

NEWS & LETTERS

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

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

'It's Awful to Be An Uncle Tom'

By CHARLES DENBY

Many Negro leaders are still playing the old political game with their people in the hope of gaining prestige among them and making some deal with white society.

Several weeks ago, Congressman Diggs, speaking from Ghana, said history was being made there and he was there helping to make that history. The Negro paper, the PITTSBURGH COURIER, seemed to be saying that vice president Nixon also made that history according to the write-up it gave him.

It was neither of them. The making of history there is a long bitter struggle carried on by the people of Ghana against British domination. Nixon or Diggs wouldn't dare to utter a word against the British rulers in behalf of those who struggled and died in their fight for independence.

THOSE WHO MAKE HISTORY

Rev. M. L. King was also in Ghana. This young Negro man and the colored people of Montgomery, Alabama, are making history in the South. The COURIER could mention him. Nixon and Diggs will not go there to help make history for the freedom of Negroes—not even to see what is going on to enable them to tell the world what is happening there.

Another Negro paper, the MICHIGAN CHRONICLE, (February 23) carried a long article by the editor, Charles Wartman, for the Local 212 white Union leaders. He told the Negroes how wonderful that Union is and why they should support their leadership because of what they have done for brotherhood and helping Negro advancement.

Mr. Wartman is not a member of Local 212 and never worked in the plant there. He is too high up to talk with rank and file Negroes. The Negroes he mentions, who are in the International, will sell every worker in the shop down the river for their own personal interest. That's why they are there.

All the gains mentioned, were won by the fight and struggle made by the rank and file Negroes in the shop with the support of some white workers. Many times they had to struggle in opposition to some of those so-called "good" leaders named by Mr. Wartman.

Some of the Negro leaders were given positions on the International Union as their reward for what they did in opposition to the fight Negro workers were carrying on for their rights as any other union members.

The Negro workers voted and are voting against the so-called "Brotherhood" leaders Wartman mentioned. Workers know them. They know what they have done in relation to brotherhood.

After 20 years there are still lily-white departments, restaurants and bars sitting practically in the plant, Negroes cannot go in and get service.

... FOR A MESS OF POTTAGE

That Negro professor in Mississippi said it's awful to be an Uncle Tom. When your own people turn against you the whites don't need you and won't have you regardless of what deal you made with them. This should be a warning to Mr. Wartman and the Negro International Representatives.

The colored people down South have showed the way. They have showed how to deal with the Uncle Toms. It is continuously spreading throughout the South. When it reaches and takes hold in the North, especially in the trade union movement, some of these leaders will cry the same tune the professor is crying in Mississippi: I am a fool. I would rather be dead.

The ranks, many of whom never went through high school, knew this all the while. Many rank and file workers, Negroes who never attended a Union meeting, know the same about those leaders mentioned by Wartman.

And many know why Wartman wrote the article. They knew the score long, long ago: there are still those that will sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.



The Case of the Rank and File Against Walter Reuther and Chrysler

By A Chrysler Production Worker

DETROIT.—A member of the Reuther green slate caucus told me the other day, "The Reuther boys are still reeling from the defeat in Local 212. Although they have full control of the union machine, they felt the need of calling a caucus meeting. Mainly chief stewards, committeemen and political opportunists attended. The committeemen were bawled out by Ken Morris, Regional Director. He told them that the defeat of the green slate was mainly their fault.

"I do not want to hear of any of you sitting in the committee room from now until after the election," he said. "You are to be in the committee room only when you come into the shop to hang up your coats and hats. You are not to come back until the end of the day when you get your things to go home. You have been sitting there trying to settle grievances by phone. Go out in the shop and talk to the workers."

'IT IS TOO LATE'

This green slate worker said, "These leaders do not see that no one wants to talk with them now. For years when a worker needed them, they would not come. Now it is too late."

He then continued his report of the green slate caucus meeting. It seems that Pat Caruso, the president of Local 212, said the defeat by the rank and file was due to the fact that the leadership had been "pushing the 50c dues increase too hard."

"That is all these swivel-chair leaders know of the feeling and resentment in the shop against speed-up, unemployment and the Union men doing the foremen's job and riding the workers," concluded our worker-reporter.

COLLECTION FOR NON-DELEGATES

The only other thing that the green slate caucus discussed was the fact that Caruso and Despot would have to pay their own way to the convention since they were not elected as delegates. It is true the Council voted to send these non-delegates to the convention nevertheless, but that vote did not mean they were given money but that they will have to take the money for the trip out of their vacation pay.

This sad story made each committeeman and chief steward, who knows on which side his bread is buttered, dig deep into his pocket and come out with a \$1 or \$5 contribution.

\$302 was collected. They adjourned their meeting and arranged for two of the people to go spying on the Rank & File caucus.

IN THE PLANT

The next day in the plant the most hated committeeman was busy passing out the Negro newspaper, THE MICHIGAN CHRONICLE, neatly folded to the article which was a whitewash of the leadership of Local 212. (See Worker's Journal). This article praised them as men who helped the Negro, and the committeeman passed it around to Negro workers only.

Many workers wondered why, if the Reutherites are so anxious to help the Negro, nothing has been done to do away with the lily white departments in the shop.

In addition to some Negro baiting of their own, the Reutherites have suddenly become busy talking up strike in the hope of regaining their prestige. There is a constant stream of leaflets, which the workers throw away without even reading.

The workers aren't concerned with the official union paper either, which is giving the "right picture" of those Union talks with Chrysler which have lost the workers 20,000 jobs. Every workers believes the news story of the deal with Chrysler to be true.

(Continued on Page 8)

Wildcat

Each day the wheels turned faster till you saw
They were not there for making cars, but beasts,
Beasts out of men, beasts to work for the wheels.
What could men do but quit? As one you quit.
And what did the wheels, the bosses and bureaucrats do?
They tried to fling you from the human race
Into a wilderness, a hopeless animal:

(Continued on Page 3)

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Anything Can Cause a Deadly Mine Accident Since Production's More Important than Safety

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — We were recovering material from a place along the main line where there had been a fall. The fall had been cleaned up and steel I-beams had been set. On these I-beams, cribbing blocks had been placed, up to the top of the fall, as protection against any further fall that might occur.

We were pulling out the rails and ties in this fall area when our boss came over to us and said we would have to recover the I-beams. They were needed on another section and the company didn't have any more.

IMPROVISING TROUBLE

The power line had been pulled back to where a motor without a cable and reel on it could not reach up far enough to jerk out the beams. I was on the motor and the motor didn't have a cable on it. The boss got a piece of old, discarded cable, spliced it into the end of the power line, and stretched it to the point where the I-beams were.

On the motor there was a cable about 10 feet long that could be moved along the strung machine cable. The machine cable insulation was cut at about every 10 feet so contact could be made with the cable on the motor and thus provide the power.

Nothing in this procedure was safe. As a matter of fact, it was an unsafe practice from the very start. But the beams were being pulled out without mishap. We had already got 8 of them out, and had loaded them and the cribbing on a flat supply car, when we hooked the pulling cable onto the next 2 I-beams.

When everyone was out of the way, the signal was given to pull. I placed the reverse bar in position and signalled my buddy to put the motor cable on the makeshift power line. He did and I opened the controller up. I didn't have too much room to get up pulling speed, so I threw the power controller on the motor wide open.

