

# THE MILITANT

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## New Witch-Hunt Weapon Forged in Lightfoot Case

By Hildegard Swaback

CHICAGO, Jan. 26 — A verdict of guilty was brought in today in the trial of Claude Lightfoot, Illinois secretary of the Communist Party. The jury of seven women and five men (three Negroes and nine whites) deliberated for ten hours and took seven ballots before finding Lightfoot guilty of belonging to an organization that advocates the violent overthrow of the U.S. government.

The Eisenhower administration contends that under the Smith Act mere membership in the Communist Party is a crime. The first ballot was seven to five for a guilty verdict. On the sixth ballot one juror still held out for acquittal. These facts demonstrate that the government was conducting a frame-up. For as Defense Attorney John J. Abt Jr. stated, "The prevailing anti-Communist feeling makes it impossible for a jury to give a fair verdict."

Abt also called the government's case "a theory of guilt by 'gobbledegoose'" (double talk). He charged that the prosecution asked the jurors to do an impossible thing — namely, "to try the state of mind of Claude Lightfoot."

The "gobbledegoose" piled up in nine days of testimony by Prosecutor Parsons was impressive only for its bulk. Nine paid informers for the FBI — including three renegades from the CP and six who joined the Communist Party at FBI request — followed this breed's typical pattern of "remember-

ing" whatever the prosecutor wanted them to.

### EXPERT STOOL-PIGEON

Two of the renegades, Frank S. Meyer and John Lautner, were once important functionaries in the CP. They were used as "experts" to "prove" that Marxism-Leninism is a program favoring violent revolution.

It was Lautner who fingered Marxist classics for the prosecution such as the Communist Manifesto and many of Lenin's pamphlets. These works are available in all major public libraries and sold openly throughout the country. But Lautner claimed that these were used as standards texts to teach the violent overthrow of the government to CP members.

The six CP "recruits" of FBI persuasion were used chiefly to testify about Lightfoot's activities in the party. Although Lightfoot admitted party membership freely, the prosecution felt it necessary to prove that he was an alternate member of the CP National Committee and must therefore be high in party councils. As such, the prosecutor claimed, he must have known that the Party advocates violence.

This was a crucial point in the (Continued on page 2)

## "I Lied," Confesses Another FBI Informer

A confession that he had deliberately lied under oath against former State Dept. consultant Owen Lattimore and 13 Communist Party leaders railroaded to prison under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act has been made by paid FBI informer Harvey Matusow. In an affidavit made on Jan. 28, Matusow also admitted to making "deliberately false" statements in the trial of Clinton Jencks, former president of a Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers local. Jencks was convicted in Jan. 1954 on a charge of falsely filing a non-Communist affidavit under the Taft-Hartley Act.

This makes the fifth FBI stool-pigeon and paid witness within the past 13 months who has either confessed perjury or been revealed as a perjurer in anti-Communist frame-up trials or in hearings before Congressional witch-hunt committees.

### ACCUSES MCCARTHY

Matusow confessed that he had fabricated his false testimony with the aid of Roy Cohn, former chief legal counsel of Sen-

ator Joseph McCarthy's Senate investigating committee and an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the prosecution of 13 Communist Party leaders. Matusow told of issuing false facts for the use of McCarthy in his Senate committee smears. "I had previously discussed this with Sen. McCarthy and had his approval," said Matusow.

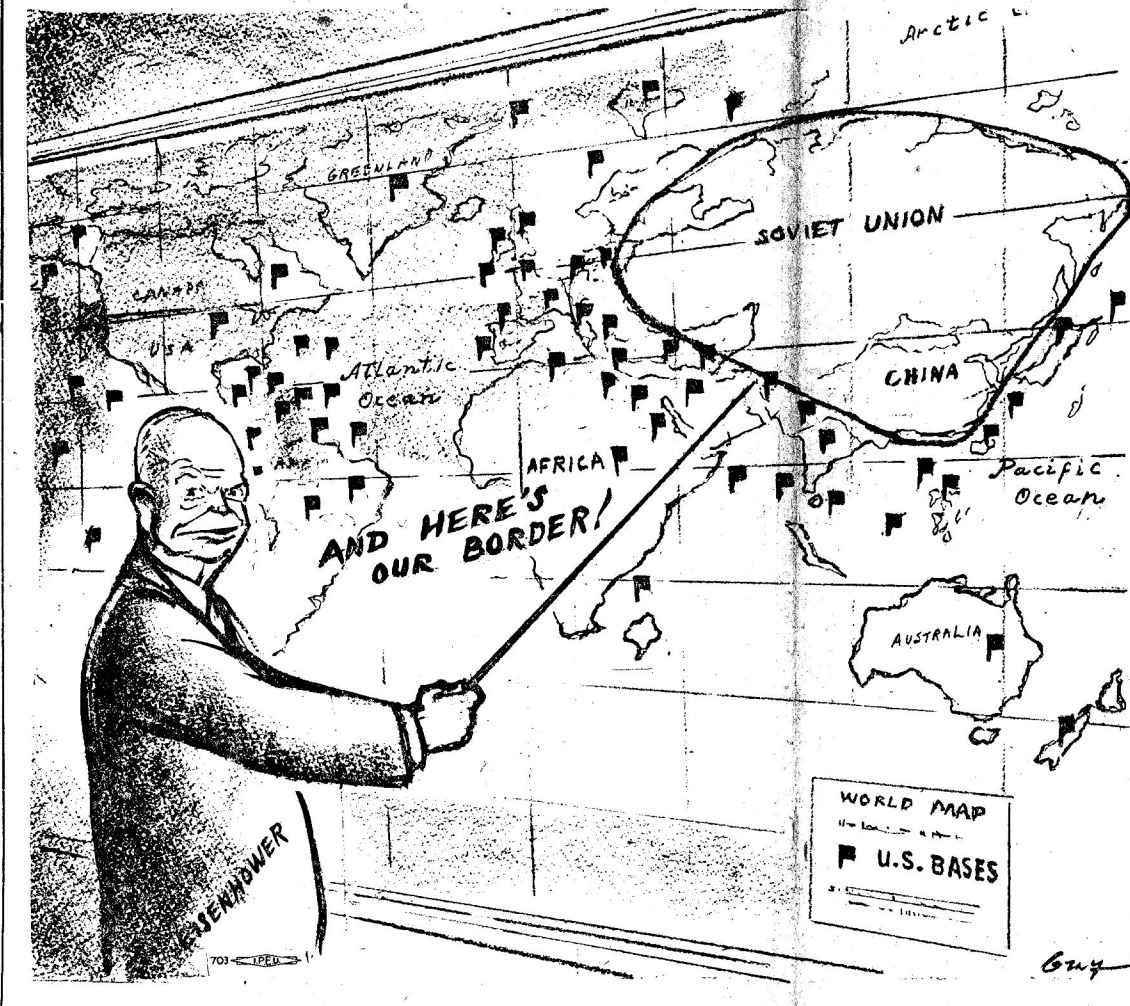
The self-confessed stoolpigeon has made an affidavit "in support of the motion by the defendants for a new trial and to do what I can to remedy the harm that I have done to the defendants in the case of the United States of America vs. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn . . . The matters I testified to were either false or not entirely true and were known to me to be either false or not entirely true at the time I testified."

### LIED ABOUT LATTIMORE

Much of Matusow's confession appears in a still unpublished book. In this he states: "I climaxed my testimony (before the Senate hearing) with the dramatic assertion that Owen Lattimore's books were used as the official Communist Party guide on Asia. Once again, I told a complete falsehood . . ."

Last July the Department of Justice was forced to fire its two highest-paid witnesses, Paul Crouch and Manning Johnson, when they were irrefutably proven perjurers. Previously two FBI informers in the Smith Act trial of six Michigan CP members had admitted perjury.

# U.S. Intervention in Far East Denounced by British Labor



## "Sag" in Economy Seen During Last Half of '55

By Lewis Peterson

Eisenhower's Economic Report forecast of "a high and satisfactory level of employment and production within the current year" is causing most capitalist economist themselves to raise their eyebrows skeptically. Eight leading economists who testified on Jan. 26 before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report indicated that the Big Business press described as "much reserve and some concern" for the economic trend in 1955.

A poll of the economists, who represent major shadings of capitalist economic views from liberal to ultra-conservative, showed that not one believed production this year will reach significantly above the level of two years ago or that unemployment will decline below the 1954 level. Five of the experts feared a rise in unemployment.

### FEAR JOBLESS RISE

This latter opinion was expressed by Gerhard Colm, chief economist of the National Planning Association; Calvin Hoover, Economics Professor at Duke University; Heinz Luedicke, editor of The Journal of Commerce;

Leon Keyserling, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Truman; and Stanley Ruttenberg, education and research director of the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO).

The three others, who merely saw no reduction in unemployment and no significant rise in industrial output, were William F. Butler, consultant of the Chase National Bank in New York; Dexter M. Keezer, economic director of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, which issues Business Week Magazine; and Martin Gainsbrugh, chief economist of the National Industrial Conference Board, which helps to guide Administration policy.

### "SAG" BY SUMMER

Even Gainsbrugh, who claimed that recent economic recovery has been "vigorous," had to concede that the President's Economic Report had "exaggerated" the pace. He expressed concern, in fact, with "the speculative elements already present in the recovery" and cited the construction boom and increasing industrial inventories as weak spots. He added: "In many non-speculative areas recovery has not begun."

Luedicke, who edits an extremely conservative business newspaper, actually stated that industrial output will likely "sag moderately" by June and that the economy "could well resume the 1954 decline unless the Administration acts promptly to hold any new decline to modest proportions." He expressed fear of a classic feature of capitalist crisis — overproduction for the available market. "Perhaps the most critical single feature to watch for in 1955 is the possible appearance of some saturation in consumer demand for durable consumer goods, including homes."

Keyserling pointed out that the gross national product must increase 6% this year over 1953 to restore the employment levels of two years ago. But the most optimistic forecasts are for a maximum 3% increase. "With automation and technology on the march," he said, "hard-core unemployment is bound to increase greatly well within 1955 unless the economy expands more rapidly than any current signs now indicate."

All eight of the economists agreed there is no likelihood of (Continued on page 2)

## Get Out Of the Far East

An Editorial

Suppose Jefferson Davis and the remnants of his slaveholders' army in 1865 had fled to the Florida Keys and the British had thrown a mighty war fleet around those islands and threatened war against the United States if it tried to drive the slaveocrats from their rat hole on U.S. territory.

That's like the situation today around the Chinese islands of Formosa and the Pescadores. The use of the U.S. 7th Fleet to safeguard dictator Chiang Kai-shek, who was driven off the China mainland by the Chinese revolutionary people, is an imperialist outrage.

