

Steel Co. On Strike In Detroit

Workers Demand Safer Conditions

By Jim Avery

DETROIT, Jan. 31 — An upsurge of rank-and-file militancy among 4,200 steel workers at the three McLouth Steel Corp. plants cut across the pattern of steel settlements conceded to the companies by Pres. David J. McDonald of the United Steelworkers Union. When the eighty-day Taft-Hartley injunction deadline was reached midnight Jan. 26, members of Local 2659 shut down the plants in an action that was branded by local USW officials as "an unauthorized action."

Earlier in the day, District 29 Director Thomas Shane had signed an indefinite extension agreement, with a ten-day termination notice by either party. The response of the men in the mills was to close down operations.

The daily papers broke the news the next morning with headlines about "violence." But the only incident involved the upsetting of a foreman's car when he attempted to drive through the mass of pickets at the Trenton gates. A picket told a reporter that "a wind came up from the river and blew it over."

McLouth was once a small producer. With the introduction of oxygen-processing of steel three years ago, the company expanded rapidly. In the first half of 1959 it reported a record \$10.5 million profit.

With an influx of workers in the plant, largely young men from mining areas and auto

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GLADYS BARKER

SWP Doubles Requirement For N.J. Ballot

NEWARK, Jan. 31 — More than 1,500 voters yesterday signed independent nominating petitions here to place Socialist Workers candidates for the presidency and for U. S. Senator on the New Jersey ballot. The legal minimum required on each petition is 800 signatures.

Party supporters who circulated the petitions reported that in contrast to the lack of enthusiasm for the two major parties they found considerable readiness to help a minority party win a place on the ballot.

In addition to a slate of presidential electors, canvassers circulated petitions for the nomination of Gladys Barker for U.S. Senator. A militant fighter for civil rights, she is running on a platform of socialist opposition to the big-business forces responsible for the perpetuation of the Jim Crow system.

Cubans Welcome Negroes

Bid for Tourists Hailed by Editors

By Lillian Kiezel

"There is no racial discrimination in Cuba. That is a resounding and important declaration," said John H. Sengstacke, publisher-editor of the Chicago Defender, on returning from a visit to the island together with 75 other prominent American Negroes. They went as guests of the Cuban government during the New Year's celebration of the first anniversary of the revolution that ousted the hated Batista dictatorship.

Most of the visitors represented Negro newspapers throughout the U.S., underscoring the purpose of the Cuban government's invitation. Baudillo Castellanos, chief of the Cuban Tourist Commission, greeted them with the words: "We want colored people to know they will be well received here."

"Nothing to Hide"

Premier Fidel Castro officially extended the hospitality of the country. He told them "to see, do and go wherever you wish... we have nothing to hide... You are our guests not for political or financial reasons. We wanted you to come so that you could see for yourselves what is being done in our country."

The Cuban government asked only that the reporters tell the truth. Joe Louis had this to say about the welcome offered to Negro tourists: "This is really good for Cuba to invite American Negroes to the country. Colored people in the U.S. do not have any place to go in the winter except Cuba. And I think they are going to take advantage of that fact."

The trip proved an eye opener for Thomas J. Davis, editor of the Cleveland Call-Post. He said, "The Cuban people are shaping their democracy."

He scored the slander campaign which the U.S. press has been waging against Cuba: "Negroes in America are quite used to the battle cry of the big press of calling any movement that demands fairness for all people regardless of race, creed, color or financial position, Communists. To us this is a false bit of propaganda designed to defeat democratic processes."

Why is it that "everybody is against Castro... but the people?" asked William G. Nunn, Sr., of the Pittsburgh Courier.

As his answer he pointed to measures such as the Agrarian Reform Law and the law reducing rents by 50%, plus the policy of integration.

The Cuban people, he observed, have responded by contributing an "all out effort." Tractors are "working 22 hours out of 24."

The "tensions" reported daily in the U.S. press were "not observed" by Nunn. "I've experienced the thing which Negro Americans have dreamed about happening in their own country."

He said that Cuban hospitality is warm, stemming from the "hearts of a people who practice the democracy Americans give lip service to."

As for the Castro regime, Nunn believes that "American

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Gen. De Gaulle Imposes Decree Rule on France

12 Million in 1-Hour Strike

By Daniel Roberts

The French workers' hatred of fascism was dramatically displayed for one hour last week. Twelve million workers — more than one quarter of the total population — staged a general strike from 11 a.m. to noon on Feb. 1 at the call of the three major labor federations. The strike was at least ninety per cent effective throughout the nation.

"Promptly at 11 in Paris the gates clanged shut at subway entrances," wrote W. Granger Blair in the Feb. 2 New York Times. "Buses continued to the end of the line and stopped. Operators walked away from telephone switchboards. Post and telegraph offices remained open, but service was suspended..."

"Coal miners and steelworkers in the northern and north-eastern regions stopped work for short periods or for a full hour, depending on the enterprise. The same was true in the textile, metallurgical, chemical and auto industries..."

The independent National Federation of Education was associated with the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labor and the Socialist and Roman Catholic labor federations in the strike appeal. The result was that classes were interrupted for varying periods.

"Examples of opposition to the strike were rare."

According to B. J. Cutler in the Feb. 2 New York Herald Tribune, strike leaders said that the stoppage "was a sample of the paralysis they would invoke against any attempt at a Rightist coup d'etat."

And, indeed, through the one-hour general strike, the picture of the great potential power of the working class flashed on the French national screen. Had the labor leadership mobilized this power at the beginning of the crisis, the working class could have smashed the Algerians' rebellion in short order and reopened the struggle in France for a socialist government.

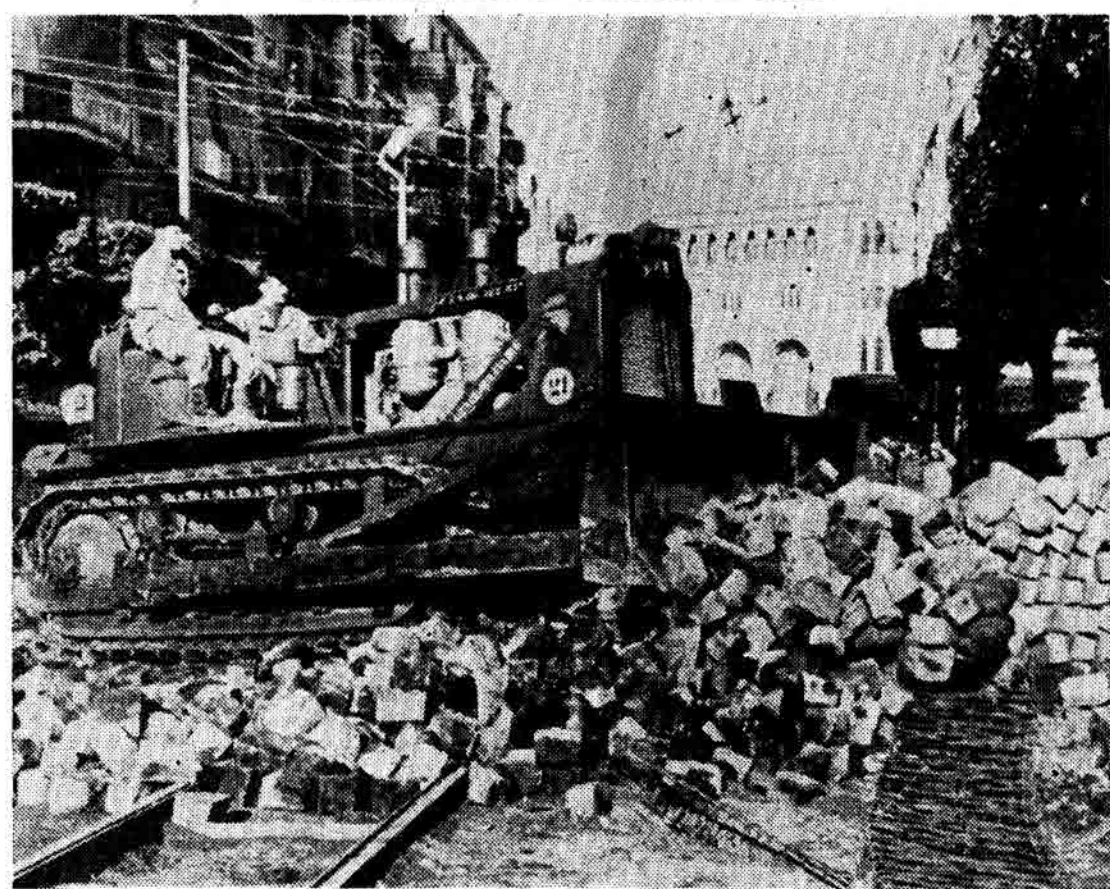
However, the workers' action came after the fascists had already retreated. It was of too short duration to constitute a challenge to De Gaulle's regime from the left. And the strike was not waged around a working-class program for ending the war in Algeria by granting the nine million Algerian Arabs their national independence.

The aim of the strike was to back De Gaulle's fraudulent "self-determination" scheme. Thus the workers' action was too little, too late and on De Gaulle's political terms. It did not keep De Gaulle from grabbing the credit for getting the fascists to back down, although he had allowed the plot of the colons and their sympathizers in the army brass to mature unchecked since September and deserved a big share of the blame for the fascists' rebellion in the first place.

