

Nat'l. Committee Of SWP Hits War, Witch-Hunt Trend

NEW YORK, May 18 — The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, meeting here this weekend, called for an intensification of opposition to the war drive

of American imperialism. The committee unanimously adopted a political resolution explaining how the war perspective of the Washington administration has fostered every reactionary trend in American life: the witch hunt, the anti-union offensive, the increased terror against the Negro people, the assault on living standards and the undermining of all democratic rights.

The National Committee also set July 18-20 for the SWP nominating convention. It will be held in New York. Farrell Dobbs and Grace Carlson, who were the party's candidates for President and Vice-President in 1948, have been proposed by the committee as Socialist banner bearers in the 1952 election. The SWP is already on the Pennsylvania and New Jersey ballots, and work is under way to place the Socialist candidates on the ballot in other states.

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the SWP, reported on the political resolution and the tasks facing the party in the coming period. He stressed the

fact that the American capitalist class is preparing a reactionary war against the USSR, Eastern Europe, China and the insurgent people of the colonial world. This war drive, accelerated by the contradictions in the U.S. economy which leave the American imperialists no choice but war or economic crisis, is now the main issue facing the American people.

The artificially-stimulated war-economy prosperity, Comrade Cannon continued, has made even the working class relatively conservative and increased the difficulties facing the Socialist movement. But slashes in living standards, inevitable as the costs of the war drive reach new astronomical levels, is bound to lead to a new radicalization of the working people. The struggle to defend living standards will eventually impel the American people into a mighty struggle against imperialism war and the capitalist system.

Comrade Cannon forecast a great role for the Socialist Workers Party in coming times if it succeeds in measuring up to its historic tasks. And he underscored the importance of the SWP election campaign in this crucial year.

He called upon the party and its candidates to "come forward as the spokesmen for revolutionary socialism in opposition to capitalism and its war program and all its political parties and supporters."

After discussion for several sessions, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the resolution for adoption at the coming July National Convention.

FIGHT WITCH HUNT

The National Committee paid special attention to the fight against the witch hunt. "Over the past decade," the resolution says, "our party has distinguished itself as a defender of civil rights for all. The struggle against the witch hunt and the moves towards military-police dictatorship has become an ever more important sector in the fight against the war plans of the capitalist rulers. The campaigns initiated or the movements supported by our party in this field, such as the Kutcher case, the protection of Negro rights, the challenge of the restrictions on minority parties, etc. must be carried to their conclusion. Branches must remain alert to join whatever important actions against violations of democratic rights occur in their localities."

The Committee heard a special report by Farrell Dobbs, proposed Presidential candidate of the

(Continued on page 2)

Students at Yale Give High Rating To Farrell Dobbs

Yale students rate Farrell Dobbs high on their list of presidential candidates. A meeting of the Yale Political Union, largest undergraduate organization on the campus, picked Dobbs, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, as one of the nominees to be placed before the student body in a coming straw ballot.

Candidates who will be entered in the poll required a nomination and ten seconds, and only two Republicans and two Democrats, out of the many aspirants for nomination in those parties, made the grade besides Dobbs. The order of nomination was Eisenhower, Douglas, Taft, Stevenson and Dobbs.

At an earlier meeting held the same evening by the Yale chapter of Students for Democratic Action (affiliate of the Americans for Democratic Action) a vote taken on the members' preference for Democratic Party's Presidential candidate found Douglas far ahead. Only one other name was mentioned besides Douglas, and that was Dobbs. The vote was Justice Douglas, 7, Farrell Dobbs, 1, all others, 0.

RECOGNIZE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT NOW!

An Editorial

A few months ago General Batista overthrew the legally-elected government of Cuba in order to prevent an election which everyone acknowledges he had no chance of winning. The U.S. government promptly recognized Batista's regime!

One year ago, Victor Paz Estenssoro, presidential candidate of the National Revolutionary Movement (NMR), received a clear plurality of the votes cast in a Bolivian election. Before the parliament could vote on whether or not to seat the NMR candidate, a clique of generals seized power, dispersed the parliament and put their own stooge in the president's seat. The U.S. government promptly recognized that dictatorial regime although it represented nothing but a handful of generals and the interests of the big mining companies that dominate Bolivia's economic life.

Last month the Bolivian military dictatorship was overthrown by a popular revolution that brought the NMR to power. U.S. journalists freely admit that the present government has the support of the overwhelming majority of the population. But the U.S. government has not made a move toward recognizing it. Why?

Because Washington wants puppet governments in Latin America — docile tools who will make their country's resources and manpower available to U.S. imperialism and string along with its foreign policy. Washington doesn't care how unpopular such regimes are, how they came to power or how they oppress the masses — in fact, it is willing to extend recognition, money and arms to help them remain in power so long as they follow the Washington "party line."

But the Bolivian government does not fit the Truman administration's specifications. It is avowedly anti-imperialist because the "moderate" NMR government knows the sentiments of the Bolivian people (who still have the arms they got during last month's revolution), and it promises to follow an independent policy in international affairs. Equally distasteful, from the viewpoint of the U.S. State Department, is the fact that the NMR government (again under the pressure of the masses and a militant labor movement) has announced its intention of nationalizing the tin mines hitherto exploited by foreign capitalist interests, including those of the U.S.

That is why the U.S. government has withheld recognition from Bolivia so far. It wants by economic and diplomatic pressure to bring Bolivia into line, or to keep it from getting too far out of line. It abhors the spread of the idea that the people of Latin America should and can run their countries in their own interest, and it proposes to browbeat (and if necessary, bribe) Bolivia into subservience in order to nip this "dangerous" example in the bud.

Bolivia deserves U.S. recognition — recognition at once. The American labor and liberal movements should demand that it be extended without delay, without any strings attached and without any further Washington pressure of any kind to keep the Bolivian people from conducting their country, their economy and their foreign policy as they see fit. Recognize Bolivia now!

Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

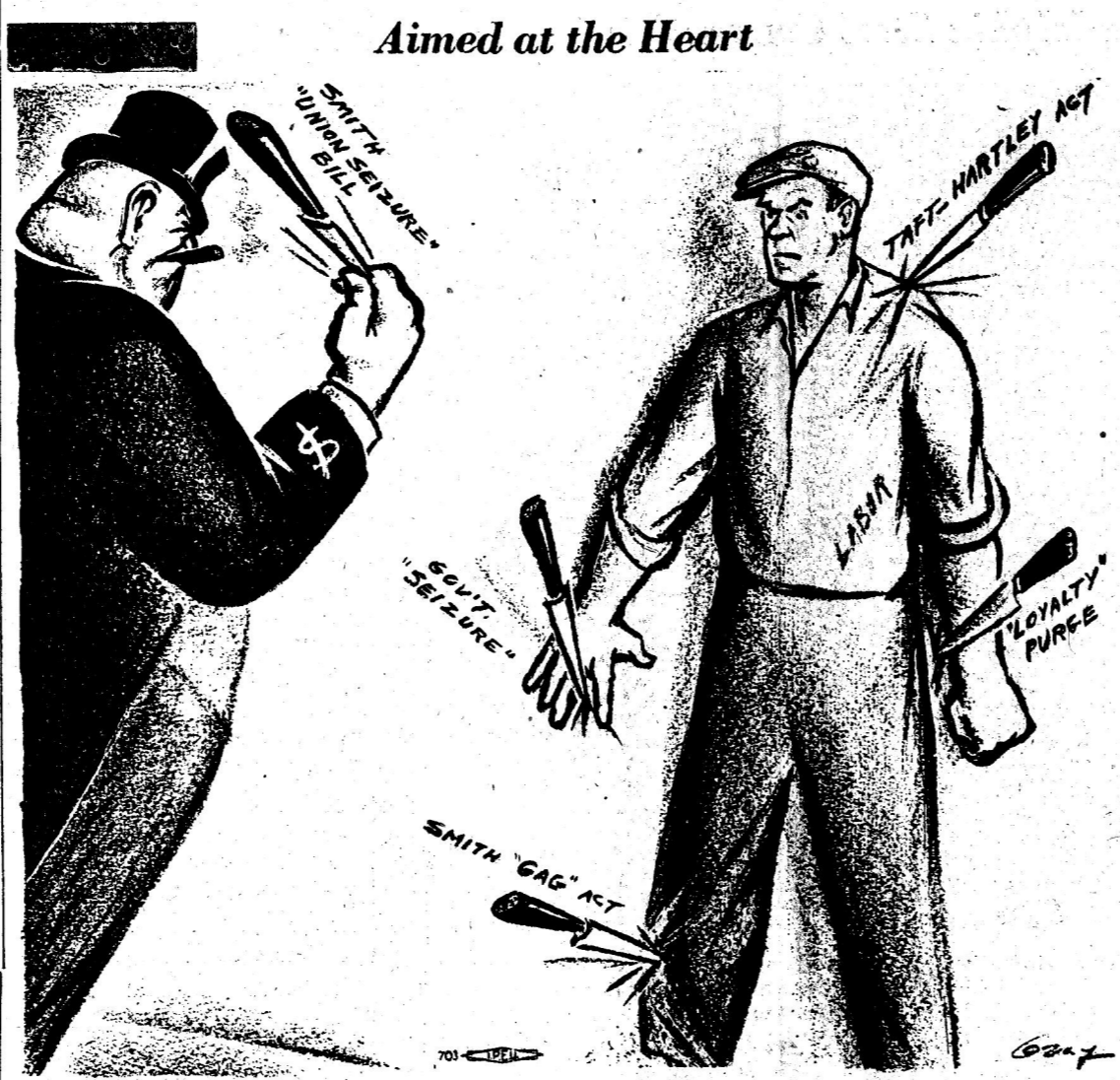
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XVI - No. 21

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, MAY 26, 1952

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Presidential Candidate Dobbs Fights for Place on Ballot



Prison Battle at Pusan Bares Fake Screening

Bloody suppression of a demonstration by North Korean captives in a prison stockade at Pusan, May 20, has exposed as a fraud the U.S. high command claim that it is providing "refuge" for 100,000 anti-communist prisoners-of-war.

