

## 'Betrayal' Stuns AFL-CIO Heads

See Page 3

Vol. XXIII — No. 34

222

NEW YORK, N.Y., MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1959

Price 10c

# THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

### China's Communes

## Another Step Ahead In the Revolution

By Daniel Roberts

In recent weeks, the big business press has printed every scrap of information it could obtain — whether authenticated or merely rumored — that told of economic difficulties in mainland China, particularly in connection with the rural people's communes set up last year.

It has coupled these reports with the news that the Chinese CP has modified the structure of the communes so as to encourage individual peasant initiative.

Then, by omitting reports of overall achievements, the press has sought to suggest to the American readers that the communes have failed completely and that the social system created by the Chinese revolution ten years ago has proved unworkable.

It is indeed possible that China's agricultural output will not reach quotas set at the beginning of the year. This year's output may even fall below last year's bumper harvest, which according to the most grudging estimates in the capitalist press, was at least 25% greater than the 1957 yield. Natural calamities in the form of floods, drought and locust plagues seem principally responsible for this year's more doubtful prospects.

### EASE PRESSURES

Again, modifications in the commune system might signify that the regime, in its drive to increase agricultural productivity last year, demanded too much labor from the peasants and gave them too little payment in return. The new regulations, encouraging the peasants to cultivate small private plots on a part-time basis or to raise their own livestock, would thus be designed to ease the pressures of last year's forced-march pace of production.

In any case, the changes do not signify failure of the commune program but the need to readjust it to more realistic goals and to the peasants' traditional outlook which cannot be transformed all at once.

There will surely be many other changes in the future — new steps forward as well as

readjustments — as China wrestles with the tremendously difficult economic problems confronting the country.

Despite the alternation of advances and retreats, changes in form, successes in one year followed by admissions by the Chinese CP that goals in the following year may not be reached — despite all this, the truth is that the ten-year record of the Chinese revolution shows the Chinese people emerging from the hopeless economic backwardness to which they had been condemned under Chiang Kai-shek before the revolution. Industry has developed. And according to all objective foreign observers, agricultural output has advanced to an astonishing degree.

### LAND OF FAMINE

China was a land of unrelieved hunger under Chiang Kai-shek's regime and for many decades before his tyrannical rule. One expert on China has estimated that during the century prior to the revolution, 100 million Chinese people died of starvation in periodic famines.

The country lay defenseless before the rapacious capitalist powers—the U.S., Britain and Japan especially—that plundered it without thought of bringing anything viable in return.

This is the condition that U.S. big business policy makers would restore in China if they could. And their reactionary aim dictates that the kept press portray the commune program—and the Chinese revolution as a whole—as a catastrophic "failure."

The American working people, however, should be guided in their appraisal of the communes by entirely different criteria. They should begin with sympathy for the progressive aspirations that led the Chinese people to make the 1949 revolution.

(Continued on Page 2)

# National AFL-CIO Rally To Back Up Steel Strike

## Score Police On Beatings In East Bronx

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK, Aug. 17.—Police Commissioner Kennedy has responded to an East Bronx demonstration against police brutality by assigning more cops to the area. Meanwhile, a charge of additional brutality has been made by one of the men involved in the Aug. 9 incident when a crowd of 300 converged to stop two cops from beating a prisoner on the street.

Two near-riots in the poverty-stricken, Negro-Puerto Rican community came when Detectives Martino and O'Connor arrested restaurant proprietor Tyson King for alleged possession of illegal alcohol. Along with King and his employee, Miss Lucy Quick, they also arrested a customer, Robert Edwards. The crowd moved in and roughed up the cops when they dragged Edwards to the street and began beating him with a gun.

The cops claimed that the three prisoners had resisted arrest and, along with a fourth person arrested on the street, had incited the crowd to riot.

After taking the testimony of numerous eye witnesses, the Bronx NAACP charged that the gun- and club-swinging cops were responsible for the incident. The NAACP requested Kennedy to meet with a delegation on the problem. It was in answer to this accusation that Kennedy made public the assignment of more cops to the area. He declared that the police were not "going to be pushed off the street by mob violence."

In reply to the request that he meet with a NAACP committee, Kennedy sent a telegram to Bronx President Frederick D. Jones arrogantly informing him to appear at Police Headquarters the next day to submit his evidence against the cops.

Jones publicly rejected the "invitation" and demanded a meeting with Mayor Wagner. As of this writing, the Democratic mayor has not answered the request.

While Kennedy was loudly asserting that if police brutality had occurred he wanted to know about it, the Aug. 15 Amsterdam News was on the street with a front-page account of how King and Edwards were savagely beaten at the station house where they were taken after the original clubbing of Edwards.

"I sat in the station house for about a half hour when a cop ordered me in a back room," King told the Amsterdam News. "They then took turns beating me in the ribs, on my back, legs, arms and face."

After describing how Edwards had been manhandled at the time of the arrest, King said, "They got him again in the station house." He pointed to the fact that Edwards had two teeth in his pocket that the cops knocked out.

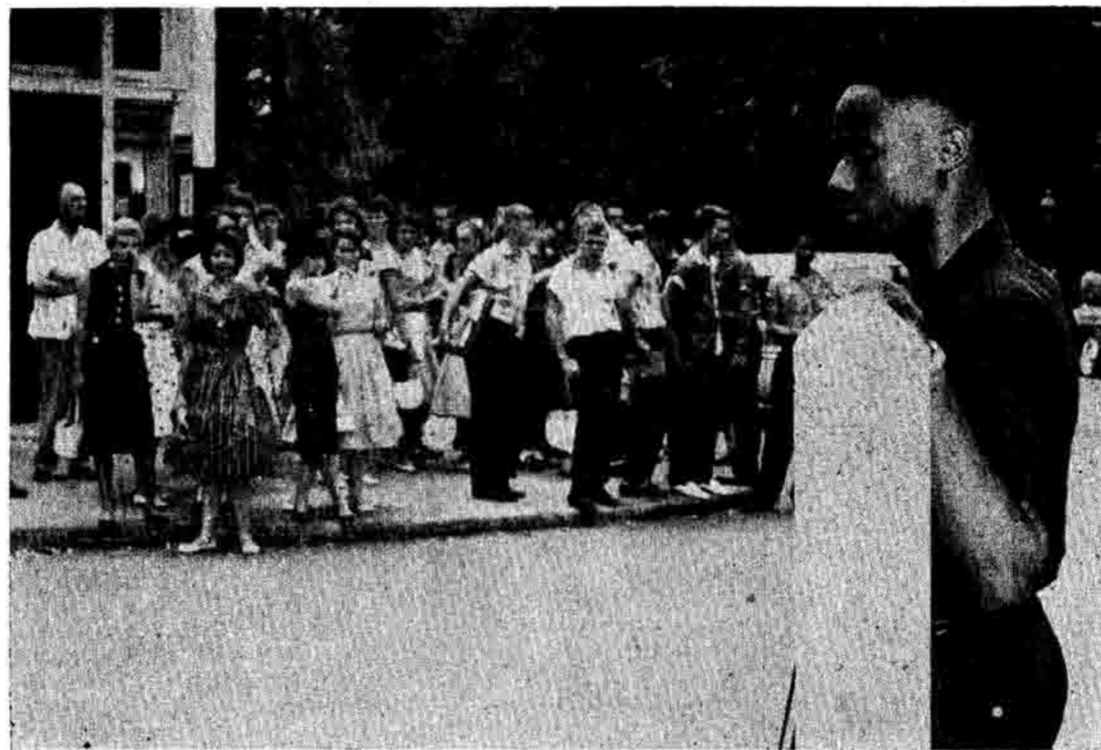
"When they finished beating me," King added, "the big cop (O'Connor) asked, 'Do you have enough now, or do you want some more?'" King said he merely turned his head.

### STREET RALLY

At an Aug. 14 street rally near the scene of the original flare-up, Bronx NAACP officials declared that the organization was determined to win "first-class citizenship for Negroes in the Bronx." Unity of the Negro and Puerto Rican people of the area was urged in the fight against discrimination and police brutality.

The crowd cheered loudest when NAACP spokesman Oliver Martin declared: "We want police to treat us with the same respect and consideration which they give to people down on Park Avenue."

## "Integration" at Little Rock



Jefferson Thomas stands alone waiting transportation to his home after finishing a morning session at Central High Aug. 17. White students jeered at Thomas while he stood on the corner. Since then, many students have indicated friendliness, Thomas reports. But the diehard racists don't want to accept even this token integration. See editorial page 3.

## San Francisco Teamsters Win First Round in Wildcat Revolt

By Roy Gale

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—For the third time the rank and file of Teamsters Local 85 have rejected a contract negotiated by their leaders here. They went on to spell out just what they want, a one-year contract instead of the three-year contract advocated by the officials, and additional benefits.

Most of the rank and file think the one-year contract is vital because of mechanization and automation. "What good is a three-year contract to us if our jobs are gone?" is an oft-repeated question among the strikers. A one-year contract fits the union's needs better.

