

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

Union Bureaucrats, Wars and Racism

Union elections are now taking place throughout the UAW. This is the time that all union bureaucrats get the jitters, especially those that are holding offices and local union positions, if there is anyone running in opposition to them. As one worker said, "They're pulling every trick in the book, and adding new ones to it. You can't eat your lunch for all the committeemen coming around to shake your hand and hug you like some long-lost friend. And every worker knows that the day after the elections are over, if these incumbents are re-elected, you won't be able to see them until two weeks before the next election."

It is almost impossible for any normal person to understand bureaucrats like these and the difference in their attitudes to the workers the two years between elections and the two weeks before the elections.

HOW THEIR MONEY TALKS

One worker said he would vote for the opposition even if he didn't think any could be elected, just for the fright they put in the bureaucrats.

"But it is hard to beat these SOB's," he said, "because they control all the money in the local union. They plaster the plant with their stickers, picture placards and leaflets. They have rented the four closest beer joints for the day of the election. They boast that they have all the retiree votes in their pockets, and they think they can buy them the same way, plus furnishing cars to pick up the retired workers and take them home.

This worker said, "Man, this world is in a mess today. Just the idea of money is supposed to make you accept anything, and be satisfied. If you aren't, they point to somebody who has gotten a lot of money by doing the same thing, and this is supposed to change your thinking and make you accept their way."

PICKING "EXAMPLES"

He said he had read an article in the paper that morning that reported many Negro GI's in Vietnam, and many whites as well, agreed with Martin Luther King in what he has said against the war. Yet, newscasters like Mike Wallace rushed to get one Negro on TV in Vietnam to say he disagreed with Rev. King—and to imply that this was what all the Negro GI's were saying.

They try to pick up one Negro to use him against all the others. That is what they have done in the Union, too. They pick a few Negroes to put on top and sell the others out. They are supposed to be "examples" of all Negroes. "They're crazy if they think all Negroes will just accept what these Negroes say, and be happy," said one worker.

Another worker said, "You're right. I was watching TV the other night and saw where hundreds of Negroes were being evicted from their farms in the Mississippi Delta. The landowners said it was because the government told them they had to pay these Negroes a dollar an hour for their labor. The announcer was reporting that these Negroes have no place else to go because they have no education.

"How could they get any education? Their grandparents worked for these landowners from the time they were eight or nine years old. They made the landowners rich but got nothing for themselves. Their children did the same. Now they yell that it could be better for Negroes if they had an education, but they fight against the idea of Negroes coming to a white school to try to get a better education."

FACTS OF NEGRO LIFE

Another thing that burned him up, he said, was to hear about how "shiftless and lazy" the Negro is. "If the people who say that had to do the hard work most Negroes have done they would be dead and in hell by now," he said. "We had to be out of bed before daylight and work until after dark with one hour for lunch. Negroes couldn't even count how many hours a day they had to work, to make the whites richer and the Negroes poorer. They have even passed laws to keep us in that fix."

In Mississippi no Negro can get welfare aid if the husband and wife are living together. Many of the families in Mississippi are starving because the husband and wife refused to leave their families. Those that did leave can't find work to support their families, and the minute they return to visit the family they're cut off of welfare.

When a Negro leader comes along who is not afraid to state these facts openly they say he should be tried for treason—but white Southerners can say whatever they please, especially about Negroes, and nothing is said.

Production Workers Council May Have Critical Role in Auto Moves

The contract proposals outlined by UAW President Walter Reuther at the special bargaining convention held in Detroit April 19-22 grabbed all of the headlines, but the most promising and important development came with the demonstration and demand of production worker delegates for a Production Workers Council. And while the 3,000 delegates attending the convention voted to give Reuther the "flexible bargaining position" he asked for, the delegate who spoke the real feelings of the rank-and-file declared that Reuther's "flexible position" was like being a "feather in a windstorm"—and he'd rather stand solid like an oak tree on specific issues the rank-and-file would fight for and support.

SOUTH VIETNAM — SOUTH U.S.A.



The greatest joke at the convention was the ridiculous picture of Reuther wearing a paper cap with the words "I Support Production Workers" printed on it. Just how much he is for the production workers can easily be seen from the order of the demands he put forth.

REUTHER PROGRAM

These were Reuther's proposals, in his order: 1—wage increase; 2—same pay for same work of Canadian and American auto workers; 3—guaranteed annual income; 4—keeping present cost-of-living contract clause; 5—cost-of-living clause for pensions; 6—auto insurance coverage provisions; 7—cutting down on outside contract work; and 8—improvements in supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB), work and wage standards of parts workers, medical care, overtime, vacations, production standards and working conditions.

Nothing shows the complete separation between bureaucrat Reuther and the rank-and-file production workers more clearly than the fact that Reuther, in this age of Automation and man-killing speed-up of the production line, only tacks on fighting against production standards and working conditions to his demands, where production workers put them on the top as life and death issues.

Reuther's proposals, of course, seem to represent something for all, but it is all meaningless. There is not an auto worker who can say what the main issue is going to be in the forthcoming negotiations.

THE REAL NEED

On the other hand, if cutting out speed-up and improving working conditions were the main demands, every production worker in every auto shop in the U.S., as well as in the world, would get behind this drive because they know it is something that has meaning in their every day lives.

Compare what an auto worker says about the formation of the Production Workers Council to the "flexibility" of Reuther:

"The skilled trades had their convention and were asking for a dollar more on the hour. Production workers felt there was going to be a double-cross in the negotiations so they organized a council, which they set up between Ford, GM and Chrysler.

"They set it up for a very good reason: Chrysler has been saying that GM gets more production per man hour than we get at Chrysler, and that Ford gets more per man hour too. So we've been caught in a rat race between the corporations, and the workers said that if we set up this council, we could meet and compare production and conditions of work between the corporations, and one company couldn't play one worker off against another in the drive for more and more speed-up and more and more production."

It became clear to production workers how far Reuther had de-

(Continued on page 8)

We Need Your Support

Whether you are a long-time supporter of News & Letters, or whether you are a relatively new reader, you are already aware of the uniqueness of coverage this paper represents:

● Internationally, over the past year, we have carried stories ranging from the Japanese student movement to the Czechoslovak trade union movement.

● Nationally, we have carried the in-person stories of the anti-war movement, the first civil rights strike in history, new developments in the farm workers struggles and Freedom Union organization — in short, rank-and-file activities North and South, East and West.

At the same time, the uniqueness of our theoretical contribution has been evident not only in our articles on the Turmoil in China, but in the special issue on State-Capitalism, which has since become a separate pamphlet.

During the year, everything about us has been "escalated" — from the protests against the war to the war itself, and from racial tensions to the attempts to crush the civil rights movement. The need for News & Letters is greater than ever — but the costs of dissent have also escalated. The printing bill alone is now over \$375 an issue. Though our entire staff — both full-time and part-time — works on a voluntary basis, postage, rent, and supplies bring the average minimum expenses to almost \$600 monthly.

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Discussion Article

The Pride of Being Black

by Kute Carrway

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We have invited Kute Carrway to write a series of articles for NEWS & LETTERS, not because she agrees with our philosophy of Marxist-Humanism, but because, as a Negro woman worker, she has thoughts of her own which deserve publication.)

I want to talk about things black people think and talk about. Why we laugh to keep from crying; things that kill and create; soft, crude, vibrant, rhythmic and violent. Things that only we can understand out of frustration and despair. Here, this may seem irrelevant and unimportant, but I maintain it is important.

Be proud of your black heritage! Had it not been a deciding social factor it would never have been taken away from you! People of color instituted the first crude but effective socialistic societies. There was poverty, no disease; elderly people were taken care of, no inflation or layoffs.

BLACKS SELF-MADE

We have never been the docile, inferior creatures that psychologically crippled, Calvinistic puritans found it necessary to picture us. The idea of false inferiority would never have been entertained had not the idea of false superiority been so desperately insisted upon.

This is why we were deprived of the magnitude and scope of our black culture, that existed long before the dawn of Caucazoid civilization.

A lesser people might well have succumbed and become extinct; but the elusive element of black mystique combined with urgent need has forced black people to become self-made: philosophers, lawyers, doctors, poets, psychiatrists and comedians par excellence—without the benefit of formal education. Is there any won-

der that an initial and almost successful attempt was made to quell such stubborn resistance?

NO ESCAPISM

There were times when as "close to white as possible" was the epitome of negritude (notice I said negritude and not black) success. Now at last, we black people have begun to reject escapism—you can't run away from the difficult stigma of being black in America.

In spite of the wide and divergent colorings, from a bass black to a treble white, you are still black!

We've begun to be proud of the strength of the drop of black blood, and its ability to turn a 99.9/10% Caucasian black! Of course we are using our famous safety valve of humor, but we are freeing ourselves in the process.

BLACK 'PSYCHOLOGY'

Black slaves had sense enough to lean on their hoes when they got tired and begin to sing—to con some colonel into letting them rest! They claimed they were soothing his money-jangled nerves! What more, does a modern psychiatrist in a capitalistic society do?

The ability to laugh at one's own sorrow was also a method employed by slaves and has become the saving power for us today. Today we laugh pretty much the same way about poverty—except that the laugh has acquired a hollow sound.

Mr. Charlie should never have given a black a book; nor taught a black man how to die. The power structure sends a black man to kill a yellow man to keep a white bigot free to kick the black man when he gets back from the war to save freedom (for all white bigots). Now, dying is nothing. Violence is certainly not the desired method but like miscegenation—blacks don't start wars!

