

Cubans Celebrate Mobilization That Averted Invasion Danger

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Cairo Conference Backs Lumumba

Supporters of imprisoned Congolese Premier Patrice Lumumba received a strong boost when the United Arab Republic, Morocco and Indonesia announced that they were withdrawing their troops from the UN's Congo military force. The action of the three countries struck a heavy blow at the use of the UN by the Western powers to salvage imperialist rule in the Congo.

The decision to withdraw was made in protest against using the "neutral" UN force to aid pro-Western Congolese politicians who dissolved the legally constituted parliament and jailed Lumumba.

The growing difficulties of the Belgian colonialists and their backers in the Congo were further indicated by press reports that pro-Lumumba forces now control nearly half the country.

The accuracy of these reports was indicated by the hasty efforts of pro-Western Kasavubu to achieve a working agreement with Moise Tshombe, the Belgian puppet ruler whose troops are trying to maintain mineral-rich Katanga province as an "independent" state. Kasavubu's decision to turn the imprisoned Lumumba over to Tshombe indicated such a deal as well as the weakness of his own regime.

Meanwhile, the UN is becoming more and more discredited in the Congo. The three countries that have already decided to pull out contributed some 5,000 troops of the 20,000-man UN army. If other African and Asian countries also withdraw their troops, the UN "police force" will be reduced to almost completely white contingents.

There are also reports that the Lumumba forces may be receiving aid to counter the flow of weapons received by Kasavubu and Tshombe from imperialist sources. On Jan. 22 it was reported that six truckloads of supplies destined for the Lumumba forces had arrived in the Congo via the Sudan.

The Asian-African Solidarity Conference, meeting the same day in Cairo, called on all Asian and African governments with troops in the Congo under UN command to place those troops at the disposal of the pro-Lumumba government in Stanleyville.

A nongovernmental body, which reportedly has the support of Nasser and other Mid-Eastern heads of state, the conference also urged Asian and African countries to send volunteers to aid the Stanleyville government.

In the rest of the world revolution was growing over the savage beating given to Lumumba and two fellow prisoners when they were turned over to Tshombe by Kasavubu.

Tshombe denied that the beating had occurred. Reporting his "denial," the AP said Jan. 19: "However, Swedish officers at the airport where Mr. Lumumba came in told newsmen he was badly beaten. Swedish sentries near the hangar confirmed this. The reports were substantiated by Belgian airport personnel."



One of the main preoccupations of the Cuban people is to step up agricultural production as rapidly as possible. They need machines, but they are willing to do it by hand if the U.S. — which has clamped a blockade on the island — will just let them alone. Here workers at the Juan Manuel Márquez cooperative toil over furrows on an estate that produced little in the days of Batista. It was owned by Eusebio Mujal, the labor czar who operated hand in glove with the hated dictator.

"Armed Multitude" Return to Jobs

January 20, the day Eisenhower left office, was the occasion for celebration in Cuba. The workers and peasants who had mobilized throughout the island for a day-and-night guard in the last weeks of the Eisenhower administration in expectation of an invasion that could occur at any time, felt they had won an important victory. By their demonstration of alertness and readiness to fight they had forced another postponement of the counterrevolutionary scheme to crush their Revolution by armed might.

The jubilation of the Cubans was expressed in huge meetings in the principal centers. Once again, by the size of the turnout, the humble people demonstrated how solidly they support the Revolutionary Government.

In Havana Fidel Castro voiced the opinion of the regime that a breathing spell had been won and that the workers and peasants could return to their jobs confident that the immediate danger of invasion had been averted.

Addressing the "armed multitude," the first to appear "in our continent," Castro congratulated them on the mighty work they had accomplished in the two years and twenty days of the Revolution, and above all on the energy they had displayed in mobilizing against the latest imperialist threat.

As for the incoming Kennedy administration, Castro said that it offered "hope" that the United States might now modify its foreign policy. He said that the hope was not great but that even a small hope loomed large in the eyes of humanity, worried as it is over the threat of atomic war.

The Cuban government, Castro said, did not intend to dwell on past grievances but was willing to start fresh, taking Kennedy's inaugural address at face value.

However, Castro made clear, the Cubans do not intend to judge by words but by deeds. And the revolutionary leader indicated what deeds would be under close scrutiny.

"We are precisely at the point

where we have a thousand opportunities to understand what the attitude of the new administration must be. We have a thousand opportunities to know whether or not they are going to continue constantly dropping arms by parachute... whether they are going to continue the training camps in the United States... whether they are going to continue organizing mercenary armies against the Revolution.

"We will be happy over any rectification," Castro continued; "we understand what the new president faces. If he takes the honest path of rectification for the good of the world and the good of his own country, we wish him success. Meanwhile, we will await deeds, which are more eloquent than words."

