

Ex-GPU Killer Makes Statement On Trotsky Case

By Joseph Hansen

An article in the October issue of *Male*, a lurid "true confession" type magazine, purports to reveal hitherto unknown facts about the machine-gun attempt on the life of Leon Trotsky and his wife.

Natalia in Coyoacan, Mexico, May 24, 1940. This attempt, organized by Stalin's secret police with the assistance of well-known Mexican Stalinists, including the famous painter David Alfaro Siqueiros, did not succeed.

It was followed by a second attempt August 20, 1940, in which a Kremlin-directed agent, "Frank Jacson," succeeded in sinking a pick-axe into the brain of the great revolutionary socialist leader. The identity of Jacson, now serving a sentence of 20 years and a day, has not yet been satisfactorily established although the best evidence available indicates he is of Spanish origin, that his real name is Ramon Mercader del Rio and that he joined the Stalinist movement in the Thirties.

In the May 24 assault, one of Trotsky's guards, Robert Sheldon Harte, a youth from New York, was murdered by Trotsky's assailants. The article in *Male* claims to reveal the actual facts about the killing of Harte. It also states that Jacson participated in the machine-gun raid.

The article, "They Ordered Me to Machinegun Trotsky," is by one Bill Gillespie "as told to Les Harriman." Gillespie does not identify himself beyond saying that he talks "with a mid-western accent," that he joined the Communist Party in 1936 and "was a triggerman for the GPU, Stalin's secret police."

After serving in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War, he went to Mexico where he taught English.

When the plot to kill Trotsky neared completion early in May 1940, Gillespie claims that he was recruited to participate in the bloody deed by Jack Stachel, an American Stalinist leader. One of the reasons for choosing him was that he had red hair like Robert Sheldon Harte and resembled him in other respects.

Gillespie was introduced to David Alfaro Siqueiros, who was

organizer of the attempt. He also met Frank Jacson.

THE ASSAULT

The gang drove to Coyoacan on the night of "May 22." (The actual date was May 24, J. H.) Harte was the guard on duty. He knew Jacson, since the latter, through marriage with a woman follower of Trotsky, had wormed his way into acquaintance with the household.

Jacson "banged on the door. From where I crouched I could see the little porthole in the steel door open. 'Hey, Bob,' he said, 'I've got an urgent message for the old man from Colonel Salazar.'"

Accompanying Jacson were Stalinists disguised in police uniforms. Harte opened the door for them, and they rushed him. "I saw a tall, red-headed guy who looked something like me. He was shouting and trying to get a pistol out of his holster, but they were right on top of him. A pistol butt came down hard on his head. I didn't stay to watch him fall. I had my own job."

This job was to machinegun the bedroom where Trotsky and his wife were sleeping. Gillespie fired "the Thompson gun into the room." Then the gang made their escape, taking the automobiles belonging to the household. Gillespie says that he drove the Dodge sedan into Mexico City and abandoned it in a favorable neighborhood.

Then, according to his instructions, he went to a cabin that had been rented in the mountains, where he stayed five days, letting the villagers nearby see him.

HARTE MURDERED

On the fifth day, "There was a noise downstairs. I got up quietly and crept along the narrow corridor to the stairs. Through the banisters I saw four men in the living room, grouped around a chair. Strapped in the chair was

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THE MILITANT

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Eisenhower Launches Drive To Impose Federal Sales Tax

Weiss Hits N.Y. Transit Board Moves

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 — Assailing the announced plan of the City Transit Authority to initiate further reductions in transit service, David L. Weiss, Mayoralty candidate on the Socialist Workers ticket, declared today, "This board, and its policy of the 'public be damned and the transit workers be damned,' has got to go."

According to the Authority's plan, the waiting time for virtually all trains and buses will be increased. During the night hour the waiting time will be stretched from the present twenty minutes to a full half hour.

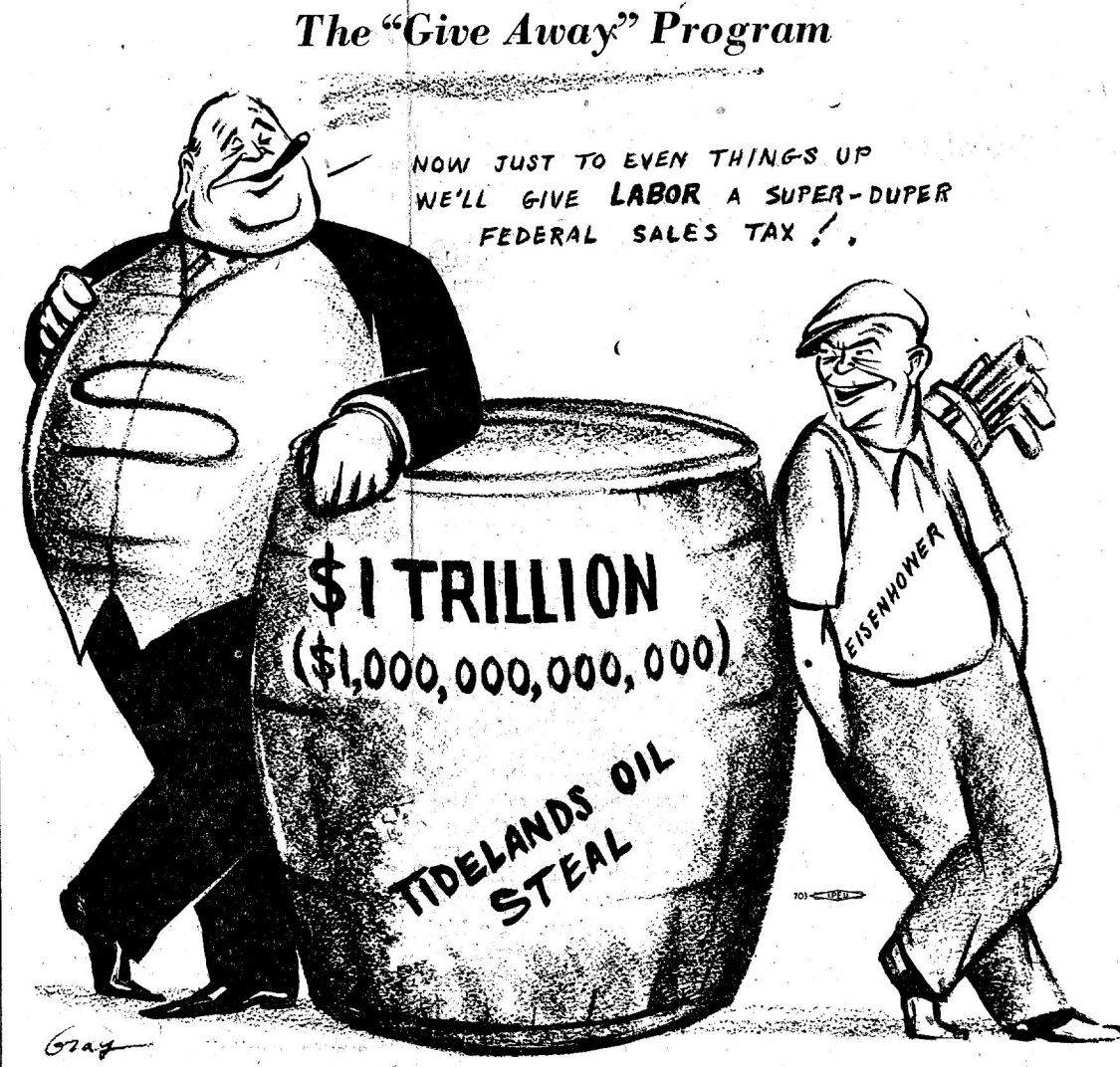
In addition to making travel even more miserable for the city's long-suffering straphangers, this new move of the Authority will seriously affect the work schedules and take-home pay of 14,570 subway and bus workers.

In defiance of the city's contractual relations with the CIO Transport Workers Union, the Authority has arrogantly informed the union, "We are of the opinion that we can establish the proposed schedule of runs without seeking your prior authority or approval."

Declaring his full support to the union's indicated plan for job action in the form of a drastic slowdown, Mr. Weiss said, "It is the obligation of the entire labor movement to give their backing to the TWU in this fight."

Recalling that when the fare was first hiked from a nickel to a dime, O'Dwyer had sworn that the increase would mean improved facilities for the public and improved conditions and wages for the transit workers, Mr. Weiss said, "With the fare now tripled, the facilities are just about three times as bad, and the transit workers have to fight three times as hard just to maintain existing conditions."

The Socialist Workers candidate concluded, "The fare must be rolled back to its former level of five cents. The transit workers must get a square deal. One of the obstacles to this is the board. It must be eliminated. A bigger obstacle is City Hall itself. Labor needs to take a high-powered vacuum cleaner — its own administration — and give the old building a going-over from top to bottom."



General Strikes Flare In Many Parts of World

By Murry Weiss
SEPT. 22 — The three Trade Union Federations of Italy have agreed to call a 24-hour general strike for Thursday, Sept. 24, to protest mass layoffs in industry. The union action was taken jointly by the Stalinist-controlled General Confederation of Labor (CGIL), the Catholic-controlled Confederation of Free Syndicates (CISL), and the Social Democratic-controlled Union of Italian Labor (UIL).

The general strike call was issued Sept. 17 as a result of a wave of strikes and protest actions in various industrial centers against layoffs. The same day the call was issued, a walkout of an estimated 100,000 workers took place in Turin, primarily in the auto and steel plants. Two days earlier on Sept. 15, the large textile mills of Turin were shut down by a walkout.

The Italian workers are demanding that layoffs be halted and that wages be increased. The demands are addressed to the regime of Premier Giuseppe Pella, which recently assumed power after the fall of De Gasperi's cabinet. The union leaders decided to refrain from including public-utility workers in the strike call and to confine the stoppage of transportation workers to three-quarters of an hour.

The general strike is set for three days after the crisis-torn Parliament reconvenes. If it goes off as scheduled, Italy will once again face a major showdown between the working class and the capitalists. The workers are in upsurge against intolerable living conditions, and the capitalists are even more feeble than their French counterparts. The experience of France has demonstrated that notwithstanding the con-

servative and timid outlook of the Trade Union officials and the Stalinist and Social Democratic leaders of the mass workers parties, the workers can take the boldest initiatives and mount an offensive that in effect becomes a bid for establishing workers' power.

