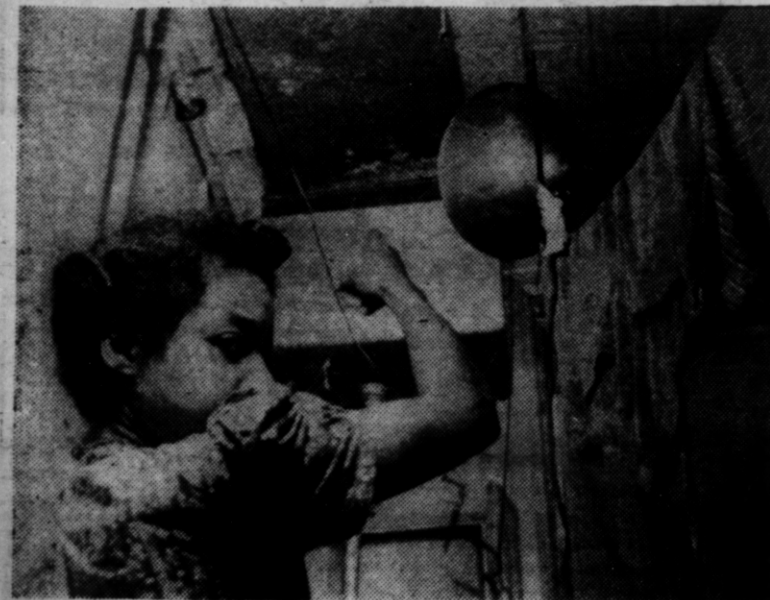


Harlem Strikes Back At Landlords' Greed



Evicted for Complaining About This: Mrs. Henrietta Johnson, 29, mother of two, points to a great hole in the roof (left) and a rathole under the kitchen sink (right). "Because I complained, the landlord told the super not to take my rent." She was evicted, but neighbors moved her back in.



These Kids Are in Danger: Mrs. Dorothy Fernandez, her husband and seven children live in grave danger. Below, Mrs. Fernandez points to a peeling wall through which stagnant, germ-breeding water has seeped into her apartment for months. "I have to buy a special disinfectant which costs \$1 a week to keep the stench down," she says. "The landlord has refused to fix any of these violations and I guess the only thing to do is to fight him and organize." Shown with her, above (left to right) are Paul, 3, Lena, 6, Lawrence, 2, Rose, 8, and Marion, 9.

By Claudia Jones

The landlords of Harlem have gotten away with murder long enough. The people of Harlem are organizing to see that they are stopped. They have found a champion in the growing new militant organization, the United Harlem Tenants and Consumers Organization.

I saw the meaning of their work in life and death terms when I visited seven Negro and white families in Harlem with Bonita Williams, executive secretary of the organization.

What I saw can be summed up in two sentences:

- Housing health and plain living decency are daily violated by the Harlem landlords.

- No great concern is shown by health and housing agencies despite the fact that in apartment after apartment there are more than a dozen violations of the law.

The apartment house at 119-117 W. 116 St. is an example of this charge. The house is represented by the Lenham Realty Co. But its real owner is A. Alexander Katz, corporation lawyer, whose offices are at 475 Fifth Ave.

Mrs. Wendell Rowe, of Apt. 22, mother of a 3-year-old son and wife of an ETO veterans, said bitterly:

"This is what my husband comes home after fighting a war for freedom." Mrs. Rowe's greatest fear was rats biting her baby, because of holes left unfixed by the landlord for months.

"I've seen them," she said. "Rats so big that I sometimes have to sit up all night to keep them off my baby."

CEILINGS COLLAPSE

She showed me a roof which leaked over her bed. "When I was pregnant the ceiling fell, broke part of my four-poster bed, and rained down on me."

The landlord, she said, "smeared some whitewash over it."

Whitewashing is a typical prac-

Thursday was 1,409,792. In 1944, the four-day total of 1,973,887 represented 60 percent of all civilians who registered. If that trend is repeated this year, the total at closing time tonight will be less than 2,500,000.

Whether the trend is repeated or not depends entirely on the turnout today.

While the figure through Thursday was 18½ percent greater than in the last peacetime state election in 1938, the final two days' turnout that year was unusually heavy, amounting to 56 percent of the number who registered altogether.

A similar heavy registration today will greatly increase the chance

to defeat the Dewey reactionary machine, and to pile up record votes on both the Communist and labor tickets.

It might well be disastrous to the progressives in this election if newspaper headlines about a heavy registration thus far were to cause any slowing up in the job of getting out the vote this last day.

Full pressure is needed to insure the maximum vote possible on Nov. 5.

Last Day for Registration!

HOURS: From 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. today (Saturday).

WHERE: In the polling place in your own election district.

In most cases, it is the same place from which you voted in the past.

WHO REGISTERS: Any citizen who is 21 or over and who will have lived in the state for one year, in the city for four months and in the election district 30 days on Election Day, Nov. 5. Makes no difference whether you have ever voted before, or if you are out of the Army more than a year.

YOU CAN'T VOTE IF YOU DON'T REGISTER.

Shoe Union Parley Ends in Spirit of Unity

Special to the Daily Worker

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 11. — The convention of the United Shoe Workers adjourned today with unanimous adoption of a statement on selection of an organization director of the union.

Significance of today's decision was in its insurance that the organizational director will not come from outside the shoe union's ranks, as had been demanded by the convention minority.

The decision, made after two days of debate, came quickly after progressives at the convention won today's roll-call test on a point of procedure. Vice-president Isadore Rosenberg, leader of the progressives, thereupon, proposed that a capable organizational director, a new post, from the ranks of the shoe workers be agreed upon by the four top officers after consultation with the national CIO.

The officers consist of two from the ranks of the convention's progressive majority and two former associates of Frank McGrath who has been unanimously condemned as a deserter and a red-baiter.

The union's presidential vacancy, in accordance with the constitutional procedure is filled by the executive board from nominations submitted by the locals.

The statement adopted also broke with McGrath's red-baiting policy declaring "there is no room for intolerance, prejudice, red-baiting or any other activity" which undermines the union's unity and democracy.

A further indication of the spirit of unity, was the decision by the progressives to drop their court suit brought on by McGrath's fraudulent election. On this Rocco Franceschini, of New York, who opposed McGrath and was supposedly defeated by a margin of 800 votes, announced he is not an issue in the selection of a new president and withdrew his name.

tice of Harlem landlords both with regard to walls and to the complaints of their tenants.

"I was evicted as a troublemaker because I complained of dampness and an unpainted apartment," Mrs. Henrietta Johnson told me. "The landlord refused to take my rent and had a marshall evict me when I was at work."

But in less than 24 hours, I learned, angry neighbors returned Mrs. Johnson's furniture to her apartment. The 22 tenants unanimously condemned the unfair action and petitioned the landlord to reinstate Mrs. Johnson fully by receiving her rent. They contacted

the United Harlem Tenants group which directed Mrs. Johnson to counsel and informed her of her rights.

The rest is history. In less than 10 days the landlord's plot to isolate tenants who complain of bad conditions was defeated. The landlord himself defended the suit brought against him. In the 10th District Municipal Court he bitterly complained after his defeat about "gangs leading the people of Harlem."

But no name-calling is intimidating the angry Harlem housewives who are organizing on the heels of this victory to get him to act on the violations.