

Newest H-Bomb-- Destroys All Life In 7,000 Sq. Miles

By Joseph Keller

Almost a year after the explosion of the U.S. H-bomb that showered Japanese fishermen 80 miles away with lethal dust, the Atomic Energy Commission has come out with its first official report on the phenomenon of radioactive "fallout" that makes each H-bomb capable of destroying all life within areas of thousands of square miles.

The AEC report, issued on Feb. 15, admits what The Militant has pieced out and reported last April. We wrote then that an "H-bomb not only could 'take out' New York City — kill every single inhabitant — it could 'take out' virtually the whole state of New Jersey." (The Militant, April 12, 1954.)

Now, the AEC reveals that "the test explosion, at ground surface, contaminated a cigar-shaped area extending approximately 220 statute miles downwind and varying in width up to forty miles. In addition, there was a contaminated area upwind and crosswind extending possibly 20 miles from the point of detonation."

A DEADLY "SNOW"

The deadly contamination resulted from pulverized earth and bomb material lifted up into a huge cloud. "About 160 miles downwind from the point of burst the early fall-out was observed in the form of fine particles which looked like snow."

But this "snow," states the AEC report, "contained sufficient radioactivity in a downwind belt about 140 miles in length and of varying width up to twenty miles to have seriously threatened the lives of nearly all persons in the area who did not take protective measures." At 160 miles downwind, the radiation would still kill about half the people in the area and 5% to 10% would die at 190 miles distance. Lethal fall-out was found up to 220 miles from the explosion. "Thus, about 7,000 square miles of territory downwind from the point of burst was so contaminated that survival might have depended upon prompt evacuation of the area or upon taking shelter, and other protective measures," says the report.

"PROMPT EVACUATION"

The reference to "prompt evacuation of the area" is of particular importance to persons living at or near the target center of an H-bomb. There is no "shelter, or other protective measures" they can take. The report pretty well skips over the blast and heat effects of atomic weapons on the grounds that these have been "extensively publicized." It simply notes that an A-bomb of the earliest type, equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT, would obliterate or damage beyond repair all residences within a mile to a mile-and-a-half of the burst.

But the first H-bomb, exploded in Nov. 1952, was a thousand times more powerful than the first A-bomb. This H-bomb's fireball alone was 3½ miles in diameter, with a total blast and heat effect extending more than 20 miles in all directions. The second H-bomb, which produced the marked phenomenon of all-out, was ten times as powerful as the first and equalled 20 million tons of TNT. If the first H-bomb dug a crater in the earth 175 feet deep and 1 mile wide, a bomb of the second type could blow the island of Manhattan out of existence.

JUST A "BABY"

But even this second bomb is just a "baby." For the U.S. is reported to have a bomb roughly estimated as equal to 45 million to 60 million tons of TNT. Such a bomb could blast off the map the whole city of New York and its thickly populated environs.



including Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken. The 15 million people in this blast area would not have to worry about any radioactive "fall-out." They'd be part of the fall-out. If the wind were blowing from the north, it would be the people of Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore and Washington, plus all points in between, who would have to seek shelter.

If you get warning in time and if you have such a place available, you might save yourself from radiation death by remaining two days in shelters under three feet of earth with air filters. Val Peterson, civil defense administrator, warns that this doesn't apply to people in target cities. "People in target cities must be evacuated or die." Unfortunately, Civil Defense has "not solved problem of getting people out of cities," reported the Scripps-Howard newspapers on Feb. 19.

PREPARE NEW TESTS

Why did the AEC choose this time to reveal what is already pretty widely known about the March 1, 1954, "baby" H-bomb?

One reason is suggested by Hanson W. Baldwin, the well-informed military analyst, in the Feb. 20 N.Y. Times: "The belated admission . . . coincided with the start of a series of atomic tests in Nevada and may have been intended to assure the American people that the Nevada tests represented only a very slight danger. The announcement, which emphasized the necessity for continued atomic experiments, may also have been intended to counter a strengthened sentiment . . . for the stoppage of all atomic and particularly hydrogen tests."

Thus, the very horror of the H-bomb is converted into a form of assurance that the "tiny" A-bombs won't contaminate the atmosphere, although leading geneticists warn that radiation is cumulative and may have dangerous effects on future generations. Moreover, it is not simply a matter of tests. The capitalist rulers, gone mad with fear in a severe crisis are perfectly capable of unleashing an H-bomb war and inviting the ruin of America, as Hitler brought down ruin on Germany and died himself in the ashes.

KENYA POLICE AND ARMY units continue their repressions against the Mau Mau. In a 24 hour period on Feb. 6, they rounded up more than a thousand "suspects" in Nanyuka, Kenya.

Unions Hear Shaw's Stand On Schools

**Demands War Funds
Go for School Needs**

DETROIT, Feb. 21 — Rita Shaw, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Regent in the April 4 election, opened her election campaign yesterday with a talk given at a membership meeting of De Soto Local 227 of the United Auto Workers.

Neither the Democrats nor Republicans can solve the chronic crisis in education, she said, because both parties of Big Business are committed to war preparations draining away the money of the people that should be used to build schools, pay decent wages to teachers and provide a full and free education to all children, regardless of their class or color.

"The first step must be the transfer of all military funds now being appropriated to the tune of more than 40 billion dollars a year to educational and social welfare uses," she said. "This step will not be taken until the labor movement, the pioneer in the fight for free education, supports it, demands it and fights for it. In the course of this struggle they will learn that the American people's social and economic needs cannot be served through either of the old parties and that they will have to form a party of their own — a Labor Party — to carry out their program."

The De Soto workers listened attentively to the presentation of the socialist program for education and applauded Mrs. Shaw's remarks.

Earlier in the week Frank Lovell, SWP candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented the party's program to a gathering of the Ideal Guidance Forum of Greater Detroit.



RITA SHAW

Don't Miss

The last installment of Brigitte Gerland's series on "My Life in Stalin's Prison Camps," will appear in the next issue of The Militant. This last article describes the historic strike of 250,000 prisoners at the forced labor camp in Vorkuta.

More Informers Confess Witch Hunt Built on Lies

Automation Even in Music



A 300-tube "robot orchestra" shown for first time to newsmen at RCA research center in Princeton, N. J. Electronic device can reproduce any tone made by human voice or musical instrument and synthesize a number of them to give effect of orchestra. This presents new worry to AFL musicians already plagued by job threat of recorded music.

STEEL MAGNATE SCOFFS AT AUTOMATION FEARS

By Myra Tanner

In his speech to the Johnstown, Pa., Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 11, Benjamin F. Fairless denounced fear of unemployment due to automation, expressed by Ruether and other union officials, as "vicious propaganda" and "just plain silly."

Fairless, of course, has no reason to worry about unemployment — from any cause. He heads the U.S. Steel Corporation that raked in a net income in 1954 of \$195,236,672. This neat little profit was pocketed despite a production cut-back of 20.9% over the previous year's output.

To the steel workers, reduced production meant lay-offs and short paychecks. With inflationary prices continuing, that meant real hardship for the steel workers last year.

Yet this Big Business executive can dismiss the concern of the unions with joblessness as "just plain silly." What are the facts about automation and unemployment?

The U.S. News, Feb. 18, reports that since 1947, industry has poured \$169 billion into new plants and equipment "partly to expand output, but always with a view, also, to saving on labor." The U.S. News admits that due to labor-saving machines between 1953 and 1954 alone 731,000 jobs were eliminated.

A Talk With A Young Rebel In Newark

By Farrell Dobbs
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

NEWARK, Feb. 12 — A short time ago I sat across the dinner table from a young worker, veteran and one-time "juvenile delinquent" who struck me as a symbol of rebellious American youth.

We had first met at a public forum where I spoke. His remarks there aroused in me vivid memories of the militant young truck drivers who fought pitched battles against the cops in the 1934 strike that made Minneapolis a union town. Like those young militants of an earlier day he thinks he has some rights and he wants to fight for them.

As we talked during our dinner I learned some of the story of his life, a tale that adds up to a summary indictment of capitalist society.

He was born into a working class family soon after the 1929 market crash. In the long depression that followed the father's earning power became crippled and the boy's childhood was blighted by the wants, hardships and humiliations so familiar to the poverty-stricken.

By the time he reached adolescence the country had entered World War II. The turbulent wartime atmosphere drew him like a magnet toward distant horizons, straining the home ties which had become weakened by the separation of his parents. This led him to strike out on his own at a still tender age, knocking about the country, bluffing his way into one job or another.

JOINS THE ARMY

Then one day he managed to join the army, despite the pimples and peach fuzz on his face, but was thrown out when they discovered he was only sixteen. Time later overcame that technicality and he again entered the armed forces. There a high polish was put on the rough and ready tactics he had picked up in crude form during his days as a boomer.

His subsequent return to civilian life coincided with the economic slump of the late forties. Jobs were scarce, especially those which paid fairly well and offered some future prospects to a young man. He fell in with other frustrated teen-agers in an escapade that put him behind bars on a theft charge.

Once his freedom was regained he tried for a scholarship in an effort to better prepare himself for employment. But his hopes were torpedoed because of the

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Reveal Govt. Officials Prepared Frame-Ups; Matusow Tells More

By George Lavan

More light was shed on the inner workings of the witch-hunt frame ups as Harvey Matusow continued to talk and still another government informer confessed that he had been lying on orders. The latest of the "I-spied-for-the-FBI" witnesses to spill the beans was Lowell Watson, a professional ex-Communist, a paid "expert witness" in witch-hunt cases.

Watson, on loan from the Department of Justice, was being used by the Federal Communications Commission as a witness in a hearing designed to take away the TV station license of Edward Lamb of Erie, Pa. Earlier in the hearings Watson had sworn that the TV station owner had contributed money to the Communist Party through him. Also that he had been introduced to Lamb in the Thirties by a high Communist Party functionary who had then described Lamb as "a member of the section committee of the Communist Party."