MUST MOVE FORWARD

In this period of disturbing transition, as mild as it may seem, the progress in change will be revolting and entirely unpalatable to the bigoted power structure; but we must move forward. We must loosen the tongues and open lips long cemented by frustration and despair.

I am concerned that the power structure has been able to use the bugaboo of race so long and so skillfully to cheat unaware white workers into selling themselves short to make sure they (white workers) are better than black workers—while management sells all the workers down the drain. Discrimination hurts everybody in this anemic democracy!

Poet Sears Sham

Think Black, a first volume of poems by Don L. Lee; nu-Ace Social Printers, Publishers; 1316 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Ill 60623, 75c.

(Reviewed by Eugene P. R. Feldman)

A new young black poet, Don L. Lee, refuses to accept all of the platitudes of our world without a sharp, critical view.

In his poem, "The Long Reality," he cries out against the hypocrisy of fighting for democracy in Vietnam but having no democracy in our own country for black Americans. He says:

*Napalm in Viet Nam,
Congress here,
come black brothers
the message is clear—
America is in tears
crying her pleads of broken
promises and hypocrisies.
Viet-brothers come give
us a hand
we fight for freedom,
we fight for land.
Give me my forty acres.
give me my mule—
broken promises and
hypocrisies
where death died and claimed
freedom flees.*

Mr. Lee's poems have been published in Writers' Digest, which awarded him honorable mention in its 1966 national poetry contest, and in Liberator magazine. His poems will appear in an international anthology on black liberation to be published in Italy in October.

His poems have also appeared in the 1967 issue of Chimes, annual literary magazine of Rimers Club, and will appear in Kauri, a poetry magazine published in New York City; and in Torch, literary publication of Illinois Teachers College.

N. Y. Landlords Fight City On Rent Controls

New York, N.Y. — Landlords here are fighting the N.Y. City Council's decision to retain rent control by forcing a strike of their building workers, Building Service Union, Local 328.

In March, the city passed a law to continue Rent Control for three years. The city has not yet acted, however, on certain bills which propose how controls should be phased out after that three year period.

AIM AT WORKERS

At the time of the March hearing, the landlords tried to coerce the Building Services Union to fight rent control by threatening to refuse them any wage or benefit increases when their contract expired. The contract has expired. Negotiations had barely begun on Friday, April 29, when the landlords walked out. They stated that they would refuse to negotiate at all until the city gave them "some relief" from Rent Control.

The union, itself, is notorious for working against its own members. At present, the wage scale for building workers is from \$60 to \$84 per week. The union has never authorized a strike—until now. They sent their Queens members out last week, and now threaten to strike Manhattan. Informed observers maintain that the union leadership has ordered the strike at the behest of the landlords.

In effect, the landlords and the union leadership are working together to extend the strike in order to intimidate the city into passing the Rent Control phase-out bills.

LAW IS CLEAR

The Rent Control Law, passed during the severe housing shortage after World War II, limits the amount of increase a landlord may charge to 15% of the original rent. It also makes the landlord responsible for providing certain services to the tenants, hot water, heat, etc., and for maintaining safety standards.

If landlords succeed in phasing out Rent Control, they will be able to gouge tenants, sending rents sky-rocketing while providing fewer services. A shortage of housing still exists in New York (though landlords say otherwise). As long as this shortage remains, Rent Control must remain.

7 Are Jailed in Louisville

Louisville, Ky.—Leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) are among seven people serving jail sentences in connection with open housing demonstrations here.

The seven are among plaintiffs in a class suit which challenges the constitutionality of an injunction limiting demonstrations and of state and city laws under which the demonstrators are being charged. A local newspaper calculated recently that more than 600 people have been arrested since the fight for open housing began.

7-MONTH DRIVE

The marches began after open housing advocates had tried for seven months to get local officials to pass an open housing ordinance. The injunction was issued after marches into all-white sec-

tions of the city were met with violence by crowds of white hecklers, often numbering more than 1,000. Members of the American Nazi Party from Chicago came to Louisville to join the hecklers.

Police have been arresting most of the demonstrators before the marches begin, but only a handful of hecklers have been charged.

The suit brought by open housing supporters asks for an injunction to prevent city and county officials from carrying out further arrests of "persons seeking only to protest racial discrimination."

CALL OFF PARADE

Another result of the demonstrations was cancellation of a parade which was to have opened the yearly Kentucky Derby festivities which represents an investment of more than \$300,000, according to local newspapers. The parade's theme this year was to have been "Great Moments in American History."

Nashville Negro Students Protest Riot Squad Tactics

Nashville, Tenn.—The real story of what happened in Nashville has not been reported in the press. Instead, the white newspapers, radio and television have tried to lay the blame for the campus rebellion on the students and surrounding black community, by calling them "roving mobs," "guerilla forces," and constantly referring to the fact that bricks and bottles were thrown at white cops.

The white press and white groups in that area had stated that riots would break out if Carmichael came to their city. The fact is that Stokely Carmichael went to Nashville, spoke to several student groups there, and then left for a speaking engagement in another city—with no trouble breaking out.

PROTEST ARREST

On Saturday, April 8, a Fisk campus restaurant owner called white cops to arrest one black student, who he claimed was not welcome in his establishment. Because other students and onlookers felt that the arrest was unjust, they began to protest as the police dragged him away. At this point, the police called out the riot squad. The crowd grew larger.

Police began to push and shove their way into the crowd, using billy-clubs against anyone who dared protest, which resulted in several onlookers retaliating by

throwing rocks and bottles. The riot squad began shooting, and bullets ricocheted into the girls' dormitories, causing several girls to be wounded.

When students at nearby Tennessee State College demonstrated in a sympathy protest, more riot squads moved into that area. Two students were shot in the neck, several were wounded in the arms and legs. The riot squad then surrounded the entire black campus area and drove around with guns and riot equipment ready for use. Several homes and apartments were raided.

INJURE OVER 50

By Sunday evening, over 100 black students and citizens were arrested and in jail, over 50 people had been injured by police gun-fire and billy-clubs. Three SNCC workers who were returning to Nashville from another city were stopped in their car and questioned by the riot-cops who had taken control of the entire area.

When police spotted SNCC literature in the car, they arrested two of the SNCC workers on charges of "Inciting to Riot" and they were placed under \$2,500 bond each. A third SNCC worker was charged with "Vagrancy" and taken to jail.

The white press, politicians, and powers-that-be were fully expected to blame SNCC and Stokely Carmichael for what happened in Nashville.

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N & L Repeals Law, but Cops Still Try to Harass Members

Mahwah, N.J. — The local police of this town, site of a huge Ford plant, have been harassing News & Letters committee members to stop them from distributing this paper to Ford workers.

For the last five years, News & Letters has been distributed to workers at this plant. And for five years, both Ford officials and the police department have tried various means to keep N & L away from the workers.

Three years ago, Ford officials threatened to arrest members of the N.Y. committee for distributing in the Ford parking lot. The committee complied with Ford by distributing on the public exit road which all the workers take to leave the parking lot.

LAW REPEALED

Last year, two members were arrested there—on the basis of a 1937 law forbidding the distribution of political literature without a permit. N & L, with the help of an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, fought the arrest case and managed to have the law repealed.

Last week, no longer having the permit law to stand on, the police tried to find other means for stop-

ping the distribution. Their tactic this time was harassment of distributors and blunt intimidation of workers.

As each car in the line stopped to take a paper, the police stood in front of the distributors, yelling at them not to step off the curb, and yelling at the workers to keep moving. Significantly, they tried hardest to scare the Negro workers away, threatening them with arrest for obstructing traffic.

COPS BACKFIRE

The workers, especially the Negroes among them, were not scared off. It seemed that the presence of the cops made them really determined to get the paper.

The police, unable to arrest anyone on even the trumped-up charges of littering or obstructing traffic, then left—but not before taking the names and addresses of the distributors for "an FBI check."

One wonders what happened to the good old constitutional provisions of freedom of speech and of the press. One also wonders what is going on in that Ford plant to make the officials so afraid of their workers reading a newspaper.

No VW Union Means Misery

New York, N.Y. — Most people seem to think that the Volkswagen garages are good places to work, but it is not true. For one thing, not one VW shop in the county is organized, and one of the first questions they ask when you apply for a job is: did you have a union at the last place you worked.

If you say no, they breathe easier, but if it's yes, they become hesitant about hiring you.

FLAT-RATE SYSTEM

There are two general pay systems in the VW organization — flat rate, and salary. The workers get messed up on both. But of the two, flat rate is worse just because of its very nature. On flat-rate you are paid a set amount of money for doing a job in a set amount of time. If you don't finish on time for any reason, they deduct from the set amount of money.

The mechanic has to break his back in order to make a decent wage. For example, if time on a job is an hour, it makes no difference how long it takes the mechanic to get the job (you are punched on the job before, not after, you receive the car to be worked on), or how long you wait for the parts (sometimes as long as an hour), or how difficult the job is. Regardless, you must finish in an hour or lose some of the money you will receive.

SALARY BETTER

The workers on salary are a little luckier in that they will always receive a set amount of money, no matter what. On salary, you're paid by the hour, but the manager can start a man at any place he wants. Thus, each man doesn't make the same thing. Even on salary, however, you can not get away from the time factor. If you do not finish a job on time, regardless of the reason, the foreman jumps on your back and tells you you're making the company lose money, and to step it up on the next job.

The worker is faced with "production" problems, even if it is of a different type. You may be the last person to get a job in the morning, and you get it 45 minutes after you come in.

It may take you 15 minutes to get the job and half an hour for the parts. If the job is allowed an hour and a half, you have already had it, and you haven't even started to work on the car. You will still be told you took too much time and had better step it up on the next one.

