

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

New Lay-Offs for '61

The lay-offs in some of the plants in Detroit are so severe that if you were there five years ago and had seen the workers coming out of the plant and returned now you would not believe your eyes. At the Mack Ave. Chrysler plant where workers numbered some 30,000 in 1955 there are not 3,000 today. The majority of the workers that were transferred to another plant with the body assembly job are laid off. If the company had not taken back frame work from Midland Steel there would be even less, far less workers at the Mack plant. The talk in the shop these days is around how long will Chrysler continue in business.

This is the result of Automation, that some want you to believe is progress. The machines have had the help of the time-study men who cut off every job they possibly can or give two or three men's work to one man. Now they are yelling that they have too many cars on hand and every day some department is being sent home after four hours work, saying they had a break down or they are too far ahead on stock.

A few weeks ago the company eliminated the De-Soto car. Last week the rumor was that 1962 will mark the end of the Plymouth. Every worker wonders how will his day begin and how long will it last—four hours, five, six, eight? No one seems to expect 40 hours a week any more.

Automation's Toll

Several months ago a worker in our department got his finger crushed, through no fault of his own the company admits. After being off a week or so he came back to work. He could only use one hand. After several weeks he was told that the crushed finger would have to be taken off. Again he was back in a week, this time with one finger less.

Worked 23 Years for Company

The second day back in the shop he was notified that he could not do enough work with one hand to pay for himself and would have to be laid off until he could work with both hands. He cried and said, "I have worked here for 23 years and never have gotten a scratch till now. The safety man said that it was unsafe to work on that machine as it was. The company said I had to work on it in that manner to make production. If I had refused I would have gotten fired for refusing to work. Now I am being put out of work because I did work it and got hurt." While he was talking to the steward, workers crowded around him and told him to go to the union hall and tell the officers what happened and to come back and let them know what they said. If he was not put back on the job and next day, they said they would walk out and close the plant down. The next morning we were sent home early and have not seen this worker since. Another worker said, "This is what the union means when they say let them handle all of our problems."

What Next?

Now these same union bosses are saying that they are giving up the cost of living in the next contract because of better fringe benefits. We were laid off on the 3rd of December until some time in January. We will lose three days fringe benefit pay—half-day Christmas eve., and half-day New Year's eve., Christmas day and New Year's day. There are many workers that never got these fringe benefits—they were always laid off just before the holidays and called back afterwards. What other games are these so-called union leaders going to play with our lives?

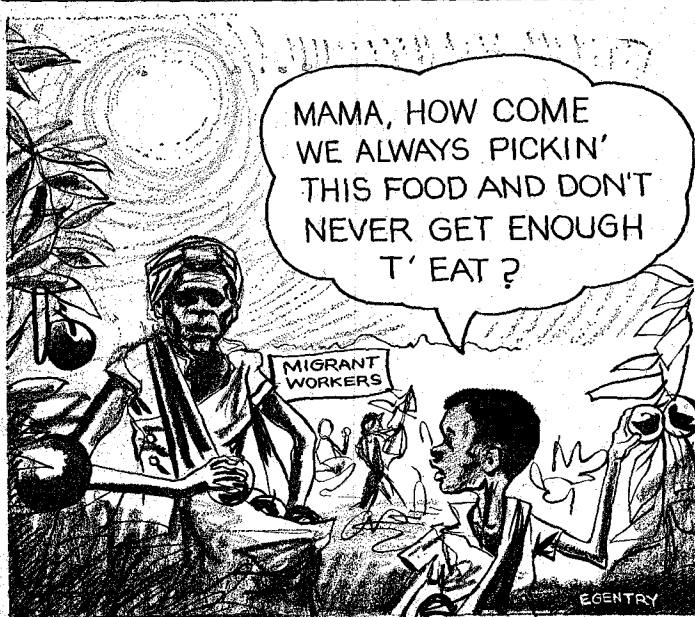
Season's Greetings

BE SURE TO SEE:

- Lecture Series For 1961 page 7
- British Labor News page 3 and 6
- Southern Bigotry and Negro Courage Editorial page 4

We're in A Full-Blown Recession

Nine new industrial areas have now been officially added to those where the unemployed number more than 6 per cent of the labor force. This means that 51 of the country's 150 largest industrial areas — or more than 33 per cent — are officially classed as in recession.



The Working Day

THE MIGRANT WORKER

Ill Housed, Ill Clothed, Ill Fed

Stretching through fields, towns and cities on the East Coast from Florida to up state New York and New Jersey, on the West Coast from the Mexican border to Oregon, from Texas to the Mississippi delta and from Texas to New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California, two million Americans toil a working day that seems to have no beginning and no end. Just the time of the harvest and perpetual travel.

Millions of Americans have learned for the first time about these Americans—the migrant workers—through T.V. A few weeks ago Edward R. Murrow produced "The Harvest of Shame."

CONDITIONS OF LABOR

The migrant worker averages 136 work days a year and makes approximately \$900 a year. He averages \$900 a year, what he returns to "home base" with is another story. Of those interviewed by Murrow, one brought back \$1.65, another \$5 and a third broke even. "We were broke when we left and we're broke when we come back."

These workers have no protection in all but six states under any of the hard fought for legislations of minimum wage, (itself a joke) the eight hour day, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance. They are excluded from all interstate commerce and right to bargain laws.

The vampires of the industry, the processors and packers of fruits and vegetables in this country have powerful influence in Washington. Those in Congress in turn, turn a deaf ear to the delegates sent by the migrant worker but they keep a vote in their pockets for the packers' and growers' lobby.

Two of the smaller vipers in the fields that were interviewed by Murrow had the nerve to say to millions of T.V. watchers, of the migrant worker: "Well I guess they got a little gypsy in their blood, they like it... they live better than we do... they're the happiest race of people on this earth." The other, "I think agricultural workers need the right to change jobs... freedom to fight... but the right to strike

at time of harvest should be regulated." (sic)

PERPETUAL TRAVEL

It appeared as though the Negro American who makes up almost one third of the two million "happiest" of all people are "treated" even worse than the white American agricultural worker and they have it bad enough. The white American seemed to do his traveling by car and buses sent down by the crew leader but the Negro laborers were herded into broken down trucks also sent by the crew leader, unable to sit and stopping maybe once or twice on a 600 mile journey. It had all the comfort of an endless rush hour subway ride. Mr. Murrow made the very telling point that produce sent by trucks must be refrigerated and cattle transported by truck must be watered and fed every three or four hours.

When the migrants arrive at their "place of work" they live in shacks, pigpens, barns, chicken coops, old buses, tents etc., with no beds, no toilets, no running water, nothing. And this is housing that the migrant workers must pay for out of their earnings. They pay the crew leader.

THE CREW LEADER

As usual the vipers in the fields as well as those in factories do not do their own dirty work. In factories you have supervisors and foremen, in the fields you have the straw boss—the crew leader, the "patron." He is the one that sends out the trucks and buses, gathers up his human cargo, carries them to the farms, many times, weeks before the harvest begins so that the migrants are two or three weeks in debt already when they begin work.

Another man interviewed by Murrow was a minister by the name of Cassidy. Of the migrant workers in general he said, (Continued on Page 2)

When the unemployed statistics for October, which were kept from the American people for election purposes, were finally released, they revealed what the workers knew all along—we are in full recession, and have been for some time. There is no prospect for improvement. On the contrary. The year-end wave of lay-offs is expected to raise the unemployed above the five million mark. These are government estimates. A truer figure is more like seven million fully unemployed, with an additional three million working part time.

SPEED-UP, AUTOMATION UNEMPLOYMENT

A Great Lakes steelworker told News & Letters, "When the year first began, we were just ending our 116-day strike. We all thought things would just have to be better this year because they couldn't get any worse than they were. But we were wrong. The speed-up, safety conditions and unemployment is worse than it ever was."

This sentiment of the steelworker was echoed by workers in coal mines, auto factories and other industries.

The story of the past year is a repetition of what has been the grim truth for millions of workers who have known nothing but full-blown recession ever since Automation was introduced 10 years ago.

In the last ten years the number of employed miners has skidded fantastically: from some 450,000 miners in 1950 to 175,000 today. This figure is still being lowered as the continuous miner continues to take its toll of men.

In auto and steel it is the same story. In auto, 5 years ago there were 746,000 men working, now there are 615,000. Of the 500,000 steelworkers, some 100,000 are unemployed because of the recession and Automation. Production of steel is at an all-time low, with only 50 percent of capacity being used.

BIG BUSINESS UNIONS

As for the unions themselves, the UMW convention held in October gave proof of the "big business" that it was. National officers boasted that there was over \$104 million dollars in the union treasury, that the union was a big coal operator with over \$30 million dollars invested in coal mines. The union was reported "sound" because of the good investments that had been made.

Miners who have been laid off and their families who do not know where their next meal is coming from and those who have been cut off from the UMW welfare fund medical benefits because they have been unemployed for more than a year had a common reaction: The union is big business, is a coal operator, and coal operators and big business never did care about what happened to miners and their families.

