

## Jobless Make Pressure Felt At Lansing Rally

DETROIT, May 9 — The May 5 unemployment conference of the Michigan AFL-CIO in Lansing was another tame and ineffective gathering, something like the April 8 national conference in Washington. But this time the unemployed found or made a few cracks in the wall through which they were able to voice some of their ideas and feelings.

Mass attendance was not encouraged, and many locals did not participate at all. The only two groups that sent more than a handful were UAW Dodge Local 3 and Chrysler Local 212, whose delegations made up almost a third of the 700 present, and who lived things up a little by walking through the streets of the state capital with their banners.

The conference plan was to hold a two-hour meeting addressed by union officials and Democratic politicians; then lunch; then visits to state legislators to ask their support for union-endorsed bills.

Dissatisfied with this agenda, a group of UAW members from Detroit passed out a mimeographed statement, part of which said:

"This conference is about un-

employment, and unemployed have been invited to attend. But no provision we know of has been made for the unemployed to speak and present their views...

"This is a repetition of what took place at the Washington Conference last month. The unemployed did not have an opportunity to voice their opinions and demands. Instead we listened for six hours to an array of speakers. The only result of the Washington Conference to date is a promise from Lyndon Johnson that a special committee will be set up to 'study' unemployment. We don't need further 'study' of our conditions, we need action..."

### PERMIT SOME QUESTIONS

Perhaps as a result of this complaint, room was made at the end of the morning session for a half-hour "question period." Only three or four got the floor, but one was able to say something significant.

That was Edith Van Horn of Local 3, the best organized jobless group in Detroit. She asked the conference to support her local's proposal for the organization of mass unemployed rallies to be held simultaneously in all of the nation's industrial areas, together with brief solidarity work-stoppages by the employed, as a means of putting pressure on Congress.

No vote was taken on the proposal, and no comment on it was made by the official speakers, including state president August Scholle, Emil Mazey and Gov. Williams. The main point they made was that Republicans are not friends of the unemployed. Scholle told the delegates preparing to visit legislators:

"You don't have to talk to any Democrats. They are sympathetic and understanding. Direct your efforts particularly to the 22 senators who are Republicans."

Earlier, the Socialist Workers

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## Billionaire Club Assets Equal National Debt

American big business reached record proportions in 1958. Despite the severe economic slump, five new members joined the "Billion-Dollar Club" — companies with total assets of more than a billion dollars. This brings total membership in the club to 96.

The five newcomers are: Columbia Gas Corp., First Western Banking & Trust Co., of S. F., Republic National Bank of Dallas, Insurance Co. of North America and New York Trust Co.

Total assets of the "club" rose to \$284 billion from \$269 billion in 1957 — almost equal to the national debt.

## Well, This Week We're Close to Half Way Point

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

This week I'm starting out with a slightly pink face—and not from being out too long in the sun. One of the contributors to the \$16,000 Socialist Workers Party Build-

ing Fund asked, "How come you said last week that you had reached the half-way point when the total collected to date was only \$6,842?" The figures, I have to admit, were correct and they don't make one-half of \$16,000.

Well, in a fund campaign you expect sharp audience participation like that. It helps make it a success; particularly when the participation includes what is so crucial to building a socialist party; namely, the folding stuff.

The fact is that we were at the half-way mark only on the time schedule last week and I suppose I should have asked, "Who's holding up the parade?"

This week \$978 came in and that gave us a total of \$7,820. I figure that's 49%—almost half

way. It's true, however, that we should be at the 62% mark.

I won't make a big point of the lag because a lot of people are already working on how to catch up and some of their ideas are brilliant.

Take New York, for instance. Some of these comrades have been fighting for a socialist world of peace and plenty and human brotherhood for a quarter of a century or more and you'd think that so far as fundraising is concerned they couldn't possibly come up with something new. But they did.

Johnny Tabor observed that there are a lot of fine libraries accumulated in many socialists' homes—wonderful libraries, including rare socialist classics. And there are also a number of people combing the second-hand bookstores looking for these very works, so they can get a socialist education fast. Now with strontium 90 accumulating in every one's bones from the testing of atom bombs, what good are the books going to be to them in a few years?

But if they're shared around to spread the teachings of socialism faster it can help slow down the warmakers and bring us closer to peace. So why not hold a BOOK FAIR!

The comrades applauded that suggestion on how to trim down a bulging bookshelf almost as much as I applauded their contribution this week of \$261.95 on their \$4,200 pledge. So New Yorkers get set for some choice books. And, remember, the money goes to the best cause in the world.

Chicago, too, is approaching

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# "We Must Fight Back," Say Top Negro Papers

## Govt., Steel Bosses Plan Showdown

NEW YORK, May 13 — As closed contract negotiations continue here between the United Steelworkers of America and 12 major steel corporations, signs are growing of a company-government plan to shut down the mills when the current agreement expires on June 30.

President Eisenhower has decided that he prefers a strike to a significant wage increase, according to A. H. Raskin, the New York Times labor specialist. Presidential aides explain this stand is reinforced by a careful White House study of last year's bus strike in London where the British government permitted a virtual shutdown of transportation for six weeks in order to force the men back without any substantial wage gain.

The steel monopolists talked "strike" months in advance of negotiations, and so orders poured in at a record rate. It was disclosed yesterday that General Motors, the nation's top steel consumer, will have enough stock on hand to meet all needs for five months past the strike deadline. Ford's supply is described as "comfortable" and Chrysler is estimated to be able to maintain production for two or three months after a steel shutdown.

The steel barons gave advance indication of their strike strategy in the trade mouthpiece, Iron Age. The magazine disclosed that if the union strikes less than the entire industry one of two plans will go into operation. Either there will be an industry-wide lockout or those companies still operating will share profits with those closed down by the union.

The Steelworkers union is demanding a substantial, though as yet unspecified, wage increase; time-and-a-half pay for Saturdays and double time for Sundays; improved supplemental unemployment benefits; improved grievance procedures; and a reduction of the work-hours with no reduction in take-home pay.

On May 12, union president McDonald was reported as proposing that the work hours be reduced through a four-day, 32-hour schedule every fourth week, in which the workers would be paid for the full 40 hours.

This would correspond to a regular 38-hour work-week instead of the present 40. Such a reduction would fall considerably short of meeting technological unemployment in the industry, which has wiped out 100,000 jobs in basic steel in the past three years.

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Modern science is changing that picture. One day society will have its coal without the enormous human labor it costs today. "Mechanical monsters" are steadily replacing men in surface strip mining and machines are being developed to convert underground mining into an automatic process.

This is how the huge Peabody Coal Co. is already operating strip mines, as described in the April 8 issue of Business Week: "The most prodigious performers to date in Peabody's arsenal of mining tools are its giant shovels. Three of these are in the monster class and an even bigger one is on order. The \$3½-million giants, close to one hundred times the size of a standard power shovel, have a reach long enough to dump their diggings on top of a ten-

story building... these monster shovels are the advance guard, cleaning overlying dirt and rock off the coal seam in 70-ton to 100-ton bites. "Operated by one man who rides up to his control cab by private elevator, they waddle along the length of a coal seam on four crawlers weighing 60 tons apiece. Their size and reach makes it possible to get at coal that's buried 90 ft. to 100 ft. deep... "But the giant shovels don't dig the coal; they just uncover it. The digging is done by smaller shovels that follow in their wake, after the coal is blasted loose. The smaller shovels scoop up the coal in hunks as big as six ft. by six ft."

"PUSH-BUTTON MINER"

## Loggers Roll Back Scabs



Striking Newfoundland members of the International Woodworkers of America block passage of carload of scabs. Fighting against a 60-hour week and low pay, the loggers are standing up against club-swinging, trigger-happy Canadian Mounted Police. The Canadian Labor Congress is seeking to collect \$1 from each of its million members to aid the strike.

## N.Y. Hospital Workers Strike Against Wages of \$32 a Week

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK, May 13 — The benches in Stuyvesant Park are usually occupied by mothers tending their children and older folks getting some sunshine. Right now the park is also the unofficial auxiliary headquarters for striking employees of Beth Israel Hospital which is just across the street.

Along with workers in five other private hospitals they have been picketing for five days in a battle for union recognition. This morning I sat on a bench with some of them and listened to stories of incredible exploitation. Many get paid as little as \$32 a week and several pulled out pay stubs in case I wouldn't believe it.

A union organizer sat with a group of workers, his eyes constantly on the ten pickets and equal number of cops across the street. He said that the union covers everyone except doctors and nurses and that about 90% of the kitchen and laundry help, nurses aides and orderlies, maintenance men, pharmacists and X-ray technicians had joined the walkout. Most of the lowest paid workers are Puerto Rican and Negro. They are members of

Local 1199 of the Retail Drug Employees Union, an AFL-CIO affiliate.

The six hospitals are stubbornly refusing to recognize the union and are bringing in volunteer help and paid scabs. Charles Silver, head of Beth Israel Hospital and president of the New York Board of Education, is spearheading the hospital association's union-busting drive. He is charged with investigating the principal of nearby Stuyvesant high school to recruit students as scabs. One of the nurses reported to the union that a student had overloaded an elevator and almost sent it crashing down the shaft.