If the word of U.S. officers were taken as good coin, these prisoners who were recently screened out as anti-communists — without any force or violence — must have changed their minds in the "model" Pusan prison.

The so-called "friendly" prisoners have unmistakably shown where their loyalties lie, and it is certainly not with the American Brass.

When American officers attempted to remove a group of medical attendants from Stockade 10 at the Pusan prison camp, as "trouble makers," they refused to leave. All prisoners were ordered to move out into the open within the barred wire enclosure, so that the medical attendants could be "cut out from the crowd." But only 3 out of

1600 prisoners obeyed the order, according to a May 20 N. Y. Times dispatch.

If the mainland prison-camps, in contradistinction to Koje island, house anti-communists, then why was it necessary to kill one prisoner and injure 85 in this incident?

If the great majority of the prisoners in Stockade 10 were pro-American, why didn't they turn the small group of medical attendants, presumably the "minority" of communists, over to the U.S. officers?

The truth is that these prisoners, held on the mainland, are shown by this demonstration to be as strongly opposed to the imperialist intervention in their country as those held captive on Koje island.

STALLED PEACE TALKS

Meanwhile, the phony issue injected by the UN truce team, claiming they must protect the interest of these prisoners who "voluntarily" state they are anti-communists has effectively

stalled peace talks, and prevented not only the freeing of the North Korean captives, but 3,000 American GI's held in prison camps in North Korea.

The new "tough" policy of Gen. Boatner on Koje island has taken its first victim there, when an unnamed captive was killed May 17. Gen. Boatner is quoted by the United Press as saying the prisoner was killed because he made a "threatening gesture" toward a guard at the gate of a compound.

CENSORSHIP MAINTAINED

On May 22, Koje prisoners staged a demonstration upon the arrival of a contingent of newspapermen, demanding the right to tell their stories to representatives of the U.S. press. This was denied them.

Koje prisoners are still flying banners demanding that the UN honor the agreement made by Gen. Dodd and Gen. Colson, an agreement which among other things called for the murder of prisoners to stop.

SWP LEADER ASKS AID FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

DETROIT, May 15 — Farrell Dobbs, national chairman and presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party who has come to Detroit to help combat the Trucks Act, today issued the following statement:

The court suit attacking the Trucks law, filed today by the Socialist Workers Party before Judge Chester P. O'Hara, will be carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

This anti-democratic and wholly unconstitutional law must be abolished so that people can live without having policemen prying into their private lives and exploring their minds.

Attorney General Millard must be halted from branding organizations "subversive" without evidence and without a hearing, as he has already done to the Socialist Workers Party.

Secretary of State Alger must be prevented from ruling parties off the ballot on the sole grounds of a "memo from the Attorney General" unconstitutionally invoking the Trucks law against them, as he has already done to the Socialist Workers Party.

As the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party I can campaign without hindrance, as is my constitutional right, anywhere in the United States, except Michigan.

Under the Trucks law, if I remain in Michigan more than five days, I am subject to ten years imprisonment for refusal to register with the state police and become a stoolpigeon.

The Socialist Workers Party is under attack solely because we advocate socialism. This was made clear by Election Director Frey, who said in the press on April 16: "In view of the impending law, we must see that no organization inclined toward socialism is given a place on the ballot."

People who think like the sponsors of the Trucks law have labeled "socialistic" such social demands as unemployment insurance, old age pensions, national health plans, equal rights for Negroes. They will attack next organizations supporting such social demands.

Nor will they leave the unions unharmed. Under the Trucks law strikers and union officials can be imprisoned for ten years for "sabotage" if perishables should rot or a furnace cool too rapidly during a strike.

It is imperative that all who believe in freedom of thought and social progress should come to the aid of the first victims of the Trucks law, whether they be members of the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party or any other organization.

For if a single victim is permitted to be crucified under the Trucks law its sponsors will become emboldened in their attacks on others who do not agree with them politically.

Sues Mich. Officials on Trucks Act

DETROIT, May 15—Farrell Dobbs, Presidential candidate and National Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, today went to court here for an injunction in defense of his right to appear on the ballot in the November election.

The Socialist Workers Party filed a suit in the Wayne County circuit court challenging the constitutionality of the police-state Trucks Act, which was arbitrarily used to bar Dobbs and other SWP candidates from the ballot after the party had complied with all legal requirements in filing nominating petitions.

Circuit Judge Chester P. O'Hara today signed an order directing Michigan state officials named in the SWP suit to appear in court on Friday, May 23, to "show cause why a writ of temporary injunction should not be issued prohibiting the defendants (state officials) from enforcing or attempting to enforce the (Trucks) law pending a final determination (of the challenge to the constitutionality of the law and application of the law to the SWP.)"

At the same time he denied the SWP's application for a temporary restraining order pending a hearing on the suit.

SIX VIOLATIONS

The SWP's bill of complaint listed six separate violations by the Trucks Act of both the U.S. Constitution and the Michigan state constitution. It also denied that the Trucks Act applied to the SWP, and charged that the party's exclusion from the ballot was illegal.

Commenting on this fact, Farrell Dobbs noted that Michigan is now the only state in the country where he can not campaign for the Presidency without hindrance and threat of imprisonment.

Judge O'Hara was asked in the bill of complaint to "declare that each and every section" of the act "is invalid and unconstitutional on its face."

(See Page 2 for a digest of the suit filed by the lawyers for the SWP.)

THREE SIGN SUIT

The suit was signed on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party by Farrell Dobbs, National Chairman and Presidential candidate; Howard Lerner, State Chairman and candidate for Governor of Michigan; and Genora Johnson Dollinger State Secretary and candidate for U.S. Senator.

Named as defendants in the suit are Attorney General Frank G. Millard, who ruled that the SWP comes under the provisions of the Trucks Act and that its members are required to register with the state police under penalty of ten years' imprisonment; Secretary of State Fred M. Alger Jr., who barred the SWP from the ballot on the basis of a memorandum from Millard; and Joseph A. Childs, newly appointed Commissioner of State Police.

Attorney for the SWP is Bernard Probe of Detroit. Jesse R. Bacalis, also of Detroit, is associate counsel.

SECOND CHALLENGE

Today's case is the second court action against the Trucks Act since it became law last month. The Communist Party went into federal court at that time and secured a temporary injunction from Judge Arthur Lederle restraining state officials from enforcing the new law, pending a hearing before three federal judges on its constitutionality. Judge Lederle set May 20 as the date for the federal hearing. That is three days earlier than the date set for the circuit court hearing on the Socialist Workers Party suit.

Steel Crisis and the New Anti-Labor Drive

By M. Stein

The Sixth Constitutional Convention of the United Steel Workers of America at Philadelphia, May 13-16, was the second convention of this powerful union within five months. The Atlantic City convention, Jan. 3-4, was called to deal with the emergency resulting from the refusal of the steel magnates to negotiate a new contract even though the old one expired Dec. 31, 1951. The same emergency exists today. If anything it has become compounded, more entangled and confused by the intervention of the government and the courts. But the crisis in steel found different expressions at the two conventions.

The Atlantic City convention reflected the intervention of the steel workers in the conflict with the corporations. This took the form of angry speeches, defiant declarations and strike threats by the delegates. The ranks had a day and a half in which to express their accumulated grievances against the corporations and they made the most of it.

But what has happened since the Atlantic City gathering? Philip Murray himself in his opening address at Philadelphia gave the answer. "Everybody," he said, "that has been able to get into this act has gotten into it. I don't know of any one who has missed." With what results? The original 22-point program of union demands, which was adopted by the International Executive Board and the Wage Policy Committee, Nov. 15, 1951, is today only a memory. They were replaced by the whittled-down Wage Stabilization Board recommendations.

Even Murray had to admit, "The Wage Board has already compromised your situation; it has given you much less than you hoped to get through collective bargaining." But even the whittled-down WSB concessions remain beyond the reach of the steel workers.

