

Seek Legal Writ To Release Two N. Carolina Boys

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Conrad Lynn, general counsel for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, will leave for North Carolina tomorrow to file court application for a writ of habeas corpus to win release of James Hanover Thompson and David "Fuzzy" Simpson, the ten- and eight-year-old Negro boys committed to a state reformatory because one of them had been killed by a seven-year-old white girl in Monroe, N.C.

Mr. Lynn will be accompanied by Robert F. Williams, chairman of the Union County NAACP and chairman of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice which is handling the cases of the children and other victims of racist persecution in Monroe. Williams has been in New York seeking support for the committee's work.

Meanwhile, the national office of the NAACP announced, Dec. 31, that it had "thrown its full weight into the drive" to free the two children. The statement was issued by Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, after a conference with Lynn and Williams. As counsel in the case, Lynn will now have the collaboration of Robert L. Carter, NAACP General Counsel.

Under growing pressure of public protest, North Carolina officials are continuing their efforts to justify the incarceration of the two young boys. On Jan. 3, Blaine M. Madison, Commissioner of the North Carolina State Board of Correction issued a statement asserting that the board had no desire to keep the boys in the reformatory "beyond the very minimum time which can be justified" in their own interest. Madison frankly conceded he was making the statement because his board "presumably would be the defendant in the threatened legal action" to win the boys' release.

His statement was scored in a Jan. 3 letter to him by Robert F. Williams, who branded it a further attempt "to whitewash the racist reason for the imprisonment of these two boys and to obscure and distort the facts."

Williams marshalled a detailed list of facts demonstrating that concern for the boys' welfare or proper home care was in no way involved in their commitment to the reformatory. They were held incommunicado for six days, hit by the policeman who arrested them, terrorized while in prison, rushed through a "trial" without counsel, committed to a reformatory in violation of North Carolina practice not to place children under 12 in such institutions, and sentenced not for lack of "proper home atmosphere" but for "assault on a white female."

Replying to the contention that the boys lacked proper home care, Williams wrote: "Like most Negro children in North Carolina, they live in an atmosphere of poverty and discrimination. But it is an atmosphere of love and family life and a thousand times better than that of a reform school."

Williams pointed to the plight of the boys' father, who was arrested and imprisoned for the same offense.

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Chicagoans Say 'Free Sobell'

One hundred prominent Chicagoans have petitioned President Eisenhower for commutation of sentence and immediate release for Morton Sobell, now serving the ninth year of a 30-year sentence on a "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge.

Signers of the petition, which points out that the Supreme Court has refused to review the case, include: Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn; Noble Prize physicist Harold Urey; Sidney Lens, writer and trade unionist; Rev. William T. Baird; Professor Kermit Eby; Bradford Lytelle, a Quaker; Rabbi Joseph Buchler and former Judge Norval K. Harris.

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Soviet 'Planet' Tribute To Nationalized Economy

Cubans Oust Batista Dictatorship

By Lillian Kiesel

Cuba's hated Batista dictatorship was overthrown last week, Fidel Castro, leader of the 26th of July movement that waged the two-year guerrilla war against Batista, led his ragged forces in a dramatic triumphal march to Havana. Washington recognized the new liberal reform government headed by Manuel Urrutia on January 7.

Batista and other top government officials fled to the Dominican Republic and the United States. Their escape touched off protest demonstrations in Havana. Batista claims that Castro had superior arms. But Castro had between 5,000 and 10,000 troops when the civil war ended and this was the largest force he ever had. Batista had the government army of 50,000 troops. His troops were armed with tanks, planes and heavy artillery obtained from the U.S. and England. Castro's guerrillas were armed with revolvers, rifles and even more primitive weapons.

100 TO 1 The ousted dictator told a Dominican newspaper editor that Castro's guerrilla tactics were impossible to fight. "An army would need 100 men for each guerrilla it fought. That was the case of Tito in Yugoslavia and the Chinese government."

Bertram B. Johansson of the Christian Science Monitor said that Batista was right. Castro used the same tactics as were used by Communist forces in Indo-China, Yugoslavia and China "and 182 years ago by colonial farmers in Concord and Lexington against the British in the American Revolution."

Johansson reports how "local populations, especially in rural areas, aided rebels enormously with their friendliness. They hid them from Batista soldiers, gave rebels correct directions down obscure roads and passes, provided wrong directions, flavored with sardonic humor, to government troops."

