

TRUMAN IN JUNCTION BUSTS RAIL STRIKE

Housing--A Capitalist Crime, Dobbs Tells Senate Hearing

Farrell Dobbs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for President, denounced the capitalist conspiracy on housing in the following statement submitted to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee on May 12.

I want to talk today about an iron curtain. This particular iron curtain was not fabricated by Russians or totalitarianism. This iron curtain carries the trade mark "Made in U.S.A." — it was made by the capitalist system which is strangely called "free enterprise." I am talking about the iron curtain that separates millions of American working class families from decent homes and innumerable cases from any homes at all. I am talking about the iron curtain which separates the veterans and their families from the lofty promises of modern, livable and low rent housing accommodations which were made to them during the war.

The record proves beyond a doubt that Congress has not kept the promises which were made to the veterans. But this is all in the tradition of giving soldiers a promissory note to make them fight the rich man's wars and then melting on the note when it came due for collection. The tradition is as old as America. The merchants and bankers of the revolutionary years led by their evil genius Alexander Hamilton contrived the great swindle of cheating the veterans of Valley Forge out of their earnings by manipulating the value of the currency. About seventy years later the corrupt agents of the industrial barons and the railroad kings swindled the Civil War veterans out of their homesteads—that too, gentlemen, might be called a housing scandal.

The war hysteria now being whipped up right here in Washington from the floor of Congress is not unconnected with the shortage of homes in this country. It is a method as old as class society itself. It began with the circus the Roman slave masters employed to divert the attention of hungry, homeless and discontented people. Hitler and Mussolini brought this method to modern perfection—when concentration camps

and jails proved inadequate they were quick to beat the war drums in order to divert the attention of German or Italian workmen from their wretched working and living conditions.

The failure to provide housing is the failure of capitalism. By the same token it puts the mark of bankruptcy upon political parties which make the defense of the system of private profit the cardinal plank in their platform. Regardless of the turn in the economic cycle the housing crisis has remained with us. Former President Roosevelt declared during the last devastating depression, in the first year of his administration, that one-third of the nation was ill-housed. Today at the peak of the postwar boom with national income at a record level President Truman tells us that the housing situation is "almost fatal."

Seek Profit, Ignore Need

Why was there no genuine alleviation of the housing shortage during the last depression? The banks had billions of dollars in idle capital. There were tens of thousands of unemployed building trades craftsmen and many more jobs in the building materials industries. Despite the great need for homes, the banks, mortgage and insurance companies and real estate interests deliberately blocked a building program for low cost housing because a profitable market was lacking—that is, because the earning power of working people was too low to pay the exorbitant rents which would make a large-scale building program profitable.

Since Roosevelt made his melancholy remarks about the housing problem, the crisis has become far more acute and aggravated. It is conservatively estimated that there are at least between 2,500,000 and 5,000,000 families who are doubled up with friends or relatives, crowded into unsanitary trailer camps and dingy hotel rooms — families who live under such conditions that they can best be described as homeless. This does not include between 18-21,000,000 non-farm city and rural families who live in substandard and slum dwellings. Most of these structures are in an advanced state of deterioration and many of them, now fully occupied, have long ago been condemned as uninhabitable by official agencies in the major cities.

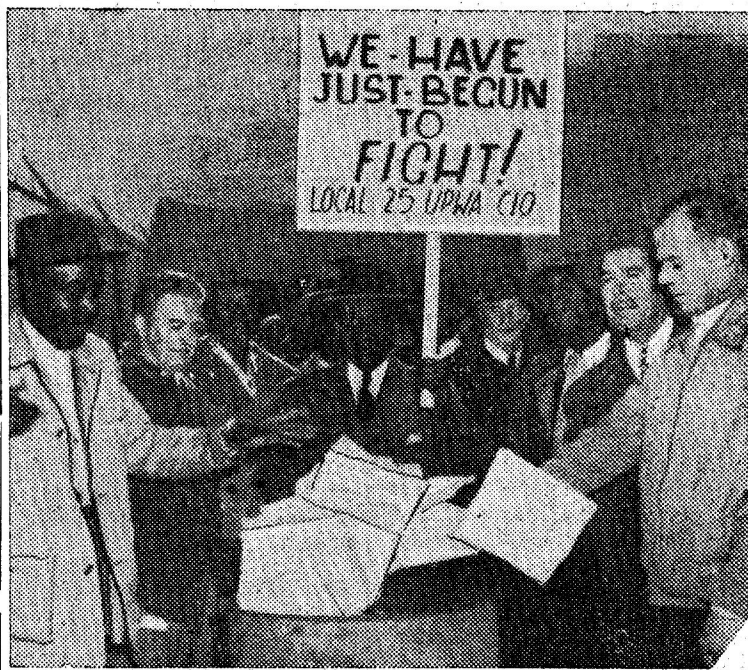
When an innocent man is wrongly sentenced to die for a crime he did not commit there is a great outcry at such a miscarriage of justice. Even Congress might be prevailed to help redress the wrong. But the failure of capitalist business and its political representatives in the national government to alleviate the housing shortage is tantamount to a sentence of premature death to millions of slum dwellers in New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Detroit, Cincinnati, Columbus and other major cities. Yet there is no major outcry against this national injustice.