Castro spoke at length of Cuba's community of interests with the rest of the colonial world which is struggling to rise out of age-old stagnation. He declared that the struggle for a better world is "irreversible" and that imperialism is a doomed system.



The House of Representatives was scheduled to vote new funds for the House Committee on Un-American Activities this week. This racist demonstrator carried his banner at the Capitol Jan. 2 in support of the committee's witch-hunting.

The Weaker Firms Are the First To Go

By Tom Kerry

The current recession is the most severe of any of the post-war downturns. That much is already certain. Comparisons of current unemployment and business failures can be made only with the figures of the Great Depression of the 1930's.

For the week ending Jan. 7 the number of insured unemployed, as reported by the Labor Department, rose by 228,900 to a total of 3,289,000. This represents 8.1 per cent unemployment among workers covered by state unemployment compensation. "It is," says the Jan. 24 New York Times, "the highest rate and number of unemployed in this category of workers for this week since unemployment insurance started in 1938."

It is estimated that total unemployment has increased by 1.0 million since the announcement of the December figure of 4,500,000 by the Labor Department. Seymour L. Wolfbein, deputy assistant Secretary of Labor, said that in his opinion the total number of jobless in January would exceed the 5,500,000 prediction made earlier this month. This figure would include both insured and uninsured jobless workers. About two-thirds of the civilian labor force is covered by state unemployment compensation.

Meanwhile, another sensitive indicator of gloomy economic weather is the marked increase in the number of business bankruptcies. Business failures are rising sharply, says a lead story in the Jan. 23 Wall Street Journal, "Dun

& Bradstreet, Inc., the national credit reporting service says 15,445 firms failed in 1960, the largest total since the depression year of 1933."

"What's behind the rising mortality rate?" asks the Journal. While there are many and varied explanations, most boil down to this: "Demand for many goods and services has weakened recently, while the capacity available to meet this shrunken demand has increased steadily over the past few years. The result is unusually fierce competition."

The weaker firms are the first to go. The stronger concerns ruthlessly slash operating costs, speed up their workers, cut their work force and throw additional thousands onto the unemployment rolls.

An example is the recent action

of Chrysler Corp in laying off about 15 per cent, or 4,500 of its 30,000 salaried workers. This follows sharp cutbacks and layoffs of Chrysler production workers since last September. "We have taken steps to reduce administrative costs," said a Chrysler spokesman, "and will continue to keep this area under study along with all other cost areas."

Other auto corporations have followed suit. The same applies to related industries. Like a stone cast in a pond the circles broaden out to encompass an ever larger area. What we are witnessing is the unfolding of a typical periodic crisis in the economic cycle of capitalist production. Only this one coming on the heels of those that have gone before, is biting much deeper and spreading over a wider area.

NAACP Protests Detroit Police Terror

By Robert Martin

DETROIT, Jan. 17—Some 2,000 people attended a mass meeting last night at Ford Auditorium to protest a wave of police persecution of Negroes in Detroit. A list of demands was formulated for presentation to the city administration designed to deal with an alleged "crime wave" which the

Fair Play Group Registers Gains

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has gained additional support despite Washington's diplomatic break with Cuba and despite racist Senator Eastland's Internal Security subcommittee's smear attack on the group.

In Los Angeles Jan. 22, more than 700 people jammed the First Unitarian Church and an adjoining room for a Fair Play for Cuba rally. Several hundred others had to be turned away for lack of space.

In New Haven, Fair Play supporters were joined by members of the George Orwell Forum, a Yale socialist club, in a picketline demonstration warning against the danger of U.S. intervention in Cuba.

Immediately after the Detroit press gave prominent coverage to the Eastland attack on the committee, a chapter meeting was attended by 150 supporters.

The New York chapter, which also had a large meeting of supporters last week, is mapping plans for a big public rally on Thursday, Feb. 9.

The State Department's ban on travel to Cuba was vigorously condemned Jan. 20 by Robert F. Williams, chairman of the Union County, N. C., NAACP and a founder of the Fair Play committee. He pointed out that while Washington said it was concerned about its alleged inability to "protect" U.S. citizens in Cuba, it had expressed no concern about protecting his family in North Carolina who were threatened by the Ku Klux Klan while he was visiting Cuba last summer.

police were using as a pretext to assault citizens because of their skin color.

Edward M. Turner, president of the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, outlined the following five-point program to deal with the problem:

(1) A meeting with the mayor to discuss Detroit's crime problem; (2) Fair coverage of crime news by the press; (3) Creation of a police commission to replace Police Commissioner Hart; (4) Establishment of a public police review board to handle complaints against police atrocities; and, (5) To import some national "crime experts" to study Detroit's crime problem.

