

# 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

"conspiracy to commit espionage." Precisely for this reason the Sobell Committee had taken every precaution to fully inform the Tavern on the Green of the purposes of the banquet and its sponsors and to obtain the reservation in contract form.

Negotiations for the Tavern's facilities began Feb. 19, more than two months before the scheduled banquet. A signed contract was received by the Sobell Committee on Feb. 21.

Fully assured of its rights — signed, sealed and delivered — the Sobell Committee was able to proceed at full speed with its preparations for the big event. Approximately 450 reservations at \$10 each had been sold at the beginning of this week. A capacity attendance of 600 was expected.

ALCATRAZ CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Peter McCormack of San Francisco, former Protestant Chaplain at Alcatraz where Sobell was imprisoned for more than five years, was scheduled as principal speaker. He had been forced to resign his Alcatraz post for signing a petition to free Morton Sobell. Helen and Rose Sobell, wife and mother of the prisoner, were also scheduled to be present at the banquet.

Then came the telegram from the Tavern on the Green.

Last Thursday, April 10, the N.Y. Journal-American carried a story reporting opposition to the coming Sobell banquet. The Tavern on the Green was quoted as stating that it had checked on the Sobell Committee to see if it were listed on the Attorney General's "subversive" list. Finding that it was not so listed, the restaurant had signed the contract.

On the next day, April 11, the restaurant called the Sobell Committee and asked if the Committee would voluntarily release the Tavern from its contract. The Sobell committee patiently explained that

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## 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.

## 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.

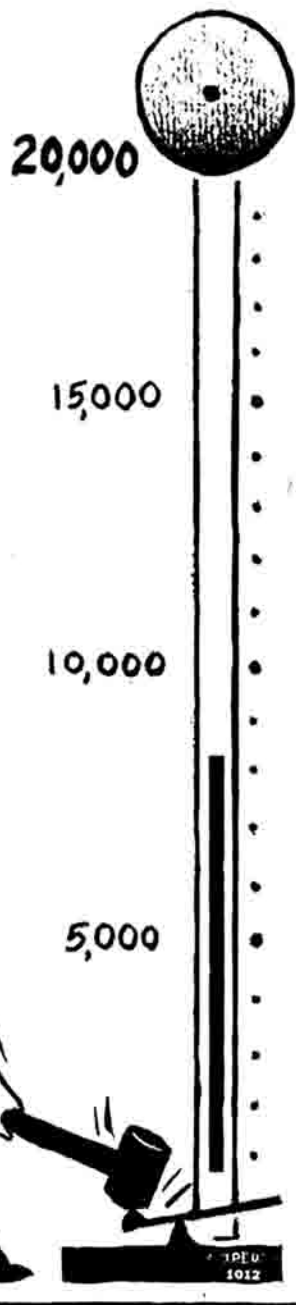
The Detroit branch has captured the lead with a 2% edge on Buffalo, which has been pacing the drive thus far.

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 national drive.



## Supreme Court Rules for Matles

On April 7, James Matles, organization director of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union (Ind.) won reversal of a de-naturalization order against him and of a contempt of court conviction. The U.S. Supreme Court acted in the case without stating its reasons.

Matles was ordered de-naturalized on the testimony of three paid informers in proceedings that began in 1956. The contempt of court conviction arose out of the proceedings, when Matles refused to obey a court order to be sworn for examination before trial by a U.S. attorney.

Matles' attorneys reopened the case following the Supreme Court's Jencks decision last year, since the defense had been denied access to FBI reports of the witnesses' original testimony.

## Threaten Jail For Pacifists Defying Tests

By Herman Chauka

APRIL 12 — Grimly determined to carry through its projected series of giant nuclear tests in the Pacific, the Atomic Energy Commission issued a decree April 11 barring American citizens from entering the danger zone which embraces a 390,000 square-mile area around the Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls. The decree is specifically designed to prevent the four-man crew of the 30-foot ketch, the Golden Rule, from sailing into the test area. The four pacifist opponents of nuclear testing are heading for the Marshall Islands to be in the danger area when the tests are held. By thus risking their lives they hope further to arouse world opinion against the deadly blasts.

