

LABOR ACTION

Independent Socialist Weekly

MARCH 10, 1952

FIVE CENTS

The Election Results in India

... page 7

The 3 Pillars of Franco's Tyranny

... page 6

Churchill's Bombshell

... page 3

Spotlighting IUE-CIO's Problems

... page 2

The Shadow of the Police State: Witchhunt System Grows on Three Fronts

Report on Passports Hits Abuses by Gov't

By MARY BELL

Of great interest and importance to all liberals and democrats and especially to the anti-Stalinist left, which has become more and more the butt of witchhunt law in this country, is the publication by the American Civil Liberties Union of its year-long study of the passport problem and its announcement of action started in the Federal District Court in Washington by its attorney Jack Wasserman in behalf of Miss Anne Bauer.

ACLU Executive Director Patric Murphy Melia and Edward J. Enols, chairman of the Alien Civil Rights Committee, who released the report, stated that Miss Bauer, a naturalized citizen who is a freelance writer now residing in France, has had her passport revoked without any explanation by the Passport Division and has not been given a hearing to answer whatever charges there may be against her. Her passport is essential to her professional work. The suit charges that her rights under the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees due process of law, have been violated.

Noteworthy among the major revisions in procedures governing the issuance of passports by the State Department, the report recommended:

(1) The secretary of state should appoint a commission of three to examine the Passport Division files in order to formulate standards, which do not now exist, for denial of passports and the creation of administrative machinery for hearing and review.

ACLU DEMANDS CONGRESS ACT

(2) Recognizing that a passport has become a prerequisite to world travel rather than a mere means of identification, the government should recognize the "right to travel" subject only to "reasonable restrictions" and safeguarded by "due process of law." Citing a New York Times editorial which deplored the anti-American, pro-Russian, propaganda which resulted from "denial of visas to distinguished foreigners and refusal of passports to some Americans," the ACLU calls for an "act of Congress . . . which will make the issuance of a passport to an American citizen mandatory, and will prohibit its revocation, except for specifically stated reasons."

(3) The ACLU "sees no reason for foreclosing, abroad, utterances of the sort that constitutional guarantees permit within the United States," even abiding, as it does, by the "clear and present danger" principle. For the above reason, the ACLU would participate in the present legal action being brought by Paul Robeson in connection with

(Continued on page 3)

"They Are Public Masters"

"Basically these laws rest on the belief that government should supervise and limit the flow of ideas into the minds of men. The tendency of such governmental policy is to mold people into a common intellectual pattern. . . . Public officials with such powers are not public servants; they are public masters. I dissent from the court's judgment sustaining this law which penalizes school teachers for their thoughts and their associates."—Dissent by Justice Hugo L. Black.

"Typical of . . . a Police State"

"What happens under this [Feinberg] law is typical of what happens in a police state. Teachers are under constant surveillance; their papers are combed for signs of disloyalty; their utterances are watched for clues to dangerous thoughts. A pall is cast over the classrooms. There can be no real academic freedom in that environment. . . . Fear stalks the classroom. . . . A system which directly or inevitably has that effect is alien to our system and should be struck down. Its survival is a real threat to our way of life. . . ."—Dissent by Justice Wm. O. Douglas.

Detroit Becomes Salem: Probe Looses Hysteria

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT, March 2—For any social historian anxious to get the "feel" of dark epochs like the Salem witchhunt or the Stalin purges in Russia, there is fertile soil in this tense, febrile city since the opening of the hearings by the congressional Committee on Un-American Activities last week.

Nor is there any consolation, except to blind men, in the fact that the treatment Stalinists received here is simply a taste of the brutality that Stalinism employs wherever it takes over.

The real victim in Detroit last week was civil liberties, the idea of a fair hearing and a trial by jury, the right of dissent, and the basic legal concept, "innocent until proven guilty."

