

N.Y. Official Hits Sobell Group's Right to Meet

By Myra Tanner Weiss

NEW YORK, April 16 — The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell on April 14 received the following telegram: "Please be advised that we have cancelled the dinner to be held by your committee at Tavern on the Green on April 21 stop letter follows." The telegram was sent by the private restaurant that leases its property from New York City Parks' Department, headed by Robert Moses.

In these few words the work of months of planning and organizing suddenly came to a sickening halt. Those who seek justice for Morton Sobell must also find the time and energy to fight for their own civil liberties.

The Sobell Committee is not unaccustomed to meeting opposition. Indeed every conceivable obstacle has been placed in the path of those who would defend the young scientist, serving a 30-year prison term on framed-up charges of

Score A-Tests



At the end of a long walk, delegations from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, arrive at United Nations headquarters, above, to seek that organization's support of their demand for a ban on nuclear tests.

(Continued on Page 3)

Detroit Takes 1st Place In Socialist Fund Drive

By Murry Weiss

APRIL 16 — At the half-way mark in the \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund drive, 41% of the total quota has been paid up by branches of the Socialist Workers Party, and all reports point to a stepped-up tempo in the remaining six weeks of the campaign.

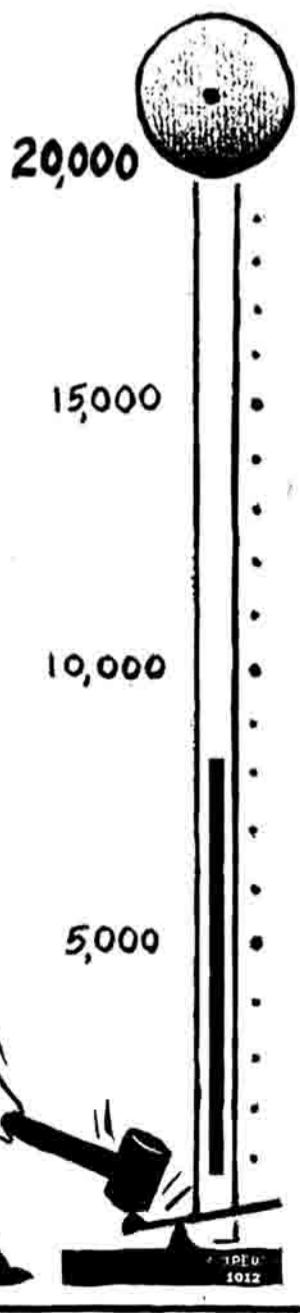
The Detroit branch has captured the lead with a 2% edge on Buffalo, which has been pacing the drive thus far.

Five branches are paid up on schedule or ahead of it, and all areas but one are on the active list of the scoreboard. (See Scoreboard page two.)

Most heartening is the substantial help that is coming in from many new and old friends and well-wishers of the party. Philadelphia Fund Director writes: "We visited a friend who has been an active radical for many years who told us 'the SWP can be proud of its record.' We thanked him and told him, 'now is the time to help us in our Socialist Expansion Fund and in the fight for a United Socialist Ticket.' He promised to give \$75 in three installments and plunked down \$25. More power to the Fund Drive!"

In the mail we received a contribution to the drive from a University of Chicago student who was interested in the famous Minneapolis truck drivers strike of 1934 which was led by members of the SWP. He had purchased a copy of Charles Walker's American City which tells the story of this strike, sent us a check for \$15 and asked that the remainder of \$12.50 be applied to the Expansion Fund.

Detroit reports that "the fund-raising dinner-social held here last Saturday night was the most successful affair of its type we have ever had" and sent in \$180 which put them in the lead. The branch is now concentrating on having two-thirds of its quota paid before May Day — the two-thirds mark in the



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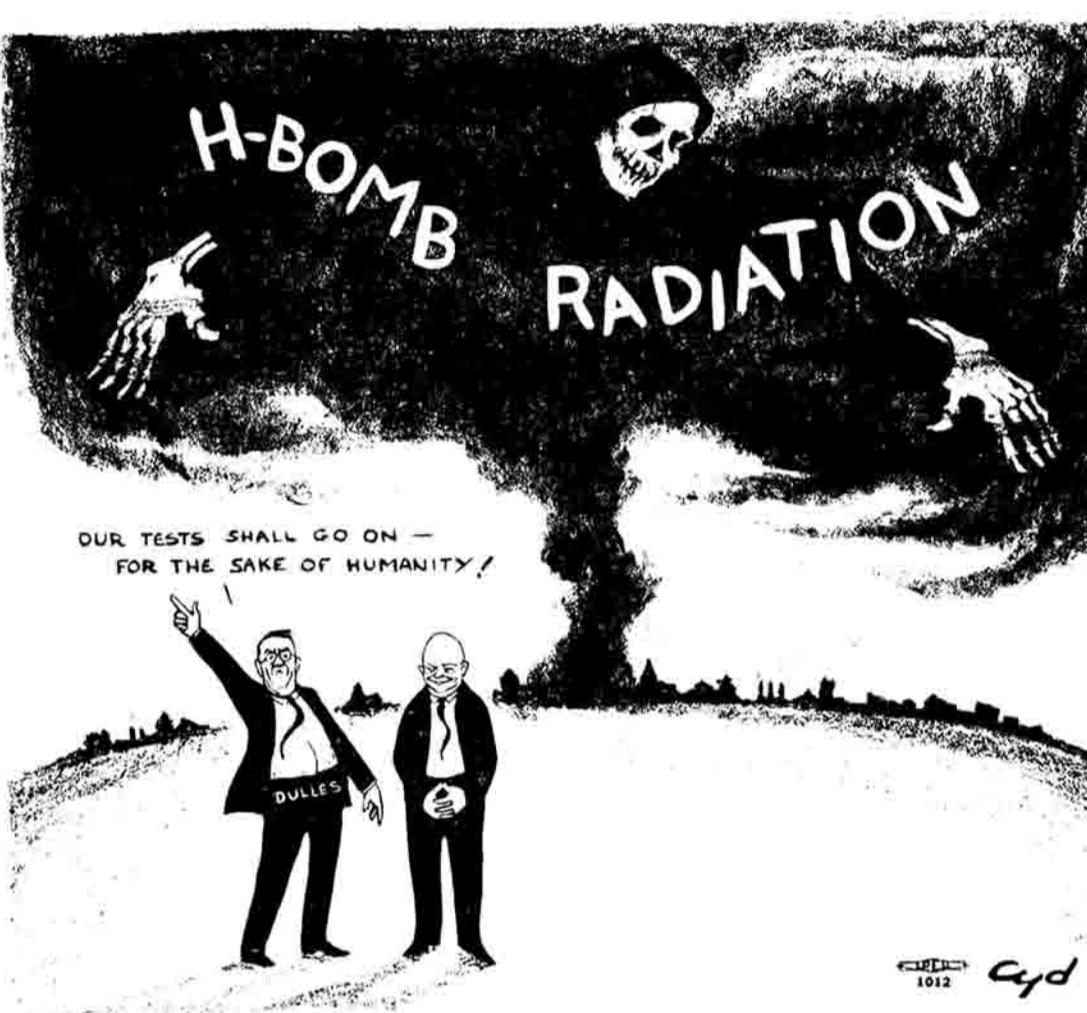
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ECONOMY IN WORST SLUMP SINCE 1945



News Item: After Soviet Union halted its nuclear tests, U.S. Secretary of State Dulles told a Washington press conference: "We decided we could not in fairness . . . to the American people, perhaps to humanity, desist in a program [U.S. H-bomb tests] which we believe to be sound . . ."

