

# Kennedy's Brinkmanship Courts A Major War in Southeast Asia

## THE MILITANT

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### Strikes and Demonstrations Mount in Spain and Portugal

By Hedda Grant

Threats and arrests by Generalissimo Franco in Spain and Dictator Salazar in Portugal have failed to hold back the mounting wave of strikes and demonstrations by both workers and students.

In Spain the strikes, which began last month with the Asturias miners, have spread throughout the provinces. The small raises demanded by the miners were

generally conceded to be justified. Even the mine owners agreed to grant them when the government approved increases in coal prices. But the government stalled on the actual signing of new contracts, reportedly reluctant to lose face since all strikes are "illegal." Instead it declared a state of emergency, saturated the area with police and jailed dozens of strike leaders.

#### Strikes Spread

Early this week many miners, without food or a strike fund, responded to government and church promises and returned to the mines. The strike problem seemingly solved, Franco officials turned around to find thousands in other provinces striking — 5,500 copper workers at the Rio Tinto mine at Helva, in Southern Spain; factory workers in San Sebastian; Naval shipyard workers in Cadiz; railroad workers in Beasain and an estimated 50,000 workers — many skilled — in the crucial industrial city of Bilbao alone, comprising a total of almost 100,000 workers. Many American-owned firms were among those struck. Aside from wage demands, strike leaders were calling the strikes "demonstrations of our union and our strength."

Spanish officials claimed the May 11 general strike was a total failure, but paradoxically they also reported that 425 workers had been arrested. The next day Franco, after a 15-hour cabinet

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### Minneapolis Hears Anti-HUAC Fighter



Frank Wilkinson

MINNEAPOLIS, May 13 — Frank Wilkinson, who recently served a prison term for upholding the First Amendment, spoke here today. This was the first opportunity Wilkinson has had to speak in Minneapolis since the Minneapolis Labor Temple refused him its hall after his release from prison.

Speaking under the sponsorship of the Twin Cities Labor Forum, Wilkinson declared "the House Un-American Activities Committee to be in direct violation of the rights of free speech, press, and association."

Under a battery of TV lights and cameras, he revealed the relationship between the HUAC (which is composed of both Democrats and Republicans) and the John Birch Society. In the question period, he charged that HUAC used information which could only have been gotten from records stolen from his office.

A collection was taken and given to him to continue his work for the abolition of HUAC. Following the meeting, TV interviews were conducted, after which he left to speak that evening at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

### Casualties Mount In South Vietnam

According to official sources, casualties have soared to a thousand a week in Vietnam. And U.S. newsmen on the scene insist that this isn't the full story.

The official figure of 16,235 casualties in the first 16 weeks of this year does not include GIs involved in the murderous campaign to "pacify" the Vietnamese peasants who are fighting to get dictator Ngo Dinh Diem off their backs.

On a quick tour of South Vietnam, Secretary of Defense McNamara let U.S. correspondents know that the Kennedy administration is dissatisfied with their reporting. The complaint is that too much is being written about U.S. casualties.

#### Opposite View

The newsmen had some complaints of their own. *New York Times* correspondent Homer Bigart reported May 12: "The correspondents petitioned Mr. McNamara to ease the United States information policy. They are convinced that information on American casualties is being withheld or at least being subjected to unnecessary delays."

A choice example of what the newsmen are complaining about was found the following day in the *Times* which front-paged a UPI dispatch from Saigon that opened: "Waves of South Vietnamese troops flown into battle by United States helicopters killed 300 Communist guerrillas yesterday in a major attack, it was reported here today."

The next day, the *Times* carried a report from Bigart which said: "United States helicopters carried more than 1,000 South Vietnamese soldiers into the marshlands of the Mekong Delta yesterday in an ambitious attempt to destroy Communist guerrilla nests in the forbidding plain of reeds."

"But the operation, although the biggest of its kind, failed to flush out any sizable number of rebels. Col. Frank Butler Clay . . . said he doubted more than 20 guerrillas had been killed." While revising the casualties downward, Clay hastened to add that the operation was a success in that it threw the Vietcong "off balance."

Not only are the American people being lied to, but even the top



**PLAYBOY PIRATE.** Laotian Prince Boun Oum's corrupt and graft-ridden regime has survived only by grace of U.S. guns and dollars. Now Kennedy has committed U.S. Marines in a desperate move to save the prince's neck.

brass is given a snow job. On May 13, Bigart reported a mounting Vietcong offensive (after they were thrown "off balance"). Describing one daring Vietcong ambush, he added:

"This incident occurred at noon on the main highway to Saigon. Mr. McNamara passed over this area about five hours later . . . He was told nothing of the incident during an extensive briefing at Ben Tuong, although the settlement was only eight miles from the scene of the ambush." McNamara was assured "the whole area had a great degree of security."

The May 8 *Wall Street Journal* reported: "For American reporters in embattled South Vietnam, the men to see to arrange interviews with Vietnamese officials are two on-the-scene representatives of the New York public relations firm of Kaster, Hilton, Chesley, Crawford & Atherton.

"The Kaster-Hilton operation performs many such public relations chores for President Ngo Dinh Diem's government, always with the goal of enhancing the regime's image in the U.S. For these services, South Vietnam pays the concern \$100,000 a year, plus expenses."

And your tax dollars provide Diem the wherewithal for a Madison Avenue "image" of a war where GIs are dying to save a tyrant.

### N.Y. Meeting to Hear Schleifer on Cuba

NEW YORK — Marc Schleifer, young American author and editor of *Kulchur* magazine, will report on developments in Cuba at a forum here Friday evening, May 25. He will answer questions about art, politics and civil liberties in Cuba as he saw them during a recent extended visit there.

