

# 1958 — Year Of Socialist Opportunity

By MURRY WEISS  
National Fund Drive Director

MARCH 19 — The branches of the Socialist Workers Party have all responded to the March 1 launching of the \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund by pledging the full amount of the goal. We have already received \$3,113.60 which marks a 15% completion of the quotas in the third week of a 12-week drive. The Buffalo branch has taken a strong lead with 35% of its \$1,500 quota fulfilled despite the fact that widespread unemployment in the Buffalo area has slashed the incomes of many branch members.

The spring fund drive for \$20,000 is the first of two projected Socialist Expansion Funds in 1958. It is now the main business before all party branches and will continue to be the main business until the drive is successfully concluded on May 31.

The SWP feels that 1958 is a year of opportunity and challenge for the socialist movement in America.

Capitalism stands on trial not only before the people of the world but before the American people as well. The issue in this trial is whether the richest country in the world shall continue to pour its vast wealth and labor power into frenzied preparations for a war that will mean the destruction of the human race, or whether the huge productive capacity of this country shall be turned towards creating a life of unprecedented abundance in peaceful and fraternal brotherhood with people everywhere.

American capitalism has driven the contradictions of the profit system to an insane conclusion, to a point where in order to save this system it is ready to gamble with the life of the human race.

And now the cruel delusion that by squandering the precious resources created by labor for the preparation of a war, capitalism has found a way to eliminate depressions is rapidly crumbling. After almost two decades of war preparations and war, more war preparations and more war, what does capitalism have to show the American people?

Mental hospitals are overflowing; while funds available for health and welfare are declining. Unemployment grows month by month; while consumer purchasing power declines. Prices are rising, Jim Crow is thriving, slums are growing; while union demands for higher wages are met with savage resistance and preparations for a strike breaking.

New housing construction is declining, schools and education are deteriorating, youth face a world without prospects for employment and without a future and the older citizens live on a pauper's pittance.

In this situation all American capitalism and its Republican and Democratic parties can offer is more fendishly destructive Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

We believe that now is the time for socialists to close ranks, pool their resources and go before the American people in a crusade for socialism against capitalism. The 1958 Congressional elections are, in our opinion, the best arena for socialists to



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## See U.S. Aiding Rebels In Indonesia Civil War

The Indonesian government has surprised and dismayed U. S. imperialism with its swift measures to put down the army revolt in Central Sumatra. For this "revolt" (actually an attempted counter-revolution) was obviously planned and paid for in Washington, D.C. It is no accident that it is precisely in the area of U.S. oil and rubber company holdings in Indonesia that the local army officers suddenly discovered they can no longer tolerate Premier Sukarno's "drift towards Communism."

U.S. News and World Report, on Feb. 28 printed an article from its correspondent in Tokyo giving an inside picture of U.S. policy in Indonesia. It described three alternative policies the U.S. could have followed. First was supporting Indonesia's legal government, hoping to influence Sukarno away from his leftward "drift." Second was neutrality. The third course was to shy away from Sukarno and give moral and material support to the anti-Communist rebels. Advocates of this course realized that it would risk getting the U.S. drawn into an Indo-China type war and—if the rebels collapsed—might leave the U.S. holding the bag in an unsuccessful revolution. It was not an easy choice. According to information here, the U.S. took the third course.

The article also notes that the rebel government "is acting as if it had direct or indirect assurance from the U.S. that it will not be abandoned if a showdown comes with the Reds."

### CREDIT RATING

Banks, finance companies and installment plan stores in Youngstown do not ask, "How much money can you pay down?" The first question now is, "How much seniority do you have?"

## AEC Nailed In Brazen Falsehood

By HARRY RING

MARCH 18 — How the Atomic Energy Commission uses trickery to thwart world-wide demands for a halt to nuclear tests was exposed anew this week. The commission was caught in a lie when it claimed that underground nuclear explosions cannot be successfully detected and that therefore the Soviet offer for a monitored test ban should be rejected.

The AEC claim was nailed as phony by I. F. Stone, fighter for peace and civil liberties, and editor of I. F. Stone's Weekly.

On March 6, the AEC had issued an official account of the underground nuclear test it conducted in Nevada last Sept. 19. The report stated: "... the earth movement was so slight that it could be recorded only on extremely sensitive seismological instruments. The earth waves were recorded at seismological stations at Los Angeles, about 250 miles, air line, from the shot mesa. This is the maximum distance at which the shot was recorded." (Emphasis added.)

The purpose of this claim was to show that it would be meaningless to accept the Soviet offer for a test ban with international monitoring stations spaced 500 miles apart to detect explosions in violation of the ban.

### DETECTED IN ROME

On reading this release, Stone contacted the AEC to find out how it reconciled this claim with reports from other sources that the underground shot had been recorded as far away as Toronto and Rome. While waiting for the AEC answer, Stone learned from the Commerce Department's Coast and Geodetic Survey that the blast had been detected at Fairbanks, Alaska, 2,300 miles north of the test site, at Fayetteville, Ark., about 1,240 miles east, and at

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## Bomb Mishap Shows Root Of War Peril

By HENRY GITANO

An American bomber which accidentally hurled an atomic bomb on March 11, lacked only the fuse necessary to transform Florence, South Carolina into a nuclear-horror crematory. As it is, the blast scattered plutonium while exploding TNT which ripped a hole 75 feet wide and 35 feet deep, injuring six persons, including four children. The detonation was felt over a radius of one mile, but its significance, dramatizing the U.S. government's ever-readiness to visit massive nuclear "retaliation" on peoples whose social system it doesn't favor, was felt around the world.

This incident, as well as the Feb. 4 jettisoning of nuclear weapons off Savannah, Georgia, spotlights the role of the Strategic Air Command (SAC). SAC planes armed with nuclear weapons are in the air at all times, ready for "instant retaliation;" one-third of its 2,000 nuclear armed jet bombers are aloft or ready to be in the air within 15 minutes.

The full horror contained in these airborne threats was dramatized by former Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott: "A single SAC bomber with a three-man crew, carrying only one bomb load, can carry more destructive power in one mission than the

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## Labor Must Demand Production for Peace

AN EDITORIAL

In advancing a program to "put America back to work," the AFL-CIO leaders at the Washington Conference included a demand for a big boost in arms spending.

Such a demand has not place in a Labor program to combat depression. In fact, it has no place in a Labor program at any time.

Said AFL-CIO President Meany in presenting the arms proposition: "We need guided missiles and manned aircraft; we need armaments and aircraft carriers; we need a trained, expert, well-manned and well-paid military establishment..."

Who needs all this?

Certainly not the millions of American families who live in tenements. They need decent housing.

Certainly not the millions of school children who need more and better schools. Certainly not the teachers who need better pay if their living standards are to approach a decent level.

Neither do the American workers, whom Meany is supposed to represent, need rockets equipped with nuclear warheads. They need better pay, shorter working hours, an end to speed-up, longer vacations and more leisure.

### Need Abundance

The American people as a whole need more doctors, more hospitals, more medical research. They need parks, art, music and theater centers, flood control projects, land reclamation and other public services. And they need consumer goods of every conceivable kind in abundant quantity and at a low price.

Hundreds of millions of people in Asia, Africa and Latin America who are fighting to liberate themselves from age-old economic backwardness don't need atomic missiles either. They need modern factories, dams and other equipment to help them industrialize.

The production of arms — nearly half-a-trillion dollars worth in the past ten years — has criminally wasted material and labor that might have been devoted to useful production here and abroad. It saddled the working people with inflation and high taxes. It impoverished the nation.

Big Business alone benefited from the insane waste and destruction. It used the arms expenditures to keep inordinate profits flowing into its coffers.