(Continued on Page 8)

Detroit Automation Helps Buy Out British Ford Company

Dearborn—Three hundred men are going to be laid off at Ford 2 weeks before Christmas. We've been watching the maneuvers the company has gone through for this lay-off. This is the way they've been conniving:

I work in the B Building at Fords. This is the building where the cars are assembled, the motor installed and the cars finished. My job was a 6 man job, 3 men on each side of the line. The company has just eliminated 3 of these 6. The 3 men they took off haven't been laid off yet, but have been put on sweeping or some other kind of piddling job. I have 14 years seniority, and my buddy who was left on the other side has 13 years. The 3 men they took off our job had over 6 years. They are the ones who are going to go. They will be replaced by men with 10 years seniority or more from the Dearborn Engine Plant. This is the plant where the motors are received from the foundry and put together.

Some time ago the company had sent the low seniority men from the Dearborn Engine

Plant to our B building. They were paving the way for them to be kicked out altogether as soon as the Automation machines they got in the Engine Plant got going.

They have put so many new Automation machines in the Engine Plant since the end of last year and the beginning of 1960, that next year 40 men are going to be doing what over 200 did before. They have had these machines for some time, but they have just started to operate since the changeover in September.

By the time they are through shifting the men these machines have replaced from the Engine Plant to the B Building, there will be 300 from our plant going into the street, and the only ones left will have to have 10 years seniority or more.

Naturally the 3 men they have taken off our job are not going to be replaced by the new men coming from Engine plant. The line has been going at the same rate with 3 men as it used to go with 6. What it means is that 3 men are doing 6 men's work. I am working 16 hours in an 8 hour shift, and getting one man's wages for doing two men's work.

Ford can accumulate plenty of profit by eliminating that extra man's salary. In fact, he has accumulated enough this way to be able to buy out British Fords. As far as I am concerned the 360 millions he wants to pay, he has accumulated in just the past 2 years—since the so-called contract was signed in 1959 and the lay-offs and speedup began in earnest. Those 360 millions represent our accumulated sweat of the past 2 years.

—Ford Worker

500,000 Jobs Lost

The U.A.W. reports that the number of full-time jobs provided by private industry had dropped by 500,000 in the past seven years.

Heaven and Hell

Detroit — If you came into our department at Chrysler's you would think you were looking at a bunch of space men. We have hoods that go over our heads to keep the sparks from our welding torches from going down our shirts. You put grease on your face to keep from getting burned from the arcs that you strike. We look like space men working side by side.

I think if there's such a thing as hell it's right on that line at Chrysler. If there's such a thing as heaven we should go there because we keep our heads bowed all the time.

—Welder

1960

Death In The Mines

WEST VIRGINIA—The carnage in the mines continues. The terrible toll in human lives because of unsafe conditions, speed-up and lack of consideration for human life has not changed. If anything, it has increased.

Figures released for 1960 show that 252 men have been killed as of September in the coal mines. This represents 1.17 men killed for each million man hours of exposure underground.

For the same period last year, 227 men were killed in the same period, representing 1.03 men killed per million hours exposure.

* * *

Billions of dollars are spent each year to protect atomic workers against injury or death due to radiation—which is as it should be. Deaths to atomic workers can be counted on fingers and toes since 1945. There is a great hue and cry when a radiation death occurs.

In the past five years, over 1,500 miners have been killed in the mines. There are not billions spent on protection for them. Coal companies save money by side-stepping any safety feature that may cost a dollar—even though it might save miners' lives.

There is no hue or cry when these miners die their horrible deaths. They are only statistics.

Unemployment In Steel

DETROIT—The terrible unemployment in steel which has reached over the 100,000 mark because of Automation and lack of production has added to the anger of steelworkers throughout the country.

In the Great Lakes steel plant in Ecorse alone, the work force has been cut from 11,500 men to less than 7,000. Local grievances which were to be negotiated after the contract was signed ending the long strike at the beginning of the year have never been settled. More grievances have piled up, with no action taken on them.

Men have been killed in the plant because of lack of adequate safety precautions. Men still working have been speeded up to an ever man-killing pace. And the company continues to ignore demands of the men for better and safer working conditions.

At the Great Lakes plant, the company announced some months ago that plans were being made to build a new mill. These reports indicated that 500 men would be employed in the new mill.

Reports now are quite different. One steelworker said that this mill was going to be completely automated and run like an IBM machine. Instead of the 500 men, he said there will only be 38 men working there.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

THE MIGRANT WORKER

(Continued from Page 1)

"They are slaves... worse than slaves... somebody makes thousands of dollars from their sweat." Of the straw bosses he said, "Some crew leaders are good but the majority are bad, the worse thing that can be... the owner pays them 45c to pick (a certain quantity) of tomatoes, they turn around and pay the laborer 12c." A crew leader can make as much as \$14,000 a year. Some of the money may come from a lucrative trade in narcotics and prostitution.

So the emissary of the man in the manor house brings with him all the degeneracy that capitalism has to offer.

EDUCATION

Education for the migrant worker and his family is like a foreign word. One out of 500 go through grade school. One out of 5,000 go through high school and none ever go to college. Of the 11 and 12 year olds that were fortunate to get some schooling they had dreams like most children, of becoming, a technician, doctor or lawyer, but that dream must be shattered every time they return to work in the fields beside their mothers.

THE "HAPPY" PEOPLE

One nine year old boy in an Oklahoma labor camp was spending the day minding his four younger sisters. They were sitting on their bed. In the center of the mattress was a huge hole eaten away by rats. When asked what he will feed his sisters he replied that he did not know. Their mother was out in the fields picking beans. It would cost her 85c to put them in the nursery. She worked from six a.m. to four o'clock and was paid \$1. The beans she was told were of poor quality. She is 29 years old, a mother of 14 children. Food for her family costs \$2 a day. She was eight years old when she started to work in the fields. She said she didn't think she would ever get out.

One father on the West Coast when asked what he would like for his family said, "I'd like for my family to be well, stay together as much as possible, be on a farm away from so many people, attend one church, one school... be happy." The father was asked if he thought it would ever come about, "No, at the rate I'm going, no sir."

A Mr. Roach and his family travelled some 1,600 miles. "We sleep in the woods... we had sausage and a loaf of bread for dinner... all the money we have in the world right now is \$1.45."

FOREIGN LABOR

Migrant labor is extremely important to American agriculture. During World War II when labor was scarce the growers and packers brought in Mexican workers—more than 1/2 million every year now—plus Puerto Ricans, Bahamians, Jamaicans. Although an international labor contract offers more protection to these foreign workers, the contracts are hardly ever enforced. Just the fact that such protection is down on paper however displeases the Farm Bureau and the growers' contracting associations. The Japanese and Filipino migrants however fare even worse. They have no such contract between governments. Their contracts are made directly between their own government and the growers' association.

The basic aim of the capitalists, divide and conquer, sometimes finds an edge in. The American worker finds himself

caught in between. Some American workers want the foreign migrants sent back for they not only take jobs away but have sold their labor power more cheaply, cutting wages practically in half. But this solves nothing. The question that follows is what happens to those foreign workers sent back. Capitalism has created many problems and solves none. Its basic tenet is to extract from the worker the maximum and pay him the minimum. This applies as well to the "factory on wheels" as to the factories in the cities, to the "slums on wheels" as to the slums in the cities.

I have been inside of some of the worse sweatshops the garment district, and the electrical shops of New York have to offer and they have to be rooted out from the foundation up, but they appear as castles in the air compared to the conditions of migrant workers.

CAPITALISM'S SLUMS

We shudder when we see what the Chinese Communists are doing, and seem to turn our backs so as not to see what Mr. Murrow said, is just "90 miles from Times Square." Across from this migrant farm in New Jersey, where people live in pigpens and broken down barns is a \$500,000 stable for horses.

The Chinese communes are born out of state-capitalist totalitarianism and effect every phase of life from industrialization to agriculture. While migratory labor in this country is born out of the feudal past, the more mechanized it becomes the sooner will it leap into the totalitarian orbit.

The new nations emerging in Africa, that are surrounded by imperialism, have a double problem—that of developing their industry and agriculture.

Surely they cannot choose either private capitalism or the "Communists." The long sought freedom of the people of these countries would go for naught. If they "choose" either they would be plunged into a new slavery, that of the automation machine and the migrant worker.

U.S.A. 1960

The migrant worker in the United States is fighting for the most rudimentary working conditions. One worker said, "If we stick together and say we won't pick 'em until you give us a bathroom in the field for the ladies at least... We keep trying to get someone to investigate. Our boys go up to Congress but they get the run around."

This is what the American migrant worker is asking for in 1960. This is what the Farm Bureau, growers' associations and the like fight tooth and nail against.

This is U.S.A. 1960, the richest land in the world. Why should anyone in Africa wish to follow "the American way?"

I am returning to the problem of field workers in the next issue.

SPECIAL



REPORT ON THE SOUTH

Jan. 7, 1961

7-9 P.M.

8751 Grand River

The Time Study Man

Los Angeles—The thing that drives you the most in the plant is the time study man. Anyone who has ever been under time study knows that they have been under something. The time study man is usually an engineer who flunked out of college. He goes under the guise of being a very important person. You have got to know the type. They walk around the plant with a clip board in their hand.

A COP

If you know there is a time study man around it is just like a Nazi or a cop, you know something is going to happen. It is hard to describe, you have to go through it. A lot of it is not in the open, a lot of it is under cover. They will stand behind posts; they will stand at a distance.

TV CAMERAS?

I don't doubt that they use television. They come up with a lot of information that they could not get just timing you for an hour. They can tell you every second you use, every motion that you make with your body and your hands, everything you do. How much time you have got and how much more work you can do. As you progressively are able to do this work, naturally if you do something over and over several thousand times you get to do it fairly well, you get a little faster at it. However, you don't benefit by your speed, they give you something else to do. Until it becomes almost impossible to work.