NINE OLD MEN

It is true that everybody is in the act by this time; that is, everybody but the steel workers

themselves. This set the tone at the Philadelphia convention. The steel workers felt reduced to the status of observers. Since the Atlantic City convention, the steel workers have got into the act only once. That was for three brief days when Judge Pine ruled the government seizures illegal. During the brief strike that followed they gave a magnificent display of their power, of their fighting morale. But before the real effects of the strike could be felt, Murray called on them to cede the stage to the Nine Old Men of the Supreme Court.

The Nine are not sitting in judgment on the workers' demand for an increase in wages so they can catch up with the rise in the cost of living, or the demand for a union shop. No! They are deciding whether the President had the right to seize the plants or not. This is a constitutional question which does not touch the workers' demands.

Through their delegates at the Philadelphia convention, the workers showed that they are aware the situation has passed

out of their hands. In contrast to Atlantic City where all the proceedings were in high key, at Philadelphia Murray had to repeatedly admonish the delegates for absence from sessions, for walking out before the lunch recess, for not returning in time, for leaving before adjournment. All his exhortations were of no avail.

Murray occupied the stage himself, plus the clergymen, plus the spokesmen of the government, above all Labor Secretary Tobin and Vice-President Barkley. Both Barkley and Tobin came out four-square in favor of unions, in favor of collective bargaining, in favor of a wage adjustment to catch up with the cost of living, in favor of a high standard of living for all Americans, in favor of patriotism and in favor of all the Fair Deal cliches.

PROMISE NOTHING

They got a big hand. The reason is simple: The workers were told to look to the government to win the fight for them.

If Tobin and Barkley say they are for all these good things, perhaps they will do something about it. They, of course, were very careful not to promise anything concrete.

Tobin's concluding words were very illuminating in this respect: "I cannot predict how this steel controversy will be resolved; but I want to tell you this — that one of the fairest men in all this land of ours sits in the chair of the President of the United States. I know that the President will continue to work for a settlement that is fair to the steel workers, to the steel industry and to the American people as well."

So this white-haired boy of the labor bureaucrats, Maurice Tobin, buckles his bow and passes the buck to the little father in the White House. For this he is applauded and Philip Murray jumps to his feet exclaiming dramatically: "Is there anything more I need to say?"

There was, of course, much more he needed to say. He needed (Continued on page 2)

Consumer Goods Output Declines in Capitalist World

By Harry Frankel

The trend in the capitalist world is towards the production of more guns and less butter. Production of military goods is on the increase, and production of consumer goods on the downgrade. That is the chief conclusion to be drawn from the new World Economic Report for 1950-51 released by the United Nations May 5.

The UN press release summarizing this report opens by saying: "The increase in total (world) production from 1950 to 1951 was greater than the increase in the production of military goods . . . and the supply of civilian goods did not decline and even rose in many countries."

But, upon reading further, we find this statement about "world" production to be very misleading,

(as such facts often are). The world is not one, but two: the capitalist world and the Soviet bloc, or, as the report names them, the "private enterprise economies" and the "centrally planned economies." The trend in the capitalist countries has been directly contrary to the "world" trend.

The report states: "In the developed private enterprise economies . . . while the production of armaments and investment goods continued to rise, the output of consumer goods dropped. . . . Reading further, we find that this trend in the capitalist countries was compensated by the developments in the Soviet bloc. "In the centrally planned economies, increases in industrial production were generally in line with economic plans. . . . In . . . particularly the USSR, the rise in

supply of consumer goods made it possible for consumer prices to be reduced."

In the first chapter, the report says of the advanced capitalist countries ("economically developed private enterprise economies"):

CONSUMPTION CHECKED

"The main factors tending to expand economic activity in 1951 were an increase in military expenditures and in related investments; and in a number of countries, an expansion of net exports. The rate of expansion was kept down, however, by a number of factors which checked consumption. These factors were: (1) increases in taxes or reductions in subsidies; (2) deterioration in terms of trade; (3) relative shifts in the distribution of income in favor of profits,

especially export profits; and (4) declines in the proportion of income net of taxes which consumers chose (sic) to spend on consumption goods."

The result of all this, according to the UN report, is that consumption rose in only three capitalist nations in 1951 as compared with 1950: in Australia, and in France and West Germany, where consumption had been at very low levels. In Canada and Sweden, consumption remained the same, but in all other capitalist countries, consumption in 1951 fell below 1950 levels. These include the United States and Britain, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, and Norway.

How about the Soviet Bloc? The report says: "Investment, military expenditures and consumption generally rose in 1951. . . . In the USSR, Bulgaria

and Eastern Germany, supplies of consumer goods improved and this was reflected in reduced prices."

NEW CHINA RECOVERS

Of New China, the report says: "Retail prices, after having risen rapidly in late 1949 and early 1950, were roughly stabilized in 1951 mainly because of a recovery in the supplies of consumer goods and a sharp reduction in the budget deficit. The recovery in industry and agriculture and the agrarian reform were accompanied by increases in the real earnings and consumption of workers and peasants in 1951."

All of these facts clearly show the opposite trends in the two chief sectors of world economy. But, while this material is in the UN press release an attempt is made to conceal this split world

trend under meaningless generalizations for the "whole world."

DISHONEST COVERAGE

The New York Times coverage of the UN report in its May 12 issue deserves special mention for its dishonesty. The Times headlined its front-page story as follows: "WORLD OUTPUT SET NEW PEAK IN 1951; CONSUMERS GAINED. Civilians' Share of Increase Exceeded That of Military, UN Statisticians Report." The distinct impression this gives is that a rise of consumer goods was shared by the entire world. This is nowhere corrected in the entire Times article. The Times could not bring itself to report that consumption and production of food, clothing, shelter and other consumer items dropped throughout the capitalist world, and that in the Soviet bloc they rose, and moreover, rose more than the military sector of the economy.

The UN report points out that the "under-developed" (colonial) countries saw "little or no industrial progress" in the entire post-war period. This gives the lie to all the claims and promises of the imperialist spokesmen.

The American Way of Life

The Magistrate Spoke Sadly

This is a story about a poorly dressed man who was picked up in the middle of the night in Brooklyn on a vagrancy charge, and who said he doesn't like it here in this country and would like to be sent back to Russia. The magistrate replied sadly—but let's quote the story as it appeared in the May 3 N.Y. Times, which tells about the hearing in Flatbush Court.

"William Berger, the D.P. was charged with vagrancy before Magistrate Anthony E. Maglio. . . .

"I want to be sent back to Russia," the poorly dressed prisoner said. "I don't like it here."

"Are you sure of that?" the magistrate inquired.

"Yes, I'm sure of it," Berger replied. "I don't see anything good about the United States."

"And what about Russia?" Magistrate Maglio asked.

"I can't say anything critical of Russia," Berger answered. . . .

The Times story tells us that Berger, who was born in Russia 30 years ago, lived in Poland for many years and came here as a displaced person in April 1949. He got married, has a thirteen-month-old child, but is now separated from his wife. He entered the U.S. legally, and has tried before to get sent back to Russia. The Russian Embassy in Washington, with which he has communicated, has told him that only citizens of Russia can apply to live there, but that he could ask for Russian citizenship if he wished. To go back to the Times account:

"And you're sure you want to go back to Russia?" Magistrate Maglio asked once more. "You must be crazy, and I think I'll send you to the observation ward of Kings County Hospital for a mental check."

"I'm not mental and you know it," the prisoner shouted. "You have no power to send me there, and I defy you."

"Well, here you go," the magistrate replied sadly as he signed the commitment papers."

The magistrate, spoke sadly, says the Times. But wasn't there a touch of malice in his sadness?

Wasn't his sorrow tinged with an abominable arrogance? Isn't it a mark of callous brutality to take a man who is down and out in a strange land, who only wants to go back to the land of his birth, and commit him to an insane asylum?

Personally, I don't see eye to eye with Mr. Berger. I like this country. Maybe I'm prejudiced by the fact that I was born here and have always lived here, but I like it fine. I like the land, the people and the customs (many of them, anyway). I think there are a few big changes needed, and I'm going to holler for them as long as I have any breath. But I like this country and I don't want to go anywhere else.

However, I don't care for people like Magistrate Maglio. I don't like cat and mouse games played with a poor guy that doesn't stand a chance. I don't like to see a magistrate shed crocodile tears as he "sadly" puts his signature on false commitment papers. And I don't like newspapers that gloat over such a disgraceful exhibition.

Maybe Magistrate Maglio thinks I'm crazy too. If he does, he'll find that there are a lot of "crazy" people in this country. One of these days, he's liable to find that the majority of the American people are "crazy." The sooner the better, I say, the sooner the better.

— Harry Frankel

P.S.—The chief of the Passport Division of the State Department, in a letter (not connected with this incident) to the director of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, re-published in the Compass of May 18, had the following to say:

"You are aware that most of the applications for passports by persons who say they want to leave the United States permanently are made by unbalanced persons."

