

AFL Chiefs Back Wall St.'s Policy In the Far East

By Lewis Peterson

Most people throughout the world view Eisenhower's Far East adventure as an imperialist intervention in China's civil war. His war-like moves have evoked protest even from the conservative, imperialist-minded right-wing leaders of the British Labor Party. Millions in America, too, despite the tremendous propaganda campaign of Wall Street and its government are aware that the threatening presence of the U.S. 7th Fleet along the China coast is intended, not for "defense" but to establish Formosa and the Pescadores as permanent U.S. military bases for eventual invasion of China.

Eisenhower's 7th Fleet moves, however, have met approval from at least one group who claim to speak for a large sector of the American working class. The conservative moss-backs of the AFL Executive Council, who had just finished complaining that Eisenhower is "pro big-business," on Feb. 5 pronounced themselves in hearty accord with what the Scripps-Howard press called his "gigantic calculated risk" of full-scale war in the Far East.

WANT 'TOUGHER' POLICY

These well-heeled bureaucrats, enjoying their annual winter bask in the sun at Miami Beach, even called for a "get tough" policy, tougher than Eisenhower's. They breathed smoke and fire against the "Moscow-Peking axis" and resolved: "We strongly warn against any attempt under cover of pursuing the armistice pattern set in Korea and Indochina, to grant the Russian-imposed Mao Tse-tung terror regime American recognition and to smuggle it into the United Nations." Maybe the AFL tops don't

know any better than to call the regime in China "Russian-imposed." But even the reactionary Big Business newspapers don't try to paint the Chinese government as something imposed from the outside. They don't kid themselves that anything less than an overwhelming revolutionary tide of the Chinese people swept the bloody Chiang Kai-shek dictatorship, with its huge army and \$6 billion worth of U.S. arms and supplies, out of China.

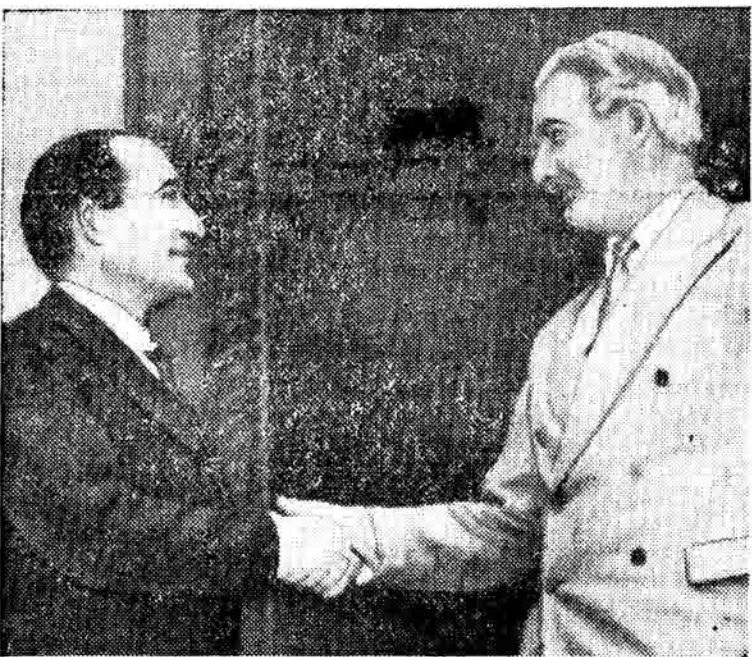
It was U.S. ships that moved Chiang and his forces to their refuge on the Chinese islands of Formosa, the Pescadores, Quemoy, Matsu, the Tachens, etc. Chiang would have been utterly destroyed save for U.S. intervention. He could not last but a few weeks, even in his Formosa rat-hole, except for U.S. money, food, clothes, arms — and the U.S. fleet.

"FREE ELECTIONS"

The AFL moguls oppose any kind of recognition of the real Chinese government and call for continued recognition of warlord Chiang and his "Chinese Nationalist Government" until the Chinese people hold a "free election" under "impartial" auspices. These AFL officials would yelp plenty if some Chinese people called for "free elections" in the U.S. under "impartial" — that is foreign — auspices.

Besides, when during all of Chiang's 25 years' rule in China, did he ever hold a "free election" (Continued on page 2)

Those Were the Happy Days



Pierre Mendes-France (left), who has just been ousted as the French Premier, shown receiving the hand-shake of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden last year at the Geneva Conference where the division of Indo-China was arranged. Ballyhooed as a "strong man," Mendes-France lasted only seven months in the premiership.

Detroit Leads Militant Fund Drive with 60%

By Constance Farr
Campaign Manager

"The one voice that we can always count on to uphold the greatest traditions of the socialist movement is The Militant."

"There simply is not another publication that can come near to your standards. Nor is there one more deserving of the wholehearted support of everyone proud to claim the name Socialist."

"Enclosed is \$1 and with it is my pledge of \$1 per month (at least) to The Militant." This letter was received from G. S., of Long Island, N. Y. And this reader's contribution to the \$15,000 Press Fund Campaign starts off our "General" category. We have received other letters emphasizing the value of The Militant in the crisis-ridden world of today. A former reader who has recently rediscovered the paper, writes, "You have a wonderful paper and I like to read it again."

And from Cleveland, a reader writes, "Seems as long as America must wage war for economic reasons the GOP and the Demmies have decided to make it a bi-partisan affair. I read The Militant at the Cleveland public library and get more economic interpretations than from any other publication obtainable."

Now to a look at our Scoreboard. Detroit has nosed out Seattle for first place. The most spectacular gain was made by Chicago, which rose from 38

percent of its quota last week to take third place with 54 percent. The Boston campaign director, Franklin, writes that he hopes to keep the green stuff floating in, and signs himself, "Boston Money Termite."

The Oakland director writes, "I know that we have not been able to reach 1/3 of the goal we should have by the end of January but this branch is really plagued by unemployment at the present time."

"We are confident, however, that we will be able to fulfill the remainder of our pledge by the end of the drive."

Milt, Los Angeles, feels that the response of those readers who have made pledges is an inspiring demonstration of the willingness of our supporters to do what is necessary in the situation. "In many cases amounts pledged represent a sacrifice." A sacrifice that everyone feels is worth making to keep The Militant appearing every week as it has for over 25 years.

This week, with 34 percent of the \$15,000 paid in, we are about four percent behind schedule. We are hoping that next week, this lag will be completely taken up.

(See page two for scoreboard)

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XIX — No. 7

267

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1955

PRICE: 10 Cents

Oust Malenkov as Scapegoat In Soviet Union Farm Crisis

North African Revolts Lead to Mendes' Fall

By George Lavan

The "wonder man" of French politics, Premier Pierre Mendes-France, came down with a crash Feb. 5, when the French Assembly voted no confidence in his government.

His fall brings to a close the widely-publicized attempt to modernize the sick, corrupt capitalist government of France. It may also be the straw that breaks the back of the French Empire in North Africa.

The first act as premier of this

New Nation-Wide Group Planned by M'Carthy Backers

Backers of Sen. Joseph McCarthy are projecting a national organization tentatively called Americans for American Action. Former Governor Charles Edison of New Jersey has agreed to become acting head of the group.

The movement has as its nucleus the sponsors of the petition drive opposing Senate censure of McCarthy last December. Admiral John G. Crommelin, retired, who led the signature drive is also involved in the new move. Sponsors are trying to raise a \$25,000 fund to start the new organization.

GOP MCCARTHYITES

In Chicago, on Feb. 12, representatives of the most reactionary wing of the Republican Party have slated a one-day rally on the theme "What must the Republican Party do in 1955 to preserve the Republic and itself?"

Among the scheduled speakers are Senators McCarthy, and two of his henchmen in the Senate — Malone (R-Nev.) and Dirksen (R-Ill.). Also Kit Clardy, former Representative from Michigan, a prominent McCarthyite on the House Un-American Activities Committee in the 83rd Congress, who was defeated last November.

Thomas McNiece who was "researcher" for the Reece Committee of the House of Representatives in its investigation of tax-exempt foundations will be another speaker. The majority of this witch-hunting committee accused philanthropic funds set up by some of the wealthiest families in the nation of being secret promoters of Communism.

Among the sponsors of the rally, which is expected to bring representatives from all over the country, are James S. Kemper, Ambassador to Brazil and Brig. Gen. Robert E. Wood, retired, former chairman of Sears, Roebuck and Co.

DON'T WANT REFORM

Much of the industry of France is obsolete and it cannot compete with German let alone American capitalism. Moreover, its population is anti-capitalist. Only the repeated sell-outs by the leadership of the large Communist and Socialist parties has permitted capitalism to continue in France.

In this situation Mendes-France proposed a series of fiscal, tax, colonial and political reforms. His proposals were in the future interests of French capitalism as a whole. He did nothing or proposed nothing of basic benefit to the working class whose standard of living remains below its pre-war level. But French capitalists don't want to be reformed. They have no confidence in their own future and each proposed reform meant cutting away some immediate source of profit, economic or political. They believe a bird in today's corrupt hand is worth two in Mendes-France's promised bush.

All the elements opposing Mendes-France's policies coalesced to vote no confidence on his North African policy. First the North African lobby which wants no concessions — even token ones — granted the people of North Africa; then the powerful Stalinist party, which had

(Continued on page 2)

Willing to See Kin in China



Mrs. Elmer F. Llewellyn of Missoula, Mont., wife of U.S. Air Force captain imprisoned in China, looks over suitcase in hope she'll be permitted to accept Peking's invitation to visit him. She said she had no fear of travelling in China. Mrs. H. L. Stier (right), mother of Capt. Llewellyn, said: "If I only had the money, I would certainly go."

OHIO SCHOOL JIM-CROW UPHELD IN TEST CASE

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND, Feb. 4 — The first test of the legality of Jim Crow schools in the North since the Supreme Court decision last May which declared public school segregation unconstitutional has demonstrated the inadequacy of depending on the courts to uphold civil rights.