NEVER ENOUGH

You can start from the time the bell rings until the line stops and you still can never do enough work. That's what time study has come to today. The theory is that there's no limit to the amount of work a man can do.

There's where the struggle comes in. You have to fight them. You do what work you can; or you go in the hole until somebody helps you. Maybe at the end you might win the battle and not have to do it at all, or you may get fired, or get defeated and you just accept it and do it, but you go down fighting.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are sorry we are unable to publish "Way of the World" in this issue.

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BRITISH LABOUR NEWS

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEES

Socialism Reaffirmed

Members and friends of the London News & Letters Committee welcome the development of a new, independent trend in working class politics recently constituted under the above heading, and from whose new paper, "Agitator," the following editorial passages are reproduced.

If socialism is to mean anything it must abolish the domination of man by man. It must establish a society where man lives not only in harmony with his fellow men but also with his own labor.

We . . . welcome the growing indifference of workers to the "old" parties. Their suspicion of them is entirely progressive.

Politicians assure us that this is because the workers are "apathetic," made so by capitalist prosperity. We suggest the reason is more fundamental. The workers see in these organizations distorted images of the very society which, in their everyday lives, they are compelled to struggle against.

We believe that up and down the country people are constantly brought into struggle against bosses and bureaucrats that they are constantly striving to assert their ideas, and their way of doing things against wishes and methods imposed upon them from above.

The first issue of "Agitator" is a new departure in both skill and orientation, and deserves wide support.

Below are items of note from the current issue:

from:
'Sackings,'
by Eric Morse

So it went on last month. In England, the Rootes Group felt it had made enough cars for the time being. In Germany, Borg-Ward received "permission" from the government to sack its workers. In Paris, Renault, the pride of the French nationalised motor industry, threw 3,000 out of the gates—or tried to . . .

Parisians blocked the gates 7,000 strong. The press bleated its alarms at seeing "Peace in Algeria" banners in the forefront of the demonstration.

700 men at Cricklewood, W. London, launched a strike that grew to 10,500 through the

Rootes Group in 24 hours. The Minister of Labour was at pains to say that other work was available. The Chancellor seemed pleased that his credit restrictions were working so well. He proposed to let them go on working!

Who the hell do these pious clowns think we are? Cattle to be milked or slaughtered at will? Or men with lives of our own to live, decently and securely? Just look the T.U.C.; They chose this moment to parley with the bosses on limiting the right to strike.

In one month, we've seen that neither capitalist boss nor government bureaucrats can run the industry in a sane manner . . .

We must campaign for taking the factories into the workers' own hands. We will make them supply peoples' needs starting with the conditions of those who work in them.

Readers' Views

War and the Working Class

I begin to despair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Direct Action Committee. I was invited to the so-called industrial meeting of D.A. After a lot of blah, there was talk of campaigning for "blocking" work at Holy Loch (the Polaris base near Glasgow). Then some clot got up and said we must not do that as it would be an act of violence against the American sailors and their wives.

The next day I went to the CND Trades Union Conference in a high state of hope that at least CND was to set its teeth into something. But this also was a dead loss.

We had four worthy Trades Union officials, "speaking in their private capacity," telling us all what we knew before, and urging us to go round in the old familiar circle; the platform had not the lightest wisp of an original idea.

I do not know if the order of speakers from the floor was especially selected but it seemed strange that it was not until the last 45 minutes that anyone suggested that

CND must be linked with the general working-class struggle. Then we had four speakers in a row (including myself), but the hall was pretty empty by then, and what was left of the platform made it fairly obvious that this was not their idea.

Trades Council Secretary
East London

My own approach is that today nuclear weapons and nuclear war is the Achilles heel of capitalism. There is no sense in talking about unemployment when in this country it hardly exists although the motor industry may soon let the side down. Unfortunately, our self-styled revolutionary Marxists stable as many sacred cows as the Establishment.

The point which I feel must be continually hammered home is that manufacturing nuclear weapons is the condition for capitalism allowing us to "never have it so good," and when the fallacy is eventually exploded, capitalism will use the weapons in a last despairing act of self-preservation.

A.E.U. Militant
Essex

Workers Outraged at Detroit's Takeover of British Ford Plants; Fear New Speed-up and Lay-offs

DAGENHAM — The ease with which Henry Ford II succeeded in obtaining British Treasury permission to get full control of Fords (G.B.), Ltd., has spread alarm and despondency throughout the Dagenham plant.

The younger executives and trainees see their prospects at a dead end. What hope of promotion have they if the plum jobs and high positions are booked for Detroit nominees?

Much more important, the production workers are apprehensive because Ford (U.S.A. is even more notorious for its inhumanity and

callousness than the British company. Their profits were £17 per week from each and every man employed, on the last 6 months' trading.

Within 8 years, Henry Ford II will get his money back, off the sweat of our backs!

It is true we hate Patrick Hennessy and his Boardroom of Hatchet Men. But neither do we have any liking for Henry Ford II.

As one man said, "Until now, this firm has been half American. Now, every job will be 'U.S.!' (U.S. being British Army talk for 'Unfit for Service')."

—Committee Member, Fords

Ford Stewards Condemn Sellout

LONDON — The Ford Shop Stewards met quickly to discuss the deal being made over their heads. Their public statement (ignored by the millionaire press) says it must have been a shock to realize that Detroit is prepared to pay £128 million to buy out the British shareholders.

"It is useless," the Shop Stewards' statement says, "the Chancellor claiming that this will assist in bridging the dollar gap, when in fact, all future dividends will be paid to the U.S. shareholders in dollars.

"The President of the U.S. company stated to the press 'that the Company's operations will continue, without change in employment policy, or development programme' This clearly means nothing different from the present policy of speed-up at every opportunity, which is the 'mixture as before' for Ford workers."

The Stewards add: "Operational this type of policy could well mean an extension of U.S. production methods in practice — running production for 9 months of the year and tooling up for the remaining 3 months.

"This could mean a 3 months lay-off for thousands of our members working on production lines, and may well be one of the reasons for the take-over."

NOTE: Redundant and short-time car workers in the Midlands are being asked by Western Command if they would like to join the Army!

Postscript:

Headed "The Ford Sell-Out," TRIBUNE editorial ends: "The motor-car industry is now more than ripe for public ownership. The Labour Party and the trades unions must now start a full-scale campaign to explain this policy to the electorate."

It would take some explaining! Look at British Railways! What's wrong with plain workers' control?

Automation Strike

300 members of the Tobacco Workers' union in the 3 Nottingham factories of John Players struck over the attempt to introduce battery operation; one operator to 6 machines.

All overtime in factories of the Imperial Tobacco Co., and any extension of existing overtime schedules in all other cigarette factories is banned.

Railway Workers Face Increased Health Hazards and Overwork as More Depots Keep Closing Down

Joseph Mustoe, N.U.R. spokesman for railway goods shunters, says, "I cannot think how many times colleagues of mine have had to carry on working for hours soaked to the skin . . .

I am a patient man, but it seems there is only one effective way to get notice taken of complaints, that is to stop work when the wet weather equipment issued does not do the job, and any man who is wet to the skin would be quite justified in doing this."

At the N.U.R. Railway Signalmen's Conference, details were given of at least 2 signalmen, in the Swansea area, who had to work till they dropped one weekend. One man had 5½ hours off in a continuous 32 hour stretch. His opposite num-

ber in an adjoining box had 7¼ hours off in that time. For both, the off time included the walking time to get home and back.

As Bro. E. Abraham, Conference Secretary, put it, "How dare the management put a man practically out on his feet." It makes a laughing stock of all the safety rules, the union, and the workers.

In an "Open Letter to Locomen," the N.U.R. North and East Scotland Locomotives Grades Committee slate the Tory government and its Plan for British Railways:

"So far we've got nothing but 3 Redundancy Agreements, and with depots being closed down all over the country these are hardly worth the paper they are written on.

"For want of adequate safeguards, we are watching the Plan take shape — at a much greater pace than was at first anticipated — as if it were a deadly spreading plague. Every grade is involved. 400 stations have been closed . . .

"In 1948, there were 20,211 steam locos on our railways. By the end of 1963 the combined total of steam and diesel locos will be 11,300, a reduction of 8,980 . . .

While this policy is being operated we are being forced to fight, not so much to improve our conditions, but to keep the conditions we have already won!"

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Busmen Display Poster Despite Official Ban

The London Transport Executive recently refused to allow the poster published by the London busmen's union committee, calling for an inquiry into the state of the bus service, to appear on buses, tube trains or stations.

The reason given for the refusal was the alleged "political" nature of the busman's poster. Yet at that time posters for "Mosley speaks . . ." (Trafalgar Square meeting) were prominent in W. London tube stations.

The other day, a No. 11 bus left Dalston garage with the banned poster displayed fore and aft. It clocked out at Liverpool Street at 7:34 a. m., reached Shepherd's Bush unharmed, passed unremarked down Fleet Street.

It was finally "picked up" back at Liverpool Street, instantly removed from service and sent back to Dalston Garage in "disgrace," where a full scale inquiry was mounted.

Publicly-owned paste had been used! It was closely examined by experts, who established the time of the "crime," but not the "culprits."