Press Campaign

The Detroit "crime wave" was sparked by press treatment of the murder of two women whose killers were alleged to be Negroes. It was fanned by the sensationalistic press whose major consideration was to sell papers. It was seized upon by the reactionary police department and government officials to terrorize the Negro community into quiescence in the face of mounting unemployment that has hit hard at the low-paid, low-seniority, unskilled colored workers in the city.

At its peak, the campaign of "crime prevention" launched by

the police department, resulted in 1,000 illegal weekly arrests, uncounted others subjected to humiliating searches and insulting mistreatment. One Negro was shot to death by the cops and 25 were reported hospitalized. The barbarous savagery of the police was highlighted in the case of young Lawrence G. Paul, aged 21.

Young Paul was alleged to have stolen a box of Christmas cards on the afternoon of Dec. 29. While one patrolman was chasing Paul on foot, another, riding in his squad car opened fire from a distance of 200 feet and shot Paul in the head, killing him instantly.

Prosecutor Samuel Olsen, congratulated the trigger-happy cops, by saying: "This is clearly a case of justifiable homicide. The officers are to be commended for the efficient manner in which they conducted themselves."

With such encouragement by their superiors the Detroit cops have run hog-wild. This has given rise to a great deal of support in the Negro community for the demand raised by the NAACP for

the establishment of a police review board.

A leaflet distributed by the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers party at the NAACP rally last night, pointed up the responsibility of the unions to intervene against the police terror.

"The most powerful single force capable and duty-bound to act," said the SWP leaflet, "is the labor movement. White trade unionists have also had experience with the reactionary cops during many strikes. It is in their interest, as well as the interest of Negroes, that this uncontrolled police power be ended."

The Socialist Workers party accused the city authorities of refusing to act on the real cause of many crimes — unemployment, poverty and racial discrimination. It said they were trying to divert attention from their own bankruptcy by inciting racial hysteria and trying to use the Negro people as scapegoats.

The SWP endorsed the call of the NAACP and the unions for the creation of a public police review

board which could act on charges of police brutality and illegality. But it warned that such a board would be meaningless if appointed by the same authorities that now whitewash the police (Mayor Miriani and Co.).

Urge Independent Slate

It also urged the labor, Negro and civil-liberties movements to pick a slate of independent candidates to run in this year's city elections, pledged to fight for the total reorganization of the police department and for a program that will really meet the evils of unemployment and discrimination. (Miriani and most of the City Council were backed by the labor movement in 1957.)

The SWP also advocated the mass filing of court suits for false arrest, and creation of neighborhood organizations to resist the illegal and brutal activities of the cops.

A copy of the full Socialist Workers party statement may be obtained by writing 3737 Woodward, Detroit 1.

National Committee of SWP Holds Meeting

Key national and international issues of the day comprised the principal points on the agenda of a three-day meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers party in New York Jan. 13-15. The Cuban Revolution was a subject of intensive discussion.

The principal report was made by the party's national secretary, Farrell Dobbs. He detailed the political gains made by the organization since its last convention and pointed to favorable opportunities for greater gains in the days immediately ahead.

The plenary session of the committee reviewed the recently concluded national election campaign and all of the committee members agreed it was the most effective one waged by the SWP since it first entered a presidential contest in 1948.

Despite the drastic curbs on opportunities for press and air publicity, resourceful and energetic campaigners across the country joined with the national ticket in bringing the SWP's platform to significant new layers of the population.

gratified to hear an encouraging progress report by Tim Wohlforth, national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance. The YSA vigorously supported Dobbs and Weiss and won new supporters on a number of major campuses during the campaign. Wohlforth reported that the YSA, too, has found a good response to its activities in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

Difficult Problem

The thorniest problem confronting the committee was the effect of inflation on the organization's activity. While the increased sale of socialist literature and the addition of new members has advanced the party's work, mounting publication costs and other operating expenses have created a heavy financial burden. The committee mapped plans to raise additional funds and at the same time decided to modify its budget so that a financial crisis would not develop and act as a barrier to expanded activity.

A primary facet of this expanded activity will be helping to rally opposition to Washington's moves to crush the Cuban Revolution.

In addition to discussing how best to rally maximum support for the Cuban Revolution, the committee held an extensive discussion of the Cuban Revolution as it relates to Marxist theory.

A resolution was adopted expressing the view that with the sweeping expropriations of private property Cuba has passed beyond capitalism and a workers state has

been established, even though such forms of working-class democracy as councils have not yet been established.

A minority of the committee felt that the Cuban state is still in process of transition and its class character not yet definitively established. However, there was unanimous agreement on the progressive character of the Revolution and on the necessity to defend it.

The National Committee voted to schedule a convention of the party next summer.