U.S. District Court Judge John H. Druffel denied a petition for an injunction to prevent the Hillsboro, Ohio, School Board from enforcing a zoning ordinance passed last September to compel Negro school children to attend a Jim Crow school. The plaintiffs, Negro parents whose children are being denied their constitutional rights, have announced they will continue to keep their children out of school pending an appeal.

"CLASS ACTION"

In a decision smacking of the worst kind of Dixie "justice," Judge Druffel called the request for an injunction "class action" and said "local conditions" guided his decision.

Rejecting the judge's reasoning, local observers point out that: (1) Segregated schools are not the rule in surrounding communities. (2) Hillsboro itself does not maintain segregation above grade school level. (3) Ohio, unlike states involved in

the cases on which the Supreme Court ruled last May, does not have a law requiring segregated schools. (4) Ordinances and rulings denying equal rights to one group in the population represent the most blatant kind of "class action."

Hearings to determine whether segregation does in fact exist in Hillsboro public schools were held and the decision rendered, only after attorneys for five Negro parents had secured an order of Appeals forcing the judge to rule on the injunction appeal.

The struggle of the Hillsboro parents to end the discriminatory treatment of their children is supported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Support was also expressed by the Ohio CIO Convention in Cleveland last month in a civil rights resolution which stated: "We condemn the un-American actions of the Hillsboro School Board in its attempt to circumvent by racial zoning the Supreme Court's ruling to integrate all public schools."

No Major Change Seen In Foreign Policy of Kremlin Bureaucracy

By Joseph Hansen

Malenkov's sudden resignation as Premier of the Soviet Government Feb. 8 and his replacement by Marshal Bulganin the same day does not "signal" a "tougher policy" toward Western imperialism, as part of the capitalist press tried to make out upon announcing the sensational news. What it does signal is the profundity of the agricultural

crisis in the Soviet Union and the basic weakness and instability of the Stalinist caste in face of popular discontent.

No matter who succeeded Malenkov, the capitalist propagandists would interpret the change as evidence of an alleged drive toward war by the Soviet Union. This interpretation is required by Wall Street to cover its own drive toward war.

The fact is that mountainous as the crimes of the ruling Soviet oligarchy are, war-mongering is not among them. This is recognized by the more serious capitalist commentators and specialists in Soviet affairs, none of whom expect any major change in Moscow's foreign policy as a consequence of the fall of Malenkov and the rise of Khrushchev, the current principal aspirant to the mantle of Stalin, who nominated Bulganin as a figurehead.

INCOMPETENT?

Malenkov gave as his first reason for resigning, "my insufficient experience in local work." If heads of governments ever resigned for that reason, few would be entitled to stay in office in the world today.

The Stalinists may argue that in the Soviet Union there is more honesty in such matters. If so, will they kindly explain how a self-confessed incompetent became the head of the state and held his post for two years, unanimously praised by all Stalinists, without a single Stalinist noticing his incompetency until he announced it himself in his letter of resignation? And will they kindly explain why Malenkov was replaced by Bulganin, who is possibly even more incompetent?

"GUILTY"

We come closer to the real reason for Malenkov's resignation in his confession of "guilt." "I also consider myself bound to say," he declared, "... I see particularly clearly my guilt and responsibility for the unsatisfactory state of affairs that has arisen in agriculture..."

This confession, coupled with a series of declarations and

(Continued on page 3)

Pittsburgh -- City of Chronic Unemployment

By Farrell Dobbs
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 30 — Confidence in the present economic upturn is not running very high among workers in the region from Pittsburgh to Youngstown. The slump bit too deeply here to be quickly forgotten. The upturn is sluggish and for some workers there is little or no hope of regaining the jobs they lost.

This whole region, traditionally the chief steel-producing center of the country, is today falling into economic decline as production shifts toward other centers where modernized steel plants are being developed.

Last year unemployment rose to about ten per cent of the working force in Allegheny county which includes Pittsburgh. Some blast furnaces were shut down completely. Employed steel workers generally got no more than four days work a week at a corresponding reduction of their normal five-day pay.

BENEFITS EXHAUSTED

The heavy lay-offs in steel hit Pittsburgh's entire economic structure, although the shock was partially cushioned by somewhat greater stability in the chemical and glass plants and among the minor diversified industries. The city's large electrical industry also reduced employment but the decline was not as severe as that in steel.

Youngstown, a one-industry town with no significant diversified production to cushion the shock, was much harder hit by the slump. In that area the rate of steel production dropped to about 52 per cent of capacity, quite a bit below the national average.

The hardships suffered by the workers are reflected in an official

(Continued on page 2)

Paid Informer Puts Justice Dept. on the Hook

By Joseph Keller

Department of Justice and FBI officials are livid with embarrassment. Members of Congressional witch-hunt bodies — House

Un-American Activities Committee, Senate Internal Security Committee and Senate Permanent Investigations Committee — are screaming in frustration and

feigned indignation. One of their chief professional "ex-Communists" stoolpigeons has put the finger on — THEM. He has spilled the beans about the government's sordid frame-up system of hired informers which has sent scores to prison on perjured testimony and smeared thousands of others.

Harvey Matusow, whom the Justice Department used as an "expert" on "Communism" and "Communists" on six occasions, including two federal trials leading to convictions, has made a detailed confession that he lied

on the stand as part of a deliberate plot to railroad innocent persons to prison for alleged "conspiracy" to "advocate" the "overthrow of the government by force and violence."

MCCARTHY AND COHN

He has directly implicated Senator Joseph McCarthy and his former aide Roy Cohn as fabricators of false testimony which Matusow used on various occasions. He has also indicated that other Justice Department, FBI and Congressional figures were not unaware of the unreliability of the witness.

HURL THREATS AT HIM

The immediate response to Matusow's confessions, contained in two sworn affidavits and his forthcoming book, "False Witness," has been a flood of tirades and threats from the Justice Department and heads of Congressional committees which used Matusow so freely in the past two years as their "expert."

Matusow has been summoned before a federal grand jury in

New York City for examination on his recantation. The Senate Internal Security Committee, formerly headed by notorious Senator Jenner, has subpoenaed him. Senator Henry M. Jackson, member of the Senate Investigating Subcommittee before which Matusow was a government witness at least half a dozen times, has called for a "thorough examination" of the Matusow case. He fears juries hereafter "might not put much faith in the testimony of professed ex-Communists."

Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.), head of the House Un-American Committee before which Matusow made his sensational debut in 1952, now tries to brush off Matusow's confession by declaring him a "Communist plant" in Congressional hearings in order "to discredit them." He was a pretty effective "plant" all right — he put the finger on 180 persons, helped to send 13 Communist Party leaders to prison, gave evidence that secured an indictment against Prof. Owen Lattimore, supplied McCarthy with "statistics" for his

charge of "21 years of treason," and pinned the "red" label on everyone and everything from Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam to the Boy Scouts of America.

JUSTICE DEPT.'S MOVES

The Department of Justice is reportedly considering perjury charges against Matusow but finds itself in a peculiar position. If it charges him with perjury in the court cases, then it will have to reopen these cases for retrial. If it claims his confession is a lie, it will still tend to discredit him. In any event, Matusow has revealed himself as a liar under oath and therefore not credible as a witness.

The Justice Department has tried to soften the impact of Matusow's confession by claiming his testimony in the case of "corroborative" and not basic to the case. However, Matusow's testimony dealt with the heart of the case, namely, that the CP was a "conspiracy" for the "overthrow of the government by force

and violence" and that the defendants so taught and advocated.

FABRICATED TESTIMONY

In his affidavit filed in the Federal District Court in New York, Matusow tells how Roy Cohn helped to frame the testimony in order to ascribe the doctrine of "force and violence" to defendant Alexander Trachtenberg. Matusow, at the trial, had claimed that Trachtenberg, in speaking of a certain book to him, had advocated this doctrine. His affidavit now discloses:

"Mr. Cohn mentioned the book by Vishinski. Cohn said that because of a section of the book it would be important to connect the book with the defendants. He said that the United States Attorney had attempted to introduce this book in the Dennis case, but was unable to lay the necessary foundation. He then asked me if I had ever discussed the book with any of the defendants. I told him I had discussed it with Trachtenberg..."

price of the book. Cohn stated that this would not be sufficient to lay the necessary foundation for its introduction in evidence. Cohn pointed to a passage in the book and told me that that passage was important in proving the Government's case. He then asked me if I had discussed anything with Trachtenberg which would tie him with this passage, and I said, "No." I had not. Nevertheless, thereafter, in several sessions with Cohn, we developed the answer which I gave in my testimony, tying Trachtenberg to that passage. We both knew that Trachtenberg had never made the statements which I had attributed to him in my testimony."

Regarding his testimony against another defendant, Beatrice Siskind, Matusow revealed: "The testimony was entirely fabricated to create the false impression with the Court and the members of the jury that the Communist Party taught and advocated the overthrow of the United States Government by force and violence."

The American Way of Life

A Search for Justice

Nathan Kaplan has been looking for justice for 16 years. He spent 7½ years in prison for a crime another man admittedly committed. But Nathan Kaplan can't get the stigma lifted from his name and record.

Kaplan, an unemployed jewelry salesman now 51 years old, was indicted on Sept. 28, 1938, charged with the sale of heroin to an undercover agent of the government. Six months later a superseding indictment was returned against a "Mr. Kaplan," a "Max Kaplan, alias Brownsville Kitty" and two other men.

There was a Max Kaplan, all right, and he even looked like Nathan Kaplan. But Max disappeared from his usual haunts right after the second indictment was issued. The two confederates pleaded guilty and were given prison sentences.

The prosecution felt that Nathan Kaplan's name fitted the indictment at least 50%. The government produced as its chief witness a prostitute, who was a drug addict and a paid government informer. On her testimony, the innocent man was sentenced to up to 12 years in prison.

It looked like a routine case. Except that Kaplan kept loudly protesting his innocence. Not just when somebody asked him or just for the record. He never stopped proclaiming his innocence. When he was finally released in 1946, he began a desperate search for the man who had really committed the crime and could clear Nathan Kaplan's name.

After four years, in March, 1950, Nathan Kaplan found his man — a Max Kaplan, who admitted to the crime for which Nathan had served time. Max Kaplan told his story at a hearing called by Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld, the original trial judge. Max's two confederates also testified and affirmed Max's confession.