The pretext that this intervention in the Chinese civil war is "defense" of America is ridiculous. We can well imagine what would happen if the Chinese government were to send ships and planes to cut off Catalina Island from the U.S. mainland with the excuse of maintaining China's "unbroken" line of "defense" against the U.S. The shooting war would begin long before a single Chinese plane came within sight of these islands.

We even hear the claim now made that Formosa doesn't "really" belong to China, that its possession is in "dispute" because it once "belonged" to Japan. It's true that Japanese imperialism seized Formosa in 1895. In fact, Manchuria, Korea and half of China only ten years ago "belonged" to Japan. But the Cairo Declaration, issued Dec. 1, 1943 by Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek, declared that "all territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores, shall be restored to the Republic of China."

Aggressive overseas wars can be conducted today only by the mightiest industrial powers with massive navies. It is nonsense on the face of it to speak of China, which does not have the means to build a single large-size modern naval vessel, as a "threat" to this country. The U.S. News and World Report sneered at the Chinese "navy" as a "fleet of oversized rowboats," while the U.S. maintains the mightiest navy ever known. That's sufficient to show who has the aggressive aims.

Those liberals and labor leaders who back proposals for a "deal" to take Formosa and the Pescadores from China are advocating nothing less than armed robbery. The bipartisan Wall Street government is arousing increasing world hatred against the American people by its hypocrisy-cloaked Far East aggression. Demand of Washington: Get out of Formosa and the Pescadores! Withdraw from the Far East! End the economic blockade! Recognize the real Chinese government!

## Goal of \$15,000 Set For the Militant Fund

By Constance Farr

"What does The Militant say about it?" This is the most common question heard among workers who depend upon The Militant to counter the barrage of capitalist propaganda which

cannot be escaped in the days of crisis through which we are all living at present. "What does The Militant say about Formosa?" "What's happening in the unions?" "What's the latest in the fight against Jim Crow?" "What will happen with the Democrats in power?" Now, as never before, are the unique qualities of The Militant appreciated by its readers. With the marvelous tool of a Marxist interpretation of present day events, The Militant alone, in this time of class-collaborationist policies on the part of the labor leaders, Stalinists, social democrats, can be counted on to cut through the layers of Big Business propaganda and show clearly how the interests of the workers are affected.

To put out a weekly paper takes money. The Militant has never paid its own way and is not expected to. From the very beginning, more than 25 years ago, it has been "subsidized" by its readers, in whose heart The Militant has always held first place. They have always felt that their freely-given contributions to this cause were the best of all possible investments — an investment in the socialist future of mankind.

With this issue of The Militant, we are launching our \$15,000 Press Fund Campaign. Cities where we have groups of readers have already pledge to raise

their share, as will be seen from the scoreboard. The campaign is running for three months, and our campaign directors have assured us that they will have all of their quotas in by March 31. With two-thirds of the campaign still to go, we are gratified to see by the scoreboard that Seattle takes first place, with 55% of its quota already in. Sallie Stone, the Campaign Director, writes, "I hope to see Seattle on the first scoreboard and high!" Seattle narrowly squeezed out Detroit, which has already sent in 53% of a \$750 quota.

From Los Angeles where our readers have taken on the very large pledge of \$3,000, Milt Altie writes: "Our pledges now total a little over \$2,600, leaving almost \$400 to go. A couple of our good pledgers are not able to do anything, unfortunately, due to sickness, etc." How about that, Los Angeles readers? Send in your contributions to help out your city, and we will see they are credited to the city of sunshine. Milt feels that Los Angeles is going to raise that \$3,000 but he would appreciate some help too.

With 29% of the fund already in we are running about four percent behind schedule. With just a little spurt we should be right on schedule by next week.

(See page two for scoreboard)

## Demand Hands Off Formosa

By Joseph Hansen

FEB. 2 — Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee Jan. 26, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson gave as his opinion, even after correcting his formulation, that "Formosa is just a little ripple in our defense planning . . ." Wilson's "little ripple," however, hit Great Britain like a tidal wave.

Coming on top of the nerve-racking crises over Korea and then Indochina on top of the test explosions of H-bombs, and on top of the pressure for "preventive war" from trigger-happy U.S. admirals and generals, the threat of the Eisenhower administration to plunge the world into war if its arrogant demands are not met by China, infuriated the British people.

They know that an H-bomb war means the finish of Britain. They therefore took Eisenhower's bellicose threat and its speedy approval by a rubber-stamp bipartisan Congress as just as much a threat to them as to the Chinese people.

The British Daily Mirror, a paper of 4 1/2 million circulation, warned in an editorial that took almost the entire front page of its Jan. 28 issue that "the British people believe America's present policy on China is wrong and perilous. If America involves herself in a major war because of this policy such a war would NOT command the sympathy of the British people." (Emphasis in original.)

The Daily Herald, official paper of the British Labour Party, put in italics and underlined the following protest: "This country definitely will not become involved, under any pretext, in China's civil war."

Clement Attlee, titular head of the Labour Party and former Prime Minister, demanded three steps to end the danger of war over Formosa: (1) Neutralization of the island until its people decide by plebiscite whether they want to join China; (2) exile of dictator Chiang Kai-shek and his principal subordinates; (3) elimination of Formosa from the U.S. chain of island "defenses."

Attlee's record while in office casts doubt on his sincerity in making these demands — British imperialism has seen few guardians of its colonial interests more zealous than he. But Attlee's proposals on how to meet the Formosa crisis were hailed by all wings of the powerful Labour Party indicating the depth of the anger and fear among the British people over what the Manchester Guardian called the "Formosa Folly."

### READY FOR SUICIDE?

Some correspondents ascribed this reaction in Britain to "misunderstanding" and "fogging of the issue." However, that authoritative Wall Street spokesman, the N.Y. Times, demonstrated in a Jan. 30 editorial that the hysteria, if any, is on the side of the American dollar oligarchy: War today "is for all those engaged in it, victor and loser alike, a form of suicide . . . We will not go to war . . . for any reason whatever — except one . . . If we have to choose between an uncertain survival and a certain slavery we will take the uncertain survival."

That — in language as clear as the Times is capable of using — was an expression of the decision by Republicans and Democrats alike to deliberately risk war for the sake of a new square miles of island to serve as refuge for the foul dictator Chiang Kai-shek and as a military base of doubtful value in the age of the H-bomb.

Does this stand signify then that American imperialism has (Continued on page 2)

## Buffalo -- A Portrait of an Industrial City

By Farrell Dobbs

BUFFALO, Jan. 25 — Here on the Niagara Frontier lies a growing complex of steel, auto and electrical plants, flour mills, chemical works and a host of diversified industries. Reflecting the industrial expansion, the area has also become a major railroad center and the leading Great Lakes harbor.

Parallel with the rise of industry has come a steady growth of a predominant position in the population. An extensive union movement has sprung up and along with it a developing pattern of class struggle, high-lighted by a number of bitter strikes in recent years.

In this dynamic industrial center, where class struggle currents continue to flow beneath the present surface calm, I have had the privilege of addressing an impressive group of militants at an invitation meeting sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party. A biased report of the event in the Buffalo Evening News centered attention on the

fact that the police "Subversive Squad" and a witchhunting snoper from the American Legion were not invited into the meeting.

Fair-minded people will recognize that these anti-labor peeping Toms had no more right to intrude at this meeting of working people than management would have to demand admittance at a union meeting. Those present at the gathering were working-class fighters whose activities are so wholly identified with the cause of labor that their personal records are interwoven with the record of trials and hardships, of gains and setbacks that is common to the story of union life.

### MILITANT POLICIES

These workers are interested in the SWP because it advocates militant policies of the type that did much to straighten out wage differentials in the Westinghouse plant and has thus far blocked the incentive pay system there although that speedup device has now been thrust upon the work-

ers elsewhere in the Westinghouse chain.

They are attracted to the party because of its efforts to aid the Bell Aircraft workers in their great strike of 1949, the most important labor battle in the area since the 1919 steel strike.

In that struggle the workers manned their picket lines with skill and determination. When the cops and deputies tried to smash the strike by force and violence, the strikers' wives appeared at the scene, bringing their babies with them, determined to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their husbands in defense of their right to a decent living.

### BELL STRIKE

With strike-breaking injunctions issued against the pickets, the SWP vigorously advocated mass opposition to the injunctions. This campaign culminated in the formation of a United Labor Defense Committee which rallied the whole union movement in a giant mass meeting to protest the governmental attack on the pickets. For the first time

in the city's history a general strike was voted by the CIO Council as an act of solidarity with the Bell workers.

So great was the mass pressure in support of the strike that the Buffalo City Council found itself compelled to condemn the company's refusal to negotiate with the union and call upon the company to arbitrate the dispute. As a result of the militant campaign in support of the Bell strikers the company was defeated in its attempt to smash the union.

Negro workers are attracted to the party because it fights for their rights. It is commonly known in the steel union that Vincent Copeland, an SWP leader, played the foremost role among white workers who supported the Negroes in the fight to break down discrimination in the steel mills. When Copeland was fired from Bethlehem Steel because of his militancy, around 17,000 workers launched a dramatic strike, without precedent in this area, in an effort to keep him on the job and in the union. Workers are attracted to the

party because it advocates full democracy in the unions as the inalienable right of the membership and as the only way to give maximum power to the struggle in defense of the workers' interests. Moreover they learn in the SWP how to combat treacherous Stalinism in the labor movement without playing into the hands of labor's enemies.

On yet another front the SWP has sought to defend the workers' interests. In the fight against a hike in bus fares it was the only political party to attain formal status at the hearings as a "party of interest" opposed to higher fares. The SWP initiated the opposition to the sales tax and fought to retain rent controls.

Last year over 35,000 workers were unemployed in the area and many had used up their last unemployment compensation check. Other thousands were working a short work week at short pay. They were falling behind on the rent and installment payments. Most important of all, cupboards (Continued on page 2)

# ... Buffalo -- A Portrait Of an Industrial City

(Continued from page 1)  
were getting bare. Meanwhile vast stores of surplus food were crammed in the government warehouses.

## HOUSEWIVES' DELEGATION

The SWP went on TV to raise a demand that some of this surplus food be made available to the needy of Buffalo. The unemployed responded to this reasonable proposal and a delegation of indignant housewives was soon on the way to Washington to demand action. Instead they got a complete runaround from the capitalist government.

Since then employment has picked up in the area. This easing of the pressure on the workers, together with the class collaborationist policies of the union officialdom, will serve to further prolong the general lull in the class struggle. However there is no real stability beneath the lull.

Amid considerable rehiring of workers in recent weeks a new process of piece-meal layoffs has set in with the result that creeping unemployment remains a constant threat to labor. Automation is one of the significant causes of this development. Erratic production schedules arising from the chronic ills of the capitalist economy are another cause.

