

THE SLUMP -- IT'S WORSE THAN THEY ADMIT

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Build a Labor Party Now!

THE MILITANT

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Democrats Jump When McCarthy Cracks the Whip

By John F. Petrone

Feb. 2, 1954, was a day to be remembered. It was the day that the Democratic Party, liberals and all, ran for cover in the U.S. Senate and joined with the Republicans by a vote of 85-1 to give the fascist Senator McCarthy the \$214,000 he had demanded to finance his attacks on democratic liberties. It was a day of triumphant rejoicing for the fascists and a day of terrible warning for the American people: For it demonstrated that the



MURRY WEISS

Weiss Opens Tour To Arouse Fight On McCarthyism

By George Breitman

NEWARK, Feb. 6 — Two political speaking tours began in this country this week. Because of what they symbolize, it is useful to contrast them.

One tour, by Senator McCarthy, was sponsored by the Republican National Committee, and began in West Virginia on Feb. 4. The other, by Murry Weiss, was sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, and began in Newark last night.

McCarthy's subject was "Twenty Years of Treason." His aim was to mobilize fascist sentiment, spread hysteria, confuse the people with big lies, intimidate opponents and smear everything faintly liberal.

Weiss' subject was "McCarthyism: What It Is and How to Fight It." His aim was to mobilize anti-fascist sentiment, counteract apathy and defeatism, provide understanding of current political trends, clarify perspectives, encourage and enlighten the people and stimulate successful resistance to the growing fascist menace.

WHAT THEY SYMBOLIZE

Anyone who listened to Weiss and read reports of McCarthy's speeches knows they are as different as day and night. But despite their differences, these two tours bear a certain relationship to one another.

In a very real sense they symbolize the conscious forces of the class struggle in the United States today — the people who know what's happening, what's coming, and what role they are going to play in the approaching showdown fight to determine the fate of this country.

Those who want to prevent fascism from crushing everything progressive and hopeful in American life can learn a lot and benefit greatly from hearing Murry Weiss on this tour. All readers of the Militant should make sure in advance that they will be present when he speaks in their area.

MURRY WEISS Tour Schedule

Buffalo: Feb. 13 - 16.
Pittsburgh: Feb. 19.
Youngstown: Feb. 20 - 21.
Akron: Feb. 23.
Cleveland: Feb. 24 - 25.
Detroit: Feb. 27 - Mar. 2.

GM Lie of 'Healthy Economy' Exploded by Chevrolet Union

New Setbacks Hit Invaders Of Indo-China

Only direct U.S. military intervention, including large-scale use of American troops, can now prevent defeat soon for French imperialism's bloody eight-year attempt to seize Indo-China and enslave its people. A new offensive by the 500,000-man independence army of Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh republic is sweeping across the province of Laos, in western Indo-China, and simultaneously retaking new territory in widespread areas throughout the rest of the country.

Last Jan. 4, Joseph Alsop of the N. Y. Herald-Tribune reported from Paris that the position of the French in Indo-China was "highly precarious" and that "the turbulent currents of French political opinion" reflected "a strong impulse to escape from the long and seemingly hopeless Indo-Chinese war at almost any price."

WALL ST. INSISTENCE

The brutal assault on Indo-China has continued largely at the insistence of Wall Street's government in Washington. However, not even the recent shipments to Indo-China of more than a billion dollars of new U.S. military equipment — plus at least 200 American air force technicians and flyers, as it has now leaked out — have been able to turn the tide for the French invaders.

According to the latest reports, the White House and Pentagon have agreed to ship another 400 "technicians" to the war zone, but this is a token. It raises the question whether this may lead to U.S. intervention on the scale of Korea, with the danger that the Indo-China war may then become the starting point for World War III.

SECRET REQUEST

France, says the Feb. 12 U.S. News and World Report, "is pressing secretly for a substantial force of U.S. military pilots and Air Force ground crews, to man and service combat aircraft in the Indo-China war." Openly, however, the French have asked merely for the 400 more "technicians," which Eisenhower is supplying.

To plunge this country into another Korea-type war so soon (Continued on page 3)

Anti-McCarthy Pamphlet Sold Out In Four Weeks

The new pamphlet, "McCarthyism: American Fascism on the March," has met with such response that the entire first edition was sold out within four weeks, according to Pioneer Publishers. In response to the demand, a second edition has been announced. This will be available Feb. 17. Copies of the second edition of this important pamphlet, which explains the real meaning of McCarthyism and offers a working-class program to fight it, may be ordered from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y., at 10c. each.