State Dept. and A-Tests

AN EDITORIAL

Always try to find a "good" reason to hide the real reason for a particular policy. This is a tested maxim of capitalist diplomacy. A case in point is Washington's last-ditch efforts to frustrate the world demand for a ban on nuclear tests. Two "good" reasons have been advanced for keeping the tests going. Both have been proven so fraudulent that they may be discarded.

Arguing against the Soviet offer of a monitored test ban, Washington has falsely claimed that such an agreement would be meaningless because nuclear bombs could be exploded without being detected.

To bolster the argument, scientific information to the contrary has been suppressed and falsified. (I. F. Stone's Weekly nailed the AEC on the claim that its underground nuclear shot in Nevada was detected only 250 miles away when actually it was recorded as far off as Alaska.)

The worst "good" reason for keeping the radioactive tests going is the one about developing a "clean" bomb—for the sake of "humanity," as the sanctimonious Secretary of State puts it.

This attempted propaganda swindle has been laughed out of court by serious scientific opinion from the outset. It's like trying to make an omelet without breaking

the egg, observed one top scientific analyst. Now the Christian Science Monitor reports that Washington may have to concede that "four or five years" more testing will not produce an absolutely "clean" bomb . . . Nuclear weapons won't come much cleaner."

With the "good" reasons being hammered to smithereens, the real reasons are beginning to leak out. They prove to be political, not scientific—and certainly not "humanitarian." Still intent on organizing an eventual war against the USSR, the rulers of America fear to yield on the tests because such a significant concession to world opinion will serve to deepen and extend the international anti-war movement.

"In the emotional climate created by an agreement on test suspensions, it would be difficult to explain and justify the opposition to a total ban on atomic weapons," explains a Washington dispatch in the April 13 N.Y. Times.

Yet if Washington continues to argue against a ban on grounds of "controls" or "clean" weapons, the report continues, "it will take a fearful beating before world opinion."

To this we can only add that Washington's difficulty is the anti-war movement's opportunity.

1,000 a Day Exhaust Benefits in Michigan; Unions Launch Actions

By John Thayer

APRIL 17 — Government figures released two days ago show that the present recession is the deepest since World War II, which pulled the capitalist economy out of the great depression. In March, total national production had dropped 17 index points or 11.7% below what it was in August when the recession began.

What this means to jobless workers, who have been getting lots of talk but little help from the politicians in Washington, may be seen in such figures as these: In Michigan 1,000 a day are being dropped from the unemployment insurance rolls because they have exhausted their benefits. In the week ending April 11 New York dropped 3,151 who had exhausted their benefits, a rise of 554 over those drawing their last check the previous week, making a total of 33,609 since the beginning of the year.

NO SPRING UPTURN

Now that spring is here all talk from the professional apologists for Big Business about a "spring upturn" has ceased. Predictions for a worsening in June are general and the business "experts" are now mumbling encouragement about an upturn at the end of the year or sometime in 1959.

Despite the acuteness of the present situation and the dim prospects, the leaders of both capitalist parties are displaying no haste to relieve the desperate plight of the millions of totally unemployed and those millions employed only part-time.

The unionists held a rally at the Civic Auditorium at which Democratic Governor Mennen Williams and State Republican Chairman L. D. Lindemer spoke. Lindemer blamed Michigan's jobless woes on Gov. Williams, while the latter blamed the recession on the Republican Administration. Lindemer referred to the auto companies as "the job-makers" and told his unemployed audience that American savings were at an all-time high and that the recession was largely psychological.

(Continued on Page 4)

Query on Bridges' Tax Case

April 14 — According to the East Bay Labor Journal, April 11, the Oakland Central Labor Council in California has asked the AFL-CIO to ask the Internal Revenue Service "just what is the significance for all labor unions" of its move to charge Harry Bridges an income tax on money raised for his defense against government persecution over the years.

The tax officials are demanding payment from three union officials on \$80,000 raised by the union for Bridges' defense. A motion to condemn the Internal Revenue Service for this new harassment of the Longshore official was introduced in the Oakland Council by an auto worker, Bill Kiezel, who said that the policy of the tax officials "could be used against any union." Steelworker Charles Wells argued that if a union defense could be taxed, money "raised to elect politicians to office should be taxed."

Trade with USSR—Key Plank in Jobs Program

By Harry Ring

One way to bolster the badly sagging American economy would be to enter into long-term trade agreements with the Soviet Union and People's Republic of China. Both countries are seeking industrial and farm machinery in amounts that could put a large number of unemployed workers in this country back on the job, and they have raw materials they can offer in exchange.

The Soviet Union has been pressing for some time for such a trade agreement with the capitalist world. At the UN's Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, April 10, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Akhakov proposed a meeting in the fall of European and U.S. trade officials to concentrate on an agreement for a long-term increase in East-West Trade.

Both the USSR and China function on the basis of a planned, nationalized economy. This means they are in a position to place substantial orders that can be reliably scheduled over a long period. The

fact that such planned economies have proven themselves free of the boom-depression cycle means that long-term credits to facilitate trade could be extended with far less risk than customarily.

U.S. trade agreements with the Soviet Union and China along the lines of the recent Soviet proposal would bolster the American economy at the point where it has been hardest hit. Four-fifths of the drop in non-agricultural employment in the past year has been in manufacturing, with the steepest job decline in durable goods.

Certainly it would be far better to get this key sector of the economy on an upturn by filling orders for things that people in other lands want and need, rather than trying to do it by reliance on an arms program that breeds inflation and war.

In a speech in New York, April 15, Soviet Ambassador Menshikov gave an extensive picture of the new markets such an agreement would open

up for U.S. factories. He said, the Soviet Union could offer important raw materials that would not compete with U.S. industries. Among these were manganese, iron ore, platinum, chromium, timber products and furs.

WANT SYNTHETICS

In return, he continued, the Soviet Union would be interested in buying metal cutting machine tools, forge and press equipment, railroad equipment, mining and power machinery, equipment for the iron, steel and chemical industries and equipment for the production of synthetic fibers and plastics used in making clothes.

In advancing its trade proposals, the Soviet government reflects the pressure of the working people of the Soviet Union who are pushing for an improvement in their conditions of life. The industrial tools being sought are essential to meet their demand for increased production of consumers' goods and higher living standards generally.

American workers certainly and farm machinery to modernize its economy.

While there are no available estimates as to the actual extent of renewed production in the U.S. such agreements would realize a significant indication is provided by the limited trade agreement just concluded between the Soviet Union and West Germany. It calls for the doubling of Soviet-German trade to \$300,000,000 a year by 1960. Needless to say this will be a strong stimulant to the German economy.

U.S. EMBARGO

What stands in the way of the extension of such agreement to the rest of Western Europe and to the United States? Primarily, the long-standing efforts of the Big Business government in Washington to thwart the economic development of the Soviet Union and the other non-capitalist countries. In the period of the cold war this veritable blockade has taken the form of an embargo by the U.S. and its economically dependent allies of allegedly "strategic" goods to the Soviet-bloc countries.

While the long list of such materials was reduced somewhat at the time of the Geneva summit meeting it still stands as a major barrier to free trade. For example, most of the commodities listed by Menshikov are on the U.S. embargo list. The extent of the U.S. boycott since the opening of the cold war is indicated by these figures: In 1948, before the "strategic-goods" embargo, U.S. exports to the Soviet Union were \$396,000,000. In 1956, they stood at \$11,233,000. Trade restrictions against China have been even more stringent. Labor pressure for a break with this economic policy will be progressive in every respect. Extensive East-West trade will ease cold-war tensions. And while it will not resolve the crisis of an outmoded capitalist system, it will provide unemployed American workers with the kind of jobs which, unlike armament production, would add to the wealth of mankind.

