

"Jim Crow Must Go!"



Throughout the North, students demonstrated solidarity with the Negro student freedom fighters in the South who have been staging "sit-ins" at five-and-dime stores. This picket line in Denver March 5 included unionists. One of them, a member of the United Packinghouse Workers Union, declared, "We will continue to picket and boycott these outfits as long as they profit from their ruthless dual policy toward Northern and Southern customers."

Dobbs Hits 2 Parties On Rights

Calls Current Bill a 'Hoax'

NEW YORK, March 18 — "No TV quiz show was ever as thoroughly rigged as the so-called civil-rights fight currently going on in Washington," Farrell Dobbs, presidential nominee of the national committee of the Socialist Workers party, declared today.

"In Congress, Democratic and Republican leaderships, Northern liberals and Dixiecrats are collaborating in a mutually agreed upon hoax on the American people," Dobbs' statement continued. "The bills, amendments, parliamentary moves and counter-moves, the Southern filibuster and the liberals' cries of disappointment are all as pre-arranged and rehearsed as a professional wrestling match."

"All observers admit the Civil Rights Act of 1960 will be as anemic and meaningless as its predecessor, the Civil Rights Act of 1957. It will not even be a civil rights act; it is being stripped down to a mere voting rights act. But it will give very few disfranchised Negroes in the South an actual vote."

"The voting provision, weak and cumbersome in its original form, has been further eroded by voluntary changes and amendments. It now appears that the federal voting referees would have to go through ten legal steps to register a Negro refused registration by local racist officials. The opportunities for legal chicanery and delay this will afford Southern authorities would probably be enough to discourage Job himself from trying to vote."

"Cynical Betrayal"

"But to get a federal district court to appoint a voting referee will require winning a lengthy lawsuit, subject to two appeals, proving that a pattern of racial discrimination exists in local registration practices. As with attempts to enforce school desegregation, this means separate lawsuits in each of the thousands of Southern electoral districts."

"This latest cynical betrayal of civil rights again demonstrates the vise-like grip of the Southern racists on Congress. At the very moment the Republican leadership is bidding for Negro votes by proposing a 'stronger' civil-rights bill, it has already agreed to trim its bill to the taste of the Southerners. While voicing their disappointment in a northerly direction over the emasculating of the civil-rights bill, the Northern liberals are making deals with their Southern 'opponents' for the coming convention."

"An opponent of Jim Crow who supports the Democratic or Republican parties in the coming elections will be betraying not only his own desire to make civil rights a reality but also the courageous Negro students of the South, now being jailed by the hundreds by Southern Democratic officials — to the great indifference of the Republicans and Northern Democrats in Congress encrossed in playing out their 1960 civil-rights hoax."

Guatemala's Children

In Guatemala, the mortality rate for children between the ages of one and six is 42 per thousand as compared to 9 per thousand in the U.S.

Take New Steps to Form Labor Party in Canada

The Canadian labor movement is going ahead with its plans to form a labor party. A draft program for the new party has been published, and in Nova Scotia a full slate of labor candidates will challenge the Liberal and Conservative parties in the pending provincial elections.

At the April 1958 convention of the Canadian Labor Congress, counterpart of the AFL-CIO, the delegates instructed the national council to begin mapping plans for the new party and to report back to the next convention which is now scheduled to be held in Montreal the week of April 25.

The new party is being formed in alliance with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, a third party which had been supported by the Canadian CIO.

According to a Canadian union dispatch, the decision to contest the two capitalist parties in Nova Scotia was made by the Nova Scotia Federation of Labor, District 26 of the United Mine Workers and the provincial Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, under whose name the labor slate will be run.

A joint steering committee headed by the presidents of the three bodies was appointed to act as a campaign committee, and arrangements were made for regional committees to take responsibility for the campaign in various areas of the province.

Negro Students Extend Lunch Bar Battle Line

Let's Back Them Up!

An Editorial

It is not enough to nod one's head approvingly while reading the stirring dispatches from the South about the student actions against Jim Crow. Nor is it enough to speak enthusiastically about the lunch-counter sit-downs to friends and fellow-workers.

The Negro people of the South, led by their courageous students, and supported by a small number of equally courageous Southern whites, are in the midst of an extremely hard-fought battle. Their demand for the elementary human dignity of being served in a public eating place has arrayed against them the whole entrenched power of Southern racism.

In this desperate battle the Southern freedom fighters need tangible, effective help from above the Mason-Dixon line. The picketing of five-and-dime stores in various cities by students, and in a few instances by trade unions, deserves the highest praise as examples of tangible, effective help. They are no mere symbolic acts of solidarity.

The five-and-dime chains are not only guilty of racial discrimination in their Southern stores, in many instances their store managers have made the formal complaints or sworn out the warrants on which the Southern students have been thrown in jail.

The Woolworth, Kress, Kresge, Grant and McClellan companies deserve all the economic punishment that Northern op-

ponents of Jim Crow can give them. These chains are almost invariably non-union and anti-union. For organized labor this should be an added incentive to extend nationally the solidarity picketing already begun by a number of union bodies. If labor places its full weight behind a boycott of the five-and-dime chains, the Northern boycott added to the Southern can soon force them to abandon their racist lunch-counter policies.

A committee headed by AFL-CIO Vice President A. Philip Randolph has called for a mass demonstration on May 17 — anniversary of the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision — in New York's garment district in support of the Southern students.

This call for a May 17 demonstration has been endorsed by the New York Youth Committee for integration, an organization of campus clubs and student government bodies which emerged from the solidarity picketing of the five-and-dime stores. Now the Young Socialist Alliance is urging that nation-wide student demonstrations be called on May 17 in support of the Negro students of the South.

All efforts henceforth should be for a steady build-up of Northern demonstrations to a crescendo of solidarity on May 17. Let such a roar arise in the North on that date that it will give new heart to the Negro freedom fighters of the South and give pause to their racist oppressors.

Defy Jailing, Racist Clubs

By George Lavan

Police-state tactics and gangs of deputized storm troopers are being employed by Southern officials to smash the still spreading protest movement of Negro students.

City and state officials have imposed a regime close to martial law upon the Negroes of Montgomery, Alabama, who now risk life and limb if they attempt to assemble, petition or peacefully demonstrate. In addition to city and state police, gangs of deputized horsemen and Ku Klux elements wearing Civil Defense insignia are terrorizing Negroes, newspaper reporters and photographers.

Fears "Massacre"

The actions of the authorities and the white-supremacist vigilantes in Alabama are so ominous that Roy Wilkins, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked the White House to act to avert a possible "massacre" of Negroes.

On March 13, Walter Reuther, president of the AFL-CIO United Auto Workers, wired Eisenhower: "The reign of terror in Montgomery, Alabama, reported to you by the Rev. Martin Luther King, is shocking, immoral and un-American — appealing to you to instruct the Attorney General to take immediate action in your name to restore law and order in Montgomery."

Pressed by questioners at his March 16 news conference, the President agreed that the Constitution guaranteed people the right to hold peaceful demonstrations but he saw no way of protecting the Negro people in this right. He suggested it would be good if bi-racial conferences were held in every Southern community.

Held in Stockade

In Orangeburg, South Carolina, a demonstration by 1,000 students from South Carolina State and Claflin Colleges was met with tear gas and fire hoses. Walking in groups of one hundred, the young Negro men and women, attempted to converge on the downtown section by different routes. They continued though drenched by hoses in the forty degree weather.

About 350 (one-third of them women) were herded by police into a stockade beside the court house. They were arraigned in groups of fifteen, while buses stood outside to take those unable to post bond to the state prison.

Other demonstrations in South Carolina occurred in Rock Hill where 70 students were arrested for picketing city hall; in Columbia, the state capital, where ten were arrested for asking for service at lunch counters; and in Sumter where police made no arrests.

In Atlanta, Ga., students from the six Negro institutions comprising Atlanta University Center (Continued on Page 4)

He's Only the President

Asked if he thought Negroes had a constitutional right to sit at lunch counters, President Eisenhower replied that he wasn't a lawyer.

Braden Appeals To High Court

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11 — The Supreme Court was asked today to review the case of Carl Braden, Southern integration fighter, who was sentenced to a year in prison for defying the House Un-American Activities Committee.

His attorneys charged that his imprisonment would open the way for widespread harassment and jailing of whites and Negroes advocating civil rights.

They pointed out that Braden was called before the Congressional witch-hunters in 1958 in retaliation for his public opposition to the committee and "to investigate his motives in working for integration." He is one of 36 persons now in jail or facing jail for defying Congressional or state inquisitorial committees.

UAW Officials Seek to Purge Canadian Unit

By Harry Ring

TORONTO, March 15 — A brigade of Walter Reuther's porkchoppers moved into Canada recently in an attempt to squelch the growing anti-administration opposition in the Canadian section of the AFL-CIO United Automobile Workers union.