After four years, in March, 1950, Nathan Kaplan found conflicting testimony between the prostitute stool-pigeon of the Federal Narcotics Bureau and a bureau agent. The Judge declared the conviction of Nathan Kaplan "a grave miscarriage of justice." This opinion was publicly seconded by Joseph Martin, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who had prosecuted Kaplan.

But the law did not permit the Judge to set aside the jury's verdict after two years. On Judge Weinfeld's recommendation, Nathan Kaplan made an appeal for executive clemency to the U.S. Pardons Office of the Department of Justice. The Judge himself asked for "prompt action" because he said Kaplan was "an innocent man."

Three years later, on Jan. 27, 1955, Acting Pardon Attorney Kenneth V. Harvey finally announced the Justice Department's decision: "The findings compel the conclusion that Mr. Kaplan is not innocent of the charges of which he was convicted and that a pardon is not in order."

What "findings"? The Department won't say.

By Art Preis

... AFL Chiefs' China Policy

(Continued from page 1)

or any other kind? Chiang butchered several million people to ensure his dictatorship in China. His retreat to Formosa was followed by one of the most terrible massacres in history. When the streets of Formosan cities and towns literally ran with blood. What date did Chiang hold "free elections" among the Formosans to establish his claim over to rule those 6,000,000 people?

The AFL leaders help to give a "labor" and "democratic" cover to the brutal imperialist moves of Wall Street in the Far East. They go all-out in calling for "the highest effort" to "increase" military strength — proposing more militarism than the professional militarist Eisenhower thinks feasible for the time being.

"TWO CHINAS"

Among the CIO leaders there has been a bit of a difference as to the tactics of American imperialism in the Far East, but they have no basic difference with the AFL chiefs on supporting attempts to fix the U.S. "border" just off the China coast. At the last CIO convention, CIO President Walter Reuther is reported to have momentarily supported, in committee, a proposal of his brother Victor Reuther that the Mao Tse-tung government be recognized, although Walter Reuther quickly switched from this position. But this incident indicates some sentiment among the CIO tops for the slick "two Chinas" proposition.

Under this formula, "both" the government of 600,000,000 Chinese and the government of 6,000,000 trapped Formosans would be "recognized" on a par.

But not even Chiang's own troops believe in the hoax of "two Chinas." Fred Sparks, NEA staff writer, tells in a Formosa dispatch Feb. 5, of the sentiment of a "pasty-faced Nationalist soldier" he interviewed in a Keelung cafe. The soldier said: "We are already dead. They talk of two Chinas. For us there's only one China and it's not Formosa. If we go home to the mainland, we'll be strangled in the public square. If we stay here we'll die of heartbreak. We're already dead."

The aggressively pro-imperialist views of many of the labor bureaucrats stem in part from their belief that they can buy

favor from the capitalist rulers with their servile support of imperialism. But they are only helping to disorient and demoralize the labor movement and make it a more easy prey of its enemies, the Big Business interests who dictate both domestic and foreign policies in capitalist America.

Racist Leaflet Peddled in L. A.

School officials in Los Angeles have been bombarded with one of the most vicious examples of anti-Negro propaganda on record. It is a filthy leaflet portraying an ape and a Negro almost identically. Twenty arrows on each illustration point to allegedly identical characteristics of the Negro and ape. These bogus characteristics, described in anthropological terminology are of the "scientific" type that Hitler's anthropologists used to "prove" the inferiority of all other people to the "Aryan race."

Some of the racist characteristics of Negroes are: "ape groove in skull, prognathous jaw, dolichocephalic, melon-shaped head, animal smell, prehensile toe," etc. Some of the racist slanders are too disgusting to reprint.

That members of the Los Angeles Board of Education and other leaders of the city school system were chosen by the hate-mongers to receive the leaflets show their designs against the integrated schools in Los Angeles. The Negro newspaper, California Eagle, reports that the leaflet campaign is being carried on by the National Citizens Protective Association of St. Louis, Missouri. This is one of the numerous anti-Negro and vigilante organizations which sprang into activity after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against school segregation.

This organization was first exposed by the Militant in a series of three articles last summer (July 19-Aug. 2, 1954). Though its main base is in St. Louis it had a hand in the anti-Negro terror at Trumbull Park in Chicago. Its sinister efforts to fan racism in the Los Angeles schools, where racial tension recently flared into violence at a high school football game, shows that it has national connections as well as national ambitions.

The Negro People's Revolutionary Past and Future

By Fred Hart

Negro history is a weapon in the fight of the Negro people against oppression. If there were no oppression the history of the Negro people would be merged with the history of people as a whole. That's how it will be some day — when the struggles of all oppressed peoples and classes shall have been won. Then we shall have the history of mankind — with subdivisions by geography (the history of man on this or that continent) or by cultural category (the history of man in science, economics, etc.). Then it will seem as curious to have grouped historical events or personalities by skin color as it would by nose length.

One of the aims of Negro history is, paradoxically to bring about its own extinction by hastening the victory of the Negro struggle. Negro history is a weapon in this struggle — there is nothing new about a people's history being a weapon. A century ago this was well known by the Polish and Irish and other oppressed European peoples. Today it is used by the great independence movements of Asia and Africa.

All these were cases of peoples struggling for the right to rule

themselves, to have their own nations and cultures. In the case of the Negro people and all other minorities in the U.S., the aim is just the opposite. Here the struggle is not to have a separate nation and culture but to share fully and equally in the political, social and economic life and culture of this country.

How does Negro history serve this cause? It shows the integral role the Negro people have played in the progress and development of America. This is a necessary corrective to the standard textbooks which have portrayed the Negro people in American history very much as Hollywood has portrayed the individual Negro — as a buffoon, ignoramus, or perpetual servant.

Negro History accomplishes something more — it disproves the inferior race theory that white supremacists use to justify Jim Crow. It does this by showing that the Negro people, like every other people in the world, have produced its proud quota of talented men and women — scientists, artists, political leaders and others.

Most of the Negro History Week observances — lectures, newspaper articles, etc. confine themselves to these two aspects

of Negro History. This serves a useful purpose. It educates broader and broader sections of the white population and thus counteracts some of the prejudice they have imbibed in their formal educations. It also reminds the Negro people as a whole of its historical heritage. It counteracts discouragement in the weary and inspires the youth to carry forward the fight for freedom.

But much more than all this can be gained from Negro history. Valuable lessons in politics, strategy, tactics and the building of fighting, dedicated organizations are there for the learning. This is a field of advanced study of Negro history. It marks the sort of Negro History Week observance that revolutionary socialists hold. For them the study of history is not merely an intellectual pleasure but a practical work — the use of the past to help shape the future.

One basic lesson they have learned from history is that freedom is won and progress is made only by struggle. That is why a socialist observance of Negro History Week puts such emphasis on the fighters of the past. Indeed, what greater tribute can be paid to figures like Toussaint L'Ouverture and Frederick Dou-

glass than serious study of their ideas and methods for application to the struggle of our day and the desire to emulate their fighting spirits?

High school and college history texts are not only marred by conscious and unconscious race prejudice but by class prejudice also. The average high school or college graduate in America knows as little about the history of the labor movement as he does about the history of the Negro people. As DuBois, Woodson and others sharpened up the weapon of Negro History so have the Marxists done with American working class history.

These two subjects are very closely intertwined and become more so every year. This is a reflection of the closer and closer alliance of the Negro people and the labor movement in daily struggle. It is also a harbinger of the future when the two subjects will fuse because these two great sectors of the population will have fused. Then the time will be ripe for the end of Negro history and working-class history. For there will no longer be any color distinction or class distinction. Man will be ready to begin making and studying the history of humanity.

... Pittsburgh's Unemployment

(Continued from page 1)

cial report that over 200,000 Pennsylvania workers exhausted their unemployment benefits last year without finding new jobs. Many of these luckless workers lived in Allegheny County where jobless benefits actually paid out reached the highest peak since 1946.

These Pittsburgh workers who did retain their jobs, usually at a short work week, had to shell out over \$7,000,000 during 1954 in a city wage tax. Youngstown workers had to pay a similar, though slightly lower tax.

BLAME SLUMP ON STRIKE

Ironically enough, U. S. Steel was able in the same period to boost the profit-taking dividend on its stock thanks in part to tax relief granted the corporations by the capitalist government. Perhaps the crowning irony of all is the capitalist propaganda throwing blame on the 14-month-old department store strike for Pittsburgh's economic slump.

Steel is again picking up, with average production now running at about 84 per cent of capacity.

Unemployed workers are being called back to the job and the plants are gradually going back to a five-day week.

Yet this upturn has given the steel workers little confidence of future job security. They know that much of the current steel production is based on orders from the auto industry. They feel that one reason for the slump in auto production is the impending contract negotiations in that industry. They think the corporations are building up inventories as a weapon against the auto union and therefore look upon the production slump as partly artificial.

Few steel workers here feel free to risk the purchase of a new car although they would like to have one and they realize such purchases would indirectly help to keep steel production going. This circumstance also strips them of faith in continued high-level auto production which is so important to their future employment in steel.

Confidence in the future is even lower among the steel workers who still remain unemployed and who are beginning to realize

that they may never be called back to their former jobs. A similar state of mind prevails among railroad workers not yet called back to work. They now have a new worry because they are running out of jobless benefits with no job yet in sight.

MINERS HARD-HIT

The coal miners have been hit the hardest of any workers in the region. For those now employed a three-day work week is generally considered a full-time job. Some mines are closed down entirely. Unemployment among the miners has reached tragic proportions and many have long ago used up their unemployment benefits.

In the Pittsburgh area about 100,000 people are at present certified to receive government surplus food because they live under substandard conditions. The local power trust is trying to attract new industries to the area by advertising the availability of "skilled labor with a top productivity record."

Workers who can, especially the younger elements, are beginning to leave the region. Korean

war veterans who have been laid off in industry in some cases seek a solution of their problem by using their GI educational benefits to train themselves for new fields of work.