So far the strike, now in its tenth day, has been a battle for position. The rank-and-file strike committee wanted to stop all trucks. The officials wanted a loose strike, or better yet, no strike at all. The employers and the courts were, of course, hostile to the strike on general principles.

In spite of being boxed in, the committee was able to put up a very good show in the first days. Nearly all truck traffic was stopped.

Every trick in the book was thrown at the rank-and-file leadership — court injunctions, "essential foods and medicines," phony strike clearances, cargo

other that that on the bill of lading and many others. But the ranks were able to see through most of these.

However the combined pressure of undercover sabotage from their officials plus the open hostility of the police and courts began to tell. By the end of the first week it appeared that many would accept the employers' last offer.

On Friday the bosses jointly placed a full-page advertisement in all the newspapers under a screaming headline: "Who Describes the Teamsters Next Payday? MAJORITY RULE? or MOB RULE?"

The ad claimed that "A group of rioters threatened the meeting to fear and frenzy — demanding that the proposal be rejected not by secret ballot . . . but by voice vote."

This set the stage for today's meeting. But the employers' offer was rejected again — for the third time. In a calm debate, the rank-and-file strike leaders' arguments for a one-year contract won. The strike committee was instructed to seek the following demands:

- A \$2.50 wage increase. Wages now range from \$19.80 to \$21.80 a day.
- A guarantee of eight hours work for a helper each day he is called for work. (Helpers now

### MINE FATALITIES

U.S. coal mines claimed a toll of 151 lives in the first half of 1959, including 18 fatalities in June, reports the Aug. 1 United Mine Workers Journal.

## Nationwide Drive Slated To Collect Dollars for Pickets on Battle Front

AUG. 20 — The AFL-CIO executive council today pledged a nationwide campaign to help the beleaguered Steelworkers, who have been holding tough on the picket

line for five weeks against the assault of the steel barons. Speaking in behalf of the main body of organized labor, which will be vitally affected by the outcome of the struggle in steel, the council said that a "big business conspiracy" had forced the strike, and labor must close ranks to meet the attack.

- The federation's top leadership proclaimed Labor Day, Sept. 7, as "Support-the-Steel Workers Day."
- Agreement was reached on organizing a massive nationwide drive for financial aid to the strikers.

- One proposal was that each of the estimated 13.5 million members of the AFL-CIO unions be asked to donate one penny a day to back the strike.
- In addition to these measures, which mark a new departure for the conservative AFL-CIO top leadership, the council designated Sept. 18, the second day of the AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco, as a national rally. It summoned the top officials of every AFL-CIO union to the conference during the convention to consider ways of helping the steel union.

SOLIDARITY THEME

The council urged that every Labor Day celebration throughout America be organized on the "single theme of arm-in-arm solidarity with fellow unionists in steel."

The officials began consideration of what to do about meeting the anti-labor offensive last Monday when it assembled at Unity House, Pa., following passage in the House of Representatives of the "killer" Landrum-Griffin bill.

The defeat in Congress at the hands of the Democratic-Republican coalition, plus the mounting proof that big business considers its attack on the Steelworkers as only the opening gun in a nationwide war against organized labor, forced the AFL-CIO top bureaucrats to consider what to do in the way of defensive measures.

Consideration of the plan for a nationwide fund drive began the first day of the sessions. The press was told that the executive council had made up its mind to see to it that Steelworkers' families got sufficient income so that the union would not suffer defeat.

It was reported that Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, favored a national rally at an early date in either New York or Washington to give the fund drive a good send-off.

Labor Day was the logical choice since plans were already well advanced in such key areas as New York for parades to express solidarity with the Steelworkers.

The national rally of the 140 AFL-CIO unions to consider ways of helping the Steelworkers sets a new precedent.

While the invitation has been confined to top officers of the unions, it establishes the principle of calling a national labor conference when an issue of such life-and-death importance as today's anti-labor offensive faces the union movement.

As the executive council met at Unity House, the New York labor movement was plastering the city with huge signs calling on every one to turn out on Labor Day. Floats are being put together, banners painted and slogans worked out. Some 150,000 are expected to march.

New York union papers have been stressing the importance of the demonstration. Making it a "Support-the-Steelworkers Day," with stress on the tradition of militancy and solidarity, is a fitting way to resume parades to show the strength of the unions on Labor Day.

## Two Parties Are 'Look-Alikes' To the Voters

To the voters, the Republican and Democratic Parties are "look-alikes," says the Aug. 20 Wall Street Journal. John F. Bridge writes in the Journal that "A reporter, trekking from New York to California and back again, is impressed over and over again with how lightly are the loyalties of most voters tied to the Democratic or Republican parties."

"This loss in the magnetism of the party label . . . suggests that the American political system may be going through a period of ferment more profound than is generally realized."

The blurring of a party's identity, says Bridge, marked the disappearance of earlier major parties in U.S. history.

## St. Paul Cops Use Dogs In Assault on Negroes

ST. PAUL, Aug. 16 — Defending themselves with stones and bottles, members of the Negro community here engaged in an hour-long battle with cops and firemen who used police dogs, fire hoses and clubs against them. About a dozen cops were injured and six persons arrested. A woman and a policeman were bitten by the dogs. Police said people in the crowd shouted such things as, "Where do you think you are, Little Rock?"

According to first accounts from the area, the fracas erupted when cops manhandled Robert Price, a 26-year-old Negro, on the street. Detectives Frank Yost and Robert Moorehead had stopped Price's wife Yvonne, who is white, and demanded to know what she and a white woman with her were doing in a Negro neighborhood. Price told his wife that she didn't have to answer such questions.

The two cops turned on Price and for lack of any other grounds demanded to see his draft card. They later said he told them he didn't have one and they sought to arrest him under a federal law requiring people of his age to carry a draft card.

Repeating the age-old police alibi, the two detectives claimed that Price "resisted" arrest and his wife "interfered" with their subduing him.

The "interference" quickly increased. "Another Negro came up and pushed me," Moorehead said, "and started to interfere. Almost immediately the area became crowded with people and a number of others also began interfering with us."

Forty cops and a fire truck were dispatched to the area. When they sailed into the crowd they were greeted with a barrage of stones and bottles. One woman who stood up against a cop's night stick with her purse was bitten on the hip by one of the police dogs.

## Broad Restrictions On "Equal Time" Adopted by House

AUG. 19 — The House of Representatives adopted a bill yesterday exempting newscasts, including on-the-spot coverage and news interviews from the "equal-time" provision of the Federal Communications Act. The measure is even more sweeping than the one adopted by the Senate July 28.

If both houses approve a common bill, as appears likely, there will be little left of the law requiring that broadcasting facilities made available to one candidate must be made equally available to his opponents.

In the Senate bill, panel discussions were dropped from the list of exempted programs at the last minute. The House made clear that its bill is intended to exempt such "news" programs as "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation."

Others were clubbed and hosed. Some of the police were kicked, punched and hit by the flying missiles. The cops also complained that people jeered and shouted insults at them.

Mrs. Price and three others were booked yesterday on charges of disorderly conduct. They pleaded innocent. They were released in \$100 bail. Roland Carroll, charged with drunkenness paid a \$15 fine and was freed. Price was charged with failure to have a draft card and will be arraigned tomorrow.

## The Steelworkers Can Win Their Strike

By Frank Powers

SEATTLE, Aug. 17 — After five weeks of strike, the Steelworkers are united as never before in their history.

They unanimously back the resistance of their negotiating committees to attempts by the bosses to destroy the contract.

They reject the fraudulent claims of the press and the corporate heads that steelworker's inadequate wages produce inflation.

The propaganda of the press, the arrogance of the government, and the constant "fatherly advice" from company management, have only strengthened the conviction of steel workers that they are in a fight for their lives against the powers that be.

What's more, the Steelworkers have the power to win the strike.

As steel stockpiles diminish, the economic strength of 500,000 steel workers will be felt by the steel companies, and the steel-using corporations and the entire economy.

The AFL-CIO, both on the national and local level, has

pledged support to the strike. Thus the Steelworkers have the unity, determination and power, not only to stop the company offensive, but to win improvements in the contract, a shorter work week with no decrease in pay, and needed wage increases.

Why then, is the United Steelworkers of America on the defensive?

Why have the demands of the rank-and-file Steelworkers and the Steelworker's Wage Policy Committee given way to a struggle to protect the present, inadequate agreements?

Why has the traditional struggle against union-busting legislation and compulsory arbitration given way to an appeal by Steelworker's president, David J. McDonald, to chief union-buster, Eisenhower, to intervene in the strike?

The fact is, that though the steel workers could beat the corporations with one arm tied behind their backs, the steel companies have on their side the government and all its agencies, down to the city cops, when they need them.

In Congress, Democrats and Republicans, by an overwhelming majority, favor anti-labor legislation that goes far beyond the Taft-Hartley Act.

The courts can be counted upon to serve injunctions against picketing by the Steelworkers, or by unions supporting the Steelworkers, whenever the corporations need them.