Sporadic strikes continue to occur here. These are mainly defensive actions against corporation attacks and they are usually of long duration. A recent strike at the Western Electric Co. lasted 18 weeks. Workers at the Buffalo Arms plant are still out in a strike that began last June. These battles serve to remind the workers they can defend their interests only through

constant vigilance, a will to struggle and class solidarity. Resentment burns deep among the Negro people who constitute about ten per cent of the city's population and find industrial employment chiefly in heavy industry, especially in steel. They live and work under discriminatory conditions against which they rebel at every opportunity, fighting for their right to full equality.

## WORKING CLASS YOUTH

Among college students in Buffalo are many working class youth who are partially conscious of the class struggle from family experiences in the union movement. Facing an uncertain future under the twin threats of war and depression, these young people tend toward an open-minded examination of all political programs. This tendency is reflected in their response to the fight against political thought control on the campus and by the presence of a number of students at the meeting I addressed.

This pattern of creeping unemployment, union-busting attacks, discrimination against the Negro people, and frustration among the youth points toward new eruptions of class conflict with greater fury than ever before. These conditions herald an approaching time when steadily increasing numbers of Buffalo militants will recognize the Socialist Workers Party as their party.

Smear attacks by capitalist propaganda sheets can't prevent the SWP from winning these supporters. Nor will the capitalists be able to defeat the working class once the labor militants fully grasp the need for a class struggle program and begin to act accordingly.

# MacArthur's Pacifistic Speech Shows Capitalism's Blind Alley

By Trent Hutter

In his Los Angeles speech on the occasion of his 75th birthday, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur called for abolishing war and for ending the armaments race. The Jan. 26 address openly opposed Washington's policy of spending billions on new weapons and building up a system of military alliances in Europe and Asia.

There is more to this than MacArthur's annoyance at not being consulted on military policy by the Eisenhower-Dulles administration, more than a demagogic stab at Adm. Radford and the other big brass in the Pentagon. MacArthur, who used to be the very incarnation of militarism and an advocate of preventive war against China (as Admiral Radford appears to be today) now is genuinely afraid of World War III: "War has become a Frankenstein to destroy both sides. No longer is it the weapon of adventure whereby a short cut to international power and wealth — a place in the sun — can be gained. If you lose, you are annihilated. If you win, you stand only to lose. No longer does it possess the chance of a winner in a duel — it contains rather the germs of double suicide. Science has clearly outmoded it as a feasible arbiter."

## CHANGE OF HEART

How did MacArthur become a pacifist? The five-star general never approved the tactics of limited, "localized" wars.

MacArthur realizes that in the present world situation they only lead to stalemates, as was proved in Korea. In 1951 he wanted to engage in a total war against China; but the invention of the H-bomb has made him see the uselessness of atomic warfare: "Now, electronics and other processes of science have raised the destructive potential to encompass millions. And with restless hands we work feverishly in dark laboratories to find the means to destroy all at one blow." The world's leaders "increase preparedness by alliances, by distributing resources throughout the world, by feverish activity in developing new and deadlier weapons, by applying conscription in time of peace — all of which is instantly matched by the prospective opponent."

## LIGHTFOOT'S DEFENSE

The defense presented two main points: 1) That the trial was unconstitutional because, in violation of the First Amendment, it sought to punish a man merely for his political beliefs. (The First Amendment says "Congress shall make no laws . . . abridging the freedom of speech.") 2) That the evidence presented against Lightfoot was insufficient to convict him of any crime. Lightfoot himself did not take the stand, because the defense maintained that the prosecutor failed to make out a case.

The defense attorneys, Abt and George W. Crockett Jr., announced that Lightfoot will appeal the conviction "all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court." Three other members of the CP are currently awaiting trial under indictments similar to Lightfoot's.

upon which both sides will profit equally. . . Both sides can be trusted when both do profit." MacArthur rejects the thesis that the Soviet world is only waiting to attack the capitalist world. He feels "It would no longer be a matter depending upon trust — the self-interest of each nation outlasting war would keep it true to itself." Total peace is required; not palliatives like limited wars, "national subversive and sabotage agencies," or "indeterminate" notions such as "limitation of armament, restriction on the use of nuclear power," etc.

MacArthur obviously does not share the illusions of many "liberals." His great illusion, however, is the belief that the real peace that has become the necessary alternative to atomic annihilation can be brought about without smashing capitalism — the force that produces depressions and wars.

## STRAIT JACKET OF PAST

"We are in a new era. The old methods and solutions no longer suffice. We must have new thoughts, new ideas, new concepts, just as did our venerated forefathers when they faced a new world. We must break out of the straitjacket of the past." Very true. But breaking out of the straitjacket of the past means above all breaking out of the economic and social system that continuously creates the dangers and miseries so eloquently denounced by MacArthur.

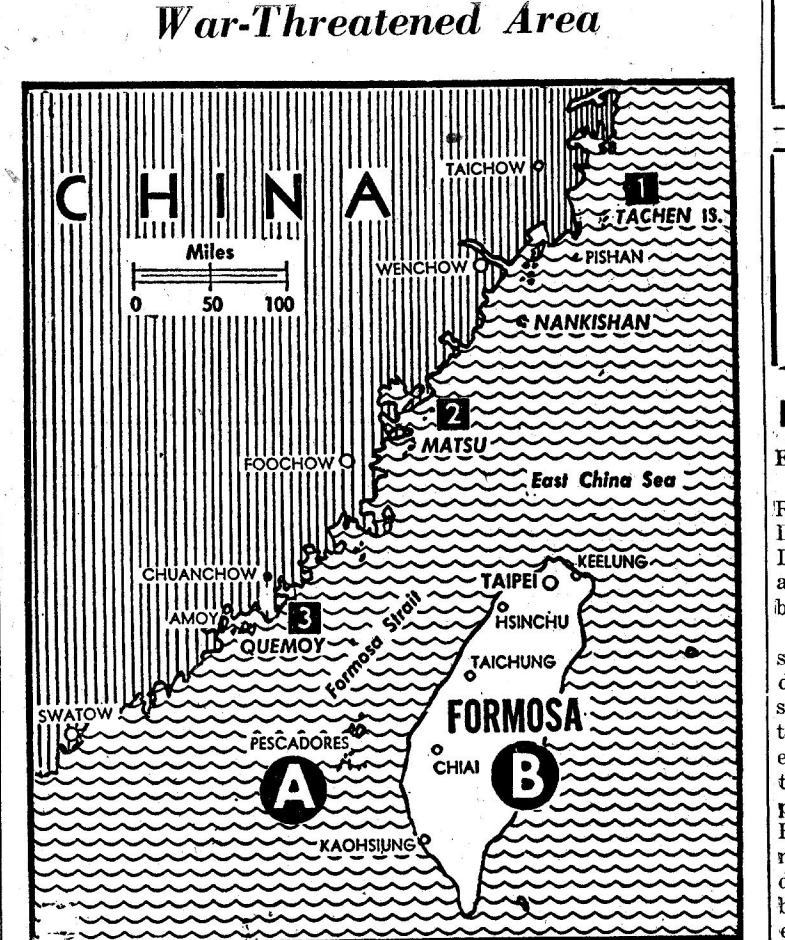
The general has by no means become a socialist, quite the contrary! He has not undergone a basic change. He simply understands that the prospects of capitalism have changed. A few years ago he believed it could be saved by total war. He no longer does. But we know that MacArthur's peace proposals will not be carried into practice by the capitalist politicians, although he says they could if they wanted to.

It is no coincidence that the overwhelming majority of bourgeois politicians and the military have no intention of renouncing their present policy of "armed co-

existence," "military preparedness," and military alliances in Europe and Asia (which, as MacArthur correctly points out, are not stronger than their weakest links). The U.S. Congress threatens China with military intervention. . . Capitalism, in the era of its degeneration, cannot do without imperialism, even if a new World War holds out no hope to the war-makers.

We can abolish war only by abolishing its economic and social

causes. That is why the struggle against war and the struggle for Socialism are one. That is why the efforts of capitalist pacifists and of the Stalinists, who separate their action for peace from the action for Socialism are doomed to failure. On the other hand, the pressure of the masses all over the world, their social demands and class struggle provide the most important obstacle the imperialists encounter in their war drive.



This map shows the area along China's coast where Eisenhower has sent the U.S. 7th Fleet to intervene in China's civil war on the side of dictator Chiang Kai-shek. Eisenhower says the fleet will screen the evacuation of Chiang's troops from the Tachen Island (1), 200 miles north of Formosa. Eisenhower also threatens to use U.S. military forces "if necessary" at Matsu Island (2) and Quemoy (3). The main objective is to take the Pescadore Islands (A) and Formosa (B) from China.

# ...British Laborites Denounce U.S. Intervention in Far East

(Continued from page 1)

as to enlist world public opinion on our side." The Allies were then sounded out about the cease-fire move, Chiang was prepared, etc. Much other evidence could be cited showing that the decision to call for a cease-fire, together with its associated proposals, was worked out over some months and carried through with the coordination characteristic of a major military move.

## COVERED RETREAT

The demand for Formosa and the Pescadores is of course being pictured as a strong stand against the Mao government. And the outrageous attempt to put the U.S. border on the coast of China does belong, it must be admitted, to the standard bandit tradition of imperialism. Yet there is another side to this, although not a better one. It is aimed for domestic consumption, to appease the China Lobby and the Knowland gang. In short it is an effort to fall back while firing a barrage, a "covered retreat," as the Christian Science Monitor puts it.

This, it must be clearly understood, is only a tactical retreat, designed in the larger framework of the world plans of American imperialism to facilitate the preparation for World War III.

## BRING UN INTO PLAY

At the height of the scare caused by Eisenhower's war threat, the United Nations, in what appeared to be a carefully timed move, was brought into play. New Zealand submitted a motion Jan. 31 to consider a cease-fire. This was followed at once by an invitation to the Mao government to send a delegation to participate in the discussion. No deadline was fixed for an answer since that would imply an ultimatum. It was made clear that Peking could accept the proposal to discuss without "prejudicing its rights" or "mortgaging its claims." In other words, Peking need only agree to recognize the United Nations invitation, send a representative and begin talking as at Panmunjom.

## MOSCOW'S REACTION

Moscow's reaction in the United Nations was to denounce the aggression committed by the U.S. and to submit a resolution that it be put on the agenda for discussion. While this was a sharp diplomatic attack on the U.S., it did no damage to the UN. As a matter of fact, the Soviet delegate carefully avoided any action that would have obstructed passage of Eisenhower's cease-fire resolution, which went through in the record time of one day. In addition, Moscow promptly forwarded a plea by Churchill that Peking give favorable consideration to the invitation to send a representative to the UN.

sovereignty over Formosa and to demand that the U.S. withdraw its forces. "The great bulk of humanity undoubtedly sympathizes with this position no matter how they may regard the Mao regime itself. The demand happens to correspond with China's legitimate national interests. It is a simple democratic demand directly in line with America's own historic position in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War."