It was a fantastic week. Guilt-by-accusation was the method employed. Friendly witnesses, hostile witnesses, Stalinists or ex-Stalinists: it didn't matter. They all felt the wave of hysteria that the committee, aided by the three daily papers, whipped up in Detroit.

IT IS HAPPENING HERE

Only one social force sought to stem the tide, and without much result. That was the UAW-CIO, which publicly proclaimed that its membership must not take matters into its own hands; that even Stalinists had the right to live and work; that vigilante methods were not the way to combat Stalinism. Nevertheless—

- Four suspected Stalinists had to leave auto shops, under threats of violence. When one of them complained to the congressional committee for protection, he was sneered at.

- In one auto plant, the wife of a man named as a Stalinist was tormented and driven from the plant. The newspapermen were there with photographers, egging on the workers for "some action shots."

- Employers issued public statements they couldn't fire suspected Stalinists because of the contracts with the UAW-CIO.

- A school teacher, Mrs. Maki, was fired by the superintendent of schools when she was named as a Stalinist. Everyone at her school, from children to fellow teachers, said she was an excellent teacher. Detroit newspapers demanded an investigation of all school teachers.

(Turn to last page)

Supreme Court OKs N.Y. Feinberg Law

By HAL DRAPER

By a 6-3 vote, the Truman-appointed majority of the Supreme Court gave democratic rights another blow below the belt when it settled a test case of national significance for civil liberties by upholding New York State's Feinberg Law. In a dissent which is perhaps his strongest to date, Justice William O. Douglas branded this law as a police-state type of measure. (See quotation in box to the left.)

Joined in his minority opinion by Justice Hugo Black, while Justice Frankfurter voted against the majority but sidestepped the issues involved, Douglas' document once again confirms that he belongs among the top names in the roster of courageous American liberals in the country's history.

The Feinberg Law, passed by the state legislature in 1949, is directed against "subversive" teachers, using language about "advocacy of force and violence" and providing for the drawing up of a state "subversive list" of organizations by the Board of Regents, membership in which disqualifies a teacher from employment, regardless of any other considerations of fitness, competence or actual conduct in the school.

MINTON ECHOES STALINIST DOCTRINE

As Douglas stated, "A teacher is disqualified because of her membership in an organization found to be 'subversive.' The finding as to the 'subversive' character of the organization is made in a proceeding to which the teacher is not a party and in which it is not clear that she may even be heard."

This is guilt-by-association, he charged, "a principle repugnant to our society"—but not repugnant to those who are becoming the "public masters" instead of the "public servants," to use Black's striking words.

In a majority opinion as jejune as the document by which Chief Justice Vinson last year justified the Smith Act, Sherman Minton not only gave substance to Douglas' charge but virtually based a good part of the majority's case on guilt-by-association, a doctrine which only yesterday was associated in the minds of nearly all Americans only with the barbarities of the Russian Stalinist regime. Thus the legal brains of the highest court descended to

(Turn to last page)

Guilt-by-Association Upheld

"That the school authorities have the right and the duty to screen the officials, teachers and employees as to their fitness to maintain the integrity of the schools as a part of ordered society, cannot be doubted. One's associates, past and present, as well as one's conduct, may properly be considered in determining fitness and loyalty. From time immemorial, one's reputation has been determined in part by the company he keeps. . . ."—Majority opinion by Justice Sherman Minton.

The ISL Program in Brief

YOU and SCIENCE

Discussion: Social Science in the U. S.

The Independent Socialist League stands for socialist democracy and against the two systems of exploitation which now divide the world: capitalism and Stalinism.

Capitalism cannot be reformed or liberalized, by any Fair Deal or other deal, so as to give the people freedom, abundance, security or peace. It must be abolished and replaced by a new social system...

Stalinism, in Russia and wherever it holds power, is a brutal totalitarianism—a new form of exploitation. Its agents in every country, the Communist Parties, are unrelenting enemies of socialism...

