			LABOR ACTION Independent Socialist Weekly						
		Czech CP Told To Toe Line — Or Else  By GORDON HASKELL  The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is moving ahead to complete Russification. No Czecor Slovakian Stalinist is to be spared who at any time has show the slightest tendency to criticize the Russian masters.  Vladimir Clementis, until recently foreign minister, will fin no mercy, regardless of his recent confession of "error." This was	Times' Chi	Contraction Contra					

LABOR AND THE FAIR DEAL: 'We Can Take Care of Enemies but—' ...page 6

Whitsuntide Rally:Inflated Threat? ... Editorial & World Politics Co., page 4

Truman's Formula for 'Prosperity'

Dismantling: Roots of the Tragedy

delivered to the closing session of the congress of the Slovak branch of the party.

Only complete, lifelong, unthinking subservience to Stalin can qualify any Czech or Slovak for high political office. Listen to Siroky speaking, with reference to Clementis:

"But to fail in 1939 when the non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Germany was concluded was to lose faith in the Soviet Union, It means that Comrade Clementis lost his faith in Stalin. But a Communist must have unconditional faith in the Soviet Union and in the Great Stalin in every situation and under all circumstances."

But in this same speech Siroky himself made a further statement which may, one day, be used against him. In an attack on Smidke, leader of the Slovak branch, Siroky stated that Smidke had not been charged with bourgeois nationalism "only because he is of school in Moscow and because the party made a great investment in

That is pretty serious talk for a Stalinist inquisitor. Of course everyone understands that if poor Smidke were, in fact, to be charged with bourgeois nationalism, all the above-mentioned investment would have to be buried either in the salt mines or under six feet of Czechoslovak soil. There's no getting around that in

Stalinland. But at the same time Siroky can be charged with lack of faith in has thus buried hundreds of graduates of the Lenin school and who times also known as the Great stands in the way of their aspira-Liquidator.

### Smith and McCarthy

Gerald L. K. (Kiss - of - Death) Smith has given the accolade to ington Exposed by Sen. McCar-

# ntract Victory at s a Turning Point

# , Asia

U. S. government is increasing rapidly abroad. As arrogant rulers over foreign nations, as the rich man who is willing to help his poor relatives only if they do as he says, as a prop for reactionary governments without support or influence in their own countries, the American government is stimulatina hatred everywhere.

The above is the main conclusion of an article appearing in the New York Times for May 31 by C. L. Sulzberger, its chief foreign correspondent.

These feelings of dislike and resentment, he says, are not merely the product of the constant and powerful Stalinist propaganda barrage, as so many apologists have claimed. Rather the Stalinist ideological offensive against the United States, which is to be sure made in the interests of the Kremlin totalitarians, is effective because America's role throughout the world is felt by both the common people and even by the was graduated from the Lenin ruling groups in much of Asia of truth in its description of tionary and imperialist.

Sulzberger draws an instructive parallel between the feelings of masses of the people of the world towards British imperialism during the heyday of the British Empire and their feelings towards the United States now. The British Empire during the last two centuries was powerful, arrogant and hated. Throughout the Far East America is assuming more and more the role which the methods of the Russian GPU a weakened Britain has been and its Great Inspirer, Stalin, who forced to abandon. The peoples of the East, struggling for their independence, both political and has cashed in the checks on so economic, from the industrialized many similar investments of the nations of the West, feel more Russian party that he is some- and more that American policy

### OCCUPATION IS HATED

Under one guise or another Americans are an occupying power in Western Germany, Austria, Trieste, Okinawa and Japan. Senator McCarthy. The would-be They live in requisitioned houses fascist fuehrer filed with a Senate and hotels, work in requisitioned subcommittee a pamphlet he has offices, eat in restaurants and Spain, in a Franco Falangist newswritten entitled "Treason in Wash- clubs which are off limits for the paper, which, says the AJC presi-

Dislike for Americans and the face of the impoverished people. And the racial prejudices so widespread among the military personnel is a special irritant among the peoples of the East.

Everywhere they demand that the national governments line up with America in the cold war as the price of economic aid. In India and other Eastern countries, and increasingly in Western Germany and even in France, neither the ruling classes nor the common people are convinced that their best interests will be served by joining the American war camp. Sentiment for neutrality is strong and growing. It is Sulzberger who gives us to under-

stand this. One of the chief complaints in Asia is against American support for completely discredited ruling classes. This led to the disaster for American policy in China, and is well on the way to leading to a similar disaster in Indo-China as well. Even the anti-

(Turn to last page)

### **But 5-Year Feature Dangerous**

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT, Mich, May 27-A turning point in UAW-CIO history was marked by the extraordinary contract signed last week by General Motors and the union, which directly affects 275,000 workers. The contract, an unexpected and welcome victory, may best be understood if analyzed from the standpoint of (1) the circumstances in which the contract was negotiated; (2) its immediate effects; (3) and the long range implications and ramifications.

The peace pact came at a time when GM workers were in a conservative mood, due partly to the dread of another long strike. The Chrysler 100-day strike served to remind them of the 1946 walk-out of 113 days. No one relished the idea of a long strike and major sacrifices for the thin results of the Chrysler settlement. The GM workers lacked confidence in the Reuther leadership to get much more. In many locals, especially in the Flint-Saginaw area, anti-Reuther groups had won union elections.

For the Reuther leadership, the GM settlement came at moment when its prestige was ebbing rapidly, it wasn't too sure of what events might occur in the next period, and it faced an unfavorable public press hitherto unknown in its 4 years of rule of the UAW-CIO. Critics as far apart as the New York Times and the Daily Worker ridiculed Reuther's claim of a "tremendous victory" at Chrysler. Within the union, the bitterness and confusion over the Chrysler strike was evident to all. As for the Toledo story.

the invitation of Ford Local 600 to both Richard Gosser, UAW vice president, and his critics, to appear before the largest local union in the world to tell their side, indicates how deeply suspicion has permeated the union ranks. The committee headed by Emil Mazey. secretary-treasurer, simply hasn't the prestige to sell its verdict to

## Labor Zionists Here For New Labor Party

May 28, at the convention of the Labor Zionist Organizations of America in Boston.

Mendel Kochanski, vice - chairman of the New York Council, presented this proposal in the report of the organization's National American Affairs Committee.

"The growing participation of organized labor in the political life of the country and the consid-

### Anti-Semitism

The American Jewish Congress has denounced an article written by the Catholic Bishop of Teruel, people of the occupied countries. dent, is "virtually an exhortation They flout their wealth in the to religious war upon the Jews."

The setting up of a third party, erable successes achieved in that composed of the American Federa- field have demonstrated the postion of Labor, the Congress of In- sibility of an emergence of a labor dustrial Organizations and organ- party eventually, if not in the UAW FACED CRISIS ized liberal forces in the United nearest future," Kochanski said. labor support.



Both the UAW, as a whole, and States was proposed last Sunday, He attributed the failure of other the Reuther leadership, faced a progressive third - party move- deep-rooted crisis, at the critical ments to lack of a definite pro- stage of General Motors negotiagram and failure to attract full tions. For the Reuther leadership a settlement better than Chrysler or Ford became an imperative necessity, no matter what the mood of the ranks.

> General Motors likewise faced a dilemma. It was making fabulous profits with record-breaking production. The auto industry may well exceed the 8,000,000 total of vehicles produced in 1949! It could take on the UAW-CIO in a head-on fight like Chrysler and seek further to tame the union, even if it ended up with a settlement similar to, or perhaps a little better than the Chrysler pact.

> > (Turn to last page)

editors of the well-informed U. S. the cold war as a spigot; the other by the cold war-makers, American News & World Report ask and answer the question: Why is Truman so cocky about the prospects of continued II S prosperity?

Their answer is interesting. Truman, or rather the advisors upon whom he depends, has a formula, they say. It's been in operation for quite a while-it's not something projected for the fu-

U. S. prosperity is regulated by the cold war.

Here it is in their own words, in the telegraphic style affected in the magazine:

"Government planners figure they have found the magic formula for almost endless good times. They now are beginning to wonder if there may not be something in perpetual motion after

"The formula, as the planners figure it, can work this way: "Rising money supply, rising population are ingredients of good times. Cold war is the cata- By JOE HAUSER lyst. Cold war is an automatic pump primer. Turn a spigot, and the public clamors for more arms

"A little deflation, unemployment, signs of harder times, and the spigot is turned to the left. Money flows out, money supply rises, activity revives.

spending. Turn another, the cla-

"Good times come back, boom signs of shortages, speculation and the spigot is turned to the right. Cold war talk is eased. Economy is proposed. Money is tightened a little by tighter rein on government-guaranteed credit, by use of devices in other fields. Things tend to calm down, to stabilize.

"That's the formula in use. It's been working fairly well to date. ... Cold war demands, if fully exploited, are almost limitless...

"Coolidge era of the 1920s was an era of expanding private credit. It blew up when private creditors got frightened over excesses and ran for cover. Mr. Truman is told that the Truman era, based on public credit, can be longer lived, more stable, less subject to sudden upset."

It should be noted that there are two elements in the above theory. One is the element of the Fair

### Featherbeds

Featherbedding, the railroad union paper Labor points out, is ckay with the anti-labor crowd when it's the people who are the

At Tuscaloosa, Ala., the organized dentists blocked the city health department's plan to treat local school children's teeth with sodium fluoride to prevent decay. "Socialized medicine," they yelled. with sound teeth. At Charleston, W. Va., a 55-year-

tor called one hospital after another. Not one would take in this many workers would vote for "No emergency case: the "case" had no money and the doctor was not one of the insiders at the hospital. He finally got treatment at a veteran's hospital-being a war vet-

her in till the city health depart- voted for UE;, and runoffs will be ment promised to pay her bill.

to set up a marital relations counsel system such as is reported to have worked well in Detroit and other cities in the prevention of GM CONTRACT REACTION

is the objective connection between government cold-war spending and the present peculiar type

The former is the more shaky theory, of course; although it must be added that the National Council Against Conscription has also insistently pointed to the signs of a deliberate and systematic use of cold war scares, manipulated from Washington, to achieve adminis-

grounds are the intermingled comments indicating how, with or

economy depends on cold-war props. Professor Sumner Slichter some months ago demonstrated

plenty of cold war for all.