The edict empowers the government to arrest any U.S. citizen entering the area and provides for penalties of up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. In a radioed statement, April 12, Albert Bigelow, skipper of the Golden Rule, declared: "We shall continue to sail into the test area come what may."

Bigelow was commander of a naval destroyer in World War II. Accompanying him are William Huntington of St. James, N.Y., George Willoughby of Blackwood Terrace, N.J., and David Gale of Fallington, Pa. Their voyage is sponsored by Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons, a pacifist committee.

The AEC edict represents a major restriction on the movement of U.S. citizens on the high seas. It was issued after the Justice Department tried unsuccessfully for several months to find an existing law under which it could halt the Golden Rule.

### POISONS FISH SUPPLY

Actually, by conducting tests in the Pacific, the U.S. government violates freedom of the

(Continued on Page 2)

# THE MILITANT

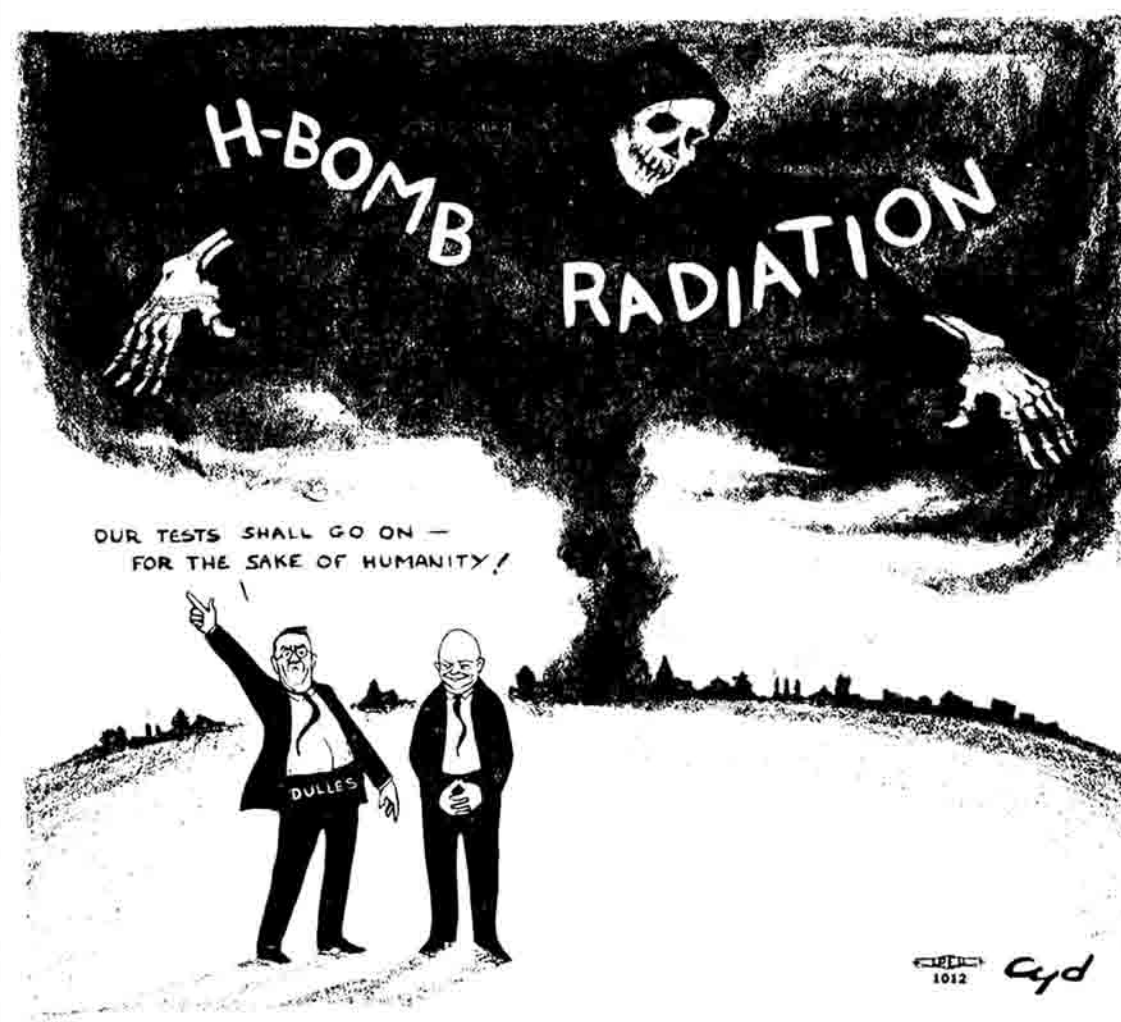
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News Item: After Soviet Union halted its nuclear tests, U.S. Secretary of State Dulles told a Washington press conference: "We decided we could not in fairness . . . to the American people, perhaps to humanity, desist in a program [U.S. H-bomb tests]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

