

NEWS & LETTERS

"This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It"

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Union Politicians Smother Ranks' Protest

There was a wildcat strike, last month, after the company fired several workers from the Trim dept. (including the acting chief steward and assistant chief steward), and disciplined 40 to 50 others with 2- to 4-day layoffs. The Trim Div. walked out in full force and went down to the Union hall and that brought the rest of us out early.

Several of us went over to the Union hall after we walked out that morning. We met one of the bureaucrats at the front entrance and asked if the workers from Trim were holding a meeting. He yelled, "Yes. That mob is inside." (See: "Trouble in Trim," page 4.)

For the past several years, the local leaders have castigated the Trim dept. workers as monsters out to wreck the Local Union. Every worker knows the accusation was made because of the militancy of that department against the company and the fight they carried against the Union leaders for not supporting them.

When the opposition slate sprung up, several months ago, the Trim dept. put their full support behind it. They elected the majority of the Rank & File candidates for Shop Committee.

HOW THESE LEADERS OPERATE

When we walked into the hall, the meeting was called to order. The Local president, a Reutherite, ripped into the company. He yelled and bellowed about what we had to do to stop the company's action. He then ripped into the International Union saying that the local was going to demand action from them and that they should get off their fannies and do something about working conditions.

He said if it was not for the militancy of the Trim workers, we would not have a Local union, and he was glad to have them.

While he was talking one worker said to another, "My heavens. How these leaders do operate! Last year, and for the past 5 years, that man has done as much as any leader to crush the Trim workers. He knows how mad we are against them as well as the company. But he gets up here now pretending he's with us."

When he was through, workers asked him was he going along with the company's proposal to discipline 50 workers by taking 2 or 3 days from different operations and giving them one day off a week instead of all at the same time. In this way the company will keep the same production rates, but it will take the worker a month to serve his disciplinary period.

The Local president answered: You and the company know if the 50 workers were given 4 days off at the same time it would slow production and we do not want that.

One worker said, "We want to stay out until the fired workers are back and the days of layoffs are cancelled. If you're on our side, prove it."

Another worker said, "You said the company violated the contract. In many previous strikes the company said the workers violated the contract, and that the company will not talk with our leaders until after we are back on the job. Now, we want you to tell the company we won't talk, or work, until those fired workers are back and the discipline is thrown out."

WHOSE CONTRACT IS IT?

The president said it should be like this but it was impossible, because we have a contract and we do not want to break it just because the company has. Finally, he made a motion for the workers to return to work the following day. It was rejected overwhelmingly but he ruled it was carried. Workers jumped up all over the place yelling, "What did you say!"

The president began to laugh as though he was really tickled. Then he said: Look, the motion doesn't mean a thing according to the UAW contract. I cannot do otherwise than ask you people to return to work and stay on the job. Give us officers time to work it out.

BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN

What helped to save these bureaucrats is some of the opposition comittees whom the workers elected recently. Every time, at this meeting, that the workers were at the point of exploding at the Union officers, one particular opposition committeeman would rush to the mike and try to throw them off and quiet them by saying: We're all working together not as opposition but as unionists. It's the only way we can survive in this fight.

This, more than anything else, got the workers to stay on the job. The fired workers are still out and the disciplined workers had to take their layoffs staggered over a long period. The company now can say that we have 2 or 3 workers too many on this or that operation because production was the same the day they were off.

This shows we have to throw out each and every bureaucrat and replace them with rank and file workers of the lowest layers.

CHRYSLER'S FORWARD LOOK



(Reprinted from News & Letters, Oct. 16, 1956)

Lay-Offs & The '58 Model Change

Auto workers will soon face the lay-off for the 1958 model changeover. While this affects the entire industry, the big news still comes from Chrysler because now, the highly-advertised "Forward Look," which launched last model's production shows what it really means.

"This changeover is something new," a Chrysler production worker told News & Letters. "I thought I saw it all last year when they brought in all those damn Automation machines. (See News & Letters, Oct. 2, '56.) But there's never been anything like this new one coming up. They're not only changin gthe model, they're even changing the Union."

Some say that this time the plant will be down only for 2 or 3 weeks. Last year, Chrysler was down for 8 weeks and made a total change with the new Automation machines, thousands of them and every one designed and earmarked to take the place of manpower.

More than 30,000 were eliminated from Chrysler's payroll then.

The Co. has since reported a terrific profit with its '57 "Forward Look" model. The profit didn't come from the car. It came from these laid-off thousands and the speed-up on those still working.

WHO'LL BE LAID-OFF?

Chrysler says there will only be minor changes this year. As yet, they have not begun to install many new machines. But workers are being told that the cut-back in working force will be severe. In Local 212 alone, they say it will be between 3000 and 5000. Other reports say that 10,000 laid-off may be a more accurate figure.

"Some men in my department," the worker said, "went down to talk to the Local president about going to Twinsburg or Delaware, to work in Chrysler's new plant there. He snarled up and said he didn't care if they went or not because they're not going to have a job anyway. Some Union officials even say that men with less than 7 years seniority won't be back for the '58 model."

"The Local, and the International, and Reuther forgot about those thousands last year as soon as the company eliminated them. This year they even snarl at you. With this changeover, men with 8-10 seniority won't do much good because they'll be low men next year and will probably get it next time as the corporation keeps 'eliminating'."

"UNION-BUSTING"

—NEW STYLE

"Hell, we don't even know who's going to represent us," a production worker at Chrysler's Mack Ave. plant said. "The rumor's going around that (Continued on Page 8)

Remember August '55

On August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till was kidnapped from his grandfather's home in Mississippi. Three days later, his brutally mutilated body was found and, subsequently, his white lynchers were acquitted by a white Mississippi jury. The shock of indignation at this terrible shame of America was felt around the world, and moved the Scottish poet, Tom Malcolm, to write the poem which we print below. —Editors.

EMMETT LOUIS TILL

Out of the darkness of not knowing you,
Of never sharing either sweets or games,
Of never nodding "howdy!" on the street,
I hear you call my name, O Negro boy.
Like jagged splinters in my heart, you call,
Like brutal blows upon my loved-one's face,
With all the pain a tortured folk can feel
You call my name, O little coloured boy.

With hooded terror and a fiery cross,
With dynamite through windows in the dark,
With drooling mouth and lynching-rope and gun
Abe Lincoln's mad assassins still ride out,
And this their latest victory
This boy!

A schoolboy in ninth grade, long-legged and quick,
With hopes and heroes and an eager smile
And feet still tender on Life's rocky road.

A coffin lies within a darkened room,
A candle flicker like the star of hope.
A murmur hardens like an angered fist,
A hundred thousand fill that small, dim room
As one sad mother's voice surrounds the world:
"No person, no small child, no decent thing
Is safe until the lynchers of my boy
Are punished!"

Her bright words are blades of love:
"Help me, good people, to see this thing through."
Her challenge like a jet-plane slices air
Encircles Earth . . . a banner and a song
To call the kind, the honest and the brave
To halt the monsters who destroy the young.

You cannot hear our voices, dark-skinned lad,
Young Negro boy . . .
But your assassins shall!
Those butchers who smashed-in your fragile breast
To steal that bright warm ruby men call Life . . .
They shall hear!

—Tom Malcolm

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners' Meeting Reveals Scab Conditions; No Relief Expected from District or Lewis

GRANVILLE, W. Va.—A miners' meeting was held recently to see if there is any way left, for the many men who are working in small hand-loading mines in this area, to do something about their miserable conditions and wages.

NEW KIND OF "UNION" MINES

These men work in so-called union mines. They are called "Union" mines because the mine operators have signed a contract with District officials to pay the royalty of 40c per ton to the UMW Welfare Fund. This is the only thing "Union" about them. The men work for scab wages in bad conditions.

It is a known fact that District officials and mine owners have signed contracts which specify that operators do not have to give the men wage increases unless the operators get an increase in their price of coal.

There is no such provision in the general UMW contract.

The contract also calls for vacation pay. These men have not seen a penny of this, either.

District officials have been notified that these conditions exist. They say the men must go through the grievance procedure. When someone reminds them that grievances have been filled out, they reply that the operators of these mines cannot pay the contract scale; that the

men working in these mines are mostly old men who cannot get jobs elsewhere; and that "half a loaf is better than none."

So these old men, men who helped to make the UMW the fighting organization that it was, are now forced to scab with their Union's blessings.

DISTRICT -- THEN LEWIS

Most of the men at the meeting work in these dog holes. There were also a few from larger mines in the area who get the full benefits of the contract, including two National Scale Committeemen. The Scale Committeemen advised the men there to file a grievance and include the pay statements which had been brought to the meeting.