The number of hours you work a week is also dependent on the whims of the individual dealer. Some have a 40 hour week, with 5 hours compulsory overtime, and other non-compulsory overtime. Others have a 45 hour week with compulsory overtime.

On the Line

'Comfort Class' Makes Mess, Shows Contempt for Workers

By John Allison

There exists a strange phenomenon in the Highland Park Building Services. This building houses what I call the "comfort class," the executives. We can begin to see why the conditions of work are a throwback to slavery.

Now you know these workers are by and large Negroes who clean and shine and make new the offices and rest rooms for the comfort class. Negro workers who have white bosses feel that the reason these white collar workers mess up needlessly is because they have no respect for the human being, and real contempt for the working class.

A REAL MESS

For example, the waste paper baskets in these buildings have to be washed by hand every night because these baskets are used for food and coffee cups. Nearly anything you can name goes into these baskets. One worker reported that coffee is thrown against the wall, and there are other little acts of aggression against Negroes in particular, and workers in general.

Where there were three women cleaning a section, two have been removed, leaving one to do the same work three did before.

All complain about the waste paper that has to be removed before they can begin to clean. One remarked, "You would think we were working in a paper factory. We're beginning to wonder if Chrysler makes cars or paper?"

WORKERS PENALIZED

Washing windows is a big farce. You wash in the morning, it rains in the evening, and you would never know they had been washed. But this isn't the concern of supervisors. They want those windows clean when they look at them. And if they're not clean, some workers are going to have slips written up on them that they're not doing their job.

What really gets you though is that if a worker did some of the things in those offices that the white collar bosses do, he'd be fired on the spot for doing harm to the corporation's property. The

sad truth is that the poor office maintenance worker is the low man on the totem pole.

If a big boss takes out some frustration on a smaller boss, the smaller boss can always take it out on someone below him — or throw a cup of coffee against an office wall. The maintenance worker doesn't have anyone under him though, so he or she just has to take it — or go to his steward and complain against the useless and mindless messes the white collar bosses make to be cleaned up.

STUPID BOSSES

Another thing is that some of those white collar bosses just don't know which end is up about anything, let alone something about what is needed in cleaning. That's why there are grievances that many women maintenance workers feel when a silly boss will try to tell them how to do their jobs. Many of these women have been doing the work for 20 years, and all of a sudden some smart alecky boss decides that some particular woman isn't doing her work right. And so he writes up a disciplinary slip on her, and she has to fight all the way to keep from having that slip entered on her work record.

And so depending on where you are, you can see many things very clearly or you can't see anything at all. If you're one of the workers — on the production line or shining up the offices and cleaning up the messes left by the big wheels — you can see things very well. But if you're one of the "comfort class," you can't see beyond your nose about what people are because you're too busy looking at yourself as someone who doesn't have to answer to anyone for anything you do — including making a mess for someone else to clean up.

Over 2,000 in Pittsburgh Protest Against Wallace

Pittsburgh, Pa. Over 2,000 marched, picketed with banners, shouted and in general showed their militant opposition to Alabama's Wallace when he was invited by the Amen Corner to speak in Pittsburgh on April 27.

So widespread was the opposition to the racist that, though the demonstration was not to start till 4:30 p.m., the lines of protesters began forming as early as noon.

START EARLY

The United Protest Committee, a sort of independent NAACP branch that has been responsible for most of the action here, had begun work on this protest the moment it was announced that any group had dared invite the former Governor of Alabama.

So persistent was the pressure put on by this militant committee that, first, Senator Murphy of California, who was supposed to be one of the "honored" speakers, decided he was too ill to appear. Then the person to have gotten some award, Richard K. Mellon, one of the financial giants of Pittsburgh, decided to go to Europe rather than face the picketing of the individual banks and firms he controls.

In the end, the Amen Corner showed its true colors, by having the Birchers appear openly. And

some of these Birchers were imported.

MASSIVE EFFORT

Pittsburgh had not witnessed so massive, integrated, and concerted an effort and a demonstration for many a year. The Penn-Sheraton was surrounded on all sides. We marched till a quarter after 7 p.m. and then went for a rally in Mellon Square.

Charles Harris and James McCoy spoke for the United Protest Committee and Father Owen Rice and Byrd Brown, President of NAACP, were the speakers.

The most exciting feature, however, was the march itself and the fact that people actually took off from work to be there. Those who came and had to leave to go to work, handed their signs to cars of workers returning from work. Both workers and peace groups were there and far from being merely a silent vigil, we really let ourselves be heard.

WALLACE WILL REMEMBER

Although the police were there in force, and we expected trouble when we saw that they had carefully removed their badges so that we could not identify them, the demonstration was so big they didn't even try to harass us.

The racist Wallace will long remember Pittsburgh, not as a city honoring his pretensions to the presidency, but one that showed him its opposition.

Co. Workers in 6 Countries Take First Stand Together

GLASGOW, Scotland — Apart from what decision Wilson will make when he comes off the tightrope, the question of our relations with the European workers is of great importance. The workers in the Common Market countries are beginning to face up to their class enemies.

This is borne out by the decision of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to oppose the redundancy policy of the Philips International concern. This is the first time that the workers of one company with interests spread over the six nations have taken a common stand. Next month, when the Heads of Governments of the Six meet in Rome to celebrate the Community's tenth anniversary, they will be confronted with a memorandum from the trade unions accusing the Common Market authorities of being Authoritarian.

COUNTER COMMUNISTS

The above facts are not presented as an argument for joining the Common Market, but they counter some of the hysterical utterances that emanate from the Communist Party. The efforts of our politicians to capture more orders from Europe must be considered as of secondary importance to the need for working class solidarity in Britain, and solidarity with workers in other parts of the world.

A struggle against entry into the Market must cut across our efforts in the greater struggle that means so much for the future of society. We require all our energy for the task imposed on us by the policy of the Labour Government.

Those comrades who oppose the Common Market say that entry will add to the strength of the ruling class. It could add to the strength of the working class. We must get rid of the idea that our problems can be solved in Britain alone.

NONSENSE LEADERS

Let us leave that nonsense to the leaders of the so-called Communist Party who pretend to believe in a British Road to Socialism. Unity with the European workers is necessary whether Britain is in the Common Market or not. We tend to behave as if the continent did not exist. It is difficult to account for this attitude.

We cannot avoid struggling against every attempt of the ruling class by speed-up methods in the factories, or by keeping wages down, in order to capture markets.

If the ruling class becomes concerned about being part of a community where the reduction or tariff barriers will facilitate trade, it is not our job to drop important activities to concentrate on that. We cannot defeat the class enemy in that way.

—Harry McShane

AN ENDURING PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF A GREAT STRUGGLE OF OUR TIMES

—THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE



CAPTURES THE LIVING SPIRIT OF A MOVEMENT

PHOTOS BY GEORGE BALLIS; TEXT FROM THE PLAN OF DELANO
 ♦♦♦2.50 from Farm Worker Press, Box 1060, Delano, Cal.

BASTA!

Editorial

The Unending Barbarous War in Vietnam and the Race Question

On the same day (April 28) that General Westmoreland came to wave the flag before Congress, Muhammad Ali refused to be inducted into the Army. While the white four-star general was applauded even by the doves, the black man was, within hours, stripped of his title of World Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

General Westmoreland was paving the way for such escalation of the barbarous war that the country would soon reach the point of no return. Muhammad Ali was leaving fame and fortune behind in order to stand up for his convictions and show the world a second America. Yet the one who came to silence dissent ("an unpatriotic act") got all the glory heaped upon him; the one who stood up for principles was indicted and faces 5 years in prison and \$10,000 in fine.

AMERICAN CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL

The "American Dream" is being transformed into the Orwellian nightmare, 1984, not because one white man is praised and one black man vilified, but because war has exposed the open nerve—"the Negro Question"—which has always been the touchstone of American history. It has placed American civilization on trial before the whole world much more seriously than the "war crimes tribunal" in Stockholm.

Long before the confrontation between Muhammad Ali and the Houston, Texas Induction center—but long after the white anti-war protesters had their anti-war teach-ins and marches and demonstrations—the World Heavyweight Champion was called for a hearing in Louisville, Ky., August 23, 1966. Judge Grauman tried opening a door to "non-combatant service." Ali refused: "If it wasn't against my conscience to do it, I would easily do it... wouldn't go through all of this and lose and give up the millions that I gave up and my image with the American public that I would say is completely dead and ruined..." Because, however, his conscience didn't fill any of the nice cubby holes American justice "recognizes," Muhammad was refused this way out of war involvement.

NEGRO DISSENTERS VILIFIED

Still, were this but an individual way of not participating in that most barbarous of wars, all sorts of other alternatives were open to the World Boxing Champion. As so many other athletes have done, he could have joined the Army Reserves, become a weekend warrior who escapes combat but becomes the darling of the "proper patriots." Or he could have allowed himself to be inducted and sent on a grand tour of Army camps that would have kept him out of the fighting. He chose, instead, to stand on principles. And when he was, with such unseemly haste, stripped of his title by a boxing commission that had never taken it away from criminals, Ali remarked that this was but a "continuation of the same artificially induced prejudice and discrimination," that he had encountered all his life.

From a different vantage point, another Negro who had recently become an open opponent of the Vietnam war and was quickly vilified, attributed the unbridled attacks on him not only to the fact that the Administration is getting nervous about the massive protest against its imperialist policy, but also "because I am a Negro." Dr. King said this, not because he thinks the war is merely a racist war, but because he knows what white America thinks "the place" of its Negroes should be.

Never before has Administration opposition to dissenters been so vicious as when the Negro began joining the anti-war movement. Rep. F. Edward Hebert Jr. of Louisiana, a member of the House Armed Services Committee even had the gall to declare "Let's forget the First Amendment!"