LIVED IN TERROR Since Batista seized power in 1952, Cuba's population had lived in terror. The regime was notorious for its jailings, torture and murder of political opponents. Abysmal pay, unemployment were the lot of most of Cuba's 5,000,000 inhabitants. The victory demonstrators have been depicted as "mobs of looters and gangsters." However, Johansson reports (Jan. 3): "Generally, the New Year's day mob rioters were selective in their targets as they ransacked gambling establishments, looted homes of Cuban millionaires who obviously had become rich on political corruption. The parking meters which the mobs battered with sledge hammers

Dancing in the Streets of Havana



Waving a rebel banner, a Cuban girl dances in the streets of Havana to the cheers of throngs celebrating downfall of the hated Batista dictatorship. Throughout

the capital city and across Cuba, mass demonstrations voiced popular demand for social and economic reforms.

considerable alteration. For the past year Castro has sought in various ways to convince the State Department and plantation owners that he has repudiated the aims announced in 1955 and has no intention of nationalizing industry. DON'T WANT DEEP CHANGE Castro's movement is largely middle class. He is a plantation owner himself. By and large the leadership of this movement, as personified by Provisional President Urrutia, seeks a democratic reform government. It doesn't want a fundamental social and economic change.

However, the State Department and the plantation owners have only recently begun to understand Castro's real intentions. At the same time they recognized that he had the power to carry out his threat of destroying or preventing the harvesting of the crop of sugar cane. As a result many plantation owners shifted from Batista to support of Castro as did a section of the State Department.

They are still cautious. Ed Coney of the Wall Street Journal (Jan. 5) reports: "... State Department officials were understood to be watching for moves on taxes and other potential obstacles to business operation... They figured that currently the chance was slight the new government might swing toward nationalization of industry."

In this connection Castro told U.P. reporter, Charles Schuman, a few months ago: "Let me make this clear. Ours is a special kind of revolution. It is political, not social. It is not a revolution of class against class, but of all social classes against the government — against a small army group." He told Schuman last March: "With us, Cuba will have a stable government, without civil war. Industry will not have to pay us off as it [did] to the Batista government."

FEAR FURTHER REVOLT Despite this the State Department is watching the revolution with reservations. What they fear is that Castro will not be able to control the forces set loose. The youth (which has constituted the most revolutionary wing of the movement, the peasantry and the workers, who were willing to fight for Castro's 1955 program, want more than just the ouster of Batista. They want a social revolution to oust not only American financiers but the home-grown oppressors as well — all those who make possible the power of dictators like Batista.

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Space Age Triumph Underscores Need for World Socialist Order

By Harry Ring

The Soviet Union's triumph in launching the first rocket to clear the earth's gravitational field has stirred the entire world. As "Mechta" (Dream) streaked through space to fall into orbit around the sun, the achievement was acclaimed everywhere as an awesome new step in man's long struggle to conquer nature.

Scientists assure us that the extensively instrumented rocket will provide invaluable new information about our solar system and the universe.

At the same time "Mechta" underscored a development of a much more immediate consequence. Any lingering doubt has now been dispelled about the capacity of the USSR to accurately launch missiles and hit targets—whether as far away as the moon or over the back fence to another continent.

This brings the Soviet Union closer to military equality with the U.S., at least so far as defense is concerned. Knowledge that the Soviet Union possesses a high-powered rocket fuel superior to anything in the U.S. arsenal should help serve to further slow down Washington's timetable for war.

Power of Planned Economy

In addition to the stunning new cold-war setback dealt Wall Street, "Mechta" has delivered another heavy blow to the myth of the superiority of the "free enterprise" system in the realm of science. Recognition was universal that the first man-made planet testifies to the power inherent in planned economy. The ability of the Soviet Union to outstrip the world's richest and most advanced capitalist power in the satellite race can only be ascribed to the rational utilization of economic, technical and scientific resources on a nationwide scale.

President Eisenhower acted with exemplary dispatch in congratulating the Soviet Union on this latest scientific triumph. He was joined in this by other capitalist politicians and statesmen who were probably as dismayed as he by the news.