Crisis in Steel And Its Tie with Anti-Labor Drive

(Continued from page 1)

to give an account of his stewardship which has led the steel workers into the present impasse. Why, Mr. Murray, are the steel workers the only important segment of organized labor that has not won an increase in wages since 1950? Why is it that after all of Murray's maneuvering the aggrieved steel workers find themselves on the defensive? Why can't the president of over a million steel workers, leaning on Truman, president of the country, bring the corporations to terms?

Murray preferred to leave all that unsaid. In fact he did not say anything that might call in question the policy of coalition between the Truman Democrats and the labor bureaucrats. To trade labor votes for Fair Deal speeches is the lesser evil as against the mobilization of the workers for struggle in their own behalf.

stance of the deep national crisis in labor-capital relations. We are witnessing the crack-up of the pattern of labor-management relations which came into existence under Roosevelt in the New Deal era and during the Second World War.

During that period both industry and labor, each for its own specific reasons, more or less accepted government intervention. Industry was faced by an angry, desperate working class demanding a livelihood. The alternative then facing industry was: make concessions or risk the wrath of an aroused working class. This pattern of government arbitration continued through the war which lifted industry out of its depression and gave the monopolists self-confidence and a sense of power.

NEW PATTERN EMERGES

But no sooner was the war over than the Taft-Hartley Law replaced the Wagner Labor Act, serving notice that a new relationship of forces was in the making, that industry hadn't made peace with the unions. Five years of effort by a trade union movement boasting 16 million members have failed to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law. Not only that, new measures aimed at paralyzing the trade unions are now in the making.

CRISIS IN NATIONAL

Murray cannot face the fact that the crisis in labor-capital relations in steel is only one in-

War, Witch Hunt Hit by SWP Parley

(Continued from page 1)

SWP, on the battle now being waged against the Michigan Trucks law. This law, passed only a few weeks ago, has already been used to rule the SWP off the Michigan ballot. It contains provisions that could be used to virtually legalize radical minority parties, as well as "sabotage clauses" that can be used against the union movement. Dobbs reported on the status of the legal fight being conducted by the Party against the law, and on the campaign to rally popular opposition against this police state measure.

While Murray continues to rely on government arbitration, industry is striving to dictate rather than arbitrate. The irony is that the Truman Administration, which depends on labor votes, is responsible for the atmosphere in the country so favorable to the monopolists. Its imperialist policy abroad and witch hunt at home have unleashed the very forces seeking to destroy the trade unions as well as Trumanism and Fair Dealism. We thus witness the spectacle of Trumanites and trade union bureaucrats locked arm in arm, following policies which give all the advantages to reaction.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

The steel convention resolutions on democratic rights, civil liberties, the Taft-Hartley Act, etc., indicate awareness of the trend and fear of it. But that makes lack of policy to combat it all the more inexcusable.

This likewise applies to the conflict with the steel corporations. Murray made several speeches on the righteousness of the workers' cause but at no time did he make any concrete proposal to achieve it.

No matter how the conflict with the steel industry is resolved, the future will assess it as a turning point in labor-capital relations in this country. This turning point may be of tragic consequences to the workers if they do not learn that this conflict represents part of the crack-up of an era and that they must fashion new weapons if they are to reverse the present trend.

DISCUSSION ON MAGAZINE

The committee discussed organizational and financial problems and approved a memorandum which proposed some changes in the Marxist theoretical magazine Fourth International, including a change in name, possibly to a title containing the word "Marxist," and a change in format. It proposed that an effort be made to make the changes by January, 1953.

All decisions of the National Committee meeting are open for discussion by the party membership and approved in memoranda which proposed some changes in the Marxist theoretical magazine Fourth International, including a change in name, possibly to a title containing the word "Marxist," and a change in format. It proposed that an effort be made to make the changes by January, 1953.

All decisions of the National Committee meeting are open for discussion by the party membership and approved in memoranda which proposed some changes in the Marxist theoretical magazine Fourth International, including a change in name, possibly to a title containing the word "Marxist," and a change in format. It proposed that an effort be made to make the changes by January, 1953.

Subscribe!

Start your subscription now. Clip the coupon and mail it in today. Send \$1 for six months subscription or \$2 for a full year to The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Name _____

Street _____ Zone _____

City _____ State _____

\$1 Six months \$2 Full year New Renewal

At Philadelphia Steel Convention



Members of United Steelworkers International Executive Board laugh at a quip of Pres. Philip Murray during union convention at Philadelphia. Later, Murray told the delegates to the convention of the powerful CIO union that a strike would be called unless the dispute is settled speedily.

"Subversive Inactivity" Hit by Detroit Clergyman

DETROIT, May 18 — Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, head of the Central Methodist Church here, has the honor of being one of the first figures in liberal and labor circles to condemn the police-state Trucks Act. Dr. Crane has a distinguished record as a consistent fighter for civil liberties in Michigan.

His statement on the Trucks Act, now being challenged in the courts, was made today during a sermon entitled "Subversive Inactivity." This sermon undertook to encourage people to defy fear and to take a stand every time the witch hunters strike at civil liberties.

SWP HUNT FOR COUNSEL

In protesting against the current "massacre of civil rights," Dr. Crane cited the Trucks Act as the latest menace in a series of attacks on democracy. He referred to the long and difficult search for legal counsel by the

Socialist Workers Party before it could file a suit against the law. Without naming the party as such, he stated: "It is incredible that it took ten days to find a lawyer with enough courage to file a suit against the Trucks law."

Dr. Crane pointed out that 42 lawyers were seen in this search before one accepted. He commented on the fact that the lawyers were almost unanimous "in admitting the law to be unconstitutional but were afraid to stand up and be counted."

"WHAT IS HAPPENING?"

He stated that as chairman of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union he has "received all sorts of communications from all over the country demanding to know what is happening in Michigan." He lamented the fact that there was "no storm of protest" against the passage of the Trucks Act.

He also declared in his sermon that he was greatly alarmed "by the degree to which the witch hunt in this country today parallels the pattern followed by the Nazis in Germany before Hitler took power."

PARALLELS NAZIS

Dr. Crane quoted at length from Supreme Court Justice Douglas' widely discussed article, "The Black Silence of Fear," with special stress on Douglas' statements that "there probably has not been a period of greater intolerance than we witness today," that "fear even strikes at lawyers and the bar," and that "everyone who does not follow the military policy makers is suspects."

Trucks Act Violates Constitution

DETROIT, May 15 — The bill of complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction, filed today by attorneys for the Socialist Workers Party in the Wayne County circuit court, challenges the Trucks Act as unconstitutional in its entirety.

On six different counts, the suit charges, the Trucks Act violates the U.S. Constitution:

1. The act constitutes a Bill of Attainder. (A Bill of Attainder is a legislative method for ruling a person guilty of a felony without a judicial trial and is defined by the Encyclopedia Britannica as "a species of extrajudicial procedure . . . for the direct punishment of political offenses.") Bills of Attainder are prohibited by the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 10.
2. The act is an ex post facto law, that is, it provides punishment for acts committed prior to the passage of the law when such acts were not punishable. This too is prohibited by Article I, Section 10.
3. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Trucks Act, defining "communists," the "communist party"

and "communist front organizations" affected by the law, violates "the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States in that they furnish no reasonable criteria or standard for determining the definition of said terms and therefore are too vague to serve as a reasonable criteria for determining criminal conduct."

4. Section 5 of the act, requiring registration and stoolpigeoning, also violates the due process clause "in that it requires the accused to be a witness against himself and simultaneously constitutes a violation of the right of self-incrimination."
5. Section 7, barring victimized parties from the ballot in Michigan, violates the 14th Amendment "in that it deprives the accused of rights and liberties without due process of law."
6. Section 8 of the act, violates the 14th Amendment by depriving the accused of "his right of refusal to be a witness against himself without due process of law" and "constitutes a denial of equal protection of the law

within the meaning of the 14th Amendment."

The suit also demonstrates that on each of these counts the Trucks Act also violates the Michigan state constitution.

In addition to challenging the constitutionality of the law as a whole, the suit points out that the law does not apply to the Socialist Workers Party anyhow, because:

1. The SWP is not "controlled by the Communist Party or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" as set forth in the Trucks Act.
2. The SWP does not "believe in, or advocate, by unconstitutional means the overthrow" of the government; "in fact, the plaintiff (SWP) has on numerous occasions, and whenever possible it seeks to, run candidates for public office in accordance with the democratic provisions made and provided by our constitutional government."

The suit also charges that "the plaintiffs have not been given any notice of a hearing to determine that they were subversive under the meanings of

the act, and were not afforded any opportunity to be confronted by their accusers or to submit evidence in rebuttal" of the accusations.

The court was asked to issue a temporary restraining order prohibiting the state officials from enforcing or attempting to enforce the Trucks Act (this was denied); to set an early hearing on the case as a whole (the judge set May 23 for the hearing); to declare "each and every section" of the act "invalid and unconstitutional"; and to give the plaintiff "such other and further relief as the court may deem necessary and proper."