(Continued on page 2)



FARRELL DOBBS

Strikers Hold Firm



Despite police brutality and company strike-breaking, 100,000 members of CIO Packinghouse Workers hold firm in their strike. Here a group of Chicago pickets answers company leaflets urging a back-to-work movement by dumping them in a wastebasket.

Federated Pictures.

75,000 Chrysler Workers Strike In Three States

75,000 Auto workers in Michigan, Indiana and California struck against the Chrysler Corporation on May 12, after talks between the union and the company broke down completely.

"We'll give them the damnedest strike they ever had," Norman Matthews, head of the union Chrysler department told reporters, as he emerged from a meeting with 100 rank and file representatives of the Chrysler locals.

The union representatives, in the last meeting with the company, scaled down the original demands for a 30-cent hourly wage increase plus 5 cents an hour for supplementary demands to a straight across-the-board 17-cent an hour increase. The company turned this down and offered no counter proposal.

The company had previously proposed a 6-cent hourly increase which the union rejected. When U.S. Steel came out with its "no wage increases" announcement, Chrysler Corp. withdrew its offer.

HUGE PROFITS

In big ads run in the Detroit daily papers, the auto union pointed out that Chrysler profits in 1947, after taxes, came to 25.6% of its investment; greater even than the industry averaged which was 17%. Chrysler profits were so great that each Chrysler worker produced 68 cents in profit for the corporation every hour he worked. The union figures demonstrated that the company could grant a 30-cent increase and still make 14 1-4% on its investment, after taxes.

In contrast, the Chrysler workers are forced to live on an income thirteen dollars below the minimum weekly income fixed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as the bare subsistence budget for a city worker's family of four.

Meanwhile the situation at GM was coming to a head. On May 5, over 200 delegates, representing 60 General Motors plants through out the country, voted to terminate the union contract and take a strike poll by May 23. The General Motors Corporation representatives have been even more arrogant than Chrysler in the negotiations with the union. They offered absolutely no wage increase and have taken the offensive in making demands upon the union for the restoration of the hated piece work system plus the other drastic contract changes.

At the same time, the drive to stamp out academic freedom continues unabated. The latest victim of the witch-hunters is Clyde R. Miller, Associate Professor of Education in Columbia Teachers College. He was one of the signatories of a protest against the film "Iron Curtain." His dismissal comes in the wake of the dismissals of a number of other professors throughout the country whose sole "crime" has consisted of supporting Wallace's candidacy.

The Wage Fight And Labor's Tasks

An Editorial

The labor movement is in full retreat. The third round wage campaign of the CIO is becoming a shambles.

The CIO Packinghouse Union was permitted by the national CIO to go up by itself against the entrenched might of the profit-swollen meat trusts. The strike is in its ninth week, the packinghouse workers are being bled white and the companies are now promoting a back-to-work movement to actually smash the strike.

Philip Murray, who, as president of the CIO, is supposed to be leading the whole national fight, has checked out altogether. First he fixed the steelworkers up good and proper with a two-year "no-strike pledge" contract. And now that the steel trust has contemptuously said "No" to his wage pleas, he has decided to sit out the third wage round.

The auto union leadership is obviously still wedded to Reuther's one-at-a-time strategy, which proved so costly and ineffective in the 1945 General Motors strike. 75,000 Chrysler workers have now been forced to strike for decent living wages. The union is going through the motions of a strike vote at GM and the Ford contract is about to expire, but there is no disposition to adopt an industry-wide strategy of negotiations and strike action.

The AFL and Brotherhood leaders present an even sordid spectacle of disunity and ineffectiveness. After permitting themselves to be tied up for months and months by the red tape of the Rail Labor Act, the rail union leaders break ranks and all but three of the unions accept the totally inadequate wage increases. When the government as strikebreaker cracks down on the three unions that continue the fight for a 30% wage increase, the rest of the labor leaders remain mum — just as they did in the case of the miners — and do nothing to come to the help of their embattled fellow unionists.

Is it any wonder that under this bankrupt leadership the union ranks are growing demoralized? This present sad state of affairs proves forcefully that the time is past when even big national unions can singly challenge the huge, enormously rich, enormously powerful American billionaire corporations aided and abetted as they are by the strikebreaking paraphernalia of the capitalist state. The unions will have to unify their wage fights, practice solidarity and militancy in action, embark on independent labor politics — or they will suffer one catastrophe after another.

Imagine, for a moment, if the steel and auto unions joined with the miners in signing a defensive and offensive pact and all three moved together to settle their wage demands on the rule of "one for all and all for one." The effrontery and swagger of the corporations would be knocked out of them pretty fast, wouldn't it?

That is the policy that the times call for. That is the policy that the militants in all the unions must begin demanding! And the simplest way to achieve it is by convoking a broad CONFERENCE OF LABOR of all the leading unions to organize a unified strategy of action on the labor front.

Uses 1916 Statute As Pretext for Gov't Seizure

By George Lavan

Again the Truman administration has rushed to the aid of Big Business

to smash the impending strike of railroad workers. Seizing the railroads under a phony "state of war," the government then got an injunction forbidding the strike from its favorite strike-breaking judge, T. Alan Goldsborough.

Faced with the possibility of fines and jail sentences, the heads of the three unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and the Switchmen Union, called off the strike.

NOT THE ARMY

The government seizure is phony not only because the 1916 law, used as a pretext, permits seizure "in time of war" to move troops, but because the Army is not really taking over the railroads. What has happened is that railroad officials have been commissioned into the Army as colonels and brigadier generals. The same anti-labor officials will run the "seized" railroads, the same companies will make the profits and the workers will be chained to the same working conditions.