The meeting will be held at 116 University Place under the auspices of the Militant Labor Forum.

### Laos Power Play Can Force China To Send Troops

By George Lavan

President Kennedy's sending of 4,000 U.S. troops to Thailand and air and naval forces into Indo-Chinese waters risks not only involving this country in one or more Korea-type wars in that area but provoking a war with China — a war which could quickly become nuclear.

Never has the White House been occupied by a president so reckless in responding to foreign-policy setbacks by ordering U.S. troops to the brink of battle. No pretense is even made of consulting Congress, which under the Constitution has the sole power to involve the U.S. in war, let alone consulting the sentiment of the American people. The dispatch of GIs to Thailand, and possibly into the civil war in Laos, as with America's undeclared war in South Vietnam, was solely on Kennedy's say-so.

The occasion for this brinkmanship was a military reverse suffered by right-wing forces in Laos. These military forces were built up at vast expense by the U.S. Their leaders, Gen. Phoumi Nosavan and his political front man, Prince Boun Oum, were handpicked by U.S. military and CIA officials who had big plans for Laos because it borders China and North Vietnam.

Despite lavish U.S. financial aid, the corrupt and reactionary rightist regime could win no support among the Laotian people. A revolt of its own troops in August 1960 brought in "neutralist" Premier Souvanna Phouma. Supported by the U.S. and his uncle, the dictator of Thailand, Gen. Phoumi began a civil war to restore a rightist regime headed by Boun Oum. But the neutralist forces were supported by the leftist Pathet Lao and by the spring of 1961 the rightist army faced

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### Red-Baiters Assail Food-to-China Plan

The Kansas Freedom From Hunger Committee advocates sending surplus U.S. food to China and other countries suffering serious shortages. It is circulating petitions to this effect despite the Kennedy administration's refusal of export licenses even to businessmen wishing to sell wheat to China.

Those who founded the committee out of conscientious religious and humanitarian motives are harvesting a bumper crop of abuse and redbaiting.

Farmer Verne Cochran, a staunch Republican and Methodist, points to grain elevators and says it costs the government a million or two per day just to store the surpluses. "It is morally, I would even say criminally, wrong for us to be storing food when there are millions starving, and not only in Asia," he declares.

In Topeka another founder, Alice M. Huggins, former missionary teacher in China, says, "Just because JFK said, 'no can do,' that is not the last word. Why should we give up?"

Strongest opposition in the state has come from the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Hostile and insulting letters and postcards pour in, but also received from all over the U.S. are letters and cards expressing support.

### 8-Page Militant Fund

## A Promotion for the General

By Marvel Scholl  
Fund Drive Director

I want to call your attention to a tradition-breaking circumstance — the position of the "general" category in this week's scoreboard. Previously we have always put "general" at the bottom of the list, no matter how much money came in for it. This time we decided to give it its proper place in the sun — wherever its amount entitled it to be in the percentage column.

This puts "general" ahead of Los Angeles, Seattle, Cleveland and Philadelphia!

This week we would like to acknowledge contributions from several good friends. E. H. sent along a token donation with this fine letter: "I am trying to live on a small pension and don't have the money I'd like to buy good reading matter with . . . I do hope the folks who have the money will donate to help bring the facts to us."

B. A. of Anaheim, Calif., sent a second contribution in answer to a thank-you note, and says: ". . . I

would like so much to have a larger paper. I am enclosing another \$5 to help along . . . I wish it could be more but as I explained before, I live on a small fixed income, and am in my seventies."

B. D. of Alameda, Calif., says: ". . . Seems as tho the progressive forces are always just one jump ahead of being snowed under, but still they make it!"

We also got donations for the 8-Page Fund from C.R.A., Tucson, Ariz.; C.M., Sausalito, Calif.; M. S. C., Nescopock, Pa.; E. A., Iowa City, Ia.; R. D. F. of Minneapolis, and G. T. of St. Paul, Minnesota; C. T. of Fond du Lac, Wis., and J.B. of Plentywood, Montana.

As you can see all these contributions swelled "general" to \$156, or 29 per cent of "our" quota. Come on, General!

You can send your contribution to 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

See scoreboard on Page 3.

# L.A. Negro Community Unites In Defense of Black Muslims

By Lois Saunders

LOS ANGELES, May 12 — The police shooting of unarmed Muslims April 27 has created the sharpest division ever witnessed here between the Negro community and the city authorities.

Immediately after the shooting, in which one man was killed and six others wounded, Police Chief William H. Parker issued statements blaming the Black Muslims, in an obvious attempt to deprive them of community support.

As it became apparent that this maneuver was failing, city authorities extended their fire to the local branch of the NAACP and other groups accusing the police of brutality.

Coming in for special criticism is Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, who told his press conference last Wednesday that he is "100 per cent behind Chief Parker." In last year's elections, Negroes gave impressive support to Yorty, largely because they believed he would "do something" about police brutality.

Indicating his administration intends to use the shooting as an excuse for trying to smash the local Muslim movement — and to show the Negro community who is boss — Mayor Yorty said he plans to ask Attorney General Robert Kennedy to place the Muslims on the subversive list. Such a listing, he reportedly stated, would enable police to take drastic measures, close down Muslim meeting places, seize their literature and force a curtailment of their activities.

The mayor also scored local NAACP officials for branding the shooting an extreme example of police brutality and said the demand for a Police Review Board to investigate charges against police officers is "Communist inspired."