### OHIO LABOR NOTES

### General Electric Workers Vote For CIO Against Rival Union

CLEVELAND, May 29 - Last Thursday, General Electric workers here went to the polls to deermine their preference in union representation and, as in most other parts of the country, more workers chose the newly chartered IUE-CIO than the Stalinist controlled UE. Almost all the GE workers in this area were organized in the old UE Local 707, whose leadership consistently reflected the national party-liners.

About two years ago the pro-CIO opposition took over the local leadership, although their hold has not been too secure. In the recent split the local membership voted to join the IUE, and the Stalinists retorted with lawsuits and other forms of obstructionism. A long knock-down fight has led up to

The General Electric plants in or four separate areas and within each area there are different units and buildings. In what must have been a rather deliberate desire to make the situation as confusing as possible. GE succeeded in having the smallest possible groupings considered as units for the election purpose. Thus, while close to all the 3500 GE workers here are in the jurisdiction of Local 707. there were 23 units for representation purposes, with some units containing less than a dozen

In the pre-election campaign, UE poured in a large number of full-time organizers, and they seem to have concentrated on some of the smaller units. The local IUE leadership under President David Fitzmaurice carried on a pretty good campaign, holdsued by IUE national headquarters. There was so much intense old man suffered a stroke. His doc- factional fighting before the election that there was some fear that union." Actually there was surprisingly little of this vote, and a very high percentage did par-

ticipate. The following summary will give some idea of the strength of In the same city a woman was the two forces: twelve units conbleeding to death from a knife taining 1566 workers voted for wound. No hospital would take IUE, five units with 982 workers necessary in six units with 902 In Washington, D. C., the bar workers. The "popular" vote was association voted down a proposal approximately 1860 IUE, 1185 UE

divorce. The lawyers said it would Workers in the five General be "socialized law." And what's Motors plants in the Cleveland the good of being a lawyer if di- area were debating the merits of

probably not be revealed until local delegates return from the union's GM conference, enough was spelled out by the newspapers to enable some preliminary discussions. Most workers were as surprised as the general public at the sudden announcement, as all negotiations were conducted in secret, with no substantial reports being made to the locals.

The writer can only report on first-hand reactions at one plant here, the largest one. The first feeling was one of relief that there was no longer any danger of a strike: the Chrysler experience not desired. The pension plan, with the \$117 top exceeding the Ford and Chrysler plans, and the annual wage increases were received very well, as was the extra 40 hours' vacation pay for 15year employees. The fly in the cintment was the five-year contract and, to some extent, the escalator clause (the local pro-Stalinist leadership had conducted a steady propaganda drive on this issue since the signing of the 1948 contract).

It is true that many workers were willing to take the five years in turn for the concessions granted and some even expressed pleasure over the "stability" promised. Most of the more union-conscious workers were really concerned over the length of the new contract and were willing to oppose it on that basis. The membership will probably hear the full details and vote on ratification

The capitalist system, based as it is on scarcity, has to utilize its vast productivity for non-productive (indeed, destructive) ends like war goods for the same reason that cotton and pigs had to be plowed under during the Great Depression. That same productivity, in the hands of the people, could bring plenty for all. In the hands of the capitalist class it brings

It has been pointed out, how-

Local 12 is comprised of 125 units which total an estimated 30,-000 members. Upon the request of Lazette, Walter P. Reuther, president of the UAW, last week sent an investigating committee to the city to probe the disturbance. It was headed by Emil Mazey, UAW-CIO secretary- treasurer, and Edward Cote, co-director of Region TA of the UAW.

been presented no evidence of mishandling of funds by Gosser. Friday evening a membership meeting to air the dispute was held, after which the twelve striking office workers refused to return to their jobs in compliance with a resolution adopted by the gather-Toledo Scale Co. unit of the local, Reuther has granted.

### **Union Uprising over Gosser** Simmers in an Uneasy Peace

By JIMMIE LITTLE

DETROIT, May 27 - The UAW (CIO) intra-union uprising in Toledo has settled down into an uneasy peace. Both factions declared what amounted to an armed truce over the week-end.

The Toledo rebellion against Richard T. Gosser, a UAW vicepresident, began last week allegedly when twelve women office employees of the dues-collecting office of Local 12, second largest local in the UAW, left their jobs in protest of what they described "Gosser's dictatorial methods."

ever, that the action last week merely constituted the first open rebellion of Local 12 members as it has been pending since last year when John Bolman, a Local 12 member, brought three court suits against Gosser, the first being a petition for an injunction giving him the right to inspect the local's books; the second charging Gosser made huge profits by the mishandling of the local's funds; and the third to restrain Gosser from selling the Toledo Industrial Union Council Building, now occupied by that organization, which is headed by Richard L. Lazette and owned by the Local 12 hold-

Thursday evening Mazey is reported to have stated that they had Mazey was charged with "whitewashing" Gosser, and Harold Billheimer, chairman of the petitioned for a personal hearing of the issue by Reuther, which

Last Monday evening Billheimer and Carl Schick, chairman of the Dana Corporation unit of Local 12, were beaten by an assailant whom they identified as Orville Beemer, Ohio director of the CIO Political Action Committee, and a Gosser aide. Shick sustained a broken nose; Billheimer a black eye and bruises. Bolman, according to reports, was also hospital-

ized shortly after his initiation of the Gosser suits, as a result of beatings by what he charges were "Gosser goons."

JIM CROW HIRING

In a protest letter to the personnel managers of several Detroit plants. Edward M. Turner, president of the Detroit NAACP, declared that present employment practices indicate that discrimination is being practiced in the hiring of personnel. Mr. Turner's protest followed complaints lodged with the NAACP during the past week, some of whom reported that, at some plants, they were hiring as many as 300 applicants before they would hire a single Negro.

One applicant in telling his story to the NAACP declared that at one of the Briggs plants, 150 white men were hired to one Negro on Tuesday, May 16. On another day, 300 white men were hired before a single Negro applicant was hired, although there were hundreds of Negroes seeking employment. The complainant witnessed considerable discrimination at the Dodge plant, and at this plant Negroes were told that they were only rehiring old employees, yet a number of whites who had never worked there before were being employed. Reports indicate that white women are being hired at Chrysler while Negro women are being refused employment.

### Trends

Financial columnist Sylvia Porter spots a trend. The corporation executives are going out of their way, for the first time in their corporate lives, to be sweet to -their stockholders. General Electric recently threw "three wonderful parties" (chicken pattie lunch) for its coupon clippers: New York Central ran a special cut-rate train to Albany so that its stockholders could come to a meeting. Who said corporations don't have souls? All you've got to do is take stock in them Some, of course, are still unre-

generate. GM Chairman Sloan answered a request for making stockholders' meetings more accessible with: "I would rather have them [GM's officers] play golf than travel around the country to attend regional meetings." And American Tobacco's Chairman Riggio told his stockholders at a meeting that he was weary of their nonsensical questions and that they should come see him in his New York office if they want-

## Work Stoppage at Westinghouse Some Tuscaloosans suspect it's because there'll be fewer jobs for dentists if the children grow up

ESSINGTON, Pa., May 25 - A work stoppage from May 19 to May 24 here at the South Philadelphia works of the Westinghouse Corporation was a major the period of new contract negoby Local 107 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, independent, was part of general action taken against Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, in a fight to reinstitute the same type of grievance procedure as was in effect before the old contract expired on March 31.

New contract negotiations with both unions opened on Monday, vorce cases, one of the most prof- the new contract obtained by the May 22, even though the repreitable branches of the profession, UAW-CIO this week. While all the sentation issue at the East Pitts-

lations Board for June 1.

It is quite evident that the Westinghouse Corporation intends to factor in forcing the company to attempt to make heavy inroads accept a stewards system during into the gains previously made by Westinghouse workers. The comtiations. The local stoppage called pany's first move was to insist that all bargaining should be through a general committee, thus eliminating the stewards and chief stewards. At South Philadelphia Westinghouse by the UE and its this virtual non-recognition of the CIO rival, International Union of union would have had drastic economic results, since the high wage level in the plant is based on an endless struggle to maintain rates on incentive work. The union's success in maintaining the stewards system is of great importance. but the victory may be temporary as contract negotiations unfold.

The strike at Local 107 was 100 details are not known and will burgh works (the largest and key per cent effective for the produc-

unit in the chain) will not be set- tion workers, even though the tled until the runoff election or- gates were not picketed. Each day dered by the National Labor Re- the shop workers reported in and then refused to work. In the offices work was slowed down but not stopped. There was some dissatisfaction in the shops because this type of stoppage deprived the worker both of his income and free time. Strike tactics were reported directed from the national UE office. The real issues at stake were not very clearly presented. and the rank and file although loyal was rather apathetic about the stoppage.

If the Westinghouse Corporation repeats its demand for a drastic revision of the grievance procedure in the new contract the apparent gains of the unions in the recent stoppage may be cancelled. The union's fight for a satisfactory interim grievance procedure should be widened to include this provision in the new

cording to the dispatches, 4000 to 5000 have quit. The N. Y. Times story (May 31) gives opposition to violent methods as the basis of Joshi's move, referring to a pamphlet published

by the dissident leader which also

accuses the official apparatus of and "sectarian terrorist tactics." the accompanying article. The Jo-

cleared that his "party has accepted only Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as the authoritative sources of Marxism" and that since even the Cominform has not thought it fit to refer to Mao's enrichment of the Communist theory, he was But alas! this incense burning only in the rural areas. was of no avail! For Ranadive's

ding for Moscow backing.

He does not as yet say with Mao

The character of the Democratic Front has also undergone a change, for it now means "rallying all parties and classes willing to fight for national independence."...

## **Announcing This Year's ISL-SYL Summer Camp**

By JIM CORNER

The time between September 7 and 17 should be left open to attend the gala event that will take place at Genoa City, Wis. Again der the sponsorship of the Independent Socialist League and the pects of the labor movement in Socialist Youth League. Where? At the same spacious location as be your chance to associate with last year.

All those who were present at contemporary Marxists. the very successful, extremely enexpect the following and more:

- 225 acres of scenic Wisconsin be \$4.00 a day. beauty. • Sports of every descriptionbowling, swimming, fishing.
- Socialist education lectures, symposiums, classes. • Fine German cooking.

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE

Meetings of old and new friends. blank below.

Labor Action 333 West North Avenue Chicago, Illinois Enclosed is my \$5 deposit for a reservation at Address Zone.....