Judge Goldsborough gained his fame for million-dollar fines and injunctions against the United Mine Workers Union. The present injunction will last till May 19. Then Goldsborough will hold a hearing to extend the injunction. Meanwhile Navy Secretary Kenneth C. Royal, announced that he had no authority to settle the issues in dispute.

The three union heads pledged to fight the government's efforts to obtain an injunction and for higher pay and better working conditions.

NEAR THE BOTTOM

Actually the record of the Brotherhood chiefs is a very poor one. Their present stand of putting up some show of fighting for a 30% wage increase and improved working conditions stems from the enormous pressure on them from an aroused rank and file.

For years these fat bureaucrats have allowed the conditions of railroad workers to deteriorate. The railroaders, still called the "aristocrats" of labor, are pretty shabby aristocrats today. 28 years ago they ranked second highest in wages. Today they are near the bottom of the list, in 27th place.

This drop is accounted for by the inaction of the well-paid officials who ran the unions as adjuncts to enormous insurance companies they had built up. Union funds are used for speculation in real estate and other ventures. All the time the Railway Labor Act, boosted and extolled by these same bureaucrats, enmeshed the unions in a stranglehold of endless negotiation, mediation, runaround and red tape.

CALL FOR UNITY

In the past few years the rank and file particularly of the Engineers and Firemen's unions, has been threatening the bureaucrats, with drastic action. In both of these organizations — which are completely dual in nature to each other — the rank and file forced through, at their last conventions, the setting up of consolidation committees to unify the two organizations, as a step toward achieving a more modern workable setup on the railroads.

That is why the leaders of the BLE and BLF & E refused the paltry 15 1-2 cent award of the Presidential Fact Finding Board which was accepted by the other rail unions and are continuing to demand wage increases commensurate with the increase in the cost of living and the elimination of the present antiquated working rules. While a number of the CIO unions are now demanding and fighting for their third round of wage increases to meet the soaring inflation, the railroad workers are still fighting for the second round.

CIO Sharply Denounces Anti-Labor Mundt Bill

The CIO has officially come out against the Mundt Bill, whose passage would constitute a mortal blow to civil liberties in this country and thereby endanger the very existence of organized labor.

After attacking the Mundt Bill editorially in the May 10 CIO News, the CIO, through its legislative director, Nathan Cowan, sent letters on May 11 to Congressmen demanding that they vote against this bill. At the same time Cowan also sent letters to CIO affiliates throughout the country asking them to "mobilize public opinion" to defeat the bill.

The CIO News editorial branded the Mundt Bill as a "legislative monstrosity" which would penalize people for their ideas and beliefs and institute the infamous procedure of "guilt by association."

It then goes on to correctly point out that this bill vests "discretionary powers" in the hands of the Attorney General that would enable the latter to "destroy or seriously harm" any organization he might choose "through error or design" in addition to the Communist Party against which the bill is directly aimed.

Cowan, in his letter to congressmen, stresses, that the Mundt Bill "seriously threatens the existence of bona fide labor unions" precisely because it seeks to "impose a blackout of civil rights."

unions underscores the urgency of the situation and calls for immediate action in mobilizing mass protest.

This vigorous stand of the CIO is a welcome development as the highest bodies of the organized labor movement have been remiss thus far in recognizing and combatting the terrible threat implicit in the Mundt Bill and the red-baiting campaign, in general. The top AFL leadership is still silent on the issue.

Among the organizations that have thus far voiced their opposition to the Mundt Bill are the Civil Liberties Union, the Americans for Democratic Action, the Committee of One Thousand, and a recently formed group of writers, artists, scientists, educators and clergymen. The National Lawyers Guild has also denounced it as the "deadliest fruit of a period of mounting hysteria and oppression."

NO PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public fight against this "police state" measure has been severely handicapped by the high-handed decision not to hold any public hearings. Protests against this on the floor of the House of Representatives have proved unavailing.

The Mundt Bill has been cleared for House debate on Thursday, May 13, with the House Rules Committee limiting the entire discussion to six hours.

Its passage in the House appears virtually assured. The sweep of reaction in Washington

is underscored by the fact that only a few weeks ago, on April 29, the House by a vote of 271 to 95 approved in substance one of the key clauses in the Mundt Bill — "guilt by association" — by passing a rider to an appropriation bill. This rider prohibits the use of any funds to pay any Federal employe belonging to a union that has failed to file the "yellow dog" affidavits under the Taft-Hartley Law.

Another indication of the mood prevalent in Congress is a clause contained in a resolution recently introduced by Rep. Clare Hoffman (R. Mich.). According to a provision in this resolution any congressional committee could label information "confidential" and any one disclosing such information — including congressmen and reporters — would be liable to a prison term and a fine. Provisions of this sort would quickly make a dead letter of all freedom of speech and of the press.

At the same time, the drive to stamp out academic freedom continues unabated. The latest victim of the witch-hunters is Clyde R. Miller, Associate Professor of Education in Columbia Teachers College. He was one of the signatories of a protest against the film "Iron Curtain." His dismissal comes in the wake of the dismissals of a number of other professors throughout the country whose sole "crime" has consisted of supporting Wallace's candidacy.

