

THE MILITANT

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Castro Challenges Kennedy On Unemployment Problem

The American press recently reported a speech made by Fidel Castro in Havana at the first national conference of the delegates of Councils of Technical Advisers. The premier, said one cable, "threatened to export the Cuban revolution to Latin America if the United States continued to 'promote a counterrevolution'; also 'threatened to support the Puerto Rican nationalists'; and 'again attacked the Catholic Church as an enemy of his revolution.'"

The main point in Castro's speech was not reported by U.S. capitalist papers.

This is quite understandable, since it was a direct challenge to Kennedy on how to solve the problem of unemployment, a question the Boston millionaire debating champion is not too strong on.

Speaks With Authority

Castro, on the other hand, is able to speak with unusual authority on the subject inasmuch as unemployment before the revolution in Cuba normally affected 25 per cent of the labor force, the figure reached in the worst year of America's worst depression. Castro is now able to report Cuba's experience in seeing the problem shift to one of labor shortages a bare two years after the revolutionary victory.

It should be noted, too, that the head of the Cuban government has an intimate insight into the human side of unemployment — he lived and fought in the mountains with many of the jobless during the revolutionary struggle that toppled the Batista dictatorship.

Conditions Not Favorable

The conditions under which Cuba had to try to solve the unemployment problem would not be considered favorable by statesmen like Kennedy. It was done, Castro noted, "with no sugar quota, without spare parts, without replacements in machinery, without deliveries of raw materials, without Yankee oil, without investments of private Yankee capital, without Yankee monopolies, without Yankee managers in our factories, without straw bosses, without foremen, without foreign administrators, without those 'wise men,' without those 'geniuses' . . ."

Five Statements

Calling attention to five statements which Kennedy had made against Cuba within 20 days after assuming office, Castro said, "And it is extraordinarily strange that at the very moment when the rulers of that nation confess the tremendous economic crisis which has come upon them, at the very moment when the rulers of that nation confess that unemployment is on the rise, and confess that they are entering a stage of real crisis, it is highly odd . . . that they should not resign themselves to leaving in peace a people who are proclaiming unusual successes of their economy, a people for whom unemployment is not only not on the rise but where unemployment has disappeared."

Challenging the millionaire president, Castro declared: "And we might ask Mr. Kennedy — if your system is better than ours, why is it that the number of mil-

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Fidel Castro

Change Cuba Policy, Pickets Tell Kennedy

The nation's capital witnessed an impressive demonstration for the reversal of U.S. policies towards Cuba when some 700 people picketed the White House Saturday, Feb. 25.

Over a hundred of the pickets came from Washington but the great majority had traveled there by chartered bus and private auto from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and other points.

Upon assembling in the capital, the demonstrators laid a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial and then proceeded to the White House.

Despite a downpour they picketed as scheduled. Their placards and leaflets called for resumption of normal diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba, an end to the State Department imposed ban on travel, investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency's financing and training of anti-Castro invasion forces, and non-intervention in Cuba's internal affairs.

The picket signs identified the participating groups as Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 26th of July Movement and Young Socialist Alliance.

AFL-CIO Council Records Leadership Failure

By Cyrus Thomas

The recent meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in Bal Harbour, Fla., registered a continuing record of dismal failure on every front. Anyone making a fair assessment of the record since the fusion of the AFL and CIO five years ago is bound to conclude that in the decisive area of policy, program and leadership, the labor statesmen have flunked out—miserably.

Amalgamation of the two union organizations was hailed as a forerunner of rapid expansion of unionism in the unorganized sectors of industry and commerce, increased power in the field of political action, extension of labor's influence in national affairs.

Instead, the Executive Council recorded that organized labor has

Deep South Sit-Ins Aim At Cracking the Big Wall

By George Lavan

The dramatic sit-ins, picketing demonstrations and refusals of bail by Negro students during February marked the opening of a new phase in the direct-action campaign against Southern segregation.

Traditionally set aside for the celebration of Negro history, the week of Lincoln's birthday was converted by the student actions into a week for the making of Negro history.

Sit-ins, stand-ins, wade-ins, drive-ins, kneel-ins, etc. — new terms are coined as this form of direct action is applied against

different kind of segregated facilities—are now taking place all over the South except Mississippi.

Picketing of a Kress store and a theater continues in Winston-Salem, N.C. A protracted struggle in Lynchburg, Va., saw Negro and white students refusing bail and serving time for a lunch-counter sit-in. Six ministers were also in jail.

Movie stand-ins and picketing took place in Chattanooga and Nashville, Tenn., where 30 were arrested.

In Texas, Negro students, with some white supporters, staged stand-ins in front of Jim Crow

movie houses in Austin and Dallas. Police closed a Savannah, Ga., public park when Negro youths tried to use its sports facilities.

But it's in Atlanta, Ga., and South Carolina that the struggle is approaching a climax.

Over 80 demonstrators, spearheaded by students from Atlanta University and other Negro colleges, were arrested for their fight against restaurant segregation in Atlanta. Their refusal of bail for a number of days filled the city jail to overflowing. Extra cots had to be brought in and the food bill jumped \$1,000 a month.

These student leaders, with their program of submitting to mass arrests and refusing to post bail, are steadily approaching the famous tactic of the Industrial Workers of the World who deliberately "filled the jails" in their free-speech fights.