Headed by Emil Mazey, secretary-treasurer of the UAW, a committee of International Executive Board members investigated charges that Paul Siren, former Toronto director of the union, had held "secret" discussions with Communist Party leaders during the 149-day, 1955-56 strike against the General Motors Corporation of Canada. Mazey characterized such discussions as an "act of treason against the union."

The "investigation" came as a result of the challenge to Canadian UAW Director, George Burt, at the October 1959 union convention in Atlantic City. Burt was one of the very few (Continued on Page 4)

9 Face Prison Under T-H Act

DENVER, March 14 — Nine present and former officials of the independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union were sentenced to prison and fined here today. They had been convicted Dec. 17 on the frame-up charge of violating the Taft-Hartley law by "conspiring" to file false "non-Communist" affidavits.

Seven were sentenced to three years in prison and fined \$2,000. The other two were sentenced to 18 months and fined \$1,500 each.

Sentenced to three years were Irving Dichter, secretary-treasurer of the union; Maurice Travis, former secretary-treasurer; Charles Wilson, an international representative; Harold Sanderson, controller; and Raymond Dennis, Chase Powers, and Albert Skinner, all executive board members.

The others sentenced were Jesse Van Camp, an international representative, and James Durkin, a former organizer. The union leaders had been brought to trial in the midst of a bitterly fought strike against major copper producers.

Full Employment?

Six thousand men applied for 800 Philadelphia city laborers jobs that pay about \$60 a week.

Everyone a Capitalist In Land of the Dollar

By Harry Ring

"The rich get richer and the poor get kids." That's what they used to say in the old days of dog-eat-dog capitalism. But cynical sayings like that no longer apply since the rise of our present "people's capitalism."

Today, the once big capitalists are taking a real shelling. Brutally stiff income, corporation and inheritance taxes take away the bulk of their hard-earned remuneration. And the outrageously high cost of mansions, yachts and servants puts a stiff bite into what little is left. Really rich plutocrats are just about extinct in America.

And all that dough hasn't been going just to the spread. It has been spread around very democratically. No doubt you've read some of those ads explaining that almost everybody in the country today owns stocks and bonds. Millions of American workers are now capitalists with a vested interest in raising production and cutting wages.

You think all this is a lot of marlarkey? Well, so do I. But in case anyone still takes such myths seriously here are a few facts to set them straight, dug up by a non-communist organization with offices right on New York's Madison Avenue.

It's the National Bureau of Economic Research. After a detailed national survey, it reports that the rich are still getting richer and that wealth is being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

Following the 1929 crash, there was a tendency toward a somewhat broader distribution of wealth. But in 1949 there was a reversal of the trend which, the survey found, became sharply evident by 1953.

File this fact away for the next time you meet someone who really believes those ads about everyone being a stockholder: By 1953, 1.6% of the population "owned at least 80% of the corporate stock held in the personal sector, virtually all of the state and local government bonds and between 10 and 35% of each other type of property."

In 1953 the same 1.6% owned 30% of the nation's personal wealth. The bureau says that the concentration of wealth hasn't yet returned to the 1929 peak. But it will if the stock market keeps rising. A bureau spokesman explains that since the minority owns a majority of the stocks,

every market rise accelerates the concentration of wealth in their hands.

If you want some more facts on this to convince yourself or others, send 75 cents (plus sales tax in New York City) to the National Bureau of Economic Research, 261 Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Ask for "Changes in the Share of Wealth Held By Wealth-Holders, 1922-1956."

College Groups Hit Woolworth's Again in N.Y.

NEW YORK, March 13 — "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" "Hope you enjoy your food!"

These were some of the comments that greeted the people who did walk through the picket line of 300 youth yesterday to shop or eat at the large Thirty-fourth Street Woolworth store here. Many other shoppers respected the demonstration held in support of Southern Negro students fighting to end public lunch-counter discrimination.

This was the second demonstration organized by the New York Youth Committee for In-

Lie in "U.S. News" Exposed by Cubans

By Lillian Kiezal

"Twenty years of dreams and hard work, and hundreds of thousands of dollars — all gone," laments Jack Hall Everhart, whose 20,000-acre Pinar del Rio cattle ranch has been confiscated by the Cuban revolutionary government. The U.S. press reports his story as typical of the treatment accorded American ranchers and cane growers.

These tear-jerking accounts of Everhart's ordeal at the hands of the Cuban revolution say nothing about how the Cuban farm laborers suffered because, for half a century, Americans owned most of the island's best arable land and

ran their holdings like feudal lords.

U.S. News and World Report published Everhart's article, entitled "I had My Property Grabbed by Castro's Men," in the March 7 issue. His main complaint is that the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) took away land he claims he was entitled to under the agrarian reform law.

It seems he had two ranches. One he owned personally and the other was owned by a company of which he was president. He asked to be allowed to keep 3,333 acres — the maximum permissible amount under the law — for each of the ranches, but his request was denied.

Instead, he says, INRA officials told him to go and "pick out" 1,650 acres "for myself" from the company ranch. He received no receipt for the land INRA took over, nor any of the promised twenty-year bonds at 4 1/2 per cent interest. A day laborer on his ranch before the revolution, Vidal Gil, now manages his erstwhile holdings.

Revolution, newspaper of the Twenty-sixth of July Movement replied to Everhart in its March 9 issue after carefully reviewing the facts with the legal department of INRA.

"Mr. Everhart was one of many who acquired lands in Cuba for a little money and enriched themselves by exploiting the workers." His friends in the old Cuban government "favored him by constructing roads and by allowing him to use an even sterner hand with the laborers." "Batista himself went fishing on his property."

His property declaration to INRA in September 1959 ap-

Can We Win Back A Healthy Scarcity?

By Joseph Hansen

Seventh in a series of articles.

What's to be done about the food explosion? There are two schools of thought. One holds that hunger still plagues the world and that America should help stamp it out.

As a modest beginning at home, we should assure every family three square meals a day. This elementary public-welfare measure would not decrease our immense surpluses. In fact it would probably ultimately help increase them because of the rise in the sense of well-being among the people.

As a beginning abroad, we should at once offer flotillas of food to poverty-stricken countries, thus helping to restore the good name America formerly enjoyed among nations for its readiness to use its plenty to help others in need.

This generous attitude is rather widespread among farmers and workers but doesn't get many headlines.

The other school holds that such a view is fat-headed, pinko-tinged, smacking of un-Americanism, and strictly for the birds. Hunger, this school will admit, is an unpleasant fact. However, not much can be done about it without cash in your pocket or in the bank. Overwhelming evidence shows that modern man's main reason for growing crops is not to provide people with food; but to make money. If you give our crops away, how can you expect to sell them? You've ruined the market. To protect profits you have to protect sales and keep prices high enough to offer a fair return.

This view is so sensible that we at once see its merit. To preserve the profit pattern in agriculture, we must maintain relative scarcity. Obviously the current food explosion is a national calamity.

Fortunately our capitalist experts are aware of the grave character of the emergency and are working around the clock figuring out what to do. A report on their efforts which appeared in the Dec. 14, 1959, Wall Street Journal shows that there are no grounds for panic:

"A broad attack on the nation's huge, costly agricultural surplus problem is being launched by America's leading farm organizations.

"Convinced that the old panaceas won't work, the organizations are concocting a flock of new ones. Their most urgent aim: To wipe out the Government surplus of wheat, corn and other major crops which now ties up more than \$9 billion. Removing this surplus, the farmer groups believe, would allow free market prices to rise to 'fairer' levels."

Anyone who thinks that it would be unfair to jack up (Continued on Page 2)

Is the New "Dream" Engine Good News to Auto Workers?

By George Breitman

DETROIT — Good news or bad? "The Germans blitzed the auto world this year with a dream engine," David Scott reports in the March Popular Science. "Instead of pistons that shuttle up and down, it uses a tricky three-lobed rotor. A cross between the ordinary internal-combustion engine and the turbine, it promises twice the power from the same weight and size as conventional engines. . . .

"Besides that, it's quiet and almost vibrationless. Also, cheap to make, economical to run, and simple to maintain. It has only two main moving parts." It can also be used in trucks, boats and planes.

NSU Werke of Neckarsulm, Germany, plans to have the new engine in its 1961 Prinz small

cars. In the U. S., Curtiss-Wright has bought the rights to build larger versions of the engine.

Meanwhile Rootes of England has introduced on its Hillman Minx line a new fully automatic transmission suitable for low-powered cars that is called "as simple as a child's magnet." (New York Times, Feb. 25.)

Called Esidrive, it is based on a magnetic principle. "Using about two tablespoons of a ferric powder that becomes magnetized, it forms what amounts to a solid coupling between the engine and gearbox. Thus, the powder is transmitted to the wheels without appreciable slippage, and there is no loss of power from wasted gasoline." On some big U. S. cars the horsepower loss is as high as 25%.