With the backing of the city AFL-CIO, the union is picketing in defiance of court injunctions. The Laundry Workers Union is respecting the picket lines and so are some individual members of the Teamsters Union. "We are letting food and drugs go through," a picket captain said. "We don't want the patients to suffer. But we turned back one truck this morning with an 'emergency' shipment. It was Arpege toilet water for the gift shop."

I asked a cheerful looking young woman how she felt about

a report that every picket would be arrested for defying the injunction. "Honey," she laughed, "I haven't been in a jail yet and this is as good a cause as any. Just be sure and slip me a pack of Marlboros through the crack."

"Why did you join the strike?" I asked a slim young man. "For one reason," he said, "I wasn't making enough money. After ten years, I'm getting \$52. My wife works too, so we manage. But its rough. Our rent alone is \$85."

A young woman, unusually attractive and equally articulate, was mad enough to tell her story without any questioning. "Thirty-two dollars a week for doing two or three peoples' work and the assistant supervisor talks to you like you're a dog. The one over me — I'll be glad to give you her name to put in the paper — she looks like sin and acts it. You have a complaint or refuse to work overtime, she's got one answer — 'If you don't like it, turn in your keys.'"

"I'm on special diets. I've got a whole floor with 23 private patients, each one with a different diet, low sodium, diabetic, whatever you can think of. Three meals a day without any help.

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## Lynching, Rape Case, Touch Off Nationwide Storm of Bitter Protest

By George Lavan

A mighty nationwide roar of anger is rising from American Negroes in the wake of the Poplarville, Miss., lynching, the rape of a Negro co-ed by four white men in Tallahassee, Fla., and the refusal of Monroe, N.C., courts to punish white men for crimes against Negro women.

The call by a Negro leader in Detroit for a protest "March on Mississippi" is reverberating through the Negro press. Students at the Negro university in Tallahassee have staged a strike and demonstrations and with colored townspersons have jam-packed the courtrooms to emphasize their demand that Florida's rape laws at last be equally enforced. In North Carolina the NAACP leader of Union County has urged Negroes to resist "violence with violence" even if it means "laying down your lives."

The call for a "March on Mississippi" comes from Charles C. Diggs, Sr., father of Michigan's Negro congressman. The elder Diggs, a former state legislator, is himself a prominent leader in Detroit. He set Vicksburg as the target and Nov. 11 as the date.

"Negroes To March On Mississippi!" shouts the banner headline of the May 9 N.Y. Amsterdam News. "Diggs' proposal for a March on Mississippi immediately captured the imagination of the man on the street in Harlem," the lead story said.

An opinion poll of Harlemites brought such responses as "Hell, yes. I'll march on Mississippi or anywhere else in the U.S. if it's going to do our cause any good."

"Rumor Revolt In Mississippi After 537th Negro Lynched," is the headline of the Tribune, Negro newspaper published in Los Angeles. The article quotes a confidential Mississippi source as declaring, "There will not be another Mack Charles Parker without a fight."

In Tallahassee, Negro demands for prosecution of the four white men, arrested with the kidnaped Negro co-ed still bound and gagged in their car, were unceasing. Students at the Negro university went on strike; they fasted; they demonstrated with signs proclaiming "All We Want Is Equal Justice."

Community leader C. K. Steele, leader of that city's bus boycott of a few years ago, declared: "This case will prove whether the laws were written for colored persons alone or are for all people."

When the prisoners were arraigned on May 8, all pleaded "not guilty." At this legal move a moan went up from the 300

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## In Any Town It's Like This

While national attention focused on the most spectacular cases of racist violence in America, the press continued to report "ordinary" cases like these:

Willie H. Reid fought another round in his seven-year battle to avoid extradition from New York to a Florida chain gang. Willis McCall, the sheriff who shot down Samuel Sheppard in 1951 as he took him from prison to a courtroom for retrial on a trumped-up rape charge.

Lyndsay B. Johnson, a Negro city official in Springfield, Mass., is fighting to live in his home. In response to a rock hurled through a window by whites, he said: "They can try to bomb me out. They can shoot me. But I'm moving in and I'm going to stay."

District 65, Wholesale Retail & Department Store Union, AFL-CIO, demanded investigation of a beating. Walking down a street, one of its members, a Puerto Rican, accidentally bumped a cop. Apologies did not save him. The cop laid into him with his club, putting him into the hospital.

Joanie Crumpler, a 14-year-old Negro, was pushed by a Brooklyn cop. After a second shove, she shoved back. "He grabbed me with one hand... He punched me in the side of my face. I tried to get away. Then I felt his stick on my head. I fell and he kicked me... I don't remember much after that." Arrested for disorderly conduct and attacking an officer.

Al Garrett, 24, was shot by a cop in a Brooklyn police station April 17. Hovering at the edge of consciousness, he cried out, "Stop hitting me, man. I haven't done anything." On May 6 he died.

Six Negro boys were wounded, two of them seriously, when white hoodlums in two automobiles sped through Richmond's Negro community firing from the windows with shot-

# Machines — to Sew Up the Future or the Miners?

Coal mining. The words evoke a picture of grimy-faced men with picks, shovels, drills and dynamite, sweating as they hack at the glistening black seam deep underground.

Modern science is changing that picture. One day society will have its coal without the enormous human labor it costs today. "Mechanical monsters" are steadily replacing men in surface strip mining and machines are being developed to convert underground mining into an automatic process.

This is how the huge Peabody Coal Co. is already operating strip mines, as described in the April 8 issue of Business Week: "The most prodigious performers to date in Peabody's arsenal of mining tools are its giant shovels. Three of these are in the monster class and an even bigger one is on order. The \$3½-million giants, close to one hundred times the size of a standard power shovel, have a reach long enough to dump their diggings on top of a ten-

story building... these monster shovels are the advance guard, cleaning overlying dirt and rock off the coal seam in 70-ton to 100-ton bites. "Operated by one man who rides up to his control cab by private elevator, they waddle along the length of a coal seam on four crawlers weighing 60 tons apiece. Their size and reach makes it possible to get at coal that's buried 90 ft. to 100 ft. deep... "But the giant shovels don't dig the coal; they just uncover it. The digging is done by smaller shovels that follow in their wake, after the coal is blasted loose. The smaller shovels scoop up the coal in hunks as big as six ft. by six ft."

"PUSH-BUTTON MINER"

This machine has been more than six years in the making. According to Business Week, "The new push-button miner will start at the wall where the giant shovels leave off. Four rotary cutters mounted in front will break up the coal, which will be carried back out of the tunnel by the conveyor system the robot miner drags behind it.

"Sensing devices attached to the robot miner will register any deviations from the coal seam, flashing their 'blips' on a radar-like screen in front of the operator in the control room. These will permit him to direct the angle of the robot miner's attack.

"Peabody officials say tests with a prototype prove the machine will enable them to recover millions of tons of coal that might otherwise be lost. The robot miner is expected to scoop out about 100 ft. of coal seam per hour."

"To insure the continuing advance of such 'kingsize' mechanization, Peabody Coal is

developing a 20-year production plan based on long-term contracts with power utilities and big industrial consumers of coal. "A 20-year contract for one million tons a year gives a coal company room to maneuver, makes it relatively easy to finance new million dollar digging equipment or the opening up of a new mine near the customer."

In its drive "to sew up the future," Peabody utilizes all the production knowhow available to it. For example, one mine near Springfield, Ill., pushed its output up from 14,000 tons to 18,000 tons a day without adding to the work crew.

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

And here, of course, is the rub. In a socialist society such technological progress would be a boon for the miners and for all mankind as well. But under capitalism such advances are double-edged, bringing handsome new dividends to the coupon-clippers and virtual dis-

aster to the workers replaced by the machines.

"Dollars Make Dollars," is the way Business Week summarizes Peabody's dazzling successes. Sales and prices have remained almost static, but the company has boosted its net profit from the \$5-million mark in 1955 to almost \$10-million in 1958. "What Peabody has done, in simplest terms, is to raise its net income per ton sold from 23 cents to 42 cents."

In equally simple terms, the march of mine mechanization has left a trail of displaced and poverty-stricken miners.

In West Virginia, the nation's top coal-producing state where more than 15% of the work force is idle, the situation was illuminated by this March 10 dispatch in the New York Times:

"In Charleston, Raymond Lewis, brother of John L. Lewis and president of District 17 of the United Mineworkers Union, doubted that many miners now

out of work would find jobs again in the industry.

"He called the current crisis a lot worse than the depression of the thirties.

"The 1930 depression was just the end of a boom period. It was not caused by technological advances but by overproduction. This one here is a different story, an industrial revolution like the one that hit England when the spinning jenny was invented."

"Mr. Lewis said that scarcity of labor during World War II forced operators into mechanization. 'By 1949 new equipment began to come in. Thereafter there was a steady decrease in miners and an increase in production.'"

"In 1948, West Virginia had 125,000 coal miners. Last year there was only 68,000 men in mines." Coal miners will "sew up the future" by helping to abolish a system that makes scientific progress a curse instead of a blessing.

