded like a house of cards. Its leadership was Marxist and that was supposed to stand for the unity of the world working class, but each of the national organizations voted to send armies to shoot the other. Thus, the greatest of the parties, The German Social Democracy, voted war credits to the Kaiser and forgot all it taught others about class solidarity.

This transformation of a Marxist organization into its opposite was a much greater shock to Lenin than the fact that, say, the elected representatives of the miners turned into labor bureaucrats. It was not enough to say the Second International betrayed Marxism. As Lenin put it later: No one has yet invented a "sincereometer" to measure one's sincerity. The matter had to be proved objectively, in real life. Lenin began by examining what in his own way of thinking had blinded him to the inevitable betrayal. For that he went back to study the philosophic foundations of Marxism.

Although, since then, the first workers state has, in turn, become transformed into the greatest tyranny on earth, I concluded, we have a lot to learn from the way Lenin met the crisis of his time in the *Philosophic Notebooks*.

LENIN'S PHILOSOPHIC NOTEBOOKS

NEWS & LETTERS has had translated and mimeographed the most important extracts from his Notebooks. (See ad on page 1.) I want to urge everyone of our readers to grapple with them. It is not that there is in them any ready-made answers to the problems of the day. Just as there is no assured success to practice, so there is no royal road to knowledge. Nothing is ever gained by man except through labor and struggle and patience. For him who has that patience and grapples with these Notebooks, all sorts of new vistas will unfold.

The Way of The World

By Ethel Dunbar

The old time way of discrimination against the Negro people will never be forgotten among the Southern white people and some part of the North. They are still saying that Negroes should stay in their place.

WHERE IS OUR PLACE?

That put me to thinking: Where is our place? Is it for us to stay in the back of everything and let the white man lead us to some chain gang to be hanged? Or to some alley to be shot down and killed like they do dogs?

Oh, or if we must be on the front line to help fight and win these wars for the American white man, when the war is over when can the black and white soldiers come home and find a place to rest and be at ease?

Then our place is here in America where those fought and gave their lives to have a place for us to live a free life when the battle is won.

It is true that the black race has a hard way to go through life, here in this so-called good America. They fought and begged for freedom and peace so that the black race might live. But the poor old Negroes who fought and died here and gave their lives so that young ones might live, they still have nowhere to lay their heads.

WHY SO HARD?

That still leaves me thinking: What makes the black race so hard to run? When other races of people can come to America and live in peace without anything said or done to them.

But I wish I could live long enough to see something good that would happen in favor of the black man. It made me angry when I read about the new desegregation law the Supreme Court passed about having civil rights in all schools. But the big politicians will do nothing about it but just leave it up to the people who oppose and talk about new laws that are coming up.

We will never get anywhere with our so-called big leaders if we common working people don't do something ourselves.

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We Are Lynched Daily Down South

SAN FRANCISCO—In a conversation about the murder of Emmett Till, one of my friends said:

"We Negroes are lynched every day in the South. Not directly to death, but in a million ways; in the eyes of the whites, in the way they talk to us, or avoid us. In Texas we had to figure out ways and means to survive—to toughen our skins so we didn't see the fear and hate directed at us. Many colored people back home get their biggest kicks when they can outwit the whites at their own game."

But no matter how tough some skins have become, the murder of this 14-year-old boy reached deep into their hearts. At the meeting in San Francisco, about 2,000 people tried to get into a hall long enough for half. When the hall was filled up the doors were closed, but no one went home. Hundreds of Negroes and about 50 white people milled about on the street. Everyone was talking, looking for a solution among themselves that would put an

end to the Mississippi rule-by-murder-law.

People stood jammed to the walls, sat on the stairs, hung over the bannisters, very patient.

The speakers moaned on and the crowd got restless at the wishy-washy speeches. . . everyone was waiting for an idea, or plan of action to be presented, but there were none. One man wanted to know: "Why don't the city officials organize a real meeting and let Mississippi know that the whole city is against their kind of law?" Another man said to me, "I'm a peaceful man, but in Mississippi some will have to die in order for the others to live. It is about time they got a dose of their own medicine and the same kind of trial."