In his recantation Watson admitted that he had never in his life seen Lamb before the hearings and could identify him in the courtroom only because the government prosecutor had previously given him photographs of the accused and told him in what chair he would be seated. Watson described how the three FCC attorneys prepared him with "constant coaching, conditioning and misleading statements."

This confession of perjury blew the frame-up wide open. It came on the heels of the recantation of another professional witness, Mrs. Marie Natvig. She described how government attorneys had "coerced" her into linking Lamb with the Communist Party. It is now impossible, even for those whose sense of smell isn't too delicate, to ignore the stench of perjury surrounding the government's case.

MATUSOW TELLS MORE

While the witch-hunt house of lies in the Lamb case was collapsing, Harvey Matusow, one of



MATUSOW

the government's most celebrated paid informers was making more and more revelations.

This former favorite of Senator McCarthy, a star witness for the Department of Justice, House Un-American Activities Committee, etc., etc., ad nauseam, formerly belonged to the very elite of professional ex-Communists. Along with Louis Budenz, Paul Crouch, and Elizabeth Bentley he occupied one of the plushiest stalls in the government's stable of paid informers. And while he was given plenty of exercise he was maintained in a style befitting his high station.

Since deciding to make a clean breast of his perjuries, Matusow has found his former protectors and friends are now his worst enemies. Senators never used to bat an eye in the old days when he testified that he knew 10,000 Communist Party members by

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Workers Party Defies French Police Threats

An attempt by the French government to intimidate the French Trotskyist Party (PCI Section of the Fourth International) and its newspaper, La Verite (The Truth) into silence on the imperialist terror campaign being waged against the people of the French North African colonies has met with defiance.

The PCI and the newspaper La Verite are among the few voices in France exposing the Gestapo-like tortures being employed by the French police in Algeria against the nationalist party, the Movement for Democratic Liberties. Moreover, the French Trotskyists have raised the slogans "Let the people of Algeria and other North African colonies choose their own form of government," and "Withdraw the French Troops."

LA VERITE BANNED

The violations of the much-vaunted political liberty in France began last December with the banning of La Verite in Algeria, which legally is not a colony but a part of France. This was followed by the banning of a PCI sponsored rally in Paris on the Algerian events.

The police invasion of constitutional liberties continued with a sinister harassment of the PCI. In turn eight of its leaders and writers were haled before the Criminal Division of the Bureau of Police, which, under government orders, had begun an "investigation" of the PCI and its newspaper.

The authorities declared they

were looking into the Declaration of the Political Bureau of the PCI in Algeria, an article in La Verite by Daniel Renard, bearing as its title the words from the famous French Resistance song: "It is better to die standing than to live on your knees"; and another article by Renard on the trial of 96 Arab nationalists in Oudjda. At this frame-up trial the imperialists tried to hush up the fact that 14 Moroccan nationalists had perished from suffocation in the police station. Forty-five prisoners had been kept for 14 hours in an eight-by-five foot cell with the door closed.

Also under investigation is an article by J. Thiebaut denouncing the concentration of French troops in Algeria and demanding that French conscripts be brought home.

Pointing out that the PCI is a legal party in France and that freedom of the press is supposed to exist, the PCI Political Bureau demands that the police state the purpose of the interrogations. It further declares that the PCI and Verite will not desist in the defense of the North African people and their parties against the repressions of French imperialism and that henceforth no member of the PCI will respond to a summons to appear before the police investigators.

A Doctored TV Portrait of Trotsky's Assassin

By Joseph Hansen

The one-hour TV play on the Philco hour Feb. 20, purporting to be about the assassination of Leon Trotsky, had little resemblance to the truth. It was simply one more of the nauseating "anti-communist" productions that have become as stereotyped in American "art" and advertising as the horror comics and the singing commercial.

To utilize Trotsky for this purpose required striking at his character and what he stood for, in a way that made the title, "The Assassin," seem an appropriate label for the playwright, Bernard Wolfe, who was advertised in the announcements of the play as a former secretary of Leon Trotsky. Such recognition in today's witch-hunt atmosphere is sufficient evidence that the author has thoroughly satisfied his sponsors that he has absolutely nothing in common

with Trotsky's views, in fact is demonstrably opposed to them.

It is true that Wolfe was a secretary of Trotsky briefly in 1937, more than three years before Trotsky was killed. However, he proved quite unsatisfactory — "useless" was the kindest word I heard about him when I arrived in Coyoacan in September of that year to serve, with some interruptions, as a secretary to Trotsky until the day of his assassination. Upon returning to New York, Wolfe shortly began drifting away from the Trotskyist movement, eventually ending up as a renegade from Marxism. This, naturally, has not prevented a man of his character from publicizing his weeks in Trotsky's household as an inducement to read his literary efforts.

SEEDS ETC.

The main theme of his TV play is the old chestnut about com-

munist sowing the seeds of its own destruction. This, if we are to believe the declamations of the imaginary Mexican police official cooked up by Wolfe for drawing the moral lessons, is particularly clear in the case of Trotsky who was struck down by an agent of the secret police he himself helped to create, according to Wolfe.

This theme is developed through characters that are amoral monsters. Wolfe shows virtuosity in meeting the specifications of the capitalist propaganda code that requires "communists" to have amorality built into their nature.

Some actual facts about the murder of Trotsky are presented — such as that it was done by an agent of Stalin who called himself "Mornard," that he became the lover of a girl follower of Trotsky solely to gain entrance to the household, that he

used a pickaxe as the murder instrument, that he was downed by the guards, that Trotsky said not to kill him, etc. These facts, however, are included simply to make the main theme more plausible and therefore actually serve to foster a misrepresentation of the truth. Wolfe's fantasies are included with them as if they too were facts.

In its principal aim, the play successfully reaches the level perhaps best exemplified by "I Was an Agent for the FBI." Yet it makes major concessions to Stalinism. On some points it is even difficult to see how a script writer on the payroll of Stalin's secret political police would have handled the material differently under the circumstances.

WHAT IS STALINISM?

First of all, Wolfe's "Trotsky" is not permitted to answer the charge that he shared responsi-

bility for establishing Stalin's secret police. Yet nothing would have been easier for the real Trotsky. His life from 1922-23

on was devoted in great part to fighting the Stalinist counter-revolution epitomized in the murderous role of the GPU. He was struck down not by the revolution he helped lead but by a wing of the counter-revolution which he fought with all his mind and energy from youth on.

To have shown that truth, Wolfe would have had to introduce at least a sentence or two about the degeneration of the Soviet Union and the crushing of the workers democracy that existed under Lenin. That, of course, would have meant giving up his main thesis. Wolfe preferred to present Stalinism as the continuation of Leninism, a thesis the Stalinist counter-revolution promulgated from the

beginning as cover for its usurpation of power.

A PERSONAL FIGHT?

Next, Trotsky's struggle against Stalin is presented as an envenomed personal fight — once more a thesis maintained by the Stalinists. The writing of the biography of Stalin is depicted by Wolfe as Trotsky's main preoccupation, whereas actually he considered it an onerous task, assumed not from his own inclination but under pressing financial necessity, a task he continually put off because much more important and more interesting problems continually took his attention away. He even tried to get time off to write another book — one on the current world political scene — but the publishers refused, insisting he finish the work on Stalin.

Wolfe nevertheless has Trotsky

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The American Way of Life

Slaughter of the Innocents

John Sterling, a 15-year old Brooklyn schoolboy, was walking home late recently with a couple of teen-age friends. They were returning from a "Sweet Sixteen" party of a girl they knew and apparently they felt elated now that they were going to parties and all — leaving behind the estate of boyhood and standing on the threshold of young manhood. At any rate they were boisterous. "Singing and horsing around" is how the survivors describe it.

Their horsing around reached the point of kicking over some ash cans and the oldest of the group knocked one through a basement window of the house before which it stood. Someone in the building yelled at them and they started to run.

A taxi came down the street. In it was a young off-duty cop taking home a 16-year old girl from a date. He saw the boys running. Ordered the taxi driver to stop. His story is that he called out to the running boys to stop. He further claims that he then fired three shots in the air. His next claim is that he fired low — to hit their feet.

The result is that 15-year old John Sterling was killed almost instantly. The police and the district attorney's office praised the policeman for his prompt action. Not one word about the advisability of cops pursuing kids involved in mischief like window-breaking on foot or in a vehicle (the taxi, in this case) instead of shooting them.

The New York police force — referred to by the capitalist press as "the finest" — is notorious not only for its corruption and brutality, especially to Negroes and Puerto Ricans, but for its trigger-happy cops. The case of John Sterling isn't unique. Off-duty cops carry their guns and are eager to use them. Cases of cops drinking in bars, getting into arguments and drawing their guns occur fairly frequently. Most of them are hushed up but a few get reported in the daily press.

Traffic or accident arguments also afford off-duty cops an occasion for pulling their guns to overawe the other party. If they are hot-headed or drunk the result can be the killing of the other party. However, there is a solidarity between cops involved in such incidents and the whole police department, the district attorney's office and the judges. Naturally the cop always claims he was attacked by the other party and shot only as a last resort of self-defense.

During the recent Christmas holidays an off-duty New York policeman out driving with his wife shot and killed James Nicolli, a 22-year old sailor, who was home on Christmas leave. The cop's story is that the other car was cutting in and out of line and that he had stopped it to warn the occupants that they were driving dangerously.

Incidentally in this case and in the Sterling case the cops had female companions and one wonders to what extent the desire to show off leads to the pistol drawing. Other psychological factors enter the picture. Cops have a feeling of being above the law and practically immune to prosecution. They prefer to shoot rather than run after suspects because publicity and promotion await those who shoot down criminals "in the act."

Last month police shot and killed 16-year old Irving Lefkin of Brooklyn, allegedly breaking into a grocery store and stealing about \$25. The cops gave the usual story about a command to stop, firing into the air, and shooting after the escaping suspect only as a last resort. Medical examination of the dead boy, however, reveals that he was shot in the stomach.

