

Withdraw Aid From France!

An Editorial

A Tunisian official directing the rescue work told Thomas F. Brady, the New York Times correspondent who reached Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef the same day it was bombed and strafed, "They did it with American planes, bombs and bullets." In the Tunisian Assembly there were bitter remarks about the United States charity in powdered milk for Tunisian children being balanced with "planes and bombs to kill the children."

Yet the most authoritative voice of U.S. capitalism, the New York Times, dismisses the murderous use of American-made and American-donated weapons against women and children of a neutral country with the editorial assertion (Feb. 10): "The ignorant and the deliberately misinformed will hold us [the United States] responsible where we were in no degree to blame."

What is the legal description for the person who furnishes a murderer the means of committing the crime? An accomplice! That is precisely the relationship between the Big Business government in Washington and the French imperialists in the crime of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef. Not only did the Wall Street government furnish the planes, rockets, bombs and machine gun bullets used against the unsuspecting Tunisian villagers, but it foots the bill of the French military operations to boot. Just last month Washington granted \$655 million more to French capitalism to make up the balance of trade deficit resulting from the expenses of the war in North Africa.

Washington is disturbed about possible diplomatic repercussions of the French bombing because Tunisia is independent and neutral. This is therefore technically different from the slaughter of Algerian villagers who want their freedom. For three years U.S. imperialism has been the accomplice to that crime—in which Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef atrocities are weekly occurrences—as armorer, paymaster and diplomatic interference-runner.

The recent AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Miami condemned the French attack on Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef and sent \$1,000 to the Tunisian union movement for medical relief. While far from a militant clarion call to action, the AFL-CIO resolution is in the right direction. But American labor must go further. It must tell Washington: "No more U.S. planes, bombs, guns or money for the dirty war in North Africa!"

Forging Arab Unity



President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic greets Prince Mohammed El Badr of Yemen, who arrived in Cairo to discuss federation of his country with Egypt and Syria. The new Republic is designed to strengthen Arab unity in its struggle against British, French or U. S. domination.

Hide French Terrorism

State Dept. Glosses Tunisia Act

By GEORGE LAVAN

The U. S. State Department and America's Big-Business-controlled newspapers are engaged in covering up and falsifying the true story of French imperialism's barbarous attack on the people of a country with whom France is supposedly at peace.

The Feb. 8 attack on the Tunisian village of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef was carried out by the French air force with planes, bombs, rockets and bullets furnished by American taxpayers for "defense of the free world." After three successive waves of aircraft had without warning rained made-in-U.S.A. murder on the unarmed Arab village, the death toll stood at 37 men, 11 women and 20 children. Of the approximately 100 maimed and wounded 40 are women and children.

The blatant dishonesty of the official French communiqué, that only "military objectives" had been hit, was exposed by foreign reporters who reached the demolished village later the same day. Their count of the destruction included two schools, 130 homes, 85 stores and shops, the postoffice and seven other public buildings, as well as two clearly marked Red Cross trucks. As for the victims, they were civilians—mostly poor peasants, their wives and children.

ANOTHER LIE

Though the State Department and the kept press found the French government's lie about "military objectives" too raw to try to pass off on the American public, they have been assiduously spreading another lie. This is that the French action was angry retaliation against anti-aircraft fire from the village (located slightly less than a mile from the Algerian border) which had damaged several French planes.

Neither French nor American reporters, who reached Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef that same day, could report any trace of anti-aircraft artillery or emplacements. The biggest weapons possessed by the detachment of the Tunisian National Guard stationed there were three sub-machineguns and one .50 caliber machine gun. None of these weapons could have been effective against French aircraft unless they were low-flying and almost directly overhead—that is unless they were violating Tunisian territory.

The anti-aircraft batteries are pure myth as is another story the U. S. press is trying to cook up, namely that the attack was ordered by some as yet unnamed, but hot-headed,

(Continued on Page 2)

Victims of U.S. Aid to France



Lying unidentified in rows are some of the 75 victims of the French bombing of the Tunisian village, Sakiet Sidi Youssef. The planes that dropped the bombs, and the bombs that crushed a school building, two Red Cross trucks and killed and wounded many, were part of NATO equipment given by the U. S. A. to France.

One of Little Rock 9 Ousted in Racist Move

Governor Faubus and the white supremacists of Little Rock have scored an important victory in Little Rock. Minnie Jean Brown, one of the nine Negro students in Central High School, has been expelled. The racists are jubilantly crowing their new slogan—which has already been displayed on placards within the school—"One down and eight to go!"

The White Citizens Councils and Ku Klux elements in Little Rock have been steadily regaining their confidence ever since the federal government announced that it would not take any legal action against Faubus and the ringleaders of the segregationist mob which beat and kicked Negroes in front of Central High.

The atmosphere in a school is a pretty good reflection of the atmosphere in the community. In Central High a small core of racist students, aping the renewed aggressiveness of their adults, began a twofold campaign. By threats and violence they intimidated the small group of white students who had displayed friendliness to the nine Negro students. Simultaneously they began an increasingly vicious campaign of harassment and violence against the Negro students.

Minnie Jean Brown, 16, was particularly singled out for such treatment. In several instances she flared back at her tormentors. For this she was twice suspended. First was a cafeteria incident where a white boy tripped her and she accidentally spilled food on him. The second instance involved a

white girl who pursued her through the corridors calling her a "nigger bitch," until she retorted with the epithet "white trash." The white girl thereupon hit Minnie Jean with her handbag.

SHE TALKED BACK

For this second "offense" Minnie Jean was suspended. Central High principal, J. W. Matthews, stated: "She was suspended for talking back to a white girl. Minnie Jean had no right to retaliate." Superintendent of Schools Virgil Blossom thereupon recommended her expulsion. The School Board voted this on Feb. 17.

What we see now is a "separate but equal" application of school regulations. There is one code for the persecuted Negro students in Central High and another for the tormenting whites.

Minnie Jean was a particular target of the racists. Now they will choose another. Minnie Jean's heroic conduct before Faubus' national guardsmen and the howling racist mob, as also her courage during her days of persecution in school, were not merely for herself but for the cause of Negro equality. Her expulsion is a blow to the cause for which she fought so valiantly.

The Peruvian government suspended the Constitution, Feb. 2, in order to break a strike of 650 policemen in two cities.

U.S. Economy Sinking Deeper Into Depression

AFL-CIO Calls Conference To Map Plans on Jobless

By FRED HALSTEAD

FEB. 19—As virtually every major business index continued to decline nationally and as unemployment topped 10% in several key states, the AFL-CIO executive council last week issued a call for an emergency "economic and legislative conference" to be held in Washington, D.C., March 11, 12 and 13.

In announcing the conference of representatives of all AFL-CIO affiliates, Federation president George Meany said he couldn't help being "scared" by the growth in unemployment. The officially-reported increase of 1.1 million jobless from mid-December to mid-January was the largest increase for any month since the government started keeping records in 1941 and was at least twice the "normal" seasonal increase.

That figure put unemployment for last month at 4½ million. Later regional figures indicate that unemployment is still rising at a sharp rate. For the week ending Feb. 1, 7.1% of the workers covered by unemployment insurance were out of work on a national average.

DEMAND MORE MISSILES

The AFL-CIO conference is expected to limit its action to putting pressure on government officials for increased federal spending, for needed public works, housing, and improved welfare programs, as well as for an immediate increase in arms expenditures. The AFL-CIO executive council meeting in Miami beach last week called for an increase in war spending from the present \$42 billion annually to a \$55 billion annual rate by 1959.



MEANY

The latest published figures indicate, however, that the post-Sputnik increases in war spending have failed to "prime the pump." The Feb. 17 Wall Street Journal reports that while new armament orders increased by 1.5 billion from the third to the fourth quarter of 1957, total new orders of all kinds received by the nation's manufacturers declined by \$3.7 billion in the same period. The Journal comments that "it wasn't last year's temporary cuts and stretchouts in defense spending that brought about the recession now under way."

... the Government, big as it has become, doesn't yet swing the whole economic system."

SAME AS PREWAR MODEL

The admission of that fact of capitalist economic life is now becoming common among business economists. Asher Achinstein, of the research staff of the Library of Congress, is reported by the Jan. 11 Business Week as saying, "the postwar U. S. economy is basically the same as the prewar economy, and not a new model economy that has seen the breakup of the business cycle."

Speaking of governmental control of monetary and fiscal policies Achinstein says "these tools are not likely to be adequate when the durable goods and construction industries show sizable contractions. If these conditions should prevail in the near future, a decline substantially greater than any we have had in the postwar period is likely."