During the crisis no prominent working-class leader projected an independent role for

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Fascist Show Closes Down



A bulldozer pushes down paving blocks and other material making up the barricade of the Algerian colons who surrendered Feb. 1. When the fascist show ended the insurrectionists marched out, flags flying, as if they had won a major victory. Some temporarily joined the army in a token gesture of surrender. Others faded into the background. Some important questions were left unanswered. Was it a dress rehearsal? If so, when will the curtain rise on the big show?

Deputies OK Dictatorship

By George Lavan

Two days after the surrender of the fascist insurrectionists in Algiers, a subservient French parliament abdicated what little power it had by granting Gen. de Gaulle the power to rule France by personal decree for at least the next year. This shifts the political situation in France even further to the right.

From a Bonapartist or "strong-man" regime operating in conjunction with a drastically weakened parliament, De Gaulle's "Fifth Republic" has now divested itself of the fig leaf of representative government and become a personal dictatorship.

De Gaulle claimed he needed these dictatorial powers to deal with the fascist "colons" (French settlers in Algeria) and the disloyal army officers, who for a week had been unwilling to carry out orders to put down the Algerians uprising. But, as liberal and labor circles in France point out, De Gaulle has long possessed sufficient powers to deal with the colons and the army, while the newly granted powers extend ominously to all of France.

A Threat to Labor

Indeed, De Gaulle's new power to pass laws by decree and to enforce them by any methods he chooses is more of a threat to the French working class and its parties and trade unions than to the Algerian colons and army officers: That the initial use of decree rule to punish the fascist elements who organized the Algiers uprising may be only the prelude to crippling decrees against the French workers, is indicated by De Gaulle's refusal to permit any safeguards for civil liberties or labor rights to be written into the bill granting the new powers.

Thus in the New York Herald Tribune (Feb. 3), Paris correspondent B. J. Cutler reports: "The Assembly's Constitution Committee tried to amend the bill in important ways. Notably, it wanted the decree powers to expire in eight months instead of a year and to exempt basic liberties and labor affairs from the sweep of the emergency powers."

But De Gaulle's spokesman was adamant on all points. The rubber-stamp parliament, with a little token grumbling, passed the bill 449 to 79 in the National Assembly and 225 to 39 in the Senate. Voting "No" were the Communist party deputies, some Radical Socialists (a liberal, middle-class party), and the extreme right-wingers who are sympathetic to the Algerian colons.

The course of the Algiers insurrection, reported to the midpoint in last week's Militant, can now be completed.

The unwillingness of the army brass to move against the insurrection made it apparent that what hung in the balance was no longer merely De Gaulle's so-called self-determination plan to end the Algerian Arabs' war

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Too Many Babies?

America Faces A New Enemy

By Joseph Hansen

First of a series of articles.

A number of eminent dignitaries and scientific authorities have been seeking to arouse a lethargic public to a new menace — an enemy of formidable character, perhaps the most dangerous America has yet faced.

This enemy is insidious. He is not armed with H-bombs, rocket missiles, deadly nerve gases, nuclear submarines, tanks, submachine guns, rifles or even bayonets. He uses none of the weapons to which we have become accustomed and which Congress can handle by passing appropriations. This enemy's major means of attack is nothing but a mouth and, at a certain stage, a set of teeth.

This seeming paucity of instruments of destruction should not lead one to underestimate the new foe. He employs ultra modern methods of warfare. Without a formal declaration of hostilities, he simply moves in, often by surprise. He takes over sometimes with amazing rapidity. He uses infiltration and subversion, boring into the American home from within, counting as his allies in these treacherous techniques the most respectable people, our doctors, nurses, mothers and fathers.

This enemy has already occupied the cribs, nurseries and playgrounds of America.

Let this sound like war hysteria, let me quote from an article that appeared under the headline, "BUMPER BABY CROP HELD THREAT TO U.S." Here is the warning about this advancing horde which Prof. William A. Paton of the University of Michigan uttered before the House Ways and Means Committee Nov. 30, 1959:

"Our continuing bumper baby crop, coupled with present tendencies both to prolong the period of childhood and provide for earlier retirement, have added greatly to the difficulty of maintaining our present per capita living standard, to say nothing of an increase. The essential factor at this stage is capital formation."

Dead right! What America needs is a lot more dollars, not babies. We must never forget what's precious.

And if you tend to think that the difficulty in maintaining our standard of living might be due to inflation, to the cost of wars we've fought and are going to fight, to the insistence on an ever higher level of profits, or to some old-fashioned strikebreaking and union-smashing — better get your head examined. The real trouble is our "continuing bumper baby crop."

Another weighty authority goes even further. According to Raymond B. Cowles, Professor of Zoology at the University of California, Los Angeles, the danger concerns not only America but the entire human race. And he is afraid that it is already too late.

Prof. Cowles' startling message was sent over the UPI teletypes to every major newspaper in the country Jan. 2, 1960. It appeared in the press in the following succinct statement: "that men multiply at a geometric rate while food production can only be increased at an arithmetic rate."

UPI did not report what experiments with runaway human fertility the learned zoologist had performed to

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Judge Upholds Seeger In Subpoena on Walter

Peter Seeger, under indictment for contempt of Congress, has won the right to subpoena Rep. Francis Walter, head of the witch-hunting House Un-American Activities Committee. The congressman is now scheduled to appear as a witness March 21 when the folk singer goes on trial for invoking the First Amendment when he was hauled before the committee in 1955.

Walter's three-month attempt to quash the subpoena failed when Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld denied a government motion Jan. 28. Ruling out the argument that as a member of Congress, Walter should not be compelled to serve as a witness, Weinfeld said:

"Under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution a defendant accused of a crime is guaranteed the right to compel the attend-

ance of witnesses. Who these witnesses shall be is a matter for the defendant and his counsel to decide. It does not rest with the prosecution or the person under subpoena."

Seeger and his attorney Paul Ross want to question Walter about the pertinency of his questions. They also want to know on what authority and to what legislative purpose the committee conducted the inquiry.

Seeger had refused to answer ten of the committee's questions on the ground that it had no power to inquire into his beliefs and associations. Together with ten others, Seeger faces a possible prison term following a Supreme Court decision last fall upholding contempt convictions of Lloyd Barenblatt and Dr. Willard Uphaus.

'Un-American' Probe Seeks to Smear Youth

After being run out of California and subjected to public hostility in Puerto Rico and New York, the House Un-American Activities Committee staged its well-worn routine this week at its home theater in Washington, D.C. This time the pitch was "Communist infiltration" among youth. Five young people from New York and one from Chicago were subpoenaed to testify about World Youth Festivals held in recent years.

All of these witnesses defied the committee on First and Fifth Amendment grounds. One "friendly" witness, Albert Gailard, 20, of New York, described himself as a disillusioned ex-member of the Communist party. His appearance was arranged by the committee. Davis refused to answer questions on the basis of the Fifth Amendment.

The committee used its immunity from libel action to smear Leroy Wolins, 30, of Chicago, with the assertion that he had information from "an unimpeachable intelligence source" that he had passed documents to a Soviet Embassy representative in 1958.

Meanwhile, the Senate Internal Security Committee sought to compete with the House witch-hunters for the scant news space devoted to both. It tried to quiz Communist party general secretary Gus Hall about his inclusion in a list of Communists said to be active in the CIO. The list was compiled in 1938 by the late John P. Frey of the old AFL Metal Trades department. Hall simply invoked the Fifth Amendment.

Chandler Davis Goes to Prison

Dr. Chandler Davis, a well-known mathematician, surrendered at the U.S. Marshall's office in Grand Rapids Feb. 2 to begin a six-month prison term for challenging the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1954.

Davis reaffirmed his views in a statement to the press. "It was an extreme measure for me to risk jail. I won't enjoy it. But it will be a satisfaction to affirm by this act that I value free speech this highly."

On Tour

Does It Pay to Fight For War Contracts?

San Diego, Calif.

Editor: I see by the San Diego Labor Leader that George Meany has put the AFL-CIO on record for new, "positive" legislation to bolster U.S. war production. Because of a local job problem the Labor Leader expresses agreement with him.

Aside from the general economic prop provided by the big naval base here, employment hinges mainly on the extensive aircraft industry. But aircraft output must rely heavily upon military orders, as shown by the striking fact that 70% of San Diego's economy is directly dependent upon federal contracts.

Due in part to the shift toward ballistic missiles in military technology, aircraft production is sagging in this locality. The unemployed total is expected to reach 20,000 in February and still further mass layoffs seem imminent.

Alarmed by the job decline, the unions are demanding that Congress introduce legislation providing aid to distressed areas such as San Diego; and for want of another answer they back Meany's call for stepped-up military output.

What a cruel irony. Workers have no stake in the war aims of U.S. capitalism.

Yet, to avoid joblessness under capitalism, misled unions help advance the capitalist war policy by advocating an ever-greater military build-up as a means to safeguard employment.

And the workers' entrapment in this false policy becomes cinched up politically with Meany's fatuous advice that "... if we pinpoint the issues and the voting words [in Congress] effectively, we can get a government that places human needs above the demands of big business" — through labor support to capitalist politicians.

If the light of class truth is to be thrown upon the dilemma labor faces, it will never be generated by capitalist-minded union bureaucrats of the Meany stripe. Labor's policy must stem from the realization that the workers and the bosses have no common interests in industry or in politics, in domestic or in foreign policy.

Knowledge of these truths can't be expected to seep in much among the top union of-

ficials, but it can be introduced into the union ranks, at least among workers who are beginning to advance beyond the general mass in their thinking.

If these more advanced thinkers are helped to get a rounded answer to labor's problems, they can better push union policy in the proper direction.