## STANDS ON UN CHARTER

In denouncing the U.S.-sponsored cease-fire proposal, however, Peking radio did not stand on that ground. A Feb. 1 broadcast argued that "it contravenes the charter of the United Nations." This argument implies acceptance of the charter of the United Nations.

Acceptance of that imperialist-inspired set of rules by the Mao government as the framework limiting its national and international aspirations is one of the major immediate aims that the Eisenhower administration hopes to achieve by its threat of war. The pitch toward the American-dominated UN is a transparent effort to utilize that body as a mediator in bargaining with China.

The overriding question of the week as the British Laborites viewed it was the danger of World War III breaking out immediately. Even if that danger is averted, however, as seems likely, that would not mean enduring peace had been achieved. It would only mean that a temporary stalemate between the two power blocs had asserted itself. Its unstable character would be evidenced by continued tension and struggle although very likely in other forms than in the past few years.

To this we should add that even if the Stalinist bureaucracy and Wall Street were to see eye to eye under the banner of "co-existence" about a division of labor in preventing, or beheading, or smashing revolutionary movements, that would not assure a long-enduring deal. The drive toward revolution has grown too powerful to be contained for long. China itself is proof of that.

### \$15,000 Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Seattle	\$ 175	97	55
Detroit	750	400	53
Philadelphia	400	170	43
San Francisco	800	330	41
Chicago	1,600	610	38
Boston	600	213	36
Milwaukee	250	90	36
New York	3,200	1,129	35
St. Louis	75	24.50	33
Cleveland	250	65	26
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	300	25
Newark	275	70	25
Youngstown	200	50	25
Los Angeles	3,000	651.33	22
Oakland	200	59	20
Pittsburgh	150	30	20
Akron	125	0	0
Allentown	75	0	0
Buffalo	1,600	0	0
Total through Feb. 1	\$15,025	\$4,288.83	29

# Our Readers Take the Floor

## Rooked at RCA

Editor: This is what is going on in RCA in Camden, N. J., IUE-CIO Local 103. In the Transformer Division which up to six weeks ago was on incentive there have been several developments. Six weeks ago the entire division was called together by the division superintendent. Alongside him stood the IUE international representative. The workers were told by the superintendent that because of the competition of other firms, such as Emerson, RCA had the alternative of either closing down the division or taking away the bonus. About a thousand workers are involved and they made about \$10 to \$30 a week extra on incentive. To replace this pay cut on incentive, management offered a four cent an hour increase (that is from \$1.42 to \$1.46).

## Are Youth for UMT?

Editor: I read with interest an article in the magazine section, "This Week" of the Jan. 16, 1955 Chicago Daily News called "The Kids Want UMT." The author contends that the majority of kids and their parents are in favor of Universal Military Training. I'm a college student subject to the draft and any other scheme that they might devise. I am not in favor of UMT. My friends are not in favor of it. This article claims they took a survey to get their answers. But I think they are wrong. I don't think the majority of American youth are for this further militarization. Maybe other students and youth across the country have read this article as it is nationally distributed. I'd like to hear from them via the Militant's readers column. What do you say, are you for UMT? Against it? And why? I'll answer your letters. A student Chicago, Ill.

## Labor Loses 16-2

Editor: In Essex County, N. J., labor's votes last year swept the Democrats into control. The union leaders mobilized all their forces to capture the county — long Republican — for the Democratic Party. Last week a committee was appointed to direct Democratic Party affairs in Essex. This committee will also screen

# ... Lightfoot Convicted

(Continued from page 1)

case, since the government contends that once a member "knows" that the CP "advocates the violent overthrow of the U.S. government," he commits a crime merely by continuing his membership. The prosecution also contended that since the "evidence" showed that Lightfoot taught Marxism-Leninism in CP schools, this proved he too was an advocate of force and violence. Abt denounced Parson's reasoning as trying to establish guilt merely by "piling inference on inference."

## INFORMERS SQUIRM

Testimony of the paid informers was so repetitious, it became monotonous droning. The crowd of spectators gradually dwindled until the prosecutor concluded his questioning. The court room came to life again when these shabby informers squirmed as they admitted under defense cross-examination to having squealed for pay against friends and shopmates.

As soon as the prosecution closed its case, Abt moved for a directed verdict of acquittal. Parsons staved this off temporarily. He argued that the Smith Act made it necessary only to prove the party's intent and Lightfoot's knowledge of such intent without need for

evidence concerning any individual act by Lightfoot. Just the same, Judge Sullivan advised Parsons to present some solid arguments for the contention that Lightfoot himself specifically advocated overthrow of the government by force and violence. He reserved ruling on the defense's motion for directed acquittal and is scheduled to give his decision on Feb. 15.

The defense presented two main points: 1) That the trial was unconstitutional because, in violation of the First Amendment, it sought to punish a man merely for his political beliefs. (The First Amendment says "Congress shall make no laws . . . abridging the freedom of speech.") 2) That the evidence presented against Lightfoot was insufficient to convict him of any crime. Lightfoot himself did not take the stand, because the defense maintained that the prosecutor failed to make out a case.

The defense attorneys, Abt and George W. Crockett Jr., announced that Lightfoot will appeal the conviction "all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court." Three other members of the CP are currently awaiting trial under indictments similar to Lightfoot's.

## Swaback to Speak in Minnesota

(Continued from page 1)

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 30. — Arne Swaback, internationally known labor figure, Marxist writer and lecturer, will be in the Twin Cities from Feb. 11 to Feb. 20, to address a public meeting and give a series of lectures on Marxism and science.

Comrade Swaback, who comes to Minnesota from his home in Chicago will speak first at a public meeting Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8:30 P.M. at 10 S. 4th Street, Minneapolis. Subject of his talk will be "Socialism and the World Crisis." The meeting will be followed by a social hour, in order that those attending may meet the speaker. The following week, Comrade Swaback will deliver a series of three lectures: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8:00 P.M. — Science and the Social Order; Friday, Feb. 18, 8:00 P.M. — Atomic Theory and the Dialectic Method; Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:00 P.M. — Science and the Social Crisis.

# ...See Auto, Housing "Sag"

(Continued from page 1)

an output increase of more than 3%. For a number of weeks the Militant has been alerting the labor movement to the prospects of a slowing-down of the automobile and home construction industries, whose increased production has been hailed as the major element of the "recovery." None of the economists forecast a continuance of this high-level production in auto and housing through the second half of the year.

The forebodings of these economists parallel similar fears expressed by most business publications and forecasters. Typical is the statement by Lewis L. Schellback of Standard & Poor's, who writes that "reports reach us that automobile inventories in dealers' hands are building up rather sharply. As indicated, we believe that the first-quarter production rate cannot be maintained through the year and perhaps not through the second quarter." (N. Y. World-Telegram, Jan. 29.) The Feb. 4 U.S. News & World Report sees a "few danger signs developing in the U.S. situation." Auto production is "running much ahead of probable sales" and steel "reflects auto demand." But "some slowing in these two basic industries seems sure for summer." It adds: "Housing boom, too, probably is bigger than can be sustained." A more specific and detailed picture of the trend of auto pro-

# Swaback to Speak in Minnesota

(Continued from page 1)

duction this year was presented on Jan. 27 to the Joint Committee on the Economic Report by Douglas Fraser, Administrative Assistant to the President of the CIO United Automobile Workers. Walter Reuther's assistant stated that the auto industry is engaging in a "reckless production race," adding: "The most optimistic forecast from an industry source we have been able to find is an estimate by the President of General Motors of 5.3 million passenger cars in 1955. Yet in the one week ending last Saturday, Jan. 22, the industry produced 163,416 cars, representing an annual rate of 8.5 million. At this rate it would require less than 36 weeks of production to reach the year's goal of 5.8 million. If the production pace is maintained only for six months it will mean production for the first half of the year of more than 4.2 million cars, or 72% of the year's total, leaving only 1.6 million for the second half. Production would be cut back from 163,000 per week to less than 62,000."

Continuation of production at current rates "can only mean that scores of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of auto workers will face a long stretch of unemployment in the later months of this year while excessive inventories are worked off," said Fraser. "No matter which corporation wins the auto production race, auto workers are bound to lose."

# Swaback to Speak in Minnesota

(Continued from page 1)

Residents of public housing projects cannot be evicted for failure to sign loyalty oaths, the Appellate Department of the Superior Court ruled in Los Angeles on Jan. 20.

### CHICAGO Farrell Dobbs

Nat'l. Sec'y SWP will speak on: "America's Road To Socialism" Sat. Feb. 26, 8:30 P. M. 777 West Adams Street Discussion-Refreshments Entertainment Donation: 35c.

### TWIN CITIES Arne Swaback

Internationally known labor figure speaks on "Socialism and the World Crisis" 8:30 P. M. 10 S. 4th St. Sat., Feb. 12 Minneapolis MILITANT READERS INVITED!

### NEWARK Hear Farrell Dobbs

"What's Ahead For American Labor?" Sat. Feb. 12 52 Market St. 8:30 P.M. corner of Plane St. A social will follow the meeting. Donation: 25c.

### San Francisco Negro History Week Meeting

speaker Bill Morgan Sat. Feb. 12, at 8 P. M. At 2337 Mission Street Admission Free

Subscription \$3 per year: \$1.50 for 6 months. Foreign: \$4.50 per year; \$2.25 for 6 months. Canadian: \$3.50 per year; \$1.75 for 6 months. Single Copies: 5¢ or more copies 6¢ each in U.S., 7¢ each in foreign countries.

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Monday, February 7, 1955

The Coming Battle in Auto

Within a few months, the notorious five-year contracts that CIO and United Automobile Workers President Walter Reuther negotiated with the big auto corporations will come to an end. Five years of restraints upon the workers' demands, five years of accumulated grievances will come to a head in the forthcoming contract negotiations.

Concurrent with the issuance of the union's demands and preparations for negotiations, auto production continues its breakneck acceleration. Production figures for the latest week is 193,207 cars and trucks — 43,789 more a week than a month ago, or more than three times the weekly average production in 1946.

Everyone knows that the pace cannot be kept up. Before long, enough and more than enough 1955 models will be on the lots than can be sold. Why this especially frantic pace to get all the 1955 models out before half the year is gone?

The seasonal nature of the industry and the greed of the Big Three auto producers to increase their respective shares of the market only partially explains the present frenzied production efforts. There is an additional factor: The corporations are building up inventories as part of their strategy in resisting the UAW's demands and preparing for the eventuality of strikes.

These huge inventories will be a potent anti-union weapon at the beginning of June

when General Motors and Ford contracts with the UAW expire (Chrysler's terminates at the end of August). If the market has held up and the public is still buying cars, the corporations will have a backlog to enable them to hold tough against union demands. It may make the union leaders more timid than ever about taking a militant course and give them a pretext for giving away most of the union's demands.