And all the major durable goods industries have continued to decline since Achinstein's statement. Industrial production as a whole dropped this month to the lowest point since February 1955, down 9.5% from the peak of December 1956 and about 8% since the recession now under way.

(Continued on Page 4)

Richest Firms To Share in Missile Bonanza

Despite the gloom of investors on Wall Street with the general stock decline, coupon-clippers perked up their spirits with the news that the U.S. government would spend more than \$5 billion on missiles in the 1958 fiscal year.

Among the recipients of this new arms bonanza are Western Electric; Douglas, Lockheed and North American aircraft companies; Sperry Rand Corp.; Raytheon; Radio Corporation of America; and General Motors and Chrysler. All together, the companies awarded contracts read like a who's who of Big Business.

The Feb. 9 New York Herald Tribune points out that "As is well known, the Defense Department has discouraged publication of total contracts held by these producers." So those investors who don't have pipelines have to guess how much of the government handout each company is getting.

Of even greater interest to the American people would be the contents of these government missile orders. Just how much above cost will be pocketed by those taking over research and production of the missile program? That information isn't easy to come by. But it is safe to guess that the contract terms are enough to gladden the heart and fill the pockets of a few U.S. billionaires.

Land speculators and rent gougers are also having a field day at the Air Force Missile Test Center on Cape Canaveral, Florida. Land values that stood at \$10 a "front foot" a short time ago are now selling for as much as \$600. Meanwhile base workers complain of the long distances from work to housing facilities, skyrocketing rents in the absence of any controls and lack of facilities in trailer camps.

(Continued on Page 2)

Illinois Unions Demand Governor Act on Needy

By HOWARD MAYHEW

CHICAGO, Feb. 15—The first unemployment conference of the current depression was called here today by the Illinois AFL-CIO. Some 600 to 700 delegates and visitors attended—primarily from CIO unions throughout the state.

The conference unanimously adopted two resolutions. One urged Governor Stratton to "call a special session of the Illinois General Assembly for the purpose of alleviating and eliminating the present economic distress, unemployment, reduced and inadequate purchasing power and need for public assistance."

The other resolution provided for the widest publication and circulation of the first resolution with copies to every local union and to the heads of the Republican and Democratic parties.

It also called upon the union members to register and vote. In a further resolve it proposed to open discussion on ways and means of "opening facilities near the Illinois Unemployment Compensation Offices so that union counselors can give advice and assistance to the unemployed."

Included in the program adopted by the conference were demands that unemployment compensation laws be amended to provide, as a minimum, benefits for 39 weeks' duration and for a moratorium on all mortgage, installment and other debts of laid-off workers.

WANTS 75% OF WAGES

An amendment was offered from the floor by Jack Spiegel, director of the CIO Shoe Workers, Chicago, that unemployment compensation be increased to 45 weeks and that another provision calling for "improvement" and "increase" in benefits be spelled out to demand the specific amount of 75% of wages for unemploy-

ment compensation. Bob Johnson, UAW Regional Director, who was chairman answered that it was the intention of those who drafted the resolution "to demand 80%, or as much as we can get." There was no insistence that the amendment be put to a vote even though it received general applause.

The morning session was devoted to reports from both the head of the Illinois Unemployment Division and the Cook County Welfare Department. They reported that unemployment claims have jumped 300% in three months from 68,000 last October to 177,000 in February. Relief cases jumped from 39,400 (general category only) to 57,000 in February. These reports were followed by a number of sharply-posed questions from the floor.

Many delegates referred to complaints by laid-off workers from their locals of discourteous treatment and of being stalled from six to seven weeks without receiving the compensation coming to them. State Unemployment Commissioner Bernstein answered that this was due to the "skyrocketing" increase in the unemployment claims and the impossibility of his staff to keep up or to "weed out discourteous clerks." He promised that all cases brought to his attention would receive action.

MYSTERIOUS MARKINGS

However, these assurance were thrown into question in Bernstein's answer to President Sidney Johnson of Swift Local. Johnson reported how "secret symbols" of an unde-

(Continued on Page 4)

Behind the Recent Purges in E. Germany

By MYRA TANNER WEISS

FEB. 18—The struggle for socialist democracy in East Europe and in the Soviet Union continues unabated. The repressions in Hungary in 1956 slowed the process but could not stop it. The present struggle against "revisionism" in the Soviet orbit, expressed in sharpest form in the recent East German purges, brings to light the internal crisis in the Communist Parties and the extent of resistance to bureaucratic rule.

The sharpest conflict is now manifest in the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party of East Germany. It is only a surface expression of the fact that economic and political problems have not been solved. They have merely been concealed. And they cannot be solved as long as bureaucratic self-interest prevents discussion.

Ulbricht, Stalinist boss in E. Germany, began his purge of oppositionists last October in a heated session of the Central Committee. The proceedings of this meeting were reported in the Dec. 21 issue of Newsletter, published in England, in an exclusive story.

"The overwhelming majority of the speakers," the Newslet-

ter reported, "devoted themselves almost exclusively to either heaping ashes on their own heads or lambasting others for ideological weaknesses. Ulbricht himself behaved throughout like an insulted prima donna, interrupting almost every speaker either with crude insults or with words of encouragement when the speaker happened to be one of his supporters."

At this session two of the six Central Committee secretaries were attacked by name. They were Paul Wandel and Gerhart Ziller. As far as is known, others were denounced only indirectly. Wandel, formerly in charge of cultural affairs and long considered an undeviating Stalinist war-horse, was accused of not acting firmly enough in regard to "socialist realism." More specifically he was charged with failing to report receipt of a letter from a leading actor in East Germany who expressed "doubts." This term was actually used in the discussion.

Wandel was also accused of obstructing an attack on a leading East German writer who recently went to West Germany. And finally, he was accused of trying to replace an introduction written by Ulbricht to a popular book on

science with one written by someone else. Wandel was removed from his post as secretary.

The charge against Ziller, former minister of Light Engineering, was that his report to the Central Committee on industrial tasks failed to emphasize "the role of the party." Ziller, aged 45, who had survived many years of Hitler's concentration camps, committed suicide in December.

REFUSED TO INFORM

The Newsletter reported, "Quarters in close touch with the East German central committee reported that Ziller's suicide was the direct result of unbearable pressure brought by first secretary Walter Ulbricht upon Ziller to turn 'stool-pigeon' on his associates in the central committee apparatus who had tried to oust Ulbricht from his position in the past few months."

It was clear at this October plenum, however, that Ulbricht's purge was just beginning. He closed the Plenum with a speech in which he warned his colleagues to repent or else. He said, "These are not my closing words: This is only an interim statement. We are still waiting for the comrades who have been criticized here

to make a clean breast of their deviations. We shall resume this discussion and bring it to a conclusion at the next plenum of the central committee to be held in January 1958."

January came and the Politburo met almost continuously. Then Neues Deutschland, official Communist paper, announced Feb. 8 the purge of three more top Communists. Ernst Wollweber, former Security chief and Karl Schirdewan, cadre chief of the party, were expelled from the Central Committee. Communist theoretician, Fred Olsner, was downgraded from the politburo. Still others were threatened with similar treatment.

Karl Schirdewan was considered one of Ulbricht's closest associates. When Ulbricht was ill at the end of 1955 Schirdewan stepped up as acting secretary. He joined the Communist Party 33 years ago. A pre-war leading member of the Young Communist International, he spent the entire Hitler period in jail and in concentration camps.

KIEL-REVOLT VETERAN

Wollweber also had a long party history. He was one of the young leaders of the Kiel revolt in 1918 that toppled the Kaiser. A founding member of

Instructive Debate Over Roosevelt Role

An illuminating clash of views on Roosevelt and the New Deal has been presented in the pages of the National Guardian. The controversy was sparked by Vincent Hallinan, 1952 Progressive Party Presidential candidate, with a critical review Jan. 6 of the book, *The Democratic Roosevelt*, by Rexford G. Tugwell.

In the Feb. 17 issue, Hallinan is challenged by Adam Lapin, former People's World correspondent, and by C. B. Baldwin, former secretary of the Progressive Party. Hallinan in turn replies to the criticisms. Hallinan sees Tugwell's laudatory biography of Roosevelt as "an extremely valuable book, though for a different reason than the author intended." He explains, "The value of the book lies in its inside story of the fraud, corruption, greed, treachery, double dealing, deceit, lying and cheating which is the soul of American politics. . . . The innocent will, perhaps, be shocked at Roosevelt's suppleteness in adjusting himself to this creed of the jungle."



ROOSEVELT

VESTED INTERESTS
"This book will help persuade the reader," Hallinan continues, "that no leadership can maintain a liberal policy against the will of the vested interests which control the nation's policies."