A RACIST WAR?

The Vietnam war did not start as a "racist" war, but for "pure" imperialist purposes—domination of the world by the big powers, be they private or state-capitalist calling themselves Communist. The white-ness of all the contestants for power in shattered Europe following the conclusion of World War II did not eliminate the causes for the Cold War. War hawks, racist or otherwise, are not only against Negro fighters against the war, but wish to stifle all dissent, especially the serious Marxist opposition to any capitalist wars.

Nevertheless, this being the USA, born in the lie of color even as it declared "all men to be born free," consolidating its union a century later through the betrayal of the freed slave, and ending the 19th century through its brilliantly white plunge into imperialism, it is not accidental that the attacks on opponents of the Vietnam war today reached a new virulence when the Negro joined the massive anti-war protest April 15.

LBJ'S NIGHTMARE

Consider this: President Johnson was satisfied at first with his own references to "nervous Nellies" and J. Edgar Hoover's diatribes about "Communist influenced" draft card burners, although opposition to the Vietnam war covered the spectrum from Senator Fulbright to Stokely Carmichael. There were times even when he permitted himself to talk as if he had ever been a dove.

Today, on the other hand, he allows himself to inspire such bigoted outbursts about the need to violate the Constitution itself as come from Rep. Hebert who refers to Negro dissenters as the reason for the need "to clean up this rat infested area." At the same time LBJ feels impelled to draw direct from the battlefield the square-jawed, patriotic, smartly saluting military commander.

Why? Because even the Republican Policy Committee issued a criticism of his conduct of the war? Not at all. He knows this is politics, and he would do as much if he were out and the Republicans were in. He knows very well that he can expect them "to rally around the flag, boys," napalm or no napalm, in or out of office. But the youth, those who do the actual fighting and dying, of those he is not at all sure.

His nightmare, and rightly, is seeing that, where Stokely Carmichael, as black power advocate, has no mass following. Stokely Carmichael as "Hell no! we won't go!" is beginning to have such a following. It isn't the fact that Stokely "won over" Rev. King that worries him, but that Rev. King is expressing a deep felt opposition to war in the whole Negro community.

Worst of all, the masses who could not identify either with Carmichael nor Rev. King, do find something in Muhammad Ali's quiet courage as anti-war opponent, something they didn't see in him as Black Muslim.

Suddenly the exposed nerve is not just racism, but class opposi-

Readers'

ANTI-WAR AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I guess the attack on Rev. King for his stand against the war is the hottest issue in the shop right now. White workers are very cagey on these issues, and don't say much one way or the other—but all the Negro workers are talking about it. Almost all of them are behind King.

They get mad at people like Wilkins when he tries to "defend" the civil rights movement against King, and want to know what Wilkins ever did that could stand up beside all that King has done. The only thing most of us could remember is that he went through Mississippi one night.

Negro Worker
Detroit

The attack they are pushing against King is the opportunity they've been looking for to kill the civil rights movement in general. I believe that very strong emphasis must be placed on civil rights this year, or the movement may fall apart completely.

Negro Activist
Detroit

The Peace March here on April 15, was, in terms of the number of people who turned out, a stirring indictment of the war.

The March brought a lot of people, with varying views—from liberal Democrats to Maoists— together. For the first time, I saw a sizable contingent of unions mobilized against the war.

What seems frightening though, especially after this huge show of dissent, is that there is no change at all in LBJ's war plans. As is obvious from Westmoreland's presence here, Johnson intends to expand the war further.

Saturday afternoon strolls change nothing, speeches change nothing. This war can only be stopped where the war machine is fed—in the factories. The workers alone can stop the war, by refusing to produce guns and bombs, etc. The workers alone can stop

the system and its bloody wars.

Student
New York

The importance of the joining of the civil rights and anti-war struggles is shown by the fact that the Administration felt impelled to bring a general all the way from Vietnam to try to force a wedge between them. All of a sudden they're overwhelmed with what wonderful soldiers Negroes make. Westmoreland's speech made me sick.

Journalist
Chicago

They kept saying it was still a mostly white crowd—and it probably was. But the pictures I saw of the march seemed to show a lot more Negroes this time than ever before.

Negro Worker
Detroit

The anti-war feeling is so great that even national television programs must speak about it. Two programs I saw recently had conversations on the question of peace.

On the Merv Griffin show, Dr. Spock explained the Spring Mobilization. On the Joey Bishop show the Smothers Brothers were doing a comedy routine on Mother's Day. They took the opportunity to show a card put out by a peace organization for Mother's Day. It included a plea for peace. They gave the address where the card could be ordered.

Anti-War Activist
California

HIGH SCHOOL UNDERGROUND

Thanks to Eugene Walker for acquainting us with a conscientious teacher in his column in the April issue, and to News & Letters for publishing an account of the encouraging activities of these young people of inquiry and dissent who suffered suspensions and transfers, for their efforts in behalf of truth.

Would you consider taking up the possibility of including

tion to war and not only opposition to war, but dignity in what one stands for and is willing to sacrifice all for—freedom.

When Muhammad Ali says quietly, "I have won the world heavyweight title not because it was 'given' to me, not because of my race or religion, but because I won it in the ring through my boxing abilities," a new world of one's own suppressed talents opens up before them. And he hears better not only his own aspirations, but those of the Vietnamese peasants who want to determine their own lives, freed of American occupation. In fact, and in affinity of ideas, this is the point of solidarity between the Negro, and the Vietnamese! It cannot be sundered apart until the war itself ends.

END THE WAR NOW! Use the 24 hour truce on May 23rd (Buddha's 2,511th birthday) as the beginning of a real cease fire!

BRING THE TROOPS HOME! THE WAR TO BE FOUGHT IS THAT ON RACISM AND POVERTY, NOT ON STRATEGIC FOOT-HOLDS AND A WAR IN ASIA!

—R. D.

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a page from the Underground Press Syndicate in a mailing of News & Letters, or perhaps two pages could be reproduced as part of the regular issue of N&L.

Reader
Illinois

Editor's Note: We hope to reprint articles from time to time from various high school underground publications, as they come to our attention. See page 6 for news of a new underground quarterly from Beverly Hills.

Enclosed is a copy of a new high-school underground magazine ROHR, which reprinted the article on "Student Dissent Grows in L.A. Schools" from the April issue of News & Letters.

Will you please reprint in your next issue the item on the "Perpetual Be-in" in ROHR?

R.R.
Washington, D.C.

PERPETUAL BE-IN

Applications for participation now being accepted. To apply, mail a 1,000-word letter to Box 783, 500 "H" NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, detailing your interests, life goals, motivation, political-religious-sexual-philosophical viewpoints, work experience, etc., etc.

LEADERS AND RANKS

Workers in the shop say we elect delegates to go down and tell Walter what our problems are. Workers are not concerned with money, what they want something done about is conditions in the shop. That is what is critical to us.

But Reuther tells us he wants "flexibility". All he means by that is that he wants all our problems to go into one big basket. He says he'll pull them out of the basket at negotiation time, but he doesn't tell us in what order they will come out.

Most of the time they never get out at all. They pass the basket to the executive board after negotiations, and you just wait for the next set of negotiations.

Auto Worker
Detroit

Workers always try to guess who's going to be the target to get the economic gains. They struck GM after the war for over 100 days and established the cost-of-living factor for the whole industry. Then they went to Chrysler and established the pension plan. Then they went to Ford to set up the SUB or guaranteed annual wage plan.

If Walter intends to improve the SUB program we think he'll go back to Fords for that. But anytime he goes to Ford he doesn't get as much as he would somewhere else.

If Walter were to go along with the wishes of the delegates to the last convention, he would definitely go to GM this year—because the GM workers are fighting harder than anyone else for better conditions in the shops. The workers would be more than willing to get into a strike situation to settle this critical problem, because they know that this is really the only way you can settle it.

Auto Worker
Detroit

Views

Walter Reuther seemed to think the Negroes should be left out of the UAW Convention. Apparently, when it comes to electing Chief Stewards, Committeemen and other leaders for the union, the Negro is not considered able to lead the whites. At the last Convention held in Detroit a few weeks ago, there seemed to be one Negro for every 50 whites.

I was there, distributing News & Letters at the door when one white worker and one Negro worker came up to me and began complaining about what the leaders were doing. They said any fool could get up and say what the leaders were saying.

Any time a worker got up and tried to put forth something to help the workers, there would be a fight. Then Reuther would get up to start some other program.

They said they weren't getting any place with all the talking because any working man knew more about how things ought to be run than these leaders who were living off of the hard work of the people below them.

This world would be in a terrible shape if it was not for the working man.

Ethel Dunbar
Detroit

In the elections we just had in our shop we had every kind of slate imaginable represented. We had one that I would call the Black Power slate, another Polish Power slate, one for white power, integrated power, white backlash, black backlash. I am happy to say that the final outcome saw integrated power win.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

Listening to radio reports of the Teamsters' vote on the new contract, I heard, for two days running, that key locals were rejecting it by large majorities.

Then, after a day of complete silence, a union official was quoted as saying that the vote was very close, and it seemed as if the contract would pass.

Later that same day, he said that not enough members had voted, and a new vote — by mail — might have to be taken.

I know my own local, 1730, rejected it almost unanimously. It seems to me, something funny happened on the way to the ballot counting! My vote now is for a huge wildcat.

Teamster
Brooklyn, N.Y.