It is evident that the bosses feel they can take a tougher attitude towards unions. The big shots of GM, Ford and Chrysler may feel that way now. They have never reconciled themselves to the idea that unions are here to stay. They figure any softening up of a union is one more step to "Der Tag" when the open shop will again reign in the U.S.

The auto workers — long the advance guard of American unionism — are about to go into battle with a powerful, unscrupulous and cunning section of Big Business. One of the first axioms of battle is to try to foresee the strategy of the enemy. Such is the might of labor that any anti-union plan conceived in the secret conclaves of Big Business can be foiled by the men and women who make the autos and their brothers and sisters in American industry. Bold plans, militant action and unity are the keys needed to unlock the tremendous power of the American working class and teach the "Big Three" once again they can't trifle with the auto workers.

New York's Firetrap Deaths

Fire took the lives of six members of a working class family on New York's lower East Side on Sunday, Jan. 30. The cause of the fire was a hazardous kerosene heater which ignited a tinder-box tenement dwelling, driving the tenants onto the street in sub freezing temperature and taking its toll before firemen could effectively intervene.

In recent weeks more than 20 have died in tenement fires, all traced to faulty heating systems. Most of the victims have been Puerto Ricans who not only carry the burden of low-paying jobs; discrimination, and police terror, but are also forced to live in squalid fire traps.

Capitalist propaganda continues to defend the right of tenement owners and manufacturers of dangerous heating appliances to their "just" profits, and points the finger of guilt at the victims themselves.

New York City Deputy Housing Commissioner Bernice P. Rogers, for example, stated that in "many" cases death by fire is the fault of "careless" tenants. The New York Times feels that the public should be more

"conscious and alert to all fire hazards." In addition, the Fire Dept. is going to tour the streets with fire engines and loud speakers in order to "educate" tenement dwellers on the danger of kerosene heaters. They had been using five engines for this purpose, now they are increasing it to twelve.

Tenement dwellers don't need blaring loudspeakers to discover the danger of their heating units. They use dangerous heaters to prevent sickness and to keep from freezing to death. Heating is not provided in the cold-water tenements. What they need is a way out of these squalid death traps. To scream at them about the danger of fires is like telling a drowning person that the water is over his head.

The immediate answer to fire-trap tenements is a huge program of federal low-cost public housing. But who is there in Congress to fight seriously for such a program? The capitalist politicians are busy voting billions of tax dollars into arms production for the profit of Big Business. They do not concern themselves with the desperate need of millions of American workers.

Djilas-Dedijer Case in Yugoslavia

When Milovan Djilas was expelled from the Yugoslav Communist Party over one year ago it was clear that he was leading a right-wing tendency, a tendency that wanted to go further than Tito towards conciliation with Western capitalist "democracy." Last month Djilas, together with his defender and co-worker Vladimir Dedijer, was tried and convicted behind closed doors by the Tito regime. Djilas was given a year and a half, and Dedijer a six months sentence. The sentences were suspended. Although the proceedings were shrouded in secrecy it appears that the two former leaders of the Yugoslav C.P. were accused of lending themselves to a campaign of "foreign propaganda against Yugoslavia."

The Djilas-Dedijer position was expressed in a Christmas Day (1954) interview with a New York Times reporter. This interview undoubtedly figured in the accusation against them. Djilas, who gave the interview, told the Times reporter in Belgrade that since his expulsion, "I have studied the position in Russia, Trotsky etc." This study, he told the reporter, brought him to the conclusion that the revolutionary opposition to Stalin led by Trotsky was on the wrong track: "Their mistake was that they wanted to be better Leninists than Stalin."

Djilas described himself as a "democratic socialist." Concretely this means Djilas chooses to fight Stalinism not with the weapons of revolutionary Leninism but with the ideology and traditions of the Social Democratic lackeys of capitalist "democracy."

The platform of Djilas-Dedijer flows directly from the policy and practice of the Tito government. Conciliation with western capitalism is exactly what the Tito regime has been practicing. This was demonstrated when the Titoists took their stand in the

critical hour on the side of the imperialist interventionists in Korea.

By that single act Tito betrayed the revolutionary duty of the Yugoslav regime to the international working class. The Syngman Rhee cutthroats, are the equivalent in Korea, of the fascist gangs in the Yugoslav civil war. The Titoists capitulated to the demands of the U.S. State Department and lined up with the counter-revolution in Korea.

Since this Titoist right turn in 1950, the capitalist pressure on the Yugoslav revolution, both internal and external, has been enormously increased. The line of Titoism bends to this pressure. The Djilas-Dedijer faction merely wants to draw the logical conclusions of Tito's line. Thus it becomes the focal point of all capitalist hopes for a further reverse of the Yugoslav revolution.

The Titoists' claim to be conducting the struggle against the "right." But such a struggle can be conducted in the interests of the working class only on a revolutionary internationalist program — that is, the program of Leninism.

Such a struggle must be conducted in broad daylight, with the fullest democracy guaranteed to all political tendencies adhering to the workers' power. It cannot be a police struggle, nor an administrative-bureaucratic struggle, with discussion confined to the top circles.

Poisoned by their Stalinist training, the Titoists have stifled all democracy within the working-class organizations. Above all they have stifled the revolutionary left and thereby silenced the only tendency that could lead a genuine Marxist struggle against both the Titoist and Djilas-Dedijer right wings.

There is the ugly innuendo of "treason" in the proceedings against Djilas-Dedijer but not one scrap of evidence has been submitted to prove it. In a revolutionary country, besieged by imperialist pressure and under the shadow of Kremlin attack, cases of treason are of course not unlikely. But such cases should be exposed before the eyes of the whole international working class and all shadow of suspicion of police frame-up removed. This was the great tradition of revolutionary democracy established by the Russian revolution. It is a tradition that the Yugoslav working class must claim as its own.

Negroes in the Postwar World

By ALBERT PARKER

16 pp. . . 10 cents

The Struggle for Negro Equality

By SAUNDERS & PARKER

48 pp. . . 10 cents

PIONEER PUBLISHERS

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Jim-Crow in England

(American enemies of Jim Crow have been alarmed by stories of race prejudice in England against Negroes from the West Indies who have migrated there in search of work. As the opponents of Jim Crow have been dismayed at these stories, so the white supremacists of America have been jubilant. Here is proof, they gloat, of the universality and naturalness of Jim Crow. For the information of our readers we reprint below in its entirety an answer to race prejudice in England and to the Tory Government's proposed Jim Crow immigration laws. It appeared in the Jan. 14 issue of Tribune. Tribune is the paper of the British Labor Party's powerful left wing, which is led by Aneurin Bevan. Written by David Ross entirely in question and answer form, it was entitled: "Why we should say — WELCOME TO ENGLAND!" — Editor.)

Q. What is the idea behind the new immigration law which the Government is planning and which was announced last week?

A. The Government wants to stop colored West Indians from coming here to live and work.

Q. Why?

A. Because it has been led to believe that continued immigration may create a color problem here.

Q. Is this true?

A. No. A color problem is caused by color prejudice, and this is the subject to which the Government should be paying attention.

Q. But, color prejudice aside, surely there is a problem created by an invasion of immigrants, whatever the color of their skins?

A. Not under present circumstances. The Ministry of Labor has over 300,000 jobs going begging. We are short of labor.

Q. But would not that happy condition soon be changed if the immigration continues?

A. Not at the present rate of immigration, or at any rate that can be contemplated. About 8,500 West Indians came here last year. In the first six months of the year, the rate was slightly down — 3,600 arrived. Immigrants during those six months from all over the Empire (the vast majority white) totalled 38,000. The colored people are only about a tenth of the total.

It's because they are colored, and not because of their numbers, that so much attention is paid to them. Immigrants from Canada, for instance, totalled nearly as many as from the West Indies (3,200) and from Australia came double the number — 6,700. And foreign immigrants into Britain numbered 3,800. Remember that the foreign immigrants are strictly controlled according to our ability to absorb them.

Q. But if there was a slump, would not the colored people be the first to suffer?

A. Only if we maintain color-bar conditions. In other circumstances, the normal trade union principle of "last in, first out" would apply, and if the last in was colored, he would be out of a job.

Q. Still, the Jamaicans are taking up housing space and there is a housing shortage.

A. Yes, and a lot of them are building houses. If we are going to allocate housing space according to the usefulness of a group, it's not the colored building workers who should sleep on the Embankment (a park along the Thames River — Ed.).

Q. But the Jamaicans are living in slums.

A. Yes, and this too is part of a general problem, the problem of slums. Jamaicans, like all of us, prefer to get out of slums as soon as they can, and most of them do so as soon as they find their feet over here.

Q. But they're buying up property and turning out white tenants.

A. That is the real color prejudice: either they're too poor and living in slums, or they're too rich and buying up property.

Q. But surely in England there isn't much color prejudice?

A. There is a hell of a lot more than is admitted in polite circles. And it is growing. It needs energetic action to combat it.

There are employers who take on colored people — desperate for a job in a strange country — at lower rates of pay and this naturally creates tension.

Look at London Transport. It refused to employ colored people as bus drivers or conductors for years, then there was a strike — and suddenly London Transport changed its attitude and started training colored people for these jobs. The drivers and conductors, naturally, became afraid that this was a new way of keeping wages down.

So they revolted, just as they did when London Transport tried to recruit women. It was no more anti-color than the previous trouble was anti-women.

Q. But surely the Government is not in favor of the color bar?

A. Not consciously, perhaps, but the basis for the new laws lies in an inter-departmental squabble. The Colonial Office, which knows what an uproar they will create throughout its territories, was completely against them for a long time. The Home Office, which is solidly reactionary, favored them. Then Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd became Colonial Minister, and it did not take the Home Office long to win him over to its policy of "Keeping Britain white."

These laws must be defeated. Once you start saying that color segregation (they call it apartheid in South Africa) is necessary, you have set off on a road from which there's no turning back.

Colored people must not come here? Why, then, they must also not use white men's clubs and pubs, they must sit on separate benches in the parks, and their children must go to separate schools. This would be the logical outcome of the Government's course of action.

Output per man hour was raised from 16.3 pieces per hour to 28.6 per hour when Randall Co., of Cincinnati rearranged their valve-making department.

World Events

ASSASSINATION IN MOROCCO. Si Tahar Sebtii, an intellectual of the Istiqlal independence movement in French Morocco, was machine-gunned to death in a gangster-style attack. Moroccan nationalists laid his murder to a French colonial terrorist group similar to the Red Hand of Tunisia. (The Red Hand, a secret organization of French colonialists and officials, was responsible for many murders and bombings of Tunisian nationalists.) Sebtii's funeral became a tremendous Istiqlal demonstration. In pouring rain 60,000 Moroccans turned out to follow his coffin through the streets of Casablanca. The funeral was delayed for an hour while the police argued with its leaders about the route it should take. Meanwhile French imperialist authorities brought up a dozen tanks. This was the third funeral demonstration in two months for an assassinated Moroccan nationalist.