### Their Solution: War

It was World War II that rescued the profit system from depression and the Korean war that staved off a new collapse following the 1949-50 recession. And now with a new collapse of the capitalist system threatening, the Big-Business crowd will again seek salvation in war expenditures — and in war.

In demanding jobs for all, Labor must repudiate the Big-Business arms program instead of going along with it as Meany does. Labor must demand firmly and insistently: No more production for war; direct the economy into new channels: produce for peace!

To put teeth in that demand, Labor should call for all war industries to be nationalized and converted—under workers' democratic management — to the production of goods the people of the country and the world need to enjoy a better life.

Labor should further demand the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay and an end to man-killing speed-up.

Wages must go up so that the working people can buy more of the goods they need. Taxes on incomes under \$7,500 per year must be abolished.

### Labor's True Goal

The AFL-CIO estimates that at least 25% of the nation's productive facilities are now idle. Rather than let this productive apparatus rot and rust or be turned to making arms, Labor should propose that the government take them over, too, and put more men and women back on the job producing useful things.

Lastly, Labor must organize politically to supplant the capitalist class as the directing force in the nation. And it must start with a clear goal around which to rally the majority of the American people: an end to depressions; an end to wars; a society of peace and abundance.

## But AFL-CIO Parley Proposals Fall Short Of What Is Needed

By GEORGE LAVAN

MARCH 19 — The attention — indeed, deference shown by Washington officialdom and the capitalist newspapers to the AFL-CIO Conference on Putting America Back to Work is clear proof that the labor movement is recognized as the spokesman for America's unemployed.

On short notice Eisenhower agreed to give an audience to the entire AFL-CIO Executive Council to hear its proposals on how to combat joblessness. Secretary of Labor Mitchell and the assorted Democratic and Republican politicians, who addressed the conference, used their most honeyed words to assure the delegates that their hearts were with the unemployed and labor's anti-recession aims.

Nationally the Big Business press gave respectful coverage to the conference and ran front-page pictures of Eisenhower with AFL-CIO President George Meany and United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther to show their readers that slow-moving Eisenhower is not impervious to the plight of the unemployed.

### SPEAK FOR NATION

The recognition accorded the AFL-CIO conference stems not only from the strength of organized labor — almost 18 million members. It stems from the fact that in speaking for its own unemployed members labor is also speaking in the interest of all the unemployed and all those who fear unemployment.

Thus the labor movement stands as the natural spokesman for the overwhelming majority of the American people against a repetition of depression suffering such as prevailed during the 1930's. The politicians realize this, and they consequently handled the AFL-CIO's Emergency Conference with kid gloves.

The big question that all this raises is: Will the leaders of the American labor movement live up to the responsibility? Will labor lead the American people? Will it devise the measures needed to prevent a calamity of poverty and suffering from hitting America's workers, farmers and middle class? And will it force those measures through Congress and the state legislatures? These are the big



MEANY

questions that history has placed before the labor movement in the year 1958.

The first thing that must be said about the AFL-CIO conference that met in Washington from March 11-13 is that it took only the most halting, timorous steps.

### ASK FOR PALLIATIVES

Instead of speaking out with the thunderous voice of the millions of unemployed and the millions who want something effective done, the conference merely called for minor remedies. These were mostly of a stop-gap character, as if it were safe to gamble that the economic crisis may not deepen as it did in the 1930's. Moreover, many AFL-CIO proposals did not go beyond what the capitalist politicians had already decided to concede.

The conference position on extension of unemployment compensation benefits is an important example. On March 8 Eisenhower called for extension of benefits for 13 more weeks. Thinking it necessary to outbid the Republicans in an election year, Democratic Congressmen began talk of a 16-week extension. Bills were introduced while the conference was in session. The N. Y. Times headline of March 12 read: "Democrats Act — Offer Bill in House to Add 16 Weeks of Aid to

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## Blaze in N.Y. Firetrap Kills 24 and Injures 15

By HERMAN CHAUKA

NEW YORK, March 20 — Twenty-four workers, 18 of them women, went to a horrible death yesterday afternoon as a blazing fire swiftly gutted the five-story tenement-loft building where they worked at 623 Broadway. Another 15 workers were injured. Officials are not certain if this is the final toll.

The blaze began with an explosion in an apparently defective textile drying oven in one of the small shops on the third floor of the old loft building. When one of the workers went to ignite the oven, "flames roared out. There was a tremendous blast and then we couldn't see anything," said an eyewitness.

The flames shot instantaneously to the floor above. There, in an underwear manufacturing shop, 39 workers, mostly women, were at their sewing, printing and drying machines. It was on this floor that the flames, smoke, fumes and heat took the heaviest toll.

Blinded by the terrible smoke, a number of workers died or were injured when they leapt from windows and missed the firemen's nets. There was no fire escape and many were trapped trying to find their way to the stairway. Ten of the victims were found under their work benches. Five were huddled near the rear windows. Four bodies were found at the head of the staircase. (The staircase was "fire-proof" so no fire escapes were legally required.)

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# Socialists Urged To Unite Behind Chi. Candidate

CHICAGO, March 14 — Prospects for a united socialist campaign in the Second Congressional District have moved forward rapidly in the past week. A conference was held yesterday at the Essex Community Church for the purpose of organizing "the broadest unity of socialists for the consideration of 1958 electoral activity." The call was issued by the Reverend Joseph P. King, president of the Washington Park Forum, who has announced his candidacy.

Meanwhile, on March 9, a spontaneous discussion of Rev. King's candidacy took place at the Washington Park Forum and \$93 was contributed toward his campaign. Rev. King had not planned to discuss the question of his candidacy at the Forum until next week.

Over 40 persons were present at the Community Church conference, most of them supporters of the Washington Park Forum who strongly favor independent socialist political action. Also attending, primarily as observers, were representatives of the Socialist Party, the American Socialist magazine and the Communist Party.

## COMMUNIST PARTY

In reply to a question from Peter Meyer, of the State Committee of the Socialist Party, Rev. King stressed the fact that he is not "an instrument" of any particular party, but is putting first the unity of all socialists in the coming elections. "I will gladly withdraw in support of any candidate who will more broadly represent the working people," King said. "My only condition is that such a candidate break with



REV. JOSEPH B. KING

capitalist politics and advocate a socialist program."

"The door is wide open for the closest collaboration of all socialist tendencies," affirmed all of King's supporters at the meeting. In his speech, Rev. King spoke of "the tie between the socialist program and the day-to-day problems in the community."

Rev. William T. Baird, of the Essex Community Church, was the other featured speaker. He told of how, when he was Progressive Party district committeeman, he had opposed support to Barrett O'Hara, present incumbent Congressman, "because it meant playing ball with the Democrats, and holding back the organization of an independent party."

"I'm working with some six socialist groups on one project or another," he added. "I don't give a hoot what your label is. My only condition is that the project is in the interests of the people."

## CITES PRESSURE

Describing some of the pressure that has been put on him for his sponsorship of the united socialist campaign, Baird said, "One call from a 'friend' asked why I was being used by the Socialist Workers Party. Another said I was being used by the Communist Party. A minister friend called to express his shock at having this socialist meeting taking place at a Christian church. A fourth suggested that support to a united socialist ticket was tantamount to destruction of the movement for the election of Dr. Howard, a candidate in another district." Dr. Baird said all these protests missed the point of the right of political freedom.

The meeting adopted a motion in support of a united socialist ticket in the Second District. It organized a committee to create an "independent, broad and militant united socialist campaign." Tentative officers of the committee are Rev. King as candidate; John Hamilton, chairman; Wilson Graves, secretary; Barney Taylor, treasurer, and Howard Mayhew, publicity. The next public meeting of the group will be Wed., April 2, at 306 E. 43rd Street.