DETROIT LOVE-IN

The Hippies in Detroit recently staged a Sunday afternoon Love-in at Belle Isle. Everything was going fine until late in the afternoon, when, according to the papers "a riot broke out." I thought your readers would like to know just what happened, in the words of one of the shocked innocent bystanders:

"When we arrived there were two groups of people at the entrance to the Belle Isle bridge waiting to cross the bridge, which was temporarily closed by the police. We were there about 10 minutes when someone shouted 'Here they come again.' We looked up to see the Detroit mounted police charging towards us and

NEWS & LETTERS is not only a unique combination of worker and intellectual in which each "speaks for himself." It is also a paper that belongs to its readers. We welcome letters and articles from new readers and new activists everywhere, because only in this EXCHANGE of ideas can the freedom movement develop, and the idea of freedom become real, at last. Send us YOUR questions, YOUR comments, YOUR story.

fled to the sidewalk so they could clear the street.

"However, the sidewalk was no sanctuary as the police galloped onto the sidewalk into the crowd, recklessly smashing the closest heads with their clubs. The remnants were still trapped on the bridge with but two choices: To jump over the railing and fall 80 feet or to crouch down helplessly. At this time the crowd was not unruly, but were just running for their lives.

"As we were walking back to our car we noticed the crowd searching for rocks and bottles to defend themselves or retaliate. As if this were not enough, the mounted police took off down East Jefferson on the sidewalks, beating innocent bystanders, who included older people, women and some children. We ourselves were beginning to succumb to the instinct of self-defense or retaliation against this barbaric force.

"We feel that the Detroit mounted police started a riot rather than prevented one. We used to think police brutality was a farce, but maybe it isn't."

Apparently, the "Love-in" turned into a "Teach-in" for some of the participants.

Reader
Detroit

CZECHOSLOVAK REPORT

I was glad to see your report (obviously eyewitness) on the Czechoslovak trade union congress. It reminds me of those our own labor bureaucracy conducts here.

Seaman
San Francisco

Almost every report I read in News & Letters about workers in foreign countries sounds like it could have been written about our own situation right here. I remember feeling that way about the reports from the Japanese workers, and now the report from Czechoslovakia strikes me the same way. From the workers' point of view, capitalism is still capitalism, whether it is called "free enterprise" or "communism," I guess.

Welder
Detroit

The point in the report you ran on a Czechoslovak trade union congress that got me excited was the difference between the reactions of the rank and file and that of "Communist" management.

Trade Unionist
Detroit

TRINIDAD CRISIS

At the present moment there seems to be a serious crisis in the Oil Industry due to the fact that British Petroleum has begun to retrench workers whose ultimate numbers may be 2,000.

In response to this situation, the Trade Union led by George Weekes is proposing that a National Oil Co. be formed and that they are willing to run the industry. This is the

first time that such a willingness to run such a complex has come from the leadership and people of a Trade Union in the West Indian (British) area.

The present government has not said anything on the proposal or on the crisis in the oil industry, and the reason is no secret to the people of Trinidad, who had an Industrial Stabilization Act imposed on them to satisfy investors like British Petroleum and Texaco.

If you have not already opened up links with this paper and union, I want to recommend that you do, since your paper, News & Letters, would be of great assistance to the union and people of the West Indies.

Maybe your paper can also aid in publicizing this crisis in Trinidad, which is very relevant and more so as there are raging guerrilla activities in nearby Venezuela (a great source of oil), Colombia, and other places. Can you consider making some mention of this crisis in your paper?

West Indian Reader

WORK/STUDY IN S.F.

The Work/Study program at San Francisco State College is interested in recruiting volunteers for Summer '67 work in community programs. The program consists of a series of seminars organized and taught by students with faculty advisers who grant academic credit for the work.

The projects will include six communities in San Francisco: predominately black Hunters Point and Western Addition; racially mixed Central City and Mission district; middle-class white Sunset district, and Haight-Ashbury, where Negroes, white liberals and hippies make up the community. We are trying to recruit volunteers by June 12.

For more information, and an application blank, write to:

Work/Study Program
3744-20th St.
San Francisco, Cal. 94110

WORKERS NEED HELP

At a News & Letters meeting in New York last week, I heard one of the locked-out Global workers explain their situation. Those guys are in a rotten position, stymied by the company, their own union, and the N.Y. courts. Many of the guys had to give up the fight and find jobs elsewhere.

About 5 militants remain, and they're pretty discouraged. I thought maybe other N&L readers might be able to help — with either money for legal expenses or even letters of encouragement. I know those guys would really appreciate anything you could do.

Friend
New York

Editor's Note: See April issue of News & Letters, page 1, for story of the Global workers. Readers who wish to help may contact the New York Committee by writing to News & Letters, 8751 Grand River, Detroit, Mich. 48204.

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya,
Author of Marxism and Freedom

The Role of the Intellectual

A Look Back Illuminates Today

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In these days when we are witnessing one more retrogressive step to military dictatorship—this time in Greece—we feel it illuminating to reprint the following article by Raya Dunayevskaya, which was written in July, 1958, at the time that De Gaulle came to power in France.)

History, wrote Marx in his analysis of the coup of Napoleon III a century ago, repeats itself; once as tragedy, the next time as farce. Today, two weeks after the coup of De Gaulle, this applies both to General de Gaulle and to the French Communist Party. The General deludes himself that he can become the heroic Maid of Orleans merely by substituting the "I, De Gaulle" for Petain's capitulation to Nazi Germany. The French Communist Party thinks it can delude the workers because it is saying all the correct things against De Gaulle, although it did nothing to stop him.

There is no greater obstacle in the path of the workers striving for a totally new way of life than that the Communists should gain control of their movement and once again thwart their aspirations, as they have done ever since the end of World War II when they used their prestige as Resistance fighters to establish bourgeois parliamentaryism that brought De Gaulle to power in 1945, and again in 1958.

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communists had been officers in the French Resistance under De Gaulle. At the end of the war they outdid him in their chauvinistic attitude to Germany. In both cases it was because they followed the Moscow line. So long as they thought they could keep him from attaching himself to the other pole of world capital—America—they didn't find much to criticize in the General.

Meanwhile, a million Frenchmen had joined the Communist Party. Other millions—workers in trade unions—let the Communists gain control of their union. These workers, however, were not playing parliamentary politics. They had hoped thus to have "the form of organization" with which to establish an entirely new society free from capitalist exploitation.

The Communist Party, however, had no intention of reaching for power—not when there was no Russian Army at hand to control the workers. Instead, it began to expand its "cultural" activities while engaging in politicking at its worst. For example it voted emergency powers to Pflimlin that forbade workers' demonstrations and was part of the parliamentary farce which completed the downfall of the Fourth French Republic. There is no doubt that the social composition of the Communist Party in France has changed radically during this decade as it moved away from proletarian action. The only successful Communist call for strike action in 1958 was from the Teachers Federation. Nevertheless the Communists hope now to regain the working class support that the socialists have had.

EXISTENTIALIST INTELLECTUALS HELP

TIGHTEN THE COMMUNIST STRANGLEHOLD

A key role in this will be played by the French intellectuals. The most infamous of these are the Existentialists who have been willing victims of the Communists who leave them free "to engage" or "disengage" from any activity in the mass movement by taking over all "responsibilities of leadership."

1948 witnessed the first breakaway of a part of the French proletariat from the stranglehold of the Communist Party. Existentialists offered to lead it—and led it right back to Communism. The most prominent Existentialist apologist for Communism, Jean-Paul Sartre, did break away during the brutal Communist suppression of the Hungarian Revolution, but he is now back in some "popular front against fascism."

Why?

It is not out of any confusion between Marxism and Communism. Nor is it necessarily for lack of bravery. No. The brainwashing these intellectuals have undergone is due to the simple fact that intellectuals, far removed from the discipline of the factory and the class struggle, are afflicted with an incurable malady: the concept that workers are "backward," must be "taught," must be "led." They are totally blind to the fact that the greatest obstacle in the way of the workers' establishing a totally new society, new human relations, is precisely the established self-styled Marxist parties like the Communists, Socialists and Labor Party.

TASK OF THE INTELLECTUAL

Where Marx removed theory from a dispute among intellectuals and made it into a weapon in the class struggle, the modern intellectual reduces theory to a word game reserved for intellectuals. Where the Existentialist intellectual thwarted the proletarian attempt to break away from Communism, the Marxist intellectual let it suffocate for lack of any comprehensive revolutionary theory with which to combat Communism. Where they did not thirst to lead, to sit in the seat of the capitalists and plan "for" the workers, they nevertheless did nothing to face their intellectual responsibility, to put an end to the intellectual sloth that has accumulated in the Marxist movement. Despite all protestations to the contrary, small theoretical groupings who did see Communism for the state capitalist tyranny it is, did nothing to re-establish Marxism in its original form of a new Humanism. It is high time for a serious reappraisal.

READ "THE CHALLENGE OF MAO TSE-TUNG"

in

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BY RAYA DUNAYEVSKAYA

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YOUTH

NEW BEGINNINGS

by Eugene Walker

May Day—Transformed, but Its Truth Can't Be Denied

There is such a twisting of history today that almost every historical fact presented has no relationship to what it was at its inception. Take May Day. This year we were witness to three celebrations of the holiday, none of which had any relationship to the meaning of the holiday—a working class holiday born in America.

In Russia, missiles, tanks and hundreds of other war weapons were paraded down Red Square and speeches boasted of the military might of the Soviet Union. In China, May Day was spent in a further attempt to deify Mao Tse-tung as he rode through the streets of Peking.

LOYALTY DAY SUBSTITUTED

But the transformation of May Day is nowhere greater than in the country of its origin, the United States. Here we have completely dropped May Day and substituted Law Day or Loyalty Day.