Khrushchev's Visit to Hungary

By George Lavan

The recent Hungarian tour of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev apparently had two principal objectives. First was an attempt to follow up the great wave of favorable world opinion produced by Soviet renunciation of nuclear tests with a demonstration which would help efface the world-wide condemnation of the Kremlin's suppression of the Hungarian Revolution. Second was the urgency of settling an embittered internal struggle which was threatening the stability of the puppet regime in Hungary.

If Khrushchev seriously entertained a third objective of charming or cajoling the Hungarian workers and peasants out of their bitterness over the smashing of their 1956 revolution, he was quickly disabused by the stubborn unresponsive ness of his audiences.

CSEPEL EPISODE

The visit's demonstration aspect was made clear by the Soviet ruler in his speech at "Red" Csepel, the great steel center ruled by workers' councils during the Revolution. "There are journalists from capitalist countries here," he announced. "They should honestly report what relations exist between Khrushchev and the workers of Csepel, who according to them would tear him to pieces if he appeared before them. Now they have seen what actually happened." Actually non-Soviet-bloc reporters only heard this statement over the loudspeakers at Csepel, for at this meeting they were not allowed into the hall. But they did see thousands of workers walking out the factory gates while the Soviet Premier was still orating.

Khrushchev well realizes what a liability the memory of Russian tanks shooting down Hungarian workers is to Soviet competition with the imperialists for the support of the world's masses. Although public opinion throughout the world increasingly puts the blame on Washington for the cold war, the Kremlin continues to stand under heavy popular censorship for its brutal course in Hungary.

How heavily this onus weighs on the Kremlin was illustrated in the recent, highly-publicized exchange of letters between Bertrand Russell, Khrushchev and Dulles in the British magazine, *New Statesman*. The only effective part of Dulles' letter was the section on Hungary. Because of this Khrushchev was impelled to send a second letter to the magazine attempting an answer on this point.

COUNTER-ISSUE

It is obvious that at a summit meeting, U.S. spokesmen will seek to distract from their unwillingness to settle the cold war by hypocritically raising Hungary as a counter-issue. To undercut this imperialist maneuver beforehand, Khrushchev decided to make the world's most recent memory about Hungary that of a lengthy visit and speaking tour there by the Soviet leaders. This would, moreover, be dramatic proof that Kremlin control in East Europe was solidly stabilized and the Hungarian workers reconciled to their defeat.

Besides appearances before factory, collective-farm and village-square audiences, Khrushchev and his two top Soviet companions, Koslov, the new First Deputy Premier, and Gromyko, new Foreign Minister, laid the line down to the embattled factions of the Hungarian bureaucracy. It was not a question of hearing the factions out and then making a decision. Khrushchev's decision was announced before he arrived in Hungary. Back in Moscow, Pravda printed a long



KHRUSHCHEV

article by Hungarian Communist Party leader Kadar, which served notice that he had won Khrushchev's support.

Khrushchev's conduct in Hungary intentionally made this clear to one and all. Kadar was his traveling mate and among the Hungarians got the lion's share of the Soviet leader's praise and attention. Contrariwise, Ferenc Muennich, who took the premiership away from Kadar three months ago, and Minister of State Gyorgy Marosan, leaders of the anti-Kadar faction, were kept in the background and given only perfunctory acclaim by the Kremlin leaders.

WANT MORE REPRESSIONS

This faction has the hard core of old Stalinist and Rakosi bureaucrats. They want a deepening rather than lessening of repressions against the sul len Hungarian workers. Kadar, on the other hand, stands for a policy which in comparison is described as "moderate."

It is not one of granting the Hungarian workers any rights or chance of self-organization, but of not worsening the situation by further repressions. In this way he hopes that, if the Hungarian people will not come to favor the regime, they will at least come to tolerate it.

For this reason Kadar proposed a show trial of Imre Nagy and other members of the kidnapped cabinet of October 1956, which the Muennich-Marosan faction was demanding. Significantly, in the jockeying for allies prior to Khrushchev's decision, Muennich went to confer with East German leader Ulbricht, one of the most unreconstructed Stalinists in East Europe. Kadar, on the weekend before Khrushchev's arrival, met with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia.

PASSIVE OPPOSITION

The Hungarian workers were cruelly beaten 17 months ago and hope for a speedy revival of their organizations and movement is utopian. Only a successful workers' struggle in another East European country or in the USSR itself could do that. But defeated though they are, the Hungarian workers carry on passive opposition. Evidence of this is the way they sat on their hands when Khrushchev spoke, or walked out if they could—as at Csepel. It comes also from the official Hungarian Radio which on Jan. 18, for example, complained of workers at a light-tool factory at Szekesfehervar forcing the local union organization "to change the election lists nine times" and that "former workers' councils members are on the lists of the majority of factories."

By James P. Cannon

America's Road to Socialism

Presented in simple, highly readable form, this pamphlet provides a searching analysis of the situation of contemporary American capitalism, the prospects for the socialist movement and a remarkable forecast of what Socialist America will look like.

79 pages

35 cents

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44 pages

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40 pages

25 cents

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Rising Against Cuba Dictator Aborts

By Lillian Kiezel

The general revolutionary strike against Cuban dictator Batista, which was called April 9 by Fidel Castro, leader of the rebel forces, proved abortive. The strike was successful in Santiago de Cuba in Oriente Province where the rebels have been strongest. But it failed in Havana. The general strike was supposed to climax the "all-out war" that Castro declared on April 5 to oust Batista.

In the last several months, the 26th of July Movement, organized by Castro in 1953, has grown and developed. Senor Castro has built a small army of about 2,000. He has gained the support of the student youth movement, which has been on strike for several months, and of sections of the Cuban middle class.

Why did the call for a revolutionary general strike fail? On April 15, the New York Times reported that unrealistic planning, poor coordination and shockingly inadequate communications were mainly responsible. Undoubtedly these factors are very important but they reflect the Castro movement's more serious weaknesses.

WORKERS DOUBTFUL

The key to the success of a general strike is with the working class. Whether or not the Cuban workers would support Castro remained a big question to the very day of the strike. On April 7, Homer Bigart reported to the N.Y. Times that "A drive through the poorer districts along the waterfront was uneventful. It is in these districts, largely Negro, that Senor Castro has needed much missionary work to convince the laborers that his revolt is not solely a middle-class affair.



Fidel Castro, center, and some of his supporters are shown above in rebel-held territory in the Sierra Maestra mountains of Cuba. In his early thirties, Castro has won the majority of Cuban youth for the struggle against Batista's bloody dictatorship. His program, however, is limited to democratic reforms.

Whether he has the support of these people is by no means certain."

The Cuban workers have certainly everything to gain by a struggle for democratic rights. But Castro's opportunism on the question of program has made the workers suspicious as to whether these rights can be won under his banner.

A couple of years ago Castro's program called for substantial social reforms. As recorded in the Nov. 30 Nation, some of the demands were as follows: nationalization of the electric and telephone trusts, coupled with a return to the public treasury of all taxes owed by the companies now operating these services, as well as of all illegally excessive income they have garnered through their rates; ownership of their land to be granted to all tenant farmers who occupy less than 170 acres; laborers and employees to be granted 30% of the profits of all industrial enterprises, mercantile and mining enterprises, sugar refineries, etc.

DROPS PROGRAM

Recently, Castro discarded this social program in an attempt to reassure the U.S. State Department. For it would be impossible to carry through a struggle for these demands

without infringing upon U.S. investments in Cuba.

In a Look magazine interview on Feb. 4, Castro in effect repudiated his former program by declaring, "Our 26th of July movement has never called for nationalization of foreign investments." "Nationalization," he held, "can never be as rewarding as the right kind of private investment, domestic and foreign, aimed at diversifying our economy."