In South Carolina during the past few weeks there have been lunch counter sit-ins in Charleston, mass parades against Jim Crow in the dime stores, drug stores and public library of Sumter, skate-ins at a city rink in Greenville and picket lines in Rock Hill.

The Sunday after Friendship Junior College students were jailed, refused bail and were sent to the chain gang in Rock Hill.

Camp officials put eight students in solitary confinement on bread and water for singing hymns. They answered with a hunger strike. National publicity, when the news was smuggled out of the camp, forced the authorities to let up a little in their vindictive persecution of the young freedom-fighters.

It's hard to appreciate the full significance of this new phase unless you remember that South Carolina is a Deep South state second only to Mississippi in the savagery of its Jim Crow system.

High Court Deals Liberty Hard Blow

By Harry Ring

The right to think and say what you want and to associate with whom you choose — supposedly guaranteed by the First Amendment — suffered a hard blow Feb. 27 when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the contempt-of-Congress convictions of Frank Wilkinson and Carl Braden.

Both had been sentenced to a year in prison for defying the House Un-American Activities Committee when summoned before it in 1958 in retaliation for their efforts to secure the committee's abolition. At the hearing they had refused, under the First Amendment, to answer the committee's well worn smear question: "Are you now a member of the international Communist conspiracy?"

Braden achieved national prominence when Kentucky authorities tried to frame him for "sedition" after he helped a Negro family obtain a home in a restricted neighborhood. He has continued the fight against Jim Crow as a field secretary of the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

Wilkinson first drew the fire of the reactionaries when he was rebaited off the Los Angeles housing authority for bucking the scandalous Dodger ball club land grab. He is a leader of the National Committee to Abolish the Un-American Activities Committee.

In sending these men to jail, the high court majority — Frankfurter, Clark, Stewart, Harlan, Whittaker — ruled that the House committee has a right to know if its critics are "Communists." This widens the court's 1959 approval of the conviction of Lloyd Barenblatt on similar grounds.

The danger of these decisions was recognized by the court's minority — Black, Warren, Douglas and

Brennan. If dissenters like Barenblatt, Braden and Wilkinson can be jailed, declared Black, our liberties "are fast disappearing."

The American people can't rely on the Supreme Court to prevent liberty from disappearing. Nor will the job be done by the bi-partisan congressional gang that supports and lavishly finances the House Committee and its Senate counterpart. Labor and the Negro people need their own representatives in Congress for many reasons. One of the most compelling is to halt the continuing attack on the Bill of Rights.



OSCAR COOVER, Socialist Workers Party endorsed candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, will discuss his program on the Pat Batram show, KTLA-TV, channel 5, Fri., March 10 at 11:45 p.m. and on the Ralph Story show, KNX radio, Thur., March 16 at 1:10 p.m.

Hansen Will Attend Conference in Mexico

Joseph Hansen, editor of the *Militant*, will be an observer and reporter at the Latin-American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace, which will be held in Mexico City March 5-8.

Thousands of acceptances are reported to have been received in response to invitations sent out by Lázaro Cárdenas, former president of Mexico, who is sponsoring the conference.

The gathering is under strong attack from spokesmen of the State Department, who are opposed to any hemisphere-wide conferences not under their domination. The press of the counter-revolutionary Cuban exiles, in particular, is trying to smear it as a "red" meeting.

One of the main purposes of the conference is to consider how to help Cuba. "We understand," Cárdenas declared, "that the defense of Cuba is the defense of Latin America and that the systematic aggression against Cuba, like the violation of the air space, land or maritime areas of many of our countries, represents a grave assault on the national sovereignty of our peoples, the security of America and the peace of the world."

Besides writing on the conference in the *Militant*, Hansen will give eyewitness reports at two public meetings. The first will be held in Los Angeles Saturday evening, March 11, at 1702 East 4th St. The second will be in New York Friday, March 17, at Hotel Albert, 11th St. and University Pl., sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

Bill Introduced To Ban Michigan Minority Parties

DETROIT, Feb. 22—A law designed to eliminate the Socialist Workers and other minority parties from the Michigan ballot was presented to the state house of representatives this week.

According to yesterday's *Detroit News*, the new law would make "1 per cent of the total vote cast for all candidates for secretary of state, not the present 1 per cent of the vote for the winning candidate, the minimum needed . . ." for parties petitioning for a place on the ballot.

The Socialist Workers Party collected 32,000 signatures to win a place on the 1960 Michigan ballot. Under the changed law they would have to double this amount in future elections. Also petitions would have to be circulated in 20 counties, twice the number now required.

Frank Lovell, SWP state chairman, characterized the bill as "another attempt by the big business politicians in Lansing to restrict the political freedom of their opponents." He called for the organization of a "citizens committee of all those interested in genuine democracy to prevent this bill from becoming law."

Similar legislation was proposed in the Michigan state senate in 1955. Action by a citizens committee, minority parties, civil liberties groups and the labor movement prevented its passage at that time.

Bias Charged in Move To Cut L.A. Child Care

LOS ANGELES—William Hathaway, socialist candidate for the Board of Education, Office No. 2, has voiced strong objection to the closing of child care centers in the Negro and Mexican-American communities. His stand was shared by Oscar G. Coover, candidate for mayor.

The Board of Education is considering closing 13 such centers. Some 70 centers in other parts of the city would remain open.

Hathaway and Coover, who are endorsed by the Socialist Workers Party, charged that the projected closings would be a blow at low-income families and bore "more than a suggestion of race bias."

Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

"The Future of the Unemployed." Speaker, Art Fox, chairman, Greater Detroit UAW Unemployed Coordinating Committee. Fri., March 10, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

Art and Political Commitment—From Picasso to "Socialist Realism." Speaker, Nat Weinstein. Fri., March 10, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. 50 cents. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

Local Directory

BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-5044. If no answer, call HU 6-7025.

CLEVELAND. Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euclid Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

DENVER. Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California. Main 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227 1/2 California. Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. TEmple 1-6135.

LOS ANGELES. Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily, Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THIS CRAZY WORLD

People or Profits: The Key Issue

By Tom Kerry

I watched a television debate the other night between United Automobile Workers president Walter Reuther and Dr. Edward R. Annis of the American Medical Association. The subject: whether health care for the aged should be financed through social security.

The debate posed a fundamental issue: What shall be the primary consideration of our society—the good and welfare of the majority of its citizens or the preservation of the profit interests of the minority?

Reuther defended the plan to provide health and hospital insurance for our senior citizens through the social security system. Dr. Annis vehemently opposed this as an attack upon the sanctity of the profit system. It was, he argued, little better than a sinister scheme to impose upon the people of this country the system of socialism.

Because both speakers were stout advocates of the so-called "free enterprise" system and avowed opponents of "socialism" in "principle," the basic issue was submerged in sallies of heated rhetoric. The contestants were not in there fighting—they were shadow boxing.

Avoiding the Issue

If the liberals and labor leaders were serious about their insistence on the primacy of human needs over profit interests, Reuther's retort to the charge of "treason" to the capitalist system should have been to paraphrase Patrick Henry: When workers, worn out after a lifetime of pro-

ducing the wealth of society, are unable to bear the exorbitant cost of adequate medical care, the government is obligated to provide for them. And, "if this be socialism, make the most of it."

Instead of which, Reuther spent most of his time parrying the puny thrusts of his opponent at the specter of socialism. His denials gave the feeble arguments of his opponent an appearance of strength which they did not deserve. It was a disservice to the struggle for human as against property rights.

I had previously been struck with this question when I read an article in the Feb. 17 *New York Times*, entitled: Air Pollution Adds to Steel Woes. Reading



Walter Reuther

New Haven Meeting Hears 1st-Hand Reports on Cuba

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 23—Last night more than 350 Yale students and townspeople attended a symposium on Cuba. Held on campus, the meeting was jointly sponsored by the George Orwell Forum and the New Haven chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

The speakers, all recent visitors to Cuba, were: Robert Stone, staff writer of the *Yale Daily News*; Jonathan Spence, graduate of Cambridge University and Clare Fellow at Yale; and William Winnick, secretary of the New Haven FPCC chapter. A recent series on Cuba in the *Yale Daily News* by Stone stirred considerable student interest and added to the turnout.

Though discussing different aspects of the Cuban revolution, each of the three speakers stressed the progress and reforms now taking place and argued for the Cuban people's right to determine their own fate without U.S. intervention.

Among those taking the floor in agreement with the speakers were several Latin-Americans. One, a Cuban woman, delivered a passionate defense of the Castro

regime. Another, a Mexican, said that to his knowledge most Latin-American governments did not represent the views of their peoples who were in fact pro-Castro.

TORONTO, Feb. 27—The recently-founded Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee today announced plans for a tour of Cuba during the Easter holidays. Cost per person will be \$250 for one week and \$300 for two weeks. Included is air transportation from New York to Havana and return, accommodations at a luxury hotel in Havana, meals, entertainment, and travel within Cuba.

Vernel Olson, chairman of the committee in Toronto, announced the tour would begin on March 26 and return on April 2 and 9. He said the second week in Cuba would cost only \$50. It was possible, he also said, that the committee might be able to arrange even lower prices for students.

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee of Canada maintains fraternal relations with the committee of the same name in the U.S. It already has chapters in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and one in formation in Winnipeg. Its address is: Box 923, Adelaide St. Post Office, Toronto, Canada.

PHILADELPHIA—A "Hear the Truth About Cuba" rally will be held on Friday, March 10, by the Philadelphia chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Speakers will be James Higgins, assistant editor of the *York Gazette & Daily*, and Bert Wainer, editor of the Fair Play student newsletter. The meeting will be chaired by Barrows Dunham, philosopher and author.

The rally will be held at the Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square at 8 P.M. For further information, write FPCC, P.O. Box 7971, Philadelphia 1, Pa.

the article convinced me that it's people who suffer the "woe" resulting from air pollution. The only "woe" to "steel" involves the monetary expense of eliminating the pollution.

The writer, Peter Bart, reports what he calls "an interesting paradox." By adopting the new oxygen method of making steel, the steel companies are able to increase steel capacity with fewer workers at a greater profit. However, in doing so, they are "vastly increasing the impurities in the air around their plants."

Poisoning of the air breathed by people in the steel communities can be curbed by the installation of anti-pollution devices. This is what the people, through their elected representatives, have been demanding. But, says Bart, the steel corporations are reluctant to do so because these devices "may cost as much as \$1,000,000 each."

A Double Menace

The concern of the people affected goes beyond the air pollution menace. "Many residents," says Bart, "see the conversion of open hearth furnaces to oxygen as just one more innovation that will result in reduced employment for steel workers."

