

WALL ST. WAR SCHEDULE AND THE H-BOMB

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French General Strike Compels Laniel to Retreat

By William F. Warde

The mighty wave of strikes which rolled over France for three weeks brought production, transport and the state administration to a standstill, and shook the capitalist regime to its foundations, has temporarily subsided.

Last Friday, Aug. 21, after an agreement with the Laniel government, the Socialist and Catholic-led unions called their members back to work. This disrupted the unity of action which had been achieved from below by the ranks in the various unions, localities and work-places. The Stalinist-controlled General Confederation of Labor tried to keep the strike going. However, its call did not meet with general response and it had to issue a back-to-work order.

Thus the most potent and promising strike movement of the French working class since 1936 was brought to an inconclusive end. This potentially revolutionary struggle was an open test of strength between the capitalist rulers and the forces of labor on both the economic and political arenas.

The government provoked the strikes by issuing decrees designed to ease the problems of its budget at the expense of the poorest-paid workers. The postal workers, who are directly affected by the cuts, spontaneously rebelled and touched off the protest actions. These continued to spread from one category of workers to another until at times they

embraced nearly 4 million strikers.

Premier Laniel recognized, if the labor leaders did not, that the issue of power was sharply posed by this massive collision of social forces. At first he was completely adamant against the strikers. He counted upon the movement disintegrating and petering out, leaving the authorities in a position to wield the whip upon beaten and demoralized workers.

This strategy was upset by the workers themselves who, after starting the strikes, forged unity in the heat of combat and kept deepening and extending their movement. They dragged their leaderships along with them, put such heat upon them, and exhibited such staunch powers of resistance that the government had to modify its attitude.

GRANT CONCESSIONS

Laniel promised not to revise the railwaymen's pension systems; to review wage scales of the lowest paid workers in industry; to pay year-end bonuses to postal workers; to pay workers' wages in many cases for most of the strikes' duration; and to limit punishment to strikers who had engaged in sabotage or other serious actions.

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Teachers Defend Civil Rights For Victims of the Witch-hunt

You Can't Hide from The H-Bomb

Washington continues to conceal the fact that there is no conceivable civilian defense from the latest atomic horror weapon, the H-Bomb.

According to the Aug. 22 weekly size-up by the Washington staff of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, "Civil Defense authorities are groping for a new policy, now that Russia has the H-Bomb." These authorities have been advising us "to stay put, seek shelter in case of enemy attack. They've stressed danger of congestion on roads and streets if everyone tried to leave at once."

But "soon — though officials won't say it yet — the advice is likely to be 'leave, if you can.' Civil Defense is thinking along city-evacuation lines."

A LITTLE HITCH

There's one little hitch in the "evacuation" idea, even apart from the fact that a city like New York, say, would suffer a total traffic jam five minutes after an evacuation order is given. The "big unsolved problem" is "how to get advance warning, in time to get folks away."

The war-makers had been trying to reassure us that atomic war is "not so bad." They put out propaganda blurbs about A-Bomb shelters and hiding under tables and what not.

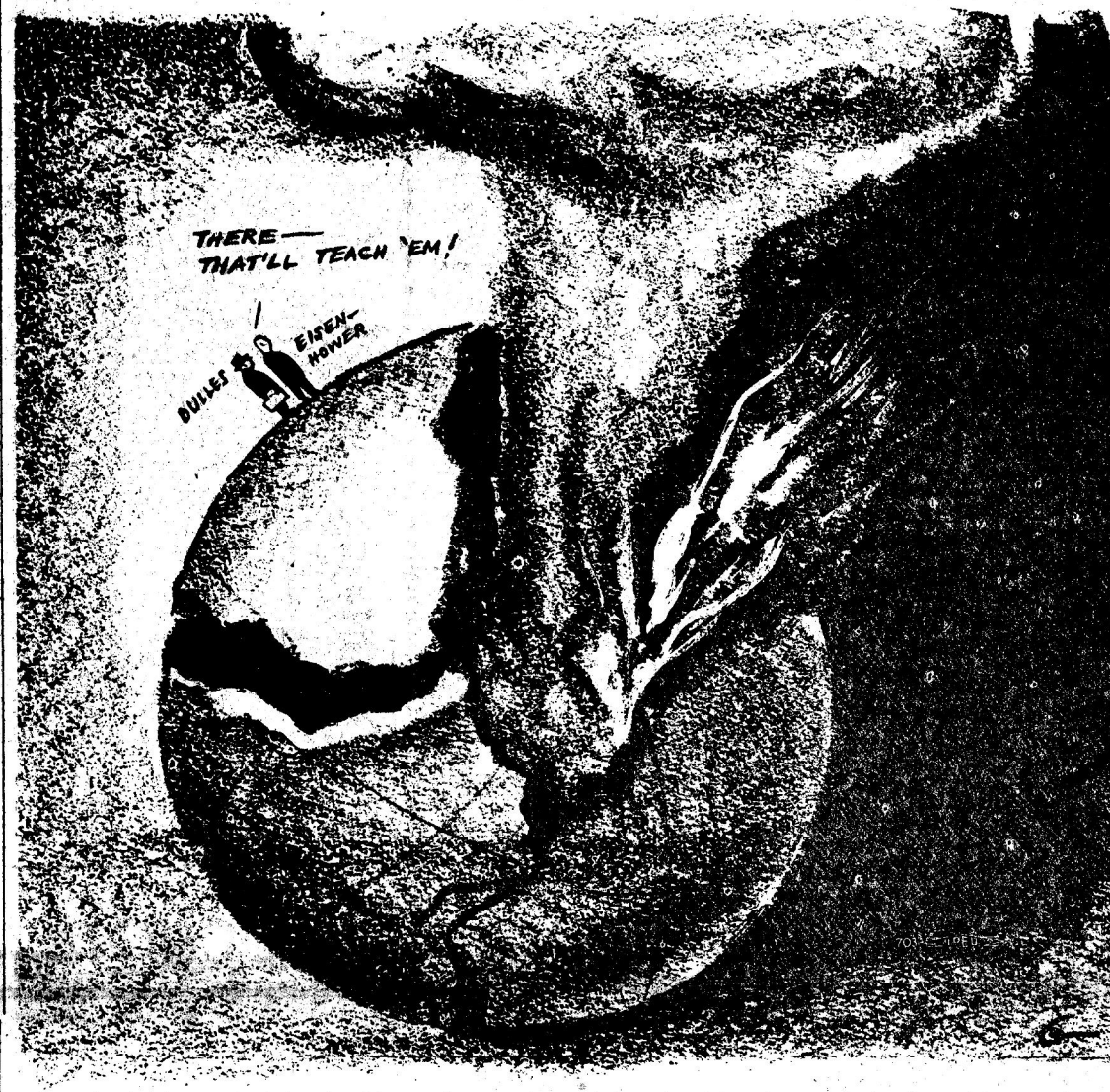
All they can offer for protection from the H-Bomb, which can disintegrate everything in an area the size of the state of Rhode Island, is: "Run for your lives!" — if you have enough advance warning, if you have a car to make a getaway, if the streets and roads are not hopelessly jammed, if you don't run into another H-Bomb or A-Bomb en route.

The belligerency of White House occupants, the war provocations of generals and admirals, the bellicose threats of Wall Street agents in Congress are no longer to be tolerated. Their conduct is inviting a mass "evacuation" to eternity for tens of millions of Americans and the destruction of modern civilization.

The only defense against the H-Bomb is to prevent war. Take the war-making powers away from the Wall Street politicians. Let the people themselves decide by referendum vote the questions of war and peace.

The Alabama Senate voted Aug. 21 to ban both closed and union shops. Gov. Gordon Person has not indicated whether he will veto the union-busting measure.

Success in the H-Bomb Race



How Rebels Took Over in Brandenburg

In This Week Magazine for Aug. 23, Gaston Coblenz, whose foreign correspondence on recent German events has been reliable and accurate, gives a detailed account of the East German workers' uprising in Brandenburg. This is a medium-sized factory town of 70,000 people 30 miles from Berlin, which had a reputation as a left-wing stronghold. It belongs to the district which once sent Karl Liebknecht to the Reichstag.

The June 18 explosion was preceded by a mass demonstration in Brandenburg five days earlier against the local Stalinist police and officials. This had been touched off by the May 28 increase in workers' production quotas, the abrupt turn about of the Stalinist regime on June 11 in making economic concessions which the

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LOVELL URGES FULL AID FOR GM FIRE VICTIMS

DETROIT — Frank Lovell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, has called for community support to the CIO United Automobile Workers demand for full compensation to the thousands of auto workers made jobless by the \$50,000,000 fire which destroyed General Motors' new ultra-modern dual-purpose Detroit Transmission plant in Livonia.

The catastrophe on Aug. 12 resulted from failure of the profit-hungry corporation to provide adequate fire safeguards. The unemployed workers face for an extended time the inadequate benefits under Michigan's compensation laws, which were written largely by lobbyists for the auto corporations.

A spark from a welding torch, it is reported, ignited oil dripping on a conveyor belt. Flames spread to an oil tank that exploded and the fire shot through the entire plant with incredible rapidity. Many automobile, truck and coach assembly lines in this

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Attack School Firings For Exercising Rights Under Fifth Amendment

The American Federation of Teachers (AFL), representative of the country's organized school teachers, raised a vigorous protest last week against the McCarthyite campaign to strip citizens hounded by the witch hunters of their constitutional rights.

New York SWP Completes Drive To Get on Ballot

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 — The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party announced today the completion of its petition drive to put the party on the ballot for the forthcoming municipal election.

Designated "Operation Signature," the campaign was begun and completed in the record time of five days. This was made possible by both the enthusiastic campaign spirit of the New York Local and the generally sympathetic response of the workers approached.

Party members and friends who circulated the petitions on the streets of New York agree that the witch-hunt fear that was noticeable several years ago has receded. Workers who were somewhat reluctant to sign in the last campaign did not hesitate this time.

This was true even on the few occasions when signers were harassed by professional red baiters who urged them not to put their names down.

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party is now turning its attention to preparations for a spirited socialist election campaign.

Half Way Mark Is Reached in SWP Fund Drive

By Reba Aubrey Campaign Manager

This week the Socialist Workers Party branches scored the biggest weekly contribution since the launching of the Party Building and Publication Fund ten weeks ago. However, we are still 23% behind schedule. The weekly receipts of \$1,416 raised the total through Aug. 24 to \$9,751 or 54%.

St. Louis hit 100% and now shares top honors with Akron. Hilda Smith of Chicago writes: "Enclosed is \$179. We are now 'pushing our luck' to get it all cleaned up and over the top next week." J. E., a friend, gave them a \$10 boost.

Philadelphia and Newark kept ahead of schedule. Buffalo remained within 2%.