After the shooting, 17 Muslims, including the six wounded, were arrested and charged with assault with intent to commit murder. These charges have now been reduced to assault with intent to commit great bodily harm, but may again be modified following a grand jury hearing scheduled for May 15.

MAY 13 — An outpouring of 3,000 Negroes, filling the Second Baptist Church to overflowing, gave notice here today that the Negro community is resolved to call a halt to the Gestapo-like police terror rampant in minority areas here.

The rally, called by Negro leaders, emphatically gave the lie to statements by Mayor Yorty and



Malcolm X

his police chief, Parker, that the Negro community is divided about support of the unarmed Black Muslims who were shot down in an unprovoked assault April 27.

The meeting passed unanimous resolutions condemning police brutality in Los Angeles and calling for investigations of the police department by local, state and national bodies.

Learning of the presence in its midst of Malcolm X, a national leader of the Muslims, the audience called him to the speaker's stand. He urged solidarity of Negro, Mexican-American and other minority groups to combat police terror. "Today, it is our temple," Malcolm X warned, "but tomorrow it will be your churches, your lodges and your synagogues."

A collection of more than \$900 was taken for the purpose of continuing the action begun by today's meeting. Another mass rally, called by the Muslims, will be held May 20.

## 250 Rights-Fighters Attend SNCC Conference in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Ga., May 4 — Over 250 persons from 22 states attended the third conference of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee here April 27-29.

The interracial meeting, called by SNCC to inform student sit-in leaders of new methods and techniques to use in fighting segregation, was held on the campus of the Interdenominational Theological Center. All of the major civil-rights organizations and student protest centers throughout the South were represented.

The three-day meeting concentrated on giving Southern student leaders training in several aspects of the direct-action protest against segregation. Many of the students who attended have been deeply involved in the Southern protest movement. Several have dropped out of school to devote more time to the fight against segregation, and most had been jailed at least once because of their participation in the civil-rights fight.

A highlight of the meeting was a discussion of "Legal Rights and

## House Red-Hunters Open New Probe of 'Dangerous' Books

House Un-American Activities Committee witch hunters are currently conducting hearings about "dangerous" literature imported from abroad. A number of people who either publish or import books, periodicals and journals of a literary, political or scientific nature are being summoned to Washington by the HUAC inquisitors.

The New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee on May 14 protested the most recent subpoenas, declaring: "The subpoenas obviously are intended to cast an aura of illegitimacy over these publications in order to discourage the American people from reading and learning about developments in the Soviet Union, China and other foreign countries. . . . Yet the subpoenaed persons not only have a right under the Constitution to do what they are doing, but perform a necessary function for an informed society."

### Interference

"The New York Council to Abolish HUAC raises objections to these subpoenas because they constitute an interference by the committee with the right of the American people to purchase and read whatever they choose. The free exchange of ideas and opinions among all people is the essence of the First Amendment right of free speech and free press. The committee's attempt to suppress this right of the people is an unconstitutional effort to keep the people in ignorance and isolation."

The anti-HUAC body sees these hearings as an attempt to pressure the Senate into accepting the Cunningham amendment, already approved by the House of Representatives, banning scientific and other publications originating in Soviet-bloc countries from the U.S.

Possibilities" by Attorney Len Holt of Norfolk, Va. Holt aroused great interest in filing "omnibus suits," which aim at integrating all facilities in one locale, rather than attacking segregation in such places in single and more expensive suits.

SNCC Chairman Charles McDew, in his remarks opening the conference, warned the students that "we forget too soon" the jailings and beatings that many civil-rights fighters endure. McDew said that students must rededicate themselves to ending segregation in America.

During the closing session of the Conference, Ruby Doris Smith of Atlanta, John Lewis of Nashville, and William Mahoney of Washington, D.C., were elected members-at-large to the SNCC Executive Committee.

Five arrests marked the otherwise peaceful assembly. James Forman, SNCC Executive Secretary; Peter Countryman, Executive Secretary of the Northern Student Movement Coordinating Committee; and Edward Hollander of Philadelphia were arrested in Atlanta while they watched a student-manned picket line before a segregated Atlanta hotel. SNCC Field Secretary Robert Zellner was arrested in Talladega, Ala., while enroute to the conference, and is being held on \$2,500 bail on "conspiracy" charges. While driving from Atlanta to Birmingham after the meeting closed, a Negro delegate was arrested twice in Marietta, Ga., after police saw a white girl in his car. The Birmingham bound group later integrated the Marietta bus station for the first time.

## Our Editor on Tour Young Stockholder Challenges Hansen

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Under the auspices of the Indiana University Fair Play for Cuba Chapter 150 people listened attentively to Joseph Hansen's eyewitness report of conditions in Latin America. Very often students find documented material and economic terms very dull, but *The Militant* editor kept the students alert and laughing with his irony and rejoinders to hostile questions.

Hansen's factual presentation of the problems in Latin America, their causes and the impact of the Cuban Revolution swayed many students who were doubtful.

### Citizen?

During the question and discussion part of the meeting, some right-wing students attempted to tear down Hansen's report. One student asked whether or not he was a citizen of the United States; if so, would he defend the U.S. against Cuba militarily and otherwise.

The speaker replied that as a native son of Utah he thought it ludicrous to consider Cuba a military threat to the U.S. Cuba's challenge is in the sphere of ideas. So far as a military threat is concerned it is the other way around, as proved by the counter-revolutionary military invasion of Cuba under White House auspices last year. In that instance he stood on Cuba's side and will do so again in similar circumstances.

To another student who asked about missile bases in Cuba, Hansen said that such propaganda is aimed at the "missile-base-pad mind." This is the type that reduces all the world's problems to pads from which nuclear missiles might be aimed. But the Pentagon now admits that Cuba has no missile pads. So by this logic it is quite clear that Cuba is not an enemy country.