But the French general strike of last August also showed how mass workers movements are betrayed if left under the direction of the labor bureaucrats. In the Italian situation as well as the French the only salvation of the capitalists is the bureaucracy of the workers' organizations. It is not a question of the workers seizing power at any moment regardless of the situation and the relationship of forces. It is a question of the deliberate policy of the Stalinists and Social Democrats to prevent workers' power.

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Demands "Sacrifices" Of Labor; Promises Tax Cuts for the Rich

By Joseph Keller

Eisenhower used the occasion of the \$100-a-plate Republican dinner in Boston on Sept. 21 to fire the opening salvo in his drive to impose a \$5 billion federal sales tax on the American working people.

He made his first direct reference to the possibility of his pressing for a sales tax when he said in his speech: "There is no sacrifice — no labor, no tax, no service — too hard for us to bear to support a logical and necessary defense of our freedom."

His "logical and necessary defense" is Wall Street's war program to place the world under its economic and political domination. His "no tax too hard for us to bear" is universally understood to mean a sales tax, which the workers of America have always bitterly opposed.

TAXES ON RICH REDUCED

To make sure that no one misunderstands the nature of the tax Eisenhower meant, Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey the next day, in a speech cleared by the White House, hastily explained to the American Bankers Association that the General is not thinking of increasing the taxes of the rich and of the war profiteering corporations.

Humphrey told the bankers that "the excess profits tax will expire on Dec. 31 and there will be no request for renewal." At the same time, the 10% reduction in in-

dividual income taxes "will become effective." A reduced schedule of corporation regular income taxes also goes into effect next spring.

These losses in federal revenue are to be restored out of the pockets of the workers and low-income earners, who must spend most or all of their incomes and therefore are the chief victims of sales taxes. A large part of the income of the well-to-do and rich goes into savings and investments.

LABOR MUST FIGHT

A number of Senators and Congressmen claim they will fight Eisenhower's proposal when it comes up this fall. These include both Republicans and Democrats who are otherwise hostile to labor's interests and altogether untrustworthy. Their game would appear to be to take leadership of any opposition to the sales tax, the more easily to betray it at some crucial point.

Organized labor will have to depend on its own independent mass struggle alone to beat off the sales tax. Such a battle by labor is all the more imperative because the workers face other economic blows, lay-offs, reduction of overtime pay and rising prices and rents.

STEEL STRIKE BROKEN BY McDONALD'S ORDER

By V. Grey

BUFFALO, Sept. 20 — After 19 days of heroic struggle against the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, 17,000 Lackawanna "wild cat" strikers were ordered back to work by

David J. McDonald, president of the United Steelworkers of America. This action is viewed by most of the rank and file here as a sell-out of the first water. A scheduled meeting of Local 2601 was called off by union officials for fear of the wrath of the membership.

The strike originated in the coke-oven department over intolerable working conditions. It grew rapidly into a giant protest demonstration as the company discharged four coke-oven militants. The CIO Council and various union locals of Auto, Electrical, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, etc., in the area rallied to the support of the strike. Before the final strike-breaking move by McDonald, many of the men were talking of extending the strike. They had every reason to expect success.

The stormy development of the strike raised the militancy and solidarity of the workers to new heights. For example, the four discharged men were all Negroes. But the "lily-white" strip mill, long considered the stronghold of anti-Negro prejudice, walked out in sympathy. This unprecedented action of the strip-mill men is probably the best gauge for measuring the widespread resentment of the workers against the Bethlehem Steel Company, and their readiness to hit back.

At the high point of the strike, Joseph P. Molony, State Director of the union, spoke for over an hour at a meeting on Sept. 14. He utilized every trick in the game to squeeze out a back-to-work vote from the workers. But his pleas fell on deaf ears. He conceded that the union had not paid enough attention to working conditions; but added: "I think you have chosen an unfortunate time and an inappropriate battlefield for this strike." The workers voted more

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You Don't Speak For Us, Mr. Dulles

An Editorial

How many people think that Truman had the right to plunge the United States into the "police action" in Korea without consulting Congress? Gallup polls showed that there was deep mass resentment at this mad adventure. And yet today we see the same procedure being used to push us right over the precipice into a Hell-Bomb disaster that could ring down the curtain on the human race.

Secretary of State Dulles spoke at the American Legion convention on Sept. 3:

"There is the risk that, as in Korea, Red China might send its own army into Indo-China. The Chinese Communist regime should realize that a second aggression could not occur without grave consequences which might not be confined to Indo-China." In response, Adlai Stevenson announced Sept. 15, "I emphatically approve."

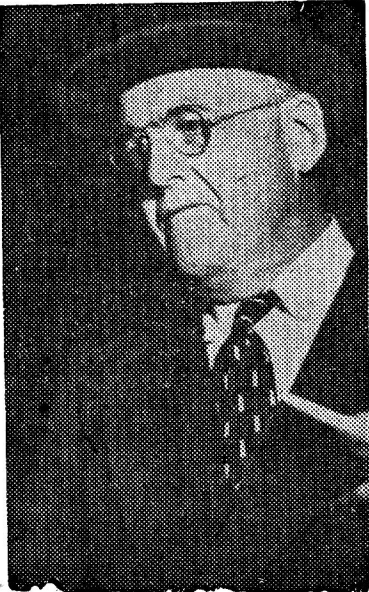
Dulles' speech got "emphatic approval" from a half-dozen "big men" around the world. And there we have it — a declaration of World War III if a certain chalk line called the border of Indo-China is crossed.

And what is this chalk line over which these homicidal maniacs propose to bury tens of millions under atomic rubble? According to the ultra-conservative N.Y. *World-Telegram*, speaking editorially Sept. 14, the people of Indo-China "regard the French as alien invaders and want them to get out of their country. Why our policy makers should be so anxious to pin an American label on this war is beyond all understanding."

But Dulles has spoken for the Republicans and Stevenson has "emphatically approved" for the Democrats, so that settles it for the American people. Having given notice, they now think they can pull the pin on the H-bomb at will.

That's not the way we see it, Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stevenson. You do not speak for the American people. The truck drivers, miners, auto workers, longshoremen, housewives, waitresses, steel workers, etc. of New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Cleveland don't have any quarrel with the Indo-Chinese or Chinese people.

You don't speak for the American people, Dulles and Stevenson, and the American people would speak against you and your mad war schemes with one mighty voice if they had the chance. We demand that they be given that chance. Let the people vote on this question. Only the American people themselves have the right to decide the question of war and peace — the life-and-death question facing humanity.



DULLES

"You Never Had It So Good"

By Art Preis

American workers have never had it so good and if we just stick with capitalism we'll have it even better, the spokesmen of the profit system assure us. This tune is being played in all keys these days and was the theme song of business leaders, government figures and even some union leaders on Labor Day. The Department of Labor, with Martin Durkin still at the helm, conveniently came up with a set of statistics for Labor Day speeches which showed, according to a United Press dispatch, that "the fortunes of the country's wage earner were today at the highest level in history."

U.S. Steel's chairman Benjamin F. Fairless on Sept. 21 summarized these statistical "averages" in star-spangled superlatives: "... We have an honest dollar again... more people have jobs in America than ever before... getting the highest wages in history... personal income of the American people as a whole stands at an all-time peak... spending more money than ever before... still managed to save the fabulous sum of 17 billion dollars last year."

WHY THE JITTERS?

But something is wrong with this picture, even granting that

the statistical "averages" mean what the capitalist interpreters claim they mean. If things are so good under capitalism and going to get better, what are all the jitters about? Why are the capitalists themselves so nervous and disturbed, as indicated by business publications and even more clearly by the stock market declines? These jitters run through all of society and are revealed in part by the rising figures of crime, juvenile delinquency, suicides and other manifestations of social instability. Have you noticed the unusual number of people with emotional and mental disturbances? Why are so many people cracking up?

First of all, nobody really believes the present so-called prosperity is going to last. Secondly, everybody understands that the present level of jobs and wages is sustained solely by staggering government expenditures for war preparations and would collapse overnight with any considerable reduction in war spending. Thirdly, a large section of the American people continue to live in want and misery, despite the statistical "averages." And the great majority are having increasing difficulty making both ends meet because of rising prices, tax boosts, rent hikes, loss of overtime work and growing lay-offs.

Insecurity and fear of the future rides like the Old Man of the Sea on the backs of the American people. We face a future without hope under capitalism. This state of insecurity and fear, which is seemingly so at variance with the economic indices, is surprisingly well summed up in the "Labor Day" editorial of the Sept. 4 *AFL News-Reporter*:

"Rarely in history have such contradictory factors faced the world and confused the experts. Here in America we find general prosperity, near-maximum employment and the highest standard of living the world has ever known existing side by side with government deficits, a cost of living inflated to record-breaking heights and the increasing threat of economic recession."

AVERAGES UNCONSOLING

It's hard for the American workers to take consolation from the statistical "averages" when they know they may be out of

jobs tomorrow or even transported "from here to eternity" in the flash of an H-Bomb.

But the figures on "highest average wages" and "highest number of employed" don't tell the full story and are mighty misleading taken by themselves. A third of the American people still live at a subsistence level. In its Jan. 5, 1953 issue, devoted to showing the wonderful prospects under U.S. capitalism, *Life* magazine nevertheless cautioned: "Not that we have abolished poverty. We certainly haven't. In recent years, at least 10% of American families have been trying to live on incomes of less than \$1,000 a year, and another 15% on incomes of between \$1,000 and \$2,000." And if we include the people living on incomes under \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year, we'll find that two-thirds of America are just getting by with a bare living or less.

WAGES "BT"

Moreover, when we read of the "highest wages in history," we must remember that means "BT" — before taxes. In the past ten years, the direct taxes on workers' incomes have increased enormously. Today, although not registered in the wage statistics, most workers get 10 to 20% sliced off their wages before

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Letter to a Stalinist

COMMUNIST PARTY SAILS UNDER FLAG OF CLASS TREACHERY

Dear Phil:

What's the source of this latest "multi-class coalition" policy of the American Communist Party? You know very well, Phil, that it doesn't come from the doctrine of Leninism. Lenin fought "coalitionism" (the participation of workers parties in capitalist governments) both in Russia and in every other country. Where does this reincarnation of the worst practice of reformism come from?

It comes from the Kremlin. They are always on the lookout for a deal with the capitalist powers at the expense of the independent class interests of the workers. The Kremlin follows the line of class collaboration in its world policy. They call it "peaceful co-existence." Call it whatever you want to Phil — "collective security," "peaceful co-existence," "the co-operation of peace-loving vs. warring nations," or what have you. Class collaboration always results in ruinous consequences for the workers.