... Lie in "U.S. News"

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appeared "extremely doubtful and intricate." The "company" ranch, purchased in 1946 in the name of a corporation called Cattle and Territorial Co., San Marcos, S.A., has 13,000 acres, now valued at \$918,000. Everhart says a Mr. Leon Broch sold the ranch and received 1,500 shares, valued at 150,000 pesos, in return.

Later, says Revolution, "Mr. Broch and a Mr. Louis Menocal appeared as holding 5 1/2 shares and the rest of the shares — 1,507 1/2 — belonged to Mr. Everhart. . . . no document proves Mr. Everhart ever bought the shares from Mr. Broch."

Everhart says he "gave" ten peasant families eight acres each. Actually, says Revolution, he "forced twenty families" onto sixty-seven acres and permitted no one "to take anything from his property. One farmer who planted a few coffee plants was persecuted by Mr. Everhart. . . . He turned people into the rural police if they let an animal graze the foliage alongside the road."

Everhart's administrator says the men used to work ten or more hours "fifteen days a month for 2 pesos a day." Today they earn 2.88 pesos for an eight-hour day.

When Everhart built a school, "He paid 2 pesos for work from sunup to sundown." The children had to pay for equipment they now receive free.

In his U.S. News article, Everhart weeps not only for himself but also for Ricardo Martinez, "forced" to sell a store "he ran for my workers" to INRA. But Martinez feels somewhat differently about the matter. He now manages the INRA store.

"From 1948," he told Revolution, "I worked for food" because people couldn't pay. "I now make 100 pesos cash, aside from food. . . . INRA paid me . . . over 1,000 pesos for my merchandise and refrigerator."

About living conditions on Everhart's ranch before the revolution several peasants said: "You had to make an effort not to die" and "There was much tyranny there."

America's International Economic Position

By Tom Kemp

The dollar is no longer a "scarce" currency, at least in that term is understood in discussion of international economic relations. Indeed, since the last recession there has been some concern about the changing nature of the U. S. balance of payments, with the outflow now exceeding receipts in a way which accelerates the drain from the national gold stock.

Countries in Europe which for many years after the war had a permanent dollar gap are now receiving or earning most of the dollars, they need not have been able to ease some of the restrictions on convertibility of their own currencies which had been in force since the war.

Although the "weakness" of the dollar has some unwelcome aspects for certain American interests, and may represent over shooting, it does not represent any dramatic diminution in economic standing. The present situation is the outcome, in fact of a sequence of events reaching back to the Second World War.

the form in which these policies were concretized and applied through all the dangers and complexities of the forties and fifties.

To talk of political and economic policies as though they were separate and distinct is merely a matter of convenience. In practice the two were combined; the means to tackle one aspect had to be as far as possible consistent with the aims pursued in the other.

To say, for example, that the political aim in 1945 was to back up governments abroad able to stem the tide of social revolution and provide positions of strength from which to oppose Russian expansion includes the economic aim of salvaging capitalism. The political aim had to be pursued with economic as well as other means. If there were specifically economic problems, they were nonetheless directly related to these overriding purposes — though economists and others customarily dealt with them in isolation, thus, whether or not by design, concealing their real content.

The Imbalance

The dominant economic problem, in this context, was the international imbalance between the war-induced upsurge of the American economy with its massive production, side-by-side with the shattered economies of Western Europe and other areas and the complete dislocation of the world market under the stress of long years of depression and war.

Capitalism was on its knees in a number of countries in 1945. The disintegration of the state apparatus, the demoralization of the ruling class and many of its political representatives, as well as the temper of the people, held out the possibility of revolutionary change on the continent of Europe. In Britain, while there were important differences, the scope for change was equally great.

The need of the hour was leadership and policy. They were lacking; both the Social Democratic and the Communist leaderships, for different reasons, decided to head off the masses and co-operate in solving the problems of their "own" capitalisms, rather than overthrowing them.

Consequently great historic opportunities for the working class were passed up and the tasks of restoring capitalism, along the lines which suited American capitalists, made that much easier.

It is true that from 1947 onwards, the Communist parties were driven out of the governments of France and Italy and went into opposition. However, this did not lead them to elaborate revolutionary policies. For many years they alternated between appeals to the Socialist parties and capitalist liberals to resume the "popular front" coalitions with them and adventurous actions aimed at American imperialism in which they sought unity with such ultra-nationalists and near-fascists as Marshal Juin in France who also opposed NATO and German rearmament.

After 1954, the efforts of the CP leaders centered exclusively on achieving "popular front" governments. Their unprincipled course contributed primarily to the bewilderment and eventual demoralization of large sections of workers.

The Marshall Plan

At this time — 1945-47 — the social and economic situation in Europe was still at rock bottom. Even the most favored countries were in no position to meet their import needs to carry forward rapid reconstruction. Hence the tie-up between American production and the world's needs on the basis first of ad hoc loans and then in a systematic way through the Marshall Plan.

The main emphasis in this phase was on economic aid on an inter-governmental basis; military aid was insignificant, though there were, of course, large American forces stationed overseas including the countries being aided as well as defeated Germany. These countries were still short of dollars, their balance of payments were in a precarious position and the imbalance between the USA and the rest of the advanced countries seemed to be chronic.

These injections of dollars provided the basis for renovating capitalism in Europe as an economic system and gearing the states concerned into the political and strategic machine of the "West" whose powerhouse was in Washington.

But the European countries were not just satellites. They retained their own ruling classes and these — or their Labor-party stand-ins — fought hard to reconcile American aid and acceptance of the broad aims of American policy, with which they had no quarrel, and their own interests and aims.

They Demanded Better Pay



After World War II, the U.S. government pumped billions of dollars into the prostrate European economy. As the West European capitalists began reaping new profits, the workers pressed for a restoration of their living standards. In 1954 this militant demonstration was staged in West Germany as 220,000 Bavarian metal workers struck for higher pay.

They sought to preserve what they deemed vital in national independence; though there could be differences within the class about the drawing of lines. They used such assets as they retained, even if only intangible ones, such as political experience and diplomatic acumen — where they could often score over the Americans — to win better terms, resist pressures and retain certain policies (such as discriminatory trade practices) which the U. S. representatives disliked.

Europe was certainly not transformed into a colony of the United States. Though the Marshall Plan made the European countries dependent on American imperialism, that dependency bolstered their economies and permitted them to play the role of junior partners in the imperialist coalition.

A New Phase

In any case, this phase of American international economic aid quickly merged into another following the victory of the Chinese Revolution and the outbreak of the Korean War.

As the cold war intensified, American funds for building up armies rose rapidly and uninterruptedly, reaching a peak of \$4 billion in 1953, while funds for stabilizing currencies or purchasing American goods diminished.

By this time, indeed, the worst of the balance of payments difficulties of Britain and France had passed; there was still a permanent dollar problem but it was somewhat less acute. Moreover, the flow of military aid to the NATO allies, as well as the building up of strategic stocks in the U. S. contributed to further economic recovery and expansion both in the advanced countries — this was the time when West Germany strode forcefully into the economic arena — and in the primary producing areas. And, except in West Germany, armament spending rose in the NATO countries and contributed to the economic shape of the early fifties.

Again, the distinction between "economic" and "military" aid conceals the fact that the motivating force in both cases was the same, namely the salvation of world capitalism.

The most obvious threat was also the same: the challenge from the non-capitalist states.

The economic effects were also in many ways comparable; the first important one being that dollars were flowing into the world market at a rate far in excess of that which could have been attained through the normal channels of trade and investment.

The prosperity which opened up for world capitalism in the fifties was stimulated in a direct way by its confrontation with an incompatible world system and the war spending which resulted.

From that basis there developed in the mid-fifties a classic capitalist investment boom dominated by private investment, directed largely into hitherto neglected fields and incorporating a new succession of technological developments. Europe was catching up with the United States, in its own way with rapidly growing output of cars and consumer durables in the vanguard of the expansion.

Although total American foreign aid fell off through this period — some two-thirds being tied directly to the Cold War — the outflow of dollars which it represented remained of considerable sustaining effect for the whole world economy. In the meantime the whole pattern was changing. The national economies of the different capitalist countries had now built up a much greater productive capacity than ever before.

The whole world market was expanding, the West European countries were selling more to the primary producing countries, and to each other. In addition they had built up a considerable export trade to the United States itself, which was the most direct way of earning dollars.

The prosperity of the United States, too, by increasing demand for these manufacturing exports, as well as for primary products, fits into this overall expansion, leaving aside the influence of the recessions (though that of 1953-54 was not significant in its external effects compared with that of 1957-58, and even here the effects were different from what had been expected).

Meanwhile, however, another significant trend was taking place. The capital outflow from the United States so far considered was a government matter and it gave the United States no formal property rights in countries in which it was used. But as the effects of

American policy in renovating European capitalism and making it a going concern once again became clear, American business capital, directly motivated by profit expectations, found its way to Europe in increasing amounts.