IN PLACE OF FEAR

By Aneurin Bevan
\$3 Postpaid
Order Now
Pioneer Publishers
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Oakland increased its lead this week over all other branches in the West Coast competition for Militant subscriptions. Leading their nearest competitor by 170 points last week, their advantage is now 567 points. Oakland is keeping an eye on San Pedro, however, which started at the bottom of the scoreboard, moved up a notch the second week, and is now in second place, nosing out Seattle by 24 points. The energetic San Pedro salesmen threaten to cut down that 567-point lead. The scoreboard for the third week of the campaign is as follows:

Points	
Oakland	935
San Pedro	368
Seattle	344
San Francisco	292
Westside Los Angeles	286
Eastside Los Angeles	276
Southside Los Angeles	262

High scorers in the individual competition for first prize of one week's vacation at Mountain Spring Camp are Frank K., who added 295 points to his score in one week and now has a total score of 777; Myra, with 137 point; Bill K., 90; and Dan R., 57. Frank and Bill K. are Oakland's high scorers. Myra represents the Westside Los Angeles branch, and Dan R. is Seattle's top subgetter.

New York Literature Agent Ethel Swanson reports a sale of 70 Militants and five Harry T. Moore pamphlets Tuesday at an

NEW YORK

Decoration Day Outing to Mountain Spring Camp Washington, N. J.

Entire 3 Days Meals and Lodging Adults \$12 Children under 12 \$10

Cars leave 116 University Pl. Thurs. May 29, 7 P.M. Fri. May 30, 9 A.M.

For Reservations call ALgonquin 5-7852 or write Mountain Spring Camp RD #1, Washington, N. J.

ALP rally in Madison Square Garden. Top scorer was Beatrice who sold 13 papers. Leaders to date in New York's local campaign for subscriptions are Joyce, with 377 points; Julie, with 298; Calvin, 193 points; Anne, 188; and Walter, 167.

Mary Leo is a Militant sub-getter who never misses an opportunity to introduce the paper to new readers. She is living in Washington, D.C., temporarily, and came up to New York recently for a visit. With her she brought nine new subs to The Militant which she secured in a Washington neighborhood near where she lives. Myra says she sold these in only an hour and a half. "The response of the people was wonderful!" She took a bundle of papers back with her to use in getting more subs.

Our sincere thanks this week to C.K., of Long Beach, Calif., who writes, "Please accept this \$5 to your Militant fund. Thanks for your fine articles in The Militant. It's getting better with each issue."

Local Addresses Of Socialist Workers Party

AERON—For information, write P. O. Box 1842.

BOSTON—Workers Educational Center, 30 Stuart St. Open Tues., 5:30-9 P.M. Social last Sat. of every month.

BUFFALO—Militant Forum, 622 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. Phone Madison 3900.

CHICAGO—734 S. Wabash Ave. Open daily except Sunday, 12-6:00 P.M. Phone HARpison 7-0403.

CLEVELAND—10969 Superior Ave. Open Mon. through Sat., 12-5 P.M. Phone TY 7-8207.

FLINT—SWP, 1307 Oak Street, Phone 22498.

LOS ANGELES—1702 East 4th St. Phone ANcette 9-4853.

MILWAUKEE—817 N. 3rd St., 3rd fl. Open Sun. through Fri., 7:00-9:30 P.M. MEnneapolis—10 South 4th St. Open daily except Sun. 10 A.M.-6 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 781.

NEW HAVEN—For information, write P.O. Box 1019.

NEWARK—223 Springfield Avenue. Phone 5-4000.

NEW YORK CITY—116 University Place. Phone AL 5-7852.

BROOKLYN—18 Nevins Street, 2nd floor.

OAKLAND (Cal.)—For information write P.O. Box 1853.

PHILADELPHIA—1305-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd fl. Open every Fri. evening. Phone Stevenson 4-5820.

ST. LOUIS—For information, Phone MO 719.

ST. PAUL—Phone State headquarters, Main 781.

SAN FRANCISCO—1789 Fillmore St., 4th fl. Open daily except Sunday, 12-4:30 P.M. Phone FI 61410.

SEATTLE—McMurray Bldg., 1st Ave. So. and Washington, Rm 201. Open Mon. through Sat. 12-5 P.M. Branch meeting every Thurs., 7:30 P.M. Library, book-store. Phone Main 9278.

TOLEDO—For information, write P.O. Box 1802.

YOUNGSTOWN—284 E. Federal St.

THE MILITANT

Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Phone: AL 5-7460

Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN Business Manager: JOSEPH HANSEN Subscription: \$2 per year; \$1 for 6 months. Foreign: \$3.50 per year; \$2 for 6 months. Single Copies: 10c each in U.S.; 15c each in foreign countries.

Vol. XVI - No. 21 Monday, May 26, 1952

"Left Winger"

Our distinguished contemporary, the New York Herald Tribune, takes an extreme view on what's wrong with America, as one might expect from a newspaper crusading for capitalism, Republicanism and Ike.

It appears that on government boards dealing with labor cases, Roosevelt and Truman appointed "persons who are supposed to represent the 'public' as impartial members, but who actually are avowed partisans in behalf of 'Left-Wing' ideology."

Under the influence of this dangerous ideology, these "Left Wingers," as Lawrence calls them, in disputes between companies and unions, "decide issues on the labor-union side."

And so, if you didn't know it before, "there's the explanation for much of the internal trouble in America today."

Lawrence does not ask us to take his word for it. Objective analyst that he is, he offers proof; namely, "the latest episode," the way the "public" members on the Wage Stabilization Board "sided" with the Steelworkers union in its dispute with the steel trust.

What are the facts? The WSB took the original modest demands of the steel workers and chopped them to shreds. The "public" members voted for these shreds. The Herald Tribune, as a leading Wall Street mouthpiece, should in all fairness, it seems to us, commend the Board for its hatchet work on the union's grievances.

But this Big Business newspaper is not much concerned about either facts or fairness when its nerve center of profits is touched. In face of the fact that steel company profits are at present double the fabulous 1946-1949 level, David Lawrence still felt forced to say, "the 'Left Winger' doesn't worry if the large companies fail to make an adequate profit."

These pearls of capitalist ideology are, however, incident to the Herald Tribune's main contribution, which lies in the field of semantics. "Left Wingers," we now understand, includes America's 16,000,000 trade union members and all those associated with them even though it be so remote an association as the failure of a "public" member of a government board to vote 100% the way Big Business lays it on the line.

That's progress. In a month or two, if the witch hunt continues to prosper, the crusading Herald Tribune will, no doubt, take us a step further, demonstrating with David Lawrence's invincible logic that "Left Winger" is but one of the numerous synonyms for "subversive."

This would not surprise us. Our impression from the very beginning of the Smith Act prosecutions was that while they started shooting at the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party they were really aiming at the whole labor and liberal movement. In fact, they actually had in mind anyone who looks like a "Left Winger" to the Herald Tribune.

Which brings us to another thought-provoking contribution of this eminent newspaper —

"Secret"

The Herald Tribune's cloak-and-dagger column, "The Red Underground," revealed last Sunday that the Socialist Workers Party held a "recent secret meeting" at which dark "plans" were laid. These plans included changes in the format, style and name of the Marxist theoretical magazine, Fourth International, a shift in personnel, and a decision on the date for the next national convention.

The "secret" meeting they refer to was that of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party reported in our usual "secret" fashion in this issue of The Militant. It is true that the editors of the Herald Tribune were not invited to attend this meeting, but then we don't get invites from them to attend their meetings either.

This isn't the first time the pipe lines of the Herald Tribune have enabled them to reveal "secret" meetings of the Socialist Workers Party. A few months ago, George Clarke, editor of Fourth International, made a national lecture tour. His appearance in various cities was announced in tens of thousands of leaflets, in press releases and press conferences and in every way possible to get the widest public notice and biggest possible crowd.

They failed to mention all the other cities in which he spoke, and most devastating exposure of all, didn't breathe a word about his lecture in New York where the Herald Tribune is printed. The Socialist Workers Party tried to get a line or two of publicity for the meeting in the Herald Tribune, but must have used the wrong technique. Perhaps a letter in secret ink might have brought the "secret" into the "The Red Underground" while Clarke was in New York and not 3,000 miles away in Los Angeles.

A tip to the authors of "The Red Underground." In the market for some more juicy secrets? Like the fact that the Socialist Workers Party has candidates running for public office, including President and Vice-President of the United States? Here is the tip. Make it a regular practice, surreptitiously of course, to go through the wastebasket of your political editor. We're sure the press releases of the SWP you'll find there are well-tailored for "secrets."

American Labor Faces War Drive

The following are excerpts from the political resolution adopted by the recent meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. The full text can be obtained by sending 20 cents to the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N. Y.

American imperialism has erupted on the international arena as the open, aggressive center and driving force of world counter-revolution.

Preparations for war against the USSR, Eastern Europe and China have been accelerated in all spheres: appropriations for the war budget have been substantially increased, an ever larger sector of national production is being committed to the war economy, strategic raw materials are being cornered and stockpiled in an American monopoly in tremendous quantities.