India, led by P. C. Joshi, former general secretary of the party. Ac-

The press now reports a sizable

split in the Communist Party of

India's CP Is

In the Rough

Moscow has had to crack down

on its Indian Communist Party

too, forcing the general secretary

words. The following account is

from "Janata," the organ of the

In a lengthy article in the Com-

munist last year, Ranadive, the

general secretary of the party, had

taken up cudgels against certain

"reformist deviations" of his col-

leagues, who had dared refer to

the "new contribution" of Mao

Tse-tung in the matter of the

analysis of the relation of forces.

class composition of the Demo-

cratic Front and forms and tech-

niques of revolutionary struggle

in the retarded countries of Asia.

towing to Stalin, Ranadive de-

not prepared to recognize it.

cracked down upon him...

BITTER PILL

mentors in Moscow have now

Under the whip wielded by the

Cominform. Ranadive has now

recented. He says that the recent

editorial in the Cominform journal

"helps to remove all errors and

mistakes which hampered the

growth of the struggle in India."

criticism of Mao Tse-tung and ad-

mits that he did indeed carry out

a successful extension and appli-

cation of the teachings of Lenin

and Stalin. The lessons of the vic-

torious people's struggle in China

under the leadership of Comrade

Mao Tse-tung will be an "unfail-

ing guide" to the Communist Par-

No more does he talk about the

class differentiation among the

peasants but assures that his

ty of India, he confesses

Not to be outdone in his kow-

Socialist Party of India.

of the Indian CP to eat his own

"grave Trotskvite - Titoist errors" Given the lack of other information, it is possible that the "Titoist errors" on which this charge is based are the ideological tribulations of Ranadive described in shi group would seem to be bid-

party will unite "all the peasantry." Gone is also the glorification of the proletarian general strike and uprising. He promises formation of a liberation army, "when the necessary conditions allow for which obviously can be done

that the Communists are prepared to cooperate with the "national bourgeoisie"-for such an open admission is too bitter a pill-although he indirectly admits the fact by saying that the Indian people have hereafter to struggle against the "Anglo-American imperialists and the big bourgeoisie and the feudal princes and landlords collaborating with them." He has swallowed all his former

It is instructive in this connection to observe that the various splinter groups breaking away from the Communist Party, while denouncing each other, all swear Moscow....Thus mutual re-

### · Campfires, dancing and singing. Stimulating conversation as

all persons interested in Marxism. current problems and future prosthis and other countries. This will and listen to some of the best

The cost for all this and more tertaining, especially relaxing and too? For the complete ten days educationally superb SYL camp (September 7 to 17) a contribution last year have only a clue to what of \$40 will be required; for seven the camp will be like this year. days or less the contribution will Those who were not present can be \$5.00 a day; for more than seven days the contribution will

It is extremely important for all concerned that you make your reservation immediately. Remember, first come-first served!

Make your reservations now by sending a \$5.00 deposit with the

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# **Anti-ROTC Students Punished** By U. of Wisconsin Administration

the Wisconsin team. No action at

all was taken against them. If

these same students had carried

banners praising compulsory

ROTC and militarism, no action

would have been taken against

them. It would have been attrib-

Previous to the demonstration

the group had checked university

and municipal regulations and had

found none prohibiting peaceful

picketing. The Student Conduct

Committee in its report said that

statutes would have been found

which, to say the least, would

throw grave doubt on the legal-

ity of what was done." However,

no legal charges were brought

against the pickets. The pickets

apparently were acting in "bad

Any definition of bad taste is

certainly an arbitrary one, open

to all varieties of interpretation.

When President Truman appeared

on that campus during his elec-

tion campaign, he was roundly

booed by many students. The uni-

versity took no action against this

example of "bad taste." It is dif-

ferent, apparently, when students

protest meaningfully against an

idea which is popular with the

The counsel for the pickets said

that the university investigation

had "all the aspects of a star

chamber or inquisitorial probe.

The students are denied counsel;

are called in individually and the

faculty group is attempting to

treat the civil liberties issues in-

volved as a standard case of stu-

dent misconduct or bad manners.

"Students feel that the primary

issue is their right peaceably to

assemble and to protest in an or-

derly manner, and not a question

"Students are directed to appear

before the committee, with no

charges being filed against them.

They made their protest in good

conscience and this right cannot

be abridged by the university fac-

"All student groups were in-

vited to the ROTC inspection and

the parade of the pickets, I am

reliably informed, was accom-

The governor of Wisconsin, in

plished in an orderly manner."

of good manners.

university officialdom.

YES, IT TOOK GUTS

uted to "youthful enthusiasm."

By DAVE WOOD

MADISON, Wis. - Those University of Wisconsin students who picketed the annual federal inspection of the ROTC [see LABOR ACTION last week! have been given an "official reprimand" and have been placed on disciplinary probation for the next full semester. Thus another brick in the none-too-solid wall of American civil liberties has been chipped

The University Student Conduct Committee based its decision on the statement that the pickets were interfering "with regularly scheduled university classes or with officially authorized public exercises or ceremonies." The students were interfering by picketing "the activities of our group within an area set aside for that

How were the students interfering? By carrying their banners so that all could see them. In another "nublic ceremony," a football game, a few years ago, some U. of W. students raised a banner

## New NI Issue Features Text

"Is Russia a Socialist Community?" the full text of the recent debate between Max Shachtman and Earl Browder, is featured in the May-June issue of The New International, just off the press. Although the debate was cov-

ered in LABOR ACTION, the full text appearing here for the first time is of great interest to all who are concerned with a full understanding of Stalinist Russia, as well as with a classical example of Stalinist argumentation as presented by Browder.

The May-June issue of The New International also contains an important article by Max Shachtman on the theoretical development of the Independent Socialist League and its predecessor, the Workers Party, over the past ten years. This article is not simply restatement of the position of the ISL, but seeks to evaluate anew the ideological and theoretical role of Marxism in our epoch.

cers Association, bitterly attacked In addition to the above, this the students who "had the guts issue of the NI contains "The Trato carry anti-military signs at the gedy of Romain Rolland," a brilfederal inspection." The governor liant analysis of the political and asked Wisconsin taxpayers why psychological degeneration of the they allowed students from New Stalinoids from the Diary of Vic-York and New Jersey to come tor Serge: an article by Alfred here and "nlan to tear down what Rosmer dealing with the problem the ROTC boys are trying to of the unification of the anti-Stabuild up for America.' linist trade unions in France: Apparently today it takes

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THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

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Now out!

ACTION readers. summer vacations. the governor, to be important in determining whether one can criticize while in the sovereign state of Wisconsin! THEY DON'T WANT ROTC

The picketing against compulsory ROTC would have been unnecessary had the state legislature and university taken into account the desires of the student body. Many meetings and forums had been held on this issue. The Young Republicans had introduced a bill in the state legislature abolishing compulsory ROTC. It was not passed, in spite of the fact that referendums held among university students showed that, of those who voted, more than 70 per cent were against compulsory ROTC. Student beliefs and feelings on this issue have been consistently

There has been a good response to this denial of civil liberties by the students and faculty. A committee to defend the students' rights has been formed and has begun to circulate petitions which disapprove of the university's action. Various liberal and religious groups here in Madison have started to back the students. The liberal paper here, the Capital Times. had an editorial entitled "Bludgeoning Students Out of Their American Rights" and one attacking the university decision entitled "University Committee Buckles Under Pressure from Big Business Board of Regents."

The students involved are planning to appeal the decision to the University Committee on Appeals.

### 50-Cent Coffee

The capacity of big business for lying was strikingly shown when Senate committee investigating the fake coffee shortage scare, in a surprise move, placed big business leaders under oath. They then told a quite different story than

For example, the head of Maxwell House, who had previously testified that his company did not deal on the New York Coffee Exchange, this time said it did. Under oath, the plunderbund fellowship admitted there never was a coffee shortage and that coffee could be sold at a good profit at 50 cents a pound.

### Sweating Licenses

Undercutting the 75-cents-anhour minimum wage law, the Department of Labor has already given permission to owners of 743 plants to pay less to learner-workers. Most of the low-wage permits to exercise elementary democratic were granted in branches of the rights. The place of a person's clothing industry.

# PRESS ACTION

By L. G. SMITH

is an excellent introduction to the Our subgetters didn't do as well ideas of Independent Socialism. this week as last. As a matter of If any readers of LABOR ACTION fact, except for Chicago and New York subs sent in during our spring campaign are at about the usual rate, with over half represented by people who resubscribe without any special effort on the part of ISL members or LABOR

The special subscription rate to NEW subscribers of \$1.50 for a year and 75 cents for six months will be good only during June. This is also the last month during which we can expect to get any considerable number of subscriptions before people leave for their

We have had a number of requests for copies of the May 1 Total .....

issue to friends, they are available at three cents a copy in bundles of five or more. Subscriptions received during the week ending May 27 were as follows: Sub Single New City Los Angeles 2

issue of LABOR ACTION, which

want to send some copies of this

Score Subs Subs Detroit 4 Chicago \_\_\_\_ San Francisco \_ 2 New York \_\_\_\_\_ 12 Miscellaneous

# <u>Editorials</u>

### **Inflated Threat**

Whitsunday is over, and we can all sigh with relief that another high-point in the propaganda battle of the cold war is safely past. The great Stalinist youth rally took place without a single clash on the East-West boundary of Berlin. The troops of the Western occupiers who were drawn up to repel an invasion can return to their usual police tasks with the same bullets in their ammunition belts they had a week ago.

The American press has done its best during the past few weeks to create an atmosphere of fear and tension in this country. American correspondents reporting from Europe state that in no European country did any section of the press play up the Stalinist Whitsun youth rally as did the American newspapers. In view of this fact, and in view of the further fact that the rally was not used by the Stalinists to create even minor disturbances in Berlin, we may very well ask ourselves whether the whole hullabaloo in the American press wasn't directly inspired by the American government, wasn't part of the "Truman formula" for domestic consumption discussed elsewhere in this issue of LA-BOR ACTION.

Whether or not the Stalinist youth rally was blown up to crisis proportions as part of a cynical administration policy of playing on the fears of the American people cannot be proved. For it is quite possible that the Russian rulers had planned to march their youth organizations through Western Berlin in an impressive show of strength, and were deterred from this plan by the military measures taken against it by the Western occupiers.

However one may interpret the intentions of the two ruling classes whose military forces occupy Germany, one of the most important differences in their methods was illustrated by the Whitsun rally.