The Pittsburgh-Youngstown region is certainly one of the industrial centers where, as the U. S. Department of Labor admits, there is a "hard core of unemployed" . . . whose problem is no longer the usual one of temporary unemployment.

Since the national headquarters of the CIO steel union is in Pittsburgh, it would seem natural to expect that the top union officials would be sensitive to the workers' problems and would busy themselves to find some solution. Unfortunately that is not the case.

LAYOFFS OR SHORT WEEK

The union officials count on the war economy to maintain a fairly high level of employment. They have no program to defend the workers' interests when production slumps. They pass the buck to the workers to decide, insofar as management will permit, whether they will take the blow through lay-offs or through a short work week at short pay.

Workers having the most seniority tend to favor lay-offs so that those who remain employed can maintain full pay. Workers having less seniority generally favor spreading the work through a reduction of hours so they may get at least partial pay instead of losing out entirely. What usually takes place in this tug of war is a combination of lay-offs for some and a reduced work week at reduced pay for others.

The bankrupt official policy thus generates friction between the older and younger workers at the expense of union solidarity and to the benefit of management. In this dispute the union officials tend to side with the older, more conservative elements, using them as a base to maintain their bureaucratic stranglehold on the union.

When workers are laid off they are generally denied the right to vote on union policy. In fact they more or less cease to exist so far as the top union officials are concerned. They become forgotten men who must depend on unemployment compensation while it lasts and then get by as best they can until they are called back to the steel mills or can find another job.

For the present the adverse economic pressures on the steel workers in this region are eased some by the upturn in production. This takes the heat off the union officials, as does the tendency among younger workers to seek new jobs because of the unstable conditions in steel. But the heat will be on again at the next drop in production.

A fighting union leadership would mobilize a solid united front of the older and younger workers to make the corporations maintain full employment in a production slump by reducing the work week without any reduction in take-home pay.

Instead the present leadership lets management go scot free of any responsibility for the victimized workers, no matter how many years of their lives have been given to producing profits for the steel corporations.

This do-nothing policy of the union officials resulting from general incompetence and callous indifference to the needs of the workers, is slowly generating a wrath among the rank and file that will one day blow the bureaucratic lid off the steel union.

\$15,000 Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Detroit	\$ 750	450	60
Seattle	175	97	55
Chicago	1,500	871.50	58
Philadelphia	400	170	43
San Francisco	800	330	41
Cleveland	250	95	38
Milwaukee	250	90	36
Boston	600	213	36
New York	3,200	1,130.50	36
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	400	33
St. Louis	75	24.50	33
Los Angeles	3,000	751.33	25
Newark	275	70	25
Youngstown	200	50	25
Oakland	300	59	20
Pittsburgh	1,500	30	20
Buffalo	125	150	9
Akron	75	0	0
Allentown	75	0	0
General	—	1	—
Total through Feb. 8	\$15,025	\$4,982.83	34

A Letter To a GM Worker

By Myra Tanner

I don't know how you made out last year. But if your income didn't increase during 1954 by 34.8%, you and the rest of the General Motors' workers didn't do as well as the boss.

Of course, the reason GM made out so well last year was because the government cut the GM tax bill by \$219,528,449. If your tax bill didn't get cut maybe it was because you didn't have anyone in Eisenhower's cabinet like "Bird Dog" Wilson, your ex-boss.

Anyway, thanks to this tax cut, despite a 2% drop in sales, the estimated net income of General Motors jumped from \$598,119,478 in 1953 to \$806 million in 1954.

The Government is very kind to your boss in other ways too. Even though so-called "defense" orders lagged over 1953, government purchases from GM still amounted to 14.7% of the total GM sales. The government guaranteed your boss a market for \$1,058,000,000 worth of goods that you and your fellow workers produced.

You GM workers really make life soft for the stockholders. You not only produced enough cars and trucks to cover your wages, plus \$806 million for the coupon clippers, including \$21 million to the needy du Pont family in 54 dividends, plus \$835 million for the war-makers in Washington, but in the post-war period you produced enough profit to enable GM to build 7 new assembly plants in the U.S. You and your fellow-workers produced all this. No one else. Without you there wouldn't have been so much as one red cent.

And furthermore, in 1954 Harlow H. Curtice, GM's new President, was able to announce a \$182 million expansion program in Europe.

All this wealth you created and handed to General Motors on a silver platter. But don't think Curtice, "Bird Dog" Wilson, and the other profiteers will be grateful. All this, they figure, is coming to them as their inalienable right under the "free enterprise" system. (No wonder they like it so much.)

They are spending a good chunk of the profits you produce

for them, in order to find ways and means of eliminating you from your job. With automation and the progress of science, they are trying to figure out how to put many of you out on the street so they won't be plagued with requests for wage increases and guarantees that you can continue to feed your families.

But your future will not necessarily mean starvation. While automation will make you less needed as an auto worker, the need for soldiers will go up. GM and "Bird Dog" Wilson want to make the world safe for GM profits. They plan to run not only your life, and the life of the American people ("what's good for General Motors is good for the U.S.") but they plan to run the world as well.

Isn't it clear that all's not right in this "best of all possible worlds"? Wouldn't it be better if some of those millions you produce over and above your wages went to make life richer and happier for the hundreds of thousands of GM workers who produce this wealth? Couldn't your working hours be reduced? Couldn't you do without speedup? Couldn't you use vacations with enough pay to travel and see some of this old world before you leave it? Couldn't you at least have some security and know that your family will always be well cared for?

If you look at it this way, you're getting to be a socialist, and your boss won't like you. But then, who likes your boss?

CHICAGO Farrell Dobbs

Nat'l. Sec'y SWP will speak on: "America's Road To Socialism"

Sat. Feb. 26, 8:30 P. M.

777 West Adams Street

Discussion - Refreshments

Entertainment

Donation: 35c.

NEW YORK Friday Night Socialist Forum

A series of three lectures Guest Speaker: George Weissman

Feb. 11 — The Abolition Movement

Feb. 18 — The Negro in the Civil War

Feb. 25 — The Contemporary Negro Movement

116 University Place

Time: 8 P. M.

Contribution: 25c.

Detroit Fri. Night Socialist Forum

What's Ahead for America?

Speaker: Farrell Dobbs

Fri. Feb. 18, at 8 P. M.

The Women's Fight Against Inequality

Fri. Feb. 25, at 8 P. M.

At 3000 Grand River, Rm. 207

Donation 25c.

Free for Unemployed

Subscribe!

Start your subscription now. Clip the coupon and mail it today. Send \$1.50 for six months subscription or \$3 for a full year to The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Name _____

Street _____ Zone _____

City _____ State _____

☐ \$1.50 Six months ☐ \$3.00 Full year ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Canadian CCF Splits Votes on German Arms

By Peter Farnsworth

MONTREAL — Canada became the fourth of the 14 powers in the NATO alliance to vote for German rearmament Jan. 27, but not without 12 Canadian Commonwealth Federation members of parliament casting their vote against it and seven more abstaining from the vote. The 12 CCF M.P.'s voted "no" to the reconstitution of the Wehrmacht in the face of an impassioned plea by External Affairs Minister Pearson that the Liberal Government's bill be unanimously upheld by the House of Commons. The bill was already assured of unanimous support from the capitalist Progressive Conservative and Social Credit parties.

Votes cast against the bill, he warned, would be a "declaration

of support" for those forces throughout the world who want the defeat of German rearmament. "What would happen if these agreements were rejected? What would happen to the European union? What would happen to NATO?" he asked.

But the 12 CCF M.P.'s stood firm. They stood firm not only against the solid alignment of the capitalist parties but against the open treachery of the national leader of their own party, M. J. Coldwell, and four other M.P.'s who voted with the government for German rearmament.

M. J. Coldwell, MacInnis, Thatcher, Gillis and Campbell knuckled under the pressure of the imperialist war alliance, spearheaded by the U.S. State Department. In voting with the government, Coldwell brazenly defied CCF party policy for united and disarmed Germany laid down by the 13th national convention in Edmonton last July. This policy had been reaffirmed by the party's national council meeting held in the middle of this month.

At the same time Coldwell defied the, if not active, nonetheless known will of the Canadian people. If there was any doubt about this it was clarified in the debate in the house by Tory M. P. Margaret Aitken who pointed out that a Gallup Poll taken in November showed that 61% of Canadians are opposed to a new German army. She blamed the government for this situation for not "educating and guiding the people on this very complex problem."

Coldwell's endorsement of this step towards World War III, his betrayal of CCF policy, and the will of the Canadian people, hardly came as a surprise. As this session of the House approached and the vote loomed the CCF leadership made no effort to publicize the party's views or rally popular support.

They had nothing to say on the controversy that German rearmament set off in the British Labor Party and the French So-

cialist Party. They made no comments on German Socialist Party appeals for support to their opposition to the rearmament of their own country. Prominent leftist in British Columbia and in the prairie provinces made known their opposition to German rearmament but the BC provincial leadership and the leadership of the Ontario CCF said nothing.

Over the past three or four months the BC and Ontario right wing leadership have been concentrating all their time and energy in employing disciplinary actions against the left, expelling almost a score from the Ontario section for "Trotskyism," curbing leftist communists in the party press in BC and suspending a whole constituency association.

The Ontario council members formed the hard core of those who wanted to toss overboard the convention position of opposition to German rearmament but they were snowed under by council members from the West. It is thought that of the M.P.'s who abstained, two were not in the House and 5 who remained in their seats, did so to avoid having Coldwell being too heavily outvoted.

It is yet too early to assess the reaction of the CCF membership to the Coldwell betrayal. There has never before been such a wide split in the parliamentary caucus, nor has there ever been so blatant a defiance by the Coldwell leadership of the party's will. Over the past 6 or 7 years, as the leadership has met with episodic and sporadic opposition from the ranks in this and that provincial section, but never before has the Coldwell leadership been so clearly exposed.

There can be little doubt that the differentiation within the parliamentary caucus, now publicly revealed on the basic question of war, will promote further fermentation within the ranks and lay the basis for the consolidation of the left as a viable force.