In addition, Castro's rejection of the manifesto of the outlawed Partido Socialista Popular (Communist Party) on March 13 which proposed a coalition government might have been taken by many workers to mean that he was not seeking to broaden the basis of the anti-Batista fight. The Communist Party represents approximately 20,000 members out of a population of close to six million.

It is thus easy to understand why the workers who have been sold out in the past by figures as unprincipled as Castro should hesitate to support the 26th of July Movement until they find out exactly what it is fighting for.

U.S. STAKE

On the other hand, American Big Business and its international representative, the U.S. State Department, know what they want. They seek to protect the \$800 million that American capitalism has invested in Cuba. Involved are Cuban Electric Co., an American & Foreign Power subsidiary; Cuban Telephone Co., a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph; the Texas Co.; the Sinclair Oil Corporation at Santiago de Cuba; the tourist business (hotels, resorts, gambling casinos, etc.) and the sugar trusts which are the two largest industries in Cuba.

The New York Times and

several other Big-Business papers believed this could be achieved with Castro. They stressed the damage to U.S. investments as a result of rebel activities. This includes heavy withdrawals from the Chase Manhattan Bank and the First National Bank of Boston by nervous depositors who were afraid that the government might freeze private bank ac-

counts as a civil-war measure. In conclusion, the Wall Street Journal reports: "There is little doubt that many American businessmen here are pro-Batista. One puts it very succinctly: 'You can do business with Batista.' Although many admit he may not be the soul of honesty, they ask: 'What Cuban regime ever has been accused of honesty?'"

It would be a mistake to think that revolutionary prospects are dead. The Cuban workers will certainly even the score with the hated Batista, the puppet of American Big Business.

Every day they confront economic misery. They have no political rights. They feel the iron heel, and they will not rest.

Roberts Assails Anti-Labor Bias In the Schools

SAN FRANCISCO — The anti-labor bias generated in the public schools has been sharply assailed by Holland Roberts, independent socialist candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in California.

"How often does an unscrupulous employer say I could give you a job if it weren't for the unions?" And how many people who are the products of our schools believe this, and fall for so-called 'right-to-work' legislation?" he asked.

The only unionist contesting for this office in the June 3 primary, Roberts is a past president of the California Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

"Such plainly punitive legislation as 'right-to-work' would not even get off the ground if our educational system paid proper attention to the role of organized labor in our society," said the statement released by Roberts' Labor Committee.

"It is a deplorable fact," he continued, "that the role of the most important segment of our society is glossed over with a few mere history book references to historic strikes that had such an impact that they could not be totally ignored."

LABOR'S ROLE

"The most fundamental questions about labor organization and its aims and achievements go unanswered in our schools, and there is no effort of any kind made to reveal the role that organized labor has played in advancing American living standards. Modern students do not even know that it was organized labor that led and won the fight for their free public education.

"They come out of school with the idea that America was



DR. HOLLAND ROBERTS

built by the Carnegies, the Rockefellers, the Astors and Vanderbilts — plunder barons whose fortunes came out of the underpaid sweat of labor. They are misled into believing that they can make their own way without the mutual aid and protection of their fellow workers — and that is just what the modern plunder barons want them to believe . . .

"By omission of teaching," Roberts concluded, "they are taught to think and act against their own interests. If from this you conclude that our educational standards and ethics are set by, for and in the interests of big business, you are so very right."

St. Paul Union Official Runs for School Board

By Dorothy Schultz

ST. PAUL — The need for labor's independent political action has been raised in the St. Paul city election by a veteran trade unionist, Frank Chapman.

Running as a candidate for the school board, Mr. Chapman has challenged the coalition politics of the top union officialdom here. Joint slates supported by Citizen-Alliance organizations, civic groups, and the unions seek to gain the majority voice in school affairs.

Frank Chapman is vice-president of Operating Engineers Local 967. He has been a school custodian for over 30 years and an active union spokesman. Local 967 is the primary organizer of his campaign and has given him public endorsement.

It was his direct experience with the deterioration of union working conditions under the present school board which led Frank Chapman into the city campaign. He won nomination in the primaries and is now campaigning for the final election, April 29. His program calls for independent labor action, better working conditions for school employees, action to solve problems of racial minorities.

FINAL MEETING

The final meeting took place

in a large hedged-in field, to which access could be gained only through an opening just wide enough to admit three or four cows walking side by side . . .

And then it happened. What neither fatigue, nor the rigors of the weather, nor the gibes of the capitalist Press could achieve was accomplished by the leaders of the demonstration themselves.

Meanwhile, the growing working-class anti-bomb movement in Germany is serving as further inspiration to the British movement. The scope of the German movement is indicated in a report to the April 12 Newsletter by a recent visitor to West Germany.

"In the past eight weeks," says the report, "what started as a gesture by a group of German professors has turned into a national movement against Germany's possession of nuclear weapons in any form . . .

"Last September the most important aspect of German politics was reunification. Today this has receded into the background and demonstrations and calls for strikes to prevent Germany having the bomb are multiplying . . .

"Ollenhauer's [chairman of the Social Democratic Party] appeal to the trade unions to call a general strike shows how powerful is the rank-and-file pressure."

The final resolution was put, in an almost indecent hurry, to a thinning core of listeners numbering perhaps a quarter of those who had earlier thronged the field. The others had departed. But the last word will be theirs.

FUND SCOREBOARD

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
DETROIT	\$825	\$504.50	61
BUFFALO	1500	887.93	59
NEWARK	265	155.00	59
SOUTH	200	115.00	59
YOUNGSTOWN	300	150.00	50
Los Angeles	4600	1935.00	42
New York	5000	2131.70	42
Twin Cities	1742	733.50	42
Cleveland	750	304.10	40
Denver	40	16.00	40
Philadelphia	528	176.50	33
Chicago	1716	545.00	32
Boston	600	165.00	28
Milwaukee	300	83.00	28
St. Louis	80	20.00	25
Oakland	265	60.00	23
Seattle	550	125.00	23
Allentown	112	15.00	13
San Francisco	440	30.00	7
Pittsburgh	10	—	—
General	177	51.38	29
Totals through April 15	\$20,000	\$8,203.61	41

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Hungary, 1956: Which Definition?

"The revolution or counter-revolution — whatever you call it — has caused enough harm." These are the words of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev before an audience in Szolnok, a town in Hungary, as reported in an April 8 Reuters (British news agency) dispatch.

"Whatever you call it!" The world knows what Khrushchev and the other Kremlin bigwigs have called it — "a Horthyite fascist counter-revolution." Just last month Khrushchev, in his much-publicized letter to the British magazine New Statesman, wrote: "And the essence is that, in Hungary, the Horthy elements, agents of foreign big monopoly capital, tried to overthrow the people's democratic order, to restore the hated Fascist regime in the country. The handful of Fascist conspirators and imperialist agents were followed by a small section of misguided honest people."

But Khrushchev, who is an opportunist from way back, was on a speaking tour in Hungary. He was increasingly perturbed by the unresponsiveness of his audiences — not the bureaucrats who sat on the stage or in the front rows and applauded vigorously — but the mass of the audiences, the workers and peasants who had been turned out to attend the meetings. His famous demagogic act of pretending to be a simple, hearty, impetuous fellow failed completely to thaw them.

The line about the Hungarian Revolution being fascist, etc., fell with a dull thud because the workers in the audience knew that they themselves, in their workers' councils, had been the revolution — its rank-and-file and leadership. So Soviet boss Khrushchev tried to bridge the gap

New Outrage in Sobell Case

It's bad enough when political opponents of the parties in power are persecuted. But when those who seek justice for witch-hunt victims are also persecuted, the outrage is complete.