When one of the speakers said, "We will carry this fight to the people" he got such applause that he immediately soft-pedaled his tone. The living protest of the living, against the brutality and unnecessary dead, was too strong for these politicians' purpose.

This White World

NEW YORK—I want to tell you something that has happened to me right here in New York to show you the Till case is by no means limited to Mississippi. The tensions are everywhere.

A couple of weeks ago I was on a Broadway bus going down town. I happened to sit in the last seat, next to a Negro woman. A white Southerner came on, rather tipsy, and stumbled over my feet trying to get the seat next to me. He turned to the Negro woman and said, "Why don't you N....s keep your place?"

I jumped up and said, "First of all you stepped on my feet, not this lady's. Secondly, this is the North and we don't stand for such language."

He got back at me: "You must be a dirty Jew to come to the defense of a N....r."

By that time everyone was looking. I was just burning up and shouted, "Look, this pie in my hand cost me a dollar and I can't afford it, but it will go straight into your face if you don't get off the bus this minute."

The bus driver, a white man, stopped the bus. He came over to the man and said, "Here's your 15c Now get off." As the man was getting off, someone said, "We all have our little Mississippi."

I was so upset by this experience and nervous and mad that I got off in a few

blocks. So did the Negro woman. I even turned on her, "Don't you thank me. I didn't do it for you. I just think scum like that man..."

She interrupted me, "I didn't get off to thank you. I saw how upset you were and guessed you were getting off before you really needed to. I thought I'd walk along."

I was so relieved I began to cry.

—Needle Trades Worker

DETROIT—At work, some of us were talking about the murders down South. Some of the white people have really been hit—they're scared of a race riot. One of the white fellows on the line was talking about "the hillbillies down there" as though that excuses him up here.

One fellow said, "Those hillbillies are really tough. They know they can get away with it. They really keep you Negroes in line down there."

Another one said something about Negroes getting too aggressive in Detroit. His attitude was, "I ain't tough enough to keep you in line but they're doing it for me."

I yelled at him, "You're the one who should be complaining along with me. They're making the whole white race look bad." I didn't even have one white fellow on the line to agree with me.

—Auto Worker

What Is The NAACP Doing Now?

Some colored teachers have been discharged from their jobs in the South because they were members of the NAACP and because they were for integration in the schools there.

The NAACP in the North has collected hundreds and thousands of dollars as a result of the Till lynching. They pleaded with people to send money to them; that other organizations only wanted to exploit the case. The NAACP has the money. The Till boy and now, his case, are dead. Was the NAACP afraid that other groups or organizations

would have exposed them?

There are many other cases every day involving justice to Negroes. They should use the money for such as the firing of colored teachers, the continuation of shooting and murdering Negroes in the South.

There are nationally known people on the national executive board of the NAACP, national labor leaders among them. Some of them have not uttered one word. Those who have spoken have limited themselves to a few short words and nothing else.

INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the eleventh installment.)

IV.

MY WIFE, CHRISTINE

My wife, Christine, comes from my neighborhood. Here she tells of her early life.

I was born in Rainsville. My parents were farmers. I have six brothers and four sisters all living now. Dad owned two hundred and eighty acres. My grandfather left one hundred and fifty acres to my father. My grandfather was a farmer and had his own gin mill for awhile, his own peanut thresher and hay baler, and his own stock. He had three sons and my daddy. Two sons went to the city; they didn't want anything to do with the farm. Another son had a blacksmith shop, and my father saw about the farm. My father grew everything that could be raised. He had eight people working for him. He'd make, in a good year, twenty-five or thirty bales of cotton. I worked right in the field and I didn't let anybody beat me. I was fast at all the work. I didn't start in the field as early as some, but waited until I was twelve. I went to the County Training School and finished the twelfth grade. I had to do the same work as the rest but we were close to the school and that's why I got to go for so long.

The white man next to my father's place was Mr. Gard. He had thirty or forty people working his place. Mr. Gard didn't like white men. He didn't even like his brother-in-law. He said he didn't want him to pass his door, and that's the highway. The only white person he liked was his sister's third boy. The state was going to throw up a highway through his place and he went to court and said he hated white people. They slapped him down. He wanted to put a gate across the highway but they wouldn't let him. They had stopped owners from doing that when I was a girl.