BLINDING FLASH

As I passed my buddy, he took the motor cable off of the makeshift power line. When he did, there was a blinding power arc. I threw up my arms to cover my face. Fortunately, I hadn't been facing the arc, so I was just temporarily blinded, and a little unnerved.

With the power off, the motor came to a halt. It had partially pulled the

beams, and then been jerked back a little by the tension, so there was a bit of slack in the cable.

The boss and my buddy waved for me to wait. They went up to the end of the cable hooked onto the I-beams, and then yelled for me to move the motor back to them so they could have more slack to move the cable on the beams a little. I told my buddy to put the cable back on the makeshift power line.

TWO MEN ALMOST KILLED

As soon as he did, the motor started to take off—but backwards instead of towards them. For a moment I was petrified. The motor was not supposed to move until I gave it power.

I grabbed at the controller and reverse bar, and suddenly realized that when I had thrown my arms up to cover my face from the blinding arc, I had not returned the reverse bar to the neutral position or turned the controller off. It was wide open and in that position looks as if it is off.

I could tell, even though I couldn't see that far away, that the beams had been pulled when the motor took off—and I was sure that the two men under those beams and cribbing blocks were dead. I sat there, frozen with fear.

Then suddenly, the shout: "What the hell you trying to do, kill somebody? Jesus Christ!! Man, you crazy or something?"

It was my buddy yelling! He wasn't dead. I could have cried with relief as I jumped off the motor and went up to where my buddy and the boss were standing.

"Boy! It's a good thing we saw that cable tightening up. We jumped out of the way just in time. What the hell happened, anyway?"

I didn't say anything for a minute. I just looked from them to the 2 I-beams and the pile of cribbing blocks and the dust blowing around that mess of stuff that had come down. I finally stammered out what had happened.

The boss looked at me and said, "Now that's not good."

"THAT'S NOT GOOD"

"Now that's not good." I thought to myself. Here I've almost killed 2 men, he's one of them, and he says, "That's not good." I don't know what I'd have said if our positions were reversed, but I'm sure it would have been more than that.

Sure, a lot of things were wrong from the beginning, but I was on that motor. At that point, the lives of those men were in my hands, not in the hands of safety codes or practices. Regardless of what any formal examination might have found, I know that so far as I was concerned I would never have been able to excuse myself if anything had happened to those 2 men.

Then the boss said, "Well, it all came down pretty good. You shouldn't have too much trouble getting it loaded now. It came down just the way it should have."

I shook my head. "It figures," I thought. "Even now he's thinking about production." All I could think about was how lucky I was they were still alive, and how lucky they were just being alive. That's what my buddy was thinking too. He won't let me forget that for a long time. I hope he never does.

Just Like Home

CASSVILLE, W. Va. — We were in the shower room putting on our clothes after showering. The discussion came up about the difference between the company's policy of paying lip-service to safety and ignoring it in actual practice.

One of the safety committeemen was saying that on the one section where he had been working last week, the dust was so thick that a spark could have set the whole mine off.

DUST & CLAY

"That dust is bad enough," he said, "but they don't even keep the section rock-dusted enough to try to keep an explosion down. The company talks about safety, but that's all. When it comes to doing something about it, it's another story."

"Right there's a man who can tell you about it," he went on, "he's cutting on the section. He knows what it's like."

The cutter looked at him and laughed. "Naw, he said. 'That was last week. That's when we had all the dust. This week we went through a clay vein. You know how conditions change when you go through a clay vein."

"Now the coal is all wet. We don't have dust now—we have gas. The section is loaded with it."

"It's just like home. We're really working in style. We have gas, water and electric."

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

Big Leaders Are Falling Apart

The big leaders of all kinds of big organizations seem to be falling apart so fast. The president of each organization is beginning to worry about the low-down things he has passed out to his followers to take.

In the Union, the big leader has gone to the big company telling them how to treat the working people—in other words, selling out the workers.

And the intellectuals show the big leaders how they can handle the under-educated people by telling them not to fight down the segregation laws that these white people are trying to hold against the Negro people.

"FORGIVE" THEIR ENEMIES

They say that they can forgive any of their enemies and help them to live. But they don't see that they can forget to let the Negroes live their own lives without being bothered for nothing.

We are American born citizens and still can't live in peace without the whites trying to lay down some kind of low-down law for the Negro to go by.

We are not their enemies. We are their closest friends in this world and don't mean to do them

any harm at all but just help keep America free.

GET IT OVER

Why can't we be free to do some things we want to do without having to fight with the so-called good Americans? But since we got to fight to get what we want, let all of us go in together and get it over so we can live a happy life too.

Then, there will be no one left for the whites to pick on but the Uncle Toms like that professor of Mississippi. He found out that he was a big fool.

LET THEM LEARN

Why can't the big Negro leaders learn to help their own people to fight. If they do, they won't be called an Uncle Tom by the white people. But if they see that you will turn against your own people, they know that you are a fool without you telling the whole world that you were crazy for letting the whites persuade you into doing this.

We can leave the no good white people up there pitching and swinging, trying to keep the Negro people down. We will be standing at home plate with all our rights—so that we too can live a happy life—and daring them to try to take it away.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

The Human Quality

An I.U.E. electrical shop here in Detroit has the dubious distinction of never having hired a Negro worker in its 15 to 20 years of existence. This was told me quite proudly by one of the strong union members in the shop. In fact, she said that she worked so hard to get the union in that some of her co-workers called her Communist.

This is a real small shop that does not have a production line or even quotas to follow. The work is on machines that cost 20 to 25 thousand dollars and has to be done carefully. The work becomes tedious even though there isn't a line for the simple fact that you have to sit at that bench for 8 hours. Even if you're not working you have to pretend that you are.

UNNATURAL HUMAN RELATIONS

Not only are the work relations strained—for what kind of work is it when you are tied to a bench with an overseer walking around to make sure you are not away from it too long—but hu-

man relations are even more unnatural and strained. They accept no one but those like themselves.

This same I.U.E. Union has most of the electrical shops in New York City where, I am positive, more than half its membership is colored. They will accept dues from the Negro people in one part of the country while, in another, they turn the other way while a shop is kept lily white.

SORRY FOR THEM

Right now I feel rather sorry for some of these people. They don't seem to have the human quality of wanting to know other people, their wants and feelings. If they did I am sure they would realize how close all working people are. But they have built a little white shell around themselves and they think they are safe in their shell.

As an egg shell is cracked, so this one, that has been rotting for a long time, will be trampled on by those who love and need freedom not only for themselves but for the next person too.

From Wildcat to "Authorized" Strike:

Chrysler Workers Push Union to Strike in L. A.

LOS ANGELES. — After several wildcats in recent weeks we are now out on an authorized strike against the Chrysler plant in Los Angeles. The union was pushed so far they had to authorize a strike or their people would go out and leave them behind.

If the company is permitted to carry through everything they have said, Chrysler will undoubtedly turn into the worst sweat shop in this town.

SPEED-UP!

They want to run that line with 1700 men and produce something like 550 cars a day. Right now there's an unwritten agreement between the Union and the Company that 473 cars are produced each day with 2300 men.