World Events

WHITE SUPREMACIST

SOUTH AFRICAN Prime Minister Johannes G. Strijdom told the Associated Press in an interview Feb. 4 that the United States and Great Britain "might as well cross off right now such nations as India, Pakistan and Ceylon as potential allies in any war against communism." India, he predicted, would go along with China because of "natural bonds of color." "Anyway, aside from a few tribes or groups," he said, "the Indian people are not fighters." He accused India of aligning herself with "Negro campaigns to drive the white man from Africa" and backing "all kinds of antagonism against white rule." He said further that "stricter control" of the African communities was necessary to block this campaign. The Strijdom regime segregates and exploits 10,000,000 Negro and East Indian South Africans in the name of a handful of plantation owners and capitalists from the white population of 2,643,187. South Africa was not invited to the conference of Asian and African nations which will take place in Bandung, Indonesia, this April. The Prime Minister of Ceylon, explained why South Africa was not invited: "It can't go there; we can't go there so why the hell should we invite them here?"

TENSION IN JOHANNESBURG

mounts as Feb. 12 approaches. This is the date the government has set for the first evictions and moving of Africans from the city to a new site eleven miles outside as part of its apartheid program. The government announced that it would begin with the forced moving of 150 families from a western Johannesburg Negro location (Jim Crow area where Negroes are allowed to reside). The government has abandoned its original plan of demolishing the homes with bulldozers to give the Africans no alternative but to move and to make return impossible. It was decided that "the psychological effect of the violence of the bulldozers, giving

the impression of wanton destruction of property, would be a bad one and could have a reaction among the natives." A less dramatic demolition of homes has been decided on. In the areas where the people are scheduled for the apartheid evictions their resistance is indicated by painted and chalked slogans on walls and pavements reading: "We won't move!"

GUATEMALAN WORKERS

suffered another blow recently when the Wall Street puppet dictator Col. Carlos Castillo Armas abrogated amendments of the 1947 Labor Code. The amendments said Castillo, placed the workers "at the mercy of unscrupulous leaders and of elements propagandizing for doctrines incompatible with the democratic system," according to a Feb. 2 dispatch to the N. Y. Times. The Castillo measure "Ends employers' obligations to establish a graded scale for regulation of promotions and other job changes on the basis of capacity and seniority." It also "Ends the prohibition against discrimination on account of race, religion, creed, color, and political or economic position in the access to employer-operated centers of health, amusement, education or commerce."

THE SOVIET UNION AND

INDIA signed an agreement Feb. 2 for a Russian-built 1,000,000-ton capacity steel plant in central India. The plant will cost not more than \$91,140,000 and is scheduled to be in operation by Dec. 31, 1959. Some of the finished products they expect to make are rails and heavy structural steel.

TWO AMERICAN RUBBER

manufacturing concerns, Firestone and Goodyear, are seeking to establish factories in Ceylon for the manufacture of tires and other accessories, according to the Feb. 8 N. Y. Times. Each company wants to invest \$5,000,000 there.

Justice Dept.'s Frameup System

During the past year and more, The Militant has exposed the Department of Justice's practice of maintaining a stable of paid informers who make a profession of testifying for the government in cases involving the Smith Act, the immigration law and similar witch-hunt measures. The revelations of Harvey Matusow, one of the department's main stoop pigeons, only further confirm that what is involved is a deliberate system of frameup. This system already has been used to convict more than a hundred persons and to send scores of them to prison.

The authorities involved in these frameups are now trying to minimize the role of Matusow, salvage the testimony of other informers and prevent their system for obtaining convictions through false witnesses from being destroyed. Without such lying witnesses, the government could never have sent a single person to prison or deported a single political dissenter. Without them, the McCarthy-type committees that flourish in Congress would have to close shop for lack of business.

The Feb. 5 N. Y. Times editorially admits that "the shabby business of the paid professional informer, which has reached new dimensions under governmental encouragement during the past few years, has been given a blow" by Matusow. It even calls this case "a new warning against the unquestioning acceptance by political and judicial authorities alike of the accusatory statements of the professional informer." But it claims that: "Obviously the confession of this one erratic informer, who may or may not be telling the whole truth even now, does not invalidate all the other testimony in cases involving subversive activities."

What "other testimony"? The government's case in all the numerous trials of the political witch hunt has been based almost entirely on the testimony of paid informers. And Matusow's is not the first instance of confessed or demonstrated perjury in these trials.

Paul Crouch, formerly the highest paid informer on the Justice Department's payroll, collected \$9,675.50 from July 1, 1952 to May 31, 1954, as an "expert" witness for the government in more than 60 trials and hearings. He slipped up when he testified in detail at the Smith Act trial last year in Philadelphia about a certain David Davis, whom Crouch in the 1949 Bridges trial had denied he ever knew. Another top-priced informer, Manning Johnson, who had received \$9,096 in two years from the Justice Dept. as a "consultant," was exposed when he testified falsely in the UN "loyalty" case of Dr. Ralph Bunche. Johnson was asked why he had denied under oath that he was a regular FBI informer. He answered he would lie under oath if directed to do so by his employers.

In the Detroit Smith Act trial, two FBI agents, Milton J. Santwire and Stephen J. Schemanske, were forced to admit a whole series of perjuries, including their denial of having known each other and of having collected \$300 to \$400 a month from the Ford Co. in addition to their regular FBI pay. Yet their testimony was used to convict a number of innocent persons.

We are dealing with frameups — deliberate and calculated. The FBI and the Justice Department know what they are hiring when they buy the testimony of these slimy informers for money. They have to use perjured evidence because their whole charge that Marxism is a "conspiracy" to overthrow the government by "force and violence" and that Stalinism is "Marxism" is false.

The Justice Department has cut off its no-longer-useful hirelings like Matusow, Crouch and Johnson. But the persons they perjured into prison are still behind bars. The convictions of every single person based on testimony of such paid informers must be thrown out and every indictment based on such bought perjury must be scrapped. The only criminal problem that remains is the exposure and indictment of all government figures involved in this foul frame-up system.

Labor-Hater



Ex-Rep. Fred A. Hartley, co-author of the Taft-Hartley union-busting law, who is now president of a new outfit to promote "right-to-scab" laws in all states.

My Life in Stalin's Prison Camps

Underground Religious Sects in USSR

By Brigitte Gerland

Religious questions have received recently a remarkably prominent place in the Soviet press. Sometimes there is criticism, very harsh in tone, of the primitive methods employed by official agitators of the completely bureaucratized "godless movement," and of their attempts to lighten up their dull lectures with a few cheap jokes. Sometimes the fact is deplored that even in the ranks of the Young Communist League a vanguard of the youth are led astray by Christian superstitions and that the maturing generations are increasingly and irresistibly attracted by religion.

Has there been then an unexpected rebirth of the Orthodox Russian Church, 37 years after the downfall of Czarist Russia? Nothing of the sort. There is in fact a religious movement in the Soviet Union today. It is so disturbing that it impelled Comrade Khrushchev himself to take his pen in hand (in part to call to order the overzealous atheist proselytizers, since the Soviet constitution, you see, accords all sorts of religious freedoms; and in part to urge the scientific materialist propagandists to work more systematically and more profoundly). But this religious movement did not start growing beneath the shadows of the onion-domed church steeples.

On the contrary, many years before the revolution, the Orthodox Church, with all its magnificent chants and with all its dazzling pomp reproducing and seeming parodying the style of Byzantium, was reduced to nothing more than a flashy and hollow shell. In its last period it inspired only the Black Hundreds, evoking no real response among the popular masses even before it toppled in the great overturn.

During the Civil War the clergy was unconditionally allied with the White Guard Generals. Once they were defeated, there tumbled the very idea of a state church which provided despotism for centuries with so efficient an instrument. By the policy of returning to the ancestors — not the ancestors of Marxism, but the Czars of "Old Mother" Russia — it was Stalin who caused the good old, tested traditions to revive, one after another. Nor did he hesitate to pour a little holy Orthodox oil on the flames of Great-Russian chauvinism, which he so zealously started to feed. However he did not succeed in resurrecting the cadaver of Rasputin's church.

Only a few ancient grandmothers came to the churches to worship, to listen to the beautiful chants and to recall memories of their dear, departed youth. It was a meager achievement. The man on the street, on the other hand, looked with suspicion upon the Kremlin's flirtation with religion and the common opinion was that the Stalinist priests would never amount to much.

The general conviction was that the religious freedom proclaimed so noisily for the day after tomorrow was simply a super-clever move, by the political police to help it hunt down citizens still infected with the virus of religion and desirous to worship. All the priests tolerated by the bureaucracy were treated by many as spies for the secret police.

In complete contrast to these priests, the oppositional Christians lead the same illegal existence as did their predecessors in ancient Rome. Their catacombs extend over the whole territory of the USSR; their secret organization is so widespread and well-knit that even the powerful Soviet bandits with their "Blatny" fraternities run a poor second. The members of the "League of Christians" are today known throughout the Soviet Union as "monashki," i.e., little monks or nuns.

Originally they called themselves simply the "Believers." They were baptized "monashki" by the secret-police commissars. This name became so popular that they adopted it.

The movement had its origin in Moscow and Leningrad toward the close of the Thirties. The impulsion came from the intermediate cadres of the Young Communist League who, confused and disillusioned in the extreme by the monstrous trials and the mass purges, quit the party; and who, in their search for a way out, perceived in the Gospels the charter of true humanitarianism. For their secret religious sect they fixed the following goals: To spread the ethical, social and humanitarian teachings of the New Testament among the entire Soviet population; and to struggle against — the Stalinist dictatorship not by arms, or uprising, or revolution, or civil war, but by means of a system of non-violent resistance.

They say that the bureaucratic totalitarian state is the incarnation of Evil, of the Anti-Christ; and they call for passive resistance, refusal to work, for strikes, for the way to undermine its foundations. They nurse an illusion that by their own, patient and constant proselytizing, by their spirit of self-sacrifice and by their teaching they shall be able to draw millions of men into

The author is a German writer who spent eight years in Stalin's concentration camps — six of them in the Arctic Circle — after she became disillusioned with Stalinism in East Germany. Her articles have been translated from the French Trotskyist newspaper La Verite. Four previous installments have already appeared. They may be obtained for 10 cents each from The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

a mass strike that would so weaken the military-bureaucratic apparatus as to bring it toppling down.