On the one hand, the Stalinists mobilized hundreds of thousands of young people to march and demonstrate for "peace," for "unity." for outsting the capitalist powers from Germany. To this mass of young people marching in the name of an ideology, the Western powers opposed nothing but sheer

military force. Of course, all the German youngsters were not there of their own free will. Every device of pressure was used to get them there, and every voice of opposition in Eastern Germany was stilled by GPU terror. This is true of all mass Stalinist parades in countries where the totalitarian bureaucracy holds power, as it was true of the Nazis in their day. Yet the fact remains that backed by military and police force, the Stalinists seek to mobilize masses of people, young and old, to march and fight for "peace" and "unity," and against capitalism.

Everywhere, from the Philippines to Indo-China to Iran to Greece to Berlin, the Stalinists are able to mobilize masses of people for their cause. And wherever this takes place, the American government and its junior partners are able to counter these mass movements only with discredited and corrupt puppet governments which have nothing to offer the mass of their people in a crisis but the threat of bullets or bombs made in America.

This is something that might well be pondered by the officers of the American labor movement who support the policy of their government and seek, at best, to cover the bayonets with a little social and political oil. Their representatives abroad and at home urge the government to stop relying on reaction and to give support to the anti-Stalinist workers' movements throughout the world. But their pleas continue to fall on deaf

And this is no accident. No powerful workers movement can be built anywhere outside the United States today on a procapitalist basis. And isn't it a little foolish, from the point of view of "practical politics," to expect the American capitalist government to support movements abroad which can only be effective to the degree that they dig the grave of capitalism in their own countries?

Yet if this is the only social force capable of fighting Stalinism effectively, it is high time that the labor movement of this country stop supporting the reactionary policies of the government, and throw its weight independently behind the anti-Stalinist, socialist movements in all lands.

### You're Invited

to speak your mind in the letter column of L.A., "Readers Take the Floor." It's YOUR forum. Our policy is to publish all letters of general political interest, regardless of views. Keep them to 500 ue Socialist Youth League Socialist Youth League Socialist Youte Socialist Youth League Socialist Youth League Socialist Yout gue Socialist Youth and outh Student Corner alist Youth League Socialist Youth League Socialist Youth Lea

### World Federalists Crack Down on Chapter

CHICAGO-In the spring issue of Anvil and Student Partisan, two officers of the University of Chicago chapter of the Student Federalists wrote a letter pointing out recent developments in the United World Federalists movement which indicated the tendency of some federalist elements, especially among the students, to come down out of the clouds and engage in real political activity of a progressive nature.

Recent occurrences in the U. of C. chapter have given strong confirmation to these predictions and have also shown that the UWF organization nationally has found these tendencies sufficiently irritating

In a recent Democratic primary campaign in Chicago, the university UWF endorsed Willoughby Abner, the CIO candidate in the primary for state senator. The chapter planned to devote the major part of its organizational resources during the campaign to the support of Abner, and it was active in the organization of a campus committee for Abner. Within less than a week, the Washington lobbyist for UWF, Theodore Waller, had asked his national office to discipline the

A hatchetman from the Illinois state office called together the chapter executive committee and explained how the chapter's support of Abner was compromising his dealings with Jake Arvey, the Democratic boss of Chicago. He added that unless the chapter rescinded its stand, it would promptly be expelled.

The chapter backed down, but before it had recovered from the first attack, the national bureaucracy was on its neck again. The chapter was participating in the preparations for an all-campus "peace week" with 18 other campus organizations, including the Stalinists. The week was to be merely a series of panels, where speakers from opposing groups would fight it out, plus seminars led by faculty members.

### Student Federalists Gain Experience

The national office of UWF asserted that the mere participation of the Stalinists branded the effort as a Stalinist front and ordered the chapter to cease and desist. This time the issue was on too vital a principle to back down; the U. of C. chapter decided to fight it out. Its delegates, with the full support of the Student Division of the UWF. took its case to the National Committee of UWF. Out of this meeting came a statement with a loophole for this particular case, but affirming in general the doctrine of guilt by association.

In the meantime, the UWF chapter, along with other groups at of C. was waging a bitter faction fight in the peace week committee against the attempt of the Stalinists, and some of their innocent followers in the church groups, to convert the peace week into a Stalinist front organized around the Quaker proposals. Despite the defection of some anti-Stalinists who got cold feet and pulled out completely, UWF was largely instrumental in the defeat of the Stalinists.

The struggles with both its national office and the Stalinists have eft the UWF chapter with far greater organizational experience than ever had before, reactivated the membership and increased its prestige on campus. Some of the leading elements of the chapter now favor permanent cooperation with those campus groups with which they worked in the peace week committee, in a federation organized around opposition to the war aims of both Washington and Moscow.

There are other signs of progressive development, e.g., a chapter meeting recently voted support of the idea that any world government they would work toward must be responsible for social justice, and for the development of backward areas under local control. The program is incomplete, but it is filling in with amazing speed.

### THE BRITISH POLITICAL SCENE IS PORTRAYED EACH WEEK

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## Reading from Left to Right

SOCIAL CLASSES AND THE "TYPICAL" AMER-ICAN COMMUNITY, by S. M. Miller. (American Sociological Review, April)

An excellent brief and trenchant criticism of some contemporary researches into class stratification, like those of Professor W. L. Warner and his associates, who think they are taking a representative community by choosing towns under 50,000 population and attempt to draw conclusions for the whole country from them. (A long and detailed article in the same issue politely rips up Warner specifically on other grounds.)

"Richard Centers," points out the author, who is of the Brooklyn College faculty, "found in his study [Psychology of Social Classes] that 51 per cent of all white adult males in a national sample classified themselves as members of the working class; that 34 per cent of white collar workers thought that they were in this class; that 77 per cent of people who might be considered as in working-class occupations, such as semi-skilled workers, etc., called themselves members of the working class. Centers also shows significant correlations between class identification and political orientation. Few people would have predicted such findings on the basis, for example, of the reports of the Warner surveys. I believe that the difficulty lies in the choice of communities investigated.

(1) "... one should look for communities which best portray the movement toward stratification...because analysis of these localities will yield insight into the future."

(2) The trend, Miller points out, is toward the large urban centers. (3) "...in terms of where prime sources of

change in American beliefs and structures may be located, the large urban center may be much more significant than the smaller areas."

A conclusion: "we should analyze communities which are more typical of the future than they are of the past.'

STATEMENT ON TAX REFUSAL, by Tax Refusal Committee of Peacemakers (Alternative, March

The pacifist monthly bulletin (formerly Pacific Views) carries the text of the declaration issued on March 15 by the above-named committee, accompanying the group's announcement of refusal to pay income tax. It begins "War is to us abhorrent ... " and presents fiscal conscientious objection as a means of direct action to stop war:

"Today is the deadline for payment of 1949 income taxes. Unitedly we affirm our determination to refuse to pay taxes which are levied for the purpose of carrying on war....

"Some of us feel that because the major activity of the federal government is war, we must refuse the total amount of the income tax we owe. Others of us feel we must refuse to pay the proportion which corresponds to the percentage of the national budget now allocated to war preparation ... ."

The problem quite unsolved by this type of action, however, still remains: Any worker employed in industry, especially heavy industry, is 'contributing" as much to war preparation as a taxpayer. Do the pacifists recommend that they all quit their jobs? Or is the tactic merely a road to individual salvation of conscience, regardless of its possible efficacy?

# WORLD POLITICS

### Whitsuntide Rally a Political Challenge—West Reacts with Guns

The long weekend in Berlin is now over and the oung Germans mobilized by the Stalinists have largely returned to their homes in the Eastern Zone. The American press has spent a considerable part of its collective space to dull moralizing on the demonstrations. Most of it has been to the effect that "Hitlerism marched again," and the drawing of other superficial and empty parallels with allegedly similar demonstrations under the Nazi regime. All of this, of course, largely misses the point and tells us literally nothing.

Certain parallels between Stalinism and Nazism have long been obvious, and led Trotsky to describe the "symmetrical" aspects of the two regimes many years ago. But this scratches the surface and conveniently gets around the embarrassing need to analyze anything, including the way in which the West, the Allies, handled the entire event.

That the Whitsuntide weekend in Berlin was a totalitarian mobilization and demonstration, conceived in an utterly reactionary and chauvinistic spirit, goes without saying. Half a million German youth (and it is important to note that this is the most recent German generation, those who have grown up since the end of the war five years ago, and who had no direct participation in that war) were dragged into Berlin by one or another means, and whipped into line to parade under absurd slogans and banners of Stalinism, and to sing songs written for them by Stalinist party hacks. Gerhardt Eisler has at last found a natural outlet for his repressed talents! The entire affair was cooked up by a combination of the Russian masters and their East German Stalinist puppets, with the idea of impressing the world and the West as to the power of Stalinism.

### THE MILITARY MIND RESPONDED

Did the German youth participate freely, willingly and consciously? Thanks to Allied handling of the issue, no real answer can be given, but all indications are to the contrary. The intense discipline, the manner in which the Stalinist police, etc., watched these children, and other pointers indicate that the bulk of participation was through apathy, fear, threat and indifference. The comments of those who fled to the West clearly indicate this. There is no reason to believe that the German masses in the East are pro-Stalinist or pro-Russian. Ex-Nazis, present-day Stalinsts and Russian occupation forces make a convenient combination in mobilizing masses.

But how did the Allies handle the matter? In the typical bureaucratic and blind fashion of imperialists, they lumped together the whole "German youth" as pro-Stalinist, and created a largely artificial version of an attempted military coup. What was a POLITICAL demonstration by the Stalinists was countered, by the West, by a MILITARY demonstration. Berlin was to be "saved" from Stalinism by a display of tanks, GIs with tommy guns and barbed

There was no understanding of what was at stake; and not the slightest inkling that a counter political effort attempting to divide the ranks of the German youth, might even be attempted. The big military brains who run Berlin for the West knew only one possible response: If they move in on us; let 'em have it! In this sense, then, the East German Stalinists successfully pulled off a major political demonstration. That the Allied troops still remain in Berlin is cold turkey indeed: something like saying that the Giants are still in the race for the National League pennant! That was not the issue this past weekend.