"We are delighted to enclose this \$330.45," write Jeanne M., Dave C., and Dick B. for Los Angeles. "Part of this comes from our collection at the Trotsky Memorial Meeting, an all-around successful affair."

Oakland leaped from the bottom of the scoreboard to 35% with a \$97 contribution. Boston boosted its percentage to 54 with \$65; Milwaukee's \$74 upped its score to 51%; New York made a \$345 gain; Seattle \$40.

A \$65 check from the group of staunch Socialist Workers Party supporters near the Mason-Dixon Line fulfilled their \$105 pledge.

H. C., a friend in Cincinnati, sent in \$21, of which \$3.95 is for the fund. He explained: "I have been having a rather rough time of it. Had to catch a 7-day week to do this."

(See scoreboard: Page 3)

At their 36th annual convention in Peoria the delegates of the teachers union condemned the practice of dismissing teachers for no other reason than their use of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution to protect their rights. College and school boards throughout the country have been doing this in deference to demands of the witch hunters.

The Fifth Amendment provides that no one "shall be compelled to be a witness against himself." This article was added to the Constitution as part of the original Bill of Rights after many bitter experiences of the English-speaking people with frameups in star-chamber court proceedings. It has long been an elementary safeguard of individual legal rights.

Congressional inquisitors have been working overtime to break down this protection. By hurling loaded questions at witnesses they seek to entrap them into damaging admissions against themselves or force them to become informers against others. When a witness avails himself of the Fifth Amendment, the McCarthyite pack howls that he must have something to conceal and is virtually incriminated.

MCCARRAN BILL

At the recently concluded session of the Senate, McCarran sneaked through a "talk-or-go-to-jail" bill designed to tighten the screws upon witnesses hauled before Congressional committees and nullify the protection offered by the Fifth Amendment. McCarran's measure apparently promises immunity, but this is a fraud. In reality it guts the Fifth Amendment by confronting witnesses with the alternative of turning stool-pigeon or going to jail for contempt or perjury.

The resolution adopted by the American Federation of Teachers pointed out that the Fifth Amendment was designed for the innocent as well as the guilty and that those who used it for protection had an inalienable right to do so. In another resolution the convention asked for the establishment of practices in investigating committees that would protect the rights of citizens and pledged a fight against "the undermining of these liberties by the rule of bigotry, suspicion and fear."

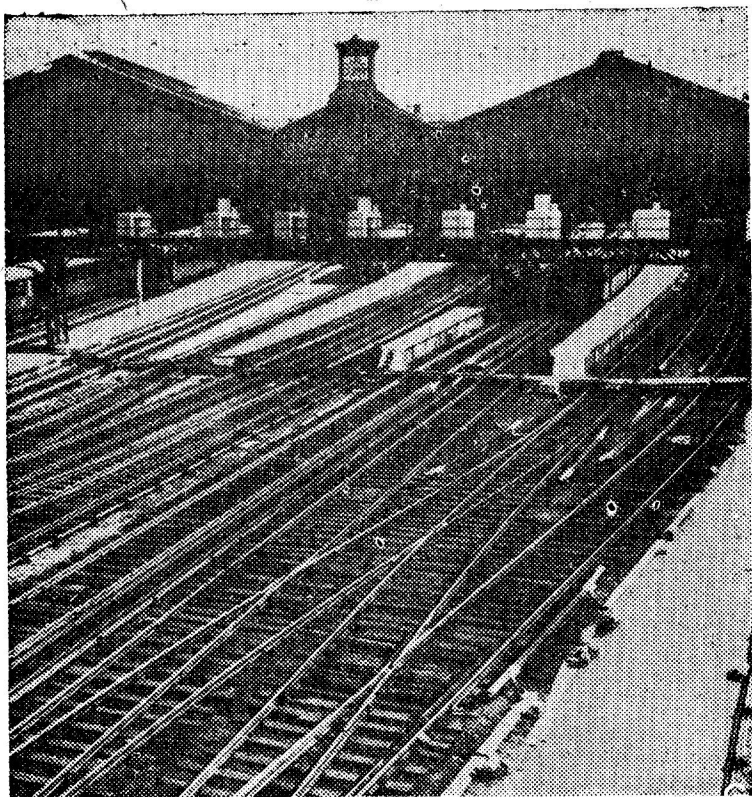
STAND WEAKENED

While upholding the vital Fifth Amendment, the teachers convention weakened its stand in defense of civil liberties by expressing opposition to "the employment of Communists in our schools." This is a concession to the witch hunters who motivate all their attacks on civil liberties and on dissenters from their views by the necessity to "fight communism."

Any criterion other than competence for holding a teaching position gives the enemies of the teachers and also labor a basis for setting up qualifications for discriminating against union teachers. Political discrimination against so-called "communists" in education is a loop-hole the witch hunters eagerly seize. The defense of civil liberties in education, as in all other spheres, must be unconditional. We must defend the rights of all.

The stand of the teachers on the Fifth Amendment, however, is an encouraging sign that the heaviest assault upon the Bill of Rights in this country's history is running up against a widening resistance.

A Sign of the General Strike



Nothing moves unless labor says so. St. Lazare railroad station in the center of Paris is shown here virtually deserted during the general strike that tied up virtually all transportation and communication in France. The strike of four million demonstrated labor's immense power in action.

Puerto Rican Workers in the 'City of Opportunity'

By Harry Ring

"They are quickly adaptable to our manufacturing procedures. They learn the many tasks which are assigned to them. They are dignified and not too proud to work." This is the verdict of the president of a Bronx manufacturer of filing cabinets about his Puerto Rican employees.

When a boss generously praises his workers, that's news. It's even bigger news when the workers happen to be members of a brutally oppressed and exploited minority.

According to the New York Post, which recently devoted a series of articles to the status of Puerto Ricans in what City Hall describes as "the city of opportunity," this view is shared by practically all employers of Puerto Rican labor in town.

One promise has been kept to the 425,000 first and second-generation Puerto Ricans who fled to New York from the misery and poverty of their homeland. They have been given the opportunity to work. Ex-

ploding the lying propaganda that the Puerto Rican people came to live on relief, Welfare Commissioner McCarthy told the Post. "The vast majority of Puerto Ricans on relief have been short term cases. We get jobs for them fast."

This is confirmed by State Labor Commissioner Corsi, whose figures show that nine out of ten Puerto Ricans are employed almost immediately on their arrival. He explains, "The truth is that in some lines of work we needed the Puerto Ricans as much as they needed the jobs and security they sought in coming here."

The personnel director of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, which employs some 300 Puerto Rican workers, mostly as kitchen helpers, house men and bus boys, informed the Post: "Many tell us they were never so well off. Although they are forced to live in overcrowded and poor housing, they don't complain. They tell us that life was often like that back in Puerto Rico."

Isidoro Ruise, a Puerto Rican

worker, expressed a somewhat different viewpoint to a Post reporter. With his wife and three children, Ruise lives in a small furnished room. They share a toilet with 14 other people and pay \$14 a week rent.

Ruise says, "I came here four years ago. I thought I could do better, make more money and make a better life for the kids. People tell me here everything is better. I found out it is no better. 'I am unhappy and disgusted. Nothing has turned out right. Here I lose my health. My family is always sick. There is too much to fight.'"

Is Ruise just a single unfortunate or disgruntled individual? Not according to Frank Meurich, Regional Director of the Federal Wage & Hour Division of the State Employment Service. He reports that Puerto Rican workers are confined almost exclusively to the service and light-manufacturing industries of the city. Some 20,000, mainly women, are employed in the garment industry. About 16,000, mostly men,

in hotels and restaurants. The rest are employed in the manufacture of toys, novelties, plastics, costume jewelry, and services.

Meunch says flatly, "The Puerto Ricans are the most underpaid workers in the city today." Many, he said, particularly those who do not speak English, are unaware of the right to a 75-cent-an-hour minimum wage.

In Puerto Rico the average minimum wage fixed by Federal law is 40 cents an hour. "It is as low as 15 cents an hour in some trades there," he said. "Transported to New York, the uninformed islander sometimes eagerly accepts an offer of 50 cents an hour or less until he becomes aware of mainland wage standards."

Last year Puerto Ricans accounted for more than half of 8,647 employees who collected \$493,816 in back pay and overtime wages from chiseling bosses. And these employers, of course, are just the ones who happened to get caught.

Outside the metropolitan area, a spokesman for a powerful group of farm bosses who imported 22,000 Puerto Rican agricultural workers during the past two years spelled out the basic fact. He says, "We would be in a serious mess if we hadn't been able to get their help. There was a shortage of farm labor because Southern Negroes, who were the main source of migrant labor, found better jobs in industry."

But don't get the idea that the farm bosses are really grateful for the help. He proudly continues, "They received 28 cents an hour in the cane fields. Here they are guaranteed 65 cents an hour minimum."

All the facts show the unvarnished reality that confronts the Puerto Rican worker. He has been brought here by a gang of profit-hungry employers and their political agents to meet their ever-unsatisfied demand for a large pool of cheap labor.

There is one big catch for the bosses. The Puerto Rican people

come here with a stirring record of militant struggle against the Yankee imperialists who have plundered their native land for so long. They are strongly union conscious. A few figures reveal that they are making their way into the city's organized labor movement.

The AFL Cooks and Assistants Union reports that 30% of 8,000 members are Puerto Ricans. Of the 26,000 members of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees union, 4,000 are Puerto Ricans. Another 2,000 hold membership in the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. Puerto Rican workers now comprise three-quarters of the membership of the largest local of the CIO Watch & Jewelry Workers Union. An additional 7,500 hold membership in Local 223 of the AFL Toy & Novelty Workers Union.

It is along this road of integration into the union movement that the Puerto Rican workers are taking their first big step in the fight to climb up from the bottom of the economic ladder.



# Strike Opens "New Stage" of Ceylon Struggle

In special issues published during the events, the Samasamajist, weekly newspaper of the Ceylonese section of the Fourth International, hailed the general strike which swept Ceylon two weeks ago as a tremendous victory won by the people through their unity in action. "August 12 marks the beginning of a new stage in the history of the mass movement of this country," it declared. "Support came from all sections of the population, from shopkeepers who voluntarily closed their shops, from housewives who boycotted the markets, from rickshaw-men and bullock carters, and all layers of the oppressed."

All forms of transport were halted by striking workers or the demonstrators. Flash news reports in the paper from different parts of the island show the types of action taken to make the tieup complete: "At Lunawa the spare railway sleepers and line material that lay near the line were stacked across and the line effectively blocked. At Kalatura men, women and children lay on the Galle Road in a traffic-blocking Hartal (stoppage)."

The nation-wide stoppage was called by the workers' organizations headed by the Lanka Samasamajia Party in protest against government economic policy. In defiance of its electoral promises the capitalist government had reduced rice rations and tripled the price of this principal food of the people. This came on top of increased prices for other necessities.