A professor who teaches Spanish in the university said that Hansen's report was biased since he had not analyzed the situation in Mexico which is a stable country. The professor claimed there is no poverty or begging in Mexico, no slums on the outskirts of Mexico City.

Hansen responded by admitting that Mexico has been relatively stable but that this stage now appears to be coming to a close. He told about peasant movements

again on the rise in Mexico and insisted that the bulk of the population lives in extreme poverty, a condition they no longer wish to endure.

Another right winger said that the invasion of Cuba was legitimate and sanctified. As a holder of 100 shares of oil stock in Venezuela, he felt that the U.S. government should protect Americans who risked their capital. He made a series of similar points.

Hansen congratulated the right winger on his defense of American investments abroad and said that never having been a coupon clipper himself, he hadn't realized 100 shares of oil stock could give a person such eloquence. But he thought it was a disservice to the country to advocate intervention to protect him. He pointed out that the president does not have legal warmaking powers, yet the White House organized the invasion of Cuba behind the backs of the people, breaking laws and treaties in the process. During the election campaign Nixon deliberately lied about the invasion plans. And Kennedy ordered the invasion without consulting Congress, still less the American people.

### Too Much

When Hansen said that Nixon had lied, the holder of 100 shares of oil stock couldn't take it. Very demonstratively he got up and stalked out.

The speaker, in continuing, pointed out that this type of right-wing thinking, this effort to justify the military invasion of other countries is a very unhealthy sign among many youth and adults alike in this country. It smacks of the ideology of fascism. This got a lot of applause from the audience.

About 30 came up to the speaker's stand after the meeting. Most of them were pro-Cuba, but had not asked questions during the meeting because they wanted to see the right wing set in proper perspective. They liked the way this had been done by Hansen. Now they wanted to know about some of the fine points, or they wanted further information about Cuba and about the Peronist movement in Argentina and so on.

An open house held afterwards for Hansen by some Young Socialist Alliance students was packed.

## ... U. S. Brinkmanship in Laos

(Continued from Page 1)

inevitable defeat. At this point Kennedy and Khrushchev in Vienna (June 1961) made a deal providing a cease-fire in Laos and a coalition of all parties with neutralist Souvanna Phouma as premier.

Though accepting the cease-fire, the rightists balked for over a year at forming a coalition government. Officially the U.S. deplored its puppets' "stubbornness." Liberals complained that the State Department spent the days talking Gen. Phoumi and Boun Oum into being reasonable, while U.S. military and CIA advisers spent the nights talking them out of it. But this was a calculated policy to delay settlement rather than a case of uncontrollable factionalism within the Kennedy administration.

The use of the great delay may be gleaned from these editorial remarks in the conservative *Christian Science Monitor*: (May 1) "And American military advisers, who have been at work on Gen. Phoumi's forces, have been telling American reporters they now think they could defeat the Communists"; (May 5) "And more disconcerting, while the delay continues month after month, American military officers are continuing the build-up of pro-

Western forces. They are especially training Meo tribesmen as guerrillas operating up north behind the Communist-held and neutralist-held areas."

On May 7, the Pathet Lao provoked by the build-ups — which violate the cease-fire terms — attacked Nam Tha, a northern city being heavily reinforced. The rightist army broke and kept running till by May 11 it had crossed the border into Thailand.

Contrary to international law, the dictator of Thailand is reorganizing the interned Laotian troops, planning to put them back over the border. A thousand U.S. troops already in Thailand are being moved towards the Laotian border and it is announced that 4,000 additional U.S. troops will also be sent north. The Thailand border there is only 100 miles from China. Nor must it ever be forgotten that it was the advance of U.S. troops towards the Chinese border which brought China's massive forces into the Korean war.

Washington claims Khrushchev is sticking by the Vienna deal and the mild Soviet protest against the U.S. dispatch of troops was solely a diplomatic formality. But what about the reactions of the people and governments in that part of the world — particularly China, North Vietnam and the people of Laos?

## Weekly Calendar

### DETROIT

Vietnam: America's "Dirty War" — Speaker, Daniel Rosenshine. Fri., May 25, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

### NEW YORK

CUBA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION! Meet James O'Connor and Marc Schleifer (just back). Refreshments at 7 p.m. International buffet and dancing from 9. Live entertainment, surprises and prizes. Sat., May 19, at 325 E. 17th St. Contrib. 99c. (students, 50c.) Supper, \$1. Ausp. Fair Play for Cuba Committee (OR 4-8295).

CUBA AND BOLIVIA — A Comparison of Two Revolutions. Speaker, Maurice Zeitlin, Princeton sociologist, author of ROOT AND BRANCH interview with Che Guevara. Mon., May 21, 8:30 p.m. Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Ave. Contrib. \$1 (students, 50c.). Ausp. Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Art, Politics and Civil Liberties in Cuba Today. A discussion with Marc Schleifer, author and editor of KULCHUR magazine, recently returned from extended visit to Cuba. Fri., May 25, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

## How Cuba Uprooted Race Discrimination

By Harry Ring

Introduction by  
Richard Gibson

16 pages 15 cents

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# THE MILITANT

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Monday, May 21, 1962

## Reopen the Hiss Case

More startling evidence has been uncovered in the case of Alger Hiss, the New Deal State Department official, whose perjury trial in 1949 put the witch-hunt hysteria in the U.S. into high gear. The case also boosted the career of Richard Nixon who became nationally prominent as one of Hiss' accusers.