Bart quotes one steel corporation official as acknowledging: "Not only is there more smoke but it is a reddish sort of smoke that scares the townspeople silly." And well it might! For it poisons the air they breathe.

Because the scourge of unemployment has hit the steel communities especially hard, the corporations are resorting to outright blackmail to counter the safety measures demanded by the steel communities.

Bart relates that in Cleveland, for example, "when the Republic Steel Corporation announced that it was converting some of its open hearths the city council promptly passed an ordinance barring the move unless smoke controls were installed. This ordinance was vetoed by the mayor and a series of hearings were initiated.

"Republic, meanwhile, let it be known that if its proposal were blocked it might mean a permanent curtailment of employment in Cleveland since Republic might find it more economical to produce steel elsewhere."

The result? A retreat by the city council and a compromise granting Republic an extension of time to consider the installation of anti-pollution devices.

Blackmail Works

Officials of Youngstown, Ohio, had less success in dealing with Youngstown Sheet and Tube. The mayor's proposal to allow the corporation "two to three years to develop a smoke control method was flatly rejected by the company," Bart reports. They were finally given a "ten-year deferral with the stipulation that Youngstown Sheet attempt to find a 'reasonable' means of control in the meantime."

The problem of air pollution is prevalent in cities and towns from coast to coast. In Pittsburgh and New York the poisoning of the atmosphere by industrial pollution is called "smaze." In Los Angeles they know it as "smog."

Everywhere, people are being "scared silly" by the increasing emission of air pollutants from factory smoke stacks. The health of the people is being impaired by the greed for profit. When moved to protest, the people are lashed by the lords of industry with threats to withdraw their means of making a livelihood. And all this is defended and justified in the name of preserving the insane "free enterprise" system.

There is no solution along the line taken by Reuther and his fellow labor statesmen of shadow boxing with the profit hogs over the health, welfare and security of the American people. These are basic and primary. To safeguard them, the workers should demand and fight for the nationalization of industry under workers control.

And if only socialism can safeguard these elementary human requirements then capitalism be hanged!

Gets F for Opposing Compulsory ROTC

SAN FRANCISCO—Four hundred University of California students attended a rally Feb. 16 to protest the "F" given James Creighton in his ROTC course. His mid-semester "A" was changed to a failing grade shortly after he demonstrated in uniform against the mandatory military training program at Berkeley.

Creighton charged that the Army is using "an academic tool, a grade, to take political measures against me." Col. John T. Malloy denied the charges, but when asked if Creighton's participation in the demonstration had something to do with the "F", he admitted:

"You can be sure it had much to do with it . . . but the student failed because he did not live up to the department's standards. These standards include Americanism, duty to country and the proper wearing of the uniform. At Berkeley I decide what is proper, and it was absolutely improper for the uniform to be worn at the demonstration."

Creighton first appealed his failing grade to the Dean of Students and the Dean of the College of Letters and Science. The Deans said they had no power to change it, so he is now appealing to the Academic Senate. It is the first time a student has asked this body to take action on a grade. Creighton's appeal is supported by Slate, a student political party, and the Student Civil Liberties Union.

About 20 students at the protest rally were in uniform.

Depression Ahead?

Are the outflow of gold and the depletion of the dollar just headaches for the Wall Street tycoons?

Or could they be symptoms of a serious ailment in the economy that could bring on a full-scale depression?

Read a competent analysis in layman's language by Lynn Marcus in the winter issue of *International Socialist Review*.

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Monday, March 6, 1961

What Armament Costs

Aside from horror at the very thought of a nuclear war few people realize the cost to humanity of the vast expenditures in armaments to maintain the present "balance of terror."

An Associated Press release estimates that the world is spending \$14 million each hour, \$330 million a day or \$120 billion a year for military purposes.

This amounts to \$40 a year for each man, woman and child now living. Because it requires the labor of four men to keep one soldier armed, fed and supplied, the AP says an end to the arms race would enable 60 million additional workers "to turn to the task of beating swords into plowshares."

Devoted to peaceful construction, adequate housing could be provided 240 million families in under-developed countries. The hungry among the world's three billion population could be fed, the sick provided with medical care.

The United States government spends more on armaments than any other nation, \$46 billion a year. This is over three times the \$13½ billion annual arms expenditure at the time of the Korean war. Arms spending constitutes 55 per cent of the total federal budget.

Under a rational system, the armaments budget in this country would be diverted to peaceful pursuits and the recession would be ended, with higher pay and shorter hours for all labor. But the profit system stands in the way. Peace can be brought only by ending capitalism and establishing a socialist society of peace, security and plenty.

Organize the Unemployed

A great deal has been said by union leaders about the need to do something quickly to provide extended compensation and jobs for the growing army of unemployed workers.

But little or nothing has been said—or what's worse, done—by the union officialdom about organizing for effective action those most concerned, the men and women thrown out of work through no fault of their own.

Nor do the labor leaders intend that these unemployed workers be represented at union conferences dealing with the problem that concerns them most.

The policy of ignoring the organization of the unemployed workers can be fatal for the unions. The employers view the "reserve army of unemployed" as a potential battering ram to beat down labor's standard of living and crush any resistance to their plans to undermine the unions.

In self-interest the unions must take the initiative in organizing the unemployed and championing the struggle for their needs.