They need to understand why support in any form to the capitalist war policy defeats their own class interests. They require a clearly stated alternative to war production as a means to safeguard their jobs and their livelihood.

In short, they must be helped to turn toward a growing understanding of the need for a basic social change, starting from a switch by labor to independent class political action and leading to labor's taking over the management of the country.

In the coming election campaign socialists face both a challenge and an opportunity to get this message across. The challenge is to know how to start from the big concerns in workers' minds today and help them develop a class insight into a true course for labor.

If this is done well there will be improved chances for socialists to get a favorable hearing in labor's ranks.

Fraternally,
Farrell Dobbs

Year's First Steel Strike Closes Plant in Chicago

The first authorized steel walkout of 1960 took place in Chicago at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 27, one minute after a Taft-Hartley injunction expired. Participating in the strike are more than 2,000 workers at the Riverdale plant of the Acme steel company. They are members of Local 1053 of the United Steel Workers.

The local went through the 116-day shutdown during the national steel strike, but Acme has refused to settle with the union on the basis of the national agreement.

The company's "final offer," voted on by the union membership under the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act, was rejected by a vote of 1,971 to 266.

Samuel E. Perish, director of subdistrict 5 of the union said that a settlement is being barred

by the company's demand for revision of contract clause 2-B, the work rules agreement that was a central issue in the national strike.

Perish said that Acme has included the 2-B clause in agreements at its two plants at Newport, Ky. It is trying to win a free hand for revision of work rules at the Riverdale plant because it has recently switched operations there from fabricating to actual steel production.

Meanwhile, the American Iron and Steel Institute has disclosed that despite the national 116-day shutdown some 8,000,000 more tons of steel were produced in 1959 than in 1958.

That means that all the steel the American capitalist system can handle in a year can now be produced in about eight months.

Military Brass Are the Same In Algiers, Berlin and U.S.A.

By M. L. Stafford

The tendency of the officer caste to support the most reactionary political tendencies, including fascism, is not confined to the French officer caste of 1960 whose sympathies, have been so obviously with the uprising of the "colons" in Algeria. It was observable in Germany during the rise of Hitler, and long before. It was seen in Italy in Mussolini's time and again in Spain when Franco came to power.

In any capitalist country, in fact, the officer caste is to be found in its great majority on the side of reaction, inclined in times of crisis to facilitate the triumph of fascism.

What gives the officer caste this reactionary outlook? First of all, their function which is to protect private property and the special privileges that go with it; they, along with the police, are the armed guards of the ruling class. Second, their intimate ties with the ruling class. These go all the way from entertainment by company officials to high-paid executive posts on retirement. They include social hobnobbing and marriage into some of the wealthiest families. The officer caste thus assiduously cultivates a ruling class outlook that is even more rigid than that of some of the rulers themselves.

The United States is no exception to this. In fact in recent years the reactionary weight of the officer caste in American politics has increased enormously.

The manipulation of war contracts, which has received



MacArthur of Remington Rand, a \$100,000-a-year man.

some publicity in the press the past few weeks, offers some excellent examples of the operation of these ties.

Take the Martin Co., for example. This is the company on the receiving end of an estimated \$1 billion which the Pentagon is ploughing into the company's Titan intercontinental ballistic missile. The company employs about 28,000 workers. But the key men on the payroll number not more than 62. These are all former officers on retirement pay. Nine of them are former generals or admirals.

Former Air Force Major General K. E. Tibbets draws \$10,830 yearly retirement pay. Martin supplements this with pin money amounting to \$25,000 a year. Air Force Major General Frederick R. Dent, Jr., draws

\$8,580 from the government and draws \$25,000 a year in spending money from Martin. The lowest combined pension-salary drawn by any of the former top brass now employed by Martin is \$16,000.

As for wine and dining, Martin keeps a plush Bahamas hangout. A House investigating committee made public the names of 27 high military officers who had been flown to this vacation resort at Martin's expense. Heading the guest list was General Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The House investigators sought to imply that the purpose of these lavish vacations was to exert improper influence in the granting of defense contracts. This was vigorously denied by George M. Bunker, chairman of the board. The Martin spokesman said that he couldn't believe that anyone could suspect that men of the caliber of his guests could be "improperly influenced" by playing golf with him.

The purpose of the Bahamas get-togethers, Bunker explained, was to get better acquainted and to help negotiations by providing a friendly atmosphere. This, of course, was strictly in the interests of national defense. Bunker was no doubt telling the truth. The fact that the Treasury Department refused to let the company write off the trips as business expenses would offer confirmation that the speepees were purely social.

The main point is that such hobnobbing with the military brass on a social basis is practiced by the entire capitalist class. The rivalry of different companies for government contracts is not nearly so important as the knitting of social ties.

Moreover, the exercise of influence is not so crude as the political enemies of the Martin Company would imply. It is the hope of ultimate reward, not an immediate payoff, that attracts the highest type in the armed services.

What they look forward to are featherbeds stuffed with greenbacks on which they can take it easy in their old age. They visualize a position like the one given Gen. Douglas MacArthur — \$100,000 a year at Remington Rand; and the post handed Gen. Lucius D. Clay — \$108,000 a year at Continental Can.

The House Armed Services subcommittee headed by Rep. F. Edward Herbert (D-La.) has revealed that 762 former military officers are employed by the country's 100 top defense contractors who monopolize some 80% of all weapons contracts. All of them held ranks no lower than that of colonel in the Army or Air Force or captain in the Navy.

Here are some typical cases: Major General Edmond H. Leavy, now employed by International Telephone and Telegraph at an annual salary of \$84,000; General Benjamin W. Chidlaw, now drawing \$67,000 a year from the Thompson-Ramo-Woolridge Co.; General James Doolittle, a \$50,000-a-year man with the same company; Lt. General Kenneth B. Wolfe, Garrett Corp., \$50,000; Major General Alfred Boyd, Westinghouse, \$50,000; and Lt. General Clarence S. Irvine, Avco Corp., \$46,000.

Mills' Observation

In his book, "The Power Elite," C. Wright Mills made the following instructive observation on the sociological meaning of the intimate ties between the corporations and the military: "It is difficult to avoid the inference that the warlords, in their trade of fame for fortune, are found useful for the corporation executives more because of whom they know in the military and what they know of its rules and ways than because of what they know of finance and industry proper..."

The increased personnel traffic that goes on between the military and corporate realms, however, is more important as one clue to a structural fact about the United States than as an expeditious means of handling war contracts. Back of this shift at the top, and behind the increased military budget upon which it rests, lies the great structural shift of modern American capitalism to a permanent war economy."

Dr. Mills adds, "... as the economy has become concentrated and incorporated into great hierarchies, the military has become enlarged and decisive in the shape of the entire economic structure; and, moreover, the economy and the military have become structurally and deeply interrelated, as the economy has become a seemingly permanent war economy."

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reach this frightening scientific conclusion. Perhaps the government slapped down tight security regulations. But UPI did report the professor's gloomy prediction:

"As a naturalist I can come to only one conclusion which is that no rational solution can be achieved in time to avert disaster to both wildlife and man himself."

It is not clear whether Prof. Cowles meant that geometric man would end up eating everything arithmetic, including wildlife, and then perish from famine; or whether it would be a disastrous race between geometric man and an equally geometric wildlife for a common supply of arithmetic food. The final picture as the curtain descends seems, nevertheless, depressingly clear — man and cockroach in countless billions on a barren earth fighting cheek to jowl for the last crumb.

This geometric business may seem too complicated and abstruse to bother about. A fatal error! It happens to be the foe's secret weapon. Robert C. Cook, president of the Population Reference Bureau, for instance, sought to arouse America to the peril with the declaration that present rates of population growth are "as ominous a threat to mankind as the H-bomb." We had best approach the deadly geometric ratio with respect and seek some military intelligence about it.

One person who has acted as a true public servant should, in a question of such grave consequences, is Richard C. Bradley, Assistant Professor of Physics, Cornell University. He wrote a letter to the editor of the New York Times. Here are some extensive quotations from this admirably lucid missive:

"Take the world population at mid-century (about 2,000,000,000), take the present doubling rate (once every fifty years), and project the population indefinitely into the future. We see that by the year 2000 there will be 4,000,000,000 people, by the year 2050 there will be 8,000,000,000, and so on. Before ten centuries will have passed, our descendants can count on having 200,000,000,000 neighbors — which is slightly more than the number of square feet of land surface on earth, including the South Pole, the Sahara Desert and Mount Everest."

Don't smile. That reveals nothing but a refusal on your part to face reality. If you won't heed now, just "sit tight for yet another thousand years" and see what happens. As Prof. Bradley notes, having wisely anticipated the probable reaction of the ignorant and the light-minded; "there will then be 2,000,000 people per square foot."

That ought to bring you up short. What do you propose to do with that problem in your lap? Try to jam 2,000,000 people into one square foot? Obviously, you'll agree, it would be physically difficult, not to speak of the objections you'd get from the 2,000,000. Therefore, you've got to make more room. How? Prof. Bradley says that a member of Congress, described as a "student of space," suggested that the extra people could be shipped off to other planets. "Let's look at that," the physics professor coolly suggests:

"Just to maintain the present status quo we would have to export 100,000 persons each day (present daily net increase). Assuming each person weighs 150 pounds and is permitted to carry an additional fifty pounds of food, clothes and knickknacks, we find that the daily cargo comes to about 10,000 tons — approximately the weight of a Liberty ship."