Congressional committees can be counted upon to further scandalize the unions, and provide governmental sanction to the hoax that "wage increases cause inflation."

But the immediate, and most potent, danger that hangs over the Steelworkers, is the threat of government intervention through an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction and "fact-finding" commissions.

Blough, of U.S. Steel, and the heads of other steel companies, all cry out against governmental intervention.

They confidently assert that they can beat the Steelworkers without governmental help.

that the government will intervene when needed; send the Steelworkers back to work under the old agreements; and allow the corporations to rebuild their stockpiles for a prolonged war of attrition against the union.

President Eisenhower, of course, has repeatedly stated that he will not intervene in the strike unless it presents a "national emergency."

A "national emergency," in case anybody is confused, is not a condition where steel corporations are trying to smash the union, and drive down the conditions and standard of living of American workers.

It is not a united attempt by big business to make exorbitant profits off of underpaid workers.

It is not millions unemployed, and more to be unemployed by the layoffs resulting from the company's use of automatic equipment.

A "national emergency" will occur only when the steel stockpiles are exhausted and the strike begins to pinch the

corporations.

It will occur when the massive power of the Steelworkers begins to show itself; when victory is within the grasp of the United Steelworkers of America.

The "national emergency" will merely be a cover for the emergency of the corporations in their fight against the workers.

Rank-and-file Steelworkers, as well as officers of the union are aware of this danger to the strike.

They have behind them the experience of 1952, when President Truman sent the Steelworkers on a six-months run-around with the help of Congress, the federal courts and the Taft-Hartley commission.

With the present anti-union campaign, and the determination of the corporations to gut the union, Eisenhower's intervention can be expected to be more calculated and more disastrous to the Steelworkers.

Nevertheless, the Steelworkers are ill prepared to meet the political campaign against

(Continued on Page 4)



# Are the Aged Entitled To Take Things Easy?

By Marvel Scholl

To most American workers, the specter of retirement looms, not as a dreamed-of day when the burden of earning a living will end, but as a time of increasing insecurity.

A Social Security pensioner, unless he has been lucky enough to save enough to supplement his pension (and who can save these days?) has to live on the ragged edge of poverty, with illness a hovering phantom.

A bill before the House Ways and Means committee, introduced by Rep. Forand (D-R.I.), would remove at least a part of that worry and fear by providing old-age pensioners with hospital, surgical and nursing home care. This added assistance would be financed by an additional one-quarter of one per cent Social Security tax on both workers and employers.

As previously reported in the Militant, this bill has the entire American medical monopoly, headed by the American Medical Association arrayed against it.

While the enemies of the Forand bill (or any other social security legislation) are ranting about "socialized medicine," "communism," "the danger to family responsibility," etc., it might be interesting to take a look at some of the social-security measures in other countries.

### IN ENGLAND

In England where they have a form of socialized medicine, every citizen is entitled to free medical care. (Financed by a payroll tax.) This used to include free glasses and dental care but since the Tories have been in power this is no longer true. Ophthalmological care is

still free in the many Royal Eye Hospitals, but the patient must pay a small fee for the glasses.

Dentists can now charge £1 for each job—whether it be a full set of dentures or a single filling. In addition, the dental panels are so full that it is very difficult to get appointments except at widely spaced intervals. As a result, the English, especially workers, still suffer traditionally bad teeth.

But it is the care given the aged and the infirm in England which stands in such startling contrast to what is done here—in a land which boasts that it has the highest medical standards in the world.

While pensions paid to the aged in Britain are very small, they get many extra benefits. For instance, the first floors in the new Council Flats (housing projects operated by the city) are reserved for the aged. These "maisonettes" are designed for the convenience of old people.

Caterers trucks, operated by welfare departments, bring hot meals to the bedridden or housebound. Housekeepers are assigned to keep the flats and the old people themselves, neat and tidy.

Special recreation programs are provided, with transportation to and from centers and parks.

In the Streatham area of London a special new housing project for the aged was opened last year. The houses, two stories high, have ramps instead of stairs, railings strategically placed within the apartments to help the infirm get about, rounded corners and rounded wall edges to prevent sharp turns, and plenty of light from at least two sides for each flat.

Medical care is also provided. As long as an old person wishes to remain in his own apartment, or with his children, he may do so. But if he is unable to cope with daily problems by himself he can go into a nursing home or a special hospital.

### MILK FOR CHILDREN

And at the beginning of life, equal care is taken. Much study is going into changing the traditional British diet—heavy on starches and fats, lean on protein. Small children are provided with milk free of charge (or at costs much lower

Advertisement

### Book Service

Rare and out-of-print books and pamphlets. If not readily available, we will search for them. We can also supply you with any current book that socialists put on their "must" list. Our specialty: the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. Catalog sent on request. PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

Advertisement

### Book-A-Month

Adventure in Freedom — 300 Years of Jewish Life in America, by Oscar Handlin. This 282-page book was originally priced at \$3.75. Book-A-Month price is \$1.25. Pioneer Publishers 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

# AFL-CIO Heads "Stunned" by "Betrayal"

By Carl Goodman

In an editorial explaining how the Landrum-Griffin anti-labor measure passed the House with the decisive margin of 178 votes, the New York Times (Aug. 15) wrote as follows: "The growing intransigence of powerful employers in dealing with labor... must have intensified the concerted efforts of the N.A.M. and the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the... bill. And the labor lobbyists... were handicapped by the widespread re-orientation against union misconduct..."

This explanation contains both a true statement and a lie. The lie is that popular anti-union sentiment is strong enough in the country to pressure passage of the reactionary bill.

### '58 ELECTION RESULTS

This sentiment was tested by the labor movement last November in its campaigns to defeat "right-to-work" referendums. Labor won five out of the six contests. In the key states of Ohio and California, the electorate defeated the anti-labor measures by nearly 2 to 1 votes.

### SOVIET UNION, TOO

The Soviet Union, of course, has a program of medical care from the cradle to the grave. While it is true that perhaps the quality of medical service, for the general population, does not come up to the standards of American medicine, yet a recent visitor to the USSR, Dr. Jean Henley, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons said: "There is no question in the mind of any Russian that he can see a doctor."

She added that this and the elimination of financial worry for those who are ill were among the most impressive aspects of the Soviet scene.

Contrast that situation with the one facing the average American family—working-or middle-class—when serious illness strikes and you have an idea of what socialized medicine could mean here.

Take the whole thing a step further and think what it means to any family when an aged member becomes chronically ill. The younger members of the family must either accept staggering financial burdens, or hand the aged loved one over to the ungentle hands of charity.

There is indeed, little possibility that the Forand bill will ever be reported out of committee. It is equally true that its political backers in Congress are using it as pre-election fodder for their campaigns. But this only underlines and emphasizes America's need for social security, including socialized medicine.



United Steelworker President David J. McDonald: "I'm all through with the Democrats. And I'm all through with C.O.P.E. From now on, I'm sticking with my friend Dick Nixon."

in a bad fix," caught between two versions of an anti-union measure.

### LABOR HEADS 'STUNNED'

What proposals, if any, do the labor bureaucrats have for getting out of the fix? According to Roscoe Born's account of the current AFL-CIO executive council meeting at Unity House, Pa. (Aug. 18 Wall Street Journal) the top-labor leaders were "stunned" and "confused" by the developments. They also "believed they were betrayed." They called the passage of the Landrum-Griffin amendments the worst legislative defeat since the Taft-Hartley Act was passed in 1947.

"I'm all through with the Democrats," said United Steelworkers president David J. McDonald. "... I'm sticking with my friend Dick Nixon."

Al Harnett, number two man behind James Carey in the International Union of Electrical Workers is said to favor financial aid for the 17 Republicans who voted against the Landrum-Griffin measure.

### DEMOCRATS START DRIVE

Virtually from the first day of the eighty-sixth Congress, union-curb legislation has been prominently on the agenda. The Democrats began the campaign against the unions with the introduction of the Kennedy-Ervin bill in the Senate. At that stage, the AFL-CIO leaders supported the supposedly mild "labor-reform" measure.

Then in a series of maneuvers the Kennedy-Ervin bill was toughened up considerably and sailed through the Senate by a 90 to 1 vote. The AFL-CIO heads denounced the measure that had passed and asked for a return to the "milder" first version.

In the House, the labor chiefs were told, the "labor-reform" bill would be softened again, and maybe sidetracked altogether. But then Eisenhower took to the air in favor of the Landrum-Griffin amendments containing even more stringent restrictions on the rights of labor than the Senate had passed.

This was the high sign to every congressman that big business was in dead earnest about passage of anti-labor legislation at this session of Congress. Republican and Democratic legislators took their cue from Eisenhower's speech and shoved the odious measure through the House. Most of those who voted against the Landrum-Griffin bill favored the Senate measure.