By Fred Hart

... Informers Confess

(Continued from page 1) sight in New York alone, or that the Sunday section of the N.Y. Times had 126 Communists on its staff (the total staff of the Sunday Times is 90, so some would have had to belong twice). Now the Senators were snarling at him and telling reporters not to believe a word he said.

Ever since Matusow confessed to lying for the witch hunt, government agencies have moved against him. The Department of Justice tried to maneuver a New York grand jury to prevent his testifying on the appeal for a new trial of Smith Act victims. FBI agents have been visiting printers and binders engaged to

get out his book, "False Witness," with the result that they refuse to handle the job.

WITCH-HUNT EXPOSED

So far the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Internal Security Committee have pounded away at Matusow for hours on end. They have failed to shake his testimony. Instead the Senators only succeeded in bringing out more evidence embarrassing or incriminating themselves and further discrediting the witch hunt.

Many Senators are directly or indirectly obligated to him for smearing their political opponents in the 1952 elections. Thus Matusow revealed he got \$2,000 for campaign speeches in Washington and Montana.

Senator Watkins was hardly pleased as he had to sit and listen to Matusow describe how he had campaigned for him at the request of the late Senator McCarran. One part of the job is particularly interesting. The Mine, Mill and Smelter Union opposed Watkins' re-election. Matusow appeared before the McCarthy committee and falsely swore that the 1950 copper strike of the union had been called to sabotage production for the Korean War. Matusow's expenses for campaigning in Utah were paid by the Watkins campaign committee.

Matusow further declared that Louis Budenz, Paul Crouch, Elizabeth Bentley and Manning Johnson, the other stars in the government galaxy of professional witnesses, were liars — as he had been.

Regarding Bentley, he described a dinner with her at which she wept and complained that she was "sick of being used by committees." He quoted her as saying: "You're young. You can find a job. I can't. I have to continue doing this kind of work. I have to keep finding information to testify about."

Schools, Bombs and Politics

By Frank Lovell
SWP Candidate for Michigan
Supt. of Public Instruction

DETROIT — The extent of the national crisis in education is highlighted by the plight of the school system in Michigan, one of the leading states in the field of education. Michigan for example spends \$284 a year for every pupil; in Alabama they spend only \$112. Schools are better in Michigan. Yet 16.44% of them are rated unsatisfactory.

Fifty-three percent of the schools in this state are constructed of combustible materials; 53% of the buildings are more than 50 years old, and about 65% are more than 30 years old. Over 30,000 Michigan children went to schools with only outside toilets — and almost 5,000 to schools with no toilets at all.

Increase in the number of students in this state is 65,000 to 70,000 a year. This means that each year an additional 200 teachers must be found. This problem of finding teachers is complicated by the fact that nationally 6,500 of them leave the teaching profession every year. The great majority quit for these reasons: unsatisfactory working conditions, undue strain of ever-larger classes, low salaries.

The politicians in the State legislature, like their counterparts in Washington, are vying with one another in deploring this sorry situation. The incumbent Republican Superintendent of Public Instruction, Claire L. Taylor, has announced that Michigan

needs \$500,000 for an adequate educational program. Democratic Governor Williams raised the estimate and called for \$750 million to build new classrooms in the next five years.

WHY THE INTEREST?

The interest shown by the politicians in both the Republican and Democratic parties is partly the result of pressure from irate parents and parent-teachers associations and other organizations. The Democrats for their part are especially anxious to fix the whole responsibility onto the national Republican administration. And here in Michigan they are blaming the Republican legislature. The Democrats hope to make the crisis in education a major campaign issue in 1956.

But the real reason for genuine concern in both capitalist parties is their determination to use education to further this country's war aims. In Washington the Senator from Alabama, Lister Hill, observed with alarm that the Soviet Union is training more engineers and scientists every year than the U.S. Governor Williams echoes the same motivation in his school plans: "Education is the most important problem confronting our state... expansion is vital to the nation's growth and to success in the battle against communism."

Precisely because they are primarily concerned with the maintenance of a war machine these Big Business politicians are the greatest enemies of genuine education. They pretend to be the sponsors of an educational system but it turns out to be a system of militarization.

Some pertinent questions about the purpose of education today were raised recently by Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education. A report issued by this organization stated:

"The problems of our educational system cannot in these critical days be solved merely by more school buildings, more teachers, essential as these are. Critical questions about the ends and means of education, the functions of educational institutions, and the content of educational curricula need to be clarified and progress must be made in resolving them. These needs are everywhere and over more insistently being stated."

"How shall we educate for citizenship and for international understanding?"

"What can and should the schools do about education in values and human relations?"

"How can they contribute to a general understanding of the triumphs and dangers of modern science and to a development of the humanities to meet the dangers of materialism and the degradation of modern amusements?"

Such questions as these are ruled out in the educational schemes sponsored in Washington and in the state legislatures today. Yet these are the kinds of questions that point to what is wrong with education in America today.

The problem today is how can man master his own society? Why is it we live in the richest country in the world, a nation with the highest productive capacity yet achieved, with five

million presently unemployed, lacking proper food and clothing and housing, while the government is right now engaged in the business of destroying surplus grain?

Why is it in a nation of such abundance there is great poverty and ignorance? Why are the people faced with the grim alternative of war or unemployment? Why must the greatest scientific advances yet made by man serve to destroy man?

DESIGNED TO SUPPRESS

These are the overriding social questions that the people of this country must answer. The educational system should prepare the youth of the nation to cope with such vital questions as these. Yet the entire system of education is designed to suppress these questions and hide the answers to them.

The federal government spends \$40 billion annually for war preparations and cannot find even \$1 billion this year for rebuilding the school system. This is a measure of the relative importance the war machine and the schools have in the minds of the rulers of the U.S.

A fundamental improvement in the educational system can therefore not come from the powers that be. They will either allow the school system to rot and decay or try to fit education into the war machine. In opposition to the schools-for-war program of the Democratic and Republican parties, the Socialist Workers Party is campaigning for a giant education program financed with funds now earmarked for war. (Second in a series.)

\$15,000 Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Seattle	175	156	89
Detroit	750	520	69
Chicago	1,600	1,095	68
Philadelphia	400	258	65
Allentown	75	48	64
San Francisco	800	478	60
Boston	600	336	56
Newark	275	147.50	54
Cleveland	250	135	54
Milwaukee	250	125	50
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	550	46
New York	3,200	1,414	44
St. Louis	75	32.50	43
Los Angeles	3,000	1,174.33	39
Pittsburgh	150	55	37
Buffalo	1,600	525	33
Youngstown	200	50	25
Oakland	300	59	20
Akron	125	0	0
General	—	1	—
Total through Feb. 22	\$15,025	\$7,159.33	48

FUND CONTRIBUTORS TELL OF JOB MILITANT DOES

By Constance Farr
Campaign Manager

"Every time I write I want to say that the Militant is better than ever before — that it is absolutely 'first-class,' just what we want! It only goes to show that even

such a good paper can keep improving. Tell Farrell Dobbs that we can hardly wait for his next tour stop! His articles are excellent." Helen S., Minneapolis Fund Director sent us this heart-warming letter.

Another letter from a Militant reader says: "Workers in the trade unions are severely handicapped today when they want to express their indignation against the class-collaborationist policies of the union officials. Thus, they welcome the aid of The Militant, which explains the need for independent political action. In this way, The Militant acts as the voice of these workers, who are silenced by fear of the witch hunt."

The Militant is conducting a fund drive to raise \$15,000 to keep the paper going. Readers in many cities have pledged to raise this amount by March 31. Seattle has the lead for the second week, with 89% of its quota already in. Detroit reports that it is not difficult to get contributions for The Militant: "Most of the money being donated to the Press Fund for The Militant is given freely and quickly once it is asked for. We don't have to agitate or wheedle contributions. There is a simple

reason for this: Most people who read The Militant know that they NEED it, in the same way that they need tools when they work." The biggest upward leap this week percentage-wise was made by Buffalo. With a check for \$300, they brought their score from 14% to 33%. Chicago moved up to third place, Philadelphia to fourth.

Cleveland has also moved up one place this week. Their fund director, Jean Simon, writes that they are having a private Record Party for the benefit of our Press Fund. She has obtained a copy of "The Investigator," and has sent out invitations, quoting the N. Y. Times radio review column: "A 'bootleg' recording of a Canadian radio program burlesquing Senator Joseph R. McCarthy appeared yesterday in retail record stores. The disk may stir up quite a fuss on the radio, political and diplomatic fronts; it is certainly something to be heard."

Nine cities are ahead of schedule, or right on the 54% mark this week. The national total however, is lagging by six percent. But everyone is determined to reach our \$15,000 goal by the end of March.

... Automation Fears Scoffed

(Continued from page 1)

then will still be under 1953 production figures. Is U.S. Steel less efficient now than two years ago? Without the help of the government, 1954 would have been more like 1934. But government aid to Big Business is like a strong narcotic. The system requires ever greater doses. To prop up the economy the national budget already devotes about 65% for war production. The plain truth is that without a new war capitalist economy must collapse.

Only under a socialist planned economy can technological progress be a direct cause of expansion. Automation then would be hailed with joy instead of fear. Capitalist expansion takes place only when the profit incentive is first assured. Increased productivity of labor improves profit temporarily in the competitive struggle for markets. In the long run, however, it intensifies the very contradictions of the capitalist system which give rise to economic crisis.

But Fairless turns everything upside down. He contends that automation caused the production expansion. This is not so. Automation only makes expansion technically possible. Expansion itself has other causes.

ONLY FOR PROFIT

Under the capitalist method of production, expansion occurs only when the rate of profit on invested capital is sufficiently high to supply an incentive to the capitalist.

This was shown by the experience of the Thirties. Despite the high productivity of American labor production contracted. Millions were unemployed. It took World War II and government-guaranteed markets to make production expand. The capitalists had to be assured their profits before the American workers could be assured their jobs.

Since the end of World War II this pattern has been maintained primarily by huge armament expenditures. But other "aids" are used.

