

NEWS & LETTERS

"This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It"

VOL. II—NO. 5

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13

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

It's Nothing Unless It's Ours

By CHARLES DENBY

Workers are talking in the shop about the presidential election. I have lived through quite a few elections but never in my memory have working people taken such a lackadaisical attitude toward both candidates.

NO INTEREST

There is no interest as many have witnessed in the past. Workers have always based some type of reason for supporting a president of the United States. This is not true today among the majority of workers where I work.

Some are saying they are not voting for either.

Some are saying, "I am voting Democratic, but I am sure Ike will win the election."

Some say, "The Democratic Party seemed to lean a little towards labor and the working people during the first four years Roosevelt was in office. Since then, neither party has meant a hill of beans to the working people. They both represent big business."

POLITICIANS' SHENANIGANS & BLINDNESS

Many Negro leaders are trying to swing the Negro votes to Ike and the Republicans. Others are saying, "Vote for Ike as President, but be a Democrat the rest of the way." They pretend to base their argument on what Ike has done on civil rights, such as breaking down discrimination in Washington.

THE PEOPLE DID IT THEMSELVES

These Negro leaders are dumb and blind to the role that THE NEGRO PEOPLE have carried out in breaking down the walls of segregation—in Washington and throughout this country as a whole.

They cannot see the real outburst Negroes caused over not being admitted to a swimming pool in Washington.

They are dumb to the facts that Negroes, not Ike, forced restaurant owners to serve them. They are blind to the objective situation, that it was these new American Negroes—like those in Montgomery, Alabama; Tallahassee, Florida, and those Autherine Lucys—who have opened up a new light to the Negroes' passway to their American freedom.

Only because Ike happened to be president at the time, some of these leaders are hoping they can get American Negroes to credit it to Ike.

FOR THEIR OWN POLITICS

That is why workers and Negroes are not aroused over this election. No excitement. Workers know as well as every day Negroes that politics mean nothing in their lives unless it is their own politics and not the kind that you get in school

Pressure & Tension Pile Up

First Reactions to:

The Threat of War

The girls I work with were quite upset about the war situation. We had the strangest, and rather funny discussion at the time.

After getting over the madness, one of the girls said, "Oh well, life isn't worth living anyhow. You just seem to be rushing all the time. Rush here, rush home, rush, rush, right back here again. So what's so good about it?"

My other girl friend said she is going to get a grand new car and enjoy it because she probably won't have to pay for it.

Then, being religious, she began to think of purgatory and saw herself keeping a fire going for all eternity. So she thought that it might be better staying on earth.

A. T.
Detroit

When the Hungarian workers continue to revolt after Nagy is put back in, this is called "counter-revolution." But the workers go on in the face of the massed might of the Russian army, and the Hungarian Communist Party.

It looks like they want an end not only of Russian domination but also of the domination of totalitarian Communists whatever country they belong to.

The whole thing has baffled the United States State Department. But don't worry, as soon as Dulles decides what to do, he'll bungle. Can those brave Hungarian workers get their freedom in the face of all this?

Housewife
Detroit

When the news about the revolt in Hungary broke out, I couldn't help thinking that Ike must be holding his breath. He probably started worrying about the effect it would have on the elections right away. There is

not a doubt in my mind that it would have some effect on all the business about the H-bomb. If the satellites are giving Russia so much trouble right on their own doorstep, they could hardly be expected to risk a war with us. All the propaganda about needing the H-bomb falls right apart.

But that's not the whole question. It isn't just the danger of the fall-out, which is real enough. What I keep thinking about is all the work that goes into every H-bomb. I feel sure that the work and money and effort that is put into just one of them, could wipe out malnutrition and undernourishment in this whole country if it was spent in that direction instead.

Student
Morgantown, W. Va.

When the news came about Egypt being invaded I started to get upset the way I was upset when World War II started. But it didn't do any good my being upset then. It didn't stop the war. I made up my mind not to let it bother me and not to think about it. What can somebody like me do about it? What can anybody by himself do about it? Nobody like us wants war, but it isn't up to us. Getting upset doesn't do any good.

Cashier
Detroit

There are a lot of people who know how wrong others are acting, but don't do anything about it. Yet even by their own laws, a man who conceals the crime of another is guilty of the crime too. That's how I feel about injustice. If a man doesn't speak out and fight injustice, he is just as guilty as the man who commits the injustice, itself. Your people are speaking out.

Negro Woman
Jeri, W. Va.

THE MAIN TROUBLE

The unemployment situation in the State of Michigan is at a higher peak than it has been since the end of World War II. Many believe it will continue for a long time.

All other trouble comes from this crisis at the point of production.

GETTING WORSE

The auto plants, which practically all workers look to for their employment, are operating differently from the way it was in the early stages of the union movement.

Those that are in full operation have automatized their plants to the extent of cutting their working force by one third.

The two thirds that are working the companies are speeding up to the point where one worker is putting out two men's production, along with ten and 12 hours a day, six and seven days a week—by the grace, help and blessings of the union leadership.

DOUBLE GRIND

On top of this, the workers are grounded down by the high cost of living. Everything a worker has is on the installment plan.

Several weeks ago, Bob Hope was advertising the 1957 model cars on TV. He stated that he was introducing the 1957 model in 1956 but that you'd still be paying for it in 1958. The audience screamed with laughter. After it quieted down a little, he tried to save it and said, "Me, too." No laughter came then. But when he said, "Pay for it through 1958," this was one of his jokes that was not a joke. It is the life of the working people.

BIG DIFFERENCE

It is said that the difference between the American workers and the European workers (especially the Russian workers) is that their standard of living is much lower because of low wages, high prices and no installment buying.

Here it is high wages, higher prices, and all installments. Workers here say that creditors like a worker better who pays on installment than one who pays cash. Once in a while a worker may get a few bucks playing mutuels, and want to pay off a creditor. They want you to continue in debt to him so he can collect that high rate of interest. This causes great

(Continued on Page 8)

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TWO WORLDS:
Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Hungary

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EDITORIAL . . . page 4

OUR LIFE & TIMES . . . page 8

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

JOB DISCRIMINATION HURTS EVERYONE

FAIRMONT, W. Va.— I have never considered the race question as something that just concerns the colored people. It affects everyone, and particularly the working people. I have seen the race question used many times to try to divide men when they were in a fight with the companies. The companies are still using it.

At the mine where I work, I have seen it happen many times. The company is using discrimination right now.

IF THERE WEREN'T ANY BOSSES:

We Could Do a Lot Better

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—As the miners work and keep advancing into the seam of coal, track must be laid to provide a means of getting the cars to the various working sections to be loaded and to permit the placing of supplies near the working face.

Depending upon the condition of the section, the advancing of the track forward, or "moving-up," may be required once or twice a week. "Move-up" day is a busy day for everyone, especially for the track-men. On this day, they must put in a loop, or half-circle, for the empties to come around one side and through the loop. When the empties get about half-way through the loop, they are loaded and are pulled the rest of the way through the loop. From here, the loaded cars are hauled to the outside.

EVERYTHING FOULED UP

This was a "move-up" day and we were supposed to get the track all in. We got to the section that was to be moved-up expecting to get the work done as we have many times before. Only this time, it was a little different.

In order to lay track, you have the rails to lay and the ties to keep them separated the proper distance. We didn't have the rails or ties. The supplies had not been placed on the section for us to do our work.

It was the responsibility of the bosses to see that we had the stuff to work with. From past experience it was known that moving-up was a good day's work—going at a steady pace for the whole shift.