Discussing World War II, Hallinan expresses his belief that "The net effect of America's entry . . . was to the benefit of humanity. It smashed fascism in Europe and Asia and facilitated the advance of the world revolutionary movement." But he also presents the imperialist motivation for U. S. entry into the war and hits at Tugwell's repetition of the claim that Japan "delivered a treacherous blow at Pearl Harbor." In reply Hallinan cites the evidence, presented by the noted American historian Charles A. Beard, that Roosevelt planned "how to maneuver the Japanese into firing the first shot."

(In his reply to Lapin, Hallinan adds on this point: ". . . I always expected that sooner or later, the U. S. and Japan would go to war to determine whose buccaners would exploit China. Unhappily, the Chinese snatched the prize from our jaws in the very moment of victory.")

Discussing Tugwell's views on "progressive capitalism" and Henry Wallace, Hallinan declares: "If Tugwell correctly describes his fuzzy economics and petulant vanity, the Progressive Party had a weak champion in Henry Wallace."

In his reply, C. B. Baldwin argues that the political chicanery attributed to Roosevelt was actually the work of underlings. He charges that Hallinan's criticism of Wallace is not consonant with "political

integrity" and insists that Wallace "performed a great service for peace." Reiterating his support of New Deal concepts, Baldwin asserts that progress will not derive from "a cynical distortion of the most fruitful period of our lives."

MEANING FOR TODAY
Adam Lapin argues that "Roosevelt made his place in the history books because he understood something of the times in which he lived . . . Of course, he was trying to save capitalism. But to a greater degree than any other recent President, he identified himself with at least some of the demands and aspirations of the people." Lapin's central point is that "It just makes no sense to ignore aspects of the New Deal which are meaningful for today."

In rebuttal, Hallinan agrees that it is not abstract history at issue. He writes: "I would forego lacerating the sensibilities of the Adam Lapins with regard to their hero, except that the Democratic party is now using him [Roosevelt] to coax youth into its verminiferous apparatus."

"To keep abreast of the world," he continues, "we, in this country, must bring about a planned socialist economy . . . Even with its decor of the New Deal, the Democratic party is only, at best, a surrey with the fringe on top" in an "age of jet propulsion."

California's industrialized farm laborers form the largest single group of unorganized workers in the U. S. today. Field work wages are below \$1 per hour while in the processing sheds wages range from \$1 to \$2.25.

Letters from Readers

Reaction of New Reader

Editor:
I am a very new reader—subscriber to the Militant, an ex-CP member who now considers himself an "independent socialist." I feel that the Militant definitely has merits, news not found anywhere else, and, in its own way is doing its best to improve the conditions of the working class. I am glad to read that the Militant and the SWP are advocating a broad, united, socialist and Marxist-oriented American labor farmer party. May I make a few suggestions that I believe will pave the way for such a desirable goal.

(1) The Militant should have a "letter to the Editor" column for rank-and-file readers to express ourselves on socialist unity, and if we feel justified to criticize the Militant and its editors. Such a column will, in itself, exhibit the true socialist democracy so needed as a basic foundation for a real mass party that I believe the working class of our country will build in the near future.

(2) I feel that the Harry Ring articles contain a certain sneering, I-told-you-so undertone. I do not believe Ring deliberately meant to convey such a tone or attitude. Still unfortunately, I feel they do just that. There have been lots of mistakes in the past by all sides, individuals, organizations and left parties. I do not believe that a "rehash" and "digging" of any one by others are a move towards the unity that is so needed . . .

The important thing today is that the American monopoly capitalists are doing to us and the rest of the American working class and the international working classes. As a minimum

program for the Militant to crusade for and one which I believe every honest fighter for working-class progress can agree on, may I suggest:

All trade unionists should take up the fight for the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay. . . .
Repeat of Smith, McCarran, Taft-Hartley, Magnuson, Railroad Labor Laws and other repressive laws.

Repeat of all loyalty oaths. Back pay for victims. . . .
Full political, social and economic equality for Negroes, Latin Americans, Jews, foreign-born—an FEPC.

Disarmament via UN negotiations. No draft. No UMT.

Recognition of People's Republic of China.

Public ownership of all interstate transportation and public utilities and atomic plants.
A San Francisco Friend

Depression

Editor:
Stooges for "free enterprise" monopoly, during the recent period of phony prosperity, kept telling us that their economy had become so self-regulated that no further depressions would be imminent.

Those few of us who refuse to be fooled knew that they were lying. Now that this economy is "creeping" into a deep depression, "creeping socialism" will become a necessity. Since they are fully in control of power, if they do not act quickly to provide relief for the increasing number of sufferers, these sufferers may take relief and end the rule of a class by establishing democratic control. The threat is not local but world-wide in progress and promotion. The rich have displayed their wealth so much that the poor are in rebellion.
Joseph Manlet
Cleveland

Socialist Electoral Policy in 1958

Comments on the SWP's United-Ticket Proposal

Down to Earth

To the National Committee, Socialist Workers Party

Sirs:
I read your notice in the National Guardian and am glad that there is a move to unite all those who are working for a cooperative commonwealth.

The important problem is to unite all who stand for a planned economy and production for use and not for profit. Their platform should be broad enough to have the support of all who believe in such a program.

Here are some suggestions for you to consider.

If a platform is drawn up it could be prefaced something like the following:

As the Republican and Democratic parties are at present directing all their efforts to solving the mysteries of outer space and planning trips to the moon, it becomes necessary for some one to look after the problems of the people who are still on earth.

I suggest two planks in your platform:

(1) Negotiations for peace. Instead of negotiating from strength—which means that one side would dictate all the terms—we should negotiate with all countries as equals, and, if each side would be willing to compromise at certain points, the result would be much more permanent.

(2) All citizens should have the right to travel anywhere in the world without having to be questioned about politics, religion or other personal opinions.

It would be OK to have a ticket in areas where it would be possible to get on the ballot. But at present it would be impossible in many states to get a third party on the ballot. However, we should call on all who agree with us in those areas to withhold their support from any candidate for U. S. Congress who will not pledge themselves to support at least some of the preliminary steps for peace such as stopping the atom-bomb tests and negotiating for peace.

Hope to hear of your progress.

"Old Timer"
Elyria, Ohio

P.S. If a new party is formed, would it not be a good idea to call it the United Socialists of America or some such name?

Don't Call On Capitalist Cops

I am a worker and a reader of the National Guardian. I am accepting your invitation to comment on your electoral policy.

You say that you want to "arrive at the most effective electoral policy in 1958." The danger in this is that you will cancel a lot of votes by raising hopes that cannot be fulfilled.

For example, you state "Socialism offers the only permanent solution to the problem of capitalist depression." From this it is implied that there is a

temporary solution. The reader receives a strong impression that you are offering the short-term work week at no decrease in take-home pay and a government guarantee of full employment or adequate permanent relief as such a temporary solution.

Actually, the only temporary solution of capitalist depression is the succession of hot and cold wars which we have been witnessing since 1940. Capitalism escapes choking on its surplus by shooting it off or declaring it obsolete.

I believe that the last two sentences in Proposition 3 which call for FEPC legislation and immediate enforcement of the Supreme Court order to

end segregation in the schools should be eliminated. Marxists should not call the capitalist cops to solve the difficulties of the Negro people.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to work out our disagreements without loss of principle.

D. L.
Maspeth, N. Y.

Hails Common Sense

Hail to your common sense in your ad in the National Guardian of Feb. 3, 1958.

I was glad to see somebody with the intelligence and courage to challenge what is going on in Washington, D. C. right now.

I will enclose a copy of a

About the SWP Proposal

The letters printed on this page are to the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in response to its advertisement in the Feb. 3 National Guardian, entitled "For a United Socialist Ticket in the 1958 Elections—A Proposal to the Radical Movement." The text of the proposal was reprinted in the Feb. 10 Militant.

"We are of the opinion . . ." said the SWP National Committee, "that a united socialist ticket, challenging the two parties of Big Business, would meet with the approval and perhaps the enthusiasm of tens and even hundreds of thousands of militant workers. . . . A united campaign in 1958 might well end the present isolation of the American socialist movement and bring it into the main stream of political life where it rightfully belongs."

The NC then suggested several propositions, ". . . with such elaboration or modification as may finally be agreed upon . . ." for platform planks of a joint slate. These included proposals for combatting the cold war, for meeting unemployment, for aiding the struggle against Jim Crow, for extending democratic rights and for independent political action against the Big-Business-dominated parties.

In conclusion, the NC asked "May we hear from you either directly or through your comments to the National Guardian?"

Copies of the text of the Socialist Workers Party proposal may be obtained by writing to 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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... Behind Purge in East Germany

(Continued from Page 1)

Berlin early in January, moving about freely. Evidently the Kremlin changed its mind and decided not to permit the removal of Ulbricht.