There was nothing new in this. Capitalism is a cosmopolitan system and American interests in European industry had been building up during the inter-war period. But the movement had been checked by the war and the postwar crisis of European capitalism; now it is resumed, under favorable conditions prepared by the policies which have been discussed here.

For a few years American capital found vast profitable outlets at home, or timidly and uncertainty prevented it from seeking higher yields abroad. Conclusions based upon this temporary phenomenon were clearly premature. The export of capital by private firms has been resumed on a considerable scale, being currently about twice as great as government economic aid.

The major fields for this investment are found in Latin America, Canada and Western Europe; little as yet goes to the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa.

Investments in the six countries of the European Common Market — France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Italy — have grown from \$648 million in 1950 to \$1,760 million in 1959, with Western Germany and France the most favored countries.

In the European Free Trade Association — the so-called "Outer Seven" countries, including Britain, Portugal, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland — the investment is larger, and has grown from \$1,056 million in 1950 to \$2,560 million in 1959. Here the United Kingdom is by far the largest investment field; direct American investment rose from \$847 million in 1950 to \$2,058 million in 1959.

Giving these figures, the French Commercial Counselor in Washington noted that American business was drawn to these countries by lower wages and costs of production as well as by their rapidly growing markets. (Problems Economiques, No. 634, Feb. 23, 1960.)

Tariffs play a big part. While there is some portfolio investment in foreign industry, the main development is the establishment of branch factories which can leap over tariff walls, as it were.

There is a good deal of joint enterprise appearing in recent years, especially since the formation of the European Common Market.

One way or another the major American firms are represented in this investment and production drive in Western Europe; and American industrial influence, already very powerful in some sectors, is growing.

Easier monetary conditions mean that profits can be repatriated more easily — and this encourages investment — though about half the profits are retained for new investment, together with about the same amount of new capital from the States. The figures are as follows (in millions of dollars) for the Common Market countries only:

	1950	1959
Repatriated profits	22	91
Reinvested profits	70	85
Total profits	92	176
New capital invested	56	94

American investment covers a wide range of manufacturing industry. It is especially important in chemicals, motor vehicles and, of course, petroleum. (First of Two Articles.)

... Can We Win Back Scarcity?

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food prices any higher than they are now, should ponder the following bit of information from the same article:

"Spurring farmers is a pinch on their own pocketbooks, reflected in Government statistics. At mid-November, the prices farmers received were at the lowest point in more than 19 years in relation to the prices they pay. This year, farm profits are running about 15% below 1958, and economists predict that next year they'll dip to the lowest rate since 1942."

From this we can see that it's only common sense to pour kerosene on that \$9 billion worth of food stored by the government. If that would create too much of a fire hazard, the grain could be bull-dozed into the rivers where we dump our sewage. We've got to break out of the horse-and-buggy kind of thinking that considers it a government duty to keep the granaries full for the lean years. This is bounteous modern America, not the ancient Egypt that suffered the famines of Biblical times!

A bold move of this kind to remove the depressant effect of government-held mountains of food would have exhilarating consequences on prices and profits. Much more than that is required, however. If the present rate of agricultural production continued, the flood of edibles and fibers from our farms would quickly fill up the emptied storehouses again. You have to strike at the root of the evil. You have to get the farmers themselves to serve as shock troops to put down production.

The government, of course, has been working on this for some time. To help keep up prices, it buys crops from farmers, using part of the tax money it takes from us for this worthy purpose. We pay for the crops that have to be taken off the market so that we can enjoy higher prices at grocery stores. That is how the government surpluses have been built up.

Along with this, however, the government has insisted that farmers help, too, by restricting the acreage they put into production. Many big farmers, as a result, make millions by generously refraining from growing crops. Under Eisenhower, still another measure was instituted, the so-called "soil bank." Under this, farmers agree to take soil out of production. In return, the U.S. Treasury, again using money taken from us in taxes, pays them rent for the idle land.

The main trouble with the government's efforts is that they haven't worked. They proved to be too meager to contain the food explosion. Some of them are now regarded as nothing but panaceas, the report in the Wall Street Journal indicates.

The administration's plan is "to counter surpluses" by a more vigorous extension of current policies. This would include "gradually lowering price supports, expanding the voluntary soil bank, helping more marginal farmers find urban jobs, boosting overseas surplus disposal and finding new industrial outlets for farm products."

Among wealthier farmers a lot of consideration is being given to the idea of turning to the use of force. Let the government clamp down on every farm in the country with a specific limit on the amount of any major crop which each one is permitted to grow. On top of this, let the government extend the soil bank scheme and make it mandatory. As a crash beginning, take 50 to 70 million acres of the country's 350 million acres of crop land out of production at once.

This would effectively counter the present inclination of many farmers to scorn the soil bank, or to put the worst

land on the farm in it. It would also scotch their tendency to grow bigger crops on smaller acreage as a way of getting around the government's effort to reduce crops by lowering the amount of land in production.

Opposition among farmers to such vigorous steps could be met in two ways. On the one hand, it would be made a serious crime, like bootlegging, to grow unauthorized food; on the other hand, farmers who curbed their instinct to plant seeds, cultivate crops and reap harvests would be guaranteed free government grain for their livestock and government checks for themselves to cover whatever losses they encountered because of curtailed sales. You know who would foot the bill.

The Wall Street Journal calls these "new concepts." Who can be against "new concepts" in such a critical problem? Before joining the claque, however, with our own cheers, whistles and bravos, let us pause for a moment of silent meditation.

Remember how we were told that the rise in productivity on the farm "has all but wiped out the Malthusian fear that a nation would never be able to feed an ever-expanding population"? Remember how shocked we were to learn that what we really face is not the danger of overpopulation in one or two thousand years but a food explosion of immediate threat to the profit system? Now we have discovered that a series of government panaceas have already been applied to cut down agricultural production, but without success, so that more strenuous ones are suggested.

On thinking it over, doesn't all this have a familiar ring? Doesn't this fear of expanding crops parallel the fear of an expanding population? And what about the panaceas proposed to keep down corn and wheat? Aren't they variations of Malthusianism — with this difference, that the "dreary doctrine" is applied to crops instead of people?

The destruction of government-held surpluses — doesn't such a proposal arise from fears of abundance just as antihuman as those the warmaking imperialists display toward the huge populations of the countries like China and India?

Crop reduction — isn't that like the neo-Malthusian panacea of reducing the birth rate of the peoples of India, Latin America, China and similar poverty-stricken areas?

Retirement of soil — doesn't this parallel the sterilization of males and maintenance of infertility among females advocated by the neo-Malthusians for colored populations that have yet to reach the exalted industrial status of the Western powers?

From the admissions of the population experts themselves, we saw how ridiculous it is to expect that their utopian schemes will seriously affect the human birth rate. Can anything better be expected from trying to apply similar measures to the land to stem the immensely productive consequences of the industrial and chemical revolutions?

To be brief and brutally frank about it, the best that can be said for both sets of proposals is that they are worthless except for what they reveal about the level of capitalist thought in our times. Face to face with the mighty problems of abundance to which the capitalist system has brought us, our experts have nothing better to offer for our consideration than some frightened rattling of the sacred bones of St. Malthus.

Clearly, if we hope for any clarity, we must turn to better sources.

(Next week: The Marxist View.)

Planning Held Key Issue in Ceylon

On the eve of the March 19 general election in Ceylon, the Lanka Sama Samajist (Ceylon Equality) party is pressing vigorously to win a majority of seats in parliament with the objective of forming the new government. The LSSP, which adheres to the ideas of Leon Trotsky, is contesting 101 of the 151 seats in the new legislature.

In its campaign, the LSSP is concentrating major efforts on combating the moves of the capitalist parties to deepen language and religious antagonisms in the country. At the same time the Trotskyists are presenting a socialist program for coping with swiftly rising prices, mounting unemployment and an acute shortage of schools, hospitals and social services.

The party's stand was outlined in the March 4 issue of its English-language newspaper, Sama Samajist, by N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition in the last parliament.

Citing the LSSP's twenty-five-year record, Perera pointed out that even some of the party's most bitter opponents have acknowledged that the LSSP is incorruptible and that it alone

among political organizations can be trusted to root out bribery and corruption from public life.

He declared that the central issue in Ceylon is economic development, which, he said, requires planning based on the nationalization of the key export-import industries, the large plantations and the banks and insurance companies.

At the same time he underscored the need for workers' democracy.

"No country can plan and efficiently carry out the plan unless the toilers willingly participate in it with the feeling that they themselves are its originators. The plan must spring from the people. No plan that is imposed from above can succeed however elegant it may look on paper."

While the other parties are seeking to win support from one or another of the language groups in the country by demagogically appealing to their supposed "special interests," the LSSP is campaigning in every province for an integrated Ceylonese nation.

"Can this country be developed on a communal basis? Un-

less all sections of the people willingly and wholeheartedly cooperate we can never jointly progress," Perera declares.