Mr. Gard had a riding boss,

before my cousin, who was white. His daughter Millie fell in love with him. Gard fired the man. He said he couldn't stand white people riding over his land. He got a Negro to beat up the riding boss. Miss Millie, Mr. Gard's daughter, went with my cousin after that. If his people were hungry she would slip him hams and meat. Mrs. Gard knew about my cousin. But Mr. Gard didn't know. No other white people knew. Miss Millie was real hateful. She was prejudiced against all colored people but this one Negro. But her mother was friendly.

Gard was going with two colored women. He would catch them in the field late in the evening. He wouldn't be with them in a house. On the farms, the white men had the most relations with colored women. In the city, if a white man stayed with a colored woman, and he wasn't known or friendly to colored the Negroes would kill him or burn him out of the place.

Mr. Gard called my father a "biggety-nigger." He said if my father's cows ever got in his pasture he was going to kill every one. My father fixed the pasture so our cows couldn't go out. Mr. Gard's cows came to our place but my father didn't kill them. Gard just hated my father. If a white man can't work you like a dog, like slavery time he hates you. He didn't hate grandpa. Grandpa always kinda talked to him. My father wouldn't have anything to do or say to Gard. The two biggest families were the Welchs and the Donaldsons. We were Welchs. The Welchs owned their own homes. The Donaldsons were mostly on Mr. Gard's place renting. Mr. Gard could stand the Donaldsons but he didn't like the Welch folk.

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YOUTH

Working For Independence

By Angela Terrano

I went to see the picture "Rebel Without A Cause," starring James Dean. It's supposed to deal with the youth problem. The kids in it are mostly from middle class and wealthy families, which I guess means that as far as material things go they should not have any problems. But they do.

From the name of the picture to the last scene, they are saying that there is no reason for youth to act the way they do. And because of this they can't place the youth in the picture in a real and complete world. Instead, they shut them into a part of the world. The tension is between the parents and their kids. Even that is not real: The girl is confused because her father won't let her kiss him any more; James Dean is trying to make a man out of his father who's pushed around by his mother.

The social workers in Juvenile Court supposedly understand the youth because they can stand apart from both the youth and the parents and are able to see what a mess the adults are making. What a difference from real life.

IN REAL LIFE

I watched Juvenile Court a few weeks ago on TV. A 16-year-old was brought up for a traffic violation such as many adults commit. The father and the judge were

together against the boy. The father asked that his son's license be revoked. I wish he could have seen the look his son gave him.

The judge said the boy's attitude was one that leads youth on the road to juvenile delinquency. Therefore he ordered the boy to Juvenile Hall for two weeks for clinical observation. The kid couldn't do a thing. He asked if he couldn't come back tomorrow. The judge told him no, he wants to send him to the clinic to see what makes him tick. All this for a traffic violation! At 16 this kid is told he is a menace to society. He doesn't have to go around asking for an answer as to why he does what he does, as Dean does in the picture.

"Rebel Without A Cause" doesn't take place in a real world, a world with nations and wars. It is as if these youth sprang up over night out of nothing. When these kids go on their "chicken ride" all you can say is that they're nuts and they say as much about themselves.

COMPARED TO "WILD ONE"

I don't think that "Rebel Without A Cause" comes near Marlon Brando in "The Wild One," in which Brando portrays the leader of a motorcycle club that takes over a town. He came closest to the youth on TV: Silent, but yet you knew what he felt

and could see the tension and hatred in him against these people who run society.

Although they didn't speak of Communism or Fascism or Capitalism in "The Wild One," you knew the types of people. And you knew they came from our modern world. The violence wasn't only in the youth but in the self-righteous adults.

The man that ran the town was the man that controlled the money and business. He is the one that gets the adults together and beats Brando up. Brando comes back with his silence. These types do what they want to do, they don't listen to anyone let alone a youth.

You knew that vigilante squad that was formed in "The Wild One" to keep "law and order" could just as well have been these "Citizen Councils" that are banding together to keep the "white way of life" in the South.