Hiss was convicted of lying when he said he hadn't turned copies of government documents over to professional witness, Whittaker Chambers, who claimed to have been a Soviet agent. The key evidence was that copies of documents which Chambers said he had got from Hiss had apparently been typed on an old Woodstock typewriter which once had belonged to Hiss.

In appealing for a new trial, Hiss argued he was the victim of "forgery by typewriter," but the prosecution presented an affidavit that the FBI had never had the typewriter in its possession.

Former Vice-President Nixon's recent book, *Six Crises*, states that the FBI did have the typewriter at the time of Hiss' indictment. When this was pointed out, Nixon said his book was in error. Attorney General Kennedy said a review of FBI files "confirmed that the FBI never had possession of the disputed typewriter."

Now Hiss' attorneys have uncovered a statement in an official report of the House Un-American Activities Committee, dated Dec. 30, 1951, commending the FBI for having "located" the typewriter in gathering evidence for Hiss' prosecution.

Demands raised subsequent to the appearance of Nixon's book that Hiss' attorneys be allowed to inspect the minutes of the indicting grand jury's investigation, were refused. These and all other records pertaining to the case should now be made available not only to Hiss' attorneys but to the public. Otherwise suspicions that the FBI participated in a gigantic frame-up will justifiably grow.

## The Truth About TV

Senator Thomas J. Dodd, whose specialty is witch hunting persons holding radical or liberal political views, is now denouncing the TV networks because they show too much sex and violence in order to get higher viewer ratings. This is a truism but the situation will not be remedied by censorship or advice from dirty-minded politicians whose careers are based on promoting thought-control.

That mediocrity and dullness, punctured with violence, constitutes the usual TV fare is in good measure a result of the networks' blacklisting of so many talented people because of their radical or unorthodox political ideas. Now in New York former TV and radio entertainer, John Henry Faulk, whose career was destroyed by such blacklisting, is suing for damages from one of the blacklisting agencies, Aware, Inc.

Testifying at the trial to the ruthlessness, unfairness and moral cowardice of the networks and sponsors before the witch-hunters, are such figures as news commentator Charles Collingwood, actor Tony Randall and producer David Susskind. The latter told how in 1954, 1,500 actors, writers, directors and technicians had been blacklisted as "politically undesirable" by advertising agencies in charge of programs he produced. This was one-third of all those he tried to hire and it "made our programs artistically unworkable."

Here is a clear example of how "anti-communism" has undermined America's moral and cultural life. TV will have a better chance of improving when artists and entertainers are hired on the basis of ability and not on that brutal violation of individual freedom and artistic integrity — the political blacklist.

## Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
San Francisco	\$ 720	\$ 569	79
Pittsburgh	20	15	75
New York	5,700	3,702	68
Detroit	800	503	63
Boston	750	476	63
Milwaukee	320	210	63
Berkeley-Oakland	635	399	61
Connecticut	200	122	61
St. Louis	100	56	56
Twin Cities	1,500	810	54
Allentown	155	92	59
San Diego	360	180	50
Chicago	1,000	450	45
Newark	190	87	46
Denver	200	70	35
General	530	156	29
Los Angeles	6,300	1,661	26
Philadelphia	320	77	24
Seattle	600	103	17
Cleveland	600	70	12
Total through May 14	\$21,000	\$9,807	47

## Practically Equal Sacrifice

# Two-Tune Kennedy at the C of C and UAW

By Fred Halstead

Since the recent United Auto Workers convention, there is no doubt that UAW President Walter Reuther has become President John F. Kennedy's chief supporter within the labor movement and has embraced the administration as completely and uncritically as any major U.S. labor leader has ever associated himself with any federal regime.

The basic character of the horse to which Reuther has so firmly hitched his wagon was made clear by Kennedy himself in two major speeches. The first was delivered April 30 before the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the second before the UAW convention May 8.

Kennedy told the Chamber members:

"I do not think the record of our decisions, taken in totality, has been one to suggest that we are not responsive to the problems of big business . . . I expect to be able to point soon to more realistic income tax guidelines on the depreciable lives of business assets, and to the eight per cent tax credit for investment in equipment and machinery, which has been proposed . . ."

"And may I add at this point that when an administration has not hesitated to seek Taft-Hartley injunctions for national emergencies, has successfully urged moderation on the steelworkers and other unions, has expressed a firm and continuing opposition to the 25-hour week, or anything less than the 40-hour week, and has gone on record against featherbedding and racketeering and road blocks to automation, it surely does not need to be asked whether it will invoke the national interest whenever it believes it to be threatened."

### Concessions

These are real cash-on-the-barrelhead concessions and services to big business. The tax concessions directly increase corporation profits at the expense of the general public and the wage "restraint" services do the same at the expense of the workers.

By contrast, Kennedy's speech to the UAW is full of references to hope for full employment, but without any guarantees whatever. There is much flattery of Reuther and much emphasis on the "sense of public responsibility" of the UAW; but save for a promise of Social Security medical care for the aged, there is no cash-on-the-barrelhead for labor. (The medical care for the aged proposal is welcomed by workers, but it won't cost big business anything.)

The central theme of Kennedy's whole economic program is to improve the profit picture for U.S. investors. For Kennedy, as for the big business interests he represents, this is the mainspring of economic development, and the country's economic problems must be approached with the idea that profits are inviolable.

"This administration," Kennedy told the Chamber of Commerce,

"I can assure you, shares your concern about the cost profit squeeze of American business. We want prosperity and in a free enterprise system there can be no prosperity without profit. We want a growing economy and there can be no growth without the investment that is inspired and financed by profit."