It is now rumored in the West German press that Premier Otto Grotewohl threatened to resign in protest against the purges and was forced to take a "rest" in the Soviet Union.

A crisis is also revealed in the Bulgarian Communist Party through attacks on "revisionists" among Communist intellectuals. Writers, dramatists and poets are accused in the Bulgarian press of challenging the "party line." Among their crimes are demanding an "extraordinary party Congress," condemning the repressions in Hungary and urging a study of the Polish and Hungarian events.

WANT FREEDOM

The accused intellectuals also demanded "complete freedom for the Communist press to attack short-comings, weaknesses, corruption and distortions." They expressed the heretical view that the Communist Central Committee was "incompetent" to direct literary activity.

One of the principal Bulgarian offenders was Emil Manov whose novel failed to show "the party's constant concern for improvement of living con-



Tito, Khrushchev and Bulganin, shown at time of Soviet-Yugoslav reconciliation in 1955. Kremlin chiefs hoped Tito would help with prestige to stem tide of demand for workers' democracy in Soviet orbit.

ditions." Literaturnen Front also reported that Manov "displayed a disdainful attitude towards the criticism directed at him and failed to understand his mistakes because of his incorrect conception of socialist realism."

Todor Genov's play "Fear" was banned because it "twisted" reality and had a "politically harmful and slanderous

character." The editor of the theatrical magazine, Gocho Gochev, was accused of saying that "behind our successes stands the misery of the masses." And, of course, the Bulgarian Stalinists have called for a "great offensive" against these deviationists.

The repression of Polish writers reveals the continued rebellion against the Gomulka

... French Terrorism in Tunisia

(Continued from Page 1)

lower-echelon officer acting on his own responsibility. Actually the attack has the unchallengeable earmarks of a cold-blooded and premeditated aggression—an act planned a number of weeks in advance and cleared not only with the top military command but probably with the French cabinet itself.

The murder of the inhabitants of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef was a political act as much as a military move. It is in the long imperialist tradition of bombings of villages to teach the natives a "salutary" lesson—such as British imperialism used to deal out in India.

WANTED TALKS ENDED

The choosing of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef for the "salutary" lesson of Feb. 8 appears to have been decided on by the French militarists back on Jan. 11. At that time the French government desired a pretext to break off talks which Tunisia had at long last forced the French government to begin. These talks concerned the withdrawal of some 20,000 French troops from Tunisia. Though Tunisia secured independence from France by negotiation back in the spring of 1956, the French colonial army of occupation still remains there. While it remains Tunisian "independence" is more verbal than actual.

On Jan. 11—some four miles southwest of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef and two miles into Algerian territory—the French were worsted in a skirmish with Algerian freedom-fighters. Sixteen French soldiers were killed and four taken prisoner. The French military asserted that the prisoners had been carried off into Tunisian territory and peremptorily demanded their immediate return. The Tunisian government replied that investigation showed they were not on Tunisian territory. Almost simultaneously the Algerian Army of Liberation announced that it was holding the prisoners at a secret base in Algeria and invited the International Red Cross in Switzerland to send an observer to visit them.

Refusing the answer of the Tunisian government, the French Premier with great fanfare drafted another demand—virtually an ultimatum—for the prisoners' return. To insure a worsening of relations with Tunisia the French assigned a general to accompany the diplomat, delivering the note.

In diplomatic protocol this could be interpreted only as an insult and a threat. Accordingly Tunisian President Bourghiba refused to receive the general and requested that the note be delivered only by the diplomat. This was haughtily

rejected by the French mission which, with great show of anger, returned to France. The French government broke off the talks about withdrawing its 20,000 troops from Tunisia. (Incidentally, the four French prisoners were subsequently visited at the secret rebel base in Algeria by the representative of the International Red Cross.)

MARKET DAY

But why did the French imperialists wait from Jan. 11 to Feb. 8 to deliver the murderous blow on Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef as an example to all Tunisia? The answer is simple. Every two months there is a market day in that village. Then the small settlement is swelled by hundreds of peasants who come from all the surrounding area.

The next market day after Jan. 11 would fall on Feb. 8. On that day the French struck—the crowds made good targets for strafing by the low-flying planes.

Small wonder that the U. S. State Department has bent all its efforts to hushing the story up. It has even pressured, or bribed, weak-spined President Bourghiba to forego Tunisia's complaint in the United Nations—where it would at least be debated publicly—for Anglo-U.S. mediation behind closed doors. Also small wonder that the people of Tunisia are increasingly angry over Bourghiba's retreat.

letter that will make clear to you how and where I and many others who are with me stand on these matters and on which we are working day and night to bring an end to this madness.

We do not care for the label under which you carry on, so long as it is cooperative, that it leads to Brotherhood—including the good of humanity as a whole—Truth and Justice towards all.

E. H. L.
California

In the long run you will find it wisdom to drop your No. 4, "For political freedom throughout the Soviet bloc." The rest is all good.

Scores Silence on Rent, Profit, Interest

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading in the Guardian of Feb. 3, 1958 a Proposal to the Radical Movement, for a United Socialist Ticket for 1958.

I could not find one word about Rent, Profit or Interest. Just when did the Socialists cease to adore capitalism?

S.M.A.
Iowa

Suggests Name

Sirs:

I think your proposal for a UNITED socialist ticket is swell. One suggestion. Since, to most Americans, the word "socialist" means shooting people who disagree without trial, call it "The Co-operative Economy Party" or the "American Co-operative Commonweath Party" and you will get ten times as many votes. You can't reeducate Americans after 50 years of betrayal by most "socialist"

and "communist" parties to like those names!

Rev. Hugh W. Weston
Marblehead, Mass.

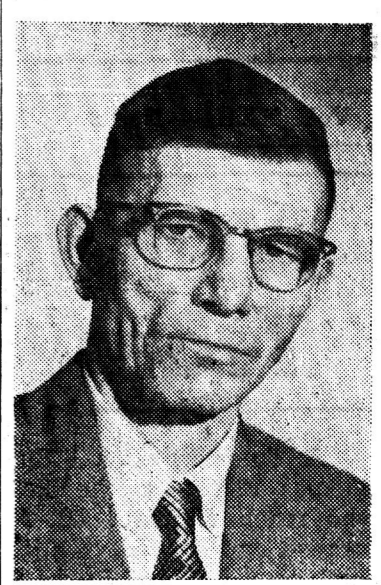
Agrees with Program

Dear Sirs:

Your ad in a recent edition of the National Guardian interested me enough to write for a copy of your official organ, the Militant. I agree with your program as printed in the Guardian but I think it will be a long time before the American workers will be able to see through the fog.

V. P.
Massachusetts

Rallied Radicals



JACK WRIGHT, socialist candidate in recent Seattle City Council primary elections received strong backing of prominent radicals. He polled 5,554 votes. (See editorial, page three.)

and "communist" parties to like those names!

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Massachusetts

New Jersey Socialists Wind Up Ballot Drive

NEWARK, Feb. 20—The Socialist Workers Party in New Jersey is currently completing a drive to secure the nominating petitions necessary to place Daniel Roberts,

editor of the Militant, on the ballot as its candidate for the U. S. Senate. With unemployment widespread, the canvassers are getting the signatures in rapid order despite the frigid weather.

Here are some of the opinions expressed by people as they signed the SWP petition. Most of the canvassing took place outside the unemployment compensation office.

"All these stories about prosperity being around the corner and about a pickup in March are fine. But we can't eat the stories in the newspapers."

"Why don't they stop blowing up money in the sky and take some of it to build roads and schools and put people to work?"

"Will your man help extend compensation for a longer period?"

GOOD IDEA

Quite a few thought it was "a damned good idea to put up a working man."

"There were others who said 'What good is it going to do' and 'Nothing's going to do any good' and went on without signing."

Canvassers heard of bitter experiences at the unemployment office. "I noticed one man who had just signed our petition standing against the wall looking dazed," reported one canvasser. "I asked him what was the matter and he told me he had just come from Paterson to Newark to file for his insurance and was told he wasn't eligible."

"He didn't know anyone in Newark and didn't know what he was going to do. I finally pried the information from him that it took 41¢ to get back to the Paterson and gave him a half a dollar that he took with real reluctance."



DANIEL ROBERTS, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U. S. Senator from New Jersey.

An angry and harried woman showed a petitioner a batch of doctor's prescriptions. "They tell us you have to be fit to take any job if you want to draw benefits. You can't be sick any time. But on the money they pay, I can't afford to fill the prescriptions to stay healthy."