What to do? The bosses were trying to figure who to blame. We weren't figuring anything. Except that there would not be a move-up. Even the bosses knew that. But we were there so something had to be done. There was some track work that we could do—spiking, blocking, straightening of rails—and we set ourselves

WORK DISCRIMINATION

There are several colored men who have applied for jobs when they heard of openings. One of these men is a qualified mechanic with many years of experience. Another is a machine man who knows every machine they have in the mines. They have the right qualifications, but the wrong color.

While these men have been coming to the mine to get a job, there have been several white men hired, men who I know don't have the same ability,

TO DOING THAT.

Once it was decided that we would not be able to move-up, our boss left us and we went about what business we could. Arrangements were being made to get our supplies in so we could get a part of it done anyway.

About noon, we finally got our rails and ties in, and we started to work on getting the loop in. We organized the work in a leisurely fashion, taking our time but finishing everything we started.

No one told anyone what to do and everyone just fitted in where he might be needed. Track work is hard work, but for some reason the work seemed to be easy this time. Everything was going smoothly.

FOR NO OVERTIME

About an hour before quitting time, our boss came back. He said he had talked with the pit-boss and the pit-boss had told him to get the loop in. He asked us to stay in, after the shift, to get it finished. None of us wanted to stay in though several said they would if it was necessary.

We then looked the situation over, and a brief discussion followed. It went something like this:

"I don't want to stay in." Everyone agreed.

"If he leaves us alone, we can finish it." Everyone agreed.

We actually had not realized that we had done so much, because there was not very much left for us to do. We knew that if we were allowed to work as we had been working that we could finish in plenty of time.

But if the boss started to use his judgment, we knew that more than likely he would foul us up. It's funny how they have a knack of doing this so many times. At any rate, this time our boss used good judgment and left us alone.

We finished. We just didn't want to stay in, that's all.

experience or knowledge that these colored men have but who were not hired.

MINE COMMITTEE WARNED

I spoke to the mine committee about this. It isn't just that these men who have been refused jobs are colored. It is that if the company can get away with it, they will find an opportunity to use the fact that they are not hiring colored to divide the men further in the future.

The white miners know what is going on as well as the colored. It is as much to their advantage to fight against job discrimination as it is to the colored.

When an attitude of fairness is shown by the whites to the colored, it is not forgotten. The same thing is true when an attitude of unfairness is shown.

Work in the mines is such that there are often times when you have to depend on others. Not only in terms of everyday things, but also on long range plans and ideas. You can't very well place your trust in someone that you suspect will sell you out.

What was true during the early organizing days and the Depression is more important now than it ever was. If we're divided, there's nothing we can do. And there is one thing we have all found out—neither of us can do it alone.

If You Wondered . . .

PENNSYLVANIA — Last year, News & Letters reported that Cavalcante, President of Robena Local, the largest in the world, had been called up by the International on charges of wildcatting. The International attempted to suspend him from the chairmanship of the local. The rank-and-file refused to permit this to happen, but in spite of that a hearing was to have been held later on the matter. Little was heard about the outcome, although when the International pressed charges, that received much publicity. Nothing was done about it. The investigating commission, which was little more than a face saving gesture on the part of the International, dropped all charges.

It's a little late to be bringing the story up to date. But the final outcome was kept so quiet that we couldn't learn anything about it until we asked some of the Robena delegates at the miners convention last month.

THE INSANITY OF RACE

DETROIT—The first fallacy connected with this so-called "Race Problem" is that it isn't a problem. The whole idea of race is a well thought out system.

If there were a problem, it wouldn't be a Negro problem but a "white" problem. A basic change is needed in the actions and thoughts of the so-called white people not the so-called Negroes. The overpowering thoughts of the whites cause the antagonistic thoughts and acts of the Negroes.

IT WAS ARRANGED

This ridiculous situation didn't just happen, as problems do. It was arranged systematically.

If I were a white person, I would never make myself look ridiculous by taking a position in favor of segregation, discrimination and other insanities that go along with it. Nothing seems more humiliating than to argue a position when you don't have an argument. Frustration sets in and the only recourse is hatred. Hatred is a full-time job that works against itself.

After Adolf Hitler you would think even the South would forsake its

This'll Interest You WEST VIRGINIA

An interesting side-light, which came out of the "investigation" of the charges against Cavalcante, may be of interest to the members of District 31. Urbaniak, President of District 31, was one of the Executive Board members assigned to the investigation. It is reported that this investigating committee tried to do just a little more than just investigate.

Robena Local had negotiated a seniority agreement which is comprehensive in scope and far superior to the one which appears in the wage contract.

The "investigators," it is said, went to the mine management and tried to get them to throw out the agreement that the local had made and accept the one in the standard contract.

The mine management refused, knowing full well that were this attempted they would have a strike on their hands.

When it was all over, Urbaniak, it is said, called Cavalcante aside and asked him how he could negotiate such an agreement himself because he'd like to be able to get the same thing for "his men" in District 31.

Uh-huh.

race insanity.

Hitler began by hailing the "pure" Aryan German as God's gift to the world. This theory excluded too many. He was quick to grasp, scoundrel that he was, the only way to increase his "prized Aryan" was to make one drop of German blood make a German. This theory drew millions over the entire world into his elite group—overlooking the fact that millions of Jews, Chinese, American Negroes, Africans, Arabs and every type of so-called "undesirable" race in the world had some German blood in their veins.

A DROP IN A GALLON

The point is, if you want to increase coffee in name only then all coffee with cream in it is coffee and a gallon of cream with a drop of coffee is still coffee.

Even the violent South African whites have acknowledged the futility of their purity. Yet, in these Southern United States, we have a group of people so isolated from world reality that this overpowering fact is driving them mad with hatred.

Now to return to the American Negro. If a Negro woman has a child by a so-called white man the child is Negro. If a white woman has a child by a so-called Negro man, the child is (bless his heart) still a Negro. Like the coffee, there is no end to these Negroes.

CENTURIES OF MIXING

It's a good thing this system wasn't followed historically. The Romans used Black African troops to conquer England. Hannibal, an African, had invaded Rome before that. The African Moors invaded Spain in about the twelfth century and were still there when Columbus discovered America. During the slave trade that followed, millions of African slaves were taken to Europe never to return home. What happened to them?

SOUTH FIGHTS ITSELF

We don't have to go that far back to see the insanity of it all. Let's dwell in the Southern United States.

The Negro and white South are closer related than any other section of the country.

There have been so many Negro babies born from Negro mothers and white fathers that actually the white South is fighting its illegitimate (so-called) brothers and sisters, cousins nephews and nieces.

When the true history of the United States is written, future generations will wonder how, in the age of the Atom, we were still quibbling over this insanity of so-called race.

—Ford Worker

"Is This Why We Built Union?" Old Worker Asks in Disgust

DETROIT — Coming home from work last week, I heard two white workers talking loudly about the union and its sell-out of workers.

One worker did not want to agree fully with his friend all at once. The other one, who was attacking the union leadership so sharply started to yell.

"LESS THAN A HOOT"

He said, "How can you say one good thing about a steward, a committeeman, a union officer or International representative? You know as well as I do they are all for themselves and give less than a hoot about a working man or woman."

He said, "Take today. Joe was laid off with 20 years seniority. Paul has five years and is still working. Joe has four children and a wife. Paul has no

one but Paul to support. Is that what we fought to build this union for?"

"We also built the International. The committeeman told Joe that if he had run for steward and got elected he would not have been laid-off.

"Hell, who wants to be a steward these days? I would not for anything."
GOT TO BREAK THROUGH

Both of these workers were in their sixties. Every worker on the bus was smiling and laughing in agreement with the man who was attacking the union leadership. When his friend got off, another worker got up from the front and rushed back to sit beside him.

