

# Dear Editor

## LETTERS FROM READERS

The views expressed in the letters printed below do not necessarily reflect our own. However we are glad to present their opinions and invite others to write to this column.

### Piccards Shouldn't Make Union Policy

GARY, INDIANA

To the Editor of the Worker:

In the May 20th Sunday Worker, there appeared a letter mailed from Gary and signed by a W. S. He is quite critical of the steel supplement written by Andy Onda, an educated miner and steel worker, now disabled, but still the same militant worker he always was.

As I understand Onda's article, he does not urge the steel workers to make G.A.W. or S.W.B. the main demand. He says the steel workers and their union are making it their main demand. Read it again W.S.

Onda must have made quite a study of the steel industry to come up with the facts and figures used. They are all true and they are medicine for a steel worker.

Onda is wrong if he thinks rank and file steel workers have much to do yet with influencing David MacDonald's policy. MacDonald must move because other unions have already moved in that direction. He appoints over 800 International Representatives who go into the locals and lay down the law to the Executive Boards, telling them what to do and how to put it over in the locals, is an example of the power he wields over the membership. In many cases, they fail because the rank and file do not go along.

W. S. gives president MacDonald much credit for "Operation Sound-off," trying to picture him as democratic president, which is hog-wash. W. S. says "Operation Sound-off" was attended by several hundred steel workers. The Wage Policy Committee alone is 175 and two thirds of those present were pie cards who never got their hands dirty in a steel mill, just as MacDonald never got his dirty at all.

As to giving more time to think and act on this program, I know what is uppermost in the minds of most steel workers: to restore the union to its former strength in settling grievances, and for Saturday and Sunday premium pay.

To say that Onda has no right to express any opinions on steel workers' problems is also hog wash. What do the Republican and Democratic parties want. They want our votes at election time. Onda, a Communist, is writing from the bottom of his heart in the true interest of the steel workers, not because he's aspiring for political office or to become a pie card. I suppose a brilliant man like W. S. knows what has always been called a piccard—one who carries a union card to advance his own interest financially or politically.

I assume W. S. believes in decent unionism. But when a clique bosses or tries to boss the rank and file membership, that union is on the road to the same bureaucracy as existed in the tiny AFL before the CIO. To close our eyes to facts that members of local election committees have been threatened, coerced and assaulted at polling places and money from special organizing funds have been used to influence local unions is poor unionism and hinders the struggles against the corporations is wrong, in my opinion.

The speed-up Onda writes about is there. The steel companies' drive for greater profits is shortening the life and working ability of many steel workers. Maybe not many steel workers will read Onda's message. But those who will, will surely long remember it and be guided by it in their actions.

W.S.'s letter sounds as though it was written by one of the union piccards. Steel workers never get such facts out of Steel Labor

or any of the commercial press. W. S. speaks of "foolish nonsense." The inference is that the whole thing is nonsense. But he lauds the program of MacDonald; he says it looks like it is going to be good. Sure, S. W. B., an increase in wages, improvements in insurance, and premium time for Saturday and Sunday are demands worth fighting for. But the issue of premium pay has been fiddled away over some years. The industry was organized sufficient to have gained it long ago. But the Steel Trusts will battle us to bitter end to keep from giving it.

The trusts will give a little improvement here and there, as long as they can increase the man hour production by piling more work on men and making bigger profits. Not much gains are made by getting a small wage increase or halfway insurance benefits at the expense of union strength at grievance level.

Also let me mention that the Wage and Policy Committee has little to do with making a contract. After they have met and listened to lots of speeches, the negotiations are carried on by local presidents plus International Representatives. In the last negotiations, David MacDonald took over and negotiated alone with U. S. which usually sets the pattern. And the Wage Policy Committee or the local unions have little opportunity to voice objections after the contract is agreed to.

—STEEL WORKER

### Communists Can Share The American Dream

Dear Editors:

I read Joe North's article on teachers and teaching in Sunday's Worker and I wanted to cry. Up until two years ago which was my last official contact with youth, we were discouraging our youth from going to college at all, let alone becoming teachers, or engineers or writers. Even ten years ago when I was in college it took a lot of will power to be able to resist the pressure of the leadership and finish college and go into one of the professions. The shops were where we belonged we were told, as if that only was going to bring the workers closer to the left.

In reevaluating our political and theoretical policies of the past, not only is a reevaluation of our policies toward youth in order, but to people in general. I speak now not of those hundreds of thousands we've driven away from the party by our excessive demands, our insults and

denunciations, but of those who have remained and who have been stifled and frustrated as people. I speak of the comrades whose loyalty and devotion was so great that they have unnecessarily deprived themselves and been deprived of a chance of fulfillment of personal desires, talents, ambitions and even friendships. Those who did not paint that picture or have another child or build a close family relationship or even interfere with their duties as Communists or it just wasn't the thing to do.