In Ohio, in early February, the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation reports that about 180,000 workers are receiving state compensation. This figure is also stated to be 70% of all the unemployed in the state, which would mean that about 250,000 are totally unemployed in the state.

LOS ANGELES DINNER-MEETING

Speakers:

Vincent R. Hallinan
1952 Progressive Party Presidential Candidate

James P. Cannon
National Chairman, Socialist Workers Party

Topic:
**"United Socialist Political Action in 1958
And the Outlook for American Socialists"**

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
Forum Hall, 1702 E. 4th St.
Dinner — 7 P.M.: \$2.00
Meeting Only — 8 P.M. \$1; Students 50 cents
Reservations: Call WE 5-9238
Auspices: Socialist Workers Party

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. Bundle orders: 5 or more copies 6c each in U.S.; 7c each in foreign countries.

THE MILITANT

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Vol. XXIII—No. 8

Monday, February 24, 1958

Praise to Seattle Socialists

When Jack Wright accepted the nomination of the Socialist Workers Party in the recently concluded primary election for the Seattle City Council, he pledged that he would campaign to the best of his ability in the tradition of Eugene V. Debs. We believe he fulfilled that pledge in splendid fashion. His campaign committee, too, helped show what a determined group of self-sacrificing socialists can do to advance the cause. A veteran of 40 years of active service in the labor and socialist movement, Wright demonstrated himself to be a first-class socialist banner bearer. This was clear from the news reports about his campaign. For our part, we found it a special pleasure to receive his campaign material. His articles were fresh and clear. They dealt with the variety of issues that confront the working people and offered clear-cut, meaningful socialist answers. In his electioneering, he displayed the kind of energy and tenacity that is indispensable for an effective campaign. In a day when many doors are still closed to socialist candidates, he compiled the impressive record of speaking before more

than 30 organizations, including 25 local unions. Especially gratifying in this regard was the unanimous endorsement given his candidacy by the membership of his own union, Local 158 of the International Molders and Foundry Workers. At the same time Wright's campaign was the basis for uniting many radicals in effective socialist political action. He was endorsed by such prominent individuals as Vincent Hallinan; Terry Pettus, North-west editor of the People's World; C. H. Fisher, president of the Washington Pension Union; Jay Sykes, prominent civil liberties lawyer; Dr. Jay Friedman, member of the National Committee of the American Forum for Socialist Education and others. He was also among five candidates who received favorable editorial comment from the People's World. The support extended to Wright was reflected in the encouraging vote that he polled. Running 12th in a field of 21, he came within two places of qualifying for the final election. The 5,554 votes that he received was ten percent of the total cast. We hail Jack Wright and all those who aided in his campaign for a socialist job well done.

Harriman Does It Again

How will liberal supporters of New York's Governor Harriman explain away his veto, Feb. 17, of two bills outlawing unauthorized "bugging" — that is, electronic spying on private conversations? These bills were passed by state legislators as a result of the scandalous planting of a microphone in the headquarters of the Motormen's Benevolent Association by the Transit Authority. For months officials of that union looked at each other and at their attorney wondering who was the spy, who was informing the Transit Authority about union proceedings. All the time, the "spy" was a microphone hidden by cops in a private hall. All wire-tapping should be abolished if privacy is to be respected. And there isn't much freedom if it is not. But the State bills were aimed only at ending "unauthorized" wire-taps. The cops could

plant their "bugs," but they would be required to get a court order to do so. Even this restriction on police spy techniques, however, was too much for the Democratic Governor. The matter isn't changed by Harriman's statement that he would approve similar legislation if it authorized "hot pursuit" eavesdropping by police. That would provide a big enough loophole for a whole police state to jump through. Orwell's nightmarish "Big Brother" would be listening to you, if not actually watching you. Anyway, Harriman is consistent — against civil liberties, that is. On Feb. 4, he recommended re-enactment of the witch-hunting Security Risk Law, as well as amendment of the Civil Service Law to make Communist Party membership evidence for firing state employees.

Sobell Is Still in Prison

The witch-hunt fever in America is declining. Fear is gradually being supplanted by a growing demand for democratic rights. All this is good. But Morton Sobell, the Number One witch-hunt victim, is still in jail. Sobell is now serving the eighth year in a 30-year prison term. His wife Helen and his mother Rose Sobell are still forced to spend their days trying to free the husband and son. Many thousands of people believe in his innocence. But the tragic effect of the witch-hunt fever that gripped this country still leaves an indelible mark. Justice is still a stranger to the Sobell family. U.S. Senator William Langer once said, "I pledge that everything I can do

as a member of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate, will be done to see that Sobell gets justice." Walter Millis, editor of the "Forestral Diaries" said, "The evidence on which Morton Sobell was convicted was probably perjurious; if it were legally possible the case ought to be reviewed on its merits, while in any event, the 30-year sentence was grossly disproportionate to any crime actually attested against him." These and many other people have spoken. Now all of us have the opportunity to demand justice for Morton Sobell by signing the petition (see page 4) being circulated nationally in support of executive action for his freedom. We should also ask our friends to sign. Morton Sobell must be free.

School System in Crisis

A society that can't show continuous progress in the education it provides for its children isn't worth very much. And a society that provides the younger generation with even less educational opportunities than its older generation knew is worth still less. No one could challenge this statement. Yet the children of today are worse off than their parents were. Of course, when the government is spending so many billions on war preparations — straining the productive resources of this generation and those that will come after us — the very basis for progress in education is destroyed. Within the context of almost total incapacity of the declining capitalist system to solve the crisis of the school system, two trends are particularly to be noted. First, the Big Business government and the militarists were alarmed when the first Sputnik was thrown into space. It meant that Soviet scientific progress was substantial. This gave them a military concern in the declining U.S. educational system. They threw \$5 billion for this year into rocket production, yielding immediate profits to Big Business, but didn't even consider a program to solve the crisis in schools. Instead a system for testing children to sift out the gifted ones was worked out. The school system will continue to go to pot. But those who pass the screening test will be helped toward higher education.

This trend is matched by another. Still less education will be provided for the growing numbers of maladjusted youth in the neglected school system. In New York, over 600 students were summarily suspended from school by a Board of Education decision Feb. 7. They were just thrown into the streets. Four empty buildings are now being readied for special schools for these children. Mayor Wagner, Feb. 12, said, "They might be a little makeshift at the beginning, but they will be equipped with shops and special staff." But the problem is much bigger than that. So Mayor Wagner and others met with Governor Harriman in his townhouse to consider the problem. Harriman announced they had worked out a "work-activity" program. This apparently will consist of letting the students get part-time jobs, if they can be found. These capitalist politicians considered proposals to lower the school age limit and to change the child labor law. They decided not to, but the fact that these proposals were even considered is a commentary on the decline of the U.S. educational system. We should like to make this observation: The capitalists can't have their cake and eat it too. No amount of federal aid to "gifted" children will produce a scientific and cultural upsurge on the foundation of a declining school system for the many.

Line-Ups in W. German Social Democracy

By HANS JOCHEN

That last year's disastrous election defeat of the German Social Democratic Party would accelerate its internal polarization was to be expected; but the peculiar nature of the struggle within that party, which broke out almost the day after the election results became known, could not have been predicted. During the campaign it became clear, even to the casual observer, that the SPD was a house divided against itself. Leading figures of the party, speaking in different parts of the country, would on the same day take opposite viewpoints on such crucial election issues as nationalization of industry or Germany's role in NATO. Essentially, three well defined tendencies appeared publicly to be vying for support, all in the name of the SPD.

RIGHT-WING SPOKESMAN

Typical spokesman, for what is undoubtedly the extreme right wing, in this not exactly radical labor organization, was the darling of the capitalist press, Carlo Schmid. A relative newcomer to the SPD, he wants no part of the class struggle and says so whenever he has an opportunity. He calls it all part of the ideological baggage from the past which he wants to see ditched as soon as possible. Opening the party to the middle class elements is a pan-

acea he advocates guaranteed to win elections. He wants all talk of nationalization ended for fear of frightening the little businessman whose vote he is out to win for the SPD. Schmid's theoretical underpinning comes from party economist Deist, whose profit-sharing plan differs little from the ruling Christian-Democratic party's People's Capitalism. Neither man hesitated to campaign on his own conception of what he thought the party program ought to be. This in spite of the fact that the party has a program, adopted and never repudiated by the membership, which calls for the basic industries to be nationalized. Since the election, Schmid and his vocal supporters, have blamed the defeat of the party on the "outmoded Marxist traditions of the party." Schmid plays down the importance of program and claims that the voter is interested in outstanding personalities. He calls for the transformation of the party from an organization of workers into a "people's party."