Senate and House conferees will now meet for one week to iron out differences between the bills passed by the respective houses. Nothing good will come out of it for labor. As AFL-CIO president Meany declared Aug. 18, labor is "quite definitely



AFL-CIO president George Meany: Labor "is quite definitely in a bad fix"; but we have not, "reached the point of a third party."

seemed to indicate the Chief Executive was there, Mr. Carey leaned out of his car window and yelled: "Love that Khrushchev — hate that American labor!"

AFL-CIO president George Meany "bridled when asked whether the outcome of the House vote would upset 'relations' between the federation

and the Democratic Party," says A. H. Raskin in the Aug. 19 New York Times.

### NOW IS NOT THE TIME

Meany said he had "no relations" with either party (a statement that was less than candid) and wanted none. "Asked whether the federation might form an independent labor party to demonstrate its lack of confidence in either of the major parties, he replied that he did not think 'we have reached the point of a third party.'"

Instead, Meany came up with a truly original and brilliant proposal. The AFL-CIO, he said, would evaluate candidates on the basis of their individual records and programs, without regard for party affiliations.

Finally, James Beirne, president of the Communications Workers declared: "They'll talk a lot about leaving the Democrats, but they won't."

Back Nixon, curse Eisenhower; vote for the man, not the party; stick with the Democrats — the top labor officials have all the answers: all the answers, that is, except how to roll back the employers' offensive. That task requires the building of a labor party.

# Castro Denounces U. S. Role In Counter-Revolutionary Plot

By Lillian Kiesel

Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo, U.S. puppet dictator of the Dominican Republic, was tricked into exposing himself in the role of aggressor in the Caribbean last week when he attempted to intervene in the first serious counter-revolutionary conspiracy faced by the Castro regime.

The trap was baited by Castro aides, Major William Morgan and Major Louis Orlando Gutierrez Menoyo, who succeeded in gaining the confidence of the counter-revolutionaries. Trujillo sent a plane load of arms and men to help their cause. When the plane arrived on Aug. 13 the trap was sprung and the plot that had been smoldering for months was thwarted.

Business groups, landowners and supporters of Batista initiated the conspiracy. It picked up steam after the Castro government passed the Agrarian Reform Law last May. Threatened invasions, economic reprisals and attempts on the lives of Castro and his brother Raul followed.

Here is what one of the broadcast beamed to Cubans

from the Dominican Republic sounded like: "This is a war without quarter. Fire! Fire at the demoniac Castro and his assassin brother Raul."

Daniel James, N.Y. Post correspondent, reports this was "the most hysterical and blood-thirsty I have heard in a week of listening to every word sent out of Trujillo's radio."

Meanwhile Major Morgan, an American who fought on the side of the July 26 movement since 1957, convinced the counter-revolutionaries that he was just an adventurer who "would do anything for money."

The plotters were deciding how they were going to set up their new government. Arturo Hernandez Telleschea, a former senator during the regime of Carlos Prio Socarras ( ousted by Batista in 1952) was to be the new president. Armando Caines Milanés, former head of the National Cattlemen's Association, would have been Vice-President. The leader of the group was Eleuterio Pedraza, who had been an army general and police chief under Batista.

The arrest of these conspirators Aug. 9 touched off a general roundup of all those suspected of participating. After Trujillo's plans were exposed on Aug. 13 an estimated 4,500 people were jailed in Cuba.

When things had calmed down Castro took to TV for five hours to tell the Cuban people what had happened. He accused the United States of having received as exiles the war criminals of the regime. Furthermore, Castro declared that the U.S. had permitted them to organize a counter-revolution against Cuba and even had turned its back while they delivered arms to Major Morgan.

While Castro denounced Trujillo as the "financial boss of all those who are plotting against us," it is well known that Trujillo receives arms and money from the U.S.

The trials of some of the prisoners have begun. Some were released after it was established that they were not involved in the plot.

The Cuban people rallied behind Castro, "Premier Fidel Castro," reports R. Hart Phillips, "already a heroic figure here, was the object of adulation throughout Cuba... The Cuban people applauded the way the conspiracy was exposed."

### Subscribe!

To keep up with the real meaning of big events at home and abroad, you need the Militant. Try it for six months. Send your name and address and \$1.

The Militant 116 University Pl. New York 3, N.Y.

Enclosed is \$1 for a six-months trial subscription.

Name ..... Street ..... City ..... Zone ..... State .....

Advertisement

# Celebrate Labor Day Week End At Mountain Spring Camp



### Labor Day Week End Speakers, Sept. 5-7:

Dr. Annette Rubinstein, author and lecturer, "A Socialist Looks at American Literature." Tom Kerry, Militant staff writer, "American Labor at the Cross Roads." Nat Weinstein, delegate to NAACP convention, "Methods of Negro Struggle — a Historical Approach." Rates: from \$6 a day, including meals. For reservations or information write Mountain Spring Camp, R.D. No. 1, Washington, N.J. In New York City call AL5-7852. Auspices Militant Labor Forum.

# ... China's Communes — A Step Forward

(Continued from Page 1)

tion. They should also familiarize themselves with the excruciatingly difficult economic conditions that affect the realization of these aspirations. The ten-year record of the Chinese revolution will then stand forth in a far more favorable light.

When the Chinese people overthrew the rule of the landlords, usurers, native despots and foreign imperialists, they aspired to transform their country into a modern nation. They aimed to build a society that would conquer famine, pestilence and illiteracy, that would industrialize, and that would end the old exploitive social relationships forever.

Since the victory of the Revolution in 1949, these aims have been furthered in a series of profound political and social transformations.

China has at last been unified under a single government and freed of domination from imperialist control.

The means of production have been nationalized and converted to a planned economy. China has kicked over the rickety framework of capitalism and laid the foundations for the "construction" of a socialist order.

In agriculture, land reform at the time of the revolution ended the power of the landlords (often the same persons) who in many areas had regularly appropriated 70% and more of the agricultural yield.

The old patriarchal relations which enslaved women to men were also abolished and replaced with equality of status between the sexes.

### COLLECTIVIZATION

Following land division, cooperative labor—with its attendant increase in productivity—was introduced in agriculture to surmount the parcelization of the land.

At first, this took the form of mutual-aid teams who plant-

ed, tended and harvested the various individual private plots in common.

Next collectivization was undertaken. This measure pooled individual land-holdings to form cooperative farms.

Finally, last year, the cooperatives were merged into the bigger collective units — the rural people's communes. In all some 700,000 cooperative farms were combined into about 26,000 communes.

All these social measures in industry and agriculture have furthered economic growth. They proved to be the indispensable conditions for rapid strides forward in industrial and agricultural production. They have served and are serving to realize the 1949 Revolution's objectives.

The rural peoples communes are no exception. On the contrary, their formation is highly progressive. They are tied to the Chinese government's most ambitious program to date for raising agricultural productivity. This program in turn holds the key to further progress in industrialization.

For there is no escaping the fact that unless China receives long-term credits in sizable amounts it must seek to obtain machinery and needed raw materials by exporting agricultural products.

Furthermore, growth of modern industry means growth of the cities that must be fed by the countryside, and it means a growing demand for agricultural raw materials (as distinguished from foodstuffs) which the peasantry must also provide.

The problems that China must overcome in pursuit of its objectives are staggering. Indeed, China cannot solve them purely through her own resources. But by heroic efforts China can strengthen her ability to hold out against imperialism—and that means to register definite progress in industry and agriculture—until such time as new socialist victories

in the rest of the world can bring decisive aid.

China has a population of 650 million people which it must feed through its own agricultural efforts. It has no food credits abroad. Despite the \$9 billion worth of surplus food in U.S. granaries, big-business policy makers have continually denied China any such credits.

The total cultivated land area currently at China's disposal is smaller than the total amount of land devoted to crops in the United States. (Cultivated land in China amounts to about 300 million acres compared to 400 million acres in the U.S.) Unlike the United States, China has almost no cattle-meat industry and no dairy industry. Grains supply the bulk of the Chinese diet. China has very little modern chemical fertilizer available although it needs it desperately. China is a country perennially subject to floods, drought and locust plagues. Before the Revolution it was a food importer even though 80% of its population was engaged in agriculture.

The task that revolutionary China has nevertheless set itself is to feed the entire population—which it has virtually done during the last ten years—and to steadily increase the quantity of agricultural raw material (cotton, hemp, etc.) as well as the overall quantity of agricultural surpluses available for export.

In China's favor are several factors which the Mao regime has sought, especially during the last two years, to combine to maximum effect in raising the country's productive capacities.

### NEW PROPERTY FORMS

First, and most important, are China's new property relations. These feature the elimination of the right of private property in the means of production (including the land) and institution of the planned economy. They make possible a far greater mobilization of

labor and resources than ever was possible under the old regime or under capitalism.

Second is China's traditional agricultural know-how. "Chinese agriculture is primarily distinguished by its intensity," says the Encyclopaedia Britannica (1946 Edition, Vol. 5, p. 544). "This is made possible only by the unremitting labor which the struggle for existence demands and the traditional skill born of 40 centuries of transmitted experience." For 4,000 years Chinese farmers have produced a yield per acre surpassed in Great Britain—the model agricultural country of the Western world in the nineteenth century—only with the aid of chemical fertilizers. The U.S. has never attained average per acre yields as high as those traditionally reached in China.