This year the transformation gave the Veterans of Foreign Wars the opportunity to parade in support of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War; parades on a workers' holiday in support of the destruction of Vietnamese peasants and workers.

It gave a platform to such right-wingers as California Gov. Ronald Reagan who, on the one hand, stood up for law and order as interpreted by our police officers, and on the other, attacked the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court. Other Loyalty Day speakers included racist George Wallace of Alabama.

And perhaps strangest of all for May Day was pitiful George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, who spoke on radio advertisements in support of Law Day. This is the very same A.F.L. (at that time the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions) which 81 years ago began a general strike for the eight hour day on May 1, 1886, the first May Day.

THE ORIGINS OF MAY DAY

The fight for the eight hour day could only begin in earnest after the Negro was emancipated from chattel slavery. As Karl Marx wrote: "In the United States of North America, every independent movement of the workers was paralysed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic. Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new life at once arose.

"The first fruit of the Civil War was the eight hours' agitation, that ran with the seven-leagued boots of the locomotive from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California. The General Congress of Labour at Baltimore (August 16th, 1866) declared: "The first and great necessity of the present, to free the labour of this country from capitalistic slavery, is the passing of a law by which eight hours shall be the normal working day in all States of the American Union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained."

GENERAL STRIKE

In the two decades following the Civil War the eight-hour work-day became one of the major objectives of the trade unions, and a general strike for the eight hour day was called on May 1, 1886 by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions. A very small organiza-

tion to propose such a momentous strike, it was composed of unions that represented perhaps 50,000 workers. The Knights of Labor, a much larger (over 500,000 members at that time) and in some ways a more radical organization, opposed the strike.

But so strong are ideas which have grasped the reality of the time that this difference on the concrete question of the eight hour day contributed much to the growth of the A.F.L. and the demise of the Knights of Labor.

On May 1, 1886, the general strike was begun by some 340,000 workers, of whom nearly 200,000 won their demand. Chicago had 80,000 participants; New York 45,000; Cincinnati 32,000; Baltimore 9,000 with other thousands in Milwaukee, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, St. Louis, Washington and other cities.

HAYMARKET RIOT

On May 3, two days after the general strike began, strikers and strike-breakers clashed at McCormick's in Chicago. The police intervened and killed four strikers. The next day a rally held on Haymarket Square protested the shooting by the police. After two hours of a peaceful meeting, the police surrounded the crowd and demanded they disperse. A bomb was thrown and some police were killed.

Chicago revolutionists who were leaders in trade union action were arrested, tried for murder, and executed without any real evidence of guilt.

Haymarket spurred a vicious campaign against labor and labor unions, said to be led by anarchists, socialists, etc. The smear hurt the fight for the eight hour day, but it went on, nevertheless.

MOVEMENT GOES ON

The AFL proposed a strike of one trade with the rest of the unions aiding the striking union. On May 1, 1888, the carpenters struck and quickly won the eight hour day.

The International Labor Congress in session in Paris in 1889, at which the Second International was formed, voted to hold simultaneous demonstrations for the eight-hour day throughout Europe on May 1, 1890. It is to this eight-hour movement, inaugurated in the U.S. and supported by the rejuvenated Socialist International, that the International Labor holiday of May Day owes its origin.

The 1890 general strike, however, did not take place. The workers were for it, but the leaders called it off. They were afraid they could not control the forces which would be set in motion by the great stoppage.

Nonetheless, the movement was firmly implanted, and by 1891 all industries in Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Indianapolis and San Francisco had the eight hour day.

It is this history which we should not let die or be transformed by one country or another for its own purposes. It is the working man's day both nationally and internationally. As a socialist youth, I hope to be able to soon see a real May Day celebration in the U.S.

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School Incident Is Hushed Up

Detroit, Mich.—About a week after spring vacation ended, a certain incident occurred at our Junior High School. Apparently some kids decided to have a little fun at night. They took cans of black spray paint and wrote four-letter words and anti-Jewish slogans around the outside of the school.

This started quite a disturbance the next day. Rumor got out that the police had captured the boys, but nothing was definite. After the words were cleaned off the next day, nothing more was said about the matter.

Our English teacher discussed the subject with the class. He was disturbed about the incident, but his main concern was the fear of publicity getting out. Student reaction was slight, the comments ranging from "Okay," "Hooray" to "I hope the publicity doesn't get out."

My own feeling was one of disgust at the upbringing, by the parents and the community, of these youth, which made them feel and act in this manner. While the school is well integrated, the neighborhood is integrating very slowly. This is another recent incident of anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi behavior.

At HS Service Pitch

'Pitifully Few Seemed Sick or Even Scared'

Los Angeles, Calif.—May 3, 1967) — On this date all male students at Beverly High went to the auditorium during their physical education periods to hear speakers from the Army and the Marines. The Army representative was Sgt. Philips; the Marine representative was Sgt. Shane. Both wore garishly bemedaled dress uniforms.

The assembly was begun in truest capitalist fashion by one of the student government puppets who informed us that the soldiers were here to discuss their respective services, not to discuss the political and philosophical aspects of war in general or the war in Vietnam in particular. In other words, no political questions allowed.

ARMY TALKS MORE

The Army representative was by far the more talkative; the Marine (who looked like a Wolfen-SS officer) was far more self-confident and laconic. Both speeches were afloat in seas of graveyard "humor."

According to the Army speaker we have an "obligation to repay our country for all it has given us." After a few minutes of this he turned to all the wonderful "opportunities" of the capitalist murder machine: trade schools, etc.

As for those who oppose conscription and/or the war in Vietnam: if they are drafted and refuse, "they can go to Leavenworth." The army has "nothing against conscientious objectors. They can become medics." (And then go to Vietnam.) It's only the people who pretend to be conscientious objectors but aren't, you see, that the Army doesn't like.

HUMAN SUPPLY

With true capitalist mentality, his association of men with things was so flagrant that he could be seen exulting in it. When you are drafted, you are a "warm body," a "hunk of flesh that will do what they tell you to." If they need you, they will draft you—the supply and demand of human commodities.

As for the Marine, after more ghoulish attempts at humor, he proceeded to repeat the myth that "the Marine Corps builds men—in body, mind and spirit." This was all the more ludicrous because he was so obviously not a man—he was a well-programmed machine, flawlessly repeating the words he had been taught to say.

He was all in favor of education—"when you're drafted it will be easier to get a commission." He stressed the advantages of getting your "duty to your country" out of the way—"your employer will like you better."

FEW OBJECT

Though the speeches were nightmarish enough, the student reaction was even more frightening. The vast majority of them laughed at all the jokes. Pitifully few seemed sick or even scared, and even fewer seemed to have any substantial objections to what was being said.

Almost all of the students applauded. (Note: this is only a report on the assembly I saw. According to my friends the reaction in their class was far less favorable, almost openly hostile.)

—High School Student

Threaten Court Martial Against Socialist Soldier

New York, N.Y.—Pfc. Howard Petrick, a soldier at Fort Hood, Texas, who is a socialist and opposed to the Vietnam war, has been threatened with the possibility of court-martial proceedings against him for "disloyal statements," "subversion," or causing "disaffection" within the army.

Petrick points out that all his activities as a socialist and anti-war activist have been completely open and he has done nothing illegal. In the fall of 1965 he joined the Minnesota Committee to End the War in Vietnam and participated in the October 15-16 International Days of Protest. He joined the Minneapolis Young Socialist Alliance in November, 1965, and then joined the Socialist Workers Party in the spring of 1966.

Petrick's conduct as a soldier is not involved in the case. He has fulfilled all his duties and has never disobeyed any orders. The case, therefore, involves the vital constitutional question of whether a GI, as an American citizen, has the constitutional right to read, discuss and ascribe to any political ideas.

HS Students Tackle Theory

A brand new journal called *The Young Marxist-Humanist* has appeared in Los Angeles, this time the "underground" product of high school students in Beverly Hills. While it is one of countless new and exciting high-school student publications that have been springing up all over the country — this publication is of special importance because it is a quarterly of no less than 30 pages, that tries seriously to grapple with theory.

The variety and freshness of its contents can be judged from a partial list of articles in the first issue, just off the press: *American Youth* — an Outgrowth of the Present Society, by John Reiner; *The Patriot in Theory and in Contemporary Practice*, by Ivan Belkin; *Excerpts from the Notebook of a Subversive*, by Dan Fried; *One American's Conscience*, by Craig Carmien; and *The Heritage and the Challenge*, by Raya Dunayevskaya. There are 12 essays in all, plus a page of "Poetry and Miscellany."

The seriousness of its tone can be seen in the following

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Anti-War Demonstrations Oppose; LBJ Escalates

In New York

NEW YORK, N.Y. — At 11:30 a.m. on April 15, we, along with about 300,000 other people arrived at the Sheep Meadow in Central Park to join the Spring Mobilization against the War in Vietnam. The size of the crowd was being discussed by everybody.

Although the participants were supposed to begin lining up with their respective groups starting at 10 a.m. and then march about a mile to the United Nations Plaza for a rally beginning at 2 p.m., the crowd was so large that there were still people trying to move out of the park at 5 p.m. when the whole thing was over.

LABOR CONTINGENT LARGE

The organized labor contingent with which we marched included butchers from Cleveland, taxi drivers from the Taxi Organizing Committee, teachers from the AFT, and members of the Transport Workers Union, Bakers Local #3, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Social Service Employees Union, Local #1199 Drug and Hospital Workers, District #65 and many others.

There seemed to be about 3,000 union members, the largest and most varied group of organized workers to participate in an anti-war demonstration to date.