These two camps of capitalism and Stalinism are today at each other's throats in a world-wide imperialist rivalry for domination. This struggle can only lead to the most frightful war in history...

The ISL, as a Marxist movement, looks to the working class and its ever-present struggle as the basic progressive force in society. The ISL is organized to spread the ideas of socialism in the labor movement and among all other sections of the people.

At the same time, Independent Socialists participate actively in every struggle to better the people's lot now—such as the fight for higher living standards, against Jim Crow and anti-Semitism, in defense of civil liberties and the trade-union movement.

The fight for democracy and the fight for socialism are inseparable. There can be no lasting and genuine democracy without socialism, and there can be no socialism without democracy.

INTERESTED?

Get acquainted with the Independent Socialist League—

114 W. 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.

I want more information about the ideas of Independent Socialism and the ISL.

I want to join the ISL.

Name Address City Zone State Tel.

To the Editor:

In the February 18 issue of LABOR ACTION, Carl Darton has a report of a talk at the American Association for the Advancement of Science...

The U. S. is of great significance—if only socialists troubled to find out about it and use it.

Still more unfortunate is Darton's sentence, "The foremost sociologists in the U. S. are Gallup, Hooper and Crosley."

It is good for socialists to look into unfamiliar fields with a critical eye. But before they criticize they should know what they are talking about...

Irving HOWE.

Reply by Darton: Raw Data and Meaning

In the column to which Howe refers, "Free Science in a Free Society," I was attempting to present a summary of the discussions at a particular session of the recent convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science...

All of the statements in the paragraph referred to by Howe are to be credited to R. L. Ackoff. He said, essentially, that: "The method of social sciences here [in the United States] is the wide collection of superficial data of little significance."

Ackoff claims, and I concur, that our social sciences can be accused of emphasizing the "wide collection of superficial data of little significance." Howe replies that "Data is neither superficial nor profound."

relates the most fundamental relationships between the variables considered? Data can be compiled quite selectively and it can concern only the superficial aspects of a problem. A great amount of data is not necessarily more scientific; it may simply be used to mask poor sampling, lack of a critical approach...

Is "much of the data collected by social scientists in the United States of great significance?" I can agree with Howe but feel that Ackoff's claim comes closer to the mark. This viewpoint cannot be stated much more clearly than in the following words of Robert S. Lynd.

During the depression years of the late '30s Robert S. Lynd, co-author of Middletown, wrote "Knowledge for What? — The Place of Social Science in American Culture."

In the midst of the pressing social problems Lynd finds the social sciences inadequate to assume the responsibilities of obtaining satisfactory answers. Following is quoted from his book: "We social scientists have great arrays of data:

"Data on production and distribution, but not the data that will enable us to say with assurance, as the experts dealing with such matters, how our economy can get into use all of the needed" (Continued in next column)

LONDON LETTER

Bevanites Need Organization and Plan

By ALLAN VAUGHAN

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The perspective that Aneurin Bevan and his Tribune group have in mind is becoming increasingly clear. Bevan is banking on a peaceful change of leadership within the parliamentary group of the Labor Party.

This explains Bevan's reticence on many issues which certainly need clarifying. The Tribune group is at pains to dispel any impression of being an organized faction or group within the Labor Party.

It is therefore not surprising that Bevan has followed Arthur Deakin, president of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress and the most prominent representative of the right wing, in condemning any "direct industrial action" aimed at weakening

the Tory government. The furious onslaughts of the Bevanites in the House of Commons on the steel board, on the issues of China and Korea and on other matters reveal their intention of confining their struggle to a purely parliamentary plane.

Of course, the Bevan group may believe that an organized struggle against the right wing, and in particular against the trade-union leadership, would end up in their expulsion. In any case, by their action they have left the field open for other left and pseudo-left forces to make hay.

Which brings me to the Socialist Outlook Conference, held at Holburn Hall on February 24. [The Socialist Outlook is sponsored by the group of official-Trotskyists working in collaboration with Stalinist and Stalinoid elements in the Labor Party, with a generally pro-Stalinist foreign policy.—Ed.]