"Why I Chose to Work"

By H. Baker

Good Housekeeping for Nov. 1953 published what is for that glowing, slick-page, three-color magazine a revolutionary article by Gerry Murray Engel, "I Chose Work."

Mrs. Engel starts off by saying that she has returned to work and now she is alive. Six years ago when she left the job to have a child, she left "forever."

"When the subject comes up — and it does almost daily; ask any working mother — I find myself insisting it's best for a mother to stay home full time," she says, "and I believe it, intellectually anyway."

She refers to herself as not the least bit career-minded, with no driving talent as an actress or anything like that. She holds down an office job like hundreds of thousands of other women. If anyone had told her six years ago that she would be back at her job, she says she would have laughed in his face.

However, in the course of her article she proves that her basic outlook is really the opposite of what she calls her "intellectual" point of view.

Her way of seeking a cure was to go back to the job. And it worked.

"To begin with, the children seem better off. Instead of being under my thumb, they go to nursery school, where they get skilled supervision and learn to get along with a group."

"A second benefit of my working is the fact we see more of each other as a family than we did before."

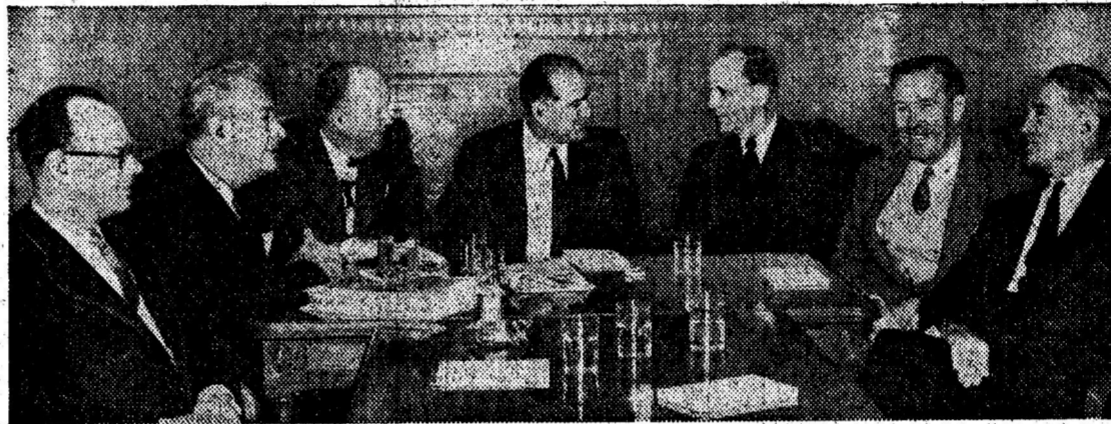
"A third benefit is the added money."

The house is more efficiently run by a professional housekeeper and she and her husband, because they are relieved of routine duties, find more companionship in doing things together than they could with her tied down as housekeeper and mother.

Mrs. Engels didn't have to take a job. She had sufficient money to get competent help in her home. The solution of her problem was much easier than that of a working-class mother on whom the family income depends. But the fact that she felt a problem at all is an indication of the times.

The second world war deepened the modern crisis in family life. One way to meet this crisis is to keep women confined to the home. This is advocated by leading capitalist spokesmen, especially the most reactionary ones. Another way is for women to

Democrats Back on McCarthy's Team



Three Democratic senators (right) attend the first conference of McCarthy's witch-hunting investigating committee after ending their "boycott" in return for the face-saving "right" to hire one of the committee's lawyers and clerks, and a voice in the firing of committee personnel. In the group (left to right) are Republican Senators Potter (Mich.), Dirksen (Ill.), Mundt (S.D.), McCarthy; and Democrats McClellan (Ark.), Jackson (Wash.), and Symington (Mo.). The photo was taken just before McCarthy embarked on his tour witch-hunting the Democrats for "twenty years of treason."