A revolution, in their eyes, would prove only a source of new evils, because, they say, terror cannot be combated by terror, but only by the solidarity of all the oppressed, whose duty it consequently is to boycott every order of the administration.

"MONASHKI" PROGRAM

Their program for tomorrow's Russia rests on the principles of Christian communism. Their ideal is a society, without a state and without classes, composed of industrial and agricultural communities very loosely linked together, and leading a life in the image of primitive Christian communities.

As part of their position they reject, always categorically, the right to private property; because "the goods of the earth belong to every one who dwells upon it, and each has an equal right to share therein; and along with it, each shares the same duty to work for the welfare of all."

Each must work according to his physical and mental strength, receiving in exchange everything necessary for physical upkeep, as well as for intellectual and moral development. They deny to money any role as a medium of exchange, just as they oppose any remuneration for a specific task as contrary to human dignity. In the communes of their future society, every worker, of hand or brain, must receive lodging, clothes and food corresponding to his needs; and the surplus of the collective product must be devoted toward perfecting industry, science, culture. The administrative tasks shall be carried out by the communal councils, wholly elective bodies, thus permitting of no professional bureaucracy.

On religious questions the "Believers" take the stand of complete tolerance toward all creeds,

including, of course, the atheists. For their own part they reject all denominational association. According to them, the true church of Christ needs neither sanctuaries nor officiating priests, inasmuch as it knows neither ritual nor dogma — these serve only to provide a flashy facade which distracts the mind from the essentials.

The remote state farms of Siberia and Central Asia provide the best "missionary territory" for the "monashki" who know how to recruit important layers among the rural workers. These modern apostles, for the most part coming from the big city intellectual circles abandon everything so as to obtain employment as seasonal workers in the Far East or in Central Asia.

There they are afforded many opportunities to establish contacts with agricultural laborers, who are among the most unprivileged of the Soviet unprivileged; and among them they find frequently an avid audience.

The utopian, anarchistic tendencies which the "monashki" represent, correspond, to be sure, to the ancient aspirations of an oppressed peasantry, suffering in bondage for centuries, whose many Jacques (peasant uprisings) set themselves goals analogous to those the Believers preach today.

In the vast spaces of Russian Asia the members of a secret sect often have the opportunity to work for years for their ideas without any disturbance from the political police, up to the very hour when the inescapable arrest puts an end to their activity.

In the camps the "monashki" are among the most vigorous of oppositionists. Without making the slightest concession, they unanimously refuse to do any work for the state, and, moreover, they refuse to accept any chores except attending the needs of the prisoners.

In 1953 in the single concentration area of Vorkuta there were already over eight thousand members of religious resistance groups who refused to do any productive work whatsoever for the Soviet economy.

The accounts of the ceaseless warfare between the Believers and the camp administration would fill a sizable volume. Suffice it here to indicate briefly the combat methods employed by both sides.

No sooner is a new group of "monashki" brought into camp, than they are, by way of welcome, immediately placed into an isolator, that is a place bare of everything and where it is impossible to get a cot or a chair or any useful object. The daily

ration of the "saboteurs" consists of water plus 300 grams of bread. Upon the Believers this makes no impression at all; their customary reply to such measures is a hunger strike. And after a week or so they must then be brought from the isolator to the camp, where, after the first skirmish, they are left in peace for a while. The respite over, the camp direction usually launches a second attack.

The recalcitrants are brought in trucks to the work location, and the functionary keeps asking them repeatedly to please do something. Needless to say these admonitions pass unheeded, and so by way of reprisal they are sent back to the isolator. Whereupon they commence a new hunger strike, and leave the isolator after several days upon the orders of the head physician.

This sequence of events is repeated at regular intervals until — and this takes a year at the most — the camp administration gives up the struggle against the unyielding opponent, and contents itself with getting rid, as occasion offers of as many "monashki" as possible. This means that the chief of another camp becomes the beneficiary of these undesirable effectives. Many times, he angrily refuses to accept charge of the newcomers. These then continue their circuitous journey which lasts sometimes for days on end, until a camp chief is found either new in his place or one utterly indifferent to everything and willing to welcome these difficult convicts.

One day a particularly zealous camp chief brought a group of "monashki" into the tundra, at 40 degrees below zero, leaving them there with formal orders not to permit them to reenter the camp until they declared themselves ready to work. But the condemned thereupon did something no one had expected. They started to undress. Flying to the four winds in the snow went felt boots, gloves, fur vests, pullovers. The dumbfounded guards looked at them as if they had suddenly lost their senses; then they reviled them, mustering in review all the oaths in the Russian tongue; then they resorted to pleas, imploring the prisoners, who remained imperturbable throughout, to be so good as to dress themselves again; and finally, seeing their efforts wasted, they returned in haste to find the camp chief. The chief took fright at such determination and the "monashki" reentered the camp in triumph.

(Fifth of a series. Watch for the next installment.)

... Malenkov Ousted as Scapegoat

(Continued from page 1).

other moves by Moscow emphasizing the importance of heavy industry, has been interpreted by the majority of capitalist commentators as signifying a shift away from an alleged step-up in production of consumer goods.

Malenkov is credited with fostering a turn toward production of consumer goods upon assuming office on Stalin's death; Khrushchev is credited with insisting on the further development of heavy industry. Thus the change in status of the two bureaucrats is considered a reflection of a change in policy.

Unfortunately for this interpretation, it does not coincide with the facts. In the spring of 1950, while Stalin was still alive, Khrushchev advocated the construction of agricultural cities, some 50,000 of them in Russia, perhaps several hundred thousand in the Soviet Union as a whole. On January 18, 1951, Khrushchev promised that these proposed new cities would bring life in the countryside close to urban standards. No more one-room huts, but two to four-room apartments. This proposal was vetoed by Stalin.

MALENKOV'S POSITION

At the 19th Party Congress, Malenkov mentioned it in passing. In a speech Oct. 6, 1952, he said: "These comrades are mistaken in having forgotten the main economic task of the kolkhozes — production — and have given priority to derivative consumers' goals and to the tasks of everyday life. . . ." In brief, Khrushchev made a mistake in suggesting that consumers needs should be given priority over development of production.

Even when Stalin's heirs were making their most glowing promises of big increases in the standard of living of the Soviet masses, Malenkov indicated at the August 1953 sessions of the Supreme Soviet that no change in policy was contemplated.

Writing in the Militant of Aug. 17, 1953, John G. Wright reported: "The production of consumer goods will continue to be subordinated to the expansion of heavy industry with minimum — and not maximum — adjustment to allay mass discontent. That is the gist of Malenkov's 'new' policy. As a matter of fact, his speech contains the sharpest threats against any attempt to 'oppose the construction of heavy industry' at the expense of light industry or to 'demand the transfer of funds from heavy to light industry.' Such demands he characterized as having emanated from 'the Trotskyites and the

right-wing capitalists and traitors."

SHARED BY KRUSHCHEV

In the lying promises that were made to the Soviet masses about a life of greater abundance, Khrushchev did not lag behind Malenkov. In his Sept. 3, 1953, report to the Plenum of the Central Committee he maintained that heavy industry now constituted a "powerful foundation." "With this foundation there is the practical possibility of organizing a sharp advance by all branches of the light and food industries, of considerably expanding the production of consumer goods. . . ."

It should be noted in addition that the measures adopted by the Central Committee on Sept. 7, 1953, to improve agriculture and speed production of consumers' goods were specifically based on Khrushchev's program and so publicly acknowledged and proclaimed.

In the light of this record, it should be clear that whatever guilt exists for incompetence and failure in this field is shared at least equally by Khrushchev. Yet Malenkov confesses the "guilt" as his. What is this if not the confession of a scapegoat?

BERIA TOO

When Beria was purged by Malenkov, one of the charges leveled against the former head of the secret political police was that he "in every way impeded the solution of the most important, unpostponable questions concerning the strengthening and development of agriculture."

And when Beria was shot in December 1953, the final indictment alleged that he "plotted . . . to create food difficulties in our country."

In analyzing the conversion of Beria into a scapegoat for the agricultural crisis of 1953, John G. Wright made the forecast: "The most critical year for Soviet agriculture will be 1954."

(The Militant, Dec. 28, 1953.) How critical the year was can now be gauged by the fact that the bureaucracy required as scapegoat no one less than the head of the government itself. This signifies that conditions have improved little — perhaps have worsened — since Khrushchev's damaging admissions in 1953: "The number of cows in the country falls short of the prewar level by 3.5 million head, and compared with 1928 has declined by 8.9 million head. In 1952 alone the total herd of cattle decreased by 2.2 million head, the number of cows by 550 thousand head. And it should be noted that the number of horses in the country has declined by 160 per cent compared with the

pre-revolution period and by 27 per cent compared with the pre-war year of 1940."

The full acuteness of the crisis cannot be grasped without understanding the essential point made by John G. Wright, that not only has the population increased, along with its desires and needs, but the development of heavy industry require the expansion of agriculture as a source of raw materials; meanwhile, under bureaucratic mismanagement agricultural productivity has not even kept up with current needs, but has on the contrary declined.

BUREAUCRATIC ANSWER

As under Stalin, the "solution" of the rapacious ruling oligarchy, which usurped power in the Soviet Union, is to conduct a purge. Scapegoats are loaded with the responsibility. They are even accused of organizing a "conspiracy." The implausibility of the procedure is covered up by "confessions" of "guilt." New glowing promises are made to the masses.

As Trotsky explained long ago, this is the pattern of bureaucratic rule. It is not at all an evidence of the strength of the oligarchy, but evidence of its weakness, of its highly contradictory position in Soviet society. Moreover, the sheer necessity for such methods testifies to the constant pressure of the masses upon the hated ruling caste.