**CAMPAIGN FUND GOAL**  
**\$16,000**

**COLLECTED TO DATE**  
**\$7,820**



# Labor Spying—Friendly "Service" The FBI Renders Big Business

By Henry Gitano

The Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences (Macmillan Co., N.Y., 1953) describes the role and background of blacklisting: "The blacklist in industrial relations is one of the employers' weapons in conflict with trade unions. . . . The labor blacklist has probably existed from the beginning of trade union organization. Commons' History of Labor in the U.S. mentions the use of blacklist as early as 1835 when cotton manufacturers in Paterson, N.J., blacklisted the children of strikers."

The Encyclopaedia indicates the effectiveness of the blacklist: "Knowledge of its existence tends to create an atmosphere of suspicion and fear that is inimical both to the independence of the worker and to his willingness to join with others in any project of which the employer is likely to disapprove."

Results of the blacklist were described by Edwin S. Smith, a member of the National Labor Relations Board, in connection with the LaFollette investigations: "I have never listened to anything more tragically un-American than stories of the discharged employees, victims of a labor spy . . . citizens whose only offense was that they had ventured in the land of the free to organize as employees to improve their working conditions. Their reward was to be hunted down by a hired spy like the lowest of criminals and thereafter tossed like useless metal on the scrap heap."

## Give Up Fingerprints

J. Edgar Hoover has not only compiled a master blacklist while directing a gargantuan spy system throughout the labor movement, but has even secured complete union membership records while supplying reports to employers, without the knowledge of the workers involved.

The methods used by the FBI to build up its present labor files have rarely been made a matter of public record. Lowenthal reports one case which came to light through an investigation of the Federal Communications Commission involving 250,000 radio operators and workers in the telephone and telegraph fields. The FCC with the cooperation of labor officials secured fingerprints of all the workers. The FBI promptly asked that these prints be placed in its possession.

Throughout the 1941 correspondence between the FCC and the AFL and CIO unions involved, the labor officials emphasized that the employers must not secure access to these files, because "some of the records conceivably could be utilized by the employers as a basis of discrimination against our members because of their union activities."

After months of delay, the unions involved, urged on in the name of "national defense," agreed that for "technical" reasons the FBI had to acquire the files permanently to make a check on these workers.

Though the FBI was unable to find any espionage, it did acquire permanent possession of the fingerprints, names and accompanying data of workers in the communications industry, with the cooperation of labor officials.

Six years later in February, 1947, Hoover admitted that the FBI was fingerprinting industrial workers and reporting back to their bosses. "Many times in reporting back," Hoover bragged, the FBI reports "undoubtedly resulted in applicants not obtaining the positions sought . . . The service rendered is a public service

more than for the benefit of the individual company . . . we average about 2,000 such requests a day from all over the U.S. which I think is a service which we should render."

As a rule, Hoover is more devious; FBI reports involving the firing or non-hiring of militant workers are usually transmitted through intermediaries. In February, 1942, Hoover admitted that industrial plants are sending fingerprints "to the FBI to be checked against our files. We do not make reports back to the plant because we try very diligently to avoid any possibility of getting involved into an employer-employee controversy. Records are forwarded to the Army and the Navy, which services have contractual relations with the factories. We do not send this information directly to the employers."

Expounding on this same theme one year later, Hoover said: "It is essential that those having interests inimical to the best interests of our country be not so employed."

Utilization of the FBI's files, — the Washington FBI headquarters employs 4,539 clerks — in hounding militants from their jobs was again confirmed when Hoover testified in January, 1958, that "these fingerprint records have been of great value in the . . . screening of security risks."

The Attorney General at this same hearing testified that the FBI's expected workloads during 1959 in the "internal security, subversive" spheres "will continue to increase," also "name checks, fingerprint checks . . . continue to show increasing trends."

Besides the fingerprint files, there is a "Records and Communications Division." Hoover told a Congressional Committee in 1953: "This Division includes the Files Section of the Bureau. It is the nerve center of the Bureau . . . we do perform a tremendous amount of searching of files there. We have a 41 million card index in our Files Section. Every lead, every complaint, every name that is received from any source is subject to immediate index."

## All But the Real Reason

How this card index is used, was clarified by Hoover in 1957. "During the fiscal year 1956 the Bureau received a total of 1,629,764 requests for name checks." These checks cover "an unlimited range of activities . . . In many cases the searches have identified persons associated with criminal reputations or subversive backgrounds who otherwise, may not possibly have been denied employment in the government service, strategic industries, and other vital installations of importance from a national defense standpoint." This is certainly flexible enough to hound any militant worker from his job.

The Stanford Law Review (March 1956) concludes that while 3,000,000 industrial workers have been cleared since 1949, "the industrial security program has indirectly affected far more people than these figures indicate. Among the employers interviewed the ability to pass a security test has become a condition of employment for many jobs which may never involve access to classified information."

This study also notes that "employers say they prefer to place the discharge on some grounds other than the man's loyalty. . . . As one employer said 'Our company has 56 grounds for discharge and we can always find one to tell the man.'"

# Unemployment and the New Recovery

By Murry Weiss  
Unemployment dropped in April by 735,000 to a total of 3,627,000 — the lowest month since December 1957, according to figures released May 11 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The peak of unemployment during this third, and worst, post-World War II recession was June 1958 when the government admitted that 5,437,000 were jobless.

From mid-March to mid-April, employment rose by 1,184,000 to 65,012,000 compared to the all-time high of 67,221,000 in July 1957. (An increase in total employment without a corresponding drop in unemployment is explained by the growth of the labor force, amounting to some one million yearly.)

A decrease in "hidden unemployment" is revealed by new figures on the average work-week. In April the average work-week nationally rose to 40.3 hours, which is two hours more than a year ago. This would indicate that there has been some increase in overtime but also a drop in part-time work.

The figures also show that while unemployment has declined, the number of jobless going back to work lags considerably behind the increases in production, remaining close to a million greater than in April 1957.

The absorption of a large number of unemployed back into production highlights the picture of an economic upturn that has been under way for the last year. Basing itself on the results of the upturn in the first quarter of 1959, the First National City Bank's Monthly Letter for May declares, "Recovery is now an accomplished fact."

The First National City Bank speaks from the vantage point of being eighth on the list of 96 companies with total assets of one billion dollars or more. (Its reported assets for 1958: \$7,926,000,000.) And it must be said that according to capitalist standards there is much evidence to support the view that the recession of 1957-58 has run its course — like its predecessors, the recessions of 1953-55 and 1948-51.

The evidence cited by the Monthly Letter shows not only the return to prerecession levels in many important economic activities; it shows gains surpassing some of the old peaks. Thus the Letter infers that the upturn may provide a new impetus to the overall boom, a boom that has been sustained by armaments spending and war preparations despite the three recessions since the end of the severe reconversion crisis following World War II.

## "HEDGE-BUYING"

In March, the industrial production index of the Federal Reserve Board reached a new high of 147. The prerecession peak was 146. It is generally admitted by the capitalist economic experts that the feverish "hedge-buying" of steel in anticipation of a strike or lockout has contributed heavily to this new high. But stepped-up production rates in auto, as well as producers' durable goods and construction material are additional major factors.

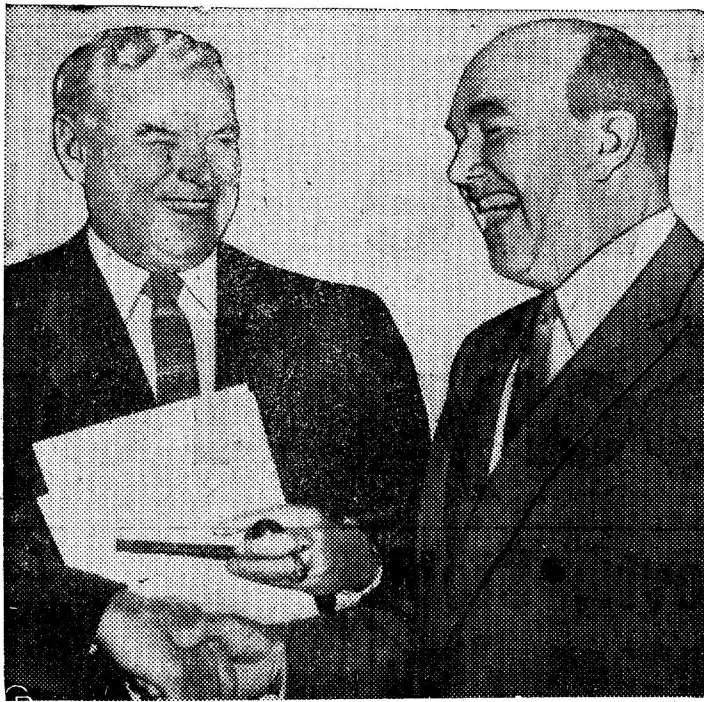
At the center of the economic picture of new peaks in industrial production, gross national product, personal income, retail sales and construction, is the record-breaking profit-take in the first quarter of 1959. Even the most conservative figures show that profits — net income after taxes — rose 46% in the first quarter of 1959 compared to the first quarter of 1958. And despite the recession, 1958 profits of \$11.9 billion were higher than the boom years of 1955 and 1956 and only slightly lower than the \$12 billion profits in 1957.