A 14-Year-Old Writes To Governor

Dear Sir:

I think a great injustice has been done in the case of the colored boy, Emmett Till and the two men who were accused of kidnapping and killing him. I believe with all the evidence pointing to the guilt of these two men, they should not have been acquitted of both charges.

The law says for every wrong there is a right and I believe that the finger of God and law will come back and see the great wrong they did.

I believe, as an American, that all men no matter color, race, or creed are created equal.

Yours,
J. G.

Youth The World Over

By Robert Ellery

ENGLAND

The British Labour Party, in its annual conference, voted to dissolve its youth organization, the Labor League of Youth. Their desire is to absorb the membership into the ranks of the party. Some hope the new blood will offer some kind of solution to the old politics. We suggest this action is an excellent way of drowning the organized dissenting opinion of the youth in the "calmer seas" of the British Labour Party.

This activity seems to have no meaning to the rebellious Spivs and Teddy-boys who seem as "anti-social" as ever.

DOWN UNDER

New Zealand is being plagued by youth who hang around milk-bars listening to juke-box music. There are

those that travel in motor-mades of motorcycles, disrupting traffic and behaving much like the youth portrayed in "The Wild One." Their dress is that Edwardian look.

Australians are meeting the same problems with their youth. Young people travel in gangs. The males are called "Bodgies" and the girls, "Widges." They dress distinctively to set themselves apart from the rest of the community.

RUSSIA

From all quarters come reports of youth defying authority for no apparent reasons.

The garb and activity of outcast youth has filtered through the Iron Curtain. Some Russian youth have been reported copying the British Teddy-boy dress. This fashion is apparently learned by Moscow youth from Russian humor magazines which lampooning the style.

The Soviet press reflects the serious problem that youth crime, or "hooliganism," has become to the authorities. Their groping for solutions sounds strangely familiar to these American ears. Cries of "Bring the criminal code up to date," and "Stiffer penalties should be meted out to youthful offenders," sound the same on either side of the Iron Curtain.

WOMEN

Housewife Needs Variety and Contact With Others

There is a lot of truth in the idea that working out develops you more than staying in the home all the time. I can see a lot of difference in myself in just the little while I've been working in the grocery store my husband just started.

You learn a lot just being with other people. If you only stand and listen and watch and work with others, you learn a lot. When you're confined in your own four walls you can almost feel yourself getting dull.

There are many women who can't get out. Television has meant a big change for housewives who are stuck at home.

When I was stuck at home all the time, I used to look forward to certain programs. I'd never miss them. Arlene Francis' program was one that meant a lot to me. You learned about a lot of things you could never know about otherwise. You could even learn a lot of household hints and new ideas for your home. But it wasn't just one thing. It brought a variety into your life and that's just what a house wife needs so badly.

Gadgets Don't Take the Place of People

LOS ANGELES.—So often I've heard a man say, "I don't know why you women complain so much about housework. Why, you can clean a house in about two hours. And then you have all day as your own boss. If you don't want to do something one day you don't have to. You have all kinds of appliances. Women these days are just soft."

I don't think there could be a more narrow view. For one thing unless it's just a "straightening-up day" it takes more than two hours to maintain a house.

I think you can own every appliance in the world, have all the fancy waxes and cleaning agents, be your own boss, cut your housework down to fifteen minutes and still be miserable if this is all you have to look forward to thinking about every day in your life.

SHARE EXPERIENCES

A friend of mine said, "I want to share more experiences with my husband. I don't want to look upon him as a source of entertainment, but I know we have a lot more in common than we seem to have the time to find

out about. I don't want to lead an aimless life — just cleaning the house to clean the house. I want to feel the freedom to go out and learn things and do things. Maybe I'd want to even go to school again. I want him to understand that I need this. I want my family to be concerned about one another."

I just can't see any new-fangled contraption or the best time schedule in the world substitute for the human relationships that this woman is trying so hard to attain.

Read

NEWS

&

LETTERS

A Reader Writes About Toys In the Modern World

Scarcely able to contain their holiday spirits, the editors of Time jubilantly present, in the December 12th issue, an industrial tycoon named Marx, whose monkey business produces some 10 per cent of all the toys sold in the United States today.