It is all too easy to demonstrate that the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell never got a fair trial in 1951. The very fact that they were convicted on the testimony of accomplice witnesses could only give people doubt about the verdict.

And when evidence was obtained that proved beyond a doubt that the accusers were lying in that trial, doubt gives way to horror that the Rosenbergs should have been executed and that Morton Sobell should be serving his eighth year of a 30-year sentence in prison.

True, new evidence obtained by the Sobell defenders after the trial has never been tested in court. But this was not the fault of those who sought justice. It was the fault of the courts, evidently deprived of their sense of objectivity by the witch-hunt pressure and fear.

But the right of Americans to appeal to the people for justice and to appeal to the President for Executive action is an inalienable right. The Tavern on the Green restaurant doesn't think so. But

separating the audience from him with the phrase: "The revolution or counter-revolution — whatever you call it."

Does it make any difference what you call it? A counter-revolution is an attempt to forcibly end the nationalized and planned economy, bring back the great landowners and industrialists and install fascists in political power. That pretty well describes the intentions of the U.S. State Department despite its claims to promote "liberation." But there is no record of anyone in the ranks of the Hungarian fighters calling for return to capitalist rule. On the contrary, the workers, intellectuals and students in the forefront of the fighting made it clear that they stood opposed to any such thing.

A revolution, on the other hand, is an attempt by the masses to overthrow a hated political system or, under capitalism, the social order as well. In Hungary the workers aimed at destroying the bureaucratic rule of Moscow's puppet regime and administering the nationalized and planned economy democratically. They held that democracy is essential in the building of socialism. The emergence and then dominant role of the workers' councils (or soviets, to use the Russian word) showed that in their political revolution the Hungarian workers were following the classic line of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

That's the difference between revolution and counter-revolution. And we submit that it makes all the difference in the world. For example, if you call it by its rightful name, revolution, then Khrushchev stands branded as a criminal against the working class for destroying the Hungarian rising with tanks, bombs and bullets.

The cancellation of the Sobell banquet by the Tavern on the Green at the urging of City Parks Administrator Robert Moses was an indecent act. We are glad that the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Workers Defense League and many prominent civil libertarians like Rev. A. J. Muste and Norman Thomas were shocked by it and moved to protest against it. They should be joined in their protest by every labor and radical organization in New York City.

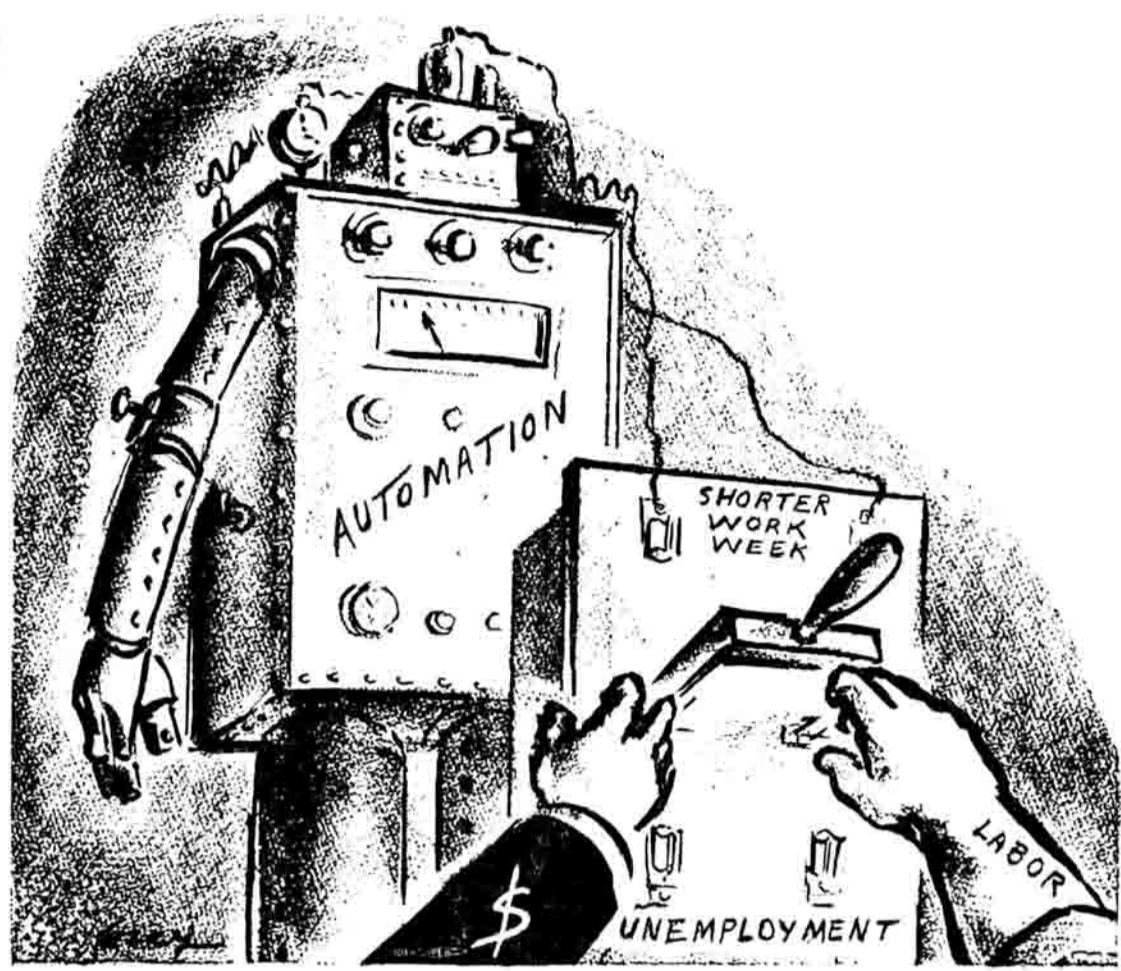
Seven years have passed since the "spy" trial in 1951. Five years have passed since the execution of the Rosenbergs. Yet calm, dispassionate consideration of the issues in that famous trial is still apparently impossible. Prominent public officials still think they can violate the most elementary democratic rights and get away with it. Their provocation will make many people begin to wonder just why so much effort is made to silence the voice of those who seek justice for Morton Sobell.

A dinner sponsored by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell is scheduled for April 21st at the Tavern on the Green.

"While we cannot order you to cancel the affair, we recom-

Wisdom from a Machine Named ELMER

Which Hand Will Pull the Switch?

Reprinted from the *Militant*, Dec. 13, 1954

"Sorry," the monster answered. "We're made by other machines."

"Well look," Joe cried in desperation, "they said the depression was over. They said now that war production was going full blast there wouldn't be any more depression. But if it's over, how come there's no more work for me?"

ELMER's little light blushed.

"I am sorry," he replied stiffly. "I do not have that information."

"Anyway," Joe shouted, running around the machine to look at it from all sides, "they still have to have somebody to set you up. Somebody's got to run you."

"No," said the monster with some compassion. "Do you see that opening back there? An engineer brings a blueprint (which has been drawn by my cousin in the office) and shoves it in there. Then I work. That's all there is to it."

"In some respects," Joe mumbled thoughtfully, "it wasn't

too different in my day."

"But I'm afraid your day is done," ELMER answered. "I am the coming thing, and you—if I may coin a phrase—man, you're gone!"

Joe stood there thinking as fast and furiously as ELMER was working. "Anyhow," he shouted suddenly, "even if you can produce, you can't buy anything!"

"I have no need to buy anything. All my needs are met by the company."

"But if you don't buy anything, the companies can't sell their products. And if everybody's unemployed and nobody can buy anything, there'll always be a depression, won't there? Won't there?"