The CP in America has consistently followed this policy of coalition for many years. The difference between the policy as applied in America and in France is that American Stalinists have no mass following among the workers. But this difference is not in their favor. A mass base can under certain conditions push the Communist Parties along a path of militant action that can even have revolutionary consequences. Without such a base, Stalinist policy becomes a crude translation of the Kremlin line unrestrained by any mass working class pressure.

You remember that the CP supported Roosevelt in 1936? "Defeat Landon at all costs" was the slogan. Of course that meant "support Roosevelt and the Democratic Party at all costs." That was a betrayal of the independent class interests of the workers, Phil. You participated in strike struggles and remember the way things were in 1936. The great CIO upsurge gave promise of developing into a political "declaration of independence" of the working class and the formation of a Labor Party.

The CP disoriented thousands of radical workers by playing capitalist politics at that decisive moment. The rest of the labor bureaucracy was following the same policy as the CP and this prevented the formation of a Labor Party. And don't forget 1940 and 1944 when the CP supported and built up Roosevelt as the "champion of labor." The CP campaign of Roosevelt-boasting placed him practically on a par with Stalin, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek, the other great "peace lovers" and "democratic champions."

Gerson of the Daily Worker contends that the current Stalinist policy "is an utterly different concept" from the "lesser evil" theory. The difference between coalition and "lesser evil" according to him is that in coalition "labor does not helplessly place its reliance upon one or another bourgeois 'savior.'" Is he referring to the trade union bureaucracy's obscene fawning on "savior" Roosevelt? Then why doesn't he say so? But I don't think he means that, Phil. The CP, too, fawned on Roosevelt. I think he is simply trying to dress up the same old treacherous line with a little "left" terminology.

I'll grant you Phil, that there is one big difference between the CP policy of today and the past. Today the CP is the target of a witch hunt. Today the "cold warriors" of Wall Street turn a deaf ear to all pleas for coalition with the CP. But it would be a great mistake to think that therefore the Stalinist policy "can do no harm."

I hope you have been following the resolution and articles of the CP on their "new" policy. I know that I have conscientiously studied their "discussions." You will see from such a study that the CP is directing its forces to work in the Democratic Party. They say this tactic will help form a Labor Party. But remember that this is the identical argument of the labor bureaucrats. Reuther says "now is not the time for a Labor Party." He insists that his policy of coalition with the Democrats will lead eventually to such a party, by the most "realistic" path.

We've got to look ahead, Phil. What appears to be a "quiescent" working class can very rapidly turn into the opposite. The offensive of the American capitalists against the workers' living standards and organizations is on the order of the day. And with the Big Business offensive comes the prospect of a great radicalization of the working class.

Where will the CP stand in the radical upsurge? Opportunists always promise that when "the day" comes they'll be in there pitching. But experience has shown otherwise. Parties that follow false opportunist policies today will betray tomorrow. Now is the time to assess the policy of every tendency in the radical movement in relation to the coming upsurge. If you do that you will see that the two major contenders for the adherence of the radical workers in the U.S., the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party, stand at opposite poles.

The CP stands under the flag of class treachery. It is the same flag to which the entire labor bureaucracy bears allegiance. Doesn't this indicate the real nature of the CP and its future role? That's why we call upon the radical workers to break with the CP. Coalition politics is class treachery, and there is nothing less than the future of the socialist revolution in America at stake in the fight against such politics.

— Murry Weiss

Jobless Threat Serious, Chicago Unionists Hear

CHICAGO — Reflecting the concern of unionists here with the possibility of growing unemployment and economic recession, General Motors Electro-Motive Local 719, CIO United Automobile Workers, held an exceptionally well-attended meeting at the Civic Center on Sept. 13 to hear two top UAW leaders discuss the threat of depression.

The hundreds of workers who turned out heard Emil Mazey, UAW Secretary-Treasurer, and Pat Greathouse, Director of the union's Region 4 here, express the view that unemployment is becoming a serious menace.

Mazey stated that unemployment is spreading in the United States and is world-wide. He gave statistics on the economic trend showing the reductions in expenditures for capital goods, the saturation in the production of locomotives, and the decline in steel and auto, including Nash, Kaiser, Packard, Hudson and Chrysler.

He said that the farmers are afraid of the future, won't buy, and are saturated with agricultural equipment, thus leading to unemployment in the farm equipment industry.

The UAW leader charged that Big Business wants a pool of at least five million jobless in order to drive down wages.

"GANG OF THIEVES"

He declared that "we cannot expect any solution from the gang of thieves that has taken over the government" and went further to say that "there is something rotten with the social and economic system."

Mazey drew a round of applause when he said the UAW doesn't believe in waiting until there are 10 or 15 million unemployed. "We intend to start now" to take action on a prospective economic decline.

He announced that the UAW Executive Board is calling an unemployment conference in Washington, D. C., for the first week in December and "we hope the do-nothing Congress will do something." They are calling for state conferences as well to press for adequate unemployment compensation and other necessary measures.

He emphasized the necessity for political action and stated that unless labor has political power it cannot succeed in getting the measures it wants

from the government. "We need to win representation in government for labor and the working farmers," he said. Unfortunately he implied labor would get this from the capitalist Democratic Party, instead of by building a party of its own and putting labor's own candidates in Congress and the White House.

Big General Strikes Flare In Many Parts of the World

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at all costs. Thus every great class action in these countries poses two questions: What is the strength of the workers as against the capitalists? What is the strength of the workers as against the bureaucrats?

A genuine revolutionary leadership of the working class, basing itself on the democratic process of mass workers participating in deciding major policy, could very well decide to limit the "movement at this or that point to a protest action. On the road to full mobilization of the working class forces for the final struggle many tactical steps are possible. But without such revolutionary leadership and goal the aspirations of the workers are frustrated by the treacherous policy of their officials. This results in the disruption and dissipation of the movement and the opportunity for the capitalists to recoup their losses and strike back at the workers. It is in this process, the mass struggle of the workers and the betrayals of the bureaucracy, that a new revolutionary leadership will emerge and all the conditions for the socialist solution of the crisis mature.

During the last four months general strikes have been erupting like boiling lava throughout the world. Beginning with the June 17 general strike of the East German workers against the Stalinist regime, there have been five general strikes. Early in August a general strike against the oppressive Laniel decrees swept France, which in all its phases lasted 19 days.

In Ceylon on Aug. 12, a highly successful 24-hour general strike brought about a new stage in the workers' struggle for power in that country. The leadership of this strike was predominantly Trotskyist. The general strike was accompanied by a "hartal" — the closing down of shops and schools, government institutions, etc., indicating the broad sympathy

among the middle class for the workers' demands. The central demand of the Ceylon strike was the resignation of the government and a new election. The struggle reached this sharp point as a result of government attacks on workers' living standards. The price of rice had been increased and the rice ration cut.

A general strike of plantation workers in Indonesia began on Sept. 16 and lasted several days. It involved hundreds of thousands of workers. This strike was in protest over a ruling of the government mediation board which had refused to grant the wage demands of the plantation workers' unions.

We also have a report that on Sept. 15 a total strike stopped every sugar plantation and factory in British Guiana. Union leaders there were said to be considering a general strike throughout the colony.

These general-strike movements underscore the acutely revolutionary character of the world situation. Taken against the background of the anti-capitalist revolution in China involving one-fourth of the world's population, the social transformation in Eastern Europe, the revolutionary tide moving across Asia and Africa, the revolution in Bolivia, we get a measure of the revolutionary ferment in the world today. Everywhere capitalism is displaying its decay and reactionary character and the working class is displaying its enormous capacity for struggle against the rotting system.

The only factor permitting the capitalist system to withstand the body blows of the workers is the absence of mass revolutionary parties that can replace the treacherous Stalinists and Social Democrats. It is this alone which permits capitalism to drive toward its counter-revolutionary war. The creation of revolutionary parties thus becomes the number one task of the working class of the world.

E. German Rulers Push "Get Tough" Policy in Plants

The real character of the "new course" of the East German Stalinist regime becomes more evident with every passing day. Under the impact of the mighty workers uprising of June 17, the Stalinists announced all kinds of concessions to the workers. The infamous speed-up decree which precipitated the June general strike was hastily withdrawn. Many sweeping promises were made to attempt to cool the hot wrath of the workers.

But the essential nature of the Stalinist concessions has been to promise much and to deliver little, all the while directing their blows at the workers' attempts to organize and achieve democratic rights.

Now comes the announcement that a new speed-up program is being launched. Walter Ulbricht, Stalinist boss of East Germany, made clear that this program of "more work" would not be accompanied by any increase in pay.

"Many workers are paid too little" he conceded, "but many others are paid too much." In plain language this means, "you can expect wage cuts but no wage increases."

This new offensive against the workers is coupled with the announcement of the dismissal of 100 workers in plants which were hot-spots on June 17.

Along with this the Stalinist Party purge which has been primarily in the top circles is now being widened to include every party unit in East Germany.

Meany Scores Threat To Labor in Germany

Pres. George F. Meany opened the AFL convention in St. Louis Sept. 21 with an attack on West Germany's Adenauer regime. He charged that Adenauer "is contemplating some punitive action against the Western German Federation of Labor because of the fact that they engaged in political activity that was not to the liking of the government."

Meany said, "The pressure for state control is on, and let us hope that the people of Germany will not allow this tragedy to happen."

But Meany did not explain why the AFL bureaucrats supported Dulles' all-out campaign to keep Adenauer in office. And he did not explain how the bureaucrats happen to find themselves in the same political camp with Adenauer's counterparts in the U.S., the capitalist politicians who are plotting similar moves to stifle trade union independence in this country.

Meanwhile, disquieting reports from West Germany indicate that the Social Democratic trade union leaders are backing down and cowering before the harsh anti-union offensive.

DANIELS' REPORT

Clifton Daniels, N. Y. Times correspondent in West Germany, reports: "The federation's Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 18 concluded that the issues raised by the Christian Democratic representatives were of too

much importance to be settled by itself alone." Unfortunately this evasive move does not mean that the officials want to consult the rank and file union members on how to fight the Adenauer ultimatum. Quite the contrary.