Church Body Aids Fla. Rights Case

The national convention of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, meeting in Williamsburg, Va., Jan. 18 voted full support to the Rev. Theodore R. Gibson. A defender of civil rights, Gibson was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,200 for refusing to yield the membership list of the Miami NAACP, of which he is president, to a race-baiting Florida legislative committee.

The Florida Supreme Court denied Father Gibson's plea for a rehearing of the case Jan. 19 but granted a 60-day stay of execution pending appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Urge Financial Help

Meanwhile, the Carolinian, a Raleigh, N.C., Negro weekly urged that the NAACP should be prepared to take care of Father Gibson's family, if he is jailed, and pay his fine.

This recalled action of the board of directors of the Southern Conference Education Fund, a South-wide civil-rights organization, in the case of Carl Braden, a field secretary and editor for the SCEF.

The board voted to pay Braden's salary to his family if he has to go to prison for refusing to cooperate with the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Atlanta last year.

Encouraging Response

Response to the campaign demonstrated beginnings of a revival of popular interest in socialist ideas. Letters and postcards received in response to those TV and radio appearances that the ticket was able to win were greater than in any previous election. Virtually every party branch reported that new supporters and members had been won as a result of the campaign. The party succeeded in more than tripling its best previous presidential vote and the circulation of the Militant rose encouragingly.

In his report, Dobbs attributed the favorable new response to the growing awareness of the danger of a new war, to the deepening economic insecurity and to the mounting militancy in fighting for civil rights and civil liberties. An important source of support for the SWP ticket was the heartening number of people who are sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution and who supported the Dobbs-Weiss slate on the basis of their unequivocal defense of that Revolution.

The SWP's election campaign also won the party added respect in the radical movement. National Committee members from a number of cities reported that adherents of the Communist party and the Socialist Party — Social Democratic Federation, disgusted with their leaders' policy of shamefaced support to Kennedy, had backed the SWP campaign.

The meeting was particularly

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Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

"Two Weeks of the Kennedy Administration — What's Ahead?" Speaker, Frank Lovell, author of the pamphlet, "What Socialists Want." Friday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

"The Chinese-Soviet Dispute — Its Bearing on the Colonial Revolution." Including an analysis of the "Declaration of the 81 Communist Parties." Speaker, Robert Chester. Friday, Feb. 3, 8:30 p.m. at 116 University Place (Off Union Sq.) Contrib. 50 cents. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

Local Directory

BOSTON

Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

CHICAGO

Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-0544.

CLEVELAND

Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euc id Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

DENVER

Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California. MAIn 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227 1/2 California. Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

DETROIT

Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, TEmple 1-6135.

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NEWARK

Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, New Jersey

NEW YORK CITY

Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place. AL 5-7852.

OAKLAND-BERKELEY

P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. Phone OL 5-1764.

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., Room 4, Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321.

SEATTLE

1412 18th Ave., EA 5-0191. Library, bookstore. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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Monday, January 30, 1961

The Belgian General Strike

"In all countries the proletariat is racked by a deep disquiet. The multimillioned masses again and again enter the road of revolution. But each time they are blocked by their own conservative bureaucratic machines." —Leon Trotsky, *The Transition Program*, 1938.

The Belgian workers ended their historical strike movement against the so-called "austerity" program of the capitalist government after 33 days of unprecedented class militancy. The strike was not smashed — it gradually petered out. It was not smashed because the workers fought bravely and with great tenacity against all attempts on the part of the capitalist government to crush their demonstrations. It petered out because they lacked the leadership to carry the fight through to a finish.

The tragedy of the Belgian general strike was that at its head stood a reformist leadership schooled in parliamentary cretinism. From the first day the Belgian workers took to the streets the craven Social Democrats were stricken with fear over the revolutionary implications of the struggle. They placed themselves at the head of the insurrectionary movement only the better to behead it at the opportune moment.

They were able to play out this role to the bitter end only because there was no alternative leadership present to take command. The Communist party, saturated with bureaucratic conservatism, joined their Social Democratic peers in deploring the revolutionary "violence" of the striking workers. Both strained to tame the militancy of the workers and direct the strike protest movement back into parliamentary channels.

The amazing thing is that the strike lasted for 33 days. It was, from the beginning, a political strike against the government. The movement constantly sought to break the bounds imposed upon it by a timid reformist leadership. The slogan: Eyskens to the gallows! was revolutionary in its implications, for the premier was the symbol of the ruling capitalist class. The leadership succeeded, however, in circumscribing the aim of the strike movement and limiting its goal to one of altering or abolishing the hated "austerity" law.

With the action thus shifted to the parliamentary arena it was only a matter of time until the strike petered out. The Belgian workers have nothing to be ashamed of. In the course of their struggle they fought magnificently, demonstrated their tremendous power, tested the mettle of the class enemy as well as the worth of their own leaders and are better prepared for the decisive battles of the future.