It seems fantastic but Chrysler's goal is to cut out 600 jobs and increase production. The Union wants to get its unwritten agreement on line speed written down. There are no demands for wage increases or anything like that. It's only working conditions involved, an attempt to hold conditions as they were.

DRAW STRAWS

I asked one guy who works near me what he thought of the strike. He said, "I think the auto companies draw straws. I think this year Chrysler drew the short one and is supposed to put up the fight for all the auto companies. That's why it's going to be a long strike. Last year it was General Motors, this year it's Chrysler that's going to be tough."

On the picket line there are Union men and the personal friends they rounded up. One guy in particular, who ran for Union president last year, put on a big show of being militant. He would

keep on shouting: We are going to do this and that. But then he gets real friendly with the cops who are watching the pickets. He's a big show if you don't know him.

BIG SHOW

I've been to union meetings where this guy comes up with proposals that sound real good, but what he did in the wildcat two weeks ago showed me what he is. He got up and he's all International. He told the wildcatters, "I know what your feelings are but

we got to stick to the International and have them behind a strike."

There was a definite feeling to continue the wildcat before this type browbeated the membership to go back to work.

The Union wasn't in the forefront of the fight against the company. You got to look at the Union in this situation as something that's being pushed. The strike wasn't their decision to make; they had to go along.

—Chrysler Striker

With the Chrysler Pickets

LOS ANGELES. — The picket line over at Chrysler reminds me of the picket line at General Motors last fall. The men are striking for the same thing—a reduction of speed-up and improvement of working conditions.

The men on the picket line knew that I was working at General Motors. One picket told me that there were many ex-GM workers in the Chrysler plant now and they said that the speed-up at General Motors was far worse than at Chrysler. This picket said they were out on strike to prevent conditions from becoming as bad as they are at General Motors.

AUTHORIZED STOCKPILE

Another picket told me about the wildcats they had a few weeks ago. He said if they had stayed out then it would have been easier to force Chrysler to a settlement. As it worked out, in the time between the wildcats and the authorized strike, Chrysler put out a lot of extra cars each shift and has them stockpiled in nearby parking lots. They are now with-

drawing from this "bank" to fill their orders.

The men want to throw a picket line around these parking lots to prevent these cars from being shipped. The Teamsters have agreed that if there is a picket line they won't cross it with their carrier trucks. However, the Union has told the men that such a picket line would be illegal.

WHAT'S AT GM?

The pickets wanted to know how it is at General Motors after the strike we had. I told them the facts. For a week after the strike things were a lot better. After that the Changeover took place, speed-up increased, foremen started to work again, reprimands were handed out freely, and so forth. Things are now as bad at General Motors as they were before the strike.

The Chrysler pickets said that's why they wanted to stay out until they had an agreement of a negotiated line speed: so many men for so many jobs. I told them I didn't think the Union would go for that. We wanted that at General Motors too but didn't get it.

—GM Worker

Wildcat

(Continued from Page 1)

They christened you "Wildcat."

So ten thousand men,

Each a harmony of head and hands
And heart and all the guts that make him go,
Whose wife and kids may want more than a pay-check

And a fagged old man relaxing after dinner,
Ten thousand men creating all together
Each day more cars than they can use in years
And making mints of money for the bosses
And comfort for the porkchoppers became—
In quitting—one "fierce animal of the cat
Family found through North America."

I heard and half-believed. Expecting terror
I peeked from my ivory tower, saw a shape
Surround the factory, a paw at every gate,
Your brown and white coat glistening in the sun,
The factory now a plaything, your master a morsel.

Wildcat in earnest! They prodded you. You snarled
And clawed at vermin creeping to the gate.

Deciding force was out they switched on kindness,
Teasing you with tasty promises
As my Aunt Tilly tempted your tame brothers
With catnio mice without a trace of blood.
She named them "Caesar" and "Napoleon,"
Fattened them on vitamins and shrimp.
And coaxed affection from them till they died.
She buried them in marble, weeping prayers
For their eternal rest.

By definition

Wildcats don't respond to promises:
You're out for blood. Tamed, you would be dead
They transformed, with the magic of a name,
You into more than beast, for as you crouch,
Claws out and wise eyes burning. I see the Sphinx,
Invincible feline body, masterful mind of man.

—M.G.

Twenty Years of "Progress"—Whose?

LOS ANGELES—I noticed an ad in the paper, by the United Steelworkers of America, that David McDonald, their president, was going to speak on "20 Years of Progress."

I turned on the radio and this is what I heard: He is one of the men who signed the first contract with the steel companies in Chicago 20 years ago. I am not a steelworker, but it struck me that the things Mr. McDonald enumerated as

progress—the fringe benefits, the raises and things yet to come in health and welfare—were what were important to him.

'COMMUNITY BETTERMENT'

McDonald said that besides being a Union of steelworkers concerned for the working man, they are also concerned with all endeavors of community betterment. On international matters they are concerned, for example, with the welfare of Hungarians and Africans and others.

There came to my mind, however, the fact that when a Jim Crow steelworker from Alabama, a member of McDonald's Union, wrote in to the heads of the CIO denying that steelworkers supported Aurtherine Lucy's attempt to enter a segregated college, Mr. McDonald had nothing to say.

'FUTURE' PROPOSALS

Mr. McDonald finished his talk with proposals for the future. Since the atomic age would increase labor productivity he recommended cutting hours or having a 3-month leave with pay every 5 years for each worker.

I would like to know what steelworkers have to say about this 20-year report.

—Housewife

STEELWORKERS PROD UNION & COMPANY TO TEST

WHY HOMESTEAD IS THE MOST PREJUDICED MILL

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—

Homestead is the most prejudiced mill in the valley. In the other mills up and down the valley, Negroes are millwrights, electricians, bricklayers. At J & L they even have Negroes as acting pit-bosses. At Homestead the only Negro boss is the boss in sanitation.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

Up to now both the men and company have been responsible for the discrimination at Homestead, so far as I can see. If the company put a Negro on, and told the other men that he was going to work that job, that would be it. That's the way it's worked in some places. One fellow I know was put on a crew

lining the ladle and some old skippers said they wouldn't work with him. The superintendent just told them if they didn't want to work with him to get their checks and go on home. And that ended it.

CAN GET ALONG

It's not really a question of whether the men can get along together. You take our gang. About once a month everybody eats dinner together. We pitch in half a dollar and go out and buy about 12 pounds of kielbasa and some sauerkraut and buns and mustard and onions—and we all eat out of the same pot. We're the only gang that does it. I don't really know if all the

men go along with the idea, but they sure all eat!

The Negroes are a small handful compared to the total men employed out there. The skilled trades are all white, and that's about 15,000 men. There are maybe 2,000 Negroes.

PRESSURE

A lot would do something but they've been scared to try. The average person is over-taxed, over-burdened with debts at home. No matter what he feels inside he can't always show it. The pressure of having a family and responsibilities is pretty great. The feeling most of the time has been, "What can you do?"

Yet I don't think anybody can say they're just

going to keep sitting tight. Everything that comes now, the men make an issue out of it. I don't know what WILL come out of it, but one thing's sure. They have the Company and the Union both on the spot now.