At this conference no less than 342 delegates from Labor Party branches, Co-op Guilds, trade

unions, trades councils and Leagues of Youth attended. It was rather successful from the point of view of its sponsors even taking into account that up to half the delegates present were Stalinists or semi-Stalinists. A resolution was passed calling on the National Executive Committee of the Labor Party to mobilize the full political and industrial might of the Labor movement to bring down the Tories.

The holding of the conference underscored the need for developing a powerful left wing to counter the Stalinists. Had Bevan risked calling such a conference, I have no doubt he could have gathered not hundreds but thousands of delegates.

The CP Trial in California

By DAVE BERN

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21.—The prosecution of Communist Party leaders in California by the federal government reveals two highly significant aspects, one bordering on the farcical, the other more tragic in its implications.

This widely publicized drama is being enacted on a background of confusion, ignorance, and suspicion. Before the trial opened on February 5, the Los Angeles Mirror stated that "more than 60 witnesses—at least 35 of them in the top-secret category—are waiting to testify against 15 of the nation's top Communists."

The Stalinists on trial appear to be more than mere secondary leaders by virtue of the fact that California, and especially Los Angeles, is the second largest CP stronghold in America. The defendants include the former secretary of the Los Angeles County CP and an editor of the People's World, CP West Coast organ, a man who was once a power in the LA County CIO before the national CIO purge campaign a few years ago.

Federal Judge Mathes was reported to have told the prospective jurors: "You must treat the Communist Party as if you never heard of it; you'll learn all about it here."

"No informed person questions nowadays the indispensability of objective data-gathering and of the exhaustive statistical analysis of those data for all they are worth. The only question that is being raised here concerns the need to ask, 'What are they worth for what?' Objective empiricism can become as much a blind alley as can logical speculation.

The jurors will certainly learn a great deal, including much misinformation about the real character of the CP. The government is so obviously out for a crushing victory that it overlooks not the minute detail in characterizing the CP as a "revolutionary" party. The writings of Marx and Engels are introduced as evidence as well as those of Stalin and speeches by American CP spokesmen.

The ludicrous element in the trial is highlighted by references to the Communist Manifesto, a document over a hundred years old and available in quite respectable bookstores and libraries, which millions of non-Stalinists throughout the world endorse in whole or part.

Youth and Student Corner

UCLA Bans Sale of Anvil, Anti-War Magazine

By JUSTIN GRAHAM

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27.—Anvil and Student Partisan, national student anti-war magazine, has been banned by the University of California at Los Angeles. In a ruling issued at the end of the fall semester, Dean of Students Milton E. Hahn barred the publication from sale in the campus book store.

By this act, the "perfect record" of California's state and city colleges in suppressing elementary democratic rights at every opportunity has been kept intact.

Dean Hahn's pretext was that he considered Anvil to be definitely a partisan political publication tending to involve the university (thus contrary to the provision of Regulation 17) and that

he therefore struck the publication from "the bookstore's list of literature eligible to be offered for student consumption." His ruling was allowed to stand when the Student Executive Council, by the tie-breaking vote of President Jim Davis, voted down a proposal to appeal.

That Regulation 17, or any rule which attempts to bar politics from the campus, is reactionary and wrong from an educational standpoint, many students will agree, and the arguments for this view have often been given in these columns.

ONE-SIDED RULE

(1) In its actual administration, Regulation 17, which purports to bar politics from campus life, is

nothing but a political instrument itself; and—

(2) It is in the hands of extremely conservative elements who act, not out of principle as they profess, but out of prejudice and hysteria, to outlaw and censor certain political groups.

These can be seen from the arbitrary and hypocritical way in which Dean Hahn applies the rule to Anvil. As is evident to anyone who has read the magazine, Anvil represents different political points of view among its editors and contributors, who agree, insofar as Anvil is concerned, to unite against war and against the subversion of democracy.