For the Pirates

To Portuguese dictator Salazar, the rebel seizure of the luxury liner Santa Maria was, of course, "piracy." And to his pals in big-business circles it was "piracy."

However, a cable from the captured ship reported that "the passengers are enthusiastically with us." That, we think, probably reflects majority opinion. Against a foul dictator and his wealthy backers, the fans will always cheer for the pirates.

Splendid Victory in Richmond

It pays to put up a stubborn, organized fight for your rights. That's the big lesson of the magnificent civil-rights victory won in Richmond, Va., Jan. 20 when Negroes were finally served in the fashionable restaurants of Thalheimer's and Miller & Rhoades department stores, the two biggest in the city.

Negro college students opened a drive to crack the color bar in Thalheimer's dining facilities last February. On Lincoln's Birthday 35 were arrested on a "trespass" charge after staging a sit-in demonstration. From that time on, Richmond's Negro community organized regular picket lines at the Jim Crow stores urging people not to buy where they can't eat. The action spoke in terms that department store owners can understand.

"Although spokesmen for the two stores described today's move as one toward 'harmonious relations' in the community," reported the Jan. 21 New York Herald Tribune, "it was understood that a Negro boycott of the stores was responsible for the relaxing of the white-only policy in the dining rooms."

Earlier, both stores, along with several five and dimes, had agreed to serve Negroes in their street floor snack bars.

Since the southwide lunch-counter desegregation campaign was launched by students last Feb. 6, victories have been won in more than 30 cities. (The Southern Regional Council reported 28 cities last August and there have been several more since. At that time the council reported that boycotts of local Jim Crow stores had slashed business from 15 to 65 per cent in various areas.

The current Richmond victory also underlined the fact that when Negroes do fight for and win their rights, those rights are respected. The Herald Tribune reported that at Thalheimer's dining room "there was scarcely a ripple in dinner-time conversation as four Negro men and three Negro women stood at the buffet and then were seated at the tables, where white waiters served them. A store employee commented there were scarcely any complaints."

The Winner Was Goldberg

By Alex Harte

JAN. 23 — The sense of euphoria that seemed to prevail in the immediate aftermath of President Kennedy's inaugural address was extended last week to the tug-boat strike in the port of New York. The strike was called off yesterday soon after the arrival of Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg with a message from Kennedy asking that the dispute be terminated. It was!

Goldberg's role in settling the dispute received high praise from union leaders, railroad tycoons, Republican and Democratic politicians alike.

Paul Hall, president of the Seafarer International union, told striking union members that the settlement constituted a "great victory." He congratulated Goldberg.

John J. Gaherin, vice president of the New Haven railroad and head of the employer bargaining committee, also praised Goldberg. The pact, he said, had been "approved enthusiastically at a meeting of the executives of major Eastern railroads a few hours after the settlement."

Deafening Applause

Goldberg's "fellow-peacemakers, Governor Rockefeller and Mayor Wagner," says the New York Times, joined in the applause. So did the men who had done the pick-and-shovel work leading to the accord, Robert O. Boyd and T. E. Schoonover of the National Mediation Board. There were only two votes cast against the agreement.

Such massive unanimity is rare in any strike settlement. And, different from an inaugural address, a strike settlement involves specific and concrete terms for which there exist certain standards of measurement. Alas, the actual terms of the settlement raise some questions as to whether the union members realize what they got for what they gave.



Arthur J. Goldberg

The three unions involved in the strike had sought increases of 15 per cent, or about 55 cents an hour. They got the same basic increase provided in standard railroad contracts: two per cent, effective last July 1, and two per cent more, effective next March.

For this the unions gave up a cost-of-living escalator clause which protected the members

against inflationary increases in the cost of living.

The main issue in dispute was over manning scales. The railroad companies demanded the right to reduce the size of tug-boat crews after notifying the unions. The unions refused to grant such right except as technological advances made some jobs obsolete. The dispute was finally reduced to the question of mandatory arbitration of the issue.

Motion to Refer

It was Goldberg's intervention on this issue that finally broke the deadlock. His proposal accepted by both sides, was to refer the issue to the board established by former President Eisenhower to study the work rules dispute on the railroads. Former Secretary of Labor James Mitchell, chairman of the board, agreed to include the tug dispute along with the other complaints of the railroads about "featherbedding" in train crews.

It is a foregone conclusion that Mitchell's "fact-finding board" will bring in some plan to cut down on crew size as demanded by the railroads. Such tripartite bodies always compromise away conditions already won by the unions.

Euphoria aside, the real victory in the tug strike, it seems to this writer, was won by Goldberg who even before his appointment had been championing the idea of tripartite boards as the method of resolving labor-management disputes.