On the other wing of the party, there is the beginning of a left grouping, based on some of the district organizations and represented in public by such prominent members of parliament and party leaders as Wehner and Blachstein. The socialist theoretician Abendroth is

working along similar lines. Stressing the socialist character of the SPD and appealing to the class instincts of the workers, they resist the attempt to weaken and dilute the party's mild enough anti-capitalist program. Caught in the middle and under attack from both sides is the party apparatus. The full-time secretariat, grouped around Ollenhauer and determined to block the path to party leadership to both the right and the left wing, has nonetheless been forced to accede to the demand for a special party convention in the spring of 1958. It is at this convention that the relative strength of the contending groupings should become clear.

What has confused the picture for many of the rank-and-file workers of the party who are looking for an out to the stalemate the party has found itself in, is the unnatural alliance of right and left wings against the middle on a platform of "reform."

UNSTABLE BLOC

This reform platform directed against the stand-pat, full-time party functionaries in Bonn cannot stand the test of time or hold up under political stress. It is a block of the most revisionist right-wing elements with the more militant socialist elements against the middle, the apparatus. The two wings of the party have a different political perspective but they are bound together by a common hostility to the core of old-time party officials exemplified by Ollenhauer and Mellies. The difference within the party broke out into the open the day after the election. SPD General Secretary Ollenhauer, whose colorless campaign last year had aroused deep dissatisfaction on all fronts of the organization, interpreted the election defeat as a partial victory. He based his estimate on the organization's gain of somewhat over one third of the seats in the new parliament. This, he reasoned gave the SPD veto power against any constitutional changes, and this, plus the 181 mandates received by the party, should hearten the membership of the SPD. The fight initially centered around Ollenhauer's evaluation of the election. Several district organizations immediately challenged the party's statement as misleading and in the nature of a whitewash of the leadership's failure to wage an aggressive election campaign. The Neue Ruhr Zeitung, a newspaper close



ERICH OLLENHAUER, Chairman, Socialist Party of Germany (SPD).

to the SPD, picked up the criticisms and publicized the demand of the Bonn district organization for a special party convention to draw up a realistic balance sheet and to decide whose interpretation of the party line was correct. Two days after the election, on Sept. 17, Ollenhauer presented his detailed and conservative analysis of the election to the quickly-assembled national committee. It was at this meeting that the block between the right and left opponents of the leadership emerged in outline. Both wings demanded that the full-time secretaries, who now head the various departments of the party organization, should be barred from voting at National Committee meetings. These party officials, clustered around Ollenhauer and operating as a tightly coordinated bloc from the party headquarters on Friedrich Ebert Allee in Bonn, exert great influence over the party machine. Both wings called for the re-

duction in size of the staff and election of a new three-man party executive committee. Nominated and eventually elected were, reading from right to left, Schmid, Ollenhauer and Wehner. Each man typifies a tendency within the party. WHO CONTROLS WHOM? It was at this meeting that the prominent right-winger Erler raised the demand for the separation of the party leadership from the control of the parliamentary fraction of the party. Schmid is known to favor this prospect and has called for the establishment of a shadow cabinet of the opposition party in parliament. These moves would free the elected social-democratic members of parliament from the last vestige of control by the ranks of the SPD and would tend to counterpose the leadership of the parliamentary fraction to the leadership of the organization, which is the product of the party conventions. The Neue Ruhr Zeitung made itself the spokesman of the right wing and set the tone for the national committee meeting when it editorialized: "To move Professor Schmid into the foreground implies a program. Such a program would be the rejection of old Marxist pettifoggery and class-struggle tendencies, which are without justification today." Since then the discussion has spread through the ranks of the organization. The party weekly Vorwärts and the Social Democratic paper Westfälische Rundschau, among others, have opened the pages of the papers for discussion contributions. It is thus possible to follow the developing discussion as it spreads into the local organizations. The built-in conflict in the opportunistically-combined right and left-wing opposition quickly broke out into the open. (To be concluded)

Unity with Whom?



Jordan demonstrators, above, demand union of Jordan with Syria in opposition to the Eisenhower Doctrine. This demonstration took place in April 1957 when popular demands could be expressed. Now that King Hussein has dictatorial power, thanks to U. S. aid, he unites Jordan with Iraq. The offspring of this marriage will be puppets.

World Events

"WE SET UP MORE OF AN IRON CURTAIN than they [the Russians] do in many fields," reported two U. S. electrical engineers to the American Institute of Electrical Engineering, Feb. 7. The report followed a two-week visit to the Soviet Union and included the comment, "There is no doubt that the Russians will lead the way" in the field of transmission systems.

SOVIET WOMEN HOLD HIGH PLACE in scientific work. In a report prepared by UNESCO and delivered to Dag Hammarskjöld, Feb. 15, it is said that nearly half a million women are working as engineers and technicians. Also 53% of the specialists trained in institutions of higher education are women.

HAITI'S CONSTITUTION HAS NOT STOPPED ILLEGAL ARRESTS, the opposition to the government complained. The new constitution is violated as opposition leaders are held incommunicado without charges or questioning. A former police chief, suddenly transferred to Venezuela, said Jan. 31, "It is high time that the army ceased to be a force hunting down civilians."

MORE THAN 1,000 FARM WORKERS, jobless and landless, invaded the rich farmland of Culiacan River Valley in Mexico and settled down. News of the "invasion" reached the government late because of a national telegraph strike.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS and those at Moscow University will exchange broadcasts in their own privately arranged cultural exchange program. Student life at the New York and Moscow institutions will be discussed.

STUDENTS AND WORKERS ARE JAILED AND TORTURED IN SPAIN, according to the U. S. magazine, Iberica. Despite formal government denials, Iberica insists that 44

University students in Madrid and several hundred workers suspected of opposition to the fascist dictator Franco have been arrested. Iberica demands that U. S. aid to Franco be stopped.

ALGERIAN REBELS STOP FLOW OF OIL to the Mediterranean with their attacks on rail lines. Oil arrives at the port of Philippeville in "an eyedropper," according to one Algerian paper. Only one tanker has been loaded to transport oil to refineries in Southern France.

ISRAEL'S MAPAM, the United Workers Party, welcomed the union of Egypt and Syria. The Party's newspaper, "Al Hamishmar," pointed out that the union is based on "Positive neutrality and hostility to Western imperialism." The Mapam is sympathetic to the powerful Socialist party, Al Ba'ath, of Syria and would unify the whole Mideast including Israel.

A COMPULSORY COURSE IN ZIONISM for Egyptian high school students will use a text book, "This Is Zionism," prepared by the Egyptian Ministry of National Guidance. According to the Jan. 13 Jewish Newsletter, it includes an abridged translation of the book "A Short History of Zionism" by the well known British Zionist, Israel Cohen.

U.S. AID TO LAOS has produced a country of contrasts according to N.Y. Times reporter, Greg MacGregor. Amid barefoot pedestrians luxurious new American cars cruise along rutted roads. "Gaudy night clubs... have gross receipts of \$1 million a year." U.S. aid, averaging about \$40 million a year "has lined selected pockets to the bulging point and resulted in a notable failure of achievement." But "free enterprise" is still intact.

Arkansas had the second lowest per capita income of all the states with \$1,088 in 1956. Mississippi was lowest with \$964.

Foe of Batista Arrested in N.Y.

Feb. 19 — In an act of friendly cooperation with the Cuban Dictator Batista, the U. S. State Department last week indicted Dr. Carlos Prio Socarras, exiled former President of Cuba and eight others. They are accused of conspiring to set up a well-financed military expedition to attack the Batista government. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison and \$10,000 in fines. Prio was elected to office in Cuba in 1948 by popular election and was overthrown when Batista seized power thru a coup in 1952, a month before general elections were scheduled to take place. In answer to the indictment Prio stated: "The new indictment should be a great comfort for dictatorships in Latin America, particularly for Batista, an enemy of all democratic governments." "I know that [President Batista] has continually sent agents to the United States with false information and has furnished the United States Government with false information to try to get the American Government to act against me." (Feb. 14 New York Times). This is not the only way that Secretary of State Dulles gives comfort to dictators whether they be located in South America or Spain or on the Island of Formosa. On Dec. 20, 1957 Luis Miranda, former sergeant in the Cuban Marines and an arch enemy of Batista's Cuban despotism, was captured on an East River pier in New York

City. He had stowed away aboard a Cuban ship because he was fleeing from Cuba after a rebellion of a naval garrison in Cienfuegos in which he took part, had been defeated. His presence on board the ship was discovered by Batista's men who in turn notified the U. S. State Department. The State Department callously intervened on the side of Batista and sent Miranda back to Cuba to certain death despite a militant protest demonstration of anti-Batista Cubans here. In Cuba itself, liberation

forces under the leadership of Fidel Castro, are constantly extending the scope of their guerrilla activities. "Reports reach Havana daily," says R. Hart Phillips in the Feb. 17 N. Y. Times, "on the finding of bodies of both rebels and loyalists on roads and along the South coast of Oriente Province. They are casualties of the undercover war between the troops and rebel elements." Although both are in opposition to Batista's U. S. State Department-backed regime, there is no tie between Castro and Prio.