Stake of America's Artists In Anti-McCarthyite Battle

By Duncan Ferguson

The struggle against McCarthyism is not something of merely remote, abstract interest to the artist. Every serious artist, in every field — writing, painting and sculpture, music, movies and theater, etc. — has the most direct and personal interest in it. Because McCarthyism is more than witch-hunting, more than official and unofficial censorship, more than invasion of the individual's right to talk and write and think as he pleases. McCarthyism is the American form of fascism, and it is already on the march! And McCarthyite fascism, if it comes to power, will mean the immediate destruction of all free and independent expression for every creative artist, the immediate and complete crushing of all serious cultural life in the country.

That is why the artist, in the interest of elementary self-preservation even if for no other reason, must play his part in the fight against McCarthyism. The memory of what happened to the artists in Germany and to cultural life in general under Hitler should still be green enough for all of us.

But what role can the artist play in this struggle? Well, in the first place, and as a very gen-

eral proposition, I believe we can start with this: that in the struggle against McCarthyism the artist must remain faithful to what I suppose has been the oldest and most traditional aim of all artists — to seek out and to tell the truth.

"TO SMASH LABOR" And I don't believe we have been hearing the whole truth in a number of the speeches that were made last night and again this afternoon. The truth about McCarthyism is that it is American fascism. As such, its fundamental aim is not the ferreting out of

so-called 'communists,' getting 'liberal' teachers and artists and scientists fired from their jobs, blacklisting Hollywood and TV actors and playwrights.

It does all these things, sure enough, and plenty more in the way of suppressing the free thought and expression of artists and scientists and intellectuals. But these are preparatory blows, and secondary to the one fundamental aim of McCarthyism, which is — to smash the organized American labor movement.

It is not telling the truth, but spreading an illusion, to give the (Continued on page 2)

DETROIT PRESS SCORES NEW WITCH-HUNT BILLS

DETROIT, Feb. 8 — New anti-labor and anti-civil liberties laws have been thrown into the hopper here with the expectation that the public hearings of the witch-hunting House un-American Activities Committee at the end of this month will create sufficient "anti-Red" hysteria to enable their passage.

It will be recalled that Michigan's Trucks Law, one of the worst police-state measures in the country, was jammed through in precisely such an atmosphere after the last invasion of the Velde committee.

A "right to work" bill is now before the State Legislature. Among other things, it would protect anti-union elements dropped from employment in union shops for refusal to pay union dues.

HIT 5TH AMENDMENT

Another measure, already passed by the Senate and now before the House, provides for the firing of government employees who seek the protection of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution against prying into their personal beliefs or associations.

The legislature is also considering a bill that would confer one-man grand-jury powers upon prosecutors and their assistants. The law would enable them to

Big Flint Local Urges 30-Hour Work Week With 40 Hours' Pay

By Joseph Keller

"CAR PRODUCTION FLOPS — 4-Day Work Week Jolts Chevy Workers — United Labor Action Necessary to Save Nation from Disaster."

These are the banner headlines of the Feb. 2 issue of the Searchlight, official publication of the 14,000-member Chevrolet Local 659, CIO-United Automobile Workers, in Flint, Mich.

Thus, from the very heart of the General Motors Empire comes refutation of GM president Harlowe M. Curtice's recent propaganda claim that "the national economy will be strong and healthy throughout the year."

Pointing out the need for "stressing the thirty-hour week with forty hours' pay," Local 659's President Robert Murphy gives the lie to Curtice, by revealing that thousands of GM workers in Flint have been reduced to part-time.

"In our Chevrolet assembly plant," reports Murphy, "they have not had a full week since the 11th of January; in the sheet metal division, for the past three weeks and more, they have encountered short work weeks and our motors division has been hit as of last Friday with the short work week and with the outlook of more to come."

"POSITIVE ACTION" Emphasizing the program of the 30-hour week with 40 hours' pay, Murphy adds:

"We are now faced with a thirty-two hour work week with only 32 hours' pay. We must take positive action in our membership meetings to set up an emergency convention or conference of the United Automobile Workers and the entire CIO to pass resolutions of positive action to forestall the elimination of our jobs and the security from which we have received some solace since late 1939. . . . We are all aware of the dire need for positive action and POSITIVE ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE!"

This "solace," the lead article on the same page makes clear, was not secured without a price. That price has been war. The Searchlight finds "deep-rooted evils in our economy that go back a long while. For the past fifteen years our nation's economy has been fed by billions upon billions spent on war materials. This also provided work on a temporary basis."