Against this profit background a new wave of capital investment is to be expected. A survey taken by McGraw-Hill in March indicates that seven per cent more will be spent on new plant and equipment this year than in 1958. The First National City Bank Monthly Letter comments: "Businessmen have raised their sights since last October when a similar survey reported they anticipated virtually no increase in capital spending in 1959."

The official announcement of a drop in unemployment was accompanied by a round of expressions of jubilation by capitalist spokesmen. They were not jubilant about the fact that some of the unemployed had regained a means of livelihood. They were gleeful at getting hold of at least the simulacrum of an argument to show that after all the capitalist system is as sound as the good old dollar as long as you don't tinker with it too much.

A reporter asked Republican House leader Charles A. Halleck if President Eisenhower was "elated" over the rise in total employment and the drop in unemployment, Halleck replied, "Sure."

## What's the Joke?



United Steelworkers' President David J. McDonald beamed happily with U.S. Steel Corporation head Clifford Hook during 1956 contract negotiations. The Steelworkers have been compelled to take strike action to win each post-war contract renewal. Present negotiations appear headed in same direction.

Eisenhower's press secretary Haggerty, according to AP, "interrupted to suggest that 'elated' was the wrong word because more than three million persons were still out of work." But the entire crew of administration spokesmen and the Republican press sang out on the triumphant theme that the figures prove that the administration followed the correct economic policy.

Editorial opinion in major capitalist papers hit this note hard. The New York Times May 12: "This extraordinary two-month recovery . . . should strengthen the hand of the President enormously in the firm stand he has taken for a balanced budget and

against excess spending in the months ahead." The Wall Street Journal May 13: "The sharp drop in unemployment reported this week ought to teach some lessons about the way our economy works . . . Fears of permanent high unemployment are not being borne out. And that means the people who have been demanding extensive and expensive Federal intervention as a cure for unemployment are mistaken."

The Wall Street Journal was emboldened to hint at 4,000,000 as "normal unemployment." And the First National City Bank Monthly Letter said: "Actually, the problem of unemployment

is less than it might at first appear. A figure of 3 million or less indicates a condition of business boom and of labor shortages in some areas and occupations."

What these comments add up to is the following: That the Government is to be cheered for doing nothing to alleviate the plight of the unemployed during the last two years, just as it was cheered for doing nothing during the two previous recessions; and that now that there is a downward fluctuation in the number of unemployed let's sweep the problem of the remaining millions out of sight and let the workings of the free enterprise system continue to produce miracles.

This old-fashioned capitalist philosophy is no longer readily accepted among the working people. On the contrary it is more vigorously challenged than ever, particularly on the basis of the experience of the 1957-58 recession.

What is normal unemployment? Are periodic economic busts that bring periodic unemployment to practically every American worker inherent in the very nature of man's destiny — a sort of blight that man must live with because of some "natural law"? These are questions that are being hotly debated.

The fact is that the capitalist propagandists have been on the defensive during this last recession. The arguments about the normalcy of depressions, recessions and unemployment sounded hackneyed even to them. It is true that these economic plagues are normal to capitalism. But working people begin to ask: Is capitalism itself normal?

A "normal" amount of unemployment during boom periods is essential to the capitalist system, a product of its most basic laws of development. Can the capitalist ruling class therefore continue to maintain such

own son and daughter had engaged in "rebel" activity. "Between ourselves, David," he wrote, "I have a sneaking feeling my own son has read Trotskyist propaganda too. He is literature secretary of the Cambridge University Labour Club and they have had the editor of the Trotskyist publication speaking there recently."

The right-wing leader then describes how, unknown to him, his daughter held meetings in his own home of a Youth League group so "rebellious" that it had to be kicked out of the Labour Party.

An indication of the kind of growth the Marxist group is enjoying is found in a special feature, "Why We Support the Socialist Labour League." A member of the editorial board of the Miner, a rank-and-file publication in the miners union, says, "As a Marxist organization it is the only force in the Labour movement that can lead the workers in the fight against the ruling class. At my pit we have gained eight members. This is only the start."

A boilermaker adds that the SLL program provides "an alternative militant policy to that of the right-wing leaders."

A Birmingham student says a large number of young people are already looking to the SLL for leadership and that it is "uniting students and teachers, clerks and industrial workers in the fight for real socialist policies in the labour movement."

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Then really letting his hair down, Phillips confided that his

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is less than it might at first appear. A figure of 3 million or less indicates a condition of business boom and of labor shortages in some areas and occupations."

What these comments add up to is the following: That the Government is to be cheered for doing nothing to alleviate the plight of the unemployed during the last two years, just as it was cheered for doing nothing during the two previous recessions; and that now that there is a downward fluctuation in the number of unemployed let's sweep the problem of the remaining millions out of sight and let the workings of the free enterprise system continue to produce miracles.

This old-fashioned capitalist philosophy is no longer readily accepted among the working people. On the contrary it is more vigorously challenged than ever, particularly on the basis of the experience of the 1957-58 recession.

What is normal unemployment? Are periodic economic busts that bring periodic unemployment to practically every American worker inherent in the very nature of man's destiny — a sort of blight that man must live with because of some "natural law"? These are questions that are being hotly debated.



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## For Negro Self-Defense

We socialists are one hundred per cent in favor of the right of self-defense for Negroes and all persecuted minorities against lynch mobs, rapists, KKK terrorists and the organized violence by which the white-supremacist dictatorship rules the South.

Self-defense against criminal violence is in the American tradition. You don't need to go back to 1776 to establish that. It is a living tradition visible in every picket line that a union sets up to defend itself against scabs.

The Negro people today are in a fight for their very right to live as free men. Their leaders have concentrated on struggles in the courts and they have won some great and encouraging legal victories there.

But the white supremacists are paying little attention to the courts. They think they can bludgeon the Negro people back into submission.

Negroes, however, are in no mood to submit to the racists. That is why the lynching of Mack Charles Parker in Poplarville, Miss., and the rape of a Negro co-ed at Tallahassee touched off a great surge of resentment and determination to fight back.

The question is how to do this most effectively. Proposals and slogans are seething in the Negro community. (See lead story on page one.)

The President of the NAACP in Monroe, N.C., after seeing the racist-minded courts in his area condone violence by a white hooligan against a Negro woman while handing out a savage jail sentence to an ailing Negro man, cried out that Negroes must defend themselves even if it means "meeting violence with violence," that they "should be willing to die and kill if necessary" to protect themselves; and "if it is necessary to stop lynching with lynching, then we must be willing to resort to that method."

Williams clarified, and, we believe, strengthened his declaration considerably when he explained that he was calling for self-defense and not unprovoked violence. Despite the fact that Roy Wilkins of the NAACP hastily suspended Williams from office, the great majority of the Negro community responded warmly to the intent and substance of Williams' statement and understood it exactly as he himself meant it and as he has since explained it.

We think that the New York Age put it just right when it said May 16, "Few will deny that Mr. Williams spoke the

feelings of the overwhelming majority of American Negroes. Whether Mr. Wilkins likes it or not, a whole lot of Negroes are beginning to get rather tired of being killed, raped, and blown apart with the courts doing nothing about it. At the same time, we're unalterably convinced that Mr. Williams did not mean for Negroes to organize themselves and go marching on some white folks' home... We do think, however, that Mr. Williams is urging Negroes to defend themselves in their homes or in the streets whenever they are attacked."

While the Negro movement discusses its policies and considers the various proposals for action before it, we strongly urge study of the lessons learned by militant union organizers, both Negro and white, in the labor movement.

In the face of capitalist-controlled courts, company-bought politicians, hired gunmen, stool pigeons and scabs, fighting unionists since the dawn of the labor movement have had to rely on their own power to defend themselves and their organizations. This part of labor history contains the most instructive lessons about flying squadrons, defense guards for union halls, emergency kitchens, first-aid hospitals and union communication systems. Union organizers learned how to mobilize swiftly with maximum numbers at the point of enemy attack. They learned the value of mass demonstrations, marches to the state capitol, all-night vigils and careful reconnoitering of enemy positions.

It was such knowledge and its practical application that finally brought unionism into the worst open-shop centers of America.

We would also urge that the Negro people use one of the most powerful levers they possess — their position as an integral part of the American labor movement — to bring the power of the unions to bear in this question. It is true that the officials of the AFL-CIO are sitting back complacently while the Negro people are under attack, but they are subject to pressure from the rank and file if it is properly organized.

Finally, we would urge an end to any confidence in the Democratic-Republican coalition that monopolizes the power of government.

If labor and the Negro people use their joint economic and political strength to forge a Negro-Labor alliance and organize a labor party, the racist forces will be routed in short order.

## Square Table or Round?

There are many aspects of unreality in the current Geneva "Big Four" parley. While humanity faces the possibility of a world nuclear war, heads of government debate whether conference delegates should be seated at a square table or a round one. While atomic test fallout contaminates the earth's atmosphere, test-ban discussions proceed in slow motion and grandiose plans are debated about "control" of outer space.

But the most utterly unreal aspect of the gathering at Geneva is the absence of one of the world's top-ranking powers — the People's Republic of China. The absence is based primarily on U.S. insistence that China simply doesn't exist.