But the unemployed workers will not wait until the labor statesmen get good and ready to get off their rumps and act. By and large the jobless workers of today have gone through the experience of organization. They appreciate the value of organizing and bargaining collectively for their demands. The question is not whether they will organize but under what circumstance.

It would be best if the unions took the initiative. There is an identity of interest which can cement the solidarity of all workers in a fight joining employed and unemployed in united action for job security. Organization of the unemployed cannot be postponed indefinitely.

The Cuban Four-Year Plan

While Washington maps new moves to throttle the Cuban economy, the Cuban government is readying a four-year industrialization plan.

A State Department spokesman disclosed last week that the administration is considering a total embargo on Cuban imports under the "Trading With the Enemy Act."

Meanwhile, Cuba announced that 1962 will be the "Year of Planning the Industrial Development." This made it clear that the revolutionary government will not permit the welfare of the Cuban people to be contingent on Washington's economic policies.

A new Ministry of Industry, headed by Major "Che" Guevara, will direct all industry and carry out the four-year plan. All imports and exports will be centralized under a new Ministry of Foreign Trade. A Ministry of Interior Commerce will have charge of "the distribution of products, control of prices and management of all commercial firms which have been nationalized."

Wide participation in the projected industrial planning was indicated in Fidel Castro's Feb. 11 speech to the Council of Technical Advisors (see page 1). "We will launch the year," he said, "with the news that Cuba has planned its economy . . . and our industrial and agricultural economy in all its aspects will have its first big four-year plan."

"And this plan will be worked out with the collaboration of all of you, with the efforts of all of you. Here is one of the principal tasks of the Technical Councils . . . to help in planning our industrialization, and to aid in indicating the goals of our economy and in making these goals as ambitious as all the goals which we have proposed."

Effectively applied, this kind of planning will be a powerful defense against Wall Street's economic aggression.

100 'Advisers' to Government We'd Like to Know More About

By Milton Alvin

Ralph J. Cordiner announced on Feb. 27 that he was resigning as chairman of the largely unpublished Business Advisory Council, composed of 100 big business corporation presidents and board chairmen whose job is to "advise" the government. Cordiner is chairman of General Electric Co., three of whose top officers were recently sentenced to jail for antitrust law violations.

Cordiner denied that his resignation had anything to do with the antitrust case, and emphasized that he was remaining as a member of the Business Advisory Council.

The BAC was born in 1933, during Roosevelt's first administration, at the instigation of his Secretary of Commerce Roper. Since then it has lived a shadowy existence, outside the public view, meeting twice a year in such plush places as Hot Springs, Va., Pebble Beach, Calif., and Sea Island, Ga. Government officials attend these sessions at the BAC's expense and report confidential information that is denied to the public.

According to Joseph R. Slevin

of the *New York Herald Tribune*, the semi-annual three day sessions are closed to the press as well as the public. However the expenses of these gatherings, where information is given to heads of the country's largest steel, electrical, auto, coal, electronic, glass, communications and financial companies, are deductible for tax purposes.

Rundown

Slevin reports that last May Vice President Nixon gave the BAC members and their wives an after-dinner rundown on the U-2 flight over Russia, including a large amount of secret information that had not been revealed to the American people. In 1957 Nixon appeared before the BAC and discussed plans for a missile program in advance of public disclosure.

Other high government officials who have appeared at BAC meetings and who undoubtedly gave secret information to that body included Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, close friend of Eisenhower, Federal Reserve Board chairman William McChesney Martin, Jr., Council of Economic Advisors chairman

Arthur F. Burns and others. Among the things discussed with the big business representatives at these meetings were credit policy of the government, interest rates, etc.

The BAC staff has access to government information regarding gross national product and other information that is not available to other businessmen or the public.

Since government officials attend the secret meetings at the expense of the big business outfits to give them valuable information, it seems clear that we have a bona fide case of payola here. But that is really not the main purpose of these meetings or of the BAC itself. Its real purpose is to "advise" the government on all important questions of policy, and its advice carries the force of a command which is quickly obeyed.

It would be useful and educational for the American people to demand that the shadowy record of this nefarious outfit and the government officials who have dealt with it, beginning with Roosevelt's time, be dragged out into the bright sunlight.

... Castro Challenges Kennedy

(Continued from Page 1)

lions of unemployed in the United States is increasing, while in Cuba we have to organize battalions of volunteers to go to work in the fields?

"Why is it that while your factories are closing down and your industries are working at 30 or 40 per cent of capacity, our factories are going 24 hours around the clock, and many previously closed factories are being brought back into production?"

"Why is it that while agriculture is paralyzed in your country, thousands and thousands of tractors in Cuba are opening up more and more new lands to production?"

"If your system is better than ours, why is it that in your country, facing no economic aggression, no embargo on machinery, with no one preventing you from free access to raw materials, why is it that . . . you have problems, while in our country, faced with all this aggression, there are no problems?"

"If your system is better than ours, why are you heading toward a crisis while we are heading toward progress?"

'Senile'

The economic system in the United States is at fault, Castro declared. "You can see that this imperialist system is senile and condemned to failure. It is a system in which work has become an enemy of progress; more work means more hunger. Such a system, you can see, is condemned to death. There they can't solve their problems by working; they have to lay off men and women . . . to go on feeding the incomes of a caste of parasites."