ing 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.

Federal action to extend the period of unemployment benefits, which was recognized as a necessity by Eisenhower in a message back on March 8, is being given the slow treatment in Congress. Bills on this introduced by both parties have been gathering dust for over a month in the House.

On April 15 the House Ways and Means Committee finally took up the matter. It quickly

voted down a test proposal making federal funds for benefit extension to any state contingent upon that state's increasing the present inadequate benefits. Then the committee postponed further consideration of the subject for another two days. The test vote probably indicates that the legislators are going to cut down the extension to less than the 13 to 16 weeks heretofore proposed and also refuse any other improvements in the unemployment insurance law.

Labor action on the extension of unemployment benefits has included demands from the AFL-CIO Conference to Put America Back to Work held in Washington, March 11, demands from state and city labor councils and two marches on state capitols.

In Michigan 4,000 unemployed unionists went to Lansing on April 8 to demand action on the jobless compensation law. The Republican-controlled state legislature adjourned—and even locked the doors—in order to avoid talking to them.

### LISTENED TOO WELL

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 Kiesel, 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 Akhbarov 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 is customary in such arrangements.

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 consumer goods and higher living standards generally.

American workers certainly will not quarrel with such aspirations. For more than 40 years the Soviet workers have toiled to develop an economy that will finally provide a good life. Throughout the greatest part of this time they have suffered inherited backwardness, imperialist blockades and intervention and the overhead cost of a rapacious bureaucracy. Now they are beginning to push for an end to the bureaucratic inequalities that have deprived them of so much. The further development of Soviet industry will necessarily serve to strengthen and accelerate the workers' movement for democratization.

The case for a similar trade agreement with China (and for diplomatic recognition) is equally strong. After centuries of oppression, the revolutionary people of that country have struck out on the road to becoming the masters of their own destiny. Industrially backward because of past colonial and feudal rule, China needs huge quantities of industrial

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 unresponsiveness of his audiences.

### CEPEL 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

By James P. Cannon

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# Rising Against Cuba Dictator Aborts

By Lillian Kiesel

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. Senior 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 Senior 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 nationalizing 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. reputation internationally that support for the cruel dictator, Batista, has earned. But the Wall Street Journal, another spokesman for Big Business feared that in the course of revolution, Castro might not be able to honor his promises that no U.S. interests would be harmed.

In fact, the April 4 Journal reports present 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 keep labor representatives in a perpetual minority on the school board. In the present election, labor is again confronted with this coalition policy which calls for support of a business candidate who boasts that he has been a president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Chapman contends that this policy must be repudiated and that labor must

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.

## 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

## The March on Aldermaston

[The following are excerpts of a participant's account of the 50-mile march, April 4-7, from London to Aldermaston, Great Britain's Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. The account by Martin Granger appeared in the April 12 Newsletter, edited in London by Peter Fryer.—Ed.]

... The London crowds showed us a mixture of amusement and friendliness. There was little open encouragement but no hostility. They seemed impressed by our numbers.

The column was at this stage still taking stock of itself, appreciating its various ingredients, reading with curiosity the inscriptions on its own banners—all with a certain tolerant satisfaction.