Davis prefaced his vote with some very unoriginal demagoguery. He said that he was opposed to letting an outside group come into the university and capitalize on the actions of the SEC. Furthermore, he said that the Executive Council should be responsible to the student body, the university and the community. One would think that their first responsibility, in that respect, would be to protect the right of the students to read what they wish.

GOLIATH OBJECTS

Here again, the political intent of Regulation 17 is evident. By barring all student political organizations, conformist as well as radical, it insures the predominance of conservative propaganda.

And how does he exercise this right? By banning the Los Angeles Times, which openly states its support of the Republican Party? By refusing to allow the L. A. Daily News, which generally admits its agreement with the Democratic Party, to be sold at the bookstore?

ANVIL'S "CRIME"

The real "crime" of Anvil and the real reason for the ban are only too obvious. The editors of Anvil resist conformity to the pattern of regimentation of academic thinking which the administration at UCLA demands and by which it hopes to "do its part" in preparing the country for war.

It is interesting to note, that whereas Dean Hahn was content to issue his decree in as curt and formal a way as possible, those students who supported the ban in the Student Executive Council found it necessary to resort to all sorts of diverse, irrelevant, and (as it turns out) incriminating arguments. Previously, a committee had investigated the matter and had recommended unambiguously that the council appeal the decision.

development, could easily accept much of this thought by Lenin on Marxism regardless of his political loyalties or affiliations.

Hamlin, in his attempts to prove that "Communism" is a menace to society because it is irreligious and "deterministic," said that the lines he read in court "proves it to me."

The fact that Marxist philosophy is on trial in effect, as well as the Stalinist leaders officially, vitiates the comical side of the courtroom drama. If Marxist teachings can be used as evidence to stand above, beyond, and outside his environment at all times.

The New Times continues: "William Schneiderman, one of the defendants and said to be the acting chairman of the Communist Party in the United States, took strong issue to Hines' statement: 'The shakeup in the Communist Party is a fabrication of the United States attorney. It is a plain admission of his desperation, brought on by the complete collapse of his first two witnesses.'

Of greater significance is the knowledge that the FBI and its hired informers play a much more powerful role than formerly. The precedent is being set for conformity through fear and pseudo-patriotism, hysterical flag-waving and mutual suspicions among people as a whole, the kind of atmosphere in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

The validity of informers' testimony is now usually taken for granted by the public. Government arguments in the courtroom and the statements of FBI heads are taken as authoritative documentation. The portent of the CP trials for the future of democracy in America is not an encouraging one.

The Los Angeles Daily News, February 22, noting that Hamlin's testimony came from a "plant" who had worked his way up in the CP and had won the confidence of CP leadership, reported: "U. S. Attorney Walter S. Hines said late yesterday the knowledge that even its most active members may be secret agents for the government has thrown the party into panic and it is systematically purging members who fail a 'new loyalty test.'

An Encyclopedia of Current Politics ...

BOUND VOLUMES of LABOR ACTION

Still available for the years 1945 to 1949 \$3.00 a volume

Order from: LABOR ACTION BOOK SERVICE

114 West 14th Street New York 11, New York

LABOR ACTION Independent Socialist Weekly Vol. 16, No. 10 March 10, 1952 Published weekly by the Labor Action Publishing Company, 114 West 14 Street, New York City 11, N. Y.

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE

114 W. 14th St. New York 11, N. Y.

I want more information about the Socialist Youth League. I want to join the Socialist Youth League.

NAME

ADDRESS

SCHOOL (IF STUDENT)

CITY ZONE STATE

Court Okays Feinberg Law

(Continued from page 1)
the level of the crudest and most pernicious anti-democratic prejudices of the run-of-the-mill American.

Minton merely rephrased the guilt-by-association principle as "the company he keeps." Enlightening with regard to the intellectual, juridical and social level of the Truman majority is the sole basis which it advances for highlighting this doctrine as a basis for decision.