His prescription for restoring full employment and a "growing economy" is to improve the profit picture in such a way that investments will increase, tend to stop flowing overseas at such a high rate, and will tend to concentrate in plant modernization.

For the members of the Chamber of Commerce, the profit motive — plus enough self-restraint to avoid embarrassing Kennedy while he's luring in the labor leaders — is enough. These "leaders of industry" are not expected to do anything for the economy unless they can enrich themselves

quite thoroughly in the process.

"If the United States is not competitive," said Kennedy before the UAW, "if the United States is not able to earn at least \$3 billion which we spend for national security commitments around the world, then what is the President of the United States to do? Keep pouring out gold? . . . Or begin to withdraw his defense commitments from the great arena of the struggle which is now taking place . . .?"

"I am confident," said Kennedy, urging aircraft workers not to ask for high wages, "that you will meet that obligation, exercising the restraint and the responsibility which will, in the end, reward you as it rewards the country . . ."

For the Chamber of Commerce, Kennedy offers profits; for the auto workers, flattery of the union leaders and an appeal to self-sacrifice in the interests of the cold war.

## ... Strikes in Spain and Portugal

(Continued from Page 1)

session called off a fishing trip he had been planning. He blamed Spanish language programs from Czechoslovakia for inciting the workers and complained that agitators from France and Italy were taking advantage of the labor problem to work against his government.

Students at the universities of Madrid and Barcelona continued to rally in support of the workers. Early in the week heavily armed police and tear gas units surrounded the Madrid campus to prevent continued demonstrations. Twenty-five students including an American, Alan Traister, were arrested and threatened with expulsion for "inciting to upset public order." In protest, 80 students went on a hunger strike and on May 10, 1,500 students rallied on the campus demanding the release of those arrested and the right to hold a general assembly within 48 hours. At the University of Barcelona 21 students were jailed for shouting "Down with Franco!"

Adding to the pressures against the regime, 24 prominent Spanish intellectuals published an open letter urging all writers, artists, etc., to petition Franco to inform the people of the strikers' grievances and to legalize strikes as the first steps toward full trade-union and press freedom.

### Church Speaks

By the end of the week even the official Roman Catholic weekly paper *Ecclesia*, the only uncensored paper in Spain, published an editorial chiding the government for its "lax and inefficient handling" of the strikes. This move by the consistently pro-Franco church apparently stems from a desire to disassociate itself from government policy in the event that the strike wave — the greatest since Franco took power — should topple the fascist regime.

The Associated Press on May

14 reported that Franco had ordered his officials to settle the strike without violence and to grant pay increases.

In Portugal, the May Day battle between rifle-shooting police and stone-throwing demonstrators was followed by the distribution of pamphlets calling for another demonstration. They were signed "Duarte," allegedly the alias of Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the underground Portuguese Communist Party. On the eve of May 8, workers marched from industrial areas to the center of Lisbon. According to government sources, police squads shot in the air and a woman was killed and several wounded by "stray bullets." Since that night, Portuguese troops and police guard the streets day and night. Nevertheless a new demonstration has been called for May 28, again protesting "fascism and the war in Angola."

### Hunger Strike

Students at the University of Lisbon have created another headache for Salazar. Eighty-five young men and women locked themselves in the school canteen on a hunger strike demanding pardons for student strikers arrested on April 7, International Students Day. At dawn on May 11, police swooped down on the campus and arrested 1,000 students and members of their families. Persuaded by a professor not to resist arrest, they were carried off to jail in special buses. Five thousand other students vowed to continue a boycott of classes as a "mourning" period for those arrested.

"This police action has settled nothing," a spokesman for the students told newsmen. "They have arrested some of our group but the determination to go on striking for educational freedom has not been broken." The following day the jailed students were released.

For a highly stimulating analysis of the sweeping political and social implications of the Cuban revolution, don't miss —

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—In a new chapter included in the third Mexican edition of *Listen, Yankee*, the late C. Wright Mills described Joseph Hansen as one of the few journalists whose "writings before the invasion made it possible for some people at least to make intelligent judgments about what was really going on."

## Special Offer To New Readers

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**"Deliberate Speed"****That Equal-Pay Bill 17 Years Later**

Unequal pay for women is "intolerable," "disgraceful" and "almost incredible." I learned this from the report of a hearing held in the Federal Courthouse, New York City, on a bill for equal pay now pending before Congress. Not quite incredible, because this bill has been before Congress every year since 1945. It was presumably introduced at that time as a gesture of gratitude toward the millions of women who worked in war plants during World War II.

At present, the average earnings of women are a little less than half those of men. In case you are under a misapprehension that there has been slow but steady progress, in 1939 women workers earned almost 60 per cent as much as men. Since then, women's wages have gone up but men's wages have risen even faster. It's the man who gets that promotion.

While only 22 of the 50 states have laws providing equal pay for women, these laws are part of the constitutions of the new nations of Asia, the six nations of the European common market, Mexico and Canada, which makes the United States sort of underdeveloped.

Since everyone is for this law and during the last presidential election, and many previous elections, it was in both the Democratic and Republican platforms, you may wonder why 17 years have passed and it is still pending before Congress.

But you will be happy to learn that President Kennedy himself has a good word to say for women. He says, "Let them work." After this he points out that most women who work need to work and adds that "a high proportion of women workers are in jobs more suitable to them than to men."

Do you know why the jobs women hold down are so suitable? The President doesn't mention this, but I think it's because the wages are so damn low it would be difficult to persuade a man to take the job. Most of the 24 million women workers are unskilled and unorganized — the sociologists call it "marginal."