The Union will say that they're going to do something about it, but until you put pressure on them they won't do a thing. It's just that the men out at Homestead decided there'd be some changes. They want to find out if it's the Union's or the Company's policy. In a way they know it's both, but they want to pin-point them. They want to make them state their positions.

EDITORIALS

Racketeers, Capitalists and Government Investigations

The Senate investigation into labor racketeering has been successful in one thing, and one thing only, and that is headline grabbing. It has not, cannot, and will not get behind the real causes of labor racketeering.

In a small way, the inability of the Administration to get to the root cause can be seen from the fact that it was the Labor Department itself which had appointed Dave Beck "to represent" American labor at the forthcoming International Labor conference. There is nothing about Beck that the Administration knows now—after it has withdrawn its approval of him—that it didn't know when it first approved him. The only difference is that Beck's connections were not in the limelight then. In changing "delegates," neither the Labor Department, nor the head of the AFL-CIO, Meany, who makes the "suggestions," consulted the rank and file of American labor.

It is precisely because the government, even as the labor leader, fears the rank and file above all, that each becomes an agent of capitalism. It is the capitalist employer who created "business unionism."

Professional criminals have always been used in the war of capital against labor. In this fight against labor the employer has preferred to connive with shady labor officials rather than face the wrath of the rank and file. In the case of Dave Beck, the employers helped him to leadership because they feared a genuine rank and file movement would organize the teamsters. Without the conspiracy of employers and politicians the racketeer could not exist for a moment.

The FBI has been as slow to move against the labor racketeers as it was against the gangsters in the 1920's. When they finally did get a Capone it was only for income tax evasion. No, it wasn't any of these authorities who put the racketeer in the union to rout. The mass movement which created the CIO put an end to that vampire on the union movement.

On the other side, consider the case of James R. Hoffa of Detroit. When Hoffa switched to Eisenhower the capitalist press joined in whitewashing him. Just recently he had been tendered a \$100-a-plate dinner at which business, government and local civic leaders praised him to the sky—and paid for it. At \$100-a-plate, they paid, in round numbers, a quarter of a million dollars to establish a children's home in Hoffa's name. This extra payoff is capitalism's appreciation of his role as disciplinarian of labor.

Not only Hoffa, but the outright racketeer is the darling of Big Business. Calling off strikes, and settling grievances between union business agent and business man, has paid off heavily to industry, all industry.

Now that the philosophy of "business unionism" has once again displaced the class struggle, the UAW, which is no doubt the cleanest of racketeers, is not vastly different from their more unsavory brother leaders in the merged AFL-CIO. As one auto worker put it to News & Letters:

"We don't have such racketeers in the UAW, but has that made any difference in the way our leaders are always making deals with the company. These leaders have just given the company complete control of hiring, firing, and production standards. It is all in the contract. Until we take control over ourselves, there will be no difference."

This puts it in a nutshell not only regarding production, but also regarding politics. If the Senate is truly interested in getting to the bottom of racketeering, why not start with Big Business?

As a beginning, we suggest looking into the Kohler Company, whose president has openly boasted of having an arsenal of machine guns and tear gas available to be used against its striking workers.

Why not get down to the union busters? You'll find criminals enough among them to satisfy any gangster-busting investigating committee.

News & Letters

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Readers'

RANK & FILE OPPOSITION

I think News & Letters did a good job in the article about the Detroit Chrysler workers (March 5). It shows a lot of signposts. It says time and time again what's involved in the Rank & File caucus.

There are evidently a lot of political opportunists there. These people can only go so far and then after that it has to be a total change somewhere. As long as it goes along the lines of strict unionism it won't end up anywhere except where the workers are right now.

I think what will follow up is that News & Letters will have something to say about what is happening and where these workers are going. At present I'm not having any optimism about taking over locals or anything like that. It has to be a whole lot more than that.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

Many workers are talking about Reuther's "marriage without divorce" with Chrysler. He is saying that the newspapers caused his defeat in Local 212 by bringing out the Chrysler statement at the wrong time. But they brought it out AFTER the election. It was the workers and not the papers that defeated you, Mr. Reuther!

Chrysler Worker,
Local 212, Detroit

I almost didn't take a copy of your paper with the story about Local 212 elections (March 5) until I took a good look at the cartoon that went with the story.

It's the best cartoon I ever saw and it showed just exactly how things are in the plant and how we felt about beating the green slate. Who drew the picture?

Chrysler-Mack
Worker, Detroit.

Angela Terrano is the cartoonist. She also writes the column, "The Working Day."—Editor

Even workers in my little UAW shop are wondering what the Chrysler workers are really doing. The International has tacked up a denial that it made any deals with the Chrysler management. I wish every UAW member could read NEWS & LETTERS.

Fan Worker,
Detroit.

I read the article about the Chrysler Rank & File group defeating Reuther. It recalled to me the one experience I had with a union election where a machine, entrenched for years, was defeated. The election took place in a Local of construction workers.

Right after the war various caucuses were organized. It took about 2 years on the part of one caucus to get the bureaucracy out. The same sort of thing went on as the Detroit Chrysler workers tell about: the intimidation, the red-baiting on the floor of the meetings. There was also discrimination in the matter of dispatching of jobs. A great deal of favoritism was shown but in spite of all this the old officers were defeated. It was almost unbelievable to the old officers that they had been defeated.

Construction Worker
Los Angeles

What the workers in the auto industry complain about as related in the column Workers Journal are more or less what workers in every union complain about. It's all against certain things. Against appointments of officials, against not being able to see a union officer when you need him, against having the steward give you the business, against the business agents and stewards going along with the company. These are very universal things.

Sheet Metal Worker
Los Angeles

"BUSINESS UNIONISM" AND RACKETEERING
Dave Beck's fall isn't going to hurt the workers one bit. The leaders of government, capital and labor are exposing one another, even their old "friends." There's

nothing they can expose in relation to the workers. They can only expose each other.

Capitalists and their newspapers are stupid if they think they can fool workers who read their propaganda. We've known all along that Beck and so-called leaders like him are powerful only because of their dirty deals with management and politicians.

Rank and Filer,
Detroit.

Reuther and Meany have known all along that there are racketeers in labor unions. If they had wanted to they could have got rid of the racketeers themselves without having to welcome McCarthy and a government committee in to do a job which belongs to the workers themselves.

Machinist
Los Angeles

An old timer told me that in the early 1930's he organized iron workers in his spare time without a car or expense account. When the union became established the president bought a big car. Foremen were admitted into the union. Years went by without an election or even a union meeting. The "bosses" of union and company decided contract policies without looking inside the factory. Conditions of work were terrible. He said that where he worked the rain came in through big holes in the roof.

Iron Worker,
New York City.

I read in the daily paper that now McCarthy wants to investigate the UAW. I don't think Senators are helping workers by exposing union leaders.

McClellan and McCarthy and all the others are trying to kill labor's power. They're wrong in thinking that the leaders hold this power. In attacking the leaders they will try to weaken the force of workers too.

I say workers can take care of their own leaders. They don't want McCarthy or anybody else from the outside sticking their noses into their union.

Intellectual,
Detroit.

Views

I don't have confidence in any of the labor leaders these days. They're getting rich, soft, and indifferent to the condition of labor. Even Reuther, who has been attacking Dave Beck and who is certainly cleaner, is just a more efficient racketeer because the workers are getting back from him much, much less than they are putting into the union.