The downfall of Malenkov, like that of Beria, testifies to the instability of the group that succeeded Stalin. There were some people, easily impressed by Moscow promises, who imagined that with the death of Stalin, Stalinism likewise had died. They thought that now a change toward a beneficent regime could be expected, the evolution of the bureaucracy toward proletarian democracy, toward a revolutionary socialist outlook. As one "theoretician," impressed with Malenkov's personality, put it, "The revolution will right itself."

These Malenkovists now owe a lot of explaining about the collapse of their theory along with the collapse of their hero. The current purge shows that Stalinism, as Trotsky emphasized over and over, is much more than the pathological character of the late dictator. It is the political physiognomy of the bureaucratic ruling crust in the Soviet Union.

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) has introduced a bill to deny jobless benefits to any person who has invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to testify because such testimony might incriminate him.

The Negro Struggle

By John Thayer

A Truthful Book on School Segregation

SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION. Community Experiences in Desegregation. Edited by Robin M. Williams, Jr. and Margaret W. Ryan. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1954. \$3.00.

Here is a book that can be read with profit by all those interested in the struggle against Jim Crow. It will be especially valuable to those who are involved in the immediate struggle for school integration in their localities. So if you are in an NAACP branch or on a union anti-discrimination committee that is working to root out racism in local schools get hold of this book and read it.

It is a factual account of the desegregation in varying degrees that took place in 24 communities in the period after World War II but before the U.S. Supreme Court decision. This desegregation resulted from changes in state laws or constitutions in an arc of six northern and western states (New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Arizona and New Mexico) which border the border states.

The geographic location is of importance for two reasons. These communities give a fair sampling of the problems to be met in the border states since in the main they represent the same level of Jim Crow. And it must be remembered that school desegregation has really just begun in the border states. (For example, in Maryland only the city of Baltimore has attempted any desegregation as yet.)

Secondly, the interest in the Supreme Court decision has caused many people in the North and West to look around and thus discover open and concealed forms of school segregation in their own communities. Knowledge of the devices by which a number of the 24 communities under study in this book sought and sometimes succeeded in evading true integration will prove valuable to those who wish to

unmask or counter segregation-by-subterfuge in their own areas.

Schools in Transition is a product of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education. Consequently it tries to be above the battle — to take no stand either for or against school segregation but merely to present factual studies made by field workers. Such impartiality is, of course, utopian. Merely to present the facts about any aspect of the Negro struggle is to be partial in the struggle — partial to the Negro people. It is always thus in history — truth is on the side of progress and the lie a weapon of reaction. Opponents of Jim Crow will derive satisfaction and profit from this book, the white supremacists will grind their teeth and denounce it.

As a matter of fact the pose of impartiality on the desirability or non-desirability of school desegregation improves the book for participants in the Negro struggle. They have no need for exhortations or sermonizing about the desirability of school integration, but they can use information which is ammunition for further struggles.

The field investigators have done a good job — pointing out the degrees of desegregation attempted from token and reluctant to pretty good and whole-hearted. They have also, in social workers' phraseology, indicated the class forces at work in many of the communities. Nor do they overlook the crippling effect that housing segregation has on the best-intended integration programs. Indeed a study of South Bend, Indiana, which never before had school segregation shows that neighborhood segregation of a growing Negro population is rapidly producing school segregation.

This shows how indivisible is the battle against Jim Crow. A gain in one field is encroached upon and endangered by other social forces of racism. Herein lies one of the fatal flaws of gradualism.

"Bird Dog" from Altoona

By Roy Gale

You meet the most interesting people waiting in line for your unemployment check. Last week I talked to a fellow that had been laid off the Pennsylvania Railroad in Altoona. I thought I was in bad shape until he told me the conditions in his home town.

"Things are really tough there," he said. "I was lucky. I have only been out of work for three months. But my cousin was laid off a little over a year ago."

He told me that Altoona was fast becoming a town of hopeless men. The reason? Widespread layoffs in the yards and shops of the Pennsy. Over 9,000 workers have been "furloughed" in the last year. Most of them, he said, have already exhausted their unemployment benefits. And since the town is centered around the railroad shops it means that workers in other industries that serve the railroads are facing layoffs or have already been fired.

I asked him if he was a "bird dog" out searching for work. "You bet I am," he said, laughing. "I can get out of Altoona because I am single. But the rest of my family is stuck there. My old man is still working because he has a lot of seniority. But my cousin worked in the shops eight years and that was not enough to save his job."

He told me of other people he knew that were in the same fix. Most of the men have never worked at any other job. Railroad work is all they know. Now they are faced with trying to get back on the Pennsy or some other railroad.

They are tied to the town by a hundred strings. Homes, families, and most important

they don't know any other work. What guarantee do they have that if they do go out "bird dogging" they can find other work. If they move out they lose any chance of getting the meager rations that local relief agencies dole out to unemployed workers who have exhausted their benefits.

He told me he had "kissed off" railroad work as a "career" and had moved away with the intention of getting into some other line of work. He knew it was going to be tough. When you seek new employment in a field different from your last work the boss is always suspicious. Until you prove yourself he always has the idea in the back of his head that you had to leave for some reason that reflects on your character.

And how can a man prove himself until he gets a job? And how can he get a job in Altoona when there are thousands of other men out of work? Nine thousand jobless workers in a city of about 80,000 people. How can they be absorbed into the industrial life of the city unless the work is spread around? No one has offered that solution and it wouldn't do much good anyway — unless reduced hours were accompanied with the same take-home pay.

"My cousin is going to stick it out in Altoona," he said, "because he has decided that he can't afford to move. He's got a house half paid for and two kids to look after. His wife's family and his family live there and so they figure they will get by somehow. If he tried to move it would cost him more than he can afford. And anyway he is not sure he can find work somewhere else."

Notes from the News

FRINGE BENEFITS SWELL CONGRESSMEN'S PAY. Congressmen who are talking about raising their pay by at least 50% already enjoy many "fringe" benefits which swell their \$15,000-a-year salaries. These benefits include a \$3,000 a year tax exemption to cover Washington living expenses; a furnished office in the Senate or House office building; a \$1,200 stationery allowance each session; unlimited franking privileges for regular mail plus \$200 for air mail and special delivery stamps; free long distance telephone service plus 2700 minutes free each month; they can send 1,000 words of telegrams free each month; and receive partially subsidized meals and medical care.

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS cannot be evicted for failure to sign loyalty oaths, the Appellate Department of the Superior Court ruled in Los Angeles on Jan. 20. This reversed the Municipal Court which had ordered the eviction of four families for refusal to sign loyalty oaths. The Department ruled that housing residents could not be compelled to sign loyalty oaths and, furthermore failure to sign did not brand residents as subversive.

WAGES NOSEDIVED from \$8 to \$1.25 a day between March and July 1954 for restaurant and hotel workers in Phoenix, Arizona, after that state passed a "right-to-work" law.

GENERAL ELECTRIC'S latest anti-union weapon according to the U. E. News is a new Time Motion Survey calculated to squeeze the last drop of energy from the workers. Every muscle in the human body is charted to the hundred-thousandth of a minute. Now all the boss has to do is look in the book for the time on any particle of a job. For instance: one three

inch hand motion is charted in minutes like this: .00130 to start; .00040 to travel three inches; .00130 to stop; totaling .00300 of a minute.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS who are employed by the state of Vermont have been denied sick leave during pregnancy. The N. Y. Herald Tribune reports the ruling as follows: "Since pregnancy is accepted as a natural state rather than primarily and basically 'sickness,' it appears illogical and inconsistent to grant sick leave for a condition not primarily sickness."

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION built 327,495 cars in January compared to 317,084 in December and 211,756 in January of last year.

NO PAY RAISE THIS YEAR. Emil Rieve president of the CIO Textile Workers Union of America made that announcement Feb. 5 in Boston to delegates from 500 locals of the union. He admitted that textile workers needed a raise badly but said they would pass this year because of the "serious depression" in the industry. Textile workers have had no raise since 1951.

RADIO AND TELEVISION TIME will be denied to all political candidates who are "communist-controlled" if a bill introduced by Sen. Butler (R-Md.) passes.

UNION LOSES RIGHTS. The NLRB ruled Feb. 2 that Maurice E. Travis, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers (Independent) falsely signed the non-Communist affidavit required by the Taft-Hartley Law. They also ruled that the union would have to kick Travis out before it would receive any protection from "unfair labor practices."

Kutcher Book Royalties Go To Committee

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 — James Kutcher, the legless veteran who was fired from his Veterans Administration job under the "loyalty" purge, today received his first royalty check from the sales of his book, "The Case of the Legless Veteran." He promptly turned the check over to the non-partisan Kutcher Civil Rights Defense Committee to aid in the work of acquainting the American public with the important civil liberties issues involved in his case and to help defray the Committee's considerable legal expenses.

The KCRC which has undertaken this work is composed of prominent labor, liberal, church, academic and artistic figures. Organized in 1948, it is at present conducting the eleventh appeal of the case before courts and administrative agencies.

Pioneer Publishers, distributors of Kutcher's book paid royalties for 2,758 copies sold to date. At the rate of 5% per copy (the book retails for \$1.00) the payment totaled \$137.90. Pioneer Publishers informed Kutcher that the book has sold very well and that it would consider another edition when this one is sold out.

The book has been praised for its literary qualities and as a social document of our times as well as for its clear and gripping account of a courageous man's fight against the witch hunt. Thus in the Christmas book issue of the Nation magazine two years ago, when the book first came out, Professor H. H. Wilson of Princeton named it as one of the best ten books of the year.

The January 1955 issue of the CIO Packinghouse Workers Union's newspaper features a full page advertisement of a book plan the union is offering its members. Among the five books offered is "The Case of the Legless Veteran" by James Kutcher. Of it it says: "A moving account of a government worker who lost his job as a 'security risk.' Not a Communist but a member of the Socialist Workers Party, James Kutcher who lost both his legs as a G. I. in the Italian campaign held a \$39.00 a week clerical job with the Veterans Administration. This is one man's simple story of his fight for the right to dissent."

Big Money Dined By White House

President Eisenhower has taken the "cracker-barrel" out of the country store and imported it into the state dining room at the White House. In 38 dinners since June 1953 he invited 555 "grass-roots" representatives of the "people" to give him the low down on what is going on in the country.