Third are China's traditional handicrafts and food-processing industries associated with agriculture. These too require

laborious methods, but if multiplied sufficiently they can provide an accumulation of goods capable at least of satisfying some of the peasants' most pressing needs. (In the future, of course, these traditional industries will give way to goods produced by modern industrial methods.)

Fourth is China's huge supply of manpower.

Fifth are the revolutionary aspirations of the Chinese people.

To tap these potentials to the utmost degree was the aim of the Second Five-Year Plan launched at the end of 1957. In this plan, the Chinese Communist Party leaders announced that the first three years would be the hardest. Mao Tse-tung spoke specifically of a "three-year hard battle against nature."

The Chinese communes are tied integrally to this crucial "hard battle." (First of a series.)

Advertisement

# Socialist Equality By 1965?

The high rate of growth of Soviet industry is becoming increasingly impressive. Many countries are studying the methods of planned economy in hope of duplicating the Soviet achievement.

Khrushchev claims that "socialist equality" will be achieved relatively soon in the Soviet Union. How realistic is this perspective? Can it be achieved without the aid of Western industry?

Read the searching study by Tom Kemp, who teaches economics at Hull University. In the summer issue of International Socialist Review. Send 35 cents for a copy.

International Socialist Review 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.



Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50.

THE MILITANT

Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

Editor: JOSEPH HANSEN Associate Editor: DANIEL ROBERTS Business Manager: KAROLYN KERRY

Vol. XXIII — No. 34

Monday, August 24, 1959

"Inconceivable" Under Dulles?

Is the evil in this world due to the influence of Satan?

In that form the question does not sound very serious — today in the twentieth century. Let us reformulate it.

Is America's reactionary role in the cold war due to the influence of Dulles? The liberal Nation answers with a strong affirmative: "Were John Foster Dulles alive, it is inconceivable that the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange visits could have been arranged."

The editors of the National Guardian take a similar position: "Opposed to Summit meetings and other deterrents to the Cold War, Dulles destroyed the good effects of the 1955 Summit meeting, scuttled the efforts of the President's emissary Harold Stassen for disarmament, and opposed not only a Khrushchev visit here, but Vice President Nixon's visit to the U.S.S.R."

Economy of thought is evident in this view; so much, in fact, that room was not left for an important fact: Dulles helped mastermind the diplomatic shift.

Eisenhower, an authority on the subject, indicated this in his press conference Aug. 12. John Edwards, correspondent of the American Broadcasting Company, asked the President if the invitation to Khrushchev signified "a reversal of Mr. Dulles' policy."

"This is a — far from a reversal," responded Eisenhower with his usual clarity. "Mr. Dulles and I used to discuss this thing often with others of the State Department . . . Now, finally, oh — I think in the later months of 1958 we began to feel that the methods that we were pursuing had to be reinforced by something a little different . . . Now, he and I got around to a decision, but later . . . So we began to work on this thing."

"Integration" at Little Rock

The photograph reproduced on our front page symbolizes, in our opinion, the present status of integration of the schools in the South: a lone Negro student isolated among coldly hostile and at times jeering whites. Throughout the day the "integrated" student must be on the constant alert to provocations that might lead to blows.

Two years ago nine Negro students were admitted to the previously all-white Central High School at Little Rock. This year the number was cut to two. And when Elizabeth Eckford was admitted to college after attending the opening day at Central High, Jefferson Thomas was the only one left.

The heroism of this youth has won world-wide admiration. But how does it happen that he is alone?

This is token integration. This is the kind of integration finally approved by the Supreme Court and therefore indirectly suggested by this high body as the

And I gave the subject to two or three of my trusted associates in the State Department and said, 'Now let's try to total up the balance.' And so when it came into the beginning of July, this decision was made, and I invited him."

Thus Eisenhower himself fixes the date of the decision as "the later months of 1958." This would seem to confirm the deduction expressed in the Militant that the decision was directly influenced by the Republican defeat in the November elections, and that the timing of the "thaw" was designed to give Republican Party prospects in 1960 a boost and help Nixon win the presidential nomination.

Holding Dulles solely responsible for the cold war leaves out of account some figures who deserve at least equal blame, his predecessors in office: Dean G. Acheson, George C. Marshall and James F. Byrnes, the administrators of Wall Street's imperialist foreign policy under Truman.

To overlook the reactionary role of these Secretaries of State plays the game of the Democratic machine, which badly needs to cover up its warmongering record if it hopes to compete with the Republicans in 1960 as the party of "peace."

The truth is that favorable developments in the international class struggle forced the American imperialists to make a tactical shift in diplomacy. But their foreign policy still remains geared to an eventual war, a war impelled by the economic needs of the capitalist system.

The theory of the class struggle and the ultimate economic determination of history, we would suggest, explains the turns in American foreign policy much better than the theory that it is divinities from upstairs or down that run the State Department.

pattern the South should seek to adopt.

By admitting one student like Jefferson Thomas, the Little Rock authorities comply with the Supreme Court's 1954 decision that segregation of the schools is unconstitutional. It is a way of meeting the court's subsequent order to end segregation.

After the opening day riot instigated by diehard racists, Little Rock settled into an uneasy quiet. This has been hailed as a tribute to an "evolutionary process" that will eventually bring about integration. Actually it has not yet been determined that the worst racists will accept even token integration.

The fragility of the 1954 victory has been clearly demonstrated. Further setbacks are in store unless the integrationist movement turns to militant methods of struggle. The courage of Jefferson Thomas should inspire renewed effort to put more like him in Central High and other schools throughout the South.

Laos

What is behind the shooting in Laos? According to the State Department, the small kingdom is being bullied by North Viet-Nam and the People's Republic of China.

These Communist neighbors are allegedly helping Moscow to put pressure on Eisenhower for concessions.

This "explanation" hinges on the fact that the conflict was played up in the headlines along with news of the impending Khrushchev visit.

But the dispute began last spring before agreement was reached to hold the parleys.

Actually the State Department has been deep in intrigues in the area for five years.

At the Geneva Conference in July 1954, Viet-Nam was divided at the seventeenth parallel. French imperialism thus recognized that the Vietnam-led national-independence revolution in Indo-China could not be crushed. It made a territorial concession, and agreed to elections for all of Viet-Nam in 1956.

At Geneva, Laos and Cambodia, which had been part of France's Indo-Chinese colony, were put under French "protection" as "independent" countries. A pledge was made to keep them out of any military alliance, whether of the East or West.

The U.S. refused to accept the agreement and began intriguing to kill it. The State Department promoted a coup against French rule in South Viet-Nam. Diem, a reactionary Catholic politician, was installed as a dictator controlled from Washington.

Diem disregarded the agreement for elections in 1956. He began shaping his

army on the South Korean model, converting the country into an American military base.

Then American imperialism moved from its Viet-Nam base into Laos with the avowed aim of transforming the kingdom into a "bulwark against Communism."

As a result, says Haynes Miller, a former U.S. official in Laos, "the Laotian Army . . . is the only national defense force except our own whose budget is entirely underwritten by U.S. taxpayers."

The Laotian people continued their struggle for independence until November, 1957, when the Pathet Lao movement, led by the Communist Party in the two northern provinces, made a pact with the then Laotian premier, Prince Suvanna Phuma. This ended the "civil war."

Pathet Lao agreed to disband its guerrillas and integrate the two provinces it controlled into Laos. Suvanna Phuma agreed to incorporate the two regular Pathet Lao battalions under their own officers into the Laotian royal army and to allow the Communist Party to function legally; in fact, to be represented in the cabinet.

A pro-U.S. politician, Phou Sananikone, who became premier last August, reneged on this agreement.

This touched off the civil war again and with it the apprehensions of the North Viet-Nam and Chinese regimes about U.S. maneuvering in the area.

The shooting in Laos is thus one of the end products of State Department intrigues.



"You know the new anti-union law makes featherbedding illegal, so we'll have to reconsider your Thursday afternoons off."

Swiss Gov't Faces Referendum Barring Use of Nuclear Arms

ZURICH, July 29 (By Mail) —Last year the Western press gave wide publicity to the declaration of the Swiss government in favor of the atomic armament of the Swiss army. But there is an almost total blackout of news among the same papers about the development of a strong popular movement here in opposition to such armament.

This movement presented an initiative petition to the government last May signed by 75,000 Swiss citizens. It calls for "the prohibition on the territory of the Confederation of the manufacture, import, transit, deposit and employment of atomic arms of all kinds . . ."

(The "Right of Initiative" enables Swiss citizens to propose changes in the constitution. If an initiative bears 50,000 signatures it must be submitted to a referendum vote within three years and if approved acquires the force of law.)

Thanks to this initiative, the atomic armament plan, so dear to the general staff and defense boss Chaudet, has been halted until the issue is decided by the referendum vote of the electorate. This makes Switzerland the first European country where public opposition to government moves for nuclear armament has made itself felt in such a direct way.