He adds: "The LSSP pledges not merely full religious freedom but is also prepared to ensure that religious freedom against all those who rouse up hatred against any particular faith."

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Do You Win at Russian Roulette?

When the leadership of the AFL-CIO United Packinghouse Workers Union recently settled the 108-day strike against Wilson & Co., they agreed to place 4,400 jobs of the strikers at the mercy of an arbitration board. This was nearly four-fifths of the normal work force of 5,500 in the seven plants involved.

The arbitration board was made up of one person designated by the union, another chosen by the company, and a third chosen by the first two arbitrators. Thus the decisive vote rested with one person. If he happened to vote against the strikers and in favor of the scabs, the union would have found itself in an impossible position.

Sooner or later, despite the contract signed by Wilson with the UPWA, an NLRB election would have been held, and the probability would have been that the strikebreakers would vote for no union or for an "independent" outfit, the National Brotherhood of Packinghouse Workers which was in cahoots with the company during the strike.

A real fluke saved the AFL-CIO union. By a two to one vote the arbitration board decided to make the strikebreakers "permanent employees" together with the strikers, but to fill job positions according to seniority, thus giving the strikers first claim to their jobs.

The decisive vote, of course, was cast by the third member of the board, Joseph S. Perry, a federal judge. It turned out that he was once a coal miner and carries a withdrawal card from the United Mine Workers Union.

No doubt the leadership of the packinghouse union sighed with relief at that one. And they were entitled to. The game they played was much like that reputed to be of some popularity among officers of the late Czar Nicholas. You put five cartridges in a revolver, give it a spin, put the barrel to your head and pull the trigger. If the hammer falls on the empty chamber you win and it gives you a wonderful feeling of relief.

Did the union leadership have no choice but to engage in this spectacular gamble? When they agreed to stake the 4,400 jobs on the squeeze of a trigger, they explained to the membership: "The issue was presented to the workers as a choice between accepting the offer [of the company] and putting their jobs on the block or continuing the strike and losing their union." (From an Albert Lea dispatch reported in the Feb. 29 Militant.)

Defending Korean 'Freedom'

Last week we commented on the findings of Louis Feldman, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, on the morale of the American occupation troops in South Korea. As with the troops during the shooting war in Korea, he said the present crop of GI's don't seem to know why they are there and are "sour" about their hitch in the country.

The recent "re-election" of dictator Syngman Rhee is certainly not calculated to "sweeten" their attitude. He was returned to the presidency for a fourth term in a contest in which he had no one running against him, where the people were hauled to the polls to vote "Ja," and where opponents of the regime were murdered in cold blood.

Prior to the election, the opposition Democratic party, a conservative movement, protested that its election observers were unable to register for posts as poll watchers. One who tried was stabbed in the back.

Students, weary of being called out to "demonstrate" for Rhee, tried to demonstrate against demonstrations. Police clubbed and shot them down.

During the balloting, supposedly supervised by a United Nations team, voters were led into the booths in groups of

No Thaw for Ehrenburg

Ilya Ehrenburg, the Soviet writer, recently found himself in an embarrassing position at a gathering of students of the University of Moscow. They asked him for his opinion about Boris Pasternak and his novel "Doctor Zhivago" which won the Nobel prize upon being published abroad.

Ehrenburg said he disliked discussing a novel which his listeners had not had a chance to read. Then he praised Pasternak as a "very great poet." To this he added that he finds "Doctor Zhivago" a "distressing" book.

The incident is instructive for what it reveals about the intellectual curiosity of Soviet students. This curiosity undoubtedly extends to the political field where the censorship is especially tight. The incident is also instructive for what it reveals about the position of the artist under Khrushchev. It differs little from what it was

Is it really true that the strike faced certain defeat and that the situation could be saved only by winning at Russian roulette? The facts speak otherwise.

The ranks of the strikers remained solid throughout the struggle. Defections were negligible. The strikers were ready to wage a battle which they could have won against the scabs, as the mass picket lines at Albert Lea clearly indicated.

But the top union leadership did not mobilize the strikers' ranks nor call on the rest of the union movement to prevent the strikebreakers from entering the plants. In Albert Lea, after Democratic Governor Freeman intervened and sent in the National Guard, the top UPWA leaders helplessly waved their hands and told the strikers to refrain from further mass picketing. Week after week the strikers had to stand by as their jobs were taken by the ever-growing number of strikebreakers which the union-hating Wilson outfit recruited. Yet they remained firm.

It was the top union officialdom who caved in under pressure and blandishment from the company. They grabbed at Wilson's cynical offer to settle the fight by putting the arbitration pistol at the heads of 4,400 workers. In exchange for this dubious concession, the top union leaders even agreed to abandon the union's "Don't Buy Wilson" campaign which had made serious inroads on company sales.

How do the union members feel about the "generalship" of their leaders? Has their faith been renewed in what these strategists can accomplish? Have they been heartened to carry on the struggle for unionism on the job? Or will they now cautiously observe what happens as this same arbitration board settles the fate of 313 union members which the company singled out for militancy during the strike?

The company wants to fire them for "illegal" acts during the strike. What this means can be gathered from the fact that 123 of them are Albert Lea strikers spotted by the company for their role in mass picketing.

Will the arbitration board's decision be as fortunate for the union in the cases of the 313 as in the job-seniority issue? We hope so. But we would say that there is nothing commendable about a union leadership that ends up in that position. The members would do well to look for leaders more inclined to use the tested methods of militant struggle in defending the union.

three, accompanied by a government worker.

From the town of Masan, news finally broke through the government-controlled press that ten people had been killed and 40 injured on election night when several thousand people demonstrated their pent-up fury at the mockery of "free" elections.

Here in this country, the March issue of The Voice of Korea, published by the Korean Affairs Institute, provides a grim picture of the situation. The bulletin, which supports the moderate policies of the Korean Democratic party reports that while "the American people have been led to believe the Rhee regime is a democratic rampart in the far East," the Asian people know differently.

"Koreans are convinced," the bulletin reports, "that Rhee's sole aim—with American financial support — is to perpetuate his rule through his police, military and extra-legal terrorist groups with high-sounding names. His Liberal Party... is no more liberal than was Hitler's party."

Aren't the GI's fully justified in feeling "sour" about acting as the guardians of this foul regime? And wouldn't it be a good thing for them and for the oppressed Korean people if they were relieved of this distasteful task?

under Stalin when artists had to pander to the paranoid dictator.

To appreciate the bitterness Ehrenburg may have felt before these inquiring youth, one must recall that in 1954 he published a novel "The Thaw" which expressed in a guarded way the enormous relief the Soviet people felt over the death of the hated Stalin and their hopes for a return to the proletarian democracy known under Lenin and Trotsky.

Ehrenburg confided to his audience that he had long ago written the second and final volume to "The Thaw." This news brought a question as to why it had not been published. All the author could say was "Ask my publishers."

One must feel pity for an artist so afraid that he was unable to make the obvious comeback: "You know as well as I what happened to the promised thaw."

They Favor Clause Four



Peter Kerrigan, an adherent of the Socialist Labor League, sells copies of the Harbor Workers' Voice, a socialist-minded trade-union paper, to Liverpool longshoremen during their early morning break. Recognized among workers like these for their militancy, Kerrigan and his comrades in the British Labor party in the Liverpool area are in the forefront of the fight to save "Clause Four." (See story below.)

Leftists in British Labor Party Fight to Keep Socialist Clause

By William F. Warde

"Gaitskell Must Go, Clause 4 Must Stay"

This headline in the Feb. 27 issue of the Newsletter, weekly journal of the Socialist Labor League, tersely sums up the main political issue now dividing the right wing from the left in the British Labor movement.

Immediately after Labor's defeat in the national elections last October, close friends of Labor Party leader Hugh Gaitskell launched a campaign to eliminate Clause 4 from the constitution. This clause commits the party to the socialist objectives of public ownership and control of the decisive sectors of the national economy. The right-wing forces want to convert the party into a respectable, liberal, purely reformist electoral machine without any clearly-defined working class or socialist character.

Gaitskell shares this aim, but is obliged to proceed cautiously and deviously in order to put over his anti-nationalization measures. He began by proposing to the Labor Party conference at Blackpool early this year that the 43-year-old party constitution be amended.

These moves to cut the socialist heart out of the Labor Party program have alarmed the ranks and aroused resistance throughout the Labor movement.

At Blackpool, in opposition to Gaitskell, Barbara Castle, retiring Labor Party chairman, and Aneurin Bevan, its most popular leader, defended the idea that Labor must retain its goal of taking over "the commanding heights of the economy."

On Jan. 30 Harold Davies, Labor M.P. for Leek, vigorously attacked the right wing, declaring that "the so-called bright boys of the Labor Party" had been "wrong so often in the past that it is not surprising that the Labor movement is rejecting their demand for a change in the fundamental purpose of the Labor Party." Just when the Soviet Union was demonstrating the immense advantages of a nationalized, planned economy, he said, it was absurd to advocate the removal of nationalization from Labor's program.