NOW AVAILABLE

Workers
Battle
Automation

ONE SHILLING

(See ad on page 7)

Editorial

Southern Bigotry and Negro Courage

A be-ribboned 6-year-old Negro child walked with great dignity through an ugly mob of shrieking white women. She kept this up for a week when finally a white child, daughter of a Methodist minister, walked into the "integrated" school. Then one white working mother brought her child to school. By then the white mob of 40 added to its other obscene remarks: "Kill her." The woman worker, Daisey Gabrielle, a native of Costa Rica, gave a good accounting of herself not only in the way she swung her big pocketbook to clear a path for her daughter, but in the response to the ostracism she was being subjected to: "Neighbors change. Principles don't."

Thus by tortoise pace a breach was established in the hard core of the Deep South, 7 years after the United States Supreme Court Decision for desegregated education.

It would be quite wrong to blame the ludicrously slow pace of desegregation on the bigoted 40 women, mis-called the "Cheer Leaders." Behind them stands the Louisiana State Legislature. And behind that stand not only the Deep South, or the border states which had gone through token desegregation, but Northern capital.

Shame of America, Past and Present

Since this is the year when the Republicans are trying to reverse the popular vote for John F. Kennedy, and the Southern Democrats are threatening to withhold the electoral votes, it would be well not to lose sight of the shame of America—the unprincipled combination of Northern capitalists and the Southern oligarchy to deprive the Negro of his constitutional rights. This notorious "gentleman's agreement" of 1876 consisted of the Northern promise to withdraw the troops and end Reconstruction in the South, coupled with the Southern promise to have its electors cast their vote in opposition to the popular vote. Thereby the electoral college made the loser (Republican Hayes) the winner, and thus the South regained undisputed authority to exploit and segregate the Negro.

With the 100th anniversary of the Civil War at hand official white Louisiana has come full circle. The depraved spectacle of today's Louisiana legislature debating a resolution to condemn the Supreme Court decision as a "Communist plot" and passing laws to abolish the public school system rather than integrate is the true though vile descendant of the rump Louisiana legislature which adopted the worst of the notorious Black Codes to re-enact slavery in a new form after it had been abolished on the battlefield in its chattel form.

The Negro as Vanguard

Yet it was the same state which in 1866, when it was still a mixed legislature in which Negroes and whites served with distinction, enacted legislation providing for free public education, mixed schools and equal rights irrespective of race. It was signed by the Negro Lieutenant Governor of the state. It was the only democracy, education, and principled way of life that the state ever knew.

The fact that the Negro struggles these past few years have finally gained some white support is a sign of the times that the days of the Bourbon South are numbered, and the dawn of a new South, symbolized by the sit-ins to end segregation, begun.

It is not the United States Supreme Court decision that stimulated the self-activity of the Negro people. On the contrary, it is the self-activity of the Negro people that compelled the Supreme Court to make its decisions.

The courage and the power of the Negro masses extended the arena of struggle from education to bus-travel, from sit-ins at lunch counters to beaches and from the South to the North.

Nor will the struggle subside now that there is a new administration, for the contradictions in the Democratic Party are even sharper than that in the Republican Party. The vote "for" Kennedy on the part of the Negroes was a demand for the riddance of the Eastlands, Byrds and Georges, who are the real source of inspiration for those 40 "cheer leaders" in Louisiana.

Far from the Negro struggle having ended with the new election, the struggle has just begun.

News & Letters

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Charles Denby Editor
Angela Terrano Associate Editor
I. Rogers Managing Editor

Second class mail privileges authorized at Detroit, Michigan.

Readers'

AUTOMATION BATTLEFIELD

Automation today is not in the building of the automobile—it's in the making of parts. To put it together they still have to use humans.

When Chrysler went into Automation they borrowed \$300,000,000 from Prudential Life Insurance Co. In order to make this investment in automated machinery pay off, they have to get the men to put the parts together as fast as the machines make them.

Since they went into Automation, Chrysler has speeded-up four or five times more than in '57. They are making twice as many cars as when they had 4,000 men, and they are doing it now with about 1,500 men.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

Because of Automation, there has been no overtime in auto this year. I haven't had one hour of overtime since the model change in August. At this time of year in 1958 I was working Saturday and Sunday.

Today I figured out that I made \$3,500 this year and of that \$1,100 I've never seen. It's been taken out of my check. I've taken home \$2,400 so far this year. And Nixon called this prosperity!

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

Automation has made retirement a joke. The retirement age is 65, but no man can keep up the pace they set us these days and live to get his pension.

Steelworker
Homestead, Pa.

I have worked in the auto shops for over 30 years, and I don't believe I have ever seen so many workers sent home sick as now. I know it's because of automation. I have never seen so many workers I know winding up in the hospital. That's from automation, too. One friend of mine had a kidney go bad from strain.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

The company's whole idea is that they've gotta keep fresh horses in the race. They don't put it that way, but there's their whole policy in a nutshell.

They have the pace set so high that a man can hardly stand it. If you can't keep up they send you down for a physical, find you have blood pressure trouble or something and send you home until you "feel better"—that is, feel you can take it again.

There are a lot of men working who know they can't keep up the pace, but this pamphlet will get them to really start thinking about it.

Steelworker
Homestead, Penna.

I can talk to my boss and tell him off when he tries to push me too far, and so can a lot of other guys. We do. But "Workers Battle Automation" shows that this isn't enough. You can tell the boss off, but you haven't changed your conditions of

work one bit. You've still got to take that drive. To really change things it's going to take me and a lot of others like me (and they are there, too) to start taking things in our own hands. That's the only way in the world we'll ever make labor human.

Auto Worker
Detroit

A Negro worker who bought a copy of "Workers Battle Automation" at one of our plant gate sales here told us that he was from the East, a college graduate who just got exhausted breaking down discrimination and not making it in his field. He has been at GM for some 7 years now and speaks of GM as the "last resort" for employment if you can't make it anywhere else. He says that is why there are so many minorities at GM, because white workers who have a chance somewhere else just don't come there. From what he said, the turnover at GM is tremendous.

Committee Member
Los Angeles

(See Ad Page 7)

One worker in my shop took the Automation pamphlet to look over but didn't think he wanted to buy it. The next day he came in and couldn't stop talking about how much was in there that he didn't know about before. When he began talking to the others, I began selling them like crazy.

One worker said it would be his "Number One Book" in his library, his prize book. I hope I can sell as many every week as I sold this week.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

If we can spread this far and wide, workers will start thinking about it. Then they will start talking about it. And then they'll start acting on it. That's when you'll see something really happen to change our conditions, and it can't be too soon to suit me.

Assembly Line Man
Detroit

LEADERS & RANKS

All the stewards want to do anymore is sit in their air-conditioned offices and put their feet on the table. When you call one, they even get somebody else to answer the phone and say they're not there. One day when one told me that over the phone I went up to his office myself to see, and sure enough, there he was with his feet on the desk. They'll promise you anything until they get in office. Then they figure they're good for 2 years and they're not interested in getting the company mad at them.

Disgusted
Detroit

Something is going to have to be changed for sure, but I don't condemn everyone in the union just because the top is rotten. Automation is a big problem and just talk won't solve it. There will have to be action. And that action will have to come out of the rank and file.

Worker
Detroit

The shop I work in is a classic example of the racial set-up in this country. There are 4 of us employed. Our talents run about the same. But pay-wise it is quite something different. The 2 white fellows receive \$3.75 an hour. The Japanese fellow receives \$3.50 an hour. I receive \$3.25 an hour. As you probably have assumed by now this is a non-union shop. The minimum union scale for our work is \$3.90 an hour.

This clearly shows how the 2 white fellows are being cheated and at the same time made to feel better than the non-whites. I am constantly amazed at the boss's belief that I am so stupid as to believe that I am an inferior worker and therefore deserve less.

Negro Painter
Los Angeles

INTEGRATION

During the campaign there was a lot of talk about whether or not U.S. prestige really was at an all-time low in the world. As if it wasn't low enough, imagine what the U.S. will look like to the rest of the world now when films of this screeching white "motherhood" screaming insults at those 4 little children are shown throughout the world!

Angelo Terrano
Detroit

If integration is the law of the land, as it is supposed to be, what possible excuse can the government have not to step in and intervene. As far as I am concerned Eisenhower has it on his head for what is going on today in New Orleans.

With one stroke of his pen he could have put some teeth into the law. I always thought that if you broke a Federal Law you were supposed to be thrown into jail. I'm sure if I broke one, I would land there. But Fabus never had a hand laid on him. He got away with it in Little Rock, and it just laid the pattern for others to follow it up.

New Reader
Detroit

The school integration here is only nominal and there is essentially no integration even on the professional level. The one thing that has changed as a result of "civil rights" (and a very dirty word that is) is the old kindly and protective feeling toward the "colored people." That's gone, dead, finished. The tension is high even among those who are not so directly "threatened" as those with children of school age.

I suppose the sit-ins and boycotts have accomplished something. They did take courage. It's up to the thinkers to show the success. From my vantage point, it appears that the white have become more white and the black more black. That is in a never-the-twain-shall-meet sense.

White Professional
Virginia

Editor's Note: The Virginia "White Professional" who sees that "whites have become more white" runs counter to those whites in Louisiana who have accompanied their children to integrated schools.