While this important development has been given the "silent treatment" in the press abroad, the Swiss press has gone all out in vilifying and slandering the movement against atomic armament.

The powerful Neue Zurichische Zeitung vented its spleen almost daily against 40-year-old Heinrich Buchbinder, who, last week, it is not surprising that it received less signatures. But the significant fact is that the Social Democratic Party felt it necessary to take the stand that such an issue must

be settled by the people. This is in direct contrast to what happened a year ago when 35 of the most prominent right-wing socialists and trade-union leaders favored going ahead with atomic armament without consulting the people. The rank and file of their party has now had the last word and it is a sharp rebuff for the leaders.

The federal government is now in a quandary, since the nuclear armament plan has received a tremendous setback. But the battle is only half won.

The second round will be fought with even greater determination by both the partisans and opponents of nuclear armament. The outcome of the referendum will depend in great measure on international developments — for example, the struggle against the H-bomb in Great Britain.

Despite these attacks the movement is gaining strength and momentum and the government is beginning to realize that it reflects a popular mood, especially since the possession of nuclear arms could jeopardize the country's traditional neutrality.

The extent of popular feeling was reflected at the extraordinary congress of the Social Democratic Party last October which decided to launch an initiative to require the government to submit any nuclear arms decision to a public referendum.

Since this proposal did not go as far as the one submitted last week, it is not surprising that it received less signatures. But the significant fact is that the Social Democratic Party felt it necessary to take the stand that such an issue must

They Like the Exhibit But Want to Know More

An American guide at the U.S. national exhibit in Moscow stands besides a Thunderbird car. He tells a reporter that for every question about the car's horsepower he gets five about his own family budget.

Other press reports confirm that this is typical of the Russian visitors' reactions at the fair. Like the Americans who jammed the Soviet exhibit in New York, their interest extends beyond what's on display. They want to know how much the various items cost in terms of a day's pay. How many workers can afford to buy them.

The Russians want to know more about the American standard of living which their government tells them they will surpass in a decade. One of the fair's major attractions is the ready-made mixes. A woman given a box of cookie mix, reports a New York Times correspondent, came back the next day in amazement. "It works!"

Like Americans, the Soviet visitors are avid souvenir collectors. They have helped themselves to pieces of foam rubber, to toys and books. But most of all they want to find out what Americans are really like and what they really think.

In New York, the Soviet guides were pried with questions about the regime in Russia and the absence of political democracy. In Moscow, the visitors want to know about the cost of living, unemployment, racial discrimination and whether the American people really want peace.

The young man displaying the Thunderbird finds himself discussing whether a Negro slum-dweller can own one. Can the guide? How much does he earn? How much rent does he pay? What about the cost of education?

A young woman displaying the model supermarket finds herself discussing not the display of canned goods but U.S. bases and the chance of war.

The visitors are impressed by the exhibit, said one guide. But, she added, "They also seem genuinely afraid of what they have heard about unemployment, high medical bills and rents."

ECONOMY MEASURE

New York state police are squawking because Gov. Rockefeller has ordered them to use white stationery with black ink as an economy measure. Formerly the cops used purple ink printed on gray to match their uniforms.

The American Way of Life

A Reminder to Stock Up on Candles

When the lights went out Aug. 17 in the heart of the world's biggest city, the first thought that must have occurred to some half a million people was, "Didn't we pay our electric bill last month?"

But it wasn't the efficiency of the Consolidated Edison Corp. in dealing with delinquent accounts that blacked out five square miles in central Manhattan. Seven cables simply conked out and the company shut off 13 more without warning because they thought they might burn out too.

Subway trains ground to a halt and passengers gasped for air. Traffic lights stopped working and TV and radio sets went out. In one hospital a Caesarean birth was completed by flashlight.

Bank managers were panicked. Electrically controlled vault doors wouldn't lock. People were stranded in elevators. Some had to climb as many as 20 flights to their apartments. Life became weird. No lights, refrigerators, fans, air conditioners, TV or radio commercials.

Electric pumps stopped. Water faucets went dry. Toilets could n't flush. Manhattan's cliff-dwellers trudged down to the street to fill pans and jars at fire hydrants.

It gave a lot of people a faint taste of what might happen if war came. Some business men took a loss as food spoiled in useless refrigerators. Others enjoyed a small bonanza. Flashlights sold out. Penny candles went for a nickel each.

Upper floor tenants in swank apartments mobbed downtown air-conditioned hotels for the night. But in the tenements it was hell as electric fans stood motionless.

What caused the power failure? Con Ed first explained that "excessive" use of fans and air conditioners had overloaded the cables. But someone in the public relations office suddenly remembered those cute Con Ed posters—the little boy looking at an overloaded electric outlet and asking, "What's inaddeput wiring?"

Obviously the power trust couldn't brand itself guilty of the crime it has been so extensively educating the public against. And what about those ads urging people to buy air conditioners because they can always rely on Con Ed to supply the current?

A company spokesman then said that some of the cables were "very old" and may have become corroded. He said the blackout could happen any time. That was soon corrected. "The odds against 'any time' are really 'infinitesimal.'"

But the company really has a strong sense of public responsibility. It filed a report on the breakdown with Mayor Wagner. The contents, however, are secret. Mayor Wagner can make the report public if he wants to. However, he's on a yachting trip right now.

Solid editorial points have been made about the crisis. The New York Times curtly pointed out that Khrushchev shouldn't start laughing, it could happen in Moscow too.

An irate Times reader, Victor Strauss, wrote a snappish letter to the editor that this was beside the point. As a resident of the affected area, he refused to buy any of Con Ed's contradictory explanations for what happened.

He concluded: "Hundreds of thousands were exposed to unnecessary anxieties . . . because we leave decisions vital for all citizens to people who think in terms of their business rather than the common good."

Obviously Mr. Strauss does not grasp the essentials of the American Way of Life.

—HERMAN CHAUKA

Headlines in Other Lands

China's Foreign Aid Estimated At \$647 Million

During China's First Five-Year Plan, which ended in 1957, the People's Republic extended foreign assistance that probably totaled the equivalent of \$647 million, most of it in grants rather than credits or loans. This is the estimate given in a report by the National Planning Association, a private research organization in this country.

China's aid went mostly to other Soviet-bloc countries including North Korea, North Viet-Nam, Outer Mongolia, Hungary and Albania. The report said, however, that Peking granted \$55 million in aid to Ceylon, Cambodia, United Arab Republic and Nepal.

From 1950 to 1957, the report claims, China received only \$430 million worth of aid from the Soviet Union. These were not grants but long-term loans.

Indonesian Army Harasses CP

The Indonesian army high command has started to harass the Communist Party. Early this month, the army demanded that the Communist Party indefinitely postpone its sixth national congress scheduled to begin Aug. 22. The demand is said to have been made by Defense Minister Lieut. Gen. Nasution, who is also Chief of Staff. The army plays a major role in the new dictatorial government set up recently by President Sukarno.

Japan's Losses In World War II

Two million Japanese people lost their lives in World War II, according to figures computed by the New York World Telegram and Sun. "This up-to-date summary," says the newspaper, "assembled . . . from many official sources, reveals Japan's losses to be so vast as to stagger the imagination, in manpower, in money and in materials."

Kassem Pushes Crackdown on Communist Party

Premier Kassem is capitalizing on the obsequious attitude of Communist Party leaders to his regime. He has started crackdowns on rank-and-file militants throughout the country.

Tunisia Accuses French of 2 Raids

The Tunisian government charged that French planes made two separate bombing attacks on Tunisian soil and flew a reconnaissance mission over Tunisian territory on Aug. 15. The Tunisians cited no casualty figures.

Haitians Query U.S. Intervention

While the Haitian government of Francois Duvalier complained to the Inter-American Foreign Ministers' Conference about invasion of 30 revolutionaries from Cuba, other Haitians were asking why U.S. aircraft and personnel were mixed up in the matter on Duvalier's side.

Argentine President To Disfranchise Peronists and CP

President Frondizi of Argentina told an extraordinary military assembly, Aug. 18, that neither Communist Party nor Peronist candidates would be allowed on the ballot in next year's congressional elections.

Morocco Appeals To UN Against French Atomic Test

The Moroccan government will protest to the United Nations against projected French nuclear explosions in the Sahara desert.

Morocco Appeals To UN Against French Atomic Test

The French government has rejected protests from Morocco, Ghana and Guinea — all of which border the Sahara desert.

couldn't brand itself guilty of the crime it has been so extensively educating the public against. And what about those ads urging people to buy air conditioners because they can always rely on Con Ed to supply the current?

A company spokesman then said that some of the cables were "very old" and may have become corroded. He said the blackout could happen any time. That was soon corrected. "The odds against 'any time' are really 'infinitesimal.'"

But the company really has a strong sense of public responsibility. It filed a report on the breakdown with Mayor Wagner. The contents, however, are secret. Mayor Wagner can make the report public if he wants to. However, he's on a yachting trip right now.