As for the Western parties of Berlin, their behavior is no less stupid and reactionary. Did they make any effort, beyond the most cursory, to establish contact with this youth? Led by gray-haired politicians and bureaucrats of pre-Htler vintage, these chiefs of the Christian Socialists, Social-Democrats, etc., really feel a distinct hostility, in principle, toward youthful elements in general, whom they neither understand nor sympathize

They were content to stay at home, warming themselves in the glow of American tanks, British barbed wire and French bayonets. There is little wonder that these parties have no youth sections of any account. The Social-Democratic youth appears to have been conspicuously absent.

The allies may rejoice in their hollow "victory." It compares with Chiang Kai-shek's clever retreats. Stalinism, thanks to the failure of German socialism, retains the propaganda offensive together with the political offensive.

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# '4th International' Goes Whole-Hog

### Titoland Is Now a "Workers State" but They're Not Sure When the Revolution Happened

For whoever may be interested, ly highlighted by the next questhe Fourth International (selfstyled "orthodox Trotskyists") have at last screwed up their courage to the sticking point in order to go whole hog for Titoism. Tito's Yugoslavia, they have now decided, is a "workers' state" and a "dictatorship of the proletariat."

The international leading committee of this group, at a plenary meeting in April, adopted a resolution to this effect for the first time. A discussion on the question has been going on in the ranks of its affiliated "parties." The vote in the leading committee was 8-3.

The short resolution passed is a complete whitewash of the Tito bureaucracy's past and present. It

"Whereas there have been different views on the stages of development of the Yugoslav resolution, the eighth plenum [of the international committeel considers that, as a consequence of the victory of the proletarian revolution in Yugoslavia, there exists in that country a workers' state and a regime of the dictatorship of the proletariat. It observes that, in the particular conditions of the Yugoslav revolution, bureaucratic deformations subsist in that state: it affirms that a serious struggle is carried on by the Yugoslav Communists against these deformations. The International's campaign for the defense of Yugoslavia must be determined in this sense. The discussion will go on in the International on the estimation of the stages of the Yugoslav revolution, including the present

#### SOME NOTES

(1) The "bureaucratic deformations"-a phrase which Lenin used to point to such aspects of the revolutionary regime of his day -is here applied to the totalitarian one-party police regime of Tito & Co.! Their reason for existence, says the resolution, is due (presumably solely) to "the particular conditions of the Yugoslav revolution"—without a single reference to the fact that the regime has come straight out of the GPU-Stalinist machine, of which Tito was a trusted agent not so long ago. While the whole resolution whitewashes Tito's present, this formulation even whitewashes his

(2) The pitiable want of theory behind this resolution is startling- first workers' state. ..

nomic and political destinies.

vide the world: capitalism and Stalinism.

ISL Program — in Brief

racy and against the two systems of exploitation which now di-

Deal or other deal, so as to give the people freedom, abundance,

security or peace. It must be abolished and replaced by a new

social system, in which the people own and control the basic sec-

tors of the economy, democratically controlling their own eco-

totalitarianism-a new form of exploitation. Its agents in every

country, the Communist Parties, are unrelenting enemies of so-

cialism and have nothing in common with socialism-which can-

other's throats in a world-wide imperialist rivalry for domina-

tion. This struggle an only lead to the most frightful war in

history so long as the people leave the capitalist and Stalinist

rulers in power. Independent Socialism stands for building and

strengthening the Third Camp of the people against both war

and its ever-present struggle as the basic progressive force in

society. The ISL is organized to spread the ideas of socialism

in the labor movement and among all other sections of the people.

in every struggle to better the people's lot now-such as the

fight for higher living standards, against Jim Crow and anti-

Semitism, in defense of civil liberties and the trade-union move-

ment. We seek to join together with all other militants in the

labor movement as a left force working for the formation of an

rable. There can be no lasting and genuine democracy without

socialism, and there can be no socialism without democracy. To

enroll under this banner, join the Independent Socialist League!

The fight for democracy and the fight for socialism are insepa-

independent labor party and other progressive policies.

At the same time, Independent Socialists participate actively

The ISL, as a Marxist movement, looks to the working class

not exist without effective democratic control by the people.

Stalinism, in Russia and wherever it holds power, is a brutal

These two camps of capitalism and Stalinism are today at each

The Independent Socialist League stands for socialist democ-

Capitalism cannot be reformed or liberalized, by any Fair

we report that the leadership of tion which the brains of the international committee bent to. A "proletarian revolution" took

place in Yugoslavia. WHEN? Proving that it is considering undoubtedly the most curious pro-

letarian revolution in the history of the world, the committee could not decide definitively. (In the first place, they had not recognized it while it was going on, obviously being too involved in astutely working out the details of

was taking place behind their backs.) Five of the majority dated the revolution at 1946-48 This how-

> the break with the Cominform. We do not know how these aspirants to building a Trotsky-Titoist International (while the Tito-

ever, was opposed by the writing-

revolution in over three decades

est theoretician of the group, Ernest Germain, who assigned it to state" theory are aborning in or-

the Russian question to notice that ists themselves denounce these the first successful proletarian fishers in their private waters as fascists) are planning to walk around the question of whether their decision does or does not make workers' states out of the satellite countries in the Russian empire. It appears that various revisions of Trotsky's own "workers'

> der to cram present-day reality (and the twists of the line) into consonance with their standard

## SWP: Tito 'Vindicates' Trotsky!

suppression of oppositional ten-

dencies, its past history of physi-

cal elimination of Trotskyist mili-

tants, etc.—as that of "a workers'

party," bearing Lenin's program

and vindicating Trotsky's strug-

gle. The Militant article goes on

consistently to identify the Tito

government with the Yugoslav

people, calling it the product of

ring to the "Yugoslav struggle for

independence and socialism."

"living revolution," and refer-

Besmirching the Memory of the Great Revolutionary—

In its issue of May 8, The Militant, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, declared its virtually unqualified support for the Tito regime in Yugoslavia.

The ostensible occasion for this declaration by the SWP was the issuance of a Yugoslav May Day proclamation calling for world support to its struggle against the Kremlin. The tone of The Militant article reporting this event was set by its leading headline: "Yugoslavs Issue Appeal for Return to Leninist Principles." The May Day proclamation, it went on to declare, "marks a great turning point in the history of the world working-class movement." According to The Militant, it marked the culmination of a long development of the YCP and Tito regime, which it proceeded to eulogize in terms never before applied to a Stalinist police dictatorship, at least not by revolutionary social-

"For the first time since the Bolshevik revolution of October, 1917. a workers' party [sic]) with state power outside of the Soviet Union has raised the banner of socialist internationalism. The proclamation summons the opponents of Stalinism to restore Lenin's program to its rightful place in the labor movement. This program represents the only real alternative to the grim choice of the cold war: imperialist atom-bomb conquest or Kremlin counter - revolution. It represents powerful vindication of the struggle begun by Leon Trotsky 27 years ago against Stalin's destruction of the conquests of the

#### WHERE'S THE CONTROL? In order to lend this some sem-

blance of consistency, it goes on to portray the Tito regime as being under some kind of political control of the masses. And to do this, it discovers, five years after the event, that a "social revolution" has taken place! But it manages to avoid the ticklish question of the other Eastern satellites of Stalinist Russia, which as far as anyone can tell are identical in their economy with that of Yugo-

There is not a single word as to how this political control is exercised, through what organs it is expressed, or one single instance in which the masses have demonstrated such control, except for the explanation given for the break with the Kremlin. "The leaders," they say, speaking of the Tito bureaucrats, "who had been lifted to power by the mighty tide of these events, could not have capitulated to the Russian wouldbe masters of the country without being swept aside by the revolutionary workers and peasants of Yugoslavia." The Militant only terests rather than those of their him with their advertising." Russian cousins

In embracing Titoism, The Militant has not only had to revise the basic tenet of its notorious Russian position, it has had to abandon the most basic tenet of the historical Trotskyist movement. Of Trotsky's concept of the international character of the socialist revolution, The Militant says not a word. Neither does the Tito regime. What the latter does say, with evident approval (or at least lack of criticism) by The Militant, is a new version of the "theory of socialism in one country." The Tito leaders, says The Militant, ex-[Russian] bureaucracy were at the root of Stalinist degeneration and counter-revolution. They repeated over and over again that Yugoslavia would avoid the same fate only by the development of socialist

### RUSSIAN POSITION AT STAKE

That the SWP could have arrived at such a disgraceful position as to allow itself to play the role of apologist for the GPU butcher who runs Yugoslavia today can only be attributed to its lack of any kind of understanding as to what is the nature of Stalinism and the Stalinist parties. Reading Labor Advocate, May 19.)

Thus does The Militant identify Forced by its theory - or rather. the Titoist dictatorship-with its its refusal to revise its theory of Russia as a "degenerated workers' state" - the SWP was rapidly developing along the road of becoming a left wing of Stalinism. The

Tito break gave it the possibility

of taking the variant road of be-

coming the defender of the new

"Titoist deviation" in the ranks of the world Stalinist movement. As yet this relationship is en-'tirely one-sided, as Tito has been entirely unimpressed with the desire of his SWP well-wishers to

become his ideological agents. There is no doubt that part of the SWP's motivation for its new turn is the purely opportunistic desire to fish in the muddy waters of Stalinism and Wallaceism. That this is true does not change in the least the significance of its theoretical development in the direction of Stalinist - Titoist politics. With this new turn, the SWP has taken a big step in the direction of becoming a Stalinist appendage.

### Not in the Headlines

**About-Face Lifts** 

With the transformation of New Leader from a weekly newspaper selling for 10 cents into a magazine containing the same stuff for 15 cents, Time magazine printed the statement that this ex-socialist organ operates as an informer for the FBI: it adds that the New forgets the alternative explanation Leader's editors hope to get supthat the leaders could not have port for their patriotic enterprise capitulated or they would have "specifically by convincing busilost the basis for exploiting the nessmen that his fight is their Yugoslav people in their own in- fight also and they should support

> The New Leader likewise celebrated its change by dropping all pretense at any connection with socialism or any facsimile thereof known as the Social-Democratic Federation. The SDF organizational column formerly printed no longer appears (had no appeal to businessmen). The magazine now advertises itself as "liberal."

### About Clean Towels

There is a story of the housewife who prepared for guests and pinned a note to the guest towels that was intended for her husplain that "the privileges of the band's eyes only. "If you dare to use these towels I'll murder you," the missive warned. Unfortunately she forgot to remove the note and after the guests had come and gone there it was on spotless towels-much to the wife's chagrin.