JAPANESE TRADE WITH CHINA will be booming by this time next year, Tokyo and Osaka businessmen believe. Shozo Murata, president of Japan's International Trade Promotion Council, is now in China arranging for a Chinese trade mission to visit Japan this spring. Japanese businessmen hope for an exchange next year of around \$170 million worth of goods.

MAURICE THOREZ' PROTEGE, Auguste Lecoeur who was frequently mentioned as the likely successor to the leadership of the French Communist Party when his chief died, has been officially disgraced. The CP Central Committee has expelled him from the party for one year. Prior to this he was stripped of his high posts. Thorez, head of the powerful French Stalinist party, has been a semi-invalid since his stroke in 1950.

SOVIET MINISTER OF DOMESTIC TRADE Anastas I. Mikoyan was relieved of his duties "at his own request." This was interpreted as signaling an important turn in the Kremlin's economic policy. Mikoyan was identified with the

production of consumers goods and improvement of the Soviet standard of living promised by Malenkov in the uncertain days after Stalin's death and the workers' uprising in East Berlin. Mikoyan's resignation is regarded as a strengthening of Khrushchev and his allies in the Kremlin gang who are identified with the policy of heavy industry first. Several days after resigning, Mikoyan was conspicuous by his mere presence at a diplomatic reception in Moscow. He also is on the list of nominees for the Supreme Soviet.

THE USSR formally ended the state of war between itself and Germany on Jan. 25, 1955. This state of war began with Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union. Cold war maneuvering in Germany between the U.S. and the USSR prevented the formal ending of the war years ago. The Soviet decree at this time was calculated to increase further German opposition to the U.S. sponsored plan to re-arm Germany.

FULL PAGE ADS appeared in American newspapers Feb. 1 pledging the solidarity of the Venezuelan government with Eisenhower's "pre-dated declaration of war" on the Formosa issue. Filled with such words as "free world," "liberty," "justice," etc. the ads promise "moral support."

The government of Venezuela is a bloody military dictatorship which murders and puts in concentration camps political opponents and trade unionists. It came to power with the help of the U.S. State Department and the oil cartels by overthrowing the elected government of the country. Its brutal dictator, Perez Jimenez, was recently decorated by Eisenhower with the U.S. Legion of Merit medal.

IN PARAGUAY the government of General Alfredo Stroessner claims to have installed a military plot by making numerous arrests. Involved in the planned overthrow of the Stroessner regime, it was said, were army officers and civilian members and ex-members of the governing Colorado party.

My Life in Stalin's Prison Camps

"The Honest Ones" -- Soviet Delinquent Youth

By Brigitte Gerland

The theory that affirms that human beings are good by nature but become corrupted by their environment seldom received a confirmation more striking than is the case with the Soviet world of delinquents. It may be said without the slightest fear of exaggeration that three-quarters of the dangerous professional criminals who comprise the majority of Soviet "general camps," would, under different social and political conditions become useful citizens.

The celebrated bandit chiefs spent virtually their entire adolescence among the Bezprizorniki (homeless children), who by the thousands made the countryside unsafe after the Civil War of 1919-1922. When around the campfire, they tell the story of their lives, a listener from Central Europe feels the hair stand on end, particularly a Central European who had not been particularly hard hit by the war or its post-war consequences.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to regard these hordes of homeless waifs, who steal and kill, simply as a symptom, a terrible but readily understandable consequence of the drastic upheavals resulting from the war (1914-17), the 1917 revolution and the Civil War thereafter. Because in the year of grace 1953 there was likewise no dirth of child-bandits in the various Soviet Republics.

But whereas, following the Civil War every effort was made to rehabilitate at least some of the unfortunate, tiny vagabond-savages, by affording them the greatest care possible along with guidance toward a worthwhile life, these children, outcast of society from the day they are born, are hunted and trapped like stray, young dogs; they are clapped in prison, and, finally, shipped to camps, where, after consorting with criminals, thieves and prostitutes, they really become graduate students of crime.

NO CHILDREN'S COURTS

Assuredly, today too, the misery of homeless children, driven to steal and pillage so as not to die of starvation, is one of the consequences of the dreadful devastation of war. But this ought to have spurred the Soviet government to do everything humanly possible for these innocent victims of Hitler. But for such work neither money nor time is available. And those children that have been saved owe it exclusively to the great love Soviet women bear for children

generally. They are not afraid to feed and shelter the tiny waifs abandoned along the highways, whenever their scant budget permits it.

As for the others, they become emmeshed, with no chance of escape, in the wheels of pitiless Soviet justice. In a state, "the most advanced in the world," children's courts are unknown, ever since the Stalinist dictatorship set to work to undermine all of the conquests of the revolution. A delinquent, 12 years old or over, is held fully responsible for a crime. Even when, driven by hunger, a child has taken nothing more than bread or a few potatoes, there is no mitigating consideration; the same measures apply as to an adult. For the victim this then becomes the start of a cruel vicious circle which most often is terminated only by death. Even the frequent amnesties proclaimed for the youth alter nothing in the lot of these victims.

BANDITS IN MAKING

In the prisons and camps of the USSR I met time and again adolescent boys and girls, who, even though they were not over 15 or 16, had "returned here" already for the third time. Why? The story is always the same.

A petty theft at the age of 12 incurs the first penalty of 5-years in prison. At the end of one year, behold they are amnestied. That is to say, thrown out into the streets without the slightest chance of becoming trained for anything. Because criminals are not permitted into homes or schools or institutes. They are not even permitted to settle as unskilled workers in a big industrial city, but transported to the remotest regions, the inhospitable Great North or the Far East, among the "free colonies." Living conditions in these so-called "free colonies" are far harsher than in the camps.

But for these youth, still children actually, whom the authorities want to get rid of so as not to worry about them any more, life is simply impossible there. And so these "released felons" refuse to respond to appeals for recruits to go to Kolyva or to Turkestan, but seek to lose themselves, without a trade, in the big cities. But this difficult move cannot be successfully undertaken unless help is forthcoming from comrades already "organized." In this way the "return to life" swiftly terminates in one more member for a gang of bandits.

A career commences, whose first steps consist of acting as a look-out or "casing a joint," then to be punctuated by prisons and camps, in order to end as prematurely as it does brutally. Because a "Blatny" seldom dies in bed.

"THE HONEST ONES"

These "Blatny," so celebrated in the USSR and of such sinister repute there, have no equivalent either in the French apaches, the German ganoven, or the American gangsters. In their code the most ruthless acts of brigandage are coupled with acts of service to the weak. Their social refusal to work is often coupled with an act of political protest, quite consciously so, plus an audacity that knows no scruples and shies away from no act of violence, together with a spirit of comradeship capable of any sacrifice.

The origin of the word "Blatny" remains unknown. Every criminal who belongs to these gangs, which are important and well organized, with a closely knit network extending from the Polish frontiers to the Sea of Japan, is called a "Blatny." The bandits, on the other hand, call themselves either "Chestni," (The Honest Ones) or "Podzakonniki" (Outlaws). The essential elements of their strange code are as follows: Do no work — Steal nothing from the poor — Help a comrade in distress to the utmost of your ability — No contacts whatsoever with "Chekists" (in the "Blatny" vocabulary any employee of the police is a "Chekist").

In order to comply with their code, and to mix pleasure with business, the bands specialize by and large in large-scale robberies. They rob banks, big stores, party treasures and the like, or pay a little visit to a high functionary's villa. These operations are carried out on the whole with such audacity and such a feeling for "planning" as to evoke admiration. They permit the "Blatny" to live more than luxuriously, taking into account Soviet conditions, that is.

The rare nightclubs, so very elegant and expensive, in Moscow, Leningrad and Odessa serve Crimean champagne primarily to these lords of the underworld or to the representatives of the aristocracy among the functionaries. But unlike the functionaries, these criminals, hounded by the law, are not tight-fisted but known for their generosity. This generosity creates many partisans for

every device to envenom the clash for selfish motives. On the contrary, many see in the deeds of the "Outlaws" incarnated a protest, which these sympathizers deem justified, but which they themselves lack the courage to make.

The frequently astonishing successes of several "Blatny" bands in their undertakings as well as in their perpetual game of hide-and-seek with the police, rests in large measure upon the sympathy there is among the population for these audacious, brave and often quite romantic bandits; and this, separate and apart from the fear inspired by the rather dextrous knives of these "honest bandits" — a fear that also plays its role.

For the most part, though, the dagger with a long handle that juts out of every true "Blatny's" boot, is directed against renegades rather than the "free" citizens, the non-criminals. These are not regarded as truly "men" by the "Blatny," and even a denunciation to the police by civilians is more readily disregarded than any infringement of the "law" on the part of an "Outlaw."

Whoever violates their abovementioned code, its set of regulations, is branded a "Zhok" (bug or vermin), and every one who remains "Honest" is under an immediate obligation to obliterate such a creature at the first opportunity.

PITCHED BATTLES

Bloody battles take place constantly in the camps between the "Zhooks" and the "Outlaws." They are conducted within the "Blatny Mir" (the world of the "Blatny") in a particularly deadly manner. The camp administration succeeds, by means of corruption and substantial alleviation of prison conditions, in buying up a section of the criminals. These are then mobilized as brigadiers, commanders and administrative aides generally against their ever intractable "colleagues."

These bandits, turned sheep, the veritable scum of humanity, represent the worst of scourges for the camps they rule. On the other hand, good relations are maintained with the bandits who remain "Honest" because of the services they render other prisoners, because of their courage and vigor in the permanent struggle against the "Chekists"; they thereby teach the "compliant" a good lesson. The camp directors employ

every device to envenom the clash between the "Zhooks" and the "Honest Ones," because they know that those who are killed in the battles between the bandits will trouble them no more.

On the day of my arrival at camp I witnessed a deadly combat between 16 "Outlaws" and 20 "Zhooks." The combatants used axes, crow bars, knives and other available weapons. When, finally, an hour later the soldiers of the garrison, located in close vicinity, made their appearance, 13 mangled corpses were lying in the churned-up red snow. No sooner did the "Chekists" appear than the electricity suddenly failed in the camp. The survivors disappeared as if the earth had swallowed them; and there was nothing left for the soldiers to do except load the corpses into a truck.

In the camps the "Blatny" evinced lively sympathy toward the representatives of oppositional groups, communist and religious; these groups were waging a struggle, just as stubbornly, against the State Security functionaries. In order to prevent this alliance from becoming too close, and thereby extremely dangerous, the Ministry of State Security ordered in 1948-49 a rigid separation of ordinary criminals from the political; and created for the "58's" — the so-called "regime" or special government camps, (58 is the notorious statute invoked against the Kremlin's political opponents.)