He said, "Man you are absolutely right. This Union got us in this shape talking about Russia; but this is Russia we have in this union leadership.

"It is too bad Reuther is our leader. He is in like Stalin was in Russia. He came to power by the same method. But we got to do something. We got to break through some way."

Everyone had a serious look on his face, but no one seemed to disagree with his statement.

—Chrysler Body Worker

What's Going On Here?

LOS ANGELES—There's an inspector where I work who rejected about 40 thousand dollars worth of parts. He asked the engineers what to do with them and they told him to submit the parts to them, which he did.

The foreman tried to make a lot of trouble about it by saying the parts were good and should be passed. The inspector refused and threatened to turn in his stamp if he was made to pass the parts because he would be responsible.

STEWARD SAYS "COOPERATE"

Somehow the chief steward got involved in this. The inspector told the steward that the company couldn't make him buy bad parts, all he could do was reject them if they were not any good. So the chief steward told him he should try to cooperate with his foreman.

The inspector asked the steward if he knew what he was saying. As a result of this, the inspector was temporarily removed from his job and the foreman hasn't said anything to him for the last two weeks.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

This old world is getting into a bad condition among the American people today. White against white and Negro against Negro. Who knows what to do to save this undecided world from so much hateful ways against each other?

THERE WAS A TIME

There used to be a time when the big union leaders were for the poor working class of people. But the way it looks to me now, the union leaders have closed up the union office doors and joined hands with the big company owner and will have nothing else to say or do for the working people.

NOTHING FOR

WORKERS OR NEGROES

Where is president Walter Reuther? No one can hear from him since so many workers are out of work. So I think he is going to hide until the election is over.

Rep. Diggs is telling the people that if they don't vote Democratic they will be sure to starve to death and will not get their civil rights for the Negro people.

But Rep. Diggs doesn't carry the Negro vote like he used to because Gov. Williams and Walter Reuther got Diggs going their way now. Rep. Diggs should turn around and think what the people want.

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT

And that is: Enough money for their work so they can live a decent life; and all people can have their freedom; and there won't be so much talking about each other and so much hating the Negro and disliking the poor people.

So let every one live his own life and be free to speak when it is time, and not be called a communist when they talk for their freedom.

President Ike need not go around getting up all the leading Negroes that used to be in the Democratic party and have them to talk and make these promises to the poor working people and civil rights to the Negro people. Because if they say it and don't do it, there will be trouble among the American people.

Who's Normal?

DETROIT—Over at Burroughs they try not to lay people off when a job is through — which is very nice. But, someone told me that one job is near completion and they sent a couple of the girls to take an arithmetic test for an inspection job.

The test was all on fractions and they were allowed 12 minutes to take it. They failed.

But they put them in the department anyhow and the girls hated it so. It was testing some kind of machine by pulling down a lever and banging on some keys, which is very hard on the arms and hands.

Pardon me, they were told not to bang the keys but they were to be "depressed"—and they used all kinds of fancy words to explain the operation.

One girl told them, "Oh, I know what that is because I am so depressed myself."

WHAT'S NORMAL?

The foreman came up to them and told them they weren't qualified for the job. That they would have to return to their old department and get transferred somewhere else.

Not only that. He also told them, "You're not normal. You don't progress normally on the job."

Every one at the lunch table was laughing by this time. When it was quiet the other girl who took the test blurted out, "Heck, I know I'm dumb, but I don't want no foreman telling me."

For sure, if anyone passed by then, he would have thought a good joke had just been told. And so it was, for on hearing this story I thought to myself, "Who was really the dumb-bell here? The girls didn't want that job."

—Wirer & Solderer

What's the Difference Between Company Speed-Up and Russian Speed-Up?

LOS ANGELES — The last few weeks there's been a good deal of speed-up going on where I work. The company is trying to increase the quota by one and two parts per each machine per day.

The committeeman made his rounds around the shop and told the men to do a little bit above net and stay around their machines.

GRIEVANCES SOAR

A steward told me where they used to get one grievance once in a while, now they're getting ten and 15 a week. Men are being written up for failing to keep up with the new quotas and being away from their machines.

One steward said the men should do a little more work because the quotas are low. But this man has a job where he doesn't have to meet any quotas.

I asked him what was the difference between the company increasing the quota and the Russians demanding more work out of the Poles and the East Germans.

I said, "Any Communist will tell you anybody can do a little more work for the State. What's the difference in what you are saying and what the Communists are saying?"

"If you're going to act like a vice president-in-

charge-of-time-study for the company, why don't you go up to the front office and put in your application?"

SERVES WHOSE INTERESTS?

As a result of what this committeeman said, the men took it as a committeeman trying to get the men to speed-up. They started circulating petitions to have him removed from office. The men who wore the election badges and pushed for his election are trying to get rid of him.

He claims he isn't trying to speed-up the men, he just wants them to stay around the machines to keep the company off his back.

NON-UNION TOWN

As far as I can gather this is pretty much a non-union town in the needle trades.

I haven't heard much talk about organizing a union, but in the few weeks I worked in this trade I was surprised to see how independent the women are in spite of this.

I saw one woman turn her back on a boss who was talking to her. I heard another say to the forelady, "If you don't like it, it's tough, I'll go someplace else."

—Housewife
Los Angeles

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

There seems to be a certain kind of person that has to be a big shot no matter what.

I know as things happen in the world this type also changes in relation to them. Now, as the union becomes more and more bureaucratized, you find guys in the shop that "want to get ahead." They look in two directions. They either want to be a foreman or a steward, as long as it's something "big", something apart from their fellow-workers.

MESSED UP

You know production is messed up somewhere for out of it you get the people that work and the ones that are above you, the ones that supervise.

At work, the most common is the one that sees his way of getting where he wants by talking to the foreman every chance he gets, coming up with suggestions on how to improve some operation or another. It's a pity to watch them. They seem to be hoping and praying every minute for that blessed event.

BECOMES FOREMAN

One young guy where I work is just such a person. This is a non-union shop but they have something like a company union. You

pick your representative and every so often they meet with the company to listen to what the company has to say. Well, this guy was elected and he came around to tell us whenever we wanted something, he'd come into the office with us. We thought maybe this guy is O.K.

Then I noticed he began to eat his lunch with some of the foremen and when the UAW would hand out leaflets he'd stand around and discuss it with the foremen and they would talk and laugh. So you begin to think, "Well I better watch that guy. He's always with the big shots."

Sure enough, when there was a shift in foremen, he was coming up as a new foreman.

Recently, one of the foremen took a day off and this guy was given charge of "his girls." Well, you should have seen him. He did the work of two girls, and went around trying to get the girls to put out one more set than usually so it would look good for him.

CAN'T THEY SEE THEMSELVES?

I can't see these "big shot" types. Can't they look at themselves? They don't fool any one for it shows through no matter how good they can talk.

EDITORIALS

The Threat of War

Reminiscent of the Truman statement about the so-called "police action" needed at one time "to bring peace to Korea," was Eisenhower's recent statement about the current actions in the Middle East.

The cold war is developing into an outright war. The participants seem to be different. Israel marched into Egypt. Britain and France are committed to force.

In its usual uselessness, the UN can't get any resolution passed—much less do anything "to keep the peace." Russia joined the United States in trying to condemn Israel as the aggressor — as though who threw the first stone has any fundamental bearing on the actual reasons which bring about capitalist wars.

No doubt the double double-cross of Eisenhower-Dulles by Eden-Mollet is very annoying during an election period.