Chrysler Worker,
Detroit.

NEGRO STRUGGLE

I blame the men for the up-grading conditions at Homestead. It's just like saying, "What can those people in Alabama do?"

If enough of the men out there at the mill got together, with all the men they have there, I think they could have broken it up. It's the same identical thing to me as what's happening down South.

The men shouldn't stand for it, and something could be done. They could put plenty of pressure on them, whether they did anything about it or not. The men could worry them if they stuck together.

—Steelworker's Wife,
Pittsburgh.

● See Homestead Steel Article on Page 3
—Editor.

I've noticed that there are a lot more colored going to the University now than last year or when desegregation first started there. Everyone gets along fine. What's more, it's not just in the classrooms that everyone is so friendly. You see the white fellows and colored fellows going to the basketball games together. When they're at school at least they don't seem to have any prejudices. I don't know what the situation is when they go home. Maybe they still act there like they always did, but they don't take their prejudices to college with them.

UWV Student,
Morgantown, W. Va.

WAR & PEACE

I certainly don't have any hopes that Washington or Moscow can as-

OUR "RIGHT TO WORK" EDITORIAL IS CRITICIZED

Your editorial on the misnamed "Right to Work Law" seemed to me to have stopped where it should have begun (March 19).

You are right, of course, to point to the fact that Northern Republicans, like the Southern Democrats, railroaded through this anti-labor law which gives the green light to union busting. And you put your finger on the spot when you contrasted the present-day "educational campaign" of the union to the educational of the sit-down strikes which established the union. But why stop there?

The real point is: what did the sup-

posedly united AFL-CIO movement do to stop the legislation? Isn't it true that the CIO let the AFL rank and file carry the ball alone just because the first workers to be affected by this law are AFL workers? CIO workers are not affected till their present contracts run out next year.

Isn't it true that precisely because of such division in the union ranks the Republicans dared railroad through such a slave labor law? The labor bureaucracy is the real barrier to labor's organization, North and South.

Old Politico
Detroit

sure us peace—and as far as anyone preventing a war once it got started, it would probably already be too late. You get to feeling that if the big wheels in Russia or the U. S. decided to start a war, nothing could stop them. If Congress decided to declare a war, nobody would have anything to say about it—any more than the majority of the people have anything to say about entertaining King Saud or anything else they do.

The way things are set-up today, they could destroy civilization without even waiting to declare war. Just by pressing a button. That's what really scares you. And that's the thing that I think is scaring the scientists, because they know it, too.

Ex-GI,
West Virginia.

Those who thought that Eisenhower's playing around with King Saud of Saudi-Arabia was a temporary expedient caused by the Suez crisis have another guess coming.

The reports of Herbert L. Matthews in the N. Y. Times indicates that Fidel Castro is leading an opposition known as the "26th of July Movement" in the hills of Sierra Maestra. General Batista, dictator of Cuba, is using American tanks and military supplies against the opposition.

Matthews reports that whole provinces are part of this active opposition. He shows photographs of women, demonstrat-

ing against Batista, carrying signs, "Stop Killing Our Sons."

Despite this local hostility, American arms and military supplies stand behind the dictator Batista, as they stand behind Franco and the dictatorships of South America.

Yet the American people have no voice whatsoever about how or where American forces and supplies are used. They seem to be used everywhere to support the status quo and against the interests of the common people.

Engineer
New York City

READERS REPLY TO OUR APPEAL

In my opinion almost all media of communication are not used to enlighten the human mind but to control it!

Your paper is the nearest thing I have ever seen to allowing freedom of expression, any you must keep it going and expand it in all directions to everybody, and to every viewpoint. Enclosed herewith is the \$5 I promised you to help keep it going.

Edgar Leslie,
California.

● Thanks for your contribution and, even more important for your encouraging words.—
Editor.

Here is \$25, as it were on account. The articles from Alabama (Jan. 22) are very good.

—Writer,
New York City.

TWO WORLDS

On Both Sides of the Iron Curtain

The latest U. S. Supreme Court ruling against the UAW's participation in political campaigns; the rail-roading through the Indiana legislature of the infamous "Right to Work Law"; the enactment by Southern states of laws to circumvent both the Constitution and the latest rulings to grant the Negroes their civil rights—all are but one chapter in the Administration's move to curtail the American people's rights.

THE METHOD OF MADNESS

Although in 1953 McCarthyism seemed an individual madness, by 1954 it had suddenly and actually become the law of the land. The Communist Control Act claimed to have the outlawing of the Communist Party as its aim, but the use of it has been solidly anti-labor.

For example, it was used against the Montana copper miners who belong to the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union, which had been branded by the CIO as Communist dominated, a cry since taken up by Attorney General Brownell. The head of the Subversive Activities Control Board openly admitted that the vote of the Montana copper miners for a union of their own choosing would count for nothing; that what mattered was not the democratic vote of the membership of the union, but the ruling of Attorney General Brownell. After 3 years, the Attorney General is moving again with a petition to re-open hearings against the union before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

For one who has studied Russia as closely as I have, I cannot help but feel that economically and politically the administration is moving in the same direction as the one-party totalitarian state on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

THE ATTORNEYS GENERAL: BROWNELL AND VISHINSKY

Day in and day out the Administration is fighting hard to make this country more and more like Russia. Already it has abolished any serious distinction between Attorney General Herbert Brownell and Attorney General Andrei Vishinsky of the infamous Moscow Trials.

The Attorney General of Russia could become the sole despotic interpreter of the vicious Russian laws because long before the purges the rights of labor had been taken away and the trade unions had been incorporated as part of the state apparatus, that is to say, they had been destroyed as independent organs of the working people.

This is the aim of the latest Supreme Court ruling against the UAW, even as the use of the Communist Control Act against labor is the aim of Attorney General Brownell. At the same time the South is using it against the NAACP.

A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

By a stroke of the pen Congress thrust democracy out of the window. The Attorney General's decision has become all-important and the workers' vote has been declared null and void. Yet the Senators and Congressmen had the gall to pronounce this a law against "the Communist conspiracy." In truth, this law is the greatest conspiracy against the American people.

The independent Negro struggle in the South and the rank and file labor revolt in the North will stay the hand of the Administration in its headlong rush to transform this country into a carbon copy of Russian totalitarianism with American names.

Under whatever name, the working people know that the control of every phase of daily living—especially the way workers work in turning the wheels of production—would be a step toward total war and the destruction of civilization as we know it. The aim of the daily struggle is to stop that. This is the one thing the Administration cannot control in its move to make this country like Russia. The American people don't and won't take it. To aim at totalitarian power is one thing. To succeed is another.

—R. D.

YOUTH

Teachers Discourage Pupils, Teen-Age Girl Says

LOS ANGELES. — Last week, in my U. S. History class, we were instructed to write an essay on some phase of the Civil War. So, like a dope, I took the whole Civil War and did a 16 page report. It took me 2 days to do it and at the time I didn't have 2 minutes to spare on anything as we were packing to move.

TEACHER SAID "NO"

Friday morning, when I went to school, I realized I had forgotten my report. I asked my teacher if I could bring it Monday morning. She said no.

I told her I had a car and could bring it right over after school, which would have taken me about 5 minutes.