However, this preventive measure proved of no service whatsoever to the bureaucrats. Because these "regime" camps became nothing but reservoirs for the oppositional tendencies. And it was in one of the most important "regime" camp districts at Vorkuta that the first strike by Soviet prisoners broke out in 1953.

(Fourth of a series. Watch for the next installment.)

Cleveland Militant Forum

presents George Breitman speaking on: "Lessons of Negro History for 1955" 8 P. M. 10609 Superior Ave. Sat., Feb. 12 3rd Floor Donation 25c. Unemployed Free Refreshments

# Starving Amid Plenty

By Roy Gale

"FRESNO, Calif. — Their labor produces the rich crops of California, yet —

"In the nearby Fresno County communities of Firebaugh and Mendota, over 1,000 members of families of migrant farm workers — men, women, and infants — are starving."

The above lines are the opening of a new story in the Jan. 27 issue of Labor's Daily. Yes, I can well believe this story of want and misery. This is a pattern that is repeated every year in the rich farm valleys of California, Firebaugh and Mendota, or it could be Corcoran, Lemoore, or Hanford or any of the hundreds of other small towns in the San Joaquin or Sacramento valleys. I have lived and worked there and know from personal experience about this yearly drama of starvation.

Why does this happen? The factory farms turn out millions of tons of fruits, vegetables and fiber crops. The growers recruit a labor force that far exceeds the actual number needed at harvest time. "Pick that cotton," "pack those grapes," "be here when I want you, and go on down the road when I'm done with you," that's what the managers of the factory farms tell the migrants. I've heard it too often to forget.

The tractor and other mechanical equipment has displaced the migrant field hand during the planting and growing seasons. But a veritable army of migrants is still needed for the harvest. Drive through a farm area, past cotton fields, vineyards, or vegetable farms during harvest time and you see rows of parked jalopies by the side of the road: That's one contingent of the migrant army — and the trademark of that army is an old car that will just barely run.

They live hidden away in tumble-down squatters' towns or company-owned shacks. Whole families in one room, with only the most primitive sanitary facilities. Chic Sales outhouses — they don't need anything better, say the growers. Some of the more fortunate migrants manage to get into government-

built camps. But these camps are far too few to house the workers demanded by the factory farms.

The migrants follow the crops as they ripen from one section of the valley to another. Some make as low as \$200 to \$250 a year while the lucky ones make as high as \$1,000. Since they are constantly on the move, no area will take responsibility for them when they become destitute. This is the fate of the 1,000 families reported in the news item.

In the first place, migratory workers are not covered by Federal social security and unemployment benefits. Therefore they must turn to state and local relief agencies. But relief laws in the U.S. are based on the code for paupers adopted by Queen Elizabeth — the first Queen Elizabeth, that is, (1558 to 1603). To be eligible for relief in most counties it is necessary to meet a number of stringent requirements: First, a person must be destitute. No money, no property, no nothing. These requirements the migrant easily fulfills. However, to be down and out is not enough. You must also be a "resident" of the community. You must have a "permanent" home in the county for at least a year. This is precisely what the migrants lack — a permanent residence. That's why they're migrants.

How can a family get permanent residence? They might work in Fresno county one day and in Kings County the next. The farms may be just across the road from each other but still in different counties. This gives the local relief officials a legal pretext on which to deny relief to the migrants.

So the unhappy people who harvest the crops are doomed to periodic starvation. When the last crates of fruit and vegetables are on the trains and boats headed for the domestic and world markets the migrant is expected to vanish until the next spring when the first crops ripen. Subsistence when he is working, starvation for the rest of the year. That is the way it is for the migrant farm worker.

# Notes from the News

**STREAMLINED PRODUCTION** including the layoff of 60 girls is saving the Dixie Cup Co., of Easton, Pa., around \$500,000 annually. "Dixie Cup reorganized its cup manufacture into a continuous straight line operation, which at one point alone eliminated 60 girls to stack the cups at the end of the forming machine." (Wall Street Journal, Jan. 24.) The Journal reports similar "War on Costs" in a large number of plants.

**FAST-LEARNING STUDENTS.** About 100 white high school students in a recently integrated school walked out of a Jefferson City, Missouri, restaurant in a body after one of their Negro school mates was refused service. Four bus loads of students returning from a basketball game had crowded into the restaurant. While waiting for their orders the young men and women learned that a Negro member of the team was being discriminated against. The restaurant proprietor was left with 100 orders filled but no one to serve them to.

**ANOTHER STORY FROM MISSOURI** concerns Senor Nicanor Madrid, a schoolteacher from Panama. He was assigned by the U.S. Department of Education, as part of its good-will international teachers exchange program, to study teaching methods in Moberly, Missouri. When he arrived in the Missouri city the townspeople found his skin too dark for their white-supremacist tastes. After one day he was put out of the home in which arrangements had been made for him to board, Moberly hotels refused to rent him a room and the restaurants refused to serve him. The U.S. Board of Education authorities quickly "reassigned" Senor Madrid to another area.

**THE 110-DAY STRIKE** of Ford workers in Windsor, Canada ended on Jan. 28. The United Automobile Workers — CIO won an eight-cent cost-of-living allowance and a four-cent hourly improvement factor effective June 15. The contract also provided for a modified union shop, a seventh paid holiday and a company paid hospital-medical insurance for workers and their families.

**"BORDEN CO. STOCK** doesn't need to be fed, housed, watered, milked, chased, or doctored, like the farmers' livestock," reports the National Farmers Union's "Washington Newsletter." Ten shares of Borden stock could be bought for \$500 two years ago. Now it takes \$737, a 47% percent increase. During the same period the dairy farmers' investment has shunk 42%.

**NEW JERSEY RUNAWAYS AND SHUT-DOWNS** account for 10,968 jobless workers during the last three years according to Jan. 28 Labor's Daily. Most of the closed plants ran away to the low-wage south. The Breakdown shows: 33 factories in textile with 4,105 workers; five in auto, with 2,723 workers; five in Chemical, with 1,100 workers; one in electrical, with 1,500; one in steel, with 340 workers; rubber four, with 200 workers; and clothing 20, with 1,000 workers.

**LABOR HAS NEW FOE.** A new committee has just been formed with the avowed purpose of getting all the states to pass "right-to-work" laws. The Jan. 4 Wall Street Journal reported a secret committee with the same purpose. The employers are now out in the open and have named Fred A. Hartley, co-author of the Taft-Hartley law, as president of the new committee which calls itself the "National Right to Work Committee."

**DISBARMENT OF VINCENT HALLINAN**, presidential candidate of the Independent Progressive Party in 1952, moved one step closer on Jan. 20. The California State Supreme Court ruled that the State Bar would have to prove Hallinan deliberately cheated the government on his income taxes. The State Bar is seeking Hallinan's disbarment on grounds of "moral turpitude." Hallinan is now serving an 18-month sentence at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary in Washington for income tax evasion.

**HOW ABOUT A CAVE?** The Alma Trailer Co., Alma, Mich. has a new sales idea. Buy a small trailer, park it up in the hills a few miles from home, and you have some place to go when the A-Bomb blasts your city off the map. Civil Defense Officials in Battle Creek, Mich. are reportedly interested in the idea. However they have not revealed how one is to escape the A-Bomb blast in the first place.

**U.S. REASERCH 50% MILITARY.** Donald A. Quarles, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development, made that estimate Jan. 21 speaking to the Engineers Joint Council in New York. There is a "... heavy concentration of our technical manpower on defense and defense-related work," he said. "In the latter category I include atomic weapon. . . . It is estimated that the defense lines use about one-half of the total research and development potential of the country."

## From Detroit

# 9 Out of 10 in Unions

Detroit is the top union town in the U.S., according to a Labor Department survey of the 17 largest cities. Over 90% of the workers in the plants here are union members, as compared with an average of 80% for the 17 cities as a whole. Between 20 and 30% of Detroit's office workers are unionized, compared with an average of about 16% for office workers in the 17 cities.

Three FEPC bills have been introduced in the State Legislature during the present session. But none of them measures up to standards for such legislation set by the recent Lansing conference of the State CIO, which adopted a model FEP bill.

Buick Local 599 in Flint passed a resolution asking next month's UAW convention in Cleveland to amend its constitution to provide

for expulsion of members who take refuge behind "any amendment of the Bill of Rights" and refuse to answer questions about membership in allegedly "subversive" organizations. The daily press publicized this resolution as being passed unanimously by the big Buick local. It didn't report the fact that the resolution was slipped through at the tail end of a long meeting.

Studebaker UAW Local 5 in South Bend has voted 7,188 to 806 in favor of strike action if necessary to stop intensified speedup by the company. Speedup is the thanks the workers got for agreeing last summer to take a 15% wage cut to "improve the competitive position" of Studebaker.

Detroiters will soon have a chance to hear Farrell Dobbs, national secretary and 1952 presidential candidate of the Socialist

Workers Party. Dobbs will speak here on "What's Ahead for America?" Friday, Feb. 18, at 3000 Grand River. Time: 8 P. M. sharp.

The Stalinist paper Michigan Worker made a bad slip in its Jan. 30 issue. Explaining why the CIO and AFL are not supporting County Clerk Edgar Branigin, who is running in the primaries this month for circuit court judge, the Worker recalls that during World War II when the CIO was trying to unionize the Detroit News, Branigin "was one of the most vicious foes of the CIO Newspaper Guild." That's true. But it was also true three months ago when the CIO and AFL — and the Stalinists too — supported Democrat Branigin's campaign for election as County Clerk and hailed his election as "a victory for labor."

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# THE MILITANT

## Jersey CIO Group Gets Runaround

NEWARK, Jan. 29. — "How dare you put us on the spot?" This is what New Jersey Democratic congressmen in effect told a state CIO delegation that went to Washington to discuss a program for jobs.

The 30 CIO leaders served a breakfast of ham and eggs to the N. J. senators and representatives and proceeded to set forth the problem. According to CIO research, in seven N. J. industries — textile, auto-aircraft, chemical, electrical, steel, rubber and clothing — a total of 33,361 workers have been thrown out of jobs since 1952.

Of this total, 10,968 workers have become permanently jobless because of plant shut-downs or plant moving out of the state; 22,393 have been idled by production cutbacks.

N. J. CIO President Paul Krebs explained that "The causes of the plant shut-downs are principally plant migration to other areas (particularly in the low-wage South), cancellation or withdrawal to low-wage plants of government contracts, inability to meet competition from low-wage plants, particularly in the South, and consolidation, merger or transfer of operations to other plants with modern facilities or lower wage costs."

The CIO leaders presented their program to cope with the situation: Increase of the minimum wage law from 75 cents to \$1.25 an hour; elimination of Taft-Hartley obstacles to organiza-

## Asks Overdue Payment



A bill has been introduced in the House to pay \$25,000 to 108-year-old Adelaide Johnson, Washington sculptress whose statue of three women's rights leaders has stood in the Capitol crypt since 1920. She is shown beside her sculpture of Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneers in the struggle to win the vote and other rights for women.

tion of Southern workers; increase in unemployment benefits; a program of public works; a uniform minimum wage on all government contracts throughout the country.