Contradictions of the War Economy

Two tendencies have been running a race in the American economy since the end of the Second World War. The first is the tendency toward a relapse into the unresolved depression of the Thirties and the second is the tendency toward a war economy.

The last great depression of American capitalism, temporarily submerged by the war of 1941-46, was briefly held in check after the war by the pent-up consumer demand which emerged from the war backed by some consumer savings and veterans' demobilization pay, etc. By 1949, despite the fact that the government was diverting a four or five times greater percentage of the total national product to war production than prior to the war, the depression had begun to reassert itself quite strongly.

The economy was on a toboggan slide, and unemployment climbed rapidly to almost six percent of the working class. With the Korean war and the vast increase in the portion of national production going to the war machine, with the revival of government deficit spending which purchased a portion of the nation's goods that could not be disposed of through normal consumer channels, the equilibrium was again temporarily restored.

The sickness of the American economy is inflamed and aggravated by the enormous productivity of the working class operating the most productive machine in the history of mankind. The war economy is therefore the very worst remedy possible. It drives production and productivity ever upward at an accelerated pace, aggravating the sickness beyond description while affording a brief extension of feverish life to the economy.

Labor and the War Drive

The critical state of labor's relations with the government was high-lighted in February 1951 by organized labor's withdrawal from the Wage Stabilization set-up. This break confronted the labor bureaucrats with a fateful decision. Either they had to go forward to a definitive rupture with Truman and the capitalist political machines, or they had to crawl back into servile collaboration with the capitalist administration, in return for vague promises.

Ever since the organization of the CIO, American labor has grappled with the political alternative of staying captive to the twin parties of capitalism or of entering upon a new road of independent political action and organization.

BOLIVIAN GOVT. TAKES STEPS TO NATIONALIZE MINES

Bolivia's new government took a step toward the nationalization of the country's tin mines on May 14 when President Victor Paz Estenssoro issued a decree establishing a nine-member commission "to study the bases and conditions for the nationalization through expropriation of the mines controlled by or belonging to the enterprises forming the Patino, Aramayo and Hochschild groups."

The commission was empowered to conduct hearings and obtain whatever data it needed from public and private sources, and was directed to submit a complete plan "for the legal expropriation of the mines listed" to the government within a maximum of 120 days.

This time limit appears to be a compromise between the positions previously taken by the two wings in the cabinet, which is controlled by the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR). The right wing of the cabinet, headed by Paz Estenssoro, favors a "cautious" and slow approach to nationalization, seeking not to offend Washington and hoping for some kind of understanding

labor bureaucracy thereupon rushing back to re-cement the class-collaborationist alliance.

The recent ULPC's walkout from the Wage Stabilization Board was the latest of this type of break, with the conflict resolved, as heretofore, by the capitalist government tossing a few concessions to the workers,

Premises for New Radicalization

The class struggle in the United States is today in a state of quiescence. How long will the present passivity endure and what will bring about a deepening change in the situation? In order to answer these questions on the outlook of the class struggle, it is first essential to understand

Return of the Captive



This is the general who helped spill the beans about the murder-policy of the U.S. in Koje prison camps. Brig. Gen. Dodd, shown here returning to the Korean mainland following his release by Koje Island prisoners, had agreed to "stop killing prisoners," and made other concessions since violated by Gen. M. Clark.

"Liberal" Witch-Hunters Smear Book on Radio Thought-Police

By Joseph Andrews THE JUDGES AND THE JUDGED by Merle Miller. Doubleday, 1952, 220 pp., \$2.50.

Merle Miller, novelist and member of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, has compiled a well-documented, objective account of the private blacklist in the radio and television industry. He establishes without doubt the sinister effectiveness of the self-appointed three-man inquisition, which in the publications Red Channels and Counterattack has pilloried scores of artists.

More significant than the book itself is the response it has met on the so-called liberal front. The ideological goon squads of the witch-hunters, headed by the New Leader gang, have initiated a smear campaign against Miller and the ACLU, which commissioned this study of the radio purge.

In an article titled "Is There a Blacklist?" Merlyn S. Pitzele, labor editor of Business Week

preponderance, exploitation and victorious wars of U.S. imperialism. These basic material factors have set their seal upon the consciousness and outlook of the American masses and are responsible for their acceptance of the capitalist system and its ideas.

The economic consequences of the militarization and its inflation will hit the working masses ever harder. Their reaction against these blows at their living conditions will most likely be first and most forcibly manifested in stirrings and outbursts of struggles in and by the

Tasks of the SWP in 1952

The central task of our party in 1952 is its presidential campaign. Participation in the elections under the party's banner must take precedence over all other activities, and the party's entire work from now until November must be geared into this campaign. Maximum efforts must be made to place national candidates on the ballot, and when this is beyond realization, to run candidates for lesser office to present our national program to the voters.

A general pattern for this campaign was drawn in 1948 and has been applied in our electoral work since then. Our party and its candidates must come forward as the spokesmen for revolutionary socialism in opposition to capitalism and its war program, and all its political parties and supporters. We do not simply champion socialism as "a good thing" in the abstract but present our class standpoint in connection with all the burning issues of the day.

We must demonstrate that U.S. imperialism is clearly the aggressor in this conflict. This is factually apparent in the actual operations of the State Department and the Pentagon — in Europe and in Asia, in the drive for German rearmament and in the Japanese Peace Treaty, in

PROTECTS WITNESSES

Miller quotes many witnesses among radio artists to prove the existence of a blacklist. Some are not named. This precaution is necessary, since anyone who dared to tell Miller the facts would be further victimized if his name were made known.

By withholding these names, Miller is in fact defending the right of these workers to a job. Anyone who equates this forced anonymity with the use of hearsay evidence by Red Channels to drive people out of their employment is a flunkey for the witch-hunters.

The New Leader review goes to the lengths of suggesting that Red Channels is being victimized. "One could conceive of some of those victimized by this book," says Pitzele, "coming to the ACLU for help."

There is little danger that Red Channels will suffer from the effects of Miller's book. It is precisely because this thought-police publication is exactly what Miller says it is, that endears it to the corporations who pay handsomely for its services.

The testimony of these necessarily anonymous witnesses is not all that is contained in Miller's book. He interviewed the arrogant editors of Counterattack and Red Channels. They admit that they have no proof

"NEW LEADER" ROLE

The New Leader and its followers are determined that no one be allowed to speak out against the witch-hunt. It is spearheading a terror-drive against civil rights, and under the false cover of "liberalism" is working overtime to turn the country over to the police-staters.

Now, with the attack on Miller's book, the campaign is centering its fire on the ACLU, for a generation the foremost non-partisan defender of constitutional liberty in America.

What arouses the despicable defenders of the thought-police, is that more and more non-Communist individuals are becoming alarmed at the sweep and scope of the witch-hunt. The purge of Queens College Dean of Students Harold C. Lenz, a known non-Communist, has spread the fear that the drive against civil rights will not stop until every independent voice is stifled.

It is not sufficient merely to read Merle Miller's book; his right to write it must be defended, and the right of the ACLU to sponsor such a book must also be protected. And the police-state hatchet-men like Kempton and Pitzele must be exposed for what they are.

Wonder About Delay in Recognition

LA PAZ, Bolivia, May 5 — . . . Many foreign business men in La Paz were wondering why the United States government was taking so long to recognize this (MNR) government, particularly after the speedy recognition of the Batista government in Cuba where there seemed to be little evidence that he could have secured as much support at the polls as this government received in the May (1951) elections.

Others vehemently oppose this assessment. The only thing this government has demonstrated so far, they say, "is an apparent rather than an effective control" of the population. They say that as soon as it is recognized, the government will then get on its high horse and indulge in dictatorial actions aimed at a constant decrease in liberties and become as balky a member of the Latin-America union as Argentina. However, like the other group of business men, they see no alternative to the present government.

— Dispatch, N. Y. Times, May 6

By Jean Blake

A prominent Negro Democrat once expressed the opinion to this writer that "there isn't a Negro in the country — Democrat, Republican or any other kind of politician — who isn't secretly damn glad minority parties like the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party exist in the United States."

The presence of opposition parties provides the possibility for Negroes to cast a protest vote against the two ruling parties which maintain Jim Crow, he explained. The constant threat that oppressed minorities will turn to the radical parties and to socialism restrains the capitalist parties from even cruder and more extreme discrimination.

There is a grain of truth in that reasoning, although the Socialist Workers Party was not organized and is not maintained as a pressure group for reforming the Democratic and Republican parties. It aims, rather, to promote working class reorganization of society on a socialist basis, and the elimination of capitalist profit and privilege.

But it is true that as long as democratic forms remain — a secret ballot that provides a choice to the voters — Negroes and others who may not subscribe completely to the program of the Socialist Workers Party can express their preference for it over the policies of the capitalist parties.