It was hoped that this action would force the District to take some action. But if the District did nothing, it was further proposed that this evidence, together with any other that might be of use, be brought to John L. Lewis personally. The idea here was that John L. doesn't know about these terrible things, and that he will right them as soon as he has the facts.

The men were not too optimistic about the outcome. The following are some of the ideas and attitudes expressed, both during the meeting and afterwards: "I'll bet my next pay, which won't be very much,

that the District won't do a thing."

"Sure, Harry Myers (District Field Representative) signed these contracts. But you can't tell me it's just him. He has a job to do. He's following Urbaniak's (District President) orders. If he doesn't do what he's told, they'll find someone else who will. That whole bunch is no good, that's all there is to it."

"Yep, that's pretty good. We've got to pay Union dues for the privilege of scabbing."

"I've done it myself, and I know plenty of others who have done the same. I've worked for a week and only made 6 or 7 dollars. And, don't forget, we've got to pay for our own caps and powder out of this."

"The District says that no grievances have been filed. Hell, I filed one last year. Nothing was done about that grievance, except that I was fired and black-balled from every mine of the Point Marion Road—and there are dozens of small mines there."

"Nobody can tell me that a man who knows as much as Lewis does about the coal industry doesn't know what's happening in his own Union. He knows as much about this as we do. I'll bet that if we do send someone there, he still won't do a thing about it. At one time he would have, but he won't do a thing now."

The Turn of The Screw

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—On most hydraulically powered machines, there is a small screw that can be adjusted to increase or decrease the pressure. That's the way it is with the machines in the mines. Most of the operators know where this screw is and will make use of it. The coal companies do not like for the men to mess with these adjusting screws and instruct the operators not to touch it that if it must be adjusted, management says to notify the mechanic, and the mechanic is instructed not to adjust the pressure very high.

PRESSURE UP, MACHINE DOWN

The operator of this continuous miner, however, wasn't worrying too much about such instructions. The more pressure you have, the faster the machine will operate; if it is raised too much, it will blow out the oil lines or burn up the pump motor.

This operator made it a regular practice to raise the pressure of his machine. One day, the pump motor broke down. These are expensive to replace and require a major repair operation. It also means that the machine is not producing coal—a cardinal sin in the owners' book.

A new pump motor was brought up to the section and put in the machine. It lasted for half an hour and broke down again. The op-

Coal Companies Want Production—No Matter How Many Miners Get Hurt

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—We've just had a change of operators on the continuous miner on our section. But I don't think the new man on the machine is going to last too long.

PREVIOUS OPERATOR — COAL HUNGRY

The operator we had at first was a guy the company could really depend on. That is, they could depend on him to keep that machine in the coal for the whole shift.

Top bad? Gas in the place? Somebody in the way who might get hurt? He didn't worry about those things. All he worried about was getting coal. That's the kind of guy the company wants on those continuous miners.

But the guy finely had to go. He didn't want to. The company didn't want him to go, but he had to. I hate to see anyone come down with silicosis, but he did and he had to quit. I was sure glad

erator was a bit more careful after that. You can't keep burning up pump motors without getting out on a real shaky limb, with the company standing there with a saw and ready to cut.

PRESSURE DOWN, MACHINE DOWN

When this operator finished his shift, he'd always turn the pressure screw back to its usual position. One day, he overdid it a

to see him go. OPERATOR TOO SAFE FOR COMPANY

As I said, this new man probably won't last too long on that miner the way he is now. He's not a bad guy to work with. If the top is bad, he'll stop the machine to let the pinners get some pins in the top, and he's generally a safe worker. He looks out for himself and for the other men, too.

We get good tonnage, but it isn't as much as some other operators are getting. The company isn't going to put up with that for too long.

They'll go along with him for a while, hoping that they can break him in to their way of thinking and acting. If he goes their way, he'll stay on the machine. If not, they'll find a way to get rid of him and get a guy on the miner who will do things their way. And that's when things will get rough again—for everyone but the coal company.

little. He turned it back a little too much. This meant that the machine had too much. This meant that the machine had too little pressure.

When the next shift went to work, the miner wouldn't move. The mechanic checked the lines and the motors. The boss was going crazy. The machine was down for 3 hours before they found it was the pressure screw that needed a couple of turns.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

Negro Struggle Makes News

What makes news? People make news. Common people like the workers, the Negroes and other nations of people.

Or, news is made by the big leader, like the UAW leader, the NAACP leader, and leaders of other organizations, who say what they are doing "for" the people. That is, if they can get things to go their way for a while. Because the big leader doesn't know how things will come out in the next election for there are other people who have better ideas which have put them to thinking what they will do for the next year.

Yo- know, the old saying says: You got to think up a better idea to get some power behind it so that it will be put into some action. But make sure it is the truth, where people can see no other way out, or next time it will be changeover time.

The problem with the Civil Rights bill is that it never had any power behind it from the white Northerners and the Negro leaders, who go and join hands with the

white Southerners in saying that the Negroes are not ready for their rights. They know that is not true.

How can they see in their minds that anybody doesn't want to be free? Unless they get in with some Uncle Tom Negro and talk very kind to him and get him to say that Negroes don't want to be free. They take that and use it in a big speech they make to try to keep from giving the Negroes their freedom.

HURT FEELINGS

There is something I can't understand about some white people. They can say such low down things about Negroes but don't want Negroes to say one bad word about them, or hurt their feelings, though some of the things said are just as true as anything. Negro feelings have been hurt for all these hundreds of years.

We still have to go on and fight with it so that the people can make news for their own paper. But we Negroes are going to win our freedom and that will be the greatest news of all.

W. Va. Readers Answer Dunbar's Detroit Critic

EXPERIENCE TEACHES

The reader from Detroit, who criticized Ethel Dunbar's column (July 16) said it made her blood boil to read what Ethel says about white people. Well, it made my blood boil to read that! What made me mad the most was to hear a Negro say she was ashamed of her color to hear such things printed.

So one family was "nice" to her! What about all the things you read about every day that aren't so "nice?" You don't have to be a "hater of all white people" to speak out about what is going on today.

I have news for that Detroit reader who said some Negroes won't let the white people help them. The reason is very simple. When you know from hard experience how many underhanded things are done to Negroes under the pretext of "trying to help" you just don't trust them very long.

What Negroes have won, they have won for themselves. And they have to be pretty sure about any whites, before they do trust them to "help." That is how a lot of us feel about the NAACP, as a matter of fact. The NAACP pretends to do so many things that they actually aren't doing, you wind up not trusting their "help" either.

MINER'S WIFE,
West Virginia.

LEAVE WHITE MAN'S KITCHEN

I'd like to say a few things to the woman who criticized Ethel Dunbar's column. I really had to laugh when I read what she wrote about how wonderful the white family

was, to her to give her money when she needed it. Nine chances out of 10, when the white family says — "No, Annie, you take this money. You have done more than this for us."—what they mean is they're going to make sure they work it out of her.

That doesn't mean there aren't some white people who say we are all equal, and who really mean what they say, and act it. The world could stand a lot more of them. But there are some Negroes who think a white family is good to them, just because they treat them nice when they work for them.

If you have to work for a person to make them "good to you," you can bet your life that it isn't you they like, it's your work.

That goes on everywhere, all the time. Even down in Alabama and Georgia there are plenty of white families who wouldn't have a white woman to nurse their children or take care of their house. They like a Negro woman to do their work. That doesn't mean they like Negroes. All it means is that they like what Negroes do for them.

Everyone has probably heard of white families down South who will even fight for "their" Negroes, if they get into trouble. They say it's because they like that particular Negro. But that Negro had better stay in his place, or he'll find out soon enough how much he's really like for himself! Who, in his right mind, would get out of a white man's kitchen to find out what's going on in the world.

MINER'S WIFE,
West Virginia.

Migrant Workers Forced to Depression Conditions; Farm Union Ignores Problem; Landowners Profit

LAREDO, Texas—I am a migratory agricultural worker and follow the crops. I am a shed worker. I work in the fruit packing shed where the melons are graded, waxed, and then packed and loaded in refrigerator cars. That is skilled labor and pays as much as \$5 an hour. The catch is you work only 2 hours a day and very few days in the year.

I belong to the CIO United Packing Workers, successors to the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union. I used to have to get clear up to Washington to pack apples. But now 90 per cent of my work is done in California and Arizona, in a fairly small circle. However, there is still no work during the winter, so some of us skilled workers will go to Mexico. This time, however, I went to Texas to pack melons, and it is that story I want to tell.