It held all kinds of people, united in their abhorrence of nuclear war and in their determination to do something about it.

"Nuclear disarmament" was the sole wording on many of the posters. But how? The proposed solutions varied widely.

"Ban the bomb," said some inscriptions, appealing to some unspecified Pope or Caesar. "Talks not tests," demanded others. "Love your enemies," proclaimed yet another.

Readers of the Newsletter and of Socialist Review marched under banners saying: "Black [no work on] the bomb. Black the bases." This

was the road to effective action.

The efficiency with which the march had been organized was evident from the outset. It depended on an intense solidarity among the marchers, and this developed as the march went on.

Luggage was entrusted to total strangers, food was shared and lifts were thumbed as easily as if transport had been a socialized service in a socialist society.

### UNIONS JOIN MARCH

The Slough district committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union had joined the march, with an enormous banner. An Electrical Trades Union banner had appeared. The Newsletter contingent, its poster held high, marched right behind these detachments.

The pavements were packed with late shoppers and sightseers. We marched past them, shouting "No work on H-bombs — no work on rocket bases!" Our slogans were taken up by other marchers near us. Many pamphlets were sold.

When the trade union banner-bearers left the procession on the outskirts of Slough, we gave them a lusty cheer. Between Slough and Maidenhead it began to rain again.

The highlight on Sunday was the entry into Reading. Ian Mikardo [a leader of left-wing Labor Party group, Victory for

Socialism] and a group of Labor councilors were waiting for us under the railway bridge at the city boundary.

### EMBLEMS IN WINDOWS

The column went on through the working class districts of the town. It was good to see emblems of the march prominently displayed in many windows overlooking our route.

The column came to a halt in the crowded market place, bending round on itself in the shape of a letter U.

As our group, towards the tail of the column, passed the front half we were cheered and applauded. The whole square heard the slogans of the Newsletter comrades ring out.

Reading Labor Party held a meeting that evening in the Town Hall. It was packed. Monday, the final day, saw our numbers increase several-fold. We were gaining a new sense of strength. Sections of the Reading Labor movement had joined us.

After a further tiring stretch we reached our objective at last. The final mile was walked in complete silence, along the very edge of the heavily wired perimeter of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment.

### ALDERMASTON

Many must have been surprised by the immensity of the enclosed area and struck by the brutal contrast between the dark, dense forest of rich pine

through which we had just marched and the planned waste land of man-made structures with which we were suddenly confronted.

It all had a nightmarish quality. Here was the ultimate reality we had marched against.

Here it was in all its silent horror: those turf-covered mounds of too-geometrical proportions, those metal and concrete pill-boxes of weird but doubtless eminently functional design, those chimneys projecting from ground level, that eerie artificial lake, with its "No Bathing" signboard and its solitary swan, those unnaturally scattered buildings of utterly incongruous form and size.

Here it lay behind two strong wire trellises, behind a necklace of "Danger" signs, behind boards soberly stating that police dogs patrolled the perimeter.

Its purpose was the death of men, women and children—and nothing else. It had no redeeming features. It was evil incarnate. It was the final refuge of their class rule, the iron fist inside the velvet glove.

Here it lay, inaccessible, miles from anywhere, mysterious, malevolent, murderous. Here was the sinister factory of death built for the ruling class by their Labor lackeys, built in the last resort for waging the war on what was left of the first workers' state in history.

### 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.

Of all the speeches delivered in those four days, the ones at the last meeting were the most nept, and the most out of touch with the feelings of the marchers.

This militant and magnificent march ended in a veritable orgy of stale platitudes from the platform. Having refused access to the microphone to a rank-and-file viewpoint from among the marchers themselves, the "leaders" allowed the demonstration to break up without outlining any effective or coherent course of action.

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.

## ... Threaten to Jail Pacifists

(Continued from Page 1) seas, because repeated testing has made this vast ocean area inaccessible to vessels at regular intervals. It also has made a big portion of the fish caught in the area radioactive. The Japanese have been compelled to destroy innumerable tons of such fish.