Solid editorial points have been made about the crisis. The New York Times curtly pointed out that Khrushchev shouldn't start laughing, it could happen in Moscow too.

An irate Times reader, Victor Strauss, wrote a snappish letter to the editor that this was beside the point. As a resident of the affected area, he refused to buy any of Con Ed's contradictory explanations for what happened.

He concluded: "Hundreds of thousands were exposed to unnecessary anxieties . . . because we leave decisions vital for all citizens to people who think in terms of their business rather than the common good."

Obviously Mr. Strauss does not grasp the essentials of the American Way of Life.

—HERMAN CHAUKA

DON'T FADE AWAY

Old generals don't die, nor do they fade away. They land six-figure jobs with big corporations. Gen. Douglas MacArthur leads the parade of retired brass and braid into high-paying corporate jobs. He gets \$68,600 as board chairman of Sperry Rand plus his pay as a five-star general.



Slum Environment Held Responsible For N.Y. Cops

Editor: People are always complaining about the bad behavior of New York policemen. They say cops like to beat people up and shoot them just for kicks. It is also claimed that the reason so many officers shake people down and take graft is because they have no respect for law and order and our way of life.

Also, it is a well-established sociological fact that the underprivileged are always looking for someone of even lower status to release their hostilities on. So a cop walks through Harlem and sees slum buildings that may not be worse than the station house but seem so because they are much bigger. Maybe he slaps someone around a little to get rid of some of the antagonism that he should be directing against the slumlords who run the station houses.

Commissioner Kennedy wants about \$14 million next year to start cleaning up this disgraceful situation. As a taxpayer, I say let's give it to him.

Does Your Child Ask About War?

Editor: What do your readers tell their children about war? And what would they think about the way Doctors Frances Ilg and Louise Ames of the Gessell Institute, who run a Scripps-Howard column on Child Behavior, recommend that children's questions about war be answered?

Recently the doctor's received the following letter from an anxious parent: "My little girl, almost nine, is beginning to ask me questions about war: 'Will there be fighting in front of our house?' 'Where will I and the rest of the family get guns to fight back?' etc. What do I tell her?"

Here is how the child-psychology experts replied: "We suppose that you might

start out with something about the history of war. Then perhaps you could explain briefly something about the United Nations and other efforts of preventing war. Then something about atomic war and the larger and less personal scope that war is taking — less hand-to-hand fighting and more bombs. Whereas, a 9-year old might worry about hand-to-hand fighting in the street outside her house, atomic warfare might seem more remote and less personally worrisome even though we know it is far more dangerous.

"You might emphasize, since she has an appetite for specific information, the Civil Defense aspect of war. Explain that she as a little girl probably might not be drafted, but that she can take part in Civil Defense. This might give her thinking a more positive turn. "In telling about war as in telling about sex or any other large, pervasive topic, you don't tell it all at once, or once and for all. Ideally your answers are given, appropriately, at the time questions are asked, and presumably the whole picture emerges only gradually.

"Thus, if you are a family which lives in fear of war, no matter how reassuring you try to be verbally, your daughter will probably get a fearful picture of the whole thing. If you are among those who live, if not happily at least adaptively, with the notion of possible atomic warfare, she may be less anxious."

B. K. New York

THE MILITANT

Negroes Defy Racist Mobs In Chicago

By Bernie Strong

CHICAGO, Aug. 17 — Two Negro families, the Hargraves and the Greenes, moved into their new home on a previously all-white block last week after a racist mob of 4,000 had staged a violent demonstration in front of the building. There has been no incident since they moved in, but yesterday in a nearby predominantly white neighborhood, arsonists set fire to a home just occupied by three Negro families, the Browns, Conleys and Chalmers.

According to police reports, the arsonists poured six gallons of a paint and gasoline mixture through a roof trap door in the Browns' apartment tossed in a burning torch and fled.

A similar fire was started by arsonists on the porch roof of the Browns' apartment on the floor below. Damage of the two fires was estimated at \$500.

Yesterday, in an interview, Mrs. Barbara Hargrave explained why she and her husband Joshua, a mechanic, and their four children moved into their new home at 4338 W. Jackson despite the mob demonstrations. The Hargraves bought the three-family building after their old apartment was slated to be razed to make way for a housing project. But long before the eviction notice came, the family had worked and gone without comforts and even necessities to save the money to realize the dream they had since they moved here from West Virginia 14 years ago — a decent home where their children could grow up properly.

Mrs. Hargrave says they realized they would run into resistance from racists if they bought a home outside the Negro ghetto. But they were determined to have a decent home and there aren't many of them in the Negro district. Now they are settled in their new home as is the second family, Charles Greene, his wife and two sons. For a while it looked as though they wouldn't make it. On Aug. 6, shortly after the Hargraves paid a \$9,000 deposit on their \$29,000 building, word spread through the neighborhood that Negroes were moving in and an ugly crowd of 1,500 gathered in front of the house. The next night the crowd returned 4,000 strong and began hurling rocks and bottles at the house, breaking a number of windows.

About 175 cops were dispatched to the area but it was after midnight before one of the toughest police forces in the country managed to "persuade" the mob to disperse.

A number of civic organizations have strongly protested to Police Commissioner O'Connor at the way cops fraternized with the racists. While Police Captain Hackett made speeches over a loudspeaker about how the mob should please go home, a Negro bus driver who happened to enter the area was cut with flying glass as racists stoned the bus. But despite the absence of effective police protection, the Hargraves and Greenes are in their new home. Mrs. Hargrave says they won't be leaving; that they are going to demonstrate to the white supremacists that "the days of running and fear are passed."

RAIL EMPLOYMENT Employment on the railroads has dropped from 1,358,838 in 1946 to 840,575 in 1958. In 1940, when depression was still felt, rail jobs totaled 1,026,956.



Anne and Carl Braden at "sedition" trial.

Braden Takes Case To Court of Appeals

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 12 — The U.S. Court of Appeals here has been asked to overturn the conviction of Carl Braden, Louisville integration advocate, on a charge of contempt of Congress.

Braden was sentenced to a year in prison last February for refusing to answer certain questions asked of him by a subcommittee of the House Un-American Activities Committee in Atlanta, Ga., in July 1958. He challenged the committee's right to ask the questions.

One of the questions that Braden refused to answer concerned a letter that he and his wife Anne sent to a number of friends throughout the U.S. The letter was in opposition to bills to revise state sedition laws which were then pending in Congress. The Bradens' letter told how a state sedition law was used to put them in jail in Kentucky after they helped a Negro family to purchase a home in a segregated suburb of Louisville.

The attorneys for Braden in the appeal of his contempt-of-Congress conviction said that the committee's questions regarding this letter "reveal its firm determination to interfere with the basic rights of petition, association and beliefs."

They declared that the same

Cleveland Steelworkers Start Applying for Relief

CLEVELAND, Aug. 14 — Sixty striking steel workers had applied for relief here last week. All of the applications were denied. County welfare director John J. Schaffer said, "Most of them were too anxious and still had a little money left when they came to us. We are holding their applications and told them to come back when they have used up all their own resources."

They will be coming back soon and more will be joining them if the strike continues. Final paychecks were issued in July when the strike began and savings are dwindling.

In nearby Lorain, 150 of the 8,700 strikers have already applied for relief. In Youngstown the figure is past the 1,500 mark with 55,000 on strike. Some food vouchers have been issued there.

There are 19,000 steel workers on strike here in Cleveland and another 8,000 allied workers have been laid off since the strike began. Applicants for relief can expect a rough haul. The number on relief shot up during the

... Steel Union Can Win

(Continued from Page 1) them. Confidence still exists that the government can intervene in an impartial manner.

Hope is placed in "friends of labor" in national and state legislatures, who bet with the corporations when ever the chips are down. Union officials seek to impress on the ranks that facts, figures, logic and labor statesmanship, alone, can win the strike.

That is not enough. The Steelworkers can win their demands and stop the present offensive against organized labor, only if they are prepared to use their organized strength, not solely against the corporations but also against their stooges in government.

This is the most difficult, and most important task that faces the union today. To carry it out, the Steelworkers will have to mobilize the full strength of the union and organized labor behind a concrete set of demands. First among these, the shorter workweek, and contractual provisions to protect the workers against the effect of new equipment on their wages and working conditions.

Welfare committees should be prepared for a prolonged fight against the corporations. The pledges of support from the AFL-CIO and unaffiliated unions should be made concrete through financial aid and direct strike support. Steelworkers must resist with all their strength any interference by the federal and state government in behalf of the corporations. They must be determined to fight a Taft-Hartley injunction — the unions would never exist

Steel Union Men Hear McDonald At Detroit Rally

By Jim Avery

DETROIT, Aug. 15 — Some 700 of the 16,000 striking Steelworkers here showed up last night to hear David J. McDonald, United Steelworkers president, address a mass rally at Cass High School Auditorium. The low turnout was accounted for in part by dismal reports at meetings of Steelworkers locals during the week about the toughness of the steel magnates in sticking to their eight-point "break the union" program issued June 10 and the failure of current negotiations to produce anything tangible.