DEPRESSION DAYS

What I saw in Texas this time beats the Depression days. The foreman got Mexican workers from across the border and did not even pay them the minimum of \$1 an hour. They were paid a mere 65c an hour. The pay was in cash, and I doubt they even bother to keep records.

The foreman tells the skilled workers not to tell the unskilled what our pay is. The American unskilled get \$1 an hour, the Mexican 65c an hour, and the skilled get \$5 an hour—and all of us were doing the same work.

L. A. Chrysler Wildcats When Co. Fires Steward

LOS ANGELES — During the middle of July, Chrysler walked out over a part-time steward being fired for walking off his job to take care of Union business.

In the body-in-white shop, a petition was circulated as a result of this walk-out saying that the steward told them to walk out and not to come back until Monday. The petition, signed by about 30 men, was given to the company.

When the company got the petition, the steward was fired for leading the walk-out.

OVERTIME BAN

As a result of previous intimidation of Union officials, the Union passed a motion last March which said that if any steward is intimidated or fired by the company, they would call a special meeting and decide what to do. They called a special meeting last Tuesday and decided not to work any more overtime in the body-in-white shop until this steward is hired back.

The Union can't expect much support from the men if all they do, when the company has a policy of circulating petitions to get leaders of "unauthorized" strikes fired, is to force a short work week on the whole working force by cutting out overtime in the body-in-white shop. A short work week near the model change-over just plays into the company's hands.

—Production Worker

The CIO did nothing about this—nothing more than the agent or landowner. The workers who get to work in the shed are supposed to feel glad that they are in the shed where it is cool instead of in the field where the heat is unbearable.

EXPLOITATION & PERSECUTION

The agent of the landowner must feel pretty sure he can get away with paying less than the minimum because these Mexican workers are not American citizens. If the Mexican workers complain, he tells the Immigration Officer that they are trouble makers, and the Immigration Officer obliges the foreman by not letting

these Mexicans cross the border to work.

I wondered whether that foreman keeps any records at all, or whether he pads the payroll to show that he supposedly pays the minimum of \$1 an hour and then just lies on how many workers.

PRINT THE TRUTH

It made me sick to see the Union keep quiet about it all. It used to be a militant union and now look at it. Where the labor bureaucracy keeps quiet about it, I am sure you will print it so that all the industrial workers know the truth about agricultural work.

—Migrant Worker

Chrysler Speed-Up and Intimidation Grow As L. A. Local Fails to Back Workers

LOS ANGELES—I can't see where much was accomplished since the March strike at Chrysler which was against speed-up. If that line was going any faster before the strike, it must have been pretty bad, because it's going as fast as they can run it now.

The Union has been unable to prevent the company from intimidating even their own Union officials. The company recently fired some stewards by the use of petitions which said they told the men to walk out. The Union's pressure against this of not allowing any overtime hasn't hurt the company. Such actions, on the part of the company, show how much ground the Union is losing in this age of Automation.

This plant in LA isn't an automated plant. All they do here is assemble parts that are made by Automation. In order to make these automated machines pay off—because the huge amount of material produced by them is of little value if they can't be put together—the production worker must keep up with the automated machinery. That means he has to work harder and longer. That's why the company isn't going to stand for any interference from the Union in utilizing automation methods.

FEW NEGROES HIRED

Since the strike there have been very few Negroes hired at Chrysler. The company's policy is very evident on the chassis line, which is a hard, dirty place to work. There are only 2 Negroes working on the line, one is a repairman, the other is an assembler off the line. There's a big turnover of personnel on the chassis line, but not a single replacement has been a Negro since the strike.

It's been claimed that it was the Negroes who brought about the March strike by complaining about having too much work to do. I can't say if this is true or not, but, nevertheless, the company now has a policy of hiring through a mobile unit which goes only to select neighborhoods in this area.

NO WOMEN

With the model change-

over they plan to run 56 cars on one line, where now they run 41 cars an hour on 2 lines. They also want to work unlimited overtime. Because they can legally work the women only 8 hours a day, they want to get rid of them.

The model changeover is more than just the altering of the car, it also means the complete change of the plant and the changing of many jobs the men now have. You might get back the job you had before the changeover but usually it's another job and the company attempts to increase the work load.

ANTI-SENIORITY

That's why there's such a drive within the plant today to get rid of the seniority people. For example, 300 or 400 missile people with high seniority who were recently transferred to automobile production, generally have received the worst jobs in the plant.

The company hopes this will discourage them and they'll quit. For the company's ideal worker is a man without seniority who has no say in what is happening to him.

The Union says they won something in the strike, that the company agreed not to speed up. But I've seen men call the steward over, after the foreman had given them extra work to do, and the steward told the men the only thing they could do is to work faster.

When the Union representative you pay to represent you can only agree with the company and tell you to work harder, when he should be fighting for you, it only shows where the Union is going today.

To me, this age of Automation doesn't mean just machines to produce parts, but it means more work out of the worker to keep up with these machines. As the Automation process is developed, it's going to mean even more work out of them.

The company is not going to allow one bit of production lost due to absenteeism. Neither will it allow any interference from the Union from walk-outs, grievances, or even trying to hold present work standards.

—Assembly Line

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

WHOSE "PROGRESS" IS AUTOMATION?

Reuther, Lewis and the Unions have not done anything for the workers who have been laid-off or are threatened to be laid-off by automation machines. They speak in the name of progress, as if progress for mankind is in terms of metal, buttons, electronic machines, and more machines and production, instead of in terms of what it means to the human being.

Working people are having a bitter taste of what this progress, called Automation, can do, for they are the ones who are suffering. Not only those that are laid-off but those that are left to work the machines.

CRUMPLED MAN

One worker wrote in News & Letters, "There was a time when the hardest work was on the production lines, but on the smaller stationary lines, workers could arrange it so they rest, with time off each hour to catch their breath. Now, we have to work constantly with these new electronic machines. The operations are harder than ever and will continue to be harder."

As Automation develops more and more, is the function of man to become nothing but to sit crumpled beside a machine to push a button in the morning and another at night?

Another worker wrote that the new machine in his paint department endangered the man with lead poisoning even more than before. They had a sitdown strike to get the company to stop the machine and put in some safety measures.

It is only the worker who can and will be concerned with the way he works, while his Union leaders, who have left the shop and the picket lines, are going around playing politics.

CRISIS GROWS

One thing is sure, Automation is here and the crisis, unless they start dropping the bomb, couldn't get more total. The boss and labor bureaucrats and engineers cannot say more about Automation than that it will give us more leisure. But the way they arrange things, you need money to live by. So how will workers and their families live?

Does Automation mean that every living being will have food for a healthy body? Or will it still be thrown away and the rest of the "surplus" be left in the hulls of ships to rot while people starve?

We have to jump over what the labor bureaucrats call progress and halt it if we must, for, as the worker wrote and asked of Reuther, "Whose progress would we be stopping?"

Boss Has Nose Trouble 'til Miner Cures Him

WEST VIRGINIA — This friend of mine was telling me about this boss he had. He wasn't such a bad guy, but he was always sticking his nose where it didn't belong.

A GOOD LOOK

My friend was operating a loading machine when one of the oil hoses blew out. He got the boss and told him what was wrong—that the mechanic had to put on another hose. But the boss wasn't satisfied with this. He had to see for himself.

My friend took him to the machine and showed him the hole in the hose. This didn't satisfy the boss either. He wanted to see how bad it was. My friend told him it was bad, but he still wanted to see.

The boss had his nose right where it didn't belong—near the busted hose. He must have wanted to get a good look. He told the operator to give the machine some pressure. The operator happily pushed a level forward and — WHOOSH! — the oil flew out, practically drowning the boss. Now he was convinced that the hose had to be changed.

He was a pretty hard boss to convince when an oil line was busted. Not only that, he didn't learn very fast.

A BETTER LOOK

About a week later, an oil

line on the cutting machine blew out. He wanted to check this one, too. He wanted to check this one especially close, so he got over the machine, took his cap off to shine his light directly on the hose and bent his head to get a better look. All set to get a good view, he told the cutting machine operator to give the machine some pressure. The cutting machine operator willingly obeyed the order and — WHOSH!

"Boy, you should have seen him. He jumped back and was making funny noises. And all the while—that oil, dripping around his bald head, down his forehead, his nose, his chin—all over his clothes—all over and inside his cap." The cutting machine operator couldn't go on. Tears streamed down his face and he almost fell out from laughing as he recalled the picture of the oil-dripping boss.

But that's the way it goes. Most bosses wouldn't get anywhere near a busted oil line with an operator near the controls, let alone do what this boss did. They've all had their share of "education" in the same school. Some learn the easy way; some learn the hard way; and some don't learn at all.