SEEK EVASION

The Executive Committee is stalling and maneuvering to find a way to circumvent the calling of a convention of the West German Trade Unions and evade an open struggle with Adenauer. Daniels makes this, absolutely clear:

(1) "Some of the federation's leaders may be disposed to meet the Christian Democratic demand in the interest of maintaining unity." (2) "The Executive Committee cannot be enlarged (to make room for Adenauer's agents) without the approval of a national convention. Calling a convention would be a cumbersome procedure and might involve the federation in a big public dispute. Therefore other solutions are being sought."

Does this mean that the Social Democrats are preparing to make a deal with Adenauer behind the backs of the West German workers? Such a criminal betrayal is entirely in line with the character of Social Democratic reformism. The question is whether the workers will let them get away with it.

Letters from Readers

Holds No Weapon Should Be Used Against Civilians

Editor: I have just seen my letter in the Sept. 7 Militant, and Mr. Hansen's reply. I am very grateful because my letter was printed, but I am hoping The Militant will indulge me once more and permit me to put my ideas a little more clearly. Here is what I was trying to say:

I am a student of history and I know that economic decadence always causes moral decadence; I mean, that when any ruling class is no longer progressive, it commits horrible crimes against helpless people, such as the terrible things that happened in the arenas of ancient Rome, the tortures inflicted upon people in the Inquisition, and, above all, the present-day crimes committed with bombs against unarmed men, women and children in the great cities of the world.

I do not consider these crimes as a part of the evils of war; I consider them as the expression of a bloodthirsty ruling class that deliberately plans to hurl its weapons against those who have no power of defense.

I would put the seal of moral approval upon any weapon used in a good, progressive cause against the armed enemies of that cause; but I would NEVER put the seal of moral approval upon ANY weapon used against defenseless workers and their families; I don't care if they are beheaded with swords or burned to death with hydrogen bombs!

And I believe that if a good cause is soiled by crimes against helpless people, a blow has been struck against that cause, from which it will find it very hard to recover!

My kids are not going to declare war against the Soviet Union and no one has a right to make them the victims of that war.

It isn't the nature of the weapon, Mr. Hansen; the question is: Who is going to be the victim of the weapon? Is it the armed soldier, a necessary casualty of war, or is it to be the helpless worker and his family, people like myself who are NOT on the battlefield and have a right to go on living!

I believe Mr. Hansen knows far more about the Kremlin rulers than I do; perhaps they will commit any atrocity. If they do we can't help it, but we should never uphold or condone it under any circumstance — that is all I was trying to say about the Soviet Union.

But I still think we should remember that Mao's Chinese Red Army did NOT attack civilians in Korea — to their ETERNAL CREDIT!

And now about the atomic scientists: I never intended to attack science as such; I know what it has done for the human race. But, Mr. Hansen, excuse me if I say you made one terrible mistake in your answer to me. The atomic energy wasn't ever diverted from peaceful uses by the capitalist class. It hadn't been used for anything peaceful at all.

The monsters of Wall Street and Washington deliberately

Reports on Policy Of Stalinists In Guatemala

Editor: "The government of Arbenz... is a government of the national bourgeoisie and of the petty bourgeoisie, serving the nationalist interests of the bourgeoisie and directing its revolutionary action against feudalism."

This is written by Jose Manuel Fortuny, Secretary General of the Guatemalan Workers Party (Stalinist) which supports unconditionally this same Arbenz. Yes, they know the people whom they are supporting, but the Guatemalan "bourgeoisie against feudalism" line is an excuse for class betrayal.

The Stalinist Guatemalan Workers Party has united with the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties (PAR, PRG and the PRN) to form the so-called "Democratic Electoral Front." The popular front tactic has been disastrous for the working class wherever it has been tried.

Why do the Stalinists support this government? Simply because the U.S. Government, supporting its own United Fruit Company, is opposed to it. If the Arbenz government is not replaced, it will make a deal no doubt with the U.S. Government, and the Stalinists will be bitter.

The agrarian reform law which is raking the United Fruit Company nationalized only uncultivated and rented land; and it has no provision for co-operatives like the ejido in Mexico. Nevertheless the agrarian reform sends the Stalinists into raptures. The native bourgeoisie hopes to create with the agrarian reform a peasant middle class which could buy its goods and support its government. The Stalinist leaders know this and justify their support of the bourgeoisie with "the reason that Guatemala as an under-developed country must continue through the capitalist stage because 'even in the Peoples Democracies of Europe and in the Peoples Republic of China there has been a certain revival of capitalism.'"

Of course Fortuny, who said this, hastens to add that it's temporary — necessary for industrialization! He continues timidly, "We are a very small country, very far from the countries of socialism... extremely close to the U.S." His logical conclusion, which leaves out the precarious position of capital and the growing strength of the proletariat in Central and South America today, is that the Guatemalan workers should support their bourgeoisie. Thinking in the same fashion Lenin would have had the Bolsheviks cooperate with Kerensky.

The imperialists will only have colonies (called sometimes by nicer names), not competitors. Guatemala will not pass to the highest stages of capitalism. Lying in wait is military intervention, higher inflation, economic sanctions, world depression, world conflagration, and world revolution! Only the international proletariat can complete the capitalist stage, and only by taking the road to socialism.

Workers in Plant Score Eisenhower

Editor: I understand that the House Un-American Committee contemplates moving in on the unions this fall. The McCarthyites will attempt to give the workers more reds and less bread. Meanwhile Reuther is behaving like a man who has cataracts on both eyes. He still can see no danger to the labor movement.

Too often we hear and use the expression that today workers are passive and indifferent. However on close examination this is far from the truth, for in spite of the tremendous amounts of propaganda, the workers do not support Eisenhower and his program. There is hardly an hour of the day where I work that Eisenhower is not under attack. Although the radical is not the most popular individual, it is significant that the Republican party is rapidly taking over the number one target spot.

Someway, somehow the workers must learn that the Democratic party is no better. I think this process could be hastened if a program were drafted by the unions to conform with labor's ideas; such a program when presented to the Democrats for endorsement would be rejected and the workers would see they need their own party.

Auto Worker Los Angeles, Calif

Likes TV Speech By David L. Weiss

Editor: I am enclosing a dollar towards your campaign fund. I thought the speech by David L. Weiss two weeks ago on TV a fine one.

I have found lately (I subscribe to The Militant) that I, who usually am very passive politically, am getting madder and madder. I hope that we "liberals" get mad enough one day to clean our governmental house.

Lots of luck in your campaign. S. M. New York

Ex-GPU Killer Makes Trotsky Case Statement

(Continued from page 1)

the tall, red-headed guy who had been one of Trotsky's guards. His face was a raw mass of bruises and one eye was closed and swollen. His chest was lacerated. One of the men started to go to work on him again.

"The redhead's body suddenly jerked, then went limp. After a moment, one of the others stepped up to him and pushed back his eyelids. He let it drop and turned back. 'Harte's dead,' he said with disgust. 'Dead — and he didn't sign the statement. I told you bastards not to be so rough.' He paused for a moment, gaining control of himself. 'Well, let's get rid of him. We've got the lime and the shovels. And the one upstairs has to go, too. He can't ever be seen, now. That would give the whole thing away.'"

Gillespie dropped out of a window and ran. He made the highway, caught a bus and "didn't stop moving till I got to Canada."

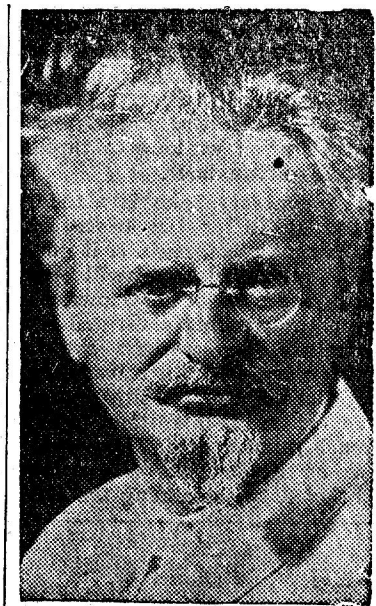
PLANNED FRAMEUP

He quit the Communist Party. As he figured it, the plan had been to have him impersonate Harte to give the impression that Trotsky's guard was friendly with the Stalinist murder gang. This was to bolster the Stalinist version of the assault. "The plan was that Harte would be forced to sign a statement saying that Trotsky's own organization had planned the killing."

Later, working in a "lumber camp in Canada," he learned that "the GPU had finally succeeded in killing Trotsky. From the description and picture of the killer, I knew it was the same pale, thin man I had known. He had a lot of names: Frank Jackson, Ramon Mercader, Jacques Mornard, Jacques Vandrenesche, Salvador Torkoff, among others."

SENSATION IN MEXICO

The article by Gillespie and Harriman was translated into Spanish and published in its entirety by Extra, a Mexico City daily, on Sept. 17. It created a sensation, since it named Siqueiros and Toledano, who are walking



LEON TROTSKY

about free in the streets of the Mexican capital.

Toledano issued a statement denying the allegations, as did Dionisio Encina, head of the Mexican Communist Party. Diego Rivera, the famous Mexican muralist who once befriended Trotsky but later reverted to Stalinism, backed up Siqueiros and Toledano.

Jacson, the murderer, also issued a denial from prison. Next week, we will report their statements as well as what Natalia, the widow of Trotsky, and others said to the press about the revelations.

Close analysis of Gillespie's article reveals serious discrepancies. These may be due to the editorial policy of the magazine which is more concerned about sensationalism than about facts. In addition to the fact that Gillespie's account has been filtered through Harriman and the editors of Male, his memory after 13 years may not be accurate in every detail. This may be sufficient to account for certain errors.

Here are some typical discrepancies: The name "Ramon Mercader" was not known in 1940. This possible identity of the slayer was not brought forward

until 1948. Is its inclusion in the series of names listed by Gillespie an insertion by the editors of Male?

And is the date listed by the magazine for the assault a typographical error?

A more serious item is the account of Harte's death. The autopsy, after the body was recovered from the lime-filled grave, revealed two bullet wounds, one in the temple, the other in the base of the neck.

There are other things, too, that one would like to question Gillespie further about, free from the sensation-mongering pressure of this lurid magazine.

MAIN FACTS CORRECT

Nevertheless, the body of the story conforms to the facts established by the police in the investigation that revealed the Stalinists had organized the assault, placing David Alfaro Siqueiros in charge. (He boasted of his participation when he was captured after Trotsky's murder.)

Gillespie is even familiar with such generally unknown details as the fact that Trotsky's murderer was given a sentence which legally bars him from eligibility to parole.