In announcing its attempted ban on the Golden Rule, the AEC spoke of a concern for the "health and safety of individuals who enter the danger area." That the statement was made in bad faith is demonstrated by the fate of the Japanese fishing ship, the Lucky Dragon, which found itself in the danger area when a huge U.S. bomb was exploded in 1954. The radioactive ash that covered the vessel has resulted so far in the death of one crew member and more than a year of hospitalization for the other 22 men aboard.

It was only this year that American atomic scientist Ralph Lapp revealed, in his book The Voyage of the Lucky Dragon, why the Lucky Dragon was caught in the danger area. In that test, the AEC was exploding its new U-bomb. In an effort to keep secret the great power and enormous fallout area of this super-bomb, the

AEC deliberately failed to enlarge the danger area before the test. It was this that trapped the Lucky Dragon.

This time, the entire world is faced with the prospect of an unusually heavy new dose of fallout. The current test series is ostensibly designed to show how "clean" U.S. bombs are. To minimize local fallout, the AEC will probably detonate the bombs very high in the air. But this will only mean a greater amount of fallout in the stratosphere and consequently a greater spread across the globe.

### WORKING-CLASS OPPOSITION

It is the growing awareness of the menace of such tests that is sparking the international opposition to the bomb. In England, the movement continues to gain power with a growing working-class demand for a halt to the tests and for a labor boycott of all work on bomb construction and of work on U.S. missile bases.

On April 13, 12,000 people assembled for a "stop-the-test-now" demonstration in Trafalgar Square organized by the Labor Party and Trades Union Congress. Speakers were right-wing Labor Party leader Hugh

Gaitskill and erstwhile left-wing leader Aneurin Bevan. Rank-and-file pressure has become so great on them that they find it necessary to speak for a test ban while at the same time resisting demands for effective labor action on the issue.

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. . . ."

"Ollenauer'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 MILITANT

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Monday, April 21, 1958

## 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

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.

## 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

worse yet, the New York City Government doesn't think so. They both would deprive the defenders of Morton Sobell of their right to seek justice for the young scientist.

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.

# Wisdom from a Machine Named ELMER

By Theodore Kovalesky

Which Hand Will Pull the Switch?

The day the depression ended Joe went back to the shop to look around. Since he hadn't been recalled, he slipped inside when the guard's back was turned and went up to his old department.

There he stared in amazement. His old machine was gone. So were the other machines that had surrounded it. And in their places stood a monstrosity covered with little blinking lights and glass-covered scratching uneven red and blue lines on them. There were cogs and wheels and the monster kept working and blinking and humming a deep-throated hum.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" asked a voice, and Joe answered, "No, I'm just looking around. I used to work here."

"Ah, yes," replied the machine. "I believe I have replaced you — and not only you but Tony, Lennie, Dick, Al, Hank, and all the others." Then it added, "I'm ELMER."

"Elmer?" Joe repeated. "Not Elmer, ELMER. All capitals. It stands for Electronic Lathe for Machining to Engineering Requirements."

Joe pondered the hideous fact. "You mean you're doing the work that all of us used to do?"

"Oh, yes," the machine replied deprecatingly. "In addition I perform the operations formerly done by the drill presses, milling machines and shapers. And I completely eliminate the need for layout work."