EDITORIALS

Reuther Gives Away What Isn't His

In a highly publicized statement, Walter Reuther offered to go easy during his '58 contract negotiations, if the Big Three of Auto would cut \$100 off the price of their forthcoming '58 models. Unanimously, and without any delay, the auto manufacturers declined Reuther's offer without thanks. They know, even if he doesn't, that he has already yielded to them on all essentials. Why should they bargain for what he will give them anyway?

For his widely announced Guaranteed Annual Wage "victory" of 1955, Reuther, that master of substitution, has substituted the permanent lay-off of heavy thousands of auto workers.

For the production worker, as the heart and soul of the Union, he has substituted the skilled trades and technicians.

For industrial unionism he has substituted craft unionism.

For his announced, but delayed, goal of the shorter work-week, he now seems busy substituting a new form of speed-up.

Rank and file reactions to Reuther's offer were immediate. One assembly-line worker said, "I can't believe it! How can the man say a thing like that? He's giving away something that doesn't belong to him. He's trading our lives away and our families."

To which a disturbed Reutherite replied, "It sure sounds bad, but I don't believe that's what he said. Or if he said it, that's not what he meant because there's more to it than we can understand."

A third man said, "It's a complete sell-out, just like the shorter week sell-out. Short weeks, all right, but with short pay."

Another said, "Even if they cut the price \$100 tomorrow, I won't be able to take home more than my \$65. Even if they cut \$500, I won't be able to have more."

Another said, "It's the same thing as when they were talking in Washington, about how high taxes are. They were saying they had to give the big corporations the benefit but the poor people would have to go along with the same high taxes for the next 2 years. That's the way Reuther said he's sure the workers would go along with him."

"The shorter work-week won't mean a damn thing. The corporation will triple its profits and we'll have to put out as much production, and more, in 35 or 37½ hours."

Still another production worker said, "He might just as well come out and admit he's working with the company to bring the contract down and bury our wages."

Disarmament Conference & War Preparations

For 5 months, the Disarmament Conference has been dragging its feet in London. Someone said it might continue for another year or 2—that is, if there is no war in between. Even so conservative a writer as the military analyst of The New York Times, Hanson W. Baldwin, has described it as "an exercise in detailed and elaborate futility."

The jockeying that goes on, between the 2 great powers out for world domination—Russia and America—as to whether nuclear bombs should first stop being produced or first stop being tested, is nothing but a farce—a tragic one. For this "exercise in detailed and elaborate futility" is keeping no fewer than 20 million men under arms, while the world's annual arms bill is no less than \$100 BILLION. Most of this vast sum, bearing down upon the people, is being spent on nuclear weapons and guided missiles to trigger off another world war that would finally bring about the destruction of civilization altogether.

Until that terrible day, the farce must go on because each side hopes that the people will think "the other side" is for war while it is trying to assure peace.

The truth is that, despite the people's deep desire for peace, no one believes that these leaders are able to prevent war. No one takes this disarmament conference seriously—it only helps expose the Administration to the people. The people's complete disillusion with the powers that be, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, will lead to their taking their fate in their own hands. Therein lies the only hope for peace.

News & Letters

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Readers'

LEADERS & RANKS

OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL 212 MEMBERS

I smell something! The election of the Wayne County CIO Convention delegates, Sunday, July 28, was a fine example of the shrewdness of the green slate politicians.

This was a well-organized minority of green slate chief stewards and Local officers and their buddies, who perpetrated the change in our Local Union's rules and by-laws procedure, so as to prevent as large a vote as we had before, when we, the Rank & File, won the last delegates' election by a vast majority.

Sunday, July 28, only 322 members took the time to come out and vote. This was one of the major reasons why we tried to interest the membership in a fight that would have prevented these shrewd politicians from having their way in trying to change, for a few "hand-in-the-pie" politicians, the very system of Democratic principles and ideals that our Union was founded upon.

It seems very peculiar to me that as soon as we win an election, the rules and by-laws have to be changed. Those were the same rules and by-laws by which they (the green slate) took office in the first place but all of a sudden they aren't good enough anymore.

That is why we didn't have the booths set up at the plant entrances for the benefit of all the membership, as we have done in the past, although our Local president ran as a delegate. I talked with one of the Local officials and he said it was because we didn't have money for the booths.

Well, Brothers and Sisters, I think it's about time we, the rank and file who are the membership of Local 212, showed more interest in our Local Union and its affairs and activities, and exercise our freedom of the ballot. Yes, it's important to vote the Rank & File slate. But whichever way you vote, it's very important to vote.

—Disgusted, Dept. 9110, Detroit

I can remember when I walked a picket line, years ago, one worker saying, "I'm not looking for a Moses to lead me. Because a Moses that leads you out of the wilderness can lead you right back

in." Today this guy is a bureaucrat and you would never guess that he ever said that.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

TROUBLE IN TRIM

The trouble that started in the Trim shop, in the middle of July, was caused, as usual, by supervision taking the upper hand over the production workers and trying to bring back the old days.

As always before, when the chief steward is on vacation, the assistant chief steward takes his place and a line steward is appointed to act as assistant chief until the chief comes back.

The company refused to recognize the acting chief and assistant chief stewards. They must have felt pretty sure that the Union would let them get away with interfering like this in Union affairs and that is what happened.

When we all walked out, Green Slaters and some of the Rank & File, both, took to playing politics and we had to go back while they "negotiated."

I won't say for sure, but the fact that the two men who were fired are colored, makes me feel pretty strongly that there's discrimination here.

The company knows full and well that the Union is giving top priority to the lily-white skilled against us production workers, and hasn't been willing to make an open fight on discrimination cases for a long time.

I have just learned that the Local officers admitted that there isn't a chance in the world for the 2 fired men to come back.

—White Worker, 212, Detroit.

When we had no unions we walked the picket lines to get them in. I can remember workers being carried off by the dozens, young people with their heads bashed in by those cops and gangsters the companies brought in.

In our plant we have 2 men that were fired just because they spoke up and some one put the finger on them. It isn't only Automation, but our Union selling us out behind closed doors.

Now we have to get a leader to represent the production workers. Someone who won't go behind closed doors, like Reuther.

—UAW Old-Timer, Detroit.

I'm a Democrat but if Reuther was to run for President that's one time I would vote Republican.
—Chrysler Worker.

FARM WORKERS

I just got back from Northern Michigan which is a great cherry picking section. Migrant workers from Texas and Florida work there. Most of them are first generation Americans of Mexican descent. You go around the countryside and see the hovels they have to live in.

There is some Catholic women's organization, up there, that organizes relief for these workers. How much can they be making at work if they have to depend on relief to get the little they have?

Housewife
Detroit

I made a deal once with a farmer down South to share 25 acres of cotton, and I was supposed to get 10 acres of corn and 5 of hay. But the old man died and his son called in the Agriculture Dept. and I had to work for 50 cents a day.

The government will take over a place and lime it and make you sow it down, but this never helps the share cropper. The only one it helps is the landlord.

—Production Worker, Detroit.

Up-state New York has an agricultural section. They have county agents that are supposed to take care of this work. Once, while I was in his office, a farmer called up to say he needed 20 to 30 men to pick the crop but he could not get them. The agent said "O.K.," I'll call up the sheriff and have him arrest some men and send them up to you."

Visitor
Detroit

BUDGETS & BUDGETING

Every year, about this time, my wife and I receive a friendly postcard from the manager of a local finance company. This year the present manager is vacationing in California. Last year's manager — who has now become more or less president of the loan company after they opened up branches in at least 2 other cities — spent his vacation fishing in the Midwest and Canada.

While the manager is vacationing, we are trying to keep up with our payments on the loan, of which about half is now interest. No wonder they can afford to take those vacations. I've paid enough interest to them in the last couple of years to pay for one of them.

With the interest paid

Views

by his other "customers" it is a wonder to me he is not spending his vacation on the Riviera!

"In Hock"
West Virginia

* * *

Budgets today are managed mostly by the women. Most men just can't figure one out—or don't want to be bothered. They come home from work, and they don't want to be bothered about all the little bills, and all the little worries. That's the woman's job today.

It didn't used to be that way. My mother never handled the money. It was my father's job to handle that. She never knew how much we had or how much we owed. When we grew up and started working, we helped my father with the figuring, but my mother never had anything to do with it.

I always figured it must have been pretty hard on my father, to have all that on his own shoulders. But worrying and figuring that's the way men did did things then. The man controlled everything—he brought home the money, and he controlled it.