ELMER's light blinked. "I am sorry . . ."

"After the 1929 depression we had jobs to come back to when they started war production. But now even a war can't put us all back to work, can it? Can it?"

ELMER's light glared. "I am

sorry, I do not have that information."

"And if there's never going to be full employment any more," Joe rushed on, getting more angry each moment, "and if the big companies are going to get automation machines like you, and workers like me and Tony and Lennie and Dick and Al and Hank and all the others get tossed out on the junk pile, what do you think we're going to do?"

ELMER's light stayed on, and the flat tone kept saying, "I am sorry," and all the rest of it.

"You know what we could do?" Joe repeated menacingly. "We could smash you up so easy! Just a monkey wrench in your gears, or a little emery dust . . . you job killer!"

"Wait! What good would that do?" ELMER asked in alarm. "Smash me, and the company will just get another ELMER to replace me. You can't turn back the clock. Besides, look what I can do. I can make it all to ELMER. He made me what I am today."

"SOMETHING OF VALUE"

In response to a movement among the white settlers to ban "Something of Value," the American-made movie about the Mau Mau movement in Kenya, the government of the British colony of Rhodesia in Africa has cut its showing to children or Africans.

Police-State Bill OK'd by Harriman

New York's Governor Averell Harriman signed a bill, April 11, extending the state's "Security Risk Law" for another year. This law is a flagrant violation of civil liberties. Passed in 1951 during the Korean War, the law was designed to circumvent the procedural safeguards of the Civil Service Law.

The Civil Service Law is specifically designed to prevent state and city officials from firing employees for political reasons. But under the bill extended by Harriman, officials can fire civil servants for a broad range of political beliefs, alleged or real, by accusing them of being "security risks."

HUNDREDS VICTIMIZED

Hundreds of state and city workers have been victimized, and civil service tenure and pension rights as well as union seniority provisions have been undermined under the "Security Risk Law." In the recent period, as the witch-hunt hysteria abated, the law has come in for widespread criticism. It is being challenged in the courts. The Republican-controlled state legislature passed the extension quietly, and the newspapers quietly reported the event.

A veto of the law would have been easy, even from the point of view of "practical" capitalist politics. But the liberal Democrat Harriman, who is running for re-election this fall and who is supposed to be "labor's friend," signed the bill, although civil liberties groups asked him not to allow it to become law. He thus revealed himself an active proponent of the witch-hunt and an enemy of civil liberties.

Harriman also signed a law last week which would disqualify from public office or employment anyone "who is or becomes a member of the Communist Party." As the Emergency Civil Liberties Union pointed out, this law is a bill of attainder and is in clear violation of the United States Constitution which specifically prohibits such bills.

...Attack Rights of Sobell Group

(Continued from Page 1)
it could not possibly do so at the late date.

MOSES LETTER

The Tavern on the Green explained that it had received a letter from the City Parks Administrator, Robert Moses. The text of this letter follows:

"A dinner sponsored by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell is scheduled for April 21st at the Tavern on the Green.

"While we cannot order you to cancel the affair, we recom-

themselves to voicing their opinions in Union Square.

Fortunately, quite a few New Yorkers are contesting Moses' dictatorial edict. The American Civil Liberties Union, the Workers Defense League and the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee have all protested the high-handed action of the Tavern on the Green and their bureaucratic mentor, Robert Moses. An injunction is now being sought by the Sobell Committee to prevent the restaurant from breaking its contract.

New York Post editors wrote,

April 16, "Parks commissioner Moses, accomplished letter writer as well as city planner, has arrogantly overstepped the proper limits in both fields. As a sort of Minister of Landscapes he apparently believes that his responsibility includes not only what grows in the parks but also what is said in them. So he has written a letter which has in effect banished free speech from large areas of the city's parks . . ."

The Post editorial concluded with the appropriate question: "Mayor Wagner has often paid his rhetorical respects to the

Bill of Rights. The question now is whether he is prepared to let Bob Moses rewrite the document."

Both Norman Thomas, well-known civil libertarian and A. J. Muste, Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, issued protests against the action of Robert Moses and the Tavern on the Green. In answer to Moses' suggestion that the Sobell Committee use Union Square, Norman Thomas cited "the old American exhortation, 'Go Hire a Hall.' This they tried to do," said Thomas, "and were rebuffed."

Alcatraz Ex-Chaplain Tells Press Why He Believes Sobell Innocent

By Myra Tanner Weiss

NEW YORK, April 17 — Today I went to the Manhattan Hotel for a press conference called by the Sobell Committee for the former Protestant Chaplain of Alcatraz, Rev. Peter McCormack of San Francisco. He arrived in town last night to serve as the principal speaker at the banquet scheduled for this coming Monday, April 21, at the Tavern on the Green. Tomorrow morning the Sobell Committee will seek an injunction in court to prevent that restaurant from cancelling its contract.

I was pleased to see representatives of the dailies present. Reporters from the Associated Press, the N.Y. Times and the N.Y. Post were there. For too many years the capitalist papers have been either silent or have reported only the government's side of the Sobell case.

This time they would listen to a man who knew Morton Sobell well, who talked with him often during his long stay in Alcatraz, and who became convinced of his innocence.

DISMISSED FROM POST

Rev. McCormack is now 73 years old. He speaks with a soft Scottish accent. He came to this country in 1925, five years after he was ordained a minister in Canada. In 1955, after his retirement, church authorities asked him to take the Alcatraz assignment.

"Before you met Sobell in Alcatraz," a reporter asked, "did you have any opinion on the fairness of his trial?"

"Yes," Rev. McCormack replied. "I had read the book by the Chicago law professor, Malcolm Sharp, and I was impressed with his arguments. I had doubt about Sobell's guilt."

"And what was your opinion after you got to know the prisoner?"

"I found it impossible to associate the man with the charges that had been made against him," Rev. McCormack replied.

"Did you discuss the case or the trial with Sobell during your visits with him?"

"No," McCormack replied. "We discussed philosophy, natural science and theology. Mr. Sobell is a very cultured man, a man of high intelligence. Our discussions generally began with whatever points I had made in the service."

OUTSTANDING MAN

"And how did you come to feel about Sobell as a man?" a reporter asked.

Rev. McCormack answered this question with evident

warmth in his voice. "Morton Sobell is an outstanding man in every way. He is an honorable man; sincere and devoted to his family."

At this point we heard the sound of muffled sobs. I didn't look around for I knew they came from Morton's mother, Rose Sobell. And I also knew why I heard her cry for the first time.

When one is steeled for the avalanche of hate that one meets in a long struggle like this one, there is never any danger of tears. But to be steeled for hate and suddenly encounter human warmth and sympathy is a disarming experience. Even a woman with Rose Sobell's courage can be caught off balance at such a moment.

There was only a moment's pause. Then Rev. McCormack continued to tell us about Sobell. "I never heard one word of bitterness from this man. When he received the news that the Supreme Court had refused to look at the new evidence obtained by the Sobell Committee, I saw that he was depressed. But only for a short time."

"He feels no bitterness about what happened to him," Rev. McCormack told us. "But he is crushed by the separation from his family. He is utterly devoted to them. But he has never despaired of justice. He knows the truth will triumph."

Reporters for the International Smorgasbord Dinner — 7 P.M. — \$2 (In the spirit of May Day)

Meeting only — 8 P.M. — \$1

Algonquin 5-7852.

Local Directory

BOSTON

Workers Educational Center, Gainsborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave.

BUFFALO

Militant Forum, 831 Main St.

CHICAGO

Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9738.

CLEVELAND

Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818.

Open Friday nights 7 to 9.

DETROIT

Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.