# Negro's Key Role in the Civil War

By George Breitman  
THE NEGRO IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Benjamin Quarles, Little, Brown and Co., 1953 379 pp., \$5.

In the second American revolution, which is also known as the Civil War, the Negroes were the most revolutionary class in the coalition that abolished the slave system. Yet, out of the vast volume of books written about the Civil War, only a few have been devoted to the role of the Negro, and practically all of these have been written by Negroes. Benjamin Quarles, author of the latest book on the subject as well as a previous study of Frederick Douglass, is a Negro himself, and professor of history at Dillard University in New Orleans. On the jacket of his book he is quoted as saying: "To a few careful historians the Negro was the key figure in the Civil War. The others have not entered into a conspiracy of silence, or a plot of distortion; they have simply neglected to approach the period with the Negro in mind. It is my hope to set the records straight, to restore the Negro to his rightful, active place in the War that set him free."

### MORE THAN NEGLECT

This is an overly charitable estimate of most of his fellow historians. Their failure to tell the truth about the Negro was due to more than "neglect"; the "neglect" itself was due to race prejudice, conscious or unconscious, which led them to overlook, minimize or deny the decisive role of the Negro in the revolution. Outside of the Southern historians, no formal conspiracy or plot was needed; race prejudice was so widespread in the period of reaction following Reconstruction that silence and distortion about the Negro became the rule among white historians, with effects just as harmful as if they had actually agreed to suppress the truth.

Thanks above all to Negro historians and scholars, whose interests were different from those of their white counterparts and who didn't have their prejudices to overcome, the truth was dug up and recorded and is becoming more widely known. One reason why Quarles' book is valuable is that he borrows from and builds on their work, as he acknowledges.

"The Civil War," he writes, "was a revolution in many ways; hence it is open to a hundred and one interpretations. . . . But on one point, there is common agreement: without slavery there would have been no resort to arms. Hence the slave was the key factor in the war. But the Negro's role was not merely a passive one; he did not tarry in the wings, hands folded. He was an active member of the cast, prominent in the dramatic personae. To him freedom was a two-way street; indeed he gave prior to receiving."

And the book fully shows how

### REVEALING EXCHANGE

The Samasamajist published the following exchange between a Trotskyist member and a government supporter in Parliament the day before the general strike, an exchange that disclosed the government's intention to suppress the movement by force:

"Mr. E. Samarakoddy said he understood orders had been given to shoot to kill.

"Mr. Keerthiratne replied: 'Do you shoot for fun?'

"I am glad there is a confession," Mr. Samarakoddy answered.

At the height of the strike movement the Lanka Samasamajia Party issued a statement demanding that the government withdraw the Emergency Regulations, resign immediately, hold fresh general elections and give the people an opportunity to elect a government of their own choice. It also called for the immediate appointment of a Public Commission to inquire into the shootings by the police and military.

# French General Strike Forces Laniel Retreat

(Continued from page 1)

None of the party or union leaders, Stalinist, Socialist or Catholic, prepared the strike action; they were all dragged into it. They had no plan of battle which could have guided the ranks to victory over the government and capitalists. They tried to limit and restrain the movement and get it over with as quickly as possible. Only Laniel's intransigence and the formidable pressure from the ranks prevented them from capitulating sooner.

The nature and scope of the struggle called for bold revolutionary perspectives and a suitable program of action and organization to realize them. The slogan put forward by the French Trotskyists for a Communist-Socialist government backed by the unions would have provided a political solution to the social crisis. Committees of action to coordinate the strike struggles on a local, regional and national level and popularize the demand for a Workers' and Peasants' Government should have been called for and set up wherever possible.

But neither the Stalinist nor Socialist leaders dared mobilize the workers for this kind of revolutionary action. Once again, as in 1936 and in 1944-45, their cowardly and treacherous policies have been directly responsible for derailing the march of the working class toward power. The conduct of the workers during the events indicates that they are not unaware of the inadequacies of their official leaders. They started the strikes on their account and in many places returned when they saw fit. They were careful to preserve their solidarity in struggle.

At no time were the union bureaucrats able to maintain complete control over their member ships. The N.Y. Herald-Tribune correspondent observed that "labor leaders in some areas and some industries can no more send their members back than they can keep them out."

This obvious mistrust of their present leaders was combined with increased confidence in their own capacities for self-action. This should spur the vanguard of the French workers to put forward from their midst a more militant leadership group around tested revolutionists who can help them blaze the trail to workers' power in the next stage of their anti-capitalist struggles.

"NOTHING SETTLED"

By these means the Laniel government has saved itself, but only for a short time. As the N. Y. Herald-Tribune correspondent noted: "nothing has been settled," either on the industrial or the political fields. It is still possible for a special session of the Assembly to be convened. And, above all the workers returning to their jobs after measuring strength with the big business government have heads high and the feeling they did not come out the losers.

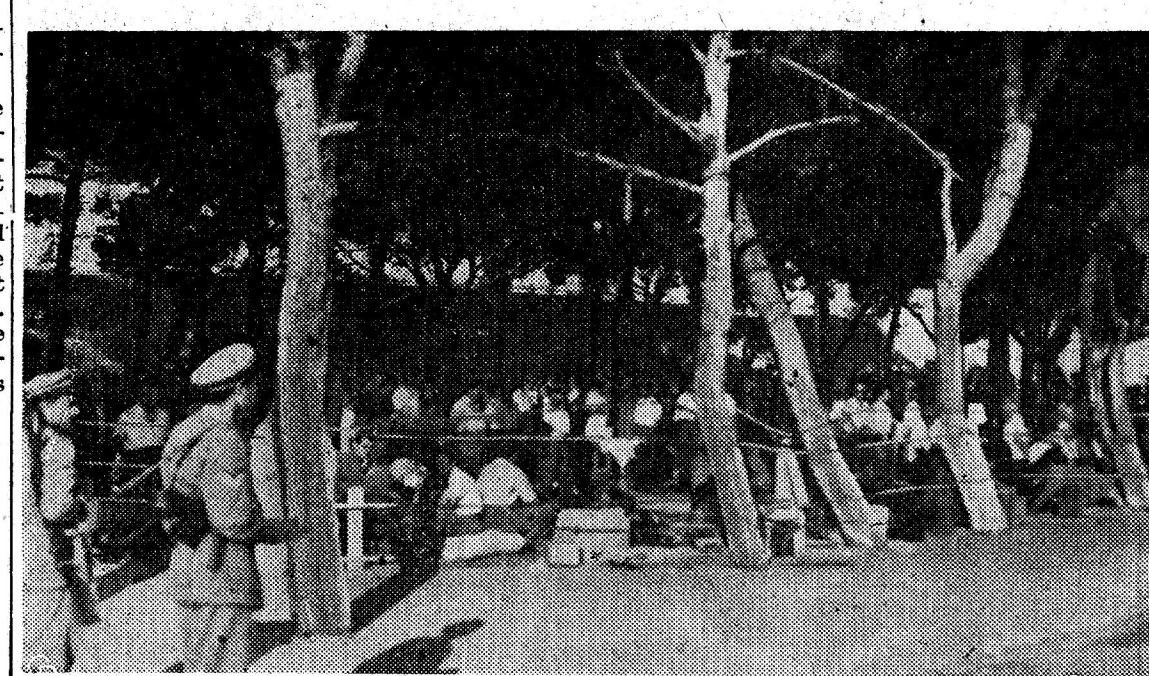
Why did this magnificent offensive of the working class yield such inconclusive results? The general circumstances were exceptionally favorable for scoring tremendous gains which could have decisively reversed the balance of class forces in France and improved the outlook for the entire labor movement of Western Europe. Even as it is, the Laniel government quickly shot its bolt and has emerged from the contest weakened and discredited.

The outcome was not the fault of the workers. They gave everything to the struggle. Socialist, Catholic, Stalinist, non-party unionists banded together in action, breaking through their organizational divisions. They held out for three weeks. The workers in private and heavy industry moved in to back up their comrades in public employment.

These millions of workers demonstrated through their stubborn strike protests that they wanted to replace the governments dominated by big business and war-makers with a new one responsive to their own interests. Everything was ready for a radical change—everything except the proper leadership. That vital element was missing, and thereby the movement fell far short of its objectives.

Sen. Hubert H. Hmhrey, (D Minn.) urges the Eisenhower administration to start training specialists how to tell "a bona fide militant unionist from a Communist agent." The Senator's subcommittee reported difficulty in distinguishing the difference holding it was a question of "just a hairline of judgment." The committee listed "strikes" as a means of telling, if the strikes "were designed to implement the interests of Soviet foreign policy."

# Political Prisoners in Earthquake



As earthquakes rocked Greece, one of the first concerns of the Greek monarchy was to keep control over the political prisoners. Here Greek soldiers are shown standing guard over prisoners who had been held in Argotolon prison, which was wrecked by quakes that devastated Ionian isls.

# Stalinist Policy in Elections

By Art Preis

American Stalinism is again openly demonstrating its unlimited capacity for treachery to the working class. After the debacle of its attempt to build an "independent" third capitalist party behind Wallace, the Communist Party is now trying to line up American workers in a "people's coalition" within the Democratic Party.

In New York City, the Stalinist party is engaged in an abominable betrayal of the New York working class by backing the candidate of one section of Tammany Hall against the candidate of another section in the Democratic Party primaries on Sept. 15.

To emphasize its abandonment of even the pretense of independent class politics, the Stalinist leaders have kicked the CP's own protégé of the past years, the American Labor Party, in the teeth. It has brought a bitter public denunciation from Vito Marcantonio himself. The State Chairman accuses the CP and its mouthpiece the *Daily Worker* of attempting to sabotage the ALP's campaign for its own slate of candidates, including Clifford McAvoy for mayor.

Making the first open break in nearly two decades of close relations between the CP and Marcantonio, the former Congressman on Aug. 10 charged the party and *Daily Worker* with an "attempt to disrupt, with insidious appeals, the campaign of the ALP in behalf of its candidates." He called the *Worker's* articles on election policy "an impertinence and a brazen attempt to negate the decision democratically arrived at by the American Labor Party, i.e., to run a full slate of candidates and to campaign unreservedly for them."

Marcantonio complained that the Stalinists seek to influence voters to support Halley, City Council President and mayoralty candidate on the Liberal Party ticket. The Aug. 11 *Daily Worker* vociferously denied it had endorsed Halley or any other candidate and said it had "made clear that it stood for uniting voters of all parties against the maneuvers of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Mayor Vincent Impellitteri and James Farley to put over their program and candidates in the Republican, Democratic and Liberal Parties." But right now the Stalinists are concentrating on supporting one wing of Tammany against another by campaigning for Manhattan Borough President Robert Wagner who is seeking the Democratic Party primary nomination for mayor.