Now, however, there is grave danger that even that limited avenue for criticizing the actions of the Democrats and Republicans may be denied. Minority parties, and independent candidates affiliated with no party, are being barred from the ballot by one means or another in a number of states. In Illinois the new Law 1030 monopolizes the ballot for the two old parties by making it a crime to solicit signatures on election petitions for state-wide office outside the county in which the person circulating the petition resides.

In Ohio the new election restrictions increased the number of signatures required by 700%. In many cases this makes it necessary for a socialist or an independent to get more signatures for a place on the ballot than a Democrat or Republican would need votes to be elected. This new law has already ended the appearance of judicial impartiality by forcing all the judges in the recent primary election to run as party candidates rather than independents. It also was the decisive factor in blocking a serious movement to nominate an independent Negro

candidate for Congress, Charles P. Lucas, executive secretary of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP.

In Michigan the infamous Trucks Act not only bars from the ballot the Socialist Workers Party and any other party that may be arbitrarily listed as "subversive," but attempts to end their existence as legal parties by requiring that their members register with the state police.

The direction of this drive is clear. It is toward a police state. It aims to prevent thousands of new voters registered by Negro and labor organizations from using their right to vote effectively. It aims to deprive critics of the Democratic-Republican political monopoly of all democratic rights in the North, just as all critics of white supremacist rule are denied their rights in the South.

The answer is to fight. Negro and white workers, and all who recognize the danger, must unite to demand the repeal of these reactionary election laws. But that is not all. The only way to stop the reactionary drive is to take the offensive. To break with the capitalist parties and begin now to organize an independent labor party now capable of challenging the rule of the boss parties.

The basis for such a party already exists in the common grievances, the common legislative demands, the common Democratic and Republican enemies, and the cooperation and recognition of each other as allies which have characterized the labor and Negro movements in recent years.

But they have also had a common obstacle to embarking on the course of independent political action: leaders without class consciousness, vision or courage, whose political policy consists of trying to herd the rank and file like sheep into the Democratic or Republican fold, who lead the labor and Negro movements from one defeat to another.

1952 can be a decisive year in the struggle for democracy in the U.S. The current trend toward a police state can continue — or the ranks can finally intervene. The masses of Negro and white workers can join the struggle to defend the rights of minorities — political as well as others. They can demand political independence from the bosses, and the formation of a labor party. And regardless of what the political bosses or labor fakers may do or say, the ranks can protest and vote socialist when they go to the polls. No one can be forced to vote to cut his own throat.

Unions Hit Thought Control

By Fred Hart

Three powerful CIO unions meeting in convention last week — United Steelworkers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers and United Packinghouse Workers — went on record for the repeal or revision of the Smith Act, the McCarran Act and other thought-control legislation.

The steel union resolution, after noting the union's continued opposition to "Communists and their activities, declared:

"The danger from domestic Communist activities has been dwarfed in recent months by the subversive activities of reactionary forces who attempt to use the unity of the people against Communism to whip up hysterical fear and suspicion of all liberal forward looking ideas and persons."

"Americans must be aroused to the danger of undermining our own democracy by reactionaries engaged in a sneak attack on our civil liberties during the nation's preoccupation with the defense program.

"The loyalty program, the McCarran Act passed over the President's veto, the Smith Act, and various state laws have all worked toward the weakening of civil liberties.

"We are confident that the American way of life is not endangered by free speech, even when this freedom is exercised by Communists, Fascists or reactionary enemies to our democracy. But we are fearful that legislative denials of civil liberties do endanger our democracy because such restrictions permit the silencing of the advocates of freedom and progress by those who seek to destroy our constitutional democracy."

The resolution asked Congress to "review and reverse" such measures as the Smith Act and the McCarran Subversive Activities Control Act "so that the security of the nation shall be safeguarded against acts of sabotage without sub-

jecting individuals to prosecution merely on the basis of speech and advocacy of unpopular ideas."

It also recorded the steel union's opposition to "any legislation which tends to limit freedom of thought, press, assembly or association, or to impose conformity."

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers convention, meeting in Atlantic City, took a similar stand. It charged that "The Smith Act and the McCarran Act have created, in effect, a legal system superseding the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and our traditional body of law."

Calling attention to anti-sabotage and anti-espionage laws already on the books, it said: "The Smith Act is, however, thought control. It has introduced into our way of life a dangerous precedent, striking at our fundamental freedoms of press and opinion.

"The McCarran Act is a standing threat to the freedom of speech and brings us back 150 years to the disreputable Alien and Sedition laws."

The ACW convention also advocated abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The Packinghouse workers, convened in Denver, denounced the Smith Act for outlawing "America's traditional freedom of thought and expression" and the McCarran Act for providing concentration camps which are "now being built for political prisoners."

Their convention also condemned the McCarran-Walter immigration bill and the Cox resolution, which opens the way for "witch hunts against educational and philanthropic organizations, especially those devoted to improving the status of Negro citizens."

However, none of these union resolutions said anything about the need for the labor movement to actively defend and aid the victims of the repressive laws which they condemned.

Notes from the News

"WHITE DEMOCRATS of the South" is a new racist organization formed in Florida. It stands for "states' rights and segregation of the white race from the colored race," the election of "white candidates for public office," the spreading of propaganda about "all civil rights cases framed against white citizens and peace officers by Communist and all the deceptive popular front groups," and, of course, the destruction of "Communism."

DR. LINUS PAULING, head of the chemistry department at the California Institute of Technology, was refused a passport to travel to Britain for a scientific conference. The State Department said his trip "would not be in the best interests of the U.S." Pauling says an official told him the passport was denied "because of suspicion that I was a Communist and because my anti-Communist statements had not been sufficiently strong." Pauling's theory of resonance in chemistry has been denounced by Soviet scientists. The real reason his request was rejected is that Pauling is against war and the witch hunt.

REP. FRED E. BUSBEY (Rep., Ill.) was telling the House of Representatives that he detected "Communist influences" in a Paris art exhibit sponsored by the State Department: "They always paint a building with perpendicular walls. You always see one corner of a building going off at an angle." Rep. John J. Rooney, (Dem., N.Y.) interrupted him: "Would the gentleman from Illinois see the Leaning Tower of Pisa was Communist?" Busbey replied that if it leaned to the left he would not regard it with high favor.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES voted to cut its own taxes by passing a bill allowing its members to deduct travel costs, lodging, meals, tips and similar expenditures in Washington as business expenses (if they maintain another home elsewhere). It is estimated this provision will

save them each several thousand dollars per year. Business men can make such deductions: how many workers can deduct meals, etc., from their taxes?

"AN INDEFINITE PERIOD of long-term inflationary threats" faces this country, ten leading economic and financial experts predicted at a conference last week. "Barring real peace in the world, we are likely to have another dose of inflation," one of them, Dr. E. A. Goldensweiser of Princeton University, declared.

NOW DOCTORS have to sign a "loyalty" oath if they want to belong to the Medical Society of the State of New York. Next they'll be demanding that patients sign one too before they can get medical treatment.

WHY DO WOMEN WORK? The Department of Labor's Women's Bureau has issued a 117-page report showing that the answer is: Not for "pin money" but because they have to support themselves and dependents.

TIGHE E. WOODS, Rent Stabilization Director, estimates that about half of the nation's large cities would face rent increases running as high as 50-100% in lower rental brackets "if Congress considers favorably any amendment that would restrict the program to localities certified as critical defense housing areas because of immigration of military personnel or defense workers."

FREE LT. LEON GILBERT NOW, Truman is again being asked by the NAACP and other groups. Gilbert's sentence to death in a Jim Crow court-martial was commuted to 20 years' imprisonment by Truman in 1950. Now he is being asked to commute the sentence to time already served on the ground that in recent months a number of combat officers have been court-martialed for offenses similar to the one with which Gilbert was charged, and none of them got sentences anywhere near as severe as the 20 years imposed on Gilbert.

THE MILITANT

Harriman Seeks Labor Support in White House Bid

W. Averell Harriman, multi-millionaire banker, director of the Mutual Security Agency, and "favorite son" of the New York State Democratic Party machine, is becoming the "favorite son" of many labor leaders too.

On May 14, George M. Harrison, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks, threw a luncheon for Harriman and endorsed him for the Democratic presidential nomination. Forty AFL leaders, including President William Green and Secretary George Meany, were present. They applauded when Harriman, chairman and principal stockholder in the Union Pacific Railroad, told them he favored the union shop when he worked in the union shop the point where they represented the workers in their sphere of operations.

"Harriman is spending a lot of time and effort on his unheralded drive for labor backing," Robert S. Allen reported in the May 13 N. Y. Post.

Besides Green and Meany, Allen lists CIO President Philip Murray, AFL Building Trades Council Joseph Keenan and CIO Textile Union President Emil Rieve among the union leaders "who have personally promised to support actively the candidacy of the wealthy New Yorker." He also noted that Harriman was scheduled to have a meeting with CIO Auto Workers President Walter Reuther. Later, Harriman appeared before the AFL Executive Council meeting in Boston.