No doubt, on the other side, this election campaign and the Hungarian revolution emboldened the second cousins to think they could steal a march on the big boys.

Where does all this leave the people? That is the question.

For weeks now, readers have been writing in to tell about the widespread war jitters in America, though we are supposed to be "pursuing happiness" in "peace and prosperity."

Whether worker or student, housewife or professional, adult or youth, Negro or white—all felt that they have no control over their lives whatever, and that war could break out at any time.

Will our blood be shed and our lives shattered in a new imperialist war when the ashes of the last are not yet cold?

Full Production

It was the last week in October that the papers reported that Ford is now working at full production with overtime for all.

That very day, a Ford worker came up to say that in his plant his department had been laid-off as well as two other departments—for a week or two.

At the very same time, Chrysler scheduled Saturday work and said they were going to work six days a week until Christmas. They said they needed the full production and that six days was compulsory and if a worker didn't come in on Saturday he'd be penalized by not being allowed to work on Monday.

So—on Tuesday, they laid off half of one department in that very plant.

Full production has never meant full employment, and since automation it certainly doesn't.

Particularly since automation, has mismanagement and disorder become so ridiculous, that the statistics are almost beginning to match those the Russians are famous for.

Russian statisticians will take the output of a tractor plant which has "overfulfilled" its quota "by 103 per cent," and add it to a house that is "90 per cent fulfilled"—that is, it doesn't have a roof so it isn't a house and no one can live there—and proudly announce that the "norms" have been "97 per cent fulfilled."

Such is the talk of "full employment."

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Readers'

MINERS vs. LEWIS

As soon as I got the paper, I showed it to a lot of the men I know. I told them, 'You boys want to know what Lewis put down? Here it is.'

Miner,
Osage, W.Va.

* * *

Every miner in the country ought to get this paper to get the real facts of what really went on at the convention. You can bet your bottom dollar that you won't get them from the UMW Journal.

Miner,
Morgantown, W.Va.

* * *

The first day of the convention dealt mostly with routine stuff, like invocations by priest and minister, committee announcements and partial reports. Pacifico, the acting chairman, talked like he had mush in his mouth. Most of what he said was what a great man Lewis is; without Lewis there would have been no organized labor movement or even labor; Lewis is Mr. Organized Labor, has the most of everything that the working people could ever dream of having to represent them; the most brilliant, capable, courageous determined leader, and so on and so on. A few weeks back in the mine is just what he needs.

—Delegate
West Virginia

* * *

The report of the UMW convention in your paper (Oct. 30) is the only one I've read that gave the real facts of what happened there.

Miner,
Pursglove, W.Va.

* * *

That cartoon of Lewis holding that club over the miners' head sure hit the spot. It should have been put up on the bulletin board.

Miner,
Blacksville, W.Va.

* * *

Workers, especially in the UAW, have had the idea that John L. Lewis is pretty fair and not as bad as our bureaucrats. But after I read your article on the miners' convention (Oct. 30), I don't know how John L. got his reputation. From what I read and hear now, he's a worse s.o.b. than Reuther.

UAW Member
Detroit

Lewis is so hot about the public press as being spokesmen for big business—what's the difference between them and him? He keeps saying that whatever benefits labor benefits business. Is that why the workers have to produce more and take all the lay-offs and speed-ups? Is that why he's a partner with the operators in the railway and transport corporation he set up?

—Student
Morgantown, W. Va.

* * *

The paper seems like a wonderful idea. The trouble is that the men come home and talk about their problems and troubles there, instead of getting it out where it might do some good. That's why the paper seems like a good idea to me.

Worker's Wife
Scott's Run, W. Va.

* * *

I know we have to work harder for what we get and there is a lot of prejudice in this world, North and South. I know my husband has a skilled trade, but because he is a Negro, he can't advance.

Housewife
Pittsburgh, Pa.

* * *

MORE ON RUBY FAUCET

Anyone who has lived here for any time knows what the Faucet Plant is like. They run it like a bunch of dictators. It wouldn't surprise me one bit to find out that they're really Communists. They certainly act like it toward their workers.

They're pushing them around again since they broke the strike. If the people there would only realize that the only way to stop it is to stand together, they could make it a decent place to work instead of what it is.

As a matter of fact, if the working people would stand shoulder to shoulder, they could rule the world.

Housewife
Morgantown, W. Va.

* * *

"FORWARD LOOK"

Whoever drew that cartoon about Chrysler's "forward look" hit the point. He drew it somewhat in the shape of a Chrysler-made car, too. Somebody stuck it up on the wall in the department and all the guys who saw it had to laugh.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

'ERA OF PROSPERITY'

I used to feel appalled when I heard of people who were working two jobs to make out. But in the past few weeks, and from different sources, I have heard of several people who are working three jobs. I can't imagine how a human can do it. While the politicians talk about the four-hour day, some people are apparently working a 24-hour day to share in their much-publicized "era of prosperity."

Working Woman

* * *

I heard one of the candidates say that it would do people good to go hungry once in a while. Isn't that something for a man to say who expects people to go out and vote for him then?

I doubt that he's ever known what it's like to go hungry. But plenty of us do. And not a long, long time ago either. Now,

There are kids on this hill who couldn't go to school because they didn't have anything to wear. And kids who didn't have anything to eat. And they talk about prosperity!

I don't have anything to spare, really. I have ten kids of my own to feed. My husband makes \$50 a week. But I couldn't see anyone go hungry. I'll always share what I have I guess, no matter how little it is.

The people that can afford it wouldn't spare a nickel. It's the people who have gone through an experience themselves who know what it's like. They're the ones who come through.

I went through it when my husband was sick and I was the only one left to keep our family going. You don't forget what it's like to see your kids go hungry.

Mother of Ten
West Virginia

* * *

HEALTH & SAFETY

I went to hand out papers at the Ford plant in Highland Park. There were more guys coming out of there with bandaged hands! I didn't make a special point of counting them, but I noticed a lot. Somebody ought to give out Purple Hearts to the injured "soldiers" in the battle against Automation.

Committee Member
Detroit

Views

Your article about health ("Healthy Man Is Difficult to Find," Oct. 16) is one of the best things I ever read about health. I think the doctor who wrote it is about the only good doctor alive today.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

* * *

That story about good health is one of the truest things ever. Especially where he writes: "Good health is attained through the combined full use of body and mind by each individual in a free-flowing zestful activity — a condition not possible for the majority of people under existing forms of work."

Salesman
Detroit

* * *

THIS WHITE WORLD

I don't read the *Pittsburgh Courier* any more. I used to get it, but every page had some story with big headlines at the end saying "Jim Crow ended here." That's all you could see. You were supposed to get the impression, I guess, that there wasn't any more Jim Crow up North . . . that there just wasn't any more Jim Crow, practically. It used to make me mad, so I just stopped getting the paper.

Miner's Wife
Scots Run, W. Va.

* * *

Negroes are advancing every day. There is no denying or getting around it. Prejudice is being broken down. But until Negroes learn to stick together, I can't see where too much can be done for them, North or South.

Steelworker's Wife
Pittsburgh, Pa.

* * *

CAMPAIGN WIND-UP

This "get-out-the-vote" campaign is ridiculous. As if anybody is going to be persuaded by a spot announcement on television or radio. If people don't see a difference between the two parties, if they feel it doesn't make much difference who gets in, they're not going to run out and vote because some advertising campaign tells them it's their duty. Politics is not some kind of an unpleasant duty, it is a road to freedom. But politics is not just choosing between two capitalist parties in an election.

Politics is what the workers do in the factory to improve their working conditions, what the Negroes do to get their rights for themselves. The public is not "apathetic," it just knows where its real interests lie.