In his 15-minute speech, McDonald opened with the statement that he could report nothing in the way of progress because "nothing is being done."

He placed the blame for this on Roger Blough, president of U.S. Steel, and appealed to the more sensible and sober elements among the managers and stockholders of the steel industry to overrule this autocrat and sit down and bargain collectively in earnest with the union.

His entire speech was taken up with this, not one word being addressed to the assembled strikers on what the union and its allies can do to increase the heat on the steel barons.

He concluded with the assurance that "We will win this strike and I guarantee you the best labor contract in our history."

Today's papers, however, headlined a report unofficially given out by one of the District 29 lieutenants at the conference held at McDonald's suite in the Statler-Hilton Hotel after the rally. According to the press ac-

One Man Voids Fair Housing Bill in St. Paul

ST. PAUL — A lawyer can be a useful man for politicians looking for a way to avoid doing something they don't want to. For several months the City Council here had an open occupancy ordinance before it that would have made it illegal to refuse to sell or rent residential property on the basis of race, color, creed or national origin.

After several hearings on the measure and after going through the motions of considering its adoption, the Council suddenly decided to refer it to the City Corporation Counsel for an opinion. On Aug. 4 the corporation counsel, Louis P. Sheehan, reported back that the proposed ordinance was unconstitutional.

Mayor Dillon breathed a sigh of relief and announced that now it was a state rather than a municipal problem. The council's decision to go along with Sheehan's opinion was sharply criticized by the Urban League, the NAACP, and others. Timothy J. Howard, of a local housing group, declared the law should be adopted and the courts permitted to decide its constitutionality. "I don't think one man's opinion on such a vital question should be final," he said.

Perhaps to take some of the curse off its killing of the fair housing bill, the Council on Aug. 5 voted 4 to 3 to permit LeRoy Coleman, a Negro, to go ahead with plans for a 16-pilot development that he proposes to sell on an interracial basis. The Council had stalled on issuing necessary building permits and was considering taking over part of the area for a park.

Charges were "reluctantly dropped," said federal attorney Russell Ake, "because we can't meet the requirements set down by the Supreme Court in the Yates case."

This statement is a clear-cut admission that the defendants were convicted solely for advocating dissident ideas and not for any action they engaged in. In its June 1957 ruling on the Smith Act conviction of Oleta O'Connor Yates and 14 other California Communist Party defendants, the Supreme Court held that proof must be established of immediate concrete activity to overthrow the government.

Those freed yesterday were Joseph Brandt, former Communist Party trade union director; Martin Chaney, former state organization secretary; Anthony Krehmerek, former state chairman; Frank Hashmall; Mrs. Lucille Bethencourt and George Watt.

Ohio Smith Act Case Dropped

CLEVELAND, Aug. 20 — Federal officials here announced yesterday they were abandoning plans for retrial of six Ohioans convicted under the Smith Act in 1956. The conviction was set aside last year and a new trial ordered by a federal district court.

Charges were "reluctantly dropped," said federal attorney Russell Ake, "because we can't meet the requirements set down by the Supreme Court in the Yates case."

This statement is a clear-cut admission that the defendants were convicted solely for advocating dissident ideas and not for any action they engaged in. In its June 1957 ruling on the Smith Act conviction of Oleta O'Connor Yates and 14 other California Communist Party defendants, the Supreme Court held that proof must be established of immediate concrete activity to overthrow the government.

Those freed yesterday were Joseph Brandt, former Communist Party trade union director; Martin Chaney, former state organization secretary; Anthony Krehmerek, former state chairman; Frank Hashmall; Mrs. Lucille Bethencourt and George Watt.

Local Directory BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Wednesday nights 7 to 9. The Militant, P.O. Box 1904, University Center Station, Cleveland 6, Ohio. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Temple 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND - BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday, 8 P.M., followed by open house. Call PO 3-5820. SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321. SEATTLE 1412-18th Avenue, EA 2-5554. Library, bookstore. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194.

Almost a Hero

By Penny Carr

The frail-looking old man pushed past the firemen and dived into the smoke-filled store. He didn't stop at the racks of men's suits, at the cases of watches and tie clasps and rings. He made straight for the tiny office to the rear. A hero? Almost.

Let's call him Jones. He makes his living selling on credit. It's almost no problem at all to buy a suit worth \$25 for double the price at his store. You pay \$5 down and \$2 a week.

Jones employs "collection agents" who make regular rounds picking up the \$2 a week for the suit or the watch or the ring. For every customer who skips out, plenty pay to the bitter end. His partner Smith knows selling, and Jones knows collecting.

Jones views his customers with a clinical eye. "They can't buy for cash; they can't get credit at regular stores; and they like to dress sharp. They don't want to go to the junk man, which is all they can afford, so they come to us. I'm doing them a favor. Sure they pay more, but look at the risk we take."

When Jones got the phone call about the fire late at night, he leaped from his bed and raced to the store, his stomach churning. Smith was waiting among the fire hoses and he grabbed at his partner almost hysterically. "The records, the records . . . We'll be ruined."

"I know," Jones said as he took in the flames eating the upper floors. The last time he risked physical danger was when he was 26. His wife's diamond

Notes in the News

DENVER COPS SUSPENDED FOR BRUTALITY — Departmental hearings opened Aug. 4 on the case of two Denver patrolmen charged with beating a prisoner while hauling him to jail. The arrested man, Joseph De Herrera, said that on the way to the city jail the two cops stopped the paddy wagon and proceeded to beat him. A second prisoner in the wagon confirmed this. The policemen have been suspended since July 8 when they filed a report in which they failed to mention the beating.

CHICAGO FUROR DENIED CAMPUS MEETING HALL — Officials of Roosevelt University have denied the Militant Labor Forum the right to rent halls generally available to the public. The claimed reason is that in renting a hall last spring, the forum group violated a contract term prohibiting use of the university's name in promotional material. In a letter of protest the Militant Labor Forum pointed out that it had merely included the name in a leaflet to identify the place of the meeting, as all organizations regularly do, and that the "objectionable" leaflet had been officially approved for posting on the university bulletin board.

ACLU HELPS SEAMAN WIN BACK PAPERS — Intervention by the American Civil Liberties Union has compelled the Coast Guard to issue a duplicate Merchant Mariners Document to a seaman who had lost his original papers. When he applied for a duplicate, without which he cannot sail, the Coast Guard told him the papers would not be reissued because of "your previous record, including convictions for acts of moral turpitude." After the ACLU pointed out that this constituted revocation of papers without a hearing, the Coast Guard said a duplicate document would be authorized.

THREE-YEAR NUCLEAR WAR? — One of the numerous advantages of a hydrogen bomb war, we've been told, is that at least it will be over in a few days. But the Pentagon believes a nuclear war may go a bit longer. A while back the government amassed an \$8-billion hoard of strategic metals and minerals to meet military and civilian needs for a five-year war. Last year military experts decided a nuclear war wouldn't last more than three years and decided to get rid of half the stockpiles. Now a more "accurate" estimate is being worked on which reportedly

has already pushed the figure back past the three-year mark. Three or four years in a fallout survival shelter should make it a real homey place.

COLLECTION AGENCIES PROSPER — The number of delinquent credit accounts turned over to collection agencies by department stores and other retailers have increased sharply in the past several months, according to a Wall Street Journal survey. "People are making \$4 and spending \$5," explained one agency spokesman. He noted that delinquents are no longer confined largely to low-income groups. More and more deadbeats are being found in "good residential sections." On the other hand, bank-loan delinquencies are declining. Unlike many retailers, banks don't extend more credit than people can afford to meet, says one banker. "Moreover, people tend to pay us first," he added.

CALIFORNIA CHURCH LEADERS AS-SAIL HOUSE COMMITTEE — Protestant Episcopal Church leaders in California have strongly protested a scheduled visit of the House Un-American Activities Committee to San Francisco. The committee plans another "exposure" of "communist infiltration" among teachers. An Aug. 12 resolution of the Protestant clergymen and lay leaders said the committee's past procedure in such hearings has "proved so threatening to the private welfare of countless innocent individuals that the public conscience is and must thereby be outraged."

FBI GETS FRESH-UP FREDDIE — We finally have the inside story on what happened to Fresh-Up Freddie, the comic character seen for a brief time in TV commercials last spring extolling the virtues of Seven-Up soda. It seems that Freddie wound up an interview with a fictitious movie queen, Kim Schultz, by saying, "Thank you, Kim Schultz. We'll be seeing you in your latest picture, 'I Was a Wonderfully Terrific Teenager for the FBI.'" An FBI agent was dispatched to the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency to knock Freddie off the air for making "disparaging and derogatory" remarks about the secret federal police. Later, a Washington FBI spokesman said Freddie wasn't derogatory, they just didn't want anyone to think the FBI was endorsing Seven-Up. Anyway, Freddie is no more.