Back last May 1, the *Daily Worker* indicated opposition to labor political action outside of the Democratic Party channels. It attacked the Liberal Party which had intimated it would run its own municipal slate. The *Worker* claimed that the LP's "go-it-alone declarations have disturbed rank-and-file in that Party who are anxious to effect a coalition

behind a progressive, pro-labor Democratic candidate."

On May 10, the *Worker* criticized a "tendency for some progressives to see the ALP as the only vehicle for third party expression" and attacked "the increasingly virulent . . . go-it-alone tendency in the progressive movement." This tendency is "by no means confined to the Left" but affects even "the Liberal Party leadership, dizzy with the success of the Rudolph Halley victory in the 1951 Council presidency race. . . . Thus, the Stalinists found even conservative AFL union officials like David Dubinsky and Alex Rose, the principal labor figures in the Liberal Party, too left."

On Aug. 11 the *Daily Worker* editorially proclaimed "the main job in the election" to be the "formation of a coalition" to "defeat the Dewey-Impellitteri gangup." It stated categorically, although not naming Wagner by name, that "we support labor's participation in the Democratic Primary." "Labor's participation in the Democratic primary" means only one thing — voting for Wagner.

On Aug. 16, the Stalinist organ assailed the "indifferent attitude of some anti-Impellitteri Democrats, as in the ADA. . . toward the outcome of the Democratic primary" and called for "a united front of all who oppose reaction in the Democratic Party." This means a "united front" for Wagner.

By Aug. 23, the *Worker* was beating its drums so loudly for Wagner that it even attacked the liberal capitalist daily N. Y. *Post* for being "neutral" in the primary and for not "supporting the efforts of various CIO unions and of sections of the AFL to lick Impellitteri in the primaries." It went on to attack the *National Guardian* paper of the Progressive Party to which the ALP is affiliated, because it "seems to consider its main job is to direct its fire against Wagner and Halley."

The *Daily Worker* has deviously refrained from explicitly endorsing Wagner, while furthering his candidacy. It has adopted the tactic used when the CP supported Roosevelt in 1936 with its slogan, "Defeat Landon." Now the slogan is "Defeat Impellitteri" through participation in the Democratic primary, that is, backing the Democrat Wagner. Even the N. Y. *Post* columnist, Murray Kempton, could not refrain from complaining about the "new Communist line in full flower" of "penetrating the Democratic party and playing a role in its struggles."

Even though the Stalinists, at the moment, are the chief target of reaction, they are consciously knifing the genuine political struggle against reaction — the movement for building an independent party of labor. They are reinforcing the union leaders' policy of keeping the workers tied to the capitalist political machines.

### LINCOLN'S ESTIMATE

"There are now in the service of the United States near two hundred thousand able-bodied colored men, most of them under arms, defending and acquiring Union territory. . . . Abandon all the posts now garrisoned by black men; take two hundred thousand men from our side and put them in the battlefield or cornfield against us, and we would be compelled to abandon the war in three weeks. . . . My enemies pretend I am now carrying on this war for the sole purpose of abolition. So long as I am President, it shall be carried on for the sole purpose of restoring the Union. But no human power can subdue this rebellion without the use of the emancipation policy, and every other policy calculated to weaken the moral and physical forces of the rebellion. Freedom has given us two hundred thousand men raised on Southern soil. It will give us more yet. Just so much has it subtracted from the enemy."

Quarles' book does not reach the literary power, passion and depth of insight of W. E. B. DuBois in his great *Black Reconstruction*, whose first 125 pages deal with the same period. This is not said to detract from Quarles' book, which is also well written, although in a different style. In fact, Quarles' book, because it goes into greater detail at some points and has the advantage of being written 18 years later, is a good supplement to the first part of DuBois' book, and should be read together with it.

One final point: In recent years a strong tendency has developed among historians, Northern as well as Southern, liberal as well as conservative, to begin by denying that the Civil War was "inevitable" and to end by questioning whether it was necessary. (Consciously or not, this new approach to the second American revolution is a reflection of their attitude to the third, which is now being prepared by the contradictions and crises of the capitalist system.)

A refreshing feature of the writings of Negro historians is that they are altogether free of this reactionary tendency. None of them wastes time wringing his hands wondering if somehow the Civil War could have been avoided; none of them has any doubts that it was necessary and a good thing. Quarles quotes the following discussion between General William Tecumseh Sherman and an old Negro slave:

Sherman: "Well, now, old man, what do you think about the war?"

Uncle Stephen: "Well, Sir, what I think about it, is this — it's mighty distressin', this war, but it 'pears to me like the right thing couldn't be done without it."

That was the attitude of the slaves then and of the Negro people now toward the second American revolution, and it explains their active and militant role in promoting it then and defending it now. That will be the attitude of the working class and its Negro allies toward the coming American revolution too.

# KINSEY'S ATOM-BOMB ON SEX LIFE OF WOMEN

By Myra Tanner Weiss

The American press couldn't pass up the opportunity to make a fortune selling papers with accounts of the forthcoming book by Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey on *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. But few failed to express their dismay and even alarm at the view of reality in human relation provided by Dr. Kinsey. One N.Y. paper, the *Long Island Star Journal*, in a front page editorial screamed that Dr. Kinsey "has dropped an atomic bomb designed to destroy what is left of sex morality in the United States."

Kinsey's preliminary study of the sex history of 5,950 women, although unfortunately weighted with cases of those who have gone to college, records a growing liberation of women from obsolete "moral" codes and conceptions based on the double standard. The conflict between the way people really live and the official mores established by church and state, or the conflict between instincts and the repression of instincts is truly diminishing.

Kinsey's "atom bomb" is not responsible for the destruction of bourgeois moral codes. Two world wars and preparation for a third with very real atom bombs have brought women as well as men to think critically of "official" opinions that they are told to accept.

Another great revolutionizing influence in the lives of women is the increased economic independence that has resulted from their mass induction into industry in the last 13 years. When Kinsey, as he promises, later includes in his study Negro women and a larger grouping of the doubly exploited factory workers, who have even more reason for revolting against official thought, the registration of changes in moral codes will probably prove even more startling.

The basic revolution in the scientific view of the human mind and morals was made long ago by Freud. Kinsey's work provides only statistical verification of much of what Freud's studies revealed. The principal importance of Kinsey's work is that it not only records the changes in mass consciousness about sexual questions but with indisputable facts exposes the hypocrisy and duplicity forced onto human beings. It therefore plays a progressive role in stimulating an honest and critical attitude toward the "facts of life."

With a revolution taking place in people's thinking about their Number 2 problem of sex, we can expect that it won't be long before they begin to cast off illusions about the way in which they meet their Number 1 problem of securing a livelihood. The *Long Island Star Journal* really has reason to worry. The working class is cultivating a thirst for the truth. That is why there is mass interest in Kinsey's statistical work. And when illusions are lost in one realm of life it's not too difficult to lose them in other realms.

As people stop blaming themselves for breaking moral codes that are wrong in the first place, they will begin to understand that the economic insecurity we suffer is likewise not an individual fault but an absolute necessity for the existence of capitalism.

The revolution in consciousness that is taking place in America will end by shaking the hypocritically pious rich out of their ruling position and emancipating mankind entirely from their present inferiority and guilt complexes.

Kinsey's work, a modest service to science, is a great contribution to society in stimulating this revolution in consciousness.

# THE MILITANT ARMY

Recent issues of *The Militant* have met with a very good response in the Chicago area, according to Literature Agent Jacki Booth. She writes, "We expect to raise the bundle order in the next week or so if our excellent sales continue. On the project in the slum areas we have underway here, results have been very good. In the past three weeks we have sold 83 papers, in many cases we have established routes, selling consistently to the same people. Alice has been tops so far, selling 24 papers."

"Last Sunday Wilson, Dotty, Barney, Carol and Ellworth sold 18 papers. The response was good and we have three potential subscribers to the paper and possibilities of more. Others participating in the project are Elaine, Howard, Sam, Ines, Don, Muriel, Mary, Mary Lou, Pat and Emmett."

"Belle sold 13 Militants at a neighborhood ball game, four to members of the team; and Irving sold 11 papers on a south side street corner. Jacki sold 15 papers Thursday at a Packinghouse local meeting, met with a good response and spoke to two workers who already subscribed to the paper and spoke highly of it. We have also raised our weekly bundle at a newsstand to 25 a week."

Akron Literature Agent Kay

Kean reports a "bit of talk in Lou's shoe about Cannon's article in the July 27 *Militant* about the future under socialism. One fellow who read the article wondered about the 'Community Cleaning Service' and whether women really feel oppressed today. Another fellow noted on seeing that his wife definitely believes that women are discriminated against by men and society. The first fellow laughed and said, 'She verifies Cannon.'"

Helen Sherman reports, "Sample copies of *The Militant* were distributed to the hotel workers last week, who closed down all the major hotels here in Minneapolis in a strike for the 40-hour week with accompanying wage increases and other demands. Attached to each copy of the paper was a brief statement explaining what *The Militant* stands for and listing the subscription rates."

"We have been getting some excellent reports from recent 'new readers' of the paper, who subscribed during the last campaign. Several have shown interest in coming around to hear more about our ideas; one came up to the bookstore for a discussion; and another is circulating *The Militant* around to his friends on the job. *The Militant* is carrying first-class reports on events in Germany and on the Korean developments. It is the only reliable news you can get, without capitalist or Stalinist distortions."

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# H-Bomb and Wall Street's War Schedule

By Joseph Hansen  
(Second of a series.)

The news that the Soviet Union has the H-Bomb is still reverberating in the press, Wall Street cannot guarantee immunity to American cities in its projected third world war and this fact has proved sobering. Many editors and columnists can expect to be among the 50,000,000 American casualties predicted for the first day of conflict. Some of them are now highly critical of Eisenhower's defense plans, stressing that home shelters are inadequate, that city shelters might prove to be death traps under the rubble of skyscrapers and factories and that there's no way of getting out of range in time.

As a final macabre touch, Prof. George Gamow of George Washington University, a leading nuclear scientist, reminded the world Aug. 12 that besides the various kinds of bomb there is an even deadlier threat. "Biological warfare would be worse. In sheer destructiveness, a little bottle of germs could do more damage than an H-Bomb."

It is obvious to every thinking person that civilization has never faced such peril as exists today. American Big Business and the Stalinist bureaucracy have destructive powers at their disposal transcending the wildest dreams of previous rulers. To take the power of decision away from them has become a matter of life and death.

The question at once arises: How much time is granted the working class to perform this task? The answer is: Not long if we look at the rising curve that marks the tempo of war preparations and compare it with the tempo between World War I and World War II, but longer than might have been expected if we look at Wall Street's blueprint. The fact is that American Big Business has shoved the projected date ahead several times.