Why this expert on population explosion thinks we should send valuable food, clothes and knickknacks into outer space along with the excess humans is not clear. A Freudian might ascribe it to an unconscious streak of humanism that broke through to the surface. Fortunately it was not strong enough to block the stream of scientific thought:

"The Congressman would do well to get his bill approved soon, for if it is delayed fifty years (while people ponder where to get enough fuel for this program or where to find a habitable planet) the daily cargo will have increased to 20,000 tons."

Clearly we face an enemy of baffling nature. He seems to have breached our defenses in such subtle fashion that we are scarcely aware of the swiftly mounting danger. High time that our best minds began grappling with the immensely difficult problem of what to do!

(Next week: Closing in on the enemy.)

And After De Gaulle Who Will Rule France?

Workers Need A Leninist Party

By Murry Weiss

revolution that smashes all the workers' organizations. In the thirties Europe witnessed more than one situation of this kind.

Pattern of the Thirties

The social crisis of capitalism opened major revolutionary opportunities for the workers' parties; the false policies of the Stalinist and Social Democratic leadership blocked this progressive outcome; the middle class, seeking a way out, became ripe for fascist demagogues and a mass fascist movement; when the two extreme camps — the fascists and the proletariat — stood in irreconcilable opposition to each other but were still unable to strike a decisive blow bringing the other down, a period of extremely unstable equilibrium opened up — the nation teetered on the edge of a knife.

Bonapartist figures then rose in succession, each concentrating more personal power (on paper) than his predecessor. The workers' leaders lost their heads completely, supporting each Bonapartist pretender; the situation deteriorated until the fascists, growing in strength and aggressiveness, struck their fatal blow.

This pattern is discernible in the logic of the current situation. It is necessary, however, to take into account the economic boom, the colonial revolution and Wall Street's interest in what happens in France to see how these key elements modify the pattern, slowing down the process in some respects and accelerating it in others.

For the past twenty-six years, France has been gripped by repeated crises. The workers could easily have come to power in 1934-36, in 1944-45, in 1947, and in 1953. Each of the opportunities was snuffed because the French working class had no mass party of sufficient Leninist quality to resolutely lead the struggle to victory.

Capitalism was given the opportunity to recuperate, to rebuild its political parties, and to achieve a measure of internal economic stability. It should be noted well that the French capitalists could never have succeeded in this without massive aid from Wall Street.

At the same time Washington sank billions of dollars in attempts of the French imperialists to save their crumbling colonial empire. These attempts failed due to factors relating to the overall world crisis of capitalism as a whole in face of the colonial revolution and rising Soviet power. This gives us the key to the paradoxical events in France today.

Precarious Base

In France itself a relatively stable class equilibrium seems to prevail. The boom has trickled down to the working class and the farmers and softened some of the worst effects of their previously unbearable situation. On

Bonapartist "Saviour"



Gen. de Gaulle in typical oratorical pose a year ago tells audience at Perpignan that people will have to sacrifice living standards to restore "grandeur" of France. In tradition of French Bonapartes, De Gaulle seeks to balance between contending classes. His illusions of grandeur are thought by some to be symptoms of megalomania; by others a theatrical pose; but may be a combination of both.

the other hand the chain of military defeats at the hands of freedom-seeking colonial movements has provoked crisis after crisis in capitalist political rule. Each of these reveals how precarious the stability of that rule really is.

All commentators agree that the army is the pivot of today's crisis. But the army is a compact expression of the society that produces it. The high command and the professional

cadres are closely linked with the most reactionary layers of the civilian population.

Outstanding among these are the Algerian colons: one million French settlers who have a direct economic stake in the exploitation of the Moslem population of some nine million. This is the dark pool from which the fascist ultras draw their cadres and link them in turn with the nuclei of fascist groups in France itself.

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the workers in the struggle against the recurring fascist threat. Despite the gravity of the situation, marked by the army brass nearly going over to the rebellion, no labor leader demanded that De Gaulle arm the workers.

While the crisis raged, there were reports about the scurrying of pro-rebel Marshal Juin, about cabinet members packing suitcases for flights to Algeria to join the colons, about obscure fascist deputies organizing student strikes. Every penny-ante capitalist politician sought to make a bit of hay for his backers. But not the bureaucratic leaders of the working class. They stood in stiff salute to De Gaulle as if they had undergone the instant Birdseye process in 1938 and were still in deep freeze.

Guy Mollet, leader of the Socialist party, declared that "with all the democratic parties we are at the side of General De Gaulle in action." By "action" Mollet meant approving De Gaulle's policies.

The Communist party, too,

wrote W. Granger Blair from Paris in the Jan. 31 N.Y. Times, "found kind words for the President's reaffirmation of the self-determination policy and his desire to liquidate the Fascist riot in Algiers."

Thus the workers' leaders behaved much as they had in May 1958 when the CP and SP deputies in parliament voted for the capitalist politician Pflimlin in the hope that he would stop De Gaulle and the insurgent generals in Algiers.

Pflimlin handed the power to De Gaulle. The latter's accession to power marked a profound shift to the right in French politics with the workers thrown on the defensive. The outcome of the current crisis has been a further shift to the right.

The CP and SP policies are strongly reminiscent of the policy followed by the German Social Democrats on the eve of Hitler's taking power in 1933. The Social Democratic leaders backed Marshal Hindenburg, relying on him to stop the Nazis. A few months later Hindenburg handed the power to Hitler, who then subjected the working class to a blood bath.

But the situation in France is different, it will be argued. Didn't De Gaulle stand firm against the fascists? And wasn't the policy of supporting him successful to that extent?

Though the fascists have backed down they are by no means crushed. Despite the dictatorial powers De Gaulle has now seized he is unable as a capitalist politician to destroy the formations of extreme bourgeois reaction. Alexander Werth, for instance, notes in the Feb. 6 Nation that De Gaulle is said to have shifted some 1,400 officers with fascist leanings out of Algeria after May 1959. And still the army wavered between the colons and Paris at the height of the recent crisis. New shifts will not remove the threat of a new coup. A working-class offensive, leading to the creation of a socialist government, alone can break up and disarm the fascist concentrations.

Nor is there the slightest assurance that the next time the fascists bid for power, De Gaulle will be able to force them to

The social fury of this middle class, disoriented and demoralized, can be readily mobilized not only for the bloody war against the Algerian people but against the French working class — once the situation is ready for it.

Obviously the French big-business men and their American backers prefer to rule without unleashing the Algerian "desperadoes" and "gangsters." Obviously they threw the weight of their great influence in the top command of the army behind De Gaulle. But the German capitalists, too, preferred to rule without Hitler and held him back for some years.

Workers Need to Act

The point deserving special attention is that the ruling class is not in complete control of these matters. The fascists strike repeatedly at the rotting structure of parliamentary bourgeois democracy. At a certain point, the ruling circles become indecisive and begin to vacillate. If the working class fails to take hold and settle accounts with the fascists in time, big capital may swing to backing the fascists and close out the opportunity for a workers' revolution for an extended period.

The factors slowing down the swing to fascism in France are relative. Should a considerable downturn in the economic cycle occur, all the elements of crisis such as we saw in the thirties can come together with a vengeance. The Bonapartism of Charles de Gaulle is a warning of the gravest character.

back down. The fascists retreated in 1958 and in the recent Algerian rebellion because big business and the army brass finally lined up behind De Gaulle. But considerations of timing rather than abandonment of the aim of crushing the working class determined their decision.

The next time the fascists attempt a coup the army brass might well decide to join them in launching a civil war designed to settle accounts with the workers.

Meanwhile, the reactionaries have witnessed that on all crucial occasions, the working-class leaders have failed to mobilize the class for a showdown struggle, but relied on capitalist politicians instead — including De Gaulle whom the fascists helped place in power.

Even more damaging, the passivity of the labor movement leads the wavering middle classes to lose confidence in the workers' capacities to act and pushes them over to the side of the fascist demagogues.

If the boom checked this tendency in May 1958 and again during the recent rebellion by lessening the discontent of the petty-bourgeoisie with existing conditions, a downswing of the economy can render the tendency fully operative.

The French working class must prepare without delay to counter the deepening reactionary trend. The workers need a new leadership armed with a revolutionary-socialist program. They need leaders who seek to mobilize the power and militancy of the class not just for an hour but for as long as it takes to really dispose of the fascist threat.

Knew Their Politics

On Jan. 28 the fascists set up loudspeakers at the edge of the Casbah, the old Moslem part of Algiers. They harangued the populace for three hours to whip up a parade of Arabs to the barricades.

Only 27 responded. They were preceded, according to the New York Times, "by a small crowd ofurchins who began to yell, 'Algeria for the Arabs, down with Massu!'"

"A chagrined European veteran said: 'You cannot hit children.'"

Deputies OK Dictatorship

(Continued from Page 1)

for independence from the De Gaulle regime itself. Sections of his cabinet and parliament made preparations for jumping onto the insurrectionists' bandwagon.

There could be no mistaking the anger of the overwhelming majority of the people in France at the uprising. So manifest was this feeling that the fascists in France dared not agitate or demonstrate on the scale of 1958 when a similar insurrection brought De Gaulle to power. It was clear that the Algiers plotters could win in France only by fighting a civil war — a terrible risk, because if they lost, the victor on the field would be an armed working class.

In 1958 the French capitalists, sections of the government bureaucracy and Roman Catholic hierarchy had taken advantage of the Algiers coup to bring to power a figure whose record and policy they well knew. If the 1960 Algiers coup were to overthrow the general, who would succeed him? The discredited right-wing politician, Bidault? Gen. Massu or some other general? Were such military figures politically capable and trustworthy or incompetents and adventurers unable to control the situation?