She said no to that too. I asked her what was I supposed to do with the report I had worked so hard on.

She told me that was my problem.

IT'S DISCOURAGING

I'm using the essay for scratch paper now and I'm pretty burned up about the whole thing. Things like that sure

don't encourage you to work hard in school. I've had a few incidents like that every semester in school and I've gotten so I just do what I have to, to pull a grade, and no more.

That same teacher refused to accept a notebook from one kid, the same day, because it did not have a cover on it. Her report was twice as long as mine. How do they expect us to be interested in our school work, if they're not interested in it themselves?

—High School Girl

The Kids Aren't Delinquent... The World Is

WEST VIRGINIA—They give a lot of attention to juvenile delinquents, but my husband and I were talking about how amazing it is that there really aren't more.

It isn't the kids who are delinquent, it's the world they live in that's delinquent toward THEM.

Each generation is different from the one that came before it. Because the world is different with each generation, more is expected from each generation, but I feel that that's the way it should be. By rights, each generation should be able to do more and be "smarter". I know that I certainly expect my boy to do better than I was able to do. I expect a lot more out of him.

"SMARTER" TODAY

My mother is continually talking about how much "smarter" children are today than they used to be. They seem to her to talk earlier and "grow up" so much faster. I'm sure that's true, for I notice it even in my lifetime.

When you consider that children today grow up in a world where radio and TV and all sorts of things are common surroundings that the smartest adult of a few generations ago couldn't begin to know about, you begin to realize why kids are "smarter". The most ordinary child today knows things about electricity and radio and space and geography and all the rest, that the most advanced minds in the world didn't know years ago.

THE DELINQUENTS

Each generation has all the things the world has discovered up to his time at his fingertips, from the moment he's born. If they turn into "delinquents" it isn't their fault, so far as I can see. You can't just blame "the kids". You have to find out who the real delinquents are.

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

Look Out for the Husky Boys

An article in U.S. News & World Report (March 15) surveys America's public schools and concludes that the trend is away from so-called progressive education and back to a greater emphasis on traditional methods of teaching reading, writing and arithmetic.

A poll of teachers by the National Education Association revealed that 45½ per cent of the teachers questioned were permitted to spank their students by the schools' rules.

A much higher percentage of teachers thought they should have that right. Students apparently disagree.

Of the city teachers questioned, 14.3 per cent complained of student violence against one or more members of their faculties in the preceding year.

EDUCATIONAL 'PLANNING'

As usual, no one consults the students in their educational planning. Neither the "progressives", who allow for certain choices to be made within the context of the plan, nor those of the stripe of one E. C. Stimbert, Memphis' assistant superintendent in charge of

JUVENILE COURT

I wonder whether you watch the TV program, "Juvenile Court." It is really one of the most horrifying things I have ever seen. Even though actors take the parts, the judge is real—and is he an ogre!

The stock question he puts to the kids is, "Why did you break into that store?" And the answer is always, "To get some money."

He can never answer that simple reply, so he nags and whines at them awhile and sends them off to a training school. Young Adult Detroit

instruction, who said:

"We don't think it is in the child's interest to let him determine the course of study or the day's work. No youngster ever helped us write a course of study. We feel the teacher knows more about that."

ULTERIOR MOTIVES

An appeal to Michigan voters for more funds for education was recently made on the UAW TV program, "Telescope". It was explained that more money would provide more schools and enable authorities to keep more kids off the street more of the time. This, it was felt, would cut down juvenile delinquency.

USN&WR editors let slip what they consider the purpose of education to be. Horror-stricken over the great numbers who aren't taking algebra in high school and who are side-stepping the sciences they moan, "This concern is heightened by reports that the Soviet Union threatens to take over the world lead in scientific manpower, if recent trends continue."

LET YOUTH SAY

We think it is for the youth to say what they want of education. They are concerned with the youth and have no ulterior motives.

Student governments that exist today are false and merely parrot the school administrations. Invariably, student protests and demonstrations take place without their support.

It should be up to the students to discipline and administer the school. Just as it should be for the worker to determine the conditions of work, we feel the youth should determine the conditions under which he studies.

To those teachers who now find it's legal to beat children: Look out for those husky fellows in the back row.

A Woman's Viewpoint

When She Can't Break a Bad Marriage

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. —Some people wonder why, in this day and age, a woman would stick a really bad marriage out, instead of leaving and making her own way. There are plenty of women around here who take more from their husbands than you think they could—but they just can't up and leave.

A woman with no children, or even with 1 or 2 may be able to go out on her own. But if you have 3 children, that's pretty nearly the limit a woman could handle by herself.

HOPELESS

Unless a woman is pretty well educated or equipped somehow for a high-paying job, there's not too much she can do. The cost of living is so high today, a woman has a rough time making ends meet on a man's wages. It's all a man can do today to take care of a family.

When you think of how little a woman can make around here, you can begin to understand how hopeless it seems for most women to even start thinking of taking care of her family alone.

Even a woman's health is a factor she has to consider. There are plenty of women whose health is so worn down, they know they couldn't hold a steady job continually. When you have a family depending on you, you can't lose one day from your job, whether you're sick or not. So you wind up feeling you just have to take it, and you stick it out.

NO SOLUTION

That's what the old phrase about "kids keeping a family together" boils down to, lots of time. But the children do help you "take it" too. Your kids can become a consolation to you, when your marriage isn't. You can be so blue, and when your child climbs into your lap, it

changes your whole attitude. You feel how much you're needed and how much they mean to you.

In that sense, children help your problems, but they never SOLVE the problem. They just help you stick it out.

In some places, a woman can get a job with pretty high pay—make as much as man would make—and take care of herself and her kids. That's just not true around here.

"LITTLE" BEATING

One woman just about summed up what the situation is for plenty of women down here: As long as he doesn't beat you too bad, and provides for you and the kids, the best thing is just to stick it out.

That's just about what plenty of women are doing. But that's sure no "happy marriage!"

My idea of a happy marriage isn't just being provided for. It isn't just a lot of "affection" either. A happy marriage to me is two people who have a mutual understanding and a real companionship. Respect for each other is more satisfying than all the "affection" — or what some men think is "affection."

WHAT'S LOVE?

Some think sex is love. But love isn't what they show in the movies. Affection to me means showing you care for each other—that you care how each other feels. For your husband to say something as simple as, "You look tired. Why don't you take a rest while I look after the kids," is a real display of affection to me. If you have that real companionship and understanding, all the other things in a marriage come naturally.

Give me respect and that kind of affection, and you can have all the other kind. —Miner's Will

APPEAL TO HELP REBUILD BOMBED HOMES & CHURCHES IN MONTGOMERY

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Negro Ministers of Montgomery, anxious to rebuild the churches and homes that were damaged from the bombings of last January 10, have organized a National Campaign to raise money. The group known as the Committee to Study and Plan Aid to the Bombed Churches and Homes has set its goal as \$100,000.

Destruction has been so extensive in one of the church parsonages that the Pastor and family had to move in with one of the members. Though it is insured the insurance company has not completed an adjustment for repairs.

"Even with insurance on some of the buildings complete coverage cannot be claimed. This means additional funds must be supplied before work can begin," said the Rev. Harold A. I. Clement, Secretary-Director of the Campaign.