By PETER FRYER

Special London Correspondent

In 'pub' or club, in factory or university, wherever Englishmen gather, as soon as the talk turns to politics the H-bomb and the rocket bases become the center of attention. Scarcely a public speech or discussion that does not return, over and over again, to the H-bomb. In the past few months there has been an upsurge of public feeling unprecedented since the end of the second world war. Five things in particular show how the British people are feeling:

(1) At the by-election in the working-class town of Rochdale four voters in five cast their votes for anti-H-bomb candidates, and the Government (Conservative) candidate took a tremendous licking.

(2) At five simultaneous meetings held in central London over 5,000 people applauded calls for unilateral renunciation of the bomb by Britain made by such personalities as philosopher Bertrand Russell, novelist J. B. Priestley, historian A. J. P. Taylor and Michael Foot, editor of the Left-Labor weekly Tribune.

(3) A number of Left-Labor Members of Parliament, one-time Bevanites, have launched a new 'ginger group' inside the Labor Party, drawing heavy fire from the Right Wing for their announced intention to discuss, among other topics, the unilateral renunciation of the bomb.

(4) The Daily Herald sent a shiver of terror and apprehension up the spines of the Right Wing when it came out in favor of unilateral suspension of the testing and manufacture of the H-bomb by Britain. Labor Party secretary Morgan Phillips sent the paper a stern rebuke but 69 Labor MPs sent a letter praising the stand taken by the one-time staunchly Right Wing Herald.

## STUDENTS OPPOSE TESTS

(5) At Oxford University a



Incident during recent demonstration, when several hundred Britons marched on American air-force base near London. The demonstrators carried placards calling on the U.S. to abandon its British bases. The British population is alarmed over knowledge that American planes fly overhead with A-bombs.

massive students' meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of unilateral renunciation of the bomb by Britain — and a special issue of the students' magazine Isis, wholly devoted to the horrors of nuclear warfare, set in motion a university referendum on this issue. (Two-thirds of the students entering the poll declared in favor of Britain stopping nuclear tests until there can be an opportunity to discuss disarmament with the Soviet Union. Results were announced on March 15, according to the New York Herald Tribune. — Ed.)

This is only a selection of the campaign news. Almost every day brings some fresh initiative. A group of Left-Wing and pacifist MPs is sponsoring a three-day protest march to the British atomic warfare laboratories over the Easter weekend. London university teachers

## Protest U.S. Bases

have declared against the bomb. A lively correspondence is going on in The Times, and the opponents of the bomb are making rings round their chauvinistic (and often extremely ignorant) opponents.

Nor are the protests confined to the middle class. Liverpool Trades and Labor Council has declared its opposition to the building of rocket bases in Britain, and its support for any workers who 'black' (i.e., boycott) the building of these bases.

This demand for the 'black-ing' of the bases may in the not too distant future become the spearhead of the whole campaign. At the moment, however, attention is concentrated on the emergence of the "Victory for Socialism" organization in the Labor Party. This has confounded the glib, facile critics who, following the annual con-

ference of the Labor Party last autumn, said the Labor Left was dead and that Aneurin Bevan had driven the last nail into its coffin. The result of the Left popping up as large as life, albeit under leaders far less colorful than Bevan, has been a blaze of press publicity which helped to make the inaugural meeting of the organization in London this week a very well-attended one.

There are immense possibilities for such an organization, despite the vacillations and lack of clarity of its leaders. One important role it may have to play is the further development of the anti-H-bomb campaign. There is growing pressure from certain middle-class, pacifist elements who are taking part in this campaign for it to be a "non-political" one, so as not to alienate "Liberals" and even some Conservatives. If the emergence of Victory for Socialism helps to identify the Labor Party in the public mind with thorough-going opposition to the H-bomb—despite this week's milk-and-water statement from the Labor leaders—it could do much to nip in the bud these suggestions for unprincipled "Popular Front-ery."

## MUST TURN TO WORKERS

The great need is to get Victory for Socialism to turn its attention to the factories and trade union branches, to become, not a group of middle-class do-gooders, but an organization which can bring industrial militants in to the Labor Party, and forthright socialist policies into the trade unions. The presence of a fair sprinkling of factory workers at the inaugural meeting was a good sign. Much can be done by former members of the Communist Party, a steady stream of whom are joining the Labor Party to play a part in the strengthening of the Left.

Victory for Socialism will succeed, and not least in the all-important question of the H-bomb only if it makes a se-

rious effort to drive deep roots in the trade unions, puts a clear class approach into its propaganda, and encourages working-class forms of activity and protest.

## UNHOLY ALLIANCE

Its leaders cannot hope to get anywhere without such an approach. For they have against them an unholy alliance of Fleet Street newspapers shrieking about a "split" in the Labor Party; Stalinists who repeat ad nauseam that there can be no Left without the Communist Party, and who label the Daily Herald's stand on the H-bomb "hypocrisy"; Right-Wing trade union bosses who threaten (according to The Times) to "crush the ginger group tomorrow or whenever

they wish"—and Bevan himself, whose thunder has been stolen, and who is maneuvering desperately to retain some shreds of his "Left" reputation. His last House of Commons speech, which no one could understand, shows how desperately he is trying to ride to horses. The "I-cannot-go-naked-into-the-conference-chamber" chicanery of the future Foreign Secretary clashes with the Centrist demagogue's awareness of the rising tide of public opinion, with which he is afraid of losing touch altogether.

Happily, the future of the British Left depends less on the Bevan today than it ever did. There is every sign that the fight against the H-bomb is going to rise to new heights.

# ...Socialist Fund

(Continued from Page 1)

spell out their program for averting the catastrophe of war and meeting the threat of capitalist depression.

In these elections socialists should tell the truth about the efforts of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world to build a new socialist life and how the war drive is aimed at destroying these socialist aspirations. They can show in concrete terms how the public ownership of the means of production will enable the working class of this country to produce for peace and abundance instead of war and poverty. And they can broadcast their program championing the immediate and urgent needs of the vast majority of the people.

The Socialist Workers Party is making strenuous efforts to take advantage of the growing prospects to get a friendly hearing for the socialist program. The SWP has proposed that all genuine socialists unite and wherever possible present a United Socialist Ticket in the 1958 elections.

In the early part of this year the Seattle branch of the SWP waged a campaign for Jack Wright as candidate for City Council. Many socialists of differing views supported our candidate. The vigor and effectiveness of Wright's campaign has inspired socialists all over the country.

## National Guardian Stand

In the 1957 city elections in Detroit, New York and San Francisco we saw growing signs of a movement to achieve United Socialist Tickets. The position taken by the National Guardian in support of the SWP candidates in these cities broke new ground for the idea that socialists who want to advocate socialism should get together and act together. For its part the Socialist Workers Party has made it amply clear that it wants no narrow monopoly. The SWP is ready to get together with all those who are for socialism and opposed to the capitalist parties and work out a minimum platform for united action in the elections.

The struggle of socialists to be heard on the electoral arena is not an easy one. It requires dogged, persistent and devoted activity to meet the almost prohibitive requirements rigged by capitalist legislators for the specific purpose of preventing independent political expression on the ballot. Despite these obstacles, the Michigan SWP has collected over 31,000 signatures to place the party on the ballot. The necessary signatures have been secured in New Jersey. At this moment the battle is being waged to qualify a socialist ticket in Pennsylvania by securing a minimum of 12,000 signatures on nominating petitions. We also have news of a vigorous effort to build a socialist coalition around the candidacy of Rev. Joseph P. King in the Second Congressional District of Chicago. At the same time efforts are underway to launch United Socialist Tickets in California, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other states.