How can we know what the American people are like when we have not permitted our own people to live and work and dream the way the rest of the American people do? There is a difference in my mind between a Party of would be professional revolutionaries and Communists who at the same time are one with the best in the people and yet conscious of the future and how to achieve it.

I would also like to add my voice to those who feel a change in leadership on all levels is necessary. I don't feel that a leadership which has permitted these things and has worked in bureaucratic ways can possibly change over night. Especially since there has been very little evidence of such a change in the last few months. I am confident that we can build a party where in fact our comrades are treated as precious jewels they are.

—BROOKLYN HOUSEWIFE

### Ways to Convince A Smith Act Jury

Dear Joe North and Ben Levine:

Your columns in the Sunday Worker encouraged me to write.

Majority of letters printed in our paper are about the 20th Congress. The theories and discussions are important but not as important as the Smith Act trials facing us today. In all the juries that have brought in decisions, there was not one person that held out for acquittal. Why?

With due respect to the able lawyers, they couldn't move the juries.

Now, what I would like to suggest that people like myself sometime have ideas that could influence human beings.

For instance on this force and violence business, how could you have force and violence without premeditated training physically and materially for it. Let them prove where and with what we are going to use force and violence.

Well, ideas, Christ planted ideas too, who got hurt?

In a recent interview Ed Morrow had with African leaders, he asked if there were any Communists and the reply was "no,



'IT'LL BE ALL OVER IN A SECOND AND IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN STARVING SLOWLY FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS'

but the influence is there." It is not communist influence and never was, it is the evolution and revolution of the earth which brings this about. It may be slow but it will get there in one year or 1,000 years, whether anybody likes it or not. With the earth's progress Marxist theory will outlive its usefulness too. Maybe communists are more eager for it to happen faster, so they plant seeds and nurse it so it will grow faster.

I know you can not charge a jury in these words, but you must appeal to the American public.

I hope that in some way we could get these juries to understand us.

Reader.

### Housework Articles Told Middle Class Woes

Dear Editor:

A reply to Elizabeth Lawson's article, "A 100-hour Week": If you want to prove that socialism will free women from household drudgery eventually, do it correctly, not based on statistics that are in direct contradiction to any working woman's experience or to any working class housewife's.

Washing machines not only save muscular strain (which you wouldn't minimize so easily if you had ever washed a week's laundry by hand) but add driers, freezers and sewing machines and then compare the routine of a mother with three children today with that of a mother of the last generation.

Then, the laundry was all done by hand (working class wives didn't and still don't have the alternative of giving it out). Every load of wash had to be hung up and taken down (at the mercy of the weather, of course, whether it hung for two or three days). Because she had to use an ice box, food spoiled, so she had to go marketing three or four a week—not just weekly or bi-monthly as we can do now. She never had time for PTA meetings, community activities, let alone political work.

There is still one aspect of women's lives that no appliance has yet helped: both generations of mothers have to stay home and take care of the kids, although today we know what it is to get a babysitter and go out occasionally.

When women are forced to help solve financial problems, only then is there agreement to their going out to work; and the first dream becomes to get out of debt, and the second to buy one of these "traps"—a labor-saving appliance.

Yes, I think the middle class women may be suffering from these appliances, because the same capitalist ideology that existed in the last generation is still operating now—to keep the

women in the kitchen. Their husbands encourage them to do things at home rather than give it out or hire someone to come in and do it.

Working women didn't and still don't give it out. Working class housewives do not whip up pies or desserts to store away in the freezer for some future party, but rather watch for sales on meat and frozen vegetables so that a few pennies can be saved from the regular prices.

I don't think this type of article, which cries about the woes of the middle class women, should be given space in a paper like ours, which has so much more important material to print, of concern to a much larger group of women than this article pleads for. There are plenty of other publications pleading the cause of the middle class.

—MRS. B. (Mother of 3)

### The Wisconsin GOP Cleavage

MILWAUKEE, Wis.

Dear Editor:

We understand the requirements of space compelled the condensing of our story on the state Republican convention in your June 3 issue, however, in doing the job, one statement was included by the staff that might not turn out to be accurate. Your version of the story stated that Wiley could count for support from Gov. Kohler and the state officers of the Republican Party who had opposed Catlin and were trying to get support for Wiley's endorsement by the convention. While making note of the cleavage in the Republican Party before and at the convention, we do not draw such a conclusion, although it is not out of the realm of possibility.

It is one thing for these men to take a position against Catlin and for Wiley before the convention and even at the convention, but I doubt that they will actually go so far as to defy the convention decision—some of these forces may actually accept the decision to support Davis, while others will at best sit this contest out—the senatorial primary contest—that is. The stand they take will be determined in part to the kind of reaction to the issues of this contest that develop from Republican ranks and other sections, of the electorate.—S.C.E.



'NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR JOB, PERKINS, I HAVE SOMEONE ON YOUR MACHINE ALREADY!'