We are comparing those towels to the boasted freedom of American workers. Both are nice to look at, but neither are supposed to be used.

What gives us this idea is the fact that it took only a few days of a partial strike of railroad men to evoke talk of a law to kill the freedom of public utility workers to strike.-(From editorial in the

### LABOR ACTION

# Labor and the Fair Deal

### They're Worried about Protection Against Their "Friends"

By BEN HALL

Gone are the days when the American Federation of Labor lobbyists, complaining that the CIO was the spoiled favorite of the government, demanded an end to "pampering" of its rival under the Wagner Act. The two mighty organizations draw closer together, opening up a prospect of labor unity despite the many obstacles of history, rivalries of personal prestige and power, hangovers of the industrial-versus-craft unionism struggle, relics of jurisdictional disputes.

No one can say with assurance whether renewed efforts to merge the CIO and AFL will be successful, but the trend is unmistakably toward greater unity, toward increased collaboration, toward mutual assistance in self-defense.

In its long and bitter strike, the independent United Mine Workers Union won the moral and material support of the whole labor movement. In the name of the Steel Workers Union, CIO President Philip Murray donated a \$500,000 check to help the coal diggers; and UAW workers, at bench and machine, pooled their dollars and turned them over to their stewards to speed truck caravans of food and clothing into the mine areas. Later John L. Lewis dramatically called for a joint labor fighting fund of millions of dollars subscribed by all unions and administered by them regardless of affiliation.

### Sober Reckoning

These were not light-minded publicity gestures but serious, practical moves toward united action, now highlighted at the Steel Workers' Atlantic City convention by the announcement of a pact between the United Auto Workers and United Steel Workers for mutual support in the fight for a guaranteed annual wage. This demand is now transformed from a pious declaration of hopes buried in paper platforms into a fighting issue of the class struggle to be inscribed on picket signs.

The mood of pre-negotiations is subdued and coldly reasoning. This is not the mutual amnesty, the forgetting and forgiving of old hostilities that comes from expanding optimism; it is not a good fellowship that arises in joint celebration of victories won and jubilation over the prospect of a speedy march forward. It is a sober drawing together in days of adversity; when the road ahead seems rocky and full of dangers; when everything already achieved can be defended and every new gain won only by massing all of labor's strength for hard battle.

Southern industry was to fall in line with "enlightened" labor practices and join the ranks of organized labor; AFL and CIO organizers scrambled to stake claims over millions of open-shop workers only to discover abruptly that the claims of both hit up against a solid resistance which ripped the heart out of Operation Dixie.

### If You're—

- Against capitalism
- Against Stalinism
- For a Socialist Democracy

You belong with the—
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SOCIALIST LEAGUE

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Max Shachtman's
"THE FIGHT FOR
SOCIALISM"

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Taft-Hartley remains. If anything, recent Supreme Court decisions have reinforced it and extended its significance. In announcing the majority decision upholding the law's affidavit provisions, Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson declared: "Its manifest purpose was to bring within the terms of the statute only those persons whose beliefs strongly indicate a will to engage in political strikes and other forms of direct action, when, as officers, they direct union activities."

### They've Traveled Far

To impose penalties for actions which are themselves not illegal would in itself be an astounding injustice if we were not already inured to this type of legal magic by the attorney general's "subversive list." But by this decision, disabilities are heaped on union leaders not for actions but for "beliefs" which indicate a "will" toward acts.

And what kind of acts? Political strikes and direct action. "Anti-Communist" affidavits have traveled far!

Normal, orthodox union leaders must and do hold the weapon of "political strikes" in reserve.



The Mine Workers, on one occasion, protested the appointment of an unwanted director of mine safety by declaring a work holiday. On two occasions the UAW called upon its members to stop work for political demonstrations: once to demand the retention of price controls and then to demand the veto of the Taft-Hartley Law. "Direct action" is a vague and ambiguous term which applies readily to any strike, especially one fought out militantly on the picket line.

The Taft-Hartley Law in all its aspects, including its "anti-Communist" features, is clearly directed against normal, necessary functioning of aggressive unionism. Labor's political-action directors may puff themselves with artificial enthusiasm as Election Day draws near, but everyone knows that no foreseeable reshuffling of oldparty representatives in Congress is likely to win a speedy repeal.

### Fair Deal Accepts Injunctions

And if miraculously it should be repealed, who expects its replacement by full collective bargaining free from overhanging threats of government-by-injunction? Truman Fair Dealism arrogates the right of injunction without law; labor leaders shut their eyes but cannot forget; for the simple public fact is that the principle of injunctions against mass strikes is accepted by Fair-Deal Democrats, Dixiecrats and Republicans alike.

In contrast to the rest of the labor movement under the Wagner Act, the railroad brotherhoods were hemmed in and tied down by the creaking machinery of the Railway Labor Act. But legislative evolution has so hedged unions with Taft-Hartley controls that rail labor now seems almost to enjoy uninhibited freedom by comparison. Proposals loom in Congress to make the brotherhoods also subject to injunctions and compulsory arbitration.

The union movement is powerful, more powerful than ever. But it feels the need to gather greater strength, to mobilize its forces, to stand in solidarity. But against whom and against what? An uneasiness, a distrust of the future,

a lack of confidence, a suspicion that calm and easy days do not lie ahe d—such is the background for the surge toward unity.

But do we not enjoy the benefits of Fair-Deal Democracy? Doesn't the united political action of labor and "liberals" guarantee victory at the polls and days of sunshine? The mobilization of the labor movement and its preparations for aid to embattled sections which are in danger of being picked off and destroyed separately belie these hopes and paint a truer picture of tomorrow.

#### Truman Was Tested

The mine strike was followed by the Chrysler strike, which came as a surprise and shock to all, forcing the UAW into a 100-day exhausting walkout, a full-scale deployment of union forces to win those modest objectives which it had expected to gain in simple, formal bargaining sessions. Both strikes tested Truman.

The man who today whistles for support of his party at every railroad stop, played the cunning diplomat while miners and auto workers fought for simple rights; no thundering presidential defense of the common man, no stumping the platform against greed and monopoly. He carefully and diffidently weighed his every move, calculating not its effects on labor's struggles but its impact on his political career, and on the unity and stability of his political machine.

Moves toward unity may be deceptively colored by tinges of Trumanite Fair Dealism; high on the agenda will be plans for ambitious electoral activity, a coordinated massing of labor's full strength to elect a few more liberals, to gain that ever-elusive, never-attainable majority of real old-party "friends" of labor in Congress.

#### Fair-Weather Deal

While remaining convinced that they must hang on to Truman as the best available dubious ally, fearful of forming their own party, every thinking unionist, leader or rank and filer knows in his own mind: Here is a fair-weather friend. Which way he will bend in time of crisis, whom he will support if labor should be forced to fight with its back to the wall, is at least—uncertain.

Paradoxically, if the Fair Deal appeared to labor as a crusading, aggressive champion of the rights of the working people standing up to their enemies and unashamedly defending freedom and justice, then labor unity might have remained a political stepchild. But the Fair Deal is a different species of political animal. It appears to labor as week-kneed and vacillatory; it compromises with reaction within and without the Democratic Party; it substitutes diplomatic double-talk for a fighting progressive policy; it knows only one religion: Democratic machine control.

While standing firmly in the Fair-Deal Truman camp, the labor movement feels hollow spaces and pitfalls beneath its feet. At any dangerous moment the whole fragile framework might fall away.

And so the labor movement, girding for self-defense, will begin with hymns of praise for Fair-Deal Democracy. But as each section goes into battle knowing that the rest of labor stands behind it, as each separate detachment gains self-confidence and becomes more demanding, the ties that bind labor to the Democratic Party will be subjected to new strains. In unifying against its enemies, labor in effect moves to protect itself against its "friends."

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THE STORY BEHIND THE NEWS

Cold War Crime: German Dismantling — 111

# The Roots of the Tragedy

This is the third installment of a series, based on a remarkable document prepared by an investigator for Congresswoman Katherine St. George. This report was first mimeographed for confidential or semi-confidential circulation in Washington. It is dated July 1949. We present it today as a vivid picture of the background of Allied policy in Germany. As in the case of the first installment, the following consists of verbatim excerpts from the investigator's report. The series will be concluded next week with an article on the political meaning of the dismantling program.

To understand the minds of the workers who will lose their jobs, one must first consider the belief which virtually the whole of Germany shares today, that the prime motive behind the planned destruction of German capacity was the desire of France and Britain, particularly of Britain, to eliminate forever from the world market their one-time greatest trade competitor—Germany. To the German worker this motive is so patent that even the Social-Democrats, who have clung so hopefully to the belief that a "Labor Government" must be their friend, now speak openly to me of the "imperialistic drive" of Bevin.

Certain sources of information are available to me which I have not yet been able to follow up, but it seems worth while for me to collect a small dossier on the business-interest background of some of these men who determined the original selection of German plants for dismantling. Where these business interests appear to have been decisive, it seems high time that the American people who are underwriting a recovery program for Western Europe should have a clear view of both faces of the double-headed hydra.

### To Eliminate Competition

Dismantling to eliminate German competition? Evidence which I have been able to collect in the past two weeks indicates that since April 13 "dismantling" has more and more boldly taken the form of outright "scrapping" of plants. In British Military Government circles here the subterfuge is apparently rapidly being abandoned that the dismantlings apply only to war plants or to the elimination of excess capacity. Since the Washington agreement, several incautious statements have been made by RD&R (Reparations, Dismantling and Restitutions Division) officials in the British Zone to the effect that the dismantlings will have a salutary effect for Great Britain, through elimination of the most dangerous of their German competitors.

The most violent statements to this effect were reported to me by the American writer, Christopher Emmet, who had a long conference two weeks ago in London with Whittam, chief of the British Zone RD&R Division. The whole tone of Whittam's fulmination was a gloating over British successes at Washington at the expense of the Germans, and a categorical damning of every German businessman and politician as a congenital liar.

To understand Bevin's stand on the dismantlings, it is of particular interest to note that his chief adviser on German steel affairs has been Dr. Colclough, who comes from the British Iron and Steel Federation.

Colclough was consulting engineer in London for the firm of Corby, a subsidiary of Steward & Lloyds, tube manufacturers. He was particularly interested in getting the German tube mills put on the dismantling list. Also his loyalties to the British Iron and Steel Federation apparently prompted an interest in eliminating competition from the Germans in other fields.