Week after week The Tribune has been carrying pieces by its editor Michael Foot, articles by its principal contributors and letters from its readers centering fire on Gaitskell's efforts to amend the constitution. At its annual meeting on Jan. 31 the Victory for Socialism group, embracing a number of left M.P.'s and union leaders, condemned the attempts to transform the Labor Party into "a party of social reform attuned to the permanent acceptance of the so-called mixed economy" and urged the Labor movement to reaffirm that "the necessary regeneration and reconstruction of society can be achieved only on a Socialist basis."

Unions on Record

Though many top union officials side with the right wing in the struggle over Clause 4, they do not speak for the policies of their own organizations. The constitutions of many key unions contain rules calling for "collective ownership, under democratic control, of the means of production, exchange and distribution."

Included are such big unions as the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, the Transport and General Workers Union (the equivalent

of the Teamsters Union), the National Union of Railwaymen and the Plumbers.

The heated conflict in the party boiled over at the National Executive meeting of the Labor Party on Feb. 24. Further discussion on proposed amendments to the party constitution was postponed by the national executive until its next meeting on March 16.

Meanwhile Tribune reports that Gaitskell has succeeded in arriving at a compromise with his opponents on the national executive whereby Clause 4 will remain but a 12-point declaration of aims will be added to the constitution which will in effect nullify it. Tribune calls this projected program "Mr. Gaitskell's New Testament."

Point 10 of this new declaration, the essence of the revision, reads: "The British Labor Party believes the preceding social and economic objectives can only be achieved on the basis of a substantial measure of common ownership in varying forms, including not only state monopolies, but also municipal ownership, consumer co-operation, individual public enterprises, and public participation in private concerns — the extent of common ownership and its form to be decided from time to time according to the circumstances, due regard being paid to the view of the workers directly concerned."

The right wing and the center elements in the national executive who have buckled under their pressure may hope to put over this rotten compromise on the nationalization issue. But they will have to beat down an indignant and alerted rank and file before their maneuver can succeed.

The strength of the mounting revulsion against the right wing can be gauged by the action of Gaitskell's own constituency, the South Leeds Labor Party, which recently passed a resolution for more nationalization and explicitly rejected support of Gaitskell's policy by an overwhelming majority. The Leeds party has for years been regarded as one of the most conservative in the country.

Early this month delegates representing 127,000 Yorkshire miners rebuffed Gaitskell and their own president by enacting a resolution by 91,750 votes "reaffirming our belief in Clause 4."

Socialist Labor League

The members and supporters of the Socialist Labor League, the revolutionary tendency within the Labor Party left wing, have been conducting an energetic campaign to mobilize the workers throughout the Labor movement to save and strengthen Clause 4. Its paper, the Newsletter, has pointed out that the struggle around Clause 4 is part of the right wing attempts to weaken the Labor movement by stifling the democratic rights of the rank and file in order to hold back the fight for a socialist policy both in the party and the trade unions.

Thus the banning of the Newsletter and the proscription of the Trotskyists within the Labor Party has been followed by the attempts of the Trades Union Congress to tamper with the autonomy of the Communist-led Electrical Trades Union. And now Gaitskell is threatening to discipline those Labor M.P.'s who oppose his pro-Tory stand that Britain must have its own nuclear weapons.

The London Assembly of Labor held Sunday, March 6 put the fight against removal of Clause 4 at the top of its agenda. It called upon Labor Party members, unionists and cooperators to buttonhole National Executive Committee members at their March 16 meeting which will consider the amendments.

Summing up the discussion around this issue, Brian Behan, Socialist Labor League chairman, said that "the struggle around Clause 4 was not about words, but was part of the struggle to build an alternative leadership to reformism. We aimed to win the mass of the membership of the Labor Party from this reformist leadership."

Despite the furious witch-hunt mounted by the capitalist press and the right wing, and the expulsion of some of its leaders, the Socialist Labor League is digging still deeper into the ranks of the Labor Party and giving a lead to the militants who are determined to safeguard its socialist future.

In Other Lands

Labor Party Leader Quits Post

Hits Gag Rule
By Gaitskell

Increasing opposition within the British Labor party to the right-wing policies of party leader Hugh Gaitskell and to his bureaucratic attempts to suppress all criticism of these policies was reflected in the resignation of Richard H. S. Crossman from the party's "shadow cabinet" — the group which heads the party's parliamentary forces.

Vice-chairman of the party's executive committee and slated to become its next chairman, Crossman's resignation was made public March 14. He acted after Gaitskell told him that he would not tolerate criticism by a member of the "shadow cabinet."

Crossman opposes Gaitskell's stand in favor of building up Britain's nuclear armament, and he has indicated opposition to Gaitskell's campaign to scrap Clause 4 — which calls for public ownership of all basic sectors of the economy — from the party's constitution. (See story this page.)

Gaitskell originally moved to silence opponents of his pro-capitalist policies by ordering the expulsion last year of the Socialist Labor League, a tendency within the party that has been fighting for the adoption of class-struggle policies.

Since then his attempts at imposing gag law have included ever larger sections of the party.

Latin Americans Seen Backing Cuba In Fight with U.S.

The United States must "know that it cannot employ violence against Cuba" as it did against Guatemala, recently declared the Mexican newspaper La Prensa. Recalling the days, twenty years ago, when Cordell Hull, then Secretary of State, reacted to the Mexican revolution with "threats, accusations and slanderous insults," La Prensa said, "Latin America views with sympathy the Cuban revolution and Mexico is not neutral. It is with Cuba."

El Diario de Mexico, another Mexican daily, has also acclaimed the revolution. "Not

The American Way of Life

A Home for Alice Marie

"Unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." For the past few weeks this text from the New Testament has taken on fresh meaning for Richard Combs and his wife Gloria of Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Four years ago the Combses, then childless, became the foster parents of an infant named Alice Marie. Today they have two daughters of their own.

Alice Marie is an unusually bright child with an IQ of 138. Because of her "superior endowment" and their own limited cultural attainments, the New Jersey Child Welfare Board refused to allow the Combses to become her legal parents.

"Alice's superior endowment requires a wealthy educational environment and cultural predilections so that she can profit from the benefits of her exceptional intelligence," said the State psychologist.

"This 3-year-old child of charm and appealing personality has potentialities for higher education and should have placement where parents and family group would have high cultural activities and advantages."

Combs, 25, is a sheet metal worker, an apprentice with three years training. He makes \$120 weekly. In another year when he completes his apprenticeship he expects to be earning \$175 a week. His wife Gloria, 26, doesn't work because, she says, "we make it OK on the money and I want to be home and take care of the kids."

They Watch TV
Their cultural level is about as high as the American way of life permits the average working class family. A social worker investigator came to their house once for an hour, said the Combses, looked around and then reported "we were only interested in TV, allowed Alice to watch it all day and had no books."

"We're no mental giants," said Combs, "but we read, we're not jerks. We belong to a book club, we subscribe to one for Alice, too, you know kids' books."

"She asked me if I went to operas and I said I didn't and told her I probably never

would, that I just don't like them. But I don't think it makes me a moron."

In their appeal to the courts against the Board's decision the Combs' lawyer told the judges that today it's "no longer necessary to have shelves of books in a home for culture." He conceded that his clients watch TV but declared: "There are a wide range of subjects on television and there are cultural subjects if you pick the right programs."

"Have you any authority for that?" asked one judge quietly. The Combs received thousands of phone calls and letters, some from as far away as London and Paris, they say, "roofing for us." The Governor's office and the Child Welfare Board have also been flooded with protests.

The acting director of the Board remarked: "People react to a situation such as this on the basis of their individual experiences. In this case they think in terms of how they would feel if their own child was taken away."

Class Prejudice

This stupid official may not know it but so many people are so indignant and offended because they know class discrimination when they hear about it. They cannot help asking: "Why should Alice Marie be put in a totally different category than the other children in the Combs family? If working people like them aren't fit to raise bright children, what about us? Are the rich to have not only the money but all the intelligent offspring? And, if listening to TV is a mark of low cultural status, then millions of American families are in the same boat."

Public protest was so strong that the New Jersey Governor intervened and persuaded the Board to reverse its stand. They have agreed to let the Combses adopt Alice Marie. Chalk up a victory for the cause of the common people against class prejudice.

—Alex Harte



FIDEL CASTRO

Only "Communists and certain student and nationalistic factions" support Cuba, says the Times. And when Janio Quadros, a well-known moderate and an opponent of President Kubitschek in the forthcoming presidential race, announced he would visit Cuba next month as Castro's guest, newspapers denounced it as a maneuver to "capture extreme Left-Wing votes."