Local 659's campaign for the 30-Hour Week at 40 Hours' Pay parallels the drive by the huge Ford Local 600, which we reported last week. The Feb. 6 Ford Facts devotes a whole page to this issue, under the head line: "Need for 30-Hour Week — 40 Hours' Pay Grows Daily."

The Labor Dept. has since further affirmed this need by placing Detroit on its list of "distressed" areas with "substantial" unemployment — 8% of the city's entire labor force. The Feb. 8 Christian Science Monitor reports that Detroit Bankers "express some apprehension over the situation . . . The first crack in the 1929 boom appeared in Detroit."

BOSSSES GET TOUGH The entire labor movement is expressing deep apprehension over unemployment generally. AFL President George Meany on Feb. 5 sounded the alarm at the "stiffening attitude" of employers everywhere because of the growing unemployment — the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting 2,000,000 layoffs from mid-December to mid-January.

Meany said it has been his opinion "that all the weapons the Taft-Hartley Act put in their (employers') hands would be used against unions when a pool of unemployed began to develop. Our experience in the last few months indicates that this was a valid expectation."

This get-tough attitude of the



GEORGE MEANY



WALTER REUTHER

bosses is bolstered by the smear-drive of the McCarthyites and Republicans who now brand all references to depression as "communism."

Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall on Feb. 5 included CIO and UAW President Walter Reuther, along with Adlai Stevenson and Sens. Paul Douglas and Wayne Morse, as "left-wingers" and "reckless men" who ride "like the Four Horsemen, spreading doom and gloom across the land." Eisenhower called them the "prophets of gloom."

This is an ironic turn of events, because Reuther himself, last Labor Day, sought to discourage rank-and-file talk in his own union about the need to fight unemployment by decrying "dangerous and reckless talk of depression." He called it "false communist propaganda . . . being bolstered by the prophets of doom in the American business community."

Now Reuther is forced to answer this same red smear against himself. He asserts that "at no time will the CIO assume the posture of an economic ostrich, hoping that thus hard times will disappear."

CONGRESS OF LABOR

But more is needed than his mere recognition of a fact of unemployment that has fallen on the CIO workers like a ton of bricks. It is necessary to take "POSITIVE ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE," to mobilize all labor through a National Congress of Labor. It is necessary to wage all-out fight for the 30-Hour Week at 40 Hours' Pay and to take independent political action for labor's program against unemployment by launching labor's own party.

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American Hitler on Tour

Two days after getting a triumphant 85-1 vote of confidence and \$214,000 appropriation from the U.S. Senate, the fascist demagogue McCarthy set out on a nine-speech lecture tour.

Only three months ago the press and the air were thick with all kinds of reports about how Eisenhower, Brownell and the Republican high command were going to "out-flank" the junior Senator from Wisconsin.

But McCarthy's tour this month was sponsored and paid for by the Republican National Committee, and its chairman Leonard W. Hall publicly interpreted this as "an endorsement" of McCarthy.

Support Morton Sobell

Demonstrating again how strongly its decisions are influenced by the pressure of the witch hunt, the Supreme Court has for the second time refused to review the case of Morton Sobell, the young scientist now serving a 30-year sentence at Alcatraz on the trumped-up charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage" with the judicially murdered Julius and Ethel Rosenberg couple.

At the same time, the Supreme Court refused to consider a "friend of the court" brief submitted by a nation-wide group headed by the distinguished scientist, Dr. Harold C. Urey. The brief said in part: "The arrest, indictment and trial of Morton Sobell... in an atmosphere of hysteria induced by transient political and social passions, lacked guarantees of fairness which all Americans have a right to expect under the Constitution."

It Could Happen Here If --

For a refreshing contrast to life in the United States, we take you to Cambridge, England, where Dr. Hildegarde Broda, a British citizen of Austrian birth, is an assistant medical officer for the county schools.

issues duck or run when McCarthy challenges them. A revealing aspect of most of the stops on McCarthy's tour was the way local Republican candidates flocked around him, scrambling for the honor of being seated on the platform with him, hoping fervently that McCarthy would say a few words in favor of their candidacy.