Women know more about managing money than men do, today. Especially if they bring part of the pay home themselves. There aren't many women who haven't worked out today. Even if they aren't working after they get married, almost every woman has worked ebfore she got married.

That's what has made the change—and made budgeting the woman's job today.

Housewife
West Virginia

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

There are a lot of ways white people show their real prejudice. One of the things that burns me the most is to have a white person talk to me and suddenly say something about, "Your kind of people." That phrase, "Your kind of people," just makes the hair raise on my neck!

What do they mean, "Your kind?" What "kind" of people are Negroes??? It's as if they think you're another species or something.

I've found the way to handle it, though. When somebody pulls that on me any more, I just find a way, somewhere in the conversation, to make a reference to "Your kind of people," right back! Sometimes we may go on, "Your kind of people-ing," for quite a while, until they catch on to how stupid it sounds.

Housewife
West Virginia

In the July 16th issue, Charles Denby points out, in no uncertain terms, the fault of the NAACP. I agree with him on every point, but I feel that some care should be taken.

While the NAACP does not represent the deepest layers of the Negro peoptherring Negro rights. Although it is perfectly true that any strides made in the South and elsewhere have been made by Negroes themselves, so long as the NAACP remains the only official tool, it deserves a modicum of support along with criticism—until something better comes along.

Interested Reader
Balboa, Calif.

* * *

FOR EDUCATION AGAINST SNOBS

It was my article in, "A Woman's Viewpoint" (June 16), thought was a foolish and backward piece. They seemed to feel that I was attacking education, and I'd like to correct them. I don't think they got the point at all.

A person would be a fool to attack education, and I thought it was clear I wasn't doing that. I was attacking what "education" does to some people.

There are some very well educated people I know who put it to good use for everyone. But there are so many, like this man I wrote about, who just wind up thinking they know it all, and, as a result, don't know a thing.

What I was trying to say, and think I should say again, is that **education is fine, if you put it to proper use.** But just having a degree doesn't mean a thing to me, until I see what you do with it. I hope "Three Friends" may agree with that.

I feel pretty sure that if they would take the time to look around them, they could easily find people who know more from life than they could ever find in a book.

If they want to call that "A hostile attack against education" they are perfectly free to do so, but they won't change my mind about it one bit.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

* * *

I read the criticism of the Miners' Wife's article in your last Readers' Views (July 16), but I for one think the Miner's Wife was hitting it right on the head.

I don't think there are many people who are "against" education. I had to leave school early to go to work, and have been wanting to go back and finish up all

my life, but have never been able to. I want very much to have more education, and I'm certainly not "against" it.

But what the Miner's Wife said about some who do manage to get their higher education is so right. It seems actually to change the personality of a lot of people! That's what you have to watch out for.

For, as wonderful as an "education" really can be, with some people, instead of making them smart, all it does is make them smart-alecks!

Another Mine's Wife
West Virginia

* * *

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE

In your issue, dated July 16, an article appears by a British trade unionist (see page 7). As you invite comment, I believe I can not only be of service to Mr. McLean, the writer of the article, but to all who are by now disillusioned by the antics of Stalin, Khrushchev and his gang.

Mr. McLean, in his article, mentioned Eugene Debs who was one of the participants in laying the foundation of Industrial Unionism. Strange he did not mention Daniel de Leon, who became well known to Lenin at a convention at Amsterdam, Holland.

The answer to Mr. McLean's question, in regards to legislation and a mass labor party, is fully given in the WEEKLY PEOPLE, published in New York. Ever since the founding of the IWW, in 1905, industrial unionism and its blueprint for the establishment of an Industrial Democracy is still with us.

It's growth has been hampered, first, by the labor fakers and racketeers, who are now misdirecting the labor movement. Second, the growth of industrial unionism was obstructed by the fake and phony Marxists who by now have proved themselves by creating a system of Industrial feudalism in Russia and China.

The establishment of peace in the world is unthinkable as long as exploitation exists and legislation favorable to labor can only be when labor directs its own political movement.

A.H.S.
Los Angeles

P. S. News & Letters came in my possession at a meeting in L. A. The speaker was the author of **Marxism and Freedom.**

TWO WORLDS

'Let 100 Flowers Bloom . . .
But Only One Party Rule'

A reader of my article on China and Mao Tse-Tung's perversion of Marxian philosophy (See: "Only Freedom Can Solve the Crisis," News & Letters, July 16) writes: "I fail to see how you can class Mao's speech on Contradictions as the same species of totalitarianism as Stalin's speeches on monolithism. Where Stalin's word was law, Mao invites disagreement with his proclamation: 'Let 100 flowers bloom. Let 100 schools of thought contend'."

COMMUNIST DOUBLE-TALK Vs. TOTALITARIAN REALITY

I will not take time out to tell the reader what he can hear daily on the radio—how short-lived was this invitation of Mao's and how the official Chinese Communist press has now reversed itself. Claiming that "counter-revolutionaries" were taking advantage of the freedom of the press, the Communists put a stop to it.

Anyone acquainted with Communist double-talk should have been able to foresee this development since the very speech, which allegedly granted freedom to "100 schools of thought," also proclaimed that **one Party, and only one Party, the Communist Party, may rule China.**

TRANSFORMATION INTO OPPOSITE

There is no doubt that at one time the Chinese Communist Party was a workingmen's party, and that Mao Tse-Tung had been a revolutionary who, for 2 full decades, had fought for the overthrow of the feudal-capitalistic regime of Chiang Kai-Shek. But once the party won power, it was not long before it became transformed into its opposite.

It is not the old moral question of "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." **But State power, when it becomes one with economic power at the point of production, of necessity becomes the boss over production.** That is what Lenin saw at the birth of Communist State power and he warned his colleagues, the former revolutionaries, against "a passion for bossing." It was in vain—in vain not alone for Stalin, the bureaucrat, but for the whole Russian Communist Party.

The same transformation into opposite—of a one-time working class party becoming the ruling Party which plans production—is taking place in China. **The Chinese working people refuse to accept this counterfeit. It is this which compelled Mao to admit that contradictions exist in China.** To do otherwise, he says, would be to "fly in the face of reality." That most certainly is true, and, as I pointed out in the last issue, "it is this precisely which is the supreme manifestation of the class character of the Chinese regime."

THE FETISHISM OF ONE-PARTY RULE

The fascists were the first openly to proclaim One-Party rule, but the Communists practiced that before the rise of Nazism. One learned from the other during the Depression which shook the world to its foundations. Thus, to win workers, the fascists named their philosophy "National Socialism." The deceit was only in the name, for no one could mistake the anti-Semitic, anti-union, anti-democratic Nazi writings for anything written by Karl Marx, the founder of modern socialism.

In the case of Russia and China, on the other hand, the whole State power is mobilized to shroud the name and works of Marx in its Communist (more truly state capitalist) vice. **That is to say, Communism tries to keep the theory of liberation known as Marxism imprisoned in its own perverse philosophy that State property equals socialism.** In truth, it is the State property which has transformed what was once a working class party, the Communist Party, into its complete opposite, the One-Party State Power. **Therein lies the whole corruption of Communism, that is to say, the full exploitation of the working class by the totalitarian State power.**

THE HAUGHTY VASSAL OF STATE POWER

As a social type, the state capitalist individual who calls himself a Communist has one thing in common with the "self-estranged spirit" that the great German philosopher, Hegel, described. It is his relationship to State-power. "Such a type is the haughty vassal," wrote Hegel. "He is active in the interests of the state power," and thus completes the "inversion of reality and thought, their entire estrangement the one from the other. . . . What is found out in this sphere is that neither the concrete realities, state-power and wealth, nor their determinate conceptions, good and bad, nor the consciousness of good and bad . . . possess real truth; it is found that all these moments are inverted and transmuted the one into the other, and each is the opposite of itself."

This, dear reader who sees a difference between Stalin and Mao, includes both Mao and Stalin. The one thing both failed to see in "contradictions" in "each being the opposite of itself" is that it included them above all. For, just as the supreme manifestation of the capitalistic law of value is the worker paid at minimum, so the supreme manifestation of totalitarianism is the One-Party rule: **Mao or Stalin, fascist or Communist.—R.D.**

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery
Contempt for Youth

Early this month, the Sixth World Youth Festival took place in Moscow. Over 100 countries were "represented" by some 30,000 visiting youth who were present. The slogan that set the tone was "Peace and Friendship."

CONTEMPT FOR YOUTH

Doubtless, this festival, like the others that preceded it, was engineered by the Kremlin to impress upon the minds of the young that the Communists are the friends of youth and the champions of peace.