There are several million Negro women who still scrub floors, cook

meals for other people and wash dirty clothes, for extremely modest pay. Their wages average only half those of white women, who in turn make less than half as much as men!

At the hearing, Eleanor Roosevelt said the low wages paid women are "rooted in psychological downgrading." Bette Davis, the film star, said "democracy bleeds a little each time those who champion it stand idly by in the face

of discrimination." To prove he wasn't standing idly by, Mayor Wagner of New York called the bill for equal wages "long overdue."

Personally, I am not so much worried about the psychological problem or bleeding democracy as I am about the rent. Landlords have always been for equality and charge exactly the same, regardless of sex.

Joyce Cowley

**The Pill Profiteers****Babies With Deformed Limbs**

Thalidomide appeared to be the greatest sleeping pill ever invented. It worked quickly and left no hangover.

Thalidomide has not been available in the U.S. Our Food and Drug Administration was "suspicious" of it.

So thalidomide's manufacturer — Wm. S. Merrell Co. of Cincinnati — sent its sleeping compound to West Germany and Britain. The pill has been widely sold there since 1958, by prescription.

Thalidomide was taken off the European market in November 1961. Why?

Several thousand babies of European mothers who took this sleeping pill — long "considered harmless" — were born deformed, with useless short stub-like arms and legs.

German estimates are that 3,500 to 5,000 babies with deformed arms or legs will be born by next August when the last of the mothers who had taken the drug will give birth. Britain estimates it will have 200 to 500 cases by August. A few cases have been reported from other countries, most of them instances in which travelers bought the sleeping pills in Europe.

This drug-caused deformation of babies "is the most ghastly thing you have ever seen," says Dr. Helen B. Taussig, Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital, who recently returned from a six-week inspection tour of German and British medical

centers. In the malformation, usually both arms fail to grow. Sometimes both legs. Sometimes both arms and legs.

Dr. Taussig appealed through a special session of the College of Physicians in Philadelphia for stricter federal regulations on the introduction of new drugs in this country. She insists that "This compound [thalidomide] could have passed our present drug laws."

The doctor is right. It isn't only in West Germany and Britain that harmful drugs have found their way to market.

According to the New York *Herald Tribune* of April 22 a drug, MER-20, was withdrawn recently from the U.S. market.

Over a period of more than three years 400,000 Americans took MER-20 in the hope that it would lower their blood and tissue cholesterol levels and maybe help them avoid coronary heart disease.

Reports now show that of those taking MER-20 some 4,000 have developed symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, itchiness, skin blemishes, falling hair and temporary vaginal bleeding, and perhaps cataracts over the eyes.

The manufacturer of MER-20 — Wm. S. Merrell Co., a division of Richardson-Merrell, Inc., of Cincinnati — in "voluntarily" withdrawing its drug from the market, said clinical experience "has raised the possibility of an unacceptable incidence of side effects."

Reba Aubrey

**It Was Reported in the Press**

**The American Way?** — Cleveland Probate Judge Leonard S. Frost denied an application by Mr. and Mrs. Merl H. Baker to adopt their two-year-old foster daughter. The child was placed with them by an adoption service a year and a half ago. Mr. Baker is Caucasian and Mrs. Baker is Japanese. Said the Judge: "There are five races, and if the good Lord had not intended it there would be but one." The Cleveland Civil Liberties Union announced May 12 it is studying joining the Baker's appeal of this outrageous decision.

**Where's Checkers?** — Another blast has been leveled against Richard Nixon for playing fast and loose with the truth. In a May 8 open letter to Caracas dailies, former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr. Oscar Garcia Velutini charged that Nixon's book, *Six Crises*, includes "distortion of facts" about his trip to Venezuela where he was stoned. Dr. Garcia denied he had told Nixon not to say his attackers were Communists because his government was afraid of antagonizing them. He had merely informed Nixon that it was impossible to substantiate such a charge.

**Thanks, But No Thanks** — "President Kennedy's appeal for 'non-inflationary' settlements brings this reaction from a Chicago carpenters' union leader: 'We have a very deep appreciation for the president's view, but

also a deep appreciation for the cost of living. We'll seek higher wages.'" — The May 10 *Wall Street Journal*.

**Swelling the Palace Guard** — The House of Representatives approved a bill May 10 to add some 80 men to the 150-man White House police force. Lauding the measure, Rep. Gordon Scherer, one of HUAC's deep thinkers, pointed out that with all the picketing going on at the White House the present police force might not prove adequate if a riot erupted. Rep. Gross of Ohio commented that the reinforcements could be used for "protection of all-night twist parties."

**Don't Waste Time With Facts** — Charles H. Brower, president of the advertising firm of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborne, takes a dim view of U.S. cold-war propaganda. He criticized "the laudable but foolish belief that facts speak for themselves." He said that just to "tell people around the world the truth" does not necessarily mean they will react favorably to the U.S. To correct this situation he urged that Madison Avenue men be recruited to aid the U.S. propaganda effort.

**A Question** — Rev. James Keller wrote in the May 3 *New York Mirror*: "Two convicts gave an up-to-date explanation for digging a hole in their prison floor. When a guard caught them burrowing away they insisted they were

merely preparing a 'do-it-yourself' bomb shelter... The pair was quickly ordered to plug up the hole with the assurance that other measures would be taken to protect the prisoners in case of sudden attack. It is easy to slip into little deceptions, especially when confronted by embarrassing facts." Our question is: Does the last sentence refer to the prisoners or the guard?

**Modern Therapy** — According to a survey of 1,200 TV viewers by the center for the Study of Audience Reaction, 52% of those surveyed prefer to have the commercials interrupt the show rather than getting hit with them all at once. A spokesman for the pollsters deduced that many people find the commercial break therapeutic. "Viewing a TV show creates tension," he said, and the commercials "provide a restful break or change of pace from the tensions generated by the entertainment."