This would indicate that Gillespie followed the murder of Trotsky and subsequent trial of Jacson much more closely than he admits in his article. Jacson was not sentenced until 1943. In what way did Gillespie learn about the character of the sentence handed down by the Mexican courts? Surely not in a Canadian lumber camp. Was he, perhaps, still serving the GPU?

Reading the story, one suspects that it is neither the full story nor the truthful story about Gillespie's involvement in the killing of Robert Sheldon Harte.

Let Gillespie come forward, identify himself and submit to questioning, if for no other reason than to determine whether he did or did not participate in the actual killing of Robert Sheldon Harte, contrary to the version he presents to us now, 13 years later, in which he indicts himself only for the attempted murder of Trotsky and not the actual murder of his American guard.

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Jim Kutcher -- Case of an "Ordinary" Man

By Harry Ring

I first met Jim Kutcher in the fall of 1936 when I joined the Young Peoples Socialist League, the youth organization of the Socialist Party. At that time I probably would have accepted the portrait he presents of himself in the opening lines of his absorbing book *The Case of the Legless Veteran*.



JAMES KUTCHER

Jim writes, "In most respects I am an ordinary man. I have no special talents. I never showed any capacity for leadership. In school my marks generally put me in the middle section of my class. . . I never rose above the rank of PFC in the Army. . . I was active in a political organization for over ten years and never made a speech in all that time. I am a 'Jimmy Higgins' by nature, the fellow who collects tickets at the door and sweeps up the hall after the meeting. People like me usually get their names in the paper twice — when they come into the world and when they go out."

While I can't quarrel with his facts, I cannot today accept this as the full picture of Jim Kutcher. I shared with Jim the experiences of the depression that he recalls in such a moving way in this book. I marched on the picket lines of the unemployed and of the newly organized workers of the CIO with him. I helped him collect the tickets and sweep the hall after the meetings. Along with other comrades we shared the scraped-up dimes for hot dogs and coffee.

I corresponded with Jim throughout the war. His letters gave me gripping accounts of the nightmarish battles he went through in North Africa and Italy. His book reminded me of his letters, for it recreates all the hell of imperialist war that he experienced and emerged from without his legs.

"STILL WEARIES ME"
Jim looks back at those battles and writes, "Just thinking about that year wears me. At first I tried to keep up with what was going on in the world, to follow the political maneuvers with the French, the Russian war news, reports of the coal strikes at home and so on. But it was too much of an effort. We were tired all the time, and our nerves began to go bad. I got thinner and there was not an ounce of fat on my body. Sometimes, as I hugged the ground and waited for a shell to land, everything took on a dreamlike quality and I expected to wake up in my own bed at home any minute. But it went on with few interruptions for an entire year."

It was at San Pietro, in a fox-hole shared with a man named Shulman, that the end of the campaign came in its heart-

rending way for Jim. He says, "First I heard the noise of the shell landing, and then I felt a sharp blow on the back of my legs, roughly the same kind of a feeling that you would get if someone hit you hard there with a baseball bat when you weren't expecting it. I found myself sitting on the ground outside our hole and leaning forward rather dazed. . . Shulman was stretched out full length beside me. He was wounded fatally and soon died. If he hadn't been between me and the shell, I probably would have been killed too."

"I was lucky to get medical aid almost immediately. The medic who . . . examined me . . . said: 'Well, they'll take you back to a hospital where they'll amputate your legs and then when you get back to the States the Army will give you a new pair.' I didn't know whether to believe him or not: sometimes combat humor can be pretty grim. But I suppose he was trying to be kind, to assure me that I would live."

WALTER REED HOSPITAL
After five months in overseas hospitals Jim finally arrived at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. There he spent 18 torturous months of further operations, traction for the skin of his stumps, and the fittings for the artificial legs that would make it possible for him to walk again. Indelibly engraved in my mind is the memory of my first visit

with him there. It was a warm spring afternoon. Jim was in a ward with some 20 other amputees. His was the last bed in the ward. I walked slowly down the aisle between the beds and found myself looking intently at each of the young men lying there with stumps where arms and legs had been. It hit me that there were two basic kinds, those engaging in good-humored bantering that bordered on giddiness and the motionless ones staring grimly into space. I wondered, "In which category will I find Jim?"

I got my answer at the foot of his bed. He was completely absorbed in the N. Y. Times. After hours talking with Jim, I returned to Newark with the glad assurance that he would prove able to adjust to the unbearably harsh new problem that he would live with for the rest of his days.

Jim had the physical and psychological problems of all the amputees in that ward. But Jim, who describes himself as "in most respects, an ordinary man," had something they didn't, his Marxist understanding of the events that cost him his legs. Above all, he had the perspective of returning to a fruitful life, the life of an active fighter for socialism.

Only one question seemed to disturb him seriously — with this major handicap, would it be possible for him to function effectively in the life and work of his party?

"REHABILITATION"
Jim finally arrived home in the fall of 1945 and began the painful process of "rehabilitation." He learned to get about on his new legs with the aid of canes. He learned to drive a specially equipped car. And, best of all, he secured a clerical job with the Veterans Administration. The job was a major development in his life. He had gone through the depression unable to land a steady job. He returned from the war haunted by memories of the futile job-hunting days of the thirties and the bitter prospect of job hunting again — this time without legs.

It is for these reasons that Jim writes of that job, "Nothing to brag about, routine, even dull — but not to me. No corporation president was more content with his job."

And then on August 16, 1948, "came a bombshell more stunning than any I ever experienced in the war: The manager of the Veterans Administration in Newark called me into his private office and handed me a letter telling me I was scheduled to be fired within thirty days on the grounds that I was 'disloyal' to the Government of the United States."

Jim Kutcher decided that he would not take the firing lying down. That he would fight back. That decision brought him into national prominence. He became a heroic symbol of opposition to the government's "loyalty" purge and the witch hunt as a whole. In the course of that fight, which is still going on, Jim stood up in magnificent fashion. But the decision to make the fight was the most difficult one of his life.

THE PROBLEM
Political considerations were not the problem. As a Marxist he clearly understood the nature of the witch hunt and the "cold war" which gave birth to it. He understood equally well the need to combat the witch hunters if the drive towards a police state is to be halted. The considerations that made the decision so terribly difficult for him were purely personal.

He was "an ordinary man," who had "never made a speech." In addition he had the considerable psychological problems of a man without legs. He tells of the debate that spun inside him as he approached his decision: "You've prided yourself on being a socialist. But real socialists never hesitate to defend their freedom of speech and thought. . . But you're not the right man for the job. You can't speak. You're shy, you won't know what to do or how to do it. . . Besides your other handicaps, there's the one that's the worst of all — your sensitivity to your injury. Think what the publicity would be. . . 'Legless Veteran' — 'Disabled Veteran,' that's what the headlines would say. If you get sympathy it would be because you lost your legs. . . Do you want people thinking that you are trying to exploit the loss of your legs?"

Jim's socialist consciousness triumphed over these powerful inhibitions. He decided, "As long as you make it clear that you are fighting for a principle, and not for special privileges because you are legless, then you have no cause to be sensitive about it. And that is the way I have felt about it ever since."

STORY OF THE FIGHT
The story of that fight is reviewed in this book: The long,

arduous process of appeals through the various government boards and the courts; the interrogations by members of those boards; the tremendously encouraging amount of support given to the fight by the labor and liberal movement throughout the country; the prominent individuals enlisted in the cause — and, based on his own

Because of slow deliveries from England, publication date of *The Case of the Legless Veteran*, originally set for Oct. 1, has been postponed. A new date will be announced later. Meanwhile advance orders may be sent to Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y. Price of the book is \$1.

notes taken at the time, the exciting story of his enormously successful national speaking tour. It was at the conclusion of this tour, at a large New York rally, that Jim declared so eloquently,

"I have said before and I will say it again: I don't want any special sympathy or pity because I have lost my legs; all I want are the rights that belong to any man or woman. The significant thing about my case is not that I lost my legs but that I lost my rights, which are infinitely dearer and more precious to me."

If Jim Kutcher is correct in his insistence that he is an "ordinary man," then it must be said that he stands as a remarkable tribute to what socialist convictions can make of the "ordinary man." For Jim Kutcher emerges from this book as a man and as a fighter of the most substantial stature.

With the very publication of his story Jim Kutcher has made another important contribution to the fight for a free and decent world. Like this reviewer, every one who reads it will want to express his gratitude to a man who has done so much for all of us.

How to Get Your Dollar's Worth

AFL President George Meany is pushing the money-raising drive for Labor's League for Political Education. Union members are being asked to put up their hard-earned coins and greenbacks for a cause. Is it a worthy cause?

A lot of good militant unionists who can match anybody on a picket line feel that their political-action dollars go down the drain, and they hate like hell to subscribe to such funds. Now we don't advocate boycotting such funds. We think they're essential and a big step forward. But we do feel that the workers aren't getting anywhere near a nickle's worth of action for their political dollar, and it isn't because of inflation either.

Take what Meany himself says in the September issue of the *American Federationist*: "One law passed by a hostile Congress could wipe out all trade union gains and make the strongest union contract a mere scrap of paper." That's true isn't it? And we have the Taft-Hartley Law to remind us in case we forget.

Meany also says: "Labor's enemies found out a long time ago that they could attack us more easily in the legislatures than they could on the picket lines." That's true also. We have plenty of anti-picketing ordinances and laws on the books to remind us of that too.

But we can't go all the way with Meany when he says, "Give your dollar to join Labor's League for Political Education. In that way you will do your part to elect men who are concerned with the welfare of us all." No, we would put it differently: "Give your dollar, but don't expect anything will come of it unless you build a great big bonfire under the officials of the unions. Force them to stop making charitable contributions to the League of Bankrupt Political Policies and the Society of Hopeless Illusions."

When Meany drags out last century's Gompers policy of "rewarding your friends

and punishing your enemies," when he thinks he's scaring anyone by saying that labor will vote for "men on the basis of their records, not their party labels," we don't know whether to laugh at him or pity those who consider him a labor statesman.

Isn't it about time that a great dawning should come even in the thick bureaucratic skulls of the Meany's that something is wrong with the basic policy of labor on the political field? Reward your friends? How many friends does labor have in the cabinet of the United States after spending millions of dollars and wearing out tons of shoe-leather? Not one. Even the plumber had to pack up and leave.

And how many friends does labor have in the circle of Presidential advisors, in the innumerable government boards and agencies, or for that matter in the Congress? Not one. And we don't make any exceptions for the Democrats. By this time it should be clear that all of them, including Adlai Stevenson, are labor's friends in name only.