The fantasy of this posture has reached the point where even some American politicians are beginning to ask that U.S.

foreign policy on this question come down to earth.

In a May 3 television appearance, Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) pointed out that it is meaningless to consider an enforceable nuclear test ban unless China is included in the agreement and that this must be considered even though it leads to recognition of China.

"If the difference between having a nuclear war and not having one" pivots around recognition of China, Holifield said, then he is for recognition. He added that he could not understand why the question of China's participation in a test-ban agreement was being ignored at Geneva.

It is high time that the American people compelled Washington to accept reality by officially recognizing the ten-year-old government of the Chinese people.

## Outlook for Latin America

Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party, said in a speech to the party's Central Committee May 10, that Fidel Castro and his movement in Cuba are the best example of the "progressive bourgeoisie." According to the N.Y. Times May 11, he declared, "We must march with the bourgeoisie, and Cuba is the example."

The cold-war propaganda machine has picked up this statement to warn of an "intensified effort by international Communism to undermine the unity of the Western Hemisphere." By the unity of the hemisphere they mean, of course, its unchallenged subservience to Wall Street.

But there is another side to this question. It concerns those who are fighting for the victory of the revolutions against Wall Street rule. To them, Corvalan's appraisal of Castro represents a dangerous trap. The socialist movement must of course support every step that capitalists and middle-class people in countries like Cuba take against imperialism. But the course that Corvalan outlines would result in leaving the masses unprepared whenever the "progressive" capitalists decided to make a deal with Wall Street and

sought to crush the workers' movement.

Corvalan made his speech upon returning from a recent visit to China. That country's revolution certainly does not validate marching with the "progressive national bourgeoisie." There was a time when the Chinese Communist Party leaders so characterized Chiang Kai-shek's party, the Kuomintang, which in 1925-27 stood at the head of China's national independence struggle. The CP subordinated the working-class and peasant movement to Chiang Kai-shek and lauded him as a dependable nationalist leader. In 1927, Chiang made a deal with British and U.S. imperialism and turned his troops against the Communist-influenced working-class in Shanghai. In the blood-bath, 40,000 workers were slaughtered.

China's revolution against imperialism finally won out in 1949, when the CP-led armies crushed Chiang Kai-shek's forces and drove the erstwhile "progressive bourgeoisie" off the mainland. In the ensuing years, China abolished capitalist property relations altogether and instituted national ownership and planning. This is the course Latin America's revolution against Wall Street will also have to take if it is to triumph.



"You're right. We could lose our shirts gambling on an agreement with the Russians!"

## Penalized for Questioning Line That Led to French CP Defeat

Prominent intellectuals in the French Communist Party have demanded re-examination of the policies of that organization which helped pave the way for the victory of the Bonapartist Gen. de Gaulle, according to a New York publication.

The CP group of students and professors at the famed Sorbonne University in Paris circulated a document calling for a party-wide discussion of the reasons for the defeat of the campaign against the new De Gaullist constitution and for the heavy losses suffered by the Communist Party in the December elections to the National Assembly. The document, which also called for an end to bureaucracy in the party, was answered by CP leaders with disciplinary action against the group.

This is reported in the February-March issue of *Unser Tsait*, a Yiddish-language cultural magazine published in New York. Abram Schulman, a French correspondent of *Unser Tsait*, quotes the document as follows:

"The defeat suffered by the CP is one of the worst yet sustained by the workers' movement. It would be criminal to hide or minimize this defeat. The Sorbonne fraction holds that it is necessary to break with the blind optimism... of the party leadership. We contend that criticism and self-criticism need not be limited to the membership but should also extend to the leadership.

"In the feverish days of last May [1958] when the Pflimlin government was getting ready to capitulate to the Algerian mili-

tarists and open the road to De Gaulle, the CP leadership held that there were reasons to form a bloc in the struggle against the insurgent 'ultras' in Algeria and to block De Gaulle. The defeat in the referendum followed. The leadership thereby showed complete blindness and incapacity to see reality.

"These were not chance failures. For a long time the leadership has lacked ability to analyze facts and draw correct conclusions. Instead of assessing the situation, they repeat ready-made, worn-out formulas and optimistic slogans. This ostrich policy, the systematic closing of one's eyes when danger is near or when there are defeats, will finally lead us to catastrophe. We therefore hold that... there must be a complete overhauling of party policies.

"We cannot agree with the report of the Central Committee which once again justifies the party 'line.' Our fraction requests the party leadership to open throughout all layers of the party a wide and more free discussion of the reasons for the present dark situation and, if it is necessary, rebuild the party. We offer the following comments on the tactics followed up to now:

"The leadership committed grave mistakes on the questions of colonialism and Algeria. They have not grasped the import of the immense postwar movement for freedom among the African peoples. They have not taken the lead in relation to this movement and have permitted the majority of the French masses to be permeated with colonialism and chauvinism.

## ...N.Y. Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

Set up the trays. Collect them, scrape and wash them.

"And then they hit you with overtime. I work six o'clock to three and then they tell me to work until six or seven. Time and a half — they never heard of it. Five dollars extra, no matter how many hours you put in. I figure I've been averaging 46 or 47 hours a week. How do I manage on the money? I don't! If I did I wouldn't be on strike."

A gray-haired woman chimed in: "When I was hired they promised a raise every six months. In three years I've gotten three raises, but that includes a promotion from the information desk to doing census work in the admitting office. I started at \$40 a week. Now I do admitting work and all kinds of extra jobs and I'm getting \$50. Do you know what that is in take-home pay? Don't take my word for it. Look at this slip, my last one, \$81.85 for two weeks. And I pay \$51.86 rent."

"Talk about dictators in Europe. You've got them right in this hospital. I was out two days with bronchitis just before the strike and came back still sick. Before I got to my desk the supervisor calls me in. 'Are you with the union or the hospital? If you're not with the hospital you might as well go back home.' She said I had to give her a 'yes' or 'no' answer. I said I had to think it over."

A teen-age girl grabbed me by the arm. "See that old lady going across the street? She's a grandmother, maybe in her sixties. Last week she was all dressed to go home at three o'clock and they told her, 'Either work overtime or turn in your keys.' They don't care about anyone."

"We're all staying out," said an older woman. "We'll do the best we can. We have hopes. We have to stay out. We're all fired, you know. If we don't win we've got nothing."

## CRITICIZE MOLLET SUPPORT

"Furthermore the party made a great mistake when it supported the government of Guy Mollet after his betrayal in Algeria. We hold that the party is constantly committing major errors on the question of labor unity with other organizations and groups.

"The non-Communist workers don't trust our party because it does not stand up for democratic rights. Our leadership did not want to speak out clearly about the Twentieth Congress in Moscow, nor about the events in Poland and Hungary. They never spoke out clearly about the crimes committed at one period in the Soviet Union. The Party leadership never acknowledged that there is a specific and particular path toward Communism in France. All this repulsed the great non-Communist mass from us."

"All these mistakes flow from a fundamental fault of the party — that we lack a Marxist analysis of the French situation... The leadership is still guided by the outmoded theory of 'absolute pauperization' and has no program for economic gains on the road to socialism. This dogmatism has cut us off from the masses.

"The main reason for all of this is that we have no freedom of discussion or true political democracy. We therefore request the immediate institution of a wide and free discussion of all these questions."

The document was widely circulated in the party, finally bringing action from the leadership. The action was somewhat limited, the correspondent notes, as compared to the old days when the entire fraction might have been summarily expelled. Such an act today, he said, might have aroused thousands in the party who feel the same doubts about party policy. Further, he adds, the Sorbonne group is regarded as the outstanding intellectual sector of

# BOOKS

**TRUMBULL PARK** by Frank London Brown. Henry Regnery Co., Chicago, 1959. 432 pp. \$3.95.

Frank London Brown has written a powerful testimonial, in the form of a novel, against the racial terror that gripped Trumbull Park housing project in Chicago's southside when Negro families began moving in. An early Negro resident at Trumbull, Frank Brown tells the story as a participant in the daily struggle to survive and win.

Arthur and Mona Davis (Brown uses pseudonyms) were the first to move into Trumbull Park in the summer of 1953. A few days later an organized reign of terror commenced and continued for well over a year. They suffered alone for almost three months before other Negro families were admitted to the project. These families moved into Trumbull despite the fact that the Davis family's plight had made world headlines.

The story centers around one of the families — Louis "Buggy" Martin, his wife Helen and their two children, with another on the way. They, like all the rest, were running away from the slums, from the horror and stink of rotten, old tenements, from the rats, roaches and bedbugs. Trumbull Park was their hope for a better life.

Reading "Trumbull Park" I shared the horror of the bombs — which tore at the very heart and soul of the victims, the terror of little children exposed to flying bricks, broken windows and snakes put through the mail slot.

Such things were instigated among white people at Trumbull by the "big fellows" in the South Deering Improvement Association, an organization composed of property owners. In a simple, poignant style

Frank Brown tells the bitter story of the Negro tenants who were unprepared to confront the racists on their own ground. He tells of their enforced isolation and the constant insults to which they were subjected. They were forced to use patrol wagons in order to leave or enter the project in safety. While apparently "protecting" them, the police were openly defending the white mob: "Goddammit! — now them niggers got 'em throwing bricks at us!"