People's Representative

President Kennedy will draw about \$100,000 a year, gross, on his trust-fund investments.

In Other Lands

Chinese CP Projects Purge of Members

Follows Announcement Of Sag in Agriculture

In a broadcast Jan. 20, following a meeting of the Central Committee, the Chinese Communist party announced that "bad elements," numbering some ten per cent of the organization, are to be purged. These consist of "landlord, bourgeois and other elements seduced by reactionaries," according to the announcement.

Accused of "violation of legal discipline in rural and urban areas," the bad elements were said to have "intended to restore old conditions and made use of the difficulties created by natural disasters and certain defects in basic levels to carry out sabotage or disruptive activities."

In December the Chinese government reported that agricultural production had dropped below expectations in 1960 due to the worst series of "natural calamities" in 100 years. Some 148,000,000 acres were scourged by drought, floods, typhoons, hail storms, frost, insects or plant diseases.

These calamities came on top of a similar series in 1959 which seriously affected agricultural production.

On Jan. 14, however, the Communist party leadership indicated that in addition to natural calamities there was trouble in the party. An article in Jemmin Jih Pao pointed to "antagonistic elements usurping the leadership and working deliberately to sabotage the policies of the party."

Exactly what is involved in such accusations and what is really behind the projected purge remain obscure.

In the past, Communist party members, including some leaders, have had constructive criticisms to offer — as could be gathered from careful analysis of news from China — but they have been denied freedom of expression, have been

falsely accused of rightist views they did not hold, and have even been lumped together with "landlord and bourgeois" elements at the opposite end of the political spectrum.

Bolivia Studies Offers

Soviet economic aid to areas hitherto considered private hunting grounds of American big business is creating marked concern in Washington and Wall Street.

Recently the Soviet Union offered to loan Bolivia \$150 million to build a tin smelter and provide technicians to help operate the plant. This was a tempting offer as Bolivia exports tin concentrates that must be smelted elsewhere.

The Soviet move brought a counteroffer from the United States—with strings attached. The money must be used, not for a smelter, but to subsidize exploration for additional high-grade tin ore. Made in conjunction with the West German government and the Inter-American Development bank, the American offer would re-establish virtual foreign control of Bolivia's nationalized tin industry.

Willing to Play Stoooge

In between visits to his tailor and dentist in New York last week, Pres. Kennedy met and talked with Gov. Muñoz Marín of Puerto Rico. They discussed making Puerto Rico a showcase to impress our Latin-American neighbors and counteract the deep effect which the Cuban Revolution is having south of the Rio Grande.

Muñoz was willing to play stoooge for Yankee imperialism in Latin America — a role he has already practiced with some adeptness — if Puerto Rican entrepreneurs were given the agency by Washington.

The New York Times was

dubious about the project, "Puerto Rico is relieved of defense, post office, customs service and other expenses and responsibilities. Excise taxes collected on goods manufactured in Puerto Rico and duties collected in Puerto Rican ports are returned to the Puerto Rican treasury. Incomes earned in Puerto Rico are exempt from United States Federal taxes. Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States and the island has free access to our markets and our pool of capital."

So, declared this voice of American big business, "We cannot possibly duplicate such conditions and such economic and fiscal advantages for any of the Latin-American states."

But, the Times concluded, "We and the Latin Americans can at least meet in Puerto Rico and feel at home."

Untouchable Krupp

The "free-world" leaders have suspended for the third year in a row an order that German munitions king Alfred Krupp dispose of his multibillion-dollar steel and coal empire.

Krupp was instrumental in bringing Hitler to power and during World War II he turned his industrial complex into a vast slave-labor camp turning out weapons for Hitler's army.

The Allied powers sent him to jail as a "war criminal" but released him well before his term was completed.

A condition of his release was that he dispose of his holdings by 1959.

Krupp contemptuously ignored the order, explaining there wasn't anyone in Germany with enough money to buy him out. And, naturally, no one would suggest that his properties be nationalized.

Krupp is now rated as a valued ally in the global struggle to preserve the "democratic way of life."

Fighters for Freedom in Laos



Followers of Captain Kong Le who sought to replace a U.S.-dominated government by one that would follow a policy of neutrality. A counterrevolution, in which the Central Intelligence Agency was deeply involved, pushed the neutral government out of the nation's capital. Since then civil war has raged.

Nothing But a "Plump Sybarite"

With the military advantage in Laos shifting against the pro-United States puppet regime of Prince Boun Oum, sentiment in American circles is again leaning toward the intervention of the International Control Commission to end the civil war. The ICC was set up under the 1954 truce agreement that ended the Indochina war. It was disbanded in 1958 after supervising the establishment of a "neutralist" government.