Calendar of Events

CHICAGO Eugene Feldman, editor, Southern Newsletter, formerly of Montgomery, Ala., and Winston-Salem. "A Southerner Speaks for Civil Rights." Friday, Feb. 28, at 8:15 P.M. Ausp.: Militant Labor Forum, 777 W. Adams. DETROIT Fri., Feb. 28, 8 P.M. — A talk on Howard Fast's book and the Crisis in the Communist Party. At 3737 Woodward. Ausp.: Friday Night Socialist Forum. TWIN CITIES Rowoldt-Heikkinen Victory Celebration. Friday, Mar. 7, 8 P.M., Mpls., Andrews Hotel. Contribution: \$1. Ausp.: Minn. Comm. for Foreign Born.

Joseph Starobin will speak on "How We Can Compete with Russia — A Socialist View." Tuesday, March 4, 8 P.M., Mpls., Andrews Hotel, Rm. M3. Ausp.: Twin Cities Labor Forum. The armed forces are now being informed on how to behave in foreign countries before they get there. In a Pocket Guide to each of the different countries where the U. S. stations troops the first lesson that Pvt. Smith learns is: "No nation likes strangers in uniform around, so don't be showing those khakis or blues at the people."

New York First Amendment "test-cases" invite You to... Question and Discuss How To Regain the First Amendment with I. F. Stone Dr. Otto Nathan Frank J. Donner Ring Lardner Jr., Chairman Friday, February 28, 8 P.M. Carnegie Recital Hall, 154 W. 57th St. (7th Ave.) Contribution \$1 For tickets write: P. O. Box 190, New York 27, N. Y.

Questions For the Left By SIDNEY LENS Introduction by A. J. Muste. Comments by John Dickson, Tim Wohlforth, Stephen Grattan, Farrell Dobbs, Conrad Lynn, Albert E. Blumberg. Published by AMERICAN FORUM — FOR SOCIALIST EDUCATION 29 pages 25 cents Order from: PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

Out of Their Mouths

By JOHN MOLLOY

Professor of Economics Henry C. Wallich of Yale University is quite revealing in his article on the economic outlook in the Feb. 2 New York Times Magazine. He sets down the thinking of the capitalist class in black and white.

First on taxes he writes: "Our past experience gives us no evidence that we cannot bear the present tax load, and even a bigger one provided we do not try to get all of the money from the middle and upper income brackets where it isn't."

That leaves you and me to shell out for increased taxes. The people in the upper income brackets, with their tax-exempt expense accounts, company-subsidized cars, business conventions in the most exclusive (and expensive) resorts have no money for taxes. Mention the subject and they cry poverty — with a Cadillac under each arm.

Next Professor Wallich tells us this about recession: "So long as those who for a while lose their jobs are decently taken care of such dips leave no deep scars." I doubt if this obviously unscarred individual has ever experienced the decency of the unemployment office, the

welfare department and the decent amount of moneys they give out.

But our economist is not yet through. "We would gain much," he says, "if we could find a way to keep wages from out-running productivity. Excessive wage increases threaten stability on the upside as well as on the downside. On the upside . . . they contribute to inflation. On the downside, they cause trouble by so raising the break-even points of business firms that a slight dip in sales threatens a disproportionate collapse of profits, with consequent cutbacks in output and expansion. Here lies what may be today's thorniest problem for stabilization policy."

The employers are working on this problem right now with their Taft-Hartley laws, right-to-sab laws and phony labor-investigating committees. They seek to so hamstring the unions as to render them useless as defenders of the interests of the working people. They hope thereby to break the wage structure and lower the living standards of the working class.

But will they succeed? As the Professor says they have a thorny problem on their hands indeed. The thorn is the working class, which through its unions will resist every assault upon its wages.

'The Bridge on the River Kwai'

By JOYCE COWLEY

The Bridge on the River Kwai is the most powerful anti-war film produced since World War II. As an indictment of senseless destruction and cruelty, it ranks with All Quiet on the Western Front and The Grand Illusion. At the same time, it is a startlingly frank revelation of the character of the military caste which leads men into war.

Technically the film is remarkable, and you do not feel for a moment that it is a movie with a "message." Ideas flow from the logic of the story; and story, acting, photography and direction all contribute to heightening the tension and building toward the inevitable climax. Even without its harsh portrait of the military caste and its eloquent condemnation of war, this would be an exciting adventure film.

MEN SABOTAGE WORK

The action takes place in a Japanese labor camp where a British officer, Colonel Nickerson, refuses to let his officers do manual work. The Colonel faces torture and death unflinchingly in his fight for this principle. The men back him up by sabotaging the work. The bridge they are building regularly collapses while the men take it easy, deliberately misunderstand orders and go for frequent swims in the River Kwai. When the work reaches a complete standstill, the Japanese Commander is defeated.

Colonel Nickerson, having won his point, takes over the building of the bridge. He and his officers won't do any manual labor, but in collaboration with the Japanese, they use their engineering and technical skills to construct a better bridge than the Japanese could have managed by themselves.

The Colonel is motivated by a conviction that the men need work and discipline in order to remain soldiers, to prevent anarchy and chaos. He stops the sabotage and the swimming and drives the men even harder than the Japanese Commander. Finally, obsessed with pride in the good job he is doing, and in an attempt to complete the bridge on time, he enlists the officers (at manual labor) and even the wounded and sick.

In the meantime, a British Commando unit (which includes an escaped American prisoner) has been assigned to blow up the bridge. This American, a sailor separated from his unit and misrepresenting himself as an officer because working conditions in the prison camp and treatment at the military hospital are so much better for officers, has a very reasonable attitude toward the war. He wants to get out of it.

THE REAL CONFLICT
At the beginning of the picture, the conflict appears to be between Colonel Nickerson and the Japanese Commander, but it is soon clear that they are really brothers, both courageously devoted to the interests of world imperialism. The real conflict is between the British

Colonel and the American boy who wants to live like a human being instead of dying like a hero.

The conclusion of the picture, in which the bridge is destroyed and the Colonel, the American and the Japanese Commander are all killed in a horrifying portrayal of waste and devastation. The film closes with the Medical Officer's cry of "Madness!" But this seems less significant, in its expression of the agony of war, than the gesture of the Commando leader who kills his own men so they won't be captured alive and then, mission accomplished, despairingly throws his weapon into the River Kwai.

The critics agree that the film is an extraordinary artistic achievement and the story has great emotional intensity and power, but they begin to contradict each other as soon as they try to explain its basic theme.

Bosley Crowther in The New York Times feels that the British Colonel "typifies the kind of leader most perilous and horrendous in the conduct of wars" and adds that in many respects — and this frightens him — the character of the Japanese Commander is very much the same. He concludes that "the thought of such men leading others in warfare is enough to turn one to stone." Apparently he sees nothing wrong with the war itself if led by better men.

Time Magazine calls the picture a "shattering" experience but also "curiously exalting." I don't see just how this ironic masterpiece, which so brilliantly exposes the futility of so-called military heroism and of war itself and ends in a scene of total destruction in which all of the main protagonists are killed, is "exalting."

A SOCIAL CONFLICT
The most enlightening review is the one in The Reporter, for Stanley Kauffmann acknowledges the social character of the conflict. Then he indulges in a little romantic nostalgia for the world of Colonel Nickerson which may be "reactionary and smug" but "nevertheless produces loyalties and idealism that seem beyond our present grasp." He thinks that the favorable public reaction to the picture may express a "hunger for stronger disciplines."

I doubt that many of us are hungry for the kind of discipline that Colonel Nickerson represents. To me, the one false note in the picture is the Colonel's popularity with his men. I believe the appeal to the public lies in the fundamental meaning of the film, not spelled out, but implicit in the logic and integrity of the story itself.

Perhaps this meaning is not implicit for those who cling to the dying world of the Colonel and the Commander, but only for those who believe in the future of man, who believe that creativity can triumph over destruction and that it is possible — if we work together and put an end to the senseless conflicts so savagely and truthfully depicted in this film — to bring order and beauty into a world threatened by chaos and even total extinction in another war. This is what most of us hunger for. It is the hope that underlies tragedy in the Bridge on the River Kwai.

Total amount of wages and salaries for 1956 was \$227 billion. Total amount of corporation profits before taxes in the same year was \$43 billion.