Wayne Student
Detroit

* * *

I don't know how the elections will go, but at least among the students there seem to be more who refuse to register either Democratic or Republican than ever before. One woman, who went around house-to-house in the registration here, told me that the older people generally registered as one or the other, but that the majority of the younger people and the students were registering "Independent." They finally got to expect it when a young person came to the door.

Student
West Virginia

* * *

The campaign issues in this election are more obvious in what they leave out, than in what they say. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have dared even to mention unemployment, for example. In a campaign year you expect all kinds of statistics about how many are unemployed. But not this year!

I remember when I got out of the service a few years ago, one radio station gave the statistics every night. Not any more though. When they mention it at all, they just say there are "more" than at such and such a period. But they don't dare give the figures.

Ex. G.I.
West Virginia

* * *

WAR & PEACE

Anyone would think that everybody in America, in the world, would be so happy that Stevenson wants to stop those terribly harmful hydrogen bomb tests. Because it IS true that whenever one is exploded a little more of it gets into our bones, and enough of it . . .!

Then Bulganin sends a letter saying he thinks it's a good idea to stop the tests—on both sides. But Eisenhower gets mad because he's under the impression that everything anyone says now is related to the campaign.

What's with Eisenhower? From what's happening it seems the only

thing he wants is to be president again. He never even thought that Bulganin's letter might be non-partisan and sincere. It didn't seem even to enter his mind.

And the worst thing is that some of the people second what Eisenhower says without thinking about it; because if they gave the situation a minute's thought they couldn't help but see that the most important thing today is that somehow peace and safety be assured and not Eisenhower's next term. If we're all dead who cares whether Communism existed? It can be fought only if there are people alive and healthy to fight it!

Interested
Intellectual, Detroit

* * *

I saw this cartoon in the British magazine *New Statesman and Nation*. It is certainly the point of view of the majority of Americans too.



Reader
Chicago

* * *

TWO WORLDS

My wife and I went to visit some relatives in Ecorse about a month and a half ago and they asked us if we had seen that *LIFE* article you wrote about in "Two Worlds" ("*LIFE Magazine Rewrites American History*," Oct. 16).

My wife is going to go back to Ecorse with your "Two Worlds" column to show them what we think about that *LIFE* story.

Negro Auto Worker
Detroit

* * *

The last "Two Worlds" column was terrific. ("The Absence of a Mass Labor Party in the U.S.," Oct. 30.) It was so concrete as to where the new forces will come from—and all within current American history. It's the first time I have seen such a clear and penetrating analysis of the subject.

Housewife
Los Angeles

Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Hungary

"Russian soldiers, go home!" has become the central rallying slogan of the Hungarian revolution which broke out on Tuesday, Oct. 23. The student youth seem to have been the ones who sparked this revolt. But there is no doubt whatever that the overwhelming majority of the people are not merely "behind" it, but are creatively and actively participating in this struggle for freedom.

THE WORKING-CLASS METHOD

As in all deep, popular revolts, the Hungarian soldiers have joined the workers who form the leading core of the revolution. A general strike tied up all railroad transport as well as most production. Not only did this working-class method of fighting put its stamp on the revolt, but also it thereby linked itself to the military strategy of the rebellion.

AGAINST 'STALINIST' and 'TITOIST'

What is new in this revolt, the way in which it is distinguished from the Polish revolt, is that this mass revolution is not only struggling against Russian imperialist domination. It is also against its own ruling clique, so-called Stalinist and Titoist alike.

Indeed, there is no fundamental difference between these two brands insofar as the relations with the workers are concerned.

The Hungarian people opposed Imre Nagy's "new" government, in which the only thing that is new is that some anti-Communist, but equally reactionary small capitalists (Smallholders Party) are included in the Central Committee. Small business capitalists and state capitalists are thus leagued with the Russians in trying to put down the mass revolt.

THE FACE OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION

There is not a single word, in all the verbiage about national unity and about getting the Russian troops out of Hungary, that there will be any change in relations at the point of production.

The attempt, on this side of the Iron Curtain, is to whitewash counter-revolution so long as it is not Russian. This is something the Hungarian working people are laying their lives down to stop. It is they who have suffered under the rule of the Five-Year Plans. This is true not only of the so-called Stalinist version of plans. In Tito's Yugoslavia as in Gomulka's Poland as in Khrushchev's Russia, the production plans are directed against the workers.

Thus, for example, the so-called "New Course"—which was initiated after the death of Stalin when heavy industry targets were revised downwards—did not in any way change the conditions of production. The guiding rule remained "strict labor discipline".

In true state capitalist fashion, Gaspar, chairman of the National Council of the so-called Trade Unions, asked on January 12, 1956 that "educational measures (read: jail sentences) must be taken against violators of work discipline."

Nagy, who was so busy talking about the "old sins", did nothing to change that. In fact, in the midst of the revolution against him, when he was still appealing for "national unity" against Russian occupation, he was already busy telling the Hungarian workers how tough things would be for the "first few months" after "order" has been established.

Revising production targets did nothing to change work "norms" (production quotas). On the contrary, until the actual outbreak, the Hungarian press was full of talk against workers' "complacency" to these targets and, while promising better wages sometime in the future, the Nagys continued to talk of "work competitions" (read: piecework and speedup) as the rule of production.

Stalinist or Titoist managers, even as both Ford and Reuther here, can think of no way of running production except on the backs of the workers.

IT DEPENDS ON THE WORKERS

At the same time, however, we must bear in mind the fact that in the popular revolt, too, there are two major forces. The life of the revolution depends on whether the workers or the middle classes gain the leadership.

The present attempts of the workers to seize oil fields, rail centers, steel factories and means of communication and to run these by revolutionary committees—that is to say, workers control of production—is the true sign that this revolution is attempting a total change. In that alone can lie its true success.

If Russia puts down this revolt by its superior military might, it will learn that no counter-revolution can, for long, still the new forces of revolution that have unfolded.

—R. D.

YOUTH Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

They were taking inventory in my shop and, since there wasn't much work in my department, I was told to take over a hand-truck and help move stuff around. Most of the hand-truckers are young. The guy I talked to, in order to find out about the job and the foreman, was about 17.

He told me to keep as far away from the foreman as possible since the foreman has to tell you what he wants moved. If he does not see you he'll get someone else.

'I'M NO DOG'

He told me to make sure the foreman tells me what to move. "None of that whistling and pointing at a skid," he said. "I told him yesterday that I was no dog. If he whistles and points, just don't pay him any mind."

We talked a little more and then the foremen pointed to him and beckoned. The kid started cursing under his breath and turned his back to the foreman, who smiled and called him by name. He moved off slowly, cursing all the way.

OLDER HANDS COMPLAIN

Some of the older hands claim the young guys don't take an interest in the union like they did when they were young. I believe it's true. There seems to be little the union has to offer.

Certainly there is no lack of ill-feeling against the company by the young guys.

I belong to a UAW local that is relatively small. The officers are all newly elected. There is plenty of dissent from the floor at meetings. But there is little that happens that is new. Every time the men try to make a move they're brought up short either by the contract or the UAW constitution.

The union that the men created to protect themselves against the company isn't responsive to them any longer. When the union decides to back a grievance, they seek to be "fair" with the company. It just doesn't function as a workers' organization should.

CAN'T GET HELP

Not long ago the company fired a guy for repeated absences. He hadn't been ill and had no doctor's note to show the company. After he was fired he showed up at a union meeting to ask for help to be reinstated. The first thing the committee wanted him to produce was a note from a doctor. Otherwise there was nothing they could do for him. The really sad ending is that few people are shocked by this. The union doesn't back workers right or wrong. It only backs them sometimes—if they've got a "good" case.