LOS ANGELES

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MILWAUKEE

150 East Junius Ave.

Buy! It's Loyal Thing to Do

By George Lavan

Working only part time? Completely unemployed? Your unemployment compensation already run out? Don't let worry about the recession get you down. Now is the time to be of good cheer. Help is on the way. Some of private enterprise's biggest brains are galloping to the rescue.

This happy communiqué is the lead story in the April 14 Wall Street Journal under the headline: "Buy and Be Happy — Operation Optimism Is Launched to Open the Consumer's Pocketbook."

As Eisenhower said to his press conference, the one way for the American people to put a quick end to this recession is — "to buy." If only people would start buying like crazy, soon there would be an acute shortage of goods and then the factories would reopen. It's just that simple — and the free-enterprise experts are raring to go.

In Waukesha, Wisc., radio and TV programs end with the slogan "Business is Good! Keep Waukesha Business Healthy! Buy Now!" Listeners to WVHJ in Essex, N. J., hear "Buy Now, The Job You Save May Be Your Own." These are but two shots in the powerful anti-recession offensive being mounted in every part of the U.S.A. under such code names as, "Operation Optimism," "Keep Detroit Dynamic," "Crusade for Confidence," "Values for Volume," "Buy and Be Happy," "OK Ike," and (POPS) "Power of Positive Selling." As any fool can plainly see from the names themselves, the battle is as good as won.

GENIUSES GET TOGETHER

Such combined operations cannot, of course, be easily coordinated because of the clash that the proximity of so many brilliant minds naturally generates. Thus in the Cleveland salient an epic struggle took place on the staff level between proponents of "Values for Volume" and the champions of the no less scintillating "Values for Victory." What a tribute to the team spirit of all involved was the breath-taking compromise solution, "Values for You, Vitality for Cleveland"!

Crying this inspiring watchword like the "Excelsior" of Longfellow's mountain-climbing youth, Cleveland's "V" boys are about to launch a month-long "Buy Now" campaign. A "Miss Prosperity" will be elected queen to reign over parades and rallies. The city fathers have already agreed to rename Euclid Avenue, the main drag, "Value Avenue" for the month and are pondering changing Cleveland's name to "Valuetown, U.S.A."

Lest any reader hastily conclude that anti-recession know-how is confined to Cleveland, here is a sampling of equally effective devices from other parts of the land. A New Jersey tire store pulls in wavers with "Buy, Buy, Buy, It's Your Patriotic Duty!" Dallas

will soon be revived by billboards, bumper stickers, store signs, newspaper ads and radio-TV announcements of "Think Up! Think Prosperity! — Have Prosperity!" Advance Guard Dallas Businessmen are up forward in skirmishing formation with breast-pocket handkerchiefs bearing in blue letters the trenchant phrase: "Business is GREAT."

MADISON AVE. IN THERE TOO

That's how it is at the front, but back at General Headquarters, the master strategists aren't napping either. On New York's Madison Avenue, the Advertising Council has begun a "Confidence in a Growing America" campaign, which already can dispose of \$10 to \$15 million worth of time and space. One of its top advisors, C. G. Mortimer, president of General Foods, who by this statement alone shows that he has a brain like a sharp pin, declares: "I do not think it an exaggeration to say that recession begins and ends in the minds of men." It takes a grocery giant to comprehend that food purchasing is basically a psychological activity. When people have confidence they buy lots of food, when they lose confidence they stop buying it.

The American Management Association has called a mass meeting of 1,800 key executives for May 19 to whip the recession. H. A. Bullis, chairman of General Mills, admits he hasn't finished preparing his speech for it yet, but adds without fear of contradiction: "Whatever I say will be optimistic."

Every war, however, has its fifth columnists and defeatists. Already un-American elements are spreading their gloom-and-doom sabotage. They should be ruthlessly extirpated. The Wall Street Journal cites one such type, a "hard-hit" Detroit retailer, probably in the pay of Moscow, who snivellingly says: "After a certain point there's nothing you can do. You tell them to buy, but they haven't any money."

Somewhat more delicate is the problem now vexing New York's Fifth Avenue merchants. They are protesting against the annual Loyalty Day parade, which falling on Saturday this year might block some shoppers from free access to the stores. This is a deplorable splitting of the ranks of the defenders of free enterprise and the merchants are short sighted when they say, "Keep these loyalty bums off Fifth Avenue." Surely a compromise can be worked out. Why not route the parade — not down Fifth Avenue — but through the stores on Fifth Avenue? Halts could be called frequently and the parades subjected to the "Buy, Buy, Buy, It's Your Patriotic Duty!" slogans.

Of course, considering the character of the clientele it might be wise to double the number of store detectives.

IRISH REVOLUTION VET. FIGHTS N.Y. WITCH-HUNT

By William Bundy

NEW YORK. April 11—When Patrick Hehir finished speaking tonight at the Militant Labor Forum, the audience knew in human terms, the effects of the New York State "Security Risk" law. Hehir is one of the law's many victims in the New York Civil Service.

Before he was fired in 1955, Hehir had worked 29 years on the IRT division of the city's subways. He was one of those immigrant Irish revolutionists, so many of whom worked on the IRT, who formed the backbone of the Transport Workers Union in the militant organizing days of the 1930's.

As might have been expected, Hehir began his story by telling of his youth in Ireland, where he was a union railroad worker and had fought with the Irish Republican Army throughout the war for independence and the civil war which followed.

7-DAY WORK WEEK

Hehir went to work on the IRT in 1926, one year after coming to the United States. He participated in union organizing attempts throughout the late 1920's and 1930's. "We worked seven nights a week, with one night off a month; no sick leave, no holidays, no vacation," he said. "Those were the conditions until the TWU was organized. I joined it in 1936 and got the first TWU card in the Towermen's section. We were constantly worried about beakies [company spotters] and stool pigeons, who caused many TWU members, including Mike Quill, to leave

TWU president], to be fired in the early days.

"I served as secretary of the Towermen's section until 1938 when I broke down with TB, caused in part — the doctors told me — by long hours in the subways. I had seven ribs removed and a lung collapsed. I returned in 1940 and continued activities in the union — as steward, secretary of the section, convention delegate and so on — until about five years ago when my health became chronically worse. But I stayed on the job and my service ratings were excellent."

Though he spoke with great effect and humor, the blue of his lips and the difficulty with which he breathed testified to Hehir's ill-health, as he continued: "I wanted to retire to Ireland, where the pension would go further, and I could live out my few remaining years among the old friends. But I never got the chance. In March, 1954, Mayor Wagner, whom we in the TWU were instrumental in electing, appointed a Commissioner of Investigations under the authority of the 'Security Risk' law. He started with the Transit Authority, and called me in for questioning. The union lawyer told me they would ask about my past affiliations and give me a list of names to identify. I told him: 'Where I come from that's informing.'

WOULDN'T GIVE NAMES

"After all I'd been through, I couldn't betray anybody I'd ever worked with — my friends in the struggle for Irish freedom or the men I met with to plan the building of the TWU.

Mounting layoffs and slimmer pay checks mark a transition in the economy. Is it a "breather" or the ominous prelude to a far worse decline? Arne Swabeck, author of the article "The 'Recession' Deepens," in the spring issue of International Socialist Review analyzes trends in the main sectors of the economy and the growing disproportions that push it toward a major crisis.

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THE MILITANT

VOLUME XXII

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1958

NUMBER 16

The Montgomery Protest

Why 3000 Rallied at Ala. Capitol

By Ronald Jones

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — On Thursday night, March 27, 1958, shortly after midnight, the legal lynching of 22-year-old Jeremiah Reeves, Jr., in the electric chair at Kilby prison (five miles outside of Montgomery) for allegedly raping a "young white Montgomery housewife" closed another sordid and bloodstained chapter in the story of justice in the courts of Alabama where Negroes are concerned and opened a new heroic chapter in the struggle of the Negro community against injustice and abuse in Alabama courts. The forces leading to this point have been asserting themselves for more than five years.