There are no precedents or juridical concepts cited at this point. Incredible as it may seem, the justification is given that this principle has been recognized "from time immemorial"! (See box on page 1.)

This is truly the nearest, we may reasonably expect, that the Supreme Court in all its juridical majesty will come to citing as its precedents the Salem witchhunts, the Spanish Inquisition, the English Star Chamber, the Moscow Trials, and the Biblical injunctions about guilt unto various generations—all of which are equally competent, relevant and material with regard to court decisions based on "time immemorial."

VERY SUBTLE

In another important section the majority decision seems to be based on the aim of avoiding "propaganda" for "subversive" doctrines "among the children by those who teach them and to whom they look for guidance." It admits, however, that there is a sufficiency of legislation against this now; why then a law to judge teachers on the basis of what they do outside the classroom?

Minton writes: "This propaganda, the [New York] legislature declared, is sufficiently subtle to escape detection in the classroom; thus the menace of such infiltration into the classroom is difficult to measure."

The Feinberg Law is necessary, therefore, for those cases where there is no evidence detected of any "subversion" of the children. Propaganda "subtle" enough to escape all detection by trained adult supervisors, we are supposed to believe, is still dangerous enough to have a deleterious effect on the tender, unformed minds of children. . . . It can be conjectured what kinds of ideas are thus subtly proscribed by the sworn upholders of the Constitution who are sitting on the high bench next to Tom Clark.

AESOPIAN LANGUAGE

Above all, in this section on "propaganda," not even a formal nod is vouchsafed to the concept that the function of the teacher is not to indoctrinate the child (even with orthodox ideas) but to develop his power to think and judge himself on the basis of a rounded presentation of the facts and ideas. On the contrary! In more than one place, and as clearly as lawyer's language permits, the majority of six indicate that in their view the function of teachers is to use their "guidance, authority and leadership" to instill

in the child belief in the established social institutions and the orthodox opinions of the status quo.

The statements on this point are distinguished precisely by their ambiguity, for they are written not to put the above concept forward forthrightly but to leave room for it:

"A teacher works in a sensitive area in a schoolroom. There he shapes the attitude of young minds toward the society in which they live. In this, the state has a vital concern. It must preserve the integrity of the schools."

In the very next paragraph the vague phrase about "integrity" is filled out even more vaguely as "the integrity of the schools as a part of ordered society." What we have here is nothing more or less than "Aesopian language" in which the not-very-meaningful "ordered society" is used as a synonym for the present order of society.

Further down, the majority appeals to the state's right of "police power to protect the schools from pollution and thereby to defend its own existence." There can be no doubt that the "pollution"

against which the policeman's club is invoked is "pollution" by ideas.

In the face of this shameful, obscurantist and reactionary justification for a police-state type of law, Douglas could have limited himself to a dispassionate, colorless and polite dissent. His minority opinion, on the contrary, in addition to all its intellectual cogency, is as strongly worded, vigorous and accusatory in its tone as his opponents deserve.

He denounces the "recent doctrine" that a government employee "can be forced to sacrifice his civil rights" or that they should be put "in the category of second-class citizens by denying them freedom of thought and expression." None needs such freedom more than the teacher, he stresses.

Referring to the excuse that the victimized teacher can "show her innocence" at a hearing, though not a party to the hearing on the main issue, he says: "But innocence in this case turns on knowledge; and when the witch-hunt is on, one who must rely on ignorance leans on a feeble reed."

"The very threat of such a procedure is certain to raise havoc

with academic freedom." Post indiscretions or mistakes "become the ghosts of a harrowing present."

"Any organization committed to a liberal cause, any group organized to revolt against an hysterical trend, any committee launched to sponsor an unpopular program becomes suspect. These are the organizations into which Communists often infiltrate. Their presence infects the whole, even though the project was not conceived in sin," he continues sarcastically.