HALF A MILLION ESTIMATED

It is impossible to say with any certainty just exactly how many people were on the march, but there is no reason to doubt the estimate of 500,000 offered by some of the march's organizers. 300,000 is really a conservative figure.

In spite of the fact that LBJ

chose the very morning of the march to announce a report by J. Edgar Hoover on "subversives" in the anti-war movement, nobody seemed scared. If anyone was scared, it must have been the pro-war counter-demonstrators — a handful of people kept behind police barricades a few blocks away. Even the cops were polite.

The press and TV, which in the past have often buried news of demonstrations, gave this one broad, if not un-biased, coverage. Although many stories played up hippies, flag-burnings, or Viet-Cong supporters, the broad character of the march came through, and this was the fairest coverage we have ever had.

BUT WAR CONTINUES

In the past, anti-war movements have dwindled or been forced underground when an actual war broke out; what is remarkable about this one is that the anti-war feeling and movement has actually grown during the course of the war. But it is still an absolute and incontrovertible fact that the war itself has continued to escalate.

When this movement began, many believed that the government would yield to an appeal to conscience. But all we have proven is that we can make bigger and better marches; the war has not stopped.

Moreover, many have realized that even if Johnson did decide to stop fighting in Vietnam, this would not prevent a new war in Laos or Thailand or in South America where there are similar situations. Stopping the war in Vietnam does not eliminate the causes of that war.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

The movement must begin to look for ways not just to end the

war in Vietnam (even if marches could do this) but to end the system that produces wars.

To do that we will have to find two things: a new philosophy of freedom so that we can unite on what we are for and not just on the war we are all against, and a movement based on the people who are at the point of production where the capitalists can really be challenged.

— News & Letters, N.Y. Local Committee

San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.— There were about 70,000 at the April 15 march here. They came by bus, car and some walked as far as from San Jose State College, about 50 miles.

Many of the buses drove through the night, with people sleeping and talking about peace, war, demonstrations, almost everything. Some of the buses never made it. They broke down, one after only an hour of driving.

The highway patrol was out in force that night. They stopped many of the cars and busted those under age. They said it was to make sure the parents knew where the kids were.

MORE THAN A MARCH

It was more than a peace march. A majority of the people were young and many of those belonged to what some term the "love generation." Some are the hippies and the flower children. They marched not only against the war in Vietnam, but also for peace everywhere. The whole attitude of the march was peace and love.

There were many sounds at the march. A group played from the back of a truck that moved along

with the parade. People around the truck clapped.

Another group played in the backyard of one of the houses along the parade route. There was a continuous flow of people going into the yard and back to join the march.

There were two guys on the sidewalk playing drums and a guy on a fire escape with a spoon and pan beating rhythm. People gave each other oranges and flowers.

PEACE VS. REALITY

It was a great feeling to be among such a large number of people protesting the war in Vietnam. It was almost as if we had become an isolated world of love and peace. But then the hecklers and spectators brought you back to the real world.

It was great that there were a lot of people, but they were mostly white. This does not mean that the black man is for the war or even indifferent. Probably the majority of black people are more against the war than the white man, if for no other reason than that they are most likely to be drafted.

Maybe it would help if the protest movement had a more positive position. You can not protest too long just being opposed to something, without beginning to think of what you are for.

A HUMAN SOCIETY

You are not just for the U.S. pulling out but everyone pulling out and leaving Vietnam to the Vietnamese people—free to build their own human society. Such a protest — for a human society — is something which the black man and the workers can relate to in their struggles.

The march did not represent the hippies, the radicals, the youth. It represented people who are tired of the power structure

—and to a lot of people it didn't mean just the U.S. power structure but all, including Russia and China. They are tired of words which have no meaning and came to make themselves heard.

In Vancouver

Vancouver, B.C.— Joining in the International Day of protest against the War in Vietnam, about 3,000 people of all ages gathered at the Vancouver Court House on April 15th, after a protest march of several miles.

The main speaker was Tommy Douglas, leader of the New Democratic Party in Canada's House of Commons. He warned that if the war continued, it could only lead to a world conflagration.

BLASTS PARROTS

He said the Canadian government consists of parrots who bend to the will of Washington, attacked the government for allowing \$317 million worth of arms to be sold to the U.S. and stated that when he asked for assurance that they would not be used in Vietnam it was refused.

Chairman of the gathering was Paddy Neale, Secretary of the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

Despite the rain and hail, this was one of the biggest, and most orderly, peace demonstrations ever held in Western Canada. We can only hope that this, in conjunction with similar ones all over the world, will make the President of the U.S. and his government realize the harm the continuation of this war is doing to the prestige of their country, and make some genuine gestures to have it stopped.

—Carl Erickson,
North Burnaby, B.C.,
Canada

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From The Pen of Karl Marx

ED. NOTE: In commemorating the 100th anniversary of the publication of Karl Marx's greatest theoretical work, *CAPITAL*, we publish herewith excerpts from the heretofore untranslated 1857-58 notebooks, the famed *GRUNDRISSE DER KRITIK DER OEKONOMIE*. (See also the excerpts we published from his *ARCHIVES* in N&L Dec. 1966)

pp. 591-2. pp. 595-6

The exchange of living labor against materialized labor, i.e., the existence of social labor in the form of the antagonism between capital and wage labor, is the last stage in the development of the value relationship and of production based on value. It presupposes that the decisive factor in the creation of wealth is the amount of direct working time, the quantity of labor that is applied.

* * *

BUT THE more modern industry develops and the creation of wealth becomes less dependent on working time and the quantity of applied labor than on the force of the agencies set in motion during the hours of work... the real wealth manifests in the tremendous disproportion between the applied working time and the quantity of its product as well as in qualitative disproportion between labor reduced to its most abstract form and the power of the productive forces which it supervises. Labor no longer appears so much enclosed in the process of production but rather man relates himself to it as watchman and regulator...

Once direct labor has ceased to be the direct source of wealth, labor time must cease to be its measure, and, consequently, exchange value

the measure of use value. The surplus labor of the masses has ceased to be the condition for the development of social wealth just as idleness of the few has ceased to be the condition for the development of the universal capacities of the human mind. With this, the mode of production based on exchange value collapses and the immediate material process of production is stripped of its scantiness and its antagonistic form.

* * *

THUS IT is not the reduction of labor time to create surplus labor but the reduction of the necessary labor of society to a minimum which is then in accord with the artistic, scientific, etc. education of the individual through the free time and the means created for everyman, for the free development of the individual... The measure of wealth will then no longer be labor time, but leisure time.

pp. 636-8

BEYOND a certain point, development of productivity becomes a barrier for capital and thus the capital relation a barrier for the development of the productivity of labor. Reaching this point, wage labor is in the same relation to the development of social wealth and productivity as crafts, serfdom, slavery, and is necessarily

stripped off as a fetter. The last bondage which human activity assumes — capital and wage labor — is thereby stripped off, and this stripping itself is the result of the mode of production corresponding to capital.

* * *

THE MATERIAL and spiritual conditions of the negation of wage labor and capital... are themselves the negation of earlier forms of unfree social production... Forceful destruction of capital, not through relations external to it, but as condition of its self-preservation, is the most dramatic form in which to create room for a higher state of social production.

* * *

IT IS not only the growth of scientific power but the measure in which it is already posited as fixed capital, the scope, the breadth in which it is realized and the totality of production it has made possible... Hence the highest development of productive power together with the greatest expansion of existing wealth will coincide with depreciation of capital... These contradictions lead to explosions, cataclysms, crises... these regularly recurring catastrophes lead to their repetition on a higher scale, and finally to the violent overthrow of capitalism.

Production Workers Council

(Continued from page 1)

serted them when he threw his support to the skilled workers by giving them the right to veto any agreement made by the rank-and-file production workers in a plant. What must be understood here is that Reuther's talk about "union democracy" is complete hypocrisy, because 100 skilled workers in a plant can overrule the vote of 1,000 production workers in that same plant.

WHO GETS \$400?

One of the arguments Reuther used to get the delegates to agree to his "flexible position" had to do with the last contract negotiations. The rank-and-file had put forth the demand for retirement after 30 years of work with \$300 a month pension. Reuther claimed that if he had been bound by their demand that he would have had to take the \$300 a month, but since he had been given a "flexible position" then, he had been able to get retirees \$400 a month.

What is ridiculous about this is that there are just a handful of auto workers who can come close to retiring with \$400 a month because of many restrictions written into the contract that limit the eligibility of the majority of workers.

PLAYING ALL SIDES

What bothers Reuther is that he has been playing all sides of the street, and now, all of a sudden he's got to try to put up a solid union front to the auto corporations and to the AFL-CIO, from which he and his other top officers have resigned. Only the past catches up.

What is at issue, and what Reuther cannot at all understand, is that the labor movement development grows out of what workers have to do for a living on the automated line in an automated factory, not what Reuther would like to impose out of his head on the workers or the corporations.

The accusations Reuther hurls at the AFL-CIO also apply to him. And of the AFL-CIO he says, "... the AFL-CIO has become stagnant and is vegetating ... It has lost its drive and its dynamic qualities. Its vision has become blurred and its social idealism tarnished ..."

REUTHER-MEANY SPLIT

The past does indeed catch up, and the merger of the AFL-CIO in 1955 was not only a stillbirth, it was a throwback, a throwback which could not begin to anticipate or meet the social and historical needs of the Negro Revolution and the revolt of the rank-and-file workers on the automated production lines. To these basic movements has been added the anti-war developments, and while there have been the first signs of labor participation in the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, this is no substitute for the primary responsibility for the critical involvement of the labor movement in all of these areas of concern.