The cross-section of America invited to the "old country store" includes: 294 businessmen, 81 administration officials, 51 editors, publishers and writers, 23 Republican Party leaders, 30 educators, 18 scientists, artists, sportsmen, etc., 16 old military cronies, 10 heads of foundations or charities, nine farmers and farm leaders, eight union officials, six church leaders, five relatives, and our State and local government officials.

OIL MEN AND BANKERS

The list of "country boys" has 13 who modestly identify themselves as "oil men." This does not include the four Rockefeller brothers who have climbed the ladder of private profit, into the lofty heights and now wish to be known as "investment managers," "bankers," and "businessmen." Investment men and bankers were favored with 37 invitations.

Only one Negro was invited: Frederick D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute. This was balanced off with one man who makes his living playing "blackface," Freeman F. Gosden, who plays Andy in "Amos and Andy." Gosden listed himself as a Radio Producer.

The hereditary aristocracy was represented by one Mellon, one Lehman, one Morgan, two Van derbilts, two Whitneys, and the four Rockefellers mentioned before, plus Maurice Hutcheson of the AFL carpenters' bureaucratic dynasty.

The presidents of 20 leading corporations attended, including Henry Ford II, and GM's Harlow Curtice. Murray Kempton, N. Y. Post columnist, aptly suggested that Ford and Curtice might be listed as garage mechanics—that is if you can think of Captain Kidd as master of a freighter.

THE MILITANT

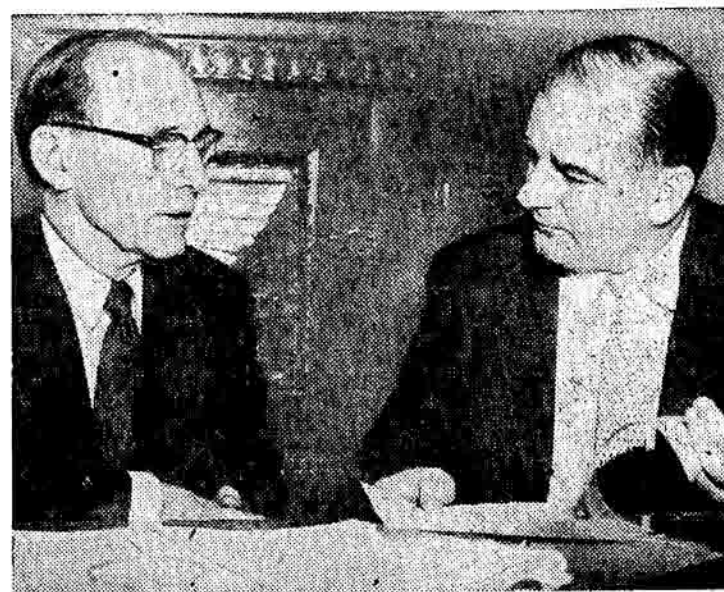
VOLUME XIX

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1955

NUMBER 7

Slum Housing Causes Rising N.Y. Fire Toll

Still Smearing Opponents



Sen. McCarthy (right) with Sen. McClellan (D-Ark.), who replaced him as chairman of investigating committee. On Feb. 6 McCarthy falsely charged that McClellan fired an investigator who allegedly discovered that "a Democratic Senator" had received a \$300 campaign gift from "a Communist leader." (See other story on p. 1.)

Young Puerto Ricans Rushed to Death Chair

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 — Tomorrow three Puerto Rican boys are scheduled to die in the electric chair. They are Estrada Corea, 17, Henry Matthews, 17, and Pedro Rios, 22, who were convicted last April for the murder of an 85 year old woman.

At a closed hearing last week Governor Harriman approved the execution despite the fact that three out of seven judges of the Court of Appeals had dissented from upholding the conviction when the case came before them last January. They dissented on the grounds that the trial judge had made "several erroneous statements" and only a new trial could determine whether the boys' rights had been "seriously prejudiced by any one of these errors."

The trial was conducted in an hysterical atmosphere following the shooting in congress by Puerto Rican nationalists last February. No Puerto Rican or Negro sat on the Jury. The boys testified that statements introduced against them by the police were extorted by third degree methods. A witness for the prosecution retracted his testimony and then retracted his retraction.

Despite these facts Gov. Harriman has still refused a stay of execution.

The General Confederation of Puerto Ricans, an organization which has consistently fought for the boys' rights, has submitted a petition to Harriman in a last minute plea for clemency.

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party held a protest meeting on Jan. 29, at the end of which a strong telegram was dispatched to the governor demanding clemency and a new trial for the boys.

This is one of many cases reported in the Militant attacking the basic rights of the Puerto Rican people.

Two Puerto Rican youths Enemis Santa, and Victor Cuban both 17, were recently acquitted of the charge of rape after waiting five months in jail for trial. A witness testified that he saw the "victim" invite the boys in to the park where the alleged rape took place. The two cops who made the arrest had to retract the charge made at the time that one of the boys was threatening the "victim" with an open knife and that both boys were under the influence of narcotics.

Another Puerto Rican victim of police brutality, Miss Jennie Ramirez, an 18-year old working girl, is now suing the city for \$25,000 because of a police beating she received last summer. She charges that she was physically assaulted by cops while they were breaking up a crowd in East Harlem, arrested, and driven to the station house where the beating continued into the night.

Now the attack on the Puerto Rican people has been carried over into the City Council. Republican Councilman Robert Barnes has introduced a resolution barring from relief rolls all persons who have not lived in the city two years prior to applying for assistance. Barnes admitted that the resolution "will mainly affect the Puerto Ricans."

There are now 500,000 Puerto Ricans in the city, 25,000 of whom are receiving relief, not by choice but grim necessity. Most of them were attracted to New York by the promise of higher wages and many were recruited in Puerto Rico and brought to the city by small sweat-shop owners to fill the man-power shortage after the Korean war. Now with the growing unemployment they are the first ones to get laid off.

By Tom Denver

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 — The wave of tenement fires in this city, with its mounting toll in human lives, has once more focused attention on the terrible housing conditions of hundreds of thousands of New York's working people. These conditions are "even worse than in Hong Kong where people live on sidewalks," said State Rent Commissioner Charles Abrams.

In a recent five day period 14 persons died from kerosene-stove fires. Most of them lived in congested fire traps.

According to the N.Y. Times: "Statistics tell a brutal story. In the first nine months of 1954, fifty out of seventy-eight fire deaths were in tenements, although only one-fifth of all the city's fires had occurred in these multiple dwellings. . . . In the last five years 614 New Yorkers died in fires." These statistics do not include 107 deaths and 312 "near-deaths" from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by faulty gas heaters in 1954 alone.

By "multiple dwellings" the Times means "converted houses, originally built for one or two families and now housing eight to ten."

OFFICIAL "SOLUTIONS"

Every capitalist stooge in New York has come up with a gimmick to prevent tenement fires. Fire Commissioner Cavanagh speaks of educating tenants on fire prevention. He claims that if people had been "educated" 25 years ago, they could live in fire traps without "blowing themselves to pieces." He feels that "immediate education would result in only '55,000 fires a year, the loss of between 100 and 150 lives and \$28,000,000 in property."

The housing department's inspection division complains of being understaffed and the Times declares that "inspectors have cleaned up an entire (slum) area only to return in three or four months and find conditions as bad or even worse than before."

Commissioner Abrams announced that he would grant rent increases to tenement owners who voluntarily converted to central heating. In this way the tenants

Two Democratic Party assemblymen ("friends of labor") showed where their real class interests lie when they said they would introduce a bill proposing that "the city make 'easy payment' loans to distressed building owners."

None of these capitalist flunkies concern themselves with the real distress of the workers who are forced to live in the fear and filth of the tenements.

The only way to prevent tenement fires is to destroy the tenements and replace them right now with low-cost public housing financed by the Federal government.

Fur Union Accepts Political Gag as AFL Merger Price

By Daniel Roberts

Rigorous terms denying elementary union rights to Communist Party members are incorporated in the merger agreement between the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen (AFL) and the independent Fur and Leather Workers Union. The fur union was expelled from the CIO in 1949 because of alleged Communist Party domination. On Jan. 22 its convention voted to accept the merger terms and affiliate with the AFL Meat Cutters.

The terms of the agreement were publicized in the January, 1955 issue of The Butcher Workmen, monthly magazine of the AFL union, in a letter to the membership signed by Meat Cutters' President Earl W. Jimmerson and Secretary - Treasurer Patrick E. Gorman. Jimmerson and Gorman set forth the undemocratic terms as follows:

"On our insistence upon a guarantee which would prohibit any possibility of any officer of the Fur and Leather Workers group remaining a member of the Communist Party, or engaging in any subversive activity, they have agreed to Section 'k' of the Agreement."

After citing Section "k" word for word, Jimmerson and Gorman go on to explain: "Note above the extra positive language of the section quoted. Our own International Union only requires the officers of our organization to file non-Communist affidavits. The Fur and Leather Workers group, however, must file non-Communist affidavits for those who are organizers, business agents representatives, their assistants, and all others in even the administrative staff. The Fur and Leather Workers officers who are not required under the law to file non-Communist affidavits must do so anyway and file such affidavits in the office of our International Union."

UNDEMOCRATIC CLAUSES

In addition, Jimmerson and Gorman state: "In summarizing the rigid, restrictive curb upon all those who in any manner have any authority within the Fur and Leather Workers group, please note the following:

MEANY ADDS TERMS

Although they know that they can expect terms no less punitive than those the Fur and Leather Workers accepted, two other Stalinist-led unions expelled by the CIO in 1949 are reported to be seeking affiliation with the AFL. These unions are being forced to the wall by CIO raiding and threat of illegalization under the Humphrey-Butler law passed last August.

"We're certainly not providing a haven for Reds kicked out of the CIO," AFL President George F. Meany stated on Feb. 2. According to Jan. 23 N.Y. Times, he demanded that leaders of these unions show that they had broken with the Communist Party by "vigorous and zealous" actions to combat Communism before the AFL would consider their admission.