Views

Those young Southern Freedom Fighters—from the college students on the picket lines to the first graders in New Orleans—have made it impossible to sit on the fence any longer, and have inspired whites of principle to stand up and be counted at last. I feel that Negroes and whites who cherish freedom have been drawn more closely together than ever before, and that it is the whites who are being given their chance by the Negroes to regain their own dignity once more.

**Technician
Detroit**

* * *

I believe that the youth are so strong in the South today that they are really bringing out the hard core of white fascists into the open.

**Working Woman
Detroit**

* * *

I don't believe that the whole population of New Orleans is like those out in front in the demonstrations. The rotten ones are always the loud ones, and the rottenest of all are those in office.

I saw a TV report on the situation and it seemed sort of funny to me that the whites were speaking for themselves—and for the Negroes, too. They claimed that even the Negroes didn't really want to integrate. It's strange people should go through so much to do something they "don't really want to do." Who would send a little child through that mob if he didn't really want integration?

What amazed me the most was the language they let the whites use on TV. I have never heard them allow anyone to use the words about Negroes that they used on this program. Then I figured that maybe the TV station just wanted to let the rest of the country see how ignorant they sound down there. A lot of people think the white Southerners are ignorant. They really aren't. They just act that way.

The breaking point will be the fact that there just aren't enough rich whites down there to build themselves a private school. They will have to give in eventually or give up a chance to educate their kids at all.

**Negro Worker
Detroit**

* * *

The press reported that the multi-millionaire white supremacist Leander Perez from Louisiana made his money through other sources than as a public official with the salary of \$7,000 a year. Are they kidding? What do you suppose public officials down South are for if it is not to railroad through "right to work laws" and other blessings of segregationism which would permit an oil and sulfur lands man like Perez to become a multi-millionaire?

**Office Worker
Chicago**

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* * *

"A DOCTOR SPEAKS"

MD's article last issue was very important to me. I certainly wish something could be done about the medical aid given to factory workers

and poor people in general. It is frightening how many people can't go to a doctor because they lack the money, and how many get some crumb-bum of a doctor if they do go.

One woman I work with had a "family" doctor, who was chosen, I suspect, because he didn't charge very much. Her husband had just come home from the hospital when two of her children got sick. One child had an ulcer on his tongue, and when the "family" doctor did not heal it in 2 months time by treating it with mouth washes she finally went to another doctor. This new doctor took one look at her 6 months-old baby (whom she had just happened to bring along and whom the "family" doctor had also been treating) and promptly put the infant in the hospital. It turned out the baby was so anemic they even feared leukemia, which fortunately was not the case.

This woman tried to get some help from welfare but was refused. She doesn't own her home, but she had a T.V. set, so the welfare department said she wasn't eligible. She finally had to leave her sick husband at home to take care of her 3 children and went out to get a job

**Working Woman
Detroit**

* * *

I like the doctor's column because it seems to link the living human organism with the mass struggle for freedom. The human body is composed of many co-operating forces and processes. The result is a healthy organism. When something goes wrong with the system the whole body suffers. So is it with human beings in their daily life. The reason for all the trouble is that so many things are wrong with this present system of living.

**Sign Painter
Los Angeles**

* * *

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

I like Lumumba. I don't know anything more than what I read in the daily papers, but I don't care for Kasavubu because he seems to be pretty easily led around by the nose. Lumumba isn't like that.

I have a strong feeling toward Africa, especially the Congo. They are a great people. They haven't had much of a chance to develop because everything in their country has belonged to some other country.

What right does a man have to own the diamond mines in another man's country? If the white man is surprised at what has been happening, it is only because the white man is not intelligent enough to see that they are trespassing in another man's land.

**Negro Auto Worker,
Dearborn**

* * *

No president since Roosevelt has acted like a president. Truman spent his time fishing. Eisenhower played golf. They both got busy when it came to sending dol-

lars to Europe. But they never lifted a finger to help us here at home.

When I heard that Khrushchev sent congratulations to Kennedy on winning this election I figured that even he must be glad he doesn't have to deal with Eisenhower anymore. That man made this country look like a bunch of fools. What kind of a world leader was that?

When they put Martin King in jail Kennedy telephoned down there right away. I think that's why he was elected president. And I'm for him for that, too — only I think that's the way things should be done all the time, not just before an election.

**Negro Woman,
Detroit**

* * *

The joint crisis in the British and French motor industries has made it possible for us to get first class material from Renault workers in Paris and Le Mans, which we are reproducing here for sale to London Renault and other British motor workers. With our branch of the Ford set-up so much in the news, and you in the home-city of Fords, is there any possibility of material being available from them?

British Ford workers are more than a little anxious to know what new features the complete take-over is going to mean for them in terms of techniques "imported" from Dearborn.

**Eric Morse,
London, England**

Editor's Note: See page 2 for latest Ford worker's article, and page 3.

NEW READERS, & OLD

I'm retired now and I read the paper more carefully than I did before. I read it all the way through now, to see what's going on in the world.

**Retired Miner
West Virginia**

* * *

Your paper keeps the worker more informed on what is happening in all the unions, and shows how the workers can solve these problems facing us today. I can see myself in the picture presented. Every worker in our plant would rather read News and Letters than the union papers.

**GM Worker
Los Angeles**

* * *

I sold 2 subs at my shop and lots of single copies of that last issue. The guys told me that the paper was "packed full of dynamite," and said that it had more information in it than the daily papers even if it does only come out once a month.

**Tool Worker
Dearborn**

* * *

One of the most impressive things I saw in News & Letters were the news items concerning Africa two years ago. At that time the African nations had not gained their independence. It was only through your paper that the workers could read the true information because the daily newspapers did not carry it.

**Negro Worker
Los Angeles**

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya, author of
MARXISM AND FREEDOM

The Cuban Revolution: The Year After

In a few weeks the Cuban Revolution will mark the first year of its victory. It is no accident that its enthusiastic and uncritical alliance with the Russian orbit of power is almost as old. Contrary to the claims of the old radicals, who can no longer remember what constitutes principled working-class politics, this was not the only path open to it when it shook off the American imperialist yoke. The revolutions that preceded it—in the Middle East and in Africa—took advantage of the global division into two nuclear-armed blocs fighting for world power to play off one against the other to its own national advantage. If Cuba chose to disregard this precedent and align itself with but one of these power blocs, the answer cannot lie outside of itself.

FIDELISMO

Forget Russia for a moment—it was nowhere around when Fidel Castro marched into Havana at the head of the July 26th guerilla movement. Neither it nor the native Cuban Communists supported that movement during the seven years it hid out in the Sierra Maestra Mountains. The revolutionary petty-bourgeois lawyer who led this movement had been so little concerned with Communist theory that he gained financial help from many a Cuban, and even some American, liberal bourgeois who had had their fill of the corrupt Batista.

The guerilla fighters from the mountains, the peasants in the Oriente province, the proletariat and students of Havana merged to bring the greatest revolution Latin America had ever witnessed. There is no doubt that with the overthrow of the bloody Batista dictatorship, the revolution broke decisively with United States imperialism which had plundered the Cuban economy. In expropriating the American capitalistic owners, it achieved an agricultural revolution and put an end to the feudal relations between the Cuban peasants and the Cuban-American plantation owners. At the same time, however, the power lay not in peasant committees, but in the state who was the new owner.

STATE-ISM

As for Castro's attitude to the industrial workers, from the very start his bossist, administrative mentality stuck out from the very first day of victorious entry into Havana when he demanded that the revolutionary students and workers there put down their arms. He proclaimed his movement alone to be the government, his army alone the army. Nevertheless, the overwhelming enthusiasm for the revolution made the proletariat, despite its reservations, lay down its arms, and willingly tighten its belt even as the unemployed continued to be silent. When it did, in due course, at the first trade union congress question some economic policies of the new government, Castro ran out of the convention, calling it a "madhouse."

It is at this point that a kinship was established between the new regime and the native Communists, for it is they who used their leadership of the trade unions to transform them into a pliant tool of the new armed state. TOGETHER WITH WORLD COMMUNISM FIDEL CASTRO SHARED THE CONCEPTION OF THE "BACKWARDNESS OF THE MASSES" WHO HAD TO BE LED. THE STATE WOULD HENCEFORWARD GIVE THE ORDERS, THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK HARDER WHILE THE LEADERS CONTINUED TO LEAD AND SET FOREIGN POLICY.

Just as the peasant found that, in tilling the soil, he was responsible, not to a committee elected by himself and subject to his recall, but to the state, so the worker found that he too had no organization responsible to him. Despite the lower rents, there has been no change, except for the worse, in the workers' conditions of life and labor. Unemployment continues as do poor wages. Worst of all, there are no Workers' Councils or any other form of free expression, whether in their own organization or in the press. Those who had hailed the revolution had by now as little freedom to criticize any action of the government, least of all its total embrace of all things Russian, Chinese, East European, including the bloody regime of Kadar's Hungary.

The stream of refugees are by no means restricted to "Batista's supporters" or "agents of American imperialism." Every one from the editor of Bohemia to militant trade unionists have attempted to escape, and if the price isn't always the firing squad, it is always silence. When only a Castro-Fidel or Raul—or a Che Guevara have endless voice here and abroad while the masses are made voiceless; when all spontaneity becomes hypostatized into state grooves; when relations with the outside world are not as people-to-people but through arm-state powers; and when all this occurs in a world whose division into two nuclear-armed powers which threaten humanity's very existence—isn't it time for a new realistic balance sheet to be drawn up? Least helpful in this regard are the old radicals.