What is now urgent is the relationship of labor to the Negro Revolution, and the response of labor was conditioned by the merger of the AFL-CIO, which resulted in the death of the CIO. Now, Reuther wants to get out of the house of death, not to the right or left, but somewhere in between the liberals and the back door to the White House.

But as much as Reuther would like to occupy this familiar ground, it always keeps changing. He can only see the motions of his own head which make the workers appear as "integrated" into capitalist society and its barbaric conditions of labor. This is why he is always surprised when the workers reject his contracts and go out on strike to try to correct conditions at the point of production.

He thinks he can escape taking a position on that decisive question by playing the left opponent to Meany both on the international field and on "social" questions

at home. To the production workers Reuther's calling for greater involvement in civil rights and "organizing the unorganized" was one big joke.

BACK RANK AND FILE

Where the daily press played up big Reuther's "challenge" to Meany and the approval he got from the convention to follow up this fight, the talk in the halls was, instead, on the fight, not between Reuther and Meany, but between Reuther and the GM workers in the Mansfield, Ohio, plant who came out on strike against inhuman working conditions and company harassment and discharge of their union representatives.

Far from supporting the legitimate grievances of the workers, when the strike threatened to take in other GM plants because the GM workers as a whole are working under the worst working conditions of all, Reuther placed the Mansfield local union under receivership and guaranteed GM management that the strike would not spread. This is the progressive Reuther who wears the cap with the words "I Support Production Workers" printed on it.

But while Reuther might be able to mobilize his forces to strike down the wildcat strike leaders of one auto plant between negotiations, he faces an entirely new set of circumstances at contract time.

EYE MOVES

And because the work pace keeps on being speeded up with more and more Automation being introduced each year, the auto workers are watching very closely to see which of the big three auto corporations will be the first target of the UAW. As the workers know, the strike at GM won the cost-of-living factor; the strike against Chrysler established the pension plan; and the strike at Ford produced the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) agreement.

The workers figure the UAW will hit the auto company that has already been involved in the bargaining for a specific issue if the union goes for improvements along these lines.

What is also true, however, is that Reuther has stayed away from working conditions in his negotiations. His programs are nickel and dime items, not those affecting the life of the worker on the production line. And this is the reason the new Production Workers Council set in motion at the recent collective bargaining convention holds much promise, for if it is, or can become, a genuine organization of production workers, it can exert a powerful influence on the course of the union.

COUNCIL IS KEY

Whether or not the Production Workers Council is merely window dressing approved by Reuther for a temporary showing remains to be seen. For it is a fact that the council received the blessing of Reuther, and Reuther is not one to play around with anything which may threaten his position of power. There is another fact, however, and it is one which Reuther may well prove to be quite powerless to stop—and that is the growing demand of the production workers for solutions to their working conditions.

There appears every likelihood that another round of auto strikes will take place after the national economic package is signed. What the Production Workers Council will do in that situation will reveal much of the direction in which it can be expected to go. This Council bears more watching than does the "split" between Reuther and Meany, who can always be depended upon to join forces against the demands and aspirations of the production workers for totally new conditions of labor.

Our Life and Times

By Peter Mallory

Truman Doctrine Sows Greek Dictatorship

It was midnight in Athens when the troops poured out of their barracks into troop carriers and seized every key installation in the country, cutting Greece off from the outside world. Over 8,000 people, ranging from Premier Kanellopoulos and his foe, former Premier George Papandreou, down to youth suspected of opposition, were hurried in trucks to concentration camps. A military dictatorship was established in the name of the royal family and the world took on the look of pained surprise at the events.

It is difficult to believe that the military overthrow of the Greek government could have taken place without the prior knowledge and approval of the U.S. Government. All of the military equipment used in

the coup was furnished to the Greek army by the U.S. Government, who kept its advisors in the Greek army to train troops in its use.

The C.I.A., which has its agents in Greece and reports to President Johnson, must have advised him what was going on since the operation involved thousands of troops and could not have been a very well guarded secret. The New York Times reported "rumors" of such a coup two weeks before it took place. One must assume that the C.I.A. is at least as well informed as the New York Times and its readers.

An election was to have taken place on May 28 where it appeared that democratic forces could have taken over control of the country. To pre-

vent a democratic regime from taking power and ousting the military clique, the army acted to keep itself in power.

The U.S. could have acted in advance to stop it and to cut off military aid, but it failed to do so just as it has failed in similar situations in Latin America.

These same generals in Athens sit on the councils of NATO, but it is doubtful if the American government will so much as slap their wrists.

Late reports indicate that even local Mayors and councils are being thrown out and no new elections will be permitted in Greece. Here we witness the full fruition of the Truman Doctrine "to stop Communist infiltration"; it is an open door for a fascist military coup against the will of the people.

RED CHINA

Mao's claims of final victory over his opposition seem to be, to say the least, highly exaggerated.

The latest reports from Moscow Radio indicate that heavy fighting is going on all over China. Mao's forces seem to control four provinces, Shantung, Shansi, Kweichow and Heilungkiang, and two cities, Peking and Shanghai. Army units are fighting for control of other areas and meeting with fierce resistance.

The radio reports indicate that the Red Guards were conducting hunger strikes in Peking and "demanding to meet those who concocted this notorious cultural revolution." The radio also reports that the Red Guard press reports army troops are being used to suppress both rebels and Red Guards in the cities of Chungking, Chetu and Chegchow and in the provinces of Shantung, Tsinghai and Inner Mongolia.

Visitors to Peking report that the authorities "cannot even establish a semblance of order in the city."

Late reports indicate that the pro and anti-Mao forces within the "Red Guard" are fighting among themselves and that the anti-Mao Red Guard forces destroyed over 200 pro-Mao Red Guards by destroying their boats in a recent river-front demonstration in China.

POWELL vs. DODD

The half-hearted investigation into the shady affairs of Senator Dodd has ended with a recommendation that he be censured, which means nothing. He retains his position on Senate committees, pays no fines and apparently gets to keep the money stolen from campaign funds. A far cry from the punishment meted out to Congressman Powell.

The investigation stopped short of delving into far more serious charges against Dodd, namely acting as an agent for a foreign power. He is supposed to have collected a \$50,000 fee for getting \$15 million in foreign aid for Guatemala and has been linked with General Julius Klein, a paid foreign agent of West Germany.

The main reasons why the Senate Ethics Committee seems loath to dig deeper into Dodd's affairs is that they, too, are involved in the same sort of shady practices of which Dodd is charged.

In the House, Rep. James Battin of Montana pays Mr. & Mrs. Louis Aleksich \$28,560 a year as chauffeur and letter writers. Rep. Sam Gibbons of Tampa, Florida, who led the fight to unseat Powell, has a law firm which represents the phosphate industry while he makes sure that the industry enjoys tax privileges in his state.

DICTATOR FRANCO

The Fascist dictatorship of Generalissimo Franco has continued since he destroyed the duly elected government of Spain in 1937 with the help, through abstention, of the United States. Through World War II, the allied governments refrained from acting against his fascist government while bombing Hitler's Germany, though they were allies.

In recent years the U.S. Government has become allied with the Franco dictatorship through its pacts for U.S. military bases in the fascist stronghold. Without U.S. aid, the dictatorship would collapse and a revolutionary turn to democracy would take place.

Thirty years ago the Catholic Church was part of the fascist conspiracy against democracy in Spain. Today there are priests who favor changing the Spanish regime. Fourteen of them were arrested by that regime for leading demonstrations of workers on May Day. Throughout Spain, workers, students, the press and the middle class intellectuals are leading a fight against the despotic regime of fascism in Spain.

Under pressure from within the country, the Franco regime within the last year instituted "reforms" granting some small democratic rights. They proved to be a sham when hundreds were arrested the day before May Day. Thousands of workers paraded and demonstrated against the regime on May Day and, since they were both led by priests and supported by socialists and communists and the middle class, they point to a new unity of the nation against the aging fascist dictator.

Clashes occurred when members of the Falange, the official fascist party of Spain, tried to celebrate Hitler's birthday. Spanish workers broke it up.

A new day is dawning for the workers of Spain. They will create their new conditions for life and fascism will have no part in it despite the

support that the U.S. government provides for the Franco dictatorship.

CATHOLIC REVOLT

When Father Charles E. Curran was fired from his teaching post at Washington's Catholic University, it touched off a strike of both faculty and the 7,200 students, a thing almost without precedent in Catholic circles. While the issue appeared to be the priest's views on birth control, his right to teach found wide support both inside and outside the church.

So widespread was the support for the strike that the board of trustees finally gave in, re-hired him and gave him a promotion.

Despite the fact that the priest limited his fight to the question of an academic freedom that accepts hierarchical rule in the church, there is no doubt that the method of fighting through strikes is new. Both the principle of dissent on such "holy" questions as birth control, and the awareness of international ramifications are symptomatic of the age in which we live, where the overwhelming majority reject the Establishment. It is the mass unrest which is the key, not merely to academic and religious revolts, but to the needed undermining of all conditions of our exploitative, imperialist world.

EXECUTIONER REAGAN

Aaron Mitchell became the first man in over four years to die in the gas chamber at San Quentin Prison when he was refused clemency by Governor Reagan. Fifty-nine more men sit in death row at the same prison awaiting execution. Unless clemency is provided for some of these men it could mean a death in the gas chamber every week for over a year.

Thirteen states have abolished the death penalty while 37 still have it but rarely use it. The American Civil Liberties Union has challenged the death penalty in Florida and a Federal judge has held up the execution of 51 condemned men waiting the outcome of the case.

In the entire country there are now 404 men in cells awaiting death. That it is time the death penalty was abolished is obvious to all except Governor Reagan whose idea of "fighting crime" is to have an orgy of legal murders.