## Takes Work and Hard Cash

All these campaigns, and particularly the hard preparatory work that will make them possible, require money. Fighters for socialism do not shirk their duty in this task. They go out in strenuous campaigns after long hours in factories. They solicit signatures and spread the message. They dig into their meager resources and give generously to the funds. But they need reinforcement and support! We call on every socialist in the United States who can hear our message to join in the socialist expansion drive in 1958. Give whatever you can and write to us for information on how you can help the struggle for a United Socialist Ticket in your area. Write to the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

## FUND SCOREBOARD

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Buffalo	\$1500	\$525.00	35
Cleveland	750	187.10	25
Los Angeles	4600	1013.00	22
Twin Cities	1742	324.50	19
Milwaukee	300	55.00	18
Youngstown	300	50.00	17
New York	5000	695.00	14
Allentown	112	15.00	13
South	200	25.00	13
Detroit	825	100.00	12
Chicago	1716	110.00	6
Newark	265	4.00	2
Seattle	550	10.00	2
Boston	600	—	—
Oakland	265	—	—
Philadelphia	528	—	—
Pittsburgh	10	—	—
St. Louis	80	—	—
San Francisco	440	—	—
General	217	—	—
Totals through March 19	\$20,000	\$3,113.60	15

## Local Directory

<b>BOSTON</b> Workers Educational Center, Gainborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave. Meetings: Tues. nights.	<b>MILWAUKEE</b> 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays.
<b>BUFFALO</b> Militant Forum, 831 Main St.	<b>NEWARK</b> Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J.
<b>CHICAGO</b> Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736.	<b>NEW YORK CITY</b> Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852.
<b>CLEVELAND</b> Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9.	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Militant Labor Forum and Campaign Hqtrs. Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave.
<b>DETROIT</b> Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.	<b>SEATTLE</b> 655 Main St., MU 5-7139.
<b>LOS ANGELES</b> Forum Hall, 1702 E. 4th St., AN 9-4653 or AN 3-1533.	For information phone MO 4-7194.

# Dowson in Bid For Canadian Parliament Seat

Ross Dowson, prominent revolutionary socialist in Canada, is running for Parliament from a Toronto district as candidate of the Socialist Educational League. Secretary-treasurer of the league and editor of its monthly paper, Workers Vanguard, he has twice run for Mayor of Toronto as its candidate. Last November he challenged minister of external affairs Sidney Smith in a special by-election.

Dowson's program gives concrete answers to the problems of war and depressions. His foreign policy planks call for a break with the NATO war pact; a nuclear test ban; support to the colonial freedom struggles; solidarity with the struggles for socialist democracy in the Soviet bloc and for a break with U. S. State Department policies. It demands a ban on H-bomb flights over Canada, withdrawal of U. S. troops from the country and withdrawal of Canadian troops from abroad.

His domestic program calls for the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay; re-opening of idle shops by the government under union administration; unemployment insurance for the duration of unemployment and a wide program of federally subsidized low-rent housing.

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# ...AEC Nailed in Falsehood

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17 other seismicological stations in the U. S. and Canada.

Confronted with an independent journalist in possession of these damning facts, the AEC finally issued a brief statement of correction to news editors that was couched in language designed to attract a minimum of attention.

This correction went largely unnoticed by the daily press until the information was made available to Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) who now favors an agreement to stop the tests and who sent out a release challenging the AEC deception.

Once the matter became pub-

lic, the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy felt compelled to summon AEC officials on Sept. 15 for an explanation. After a perfunctory hearing, the Congressmen declared the AEC had been guilty only of an "honest error." They were joined in this disgraceful whitewash by Humphrey who immediately issued a concurring statement.

## COORDINATED STATEMENT

The verdict of an "honest error" came despite the knowledge that the doctored report had been circulated throughout the AEC staff for what was delicately called "coordination" prior to release. It had been read by all AEC commissioners

without any of them catching the "error." A sole exception, according to AEC testimony, was a San Francisco press officer who recommended deletion of the false claim. But it seems the man he made the recommendation to "became ill and did not return to work until after the statement had been prepared in final form."

While this particular official was "ill," the rest of the AEC propaganda machine was busily at work on a new line of public deception. To divert attention from the current exposure, AEC publicists hit the headlines with a new gimmick—the claim that continuing tests of A and H-bombs are neces-

sary for the development of atoms for peace, including utilization of oil and water reserves. And, as usual, we are assured that testing can be done without any danger of radiation exposure.

The latest move to confuse public opinion is so raw that the chief of the Washington Bureau of the Christian Science Monitor, in a March 15 dispatch, was moved to comment:

"One must always be certain of course that the Atomic Energy Commission's new emphasis on the peaceful use of nuclear explosions does not exaggerate the prospects and is not mainly a device to derail the apparent willingness within the Eisenhower administration to consider a suspension of nuclear testing without other impediments at a summit conference."

The fact that a summit conference now seems virtually assured is, of course, at the bottom of these cynical maneuvers. New York Times Washington correspondent Dana Adams Schmidt reports today that "the United States is understood to be considering for the summit a proposal for a suspension for two or three years of nuclear tests."

It may well be that the power of world opinion, including American public opinion, has forced Washington to consider acceptance of the long-standing Soviet offer. But judging by their resort to lying propaganda to justify continuance of the radioactive blasts, the Big Business politicians are extremely reluctant to give up the polluting tests.

Washington's approach to the impending summit conference was voiced in a lengthy editorial yesterday in the New York Times. It declared the chief obstacle to ending international tensions to be a Soviet record of "treachery and deceit."

## RECORD OF DUPLICITY

What hypocrisy! Faced with the demand for a test ban, the U. S. government spread the pernicious lie that the resulting fallout was not dangerous. ("Safer than cigarettes," declared one Washington bureaucrat.) Next came Eisenhower with the claim that fallout had been reduced 95%. This was followed by the argument for continued testing to develop a "clean" bomb. Then the AEC tried its current stunt of falsifying facts to prove underground shots could not be detected. Caught red-handed, they jumped over to the "peaceful purposes" pitch. Scientific facts? The health of humanity? Both have been contemptuously disregarded throughout.

This record offers little basis for pious charges of deceit by others.

# ...A-Bomb Accident

(Continued from Page 1)

entire air forces of all the combatants could carry in the last war.

Military and political analysts realizing the implications of SAC are rightly scared. Britain's Captain B. H. Liddell Hart, world renowned military critic, warned in the Jan. 25, Herald Tribune that "a misinterpretation of code signals by aircraft (loaded with H-bombs) might all too easily lead to the starting of nuclear war — and thereby to the almost instantaneous destruction of civilization." Hart relates that in the more leisurely days of World War II, the codeword "Cromwell" was sent out on Sept. 7, 1940 in England and misinterpreted in some cases to mean that a German invasion had taken place, with the result that bridges were destroyed, roads blocked and mines laid.

Another accident was the German bombing of Rotterdam on May 14, 1940. The German general signaled orders by wireless and red flares to cancel the bombing attack. But one of the two columns carried out the original orders, destroying 20,000 buildings.

## TRIGGER-HAPPY OFFICERS

Hart sees the danger of "H-bombing airmen . . . some of whom may be feeling intensely bellicose and trigger-happy," doing some "intentional misinterpretation." The concept of "instant readiness" requires wide dispersal and decentralized control, thus "the crew of an aircraft can themselves make the bomb effective" precipitating says Hart "a world catastrophe."

Hanson Baldwin, New York Times military analyst revealed on Feb. 4 that SAC "emergency take-offs actually have been made when radar screens indicated (falsely) large numbers of unidentified planes." Baldwin quotes Colonel H. W.

Shelton who posed the problem of weapons triggered off by one radar which could not tell the difference between a meteorite and a missile.

C. L. Sulzberger in the Feb. 15 New York Times states that: "American commanders throughout the world are empowered to reply when their units are menaced." He asks, "is it not possible for a mar to believe he is about to be attacked when such is not actually the case? We know already of two tense moments when we thought Soviet aerial armadas were on the offensive — once towards the U.S., once over Turkey. Both were false alarms."