The attempt by the U.S. military mission in Laos, acting in collusion with the Central Intelligence Agency, to overthrow the "neutralist" government of Prince Souvanna Phouma, sparked the current fighting in Laos. In an exclusive interview with a New York Times reporter, Prince Phouma, now in Cambodia, "bitterly blamed the United States, particularly J. Graham Parsons, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, for the warfare in Laos."

"Understood Nothing"

Phouma was quite unrestrained in his condemnation of Parsons. "He understood nothing about

Asia and nothing about Laos," the Prince said. "The Assistant Secretary of State is the most reprehensible and nefarious of men."

"He is the ignominious architect of disastrous American policy toward Laos," Prince Phouma added. "He and others like him are directly responsible for the recent spilling of Lao blood."

Nor was Prince Phouma any more sparing of the role played by the government of the United States. "What I shall never forgive the United States for," he added, "is the fact that it betrayed me, that it double-crossed me and my government."

The neutralist ex-premier played the United States for trying to make of Laos a pawn in the cold war against China and the Soviet Union. "From the start," he said, "the United States has opposed the only real solution possible for Laos, namely, the formation of national union, including the Pathet Lao movement."

The Pathet Lao movement has been dubbed "pro-Communist" by Washington; and Phouma's proposal for a government that would include all tendencies was coun-

tered by U.S. support to a rightist coup that ousted Phouma and took over the administrative capital at Vientiane. The United States, charged Phouma, "plotted with General Phoumi Nosovan, head of the Right-Wing forces, to achieve the overthrow of the Government and allowed him to use arms despite solemn assurances to the contrary."

Prince Phouma had the utmost contempt for the "Rightist Rabble" headed by pro-U.S. premier Prince Boun Oum. He stigmatized the Boun Oum government as "a group of clowns." This characterization was confirmed by a report in Time magazine which referred to "our new man" in Laos, Boun Oum, as a "plump sybarite" whose favorite companions "turned out not to be candidates for the cabinet but girls from the Vientiane dance halls."

The New York Times report, Jan. 20, states that "many Western diplomats in Vientiane agree with Prince Souvanna Phouma," that "the Communists would have been content to leave Laos alone provided she remained neutral and outside the United States sphere of influence."

Agitators

Cleveland
Older workers will remember when the labor haters contended that strikes were caused by agitators. That did not stop the agitators or the strikes until the causes of both were removed.

Now the same tribe of labor haters declare the unrest in the world is caused by "Communists." This will not stop the unrest of the "Communists" until the cause of both is abolished.

However, there is no sign that the rulers intend to submit to any change. Thus they risk that they themselves will be changed.

Joseph Manlet

Education Goals

New York
From free tuition to pay tuition is a backward step in the development of society toward that richer, more rewarding life which, according to the commencement-day addresses, is the goal of education. It is most ironic that proposals for pay tuition should come at a time when our gross national product is near a half trillion dollars. One would expect that with such prosperity free higher education would be expanded.

And what about the "overriding" needs of the cold war?

The Soviet Union is graduating three or four times the number of engineers and scientists we are.

I hold no brief for the cold-war needs of American capitalism. But in addition to being unable to meet the needs of society to advance itself to a better world, it can't even broaden education in its own interest.

The contradictions of capitalism and its retrogressive role are apparent in the colonial struggles. The retrograde manifestations are appearing with increased frequency in the advanced countries. Austerity in Britain and Belgium; and a drive to reduce living standards here in order to meet foreign competition will soon bring a struggle against being pushed backward. This struggle can only lead forward to a better, richer life — to socialism.

J. H.

Marxist Line

Baldwin Park, Cal.
I have read the People's World, the Daily Worker and other socialist papers. The Militant follows the line of Marx and spells it out.

Socialism is the only answer for a better social and economic life. "Coexistence" is nonsense. It can't be. A Democrat might be a good man but he is not going to get us anything. Socialism is our goal, right down the line.

G. W. W.

Illiteracy in U. S.

New York
In getting petitions signed to place the Socialist Workers party on the ballot in New York I became aware of the large number of people who can scarcely write their name or who are totally unable to write. It made me realize how big a gap there is in our educational system.

I recently found on a library shelf an Agricultural Information Bulletin which describes the schooling available to children of migratory workers.

Some Southern states give "crop vacations" — that is, they close down the schools during the fall and early spring and by the time the migrant families reach Northern states school is out.

A survey of migratory children in Arkansas and Kansas showed that one-third had not been to school at all the previous year, while the rest had attended only irregularly.

These findings were made in 1949. Have conditions changed

basically in the past decade? Or do we need a crash program, like the one Cuba has for this year, to wipe out illiteracy completely?

P. R.

Likes Our Approach

London
You should soon be receiving money order to the value of \$8. I would be grateful if you would accept this as one year's subscription to the Militant and the International Socialist Review.