"Buggy" Martin and his neighbors supported a mass picket line at City Hall called by the Negro Businessmen's Society to pressure the Mayor to "Enforce The Law In Trumbull!" "We're not altogether alone, are we?" asked "Buggy" of Terry Watson.

The mixed feelings of fear and indignation felt by all the Negro tenants proved too much for some. A crisis was reached when a mob tried to prevent one of the Negro mothers, about to give birth, from being carried to an ambulance. A proposal was made at the next meeting of the Negro Tenants group that they all move out of the project together. "Buggy" Martin fought against this proposal and won.

"I'm crusing for a decent place to live," he said, "some place away from that alley that I lived in down on 57th. I'm not going back there, and I don't want to see any of you go back from wherever you came from. Yes, I'm a crusader! And this is no place for anybody who ain't one."

Through this intimately human story a vividly objective picture emerges of the general struggle of the Negro people for first-class citizenship.

Thanks to Frank Brown for his account of the "war of attrition" in Trumbull Park. —Lillian Kiesel

## Headlines in Other Lands

### Uncover Murder Of 11 Prisoners In British Colony

A fresh horror in the "free" world was revealed last week when British Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd said that the Kenya government is considering whether or not it should institute prosecutions over the fatal beatings of 11 African political prisoners. The Colonial Secretary told the House of Commons May 7 that a coroner had found that "entirely unjustified and illegal" beating of prisoners by guards had occurred at the Hola Detention Camp.

Last March 4, officials of the British-ruled East African colony said that the men had died after drinking water. But a post mortem showed injuries due to violence.

The Manchester Guardian said the findings were "horrifying to read," and suggested that more than a "promise" is needed if a full inquiry is to be obtained. Hola is one of four concentration camps maintained by the British for Africans seeking freedom from their imperialist rule.

### How Tito Escaped "Stalin's Knife"

In an interview published May 2 *Marshall Tito* said that he knew of at least a hundred leading Yugoslav Communists who died in Stalin's purges during the thirties. He said that his stay in the Soviet Union in those days was "the grimmest time of my life."

"I only read," the Yugoslav leader said, "I avoided discussions because the NKVD tapped all telephone conversations. Perhaps this attitude kept me from coming under Stalin's knife."

Tito said nothing about the followers of Trotsky who were purged at the time under the false charge that they were agents of Hitler.

### Continue Seizures Of Land in Cuba

Cuban land owners were reported May 10 to be feeling "great concern" over "illegal occupation" of plantations by landless farmers.

What worried them especially is that local authorities are "closing their eyes to these illegal seizures." Castro has stated that illegal seizures will not be tolerated and that land can be turned over to tenants and squatters only under provisions of the agrarian reform law. A measure approved by the Castro govern-

ment specifically prohibits occupation of plantations such as has been occurring.

In Oriente province some of the seizures were reported to have enjoyed the protection of revolutionary forces.

### Census in USSR Shows Decimation Due to Invasion

The Central Statistical Board released its report May 10 on the census taken in the Soviet Union Jan. 15, the first since Jan. 17, 1939. Total population was placed at 208,800,000. Current population of the U.S. is estimated at 176,000,000.

The decimation suffered in the German imperialist invasion is indicated in various ways. The population gain in 20 years was only 18,000,000 and this includes 20,000,000 people brought into the Soviet Union since 1939 through the extension of boundaries. The United States increase in population in the same two decades was 45,000,000.

There are 114,300,000 women and 94,000,000 men in the Soviet Union; giving a population of 55% women and 45% men. In 1939 the figures were 52% women and 48% men. The current disparity in sexes exists in the older age brackets which were affected by the war. Below the age of 32, there is a balance between men and women.

Among the larger cities Leningrad, which suffered acutely in the war, still has a smaller population than in 1939, the figures being 2,888,000 compared with 3,015,000.

The rapid industrialization of the Soviet Union is indicated by an increase of the urban population from 32% of the total to 48%.

While the population as a whole increased 9.5%, the Urals grew by 32%, Western Siberia by 24%, Eastern Siberia by 34% and the Soviet Far East by 70%. These are areas of markedly increased industrialization.

The population is growing at an estimated rate of 3,000,000 a year. The report claimed the lowest death rate in the world but gave no figures on infant mortality.

The ghastly toll in human lives which the Nazi invasion cost the Soviet Union underlines once again the catastrophic consequences of the policies of the Stalinist bureaucracy which helped pave Hitler's rise to power; and then, as Khrushchev emphasized at the Twentieth Congress, undermined Soviet military defenses on the eve of World War II.

The losses also cast a revealing light on why the Soviet Union people fear another war and why they would like to see an immediate agreement on ending the tests of nuclear weapons.

### Landless Irish Try Out Ploughs On Big Estate

Evidence of unrest among landless Irish farmers, who would like to see unused land on large estates divided up, was reported in the May 4 *Manchester Guardian*. Following "several outbreaks of agitation," a more serious incident occurred.

A group entered a farm near Banagher in County Offaly, ploughed up some land and planted it with wheat.

Then they drove away some cattle from another farm. They were met by police, who tried to take the cattle away from them. The raiders fought the police.

Later five of them were arrested and taken to police barracks at Banagher. While they were being held, a rescue party attacked the barracks and succeeded in releasing them.

These men are still at large but police arrested six alleged to belong to the rescue party and took them to Dublin. They are being held in Mountjoy prison pending trial.

### Did "Uprising" Against Salazar Actually Occur?

An "attempted uprising" against the Salazar dictatorship in Portugal last March was put down by government forces, Col. Arnaldo Schulz, Minister of the Interior, announced May 7. What really occurred remained obscure although reports have appeared from time to time in recent months about deepening unrest under the brutal regime.

Schulz blamed the "uprising" on "Communists" and said that 22 civilians and nine servicemen, one of them a major, had been arrested. Since the press was not permitted to interview the prisoners, their side of the story remained unknown. Schulz did admit, under questioning, that some of the prisoners protested, "perhaps sincerely," that they were not Communists.

General Delgado, opposition candidate in the presidential election last June, said from his exile in Brazil that the charge of a Communist plot was ridiculous.



What Technique Do You Use?

Editor: Hereafter please send me 20 copies of the Militant each week. I stop strangers on the street, talk a little about the paper, ask them if they would like a sample copy. About half of them offer to pay for their copy. I wish more socialists would do the same. How are others doing? I would like to know, for maybe they have a better technique than mine.

M. S. Detroit

Dollars to Keep Family Eating Aren't Inflationary

Editor: Since the steel negotiations started this week the capitalist propaganda mill has been working overtime to prove that the United Steelworkers Union is trying to ravage the country by its wage demands. Everybody knows that the American worker has been living on borrowed time. And I mean BORROWED! Most of us belong to the finance company. Steel workers are no different. After each new contract is signed the steel companies boost steel prices even higher than the increase in wages, and have managed to make the steel workers look bad by dumping the blame in their lap. The fact of the matter is that even if the workers take a wage cut this year steel prices could go even higher. Why? Because the steel companies get what they can for their product regardless of what they pay in wages. Wages were increased in the last contract. But has the worker been eating better? Are the wife and children dressing better? Is the TV set paid for? The newspapers of the bosses tell us that wage increases are the cause of inflation; that the workers are cutting their own throats by asking for more money. Let's see who the cut-throats are. No one can eat or wear guided missiles and heavy cruisers, so there is more money in circulation than goods that Americans can buy. That's the big cause of

inflation today, despite what the economics "experts" say. The bosses bleed the worker twice — by making a profit on him and by causing inflation in preparing for war that can wipe us all out. I've noticed that it's characteristic of the rich that they always cry poverty. We know that their profits have never been higher. If steel workers are going to keep their heads above water in the next period, and if they are to be compensated for the extra sweat that's squeezed out of them in the speed-up, then a wage increase is on the order of the day. Higher wages only cut into profits. The bosses consider their profits untouchable. But any worker worth his salt considers his own living standard and that of his fellow workers holier than the profits of the steel giants. Let's have more chow on the table for the workers and fewer trips to Jamaica for the coupon clippers.

L. Blair New York

At Age of 84 Sees Socialism Sure to Come

Editor: After seventy years in the labor movement as a socialist, as an IWW, as a Democrat — battling for old-age pensions and unemployment compensation — disillusioned with the Democratic Party, back to socialism, I can only say in the words of William Ernest Henley: In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed. It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.

This I can say, that always in my battles with the police, with popular opinion, preachers and press, I have heaved to the line of class consciousness. Stood loyally by my union and my ideology and will die as I have lived, fighting for a world of decency

and co-operation where men and women can live together in peace and be enabled to trust one another. Whether sleeping in box cars or crummy jails, defying the courts and police to do their worst, always on the soap box, my conscience was clear and the matter of betrayal never entered my heart. This I had in common with Eugene Victor Debs, Bill Haywood, Clarence Darrow and Morris Budman, Matt Smith and Scott Nearing, all great men, all good men, all men with a belief and a purpose. Just to know that to sit in Theodore Debs' office in Terre Haute, Indiana, and visit with that incomparable pair, Ted and Gene Debs. Terre Haute is famous only because it was the birthplace and home of Debs. Here I am 84 years old, with a lifetime of agitation behind me, believing that some day man will overthrow superstition and hypocrisy and emerge into the sunlight of peace and common brotherhood.