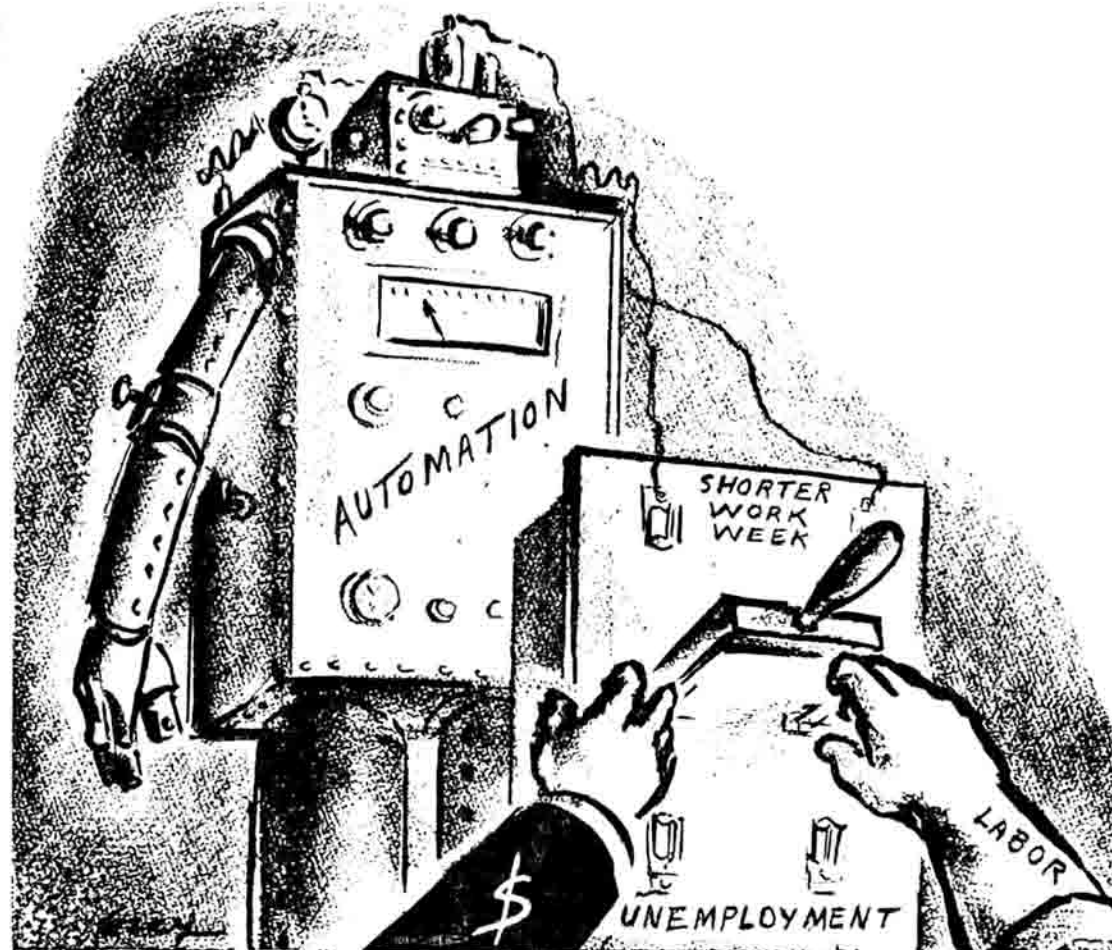
Joe gulped. "Well look, what about us guys? How are we going to make a living now?"

A small amber light flashed, and in a flat tone like telephone operators use if you try to get fresh with them, the machine said, "I am sorry, I do not have that information."

Joe stood uncertainly for a moment, then asked, "Are there many of you in the plant?"

"Not many," said ELMER. "They don't need many to do the work you people used to do. A cousin of mine does all the paper work in the office, and I have a brother down in the other end of the plant. Between the three of us we do all that's necessary."

"Maybe I could get a job making machines like you," Joe muttered hopefully.



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 murmured 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 possible for you to have all the

good things in life — and only work a few hours a week."

"That's not what's happening now," retorted Joe, not at all mollified.

"Well, don't blame me. I only work here." Three other lights flashed on, very red, very bright. "I'll tell you something," ELMER said confidentially.

"What?"

More lights flared until the shop began to glow like a foundry. Clearly the strain on ELMER's electronic brain was terrific. In a taut voice he said, "The boss bought me with profits he squeezed out of you. Now you're outside, and he won't let you in again. You're right, there'll never be full employment again under the boss' system." ELMER's voice began to get fuzzy like a war correspondent over short wave. "The workers," he articulated with difficulty, "the workers — must take over — and run — the factories — for use and not profit — for —" The voice sputtered, broke off, and resumed again, but brown smoke was beginning to curl from ELMER's innards. "... for," he gasped, "for peace — for Socialism..."