I am a member of the British Labour Party and the Amalgamated Engineering Union. I have read some of your publications and found them very interesting.

You seem to have a good approach to Marxian theory, which the Socialist Labor party does not fully have. I have read their paper, the Weekly People, and while I think they have something to say, I disagree with their constant attacks on the Socialist Workers party as reformist.

They are obviously living in and on their De Leonist past. They don't realize that capitalism will only end when it can grant no more reforms. Then the workers will take power to bring about socialism and fill their historic role in human progress.

H. F. H.

Hardship Antidote

Long Island, N. Y.
Enclosed please find \$10 to help with the expenses of printing, etc. I realize the hardship involved to put out a paper such as yours.

F. S.

Georgia School Riot

Baltimore
I was shocked, but not really surprised, to read about the treatment of the two young Negro students who are trying to stay at Georgia University. Only two students in a body of 7,000 students, and it causes riots and national headlines.

They say this is a free country. The Constitution reads that all men are equal. However, it becomes plain that "some are more equal than others."

It is a very bad reflection on the United States and its "free government" that these things are allowed.

K. B.

"Did You Like Batista?"

New York
On the subway the other morning I got into a conversation with a young man reading "Bohemia Libre," the counterrevolutionary imitation of Bohemia. The young man was Cuban but was very much opposed to Castro, calling him a "murderer" because his uncle had died fighting against the new regime. His father who owned a block of houses lost them to the government.

My first question was, "Did you like Batista?" The answer immediately was, "No."

Then I asked how much rent he paid here in New York. Answer: I live with my brother and his wife who pay \$60.50 a month for their room and I pay \$50 for mine and my cousin and his wife pay \$60.50 for theirs. That's \$171 a month for three rooms.

I asked him if it would be bad for him if the government here ordered rents cut in half and then passed a law to make the tenants the eventual owners.

I also reminded him that Washington had never done anything good for any Latin-American country and always supported dictators like Batista and Trujillo. He agreed that the name of the U.S. was a hated one in all the colonial and semicolonial countries.

Grace Alexander

It Was Reported in the Press

The Difference — The Kennedy administration agrees with the Republicans that the U.S. "is still the strongest military power in the world," but "is more worried about the retention of our supremacy," reports New York Times military analyst Hanson W. Baldwin. "The new frontier," he explains, "may not be, in a military sense, so very new after all; the more things change, the more they remain the same."

Our Secure Society — Since February 1960, the number of people believing there is "much danger" of war has risen from 38 to 50 per cent while those confident there is little danger of war has dropped from 51 to 35 per cent, reports the Gallup Poll.

Maryland Welfare State — Aged and disabled people in Maryland receive a state food allowance of 28 cents a meal. Dependent children get 18 cents a meal. Arguing in favor of a proposed nickel-a-meal increase, a welfare board member pointed to "widespread malnutrition" among those dependent on state assistance.

Death on the Cheap — Naval Research Reviews, an official Navy publication, has entered a new denial that the Pentagon is preparing to use germ warfare weapons. But the editors add that it is a good "deterrent" to "unscrupulous enemies," and, besides, it's cheaper than hydrogen bombs.

Shrewd, Man — The Jan. 15 Dallas Times Herald announced a symposium at which Dan Smoot would contend that "Liberals, who are really Socialists, maneuver Conservative politicians into supporting 'moderate' socialism as a defense against 'extravagant' socialism."

Homey — The Tower Suite, a New York restaurant, offers "elegant dining in a homelike atmosphere, complete with butlers and maids."

Dubious Honor — "A man with a family to support who earns approximately \$5,000 a year pays about \$500 of it in federal income tax. Each attempt to fire a lunar satellite costs about \$40,000,000. So every time one of them fails it

means that 8,000 or more taxpayers have the dubious honor of watching their entire tax payment going up in smoke via television. Gratifying? No! Thought-provoking? Yes!" — From a letter to the Baltimore Sun.

Capitalist Stagnation — The inability of the capitalist system to distribute the wealth of society is graphically illustrated by a report that Scotland now has a record surplus of 300,000,000 gallons of scotch whiskey. A leading distiller said the industry would be jicked unless "consumption goes up fast."

Real Gone — "LOST: One bank with private accounts totalling more than \$3,000,000 and listing assets in excess of \$4,000,000. Finder please contact anxious depositors in New York, Vermont, Mississippi, Florida, Europe and North Africa, or the New York Herald Tribune." — Introduction to a Jan. 24 Herald Tribune story about the American & Foreign Bank of Tangier which notified depositors last June that it was moving to Panama and hasn't been heard from since.

Thought for the Week

"Rebellion is a marvelous impulse. The survival of society depends upon it." — Eda LeShan, education director of the Manhattan Society for Mental Health.