Connecticut SWP Opens Drive for Election Petitions

NEW BRITAIN, Conn., May 10—The presidential campaign of the Socialist Workers Party started rolling through the State of Connecticut this week. Petition gatherers began their drive for 12,000 signatures in Hartford and New Haven this weekend. The above figure, which the campaign committee hopes to achieve by the time of the SWP National Convention on July 1, would be well over the required minimum of 8,300.

In addition to the National candidates of Farrell Dobbs for President and Grace Carlson for Vice-President, state candidates are also being run. Morris Chertov of New Haven is seeking the office of Governor and Alvin Bernson of New Britain is running for Congressman-at-large.

All Militant readers who want to help in the campaign are urged to write the SWP at 855 Grand Ave. in New Haven or 165 Main St. in New Britain.

Stalin Bids Openly For Deal with U.S.

The much-rumored bid by the Kremlin for a deal with Washington has finally materialized. Rebuffed in previous private approaches for a rapprochement early this year, Moscow has utilized a recent interchange of notes between U.S. Ambassador General Walter Eedell Smith and Foreign Minister Molotov in order to launch publicly its "peace offensive."

The chronology of events is approximately as follows. On May 4, upon cabled instructions from Washington, General Smith delivered an "oral" statement to Molotov. This declaration reiterated Washington's "cold war" policy and emphasized this policy would continue regardless of any political or economic changes that might occur in the United States. Appended to this blunt "statement for the record" was a formula to the effect that a "door always remains open for discussion and settlement of our differences." This "open door" formula was used by Truman himself in his speech to Congress last March when the rearmament program was launched.

Yet it was precisely upon this vague formula that the Kremlin diplomats pounced, pretending that it was actually an invitation for bi-lateral negotiations. On May 9, Molotov handed Smith a reply which begins with a blunt acceptance of the American "proposal to begin... a discussion and settlement of the differences existing between us."

The possibility of a deal at a later stage, when Washington's relative position will be strengthened through rearmament, the operation of the ERP, and the solidification of the Western Bloc cannot be excluded. But for the time being there is little inclination in Washington to ease up on the "cold war" policy.

Even if successful, Moscow's bid for a deal with Washington would only postpone the final showdown temporarily.

As a maneuver the Kremlin's diplomatic gambit is both sensational and skillful. But the cleverest maneuvers can never decide any basic issues, least of all, the current conflict between Wall Street and the Kremlin.

The pay-off came the next night when the Moscow radio broadcast to the world the text of this diplomatic interchange.

This move caught Washington completely by surprise. General Smith complained that it was a break of "confidence."

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Marshall, Churchill Declarations Promote Strategy of Western Bloc

By John G. Wright

Two important moves were made on the chessboard of foreign diplomacy during the first week of May. One, by the State Department in Washington; the other by Winston Churchill at the Hague in the Netherlands.

Europe, greeted his efforts, this time, with unconcealed enthusiasm. Churchill's pronouncements likewise had the tacit approval of the U.S. State Department, as Churchill himself implied in his speech.

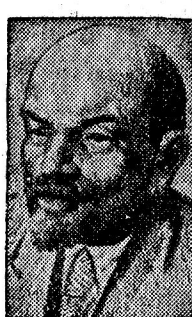
This has necessitated a different orientation, long advocated by such outspoken critics of the Truman Doctrine as Walter Lippmann. He has been demanding a concentration not on the weak and "unreliable" Soviet borders but on Western Europe.

Washington "redress" the existing military "disequilibrium" on the European continent. Austin added that "we should strengthen the military posture of our friends."

through the medium of "aid" plus a modified "lend-lease." In the meanwhile, the organization of the UN is to be preserved as a mobilizer and manufacturer of favorable "public opinion."



TROTSKY



LENIN

"Twenty-five years in the scales of history, when it is a question of profoundest changes in economic and cultural systems, weigh less than an hour in the life of man. What good is the individual who, because of empirical failures in the course of an hour or a day, renounces a goal that he set for himself on the basis of the experience and analysis of his entire previous lifetime?"

—Leon Trotsky, In Defense of Marxism, P. 15.

Greek Massacre

All Greece is red today — red with the river of blood coursing through that unhappy little country as its fascist government carries through a campaign of mass murder of its political opponents.

practiced by the Nazis, was universally condemned during the war, and we were treated to a lot of promises about how World War II was being fought in order to put an end to such atrocities. Yet the U.S. State Department refused to utter even one syllable in criticism of the Greek reign of terror.

The Eisenhower Fiasco

It is commonly recognized that the American ruling class is growing more cocky and arrogant in its treatment of the labor movement. You don't have to search far to discover that one of the main reasons is the political bankruptcy of the trade union leaders, which becomes more glaringly evident with every passing day.

down in the mire of popular discontent they veered sharply. The denounced the Wallace candidacy until they were blue in the face, but that got them exactly nowhere. They then headed in Eisenhower's direction, hoping thus to get a Democratic nominee less discredited than Truman.

Fabrication of a Trotsky 'Testament'

We are printing the answer of Natalia Trotsky, widow of the famed revolutionary leader, to the latest Stalinist forgery printed in the french newspaper France Dimanche, and answered by The Militant of April 5. Natalia Trotsky has furthermore instituted suit for libel against France Dimanche.