**WHY DIDN'T THEY MOVE?**

This postponement appears strange if we recall that the main intended victim, the Soviet Union, was devastated at the end of World War II while the United States emerged from the war far stronger than at the beginning. Add to this that the U.S. had a monopoly on the Atom-Bomb from 1945 to 1949. Why didn't American Big Business move in for the kill then?

It might be argued that "we" had illusions about the Kremlin, that "we" hoped for an era of peaceful co-existence and that it was not until Stalin knocked these into a cocked hat that "we" were provoked into rearming. This is lying propaganda as can easily be proved.

The ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had not yet lost their radioactivity in the fall of 1945 when Gen. George C. Marshall issued his Biennial Report to the Secretary of War. In this report, which I analyzed in the Oct. 20, 1945, issue of The Militant, Marshall derided the possibilities of peace. He revealed that the Pentagon was already constructing superweapons for another war.

He said that "With the continued development of weapons and techniques now known to us, the cities of New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, or San Francisco may be subject to annihilation from other continents in a matter of hours."

The General declared that there is no effective defense except the "power of attack." Men are needed to come to "close grips with the enemy and tear his operating bases and his productive establishments away from him..."

That was a clear enough statement of intentions for The Militant to warn that "The Third World War is already in the blueprint stage."

Since they were fully aware that their economy at a certain stage requires war if it is to avert depression, what stopped the Wall Street bankers and Pentagon brass from following through when they had the clear advantage?

**CLUE TO THEIR REASON**

One of the clues lies in the General's statement. Men are needed to come to "close grips with the enemy and tear his operating bases and his productive establishments away from him..."

The General appeared to have the men — some 10,000,000 of them in the armed forces and tens of millions more working overtime in the war industries to supply them with all the necessary means, including long-range planes and the Atom-Bomb. Why weren't they used?

Something happened — something perhaps unforeseen and unexpected by Wall Street. Politics intervened.

"I don't mean that 'spies' or 'communist agents' wormed their way into key government positions and sabotaged policies, as the McCarthyites try to make out. I mean political intervention in the sense of human will imposing itself and shaping events. And this will was not that of the small clique of capitalists controlling the government, but the will of the American people."

**"GET-US-HOME"**

Within a few short months after Marshall had bared the Pentagon's plans, American troops around the entire globe began demanding immediate return home. Their demands were not uncertain in tone. Meetings including as many as 20,000 troops were held. The soldiers sent a flood of protests home at being held overseas. They protested intervening in the affairs of other countries. They collected money for advertisements stating their

position in U. S. papers. They even elected joint committees in many areas to fight for a "Get-Us-Home" program. They staged militant demonstrations. And here in the United States their folks backed them up wholeheartedly.

In face of such a rising tide, could Wall Street dream of launching a successful war on the Soviet Union? The American people were busy dismantling the forces needed to carry on a new war, the soldiers needed to "come to close grips with the enemy" were shaking themselves free from Wall Street's own grip.

To have ordered an Atom-Bomb attack at that time would have meant nothing but swift and certain suicide for America's 60 ruling families.

**STRIKE WAVE**

Moreover, the "Get-Us-Home" movement was not all that crossed the war plans of the giant corporations. Even before the troops began their stormy demonstrations around the world, the factory workers had launched a symmetrical movement for higher wages. The auto workers hit the bricks, then the steel workers, and along with them countless others. January 1946 saw the opening of the most powerful strike wave in the country's history.

That movement could easily have turned into a radical political development with the most far-reaching revolutionary implications had American Big Business decided to fly in the face of it and launch another war right then and there. The wiser heads knew they had enough to chew on for the time being.

Those two events, the 1946 strike wave and the "Get-Us-

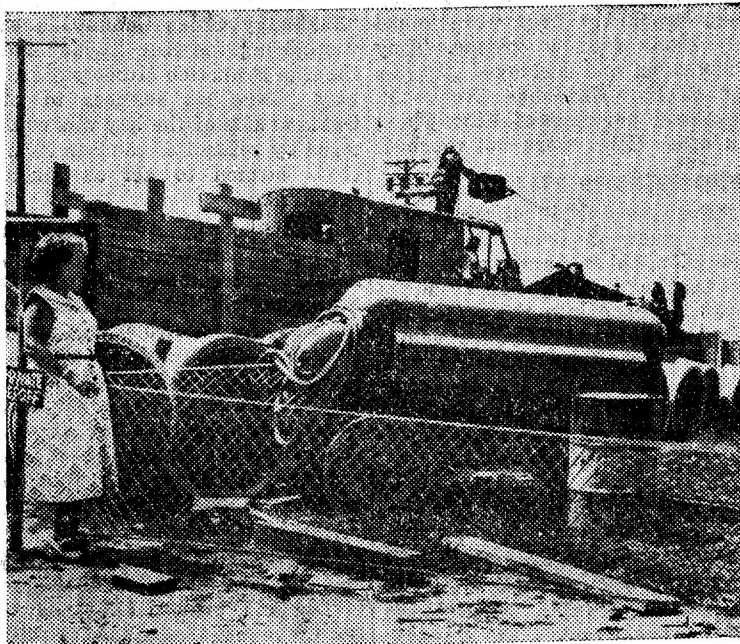
Home" troop movement, have haunted the capitalist warmongers ever since. When the truce was signed in Korea, one of the first fears expressed by the capitalists and their agents was that another movement might flare up to "Bring the Boys Back Home." And the labor movement, 17,000,000 strong and ready for battle at any major threat to living standards, hangs over their calculations like a nightmare.

In 1953 they must still ask themselves the question that was posed in 1946. What happens if we start another war without first arriving at a more favorable position in relation to the forces of the American working class? It is quite true that they have been working at this knotty problem since 1945 and have made considerable headway, as we shall see next week, but it is far from solved. They could make no worse error than to think the American workers will go quiescently into another slaughter. And they know it. We may deduce from this that they might have decided to postpone the H-Bomb holocaust just a little longer in order to complete certain essential political chores first.

A Roman Catholic group claiming to represent 150,000 women assailed Dr. Alfred Kinsey and his new book "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female" as seeming to advise young people to break present-day codes of sexual behavior.

The attack, issued on the basis of newspaper stories about the book, said the reports indicated Dr. Kinsey believes the sexual codes of today are "superstitious notions of an unenlightened and uncritical past."

## Fighting the Company



Waging a lonely battle against a wealthy Maryland contracting firm, 57-year-old Wanda Sienkiewski guards a wire fence she built around steam shovels and machinery parked on her lawn without her permission. She delayed construction of a \$3-million sewer project in court suit demanding payment for lawn damages, but the company won an order saying it didn't have to pay.

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## More Victims of the Smith "Gag" Act

Wielding the Smith "Gag" Act like a butcher's cleaver, the government witch hunters are running amok in Pennsylvania. The latest victims of this infamous law are two groups of Communist Party leaders.

Last week, after a six-month trial, five CP defenders were found guilty in a Pittsburgh courtroom of supposedly "conspiring to teach and advocate" the violent overthrow of the government. This is a flagrant frameup on the thought-control model since nothing was brought forward either in their indictment or trial to substantiate this false allegation. They were convicted solely for their beliefs as part of the cold war against civil liberties in the United States.

The five, Steve Nelson, Benjamin Carreathers, William Albertson, Irving Weissman and James Dolson, now face five-year sentences. Nelson has already been given a barbarous 20-year sentence under a dusted-off state criminal syndicalism statute. The judge in the Federal case handed Albertson and Weissman another 60 days each on contempt charges because they refused to inform on their fellow party members. He had previously pinned a similar sentence on Benjamin Davis, expert defense witness, who is now serving time under the first indictments of the CP leaders. Davis refused to name members of the Communist Party's National Negro Commission, some of whom live in the South.

Nelson is now being held under a total of \$60,000 in bail. A similar pattern of vindic-

tiveness and excessive bail is being applied in the cases of six more CP leaders recently arrested under the Smith Act in Philadelphia. Bail for them was originally set at \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$75,000!

After attorneys, assigned by the Philadelphia Bar Association argued with the judge on the bail issue, he reluctantly reduced the figure to \$10,000 and \$20,000. But five are still in jail because they cannot raise this sum.

Although the CIO has officially condemned the Smith Act as a danger to American freedom, it has made no protest against these outrageous police-state proceedings in the very center of the powerful steel union area. Labor leaders who blindly play along with the witch hunt in this way are doing a great disservice to their own organizations and the cause of civil liberties.

The immediate target of the thought controllers is the Stalinists but their ultimate objective is the whole of organized labor. Just as the Smith Act invoked against the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party during World War II set the stage for its use against the CP leaders since 1948, so the precedents made today can be turned against others tomorrow.

That is why the SWP, despite its uncompromising political opposition to Stalinism, unconditionally opposes these persecutions of the CP leaders. The only effective way to halt the spread of the witch hunting plague is to form a broad united front of all labor, minority and civil liberties organizations to combat the Smith Act and defend all of its victims.

## UPWA Sets Shining Example

Most unions these days have clauses in their constitutions banning racial discrimination. Too often, unfortunately, these clauses are "honored more in the breach than in the observance." That is why it is still a matter for commendation when a union leadership takes a two-sided, no-compromise action against Jim Crow in the organization. The *Militant* takes off its hat, therefore, to the CIO United Packinghouse Workers leaders for their firm stand in the McKinney case.

A committee of UPWA Vice President Russell R. Lasley and Secretary-Treasurer G. R. Hathaway after an on-the-spot investigation brought charges against A. O. McKinney, Director of the union's District 9, comprising eight southern states, for tolerating and encouraging discriminatory acts in an Atlanta, Ga., local. Under similar circumstances in some other unions we could name, the leaders would either have winked at the Jim Crow, or stalled and temporized and tried to smooth things over to the "satisfaction of everyone," including the racial bigots. The UPWA leaders, however, promptly hauled McKinney up on charges, despite his threat to pull 5,000 dues-paying members out of the union.

They went further. They published a special edition of *The Packinghouse Worker*, the union's official national paper, devoted entirely to the issue of racial discrimination involved in the McKinney case. They explained why the membership must be on guard against Jim

Crow and fight it all down the line. A union paper devoted entirely to fighting Jim Crow in the union is, to our knowledge, unique in the American labor movement.

This union action involved locals in the South, where some union officials claim you have to be careful not to violate "local custom" and where white workers "aren't ready" to drop their boss-inculcated prejudices. The UPWA leaders viewed McKinney's conduct as especially grave precisely because it occurred in the South.

One charge against McKinney was that he ordered Negro members to leave a social affair of Local 275 in Atlanta. Social inequality is the most insidious form of Jim Crow poison. Sad to say, a lot of union leaders still frown upon the social mixing of white and Negro workers. Social inequality is a pocket of infection that can generate deadly blood-poisoning in a union as in society at large. The UPWA leaders recognized this and took the necessary measures to clean out the source of infection.