OLD RADICALS

Trotskyists, who have spent years in exposing Russia as "a degenerated workers' state" headed by a counter-revolutionary bureaucracy, now feel that it is necessary to whitewash that regime "in order to fight the main enemy, Yankee imperialism." Even some radicals who have spent many years exposing Russian Communism as just another form of state capitalism feel that it is their "revolutionary duty" to spend all their time attacking American imperialism, and none exposing the other pole of world imperialism—Russian totalitarianism.

What is it that impels such self-imposed blindness to the tragedy of the Cuban Revolution which still has a chance to compel its leaders to follow an independent road? Why should the workers and peasants in Cuba be allowed to think that in the Chinese "commune" the Chinese peasants are any less oppressed than the Cubans were by the American plantation owners? Why should the Cuban workers be kept in ignorance of conditions of labor in totalitarian state capitalistic Russia? Why should the Cuban people know that the Guantanamo base is a threat to their existence and not know that the Russian tanks rolled over the Hungarian Freedom Fighters? Why should they only know of the discrimination against the Negroes in the South but not know of the extermination of nationalities opposed to Stalinism in Russia?

SOME POSSIBLE DOUBLE-CROSSES

Why should literacy be equated to illiteracy of the realities of a world divided into two, and only two, nuclearly armed powers out for conquest of the world? Why not allow your new

(Continued on Page 6)

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

SIT INS, The Students Report Congress of Racial Equality—N.Y. 25c

The strength of this pamphlet on the sit-ins, published in May of this year, lies in the fact that it was written by the Southern sit-in participants themselves.

The pamphlet is made up of five letters from Southern students who tell how they got caught up in the movement, and one letter from a Columbia student who tells something of the activity in the North.

HUMOR

The sit-in participants are revealed to be dedicated, committed and in full possession of a fine sense of humor that has carried them through the most harrowing experiences. Patricia Stephens, of Florida A&M, submitted her contribution from a Talahassee prison cell. Recalling one of the repeated Woolworth sit-ins, she relates: "The waitress saw us sitting down and said: 'Oh Lord, here they come again!' . . . Everything was peaceful. We read. I was reading the 'Blue Book of Crime' and Barbara Broxton, 'How to Tell the Different Kinds of Fingerprints'—which gave us all a laugh in light of the arrests which followed."

EQUALITY FOR ALL

The honesty and simplicity with which the students tell their story speaks volumes. The letter of Edward Rodman of Norcom High School in Portsmouth, Virginia points up the innate capacity the Southern students displayed in organizing and carrying through the South-wide protest. He says: "Our group was a loosely-knit collection of high school students, each with the same ideal: 'Equality for all.' Frankly speaking, that is about all we had in common. We were lacking organization, leadership and planning." Such is the modesty of so many of the students, that they are not all aware of the true magnitude of what they accomplished. The group Rodman speaks about held three demonstrations in four days, after which he says: "Our spontaneous movement was gaining momentum quick-

ly. We were without organization; we had no leader and no rules for conduct other than a vague understanding that we were not to fight back."

Rodman's next experience concisely presents the explosive content of the quest for civil rights in the South. The next demonstration he participated in was attacked by a mob of white youth. The Negro youth bought back, despite Rodman's pleas, and routed the mob. The next day 300 whites turned out with police and police dogs, who were turned loose on the Negroes.

The Negro youth in Portsmouth and everywhere else in the South have to contend not only with the mob, but with the power of the state. Some of them have shown that they are willing to trade blow for blow with the Southern provocateurs. Others, like Rodman feel that only a tactic that excludes retaliating violently to violence can defeat the segregationists. In Portsmouth, with the help of CORE the sit-inners reorganized into a more tightly organized, better controlled group to shun violence and carry on with the sit-ins.

A BREATH OF FREEDOM

Like the above mentioned letters, the others are as interesting and instructive. We would like to have seen a connection made between this sit-in crusade and the past and current movements for freedom. We know the sit-inners feel this link, but perhaps the establishment of these ties is expecting too much of CORE.

As it stands, the pamphlet is a breath of freedom in sharp contrast to the vulgar ravings of the self-appointed representatives of Southern white motherhood, that hover like vultures around New Orleans grade schools that will be integrated.

THE L.A. TIMES

Attack on Youth

The "best newspaper west of Chicago" recently had an editorial entitled "Not a Job for Children." This was in response to Sen. Kennedy's proposal during the campaign for a "peace corps" of young Americans who would serve as technical advisers in underprivileged countries.

The writer of the editorial feels that youth are too immature to handle such jobs as technical advisers. I have heard this argument many times and I believe that it is only used as a way to minimize or stop any expressions that the youth have. Whenever the youth take any action such as the demonstrations against the Japanese-American Security Pact they are immediately said to be immature and easily influenced by propaganda.

The editorial doubted that the youth would be "capable of overcoming the efforts of Mr. Khrushchev's missionaries." However this is exactly what the youth of Hungary did; just as the youth of Japan, Latin America, and the sit-inners in the United States are fighting tyranny. And without the "experience, maturity and talent" which the writer of the editorial feels they must have.

The youth are attacked because they do not have the experience. However, exactly how far has this so-called experience that youth do not have gotten us. In most of the under-privileged countries this experience is used to exploit the natural and human resources of the country. Perhaps what the writer of this Los Angeles Times editorial is really afraid of, is that the youth do not want and will not use this type of experience.

British Youth in Industry

There are many places, especially the smaller works, where apprentices are used purely and simply as cheap and easily disciplined labour.

A very serious problem is the employment of young workers who receive the same low rate of wages without any of the benefits which apprentices get. These workers outnumber apprentices and at the same time "stay on with the tools."

Besides being heavily exploited these other young workers are virtually excluded from representation in the factories.

Trade union officials and others with mental rheumatism bemoan the fact that young people are not joining the trade unions. Why should they? Have the trade unions done anything for them?

The problem with the factory remains. The Ghetto into which young workers have been placed must be destroyed. This won't be done by the trade union Moguls but only by the factory and shop organizations, and by the young workers themselves.

It is no solution to this problem to set up, as some unions have done, Junior Workers Committees. The committees in any case have no powers. They the more advanced young workers from the basic industrial organizations. In my opinion the emphasis should be placed on integrating apprentices and young workers with existing factory organizations. Young workers should have their own stewards and where possible young workers' committees in the factories. These would cut

AS OTHERS SEE US

The Streams Beneath The Straws

By Peter Cadogan

From: CAMBRIDGE FORWARD, Cambridge, Eng.

From time to time a book appears that alters human experience by making explicit the possibilities of new relationships. When thought and deed have come to a standstill such a book makes it possible for them to move again—along untrodden ways.

It may be that a book of this order has recently been published in America—MARXISM AND FREEDOM by Raya Dunayevskaya.

Its thesis? Much of the intractability of the present situation stems from the fact that little or no original political thinking has been done since the early 1920s. This means that although immense changes have taken place in science, technology and economics there is nothing to match them in political ideas and forms. (What have we but the New Deal and John Maynard Keynes?) Thus humanity today has all the parts with which to build a new world but no idea how to set about it.

Early socialist ideas were bases, or thought to be based, on the concept of socialist internationalism . . . The dream was shattered by the total collapse of the Second International in 1914.

When Lenin heard the news of the collapse he was frankly incredulous: "When it proved to be true, the theoretical ground on which he stood, and which he thought so impregnable, gave way under him." He then did a very strange thing. Instead of throwing himself into the fray to recreate the International he retired from the political scene

to re-examine his whole philosophy. "He began reading Hegel's Science of Logic. It formed the great philosophical foundation of the great divide in Marxism." After weeks of study he came up with this startling conclusion: "It is impossible completely to grasp Mark's Capital, and especially its first chapter, if you have not studied through and understood the whole of Hegel's Logic. Consequently none of the Marxists for the past half a century have understood Marx!"

It is difficult to begin to convey in a few words just what this means. Modern thinking has been vitiated by the assumed oppositeness of the subjective and objective. It was this that Hegel destroyed. Lenin in 1914 (for the first time) grasped the significance of Hegel's discovery.

Dynamic qualities are in things and in persons—not merely operating upon them. Energy, atomic or human, does not require to be controlled, organized, "mastered." It requires rather to be discovered, understood, made free. When it is free it is creativity itself and its own justification.

Thus human society can be self-activating and self-correcting and this makes any sort of government (the rule of men over men) ultimately absurd. This is the kernel of dialectics. Today homo sapiens is afraid of himself because of ignorance of the character of movement within himself. Straws are preferred to the stream. Lenin, seeing this for the first time and thus being free, had no option but to make history. This he did and the fact that others undid it for him was not his fault. He was much too alone, too far ahead. We have still to catch up with him, and Dunayevskaya has located the trail.

Editor's Note: We are glad to reprint on this page an excerpt from "Youth In Industry." The article first appeared in the new British periodical "Agitator." See also page 3, "Socialism Reaffirmed."

The Cuban Revolution: The Year After

(Continued from Page 5)

hero, Castro, to know some things about Russia—its cynicism in foreign policy — which might easily result in its dropping of Cuba the minute it could get a "peaceful co-existence alliance" with America? Why, for that matter, not make yourself aware that this petty bourgeois lawyer is just as cynical and could as easily slide into alliance with the American State Department if it came to face the only truly independent third force—the masses wishing to mold their own destiny in their own hands sans Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and the newly-arisen state bureaucracy?