The risks were too great, the desirability of concluding the expensive and hopeless Algerian war with concessions short of independence too great, for the French capitalist class to take the gamble proposed by the fascists and army brass.

De Gaulle ordered police raids on offices and homes of fascist leaders in France. To show his "impartiality" he had police confiscate several issues of the Communist party newspaper L'Humanite and other antifascist journals. He ordered Paul Delouvrier, France's Delegate Gen-

eral in Algeria, and Gen. Maurice Challe, commander of the French army there, to leave the city of Algiers where they were too susceptible to the influence of the insurrectionists. They moved to a secret headquarters twenty-five miles southwest of the city.

An appeal by Delouvrier to the Moslems, who constitute 88% of Algeria's population, to demonstrate on De Gaulle's behalf fell on deaf ears. A similar attempt by the colons to organize a Moslem demonstration failed miserably.

On Jan. 29 De Gaulle made a televised speech announcing that he would not back down on his "self-determination" plan for Algeria. He denounced the insurgent leaders and said the army must put them down. He reiterated that he would not negotiate with the FLN leaders of the Moslems before there had been a cease-fire and that the army would supervise the "self-determination" vote in Algeria (four years after the French will have decided peace has been restored).

Following this speech, army headquarters in Algeria appeared to have decided to wind up the insurrection. National guardsmen, who constituted a large part of the insurgents, were ordered to report to their units, civilian crowds were forbidden to congregate at the barricades, etc. But the next day the military's intention was again in doubt because the orders had not been enforced. Paratroopers again permitted crowds to ignore the curfew and to pass through their ranks.

On Jan. 31, however, the units of the notorious Tenth Paratroop Division were replaced by units composed mainly of draftees. The orders were enforced and though the fascist leaders still made melodramatic speech-

es from loudspeakers on the barricades about dying rather than surrendering, arrangements for surrender were made that night. The high command was most generous — officially it was not to be a surrender at all but a voluntary transfer to active duty with the friendly paratroopers.

Since these paratroopers are mercenaries whose enlistment term is five years a special provision was made by which the insurgents would become special attached units with a six-month enlistment period.

During the night all insurrectionists who wished to escape were permitted to do so — this included two of the three principal fascist leaders. On Feb. 1, the insurgents came marching out of their redoubt like conquering heroes. As crowds cheered they saluted and marched to the trucks waiting to take them off to their paratrooper pals.

Those who did not wish to go were allowed to put down their guns and simply walk away.

About 420 got into the trucks, but their term of enlistment was quickly whittled down. Three hundred of them were back in Algiers the next night.

Two days later reports had it that less than 50 were still with the paratroopers and their term of active duty, "fighting the fellaghas," was being reduced to two months.

Only one person, Pierre Lagailarde, leader of the fascist Jeune Nation group, was exempted from the honors accorded the insurgents by the army brass. Apparently on De Gaulle's insistence, he was arrested and sent to France.

Why not pass this copy of the Militant on to a friend?

Advertisement

If Negro History Week reminds you to fill in some of those gaps in your knowledge, here's a good list of books to start studying.

Start with These

Negroes on the March — A Frenchman's Report on the American Negro, by Daniel Guerin. Cloth \$1.50, paper \$1.

Black Reconstruction in America — 1863-1880, by W. E. B. DuBois. \$3.95.

Caste, Class & Race — A Study in Social Dynamics, by Oliver Cromwell Cox. \$3.75.

Thaddeus Stevens, by Ralph Korngold. A biography of one of the toughest political fighters in the history of the struggle for Negro equality. \$1.69.

The Strange Career of Jim Crow, by C. Vann Woodward. A brief account of segregation. \$1.19.

Tender Warriors, by Dorothy Sterling. Story and pictures of the Little Rock struggle for school integration. \$5.9.

The Class Struggle Road to Negro Equality. A resolution of the Socialist Workers party. 25 cents.

The Struggle for Negro Equality, by John Saunders and Albert Parker. 10 cents.

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And "Peaceful Coexistence"?

What happened to "peaceful coexistence" during those tense eight days the fascist-minded colons ruled Algiers from their barricades? It seemed to vanish completely from the press as the world waited for the French generals to make up their minds whether now was the time to topple De Gaulle.

Izvestia, newspaper of the Soviet government, even permitted itself an irritated remark Jan. 28: "It is no wonder that the outbreak continues spreading like an epidemic when no steps are taken against it." That observation, made at the height of the crisis, offers an ironic commentary on how utopian Khrushchev's slogan of "peaceful coexistence" is in the real world of the class struggle.

The insurrection in Algiers also offers fresh evidence of the treacherous character of the slogan. At the close of World War II, the only significant power in France was that of the armed working class. For several years the workers sought repeatedly to establish a government of their own. However, the bureaucratic leadership at the head of the major working-class political parties and the trade unions chose to follow a policy of maintaining the status quo; that is, "peaceful coexistence" with the capitalists.

The result was the weakening of working-class political strength and the bolstering of the capitalist parties, with extreme reaction the ultimate beneficiary. Today, as the events in Algeria eloquently testify, a fascist victory has become a real possibility in France.

The status quo thus steadily altered from the possibility of an easy socialist victory toward a fascist "solution" of the class struggle. France was at the brink of this in 1958. The installation of De Gaulle's regime constituted recognition of this fact. It registered the new status quo of a France teetering at the edge of civil war. De Gaulle's job was to maintain "peaceful coexistence" by keeping the new relation of class forces in balance.

The balance, however, did not remain fixed despite the appearance of frozen immobility since 1958. Working-class political strength declined still further as the labor leaders supported De Gaulle. Proof of this was the explosion in Algeria.

The lesson about the suicidal folly of workers seeking to maintain a reactionary status quo applies in the world arena, too. The working class faces further weakening and ultimate catastrophe if it permits itself to believe Khrushchev's propaganda that the enmity of American big business for the Soviet Union can be transformed into willingness to coexist peacefully.

American capitalism is as determined to settle accounts eventually with the Soviet bloc as the French capitalists are to crush the working-class movement in France.

Without the most determined struggle for socialism by the workers of all countries — a struggle which Khrushchev opposes with his slogan of "peaceful coexistence" — American imperialism will again take us to the brink of war.

Not Unexpected

The uprising of the colons in Algeria may have come as an unexpected shock to many people. Readers of the Militant, however, were not caught unawares. We began warning about the dangerous tendency toward fascism in France some time ago.

For example, Murry Weiss wrote Nov. 23, 1953, "We have already commented in previous articles on the ominous signs of a counter-revolutionary mobilization around a military-colonialist clique in France, highly reminiscent of the Franco gang in Spain. It would be folly to ignore these signs. They are a warning to the working class — in the struggle against capitalism it is victory or death."

When De Gaulle took power, the American press hailed it as "proof of the profoundly democratic basis and structure of France." (New York Times, June 8, 1958.)

The Militant took a different view. John Thayer, for instance, wrote June 9, 1958: "Far from ringing down the final curtain, De Gaulle's capture of the premiership has only opened the turbulent drama . . . De Gaulle is starting off as the classical type of Bonapartist rule . . . But such a regime today can only be transitional. De Gaulle has long legs but they cannot forever span the growing gap between the classes in France."

A week later, June 16, Thayer wrote: "The possibility exists that the forces in Algeria might yet attempt to establish their own direct military rule over France in the near future . . . Unless the workers

are presented with a true alternative — an independent counteroffensive against De Gaulle . . . the French working class will be limited to grudging support of the 'lesser evil' — today the Bonapartist De Gaulle instead of the semifascist Soustelle and the paratroop General Massu."

In the same way, an editorial in the summer 1958 issue of the International Socialist Review declared: "If De Gaulle's accession to power is the 'moderate' beginning of totalitarian rule in France it does not take much perspicacity to forecast what extremes the next stages can bring . . ."

De Gaulle's rule was analyzed as Bonapartist and the broad history of this form of rule was outlined. "The Bonapartist of today," said the editorial, ". . . tries to keep the polarizing class forces in some kind of balance, no matter how precarious, while the fascist drilling and recruiting goes on."

De Gaulle's coming to power, the editorial said, "marks a qualitative turning point — the end of capitalist democracy in France, the beginning of totalitarianism. This holds true no matter what delays may occur in liquidating the more important conquests of democracy and no matter how moderate may be the opening period of decree rule. Unless the workers call a halt to the Bonapartist development by vigorously pressing for the alternative of socialism, fascism will sweep France."

The uprising in Algeria was another indication of the pertinency of that analysis.

China Serves Notice

With disarmament talks scheduled to begin this month, Foreign Minister Chen Yi of the Chinese People's Republic served notice Jan. 21 that ". . . any international disarmament agreement which is arrived at without formal participation of the Chinese People's Republic or signature of its delegates cannot . . . have any binding force on China."

On the same day, Secretary of State Herter, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated that the participation of the Chinese People's Republic was "inevitable" if a disarmament agreement were to be concluded between East and West.

Does this mean that Herter recognized the justice of Chen Yi's stand? No. According to Neal Sanford of the Christian Science Monitor, the State Department's position is that until "one knows whether the Soviets (that is, the Communist world) are ready to discuss disarmament seriously it is not necessary to admit Communist China to the talks."

Sanford quotes State Department press officer Lincoln T. White: ". . . if substantial progress is made toward a workable . . . disarmament program, that is the time to consider participation by other countries, including Red China."

Under this formula, Washington intends to treat the Soviet delegates as spokesmen for the Chinese. The further implication is that Washington will not agree to seat the Peking representatives unless they accept in advance whatever

is decided by the United States and Soviet governments.