Paul Dennie Member Detroit Branch Socialist Workers Party

Still Holds Opinion That AFL-CIO Can't Be Reformed

Editor: In your issue of May 4, N. K. disagrees with me on unions being the main bulwark of capitalism. He asks, "Why then do they pass anti-union laws?" Anti-union laws are like anti-lynching laws; they never go so far as to stop unions or, on the other hand, to stop lynching. Capitalism needs both evils to control labor. Lynching is a repression of Negroes through fear. The AFL-CIO represses all races by fostering ignorance of the class struggle. I am eighty years old, and I have been a member of the IWW, which was a real union. This union was destroyed by the spies of capitalism. My experience is that the AFL-CIO cannot be reformed. If I had a union card I would tear it up and throw it at the fakers. We will never get socialism through the AFL-CIO.

E. H. New Jersey

... Lynching

(Continued from Page 1) Negroes, crowded into the courtroom's Jim Crow gallery, for directly after the men's arrest the deputy sheriff told reporters that all had admitted to kidnapping and raping the 19-year-old girl. Trial has been set for May 27. On the heels of the Poplarville lynching and the Tallahassee rape case came the long-delayed disposition of two cases of assaults upon Negro women in Monroe, N.C., the town made notorious when its court sentenced two Negro boys aged eight and nine to the reformatory for being kissed by a seven-year-old white girl. In the case of Mrs. Georgia White, a hotel maid, beaten and kicked down a flight of stairs by a white guest, the grand jury refused to hear witnesses and simply dismissed the charges. In the case of Mrs. Mary Reed, eight months pregnant, severely beaten in the presence of her children by a white man in an attempted rape, there was an acquittal despite the testimony of a white woman witness. In the same session of court, a Negro epileptic was given the maximum sentence for simple assault on a white female in a case in which it is not unlikely the accused was undergoing a seizure.

Linking these racist verdicts to the lynching in Mississippi and the rape in Tallahassee, Monroe's Negro leader, Robert F. Williams, declared that Negroes must defend themselves even if it means "meeting violence with violence if that is to be the only way we can obtain justice." Negroes, he said, should be "willing to die" or "even to kill if necessary" to protect themselves. "If it is necessary to stop lynching with lynching, then we must be willing to resort to that method."

Williams' angry outburst startled the nation's press. Within hours a telegram from Roy Wilkins, national head of the NAACP, was on the wires, suspending Williams as President of the Union County NAACP branch. Williams replied that he had not spoken in the name of the NAACP but as an individual and that Negroes in the South were justified in employing violent methods of self-defense if violently attacked by racists. Summoned to New York City for a trial by the NAACP national board within a few days, Williams discovered that his stand had evoked widespread support. Appearing with him at a press conference on May 11 was Conrad Lynn, the attorney associated with him in the Monroe children's case. Lynn pointed out that under the NAACP constitution Wilkins could not suspend a NAACP branch president by decree, that such action could be taken only by the national board and only 15 days after presentation of written charges. Wilkins thereupon postponed the hearing to June 3. In newspaper, radio and TV interviews in New York Wilkins clarified or modified his position, which many people,

STARTLES NATION

on the basis of the May 6 news report from the South, had interpreted as advocating the initiation of violence or vengeance. Williams has since made it clear that his position is solely that of self-defense by Negroes, individually or collectively. This, he contends, is justified by U.S. as well as "moral and natural" law. He also advocates that Southern Negroes use the right of "citizen's arrest" against racist criminals. Citizen's arrest, embedded in the common law of every state, allows private citizens to arrest, using whatever force is required, anyone in the act of committing a crime, and, in the case of felonies, of anyone they know to have committed a crime. Williams' statements have set off a great debate among the Negro masses, in their organizations and newspapers. While some papers immediately backed up Wilkins' action against the Carolina Negro leader, others have backed Williams or criticized Wilkins for too hasty action. An editorial in the May 16 N.Y. Age, for example, states: "Few will deny that Mr. Williams spoke the feelings of the overwhelming majority of American Negroes. Whether Mr. Wilkins likes it or not, a whole lot of Negroes are beginning to

get rather tired of being killed, raped, and blown apart with the courts doing nothing about it. At the same time, we're unalterably convinced that Mr. Williams did not mean for Negroes to organize themselves and go marching on some white folks' home. . . . We do think, however, that Mr. Williams is urging Negroes to defend themselves in their homes or in the streets whenever they are attacked. God never meant for anybody to lay down and allow themselves to be destroyed. Don't you know that if more Negroes had defended themselves, there would be less lynching today. Mack Charles Parker might have been alive today if the Negroes in the Mississippi jail that night had met 'violence with violence' . . . . The influential N.Y. Amsterdam News (May 16), used as its headline Williams' words, "We Must Fight Back." A box at the top of the front page asks each reader: "Where Do You Stand? Should Negroes take Southern brutality lying down or should they become violent and fight back? This is the burning issue on the streets of Harlem. Columnist Lester Granger advocates non-violence. Columnist Earl Brown says, 'The only way to break the chains of one-way death in Dixie is to kill when attacked.' Where do you stand?"

whether they are for or against the McNamara bill. "We must hold demonstrations of the unemployed and employed from one end of the country to the other, demanding passage of the bill in this year's session. "If we don't follow through, our demand for shorter hours will be completely disregarded and nothing will be done." This is certainly a key point — that the AFL-CIO leaders are not fighting for even the measures they claim to support. Two days before the Lansing conference, UAW secretary-treasurer Emil Mazey was interrupted by cries from the floor while he gave a talk to the Local 3 unemployed group in Detroit. "What about the shorter week?" they demanded.

35 BUT MAKE IT 40 Mazey answered carefully: "The UAW is on record in favor of an amendment to the wages and hours law to reduce the work week to 35 hours. But —" he quickly added, "but to get the things that America needs — roads, schools, hospitals, and so on — we will have to work 40 hours a week." This probably explains why neither the national AFL-CIO, nor the state AFL-CIO, nor the international UAW have to date endorsed the McNamara bill, the only one in the Senate calling for the hourly reduction they give lip-service to.

... Lansing Jobless Rally

(Continued from Page 1) Party had distributed a leaflet outside the conference which exposed this hoax in advance. It reminded the delegates that in January the Michigan AFL-CIO had come out for a law to pay unemployment compensation benefits to laid-off workers until they find a job; and had even got some Democratic legislators to agree to introduce the bill. But at this point the Democratic Party, in the person of Gov. Williams, stepped in and said no. The Democratic legislators then refused to introduce the bill and, worse yet, the AFL-CIO dropped it as a demand, not even mentioning it at this conference. Of course the Democrats are "sympathetic and understanding" when the unions drop their own demands and ask for nothing that the Democrats are against. Republicans probably would be too. After lunch, delegates filed into the visitors gallery of the state senate to watch its proceedings. Some of them draped a 30-foot banner along the railing. Among other things it called for the 30 hour week and unlimited jobless compensation. When sergeants-at-arms approached to demand its removal, the pent-up dissatisfaction and frustration of the delegates exploded. For two minutes they roared in anger so loud that the

Builders of the Future World



In the biggest demonstration ever held in Washington, 26,000 youth, Negro and white marched with banners demanding immediate school integration. Above is part of delegation from City College of New York, one of many campus groups that turned out. Below, two of the youngest participants wait for march to begin.

sergeants were afraid to touch the sign. "Leave it alone! Throw them out!" Democratic Lt. Gov. John Swainson finally restored order, got the sign down and adjourned the session so the delegates could talk to the senators. The rank-and-file UAW leaflet distributed at the conference supported jobless compensation for the duration as "the only proposal that takes into consideration the plight of all the unemployed." Most of it was critical of the union leaders' failure to fight for a shorter work week. It said: "We need a 30 hour week with no cut in takehome pay. "The national AFL-CIO Council has declared in favor of a 35 hour week. We welcome the Council's action as a step in the right direction and favor passage of Senator McNamara's 35 hour bill which has already been introduced in the Senate. "It's not enough to say that we favor the 35 hour week and then let it get buried in a long list of 'ultimate' and 'long range' objectives. "We must fight for a shorter work week now if we hope to win it in the foreseeable future. "We must throw the full weight of the labor movement behind a fight to achieve this objective. We must put pressure on all of Congress to declare

Picket Hearings Of Witch-Hunt Group in Chicago

CHICAGO — A block-long picket line around the Federal Building here on May 5 told the House Un-American Activities Committee to leave unions and civil-rights organizations alone and to investigate lynch terror against Negroes in the South instead. The House group conducted "hearings" here on May 5, 6 and 7. Among those it "investigated" for "communist activities" were leading members of the Packinghouse Workers Union (AFL-CIO), an organization that is in the forefront of the civil-rights struggle in the South. Seven of the eleven people "probed" by the committee were Negroes.