On Dec. 21, 1954, Baldwin said: "Many in the air force believe the price of survival means beating the enemy to the first atomic punch." On Feb. 4, he says, "the old talk of preventive war—[to launch an attack on the Soviet Union]—made sweeter by another name, preventive retaliation — has been heard again, though in muted tones, in Washington."

The Big Business politicians and brass hats, infuriated by political defeats they have received abroad at the hands of peoples who refuse to do their bidding, keep walking to the brink of disaster with SAC overhead. What's to be done about an "accident," an "impulsive" act by an "acting on his own" officer—or a calculated decision from on high? The first answer is take the A and H-bomb out of the hands of the military and scrap the entire nuclear-weapons stockpile.

## SEEK CHARITY

At least 1,000 families in St. Louis, who cannot qualify either for unemployment compensation or relief, are swamping the Salvation Army and similar charities.

# ...25 Deaths In N.Y. Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

to push back. The floor broke through and we could see a gas machine explode underneath us on the third floor."

This firetrap that claimed the lives of the workers is typical of the ancient loft buildings that dominate the entire area. It is three short blocks away from the loft on Wooster street where six firemen went to their death, Feb. 14, as the building collapsed while they were fighting desperately to control the blaze.

A few blocks further away is the scene of the infamous Triangle shirtwaist factory holocaust where 145 workers died just 47 years ago this month. That catastrophe aroused international anger when it was learned that the young women operators in the shop were roasted to death because the employer had kept the fire exits locked to keep them from asking breathers.

## BLAME 'PANIC'

City officials have been quick to try to place the blame. As usual their target is not the sweatshop bosses who maintain these firetraps with their complicity. The workers panicked, and that's why so many died, asserted Fire Commissioner "Avaugh last night. He said he knew of no fire violations in the building. He recalled the "campaign" his department is conducting to eliminate fire hazards. The principal activity in the campaign is a mass distribution of comic books to "cool children urging them to help prevent fires."

Mayor Wagner announced to the press this morning that he is "fighting hard" about the high death toll in the fire and that he is going to do something about it.



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## THE MILITANT

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Monday, March 24, 1958

## A True Confession

It's a rare occasion when a capitalist politician admits who is master of the house. But Senator Joseph Clark, a Pennsylvania Democrat, did just that in a speech March 15 at the University of Pennsylvania. The New York Times reports that Clark explained that "both major parties must depend on wealthy men and women for the success of political campaigns." "Is that an evil thing?" Clark asked. "I personally think that it is. But we have got it and we have to live with it."

Now, we socialists have always had more than a strong suspicion that the

major parties in Pennsylvania, and nationally too, are controlled by the wealthy. But it's always good to get the facts from the horse's mouth.

Fortunately, there's another side to the picture — the fact that socialists are ready to buck the major parties without benefit of wealthy backers. In Pennsylvania, for example, the Socialist Workers Party just opened a drive to get 12,000 petitions to win a place on the ballot this November. Pennsylvania workers can advance their class interests by filling the SWP petitions, just as the wealthy advance theirs by filling the Republican and Democratic coffers.

## Eisenhower's Economics

In a March 18 speech about the depression, President Eisenhower said he is opposed in principle to a public works program, or as he calls it, a "make-work" program. He says it "tends to supplant rather than supplement" private enterprise and it "dulls the edge of private initiative."

But Eisenhower isn't against all forms of "make-work." Show him one that supplements rather than supplants, one that whets rather than dulls the edge of capitalist profits and he's all for it. As a matter of fact we already have such a program and it happens to be the most stupendous in history.

Between now and 1959, according to

figures reported in the March 3 issue of I. F. Stone's Weekly, the U. S. government will sell more than \$13-billion worth of obsolete military equipment for scrap. It will receive a net return from the salvage companies of about three cents on the dollar.

Now there's a "make-work" program that's in keeping with Eisenhower's view of the American Way of Life. The munitions kings coin a fortune making the equipment and the junkmen make another one scrapping it. True, the \$4 billion a year that goes down the drain on this deal could be used to put people to work building homes, schools and hospitals. But after all, we can't afford to "dull private initiative."

## A Sinister Figure

One of the most evil public figures to emerge in recent years is the politician-scientist Dr. Edward Teller.

In the service of the most reactionary forces in this country, Teller has functioned as chief propagandist for the keep-nuclear-tests-going advocates. He helped torpedo an agreement to halt the tests last June by coming forward with the fabrication that the U.S. was on the verge of developing a "clean" bomb.

Teller is with the Atomic Energy Commission in its efforts to deceive the American people into believing that the USSR could violate a test ban without detection and that a ban is therefore unenforceable.

Again, although the world's most eminent scientists have proven by a mass of evidence that continuing tests menace humanity, Teller, in a March 2 Meet the Press interview declared without a blush: "World-wide fallout is as dangerous to human health as being one ounce overweight or smoking one cigarette every two months."

How does Teller get away with this kind of business? Mainly through a carefully developed publicity campaign which touts him as a scientific genius and as "Father of the H-bomb."

He earned this sinister title and his prominence by helping the McCarthyites crucify physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, who, on moral and scientific grounds, initially protested against Truman's edict

to make the H-bomb although he subsequently went along with it. Actually it was the Los Alamos laboratories which Oppenheimer headed that developed the H-bomb, while Teller's laboratory turned out a dud.

Teller has been one of the most vociferous of the "hate Russia" gang. His falsification of scientific facts to fit his anti-Soviet politics has been so crass as to draw the fire of politically conservative scientists. Most recently, he was the subject of scathing criticism by Dr. Harrison Brown, professor of geochemistry at the California Institute of Technology and a participant in the wartime Manhattan project for development of the A-bomb.

Dr. Brown, in a March 9 lecture at the University of Minnesota, declared: "It seems clear to me that Dr. Teller is motivated by a deep-rooted hatred of the Soviet Union that borders on the fanatic..."

Hitting Teller's assertion that an agreement to halt the tests could not be enforced, Dr. Brown said, "I challenge this view, and in doing so I do not stand alone in the scientific world."

"I believe that Dr. Teller is willfully distorting the realities of the situation," he added.

Dr. Brown's blunt, unambiguous statements aid the fight for peace. Effective opposition to the nuclear menace demands exposure of such dangerous demagogues as Teller.

## Socialist Youth Paper Wins Rights

BOULDER, Col. — In a precedent-setting decision affecting civil liberties on the campus, the University of Colorado Board of Regents has ruled in favor of allowing sales or distributions of all periodicals on campus.

The action was the final outcome of a controversy started with the distribution of copies of the Young Socialist, a monthly newspaper published in New York, on the University of Colorado campus here last fall. Support has been gaining over the last few months for the right to distribute any non-commercial literature on campus. The Colorado Daily (Campus newspaper), the Associated Students of the University, Regent Fred Betz, the Colorado American Civil Liberties Union and large numbers of students have spoken up in support of the right of the Young Socialist and all other non-commercial literature to be distributed.

### PROPER PLACES

The ACLU stated, "it is our feeling that the public streets and sidewalks of our state university are 'natural and proper places for the dissemination of information and opinion' and that a formal restriction by the University would be 'state action' within the restriction of the Fourteenth amendment."

In a letter to Ed Kahn, editor of the Colorado Daily, Tim Wohlforth, Young Socialist managing editor, stated, "I wish to thank you in behalf of the Young Socialist and its supporters for your help in securing civil liberties at the University of Colorado campus. This case is of concern not simply to the YS or even just to socialists. It is of fundamental concern to all who wish to see the American Campus be a place where the student is exposed to all ideas and can freely choose for himself what he wishes to read, hear, say, or write."