Take 1954, for example. The government increased profit by reducing corporation taxes. U.S. Steel enjoyed a \$583,656,421 tax cut. This boosted their profits considerably. Gifts like these induce expansion. Automation is only the technical means.

Last year production was more efficient, more mechanized than ever before — wasn't it? Then if greater efficiency causes expansion, why did U.S. Steel operate on a level 20.9% lower than the year before?

Fairless estimates (optimistically) that 1955 production will increase by 8%. Steel production

... A Doctored TV Portrait

(Continued from page 1)

eagerly taking the initiative in telling Mornard on first meeting him about the biography, as if he drew a spiteful pleasure from it. The article which Mornard wrote and used to distract Trotsky's attention while he raised the pickaxe from behind is "discussed," in Wolfe's play, by the assassin and the prospective victim as involving two points: the biography and Stalin's need to murder Trotsky. Actually the article, concocted by the GPU with the aim of attracting Trotsky's interest, dealt with issues involving a faction struggle of the time within the Socialist Workers Party.

It is true that many other superficial writers consider the struggle led by Stalin on the one hand and Trotsky on the other as simply personal. But that does not change the political fact that this interpretation conforms to Stalinist interests, particularly their frame-up charges against Trotsky in the infamous Moscow Trials of the Thirties.

WOLFE'S "TROTSKY"

Moreover, the character of "Trotsky" as presented by Wolfe has nothing to do with the real man, outside of such superficial things as his glasses, his goatee and mustache. Like the Stalinists, Wolfe presents Trotsky as a bombastic, theatrical poseur, and somewhat soft-headed to boot. Is Wolfe revenging himself on Trotsky for some slight, fancied or otherwise, that occurred in that brief period in 1937 which seems to have become a fixation in the author's emotional life?

The final death scene, in which the Mexican police official again conveniently draws the appropriate moral lesson of such importance to Wolfe, about Trotsky being the architect of his own destruction, and in which Trotsky responds with drivel about how "interesting" the topic would be for discussion, is, of course, pure "artistic" license. It is typical of the strokes used to cut Trotsky down to Wolfe's size.

Even the attitude of the Mexican government is misrepresented. In the TV play, the Mexican official indicates that Trotsky's exile is an imposition on Mexico. That was the way the Stalinists pictured it at the time. But the Cardenas administration not only put into practice its belief



LEON TROTSKY

in the right to political asylum, it extended every possible courtesy to its distinguished guest and there were no poisonous gibes from its official representatives as Wolfe makes out in a way insulting to the Mexican people but no doubt pleasing to the corporation that sponsored the TV show. Such are the lengths to which anti-Stalinism gone rabid carries Wolfe.

charge that "friends" of Trotsky, who have "long memories," will seek to kill the assassin if he is released.

THE ASSASSIN AS HERO

The hero of the play, if one can be said to exist in this concoction, is the assassin. This hardened professional hatchetman, who may have been the murderer of Robert Sheldon Harte and of Rudolf Klement as well as Trotsky — perhaps he is responsible for other victims as well — is pictured by Wolfe as a weak-willed believer in a better world who wants to crawl back into the "warm lap" of a "mother" capable of dashing her baby's brains out on Stalin's desk if the dictator wills. As the victim of "circumstances," and of such a mother, Mornard is built into a sympathetic protagonist by Wolfe. Today in prison, where the GPU killer enjoys extraordinary privileges not mentioned by Wolfe, he is imagined by the playwright as stricken by conscience and only seeking escape from it all and a peaceful haven.

This imaginary suffering figure fits in well with the popular image that the Kremlin's secret police have sought to construct of Trotsky's murderer in their efforts first to spring him from prison and then to get him paroled.

The climax is the inclusion by the TV commentator of the

... Talk With a Young Newark Rebel

(Continued from page 1)

mark against him on the police blotter as a "juvenile delinquent." That was deemed more important than the fact that his marks in earlier schooling had been consistently high.

Grown well beyond his years from these experiences, he settled down to earn a living as best he could, to relish whatever pleasures life might offer under his circumstances and to look among his acquaintances for kindred souls sharing his belief that some social changes ought to be made.

One such acquaintance took him to a Socialist Workers Party meeting a while back where Myra Tanner spoke. He also read "Socialism on Trial" by James P. Cannon. From these sources and through various conversations locally he became impressed with the SWP program and decided to attend future meetings to learn more about the party. It was on such a return visit that I met him.

Thanks to his knowledge gained from previous contact with the party, we were able to go quite a distance in our discussion. At the conclusion he told me, "What I have been looking for is a program that will help change things so that young people like me can get a decent break. I think I have found that in the SWP."

In our talk he described some

of his young friends who are also searching for fundamental answers to the acute social problems of the day. Among them are students from working class families who he described as "far from being light-minded young Jack Armstrongs who think college life is a lark." They know that earning a living is a tough business, he said, and they want to learn all they can that will make that task easier for them.

MARX "IMPROPER"

He related an incident where a student group flared up in open rebellion when the school administration tried to restrict the subject matter they might discuss. At issue was a book by Marx that one student had brought in for examination by the group. The administration held that such material would be an "improper" discussion topic. Although most of the students involved were obviously unfamiliar with the book in question, they were almost unanimous in insisting on their right to study Marx or any other writer they might choose.

My young dinner companion expressed a natural interest in trying to bring some of these students into contact with the SWP. In fact he had tried to get one or two of them to come to the meeting I addressed, but he was unable to do so for one reason or another. Nevertheless he

felt they would be interested in discussing the party program if some suitable arrangement could be made for that purpose.

It is important to him, to his young friends and to the party that such steps be taken. When an individual comes to the realization that a movement has something genuine to offer, his first instinct is to make that knowledge available to his friends and arouse their interest in the party. If he receives proper help in that effort some of his acquaintances may also be brought into the movement with him or soon after him.

Young people especially can be found sometimes in precisely this manner, who will be ahead of the masses in shedding their illusions about capitalism and becoming attracted to the program of the Socialist Workers Party.

From among these young workers and students will come a key section of the vanguard force necessary to shift the political compass toward socialism when the next wave of mass radicalization begins.

Desegregation of high schools in St. Louis, Mo., was completed the first week in Feb. as students signed up for the new term. An estimated 30% of St. Louis' secondary schools are Negro.

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The Guardian Calls for a Third Party

On Jan. 10, the National Guardian, Progressive Party weekly, issued "A call for independent political action" — a statement "for discussion by progressives." The call, signed by John T. McManus, proposes the holding of a caucus not later than Labor Day, 1955, to field a national ticket and state tickets in the 1956 elections.

"All the elements (for the kind of a separate party he wants) are at hand," says McManus. "Only the imagination seems to be lacking. Can we stir this imagination again, as we only began to stir it in 1948?"

What McManus is referring to is the Wallace campaign of that year. His proposal boils down to a repetition in 1956 of that miserable venture.

It seems highly unlikely that McManus' call will produce a new party. The Stalinists, who provide the main active core of the Progressive Party, are opposed to any separation from the Democratic Party, except for running token candidates here or there. In a series of articles in the Feb. 10, 11 and 14 Daily Worker, Adam Lapin once again lays down the Stalinist line: The Wallace venture was a fiasco. Working within the two party system has not fallen flat. It has just begun.

McManus' proposal has won enthusiastic support however, from the magazine, The American Socialist, published by a group of ex-Trotskyists looking for a political home. The editors are for it even though as they say, "We are fully cognizant that the party proposed in the Guardian call is not and cannot be a labor party." On the other hand,

they hail it because it is not a proposal for a Marxist party. "So far as the formation of a Marxist party is concerned," say these renegades from Marxism, "the time for that is not here yet."

Their description of the party proposed by McManus is accurate: It is not a labor party (that is, one based on the unions) and it is not a Marxist party. It is neither the body of independent working class political action nor its head. It doesn't have the virtue of assembling the working people in an independent political formation which a labor party even without a Marxist program would do. And it doesn't advance a correct revolutionary program.

What is it then? A small and motley collection of individuals preaching a mish-mash of confusion and false ideas. A pacifist opposition to war and fascism separated from the class struggle of the working people for socialism; praise for capitalist political swindlers like Roosevelt and Wallace; apologies for Stalinism — this is the propaganda such a party would spread.

We reject the McManus proposal. The kind of party he envisages can only be a road block to the genuine education of the working class. What will be needed in 1956 are candidates who take their stand on the Marxist program of the class struggle. Candidates who will patiently explain that only by building their own party armed with a socialist program can the working people achieve peace, freedom and abundance. That task of needed propaganda, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party will fulfill.

Now They're Singing A Different Tune

Members of the House of Representatives in Washington voted themselves a big pay increase of \$10,000 a year. This would boost their pay 66 2/3%. The U.S. Senate now, who's members are a little more modest, are considering a bill to raise salaries by 50%, from \$15,000 to \$22,500.

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon temporarily stalled the proposed Congressional and judicial pay increases when it came before the Senate. He claims members of Congress are "paid all they're worth."

In addition, Morse protested against a rumor circulated in the cloakroom that the bill would be passed without a record vote. Some Senators, it seems, not only want to fatten up their pocketbooks, but would like to do so anonymously as well.

But it is not too difficult to understand the embarrassment of the congressmen in this delicate matter. As capitalist politicians, these men and women like to consider themselves as great "patriots," ready and willing to sacrifice themselves to the common good as

servants of the people. Bickering over how many thousands of dollars they should receive each month for their "patriotism" tarnishes the glitter. It makes them resemble too closely Al Capp's Senator Phogboud.

But the biggest problem of all is not etiquette. There is a more ticklish issue. Every time some union asks for a small wage increase, rarely over 10%, to meet inflationary living costs, the capitalist politicians have raised their hands in horror.

"Once permit wages to go up, and prices must follow," they traditionally wail. "It's a vicious circle." And they end up by dishing out barrels of advice about "holding the line."

The only time they show concern about wages meeting higher living costs is when their own salaries are involved. Then suddenly their humaneness knows no bounds.