Then in a loud voice he cried, "MAMA!" (which stood for Morgan's Automation Machinery, Amalgamated, whence he had come) and expired.

Joe uncovered his head for a moment, but then, since a bell began jangling and plant guards came rushing at him from all directions, he escaped the same way he had entered.

Since then, he has done a lot more thinking, but since his brain is human and not electronic, he did not blow a fuse and burn out (although the situation frequently causes him to blow his top and burn up). Now a lot of people listen to Joe and look to him for leadership, but he's modest about it. "We all learn from what happens to us," he says. "As for me, I owe 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 the film and forbidden its showing to children or Africans.

## ... 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-

mand that you do so. This dinner meeting is in effect an attack on our courts and system of justice and will be offensive to many citizens, and is in our opinion an improper use of the facilities of the Tavern on the Green.

"An outdoor meeting sponsored by this committee at one of our designated forum areas, such as Union Square, will of course be permitted under the head of free speech."

DISMISSED FROM POST

Rev. McCormack was so convinced of Sobell's innocence that he signed a petition for the prisoner's freedom while acting as Protestant Chaplain at Alcatraz. For committing this "crime," McCormack was dismissed from his post as Chaplain.

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 of 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 steered 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 steered 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."

## 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 barely 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.

## Calendar Of Events

### SEATTLE

Sat., April 26, 8:15 P.M. "Is the Boom-Bust Cycle of U.S. Capitalism Back Again?" Speaker: William F. Warde, Marxist lecturer, writer and teacher. 655 Main Street. Public invited.

### NEW YORK

"The Cuban Struggle for Freedom." Speaker: Myra Tanner Weiss, 1956 Socialist Workers Party Vice-Presidential Candidate. Sat., April 26, 8:30 P.M., 116 University Place. Ausp.: Militant Labor Forum. Contrib. 50 cents.

## New York Spring Bazaar

The New York School of Social Sciences announces that its annual Spring Bazaar will be held Saturday, May 17, at 116 University Place. Doors open at 12 noon!

All our friends are urged to contribute such items as costume jewelry, electrical appliances, books, records, art objects. Solicit stores who regularly do business with for contributions of food, clothing, toys, furniture and cosmetics. If you can't bring in the merchandise, arrange for pick up by calling ALgonquin 5-7852.

## Local Directory

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

**BUFFALO**  
 Militant Forum, 631 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**  
 Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M.

**MILWAUKEE**  
 150 East Juneau Ave.

**MINNEAPOLIS**  
 Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays.

**NEWARK**  
 Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J.

**NEW YORK CITY**  
 Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852.

**OAKLAND-BERKELEY**  
 P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif.

**PHILADELPHIA**  
 Militant Labor Forum and Campaign Hdqrs. Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave.

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
 The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Open Wed. 4-6 P.M.; Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

**SEATTLE**  
 655 Main St., Mutual 7139. Library, bookstore. Classes every Friday evening at 8 P.M. Open House following at 10:30 P.M.

**ST. LOUIS**  
 For information phone MO 4-7184.

### Philadelphia

Dr. Otto Nathan  
 Noted Economist; Executor of the Albert Einstein Estate

Speaks on  
 "WAR AND PEACE  
 IN THE ATOMIC AGE"

Fri., April 25 — 8:15 P.M.

1303 W. Girard Ave.

Contribution \$1

Students & Unemployed 50¢

Ausp.: Militant Labor Forum

## Chicago Dinner-Meeting

Presents a Discussion on  
 "Perspectives for Socialist Unity"

Speakers:  
 HOWARD PACKER, Socialist writer and educator  
 JACK HIRSCH, Socialist youth leader

Saturday, April 26 — 777 W. Adams St.

International Smorgasbord Dinner — 7 P.M. — \$2

(In the spirit of May Day)

Meeting only — 8 P.M. — \$1



MORTON SOBELL



## 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 communique 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."

Last 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 waverers 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 paraders 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 [current

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 in the building of the TWU."