Last autumn, Colclough observed to George Wolf, of the Wolf Steel Investigation Mission (in a conversation which Wolf repeated later to George Loesch, managing director of the Deutsche Edelstahlwerke A.G., Germany's leading producer of fine steel): "I consider it a matter of personal honor to be able to report back to the Federation that I have destroyed the Deutsche Edelstahlwerke, the brains of the German fine steel industry." I have not yet had an opportunity to check this statement with Mr. Wolf, but it could be easily done by someone in America.

### Dismantling Instead of Bombs

It should also be mentioned that another leading protagonist of the four-year-old fight to eliminate key German steel plants was the British officer, Dawson, who was a member of the steel committee determining which plants should be placed on the dismantling list. Dawson has been an engineer with the British construction firm of Brassert's, whihe built the Hermann Goering Steel Works at Salzgitter during the Hitler period. During the war, so the story goes, he was a bombardier who tried, unsuccessfully, to bomb the same works and what he couldn't accomplish through bombing he succeeded in accomplishing via the dismantling list.

It should be particularly noted that Dawson, whom the Germans and Americans both call the "British Morgenthau," has now reputedly got himself appointed to the newly constructed Allied Security Board, a key board, which will determine which German applicants will receive permits to rebuild or to enlarge their plants. The personnel of this board should be studied with the most careful scrutiny.

As another instance of competitive interest which appears to have motivated British policy regarding the German dismantlings, I cite the fate of the two Bergius

process hydrogenation plants at Wesseling and Gelsenberg. Although both plants were placed on the "Forbidden Industry" list, the Wesseling plant is now to continue in operation, while the Gelsenberg plant is to be dismantled. The Wesseling plant carries out crude-oil treatment on the base of contracts of treatment with the German Shell Company (subsidiary company of the British-Dutch Shell concern, which, in turn, is part-owned by the British government). The Gelsenberg gasoline plant signed similar agreements with the German Vacuum Oil Company and the German-American Petroleum Company (subsidiary company of the two big American oil concerns, Socony Vacuum Oil Inc., New York, and Standard Oil Company of New Jersey).

It appears that if strictly national interests were at stake, the British were better represented in this case than the Americans. Perhaps this is because the chief of the petroleum section of OMGUS, in the days when the forbidden industries category was being set up, was a man whom Dr. Albert Newman, past president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and first chief of the chemical industry section of OMGUS, described as "a man whose background for the job was filling station experience in the United States."...

It seems to me that one has to have a background of knowledge of such pressures to be able to understand how Bevin, theoretically at least a representative of the working class, could have been so insulated against the appeals of the German socialists and trade-union leaders, not to mention all of the leading churches of the Ruhr, that he would not reconsider the Ruhr dismantlings in the light of the unprecedented distress being caused to the German working people....

As for German labor sentiment, the German tradeunion movement, which in past months has maintained trust in the friendship of the British Labor Party, has reached such a state of disillusionment and hostility that leading socialists have told me here within the past few days that they do not consider the British Labor Party a socialist party at all. "They have no heart at all for their fellow German workers," I was told the other day by a German who has been a socialist for more than thirty years. "Their hearts are as stony as the worst of the monopoly capitalists!"....

### The Workers' Side

One must first understand the extent of unemployment in Germany and the peculiar circumstances which make unemployment status here even more critical than in most places in the world. Unemployment in the Western Zone is now about 1.2 million, with the trend steadily going upward. Because of the extreme hardships of recent years, very few unemployed workers have any reserve of savings whatsoever to fall back upon. Neither can they count upon anything but the merest pittance of a dole, for the German government is already on the verge of bankruptcy.

Even an employed worker finds the going very tough... However, because the Deutsche Edelstahlwerke plant was so long on the dismantling list, only recently having been released, the company has suffered from lack of orders due to uncertainty over its future, also because of the lack of government funds to place orders for greatly needed construction work on bridges, railroads, etc. As a result, the work week is now shortened, with correspondingly smaller pay. The short work week is now common in many steel plants throughout the Ruhr—only the workers engaged in dismantling being assured of steady pay and long hours.

The fact that it has been difficult, in spite of all hardships, to recruit Germans for the dismantling work is real testimony to their feeling of resentment, and especially of loyalty to what they consider the best interest of their fellow workers.

Against the low wages one must put high living costs which prevail throughout Germany today. Everything can be bought here now, it is true, but only if one has the money—a very large IF, which the casual tourist and roving reporter too often fail to note....

For those who have been thrown out of work, the situation is really desperate. It is out of the question to talk about moving around the country in search of work; the housing situation is still a despair to everyone....

Not only is the employment situation growing increasingly more critical in the Ruhr because of the dismantlings, but indirectly it is seriously affecting Berlin. Professor Ernst Reuter, lord mayor of Berlin, tells me that there are 175,000 unemployed in the West sector of Berlin today, or about 16 per cent of the total population able and willing to work. Unemployment has been increasing since the lifting of the blockade, in part because the new influx of black market goods into Berlin cuts

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down on orders from Berlin firms.... But as has already been pointed out, the dismantlings continue to add to the already swelling unemployment rolls. There is less and less work for the old-time employee, and nothing for the newcomer.

I believe that the emotions of the people here in the Ruhr are rapidly approaching the boiling point, and an explosion may be near. One must consider what goes on in the mind of a worker in Bochum, for instance, where both the Bochumer Verein, which is capable of employing 12,000 workers, and the Hochfrequenz-Tiegelstahl works, which employ 700, are slated for dismantlement. The welfare of at least 50,000 persons—workers and their families—one-sixth of the population of Bochum, is at stake.

### What Can They Think?

Bochum has been bombed until it resembles some gray ruins out of a prehistoric age. The store windows are starkly bare. Faces have the rigid preoccupation of people to whom the struggle to survive is still an oll-absorbing effort. What goes on in the mind of a man moving day after day among these ruins, seeing the factory which has given him, and perhaps his father, livelihood for decades, being SCRAPPED in the midst of a Europe crying for steel?

To get to the Henrichshuette steel works, a single main thoroughfare winds through the cliff-bound city of Wuppertal. My German chauffeur, Ramspot, told me of the horrible inferno this city went through during the war....It is incredible that men and women who have lived through such hells remain normal, human and rational. Yet they, like millions of other Germans, have grimly struggled back to whatever narrow basis of decent life they could find.

They have rebuilt their homes with their own hands. They have scrounged day after day during the starvation years following the war for whatever bits of food they could find for themselves and their families. They have given eloquent testimony to the indomitable will to survive that seems to live in each human being. But now, when a little peace is in sight, the loss of work, the shoving back into the abyss, must seem to many of them like the final unendurable blow.

If no explosion comes from such men as these, the ultimate results may be even worse for the democracies. The Russians are making tremendous capital out of the present situation. There is even more danger, perhaps, that these emotions be siphoned off into support of the Communists, than that they find an outlet in unpolitical organized resistance.

The worker in the Ruhr steel plant—the kind of man I have been talking with every day—is a decent, stable kind of man.... They were not the breeding ground for Nazism. Less than 10 per cent of the steel workers, at Deutsche Edelstahlwerke at Krefeld, for instance, were Nazis.

But their very pride in their work makes them into a hard core of rebellion now against all wantonly wasteful occupation policies. It is not surprising that in each plant the forgers whose work requires the strongest muscles and great skill, are now becoming the hardest to handle, the most revolutionary.

### "—To Earn Our Bread!"

The Germans have no illusions about Communismtoo many prisoners of war from Russian concentration camps, and too many refugees from the East Zone trickle through their cities and tell the damning stories of their experiences. But the explosion of a desperate man is usually in revolutionary ways. And the Communists have one effective ace in their hands—their appeal to the Germans to unify and restore their national self-respect. . . . In spite of the fact that in previous years the Comnists exceeded all the other occupation powers in the quantity of dismantlings and so-called restitutions, the Soviets are now capitalizing vociferously on the dismantlings being carried out by the Western Powers. The West Zone Communist leader, Max Reimann, became a hero by resisting the dismantlings and being put in jail for three months. . . .

It is true that even more impelling is the common sense of rebellion which is welding all people of the Ruhr, workers, management, church leaders, together into a unified spirit of resistance. Following the announcement of the Washington Agreement, church services in both Catholic and Protestant churches were held throughout the Ruhr one Sunday. The common theme was: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread!" On May the second, an extraordinary meeting of the City Council of the town of Duisburg was held, and a mass protest of the people of Duisburg against the dismantlings was drafted....

The real voice of the man in the Ruhr is one of a human being possessed of basic self-respect. On number-less occasions I have seen in areas of plants where the dismantlings are going on, scrawled in large lettering on a wall of the room: "WE DON'T WANT ALMS. WE ONLY WANT A CHANCE TO EARN OUR DAILY BREAD!"

Heretofore, what we have won in Germany has been won all too often by the default of the Soviets. Now the situation seems about to reverse itself. In each of the factories which I have visited, I have noted on those sections of the plant where dismantling is going on, signs such as "HERE YOU SEE WESTERN DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!"...

(Concluded next week)

# UAW's Contract at G

GM knew the conservative mood of the workers. It spoke about it during negotiations. But it also knew that the UAW-CIO, as the Chrysler strike showed, could and would shut down all plants, and that the economic cost of a struggle with the UAW would be terrific. as Chrysler Corporation found out. GM sought and found another way out!

The initiative was clearly in GM's hands in this situation, and it decided to offer the UAW two propositions. The first GM proposal consisted of essentially the Chrysler package, including the \$100 a month pension for employes with 25 years of seniority at the age of 65. With minor changes, the contract would be renewed for three years.

The second offer included a package equivalent to 19 cents per hour gains for this year, the escalator clause, the four-cent per year improvement wage boost, at the price of a renewal of the current contract, with a modified union shop and minor changes, for five years.

This second package was based on GM's belief that economic conditions would remain relatively stable in the whole next period, and that the peace it hoped to win with the UAW-CIO would easily compensate for the cost of such .a proposal.

ESCALATOR PROTECTS WORKERS

The UAW leaders accepted the second package with alacrity. For them it was a heaven-sent way out of the crisis in which the union was involved. Suppose inflation continues, and the cost of living skyrockets? The escalator clause protects the GM workers. Emil Mazey, UAW secretarytreasurer, explained it thus to a large East Side caucus meeting of the Reuther forces. He added, Suppose a depression hits? Our union is safe from a head-on attack for five years. The workers get a 4-cent raise yearly. We are insured either way.