He obtained this power, and the likelihood is that he will obtain more, because his rivals and opponents in both capitalist parties agree with or are afraid to contest his fundamental thesis — that "communism" menaces America. Those who accept this thesis but complain about McCarthy's "methods" are brushed aside as ineffectual quibblers.

The witness, Max Elitcher, told the court, "Well, he said, I don't know in what words, or implied that it had to do with this espionage business, but I don't recall the exact nature of the words."

That Sobell is the victim of persecution is further evidenced by his incarceration at Alcatraz, three thousand miles from his family and friends. Alcatraz, from which prisoners cannot be paroled, is traditionally reserved for hardened criminals who have escaped from other prisons and have long criminal records.

A brief, requesting an investigation of the Attorney General's entire handling of the case, including the transfer to Alcatraz, has been filed with the Senate Judiciary Committee by the National Committee to Secure Justice For Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case.

In England McCarthyism is rejected out of hand. There is a reason for it. While the American workers remain bound to the capitalist parties that spawned McCarthyism, the British workers have built a powerful Labor Party. Whatever its shortcomings, the very existence of that party has kept England free to now of the McCarthyite scourge.

The Crime of Differing with Pablo in Public

By Joseph Hansen

The Pabloite faction in the Fourth International has issued their written "response" to the letter addressed from the 25th Anniversary Plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party to Trotskyists throughout the world which was published in the Militant of Nov. 16, 1953.

The "Executive Committee of the Fourth International." This claim is a cover-up for what is in reality nothing but a polemic written by the leaders of the Pablo faction. The Executive Committee elected by the Third World Congress of the Fourth International no longer exists. It was destroyed by Pablo through abuse of the post with which he was entrusted by the Third World Congress.

Following this experience, Peng wrote a lengthy letter to James P. Cannon, National Chairman of the SWP, summarizing several years first-hand observation of Pablo's methods. Here is the gist of it, as well as his opinion about the SWP's Open Letter.

As Peng concluded from on-scene observation, it became necessary to make public the struggle against the Pablo faction in order "to rescue the movement." This, to the Pabloites was an "unspeakable" crime. Listen: "Why didn't the leadership of the SWP act... according to the rules of normal functioning of every revolutionary organization? Why did they prefer to all at once address themselves to the public at large and publicly betray the cause of international Trotskyism?"

take our clearly stated position on how to "safeguard the administration of the affairs of the Fourth International" and misrepresent it as holding the Fourth International is "finished" and that Trotskyists must "split" from it. That is dishonesty. And what is the source of this dishonesty if not the factionalism of the Pabloites? Isn't that a typical symptom of a petty-bourgeois clique motivated by subjectivity and panic?

Rift in the Yugoslav CP

By R. Garrivie

Milovan Djilas, theoretician of Yugoslav communism, expelled from the Central Committee! An unexpected event, but one which does not leave the bourgeois commentators speechless: "Djilas, you see, is censured because of the way he criticized the bureaucratic snobbery of the wives of Yugoslav leaders toward a former actress." Or else: "He's a democrat being persecuted by a communist dictator who is returning to his previous errors: look at the self-criticism that poor Djilas was forced to make."

the intervention of the party rank and file. The publication of Djilas' articles was inconceivable without a favorable, or at least tolerant, "climate" in the party press and leadership circles. When the PB in its statement of censure claims to have "taken into account the discontent of the militants," the conclusion is plain that this discontent actually tipped the scales against Djilas. This reaction from the ranks, which had made itself felt some months ago in a protest movement against the liquidation of the "zadrugas" (peasant cooperatives) is the most encouraging feature of the Yugoslav scene in 1954.

WHAT IS NEEDED "You have saved the party from those who want to destroy it — good. You have reaffirmed the need for the party in the framework of proletarian democracy — better yet. But it isn't enough just to reaffirm that need; it has to be justified by the party's fulfilling its role of vanguard. Yet all you have been doing these past several years is to put us at the vanguard of the liquidation of a whole series of revolutionary conquests. Is it any wonder that after all of that the ensuing demoralization should produce people like Djilas?"

(To be continued.) New Setbacks Hit Indo-China (Continued from page after the Republicans boast of ending the Korea war... Aside from considerations of broad strategic diplomatic and military aims, which now appear to dictate a "stretch-out" of the war preparations and a more prolonged build-up for war against the Soviet Union and China, the Indo-China nut would be hard for U.S. imperialism to crack.