The Committee states that all contributions will be acknowledged promptly. All checks should be made payable and sent to the office of the Montgomery Improvement Association, 530 South Union St., Montgomery 8, Alabama, and marked "For the Reconstruction Fund."

IVING TWO LIVES...

Last week I received a form letter from my union to fill out. It was in regard to a pension survey they are making in connection with the forthcoming negotiations with the employers.

I have very little interest in the plan. Not because I'm against pensions, I think we should have them. But for many years now the yearly contract negotiations have been a matter of running away from the real problems of working people and the substitution of one scheme and then another.

IS IT BETTER?

The question of wage increases. We have been getting them regularly now for ten years, but has our life really had a big change for the better? Do we have a more harmonious home life? Have we been able to grow up with our children and understand each other better? Have we been able to find satisfaction in our work?

There had been some talk of a shorter work day. But it seems to have been lost in the shuffle. And it is the one thing that has come up that even begins to approach something that has some real meaning.

ONE LIFE

I actually live two lives. The one of work, work, work. It starts at 6:15 a.m. when I get up to prepare my breakfast and lunch before going to work. Then fight traffic for an hour and a half, add to that 8 hours of work and when you get home it is 5:30 p.m. By that time I've had it. The work, the tension just take it out of you.

THE OTHER LIFE

The other life I live, or I should say, I would like to live, I have to squeeze into the few remains hours of the day. There are many things I

would like to do. I get to do very few of them.

I'm building a hi-fi set. I would like to build some cabinets for the house. I like to work out in the yard and plant things and watch them grow. And above all I would like to have more time with my family and the growing children.

Actually you should be able to enjoy your work at the shop. But with the whole emphasis being on more and more production and the hell with everything else, that's what it turns out to be. Hell.

The whole idea of a pension in this day when we are daily threatened with a world war is something of a bitter joke.

—Skilled Worker
Los Angeles

How Some Men Have to Work!

Today I was watching an outfit in the cellar blowing checkers. They were making laborer's wages, when they should have been making two dollars or more an hour—all colored. When they get home some of those guys are so dead they can't sit down and eat.

I watched them today and when I was getting ready to go home, they were still working. The heat is so terrific down there when they blow that most of them had gone through two sweat-shirts—soaking wet. You couldn't find a dry spot on the shirt.

Most of the hot work is done by the Negroes. If you could just see how some men have to make their living.

—Steelworker,
Pittsburgh.

News & Letters Committees

LOS ANGELES—Last week's sale of News & Letters at the Chrysler plant in Los Angeles marked a high point for me. We in the committee have been circulating the paper there and at General Motors for several months.

On the front page (March 5) was the article written by the Detroit Chrysler trim shop workers telling of the Rank & File victory over Reuther. This was the first that Los Angeles Chrysler workers heard of this.

The response was immediate. Workers crowded around me and I had all I could do to hold on to the paper. Some workers who were dashing for their cars stopped to read the paper on the sidewalk. I felt that we had scooped everybody and that everything we had been saying about the paper being useful

to workers was proven in this issue.

I ran out of papers only too soon. There are generally enough to go around but this time I didn't have enough.

I was at the plant early so I had the opportunity to get the paper to some workers who were waiting to go in. They were very surprised at the news. Several workers took half a dozen copies to give to fellows in their department.

One worker said this might mean the beginning of the end for the bureaucracy. He felt that the rank and file all over the country were just waiting for the right moment to strike.

One worker, as he was reading the paper, just kept saying, "This is all right, all right." Another worker said, "Now if we can just do that here."

I'm looking forward eagerly to the next issue of News & Letters. I hope that some workers will now see the necessity to stop and give me a subscription.

—Committee Member

Your Subscriptions

and

Contributions

Keep News & Letters

going.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

Troubled Scientists

The February 19th issue of News & Letters, in the column "Two Worlds," is concerned with the crisis among the scientists—since the development of the A bomb—over "the social consequences of their discoveries." It is there pointed out that the difficulty the scientist finds himself in today cannot be resolved by submitting to pressure and by conforming.

Many prominent scientists are, however, looking for a solution to the troubled state of their conscience, and to the stagnation in their work. The splitting of the atom seems also to have splintered the well-being of scientists.

WHOSE ETHICS AND MORALS?

Albert Szent-Gyorgy, who is the director for muscle research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass., in an article, "Science, Ethics and Politics," has this to say: "What the scientist really wants to know are the internal laws that hold the universe together with all that is in it. Morals are the laws that hold human societies together. So science is not devoid of relations to ethics and morals.

"Within the last decade science has created the most powerful tools, which like any tools, can be used for construction or destruction. The scientist cannot remain a neutral spectator and refuse all moral responsibility when he sees the politician run away with these and turn them into tools of destruction.

"Countries cannot exist side by side in peace without a moral code. I am deeply convinced that this is the simple root of all our political troubles . . . so what is really needed is an international bureau of moral standards passing out weights and measures."

Yet this kind of moral code is what all the great religions have been preaching for centuries—with little success.

Dael Wolfe, who is an executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, says, "Science has become so abstract and complex and is changing so rapidly that it has become extremely difficult for the non-scientist to understand. At the time time, science has assumed such a fundamentally important role in our industrial and technological society that it becomes extremely important for the non-scientist to understand its nature, and the role it plays in the culture of our economy.

" . . . What will society do with the ability to develop power in any amount, anywhere on the globe, free from dependence on water power or fossil fuels—with the ability to launch a missile capable of destroying a city thousands of miles away . . . to construct a factory that requires no human operator but only maintenance personnel—to repair machines that convert raw materials into finished products—to send explorers to the moon."

WHO WILL EDUCATE THE EDUCATORS?

He said that education of the public to understand the scientist as well as science is what is urgently needed in order to remove the feeling of anti-intellectualism, suspicion and mistrust that exist in regard to the scientist.

Certainly, few persons would object to more widespread education in Science. Still, there has been continual improvement in our general fund of knowledge over many generations—the average boy of seven today knows much more about the world than Columbus did—with little change in our understanding of what is good for man.

Wolfe rightly says, "Society cannot digest the bomb." The reason for this, however, is neither a defective code of morals nor a lack of education. Society today has indigestion because it has too many fragmented human beings.

No sane person can deny that our existence in association with others should be one in which the individual's welfare and well-being are primary. This well-being depends on the freedom to apply his mental and physical resources to the world around him. The capacities of man are thus the means for his growth toward universality and not merely labor power to produce values.

When, however, men are used merely as machines, something happens to them which perverts their humanity. "Labor then only sustains their life by stunting it." Fear and hatred, apathy and brutality set it. The indigestion of society comes from this and nothing else.

It seems to me that under these conditions it is a healthy sign for people not only to be troubled but to question the wisdom of scientists and others that follow the leadership of those in government and industry who accept what is as normal.

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Rank & File Against Reuther & Chrysler

(Continued from Page 1)

WHAT'S THE TRUTH BEHIND THE "DEAL" WITH CHRYSLER?

Some workers were talking about the deal the daily papers reported that Reuther made with Chrysler and what the Union paper said about it. One man said, "How come the Union paper doesn't show that it's actually more—nearly twice as many—workers who aren't working for Chrysler than the 20,000 the papers wrote about?"