It is against this kind of double-dealing that Chen Yi's warning is directed. And quite properly, we believe.

First, Peking's stand is in accordance with the democratic right of the Chinese people to be represented by their own government in international relations and not by the government of some other country.

Second, China's defense needs are not identical with those of the USSR. A U.S. agreement to dismantle all or some of the military bases threatening the Soviet Union might not affect bases specifically aimed at the Chinese People's Republic.

Third, the Chinese government has indicated important differences with the Soviet evaluation of current American foreign policy. The Soviet leaders say that American big-business policy makers now genuinely seek peace, whereas the Chinese leaders say that despite the Eisenhower administration's peace talk, U.S. ruling circles are still preparing for war. Obviously, a difference of this kind precludes the Soviet leaders from adequately negotiating for the Chinese.

We believe it is high time the State Department stopped acting as if the government of 650 million people, created by a great social revolution, either didn't exist, was doomed to disappear shortly, or constituted a branch office of the Kremlin. Let's recognize the People's Republic of China and end the economic blockade.



"Such expression! He's just the artist to do your portrait, dear."

Collusion of FBI with Racists Detailed at D.C. Rights Hearing

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Fifty-two hundred persons who jammed the Asbury Methodist Church here yesterday for the first hearing of the Volunteer Civil Rights Commission heard the moving story of ten Negroes deprived of their right to vote in five Southern states and the District of Columbia.

A panel headed by Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam heard a detailed description of the harassment and economic reprisals suffered by Negroes who have fought for their right to register and vote in the South.

Sponsored by sixteen southern integration organizations, the hearing was originally slated to be held at the Vermont Ave. Baptist Church. Permission to use the church was withdrawn after the ultra-reactionary radio and newspaper commentator, Fulton Lewis, Jr., launched a red-baiting attack against sponsors of the hearing. Singled out for special attention was Carl Braden, one of the principal organizers of the project.

A field organizer for the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Braden has been victimized by racist authorities in Louisville and by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his militant integrationist activities.

Typical Story

A typical story of the methods used to prevent Negroes from registering was told by Miss Fidelia Jo Anne Adams, a student at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Miss Adams described her experience Aug. 4, 1958, in the office of the Macon County Board of Registrars: "Upon entering the office, I was requested to be seated, given two pencils, paper . . . and told to copy, in its entirety, Article II of the United States Constitution."

"After I had completed this task I had approximately eight pages of longhand. I gave these pages to one of the two Board of Registrars . . . In January 1959, after not hearing from the Board of Registrars, I wrote a formal letter of complaint to the Attorney General of the State of Alabama. On January 23, I received a reply from this letter in which it was stated that this matter would be given the proper consideration of this office. As of this date, I have had no other communications from either the Board of Registrars nor the office of the Attorney General . . ."

Shook His Finger

A vivid description of the rigged voting tests for Negroes was offered by Mrs. Louise Lassiter of Seaboard, North Carolina. Despite fierce intimidation, Mrs. Lassiter has been waging a court fight since 1956 for her right to vote. In 1958, her attorney, James R. Walker, Jr., was convicted of "assaulting" a white woman at the board of registration because he shook his finger at her during an argument about her refusal to register Negroes.

Mrs. Lassiter told the commission that Negroes are submitted to "a trial," not a test. "The first step," she said, "in this trial for registration, she gives you a copy of the Constitution to read from and you begin reading until she says stop, and you ask her, did you pass; and she says, no. You mispronounced a word . . ."

"For those who passed the first test in this trial, there is another test that must be passed . . . That test is taking dictation from the registrar as she reads the Constitution. In this test, you fail if you do not dot an 'i' or cross a 't.' When trying to keep up with the reading by the registrar, the fact that she reads too fast or that you need time to think of any spelling of words is not taken into consideration . . ."

Curry F. Boyd is a Tennessee high school teacher. He lives in Haywood County which has a population of 26,000 of which approximately 18,000 are Negroes. "We have not had a single Negro registered in Haywood County since the Reconstruction Days," he said. "When we registered our charter in the courthouse, a white man took his stick and beat one of our members, who went to pick up the charter, to the extent he had to receive stitches on his face. Other members of our organization were made to move — those who were tenant farmers were made to move. Others were fired outright . . ."

"We have had all kinds of threats . . . We have been denied loans from banks and most of the business places will not deal with our members any more. Back in 1940, one of the citizens was lynched because he wanted to vote. The FBI investigated this and they investigated the investigation . . . We have had visits from the [Civil Rights] Commission but so far, we still don't have any Negroes registered."

The most tense moment of the hearing came with the testimony of John McFerren of Fayette County, Tenn. As he told the story of the harrowing experiences suffered by himself, his family and friends as a result of their organized fight for voting rights, he became so choked with emotion that he had to temporarily leave the witness stand.

FBI "Investigation"

He described how, after countless runarounds, the people of his county had filed a federal suit. "During the federal suit, the FBI came out in the field and investigated me. When they investigated me, he brought back the report and gave the report to the sheriff. That put me on the hot dog stand."

"Johnson was the FBI man. He gave the report to the sheriff and immediately after then, my life was threatened." (At this point Mr. McFerren was unable to continue.)

When he resumed testifying, McFerren said: "From that day to this, my wife and family and myself were threatened. And this FBI man who came to investigate the rights to vote, he was a native of Fayette County . . . I was on the hot dog stand. That is where I was . . ."

"When we go to register, the landlord would walk up and down to see if any of his tenants were in line. When they go to register, the sheriff calls the names and calls the landlords, and the landlord would make him move that night . . ."

"They call my wife over the telephone. They groan over the telephone like someone died. . . . And I, myself, was threatened . . . 'If you keep moving with

that voting issue, you will come up with a necktie around your neck."

" . . . because of this voting issue, my mother was run down with a two-and-a-half ton truck . . . my mother was in the yard and this guy, this man, with the two-and-a-half ton truck, was riding eight or nine miles an hour. He hit me and went across to my mother's yard and ran over her."

Mrs. Jewell Mazique of the Washington Elks Civil Liberties League delivered a damning indictment of the political and economic exploitation of Negroes and poor whites in the nation's capital and vigorously blasted "those phony northern liberals" who masquerade as civil rights exponents."

In Other Lands

Thousands Purged by Trujillo

Catholic Bishops Score Dictator

Over 3,000 Dominican citizens have been jailed recently and are suffering from lack of food and from mistreatment, according to Nicolas Silfa, president of the Dominican Revolutionary party, who is in exile in New York.

From Port-au-Prince, Haiti, reports have filtered through that 1,500 persons were arrested in recent weeks, many of them young people.

Opposition to Trujillo's murderous rule has apparently become so extensive that the six Catholic bishops in the Dominican Republic issued a pastoral letter read in all the Roman Catholic churches pleading for those in jail.

The bishops declared their solidarity with "many families" bereaved. They declared themselves in favor of such personal rights as freedom of speech and assembly and in effect scored Trujillo for suppressing them. News of the pastoral letter was barred from the Dominican press.

The bishops' declaration "served to confirm reports received by Dominican revolutionary organizations in New York of a serious uprising in the republic recently," says Will Lissner in the Feb. 3 New York Times. "As a result of the rising, thousands of Dominicans in business and the professions . . . have been reported arrested."

Jordan River Plan Seen as Cause of Israel-Syria Strife

The incidents leading to the present conflict between Israel and Syria (with United Arab Republic troops mobilizing also on the Egyptian border) stem from farming-irrigation disputes in the no-man's land between the Syrian and Israeli armies.

However, the underlying issue appears to be tenseness over the Jordan River. The Feb. 1 Arab News and Views published by the Arab Information Center in New York states that "Cairo's newspapers are giving banner headline play to Israel's announced intention of diverting waters of the Jordan River."

The American Way of Life

Security Begins in the Cradle

So the rich don't have problems! All you show when you say that is your ignorance. You never had to cut your teeth on a silver spoon. To get a better appreciation of the

headaches of the rich, I'd like to recommend an important and informative article by Martha Weinman in the Jan. 31 magazine of the New York Times, "3-Year-Olds in \$200 Dresses" is the title.

"The Fifth Avenue department store executive who declared recently that fashion begins in the bassinet was, regrettably, serious," says Miss Weinman. "It takes no more than a short stroll through any one of the city's posh baby boutiques, where trade is now brisk in resort wear for 2-year-olds, to realize that fashion plates nowadays are, if not born, at least being made while they are weaned."

On Cool Side

"In Central Park, little girls with imported tweeds . . . eye each other in frigid appraisal. At those East Side birthday parties attended by junior editions of the Social Register, 4-year-olds wear pinafores custom-made by top designers with as much nonchalance as a society matron sporting a little black nothing of a \$300 dress."

New York's better shops, Miss Weinman found, are doing commendable work in aiding the mother who realizes that "it is never too soon to start teaching a child that the best things in life are wearable."

Bergdoff Goodman, for example, offers "a designer label dress for \$150 (this, of course, is for the copy; the original costs \$225). Admittedly, such prices are only for the important-occasion clothes . . . For the everyday dress worn by a 3-to-6-year-old — that is, the dress in which she will go to nursery school or cavort about the house — the average price in this store is \$35."

Considerable effort is made to compensate for the emotional insecurity such prices can arouse. "Bergdoff's smallest customers shop in style; any toddler who wants to freshen up a bit may retire to the Talcum Powder Room, an elegant

retreat with a Wedgwood blue and white color scheme, gold-plated fixtures and, of course, mirrored walls."