How will the problem of the "line" be resolved? Just give them time. These "representatives of the people" are really quite flexible. They will adjust and soon their oratory against wage increases will sound just as "sincere" as before.

When Is a Right Not a Right?

The corporations make a big issue of the "right to work" when a scab is stopped by a picket line. Or when a scissorbill refuses to join a union. Laws on the books in 17 states forbid the union shop on the spurious claim that it interferes with "the right to work," and Big Business works furiously away to extend this type of union-busting legislation throughout the nation.

But this is the only kind of "right to work" the capitalist class and its politicians are interested in. When it comes to a real right of workingmen and women to work, the employing class is less enthusiastic. A right to a guaranteed annual wage for instance, is not granted by capitalist spokesmen. Nor the right to hold a job regardless of political beliefs.

In the Feb. 22 N. Y. Post the liberal columnist Murray Kempton presents a roundup of cases in which individuals have been deprived of the right to earn a livelihood because of the way they thought.

There is the case of William Shonik, a Washington school teacher, who stood on his Constitutional right under the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions of the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was fired from his teaching post, then bought a second-hand music store, and applied for the necessary license as a piano tuner.

Last November the District of Columbia Court refused him his dealer's license on the theory that pleading the Fifth Amendment is

an indication of a substantial character defect. The District's Board of Appeals and Review is now studying Shonik's case. "We do not yet know," says Kempton, "whether a man has a constitutional right to tune pianos in the District of Columbia."

Then there is Doris Walker who was dismissed as a "Communist" by Cutter Laboratories in California. After union protest, an arbitrator found that she really had been fired for union activity. But the California courts upheld the employer, claiming that although this was not a defense plant, Cutter Laboratories "had an obligation . . . (which) grows out of the duties it owes generally to its customers, its dealers, its employees and its stockholders."

Then there is the case of 20 General Electric workers who last year pleaded the Fifth Amendment before Congressional Committees and were fired for that reason. The Federal Courts upheld the dismissals. "GE is deeply involved in the Chamber of Commerce's current . . . 'Right to Work' campaign," observes Kempton.

However, "the best case . . . concerns one John Lupa, who is not a Communist at all. Lupa has spent 14 years of his life in and out of the Army: until last April, he worked at the Army Ordnance plant in Detroit. He appears to have voted for Eisenhower in 1952; but he has a few friends among the Trotskyites. Last spring he was suspended from his job as a mechanic; his supervisor suggested that he go see the FBI.

"When he made that pilgrimage, special agent Fred McIntyre suggested that he get off the hook by joining the Trotskyites as an FBI spy. When he refused he was fired; the Detroit Security Board reinstated him; and he was fired again when his supervisors appealed to the Army Review Board in Washington. He is still unemployed.

"The Dept. of Justice has not even contested Lupa's claim that his troubles began because he refused to become an underground agent in a party whose distaste for the Soviet government is beyond argument. The right to work exists for everyone except Communists, suspected Communists and persons who exercise the right not to spy."

Their Morals and Ours

By LEON TROTSKY

All the "moralistic" arguments of anti-Marxists — from the hoary charge that Lenin and the Bolsheviks were "amoral" to the current accusation that the guiding Marxist maxim is that "the end justifies the means" — are answered in this classic work.

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Bandung and Bangkok

By Daniel Roberts

How to keep one-and-a-half billion Asian and African people in colonial bondage or drive them back to it — that is the major problem confronting the U.S. State Department today.

What brings the problem acutely to the fore for the U.S. government is the 30-nation Africa-Asia conference scheduled for the end of April in Bandung, Indonesia. Its sponsors are the so-called Colombo powers — India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon — whose prime-ministers originally met in April 1954 and issued a declaration condemning Western interference in the affairs of Asian nations.

THE UNINVITED

Representatives of these five nations met again last December to invite "all (African and Asian) countries with independent governments" to the conference next April. The Peking government was invited. So were North and South Viet Nam. But the U.S. controlled Chiang Kai-shek government in Formosa was excluded as was the Jim-Crow government of the Union of South Africa and North and South Korea.

According to Dana Adams Schmidt, writing in the Feb. 20 N. Y. Times, the Bandung conference "has been planned on the premise that Western, white man's colonialism or imperialism is the principal menace confronting Asia and Africa." The Asian countries thus flatly reject the principal propaganda lie of the U.S. government: that "Communism" is the danger the colonial peoples have to fear.

To date, besides the Colombo powers, the People's Republic of China, Japan and Egypt have agreed to attend the conference. In all likelihood all countries invited will come including representatives of Thailand, Pakistan and Turkey, whose governments are under the thumb of the U.S. State Department. The power of the colonial movement for national independence can be measured by the fact that Wall Street instead of preventing the attendance of its satellites prefers to use them to "bore from within."

It is expected that Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Chinese representative will seek acceptance of the five principles devised by Nehru and Chou-En-lai last summer. These include: "Respect for territorial



NEHRU

integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence."

ARAB NATIONS

Setting the tone for the Bandung conference is also the statement issued this week by Nehru and Egypt's Premier Nasser in Cairo. They agreed in condemning "military alliances and power entanglements which increase tension and rivalry in armaments." This was a verbal slap at the Turkey-Pakistan alliance which the U.S. Government seeks to enlarge by including other Arab nations.

Behind these declarations are the wishes of the Asian and African people who do not want to be used as cannon fodder by imperialist powers in a Wall Street instigated war against the Soviet bloc and China, a war that would also impose colonial slavery on them.

The only prospect the U.S. State Department holds out to these one-and-a-half billion people is precisely that kind of war. That is the meaning of the Southeast Asian Collective Defense Treaty conference that opened at Bangkok, Thailand on Feb. 23. The treaty powers are the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand — all dominant capitalist powers — with the puppet governments

of the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan tagging along. This is the organization in which Secretary of State Dulles wants eventually to enroll all Asian nations for war against the People's Republic of China.

It is true that at Bandung there will be no spokesmen for the worker and peasant masses of the 30 nations although they make up the great majority of the populations. The African and Asian nationalist movements will be represented by native capitalist politicians such as Nehru.

LIMITED AIMS

The capitalist class in these countries struggle against imperialism only for limited aims and launch repressions against genuine freedom fighters — the workers and peasants — in their own countries. As C. L. Sulzberger says in Feb. 16 N. Y. Times about Nehru, "He talks Left but acts Right."

Nor will the Stalinist bureaucrats representing China be genuinely concerned with helping colonial peoples in other lands achieve complete victory over imperialism. They will be more interested in using the unreliable "neutrality" of colonial capitalists as a buffer against U.S. war threats, than in aiding workers and peasants to liberate themselves.

Just the same, it is the tremendous groundswell of anti-imperialist sentiment among hundreds of millions of workers and peasants that is forcing the nationalist leaders in Asia and Africa to make anti-imperialist pronouncements. The Bandung conference will register that sentiment and strengthen it.

The American working people should hail the Bandung gathering on that account. For it points to the day when one-and-a-half billion Asian and African toilers will mobilize their forces through organizations genuinely representing their interests. They will then sweep forward to create workers and farmers governments that will end imperialist exploitation and tyrannical rule of home grown capitalists and landlords once and for all.

That day will see the war-making powers of the U.S. government in pursuit of Wall Street's profits severely weakened. It will strengthen and inspire the movement for labor's rule in the United States and world peace.

INTERNATIONAL POPULARITY? The Mexican authorities revealed, as U.S. Vice-president Nixon left their country, that they were releasing from prison all those who had been rounded up on the eve of Nixon's "goodwill" visit as a precautionary measure.

FIGHTING BETWEEN POLICE AND STRIKERS marked the attempt of workers in Sierra Leone, West African colony of Great Britain, to win an eleven-cent a day wage increase. Six strikers and one British police official were killed in Freetown, the capital. Crowds burnt down the police station in the East End of the city.

FOOD RIOTS have broken out in Tunis, capital of French-ruled Tunisia. The number of starving Arabs in Tunis has been estimated between 10,000 and 15,000. According to the N. Y. Times (Feb. 12) a possible 15% of the whole Tunisian working class is unemployed.

SUGGESTED SOLUTION FOR FORMOSA deadlock was offered by Harold Wilson, prominent figure in the Bevanite wing of the British Labor Party. He proposed that Chiang Kai-shek be "safely stowed away" on St. Helena, the remote South Atlantic island where Napoleon was exiled, and that the U.S. Seventh Fleet be sent there to guard him.

ANEURIN BEVAN, leader of the British Labor Party's left wing, defending the right of Jamaicans to immigrate to England, declared: "What we are dealing with is the arrival of people who stand in need of help from the welfare authorities and from the employment exchanges, first to look after them while they are searching for a home, and secondly to place them in suitable employment as soon as possible . . . We must make them at home amongst us and the best way to do so is to mix as much as possible and discourage segregation in separate communities."

THE MAYOR OF FLORENCE, ITALY, Prof. Giorgio La Pira, confiscated a bankrupt foundry and gave it to the workers, fixing an indemnity to be paid the owners at 300,000 lire monthly. A sit-down strike had been organized in protest against plans

to close the foundry. Most of the capitalist press criticized the mayor sharply for infringing on the rights of private property. Fears were expressed that his action would discourage foreign capital investment.

ISRAELI TAXI DRIVERS protested a new ordinance, barring them from picking up passengers on the main streets of Tel Aviv, by driving their cabs to the center of town, blocking the streets and then taking the wheels off their cabs. When police trucks attempted to drag away the cabs the drivers and their sympathizers began to boo. Fighting with the police broke out and many demonstrators were injured.

THE "FREE, DEMOCRATIC WORLD" chalked up another victory as 476,000 of the 500,000 registered voters in Cambodia voted in favor of the king's program. There were no secret ballots and all voting was in the presence of police and government officials.

THE JUNGLE WAR IN MALAYA costs British imperialism \$200 million annually. To repress an officially estimated 5,000 guerrilla-fighters the British are using 50,000 police, 35,000 troops and 175,000 home guards. Malayan rubber and tin bring the British Empire its richest dollar earnings.