How did Cuba meet its unemployment problem? Castro indicated that it was no top drawer secret. "Does Mr. Kennedy want to end unemployment in the United States? Why, then let him nationalize the big monopolies; let him nationalize the big utility companies; let him nationalize the banks so that the banks can cease being private companies serving a few millionaires; let him put an end to military bases abroad; let him stop the armaments race, stop making rockets and battleships, pursue a policy of peace, and you will see how the problems and the crises in the United States will be over."

Instead of following a program

like this, Castro pointed out, the United States follows an irrational course. "In place of copying us — with the water risen up to their necks — they try to wipe us off the face of the earth. And this is the irrationality of imperialism, prisoner of its own contradictions, prisoner of all the webs which they themselves have spun. That's why they have reached this absurd position where they can't find work. Why? Simply because it's a system operating for the benefit of an absolutely parasitic class."

"The people have had to renounce labor," Castro continued. "They don't know that nothing else but labor exists in the world capable of creating what we need. They don't know that no other force exists in the world capable of creating goods, capable of creating wealth . . . And when a people has to give up work, it is condemned to ruin. And the North American people have had to give up work simply to provide a living for the parasites . . . that is, monopolists, millionaires, bankers, senators, ward heelers, priests, in short, generals, admirals, cops, international criminals, thugs, traitors, spies, peicards."

Returning to Kennedy's five declarations against Cuba, Castro analyzed what they revealed before the whole world. "They are confessing that Cuba is coming out on top, they are confessing that Cuba is prospering, they are confessing that the triumph of the revolution is growing; they are confessing their failure, that all their measures of aggression have failed; worse yet, that their campaigns have failed, that the solidarity of the brother peoples of Latin America with Cuba is more evident and warmer each passing day."

Why Travel Is Banned

"And they have to resort to even worse things. We recall the campaign they waged against the Soviet Union, saying that there was an 'iron curtain' around the Soviet Union, and they built up that legend; and yet, now they have ended up lowering an iron curtain around the United States. It is they who have forbidden North Americans from traveling here. Why?"

"Now we could very well have adopted such a measure, which would have been well justified, to keep out saboteurs, spies, counter-revolutionary messengers, carriers

of bombs or mercenary gold; yet, you see how relations are between the United States and Cuba.

"We, the tiny country, the small country, we haven't been the ones to keep North Americans from coming here; but they, the powerful imperialism, the mighty imperialism, they are the ones who have forbidden North Americans from traveling here. That is, they are completely on the defensive.

"Are they trying to harm our economy thereby? No, they succeeded in paralyzing the tourist trade some time back; the tourist looking for thrills and a good time was scared away some time back.

"For many months those coming to Cuba have been not such tourists looking for thrills and a gay time, but writers, intellectuals, Negro leaders, youth leaders, honest newspapermen; and they didn't leave behind foreign exchange. The motive was not economic this time; the motive was political.

"They didn't want Negro leaders from the South of the United States to see the social equality that exists in our country; they didn't want the honest people of the United States, the honest writers, honest newspapermen and honest political activists of the United States to come here.

'Come and See'

"We didn't close any doors in their faces. We said, Come and see for yourself; come and see how many schools we've opened, how many fortresses we've converted into schools; come and see the support that the revolution has in the people; come and see the cooperatives; come and see the people's stores; come and see our mountains; come and see our fields; come and see the thousands and thousands of homes we are building; come and see and talk with the people. Come and see that all that stuff they are writing about us is a pack of lies. Result: Entry to Cuba prohibited.

"What are they confessing by doing that? Their failure, their fear of the example and the truth, fear of the influence that Cuba could have, not just in Latin America but in the United States itself, because we're just as close to them as they are to us.

"And, if a serious crisis comes in the United States, worse yet, worse yet, because there are a lot of honest North Americans capable of understanding Cuba's example."

8 Men Less for Each Ton

By Herman Chauka

Important facts on the displacement of men by machines have been made available by Congressman Elmer J. Holland (D.-Pa.) in a report to the House Labor Committee entitled, *Unemployment and the Impact of Automation*.

Holland says the latest unofficial estimate of the unemployed is around six million. But the problem is even graver than the figures indicate.

"Since 1953," he points out, "each peak of the business cycle has found unemployment a little higher than at the previous peak. With each recession, there are more unemployed than in the previous one."

Space doesn't permit a report of all the facts compiled by Holland. But copies of his report may be gotten by writing him care of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

These are some of the key facts he offers on the impact of automation in key industries:

Steel. From 1937 to 1959, machines eliminated 95,000 jobs in the industry. Meanwhile productivity has increased 121 per cent. In 1941, 20 men were required to produce one ton of steel. Today, only 12 men are required.

Auto. Production increased 50 per cent from 1947 to 1960. But employment was cut by 2.9 per cent. "An estimated 160,000 un-

employed auto workers in Detroit," says Holland, "will never return to automobile factories dues to automation."

Coal. In the last decade 200,000 miners have been replaced by machines. The remaining 200,000 are on part time. In the past three years alone, production per miner has increased 100 per cent.

Oil. Operating capacity increased from 5.3 million barrels a day in 1947 to 8.4 million barrels in 1957 while the jobs of 10,000 production workers were eliminated.

Electrical. Automation boosted production of electrical equipment 20 per cent in seven years while wiping out 80,000 jobs. In the lamp industry, production per worker is up 52 per cent.

Office. Electronic machines have knocked out 25 per cent of the country's office jobs in the past five years. It is estimated that four million more office and clerical jobs will be eliminated by automation in the next five years.