What new would Serge have had for concealing the existence of so important a document, especially since it was seemingly intended as an "open declaration to the world's workers?" True to the GPU form set in the Moscow Trials, everything hinges on a witness who can never be called to testify. Victor Serge is dead.

What aim does the GPU pursue in fabricating this testament of Trotsky? One does not have far to seek. Efforts along such lines were not only to be expected; they were actually predicted at the time of the Nuremberg trial of the Nazi arch-criminals.

What message was immediately transmitted by wireless and press to all corners of the world. It is the meaning of that message reinforced by all the living ideas of Trotskyism, that leaves the Stalinists no peace.

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NATALIA TROTSKY

By Natalia Sedova-Trotsky

The French weekly, France Dimanche, presented to its readers on March 21 of this year a testament supposedly drawn up by Trotsky on May 20, 1940. This political will attributes to Trotsky a change of heart regarding the socialist revolution and his faith in the working class.

Dimanche, the testament was drawn up in July 1940, and that same month a Soviet agent succeeded in procuring a copy and sending it to Moscow. What speed in so delicate a matter!

WORKERS FORUM

Open Letter To CP Members

Editor: I am writing this in the form of an Open Letter to the members and sympathizers of the Communist Party, and particularly to those in the CP who still consider themselves revolutionary Marxists.

one of the two major parties, we'll endorse him." Do you believe in the "good man" theory?

9. Finally—isn't it high time for you to take stock of your position, to open up your eyes and see where Foster, Thompson and Co. have been misleading you, and to consider seriously the program of authentic revolutionary Marxism as represented by the Socialist Workers Party?

Failure at Bogota

The recently concluded Bogota conference, far from being the "magnificent success" described by William D. Pawley, former ambassador to Brazil, is recognized by practically every economic and political analyst as a dismal failure.

the private investments of the American bankers. However, only half of the South American countries agreed to go along with the onerous conditions which Washington railroad through the conference by a 10-to-9 vote.

Activities of 'Militant' Readers and the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

- AKRON—4 So. Howard St., 2nd fl. Mon. through Fri., 7 to 9 p. m.; Branch meeting Sun. 8 p. m.; Socialist Youth Club meeting Sun. 3 p. m.

The Last Straw

By Theodore Kovalesky

Homer Finnegan's head ached furiously. Inside it were nine million iron balls rolling and bumping, and in his stomach were about seven million. He slammed his door shut and stomped down the steps into the rain. "A fine way to be spending a Sunday!" he muttered. The sky was dark gray in the late dawn, lit by a flickering glare somewhere over in the direction of Number Three blast furnace. Homer trudged toward the plant, the squeaking handle of his lunch pail roaring in his ears. It was Sunday morning, the time for all men to be peacefully sleeping in their beds, especially if they had hangers like Homer Finnegan. When he reached the furnace floor, he could see immediately that this would be a day to remember. The jagged ink line on the pressure charts was leaping and diving. Every few moments, it seemed, there would be a deep, quivering "WHO-O-O-O-O-M," the floor would shudder, and Homer would have to make a leap for the wheel to pull the blast off the furnace. The fourth time he did it, he dropped the pressure and slag flowed back into the blowpipes and squirted out onto the brick floor. Then a blowpipe burned through, and they had to shut down. Homer trudged wearily down the steel steps to make the shutdown. It was a horrible morning, and the greater part of the day was before him, even more horrible. He wiped the hot sweat from his face and the cold drizzling rain from the back of his neck. "This job's not fit for a human being," he muttered. Back on the furnace floor, he sweated even

more. All the blowpipes had to be pulled out and cleaned. Some had to be burned out with oxygen, because of the caked iron and slag. The hours dragged on, creeping, crawling as though each hour were ten. With one more hour to go, Homer paused for a moment next to the furnace to rest. Then he fell flat on the floor. In the hospital he woke up looking through a transparent oxygen tent. He found that his headache had reached colossal proportions. The carbon monoxide gas he had inhaled up on the furnace floor had added four million more king-size iron balls to the original nine million in his head, and several tons of mouldy seaweed were quaking inside his stomach. At home his wife asked, "Did you see Mr. Rogalsky?" "Huh?" "The man you were going to see about a place to live. You know it's only three weeks we got to find a place, or we're out in the street." Homer muttered to himself, and lay down for a nap before supper. In half an hour he woke up again. Something new had been added. Besides the headache and nausea, a sledge hammer was pounding in the left side of his jaw, along with an intermittent electric spark that leapt all the way from the point of his jaw to his left ear. It was a tooth that he had been meaning to see the dentist about, but with his wage what it was, he hadn't wanted to spend the money. He took two aspirin and settled down to listen to Walter Winchell on the radio. After the broadcast Homer felt worse than ever. "Them damn reds," he muttered. "Trying to overthrow our way of life!"