The hypocrisy of these plaudits is indicated by Eisenhower's expression of regret that the names of the individual scientists responsible for the feat were not made public. To understand how cheap such "regret" is, it is sufficient to recall how Washington snubbed the man instrumental in developing the U.S. atomic submarine, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover—who happens to be Jewish. But the real point of Eisenhower's "dig" was to imply that the Soviet advance was due to individual scientists, not to the collective effort.

"They Stole Our Secret"

As the counterpart in idiocy to this official reaction, the House un-American Activities Committee asserted that "espionage" played a vital role in giving the Soviet Union "the opportunity to outstrip us in some areas, once it has acquired our basic secrets." Why the Pentagon has failed to use the "basic secrets" in building American rockets, the Committee failed to explain.

One U.S. reaction to the Soviet rocket, reported Jan. 5, spoke volumes about the real reason why the USSR is winning the space race. Three aircraft companies engaged in missile work for the government, Grumman,

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Mikoyan's Visit Seen As Feeler for 'Summit'

By Daniel Roberts

The unofficial visit of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan to this country has had the press speculating as to its true intent. No informed observer credited the reason given by the Soviet government when it sought a U.S. visa for Mikoyan — namely, that he was on vacation and wanted to study the United States at first hand. Speculation held that the object of Mikoyan's visit was diplomatic. It was a means whereby he could discuss Soviet proposals with American policy makers without putting the Eisenhower administration in the position of formally engaging in "summit" talks.

According to N. S. (Neal Stanford) in the Dec. 31 Christian Science Monitor, the real aim of Mikoyan's visit is held to be sounding out the U.S. government for a summit meeting between Khrushchev and Eisenhower. "Mr. Khrushchev not only wants another summit meeting... but wants such a summit for a very special purpose. That purpose is to set the stage for bilateral deals with the United States—where Moscow will be talking for the Communist world and Washington for the West."

"This Soviet dream of the two big powers making the basic decisions and then having the rest of the world accept them dates back to Stalin's day. He tried to carve up the world with Hitler. Now his successor would like to carve up the world with Washington."

Again, on Nov. 6, reporting official reactions in Washington, Neal Stanford wrote, "The Soviets unquestionably want such a two-power decision-making meeting. That was Stalin's goal... with President Roosevelt. Moscow to put it bluntly wants the Kremlin and the White House to run the world between them."

In point of fact, Stalin did carve up the world together with Roosevelt and Churchill at the Teheran and Yalta Conferences (1943 and 1945) and finished the job at the Potsdam Conference (1945), with Truman and Atillee as his carving-knife partners. The cold war, originating in the drive of U.S. big business to reimpose capitalism in the Soviet Union, broke the agreement. The Kremlin, under Stalin, has sought to return to a "coexistence" agreement on the order of Teheran, Yalta and

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Liberal Democrats Fold on Eve of Congress

By Carl Goodman

JAN. 5 — Last November, the Democrats scored their biggest electoral sweep since the New Deal days. The results are very much in evidence in Washington on the eve of Congress's opening — "The town is choking on Democrats," says today's New York Times. "Each arriving train and plane disgorges a fresh load of men to take up jobs in or on the fringes of the... Democratic Congress."

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Congress hasn't even opened yet! RULES FIGHT In the House, a crucial fight is for rule changes that are prerequisite to getting even mild social welfare legislation past Dixiecrats entrenched in the Rules Committee. (Howard Smith of Virginia, author of the Smith Act, is chairman of the committee.) As I. F. Stone says in his Weekly (Jan. 5), "If the liberals lose this opening day fight, the stage is set for their frustration all through the session."

Several weeks ago, the liberal bloc talked cockily of carrying through rules changes by pressuring House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas to agree. They believed the strength of their numbers would force Rayburn — who balances between them and the Dixiecrats — to lean their way. On Jan. 2, Rayburn returned to Washington. He met with Chet Holifield, a leader of the liberal bloc, and told him that he opposed any weakening of the Rules Committee's

powers. He assured Holifield that he would use his influence to prevent important legislation from getting bottled up. According to James Reston's account in today's N.Y. Times the Rayburn-Holifield talk concluded as follows: "What'll I tell the others who want the rules changed?" Representative Holifield asked. "Tell 'em everything I've told you," replied the Speaker. "Will you see them and tell them yourself?"