There is one reason, and one reason only, behind all this self-imposed blindness to the realities of our state capitalist world. One and all are Planners who fear the spontaneity of the revolutionary masses more than anything else on earth, including state capitalism.

Fidelists, like Communists, Trotskyists like other radicals who thirst for power, share the capitalistic mentality of the "backwardness of the masses." All are ready "to lead," none to listen.

WHO ARE DOOMED?

It has been said of Jesus: "He could save all others. Himself he could not save." It needs now to be said of the old radicals: They could save no one, and now they do not even want to save themselves. The one consoling feature is their impotence. Far from being capable of dooming the revolution, history will show them to be the doomed ones.

THE AFRO-ASIAN REVOLUTIONS

By RAYA DUNAYEVSKAYA

25c — Write News & Letters, 8751 Grand River Detroit 4, Michigan



DISCUSSION ARTICLE

Woolworth Picket Lines

I have given considerable thought as to why the picket lines have been so sparsely populated with Negroes. This is true in Los Angeles, and I feel certain must be true of most of the North. Then I began to examine the motives that led me to the picket lines.

First of all, I felt that I wanted to become personally involved in the struggle. It's a struggle every day but this was active participation and a small amount of showing the community that I did, indeed, protest. Then I began to wonder WHY I came.

Since my early twenties I had been loosely associated with a few pseudo-socialist or Marxist people, and had probably become aware that this was a collective struggle and not one that could be won or decided by any one person. Upon talking to the people on the line I was aware that the ones that showed up constantly were people with some kind of leftist leaning. This left me with the conclusion that the struggle could not be won with spurts and flurries all disconnected. It has to be a collective and continuous mass struggle if it is to succeed.

I am convinced that this is the reason we get so little response from the Negro community. They know the struggle is there, but they cannot agree on how it must be fought. That is why I am convinced that a thorough-going knowledge of the history of the Negro struggle in America is not only necessary but vital to that struggle. Also of equal importance are the economic conclusions of Marx. News and Letters has a tremendous job to do.

Fifteen years ago there was a desire among Negroes for money as a solution to the problem. Today this is still of some importance, but it being replaced by an insatiable desire for freedom first. The Negro press is now beginning to support people like Lumumba, Castro, and anyone not only anti-American but revolutionary.

In the December issue of *Ebony* there is an editorial entitled "The Best is Now" and it rambles about the burden or responsibility the Negro must shoulder after civil rights but the thing that impressed me were the words, "but the goal will still be freedom—not a free black man nor a free white one, but a free world for all men." This to me seems like a new awareness of the need for a new society, especially since it comes from such a money-worshipping and success-story magazine as *Ebony*. I would appreciate your comment on this.

—Negro Picket

West German Nazis

Adenauer Germany is permeated with Nazis who are called "former Nazis" only because they no longer have total power and know well the politicians' tricks of voting for "friends", in this case the "Democrat" Chancellor Adenauer. The latest national scandal in Germany is what is taking place in the north German state of Schleswig-Holstein, headed by Kai-Uwe Von Hassel, a prominent member of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party.

Take the case of Franz Schlegelberger. He occupied no less a post in Hitler Germany than that of "secretary of justice". The "justice" consisted of legalizing mass annihilation of medical patients and other victims of notorious Nazi "race-purification" plans. First the American authorities decided to release him after he served only 4 years of a life imprisonment sentence for war crimes. Then the native authorities followed the American lead by approving a monthly pension of \$700 as befits a high-ranking Nazi official, only this time it is called "government service."

Or take the Storm Troop General Heinz Reinfarth—he is presently a deputy in the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament. When German citizens tried to speak out against him, the criticism was suppressed on the fantastic ground that it would curtail his freedom of speech as a state employee. And so it goes throughout that happy hunting ground for living Nazis. Lothar Stielay, an official of the neo-Nazi German Reich Party, continues to teach the youth of Germany, despite this time legal charges having been brought against him for mocking "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Not only are they teachers of "demoncracy" but these same exterminators of humanity are found in the Schleswig-Holstein medical field. Thus Prof. Werner Catel is serving as a professor of children's diseases at Keil University, although he has admitted that as a "race-purifier" under Hitler he selected young children for death! And do you know on what grounds a Hamburg court acquitted him? It was because he "believed in the legality of his actions"!

A First Hand Look at Politics In N. Rhodesia

By A. N. L. Wina

From: Northern Rhodesia, (AFRICA) News Survey

I reported at Lusaka, national headquarters of the United National Independence Party of Northern Rhodesia on the morning of July 11th. My departure from Los Angeles International Airport had been hurried; I was being urgently called home for consultations. . . . In Northern Rhodesia . . . tension has grown to such a degree that if trouble started it could be on a much wider scale than anything seen so far. African aspirations have been suppressed far too long. Political education has permeated the Africans' living areas in the cities and the villages to a degree hard to imagine. One young member of a consulate staff told me in Lusaka, "you can never talk anything even with your closest African friend in this country but politics. It is politics at the table, politics at parties and even at work." The European settlers, on the other hand are encouraged by their previous successes in wresting power for themselves from the British Colonial Office and are under the illusion that this trend could be maintained. They are literally arming themselves to withstand any transfer of power to the African majorities on the grounds of "what we have, we hold."

With my arrival at Ndola . . . I found that in its attempts to stifle African political expression, the government maintains a frightening degree of control over all African political meetings and publications and none at all over those of the white settlers. It is lawful for a European to agitate for violent resistance of any change while it is sedition for an African to advocate violence in any needed and overdue change . . .

After this three-week tour of the country, I came back convinced that:

- a) The United National Independence Party exercises near total influence throughout the country in contrast with any other political organization;
- b) The Party is organized on the basis of collective leadership and Kenneth Kaunda holds the undisputed and highly respected position of leader;
- c) The Party has been exercising a restraining influence over the impatient and freedom-hungry population which it may not, in my view, maintain after October if it is to continue to be held in high regard by its followers and the country as a whole;
- d) The people all over the country expect more than is generally realized in America from the American people, and particularly the American Negro, in terms of material support for their freedom movement and their educational needs.

Editor's Note: For copies of the complete article by A.N.I. Wina write to 821 Glenmont Avenue, Los Angeles 24, California.

Eye-Witness Report On N. Rhodesia
By A. N. L. Wina
Sunday, Dec. 18, 1960 8 P.M.
At 1904 S. Arlington Ave. Rm. 207

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

Where Are We Going With Our Science?

No known life can exist in the vicinity of the chemical explosions continually taking place on the sun and on the billions of similar bodies that form the universe. The radiations or energy waves produced in these explosions are deadly, but so are the rays produced by the collisions of the infinitesimal particles within the atom. There are, however, certain radiations that are essential for the existence of living matter. In fact, life appears to be a means of receiving, concentrating, and utilizing the different forms of this energy.

"DIVIDED MAN"
The human body is, however, able to receive very little of the shorter wave radiations of electro-magnetism from ultraviolet to ultrasonic to X-rays. Even the very small quantity of cosmic rays that occasionally reach us from the stars can do much harm to life. With the H-bomb we are duplicating on our very doorstep the radioactive conditions close to the sun. The splitting of the atom with the release of powerful radiations is a scientific breakthrough now confronting bewildered humanity and divided man. Unless it serves to help in constructing wholeness in man it can destroy him.

As I write this, the weird wail of the weekly defense test siren all but ruptures my eardrum. The nurse in my office is one of thousands of zealous individuals organized into civil defense groups that meet regularly. There is a great show of enthusiasm, activity, and patriotism as they listen to lectures and see demonstrations.

Most people, however, seem to be unimpressed by appeals of civil defense bureaus, aspiring leaders, medical and political and manufacturers of home bomb shelters selling for "less than 90c a day." I share this lack of enthusiasm.

A CITY HIT BY H-BOMB
Last year a congressional sub-committee received expert testimony on "The Biological and Environmental Effects of Nuclear War." It was reported that with the dropping of a small-sized H-bomb on a city of a million people many thousands would die immediately. Of the hundreds of thousands injured, one third would be so badly hurt as to be hopeless; one third would need hospital

treatment and immediate surgery to save life; the remaining one third would be considered "light" cases but would need help from doctors. People would be trapped seven to fifteen miles from the center of the explosion by the debris.

The same congressional sub-committee in reviewing the Nevada testing ground experiments on houses noted that there was very little protection in ground floors and basements of most houses. It was stated that in an area sixty by nine miles there would be a dose of over 6000 roentgens for two days after the dropping of a "small" bomb. Dropping of a 2000 megaton bomb on the United States would kill 55% of the population. Even if the population were well trained and had bomb shelters, 45% of the population would be killed. It is estimated that the United States has stockpiled at least 28,000 megatons of nuclear explosives and Russia not much less.

Six hundred roentgens will kill nearly every human being exposed to the dose. Four hundred fifty R will bring death to about one half the people exposed. There is cell damage from doses of fifty to two hundred roentgens. The effects of lower radiation are cumulative and may be productive of serious disease.

It might be well to know that a fluoroscopic X-ray study of the stomach and intestines in some doctors' offices gives twenty-five and more R for each minute of exposure. An X-ray of the full mouth gives up to ten R; an X-ray of a spine up to four or five R per film. These figures vary with different X-ray machines and techniques of exposure. It is therefore certainly good sense for an injured workman to be cautious as to the place and person through which he submits to X-ray exposure. Especially is this desirable if he is young, since the blood and reproductive cells are extremely sensitive to X-rays.