**Planners at Work** — "MIAMI BEACH, May 15 (CDN) — Two federal officials are working quietly at the U.S. Conference of Mayors here to make military rule of city, county and state governments unnecessary in case of nuclear attack. They are urging state and local governments to adopt laws and ordinances that would provide a legal basis for continuing civilian rule even if all elected officials were wiped out in an attack on any city, county or state."

**Letters From Our Readers**

For an 8-Pager

Michel, B.C., Canada  
Enclosed is \$3.50 to continue my subscription for one more year. I appreciate your paper very much for its sincerity and hope that in the near future you will be able to publish an eight-page issue each week. As a student I am unable to support you financially but I do hope that this subscription will help you publish eight pages each week.

M.B.

**The McCarran Act**

Lynwood, Calif.  
Because I am unemployed and have been for some time will you please keep my subscription active for the \$1 enclosed — and possibly soon I can subscribe for an entire year.

With reference to news I would like to see more of when you have a larger paper, I think the McCarran Act is something of importance to dwell on and urge action against it by anybody and everybody because it affects the future of all of us more I believe than many people are aware of.

I appreciate your news not only for your views and coverage but because I don't subscribe to any paper of mass circulation. This initial subscription to your paper was a gift.

F. L.

**Workers' Control**

Vancouver, Canada  
Workers in every country are used by the businessmen to do their work and fight their wars. Workers should have the right in every place of business to elect by secret ballot their own representative.

Such representatives would give the workers the control they need to obtain the same economic and political rights the business people have.

Workers have union leaders, good and bad, who have helped a little for skilled and young workers. But the union movement does not grow up. Workers need representatives, elected by secret ballot, to give them a true voice.

G. Yegerman

**Solid Supporter**

San Francisco, Calif.  
Could you please send me a subscription blank. I'm a former subscriber but had to let the subscription run out when I became unemployed. I'm still unemployed so I'm sorry I can't be a donator to your fund. But maybe in the future I will be able to give more support to *The Militant*.

I think it's a great paper and the only one in S.F. that I'm willing to have in the house regularly.

A.Z.

**Pumping Out Profits**

Minneapolis, Minn.  
The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey recently published, supplementary to their 1961 annual report, a ten-year summary of the company's operations. Noting with interest the rather important aspects of this ten-year report, I drew a graph representing them.

Production has risen quite rapidly, notwithstanding the slight decline of 1958, to 2,744,000 barrels per day.

Profits, as their own figures show, have grown much faster; \$541 million in 1952 to \$758 in 1961.

The employment figures, however, show a definite and almost steady decline over the same period. Whereas production has increased by 915,000 barrels per day and profit has increased \$217 million a year, the company employed 21,000 less men in 1961 than in 1952.

This has meant an increase in

production per man from 11½ barrels per day in 1952 to over 20 barrels per day in 1961.

No wonder that the Esso Corp., like so many other capitalist "enterprises," has been able to increase its profit grab per man from \$3,424 per year in 1952 to \$5,532 per year in 1961. Their own figures clearly indicate their attitude toward the working class in general and their own employees in specific.

While these capitalists continue to increase production and steadily raise their profit margin, the ranks of the unemployed grow longer and the exploitation of those workers with jobs grows increasingly worse.

It would seem to me that the only solution to this problem lies in a necessarily concerted and clear-cut demand by the workers for a 30-hour work week with 40 hours pay. This would help to assure workers of a better chance for employment and give some of the benefits of automation to those who deserve them; the workers who produce the wealth.

Automation, before it actually became a reality, was heralded as an advance for mankind. Thus far, however, it has only served to fulfill the greedy ambitions of those who own the machines. It is time that the rewards of technological progress are paid to those who do the work of producing; and not to those who take unfair advantage of them.

J.K.

**Spirit of '76**

Santa Cruz, Calif.  
Labor unions are held back by their misleaders from moving toward a really democratically controlled union where any member could discuss any "ism" that affects his wages and/or social situation. Attempts at getting a labor party prove how even a stepping stone toward a better economic and political life in a union are squashed. I've had my own experiences with this.

Students coming out of college can't eat their diplomas and they may have to join the one million or more now on "welfare" relief or maybe join the military to eat.

Millions of Negroes and other minorities are being abused worse than under chattel slavery, and the "owning" class living like kings!

What a picture, and what an opportunity to become real Americans like we had in 1776.

H.C.B.

**The Need for Solidarity**

Minneapolis, Minn.  
Enclosed is a check for \$5, of which \$3 is to renew my subscription and the remaining two dollars to help in the expansion of your enlightening paper.

I do not belong to the Socialist Workers Party or any other socialist party for that matter, because I wish to stay independent of any given party lines. However, I find your paper a necessity for getting "the other side," which is seldom, if ever, printed in the commercial press. Many an eye has been opened on various issues when I tell of facts found in *The Militant*.

Will the United States ever see the day when the Left is unified compared to the rising Right here. It seems to me that socialist feuds separate those of similar politics and merely diffuse their opinions, thereby serving only as a safety valve, and of no real, practical use at a time when it is so very much needed. Modern politics show there is no substitute for solidarity.

D.F.

P.S. I'd like to see more on the issue of censorship of all forms here in one of your coming issues.

**Thought for the Week**

"Maybe that's because public assistance recipients don't bite." — Explanation offered by Herb Fowler, information officer for the State Department of Social Welfare, on why California social workers are paid less than dog catchers.