The impact of the Colorado decision will be felt on other campuses throughout the country which at present ban literature from the campus. Supporters of the Young Socialist on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California (UCLA) are approaching the administration, faculty and student body with the proposal to open up the campus for the free distribution or sale of all periodicals. The local ACLU and its student affiliate at UCLA have expressed concern over the question of the freedom of student expression on campus. The student ACLU chapter has set up a committee for Freedom of Student Expression which will look into the matter.

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# The Kindly Rep. Saund

By SHIRLEY CLARK

Among the most exploited people in this country are the Mexican agricultural workers of California. Wealthy ranchers import cheap labor from across the border and in collusion with government officials, work them for next to nothing and ship them back as soon as the intense period of work is over.

Nowhere in the United States is there greater contrast between the rich and the poor. And nowhere is there greater exploitation of labor. Social workers cluck their tongues; do-gooders plead for protective legislation and most labor bureaucrats look the other way — no big rake-off in dues on these migratory workers.

Almost everyone, however, in California pretends compassion for the roving followers of the crops. Everyone that is, except the liberal Congressman, D. S. Saund, Democrat. His heart bleeds for the store keepers in the border towns, El Centro, Brawley and Calexico. Their business is bad. So Representative Saund, according to a Feb. 28 United Press dispatch, rushed to the rescue with legislation to help them.

Saund introduced a bill to prevent Mexi-

can workers from returning to their homes in Mexico more than once a month. This would force them to shop for their needs on the U. S. side of the border — where they have to pay more for the few necessities they are compelled to buy.

Saund would go even further to help the poor shop-keepers. His proposed bill would restrict the amount of merchandise, tobacco and food, which the ranchers hand out to supplement the starvation wages they pay.

Saund doesn't propose to force the ranchers to pay better wages. He just wants to see to it that the bosses don't supply these necessities.

The fact that Saund is a representative of a minority group that has itself been subjected to the super-exploitation of California farm factories — his ancestors came from India — doesn't seem to affect him much. Unless perhaps, it made him all the more concerned to demonstrate that his sympathies don't necessarily go to those who are discriminated against, persecuted, over-worked and under-paid. Every minority group has a few like Saund in its ranks.

# Shoe-Happy Sybarite

By JOYCE COWLEY

America's best dressed women spend \$10,000 to \$100,000 a year on clothes — not including furs and jewels.

This is just one of the startling disclosures in an article in the current Ladies Home Journal which tells what it takes to get on the "best dressed" list. In case you feel any idle curiosity about how they spend more money on clothes in one year than many of us make in a lifetime, I'll summarize a few illuminating details.

First, it is necessary to get in shape to wear the clothes and that in itself may run as high as \$350 a week for facials, hairdos, massage and vapor baths. Pure queen-bee jelly, which makes your skin look young, costs \$2,000 a pound.

As for the clothes themselves, the New York wardrobe of one of the women who frequently makes the best-dressed list includes the following items:

Five fur coats — one fur-lined, six cloth, three coat and dress ensembles, four jackets; 14 ball gowns, 14 cocktail dresses, 19 suits, 26 daytime dresses, 42 blouses, 29 sweaters, 225 pairs of gloves, 89 pairs of shoes, and similar quantities of slips, girdles, stockings, etc.

Another woman on the list "keeps wardrobes at all her houses although she may not visit one for five years. When she does arrive, she finds waiting roomfuls of dresses, suits, hats and hundreds of pairs of shoes . . . she is especially fond of shoes."

To give a rough idea of the price of the items mentioned above — suits run from \$800 to \$1,000, daytime dresses from \$500 to \$700, ball gowns from \$950 to \$2,500 (the one that cost \$2,500 is hand-embroidered with thousands of tiny sequins and beads, and it is reassuring to learn that "it will last a long

time"). Fur coats may be as little as \$200, or as much as \$58,000 for a really good sable. The total replacement value of the complete wardrobe is estimated at \$1,500,000 which, according to the Ladies Home Journal, is not unusually high.

I won't take up space with any more statistics as I think this is enough to give a general picture. I do have a purpose in presenting this brief summary. I believe it answers a question I was asked at Rutgers when I spoke there a few weeks ago. One of the economics professors wanted to know if I had any criticism of the capitalist method of distribution, and if so, what?

I might have answered that the capitalist method is absurd, for in a sense it is, when one woman keeps hundreds of pairs of shoes in each of her homes, obviously more shoes than she can ever wear out. It would take years to wear each pair just one day. But when I think of children whose feet are cramped by shoes that are too small, and unemployed workers padding their thin soles with newspapers to keep out the damp and cold, it no longer seems absurd, but criminal.

"How will you determine what people need under socialism?" the professor asked. "Who will decide?"

I don't have any blueprints, but I am sure it won't be the people who are making decisions now — decisions which result in one person owning a thousand pairs of shoes while someone else hasn't one good pair. In my opinion, and I think most workers will agree, they have proved they are not qualified for the job. I am also sure that no one will accumulate roomfuls of shoes, dresses, sweaters or coats until each one of us has been supplied with basic necessities.

# Movie Review

By TRENT HUTTER

## Realism in Hollywood and Italy

No one can deny that Hollywood's quota of quality pictures, especially of those that tend to be realistic, have increased in recent years. This is due to the menacing competition of TV, with many movie theatres remaining half-empty or worse most of the time; to the strong impression made in some big cities by Italian or French movie realism; and to the greater freedom enjoyed by American movie-makers since the witch-hunt has somewhat abated. The studios have to struggle for survival, and the defeat of McCarthyism made them bolder in the selection and treatment of subject matter. It is not quite impossible that the present recession will further accentuate the realistic trend.

While Hollywood still is rather reluctant to deal with problems of the average American working people, it has at least sacrificed some of its taboos. American pictures freely discuss dope addiction and rape nowadays, for example. The producers entered upon this path in order to attract more customers; but in the final result it all helps to make American movies more mature. A number of other problems, too, which the producers would not have dared to touch five years ago, are being discovered by "independents" and big studios alike.

Just to mention two recent pictures, "Sayonara" and "Peyton Place," surely feature fine acting and a certain amount of realism — "Sayonara" (with Marlon Brando, Miiko Taka, Red Buttons) showing not only fascinating Japanese landscapes and customs but above all the vicious anti-Asiatic discrimination practiced by part of the U.S. officers' caste and the struggle against it. This struggle finally led to American military men being permitted to take their Japanese wives to the United States after they had endured hostility, injustice, hardship and had in some cases been overwhelmed by the apparent hopelessness of the situation. And "Peyton Place" (with Hope Lange, Diane Varsi, Lana Turner, Lloyd Nolan, Arthur Kennedy, Lee Philips, Russ Tamblyn) unmasks small-town hypocrisy.

Several readers will probably tell me that the picture "Peyton Place" is not as bold as the novel. But the picture does probe rather boldly into problems of adolescents and adults, which only a few years ago would have been far too "controversial" for Hollywood.

It would hardly have been authorized by the industry's self-censorship in 1950 or 1954.

And besides: A novel is not a movie, and a movie is not a novel. Both follow the inherent laws of their medium. And a novel that is made into a movie will generally lose some of its most important qualities. However, I do not affirm that novels like "Sayonara" or "Peyton Place" should not provide the material for motion pictures. The movie versions of "Sayonara" and "Peyton Place," in my opinion, are worth seeing. Not every movie based on a well-known novel has to be sickening like Darryl Zanuck's version of Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises" . . .

As for genuine feeling and social realism, I believe Italy's top movie-makers still are the champions. This is confirmed by "Cabreria," another masterpiece by the creators of "La Strada," Director F. Fellini and his wife, that truly great actress Giulietta Masina.

Cabreria is a prostitute — not the depraved, the degenerate or the seductive whore whom we so often encounter in French motion pictures; but a poor girl of the people, a victim of society and of unscrupulous men who rob her, yet a courageous human being, proud of having a little home of her own and maintaining, despite the degradation to which she is subjected, a kind of deep-seated integrity.