"Fearing condemnation, she [the teacher] will tend to shrink from any association that stirs controversy. In that manner freedom of expression will be stifled."

PARTY LINES

"The law inevitably turns the school system into a spying project. . . . The principals become detectives; the students, the parents, the community become informers. Ears are cocked for tell-tale signs of disloyalty."

"The prejudices of the community come into play in searching out the disloyal. This is not the usual type of supervision

which checks a teacher's competency; it is a system which searches for hidden meanings in a teacher's utterances.

"What was the significance of the reference of the art teacher to socialism? Why was the history teacher so openly hostile to Franco Spain? Who heard overtones of revolution in the English teacher's discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath*? What was behind the praise of Soviet progress in metallurgy in the chemistry class? Was it not 'subversive' for the teacher to cast doubt on the wisdom of the venture in Korea?"

There follows his reference to the police state. And: "A 'party line'—as dangerous as the 'party line' of the Communists—lays hold. It is the 'party line' of the orthodox view, of the conventional thought, of the accepted approach."

"This system of spying and surveillance with its accompanying reports and trials cannot go hand in hand with academic freedom. . . . A school system producing students trained as robots threatens to rob a generation of the versatility that has been perhaps our greatest distinction."

Detroit Witchhunt

(Continued from page 1)

• A violin player in the Detroit orchestra was suspended by the union. "We don't have any Communist rats in our union," the musicians' union business agent said. The violinist had been named as a Stalinist.

• A prominent radio commentator issued a public statement. He was NOT the man with a similar name who had been named by an FBI agent as a Stalinist. Ditto a prominent businessman who said he had received threats over the phone.

• A sheriff's deputy, once upon a time a Stalinist, was a friendly witness. No one would talk to him the next day. He was forced to resign his job! A hotel porter was named, cleared, but still fired. "We hope they rehire him," a congressional committee spokesman said.

Sensational stories, filling four and five full pages of the daily press, kept pounding away at Detroit readers about the "menace of Communism."

NEGROES HIT BACK

In another section of the daily press was a story headlined, "Moody Puppet of the CIO." W. H. Hall, secretary of the Board of Commerce, who had said that 105,000 unemployed in Detroit was "normal," denounced Senator Blair Moody as "the socialist CIO junior senator from Michigan," and his bill to increase unemployment payments as "another step toward the socialistic state with Walter Reuther, his sponsor and director."

The congressional committee didn't do so well with the prominent pro-Stalinist Negro leaders

in Detroit. William Hood, recording secretary of Ford Local 600, refused to answer questions except to say that it was a damned lie that he was a Communist Party member. He got in a few digs at Congressman Wood from Georgia. The Rev. Charles Hill stood on his rights and dignity, and proclaimed himself a fighter for complete equality for the Negroes no matter what any committee said or did.

Coleman Young, former Wayne County CIO Council secretary-treasurer, kept chiding the committee spokesmen for their Southern pronunciation of the word Negro. He stood up boldly, spoke against Jim Crow, and otherwise had a good propaganda field day at the expense of the committee. Interestingly enough, the Negro press here gave the Negro leaders a good press. Stalinism didn't lose that battle. This was evident from the remarks here and there of Negro workers.

Pat Rice, vice-president of Ford Local 600, was charged with making a misstatement in a passport application. Criminal action against him is pending.

The biggest sensation came on Friday. Mrs. Baldwin returned from Washington and testified. She named, club by club, name for name, every Stalinist on the party books in 1947. That some persons broke from the CP after that are fighting them within the labor movement, was of no importance. This coming week dozens of auto workers face the crisis of their lives. Can the UAW-CIO keep them from being run out of the plants, suspected Stalinists and ex-Stalinists?

On Sunday, Congressman Potter announced that Ford Local 600 would be the target when the committee returns in the middle of March. He also charged that Governor Williams and Senator Moody might try to prevent the committee from returning to Detroit. (On an inside page another newspaper story said that Potter was testing his voting strength and popularity by the hearings and would run against Moody.)