When the investigators asked me if I was a member of the Communist Party, I said: 'I am not.' When they asked me if I had ever been a member, I simply repeated: 'I am not a member of the Communist Party.' I knew that to answer questions about my past affiliations would lead to naming names. They charged me with insubordination because I took that stand and I was fired on April 28, 1955.

"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 ironic 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 helped elect, 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."

### 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

was not even arrested, there occurred a spontaneous reaction of indignation throughout the Negro community. Anger reached a fever pitch. "We have to do something about these injustices." "We can't let this miscarriage of justice go by without protesting it." These feelings became all-pervasive.

On Friday, March 28, an editorial under the title "Courts Vindicated" appearing in the Negro-baiting Alabama Journal added insult to injury. Said the editorial: "The irritations and damage done to law enforcement by the law's delays are well illustrated in the case of a vicious criminal executed in Alabama more than four years after one of the capital crimes he committed."

"There was never any doubt of his guilt. He had confessed, witnesses confirmed his confession; judge and jury were of the highest type of citizens. . . . 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."

"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

## THE MILITANT

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# 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 into higher courts. His first appeal to the United States Supreme Court was 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.

On Wednesday, March 26, in an attempt to save Reeves' life the defense made a passionate plea to Governor (Big Jim) Folsom for mercy and clemency. The governor himself did not attend the hearing. (He is reported to have spent the day fishing.) A member of Folsom's cabinet, identifying himself as a "Montgomery citizen interested in justice," urged that the electrocution, which had been set for Thursday night, March 27, go on as scheduled. After noting that one of Reeves' alleged victims had been a close friend of his family, he said: "If ever a man deserved to die in the electric chair, it is this man." The next evening word reached Jeremiah Reeves and Black Montgomery that Governor Folsom had rejected the clemency plea.

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### 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.

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### SLOGAN FOR ACTION

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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 MISARRIAGE 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."

Through the Montgomery newspapers, radio and TV stations the "courthouse gang" (to borrow a term from Tuskegee's distinguished sociologist Dr.

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 the organizers of the meeting, 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 amen. 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 ever 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

(Continued from Page 1)

ical. He was finally interrupted by boos. August Scholle, president of the AFL-CIO State Council, who chaired the meeting, restored order by asking the audience: "How are you ever gonna learn people's attitudes if you don't listen?"

The results of the March 11 march on the state capitol in Hartford by 2,000 unionists bore results two days ago when the Republican-controlled Connecticut legislature extended unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks. Other improvements in the law, however, were refused.

Another important union action, defensive rather than of-

fensive, 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

steel production drop to a new low of 48% of capacity.

Despite the boasts of Democratic Senate leader Lyndon Johnson about this Congress' anti-recession measures, the record is measly, particularly in immediate help to unemployed. The \$1.8 billion "housing" bill doesn't build houses but buys mortgages from banks to indirectly encourage home building, at the same time upping the bank interest rates for veterans' loans. The \$1.8 billion increase for federal road building will take many months or perhaps a year to make actual jobs — if the amounts previously appropriated can be allocated this year.

## Program to Fight Unemployment

- (1) Organization of the unemployed by the labor movement. For union unemployed committees to fight their jobless members' grievances on rehiring, unemployment compensation, rent, mortgage and installment payments, relief, etc.
- (2) Unemployment compensation to all jobless for the entire period of unemployment at trade-union wages.
- (3) A 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay to be the number one demand of all unions in contract negotiations. Amend federal and state wage-and-hours laws to include 30-for-40.
- (4) A giant public works program at trade-union wages to build all the schools, hospitals, low-cost housing, highways and other useful and peaceful construction needed in this country today.
- (5) Union action and FEP laws to prevent discrimination in layoffs, rehiring, unemployment compensation, public-works hiring, relief, etc.
- (6) A debt moratorium for the unemployed. No evictions or foreclosures on homes, autos or appliances.
- (7) No taxes on yearly incomes of \$7,500 or less. End withholding and sales taxes to restore workers' purchasing power. Tax the rich and the corporations.
- (8) Build a Labor Party based on the unions in alliance with minority peoples and working farmers.

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## The "Recession" Deepens

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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