In 1952 Jeremiah Reeves (then only 16 years old) was arrested and indicted for allegedly having committed five assaults on Montgomery white women — two counts of rape, two of assault with intent to rape, and one of robbery. He was quickly forced to confess these "capital crimes" by methods which included his being forced to sit in the electric chair under bright lights, then verbally abused and not only threatened himself but told that his family "will get it."

ALL-WHITE JURY

He was tried only for one case of rape before a white judge, an all-white jury and an all-white prosecuting staff. As is southern custom in such cases he was convicted and sentenced to death. (In the whole history of the South no white man has ever suffered the same fate for raping a Negro girl or woman.) The aroused Negro community, which firmly believes in his innocence to this day, made it possible to take the case to higher courts. His first appeal to the United States Supreme Court won a reversal of his first conviction. He was then tried again on the same charge, convicted and again sentenced to death. His second appeal to the United States Supreme Court was lost.

"My section of the TWU passed a resolution asking the union to throw its strength into my defense, but nothing further was done. I am still fighting through the courts."

The Forum audience discussed means of broadening the fight on the Hehir case and contributed \$63.

In thanking the audience Hehir said he now felt renewed hope. "If people like those here can put all their strength into it," he said, "we can win." "It seems ironical to me," he continued, "that McCarthyism is on its way out in Washington, but is being revived in New York; that the Democrat Harriman, whom labor had elected, has signed a law to make this 'security' nonsense a permanent part of the Civil Service system."

"It seems to me that New York labor, and particularly the TWU have to face up to this problem, in their own interest.

From what I've heard from other transit workers who have been called, it is very clear

that the investigation is nothing

but an attempt to get some

honest workers to become

beakies and to terrorize the

rest."

Spirit of March on Washington Kept Alive



In a dramatic demonstration for civil rights on May 17 last year, 25,000 people rallied from all over the country to Washington, D.C., to demand end of racial discrimination. In the same militant spirit, 3,000 rallied in front of Alabama Capitol in Montgomery on Easter Sunday to protest outrages against Negro people.

was not even arrested, there occurred a spontaneous reaction of indignation throughout the Negro community.

The leaflet said in part: "Jeremiah Reeves went to the electric chair Friday charged with rape. On the day before his execution a white man, similarly charged with raping a teen-age Negro girl, was not even arrested.

"Your boy, husband, father or brother can suffer the same fate as Jeremiah Reeves, if any white woman cries 'rape.' At the same time your mother, sister, daughter or wife is left unprotected before white rapists.

"IN ORDERLY, DIGNIFIED PROTEST AGAINST LEGAL MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE WHERE NEGROES ARE CONCERNED, EVERY NEGRO FAMILY, ORGANIZATION, CHURCH, CLUB, AND INDIVIDUAL IS ASKED TO MEET IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL ON SUNDAY, APRIL 6, AT 1:30 P.M. IN A CITY-WIDE MEETING THAT THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW THAT NEGROES WANT JUSTICE IN THE COURTS."

"... when the high court in Washington finally accepted the judgment of Alabama's court, it has caused nearly six years of suffering and suspense by the condemned man.

"... most inexcusable of all, racial feeling was stirred in the case. Emotional appeals were made for clemency in which our courts were accused of being harsh and vindictive.

"It was a cruel experience for our courts, now fortunately vindicated by carrying out a death sentence so long ago imposed."

SLOGAN FOR ACTION

This insult further intensified the process already set in motion. Black Montgomery now became a seething volcano. A line of action began to assert itself, emerging from the very bowels of the rank and file of the Negro community. "Let's protest Reeves' execution by marching on the capitol!" — this sentiment swept the Negro community like a tidal wave. Thus it was clear that the entire Negro community wanted action — positive, vigorous action. And thus it was that on Thursday, April 3, thousands of unsigned mimeographed leaflets calling for a protest mass meeting before Alabama's capitol building were circulated.

ANGER AROUSED

Once again the muddy filth of court injustice and abuse were slung into the faces of the oppressed masses of Black Montgomery. But on this, coupled with the naked fact that the day before Reeves' execution a white man charged with raping a teen-age Negro girl

Lewis Wade Jones) hit back and hard. They denounced the meeting as being organized by "professional agitators" and misleaders of the Negro community, who are hell bent on stirring up racial strife in "our town." They said that although there was no legal way in which the meeting could be stopped the police force would be at the meeting area in force to see that the streets and sidewalks "are not blocked," that property in and around the capitol building "is not damaged" and that the "troublemakers" are kept under control.

Friday night, April 4, the Ku Klux Klan (weak, without influence, discredited among the overwhelming majority of white Montgomery, and passing reluctantly from the scene, giving way to its more respected offspring, the White Citizens Council) hand-painted about 30 large KKK signs in the streets and on the highways of Montgomery (five in the vicinity of the capitol). Saturday night the head of Montgomery county White Citizens Council made spot announcements over the radio, advising all white people to remain away from the meeting, for "attempting to do something to prevent the meeting

"... most inexcusable of all, racial feeling was stirred in the case. Emotional appeals were made for clemency in which our courts were accused of being harsh and vindictive.

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Another important union action, defensive rather than of

offensive, however, was the United Steel Workers' rejection of company feelers for a "voluntary" foregoing of the wage raise, averaging nine cents an hour, due July 1 under the contract signed last August. The union's rejection came in the form of attitude and statements made by USW officials at the recent conference of District 16. This rejection of a "wage freeze" unofficially proposed by the steel barons, made front page news in the Wall Street Journal (April 14). At the conference President David J. McDonald said about 250,000 of the union's members are out of work and about 370,000 working less than a full week. The week ending April 12 saw

being held is exactly what will serve the Negro agitators best." Sunday morning the Montgomery Advertiser said editorially: "The majority of white and Negro Montgomery will have nothing to do with the meeting." I'LL BE THERE'

But in the face of all this the masses of the Negro community were not intimidated, were not cowed, were not afraid. "We have as much right as anybody else to meet in front of the capitol." "The capitol grounds are just as much ours as theirs. We, too, pay taxes." Everywhere one could hear "I'm not scared. I'll be there and on time, too."

No, the enthusiasm of the rank and file of Black Montgomery for the protest meeting was not dampened by the threats and intimidations of the courthouse gang and their discredited associates, the KKK. It was, however, blunted by published statements by two of the leading ministers in the Negro community. Saturday's Advertiser quoted Rev. M. L. King and Rev. R. D. Abernathy, president and vice-president respectively of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which led the successful Montgomery bus protest, as saying that they were not opposed to it, and that they "will be present to direct the meeting along peaceful lines." The Sunday morning Advertiser quoted Rev. King as saying that the meeting "will be one of prayer and repentance" and that "no speeches will be made."

The meeting did take place. The crowds in number more than 3,000 did come — young and old alike. It was inspiring to see so many young people — bright eyed and cheerful. It was an impressive gathering in spite of its being almost smothered with religion — hymn singing, praying and amenning. This demonstration against court injustice, only a few feet from the spot where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy and in an area where Negroes were rarely seen previously, represented a new stage in the consciousness of Black Montgomery.

By this act the Negro masses of Montgomery said in effect: "We are doggone sick and tired of being mistreated in the courts. We are dissatisfied with the Jim-Crow laws of Alabama and we want the whole world to know it." Capitol hill (commonly referred to as "Goat Hill" in the Advertiser) will never be the same again. For once more the "cradle of the Confederacy" has been rocked. And it is still rocking.

...Recession Gets Worse