Youth Up Front In E. Europe Revolts

There are people who have a lot of nerve talking about freedom as though it's a "dignified" word that only adults know anything about.

It is the youth, especially the adolescents, who are in the forefront of the East European revolutions, performing the most hazardous and courageous tasks.

The Polish paper, *Glos Wielkopolski*, from Poznan, wrote openly in its issue of August 10, 1956:

"It must be admitted that it was the adolescents who constituted the majority of the assailants." (Against Russian rule.)

Now, in the Hungarian revolution, the Hungarian youth are demanding to be an integral part of the revolutionary leadership.

In Russia, by law, no one under 27 may belong to the Communist Party. So fearful are the top bureaucrats that they do not even trust the budding young bureaucrats until they have been screened, hardened and proven by years of surveillance and actual bossing.

You Almost Go Crazy Cooped Up At Home, Working Mother Says

SCOTT'S RUN, W. Va.— I used to be so nervous. I was hollering at the kids all day. But since I've started to work, my nerves are one hundred per cent better. I think what I needed more than anything else was just to get out of the house once in a while.

Before, I was home all the time with the kids and the house. If I went across the road, the kids were right with me. I couldn't get away in the evening, either. If my husband got tired of the noise in the house, he could put on his hat and go out somewhere. I couldn't do that. It can almost set you crazy cooped up in a house all the time.

But as nice as it is to be away from the kids for a while and out doing something else, I catch myself thinking of them all during the day. Wondering what they're doing and looking forward to seeing them at night. When I come home, I look for them to be waiting for me at the top of the hill.

There are some of my neighbors who think it's

terrible for me to be working instead of at home taking care of the kids while they're still small. They make me so mad. They don't know what the situation was. They think because my husband is working I don't need to work. My husband isn't so keen about my working either.

MAKES YOU NERVOUS

Part of what was making me so nervous was the bills that were piling up. The strike put us in the hole plenty. I wanted to work mainly to help us get out of it. I was the one who had to answer the door every time a bill collector came, and tell him we didn't have the money to pay him. My husband didn't have to see them. He was in the mine all day. It kept me upset all the time.

Maybe it won't work out. I may have to work for just a few more months and then quit, to keep peace, once we're caught up. But I like my job, and I wish I could keep it. Nobody else can know how much better I feel to be working.

—Miner's Wife

TALKING ABOUT:

Layoffs Due to Automation

In principle, the development of automatic machinery should lead to the reduction of menial drudgery for many workers. As a means for more rapid production of goods, automation should raise the standards of living for at least those who live in this country of wealth and prosperity.

But in practice, however, many thousands of workers in the auto industry have been laid off so that they and their families are left in destitution. It seems likely that the trend toward automation will continue, and that more and more people will be displaced from work which has hitherto given them a livelihood and some measure of security. The tragic effects of automation will

be felt even more in the auto industries, in aircraft industries, and will extend to other areas.

OBSOLETE WORKERS?

The dislocation of workers due to new technological developments is of course not a new phenomenon. What is indeed surprising is that effective measures have not been adopted to protect the right of people to make a decent living.

Is it not obvious that workers cannot be dumped out with the debris—with the pieces of obsolete machinery?

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

But for the present, what can be done to help those who are already unemployed and to prevent the spreading of unscrupulous lay-offs?

It would take much, much too long a time before any adequate measures for social welfare can be established by Federal law, by industrial subsidization, or by bureaucratic union procedure, if ever.

UP TO THE PEOPLE

Once again it is up to the people who are directly involved, namely those who work in industry and who may be laid off, to grasp the situation, and to act immediately.

It is up to those who still have jobs and who still have influence by virtue of their usefulness, to refuse to work their regular full schedule while some of their fellow employees have been dismissed.

They should, they must, demand that either everyone works fewer hours or nobody works at all. If this is carried out by unanimous action, it can't help but succeed.

This will, no doubt, lead to a general reduction of regimented working hours. Perhaps it will even force upon our economic system a modification of organization which will benefit most of our population. But isn't this the logical result of automation?

—W.N.H.

Los Angeles

Why Are Adults So Harsh Against Youth?

DETROIT. — There seems to be no section of the "adult" population that is for the youth. Everyone is ready to cut them down.

You can speak to people who are not such "sterling" characters themselves and they'll come up with, "I don't know what's happening to kids these days, they're so bad."

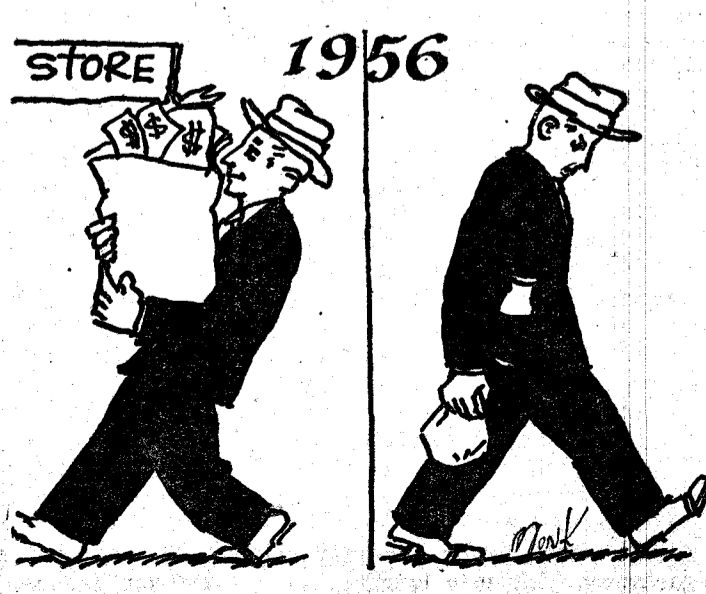
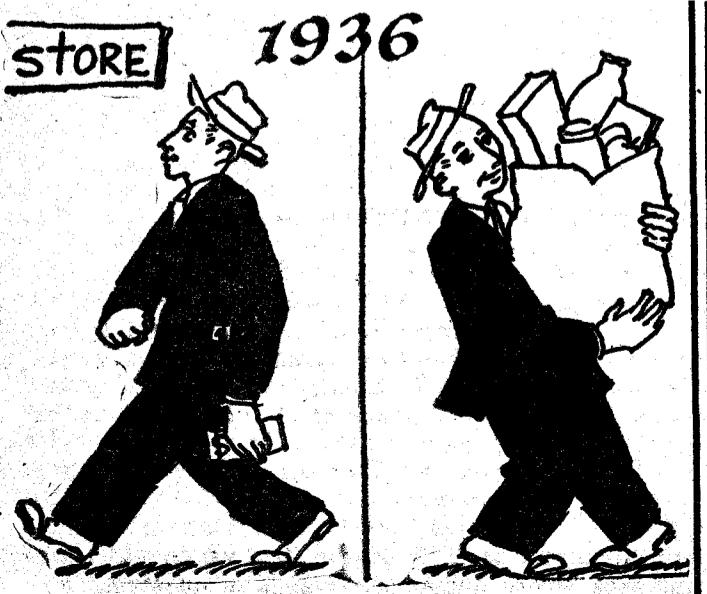
Just today my friend told me of one of the girls whose husband always chased around with other women and has

now left her. Now she's having trouble with her 13-year-old son and a daughter. They don't mind her.

I asked her if maybe she is so upset about her husband that she's been taking it out on the kids and they can't take it no more. She said she's upset but the kids should obey.