Maybe McKinney will be able to pull some misled white workers out of the union because of the UPWA leaders' stand against Jim Crow. But for every worker so lost, at least temporarily, the UPWA, we are certain, will win a hundred others, white as well as Negro, who will admire and respect a union that not only says it is against Jim Crow but proves it in action.

## Dulles' Dilemma Over India

The attitude of the Eisenhower administration in preparing for the Political Conference over Korea has caused general dismay among the Allied powers, irritation among the columnists who specialize in giving advice to the State Department, and criticism in Democratic circles.

The State Department has decided to fight inclusion of India as one of the powers at the conference table and to limit membership to the countries which sent troops, plus the Soviet Union.

This in effect concedes that the real belligerents in Korea were Syngman Rhee and his American backers and that the conflict was not at all a United Nations action as Truman, and after him, Eisenhower, contended up to this point.

The State Department is proceeding as if the flood of propaganda about this being a "common effort" of the United Nations against "aggression" was nothing but hogwash all the time. And while this conforms to the reality, the propagandists think it highly inadvisable to admit or imply it.

The critics of the State Department point to the "very stiff price" exclusion of India entails. William R. Frye of the *Christian Science Monitor* lists: "Temporary abandonment of the entire moral propaganda basis of the Korean war. Virtual diplomatic isolation of the United States. Serious diminution of good will for the United States in India and elsewhere in Asia. Provision of new grist for

the Soviet propaganda mill. Encouragement of neutralism in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Acceptance of the risk that the United States will be blamed if the Korean peace conference fails."

None of these critics, however, points to the "very stiff price" the State Department would have to pay if it took the alternative course, submitted to the fact that it is in a minority in the UN on this question, and let India be included in the conference.

First of all, the State Department would be under heavy fire from Syngman Rhee, who happens to be one of its most arrogant, corrupt, stupid and bloody puppets and therefore one of the figures whose opinion it fears and respects most. The Pentagon wants to appease Rhee to forestall further provocations on his part that would make it difficult to keep a half million American troops indefinitely in Korea. A military beachhead in Korea rates higher in Pentagon calculations than some sharp words from critics who think the UN is more than a convenient cover for preparing World War III.

Secondly, if the State Department conceded on India, what would McCarthy and the Pacific Firsters say? Dulles has shown that in his diplomatic dealings he rates the reaction of this crew above any international repercussions. What Nehru thinks is important in Dulles' view but the poisonous barbs aimed by the McCarthyites can mean political death.

Thus whatever devious double-dealing moves Dulles may be carrying on behind the scenes, publicly at least his main concern at the moment is not about the opinion of the Allied powers or his liberal well-wishers or Democratic critics. He is much more concerned about keeping Rhee from frothing at the mouth and McCarthy from writing Dulles' name in his black book.

## CCF Scores Gains in Western Canada

**By Peter Farnsworth**

The Liberal party, led by Louis St. Laurent, was returned to office in Canada's Aug. 10 federal election. Backed by the decisive sections of Canadian capitalism riding the crest of a war-fed prosperity, the Liberals swept all the eastern provinces to roll up 48% of the vote and win 171 of the 265 seats in the House of Commons.

The only opposition they met was in the West. In Saskatchewan the CCF (Cooperative Commonwealth Federation). C a n a d a's farmer-labor party, blocked the Liberals and took 7 seats from them. The CCF also scored gains in British Columbia. All told it took 23 seats — 10 more than it held in the previous house.

The Tweedledum of the Liberal-Tory boss-party combination, the Progressive Conservative Party, while picking up 16 seats to make a total of 50, suffered a crushing defeat in its hopped-up demagogic drive for power. It is probable that leader George Drew will be dropped in the gutter with the others who have been desperately trying to prop up the declining machine of the Progressive Conservatives.

In the key province of Ontario where they still have the provincial government and many municipal governments, the Tories proved unable to make any headway. Tory Toronto is now a thing of the past. The Liberals took another 2, to total 10 of the 18 seats.

Percentage-wise the Liberals polled 48% of the vote, a drop of 2% from 1949; the Tories 31%, up 1%; the CCF, running 8 less candidates than in 1949 (172 of the 265 seats) polled 12% of the vote, a drop of 1%.

Despite an increase in the Canadian electorate since 1949, from 7.9 to 8.5 millions, some half million less votes were cast. Only slightly more than 5% million went to the polls. Over 3 million stayed away. Thousands of workers in the industrial areas were away on holidays. To what extent a mid summer, vacation-time

election affects the labor vote is not yet possible to ascertain. Certainly the CCF vote was hit hard in such industrial communities as Oshawa where the basic industry (GM) was shut down. In the Toronto and York area the vote fell off more than 65,000, with the CCF poll dropping to 114,896 in 1949 to 86,125 — a total of 19%.

**ELECTORS APATHETIC**

While Big Business poured unlimited funds into the campaign chests of its parties, and the multifarious instruments of propaganda worked overtime, there was little interest in the elections. The Liberals were returned to office on the widespread apathy of the electorate. Broad layers of the population were seduced by the Liberal claim that it was they who were responsible for the relative prosperity of the economy, and, if the future was threatening, it was they who could best handle things.

The Tories, identified in the eyes of the masses as the party of the most bigoted, ruthless forces of capitalism, have been a steadily declining force. In the Western provinces they were forced to make deals with the Social Credit brass; in Quebec with Duplessis and his henchmen. John Diefenbaker, one of their most prominent spokesmen, felt it best to run not as a Progressive Conservative but as a candidate of Diefenbaker Clubs — no mention that he was a PC candidate appeared in his personal literature or posters.

**CCF CAMPAIGN**

The CCF waged what was probably its most left campaign since before World War II. The party leadership did not succumb, as it did in 1949, to the Liberal-inspired propaganda that the Liberals were a lesser evil than the Tories, but carried the fight to the Liberals.

By and large on the issues of national health services, housing, labor legislation, etc., the party's spokesmen advanced a clear class line. The national leader, Mr. J.

Coldwell, while falsely characterizing the Liberals and Tories as parties that adhere to the democratic processes at a time when they are attempting to amend the Criminal Code against labor, and spreading other illusions, campaigned vigorously for the nationalization of the country's basic steel and food processing industries, advocating a planned economy of production for use and not profit.

Where the CCF campaign failed to differentiate itself from the parties of capital was on the crucial issues of world politics. Here the official line was more economic aid to the colonial and semi-colonial peoples to stop communism — not solidarity with the colonial peoples' freedom struggle against imperialism. Although even here an odd candidate lifted the party's stand for recognition of China from the resolution book and pressed it forward, in some cases implying opposition to Canada's participation in the Korean war.

**COLIN CAMERON WINS**

An interesting sidelight was the election of Colin Cameron, one of the more far-seeing leaders of the British Columbia CCF, in the Nanaimo riding where he turned a Tory plurality of 7,835 last election into a CCF plurality of 2,228 with 10 of the 73 polls yet to be heard from. BC lefty winners Harry Archibald and Rodney Young won nominations, the latter in the face of considerable opposition from the provincial leadership. They both polled a good vote but neither got in.

The CCF ran 30 candidates in Quebec, the stronghold of "Padlock Law" Maurice Duplessis. While its vote was light (22-108) considerable progress was registered. One of the CCF candidates was Rene Rocque, leader of the insuring Asbestos strike and Canada's leading class-war martyr. Several other Quebec CCF candidates are leaders of the Catholic Syndicates.

Arnold Peters, now before the Ontario courts for his militant

role in the Timmins miners' strike against the gold interests, came within an ace of winning the Timmins seat.

The Canadian Congress of Labor (CCL) which has endorsed the party since 1943 threw considerable strength behind the CCF campaign. Many of its staff either ran as candidates, as did Charles Millard, Canadian director of Steel, or worked full-time in constituency campaigns. Union locals voted considerable funds to the campaign. While the leadership gave no encouragement to the development of local political action committees, the most advanced unionists participated in the CCF campaigns. CCL political action literature was generally quite effective.

The leadership of the Trades and Labor Congress (AFL) continued their Gompers' policy of what they call political "neutrality," but many secondary leaders and rank and filers were candidates and participated in the CCF campaigns.

The CCF vote dropped but the vote polled by Labor Progressive Party (Stalinist) candidates plummeted. Despite the fact that it has been tremendously weakened over the past eight years the LPP ran five times the number of candidates it ran in 1949. Its

100 candidates ran in the key ridings of the 172 that the CCF contested and polled 55,463 votes. In several ridings, if its vote had gone to the CCF, these seats would have been won from the capitalist parties. In a vain attempt to block Canadian capital from tagging along with Wall Street the Stalinists campaigned for "a great national coalition" to implement their slogan "Put Canada First."

Their propaganda was a hotch-potch of some leftist but mostly rightist attacks on the CCF and chidings of the Liberal party. In all but a handful of ridings it was a token campaign. Biggest efforts were made in Toronto-Trinity and Montreal-Cartier. National leader Tim Buck in Trinity saw his vote cut down to 1,657, almost one-fourth of his 1949 vote. In Cartier, Quebec, provincial leader Harry Binder dropped to a mere 894 from a 1949 poll of 4,809.

McCarthy's friend, Sen. McCarran is also a close friend of fascist dictator Franco of Spain. The butcher of the Spanish workers recently presented one of his highest decorations to the Senator from Nevada, the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella La Católica.

\$18,000 Fund Scoreboard				
Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent	
AKRON	\$ 150	\$ 175	117	
ST. LOUIS	75	75	100	
Chicago	1,500	1,359	91	
Philadelphia	400	357	89	
Newark	500	425	85	
Buffalo	1,500	1,119	75	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	828	69	
Cleveland	350	215	61	
Los Angeles	2,500	1,467	59	
Oakland	250	137	55	
Boston	550	296	54	
Milwaukee	400	202	51	
Pittsburgh	30	15	50	
Flint	250	115	46	
New York	4,500	1,836	41	
Seattle	450	183	41	
Youngstown	450	142	32	
Detroit	1,500	383	26	
San Francisco	1,000	251	25	
Allentown	60	10	17	
General	385	161	42	
Total through Aug. 24	\$18,000	\$9,751	54	

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# "Escape" No Answer

By Jean Blake

Sensational stories about Negroes going over to the Chinese have been featured in the daily papers in recent weeks, highlighted by an Associated Press story Aug. 10 which quoted the comment of returned prisoners of war Pfc. Amos McClure of St. Louis, Mo., and Corp. Richard Barnes of Houston, Texas.

The gist of the interviews with these and other Negro soldiers was that they were subjected to considerable propaganda about Jim Crow in America but only a few colored soldiers were "taken in" by it and convinced not to return home.