"In 1955 there were 176,356 workers on Chrysler payrolls. Now there are only 140,000. 36,356 workers who worked in Chrysler in 1955 are not in Chrysler in 1957.

"The papers must have got the 20,000 figure only on the basis of present production. Less cars are produced now, and less workers are used to produce them, but the profits of the company have never been higher. Their profits don't depend on full production. Why then should our wages and work force depend on their production?"

The worker was right again. It isn't only the automation machine which raised "labor productivity," it's the extra sweat of the worker—the speed-up that went with automation. The labor bureaucracy did nothing about that except stop the workers when they wanted to strike against these inhuman production standards.

WORKERS KNOW THIS

Every worker who was called back to work on the 1957 model saw a lot of new machinery, but many of their fellow workers were missing. Then they began to work these new machines and saw for themselves that the work standards were worse than ever. In fact the conditions that originally gave rise to the CIO—speed-up, insecurity, bad conditions in the shop—are now worse than they have ever been.

When the workers tried to wildcat, the union leaders told them it would only mean that the shop would move out of town altogether. The truth, however, was that it was not the shops moving out of town, but automation moving into town that lost the workers their jobs. Automation plus SPEED-UP.

There was a time, when the Union was militant, that a worker was free to tell a time-study man bluntly, "No, I will not, I cannot put out the production you demand." The foremen could not look over his shoulder and push him around. The worker may not have had a full say

over production, but he had a say over the speed of the line, and he could bargain directly with management in the shop.

Nowadays, the time-study man lays down the law. On his say-so, the committeeman orders the worker to produce what he is told. It is all in the contract which says the company has full rights of adjusting and setting production; has full rights over hiring and firing. The labor bureaucracy not only accepts capitalist production standards, they actually try to make them function smoothly by riding the worker.

DO FIGURES LIE?

It is the committeeman who always says, "The foreman is right. That is the way the job is timed. Figures don't lie."

The men on the line know different. They know that if figures don't lie, liars sure figure. Company management and Union bureaucrats figure out those production standards without any concern for the worker. Speed-up has brought with it more and more accidents. Limb and even life of the worker mean nothing either to the company or the Union leadership. That is why the workers want those labor bureaucrats off their backs.

FORD EXPLOSION

The men in my department were talking about the explosion in the Ford-Rouge plant which seriously injured no less than 26 people—2 of them are already dead. One worker said, "Where the hell is the Union? The company and insurance men are crawling all over the place. I'll bet you anything they'll try to talk the widows of those dead men out of what's coming to them. And the Union is letting them get away with it."

ANOTHER "DEAL"?

The workers have a feeling that another deal is going on right now. The Union leaders are suddenly promising that the cushion department, which was moved out of the plant to another firm, will be moved back into the plant and "will create more jobs."

One worker asked, "How come you couldn't do a thing when the company was moving the department away, but now you can get it moved back?"

The Union leader admitted it wasn't because it was cheaper to have it done elsewhere but that the company wanted to force more work out of the workers of that department. Funny thing, the Union leader who told the workers this now expects the workers to have confidence in him.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Red China: Three Differing Views

Recently there have been 3 very different kinds of stories about China from 3 very different kinds of sources. Paradoxically, the most favorable report came from an American reporter in China. The most damaging report came from Chinese sources which openly spoke of worker dissatisfaction with conditions in factories and the 10 hours of labor most are forced to work. The most humorous report was printed in the Russian press.

School For Capitalists

The Russian newspaper OGONYOK (Light), prints a story about a Chinese "Academy for Capitalists," where Chinese capitalists study "history of social development, history of the Chinese Revolution" and the "economics of a socialist enterprise and methods of its management."

WHAT IS AT STAKE

So insensitive is the Union leadership to the feelings of the workers, that they don't even see that while they are talking big again, the workers are saying to themselves, "Even in defeat, when these leaders want their power back and soft-talk us, they continue to think we are dumb. They think we do not see that the only reason there is sudden strike talk is that they want back the control of the Union, full dictatorial control. That is really what is at stake."

It is this capitalist mentality, this thinking that the worker is dumb, which blinds the Union leadership and keeps them from seeing that the workers want the Union in their own hands, not in the hands of the Union bureaucrats.

WHO WILL CONTROL

The workers know that who controls the union can control production standards. That is what is at stake. That is why the workers will not be side-tracked in their struggle against the labor bureaucracy by the sudden strike talk, the subtle Negro baiting, and promises of pie in the sky. If there is to be any shorter work-day it is the workers, and they alone, who can get it. For that, first and foremost they need to control their Union. That, and nothing else, is at stake now.

Evidently, the economics of a so-called socialist enterprise appeal to Chinese capitalists since they are assured a fat profit.

Not only that. The Chinese Communist explains the capitalist approval of the Chinese revolution by virtue of the fact that "capitalists are not deprived of social status" but are "treated as specialists needed in production and trade."

Ownership Reform

A similar type of story appears in the Komso-molskaya Pravda which relates how "Ownership Reform" began when the Liberation Army moved in. The example given is that of the Yunan Department Store which moved from private capitalist ownership to state capitalist ownership.

At first, says the story, the owner did not appear in the store at all. In fact, he was quite frightened at the knock on his door, but when he answered he found that his employees were asking him to return as manager of the store. He quickly accepted as he was assured a 5 per cent rate of profit on capital invested.

The article explains that of course not all capitalists "reform" but that, on the whole the "People's Republic" finds the capitalists willing to move with the Communists into this type of "socialism."

In contrast to this open admission of China as a state capitalist society, comes the American reporter, Bill Worthy, who is so impressed with the American view that it is a socialist society and—having been deprived of seeing it for himself by the State Department's opposition—went there on his own.

Street Committee

He seemed deeply impressed with a new type of organization called "The Street Committee." It consists of 10 to 20 members picked by their neighbors on the street to administer to their daily needs. Many of the members are housewives with no other job. American reporters who saw them in action report that they have done a "remarkable" job in a country where life had a very low value under former regimes.

They are the ones who look after the rationing of scarce items. They conduct the anti-fly, anti-rat, anti-illiteracy and health programs of the government. Among their listed duties are the conducting of meetings, the settlement of family arguments, finding jobs for the unemployed the establishment of sanitary conditions, buying theater tickets, etc.

Constant Check

They seem to occupy a position between the masses and the government. In truth they are controlled by the government who can chart new duties.

Their unique position is but a new function of the government itself. They are also the agency through which the government passes down its demands upon the people, the means used by the government to fulfill its quotas, and a source of unending government check-up on every activity of its people.

Through the street committees, the government is able to have a daily check on the loyalty of every citizen. No "unauthorized" meetings can take place anywhere without the knowledge of some member of these street committees.

In the large cities the usual organization of a Mayor and council is duplicated in every ward, fifty or so of these street committee heads report on their activities to an office in the district, run by a government man. The "public safety bureau" is in constant touch with these men.

Volunteers

Thus, when it suits the government, this can become the most effective means of oppression of the people as well. The "volunteers" for the Korean war were obtained in that way.

It is indeed a mark of the complete corruption of Chiang-Kai-Shek that any change for the better is looked upon, even by American journalists, as if it were indeed a new workers life.