FAVORED TAFT-HARTLEY

Allen adds that this labor support for Harriman is "particularly significant in view of a recommendation he made when the Taft-Hartley Act was pending before President Truman. Harriman, then Secretary of Commerce, advised the President to sign the fiercely-opposed bill."

His explanation is that Harriman really was against the legislation but "he was fearful that Congress would override the President if he vetoed it. So to spare the President from such a rebuff in a highly uncertain election year (1948), Harriman counseled that the measure be signed with an accompanying statement pointing out its weaknesses and demanding their immediate correction."

And that's the man who union leaders are prepared to try to sell as a great "friend of labor" and a principled foe of Taft-Hartleyism!

Honeymooners on Picket Line



Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Steele are spending their honeymoon on the picket line. Here they are shown outside the Western Union main office in Los Angeles, California. Both members of Local 480, AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union, they eloped after a three-week courtship that began during the strike.

McGranery Wins Post After OK of Witch Hunt

By John F. Petrone

Federal Judge James P. McGranery formally replaced J. Howard McGrath as U.S. Attorney General on May 20 when the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination by a vote of 52-18. Republican opposition was not very strong.

The GOP strategy, according to columnist Marquis Childs on May 12, is to wait until McGranery takes office and then let go at him with both barrels because of a World War II black-market liquor prosecution that was dropped and settled out of court when McGranery was assistant to the Attorney General.

What kind of Attorney General McGranery will be was indicated by his record as a Democratic hack in the House of Representatives for three terms, as an assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice for three years and as a federal judge in Philadelphia. His views were spelled out even more clearly during recent hearings

on his nomination by the Senate Judiciary Committee, headed by the arch-witch hunter, Pat McCarran (D, Nev.).

"On government 'seizure,' McGranery tried to hedge when questioned on his views of Truman's claim to 'inherent powers.' In the end, he said he thought Truman should not seize private property 'without Congressional authorization.' This means that he is in favor of strikebreaking 'seizures' but wants Congress to authorize them.

"You can't take private property and maintain our American way of life," he told the committee. This pleased McCarran so much that he told McGranery: "If you stay with that, you'll be all right."

On government control of unions, McGranery said he thought the President could not take them over. Asked if that meant unions were "above the law," he said no, but there is a big difference between taking unions over and regulating them. On the "subversive" list compiled by the Attorney General, McGranery said, "This gives one individual a terrible chance to act on his dislikes and prejudices."

At first glance, this appeared to be a criticism of the blacklist arbitrarily drawn up by the Truman administration and used to spread the witch hunt into all spheres of American life. But McGranery quickly cleared up any misunderstanding on that score by saying he thought Congress should set the standards for the "subversive" list and meanwhile he would be guided by the reports of the FBI.

In fact, McGranery indicated that he would like to broaden the blacklist to include liberals. A number of witnesses from Philadelphia appeared before the committee to protest McGranery's appointment. One of these was Richard Dilworth, Democratic District Attorney of Philadelphia County, who charged McGranery was wholly unfit to be Attorney General and called attention to a case involving McGranery's objectionable procedure in the handling of certain funds.

"After Dilworth left the room when he finished his testimony," Childs reports, "McGranery promptly informed the committee that the witness (Dilworth) had refused to sign a loyalty oath and that he was a leader in ADA (Americans for Democratic Action) in Pennsylvania."

"No crystal ball was necessary to forecast Chairman McCarran's reaction to this information. Dilworth was recalled."

"ADA?" said McCarran. "Isn't that the left wing organization that Francis Biddle is head of?"

"Several of your own colleagues in the Senate are members," Dilworth replied. "And it was Mr. Biddle when he was Attorney General who approved of the appointment of Judge McGranery to the Department of Justice."

"But this appears to have nullified Dilworth's testimony," Childs says. And McGranery's nomination was approved by an 8-to-4 vote in the committee. Like McCarran, McGranery evidently thinks there is some-

Taft-Hartley Oath Probe Threatens Ohio, N. J. Unions

According to indications in the Ohio and New Jersey press, the Truman administration is preparing to extend the witch hunt into a new field. Union officials are being called before Federal grand juries, and questioned with reference to Taft-Hartley affidavits they have filed since passage of the Taft-Hartley "Slave-Labor" Act in mid-1947.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer of May 16 reports: "Twelve Cleveland labor figures, all signers of non-Communist Taft-Hartley affidavits, have been quizzed here the last three days in a secret grand jury probe. This was learned yesterday as Marie Reed Haug (prominent United Electrical Workers Union official) appeared at the Federal Building. She was the last of the subpoenaed labor crew."

The press did not report the names of any of the other union officials who appeared, and the U.S. Attorney conducting the hearings refused to divulge any

other names. Nor have the secret proceedings of the grand jury been reported.

An Associated Press dispatch from Camden on May 21 reports that Anthony Valentino, business agent of the Campbell Soup plant local of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers' Union, was the subject of another Grand Jury probe dealing with alleged Taft-Hartley Act violations. Valentino has been indicted on the charge of falsely swearing to a Taft-Hartley non-Communist affidavit. In addition, Mrs. Sylvia Neff, also a union official at the soup company plant, is being tried for perjury in connection with her testimony before the grand jury that indicted Valentino.

The Taft-Hartley Act provides that unions can not qualify for services of the National Labor Relations Board unless their officers signed non-Communist affidavits. Violations are classed as perjuries, and covered under general perjury statutes which set up fines of \$2,000 maximum and a five year maximum prison term.

The Taft-Hartley Law prescribes that a union officer must swear that he is "not a member of the Communist Party or affiliated with such party, and that he does not believe in, and is not a member of or support any organization that believes in or teaches, the overthrow of the United States Government by force or by illegal or unconstitutional methods."

Chicago "Sun-Times" Backs Fight for Law 1030 Repeal

CHICAGO, May 12 — The Chicago Sun-Times, a liberal paper with over half a million circulation, called for the repeal of Illinois Law 1030 in an editorial last

Saturday, four days after the constitutionality of the undemocratic law was upheld by a federal court hearing a suit brought against the law by the Socialist Workers Party. In an editorial entitled "An Unfair Restriction," the Sun-Times wrote:

"A three-judge federal court here has upheld the constitutionality of a 1951 state law greatly restricting the ability of a third party to qualify for a place on the Illinois ballot. The Socialist Workers Party of America, a Trotskyite organization, which challenged the law, is planning an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Even if its constitutionality is upheld by the high tribunal, that does not mean the law is a fair one. The statute in question requires that circulators of nominating petitions in Illinois must be legal residents of the county in which they operate. Another restriction requires that new party candidates for state or federal office must obtain 200 signatures in at least 50 of the state's 102 counties.

"We hold no brief for the Socialist Workers Party. But American history teaches us that third and even fourth parties have strengthened the two-party system so indispensable to our form of democracy. The splinter groups have saved the major parties from sterility and possible extinction by forcing them to adopt, from time to time, new ideas and ideals.

"We can conceive of a situation in which the people of Cook County, representing a majority of the state's voters, might become so enraged at a raw deal handed them in Springfield that they might want to use the threat of a third party to bring the major parties into line. But the threat could not succeed — simply because, under the present undemocratic nominating restrictions, such a third party wouldn't stand a chance of getting on the ballot.

"No matter what happens in the courts, the present laws should be repealed by the state legislature and more equitable statutes adopted. Democracy needs no restrictions of the sort now on our statute books."

Score Law 1030 At May Frolic of Chi. Committee

By Larry McMasters

CHICAGO, May 16 — In a vigorous demonstration against Illinois Law 1030, over 250 trade unionists and students rocked the CIO-PAC Hall last Friday night at the May Frolic of the Citizens Committee Against Law 1030.

Co-sponsored by the Roosevelt College and University of Chicago Committees, the highly successful dance attracted primarily workers from the local supporting the campaign against the repressive law, and students active in the civil liberties fight on the campuses.

A top-notch floor show featured aerobic dancers, "Sandman and His Mate," whose versatility and rhythm swayed the audience; a pair of ballad singers, Irvin Burgess and Arden Melzer, who brought the folk songs of the people vibrantly close; and Joanne Jordan, singing the "hot" and "blue" with a contagious vigor that kept the audience clapping and tapping. Vernon Duncan's excellent dancing rounded out the evening, while Bert Deek's suave MC-ing kept the show rolling without a dull moment.

The spirit of the audience was striking proof that the adverse court decision on May 6 by no means spelled the end of the fight against Law 1030. The attendance of workers from CIO textile, auto and electrical locals and the New Hope Lodge of the AFL, Carmen, among others, showed that a significant section of the labor movement realizes the dangers implicit in the law.

L. A. Voters Urged To Support Housing

The Los Angeles Socialist Workers Party urged voters to approve Proposition B in the June 3 election and thus clear the way for the construction of 10,000 low-rent dwelling units by the city. The SWP pointed out that, despite the insignificant nature of the measure, it has come an issue of great importance in the battle between the real estate interests, the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants and Manufacturers on one side, and the CIO, AFL, minority groups and other organizations on the other.