In view of the fact, reported by radio commentators here and there in the past week, that many more white Americans than Negroes decided to stay with the Chinese, it seems pretty clear that the release of all the recent interviews with colored GIs on this subject is itself an indirect expression of anti-Negro prejudice by the American press.

It shows (1) that the U.S. censures are embarrassed internationally by the well-known fact that discrimination in America is enough to induce some colored people to want to escape from Jim Crow, and (2) that it is necessary for the administration to cover for the white supremacists by discrediting the Negro POW's

who refuse to return, while hailing "escapees" from Russian satellite countries as heroes.

Actually, no escapist is a hero. Those workers or oppressed minorities who think they can run away from the evils of decaying capitalist society into a "workers' paradise" in some other corner of the earth, or from Stalinist degenerate mockeries of "socialist states" into capitalist "democracies" are either weak or deluded.

Escapism is not internationalism. Scientific socialists have always held that the main enemy is at home. That means that the working class of each country must settle accounts with its native oppressors. And today that means that only the workers in countries dominated by the Stalinist bureaucracy can effectively eliminate that control and take their destiny into their own hands.

# Don't Believe the Papers

By Fred Hart

William Worthy, correspondent of the *Afro-American*, warns Americans not to believe everything they read in the papers about the atrocity stories coming out of Freedom Village where prisoners of the Korean war are being exchanged, and to get wise to the political realities in an Asia that has said goodbye forever to imperialist domination.

Now on his way back to the U.S. and therefore presumably freer to express his opinions, Worthy, writing in the Aug. 22 *Afro*, explains that many of the atrocity reports are not reliable because in the first place, correspondents "are tempted to put words in the mouths of returning POWs. In the second place, there are always individuals who stand ready to say what others wish to hear — especially in these days of hysteria."

Discussing the conflicting stories about atrocities, he notes that treatment of American POWs varied from camp to camp and that "the lurid tales of starvation diets were balanced by the reports of many repatriates that the North Koreans themselves were eating very poorly."

"And it will probably be years before the American people obtain documentation of the cold-blooded shootings of North Korean and Chinese POWs by some of our own white-snow soldiers — stories which are common knowledge out here in the Far East Command."

About the political situation in Asia, Worthy does not pull his punches: "It seems to me, now on my way home after seven months in Asia, that colored Americans, like most of their white brothers, are incredibly out of touch with political realities out here."

"Or to put it more strongly, the newspaper-fooled folks of the United States are being taken for one gigantic counter-revolutionary ride by the righteous smoke-screens emanating from Washington's propaganda mills."

"Pandit Nehru of India has tried to warn us that communism and anti-communism are irrelevant in Asia where there is a universal demand for a revolutionary lifting of living standards and for an immediate attainment of genuine human dignity."

"And in that sense, with Washington furiously backing every broken-down reactionary and all the discredited puppets that have no future, our Asian policies are wrong

from A to Z. Under the banner of despot Syngman Rhee, those are the policies for which colored and white GIs have died — in vain, utterly in vain."

Worthy also voices some strong criticisms of Negro leaders for "mildly tapping the State Department over the wrist in disagreement over nuances of Asian and African policies instead of raising the roof about the white supremacy and imperialistic premises of those policies."

"From here I see no evidence that colored leaders are aware of the thinking of Korean war veterans who have learned a great deal in Asia about racial equality and white pretentiousness and who will become explosively embittered if they must return to the same old pattern of segregation, both north and south."

"I see no indications that zealously patriotic 'spokesmen' are setting their faces against the disastrous polarization of public sentiment in America where Senator McCarthy is offering two choices to everyone."

"These are to climb aboard his sordid bandwagon and ride with the Schuylers, Gerald L. K. Smiths, the Manning Johnsons and the lunatic fringe, or to be peppered with shotgun 'communist' labels."

Worthy believes that the Negro people "could perform no greater service to America and to the world than to help reverse the mad, suicidal, saber-rattling, race-conscious trends in national policies."

"Instead of wasting time crawling on their knees in a futile effort to avoid or wash off the ubiquitous 'communist' tag, colored organizations should be demanding, as a symbolic show of strength on a symbolic issue of freedom, the return of the books by Walter White and other serious authors to the shelves of American libraries here in Asia and in Africa and in Europe."

"They should do this even if it requires a dramatic sit-down demonstration in the corridors outside the office of John Foster Dulles on the part of our most respectable and most frightened and most flag-waving leaders."

"For if we keep on caving in on these external foreign policy matters involving race and color and imperialism and the very lives of innocent 19-year-old conscripts, we shall, in the words of Albert Einstein, deserve the domestic slavery which is intended for us."

# Notes from the News

**THE IMPRISONMENT** and eventual release of Robert A. Vogeler by the Stalinists in Hungary on charges of spying for the U.S. was highly publicized. American newspapers indignantly denied that Vogeler was a spy and painted him up as a martyr. Vogeler has now filed a \$500,000 suit against his former employer, the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, because of his imprisonment. Why he filed the suit against I.T. & T. has not yet been revealed, but he told the press that "every interesting material will be brought out." One wonders what I.T. & T. ordered Vogeler to do in Hungary that makes the company responsible for his imprisonment as an alleged spy.

**THE COLONIAL DESPOTS** of the British Empire think many members of the African Mau Mau in Kenya are now willing to surrender after recent intensive bombing and strafing of Kikuyu tribesmen. The British promise that the "terrorists" will have the opportunity of surrendering without prosecution, "unless" they prove to be murderers or to have committed major atrocities. Those who are tempted by the British offer will be taken to special surrender "cages."

**TWO MEN NAMED KAPLAN** served time for the same crime in the same prison. Nathan Kaplan was as innocent served seven and a half years. Max Kaplan who later surrendered and confessed received an 18-month sentence. For 21 months the innocent man has been trying unsuccessfully to get his name cleared and his civil rights restored. Official dispensers of capitalist "justice" blame the delay on "red tape."

**NO SMALL-TIME SPEEL** is the on-coming \$2 million ad campaign to build up a buyers' taste for the new Antizyme toothpaste. If your teeth survived the ammoniated and chlorophyll fads

watch out for this one. The American Dental Association tells us that these anti-decay claims are "premature."

**TWO-THIRDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD** are starving despite sufficient food production to feed everyone, the American Geographical Society reports. Countries of lowest food consumption per capita are listed as follows: India, Ceylon, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

**INTENSE DISLIKE** of McCarthy has increased, according to a public opinion poll taken by George Gallup. A new technique of polling called the "Scalometer" not only registers opinions but also their intensity. Since June, opinion has been polarizing with a reduction of "no opinion" from 35% to 24%. While in June those who favored McCarthy outnumbered those who opposed him, today the dislike of the reactionary Senator exceeds the number of his supporters by 42% to 34%.

**A BRONX BOOK-BURNING** bonfire was proposed by a post of the Catholic War Veterans when embarrassed city officials announced that they were compelled by law to auction "communist" literature which fell into the city's hands when the Amter Club was evicted for falling \$200 in arrears in rent. To save the Bronx officials from the necessity of selling "communist" propaganda the CWV offered to submit a bid. To prevent the Nazi-like book burning a second bid of \$100 was made by a State official of the Communist Party.

**LANDLORD PROFITS** have been jacked up 193% over the 1940 average. The net take on non-farm units hit an all-time high of \$2,390,000,000 in 1952. Tenants can expect still more gouging in the period ahead.

# THE MILITANT

## How Rebels Took Over in Brandenburg

(Continued from page 1)

people interpreted as a sign of weakness, and by local instances of repression. Amidst the excitement of this encounter, news came over the radio from West Berlin of the general strike planned for the next day by the Stalinist construction workers of East Berlin. "The first day shift of 1,200 workers showed up at the Brandenburg steel plant (nationalized in 1945) at six a. m. Two hundred members of the local factory construction unit acted first. They huddled in small groups, appointed a couple of leaders and announced they were going on strike 'in solidarity with the Stalinist building workers.' "By seven all work had stopped at the Brandenburg steel plant. The steel men formed a strike committee in 10 minutes. They decided to inform all the other factories and the committee drew up a program of demands" modeled on the East Berlin demands heard over the radio.

The steel men overpowered the works police; stormed and demolished the administration office; poured out of the plant, changing their demands and headed for the town. On the way they passed a Russian troop barracks with 1,000 soldiers who apparently ignored them. As they marched along they were joined by other factory groups. They tore down and destroyed pictures of Stalin, Ulbricht, Grotewohl, and even portraits of Marx which in other cities were not touched.

**PROSECUTOR KILLED**  
The hated Stalinist prosecutor who emerged from the courthouse, pistol in hand, was beaten to death. "A delegation from the crowd pushed into the prison offices. The People's Police voluntarily surrendered their weapons. Then occurred a scene that perhaps could take place only in a German revolution. The workers' delegation demanded the release of the political prisoners. But it must be done methodically. Bring out your records, they ordered."

"They sat down with the jailers at a table. Meticulously they went through the dossiers. We want only the political prisoners, they said, not the common criminals. It took a half hour. Thirty-nine people were freed."

They seized the "people's judge" and forced him to shout repeatedly on a Stalinist speaking platform in the public square: "I will never again give another sentence."

They next stormed the headquarters of the CP and its youth organization, the House for German-Soviet Friendship, the Stalinist union quarters. To finish the clean-up they totally demolished the headquarters of the National Democratic Party composed of ex-Nazis.

**VOPOS DESERT**  
During these scenes the People's Police remained inert and here and there were observed throwing their weapons into the canals. "This spectacle of the Vopos deserting, and even joining the revolt, occurred all over East Germany." When two East German army units of more than 1,000 men were ordered out to quell the revolt, they refused to leave their barracks.

The last major assault was against the barracks of the Stalinist Security Police guarded by reinforcements hurried from Potsdam. In this clash three were killed and 20 wounded.