Argentina's left-wing socialists and sections of the Opposition People's Radical party are the only political groups that identify themselves with Cuba's cause, says the Times. Peronist leaders are "outspokenly critical" of Castro. Argentine government officials fear the dispute might drive a wedge between the U. S. and all Latin American countries.

Public opinion, "now cool toward Premier Castro would turn in his favor in the event of intervention from abroad in Cuban affairs."

Fronzizi Launches Repressive Moves

President Fronzizi declared martial law in Argentina March 15 and arrested hundreds of Peronist and union leaders. The sweeping measures of his administration make all Argentine residents over twelve years old subject to military mobilization and give military courts jurisdiction over political cases.

Fronzizi justified these dictatorial decrees on the ground of national defense against attempts to destroy the constitutional order. His repressive moves indicate that his own administration is helping that process along since the decrees resemble those in force during Peron's dictatorship.

Fronzizi is favored by Washington but detested by his own people. Workers are organizing strikes for higher wages to meet the 100 per cent increase in living costs over the past year. Leaders of the opposition parties are supported by 70 per cent of the voters. Even the army is restless.

Washington and U. S. investors have staked \$1,234,000,000 on Fronzizi over the past two years. It looks like a poor investment.

Finds Trade Dull In Slave Market

Editor: I applied for a job that was advertised in the morning paper. While I sat in the personnel office, nine people filled out applications in 15 minutes. By the time I had been waiting a half hour 23 people had applied.

she was frightened already. The two places she had been to had lots of people applying for jobs. "Must be a lot of people out of work. I went to an agency and they wanted \$137 for a job paying \$70 a week. Imagine, you have to work almost three weeks just to pay for the job, when they get done taking out all the taxes and stuff."

Automation Offers Hot Seats for All

Editor: I read that for a mere \$345, executives can get a swivel chair health appliance with built-in heat and massage units and an automatic timer.

B. Allen New York

Better Run Tests On Next Crop of Oregon Cranberries

Editor: Dr. J. J. Van Gasse, the first health official in the country to say publicly last fall that cranberries were contaminated by a weed-killer, has quit as Coos County, Oregon, health officer.

Dr. Van Gasse said he resigned his \$14,500-a-year job because his actions have been restricted and he was unable to carry out his duties properly. He took office last July.

There was no official confirmation that Dr. Van Gasse's role in the cranberry furor led to his resignation, but the Coos County Court, the county's administrative board has indicated its displeasure at having such a public-minded official on the payroll.

Helen Baker Seattle

Rob't Williams Arrested for "Trespassing"

Robert F. Williams, president of the Union County NAACP branch, has been arrested on charges of trespassing because of sit-downs at "white-only" lunch counters in Monroe, North Carolina. This city is where Negroes several years ago formed an armed defense guard against raids by the Ku Klux Klan.

Williams' arrest came on March 11, when for the third time in as many weeks he led Negro students into downtown drugstores. The other lunch-counter demonstrators were unmolested.

Williams was released on bail and his case has been continued till March 21. His case affords a perfect test of the trespass law — unlike so many other cases it is not complicated by additional charges.

No violence was threatened by the large crowd of whites and police, who as on other occasions, gathered in and about the store. Indeed, a young white couple already at the counter told the clerk that they had no objection to the Negroes being served.

Brooklyn Store Loses Dimes

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 12 —The big Woolworth store on downtown Fulton Street paid with a good part of its profits today for the company's racist policies in the South.

The store was jammed to capacity at 2 p.m. when more than 50 demonstrators, including a contingent from Local 485, International Union of Electrical Workers, set up a picket line out front. In short time business dropped to the point where almost a dozen clerks had nothing to do but stand in the doorways watching the pickets.

The demonstration was called by the Brooklyn NAACP Labor and Industry Committee. In addition to the IUE, representatives of the Congress of Racial Equality, the Brooklyn Labor Educational League and a local parents' school integration group participated. A number of students from Long Island College also turned out.

One picket was kicked in the shins by a sales supervisor. She had said "lousy," when he asked how business was. She got irritated when he replied, "That's good."

Six Long Years Ago



Spottswood Bolling and his mother, of Washington, D.C., smiled happily on May 17, 1954, when the Supreme Court ruled against school segregation. He had been a plaintiff in one of the desegregation suits. But after six long years of less than snail's pace implementation, Southern Negroes have decided to win their rights by organized mass actions.

Negro Students

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ter staged simultaneous sit-downs on March 15 in about a dozen eating places. Seventy-seven were jailed under three charges including violation of a new trespass law providing sentences of a year and a half and \$1,000 fine.

His statements that "that nigger is due to be killed" were challenged by a Negro bystander who promised Monroe Negroes would defend themselves. That evening Williams received another death threat on the phone.

They Visited Fifth Avenue

NEW YORK, March 16 — Twenty-one tenants from five East Harlem slum buildings staged a picket line this afternoon in front of the luxurious apartment building on swank lower Fifth Avenue where their landlord, Murray Shelton, lives.

More than 300 violations have been charged against the five buildings and the tenants have suffered a lack of heat. Shelton was fined once and then given a suspended sentence for this, but there still is no heat.

One Fifth Avenue resident complained that the neighborhood shouldn't be "disturbed by these rabble rousers." A young woman retorted: "If you lived in a slum tenement for one week, you'd change your point of view."

Academic Freedom

The New York Board of Higher Education has ruled that the presidents of the city colleges may remove students from campus publications for printing "offensive" material.

Reutherites Seek Purge

(Continued from Page 1)

and Mail states: "It is understood that Mr. Siren submitted his resignation effective Feb. 1, after he had been placed under pressure to reaffirm his loyalty to the administration and to give an undertaking that he had no part in any anti-administration activities."

Charges were brought and Siren was summarily dismissed from office after his voluntary resignation was already in the hands of director Burt. The Reutherites seized upon the charges as a pretext to launch a witch hunt against the anti-administration opposition in Canada.

The charges are of the flimsiest kind and reek of the witch-hunting technique perfected by Joseph McCarthy with all of the trimmings up to and including the familiar accusation of "treason."

Siren is charged with having attended a meeting in 1956 initiated by Communist Party officials to discuss strategy in the strike. Siren does not deny attending a meeting in 1956 but says it was at the invitation of some union committee men. He denies "collaborating" with any "communists."

not accept a "compromise" proposal by which any section of a lunch counter would remain segregated.

Addressing 600 students in a Montgomery church March 8, after police had invaded the Alabama State campus to stop a meeting and arrest 36 participants, Bernard Lee, expelled as a "ring leader," urged Negroes to be ready to be jailed or even killed in their "fight for freedom," to form a "united front against guns, clubs, and tear gas."

Mississippi Next?

The spread of the sit-downs to Arkansas and Georgia means that every Southern state except Mississippi has been affected. That the rulers of that most notoriously anti-Negro state expect demonstrations is attested by the legislature's rushing through of a harsh anti-trespass law.

In San Antonio, Texas, six dime stores and a city-wide chain of drug stores, faced with an ultimatum by Negroes that sit-downs would begin March 17, desegregated their lunch counters the day before. In Nashville, Tennessee, Negroes were served for the first time at a bus station lunch counter where students two weeks before had been arrested for sitting down.

Many of the approximately 150 students arrested in that city refused to pay fines and are serving 35-day sentences. Under armed guards they are being used to collect garbage and do similar tasks on the city's streets.

A bi-racial committee appointed by the mayor has been holding discussions of the situation in Nashville. Negro students have already told this committee they will

UAW Votes Strike At South Gate Plant

LOS ANGELES, March 10 — By an overwhelming majority, the membership of United Automobile Workers Local 216, has voted to strike the General Motors Buick Oldsmobile-Pontiac Assembly Plant at South Gate, in protest over unbearable speed-up conditions. The vote by secret ballot was 938 for strike to 148 against.

When the plant reopened on December 9, upon termination of the steel strike, management began an all-out drive to regain lost production by pushing the speed-up beyond human endurance. The grievance procedure was ignored, management thumbed its nose at the shop grievance committee, members who filed grievances were harassed and victimized by "disciplinary" layoffs, working conditions became unbearable.

A special bulletin issued by the executive board of Local 216 gives a vivid description of conditions in the plant:

"Speed-up, like a creeping plague, has reached such proportions that no employee nor classification has been left untouched. Skilled tradesmen can be seen running at top speed thru the plant any day, or sweating thru a jackhammer assignment alone. Inspectors run from job to job but can't ever quite get out of the 'hole'; and the daily routine of the operators bucking the line at 62 jobs per hour is plain hell."

Unable to get any satisfaction from management the Local 216 executive called a special membership meeting to hear a report from the bargaining committee. The meeting, held on February 25, was well attended with some 500 members present. After hearing and discussing the report it was obvious that the membership would have to take action or throw in the towel. With only one dissenting vote the membership decided to call a special meeting on March 3 to take a strike vote.