I honestly believe that *News & Letters* is the only friend youth have, besides themselves.

—"27-year-old Youth"



A Woman's Viewpoint

LOS ANGELES — You don't hear much about women's rights anymore. When it's spoken of in articles or speeches it's usually a term that seems to belong to bygone days, as though women fought their battles and won and it's all a thing of the past.

Today, the women politicians play politics like any of the politicians of the big parties. They don't speak the language of the working woman or the housewife.

IN ELECTRICAL TRADES

I worked in the electrical trades for several years and there the union seemed to represent no one but the company. One time two hundred of us went down to the union hall for a meeting. We wanted shop stewards. The union had been in for a year and we still had none. We wanted to elect them then and there.

The business agent had the nerve to stand there and say, "Now ladies, you know how changeable you are. You might elect someone tonight and change your minds tomorrow."

He was lucky he didn't get torn apart. We elected our shop stewards on the spot.

IN NEEDLE TRADES

I worked for several weeks recently in the needle trades. The work is hard and fast. It's piece-work and there is no time to do anything but make that "machine sing," as one boss puts it. Most girls don't even take their breaks.

My second week on a power machine, I was given something new to do on a special machine. There was something wrong with it and I had to work twice as hard. I worked until the perspiration stood out on my forehead. I'd zip through a bundle of heavy corduroy skirts, tie them and start another as fast as I could. At the end of the day the boss had figured out that I had only produced \$2.80 worth of work and laid me off.

Some women have to support their families without any other aid. One friend of mine was even thinking of working two jobs. At that she would probably only make what a production man brings home in eight hours.

You don't hear any of the politicians mentioning these things. We're supposed to be in the throes of prosperity and anything a woman makes is supposed to be just gravy for her family.

Do Children Help Happy Marriage?

WEST VIRGINIA — I read an article in the daily paper sometime ago. It had an unusual point of view. It said that childless marriages often are happier than family ones. In a way there was a lot of truth in it.

IT DEPENDS

It depends on the relation between husband and wife whether the children will make it closer or farther apart. If a marriage is shaky, children can make it even shakier and drive the man and wife even farther apart. Usually in a shaky marriage, the children and the mother get closer and closer, and the relation between husband and wife farther and farther apart.

When my children were small I'd catch myself many times. If my son dropped something or messed something up, I'd just pick it up again, gladly. But if my husband did the same thing I'd be furious for days. I'd catch myself wondering why I was acting that way.

When a woman does something like that, she knows it isn't right and the man senses it, too. But it goes on getting worse and worse.

If the relationship between the man and wife is good, it doesn't take children to make the marriage a success. If it's bad, children won't help it any—but only make it worse.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

ATOMIC RADIATION: What Can It Do? (Part IV)

For generations, there have been discussions about which has greater influence over people's lives, environment or heredity. The part each plays may vary in any particular individual, but there is little doubt today concerning the profound effect the external material forces have in shaping individual lives.

Now, however, a new, entirely different external force exists that unquestionably can shape not only our lives but those of our descendants. Environment here directly unites with heredity.

REVERSE EVOLUTION

In the mutation effects of radioactivity there exists a force which can reverse evolution and perhaps bring into being men much inferior to monkeys.

A mutation is a change produced in the Genes, the element in our sex cells, through which we inherit various characteristics that make us what we are. The energy of radiation may produce permanent changes in these Genes, changes which are passed on to our children and to subsequent generations.

LEAD TO HARMFUL EFFECT

Moreover, the mutant Genes, in the vast majority of cases in all the species thus far studied, lead to some kind of harmful effect. There may be a shortening of life, a failure to conceive, or malformation in surviving children. A small part of this harm would appear in the first generation of the offspring of the person who received the radiation. Most of the harm would be expressed in the successive generations. The real damage of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombs may appear generations from now.

Any radiation dose, however small, can induce some mutation. The total dose is what counts. The damage done by radiation is cumulative. What is important to a child is the total radiation dose that child's parents have received from their birth to the birth of their child.

In the United States, the average age of both parents at the time of birth of all their children is approximately 30 years. It is important therefore—for future generations—that all radiation exposure during this age period be limited and recorded.

SOURCES OF RADIATION

Radiation is measured in Roentgen units. These are the major sources of radiation: (1) The radiation which results from natural causes, and not under our control, coming from cosmic rays and from naturally-occurring minerals like Radium. This amounts to an average of 4.3 Roentgen units over a 30-year period. At high altitudes the 30-year average is greater.

(2) Medical X-rays. According to present estimates each person in the United States receives, on the average, a total accumulated dose to the sex glands of three to four Roentgens in 30 years. Of course, some get a good deal more and others none at all, but this figure is amazingly large.

(3) Fall-out from weapons-testing. This quantity is difficult to determine, but it is here that the possibilities for increase are the greatest.

The fall-out effect of radio-active dust depends on shelter and weather conditions. It has been stated that in the past five years, residents of the United States have, on the average, been receiving from fall-outs a dose which, if weapons-testing were continued at the same rate, is equivalent to less than a half Roentgen unit. Doubling the testing rate doubles the fall-out. Fall-out on grazing and crop lands and into the sea may affect the sources of our food.

(4) Atomic power plants. These are future sources of radiation that might become dangerous. The question of how to dispose of atomic waste is important.

(5) Occupational hazards. Persons who are close to equipment giving off X-rays, who are engaged in experimental work in atomic energy, who test weapons, who mine or otherwise handle radioactive material, are subject to the risk of greater radiation exposure than others.

DON'T EXCEED 10 UNITS IN 30 YEARS

The above information is from the publication of the Committee on Genetic Effects of Atomic Radiation, a report prepared by the National Academy of Sciences.

Composed of eminent scientists and specialists in related fields, the Committee recommends that no person receive more than 10 Roentgen units of man-made radiation in the first 30 years of his life. It states that the potential danger is great in dosages above this level. It advises that we keep all our expenditure of radiation as low as possible.

But the Committee is otherwise hesitant and uncertain about the specific course that we should follow in this area where human survival is in question.

NEW READER ASKS:

Why Do "Socialists" Back Stevenson?

Despite the witch-hunts, a surprising number of college students and teachers call themselves "socialists." But nearly every one that I know is hiding behind a big Stevenson button.

When questioned, some reveal their shame: "Sure, Stevenson has compromised badly on the race issue," a teacher admitted, "but at least he's against big business and militarism."

Others insist that he will become a "radical" in office: "With labor backing him, he will fight for socialized medicine and federal aid to education and some day, maybe, for nationalization of industry," another said.

One student, though doubting Stevenson's potential radicalism, is working with the Young Democrats in order to help push the Democratic Party to the "left" and to help transform it eventually into a Labor Party.

These intellectuals have naively fallen for the Republican charge that the Democratic Party will lead the country to socialism.

The Republicans are right in arguing that in Russia, in England, in every country where such a so-called "socialism" has been tried, workers have fought it. Every "socialist" party in the world has succeeded in alienating the workers because it has tried to impose on them a "plan" formulated "scientifically" by party leaders.

Reports from workers in *News & Letters* have opened my eyes to the fact that they do not want a party or union governing in their names. They want to control their own work in the factory. They believe that they can do it better than "experts" who never worked in factories or who left the factory years before for a comfortable job in the bureaucracy. This new kind

of society, where every man is both a worker and a thinker at the same time cannot be created by so-called "socialistic planning." It will certainly not be created by the Democratic Party.

News & Letters has proved to me that workers are not so backward that they have to be led by the nose. They rebel against the division of labor every day of their lives. Together they can create a genuine socialism, in which all men are free because they are working and planning together, every one, and there are no bosses of any kind.