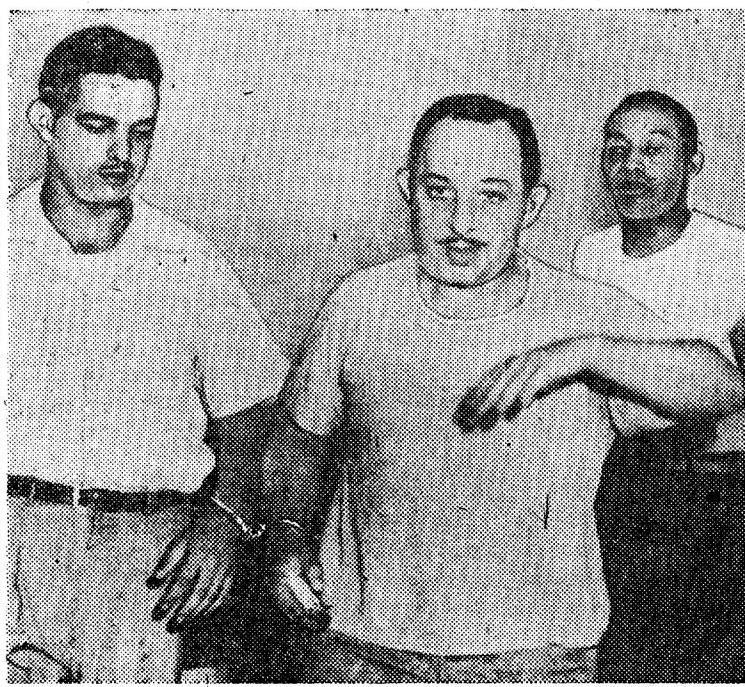
The Russian military command declared martial law. At about 4 p. m. Soviet soldiers heavily armed moved into the center of town in armored cars and trucks, began firing in the air, and occupying all key points and factories. This quelled the movement.

By next morning 60 strike leaders were arrested and then about a hundred more.

These facts stand out, says Coblenz in conclusion. "The Brandenburg workers, in common with millions of others all over East Germany, could see that they had been well on the way to smashing the local Communist apparatus when the Russian troops stepped in. They had been defeated by Russian troops alone. But they knew the East German Red regime had been hurt."

"The Communists had been gripped with indecision, fear and mood in their own ranks. The mood of the workers was more defiant than before. In every factory they knew that, when the cards were down, the other factories would act with them. Next time — or the time after that — they would be able to organize things better. Meanwhile, the workers kept their fists in their pockets."

## Smith "Gag" Act Victims



Three of eight Pennsylvanians arrested in Philadelphia for alleged violation of the infamous Smith Act are shown in federal court. They are (l. to r.) Sherman Labovitz, Benjamin Weiss and Thomas Nabried. In Pittsburgh on Aug. 25, five others were railroaded to prison for long terms. (See Editorial, Page 3).

## SAN FRANCISCO CARMEN BACK OAKLAND STRIKERS

OAKLAND, Aug. 22 — The month-old Key System strike of the Carmen's Union continues solid despite strike-breaking moves by the company. A suggestion by the

"East Bay Cities Committee Investigating the Key Strike" that the San Francisco Municipal Railway extend its services to the Oakland side of the bay was countered by refusal of the San Francisco carmen to act as strike-breakers.

Sentiment in transportation-crippled communities is mounting against the company. Acting on behalf of "all the inhabitants of the East Bay Metropolitan area," Frederick Dubovsky, an Oakland attorney, filed a taxpayer's suit against the Key system for \$31,500,000 damages and for \$1,500,000 additional damages for each day that the company fails to operate its buses and railways.

Lillian Kiezel, local chairman of the Socialist Workers Party and former candidate for Mayor of Oakland, praised Local 192 of the Carmen's Union for its militant stand. In a letter to Verne Stambaugh, president of the local, she pointed out that Key System refuses to grant a wage increase unless permitted to boost fares five cents. "With approximately 125,000 people using the buses and trains, the company will make \$12,500 a day from the increase." "The wage increase, however, would mean an additional cost to

the company of only \$672 a day — six cents an hour to 1,300 employees.

Seeing these figures side by side, the SWP spokesman declared "it becomes clear that this is just another attempt on the part of Key System and its even wealthier parent organization, the National City Transit Lines, to fill their pockets at the expense of the public and then place the blame on the union for the fare increase. By so doing they hope to turn attention from their gouging and turn public opinion against the union."

Miss Kiezel suggested that if Key System is "having such a bad time making ends meet they should be willing to open their books to the public and the union so that we can see where the trouble lies." She also suggested that the system's franchise be dropped at once and a referendum of the voters be made to determine whether or not East Bay transportation be placed under the control of the City or East Bay Transit Authority, this in turn "to be controlled by representatives of the Carmen's Union and other labor and civic organizations which represent the majority of the commuters."

## LOVELL URGES FULL AID FOR GM FIRE VICTIMS

(Continued from page 1)

section of furniture, household appliances and automobiles on which they are unable to continue installment payments." The present 20-week maximum payments "will run out long before full scale production at the plant can reasonably be expected to resume."

**LOVELL'S STAND**  
This statement is a step in the right direction, but much more is needed than the "good offices" of either GM officials or the Governor to win results. The unemployed workers need and deserve full pay checks. This is the time to open a full-scale struggle for full compensation along the lines indicated by SWP majority candidate Lovell, who said:

"This demand of the union for full compensation for workers who are forced out of work through no fault of their own, merits the support of the whole Detroit community. It is a step toward winning the guaranteed annual wage. As contrasted to the government's billionaire giveaway program to benefit the corporations, this is the least that can be done."

"Instead of fake empty-handed concern for the victims of its own gross negligence, the corporation has the obligation of providing a living for the disaster victims. GM can accomplish this by absorbing all GM workers in the plants which continue to operate and at the same time reduce hours with no cut in 40 hours pay."

workers will enthusiastically respond.

Arnold Renner, chief of the fire marshal's division of the Michigan State Police, stated that the plant was "inadequately" protected. Only 10% of the plant had automatic sprinkling devices.

"I've never been in the building before, but before I'm through I'm going to know a lot more about it," Renner said. "I'm not with General Motors and I say there should have been fire walls to divide a huge open plant like that."

To this, a GM spokesman arrogantly replied that the answer would be: "This plant, as is the case with all our plants, was built in conformance with the building codes, fire regulations and insurance regulations." Nevertheless, firemen from seven communities had to risk their lives fighting the blaze; four persons died and scores were injured.

The rules and regulations cited by GM and largely influenced by GM have proved completely inadequate. Further, fire chiefs from the various townships revealed that the water pressure was so low there was long delay in bringing water to play on the flames. The Detroit Fire Department held up prompt dispatch of its apparatus because the township of Livonia had failed to pay a \$1,300 annual fee for stand-by fire protection.

The Detroit Free Press tried to whitewash GM and, incredible as it may seem, blamed labor, stating: "In all likelihood, the finding will be that one small moment of laxity or wavering attention on the part of a workman, with sparks, oil and chemicals at hand, led to the holocaust." Nothing about inadequate fire walls and sprinkler system and no proper inspection by state inspectors during or after construction of the plant.

## 60,000 Strike Anti-Union Bell Telephone Trust

AUG. 27 — More than 60,000 telephone workers in nine states are manning picket lines in a gradually spreading militant strike movement that may become a national

walkout if the American Telephone and Telegraph monopoly and its affiliated Bell System continue their close-fisted stalling policy on the CIO Communications Workers wage demands.

Indiana telephone workers are continuing their 35-day bitterly fought battle despite attempts of Gov. George N. Craig to break the strike with the use of state police. Craig's armed forces were used to open exchanges to scabs in several towns and cities and he has ordered the National Guard alerted for similar strike-breaking duty.

Negotiations with AT&T officials in New York continued today as union officials declared there would be "no unauthorized strike" of 22,000 long-distance operators. Their walkout had been expected to begin today. Yesterday, John Lotz, President of New York Local 1150, had said "there is a very definite threat of a walkout. The members are impatient with the stalling tactics of the management, and I don't know if we can hold them."

**ANTI-UNION POLICIES**  
AT&T has one of the most brutally anti-union policies in the country. In this day and age of zooming prices it pays wages as low as \$35 a week. The multi-billion-dollar international communications monopoly claims it is owned by the "public." Actually it is controlled by a handful of big share-holders who own 90% of its 20,000,000 outstanding shares, while 10% are divided up among nearly a million small share-holders.

The largest group of strikers are 53,000 employees of Southwestern Bell System in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and two counties in Illinois adjacent to St. Louis, who have been out since Aug. 20. Other workers are on strike in Maryland. The strike at 82 exchanges in Indiana, involving thousands of workers, is now in its second month.

It is reported that a wage agreement has been tentatively reached in the Southwestern Bell strike, but that a final settlement is being held up because of the company's insistence on smuggling a no-strike clause into the contract under a so-called "protection of service" clause.

**TRY TO USE SCABS**  
Indiana's long telephone strike has been marked by provocative attempts of the company, with the aid of state police, to open closed exchanges with scabs and to run scabs through picket lines. In South Bend at 2:30 a. m. on Aug. 14 police had to escort 58 scabs from two exchanges, which were then closed and barricaded, after pickets were joined by auto unionists from the Studebaker and Bendix plants.

In Kokomo, scabs had a hard time trying to leave the exchange when they found themselves trapped by heavy chains on the front door and thick planks barricading the rear.

On Aug. 17, Gov. Craig sent troops to Clinton, after alleged "disturbances" by the strikers; the troopers had orders to take over the exchange and "keep it open." On Aug. 23 the governor sent troops into Jasonville after it was claimed, he said, that strikers had threatened to tear down the scab-infested exchange building "brick by brick."

The Indianapolis CIO on Aug. 19 protested to Mayor Alex Clark on what it termed "police discrimination" in the strike there. CIO officials threatened a mass demonstration of 70,000 union members. They charged the company with bringing in out-of-town scabs.

(Carpenters) know very well that the AFL does not have police powers over its affiliates and they would have been among the first to oppose giving us such powers."

President McDonald of the Steelworkers took the occasion of the last CIO national board meeting to disclaim any separate move on the matter of AFL-CIO unity. He said he is "not engaged in negotiations with anybody to establish a new third labor movement" in response to rumors growing out of his secret meeting with United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis. Asked about what he had discussed with Lewis, McDonald asserted that "we reminisced about the coal mines."

An example of the nefarious interference in labor affairs by Catholic priests occurred during a strike of 135 members of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association in Philadelphia on Aug. 21. Rev. Dennis J. Conroy, who is listed as a "water-front arbiter," went down to the Franklin Sugar Refining Co.'s Pier 56 and told the men they were wrong to strike. And "just to make it official," he arrogantly commanded, "I hereby order the longshoremen to resume work on that ship." Despite their "mumbling of discontent," as reported in the press, the men were so over-awed by the priest's cloak of religion and church authority that they discontinued the strike.

A general wage increase of 37½ cents an hour is being sought by the 200,000-member Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in forthcoming contract talks. Their contracts with the country's carriers terminate on Sept. 30.

Defiance of local book censorship has been proclaimed by The Kenosha Labor, joint weekly of the AFL and CIO unions in Kenosha, Wis. The local county and city authorities have set up a so-called Commission on Juvenile Reading which threatens to exercise censorship on books sold on Kenosha bookstands. The union paper stated editorially on Aug. 20 that it will "publicize good literature being so censored. And if these books, because of the censorship are denied local distribution, this paper will make such books available to the public. And we dare the commission to take us into the courts on the issue!"

## In the Unions

By Joseph Keller