In reality it speaks of their contempt for youth, who, they must believe, have minds like dry sponges ready to sop up any line or slogan flung at them.

These Kremlin tryants believe that memory is so short that one year they can execute children, crush a nation beneath their tanks—as they did in Hungary—and the next year they can spout slogans of peace, friendship, and goodwill toward youth and have it all accepted at face value.

The American administration, with little more confidence in youth, followed true to form and pressured all those Americans who secured invitations to stay away. Nevertheless, 160 American youths attended. From all reports those who went did so for a variety of reasons, and ranged all the way from being party hacks to those just out for a high old time and cheap vacation. (The Communists picked up the lion's share of the bill for the 2-week holiday.) The Communists didn't appear to be overly selective in

picking the Americans to whom they extended invitations. They seemed more anxious to rope in a good quantity.

ROCK 'N' ROLL

The press reported that the Western youth were deluged with requests for rock 'n' roll dance instructions. (frowned upon by leaders on both side of the Iron Curtain.)

American newsmen happily reported lively discussions between the American and Russian youth, and reported of quite a few who came to the defense of "the American Way."

To my mind this was good. Often, the American youth's idea of what America is, is a lot better than the reality, and expressing it to a foreigner makes him more critical afterwards. The same must be true of the Russian and other foreign youth.

FRATERNIZATION

The thwarted Hungarian revolution, and the general unrest in Eastern Europe must have shaken everyone of those smiling faces pictured in the throng that crowded Lenin Stadium. No matter how G.P.U.-ridden the parties and informal get-togethers, nor how select the delegates (countless Hungarian Freedom Fighters were originally schooled in Communist youth groups), it's unbelievable that there weren't some questions asked and some answers given; some arrangements made, some contacts established. Fraternization in prison is always at the expense of the warden.

Books, Erasers, Chewing Gum & Detention

There are 3 teachers at school who like to have their own way. They will talk about a subject and have you give your viewpoint. If it doesn't turn out the way they want it, they will make you give a report on something else.

They tell you to shut up and if you don't they throw erasers and books or whatever they get their hands on, at you. If you report them, they make it hard for you.

The boys and girls will ask you what happened, and

then these teachers will be mad and keep you after school. Or give you more home work. If you don't do it, they will call you up to the front of the room and make you do your home work there, and embarrass you in front of your class.

If you chew gum, they will make you put it on your nose, and take you to your best teacher's room for her to see you. Why can't there be some good teachers?—

—A 13-Year-Old,
Detroit School Girl.

School Girl Praises Helpful Teacher

There is a teacher in my school who is the most wonderful teacher I have ever had.

She helps us out when we are in trouble and she always stands ready to explain the work that we do not know. She takes us in the back room and talks over our troubles like when we are in trouble with our other teachers. She will tell us what we did wrong.

Sometimes we have troubles at home. She tells us what we should do about it.

When we have trouble with our home room teacher about having us put gum on our noses, and we say we won't, she gets mad and

sends us to the office. Instead, we go to this other teacher and tell her what happened in our home room, and she sees that we don't chew gum in her room anymore.

This same teacher gave us a show on TV called "The Negroes' Progress." It turned out very good, every one in school liked the show very much. She let us take care of her classes when showing the picture to another class.

Sometimes she lets us play records in her room for the little children and they thank us for playing them. Cheers for a wonderful teacher.

—15-Year-Old Girl,
Detroit.

Frustration

News & Letters carries experiences of workers, especially production workers. To me, as a High School student, this is not the only labor that is completely frustrating to the individual.

I am 16 years old. My Father and older brother run a gas station, and my Mother runs a yardage store. In order to make ends meet it requires them to work impossible hours. Because of these hours, and through no fault of my parents, the following is my average working day for 5 days out of the week, during summer "vacation."

In the morning I do 2 or 3 hours of house work. About noon I go to our store and work about 4 hours there. Then I go home and make dinner, and do another hour of housework. After dinner I wash the dishes, and 3 nights out of the week I iron in the evening.

I know that I'm not the only 16-year-old that is in the same situation, because of the financial position of their parents.

—Student,
Los Angeles.

Intolerant Teacher Preaches Democracy Doesn't Practice It

LOS ANGELES—I had an argument on filibusters with my teacher in U. S. History class. She said that filibusters were a means of explaining a person's point of view. I said that it was just a stall.

The next day I brought a report on filibusters, but she wouldn't let me read it to the class. She told me, "You must understand the Southern point of view."

I said, "Why shouldn't the South understand the United States point of view?"

The same day we were to have a debate on states' rights in class. I said that filibusters had to do with states' rights and I wanted to take part in the debate. She wouldn't let me.

She talks about democracy, but when you disagree with her, she will not let you say your point of view. Instead she makes you give an oral report on some such subject as roads during colonial times. This is supposed to be all facts that don't permit you to bring in any point of view that disagrees with hers.

I do not see how such teachers can talk about democracy if they do not have it in their own class rooms.

—15 Year Old

Read . . .

"Let 100 Flowers Bloom . . . But Only One Party Rule."

. . . Page 5

Reader Describes Civil Rights Shenanigans

Have you been paying attention to the farce on the Civil Rights Bill in Congress? Reactionary Knowl- and suddenly appears as the left wing of the left wing, very uncompromising and what not. Eisenhower, trying to pay off the Negro leadership for their vote switch, also tries to appear in a holier-than-thou cloak.

He certainly thought he had the backing of the established Negro organizations. The Negro press was full—for a few weeks anyway—of the fact that with the "jury trial amendment" the Civil Rights bill was nothing at all. They certainly had public backing, especially since the acquittal of Emmett Till's murderers.

But those sly old foxes, the reactionary Southern leaders, stick to their guns and know how to maneuver. They don't give a hoot in hell if Eisenhower vetoes the bill because then, at one and the same time, they will have no new legislation against them in the South,

and yet the North can pretend to be the ones for Civil Rights which the Republicans sabotaged. On that basis, plus a little dam horse-trading, they figure to get all the so-called liberal Northern Democrats with them.

Suddenly—whoops—Roy Wilkins of the NAACP comes out and says that the bill, even with jury trial, is better than no bill at all. Whereupon, Walter Lippmann, the so-called pundit, pleads with the president that if a bill is good enough to merit the approval of both Sam Rayburn and Roy Wilkins, it should certainly get his signature. Eisenhower, however, disregarded this because he thought he still had the Southern Negroes behind him—when Rev. King came out with a statement endorsing the "lesser evil."

Dirty politics breeds nimble politicians who breed dirty politics.

—Intellectual,
New York City.

Dissents from Dissent:

'Living Screwdriver' Says Writer Ignores Facts

I would like to write an answer to the writer of "The Auto Workers," in the DISSENT magazine (Summer 1957). The writer is Frank Marquart and he is the editor (and author) of the Voice, which is our Local 212 paper.

It is supposed to be the members' paper but we never get any chance to put anything we want in the paper. We never see anything in the Voice in regards to the production worker so how can he know what to write about us?

As I was reading this article it looked to me to be a damn shame that this man would be allowed to stay on the pay roll and be paid by the production man's money.

As I noticed, he is very interested in the automobile shops. He tells about their "prison-like regimen" and also explains the plant guards and their duties, and he brings in the skilled workers against the production workers.

He judges and separates the skilled worker and the production worker by what kind of home he has and what kind of car he drives. He never one time

Humiliate Teen Couple

I know a teenaged interracial couple who had a lot of trouble just getting together and getting married. They are very much in love and tried very hard to get married but everyone pulled them apart.

The girl was on probation, she had been sent to jail for cutting school! Millions of kids do that, I did too. She got along better with her parents than I did. She just didn't like that school and she wouldn't go, so they sent her to juvenile hall and from there to a girls' school. But it was her probation officer who wouldn't give her permission to get married.

They finally got permission. Now they're married and have a beautiful baby girl.

—16-Year-Old

mentions that the skilled worker departments are lily white and the production worker, white or colored, cannot break into they in any way.

He judges the skilled workers to be more developed and more intelligent than the production man, but we are the ones who make his payroll possible by working in this prison that he speaks of.

He criticizes the way we work and operate, but the workers have been performing this work for three years, some have as much as 20 or 30 years seniority. Far as I know, Marquart never worked in a shop in his life.

He criticizes us for trying to get a minute or two of our own time to look at a comic or smoke a cigarette or get a drink of water. Not one time have I heard or heard this man speak anything in any way to try to make it a better place to work.

He is always criticizing and dominating the production work but he stands ready with hands out ready to receive his pay which the working man's dues pays him.