Nearly 200 delegates attended the national General Motors conference to ratify the agreement. What was their reaction? At first, suspicion at the manner in which the contract was signed and announced publicly before they had a chance to study it, and much concern over a five-year contract. But, after a two-day session, in which the high point was the usual militant speech of Walter Reuther the delegates voted overwhelmingly to accept the package. Less than 200 voted against it.

In the shops, a big sigh of relief went up. Especially when the GM workers figured out their ecoare unmistakable and represent a real victory for the UAW.

tion was quite different. It was like salt on an old wound. Since an AFL business union, in which most workers view settlements in bread and butter terms, the common feeling was, "Look what they got. We sure got hooked!" At Ford plants, many similar comments were heard.

In estimating the over-all effect of the GM settlement these reactions at Ford and Chrysler are important factors. Before the 1951 convention in May, the UAW has a re-opening date for political problems.

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THE UNION GOT THIS FROM GM

the union include:

(1) A jointly - administered pension plan providing \$100 a month, including Social Security, for workers at the age of 65 with 25 years' service. The maximum monthly payment will become \$117.50 a month if Congress grants Social Security increases as is expected.

(2) A guaranteed annual wage increase of 4 cents an hour, described by the union as a reward for increased productivity, and to be added to the basic wage rate.

(3) A continuation of the cost-of-living escalator clause, in accordance with the price

Statistics, unlimited upward but limited downward to a point no lower than the basic wage rate.

(4) A hospital-medical plan with the company paying half the cost of Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection for worker and family.

(5) An improved insurance

providing for wage adjustments ing from the union after one

economic demands at Ford and Chrysler. The workers in these campaigns will be stimulated by the GM victory to make more aggressive demands than before. And they can win them too.

The GM pact, with all the dangers of a 5-year term, offers new ing independent political machines possibilities to the UAW, perhaps with turbulent days ahead until after the 1951 convention, and the Ford and Chrysler negotiations next year, but also with prospects of cracking them both. It is very unlikely that Chrys-

ler will again decide to lose \$50,-000,000 minimum of profit, its competitive place in the auto industry, and 450,000 car production for a fight with the UAW, in which it does have to retreat from its die-hard attitude. The Ford Motor Company knows that lesson already, and if it doesn't, it can be taught.

What is most likely is that these companies will give wage boosts to bring up their rate to a GM level, but in return may well ask for longer extensions of con-

A few weeks ago Walter Reuther criticized a delegate at the Chrysler conference who said he was disturbed by the trend reflected in a three-year contract. And at the General Motors conference Reuther did not refer to the five-year pact as an "exception," the line he used at the Chrysler conference. It would have been difficult to do so.

### CAN UAW STAY MILITANT?

Rather, to anticipate his critics, Reuther came up with an explanation which touches on the core of the problem raised by such a long-term contract. How does the UAW involve its ranks nomic gains compared to Chrysler in the union now that its primary and Ford workers. And the gains method, the national wage conferences, the posing of a major struggle every two years, etc., is In the Chrysler plants, the reac- gone? How can the UAW keep from taking on the character of all union business rests in the hands of a relatively small but all powerful bureaucracy?

The answer, said Reuther, could be found in drawing the ranks into effective political action. He outlined the many wage negotiations and crises in which he and others found themselves. and said that now for the first time he could devote himself to

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index of the Bureau of Labor The economic gains listed by

program, including accident and sickness weekly benefits ranging from \$31.50 to \$45.50. Chief among more than thir-

ty non-economic concessions to the union is a modified union shop, requiring new employees to join the UAW but giving them the option of withdraw-

> As usual, Reuther was aware of the problem, and evasive in his solution. Certainly, the broadening of the struggle of the UAW from primarily the economic front to the political front could involve the ranks more. Certainly, buildwould provide a new arena in which militants could function. Leaving aside the question of what kind of political action, the dan-

ger in the Reuther approach is

that his proposal, or rather long

and file involvement in the union's daily economic problems, rather than a required supplement. Furthermore, involvement in politics will probably be building a machine within the Democratic Party (as is still being done in Michigan right now) or just supporting the Democratic Party (as

the CIO policy is nationally.) The conclusion is inescapable, however, that the UAW will devote more and more time in politics on a local, state and national scale, and that the Reuther leadership will have more time for working out some of the long range plans of the ambitious

#### YEARLY CONVENTION NEEDED Concern over the democratic

structure of the UAW becomes greater when one reviews the proposals of the Reuther leadership for the internal structure and functioning of the union. At another matter. Here are some the last convention the Reuther leadership proposed two-year conventions, two-year local union elections, higher dues, and regular assessments instead of the special strike assessment which was finally adopted. The chief argument of the leadership was that the recurring crises with the corporations made imperative stead of backing them.... fewer conventions and elections that the leadership could concentrate mainly on fighting the

What possible excuse could be found now for such a program, what with a five-year contract at GM, a three-year contract at Chrysler, and a two-year contract at Ford? As a matter of fact, there is now a greater need to maintain the yearly elections, the 18-month national conventions, and other traditional democratic features of the UAW. To tamper with them now is to clearly and coldly bureaucratize the UAW, and to accelerate the trend towards AFL business unionism.

Turning to another aspect of the GM contract, the five year clause signifies a freezing of the present working conditions, especially since no improvement was made in the functioning of the poor shop steward system and the red-tape in the bargaining procedure. The tendency again is dangerous. But it is a deliberate lie to state, as does the Daily Worker, that under the new contract, no fight against speed-up is possible. The Stalinists know, as well as the next man, that under paragraph 117 of the contract, the union has the right, as it did previously, to call a strike

granted in the five-year pact. Some of the blind critics of the Reuther regime found themselves caught short when they screamed this is a five-year no-strike pledge, for Reuther quickly pointed out that paragraph 117 remains in the contract. (Not the least of Reuther assets are still most of his

#### PENSION FIGHT IS OVER

The GM settlement emphasizes another major shift in the Reuther strategy on pensions. Although the UAW is signing up many small companies in "area" agreements, and expects to settle quickly at Briggs, the fact is that the fight for industry financed pension plans is over. The main pre-occupation of the UAW will benefits, with the hope eventually of making them a substitute for the present make-shift arrangements. Very few UAW workers in five years. are satisfied with the present

For every worker eligible to re-

on the speed-up issue. The UAW tire there is another of the same does have a loop-hole if the GM age not able to retire because he Corporation takes too much for never had 25 years seniority in one plant. And, if prelimnary spot checks mean anything, there are two workers with 25 years seniority under 60 years of age (and thus not entitled to major benefits) for each one over 60 years of age. The pension problem, therefore, will remain a source of irritation and aggravation within the shops!

As for Reuther's claim that the union won a billion dollar package for five years at General Motors, the only modifying factors -and they are hardly inconsequentional-are the doubts that auto production and employment will remain at their present high level for five years. A more accurate appraisal would begin with the statement: If our workers continue to keep their jobs. if be to increase Social Security model change-overs don't cause too much unemployment, if business keeps up, then our package will total perhaps a billion dollars

> [LABOR ACTION will deal further with the GM contract in coming issues .- Ed.1

(Continued from page 1) Stalinist leaders of India and

range idea, is a substitute for rank other Asian governments know in power governments which have no popular support whatever.

All this will not come as a sur- foreign policy to their ranks.

prise to readers of LABOR AC-TION. But American public opinion has been carefully shielded from knowledge of these feelings. that one cannot indefinitely keep That may be one reason for the ability of the labor leaders here to sell their support of American

### Chi Daily News Writer Blasts U.S. for Bucking Asian Revolt

"One Man's Opinion," the Chirespondents to comment on the question "Have we stopped Communism?" and got the following pet.... from its man in the Far East, Keves Beech."

Beech's article (May 8) is straight - from - the - shoulder straight-seeing. The naiveté of his recommendation to Washington is passages from what he sees:

"A grizzled foreign correspondent expressed it: 'For a change I'd like to see us back a revolution instead of buck one."

"We began to lose Asia the day we won the war. Because, since the war ended, we have been bucking revolutions in Asia in-

"We have forgotten that our own intry was born of bloody rebellion-against a foreign power....

"In our wartime broadcasts we talked of freedom. In Southeast Asia some people listened and believed-and waited for the day when we would free them from the Japanese.

"We came and the Japanese went. And after us came the colonial masters of Southeast Asiathe British, French and Dutch.

"Driven out by the Japanese, defeated and discredited, they were back by force of American arms to reclaim what they considered theirs.

"They carried American arms. They wore belts 'made in the U. S. A.' They rode in Americans tanks and strafed native populations from American planes - to 'restore order.'

"The Communists loved it .... "Now, in Indo-China, we have just confirmed their opinion of us by recognizing the Bao Dai re-

"Bao is an expatriate playboy, rather a nice guy according to reports, whom the French picked up off the Riviera and deposited on his throne with the fond hope that he could save their colony from the Communists.

"It doesn't really matter whethcago Daily News called it. The er Bao is a French puppet, which newspaper asked its foreign cor- he is or he wouldn't be there. The important thing is that the Indo-Chinese think he is a French pup-

### U. S.'S QUISLINGS

"It may be too late to stop Communism in Asia. Some fairly intelligent people-not Communists -think so

"We certainly aren't going to stop it with the defeated and discredited Chiang, who is trying to set up a model shop on Formosa after losing all China.

"Or with South Korea's President Syngman Rhee, a venerable but querulous old patriot who is holding elections in his country next month only because we put the heat on him.

"Or with President Elpido Quiring the 'merry widower of Manila,' a shifty politician whose office is stained with the blood of murdered voters, and who is on our side only so long as we continue to funnel more millions into the Philippines.

"Or with playboy Bao, even if he is a nice guy.

"It could be that the answer is to help people rather than governments. To back a revolution instead of buck one."

Thus foreign correspondent Beech. The picture is true to life. One wonders, however, whether this veteran newspaperman really thinks the U.S. policy is due simply to ignorance and stupidity, and that the only thing preventing Washington from backing revolution in Asia instead of bucking it is that the State Department is less well informed than he.

That won't wash. It's worth looking into the socialist analysis of the ties between U.S. imperialism and its brother imperialisms in Western Europe, and into the reasons why Truman-Acheson insist on using such shady characters as their quislings.