On the basis of such facts, Holland concludes that only "long-term planning" can avert more and worse unemployment crises. "The second half of the 20th century," he says, "could — through the advance of technology — witness the creation of an economic paradise on earth . . . if not handled correctly, we could see the violent end to all civilization because of it."

"With rational planning for a balanced economy and social growth I feel the challenge raised by automation can be met successfully."

The congressman is right in his contention that "rational planning" will be decisive in determining if automation is to bring an "economic paradise" rather than catastrophe. But there is also the equally crucial fact that such planning is impossible under the capitalist system where profits — not human needs — is the key to production.

Effective planning for automation means first of all a drastic reduction in the work week without reductions in take-home pay. It means government-subsidized retraining in new skills for workers in industries where the automation impact is so drastic that even a cut in hours is not the answer.

It means special training for the ever-expanding number of young people entering the labor market.

The enormous increase in productive capacity resulting from automation will intensify the cyclical crises of "overproduction" that are an inherent feature of capitalism. The planning of production from the viewpoint of consumer needs will be required.

In short, "rational planning" for automation means socialist planning — the planning of production for use, not profits.

No Victory for the Nazis

By Joseph Hansen

On Feb. 14 the Appellate Division in a 4-to-1 decision handed down a verdict in New York that was interpreted by the capitalist press as a victory for George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the swastika-wearing "American Nazi" party. Actually the grounds of the decision favored Rockwell's opponents, the defenders of civil liberties and democratic rights in America.

Last summer Rockwell applied for a permit to hold a rally in New York's Union Square on July 4. It was denied by Park Commissioner Newbold Morris on the ground that a riot would result.

The American Civil Liberties Union took up the case and carried it to State Supreme Court Justice Henry Epstein. He upheld the commissioner.

Justice Charles D. Breitel voiced the majority opinion of the Appellate Division in upsetting Epstein's ruling. Breitel held that it was unconstitutional to deny any minority the right to voice its opinion.

"The unpopularity of views," said Justice Breitel, "their shocking quality, their obnoxiousness, and even their alarming impact are not enough. Otherwise the preacher of any strange doctrine could be stopped; the antiracist

himself could be suppressed, if he undertakes to speak in 'restricted' areas; and one who asks that public schools be opened indiscriminately could be lawfully suppressed, if only he chose to speak where persuasion is needed most."

Fear of a "riot" was the Wagner administration's excuse for denying Rockwell his democratic rights. They pointed to the fact that many New York workers were preparing to appear at Union Square to protest Rockwell's views.

But the organizations that initiated the protest movement did not deny Rockwell's democratic right to hold the obnoxious rally. On the contrary, they recognized the right.

This was the stand taken by the Committee to Protest Racial Defamation, headed by the well-known civil-rights attorney Conrad J. Lynn, which sought a permit from the city authorities to hold a protest meeting in Union Square on July 4 from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M., preceding the 3 P. M. Nazi rally. The *Militant* backed this position when it supported the appeal for a big turnout at the protest meeting.

The city's denial of a permit to Rockwell set a dangerous precedent which, unless it is upset by the courts, will most certainly be used at a future time against organizations holding views diametrically opposed to those of the Nazis.

When Rockwell learned of the ruling by the Appellate Division, he immediately wired Commissioner Morris a request to hold a rally in Union Square at 10 A. M. May 1. He told the press that he had 50 or 60 "troopers" in training at Arlington, Va., for the rally "and we should have them in top condition."

When asked what he intended to speak about, he answered, "The race issue and anti-Communism . . . the overwhelming Jewish participation in Communism." He added that he was scheduling the rally for 10 A. M. "so that all those little Jews who try to meet ahead of us will have to get up early."

It is doubtful that Rockwell will get a permit for a rally in Union Square by May 1, since the city is now appealing to the State Court of Appeals. However, the ACLU is prepared to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the ACLU succeeds in finally winning and Rockwell ultimately gets a permit to appear in Union Square, there is no doubt many thousands of New Yorkers will be down real early to exercise their own democratic right to protest Rockwell's provocative efforts to convert Hitler into an example for America to follow.

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Letters from Our Readers

Murder of Lumumba

Chicago, Ill.

The peoples of the world are outraged and revolted by the belated admission of the Katanga government of the death of the legally-elected Congolese Premier Patrice Lumumba and his two political aides.

All attempts to place the blame upon some mythical tribesmen shall be viewed in the same light—and with the same skepticism—as previously released stories of the escape of Lumumba and his companions from an isolated farmhouse guarded by TWO guards!

The wanton, senseless and sadistic beating of Lumumba and his aides, upon their transfer to the prison of his arch-enemy Moise Tshombe sickened all those who witnessed it. This savagery—comparable only to the Korean war and the Hitler era—caused fear and apprehension for the safety of the three Congolese leaders. All inquiries as to their physical welfare were arrogantly side-stepped, avoided or ignored by the Katanga government.

Finally, when it could dodge the issue no longer, it issued the cock and bull story of Lumumba's murder by tribesmen, and burial in a secret place. How convenient!

At the UN, our ambassador, Adlai Stevenson, appealed to all "men of good will" to join in seeking not revenge but reconciliation. The nations of Europe and Asia could rightly counter with: "Could you be so dispassionate had duly-elected President John Kennedy been tortured to death?"

Nellie De Schaaf

Will Venus Go Communist?

Detroit, Mich.