Delicate humor, biting satire, sincerity, tact — the picture has all this. It does not glamorize prostitution — on the contrary. Nor does it sentimentalize it in tear-jerker fashion. Its ending is not cheaply moralizing or sugar-coated with artificial optimism. But it is not despair: Cabreria's misery and disappointments do not overcome her strength. Life is victorious. She is determined to survive, and she will. After losing all her savings and facing a would-be murderer the songs and dances of the young make her smile again, and undaunted she goes on . . .

"Cabreria" is a work of art. I wish they would show it everywhere. At any rate, there are some excellent pictures around. Don't hesitate to tear yourself away sometimes from that television set!

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# THE MILITANT

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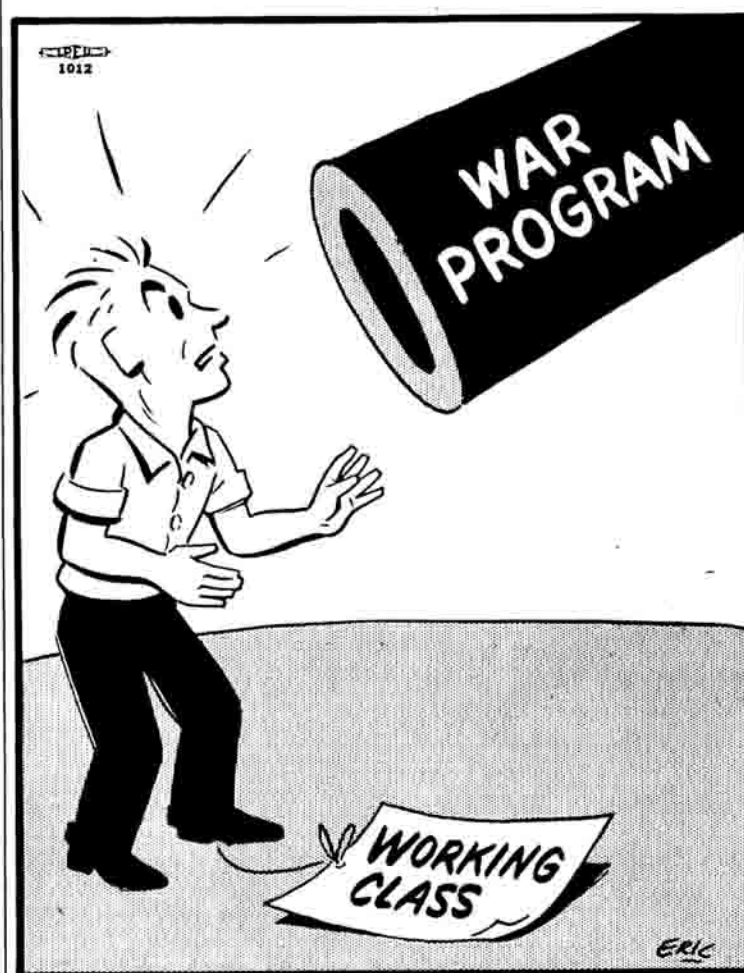
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## Sue NMU, Shippers On Blacklist

Fourteen merchant seamen have brought suit against the AFL-CIO National Maritime Union and six shipping companies for the right to register at the union hall and to ship out. The seamen are part of those who won a lengthy battle in 1956 against the Coast Guard which had "screened" them out of the industry on witch-hunt charges. The Coast Guard was forced by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court in California to reissue validated seamen's papers to the victimized seamen.

Thereupon the union bureaucrats and shipowners took it upon themselves to do what the courts had forbidden the Coast Guard to do — prevent the men from working at their trade. The union hall refused to register the men, all of whom have records as militant NMU members, some of them charter members. Victor Rabinowitz of the law-firm of Rabinowitz and Boudin brought suit on Feb. 25 in U.S. District Court of Southern New York.

## No Answer to Depression



## Strike of Dressmakers Tested Union Solidarity

By WILLIAM BUNDY

If the recently concluded New York-market dressmakers strike is any indication of the attitudes of workers in other areas and industries, militant unionists have cause for optimism.

Some observers have felt that years of experience with heavy-handed, bureaucratic union leadership plus the atmosphere created by the Senate labor probe might have impaired pro-union consciousness among the workers. Any such ideas, as regards the garment workers at least, were quickly dispelled by this strike.

### NO UPSURGE

It is not that the call for the walkout resulted from an upsurge of the rank-and-file members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. As the date for the expiration of the contract approached, negotiations between the top union leadership and the employers got under way in the usual fashion—that is, with most of the rank-and-file not even aware of the fact. Reports of the progress of negotiations were made at local meetings with little or no time allowed for discussion from the floor. The union demands were formulated with only the barest formalities as to ratification by the membership being observed. There were no stormy pre-strike meetings, unauthorized walk-outs, or organized rank-and-file protests against prevailing conditions.

The decision to strike was made by the top union leadership, and there is evidence that this decision was encouraged and even demanded by a section of the employers.

The industry's trade paper, Women's Wear Daily, stated in its March 6 issue: "Employers hold that the dressmakers union and its parent body, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, permitted Pennsylvania to grow as a garment center with less stringent policing. They assert that . . . agreements were signed with giant users of goods permitting a labor edge over the smaller firms . . ." The employers who lived up to the agreement threatened that if the union heads didn't stop favoring the others, they, too, would disregard the contract.

Thus the strike call was not evidence that the Dubinsky officials had adopted a new fighting policy. Rather, it showed that they had been so much given to conciliating employers that a breakdown of the entire union-contract structure was threatened. They then took action within the framework of their traditional policy in the industry of helping to iron out conflicts among the employers.

### WORKERS RESPOND

What mattered to the workers, however, was that the strike was called and that tangible demands were raised. These included wage and fringe benefit increases, overtime pay after 35 hours and uniform contract enforcement. The strike was supported 100% by the 105,000 dressmakers in the

seven-state area. From the point of view of solidarity, discipline, and size, it was the most successful strike in the union's history.

The younger workers, with little or no union experience, were just as solid, and even more enthusiastic on the picket lines, than the old timers. Before the strike, it was common to hear remarks from old unionists about the lack of union spirit among younger workers or members of relatively newly arrived minority groups, such as Puerto Ricans. But those remarks are heard no more. At the mass meeting in New York City on the first day of the strike, the loudest cheers were sounded for the younger speakers. And when one Puerto Rican unionist started speaking in Spanish, the cheers stopped the meeting.

The officials took a little ribbing at that meeting too. At one point Julius Hochman, manager of the New York Dress Joint Board spoke of feeling inspired as he walked through the crowds to the meeting. There were shouts of "You walked?"

### MANY NEW MEMBERS

In the course of the six-day strike, hundreds of workers who were not members of the union reported to the strike headquarters to sign up. Some of them were not even employed in dress shops, the only ones directly affected by the strike. The strike also had the

sympathy of the overwhelming majority of New York City's population. The Pennsylvania shops, whose employers refused to sign with the other groups, remained solidly out in spite of announced plans by the employers to start a back-to-work movement. The plans were not carried out.

The workers won an 8% wage raise (17c per hour on the average), some fringe benefits, and the union demands for more stringent enforcement rules.

Actual contract enforcement, however, depends on how much backing the union officials— from the president down to the business agents—give to militants in the shops in their attempts to stop all employer abuses. The Dubinsky officialdom gave little enough in the past, and judging by the record, it will take the emergence of a militant opposition to that officialdom to ensure day-in, day-out contract enforcement.

One thing is sure as evidenced by the strike. The workers want a fighting union.