The Negro Struggle

Senator Taylor's Arrest

By Albert Parker

The arrest of Senator Glen Taylor in Birmingham furnished a good example of "the American way of life" in the South, where almost three-quarters of the Negro people reside. Taylor had gone to make a speech to the Southern Negro Youth Conference in a church, and had found the audience strictly segregated, whites on one side of the aisle and Negroes on the other, and cops swarming around the place to make sure the state's sacred segregation law was enforced. Not only was the audience divided, but there were even two doors for entering the church, the front one for Negroes and a side door for whites. Taylor decided to go in the front way but when he tried, a big cop shoved him off the porch, and another cop gave him the elbow so hard he was spun across the yard and thrown across a small fence. He had offered no resistance but his suit was torn, his leg was bruised and his hand was cut. He was shoved into a police car and driven off on a roundabout route to the jail, on the way he got the impression the cops were trying to provoke him into some action for which they could beat him up. At the jail he was held for "disorderly conduct" until bail was raised. A few days later he was fined \$50 and costs and given a jail sentence of 180 days; the sentence was suspended and an appeal has been filed. That is what happened to a member of the U. S. Senate, the highest legislative body in the country. It is not hard to imagine what would have happened in this case to a man in a less prominent position—white or Negro. He would be in a jail or hospital (if not in his grave). The Southern ruling class does not fool around when it comes to defending its "way of life." It proposes to keep the white and Negro workers divided at all costs—by the use of propaganda and Jim Crow laws where possible, and by brute violence where necessary. Anybody who thinks the Southern rulers are going to peacefully accept a civil rights program that alters the

Negro's position in the South is a dreamer, due for a rude awakening. The judge who sentenced Taylor delivered the usual harangue against "outside influences" that are interfering with the Southern way of life. He did not say anything about the Northern capitalists with investments in the South who have conspired with the Southern rulers for the past 60-odd years to institute and maintain the present Jim Crow set-up. He highly approves of that kind of outside influence. And he did not say a word about the South's outside influence, exerted through congressmen elected by a tiny fraction of the population, who help to pass laws oppressing the workers of all colors in all parts of the country and who are responsible for the spread of racial hatred and restrictions through the federal government and the armed forces. What this country needs is the introduction of more "outside influence" in the South, backed up by the power of the organized labor movement. For either the workers of the North will help their Southern brothers end the dictatorial way of life in the South, or the ruling class will extend it to the rest of the nation. Just to keep the record straight, the Communist Party was forced to quickly change its false estimate of the Supreme Court decision on restrictive covenants, reported in this column last week. The May 4 Daily Worker did print a story entitled, "Supreme Court Voids Restrictive Covenants," which declared that the court had "dealt a serious blow to real estate agreements which bar Negroes from all-white neighborhoods." However an editorial in the next day's issue declared: "But that this Court decision gives the Negro tenant or property buyer any substantial gain, as is claimed by certain leaders who are only too anxious to quiet down the indignation of the Negro people, is a fallacy." Unfortunately, most of the Negro press, who also hailed the court's OK of restrictive covenants, have not changed their position.

Tuberculosis-Ancient Enemy

By Grace Carlson

As long ago as the 4th century B.C., the Greek physician, Hippocrates described tuberculosis so graphically that his writings about this disease stand as a medical classic. Hippocrates named the disease, "phthisis," which means "wasting," a marked characteristic of the last stage of tuberculosis. But tuberculosis was known to the human race long before Hippocrates' time. Mummies found in the tombs of Egypt show definite signs of tuberculosis. The characteristic marks of this disease have also been observed on the bones of persons who died long before history was recorded. Not until 1882 when the germ cause of tuberculosis was discovered was there any real progress in the fight against this age-old disease. It was in that year that Robert Koch identified the tubercle bacillus and proved conclusively that it is the direct cause of tuberculosis. The tubercle bacillus is a germ so small that it can gain entrance to the body in specks of dust or in the tiny droplets sprayed out in coughing or sneezing. Tubercle bacilli live for hours in moist sputum and may even resist drying and freezing. The germ is passed from person to person in various ways — through kissing an infected person, using his or her personal toilet articles, breathing in germs which have been

sprayed into the air by a tubercular patient's cough, using inadequately washed dishes on which tubercle bacilli may have been deposited by the previous user. When tubercle bacilli get into the body, they may be coughed out before they do any damage or they may be destroyed by the white cells of the blood. If they get past the body's first lines of defense, they are likely to find a place in the lungs. Since the tubercle bacillus is a foreign agent in the body, the body's next line of defense is to wall off the invader. A shell is formed around the bacilli, which is called a tubercle because it looks like a bulb. Inside the tubercle, the bacilli continue to grow and to destroy the small amount of lung substance left to them. In time, a hard gritty substance called calcium takes the place of the destroyed lung substance. Most city-dwellers, while growing up, become slightly infected by tubercle bacilli, but never develop active cases of tuberculosis. So long as the body keeps the upper hand, everything goes well, but if the bacilli invade the body in great numbers and the general resistance is low, an active case of tuberculosis will develop. Poverty, overwork, malnutrition and worry are the great allies of tuberculous germs because they break down the body's resistance. Great progress has been made in the fight against tuberculosis but this disease still takes a toll of 53,000 lives every year in the U. S. Tuberculosis is still an enemy of mankind.

Notes from the News

SMALL BUSINESS — So far over 1,600 firms have failed in 1948. In 1947 there were 957 bankruptcies and in 1946 there were 838. Small business is getting smaller. **UNDERTAKERS ALL SET FOR WAR** — Minnesota undertakers aren't letting any grass grow under their feet. At the 58th annual convention of the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association in Minneapolis, the embalmers' president reported that arrangements had been completed with the Army for the formation of undertakers' units which would accompany troops in the field to supervise identification and preparation of the dead for burial. **BORING FROM WITHIN** — The CIO-PAC of Michigan is "going into the Democratic Party" in order to transform it into a "liberal political organization." According to the officers of the Michigan PAC, this conforms "to national CIO policy." **A STRAIGHT PROGRAM** — Jack Kroll, chairman of the CIO-PAC, told the Textile convention delegates meeting at Atlantic City, that his organization had no idea what presidential candidate it would support, but urged that labor get out a large registration to meet any eventuality. **"STALIN AGE" MUSIC** — A new administration board has taken over the Union of Soviet Composers, and pledged itself to create music about the "Stalinist Age."