"I'll see them if you insist," Mr. Rayburn told him, "but I'll just repeat what I've told you, and if we have a meeting, the reporters will be all over us, and that won't be any good. My first job is to avoid a big fuss."

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white supremacist from Little Rock, defeated Brooks Hays, a "moderate," by a write-in vote on Nov. 4. Hays was the "regular" Democratic candidate. A House committee is investigating Alford's election. It was thought suspicious and possibly indicative of fraud that in one district Alford was credited with a vote reported to be greater than the total number of people who had balloted there. Other irregularities have been alleged.

As a test of strength against the Dixiecrats, Northern and Western Democrats had talked of challenging Alford's right to be seated. However, Rayburn is eliminating this "fuss" too in his drive for party unity, and most liberals are now reported to be going along.

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admitted on Jan. 4 that the issue was "somewhat in doubt." Under Rule 22, senators may speak for unlimited time, with a two-thirds vote required to shut off debate. For years Southern Democrats have used the threat of filibuster to prevent passage of civil rights legislation of any consequence.

WHOSE RIGHTS? In defending Rule 22, racist senators have raised a hue and cry about democracy in the Senate. But as I. F. Stone says, "The real issue is not minority rights in the Senate but minor-

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ity rights in the South." The Negro people and their allies have made "cloture" — the possibility of cutting off debate so as to force a vote — a main civil rights objective. In session after session, liberal senators have vowed to change Rule 22, gone through the motions of trying to change it, then allowed themselves to be "outmaneuvered."

This year, the possibilities would seem particularly good to end the filibuster. Northern and Western Democrats outnumber Dixiecrats almost two to one in the Senate. There is an additional group of liberal — or "modern" — Republicans, who also promised to vote for rule changes. Yet the actual outlook is that, at best, an almost meaningless change will be passed.

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MESA Answers "Toledo Blade" On Labor's Need for Own Party

The January issue of the MESA Educator, monthly publication of the Mechanics Educational Society of America, carried a telling reply to an editorial in the Toledo Blade advising American workers to steer away from any attempt to form a labor party. The text of the MESA Educator article is as follows:

The Toledo Blade devoted the main editorial in its December 12 issue to AFL-CIO President Meany's recent statement at the New York State AFL-CIO merger convention that labor might have to form its own party.

We are not concerned for the moment with the Blade's speculation as to differences between President Meany and Vice President Reuther. But we do want to take issue with the editorial's reasons why "a labor party would probably prove unworkable."

1. The American working man, says the Blade, "has shown repeatedly that on many issues and candidates he will vote his own mind, that his political opinions do not necessarily jibe with those of union leaders."

This is true, but not an argument against building a labor party, through which the American working man can make the decisions on issues and candidates, decisions which the union leaders would have to carry out... or they would not remain in positions of political leadership very long.

2. "Even if labor formed its own party," the Blade editorializes, "it would have to name a slate of candidates capable of winning wide support outside union ranks... it would have to seek the same allies it now finds by working within the traditional two-party system... with less likelihood of being successful because it had set up a separate shop."

"SEPARATE SHOP" A GOOD THING

A labor party will win wide support outside union ranks not on the basis of the candidates so much as on the basis of its program, the issues on which the candidates campaign. By setting up a "separate shop" it will give its allies a genuine alternative to the present "Tweddle-dum, Tweddle-dee" coalition

which runs the country in the interest of Big Business.

3. "Party management would impose tremendous difficulties; there would be internal rivalry between union chiefs in the choice of candidates. The time, cost and pressure of trying to run both a union organization and a political party would impose their strain."

This argument really grasps at straws. There is a simple, obvious answer to it: The British Labor Party has managed to overcome all these secondary problems. Why should anyone low-rate the American workers so much as to think they are less capable than the British?

This argument also implies a concept of the American Labor Party as a monolithic organization run from the top, like the Democratic and Republican parties, in which the ranks never discuss and vote on policies and program. That's not the kind of labor party we're going to build.

MUST BE MORE DEMOCRATIC

The American Labor Party will have to be a more democratic structure than the existing two parties, and provide better representation for working people and their allies, or it could not even get off the ground.

One thing is sure — it could not be any less democratic than the two parties whose candidates jump every time a corporation executive issues a command.