The Soviet Union in launching a space ship toward Venus has scored another first in man's probing of the universe. Millions the world over are again stirred at the great achievements of modern science.

Alas, this appreciation is only grudgingly shared by the men-in-the-know in the U.S. With their false pride in their own superiority, every achievement behind the "iron curtain" comes as a rude shock.

What disturbs the State Department's scientific community is that the space ship was launched from a moving earth satellite, a technique considered one of the most intricate maneuvers yet performed in man's leap into space.

One newspaper writer pointed out that the same technique, used in reverse, would permit the firing of nuclear arms toward earth targets from cruising satellites.

The nerve tremors from Washington will do little to alter the course of the space ship on its merry way toward Venus, nor lessen the respect with which this achievement of Soviet science is viewed.

The only question that remains to be asked is: "Does this mean that Venus will go Communist, too?"

J. A.

Experience in Venezuela

New York, N. Y.

This may not seem real to you. I'm still so shook up it doesn't seem real to me.

I saw the first three days of the uprising in Venezuela last December. I was in Caracas when it started. I saw police fire into a crowd of people waiting for a bus and then read in the paper that they were a gang of "anti government demonstrators."

The next day I was in the town

of La Cruz where the big Lago (Esso) refinery is. There were about 350 workers standing in groups at least a hundred yards from the plant gate.

I was talking with some of them when uniformed plant guards rushed out and sailed into us with clubs. Most of the crowd dispersed but some of us were grabbed. I was kicked and beaten by one of the guards and thrown into a jail that they actually have inside the refinery.

I was held there for two days. Then I was put in a van and taken to Caracas and put in jail there. Nobody would tell me what I was charged with or how long I would be held.

The conditions were unbelievable. I was in a small cell with no bed and with a caged-in bulb that was left on 24 hours a day and the place humming with mosquitos. For a toilet there was a gutter that ran through the floor of the cells, sometimes with water flowing through to carry away the waste.

After two weeks I was handcuffed and taken to the American Embassy. The man there said he couldn't do anything for me.

After two months they took me out of jail, drove me to the airport and put me on a plane bound for New York. I finally landed at La Guardia without even bus fare and hitched a ride into the city.

John Rigsbee

For the Love of Lenin

South Gate, Calif.

I was surprised to find the following in your editorial of Jan. 23: "Some of our readers have long advocated [a change to tabloid format] on the ground that it would . . . tend to make articles more readable by shortening them."

This is the sort of *Readers Digest*, W. R. Hearst thinking that has no place on the Left. Witness some other Left-leaning periodicals that have already succumbed to this Hearstian formula of quick, predigested capsule reading.

Tabloid format; yes, for a more modern appearance. Four pages; because of financial reasons only, and temporarily, we hope. But please, for the love of Lenin, don't truncate your articles merely to please the headline scanners who read while they run.

D. P.

[The editorial also said ". . . we are making the change at this time primarily for a different reason; namely finances. . . . For a time we will print four pages. As events require (and funds permit) we will from time to time increase the number of pages. We hope that it will not be too long until we can expand to eight pages."—*Editor*.]

Better Than Ever

New York, N. Y.

Your paper has been appearing in the new format for several weeks now and it has impressed me very much. The paper looks better than ever now; you don't know how glad I am to see it in the new size.

P. G.

You Can Help

Denver, Colo.

A report from the U.S. Health Department says the average payment for a retired man and wife in 1960 was \$123, less than half of the overall budgetary needs.

You can help do it now. Medical care for the aged. Remember, it's for you, too.

E. Dobson

It Was Reported in the Press

Lewis on Jobless Aid—Compensation for the full period of unemployment was urged Feb. 24 by John L. Lewis, president emeritus of the United Mine Workers. To cut off compensation after a fixed period, he said, is like telling the jobless: "If you are still alive after the next six months come back and we'll see what we can do for you."

Calling Horatio Alger—The head of a shoe polish company who says he started life as a bootblack wants to give a dinner in honor of company presidents who formerly shined shoes. So far he hasn't been able to find any. Maybe he would do better with company presidents who started out licking boots.

British Health Plan—John C. Golligher, professor of surgery at

Leeds University, told a Canadian audience Feb. 13 that British doctors share the popular approval of his country's national health plan. "Ninety-five per cent of the specialists in England are satisfied with the scheme," he said. "It provides top people in every hospital, whether in a large or small center."

Sorry, Folks—Officials in Fayette County, Pa., announced suspension of federal surplus food distribution Feb. 18 because "there simply isn't enough food in the warehouses." Some 55,000 people in the coal-mining area, about one third of its total population, are on the surplus food list.

Odessa Hot Five—"In Odessa long ago, musicians always improvised at weddings and this gives me grounds to say that so-

called Dixieland existed in Odessa before New Orleans."—Leonid O. Utysov, prominent Soviet popular musician, in a Feb. 25 *Soviet Culture* article urging an end to official disapproval of jazz.

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Thought for the Week

" . . . from now on anyone who takes a public position contrary to that being urged by the House Un-American Activities Committee should realize that he runs the risk of being subpoenaed to appear at a hearing . . . of being accused by the committee of membership in the Communist party, of being held up to the public as a subversive and a traitor, or being jailed for contempt if he refuses to cooperate with the committee in its probe of his mind and associations . . ." — Supreme Court Justice Black in his dissent in the Wilkinson and Braden cases.