PUERTO RICO'S GOVERNOR, Munoz Marin, reported Feb. 7 in his annual message to the legislature that "increased obstacles" have arisen to the goal of a \$2,000 income per family by 1960-70. He also pictured a time when Puerto Rico would assume some of the functions now exercised by the U.S. federal government. "I believe, of course," he said, "that there should be some changes in the future."

RUNAWAY INFLATION IN CHILE is leading to what the Feb. 3, N. Y. Times calls a "gloomy and dangerous picture." Official price index there showed a jump of 25% in 1952, 56.1% in 1953, and 71.15% in 1954. The labor minister Eduardo Yanez, has proposed a 60% wage increase to meet strike threats made by the coal miners. Only Government and industrial white collar workers are protected with cost-of-living wage adjustments.

My Life in Stalin's Prison Camps

How the Great Vorkuta Strike Was Prepared

By Brigitte Gerland

The idea of a mass strike of forced laborers was popularized in the camp by the Leninist students. No one could keep this idea from spreading, although it was more dangerous than a time-bomb.

Spontaneous strikes, even mutinies used to crop up everywhere, in one camp or another. These were simply episodic acts of desperation touched off by particularly bad material conditions. They were no more than flash fires which could be extinguished by isolating the more energetic leaders.

The Leninists knew that only a strike which embraced at least an entire forced-labor area, which was important economically, such as Vorkuta, stood any chance of success. And so, they undertook, systematically and patiently, to forge contacts between all the camps in the city of Vorkuta as well as the Vorkuta District itself.

CONTACTS ARE MADE

The problem of contacts did not present a major difficulty because the MVD (Secret police), anxious to head off any revolt, had prudently dispersed the "student troublemakers" throughout the entire area; so that in each camp there was at least one small group of three or four. It is also worth noting that prisoners in large numbers were constantly being shifted from one camp to another, as much for reasons of economy as for the sake of dispersing troublesome elements — all of this facilitated contact work.

In addition, the superintendents of work in the bigger construction yards, railroads and the like, could not avoid bringing together workers from different camps. This invariably furnished new opportunities for getting together, making future appointments, and even afforded the possibility for summing up the overall situation in detail.

A lively correspondence, in secret code, was carried on even with the smallest camps, situated on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, or deep in the tundras. Free laborers, who gladly seized the occasion to hit back at the bureaucracy, and even soldiers, served as couriers.

In this way, three years before the strike, the conditions

were prepared which were to make possible the organization of the strike with surprising rapidity considering that the 50 camps of the area are spread over hundreds of miles. The immediate problem, however, was not that of strike organization and strike tactics, but something more pressing: How to drive home to some 250,000 forced laborers that they could better their lot, and perhaps even gain their freedom, only by acting in concert, only by organizing a powerful action of solidarity?

For a long time this seemed virtually unattainable. The only firm supporters of the strike were to be found among the Blatni (Soviet outlaws) and the Monashki (Soviet religious sect). In 1949 the Leninists and the Blatni tried to organize a strike in one of Vorkuta's most important coal pits; but the strike met with no response among the mass of forced laborers, and therefore soon petered out. Several weeks later, the Minister of State Security ordered the political prisoners to be separated from the ordinary convicts; because, in the light of that first experience, he expected no good to result from the alliance between the Leninist students and the Blatni.

Vorkuta was made by decree an area of special "regime camps," and the vacancies left by the departure of ordinary prisoners were filled mainly by natives of the newly-constituted Soviet Republics of West Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

NATIONAL GROUPS

This shift did not help the oppositional movement, since the "national groups," as they were generally called, held aloof from any united fronts, not only with communists, but with any Russians whatsoever. A highly perplexing situation came about.

The deeply religious Monashki made a bloc with the Leninists and the atheistic anarchists, but they found it impossible to come to an understanding about their beliefs and their opposition to the MVD administration with the Orthodox Catholics from the Ukraine, for whom religion also is of paramount importance.

The Ukrainian nationalists not only displayed a total lack of political solidarity, but their blind zeal on the job acted greatly to aggravate living conditions in the camps. The Marxist students and

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." Six previous installments have already appeared. They may be obtained for ten cents each from the Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, New York.

The Monashki Christians had jointly elaborated, in considerable detail, the tactic for applying a program of passive resistance. This program was accepted by the mass of prisoners, virtually all of whom had ties, more or less close with one of the underground groups. Meanwhile, the "Zapadniki" (West Ukrainians, Latvians, etc.) did everything in their power to fulfill their work quotas.

They regarded as dangerous every attempt to organize passive resistance on a large scale, going so far as to reject it as a provocation, and they sabotaged it every way they could. This frequently led to bitter fights.

In each camp there thus hardened a Russian bloc, headed by the Marxists and the Monashki, as against a bloc of West Ukrainians and Baltic nationalities, led by their most influential guerrilla leaders. Depending on their political views or personal leanings, members of other nationalities adhered to either of these two groups, engaged in fierce, mutual rivalry. The bureaucracy derived much satisfaction from the situation, and spared no effort to sharpen the conflict. The Marxists and the Monashki made repeated attempts to bridge the gap to the other side; but it took years and exceptional events, before this bridge finally spanned the gap.

The struggle often took on acute forms, because, in everything that involved outside work, the central issue became solidarity in resisting the methods of unbridled exploitation. It was not just an ideological clash. The alternative was either to give in, to become degraded to the animal level of existence and to die a slow death, or to unite and to

organize constantly better ways of putting up a common resistance, not only to improve thereby daily living conditions, but also with a view to the coming revolutionary combat with the bureaucracy.

BRIGADE LEADERS

But how was the problem posed in practice? The prisoners had only one avenue of exerting any meaningful influence on working conditions, namely: By becoming leaders of brigades (work squads).

The forced laborers were hired out to nearby plants in brigades or squads of 30, on the average, and the brigade leader was responsible for assigning jobs, seeing that the work was done and the norms (work quotas) filled. In actual practice, his powers were much broader, because the free foreman seldom put in an appearance except to fill out the necessary papers, after the work was finished. How a brigade met its quotas was almost always left to the discretion of the brigade leader. He had to be ingenious enough to obtain 100% fulfillment — on paper. That sufficed. There was no other effective control.

Unfailing even the most indifferent foreman quickly learned that the Ukrainian brigade leaders obtained results far superior to the Russian and not with just pen and ink. Plant superintendents were likewise quick to ask only for the Zapadniki as work-squad leaders. The camp chiefs, among whom there was bitter rivalry, and who often found themselves unable to dispose of their workers, gave in to the foremen and the superintendents and began to select exclusively Ukrainian and Baltic brigade leaders.

This was vigorously opposed by the Russian prisoners, organized and unorganized alike. And it led to a miniature war which dragged on and on, quite costly in both time and forces; harmful to the growth of the resistance movement, but unavoidable.

A few months before Stalin died, this problem was unexpectedly solved. An MGB (Ministry of State Security) ukase instructed camp chiefs that at least 80% of the brigade leaders must be Russians, and no more than 20% "aliens" (Ukrainians, Balts and other nationalities). This measure was intended to appease the Russians who were the source of all

forms of resistance. Instead it served to strengthen the revolutionary elements. For, by complying, the camp chiefs had to appoint a large number of Marxist students and sympathizers as brigade leaders. This circumstance played a major role in the outbreak of the Vorkuta General Strike.

STALIN'S DEATH

But the decisive premises for the strike took shape with Stalin's death as the starting point. The despot's death brought with it no modification in the living conditions of the prisoners. Nevertheless, they did derive from it a great moral boost which manifested itself everywhere by stepped-up activity. Many prisoners nursed hopes of an early amnesty which, rumor had it, had been blocked all this while by Stalin. But this illusion burst like a bubble when early in May 1953, the highest MVD functionary at Vorkuta, General Derevyanko, announced that political prisoners should not count on amnesty, since their liberation would jeopardize state security.

This news came as a shock to all those who imagined that with the disappearance of Stalin would also go the terror of the Stalinist epoch. In this way even the most docile elements, who up till then had been straddling the fence, oriented toward energetic action. But action meant strike action; no other way of protest was available. And so, by the end of May 1953 committees for preparing the strike were set up in several places. To these committees Leninists, anarchists, Monashki, as well as unorganized elements were elected. For here, participation had been opened to those who were unaffiliated with any underground movement.

The Balto-Ukrainian groups, around whom had rallied all the anxiety-ridden, wavering or despairing elements during those decisive weeks, flatly rejected the very idea of a strike. "We shall be shot, and nothing more will come of it," they argued. "And why should we, like fools, allow ourselves to be wiped out at five minutes to twelve?" By these words they expressed their conviction that, now, with the last great "Bolshevik" dead, war was imminent.

(The final installment of the Gerland series will appear next week.)

The Negro Struggle

Real State of Integration in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Margaret J. Butcher is a Negro member of the Washington, D. C. Board of Education. There she has led a fight for full integration and against the gradualist and token features of the current desegregation program. Opponents of Dr. Butcher don't challenge her qualifications as an educational expert but have demanded her removal from the D. C. school board on the pretext that she is a paid worker for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and therefore biased. We print below an excerpt from a letter of Dr. Butcher to the N. Y. Herald Tribune (Feb. 14) discussing desegregation in Washington:

"... One of our formerly all-white high schools, in terms of neighborhood it is supposed to accommodate, should have nearly 400 colored students; there are roughly 200 there. One of the formerly all-colored high schools, as of the first semester, had either no white students, or, at best one. There should have been, in terms of zoning, nearly 200 white students here.

"The implications, to me, are that this proffers the process of integration, reflects reluctance on the part of the community to see its over-all value in terms of human experience, and worst of all suggests that the former Negro schools are not adequate. By not taking the decisive way now, we are building up future problems which should be self-evident in their nature.

"I am very much concerned, too, about persisting reports that in a number of cases white children have been transferred out of 'integrated' schools on the advice of psychiatrists who claim that integration was emotionally disturbing to these children.