Chicago Cops Flout the Law

Chicago police are notorious for holding prisoners incommunicado for long periods before booking them. A survey by the American Civil Liberties Union revealed that 50 per cent of the prisoners brought into felony court in 1958 had been held without charges for 17 hours or longer. A significant number were held as long as three days before being booked. Commenting on these findings, the May issue of the Guild Lawyer said: "One might infer from this that the South is not the only region in this country where the systematic denial of constitutional rights has become such an accepted part of community life that the authorities don't bother to conceal the evidence."

Plans for picketing the Congressional witch-hunters were presented to nearly 3,000 attending a rally on May 4 at the Peckinhouse Hall. The mass meeting was called by the Chicago League of Negro voters to protest the recent lynch murder of Mack C. Parker in Poplarville, Mississippi. Speakers at the rally included representatives of the Afro-American Heritage Association and the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, who stressed that organized labor and the Negro organizations confronted a common enemy. The May 4 rally and the next day's picketing reflected a note of militant resistance to the witch-hunters that was, missing during the House Committee's red-baiting probe two years ago. (At that time the Congressional committee sought to smear the Midwest Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born as "subversive.")

The May 4-6 hearings were run according to the Un-American Activities committee's usual high-handed procedure. Paid informers first fingered their victims (They rehearsed their finger work with the Committee members behind closed doors before public sessions started.) Those they named as "communist agents" were not allowed to cross-examine their accusers. After the stool-pigeons were through, persons they had fingered were summoned to be grilled by committee members. Judging by the type of questions they asked, the witch-hunters appeared to be trying to lay the basis for indictments under the Taft-Hartley law. Thus they asked the Packinghouse unionists, including District Director Charles Hayes, if they had denied Communist Party membership only technically — that is, to get around "non-Communist" provisions of the Taft-Hartley act.

In 1957, several Cleveland union officials were convicted of "conspiracy" to file false "non-Communist" affidavits. They were charged with having "technically" ceased to be CP members while retaining membership in effect. Most witnesses refused to answer these and other questions dealing with their political beliefs by invoking their rights under the Constitution's Fifth Amendment. However, one witness, Edwin Alexander, invoked the Constitution's entire Bill of Rights except that clause in the Fifth Amendment which says that no one "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself." This is the constitutional provision most often invoked by witnesses who refuse to cooperate with the Congressional witch-hunters. Refusal to answer on that ground has been validated by the Supreme Court. However, the witch-hunters ma-

lign those who use the clause as people "who find it necessary to hide behind the Fifth Amendment." To invoke the right not to be a witness against oneself before the Un-American Activities Committee has been branded as tantamount to an admission of "guilt," and employers have used it as reason for discharge. That is why in every hearing of the House Un-American Activities Committee, individuals have volunteered to risk "contempt of Congress" indictment by challenging the witch-hunters on grounds other than the so-called "self-incrimination" clause of the Fifth Amendment. This paid off for civil liberties in 1957, when the Supreme Court, in the Watkins Case restrained Congressional "probes" to some extent under the provisions of the First (free-speech) Amendment. However, the Watkins decision did not categorically enjoin committees such as the Un-American Activities group from inquiring into a person's alleged political beliefs and associations. Further testing of the committee's legal powers is thus necessary. All civil-liberties defenders will applaud Mr. Alexander's challenge to the witch-hunting committee's powers, and they must be prepared to help him win his case should Congress cite him for "contempt."

Calendar Of Events

MINNEAPOLIS Browse and buy at the Labor Book Store's Socialist Book Fair. Join in celebrating the publication of "Notebook of an Agitator" by James P. Cannon, featuring a program of recorded readings by the author and others. Sat. May 23; 8:30 p.m. 322 Hennepin Ave. Food, Refreshments, Contribution 50c. NEW YORK Debate! "The Road to Peace. — Pacifism or Revolutionary Socialism?" Sheldon Weeks, American Friends Committee, and Tom Kerry, Chairman New York Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 22, 8:30 p.m. at 116 University Place, Militant Labor Forum. Contribution 50 cents.

Local Directory

- BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Temple 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or WE 3-9238. MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND-BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday, 8 P.M., followed by open house. Call PO 3-5820. SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4, Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321. SEATTLE 1412-18th Avenue, EA 2-5554. LIbrary, bookstore. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194.

Notes in the News

MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA SOCIALIST VOTE — State officials reported the following results for Socialist Workers Party candidates in the Michigan April 6 elections: Robert Himmel, for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2,589 votes; Evelyn Sell, for Regent of the University of Michigan, 3,229; Rita Shaw, for six-year term, Board of Governors, Wayne State University, 4,306 and Harriet Talan, four-year term, 2,820. Larry Dolinski, candidate for one of three Highland Park Board of Education posts, received 1,246 votes, over 10% of the total. These were slightly higher than the votes attributed to SWP candidates in last November's election. In Minneapolis, William Curran, SWP-endorsed candidate for Mayor, ran seventh in a field of ten, receiving 345 votes.

A SOCIALIST MAVERICK — A new monthly socialist tabloid has begun publication in Chicago. Dedicated to the proposition that satire has a meaningful place in the fight against capitalism, the first issue features some lively jabs against the system as well as general political material. An introductory subscription of six months for \$1 or a 15-month subscription for \$2 may be ordered from Maverick Publication Company, 1553 West Madison, Chicago 7, Ill.

MILKING BOTH ENDS — One of the big dairy processors advertises "milk from contented cows." That may be true. But neither consumers nor farmers are contented over prices. Farmers averaged 10.9 cents a quart in 1957, virtually the same as in 1947. But consumers were paying an average of 24.2 cents, a jump of 5.2 cents over the 19 cents they paid ten years earlier. The take of the dairy-product firms jumped from a not bad 8.1 cents a quart to a lucrative 13.3 cents a quart during the decade. For keeping stockholders contented, there's nothing like milking both ends.

HONOR McCrackin — In a statement issued April 29, the day of his scheduled release from a federal prison camp, the Rev. Maurice A. McCrackin was honored by a statement signed by 734 persons across the country expressing respect and admiration for his courageous adherence to his beliefs. The Rev. McCrackin held that the bulk of tax money is devoted to war preparations. He therefore deducted 70% from his payments and sent it to "organizations working for peace." For a number of years the government seized part of his funds in bank accounts to make up the difference. When he blocked this by closing out his accounts, the government railroaded him through court and into prison for six months.

BROTHERLY BIGOTRY — A young Los Angeles student was compelled to resign as elected Mayor of a Brotherhood Camp sponsored by the Southern California Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and her brother and sister also banned from the camp. The action was taken by the Los Angeles director of the organization on the sole grounds that their father was among nearly a hundred people subpoenaed by the House Un-American Activities Committee last month. The Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms, headed by Dorothy Marshall, vigor-

ously protested the victimization of the children in an April 23 letter to all local executive board members of the National Conference

RISE CURVE OF JUNK — The Wall Street Journal notes a sure sign of the fulfillment of Eisenhower's forecast of a rising curve of prosperity: "Hartford's incinerator superintendent says rubbish collections in the Connecticut city are running 200 tons a week over a year ago, reflecting larger food purchases and greater replacement of old household goods. In recession-ridden 1958, city junk collections fell more than 15,000 tons." That should make some jobs for jobless junkmen.

STAFF OF LIFE? — Are you watching your weight? And are you tempted to take an extra slice of that fresh bread? Here's an item that might help you: Last February Atomic Energy Commission health examiners picked 12 one-pound loaves of white bread in a New York supermarket. Just a routine check. They found it loaded with strontium 90, Edward Gamarekian of the Washington Post and Times Herald estimated from the report that the bread "had a radioactive strontium 90 content equal to four times the maximum 'permissible' limit." Not so, said an AEC spokesman. It was only two-thirds the maximum "permissible" limit. While they argue over how much is legal, who knows how much strontium 90 is in that loaf on your table right now?

FACTS WE'D RATHER NOT KNOW — About 259,200 tons of soot and ash fell on sidewalks, windowsills and rooftops in New York City last year. And this was not the dirtiest year. "On the whole," cheerfully reported the Department of Air Pollution Control (it's really named that), "the air was less polluted last year than at any time since 1955."

GOTTA KEEP SEX FROM THE PUBLIC — "Lady Chatterley's Lover," although written more than 30 years ago, seems to have given the Post Office quite a hot shoe. The Department had barely recovered from the postcard reproduction of Goya's "Naked Maja" when the publishers of Lawrence's famous novel sent 24 parcels of an unexpurgated edition through the mails. The Fraud and Mailability Division didn't take long to flip through the pages to the four-letter words. Due notice came to the publishers. The official letter "alleges and avers" that "the said book . . . is obscene, lewd, lascivious, indecent and filthy in content and character," and that "the dominant effect of the book appeals to prurient interest." Being experts in such matters, they should know. Literary critics, however, hold that the novel is an artistic creation. While the authorities clucked in postal gobbledegook over Lawrence's handling of Anglo-Saxon words, sales, naturally, began soaring.

AGAINST WHIPPING POST — Gov. Boggs of Delaware vetoed a bill making public lashing mandatory for convicted robbers. He called for abolition of the whipping post altogether. The bill had been passed by an overwhelming majority in the legislature, but the governor said public reaction was three to one against the sadistic measure.