Emilia Bellini takes another approach to the same difficult problem. This shop does not have a Talcum Powder Room, "but it does have christening dresses at \$1,100, the theory being, perhaps, that the sooner one learns the feel of a good fabric the harder it will be to forget."

What you can run up against is indicated by the experience of a Fifth Avenue furrier who does a "thriving business in little girls' mink coats, at \$1,800 apiece, but doesn't particularly enjoy it. Making mink for a 3-year-old, it seems, is a hazardous race against time, since she may have outgrown it before her monogram has been sewn into the lining."

Even worse are the abrupt shifts in style. This year's fashionable look for the 3-year-old, for example, was described by one designer as "a little bit of Victorian coupled with a touch of exotic French, with some casual California thrown in." Who knows what the combination will be next season?

Back of it all, naturally, is to be found intense concern that today's young rich people should enjoy a normal, healthy development. A manufacturer of baby clothes told Miss Weinman: "I sometimes think that what's wrong with kids psychologically is the parents putting them into any old thing. If a little girl doesn't look smart she doesn't feel smart. She never gets to develop what you might call a sense of emotional security. Then she grows up, and what have you got? A neurotic, that's what."

Concern for the parents and their problems is evident, too. A designer, speaking "unofficially but from the heart," put it this way: "A well-dressed little girl enhances her mother's appearance. She complements the parent as effectively as a diamond clip or a poodle."

— Alex Harte

them in planes proceeding from American bases.

This is one of the items behind the justifiable suspicion in Cuba that Eisenhower's pronouncements of friendship are not sincere.

China and Burma Reach Agreement On Border Dispute

The Jordan forms part of Israel's frontier.

Arab News and Views quotes a recent article in the Cairo newspaper Al Gomhouria which asks "What are the dangers which face the Arabs if Israel succeeds in implementing the scheme?"

"Firstly, Jordan would be deprived of her main water resources on which she depends for irrigating vast areas in the future."

"Secondly, Israel would be able to realize her dream of reclaiming and populating the Negev Desert."

"Thirdly, the project would help Israel stand on her own feet economically, which in turn would increase her military strength and whet her appetite for a new invasion of Arab territory."

The boundary settlement implies China's recognition of the McMahon Line as Burma's northern frontier. At the same time in the swap of territories, Burma acquires land previously leased from China, through which Burma has built an important road.

China will probably use the pact with Burma as a model for negotiations of the frontier dispute with India. The Chinese have indicated a willingness to recognize the McMahon Line as India's northeast border in exchange for India granting China territory in the northwest where China has built a road.

Planes continue to set fires in Cuba's cane fields

Counter-revolutionaries, apparently based in Florida, have been flying in small planes over Cuba's sugar-cane fields dropping incendiary materials.

Due to the alertness of the field workers, most of the resulting fires have been contained fairly quickly.

The losses, however, have been mounting. For the past several weeks, scarcely a day passes without news in the Cuban press of fires that have consumed areas that would have yielded hundreds of tons of sugar.

The Feb. 3 issue of Revolution carries photographs of two incendiary bombs found by two workers. One of them had not yet exploded; the other was partially burned.

Made of wood, they carried a detonating device and a mixture of explosives and phosphorus. The printing on the exterior was in English, clearly visible in the photographs.

The continued forays have been a source of much irritation to Cuba.

It appears strange to a public quite aware of the efficiency of the American government in hounding "subversives" that it should prove so inefficient in preventing counter-revolutionaries from manufacturing incendiary bombs and delivering

Communist Party Loses Kerala Vote

In the Kerala elections, Feb. 2, the anti-Communist-party alliance won 89 of the 126 seats in the state assembly. The CP won 28 and others had 3. Six constituencies are as yet unreported.

Though it lost control of the state assembly which it had gained in 1957, the CP kept about the same proportion of the popular vote — about 35%. The fact that the Congress, Praja Socialist and Moslem parties formed an electoral bloc against the CP gave them the victory.

The Revolutionary Socialist party obtained one seat.

Robert Williams Target of New Harassment

Editor: Your readers should know that Robert Williams, the militant civil-rights leader in Monroe, N.C., is being subjected to a new harassment. His weekly newsletter, the Crusader, reports that his auto insurance policy has been cancelled despite the fact that he has had no accidents or driving violations.

the side of state officials and other racists because of his anti-segregation activity. He was the organizer of the successful fight, which assumed international proportions, for the release of the two Negro boys, eight and nine years old, who had been sent to a reformatory because one of them had kissed a seven-year-old white girl.

state commerce, a federal investigation should be demanded to determine if these companies have joined in a conspiracy for economic harassment of integrationists.

Was the Sentence Death?

By Flora Carpenter

Henry Winston, a Communist party leader imprisoned as a witch-hunt victim under the Smith Act, is in critical condition after a brain tumor operation Feb. 2 at Montefiore hospital in the Bronx, N. Y. If he survives, thanks go to John J. Abt, his attorney, his family and friends.

Norman Thomas, and Rev. A. J. Muste spoke in support of the parole plea. Meanwhile, Winston's family and friends, fearful that any further delay in getting him expert professional attention might prove fatal, asked Roger N. Baldwin, former head of the American Civil Liberties Union, to intercede with Bennett.

For several months Winston had suffered from "bad headaches, dizzy spells, inability to walk and an eye hemorrhage," Abt reports. Prison officials gave him "some pills which turned out to be dramamine" (a drug generally used to help victims of dizziness).

That was still not the end. After arriving at Montefiore Jan. 30, from the Springfield hospital, prison guards insisted on remaining in the desperately sick man's room. They withdrew to the corridors, early Sunday morning, after Abt bitterly protested.

Notes in the News

LET THE DEBTOR BEWARE — The Federal Trade Commission has warned against a widespread crooked practice used by collection agencies to learn the place of employment of people who have been hooked on installment-plan buying.

as evidence in a Canadian court case. An inter-company memorandum from one brewery to another, the letter described price-cutting as "the most vicious form of competition that we could possibly engage in as eventually nobody benefits but the consumer."

A SLASHING CRACKDOWN — The New York Post reports that on Feb. 1 the state Rent Administration "slashed" rents on three rat-infested East Harlem tenements because the landlords had ignored orders to cope with the menace.

KILLER ESCAPES DEATH PENALTY — Katie Ann Creel, a 17-year-old white girl was sentenced to life imprisonment Jan. 28 by a Savannah, Ga., jury for the killing of Joel Ross, a Negro teen-ager. The prosecutor described the pistol murder as "a thrill killing . . . the most senseless slaying I have ever heard of."

A FEW GOOD APPLES IN EVERY BARREL — Revelations of burglary and other crimes committed by members of the Chicago police force have evoked the usual explanatory statements from authorities. One Chicago citizen insists that an unnamed police official explained that you can't hold the whole force responsible; not all cops are crooks; among 10,000 there are bound to be a few honest ones.

THE PRICE OF TRANQUILITY — CIBA Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., demands \$39.50 a thousand from druggists for one brand of its tranquilizer tablets. It offered the same tablet to the U.S. government for 60 cents a thousand in a competitive bid, according to the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly subcommittee.

COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK — The Jan. 31 issue of the Worker reported that the New York state committee of the Communist party had elected the following officers: Clarence Hathaway, chairman; William L. Patterson, vice-chairman; Arnold Johnson, vice-chairman; William Albertson, organizational secretary; Milton Rosen, labor secretary; Betty Gannett, educational secretary; Esther Cantor, legislative secretary. The Worker also announced the appointment of James Jackson as editor of the paper. In CP circles the predominance of the names of old-time national functionaries was felt to reflect the party's inability to replenish its local leadership.

WIRED FOR SPEED — If you are a belt-line worker don't be surprised if the foreman wants to hook you up to a UNOPAR. That's a Universal Operator Performance Analyzer and Recorder. Invented by a couple of professors at the University of Washington, it's designed to help organize assembly lines to "eliminate waste action." A small transmitter is attached to the worker's wrist and connected by thin wires to an overhead oscillator that generates sound waves above the audible range, so the noise will not distract the worker. Ultrasonic waves are transmitted to instruments which record the motions of the hand, displacement of position, velocity and acceleration. Reporting this development, one union paper noted that all that's missing is an old long-handled broom.

SURVIVES OLD-FASHIONED DANGER — Dr. Linus Pauling, the Nobel prize-winning chemist who has played an outstanding role in warning the world of the dangers of atomic fallout, was rescued Feb. 1 after being trapped for 24 hours on a cliff near Monterey, Calif. A firm believer in safety, he simply waited for help to arrive after he became lost on a short hike.

THAT CAMP DAVID SPIRIT — "I wasn't aware of any spirit of Camp David . . . the talks there went on in an atmosphere that was personally friendly. That's all that the spirit of Camp David could be defined." (Pres. Eisenhower, Feb. 3.)

JUSTIFIABLE INSANITY? — Kenneth A. Johnson, who has an 18-year history as a paranoid schizophrenic, was hospitalized in Minneapolis Jan. 30 after he stabbed six people. Johnson told authorities he stabbed them because he thought they were Russians and "because we are at war with Russia."

DISCOURAGING BOOM — "Bank holdups are headed for an all-time high. Although 1932 still holds the record with 554 stick-ups, the statistical count for the year ending August 31, 1959, is 346 bank robberies with a take of \$1,407,000, more than three times the loot of a decade earlier, and the top of the wave is not in sight.