"Not being a psychiatrist, nor being familiar with the 'cases' I cannot dispute the authenticity of the alleged diagnoses. But I am sure any thoughtful person will agree with me when I submit that it is indeed odd that in all the years Negro children were exposed to the humiliation of segregation, no psychiatrist ever saw fit to concern himself with their

emotional reactions, certainly not here in Washington, D. C.

"In a recent editorial, the editor of the Washington 'Afro-American' observed, in effect, that those prone to compliment the Washington school administration on its smoothly running desegregation program would do well to remember that the program itself is a very modest one. I think that, in terms of constructive and logical criticism, people everywhere must be kept aware of just this. In many areas of the country there is an almost universal conviction that integration is a completely accomplished fact here in the district.

"I do not think it is fair either to Washingtonians, or to the countless thinking and democratically minded people in the states who look to us for guidance, for us to do less than face and present the facts as they are. As cases in point: The statistician of the district school administration reported that only 65 Washington schools (40%) had a student body 2% or more integrated. The remaining schools were either 98% or more white; to date, no Negro has been assigned to an administrative post (such as that of principal or vice-principal) in any predominantly white school.

"As a further example, it must be emphasized that although the superintendent has promised to bring in a plan designed to revise his administrative staff, to date, the administrative officers are functioning in the main on the old racial lines. Even on the occasion of the recent mid-year promotions, board members, who traditionally preside in one capacity or another, at the graduation exercises, were assigned to the various schools on a strictly racial basis — that is, no Negro member was assigned to a school formerly of the white division; no white board member was assigned to a school formerly of the colored division.

"Although I am speaking explicitly of Washington, there is an underlying significance in these problems for any community whether it be in the process of, or preparing for, desegregation."

Picketing by Escalator

By Roy Gale

I left the subway and walked toward Pennsylvania station via the underground tunnel that the human moles in New York City use as connecting passageways from one means of transportation to another. As I climbed the stairs into the main waiting room a man handed me a leaflet. I glanced at it and started to shove it in my pocket. Then I stopped for a retake. In big black letters across the top of the leaflet it said: "DANGER RIDES THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILS."

I looked around. Hundreds of men all over the station were passing out the same leaflet. Marching men carried picket signs proclaiming: "PRR GAMBLES WITH YOUR SAFETY."

What's this? Danger on the rails, and I'm about to make a trip. I asked one of the pickets what the score was. "We are protesting the layoff of 12,000 men in the last 18 months," he said. "The company calls it a 'furlough' but if a man is out of work for anywhere from a year to 18 months that's no furlough, that's just plain out of work."

I asked him if the railroad were really dangerous as a result of the layoff. "Well," he said, "you figure it out for yourself. The 12,000 men they have laid off are maintenance men, the guys that inspect the cars and re-

pair them. Do you think they can do as good a job of inspection and repair with 12,000 less men?"

I had to admit that he had a point. "One of the ways they are cutting down on inspection crews," he told me, "is by inspecting only one side of the train on the turn-around in New York. In other words only one side of the train is safe."

Now this puts the passengers on the horns of a dilemma. To ride or not to ride. Of course for most of them it is out of the question even to think of going any other way. Then, it poses another question: Is it safer to ride on the side that has been inspected or the other side? And how do you find out which side has been inspected?

I took the bus.

The demonstrators were the delegates attending the regular convention of the Transport Workers Union of America, CIO. As I was leaving I saw one of the easiest picketing jobs ever. Two men carried their signs riding up and down the escalator. One of them told me that he wouldn't mind "walking" a picket line every day if it could be done in style like this. No cold bitter wind. No sore feet; just ride up and down. "But," he said, "the 12,000 laid-off men can't look for work on escalators."

Notes from the News

MRS. MORTON SOBELL and her five-year-old son, Mark, who had travelled from New York, arrived at the dock in San Francisco to board the ferry for Alcatraz. They carried with them a letter from the warden stating that Mrs. Sobell could bring her children to visit their father. This was an important concession because heretofore the children have been barred. Inside the prison the five-year old would be able to see his father through a small glass window and talk with him over a telephone. As the mother and child started to board the ferry, they were stopped and told the visit had been cancelled. Reason given was that Mrs. Sobell who proclaims that her husband was framed up in the atom-spy hysteria surrounding the Rosenberg trial, has engaged in too much publicity about her husband's imprisonment.

GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE will be a main demand of six railway unions representing 350,000 railroad shopmen in this year's contract negotiations, the AFL Railway Employees' Department has announced.

SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED in St. Agatha, Maine, to prevent a strike of the town's 17 teachers, who have not been paid in four months. The community is impoverished by a poor potato crop. Only 45% of the 1954 taxes were paid.

OTIS ELEVATOR CO. has succeeded in intimidating its workers into surrendering some of their hard-won union conditions. Otis threatened to close its plants in Yonkers, N. Y., and Harrison, N. J., unless the workers and city officials "cooperated" in cutting production and tax costs. Yonkers last year suffered heavily from runaway shops. Otis made no pretense that it was losing money. Its profits are quite high. Management took advantage of the workers' fear for their jobs. The concessions voted

by the members of IUE-CIO Local 453 in Yonkers have not been made public. It is known that they involve seniority, bonuses and standards. The vote of the production workers was 767 in favor of granting the company what it demanded to 346 against. Among the office employees the vote was 237 yes, 37 no.

THE COMMUNIST CONTROL ACT was described as "one of the worst pieces of legislation ever enacted by any parliamentary body," by Representative Abraham Multer (D-N. Y.), speaking before the New York Civil Liberties Union. When the law was jammed through congress last August only Multer and Usher Burdick (R-N. D.) voted against the measure. All the rest of the liberals, Humphrey, Lehman, Morse, etc., voted for this union-busting legislation.

ONLY 3% OF AMERICAN PEOPLE are completely insured against the economic effects of ill health, government figure show. This is despite the fact that about 100 million have some sort of health insurance. Rural areas are almost untouched by the private health insurance plans and only 25% of those earning \$2,500 yearly or less have any health coverage whatsoever. Last year the total medical bill for the American people was \$10 billion. Only 25% of it was paid for by health insurance. Eisenhower's "do little" health program, which is opposed by the American Medical Association and F. Business generally as "socialistic," proposes that the U.S. Treasury pay losses on private health insurance company policies — any profits to go, of course, to the private companies.

STRIKEBREAKING DOESN'T PAY! A private automobile replacing armored cars put out of service by a drivers' strike was robbed of \$27,000 on Feb. 2 in San Francisco.

VOLUME XIX

Smeared



DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER (left) ousted last year as chairman of General Advisory Council of AEC after he became target of McCarthy smear. McCARTHY charged "Communists" in government delayed U.S. H-bomb production 18 months.

THE MILITANT

Seattle Students Protest Ban Against Oppenheimer

By Frank Powers

SEATTLE, Feb. 19 — A broadside attack on academic freedom by President Henry Schmitz of the University of Washington touched off a spontaneous and inspiring protest movement by university students and faculty this week.

On Feb. 14, Schmitz banned lecture appearances by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, world famous atomic physicist and Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University, who was fired by the Eisenhower Ad-

ministration as a "security risk" last June. Schmitz vetoed plans of the Physics Department to present Dr. Oppenheimer as Walker-Ames speaker in a week-long series of lectures and seminars.

Students and faculty reacted immediately. On Feb. 15 a special meeting of the Organizations Assembly, composed of major student organizations, voted 47-0 with 6 abstentions to ask Schmitz to reconsider his decision.

The University of Washington Daily, campus newspaper, reported a strong flow of letters from students protesting the ban. On Thursday, the Daily reported that 29 out of 30 letters "vigorously protested Pres. Schmitz' stand on the issue."

On Thursday, a forum to discuss the decision called by the campus YMCA, Campus Veterans Organization Union Bay Village Club (married veterans community) and the campus chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, packed Guggenheim Hall with over 400 students. The meeting sent a delegation of 26 students to Olympia, where the state legislature is currently in session, to ask Governor Langlie and the legislators to help reverse the ban. They presented petitions bearing 1170 student signatures protesting Schmitz' stand.

The faculty also reacted strongly. Dr. Edwin A. Uehling, acting director of the Physics Department, announced that "all the professors in the ... Department were in favor of Oppenheimer's visit." Of 35 faculty members contacted at random by Daily reporters in several different University departments "not one ... would voice the opinion even 'off the record' that they were in favor of Dr. Schmitz' decision."

Uehling voiced the strongest protest, asserting that a stifled intellectual atmosphere would not produce good scientific research. "We will train students and their number will grow," he said. "But if present attitudes prevail, we are not likely to make important contributions to knowledge."

On Friday, a second meeting of the Organizations Assembly was held, and even though the reactionaries and witch-hunters had by then organized their forces, the previous decision of the body to protest Schmitz' decision was upheld by a 45-30 vote. The only explanation Schmitz gave for his ban was the claim that to bring Oppenheimer to the campus "at this time would not be in the best interests of the University."

"If the president and the Board of Regents," wrote a student, "had said that Dr. Oppenheimer isn't a good enough speaker or that he doesn't know enough about physics ... these would be reasons. As nothing like this has been said ... one can only deduce that Dr. Oppenheimer is undesirable for political reasons. And, one wonders, if he is not

acceptable 'at this time,' who will have to do what before he is?"

The protests forced Schmitz to explain his action in greater detail. "My decision not to invite Dr. Oppenheimer to lecture," he said on Feb. 16, "... was reached only after long and careful study of his governmental relationships. Having reached this decision, I do not plan to reconsider it. It does not have any bearing on Dr. Oppenheimer's capabilities as a physicist nor does it involve the question of academic freedom nor his right to express a viewpoint."

It certainly is true that Schmitz' decision has no bearing on the scientist's ability. But that it doesn't "involve ... academic freedom" is a lie. It was because of his initial opposition to making the H-bomb and alleged political views that the government declared Oppenheimer a "security risk" last year. When Schmitz based his own ban on the government's action what was he doing but curtailing Oppenheimer's right "to express a viewpoint?"