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CIO Packerhouse Unions Continue Grim Fight in Ninth Week of Strike

By Barbara Bruce

May 10, the deadline set by Armour, Swift and Cudahy for strikers to return to work, has come and gone, but only a few scabs answered the call. Hundreds of pickets gathered around the entrances to all three plants in South St. Paul this morning when a drizzle of would-be strike breakers went to work amid the jeers of union members. After nine weeks, the strike of the CIO Packerhouse Workers remains effective here as well as in the other meat packing centers. Workers at Superior and Bartusch packing plants, two independent meat packers in St. Paul, joined the ranks of UPW strikers

last Thursday. These two plants resumed operations a few weeks ago through an agreement with the union that a raise of 12 cents an hour would be granted immediately and the difference between the increase and the 29 cents hourly raise demanded by the union would be negotiated. Although bargaining was still in process, Bartusch and Superior employees joined the strike in order to lend their weight to the two-months-old fight for a living wage.

BORMEL SUPPORT

Packinghouse workers at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, announced last Friday after a membership meeting that they

are cutting their work week to 32 hours in order to reduce meat production. Provisions of the Minnesota labor law (Stassen Slave Act) prevent their striking in less than 30 days. The 3,700 members of the Hormel local will contribute 10% of their pay to the strike relief fund. Until now, the union has been giving \$12,500 a week and has contributed a total of \$100,000. Under a 10% payroll deduction plan, Hormel workers will contribute \$20,000 a week to the strike. Swift and company in South St. Paul sought to have a restraining order, which was dissolved last week in district court, barring picketing at plant gates reinstated, but the request was denied.

A suit has been filed in federal court in Chicago against the Big Four — Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson — by the international office of the UPW. The suit asks the court to restrain the companies from violating seniority, vacations and sick pay provisions of union contracts which run until August 11. Meanwhile, stock handlers in South St. Paul, Minnesota; Fargo, N. D.; Sioux City, Iowa; Fort Worth, Texas; St. Joseph, Missouri; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have agreed to join the nationwide packerhouse strike on Friday, May 14, unless their wage demands are met by that time. Stockyard workers are also demanding 29 cents an hour and

have been negotiating since before the packing strike was called. In Kansas City, Kansas, 34 claims totalling \$163,000 have been filed against the city by UPW members and bystanders who were injured in the assault by city police on picket lines and union headquarters April 23. Attempts to negotiate the issues in the strike were resumed in Chicago last weekend through efforts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. To date, despite numerous hearings and meetings, all the packers have said is "No" to every proposal that the union or the conciliation service has made.

Youngstown 'Vindicator' Rebuffed by Steel Unions

YOUNGSTOWN, May 8 — The primary elections of May 3 in Mahoning County witnessed an unexpected labor-capitalist conflict flaring up in the closing days of the campaign. The Youngstown Vindicator, mouthpiece of the local steel corporations, started a full blown rebutting attack on the labor movement five days before election day. The response of the steelworkers against the paper was overwhelming.

There were two issues in the campaign. First, a special 2.5 mill property levy was placed on the ballot, and second, a CIO man was entered in the Democratic primary race for Sheriff of Mahoning County. The Steelworkers District 26 leadership opposed the increased property levy, which would bear down hardest on small home owners, and eventually, tenants. They were met in the press with a united, vigorous, unremitting campaign backing the levy, with all party politicians, clubs, groups and "leaders" in the city helping to put the heat on.

In the race for sheriff, the local Steelworkers officers continued the ancient policy of the labor leaders of trying to "gain increased influence" in the Democratic Party. Paul Langley, president of a Steelworkers local, and for some time an active Democratic worker, was run against the notorious Sheriff Elser, incumbent since 1934, and scabherder in the 1937 Little Steel strike.

On the Thursday preceding the election the Vindicator appeared with its ill-fated blast: a two column wide editorial signed by the political editor of the Vindicator, Chingam Jackson, who is a big shot in the Democratic Party and a State Senator. This editorial was printed under a huge scare headline that the CIO was using "Communist tactics" in an attempt to take over the Democratic Party. There followed an invidious text, which, while completely devoid of facts, attempted in every infantile way known to the author to convey the impression that the CIO was engaged in a gigantic plot; that

this plot was part of the "red conspiracy" against our "form of government"; and further, that the whole local Steelworkers leadership, from James P. Griffin, District 26 director, down to the last office girl and staff errand boy is a dyed-in-the-wool Communist.

The reaction in the steel mills was immediate. Union workers bristled at the attack. The CIO went on the radio half a dozen times in three days, and bought considerable space in the Vindicator to reply. Local 1330 at the Ohio Works of Carnegie-Illinois issued a leaflet defending the right of the CIO to back any stand or individual it wished in political campaigns.

On Tuesday came the vote. The property levy was overwhelmingly defeated, and Langley won the Democratic nomination for sheriff. How much this nomination is worth, the CIO leaders and members in this area will find out in the days to come. But the slap in the face administered to the Vindicator must be regarded as labor's victory.