Governor Williams replied that "Potter's statement is an example of guttersnipe politics based on falsehood and innuendo. It's McCarthyism at its worst." Then Governor Williams endorsed the work of the congressional committee!

The Detroit News began a campaign to assure that future hearings are on TV. Speaker Rayburn's order to keep it off TV has caused Potter and other Republi-

cans to charge that the Democratic Party is covering up for "the reds."

Note: One ex-Stalinist testified that he was a member of the state central committee of the Democratic Party in 1946. Imagine what McCarthyism will do with that!

ACUTE DANGERS

It doesn't take a political genius to see that the main attempt of the congressional committee hearings here is directed at the UAW-CIO-Williams-Moody alliance in the Democratic Party. And the more the Democrats retreat, the greater will be the fury of the attack, the mudslinging, and the hysteria.

Within the UAW, where factional opponents already are trying to embarrass each other by red-baiting, the approach of local union elections hastens the process and makes more difficult the task of the leadership to maintain the democratic traditions of the union.

The purely factional character of the congressional hearings here is illustrated by the methods employed. The mere calling of an individual before the committee is considered guilt. It is considered by the committee a crime for a man to refuse to incriminate himself. Like the Moscow trials: If a man doesn't confess, he's guilty of hiding his crime; if he confesses, he's guilty. Detroit's papers keep suggesting that guilt-by-accusation process.

Names of suspected "reds" are being banded around and called into the committee. A chance for grudges to be paid off, a chance

to embarrass political opponents; in the case of embittered and uprooted workers, a chance to get their pictures in the papers, driving out the "reds."

Given the social tensions of Detroit, its mixed and restless population, the kind of hearings conducted, the newspapers' lurid coverage, and the ignoble silence of the city's liberal and labor elements—except the one UAW-CIO policy statement—all this feeds the passions and inflames the professional witchhunters.

Nor is this the end—merely the beginning. For the national elections are not until next November.

In an epoch where General Marshall is called the top fellow traveler of Stalinism, where General Eisenhower is branded by a wing of the Republican Party as "pro-Russian," it was perhaps inevitable that the crudest forms of McCarthyism would find its most vehement and dangerous expression in this industrial melting pot.

Subscribers — Attention!

Check your NAME—ADDRESS—CITY—ZONE—STATE appearing on the upper left-hand corner of page one. If there are any mistakes or if anything is left out of the address, especially the ZONE NUMBER, cut out your name and address and mail it to us with the corrections clearly printed.

16-10

If this number appears at the bottom of your address, your subscription expires with this issue.

RENEW NOW!

Negro Labor Committee Conference Sets Up New National Union Body

A new national labor organization was formed in New York City on March 1 for the purpose of fighting for full rights for Negro workers. The Negro Labor Committee, U. S. A. was formed when representatives of some 75 labor organizations met at the Theresa Hotel.

Both the AFL and CIO are apparently backing the new organization, which is an extension on a national scale of a local committee headed by Frank R. Crosswaith which has existed for some time. Among the labor leaders addressing the conference were James Carey of the CIO, Lewis

G. Hines, representative of William Green, and A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL).

It is generally thought that the particular reason for expanding this organization at the present time is to combat the Negro Labor Council, which was set up by a number of Stalinist trade unions and other CP front organizations last fall in Cincinnati. The NLC-USA adopted a constitution which bars from membership "Communist or Communist-dominated trade unions and all other anti-democratic groups."

HANDY WAY TO SUBSCRIBE



LABOR ACTION

The Independent Socialist Weekly
114 West 14 Street, N. Y. C.

Please enter my subscription: NEW RENEWAL
 Six months (26 issues) at \$1.00
 One year (52 issues) at \$2.00

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS APT.....

CITY ZONE STATE

Bill me Payment encl. (stamps, currency or postal note)