A graduate student scored this attack on freedom of speech in a letter to the campus editor. "How can educators reach such a state that they have forgotten that controversy is the growing edge of truth ... Truth is ... only ours as we ... freely tell it against other truths."

Not since the Canwell state legislative investigation committee conducted witch-hunting hearings against University professors in 1948 and 1949 — resulting in the dismissal of six faculty members — have the students in the huge Northwest university dared speak their minds. Fear has hung like a pall over the campus since those days.

But a new generation of students has entered the University. They found their search for knowledge stifled by an administration that seeks to confine their minds in a shell of conformity, and they finally rebelled.

The current student protest movement is all the more remarkable for its courage and defiance in view of the Velde Committee investigations in Seattle which last summer unleashed a wave of red-baiting hysteria.

As one student put it in a letter to the Daily, "I can't help feeling thrilled to realize that the decision ... did not slip by unchallenged. The many letters in yesterday's Daily demonstrated that at least a few students have withstood the anesthetizing environment at this University and are still able to stand up for principles our American Democracy supposedly holds true."

Schmitz' ban serves as a better course in politics than the Political Science department could offer in four years of class work. As they see the University restricting scientific knowledge for political reason many students are learning at first hand what the witch-hunt is all about.

TWU Gathering Debates AFL-CIO Merger Plan

By Tom Denver

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 — The ninth biennial convention of the Transport Workers Union (CIO) adjourned last Saturday after a one day extension. From its opening session last Monday the convention was marked by disagreement on a number of issues. These ranged from the pending CIO-AFL merger to the question of a wage increase for TWU president Michael Quill.

Most of the 500 delegates were workers from about 40 to 50 years old. There was a small representation of Negro and woman delegates.

BIG DEBATE

One day prior to the convention Quill reported "strong opposition" to the CIO-AFL merger among the delegates and this was manifest throughout the two-and-a-half day debate which followed his report at the opening session.

In his report Quill asked for guarantees that the fundamental concepts of the CIO not be sacrificed in order to effect a quick merger. In addition he wanted assurance that the new organization would agree on a "good fighting" organizational campaign; eliminate racial discrimination; provide guarantees against raiding; and, pledge itself to a program of independent political action including the possibility of forming a third party.

New York state CIO President Louis Hollander was on hand to address the convention. He "mildly" rebuked Quill for violating official CIO policy in raising the question of an independent party of labor. His speech was confused and full of contradictions.

First he said, "I believe we can force the reactionaries of both old parties to form their own third party. Then labor can sit down and rebuild one of the two remaining parties, supporting the liberals who stay on." He went on to say that in the

next ten years labor could organize 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 more workers and then "there will be no need for a labor party." His reasoning was that with all those members "every politician will come to you and ask you to join his party."

On the proposed CIO-AFL merger Hollander also took a position opposing Quill's. He pointed out that differences between the two unions should be ironed out after and not before the merger.

He then softened his attitude to inform Quill that he shouldn't be afraid to speak up. He said, "You have a lot of admirers who love you for it."

LEADERS DIFFER

At the Tuesday session the differences on merger reached into the top echelons of the TWU leadership. Secretary-Treasurer Gustav Faber introduced a resolution calling for merger first and the settlement of differences later. He was followed by guest-speaker Joe Curran, president of the National Maritime Union and a member of the CIO committee that signed the initial merger agreement in Miami two weeks ago.

Curran solidified himself with Faber's resolution and pointed out that the signed agreement was prepared "almost word for word" by the CIO.

When the vote on merger was taken Wednesday only 18 delegates supported the official CIO position. Quill took the floor to denounce CIO President Walter Reuther for trying to run the Transport Workers convention from Detroit. He then demanded that Reuther give up UAW presidency and devote full time to the merged unions "and not leave us to the wolves." The wolves Quill referred to are undoubtedly the larger AFL transport unions who might, Quill fears, swallow up the TWU in the event of merger.

CIO Vice-President John V. Riffe, who is also in danger of losing his position in the event of a merger, then spoke to the delegates. He took a stand close to that in the TWU resolution. He indicated, however, that the machinery for merger was already in motion regardless of what decisions were arrived at by the convention.

While there was considerable debate from the platform there was little active participation in the discussion from the floor by rank-and-file delegates.

The Philadelphia delegation put up a token resistance to the proposed dues increase and higher pay for Quill but finally went along with both proposals. Not long ago Quill was booed off a platform in Philadelphia for opposing contract demands of the rank-and-file transit workers in that city.

On the Civil Rights resolution which included a clause on desegregation there were a number of militant talks by Negro delegates. One said: "This (segregation) can't go on forever and I'm glad the Supreme Court recognized this. The Chinese people, the African people, the Indian people, the Japanese people — all these people are asking questions." Another of the delegates added: "We the people of organized labor are going to do the job (desegregation) and not the halls of congress."

FIGHT LAYOFFS

The Tuesday session adjourned early to allow the 500 delegates to participate in an impressive demonstration at the Pennsylvania Railroad station at the height of the rush hour. The demonstrators protested the lay-off of 12,000 inspection and maintenance workers of the TWU railroad division. They carried signs and distributed leaflets warning that the Pennsylvania Railroad's greed for profits was endangering the lives of passengers.

Trumbull Park Is Still an 'Armed Camp'

By Howard Mayhew

Delegates to the Chicago National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legislative Conference last Jan. 9 issued a statement charging that the State of Illinois is "one of the worst offenders" of civil rights.

The statement declared that the state law prohibiting racial discrimination is "virtually inoperative." It is "held in open contempt by the vast majority of publicly licensed business establishments throughout the state." "We finally charge," the statement said, "that it is the immediate responsibility of our duly elected representatives in the state government (to whom none of this information is unknown) to take cognizance of this dangerous state of affairs and provide appropriate penalties."

SIX POINT PROGRAM

To correct this situation the Chicago NAACP proposes to launch "a gigantic campaign for the passage of legislation to combat discrimination in Illinois." It has summed up its case in a six point program and has already won for it the support of more than 50 civic, community, church, labor and fraternal organizations. The points are:

(1) FEPC, equal job opportunities. (2) Banning of discrimination in hospitals. (3) Elimination of discrimination in housing, both private and public, and in

the granting of mortgage loans. (4) Banning discrimination in the issuance of insurance. (5) Strengthening and implementing laws on segregation and discrimination in schools. (6) Strengthening of civil rights statutes.

To further this program NAACP supporters were asked to "Let your legislators know that you want laws passed enacting the six point program." "Have organizations that you belong to endorse the program." And "designate official representatives to meet with the NAACP in planning and carrying on the campaign for the passage of the program."

The campaign reached a high point Feb. 5 at a mass meeting held at the DuSable High School. The call for the meeting requested every NAACP supporter to attend not only as a tribute to the late Charles Jenkins, fighter for civil rights, but also to show the government officials of Chicago and Illinois that "we are determined to end segregation and discrimination." The large auditorium was filled. A substantial section of the attendance was composed of CIO Packinghouse Union members who marched into the hall in a body.

KEY ISSUE

Although the Trumbull Park situation was not on the agenda it became a key issue. This was evidenced before the meeting when over 200 of those attending the meeting purchased copies

of the Socialist Workers Party pamphlet, "Racial Terror at Trumbull Park." It was shown again and again inside the hall by the discussion and questions around the issue.

The Trumbull Park federal housing project has been the scene of racist violence since Aug. 6, 1953. Organized mobs have conducted a reign of terror in an attempt to prevent Negroes from moving into the project. It is clear that powerful real estate and reactionary political groups are behind this activity. But the city officials have done nothing to stop it.

Frank Brown spoke during the question period as a representative of the besieged Trumbull Park families. He received loud applause when he demanded that something be done now to stop the continuing terror.

The most instructive part of the meeting centered around the candidates for mayor of Chicago. The incumbent Kennedy, dumped by the Democratic Party machine and hated throughout the Negro community for his failure to stop

the terror in Trumbull Park, did not attend. All three remaining major candidates were present and were introduced by Willoughby Abner, Chairman of the NAACP executive board and a leading figure in UAW and CIO circles.

It immediately became apparent that these candidates were not regarded by those attending the meeting as "their" representatives. Demands were made upon them to commit themselves on the program to end discrimination. They were being pressured in much the same way workers pressure management during negotiations.

DALEY DODGES

Richard J. Daley spoke first. He is the Democratic Party machine candidate, supported by the trade union leadership and the Stalinists. Half out of the hall in his rush to leave after a vague speech, he was called back by questions from the floor demanding to know where he stood on Trumbull Park. His answer was that he would support the constitution of the United States and the laws of the state of Illinois.

Adamowski, the independent Democratic candidate followed Daley. He ribbed those who advocated the "support to the constitution" solution for Jim Crow terror. But after deploring the situation at Trumbull Park, all he could suggest as his solution was "hours and hours" of dis-

cussion among community leaders.

Robert Merriam, the Democrat just turned Republican, told the meeting that Trumbull Park was a "non-partisan" issue. Without intending to Merriam hit on the heart of the matter. He correctly showed that the Democrats do no more than the Republicans about Jim Crow. Therefore, according to his lights, Jim Crow should be a non-partisan issue. There is some truth to this argument. As between the two capitalist parties the terror against the Negro people at Trumbull Park is a "non-partisan" issue — they bear equal responsibility for it.

But racial terror and discrimination is definitely a partisan issue for the labor and Negro movement. The three capitalist candidates for Mayor of Chicago can agree to bury this issue in "non-partisanship." Or they can expose each other's criminal responsibility for the outrage of Trumbull Park. In either case, experience is showing that the six-point legislative program of the NAACP will require the independent political action of the labor movement and the Negro community before it can achieve success.

For only \$1.25 you can get a one-year subscription to the Marxist quarterly, Fourth International, 116 University PL, New York 3, N. Y.

This Week's Taboo

Don't mention the restrictive covenant signed by Vice President Nixon in California to bar residence to Negroes and Mexicans while he makes his "good-will" tour of Latin America.