"Marx considers toys one of the higher forms of human ingenuity, and thinks a lot of the world's problems can be solved through them. 'Apart from being good business,' he intones, 'it's important to buy children a lot of toys. When you keep a child supplied with toys, it gives him security, like an Indian woman gives her child by carrying him on her back. Toys give children love and attention synthetically.'"

In direct opposition to Lou Marx, who wants to substitute a mechanical toy for a mother's warmth and love, stands Karl Marx, who challenged a system in which things become more important than the people who labor to produce them. It is exactly

this division between the fruits of labor and the process of labor that has alienated human beings from their own creations and made work the enemy of play.

Popular pediatrician Benjamin Spock, states that a child's play is serious business. Play is nature's way of developing simultaneously the mind and the body of the child. It is only when the adult world exploits the human needs of the child and the accumulation of toys become the child's goal, that the toys themselves become the enemy of his development.

Toys, used as Lou Marx would have them, as substitutes for the "real thing," are the child's early initiation into a world of incomplete personalities and artificial values. The unity between work and play, which comes so naturally to the child, is shattered later by the perverse requirements of our system of formal education and finally by the inhuman split between man and his labor on the job.

CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Continued from page 1)

However, the present tensions among the Arab States themselves, are proof that the key to the Middle Eastern crisis is not primarily in Arab-Israel rivalry, but in the cold war for world domination. This is the framework in which the working people of the Middle East live today.

There are no easy answers. If the working people of the Middle East want a better way of life they are going to have to do it themselves. They are their own most reliable allies. But just as in the United States and Russia, they are finding that right within their own organizations is a bureaucracy which is one of the greatest barriers to a solution of the problems.

JEWISH WORKERS IN ISRAEL

One major element in the solution of the crisis is the role of the Jewish working class in Israel. Ninety per cent of the workers belong to trade unions. Three quarters of them are in the Histadrut, the Israel general federation of labor. Considering the size of the country, it is the largest voluntary trade union to politics and represents the power of the majority party in the government. Victor Reuther has called the Histadrut "The world's most successful trade union."

THE UNION BUREAUCRACY

The leadership of the Histadrut, though it pretends to be socialist, is also the biggest barrier to cooperation between the Arab and Jewish workers and thus helps to strengthen the position of corrupt Arab landlords.

In the earlier period of struggle against British imperialism, many, in the Jewish movement, were actively encouraging closer cooperation with the Arab masses. When the State was organized in 1948, the leadership of the Histadrut systematically excluded the Arab workers with the result that every single boat load of refugees raised the question: "Are you for or against Arabs?" The struggle was transformed from an effort to build a new society to one of intense nationalism.

Those who stood for full Arab-Jewish cooperation found it impossible to function and the labor bureaucracy, though it called itself socialist, ended by introducing state capitalism.

ARAB WORKERS IN ISRAEL

Until recently, Arab workers were not permitted to belong to the Histadrut itself. They were organized in a special Arab section, in Jim-Crow locals, where they could not exercise influence on the policies of the Histadrut. For years the Histadrut leadership has advocated a policy of 100 per cent Jewish labor, a campaign to buy only Jewish products and the complete

exclusion of the Arab worker from the Jewish economy. Since the Histadrut is not only a labor union but also owns 16 per cent of the business enterprises in Israel, it has appeared to the Arab workers not as the representative of labor but as an employer.

Not only have the policies of the Histadrut been a barrier to Jewish-Arab cooperation but, just as in the American trade union movement, the bureaucracy has trampled upon the rights of the rank and file of its own membership. As a result there have been wild-cat strikes and unemployment demonstrations against the leadership of the Histadrut. (See WORLD OUTLOOK, Dec. 9) **WILDCATS IN ISRAEL**

At one time, for example, 10,000 workers in Tel Aviv paraded and demonstrated against a government proposed cut in the cost of living allowance that is added to the workers wages. The majority of the Histadrut executives, tied in as it is with the majority party in the government, voted to pass out leaflets among the workers telling them not to demonstrate. In the shops, Histadrut representatives supported the employers' threats to fire workers who took part in the demonstration.