He says we're a living screw driver the way we have to work on these auto production lines. But we wouldn't have to be living screw drivers if the Union had not gone behind closed doors and sold us production workers out as far as working conditions.

I don't drive the best car in the world and I don't live in the best neighborhood, but it's the best I can afford and I think I'm just as important a human being as someone who lives in a fancy house in Grosse Pointe.

Whenever the president of the corporation thanked the Union for cooperation in putting in Automation he let it out what the reason is we're forced to be living screw drivers. That's on the way we want to live, no matter what Marquart says.

Chrysler Worker,
Detroit

An Exchange of Letters:

HOW CAN THE WORKERS FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESSURES OF AUTOMATION?

(Note: In our July 16 issue, we printed a letter and article submitted by W. G. McLean, Secretary of the Hartlepool Trades Council, in Great Britain. Mr. McLean put forth the point that Automation demanded the enactments of laws to protect workers from its abuses, and he asked our readers why it is that the American workers have never given mass support to a labor party of their own as the English workers have.

We print below large sections from Charles Denby's letter of reply as well as from Mr. McLean's followup letter. An additional response will be found in "British Correspondence," on page 5. As always, our readers are invited to take part in this continuing discussion. —Editors

Workers Need to Control Their Own Lives

Dear Mr. McLean:

I think the question you raise is of great significance and importance and I will try to deal with it as I see it today.

On the central question which Automation seems to have posed so sharply — "Why is it . . . that American labor has never given mass support to its own political party?"—I have heard workers say that if a labor party means Reuther, Meany, etc., in control, they don't feel it would mean a . . . significant, difference from what we have now. . . .

Control by the present labor leadership (who, it seems to me, are the controlling element in the British Labor Party today) will not make the total change in our lives that we know to be necessary. . . . Rank and file workers are skeptical of their leaders who, like Meany, Reuther, Lewis, McDonald, Petofsky, etc., consider Automation to be progress rather than a capitalistic means for greater exploitation and degradation of the working force. . . .

NO BLUEPRINTS

I don't quite know what you mean when you say that no one—least of all the union leaders in Britain—"believes that the problem now confronting the Detroit automobile workers can, or will be solved by purely industrial action."

If, by "purely industrial action," you mean the way in which the trade union leaders negotiate agreements with management behind the workers' backs, I must agree. If, by social legislation, you mean proposals for laws and blueprints for others to live by—Reuther has drafted more such than anyone I know of. Neither, certainly, is an answer to the workers' need to control their own lives. . . .

WHAT LAWS?

What kind of laws are in preparation in England which will allow the British worker any more control over Automation, and freedom from its abuses, than the American worker now has? Has the British worker's experience with his

"own" Labor Party in power allowed him to conclude that he controlled production, or the State, or his own life? * * *

I am not saying that the American workers don't think they should have their own political party. Who can say that they will or will not organize their own? I can remember for how many years it was said that the American workers weren't class-conscious enough to organize industrial unions, until 1935-1937 and the rise of the CIO gave the lie to that.

I am saying, however, that neither politics, nor production, nor daily living itself, can any longer be separated . . . and that the question—who will control?—poses this in an entirely new sense in our age of totalitarianism and the H-bomb.

Yours sincerely, Charles Denby * * *

How Can the People Get and Keep Democratic Control?

Dear Mr. Denby:

It would not, I think, be naive to suggest that whereas the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries was the forerunner of a completely new social and political system; automation, with its attendant social implications, is similarly the gate-way to a new epoch. . . .

I question whether existing social and industrial legislative machinery is adequate to cope with the tremendous human problem that this must bring about.

As a democratic socialist (I often hesitate in employing the term today because of the many and varied interpretations to which it has been lent) I believe that the fullest possible use—for the worker and bureaucrat alike—would best be derived, in fact could ONLY be derived from this revolutionary industrial process by it being democratically owned and controlled by the people.

The method and machinery through which that control could best be effected in the interests of the people by the people, quite naturally, would best be determined in consideration with the time, place and circumstances. . . .

Why must a mass political party formed and supported by American labour be necessarily identified with Meany, Reuther and company. . . . Such is decidedly

not the case in our British movement. . . .

Of the 12 members of the Parliamentary Labour Party's "Shadow Cabinet" in the House of Commons, no less than 8 have played little or no part in trade union leadership. Ironically, it is that fact alone that has been responsible for much heated discussion within the movement. * * *

BRITISH VIEW

Contrary to the attitude of CIO-AFL the British Trades Union Congress, as laid-down by the 1956 representative assembly, does not believe that private industrial corporations have any "right" to control production in any manner they may see fit.

Whilst welcoming technological advance or other changes in industrial methods they insist that: (a) workers are fully informed and consulted well in advance; (b) every effort is made to provide ways and means, including compensation, to facilitate transfer—with the minimum hardship to workers and their families; (c) adequate facilities and opportunities for training and re-training are made available, especially for older workers; (d) wage rates are safeguarded and the benefits of automation shared by all; (e) working conditions are improved and careful attention given to the human problems that arise; and, last but not least, that full employment is maintained. * * *

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

All this is not to suggest . . . that the British working-class movement is point perfect. With the Labour and Co-operative Parties forcing these claims in the Commons . . . does suggest that the worker in Britain has at least some influence. Although this form of workers' control . . . leaves a great deal to be desired, it is a beginning. * * *

The focal point of the problem that confronts us is not, I feel, who will control inasmuch as how can the people obtain and maintain full and final democratic control?

Following the advent of complete electronic manufacture coupled with the hypnotic powers of mass communication there are those like Mr. J. B. Priestly who would believe we shall be controlled by remote-control. Somehow I just can't accept that.

West wishes. Yours sincerely, W. G. McLean

Editor's Note: We think that the essence of the whole question is: WHAT KIND OF LABOR SHALL MAN PERFORM? We shall begin with this in our next issue and continue steadily in the future.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

THE AIR WE BREATHE

Night and day, awake and asleep, almost 20 thousand times every 24 hours, we breathe air into our lungs. Until recently we have been little concerned with what this air contained so long as it had oxygen.

It took millions of years for animal life, through a process of evolution, to leave the sea, give up gills, and replace them with air sacs, called lungs, whereby to take oxygen out of air instead of water. Now, at the very time we are making plans to leave our own atmosphere of air and visit other planets, we become interested in particles present in the air that enters our bodies.

HOW POISONS ENTER OUR BODIES

There are 3 basic ways by which harmful substances, living or dead, can enter our bodies: through the skin; by way of the stomach and intestines with food; and through the lungs with the air we breathe. Over many generations, the body has had time to develop protective mechanisms for the surface covering, and for the digestive system.

In more recent times, with the coming of industry, our lungs and bronchial tubes have been hard hit by a variety of irritating material often expelled into the air as wastes. The breathing organ has not had time to adjust to these poisonous chemicals. The result for the human body has, in many instances, been catastrophic.

THE COAL DUST THAT MINERS INHALE

It has been known that the lungs of modern city dwellers become gray and black over the years, as compared to infants' lungs or even those of farmers. Not many of us, however, are aware of a disease peculiar to miners who inhale coal dust—Pneumoconiosis. This disease is caused by retention of coal dust in the lungs.

The dust forms black spots around which fibrosis or scar-like tissue forms. This process tends to obstruct some of the finer air passages and results in an expansion of the blocked air sacs—a condition called Emphysema. As more coal dust is inhaled, the inflammation continues; hard masses form and the lungs become distorted. Not infrequently, Tuberculosis becomes associated with this condition. The end result is increased work in breathing, and a heavy load on the heart which often leads to failure.

In a recent study of miners in a general hospital in the soft-coal fields of West Virginia, out of 430 miners who were patients in 1955, 168, or 31 per cent, gave X-ray evidence of Pneumoconiosis. There are no adequate statistics of this disease in the U. S., but there are in Great Britain. Prior to 1952, 30,000 cases of Pneumoconiosis were certified in South Wales. There, the incidence of disease increased with both the age of the patient and the length of his exposure to coal dust. X-rays of lungs of working, disabled, and retired miners revealed Pneumoconiosis in over 50 per cent.

THE NEW POISON OF THE ATOM BOMB

Physicians have been aware of poisons generated in the manufacturing process and inhaled into the lungs—various solvents; gases formed in the intense heating of melting metals; chemicals related to specific industries; and sprays used in agriculture. Until recently little attention was paid to irritants from automobile exhausts and from tobacco smoke. However, the phenomenon that has truly alarmed us, by directing attention toward the poisonous materials we take in with our air, has been the explosion of the atom bomb. This new poison in our atmosphere seems to be the one to end all poisons.