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Post Office Threatens 2 For Picketing

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13—The Post Office Department in a move designed to terrorize postal workers initiated an action to fire two officials of the United Postal Workers Union today.

A list of nine charges were filed against union President Conrad C. Eustace and Secretary Thomas Monroe as an aftermath of picketing by the union on Nov. 27. The picketing aimed at informing the public about working conditions in the Post Office Department. Postal workers along with other government workers have been faced with a wage freeze for the last three years and would like a pay boost to meet the soaring cost of living.

The picketing, which lasted an hour, asked for elementary union demands: union recognition, pay increases, health-and-welfare benefits and freedom of political action.

Government officials, furious at the temerity of the postal workers for daring to call public attention to their plight, are out for vengeance. They seek to make an example of Eustace and Monroe in hopes of deterring such actions in the future.

The trumped-up charges underline the last demand of the postal workers—freedom of political action. Eustace and Monroe are charged with "conduct unbecoming a postal worker" and "conduct tending to bring the Post Office Department into disrepute."

Only Congress can adjust the wage scales and working conditions of government employees, who are not permitted to strike or to engage in political action. The only way they can get pay raises is by petition and strong public opinion in their favor.

Eustace said he would fight the ouster. He has called on the American Civil Liberties Union for aid.

Local 78 United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers which affiliated with the AFL-CIO Packinghouse Union (UPWA) in 1954 has as its main objective organizing 130,000 packing workers and 400,000 field workers in California into their union. California Agricultural industrialists pay a wage bill of \$500 million but their sales have mounted to \$3 billion.

Supervisors Scuttle FEPC Hearing in L.A.

By HILDE McLEOD

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 17—The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors put on a first class performance last week at the hearing ordinance. This measure, introduced by Supervisor John Anderson Ford more than a year ago, had the support of liberal, minority and labor groups. The hearing room was well filled with proponents and opponents of the measure who expected at long last to have an opportunity to speak their piece on this much postponed proposition. They were treated to what had all the earmarks of a well prepared farce. If this hearing had not been rigged it was a spontaneous performance of the same sort.

Liberal Democrat Ford made no attempt to defend his ordinance when, at the very outset of the hearing, Supervisor Dorn threw a monkey wrench into the works by making a motion to consider a substitute ordinance he had prepared. Dorn's substitute, as the representative of the Committee for Equal Employment Opportunity remarked later, would be unworkable since it included a provision of doubtful validity which could destroy the whole FEPC concept.

LONG WRANGLE
The one thing that all five supervisors agreed upon was that Dorn's motion had thrown the whole proceedings into confusion. This confusion served to open the door for a free-for-all debate in which the three reactionary members of the Board aired their opposition to any FEPC ordinance on the grounds that it was unnecessary and unworkable anyhow on the county level. Also, evidently aware that the NAACP was divided on the question of putting an FEPC referendum on the ballot, they threw in a few barbs about NAACP fear of democratic ac-

War Against the Youth



Nineteen-year-old Frank Santana (left) in custody of police officer at time in 1955 when he was framed for murder of New York "model boy." Santana drew 25 years. A strong public protest movement is asking for reversal of the unjust sentence. Meanwhile seven New York youths, the youngest 15 years old, face death penalty in a gang-rivalry slaying.

Illinois Conference

(Continued from Page 1)
cipherable code were being entered on the record cards of his laid-off members. These apparently had a significance with relation to the unemployed worker's compensation and his service record, said Johnson, but the information was being kept from the employees involved.

Johnson asked that Bernstein have the meaning of the code posted on the walls of the unemployment offices so that the unemployed would be enlightened as to what records were being made concerning them. Bernstein brushed this aside by saying that Johnson should tell his members "not to concern themselves about it."

Jack Southers of UPWA put his finger on the inadequacy of the unemployment benefits and relief "cushions" by pointing out that "Public Assistance Funds" which were \$50 million short even before the economic decline are about to run out. Under these circumstances, proposals by the relief administrator to transfer cases from the "general" category to other "special" categories, explained

'Contempt' Case Victim in Calif. Re-Sentenced

By DELLA ROSSA

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12—Oleta O'Conner Yates, a California Communist Party leader, was resented to a year in prison on Jan. 29, not for anything she did,

and not for anything she said, but because of her "attitude" of defiance of the witch-hunt. After serving two weeks in prison, Mrs. Yates was finally released on \$5,000 bail—while the sentence is being appealed.

Mrs. Yates was one of 14 CP leaders whose 1952 convictions on Smith-Act charges of "conspiracy to teach and advocate violent revolution" were upset by the U.S. Supreme Court last June.

The only defense witness at the 1952 trial, Mrs. Yates took the position that answering questions about activities of anyone except herself was an invasion of her rights, and she told Federal Judge William C. Mathes at that time "I will not be a Government informer."

At that time Judge Mathes threw 11 contempt-of-court charges at her. These were reduced to one by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the opinion of Justices Douglas, Warren and Black—who favored throwing out all charges—Mathes' action was "a shocking instance of abuse of judicial authority . . . and a transparent attempt to multiply offenses."

ENRAGED JUDGE
Reports indicate that Mrs. Yates met the 1952 trial with a calm refusal to buckle under witch-hunting pressures. Even six years later, the memory of the witness' principled stand sends Judge Mathes to a high pitch of fury.

The Supreme Court referred to Mrs. Yates' "apparently courteous demeanor," and Judge Mathes could only answer "In words, spoken, yes, the defendant Yates was courteous. But in attitude she was the most coldly defiant and wholly contemptuous witness I have seen in more than 30 years at the bar and on the bench."

It seems that witch-hunt justice demands that a victim must also pay for the facial expressions of her supporters and co-defendants. For, the furious Judge Mathes added in re-sentencing her Jan. 28: "Nor can the cold printed record reproduce the scene, the setting in which the action took place—the all but audible cheering and boing of the rooting section in the audience—the supercilious, half-smirking, half-smiling visages of the 13 co-defendants who inaudibly applauded every defiance."

Furthermore, Judge Mathes said: ". . . If the trial courts of our land did not have and exercise the power to compel witnesses to become informers, our system of justice would in time collapse, and with it all of our courts."

Total individual income taxes for 1957 fiscal year were \$39 billion. Total corporation income taxes were \$21.5 billion.

Depression Trends

(Continued from Page 1)
stock market decline began last summer. Autos, metals and machinery manufacturing are particularly hard hit.

Residential housing is the one major index that increased in February. Eased credit for FHA loans is reportedly responsible for this, but the fact that capital is being made available for this type of federally insured mortgage and withheld from non-insured investment is not considered to be indicative of strength.

Thirteen states reported over 10% of their insured workers were jobless for the week ending Feb. 1. These included Michigan, where 82,000 workers have already exhausted their unemployment claims; Washington; Oregon, which has 12.3% unemployment; Kentucky; Tennessee; Arkansas; West Virginia; Maine; and Rhode Island. Pennsylvania and New Jersey reported over 9% unemployed. These figures do not reflect the number on short work weeks. National average weekly earnings of employed factory workers declined to \$81.27 in January from \$82.41 in December.

BREADLINES
"Bread lines" of unemployed workers waiting for government surplus food have appeared in Maine, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, and New Jersey, as well as among agricultural workers in the South. According to the Department of Agriculture, surplus food was distributed to 1.7 million unemployed workers in the month of December.

President Eisenhower's prediction that an upturn would

come by the end of March is not taken seriously in the business world. "It's obvious," says the Feb. 15 Business Week about Eisenhower's statement, "that the effort now is to restore business confidence via the old Washington jaw-bone technique."

The administration — and the Democratic leaders of Congress — are reportedly planning a tax cut for the capitalists as a spur to new investment, which they hope will stop the slide into depression. However, this and other relief-to-profit measures are probably being delayed for the present, because, as William H. Stringer says in the Feb. 18 Christian Science Monitor, "there exists within [the administration] sentiment which would not be at all unhappy to see some of the steam let out of labor's 1958 wage demands."

In other words, the slump, while curtailing profits for Big Business, is handy for them in the war of capital against labor.

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A Petition In Behalf Of Morton Sobell



MR. PRESIDENT: Washington, D. C.

BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY has the strength to recognize possible errors and the humanity to be merciful;

BECAUSE THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS believe that Morton Sobell did not have a fair trial; consider his 30-year sentence in Alcatraz cruel and inhuman punishment;

BECAUSE MORTON SOBELL has steadfastly maintained his innocence throughout his seven years of imprisonment and continues his efforts to secure a new trial;

FOR THESE REASONS I JOIN MY FELLOW AMERICANS in asking you to return Morton Sobell to his wife and children through executive pardon or commutation or to instruct the Attorney General to recommend a new trial.

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