### OLD SCHOOLS, NEW CARS

New York City Comptroller Gerosa declared, Feb. 23, that he is against building any new schools in New York because he thinks the present ones are adequate. He also said the City would have to provide him with a brand new Cadillac because New York is "a first-rate city. You'd look terrible with a second-hand car."

## Strikers Keep Campbell Soup Plant Shut Tight

PHILADELPHIA, March 11—Campbell Soup Co. in Camden, N. J. was shut down tight at one minute past midnight, Wednesday, March 5, by 4,500 workers of Local 80-A, United Packinghouse Workers, fighting for a 15-cent an hour increase in pay. Negro and white men and women pickets started their round-the-clock picketing of 57 entrances of Campbell's plants and warehouses.

By today picketing has been extended to six more entrances at other warehouses and freezers not owned by Campbell's but handling Campbell freight. And plans are being discussed to throw pickets around the Campbell Soup plants in Chicago, Sacramento, the new Napoleon, Ohio, plant as well as the plant in Ontario, Canada and possibly the plant in Scotland. The strike would thus encompass three countries.

The strike has the complete support of the union's international officers who announced that they set aside half a million dollars to back this strike. RCA workers in Camden have donated \$5,000 and other unions are each day coming across with financial aid. All locals in the UPWA have pledged support.

The Teamster officials alone in the labor movement have breached the wall of solidarity. The office of the Teamsters

union is sending non-union truck drivers with work permits to go through the picket lines and haul out loaded trailers. Many individual union teamsters have denounced this strike breaking attempt of their leaders in discussion with strikers.

Despite the treachery of the Teamster officials, the pickets have prevented anything from moving out of the plants and warehouses whether by truck or by train. There have even been unconfirmed charges that strikebreakers' truck tires have been deflated, ice-picked and razor-slashed. When a truck tries to take out a trailer a human chain of pickets is quickly formed to block the way.

When an attempt was made to move a freight car train out of the warehouse area, one man laid down on the tracks while others brought their cars to block the way. Finally, a human chain of pickets was formed across the tracks. The strike which is 100% effective is typified by many instances of this kind.

The workers voted overwhelmingly for strike and against settling for less than 15 cents an hour. Many feel they ought to get more than 15 cents. Campbell Soup Co. cleared \$30 million last year with 1,000 less employees than the year before. The company, however, offered only four cents an hour at first and has refused to go any higher than seven cents at the last negotiations meeting.

### PICKET-LINE SLOGANS

Some of the slogans on the picket line read, "Good Morning Starts With 15 cents," and "To H--- with Lassic. WE need meat." The spirit is high. There is laughter and kidding. But underneath there is a grim feeling. The strikers are patrolling the strike area themselves against disorder, drunkenness, traffic snarls, etc., while the city police keep their distance in groups of three across the street from the picket lines.

The company tried to get an injunction against mass picketing and against stopping all truck and rail transport out of the plants and warehouses. It was thrown out of court.

A genuine spirit of solidarity between Negro and white and between men and women workers is being forged on the far-flung picket lines. The attempts of the employers and of a few racist elements among the workers to divide the union along racial lines in the weeks preceding the strike is being overcome through united action in the course of the strike.

## Philadelphia GE Provokes Halt To Production

PHILADELPHIA — "Disciplinary" layoffs at General Electric's switchgear plant here brought a shutdown of production, March 6. The shutdown came when the almost 5,000 workers in the plant, members of Local 119 of the International United Electrical Workers (AFL-CIO) refused to walk past a protest demonstration at the plant gates by 160 of their fellow workers who had been given half-day punishment layoffs.

Sixty of the workers, employed in the medium voltage shipping department, were given the half-day layoffs for their action, last Feb. 12, in refusing to work under a profane and abusive supervisor. The other 100 were deprived of the half-day employment for their protest action, Feb. 27, against unnecessary layoffs and against working employees out of their job classification.

## ... AFL-CIO Conference on Recession

(Continued from Page 1)

Idle." But when the dust settled it became clear that the Kennedy-McCarthy bill, which has AFL-CIO endorsement, had cut the extension back down to 13 weeks.

Perhaps a million unemployed workers have already exhausted their benefits. Each month now some 140,000 jobless get their final check. There is no assurance they will be rehired in 13 weeks. This is a situation of urgency and desperation. The labor movement should demand compensation for the entire period of joblessness. But the conference failed to do this. Without a murmur it even permitted the Democratic politicians to chisel the unemployed out of three weeks which they had already offered.

**RATE OF COMPENSATION**  
Similarly with the question of raising the amount of unemployment compensation, which averages nationally a pitifully low \$28 a week. There is general demand for an increase. The capitalists realize this and are prepared to give an increase. The New York Times, the most authoritative and influential of the Big Business newspapers has for some weeks been editorially urging an increase. Even the Wall Street Journal (March 12) has calmly remarked on the "growing political support for greater jobless benefits," explaining that "individual workers are drawing less than the 50% of regu-

lar pay the program originally envisioned. The average figure is nearer 30% today . . . The huge gap between regular pay and unemployment compensation is creating personal hardships for many jobless workers . . ."

But this 50%, which the law supposedly intended to provide, is inadequate to begin with. The labor movement should be demanding compensation at full trade-union wages, unless it is willing to see the American workers' standard of living smashed to smithereens.

Instead the AFL-CIO conference quietly went along with the picaresque increase offered in the Kennedy-McCarthy bill. This complicated provision gives lip service to the 50%-of-wages principle as long as that 50% doesn't exceed two-thirds of the average wage in the particular state. It is believed that the increase would work out at about \$10.

### JUST FOR 90 DAYS

The conference's number one demand was an immediate tax cut. Meany urged that the individual basic exemption of \$600 be raised to \$700. Reuther added to this the proposal that Eisenhower be voted power to declare a 90-day moratorium on withholding tax, if necessary. Both are predicated on the theory that a shot in the arm to consumer purchasing power might stem the recession. While it is problematical that such minor measures could seriously

affect, let alone reverse, the recession, which appears to be a deep organic movement of the capitalist boom-bust cycle, there is no question but that labor should fight to take the tax load off the workers.

The \$700 exemption proposal would mean that a family of four with an income below \$60 a week would pay no income tax. This is good but why stop there? Labor should be fighting to end the tax on all incomes of \$7,500 and less. Put the tax burden on the rich and the corporations, not on people who work for a living.

Similarly with Reuther's proposal of a possible 90-day holiday on withholding tax. Labor should be demanding a 365-day holiday on federal looting of the workingman's pay envelope.

While the conference's demands for public works were good, they remain generalities and cannot be really judged until it is seen what bills with labor support actually reach the floor of Congress. Moreover, the conference's demand for useful and peaceful public works was considerably undercut by Meany's plea for ever-greater armaments spending. (See editorial, page one.)

### SCORES DEMOCRATS TOO

Though the conference's bias in favor of the Democratic Party was open, Meany used some sharp words in the hope of prodding the Democratic-controlled Congress into action: "The administration is to blame

for short-sightedness . . . But the people on Capitol Hill must share the blame too. There is no excuse for the delay in Congress. The Congress need not have waited for administrative leadership. It could — it should — have moved before this. . . . Do not be misled by the political soothsayers and spellbinders from either side. The Democrats know they can make political capital out of talking about the recession and doing little about it. . . . That means that for the good of the country, the Democrats are going to have to put political capital to one side and do something."

The conference was run on the bureaucratic lines which have become customary in labor circles today. The 1,000 delegates served as a captive audience for speeches by top labor leaders and invited politicians and as the foot troops for the visits to Congressmen. They were given no opportunity to propose or debate what the AFL-CIO's anti-recession program should contain. That program was handed down to them from above in Meany's speech. Yet many of them had better knowledge of the actual unemployment situation than the top leaders and better ideas on how to meet the crisis. Only in the corridors, for example, was there mention of a 30-hour week with no reduction in pay as a means of spreading jobs.