WORK & THE HUMAN BEING

In the coal mining industry of this country, through pressure of the organized coal workers, some hazards have been eliminated or lessened. I am certain that steps to prevent the inhalation of coal dust are possible. However, it is clear from the articles in the coal section of News & Letters that the mine operators move chiefly through the pressure of dollars rather than the well-being of the miners. This is not to say that the mine owners are abnormal. They are normal members of their class in present-day society.

The coal operator differs from the coal miner only in the way he looks upon work. Because of his position, it is only the product of the laborer—his labor power—that is important to the mine owners; it is as if he wished to separate labor-power from the laborer entirely.

The worker, on the other hand, is now bringing into consciousness something that has been in his blood and bones a long time—that it is the very way of looking at his labor that is at the root of the many evils in his life. He is beginning to see that the very maintenance of his status as a human being requires that his work produce not only a product, but that it is a self-developing activity wherein he extends his faculties and powers as a human being and creates new ones.

It is becoming clear that the conditions of his labor—the way in which his work is extracted from him—strangles the very heart of his life-movement and growth, so that death often comes to him before he has become alive. In his questioning of the very air he breathes, the worker is raising the question of a very different kind of life than the one he suffers under in present day society.

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Lay-Offs & the '58 Model Change

(Continued from Page 1)
 depts. 90, 91, Trim dept., final assembly, and the paint shop will be under the Plymouth division, and depts. 75, 78, 79, Press dept., and all the small divisions will remain in the stamping division. They are shifting lines from one dept. to the next.

"The big question that is being asked and debated is who is going to represent the workers. The Plymouth Local say they are and 212 say they will.

"Before Chrysler bought this Mack plant it was Briggs Mfg. Co. Everybody knows our Briggs Local, which is 212, was the best-fighting Local in the Union and we won the best conditions. After Chrysler bought it, and we went down to the Local on a grievance, they would tell us 'You're not working for Briggs anymore. You're working for Chrysler.' And they cut away on what we fought to win.

"Now, when we go down to the Union, what are they going to tell us? 'You're not 212, anymore, you're Plymouth?' Bad as our contract is, it's better than the Plymouth contract. For instance, we have division-seniority but in Plymouth all they have is departmental seniority. And don't think Plymouth doesn't use it to get rid of older workers and men they don't like. They shift them to another dept. where they go to the bottom of the heap—and then out."

"What are we going to do? If the production worker doesn't get together some way, we're lost. They're splitting us but good. They want to squeeze the production worker into a spot where we have nothing to say about what goes on in the shop."

WORKERS SUFFER GREATER STRAIN

Before these latest stages of Automation separated workers from one another they worked in groups, and could help one another out, when one fell behind on production. If someone fell ill, or had some serious problem, practically every worker in that dept. knew of it and would try to help.

Today, because of the complications of many of these machines, even the small ones, a worker cannot lend a helping hand. No matter how much another worker is behind. There are only two or three workers on a machine, and they are spaced quite a distance apart, so that they can't even be friendly beyond the boundaries of the machine. Today, when a worker is seriously ill others in the dept. seldom hear of it unless a thank you card to some friends is pasted up on the time clock.

WHAT'S BECOME OF LAID-OFF WORKERS?

Many of the laid-off workers had to find cheaper places to live. Many try their luck by going to another town. The life in their old commu-

nity, that took years to build, has been wrecked and torn apart by the invention of that "progressive" force called Automation.

A reporter of one of the Detroit daily newspapers interviewed some of the 10,000 workers who were put out of work at Packard Motors here, two years ago. They carried this article mainly because several workers committed suicide from the strain and pressure they suffered along with losing all they had accumulated over many years of hard work for the company.

The paper also carried a report by one of the International representatives that said out of the 10,000 about 5,000 had found other employment — mainly the younger workers. But those with 15 to 25 years seniority are caught in a trap, especially if they are 40 years or older. The biggest majority of the 5,000 that are unemployed have lost their homes and everything.

WHOSE PROGRESS?

Some years ago, many believed that Automation meant progress. The Union leaders not only believe it, they act on it. In every industry, they crack down against workers who wildcat against Automation machines. They scorn their rank and file as being too dumb to recognize "progress."

When Ford introduced Automation in his Rouge plant, back in '53, the workers struck against it and Reuther forced them back. Lewis follows the same policy in coal, as does McDonald in steel.

Some people ask, "Are you opposed to the machines? That's not the question. The question is what these machines are doing to the people that depend on work to make a living. Who suffers from these machines? The workers. Who gets the profit? A few individuals.

Reuther's answer is some vague talk about a shorter-week, but his actions speak louder than his words, and he says less and less as time goes on and more workers lose their jobs with each change. General Motors' president, Harlow Curtice was a lot more honest when he recently said that Automation has the advantage that it can eliminate high-cost repetitive human labor—that is, the production worker. In saying so he made it plain that those who don't get "eliminated" had better produce—and no nonsense about the shorter work-week.

If it were left to the Auto's Big Three, or to Reuther and his brother-Big Labor Leaders, there would be no way out. Only the rank and file worker himself is concerned with what Automation does to his life, and to his family to his wife, and to his family—and only he can change it.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

MIDDLE EAST

The recently concluded vest pocket war in Oman might easily have exploded into a general war, so precarious is the peace of the world.

The issues appeared obscure as reported in the American press. On the surface, it appeared as the revolt of the Imam of Oman against the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, who called in the British Government to protect him against the Imam, who, in turn, was supported by King Saud of Saudi Arabia.

The British Government protested the use of modern American arms, supplied by Saud to the rebel chief. The British used jet planes and employed the tactics with which they fought the Nazi general, Rommel, during the desert warfare of World War II.

* * *

Behind the scenes are the facts that the Shiekdoms of Oman, Arden and Yemen, on the Arabian Sea, have the oil potential of Saudi Arabia but have no defined borders with that country. The oil concessions of these countries are held by the British, while the rich Saudi Arabian concession is in American hands.

The Eisenhower administration, working hand in glove with the oil companies, is up to its ears in political intrigue in the Middle East. The secret maneuvers come under the heading of "defense secrets," but it is quite clear that American diplomacy is engaged in a life and death struggle with all — British, Russian, or whatever other influence—that might threaten its dominant position.

* * *

Syria and the United States have reached a diplomatic impasse. The Russians appear to be do-

minating the situation in that country.

Russian naval strength, in the form of submarines in force, appears to be establishing bases in Arabian ports. Russia presents the appearance of helping the struggle against imperialism only because the current activities of London and Washington are so opposite, so mercenary.

Nowhere in the Middle East does any force appear, even slightly democratic, with any courage to defy the feudal leadership of any of the Arab countries, and which in any way proposes a better life for the masses of the Arab peoples.

All opposition to the ruling Sheiks, Kings and Sultans is crushed with the help of American, British and French imperialism on the one hand, and Russian totalitarianism is on the other hand. The voice of the Arab masses is yet to be heard.

* * *

LODZ, POLAND

Another demonstration this time in Lodz, Poland, in the form of a general transportation strike, followed by a textile strike has once again shown the dissatisfaction of the Polish workers with their Communist regime. Again it was suppressed only through the use of the Russian Red Army.

What led to the strike, were the miserable working conditions and the high cost of living. In Poland it costs 2 hours of labor to buy a pound of beef; 5 hours for a pound of butter; 2 weeks for a pair of shoes; and a month for an overcoat.

This is what is being passed off as "the new life" under the regime of Zomulka, who has the approval of both the Russian and the American regimes. The Polish workers, on the other hand,

are once again laying down their lives in the struggle for Bread and Freedom.

* * *

YOUTH ABROAD

41 young Americans, who recently attended the Moscow Youth Festival, have defied the State Dept. by visiting Red China.

The State Dept. is making a jackass of itself in the eyes of the world by creating a big fuss over the visit.

The big American Press is torn between a desire to condemn the kids and support the action of the State Dept., and their own struggle with Dulles for permission to send their own reporters to Red China.

We do not know if the kids can withstand the propaganda of the visit and the brain-washing, but so far they have been able to withstand the propaganda passed out by the State Dept.

* * *

BRITISH GUIANA

Once again, British Guiana has elected Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the Communist leader of the Peoples Progressive Party, to the post of Chief Minister of that British Crown Colony. When he was elected previously, the British displaced him and called for "more democracy." Still, under their watchful eyes, the people have again elected him.

While he has 9 seats on the Legislative Council against 5 for the opposition, who seek unity with the new West Indian Federation, the British are not licked. The British appointed Government has the power to appoint enough members to the Council to overcome Jagan's legal majority and administratively to defeat the vote of the people.

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