That's the way the men in the mills look at it. As a result, CIO prestige, badly suffering from the body blow recently dealt it by CIO President Philip Murray has again risen.

Taylor Convicted



Following his conviction on a disorderly conduct charge for trying to enter a church through a door marked "Negroes", Sen. Glen H. Taylor chats with Raleigh Durden, delegate to a meet-your-government seminar in Washington. The third party vice-presidential candidate is appealing the case on grounds that segregation laws violate the constitutional right of free assembly. Federated Pictures

Post Office Fires NAACP Leader for Fighting Jim Crow

By J. Hawkins

SANTA MONICA, Cal., May 9 — The Truman administration revealed the hypocrisy behind its civil rights program this week when it sided with the Jim Crow Sears and Roebuck Co. and began persecution of an outstanding West Coast fighter for fair employment practices. The six-month old fight of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People against racial discrimination in hiring at the Sears store became a national issue when the U.S. Postmaster General fired Frank H. Barnes, militant president of the branch, from his mail carrier's job last Tuesday. The reason? Because, in his campaign against Sears, Barnes was, according to the charges, either a member of, or sympathetic to, subversive organizations and accepted the support of these organizations. Among the organizations listed by the Postmaster General as subversive were the American Veterans Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Committee on Racial Equality, the Progressive Citizens of America, the National Negro Congress and the Communist Party.

CP Makes Faction Issue Of NMU Agent's Death

By Art Sharon

NEW YORK CITY, May 11 — The present bitterly fought election contest between the Stalinist machine and the rank and file caucus inside the CIO National Maritime Union had a new issue this week in the tragic death of the NMU's Charleston agent, Robert New, part of the Stalinist machine, who was attacked and murdered by union member Rudolph Serreo. Immediately upon receipt of the shocking news the National

union has followed the Daily Worker's line in stepping up its campaign of vilification and slander against the rank and file caucus. They actually charge that it was a political murder and that Serreo was a leader of the Charleston rank and file caucus. However Serreo's name does not appear among the thousands that are publicly published as sponsors of the rank and file caucus. Nor is Serreo known to the New York rank and file caucus as a caucus member.

It is well known throughout the union that the rank and file caucus has warned against the use of physical violence. This was necessary because of the repeated Stalinist provocations. The Stalinist machine is apparently convinced of their impending defeat in the present election. All indications point to their deliberately creating an atmosphere of fear and demoralization in preparation for some desperate moves in the internal struggle. Six weeks remain before the results of the secret ballot voting will be known. Just previous to that date the union faces the critical expiration date of its contract with the shipowners. Instead of allowing the union as a whole to condemn the murder, the Stalinists are insisting upon using this as a factional football. It is doubtful that the cynical exploitation of New's death will have much effect upon the outcome of the election.

'BACK TO WORK' MOVE FIZZLES AT BOEING

SEATTLE, May 10 — The Boeing Airplane Company has been defeated in its attempts to start a back-to-work movement. The company inserted urgent appeals in the want-ad section of the daily papers. The personnel department has made calls to individuals reminding them the plant is open and they can return to work. But the union members are standing firm determined to win their demands. The union has secured radio time twice weekly to present their side. In their first weekly broadcast the union business agent explained how the company was following the Mohawk Valley Formula in attempting to break the strike and the union.

The union issues daily "Picket Line Briefs" keeping the membership alerted on the latest developments. Large placards for cars have been issued reading "On Strike at Boeing — We Only Want Fair Play." The company filed a suit under the Taft-Hartley Law for \$2,250,000 damages from lodge no. 751 and its parent union, the International Association of Machinists. The company charged the union with causing and sanctioning a strike while a contract containing a "no strike" clause was in effect. Meanwhile the union attorney was preparing to file three actions in federal court seeking \$5,000,000 in damages and requesting the company be enjoined from unfair labor practices. United States Conciliation Director, Cyrus Ching, has summoned Harvey Brown, IAM President and William Allen, Boeing Company President to attend a conference in Washington, D.C. Allen twice refused, stating he would send representatives to explain the company's version of the "illegal strike" but would refuse to reopen negotiations for a settlement. Denial of unemployment compensation to the striking workers was ok'd by the State Commissioner even though the company has notified its employees that their work is terminated.

Armour Picket Killed In East St. Louis

Another Armour picket lies dead. Ed Hucks, a member of UPW Local 42, was shot and killed last Sunday at the Armour plant just outside the City limits of East St. Louis, Illinois. When Hucks called out to three scabs sealing a fence around the plant, he was answered with a blast from the pistol of one of the strikebreakers. He was killed instantly by a bullet through the head.



JOSEPH CURRAN

In the last issue of the UPW Area Strike Bulletin, District 2, the union declares, "The responsibility for this wanton killing we lay directly at the door of Armour. . . . From the very first day of the strike we proclaimed that their vicious back-to-work movement could lead to but one thing: violence. What else can result from their efforts to use a tiny minority consisting of stool-pigeons to break a strike when the overwhelming majority of employees voted to win their demands by picket line resistance. . . . The boards of directors of all corporations are the real criminals who should be placed in the docket and tried for the murders of the Cicardos, the Hucks, and the countless others who have had to pay with their lives for doing no more than fighting for a decent livelihood." Meanwhile the Stalinist faction