Management was pretty cocky because a few weeks earlier a strike vote at the Van Nuys plant of GM Chevrolet Local 645 failed to carry by the requisite two-thirds majority. They thought they had the members of Local 216 sufficiently cowed and brow-beaten to defeat the strike vote at South Gate. The result must have come as a severe jolt when the 938 to 148 vote was announced.

The vote confirmed the prediction made by the Local 216 executive board in a bulletin published prior to the strike vote meeting, which said: "They [management] are counting on an unconcerned and indifferent membership, plus lack of support by the International Union, to allow them to continue their sweatshop practices without interruption. We have news for them. The temper of the membership at last Thursday's [Feb. 25] meeting, was convincing evidence that the rank and file is at the limit of their endurance. They are demanding that proper action be taken correcting the lousy shop conditions."

After a representative of the International Union from Detroit came to South Gate and investigated the conditions at the plant he recommended that the required five days notice be served on the corporation.

The members of Local 216 are determined to curb the excessive speed-up, compel management to abandon its arrogant disregard of the shop grievance committee and establish safeguards against the gross violations of every human consideration due to management's greed for sweating more profits out of the blood and bones of the auto workers.

If Local 216 gets the kind of support from the International that it deserves in this fight the union can go a long way toward establishing decent working conditions at the South Gate plant.

N.Y. Students

(Continued from Page 1)

tegration. The committee includes representatives of campus organizations and student governments at City College, Hunter and Brooklyn College, New York University and Columbia University. High school youth are also participating — they made up almost half of yesterday's pickets.

Enthusiastic in their support of the Southern equal-rights fighters, the students were bitterly resentful of Mayor Wagner's cops who did their best to cut down the effectiveness of the picketing by confining the demonstrators within barricades that kept them from the store entrances.

After picketing from noon until four o'clock, the students marched to nearby Community Church where they mapped plans for extending the boycott action.

At the meeting Monroe Wasch, a CUNY student, reported that the committee had voted to support the May 17 rally here called by the Committee to Defend Martin Luther King, Jr. (See editorial page 1). He also announced that A. Philip Randolph, chairman of the committee for King, had endorsed the Youth Committee for Integration as the body to rally youth support for the May 17 demonstration.

Fred Mazelis, who sparked the initial action by CCNY students which led to formation of the youth organization, told the rally, "Our action at Woolworth's cannot stop here. We must work toward simultaneous picket lines at Woolworth stores throughout the country May 17."

His announcement that another picket line would be held Saturday, March 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. was greeted with vigorous applause. After the rally ended the entire body marched back to Woolworth's for another hour of picketing.

You Don't Like Spinach? In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1959, the federal government seized a total of four million pounds of frozen spinach containing excessive residues of DDT.

Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK Is Marxist Theory valid for the U.S. today? Hear the noted economist, Dr. Otto Nathan, speak on "Karl Marx and Contemporary American Capitalism." Discussion period. Friday, March 25, 8:30 p.m. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place. Contribution 50 cents.

BROOKLYN Hear CONRAD LYNN, noted civil-rights attorney, tell about the Southern student sit-ins: "The Struggle for Negro Equality." Wednesday, March 30, 8 p.m., 228 Ashland Place, Brooklyn. (Near Fulton & DeKalb.) Auspices: Labor Educational League. Contribution 50 cents.

LOS ANGELES "A SOCIALIST LOOKS AT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: THE CASE OF CAROL CHESSMAN." Hear Della Rossa, Correspondent for the Militant. Friday, March 25, 8:15 p.m. at Forum Hall 1702 E. Fourth St. Questions, Discussion, Refreshments. Contribution 75 cents. Students and Unemployed 35 cents. Ausp.: MILITANT LABOR FORUM.

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 Thursday nights 8 to 10. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Temple 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-1953 or WE 5-9238. MILWAUKEE 180 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, Box 5520, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, Minn.

All in the Line of Duty

By Herman Chauka

The practitioners of payola in the broadcasting industry are beginning to look like small-time operators compared to some federal officials, according to current disclosures of Congressional investigators.

One man who seems to have done right well for himself as a taxpayers' servant is Earl C. Corey who was a supervisor of government-owned surplus farm stock from 1956 until he resigned under pressure from the Agriculture Department Jan. 22.

Under questioning by a Senate Agriculture subcommittee March 11, Corey admitted that without investing a dime of his own he had racked up a profit of \$83,250 from a "silent" partnership in a company that stores federal grain. The company was set up the year he went into government service.

He also enjoyed a profit of more than \$30,000 on another grain storage firm in which he had invested \$3,030.

Queried as to how these activities fitted in with federal regulations barring conflict of interest, Corey swore under oath that although he had served under three Secretaries of Agriculture, he had never heard of such a rule until sometime last year.

Explaining his "concealed" partnership in the firm that netted him the \$83,250, he said that his one-third share in the company was financed by a \$30,000 "loan" which was made available to him without collateral or interest.

Asked if the lenders might have considered his agricultural office sufficient collateral, he replied philosophically:

"I gave up a long time ago trying to figure out why people do the things they do. It is not uncommon for friends to loan money."

Notes in the News

HE'S GOT THE PROBLEM LICKED—New York's Governor Rockefeller has charged that the movie, "On the Beach," is harmful to national morale. He said the film, which depicts the slow extinction of mankind in the wake of a nuclear war, left people with the feeling there is "nothing we can do." Rockefeller has energetically been promoting a campaign to install a bomb shelter in every home and wants legislation to make this mandatory. So far, however, few New Yorkers have displayed enthusiasm for the billionaire governor's shelter plan.

GIVE EVERYBODY A CHANCE — The attorney general of Nevada ruled March 11 that the State Gambling Commission cannot bar licensed gamblers from discriminating against Negroes.

WE MAY HAVE TO EAT GRASS, INSTEAD — A new law bringing chemical additives under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act went into effect March 6. It took eight years to draft and is supposed to guarantee that flavoring compounds, nutrients and preservatives are safe. But the report from Washington is that "confusion and controversy" reign over which chemicals come under the new law. Of about a thousand chemicals now being used, only six have definitely been classified as falling under federal control. Five hundred have already been exempted as "GRAS." That's the classification which is causing the current confusion and controversy. The word is federal jargon for "generally recognized as safe." Most additive manufacturers are expected to insist that their particular chemical is "GRAS" and therefore not subject to federal regulation.

BUYER BEWARE — Thousands of New Yorkers have been swindled by an outfit selling a device which supposedly turns ordinary house wiring into a "super-power" television antenna. Called "Radarex-Tenna," the device plugs into a wall socket. State Attorney General Lefkowitz warns that the gadget is less effective than an ordinary "rabbit ear" antenna and that a defective unit can be dangerous. The regular model has been selling for \$3.98 and a "special duotronic plus" job has been going for \$4.98.

TOO MANY ADDITIVES? — A St. Louis firm has adopted the skull and cross-bones and the words "Palace of Poison" as a trade-mark for its frozen vegetables and baked goods.

BRITISH TEST CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS — The British government is going ahead with

tests of two new contraceptive pills despite a bitter attack by the Catholic Church. A group of married women volunteered for the testing of an American pill and a newly developed British one, both of which are taken like aspirin. The Catholic bishop of Nottingham branded the pills an "attack on the sanctity of marriage." He said "the church does not demand that parents should have the largest families possible," but there should be no "artificial" restriction of birth. Official dogma views abstinence alone as natural.

HOW CRAZY CAN YOU GET DEPARTMENT — The Westchester County, N. Y., American Legion has demanded that Congress investigate "Left-wing leaders in the mental health field." A legion spokesman said his outfit was not completely opposed to mental-health programs but was concerned that it might lead to "a remaking of the beliefs and loyalties" of Americans.

CONCESSION TO BABY SITTERS — The New York Senate last week voted unanimously to exempt parents from paying state income taxes on their children's earnings as baby-sitters, snow shovelers, etc. The lower house is expected to concur in the measure next week. Public indignation erupted when the state tax department reminded residents of the "baby-sitting" clause which, they said, had been ignored by almost all taxpayers.

IS TV SUBVERSIVE? — In a letter to the Dallas Evening News, Ruby Miller of Fort Worth, Texas, complains that "Television viewers have recently been subjected to a barrage of old World War II pictures designed to turn public sentiment against the then enemy, Germany. Today Germany is not our enemy but one of the strongest anti-Communist forces in the world. We are at war today, not with Germany, but with international Communism guided by Communist Russia. This attempt to divert attention from the present enemy could not serve the best interests of anyone but the enemy."

SELF-SERVICE AT THE SUPERMARKET — Each year supermarkets lose an estimated \$100 million in thefts by employees. "Customer pilferage is penny ante compared to what is taken by trusted employees," says Norman Jaspas, president of a New York management consultant firm. And, he adds, more than 62 percent of the thefts uncovered by his staff were "traced to employees on the supervisory and executive level." For example, the enterprising manager of a West Coast market installed his own checkout cash register in addition to those provided by the company.