It is just as sensible to be more than hesitant about depending on bomb shelters, basements or civil defense salesmen to save us from nuclear war destruction. There must be an end to the separation of science from humanity.

WORKERS BATTLE AUTOMATION

By Charles Denby

Editor of News & Letters



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We're In A Full-Blown Recession

(Continued from Page 1)

Auto workers are saying the same thing about their union, and particularly so since the UAW reported that there is over 46 million dollars in the treasury. This is 10 million more than it was last year at a time when many thousands more auto workers are not working and are not paying dues. It is supposed to be a strike fund, but already Reuther is preparing for nothing but sell-out "now that we have a friend in the White House."

Finally, "the left of the left," Harry Bridges' Longshoremen's Union has just accepted the terms of the Pacific Maritime Association which would permit unbridled Automation to be introduced.

WAR PROPAGANDA

The Government has chosen the anniversary of the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to carry on a propaganda for air shelters, for preparations against any other "day of infamy." The release of the pictures of these A-bombs and the human slaughter has had the opposite effect. It is openly admitted by all mass media that no one takes seriously the propaganda air shelters as any defense against a nuclear holocaust. There are no buyers of this "defense." The pacifist action at the launching site of the new nuclear-powered submarines met with widespread sympathy. Not only that, there is an international flavor to the desire for peace in the feeling of solidarity the American workers and Negroes have toward the mass demonstrations in Japan against any war pacts as well as for the British mass demonstrations against nuclear war.

POLITICS AND SUCH

One thing the electioneering has achieved is that the workers are talking about politics in an altogether new way. It is not the politics either of Kennedy or the labor bureaucracy. It is the politics as a way of life of the millions of people struggling for freedom throughout the world. In one shop, for example, they were discussing the Congo, Lumumba versus Kasavubu, with the familiarity with which they talk about MacDonald versus Rarick. The Negro workers, especially, were, to a man, with Lumumba, holding that he could not as easily be led around by the

nose as were either Kasavubu or the so-called strongman, Mobutu. "There is no point," said one, "to stand in line with hat in hand pleading for freedom. You get only what you fight for." He pointed to the Southern sit-ins to prove his point.

In terms of world politics these, of course, are not isolated battles. Every battle fought by Negroes in the United States is news flashed around the globe. What workers in other countries see in this is an alternate to the power struggle between America and Russia. Thus in apartheid South Africa the Africans have adopted the technique of the sit-downs. At the same time, in the struggle against layoffs at the Renault plant in Paris the French workers went on strike, carrying signs demanding independence for Algeria. The feeling of international solidarity is the new element in the struggle of the American workers as they wait for the new Administration to take office. They are not waiting, hat in hand. They are organizing themselves for the battles ahead.

RANK AND FILE OPPOSITION

The disgust of the men toward the do-nothing policies of the union leadership is taking many different shapes, from wild-cattling to organization of rank and file caucuses. There will be new elections in the steel union in February. Many local steel unions have placed the name of Donald Rarick in opposition to their president David MacDonald. In the auto union, there is a National Committee for Democratic Action UAW, as well as many local rank and file groups that are prepared to push their "thirty-hour week at forty hours' pay at the new convention. In the longshoremen's union the men are organizing against ratification of the sell-out contract on Automation.

At the same time it is clear both among the workers who have a job and those who are jobless that the unstinted support given to Kennedy means that they expect him to change conditions, and they do not mean to wait forever for him to end the recession. Plunging into war is not the answer they see to continuous recessions. The air of expectancy has a deadline element in it that it will discharge at the start of the new year.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

South American Revolts

Venezuela has been the scene of army troops firing machine guns into crowds of unemployed workers. Argentina was the scene of two revolts in less than a week. In Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala revolts against the dictatorial governments broke out in a single week. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are on the verge of revolt. There are many indications of revolt in Colombia and Costa Rica. Not even the Eisenhower Administration has been able to blame all of these revolutions on Castro.

Yet Eisenhower has chosen this moment to send the U.S. fleet to patrol the shores against a "Castro plot" and insure the present dictators against the revolts of the people. The nailed fist only succeeds in making Castro into a hero.

Latin America, after Africa, is probably the most plundered continent. Democracy there is a myth and the army, which survives each revolution, continues as the real power, with the support of American imperialism.

The contrast between the extreme rich, who have derived their wealth from oil, political exploitation of the natural resources of the continent and the starvation wages paid to the workers, shows the real reason why there are so many revolutions in Latin America. Added to the economic exploitation by its native rulers as well as American imperialism is the perennial military rule, the dictatorships which are under the full protection of the U. S. State Department and which protect corruption and suppress the democratic efforts of the people to change their governments. It is for this reason that Fidelismo is so attractive. He did at least get rid of "Yankee imperialism." Until the one-crop economies are ended and all their natural resources allowed to develop under their own rule, the peoples of Latin America will continue to revolt, Castros or no Castros.

Fruits of Conquest

How would you like to buy all of your groceries at a 25% discount, buy your cocktails at 25c each, your liquor at \$2.00 per quart, your new car at less than wholesale, gasoline at 14c a gal, cigarettes at 7c a pack, free medical care, vacationing at \$1.25 a day, housing at less than \$50 per month? This is not the promise of the socialist future but the reality of being a wife of an Army, Navy or Air Force officer located abroad as an occupier of our rich defeated former enemies, now allies of American imperial-

ism. What is it costing you, as American workers, facing unemployment, paying taxes and all time high prices in the U.S.A.?

The present "Gold Crisis" reveals that the U.S. is suffering a 3 billion dollar yearly loss just in paying the salaries of the troops and their dependents who are living abroad. At the present rate of spending, within 6 years the entire gold supply of the U.S. will have been spent abroad. That is why Eisenhower, after the election, has called for the "dependents" to come home. But the larger question, the spending of \$40 billion a year for so-called "defense" in a world situation where even they admit they have no defense for missile-carried atomic destruction, is plain insanity.

If American industry were to cut off their \$40 billion in war contracts, any government which proposed it would fall overnight. Let us face it. American capitalism could not exist today without that \$40 billion in war contracts. It needs the so-called threat of war to exist.

Louisiana Barbarism

The sorry spectacle of a mob of ignorant white women, howling like demented animals at a 5-year-old Negro child trying to attend school, reveals the result of Southern barbarism which calls itself the "Southern way of life." These fools are but a very small fraction of the people of the state, at latest count they number about 40. Who is to blame for the mess?

The present Louisiana Governor, Davies, is more noted for guitar playing than for having any brains. He calls the shots as the Southern Bourbons, living off the sweat of non-unionized labor, order him to. The racketeer-ridden legislature started the whole mess by passing a series of segregation measures to please these tycoons, and which the Federal Courts recently declared unconstitutional. Without the sanction of the state legislature on the side of ignorance and the weakness of the Federal Government to enforce Federal law, the schools would be operating on a desegregated basis by now.

One incident recently shown on T.V. showed a hateful white woman trying to force her 4 or 5-year-old boy to shout the slogan "We don't want integration". She poked and shoved him and shouted the slogan at him, but the only comment the child would make was, "NO". His refusal to repeat his mother's slogan stood out in sharp contrast not only to his ignorant mother and more ignorant Governor Davies, but also to President Eisenhower who is too busy playing golf, and giving

"farewell banquets" at the White House—when he is not sending warships to South American waters—to speak out for democracy not "over there" but in the country over which he presides.

The Congo

As we go to press we see the results of the victory of "the West" in the U.N. in seating Kasavubu—the manhandling of the duly elected Premier Lumumba and shoving him into prison under the trumped up charges of "inciting to revolt." In fact it is the connivance of America with Belgium which put Kasavubu, who had only 12 of the elected deputies to Lumumba's 36, into the Presidency of the Republic, after which he suspended Parliament, arrested Lumumba and established the dictatorship of Colonel Mobutu. Mobutu gets his orders from the Belgian imperialists who are returning under many guises from technicians to residents and connives with the other Belgian puppet, Premier Moise Tshombe of secessionist Katanga.

Mobutu cannot control his rape of the Congolese people, troops from acts of terrorism, and extortion from U.N. officials who displease them. The one thing he is good at is to work up a lynch party to manacle Lumumba who was trying to return to his home and political rule of Stanleyville. There is no doubt that Lumumba had relied on economic aid from Russia as well as Ghana, Guinea, and other African Republics, but since when is that a crime?

The U.N. first played the full American imperialist game when it entered the Congo and began interfering in Congolese affairs and kept Premier Lumumba even from using the radio to talk to his people. Later even that personnel could not stand by and see Belgium steal its way back to rule after it had supposedly granted the Congo its independence. But the U.N. administrator no sooner began sending those type of reports back when Eisenhower showed he had as little use for the U.N. as Khrushchev had when the reports were against him. The "brave lone Hammersjold" is just silent.

If the U.N. connives now in this barbaric act against Lumumba, it will stand exposed to the world as nothing more than an American imperialist puppet. The "West" was quick enough to forget all about democracy and freedom for sovereign states when the particular sovereign state—the Congo—proved to have become the battleground between Russia and America for control over Africa. The victims everywhere will be the African freedom fighters.

December 31, 1960—9 P. M. Till?

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