The demonstration took place despite these threats. It was very peaceful and the police who were standing by did not interfere. Nevertheless, on the day after the demonstration, Solel-Boneh, a business controlled by the Histadrut, laid off several dozen workers who had demonstrated. The Tel Aviv workers then went out in what amounted to a general strike until the dismissal orders were rescinded by the Histadrut. To the Jewish workers, as to the Arab workers, Histadrut plays the role of an employer.

This rank and file, so rebellious against the economic policies of its General Federation of Labor, are also against the anti-Arab policies of the Histadrut. It is to them and not the Histadrut bureaucracy, that one must look for the future.

(For information on labor in the Arab States, See WORLD OUTLOOK.)

LABOR IN THE ARAB STATES

It is very difficult to get a picture of Arab labor in the Arab states because their organizations are so new. For example, the first real strike of labor in Saudi Arabia seems to have taken place only two years ago. In all the Arab States encircling Israel, there are only about a quarter of a million workers organized in trade unions, out of a total population of more than 44 million.

Despite this, the strikes and demonstrations of this new force in world politics have been vigorous and remarkable. In the Arab unions, also, there seems to be a bureaucracy made up of Arab liberals who are mainly concerned with political and economic power for themselves. This situation can only result in the rank and file of Arab labor also forming their own demands and creating new forms of organization and leadership.

AUTOMATION—RUSSIAN VS AMERICAN

Television audiences were treated the other night to a picture of automation on a Russian production line. The commentator tried to laugh it off by saying how hard Russian banquets were on the American stomach. The American State Department is running wild with rumors (unconfirmed) about how spies run off with our most closely guarded secrets.

The truth is that American engineers, technicians and industrialists have just returned from a trip through Russian production lines and factories and they are astonished at the degree to which automation has been established in Russia. They report that production lines, which they have seen, are on a par with those in the Uni-

WORLD OUTLOOK

ed States, which were set up for car production only a few months ago. Any American production expert will tell you that these things are planned years in advance. Any question of sypping in this case is obviously impossible.

Such observations, coming from leading American industrialists, not Red fellow-travelers, can mean only one thing: It certainly explodes the myth that Russia is incapable of creating new techniques, of inventing new machinery or of making the fullest possible use of the technical know-how it has acquired through its own efforts to exploit labor to the fullest possible extent.

The secrecy which surrounds the latest improvements in American scientific technique is a secrecy which prevents the fullest development of this country and does not in the slightest hold back the development of the ideas of other countries.

When this secrecy is added to the security system's terror, you can see why America is beginning to slip behind and not lead the world in technical development.

So far as the workers are concerned the one problem that stands out as the effect of automation is unemployment. This is what also preoccupies the British workers. But the labor bureaucracy, including its Bevanite left wing, are blind to the fact that that same effect of automation would be true also in Russia. They criticize

American automation and then go paying the trip of a shop steward to watch Russian automation at work. At a recent conference of shop stewards they heard, without any criticism, the report of Russian automation.

When Russia first exploded the hydrogen bomb, many workers were glad, though fearful, not because they have any use for Russia, but because it would serve to stop the American imperialists from running wild with the bomb. They think that with both powers in possession, there is less chance of either of them using it.

With automation, it is another question. Both have it, both use it. Here their enemy is a common one, the workers of both countries.

CONVERSATION IN DETROIT

Joe: Have you heard about the big lay-offs coming up next month?

Sam: No. They keep talking about prosperity and the next thing you hear about is a lay-off.

Joe: Well, you know the Guaranteed Annual Wage is to go into effect next June. Before that time, the company will have as many workers hitting the bricks as possible.

Sam: I heard on TV that the stock market took a dip. I first thought that was the reason for the lay-offs, but I guess you are right.

Joe: The company is firing like mad. They want to get as many workers out as possible before the Annual Wage goes into effect.

A WORKER IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Many thanks for your valuable paper. I feel we need such a paper in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to allow the workers a Forum to express their views freely. Every success to your paper.

Armagh
N. Ireland

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