WELL BREWED LOGIC — An editorial in the Montreal Star, reported in the February Consumers Reports, discusses a letter introduced

Minor Parties Maintain Ballot Rights in Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS — An apparent move to bar minor party presidential nominees from the Minnesota state ballot has been dropped. Despite omission of provisions in the current election law for the nomination of independent candidates by petition, Attorney General Miles Lord has ruled that minority parties may continue to secure a ballot place through that means.

On Dec. 30, state election officer Tom Kelly had advised the press that "A thorough study of the revised election laws indicates that only the two major parties are eligible to have presidential electors on the ballot in Minnesota."

This statement was based on the action of the state legislature which, in revising the election law, simply dropped the provision whereby minority parties may win a place on the ballot by submitting the signatures of 2,000 voters.

In a statement the same day, Vincent R. Dunne, state chairman of the Socialist Workers party announced that the party would make a full-scale fight against the attempted ban.

In New York on Jan. 4, Roland Watts, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that the ACLU would support a legal challenge of such a ballot proscription.

Then, in a legal opinion addressed to the Secretary of State dated Jan. 15, Attorney General Lord ruled that the lack of mention of procedure for independent nominations did not bar the filing and acceptance of the usual petitions.

Lord pointed out that minority parties have placed candidates for the presidency on the state ballot in every election since 1876 and that there is no legal basis for now denying them a ballot place.

He said that "in the absence of a clear legislative intent to deprive minority parties of the means of proposing candidates for presidential electors, that the means available to them in the past should be found to be still available."

Despite the absence of specific mention of such provision in the currently revised statutes, he ruled that the legislature clearly intended that such provisions be included. "The deletion," he said, "was based upon an understanding, however mistaken, that the provision therein regarding presidential electors . . . was covered under the chapter on presidential electors."

George Goldfarb Dies in New York

On Jan. 31, George Goldfarb, a revolutionary socialist for the past twenty-one years, died in New York at the age of forty-two. He succumbed to Hodgkin's disease — a form of cancer.

George became acquainted with the Socialist Workers party on the night of Feb. 20, 1939, when at the call of the SWP, 50,000 anti-fascists demonstrated outside Madison Square Garden against the Nazi Bund. George was one of the demonstrators. He joined the party shortly afterwards and plunged into party-building activity as a member of the Brooklyn branch. A year later he became a founding member of the Harlem branch.

George was among the first to be drafted when Selective Service was enacted. He was also among the first American troops invading North Africa. He was wounded on the second day of the invasion of Sicily in 1943.

After discharge from the Army, George settled briefly in San Francisco where he participated in the SWP branch and in the Warehouse Local of the Longshoremen's union. In 1946 he moved to Seattle to help strengthen the party branch there.

For eight years, until the onset of his illness, George was indeed a tower of strength for socialism in Seattle. He belonged to Local 2519 of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union and functioned at one time as steward in his plant. He was a star Militant salesman year after year, selling subscriptions on the job as well as house to house on weekends in a dozen working-class neighborhoods. He was a good recruiter to the cause of socialism.

Financially, too, George was one of the mainstays of the



... Detroit Steel Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

plants, a rank-and-file movement began. This led to a sweeping victory of a "Rank-and-File" ticket headed by Adolph Schwartz in 1958.

The ticket ran on a program of democratic reforms and demanded that the contract be brought up to date on working conditions.

Schwartz, the local's president, conducted an aggressive campaign a year ago to improve the clauses on working conditions in the contract. A standing negotiating committee was elected and rank-and-file recommendations were included in the proposed changes presented to the company during negotiations. An especially sharp issue was safety practices.

On Jan. 8, the company issued an ultimatum that it would agree to the "economic package" of the Big Eleven, but where a deadlock was reached on contract changes, the company insisted that the wording of the 1956 contract should stand. The issues involve air-conditioning in cranes working in smoky areas; protective walks around tracks; lunchroom facilities; correction of foremen's abuse of overtime, absence, sickness, etc.; a seven-day limit on temporary layoff; incorporation of the

January 1959 safety agreement; holiday-pay protection and guarantees for union representation on the job.

Verbal agreement was reached on some of these questions by Jan. 26. By a vote of six to three the negotiating committee turned the log jam in negotiations over to Tom Shane. Under pressure of the national settlement, Shane agreed to an extension of the old contract.

A hastily called meeting for Wednesday morning, Jan. 27, brought a turnout of almost 3,000 members. Shane demanded the men return to work. He was met with a prolonged roar of indignation. After ten minutes of boing the demonstration changed to a chanting demand for A. E. Schwartz to take the floor.

Schwartz took the mike and announced that the company had withdrawn all its tentative offers, and that only a return to work would bring resumption of negotiations. Another roar of indignation went up. After 2 1/2 hours of exhortation and threats from the rostrum — met with cries of "Are you trying to scare us?" and "We want a settlement in writing!" — Schwartz adjourned the meeting.

This morning over 3,000 members turned out at a Local meeting in River Rouge High School auditorium. Schwartz presented a motion to return to work and promised that negotiations would lead to a quick and satisfactory settlement. He accepted an amendment for a ten-day extension only, and this was carried with a roar of approval.

McLouth Steel Corp. then locked the plant gates, and Director Shane announced that the union was on strike with the full support of the International.

... Cubans

(Continued from Page 1)

investors don't like what he's doing . . . but they have huge investments which must be protected . . . But, for Negro Americans, Cuba is a real democracy, as we conceive the word."

One of the chief criticisms of the Castro regime has been that it has not held elections. E. Washington Rhodes, publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune, reports that perhaps this is important, "but I wondered why all the furor about elections in Cuba when there has not been an honest election in many of the southern states in the U.S.A. for almost a hundred years."

"But that is a matter which America must settle for herself without any outside interference. And it would seem to me that the questions of elections should be left to the Cuban people."

Most of the visitors expressed a sincere desire to return to Cuba and enjoy its beauty and warm hospitality again.

John H. Sengstacke put it: "I liked what I saw."

The Chicago Defender has chosen Castro to head the "Defender 1959 Honor Roll" for his "magnificent and inspiring contribution to the world struggle for freedom and equality by abolishing segregation and discrimination throughout Cuba."

Four-Year Persecution

The South African "treason" trial of opponents of the country's apartheid system entered its fourth year Jan. 18.

Laborers Union In Detroit Elects Negro President

DETROIT — Negro members of Laborers Union Local 334, AFL-CIO, scored a major victory in their fight for equal union rights when they elected Adam White, a Negro, president of the local.

White had led a five-year battle in the 4,000-member local of construction workers against the discriminatory job placement practices attributed to Andrew McFarlane, for twenty-one years president of the local.

McFarlane was forced to announce his resignation after White led a well-organized mass picket line of Negro members, who are a majority of the local, in front of the union hall last August. McFarlane and other officers were barred from entering the hall.

The demonstrators charged that while there was unemployment among Negro members, off-duty cops and teachers were handed job assignments by the business agents of the local.

The pickets announced they would keep the hall shut down until McFarlane agreed to negotiate to end the discriminatory practices of the union officers. Faced with this powerful pressure McFarlane gave in, an agreement was reached and a watchdog committee established to enforce it.

When McFarlane was appointed international representative, elections were held to fill the vacancy he left. White took a two-week leave of absence from his job to campaign for the office.

Running against McFarlane's son-in-law, Robert Ryan, and Sidney Vermett, both local business agents, he outpolled Ryan by two to one and Vermett by three to one. He is the first Negro to hold a major office in the union, the largest laborers' local in the city.

In a statement after the election, White said: "The fight to get equal rights in the union actually began five years ago. The fight isn't over yet. There is still a lot to be done."

Ask President To Free Sobell

Fifteen prominent Israeli citizens have joined the lengthy list of clergymen, lawyers and educators in an appeal to President Eisenhower for the immediate release of Morton Sobell.

Dr. E. J. Jarus, of Tel Aviv who is Chairman of the Israeli League for the Rights of Man, informed Eisenhower that the Jewish leaders subscribed to a recent appeal for presidential clemency signed by Lord Bertrand Russell of England and Martin Buber of Israel "in the interest of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty years sentence. . ."

Calendar Of Events

LOS ANGELES Celebrate Negro History Week. Hear Geoffrey W. White, socialist writer and educator. "THE CHANGING NEGRO STRUGGLE." Also, first-hand report on racial segregation at Dorsey High School. Questions, discussion, refreshments. Saturday, Feb. 13, 8:15 p.m., Forum Hall, 1702 East Fourth St. Sponsors: Socialist Workers party. AN 9-4953. Contribution 75 cents.

School of International Socialism presents its winter lecture series.

Milton Alvin on "THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION TODAY"; "The Soviet Union as a World Power — Its Present Position and Future — 1946-1960." Sunday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.

Forum Hall, 1702 East Fourth St., Los Angeles 33. Telephone, AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238.

NEW YORK

Hear CONRAD LYNN, fighter for civil rights, attorney for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice. "The Impact of Africa on the Struggle for Negro Equality in the U.S." Chairwoman, GLADYS BARKER, New Jersey candidate for U.S. senator. Friday, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., 116 University Place (near Union Square), Contribution 50 cents. Sponsors: Militant Labor Forum.

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 Thursday nights 8 to 10. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, TE 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open 8:00 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. LL-brary, bookstore. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194.

Dewey's Theories On Education

Dewey's theories on education have had greater impact on the thinking of America's school teachers than those of any other modern figure. What were the economic and social forces that gave his ideas such great weight? Why is he still a controversial figure in this field?

For a lucid socialist examination of the setting that brought John Dewey into prominence, read William F. Warde's study in the winter issue of the International Socialist Review. Send 35 cents for a copy.

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