Rewarding your friends, in a game played with two sets of stacked cards? One set is Democrat and the other Republican; but both sets are shuffled by the political card sharks of the capitalist class.

We've had the New Deal, the Fair Deal, the War Deal and the Raw Deal. What we need is not another deal but a new deck of cards.

We need to get rid of this whole rotten policy of company unionism in politics. We need to strike out on the highway of labor independent politics. That will get us somewhere.

So, pay your dollar, but attach a little demand to it that it be spent to build labor's independent political party. Enough has been squandered on phony capitalist politicians who — once they get in office — kick labor in the teeth quicker than you can say Labor's League for Political Education.

Hands Off Guatemala

The letter to the editor from Earl Gordon in this issue of *The Militant* contains some interesting and informative observations concerning the Stalinists in Guatemala. The policy of the Stalinists — the subordination of the workers to the interests of the native capitalists and middle class of Guatemala — is of great importance to the workers' movement of that country. It's a problem we are sure the workers of Guatemala will solve, bearing in mind the whole record of Stalinism.

What is of paramount importance to the workers of the United States is the policy of big capital and the State Department toward the people of Guatemala. Whatever the Guatemalans decide they want as their form of government or their social system, the big problem they face right now is how to get the capitalist monster of Wall Street off their backs so that they may climb out of their status of a disease-ridden, poverty-stricken, backward country.

It happens that Guatemala is currently very much in the news, figuring prominently as a symbol of the relations between American capitalism and the peoples of Latin America. For years the wealthy United Fruit Company exerted political control over puppet governments in Guatemala. They ran the country like a company town, looting the country by exploiting its natural resources and labor. In addition their political control permitted them to get away with outrageous tax frauds, by setting the tax evaluation on their holdings at ridiculously low figures. Things were just great for these banana kings. But the day of reckoning came.

Guatemala, like many other "colonial" countries, woke up and kicked out the pup-

pets. Recently the Guatemalan government expropriated hundreds of thousands of acres of land owned by the United Fruit Co. They generously decided to pay for the land — but on the basis of the tax evaluations fixed when the company itself dominated the government, including the tax assessors.

A great howl went up in Washington. This is unheard of! The Guatemalans caught a thief red-handed and made him give up the loot. This called for three State Department notes of protest loaded with such sputtering words as "unfair," "discriminatory," "confiscatory." The State Department claims that \$600,000 as payment for 234,000 acres of company land is sheer robbery. The N.Y. Times says, "The real worth would be at least ten times that. The United Fruit Company has been trying voluntarily to get the tax assessment raised since 1947, but the Government refused to permit the change."

Isn't that a barefaced and brazen admission of guilt? United Fruit, seeing the handwriting on the wall, hastily tries to wriggle out of its ticklish position. All along it has been defrauding the Guatemalans by tax steals. Now that doomsday has come, and they're going to be kicked out and paid the price they said their land was worth, they suddenly discover that they assessed it too low. Isn't that just too bad! And when the Guatemalans stand pat, United Fruit runs crying to the State Department demanding action.

We say the American people ought to tell Wall Street and Washington to keep their thievish hands out of Guatemala. The people down there are handling United Fruit just right. They got what was coming to them.

West Coast Vacation School Holds Successful Session

By Louise Manning

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 14 — James P. Cannon, chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, climaxed a week-long encampment at the West Coast Vacation School with a memorial address commemorating the 13th anniversary of Trotsky's death and the 25th anniversary of American Trotskyism.

Speaking of the role of the four prominent figures emerging in the second quarter of this century, Roosevelt, Hitler, Stalin and Trotsky, Comrade Cannon showed that only Trotsky's ideas have been vindicated by history. "Trotsky was the greatest political leader of all time," said Cannon. "His greatest achievement was carrying the fight against the Stalinist counter-revolution to the international field, and in organizing new cadres to continue the struggle."

The address was followed by a banquet at which Vincent Dunne, one of the national SWP leaders, told of the role of the school in the life of the party, and of his appreciation of the reception accorded him by the Los Angeles section.

The school gave a course on the growth and development of the Trotskyist movement in America, which started with a handful but grew into a party having the confidence that, armed with the correct program, it was destined to lead the coming American revolution. Given by actual participants in the building of the party, the lectures were more than a mere recounting of history.

These were the people who could interpret the past best because they were the ones who led the strikes, who built the SWP, and who were imprisoned for their ideas during the war. Included in this series were the following: *The Birth of American Trotskyism*, The Minneapolis Strikes, The Trotskyists and the Socialist Party, and *The 1940 Fight Against the Petty Bourgeois Opposition*.

The program was further amplified by classes and discussion which testified to the high theoretical standards of the party and its serious attitude towards study. One class of five sessions on Rosa Luxemburg's "Introduction to Economics," a work which has not yet been published in English, made available material otherwise unobtainable for those who do not know German. Even more important than the subject matter, fascinating as it was since it dealt with the little-known transition between primitive communism and private property, was an insight into the methods of thinking of this great Marxist.

Rounding out the two series were individual lectures on the Fetishism of Race, Origin of Christianity, Our National Forests, the Labor Party, the Leninist Conception of the Party, and the Experience of a Negro Candidate in an Election Campaign in Philadelphia.

As in other years, the school served as a meeting ground where people came together from many places on the West Coast in order to exchange experiences and compare notes. A group from Seattle travelled 1,300 miles to spend the week with their co-thinkers from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland.

The school was not all work, however, but a healthy balance between work and play. Good weather, good food, and congenial company created a pleasant atmosphere, while organized evening recreation offered diversion. The success of the camp was further testimony to the resourcefulness of the staff who had to operate in the absence of leaders of the Los Angeles Local who had been closely associated with the direction of the camp in the past sessions.

"You've Never Had It So Good"

(Continued from page 1)
they even lay their hands on their pay checks.

Nor do these wage statistics take into account price rises in basic necessities of more than 100%; the steep boosts in rent with the breakdown of rent controls, and the almost continuous inflationary trend fed by government war spending and debt. To get these higher wages, the workers have had to knock themselves out with extra work through overtime. With the threat of a "recession" being posed, this overtime pay that workers have been able to get to keep their heads above water is being reduced and eliminated. In fact, millions of workers face drastic slashes in their take-home pay in the next months through the loss of overtime.

The Sept. 25 U.S. News and World Report describes at length and in detail the result of this new factor facing American workers: Its article, "Life Without Overtime," reporting a survey in Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati and Baltimore, concludes that: "Overtime pay, the cushion that pays for a worker's extras, is fading out. It is gone in some plants, being cut in others. This loss of take-home pay is a business factor to be watched. Already, many workers are pulling back in their buying."

The reduction of overtime — which many have depended on for necessities and not just the "extras" — is but one sign of other serious economic blows descending on the workers. There are reports of a growing number of lay-offs.

Underlying the instability and insecurity for the wage-earners, which the statistics cover up, is the relationship of wages to national production. This involves the continuous, long-term swindle of labor. In proportion to the ever more mountainous volume of goods he turns out, the American worker's share of the national product is steadily declining and has been since 1929. More and more of the product is being siphoned off in corporation profits and in war preparations by the capitalist government.

The claim that we "never had it so good" could be true only if we overlook the vast areas of poverty and misery existing in America today and the threat of depression and war that oppresses our thoughts for tomorrow.

\$18,000 Fund Scoreboard

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
PHILADELPHIA	\$ 400	\$ 493	123
AKRON	150	175	117
CHICAGO	1,500	1,654	110
BUFFALO	1,500	1,546	103
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL	1,200	1,237	103
ST. LOUIS	75	77	103
BOSTON	550	550	100
LOS ANGELES	2,500	2,500	100
NEWARK	500	500	100
PITTSBURGH	30	30	100
SEATTLE	450	450	100
Milwaukee	400	385	96
Cleveland	350	325	93
Flint	250	230	92
Allentown	60	45	75
New York	4,500	3,272	73
Youngstown	250	328	73
Oakland	250	137	55
San Francisco	1,000	446	45
Detroit	1,500	603	40
General	985	202	52
Total through Sept. 23	\$18,000	\$15,185	84

NATIONAL FUND DRIVE TOTAL REACHES \$15,185

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Manager

Contributions to the \$18,000 Party-Building and Publication Fund this week totaled \$570. The scoreboard, computed on the basis of receipts through Sept. 23, shows a total of \$15,185 or 84% of the national quota.

Eleven branches are now over the top with a score of 100% or better. Philadelphia elbowed its way to the top of the scoreboard with 123% and Alma Seton says that "various comrades have promised more money."

Chicago topped its score to 110% with another check for \$60, and Buffalo increased its percentage to 103% with \$40. This note from Comrade Jean of St. Paul accompanied \$27 for the Twin Cities: "This takes us 'over the top' by that much. We see the fund campaign has been extended a little, so we fully expect to send in some more on the campaign."

"A sympathizer contributed \$2 to the Party-Building Fund and here it is," writes Comrade Oscar of St. Louis. "We hope to have more sympathizers like this one." This contribution boosted St. Louis' score to 103%.

Boston hit 100% this week. "It was tough sledding but glad we made it," comments S. Conti. We believe Comrade Jeanne of Los Angeles speaks for all the comrades when she says: "Nobody (except all the other comrades all over the country) knows how proud and happy we are to have completed our fund quota in full and on time. The whole Local looks forward to the next months of party growth and party gains with the same firm confidence which produced such good results in the Party-Building Fund."

Nine branches have yet to complete their quotas. With three weeks remaining before the deadline, we anticipate payments that will put these branches in the 100% category when the final scoreboard is computed on Oct. 18. H. Mahler sent \$70 for Milwaukee and assures us that "With

the extension of one month, Milwaukee will, of course, realize its \$400 quota. But that is not all. We are going to do everything possible to go beyond our original quota."

Cleveland's \$20 check leaves this branch just \$25 short of its goal. Comrade Jean says: "We're now mopping up on pledges made by sympathizers to meet the rest of our quota."

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in the South write: "Our friend, R. D., has come through with another generous contribution as promised. Since the fund has been extended, two of us will make another \$10 contribution before the deadline."

Army Censors Kinsey Book

Kinsey's book, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female," has been banned by the U.S. Army in Europe. European headquarters in Heidelberg, gave no official explanation. There had been requests for the book throughout the command. The GIs are interested but the brass hats are probably worried about the effect of the statistical report on morale.