Having stated the problem and their solution the CIO leaders wanted to know where each congressman stood. Krebs suggested: "Let's talk about the \$1.25 minimum wage . . . Who thinks we shouldn't have \$1.25?"

Now, that was a proper question. But here was the congressman's reply: "It isn't fair to try to pin us down like this," Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen (R-5th Dist.) said. "The purpose of these meetings . . . should be to win friends and influence people. I am against being put on the spot."

Democrats immediately echoed him, including Peter Rodino and Hugh Addison, both highly touted "friends of labor" and elected by labor's votes. "It's not that we don't realize there's a real problem," Rodino said. "It's just the way it was presented."

One by one the other congressmen took their stand: they all hedged. Since there is not even one labor representative in the N. J. congressional delegation

(nor in the whole Congress, for that matter), no voice spoke up in support of the CIO's program.

The closest CIO delegation came to getting support — and that wasn't very close — was from Sen. Case (R) who said, "I agree with you on some phases of your program and think you are moving in the right direction. I myself am not certain what the right (minimum wage) figure would be."

"The congressmen by this time were departing, pleading 'important commitments,'" reported Ted Hall in the Jan. 28 Newark Evening News. "As they left, Joseph Minish, executive secretary of the Essex-West Hudson CIO Council, fired a parting shot: 'If this industrial migration continues, there might not be need for as many New Jersey congressmen.'"

As a parting shot, this one was rather a dud. A shot that really would have stopped Democratic congressmen in their tracks would have been the announcement that the powerful New Jersey CIO would no longer support them. That the CIO henceforth would back only labor candidates and work with the AFL to build a Labor Party.

# Michigan CIO Conference Hits Ballot-Ban Bill

DETROIT, Feb. 1 — The fourth annual Michigan CIO Legislative Conference, meeting in Lansing last Saturday, came out in firm opposition to provisions of a bill designed to exclude minority parties from

the ballot in this state. The measure, known as Senate Bill 1011, was introduced last month by Republican State Senators Geerlings and Minnema; the provision in the bill aimed at minority parties is Section 685.

Action against this provision was asked by the delegates from Ford Local 600 of the UAW. Its educational director, Joe Greshaw, presented to the CIO conference's panel on civil rights a resolution against the bill that had been adopted by the executive board of Local 600.

Paul Silver, president of UAW Local 351, which also passed a resolution against Section 685, spoke strongly from the floor against the bill's attempt to increase the number of petitions needed to qualify a party for a place on the ballot. The present requirement is one per cent of the votes received by the successful candidate for Secretary of State. The Geerlings-Minnema bill would raise this to 7½ per cent.

Comparing this requirement with election laws in other states, Silver cited statistics to prove that Section 685 of Bill 1011 would make Michigan's election law one of the most undemocratic in the whole country.

When Gus Scholle, state CIO president, visited the civil rights panel, Art Fox of Local 600 asked him from the floor for his opinion of Section 685. Scholle replied that it was an invasion of minority rights and should be opposed.

In addition Scholle reminded the delegates that the labor movement might some day have to take the road of independent political action and therefore has an additional reason for opposing attempts to make it more difficult for new parties to get on the ballot.

The civil rights panel then voted unanimously to work for the defeat of Section 685 of the Geerlings-Minnema bill.

At the conclusion of the conference Leonard Woodcock, member of the UAW international executive board, reporting to the conference as a whole the recommendations of the various panels, reaffirmed the CIO's opposition to all restrictions on minority and democratic rights, including those in Bill 1011.

**ARGUMENTS PRESENTED**  
The Local 600 resolution presented the following arguments against the bill:

(1) "Minority parties although rarely electing candidates to office, have sometimes made significant contributions to American political education and discussion by being the first to raise demands for social legislation (such as public housing, social security, wage-hour laws, free education, civil rights, etc.) which were initially derided as visionary and unrealistic but later were accepted by the major parties and even enacted by them."

(2) "The two party system, if it is to continue, should result from the desires of the people and not from restrictions imposed by politicians."

(3) "It is in the interest of American democracy to provide the voters with the broadest opportunities to vote for candidates and parties of their own choice, no matter how unpopular."

(4) The Geerlings bill "would virtually bar all minority parties from the Michigan ballot by drastically increasing the number of petitions they must collect in order to qualify for a place on the ballot."

(5) "The Michigan election laws are already among the least liberal in the country, comparing unfavorably with such other states as New York, which has twice the population of Michigan but requires only 80% as many petitions to qualify for the state ballot, and New Jersey, which has two-thirds of the population of Michigan but requires only 5% as many petitions."

# Who Should Be Indicted For Young Delinquents

By Patricia Stall

Recently, three parents in Ann Arbor, Michigan, were fined and sentenced to jail terms because their children were caught on the streets after curfew time. The law-enforcement agencies have decided to get tough on parents in order to do something about juvenile delinquency. It's the popular thing now to blame the parents for the guilt of the children. From President Eisenhower down to a host of reporters, "experts" judges, and policemen on the beat, the parent has become the "fall guy", the scapegoat.

Pardon me for not wanting to go along with the latest fad. Maybe I'm prejudiced since I'm a parent myself with two little potential juvenile delinquents under my roof, but I'd like to hale into some kind of court the people I think are responsible for the bulk of the trouble our children get into.

## WHO I'D PROSECUTE

I think the first ones I'd prosecute for contributing to the delinquency of minors are slum landlords who literally get away with murder every year by refusing to fix up or rebuild the dreadful housing facilities that are breeding grounds for thievery and gang fights. Higher and higher profits keep these landlords happy. They prove to be deaf, dumb and blind to the things that keep children happy and healthy: fresh air, open playgrounds, decent rooms to live in, security against rat bites and frost bites.

Next, I'd haul into court people responsible for our antiquated school system. The members of Congress, for instance, who want to vote themselves pay raises but not enough money to build and maintain the necessary schools; members of the board of education who are more concerned with adjusting school districts to keep minorities out of better schools than providing all children an equal opportunity to

learn. And, last but not least, bigoted teachers who admonish their Negro students (as they have in my son's school): "Act your age and not your race!" If the judges don't think such a set-up makes for juvenile delinquency they'd better go back to school and start learning all over again.

## TV HORRORS

The publishers of horror comics and the producers of screaming-neemies TV and movie plays would get special consideration in my court. My children can't read yet — that's some small consolation to me for a while, anyway. But they can see. And what is offered to them in countless places and ways is more than any twenty parents could keep up with.

Is it any wonder that people concerned with developing healthy children are beginning to crusade against gory and ghastly crime stories? Have you ever read any of these "comic" magazines? I have and I'm sorry, but I'm even sorer for the children who read one after another, look forward to each new issue and then try to emulate the "adventures" and the "heroes."

I would prosecute the politicians who use their offices and the confidence of the voters to feather their own nests; the policemen who accept bribes and engage in brutality; the salesmen who brag about their "big deals" and their "dog eat dog" philosophy; the manufacturers that put selling their product above any consideration of honesty or "giving a sucker an even break" — in fact, all the larceny artists in every walk of life that show our children the type of double-dealing code that is sup-

posed to be the American success story personified.

## VICIOUS FAMILY CIRCLE

As a matter of fact, I'd prosecute those who own and run this capitalist system before I'd indict a single, bewildered parent. The fault does not lie in the home. Parents who don't know when they will be laid-off or permanently fired; parents that have no time or energy to share with their children because they're too tired from the overwork; families that are tied together only through economic need and common unhappiness cannot provide anything but tension, more unhappiness, more trouble for their children. These families are caught up in a vicious circle and I'd like to take to court the men and factors that start that circle rolling.

A system that lives on wars and depressions, that refuses to grant any progressive measure unless forced to, that idolizes profit at the expense of the needs and desires of the vast majority of the people, is not healthy. And it does not produce healthy children. If our children are sick the disease is called Capitalism.

## Megadeath

Mega is a prefix from the Greek language meaning huge or tremendous, it is used more precisely in scientific and modern military language to mean a million times. Thus megameter means a million meters and megaton means a million tons. The present H-Bomb is reported to have a blast of 20 megatons (that is the equivalent of 20 million tons of TNT). Now mega has been combined with another word as the following quote from U.S. News and World Report (Jan. 28) shows: "In nuclear war, names on casualty lists will be replaced by estimates in megadeaths."

For only \$1.25 you can get a one-year subscription to the Marxist quarterly, Fourth International, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N. Y.

# Detroit SWP Enters School Board Election

DETROIT, Jan. 31 — The Socialist Workers Party yesterday entered the spring election campaign by nominating candidates for three state educational posts to be filled on April 4. The candidates are:

Frank Lovell for Superintendent of Public Instruction; Rita Shaw for Regent of the University of Michigan; and Robert Himmel Jr. for member of the State Board of Education. If elected, Lovell would automatically become a member of the State Administrative Board.

At a state caucus held here, Lovell, party state chairman, gave the keynote address introducing the draft of the platform on which the three candidates will be running. Besides demanding increased appropriations for education, the platform pledged that the Socialist Workers Party would campaign against "the federal government's provocative and aggressive threats to unleash a Third World War in the Far East."

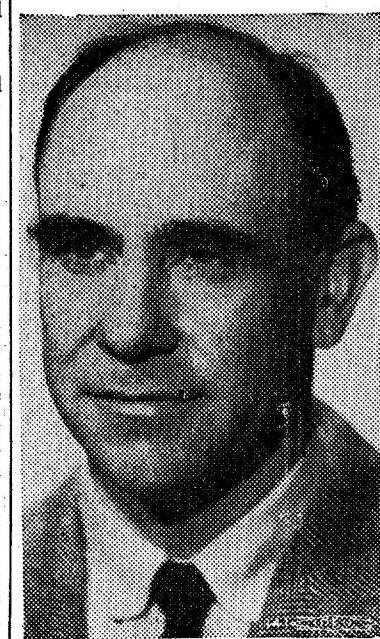
The only sure way to meet the state's educational needs is through federal aid, the platform declares. It condemns the proposed Eisenhower budget for "allocating over 40 billions to war preparations and peanuts to education and other social welfare."

## ANTI-WAR PROGRAM

"The American people," Lovell said, "don't want to have their sons killed, and their incomes taxed, to save the remnants of the corrupt regime of the dictator Chiang Kai-shek whom the Chinese people have so decisively rejected. Let the youth be educated and inspired to work for a better world, not conscripted to defend dictators. All war funds must be transferred to use in building schools, housing and other necessary public works."

Another target of the party's platform is the Geerlings-Minnema State Senate Bill 1011,

whose aim is the exclusion of all minority parties and independent candidates from the Michigan ballot.



FRANK LOVELL

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