I'm not voting because a vote for either party is a vote for capitalism.

I have come to this conclusion since the conventions. Ethel Dunbar's article—"Campaign's off to a 'Sickening' Start" (Sept. 18) — made me realize for the first time that there is absolutely no hope in the present parties.

—Detroit Teacher

Pressure and Tension Pile Up

(Continued from Page 1)

strain and pressure on the average working family.

CAN'T SLEEP

In some homes, workers say that no one in the family sleeps at night. They cannot say what causes the wakefulness but they are awake all through the night. It's just that no one seems to be able to sleep though they're very tired.

In another shop, most of the women are taking nerve pills. They cannot think of what causes them to have to take nerve pills. One said, "It is just this life."

... AND THE MAN

This is true with workers all over America. Everything in their homes belongs to them "—and the man"—meaning the collector. The house belongs to them "—and the man." The car belongs to them "—and the man." In most cases the furniture belongs to them "and the man," and so does the washing machine and the TV set and most everything else they have that "proves" what a high standard of living American workers have.

Many of those who are

now unemployed are saying that what they have belongs "to the man," meaning that they are so far behind in debt and have no way to continue to pay.

With the high prices and the high cost of living, if installment plans were not adjusted as such many businesses would go out of business.

A car dealer is supposed to get one third of the cost of the car when it is being sold. A worker can go to a junk lot, get a wreck at ten or twenty dollars. Then the dealer asks, "How much cash can you add to it?"

If he can muster a hundred or two hundred dollars he can drive home a \$3000 car. He pays six or seven payments then he has to have it re-financed. Six or seven more payments — more refinancing. And so on for four or five years. Then, he maybe can say it's his and not "the man's."

That is, if he works steady all the while and escapes being one of the thousands that are now on the streets of Detroit. If that happens, it's the dealer's car again.

News & Letters Committees

(In this column we report on the experiences of NEWS & LETTERS committees in different parts of the country. The information is taken from letters written by various committee members in which they tell of the impact the paper has in their shops and communities, and of the people who come to editing meetings to work with, and join, the committees.)

LOS ANGELES

"A young man from the Mexican community here had seen a copy of News & Letters when a friend of his, who had received the paper, brought it to his house to show him. After looking it over, he decided he liked it and made up his mind to come to the meeting. He brought his wife."

PITTSBURGH

"We have enjoyed reading the paper very much. It keeps us posted on what's going on . . . The paper is really 'laying us out' here and hope it is doing the same up there."

WEST VIRGINIA

"We distributed the

paper on one of the many hills in the Run, to introduce it to the people living there. Everyone who got the paper wanted to talk right away instead of waiting for us to come back next week after they had read. One woman would not let go until she had the address where she could send an article about her work.

"One man insisted on paying a quarter for his free copy. One woman said her husband might be interested but that she never read. Suddenly she spied the article on the faucet and started to read it, yelling for her husband to come quick (he worked there). She wouldn't stop reading the paper even to give it to him."

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Both Sides Of The Iron Curtain EAST EUROPEAN REVOLTS

General Bidwell, former U. S. Ambassador to Poland, appeared on TV to state that the events in Poland were a "carefully planned move on the part of the Polish Communist Party."

Two Hungarian "specialists" at the Michigan State University, Bela Pettyondy and Eugene DeBenko, rushed into print to declare of the Hungarian revolt, that "nothing good will come of it. Hope for independence from Russia has faded." This too, it seems, is just a "plot" of the Reds.

The Russians, in their turn, claim that the Hungarian revolution was "a deep plot financed by the American State Department."

Now comes the height of stupidity of all these "experts." Looking at the actual Hungarian civil war, in which some 95 per cent of the population is participating, "specialist" George N. Shuster declares that Cardinal Mindszenty is "the leader" of the revolution.

All these experts, on the other hand, see only red in the revolt against "the West" when the colonial peoples are struggling for their freedom.

SINGAPORE HONG KONG

American newspapers have made much of alleged "Red Riots" in Hong Kong. The truth appears to be that these riots have sprung from a spontaneous expression of disapproval of all British authority.

The riots were the outlet for deep-seated Chinese resentment against Europeans in Hong Kong.

Starting with the provocation of a British Officer who demanded that all Nationalist and Communist flags be removed from the homes of the Chinese residents of a housing project, the resentment spread to open mass revolt.

Hundreds were killed and thousands arrested by the British over several days. The Chinese proved that, without help from either the Nationalists or the Communists, they are fully capable of opposing the British authorities. The strikes that followed gave a stamp of approval to the Chinese community.

Thus on BOTH sides of the Iron Curtain, open revolt is waged against the ruling powers.

Italy

In Italy an intense debate, openly conducted, is taking place in the Italian Communist Party. Togliatti denounces fellow Central Committee member, Fabrizio Onofri, who in turn is attacking the entire past history of the Party.

The Landworkers' leader, Romagnoli, attacks the intellectual Salinari, who defends the Italian bourgeoisie. Lenin's "State and Revolution" is being openly questioned and revision demanded.

The program of the Italian Communist Party, now under discussion, proposes a limited form of nationalization — but not for the Fiat factories.

It is a reformist program aimed at years of playing around in parliamentary circles with vacillating elements.

Automation is a big issue since its introduction into the factories. The C. P. is not opposed to it.

Present plans call for the Eighth Congress of the Italian C. P. to reject the traditional forms of class struggle: strikes and the occupation of the land.

This deep factional struggle in the leadership would have no significance were it not for the actual deep division that exists in the minds of the ranks.

The Italian Communist Party has over two million members, the largest number in any country in which the C. P. is not the Party of power. It has held this dominant position since the end of World War II, despite the best efforts of the American State Department to smash it. So hated is American domination that even when they tell the truth, no one believes them.

The spectacle of Hungarian workers revolting for freedom, and the Communist leadership of Hungary and Russia shooting them down, will do far more to undermine the Italian C. P. than both the State Department and the old radicals have done thus far.

This exposes, for all to see, any pretense by anyone that the Communist Party is a workers' party.

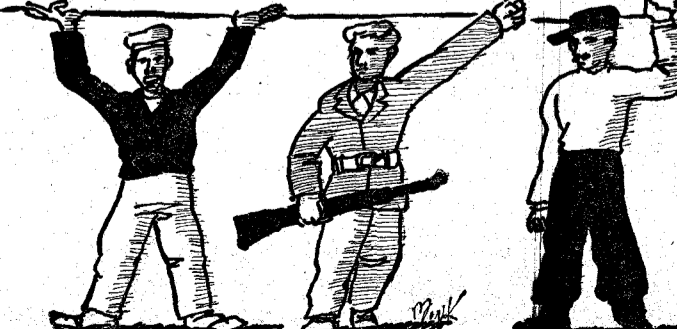
Algiers

The great "gentlemen" of the French Government, who express such deep concern about others keeping their sacred agreements, pulled off a dirty little coup the other week.

Five leaders of the Algerian Rebels were enroute by plane, between Morocco and Tunis, for a conference with the leaders of the Tunisian Government. The French Pilot deflected and kidnapped the leaders, landing them in Algeria. The French now hold them prisoners, violating every law and principled agreement on international travel.

The Arab world has responded to this act of barbarism by a General Strike which has been fully effective for 24 hours. We have not heard the last of this event.

RUSSIANS GO HOME!



DETROIT EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY EVENING 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 8067 GRAND RIVER (1 FLIGHT UP)

LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY EVENING, 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVENUE (COR. WASHINGTON BLVD.) ROOM 203