Newark Fri. Night Socialist Forum

presents a talk on **White Collar Workers and Where They Belong**
Speaker: **Mark Burns**
Friday, Oct. 2, at 8:30 at 52 Market Street

NEW YORK Friday Night Socialist Forum

The Soviet Union Under Malenkov
Speaker: **John G. Wright**
Fri., Oct. 2, 8 P.M.
Militant Hall
116 University Place (near Union Square)
Questions, Discussion, Refreshments
Contribution 25 Cents

Pioneer Pocket Library

1. *The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International*
This basic document was drafted by Leon Trotsky and adopted by the Founding Conference of the Fourth International. 64 pages, 25c.
2. *The Suppressed Testament of Lenin, by Leon Trotsky*
This document reprints Lenin's last advice to his party and explains why Stalin suppressed it. 48 pages, 25c.
Order from **PIONEER PUBLISHERS**
116 University Place, 3, N. Y.

Jim Crow GOP

By Jean Blake

One thing the Eisenhower administration is accomplishing fast is the destruction of the myth that the Republican Party, unlike the Democrats of the Solid South, opposes Jim Crow.

The Republicans have been in office and have labored for nine months — only to give birth to the same kind of Dirty Deal colored people received from the Democrats.

Last week we reported in this column how the Department of Agriculture reversed itself on the anti-discrimination clause for banks handling cotton-support loans for Southern farmers. We pointed out that all it took was the protest of Gov. Byrnes of South Carolina and the southern bankers to get the Administration to reverse itself.

Top officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have wired President Eisenhower urging him to take "prompt and vigorous action" to restore the non-discrimination clause, recalling the "earnest assurance given us when we visited you before your departure for Korea that you would never approve or permit expenditure of federal money where there is racial segregation or discrimination."

The "apparent capitulation of Agriculture Secretary Benson to the demand of Governor Byrnes and others," they told the President, "can and almost surely will open doors for similar action by other departments and contractors, doing business with the federal government. . ."

Protest against the government's action is certainly in order, but appeals of this sort to Eisenhower which offer him scapegoats for his own Jim Crow policies, have as much chance of ending discrimination as the proverbial snowball in hell.

It was Eisenhower himself who instructed Secretary Benson to withdraw the anti-discrimination clause. This was revealed in Drew Pearson's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" Sept. 13. The columnist wrote:

"It was a triple play from Columbia, S. C., to Denver, Col., to Washington, D.C., that did it. Governor Byrnes of South Carolina communicated with President Eisenhower in Denver, and Denver communicated with Secretary Benson in Washington."

Negro leaders who continue to "cover" for Eisenhower, to conceal the political deal between the Republicans and the Dixiecrats which helped to elect the "General without a political record," betray the struggle for equal rights.

By lending credence to the lies that there is any principled difference between the two capitalist parties and that either of them is opposed to racial discrimination, misleaders delay the organization of the Negro struggle along the only lines that can win genuine equality for all: a complete break with capitalist politics and reorganization of our society to eliminate the system of production which provides extra profits from double exploitation of a part of the working class.

Pity the Poor Rich

By Barbara Palmer

Have things been going pretty tough for you lately? Do you have difficulty stretching your income to meet all your expenses? Do you think you are alone with all these difficulties? Rest assured that everyone's in the same fix. Inflation is democratic. It pinches everybody's purse, including the people who live in "High Society."

Now don't stop reading. Have you no pity? Their problems are as real as ours. And really much bigger. Athlyn Deshais, society reporter for Chicago's Daily News, touchingly portrays the plight of these neglected victims of inflation and high taxes. The story cannot fail to rouse the sympathy of those accustomed to hardship.

The "society" family needs an absolute minimum of \$35,000 just to hold up their heads. The house set the family back \$40,000, and annual maintenance runs between \$4,500 and \$6,000. The housework has to be done by someone. So we must add about \$6,400 a year for the cook, the laundress, and the chauffeur.

Everyone knows how high food prices have gone. \$2,000 goes just to keep groceries in the butler's pantry. And if one is to entertain, and one must, the cost of food is increased still more. "A mere breakfast for 50, with champagne and flowers wouldn't be much under \$750. So think of the cost of a dinner dance," Miss Deshais points out despairingly.

The two cars cost \$5,000 each and re-

quire \$2,400 a year for upkeep. And pretty soon the family will just have to yield to the demands of Junior and daughter for cars of their own. Eastern prep schools for the youngsters cost at least \$8,000.

That's not all. The family must be clothed. Food, clothing, and shelter are three basic human needs. And rich families are human too. Mrs. Society holds her wardrobe to an absolute minimum. She wears her mink coat for eight years, and limits herself in addition to a mink jacket and a brace of sables. She can afford only one Paris suit each season and, with zealous thrift, keeps her lingerie bill under \$1,000 a year.

Poor Mr. Society can spend only \$1,000 on new clothing each year.

Other items, equally necessary for people in this station of life, add up to \$15,000: Club membership, \$5,000; insurance, \$5,000, travel, \$3,000; charity, \$2,000. Of course, the last item, although tax deductible, could be skipped. But for those who aren't completely impervious to the sufferings of our fellow man it really should be included in the budget.

Let's you should be unable to sleep for worry about how Mr. and Mrs. Society are going to escape the squeeze. Miss Deshais points out that some of this necessary spending can be put under "business expenses" when calculating income tax. "How much. . ." Miss Deshais adds, "only you and your income tax lawyer would know."

Notes from the News

INSTEAD OF MINK COATS. "Punch," the famous humor magazine of London, carried the following item recently: "It is reported from America that the United States Army has 8,000 miles of war surplus rope and would welcome an offer to buy. Failing that, would Senator McCarthy accept an unsolicited gift?"

THE TAFT-HARTLEY OATH CASE of Anthony Valentino, business agent for Local 80, CIO United Packinghouse Workers (Camden, N. J.), has scored a legal victory. Sentenced to five years in prison for allegedly falsely denying membership in the Communist Party when he filed a Taft-Hartley affidavit, he appealed to the U. S. Circuit Court. On Sept. 16 the court ordered the union business agent acquitted on grounds the Camden court had no jurisdiction and that he should have been tried in Philadelphia or Washington.

THE DEATH OF LOUIS C. FRAINA Sept. 16 at the age of 61 closes a life intimately associated with the history of the radical political movement in America a few decades ago. Fraina, better known by his pen name, Lewis Corey, was one of the founders of the American Communist Party. He wrote books that students of Marxism have found valuable in understanding American economy. Among his works are *The House of Morgan*, *A Social Biography of the Masters of Money*; *The Decline of American Capitalism*; and *The Crisis of the Middle Class*. Corey moved steadily to the right during the last 15 years. He became a supporter of the State Department and the labor bureaucracy. But this conciliation with the American ruling class did not save him from the witch hunt. In June of this year he was arrested and deportation proceedings were begun against him. Born in Italy, he was brought to this country by his parents as a child. After his arrest as a former Communist, he was fired from his job as educational director of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen. However, neither the witch hunt nor Corey's death can prevent the working class from making good use of the material contained in Corey's earlier work. For that we are grateful to a once fighting man.

WE ARE ALL BEING SLOWLY POISONED by DDT, Dr. W. Coda Martin of New York City tells us. He examined the fatty tissue of 25 people who had never messed with DDT in their

lives and found the poison in 23 of the samples DDT damages the liver. "Its most disturbing effects are those of the nervous system." 250,000,000 pounds of DDT or its chemical relatives are used in agriculture. Urging an inquiry into this problem, Dr. Martin said "it is a sad commentary on our way of life that we must spray poisonous chemicals on our food and destroy our bodies."

ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL, who recently served noticed on the National Lawyers Guild to show cause why it should not be placed on the subversive list, has been challenged by Prof. Emerson of Yale, Vice President of the Guild. Prof. Emerson declared that the "actor of the Attorney General is a basic challenge to the whole right of association in this country."

NEW WITCH-HUNT LEGISLATION is asked of Congress by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The investigating panel of the SIS, headed by Sen. Welker, Republican from Idaho, wants to stop the circulation of alleged subversive propaganda. All printing presses belonging to organizations on the Attorney General's list, it is proposed, should be registered and the nature of the "propaganda" declared.

ATTACKING CHARLES A. BEARD, world-famous historian of America whose appreciation of the class struggle has profoundly influenced a generation of historians, Allan Nevins, Professor of American History at Columbia University, urges that American history be re-written. Dr. Nevins said that the emergence of the United States as leader of the Western world should influence future historians to adopt a "more appreciative attitude toward our material strength." He means by that, of course, the capitalist economy, and he extends his appreciative attitude to the ruthless and even gory accomplishments of the robber barons who amassed the great fortune of America's 60 ruling families, for he asserts: "The architects of our material progress — the men like Whitney, McCormack, Westinghouse, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Hill and Ford — will yet stand forth in their true stature as builders of a strength which civilization found indispensable." Professor Nevins is at present at work on a two-volume history of the Ford Motor Company and has been given free access to the private and corporate papers of Henry Ford.

THE MILITANT

Blames It on Grandpa



Lucille Ball and her husband Desi Arnaz, TV stars, explain to reporters that she registered as a Communist voter in 1936 to please her grandfather, a Socialist, now dead. House Un-American Activities Committee witch hunters dug up the information on the popular actress and forced her to crawl to save her career.

LOVELL VOTE IS 2,101 IN DETROIT PRIMARIES

By David Lands

DETROIT, Sept. 17 — Frank Lovell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in this week's primary election, came in tenth among 15 candidates, receiving 2,101

votes. Top vote of 135,765 went to incumbent Mayor Cobo, Republican spokesman for Big Business. James H. Lincoln, a little-known Democratic party lawyer, came second with 24,103 votes. Only 23.6% of the qualified voters appeared at the polls.

The vote for Lovell was less than that received by the SWP mayoralty candidate in previous elections. In 1947, Howard Lerner got 4,457 votes; in 1951, 3,514. These figures parallel the steady decline in labor influence in the Detroit elections under Walter Reuther's policy, which has been against independent political action and in favor of alliances and blocs with capitalist politicians.

CAMPAIGN FOR LOVELL

The Lovell for Mayor Committee distributed thousands of printed platforms to the Labor Day parade, to workers at factories, liberal churches and housing projects. A sound car with election posters made a special appeal to the Ford workers at the huge River Rouge plant. In addition, thousands of mimeographed handbills featuring Lovell's demand for full wages for the unemployed were distributed at U.S. Unemployment Compensation offices.

This leaflet was particularly well received at a special mass meeting of members laid off as a result of the General Motors fire at Livonia. The meeting was called by the UAW local of the wrecked plant to consider their plight.

To a modest degree the campaign broke through the newspaper conspiracy of silence and belittlement of all candidates in opposition to the choices of Big Business. An ad containing a digest of the election platform was placed in the Detroit Chronicle, a Negro newspaper.

The high point of the primary campaign was the successful

candidacy for Common Council of State Senator Charles C. Diggs, Jr., spokesman for the Negro people. He received the united backing of the entire Negro community, as well as the labor movement. He came in sixth with 57,626 votes.

The Socialist Workers Party offered critical support to Diggs and campaigned in his behalf.

The successful primary campaign for Diggs is very gratifying, but it is not certain that he will win office. The situation in Detroit calls for an all-out battle to put him on the Common Council in view of the vicious opposition the employers and their agents will certainly unleash against his candidacy.

CIO FAILS TO RUN OWN CANDIDATES

The CIO endorsed a slate of seven for Common Council. These were headed by some long-established local capitalist politicians. The entire bloc made the run-off, which consists of 18 candidates, nine to be elected for office.

The Communist Party gave unqualified approval to this slate and presented it as a mark of progress by the CIO. The Stalinists played no independent role whatever in the election. Election figures since 1945 indicate a definite trend. The more labor mobilizes its forces, the better the vote for radical and labor candidates in general and along with it the vote for socialism.

Under Reuther's policy, and with the witch hunt continuing unabated, the situation has grown so bad that many union leaders and members believe a CIO endorsement is the kiss of death. This belief is part of the motivation for the failure of the CIO to run its own mayoralty candidate.

McDonald Order Breaks Steel Strike of 17,000

(Continued from page 1)

local meeting for the following evening to take a back-to-work vote in the light of McDonald's order. But a few hours before the meeting, he arbitrarily called it off, and a new statement came from the Lackawanna office that "the directive of the international officers precludes any further local action." The militants were incensed at this high-handed procedure. They were convinced they could have won the meeting despite the bitter betrayal from their top officers.

McDonald's arrogant edict not only forced the workers back under the new company-imposed speed-up conditions; it also threw to the dogs the three stewards and one rank-and-file worker the company wanted to fire for strike activity. Without even a pretense of consultation with the strikers, McDonald announced his "deal."

"The officials of the company are willing, at the specific request of the International union, to convert these discharges into suspensions. The men will return to work with full rights (after 90-day suspensions) but in the light of the circumstances, on probation."

Not satisfied with chaining and hamstringing the workers in the

Durkin Makes Amazing Confession in AFL Talk

One of the most astounding statements ever made before a union body was the speech on Sept. 22 by Plumbers Union President Martin P. Durkin to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. Durkin described the events leading to his resignation early this month as Eisenhower's Secretary of Labor. The speech revealed not only the duplicity of Eisenhower. It disclosed on Durkin's own part either an amazing poli-

tical childishness or outright treachery to labor's interests. Most of Durkin's speech dealt with his efforts to get the administration to sponsor certain amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act in line with Eisenhower's election campaign promise to last year's AFL convention. It sounds incredible in light of all labor's experiences with such bodies, but Durkin himself set up a Labor Dept. tripartite advisory committee "of the public, of management and of labor" to

draft amendments. But the committee never got beyond the "road block erected by the employer members."

He then held futile meetings with representatives of the Department of Commerce and in the White House itself with various department heads and even the late Senator Taft. Finally, he held a series of discussions with Eisenhower's own staff at which 19 amendments were finally agreed on. Durkin stated explicitly that he was told Eisenhower himself had approved these amendments. At the last moment, however, the amendments were withheld and the White House issued a disclaimer that Eisenhower had ever approved the proposals.

The most revealing side of Durkin's talk, however, was his admission that most of the 19 amendments for which he was prepared to act as labor window-dressing for the anti-labor Republican administration were advanced by the very author of the Taft-Hartley Act, the late Senator Taft.

"Indeed, some twelve of the nineteen agreed-to amendments originated in proposals advanced by Senator Taft himself," confessed Durkin. He cited the Republican-sponsored Wood Bill, passed by the House in 1949, the bill introduced by Taft and passed by the Senate in 1949 and the further bill introduced by the late arch-enemy of labor in 1951 as "the basis of most of the nineteen agreed-upon amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act."

Durkin added: "I wish to emphasize that the nineteen amendments were far less than what was requested by labor as amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act."

This is tantamount to confessing the readiness of Durkin — and his AFL colleagues who hailed his appointment — to make peace with the Taft-Hartleyites and accept their rule in return for concessions so miserable that even Taft was long ago ready to concede them. Durkin topped off this confession by saying that it was "indeed a great honor to be associated personally with President Eisenhower" — the man whom Durkin himself charged had dishonorably welched on an agreement.

FEAR OF FIRES HAUNTS CHICAGO SLUM AREAS

By Bert Deck

An epidemic of fires has hit Chicago. In the past two weeks four fires have taken the lives of 19 tenants and destroyed thousands of dollars worth of personal property.

The Labor Day holocaust killed 18 tenants in a slum tenement, while the most recent blaze snuffed out the life of a 14-year-old girl who was trying to rescue her grandfather whom she thought was inside. County officials have blamed "bad wiring" for this last fire.

The tenants of Chicago's highest slums are gripped with fear. When a fire broke out last week just four blocks away from the Labor Day tragedy, hundreds of tenants in the surrounding blocks left their homes in the middle of the night when they heard the fire engines.

As *The Militant* predicted last week, the Chicago press is jammed full of statements from the Mayor and District Attorney "lamenting the deplorable situation" and screaming that "something must be done." Yet despite all the high-sounding statements and well publicized "investigations," not one single step has been taken towards protecting the hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans who have been forced to live in firetraps.

This underscores our contention that the landlords and their paid agents in the city administration, will do nothing for the tenants unless they are forced to. They are merely going through the motions now in order to "get the heat off" themselves.

Already there is some evidence that the tenants themselves are anxious to go into action. Church and Community Center meetings have been called to discuss the emergency. The Chicago Daily News reports that neighbors of the 18 victims have suggested the organization of tenant "vigilante" teams to police the tenements and to bring all fire and health violations to the attention of the law enforcing agencies.

The Militant endorses all such actions on the part of the tenants to protect themselves. We have always contended that the tenants need their own organizations working in cooperation with the Unions and the NAACP. A short-term action program is needed now. We suggest:

(1) Inspection of tenements by the tenants themselves. No confidence in city inspectors, who can be bought off by the landlords.

(2) Public hearings conducted

by tenants organizations on all complaints.

(3) Securing of court injunctions forbidding the landlords from collecting rents until the buildings comply with the health and fire laws.

(4) Prosecution of all landlords and city officials whose profit-taking causes the loss of life and personal property.

The Republican and Democratic politicians in Congress have been spending billions to produce bombs to destroy homes in other countries. Meanwhile they refuse to allocate funds to build homes here in America so that millions of workers can get out of the fire-traps that they are now forced to live in. The result is murder abroad and murder at home. This is what the Republican and Democratic parties offer the American people.

In the Unions

By Joseph Keller

The stand of top CIO leaders on the Jim Crow-inspired split of five Southern locals of the CIO Packinghouse Workers Union is none too clear. It is reported that the seceding locals are in process of getting charters from the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. An RWDSU spokesman is quoted as saying: "In the South, the locals had withdrawn from the CIO and gone independent. When they came to us, we wanted to provide them with a new home in the CIO."

Packinghouse Workers leaders had filed charges against A. O. McKinney, the Union's Southern director, for encouraging race discrimination in the locals. He countered with the usual cry of "communism." CIO President Walter Reuther, who himself raised the red-baiting cry against the UPWA leaders several months ago, has intervened in the situation. A meeting was held of UPWA leaders, spokesmen of the Jim Crow group, Reuther and his three-man special committee in Detroit on Sept. 10. Details have not been made public.

Virtually all railway labor organizations are simultaneously pushing demands for wage increases and basic improvements in the working rules. The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen has announced it is seeking a general wage of 37½ cents an hour for its 200,000 members. A similar raise is being sought by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which numbers 80,000 members. The Order of Railroad Conductors, with 35,000 members, cancelled a Sept. 10 strike for graduated pay increases after the carriers agreed to a procedure for further negotiations. AFL switchmen are asking a 40-cent hourly across-the-board hike. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen is pressing for a 37½-cent basic hourly wage boost. With all the railroad workers demanding the same things, it's a crying shame that separate unions and craft divisions prevent them from carrying out a united battle against the organized railroad corporations.

Workers picketed with shotguns in front of the strike-bound Jefferson Island Salt company on Sept. 18. They carried the arms for protection, a union official stated, after a striker was shot

by a plant guard, whose truck was later burned. The strike began on Aug. 8, 1952 when 300 union members walked out of the salt mining operations in protest against job reclassifications by the company. Since last October, the company has been trying to operate with scab labor.

Resolutions calling for the repeal of New York State's Condon-Wadlin Act, which prohibits strikes by civil service employees, and condemning Gov. Dewey for his "anti-labor policies" were adopted on Sept. 16 by the fifteenth annual convention of the New York State Fire Fighters Association. The association represents 19,000 paid firemen.

Indiana's bitter 60-day telephone strike ended Sept. 19 when the Indiana Bell Telephone Co. granted its 6,500 unionized employees, organized in the CIO Communications Workers, a contract providing wage increases up to \$2.50 a week. State troopers and national guards were used against strike pickets. The company refused to take back 20 pickets it accused of "misconduct" on the picket lines at 82 struck exchanges. The union agreed to end the strike with reference to the cases of the 20, who are still out, to a special arbitration board.

Dave Beck, general president of the AFL Teamsters, has issued a declaration of jurisdictional war on a number of brother AFL unions at the very moment efforts are being made to develop non-raiding pacts not only between AFL bodies but between the AFL and CIO. In a general letter to the membership published in the Oct. issue of *The International Teamster*, Beck asserts: "We desire the affiliation of workers belonging to us held in membership by various international unions. We respectfully ask them to recognize our jurisdiction and transfer them to us. We do not want misunderstandings and conflict. . . Neither do we intend to sit idly by and watch encroachment on our work and pirating of our members." This diplomatic phraseology and tone of gentle rebuke very likely means a no-holds-barred jurisdictional onslaught by ambitious Beck on a dozen AFL unions.