Finally, we agree with the Blade that the returns in the last election, notably labor's victories against right-to-work laws, caused increasing interest in "The Labor Party Idea." But while the Blade argues that the victories were won "only with the support of many non-union voters who, while agreeing with labor on that issue, were not handing the unions a political mandate," we take the opposite view.

We say that the election showed that when labor takes the lead politically, stands on its own millions of feet instead of depending on the "traditional two-party system," and goes to the electorate with clear-cut issues, it can win the support of millions of non-union voters as well as its own members.

Castro's Guerrilla Headquarters



Fidel Castro (bearded) standing, center, at his mountain headquarters in Oriente province from which he organized the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship. His brother, Capt. Raul Castro, commander of one of the rebel columns, is kneeling in the foreground.

... Carolina Case

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Williams continued, "is permeated with bias. Negroes entitled to such welfare assistance ordinarily get it only in those cases where they have an influential white person to intercede for them and very recently in those few cases where the NAACP has been able to bring enough pressure."

Explanations that the boys were "committed for their own welfare," Williams concluded, "or because they are delinquents with long criminal records (at the ages of eight and nine) with improper home environments, reflect no credit on the State of North Carolina. I beg to differ with such explanations. These boys were sent to reform school because of their color."

What the FBI Shows the Public On Guided Tours in Washington

By Henry Gitano

(Fifth of a series)
The FBI is a political police. But it does not admit this. America's long democratic tradition makes it difficult for the ruling sixty wealthiest families to put correct labels on such repressive institutions as the FBI. And so the FBI carefully maintains a public image in the legend of Dick Tracy. It is the nemesis of the criminal.

This is well illustrated by the guided tours it offers the public. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., I joined one.

At 8:30 in the morning I went to Azar's Hi-Boy Restaurant, the political gumshoe hangout on 9th and Pennsylvania Avenue across from the FBI entrance. I ordered a cup of coffee and took a good hard look at the FBI agents around me.

Dick Tracy could well be proud of them. Like mass-produced Rossum's Universal Robots in the play *RUR*, they were mold-cast: a modified GI haircut, a narrow tie with a Windsor knot, ostentatious cufflinks, collegiate clothes and a carefully nurtured clean-cut-all-American-perpetual-boy look, talking football and Bureau "projects."

I crossed the street and entered the FBI portals for the guided tour. The first step was a counter which read 150,965-472. This was the total fingerprint cards on file.

ARE PICKETS CRIMINALS?
The guide explained this represented about 74,000,000 people (there being duplicate prints), including 12,000,000 criminals. I asked how they computed 12,000,000. "Suppose somebody is picketing, would he join the criminal army?"

The guide said that it would depend on whether he was arrested and charged.

I said that he might not be convicted, and that offenses vary in different states.

The FBI guide agreed, but said that 12,000,000 was a huge criminal army.

(There has been such powerful criticism of FBI figure-juggling that the FBI's own *Uniform Crime Reports*, at the tail end of charts, graphs and analyses, notes [April 23, 1958]: "In publishing this data... the FBI does not vouch for their accuracy.")

Next on the ground floor we were shown a white plaster cast made from John Dillinger's death mask. Along with the cast were souvenirs of the night when he was cornered and shot in Chicago. These included his cigar.

The guide rattled off an impressive list of crimes committed by the gangster, regarding whom Attorney General Cummings said: "Shoot to kill — and then cut ten."
(To get Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson, the FBI paid heavily: seven cops, one civilian killed. Twice Dillinger humiliated defeated the FBI at gunplay. He was caught when the "woman in red" with whom he went to a movie, turned informer. After the show, 15 agents closed in on the lone victim.)

(Howard McClellan in *Harpers* [Jan. 1936] shows how after a man is killed, unsolved crimes are marked off the list and credited to the dead man. Upon Dillinger's death, bank robberies in several states, including some committed simultaneously, were crossed off the books as solved; a good case was built up at leisure.)

The guide recounted the FBI's heroic gang-busting work. He dwelt on the Lindbergh kidnapping.

We passed an exhibit titled, "Nazi saboteurs captured." Our FBI mouthpiece stopped before a visual dramatization of the Weinberger kidnapping case: "Total records examined 1,974-544."

Most of the tour was spent in the FBI laboratories. There were rooms for the examination of firearms. A spectrography section analyzes compounds through study of colors. A serology unit examines blood stains. Toxicology studies evidence of poisoning; petrography, mineral clues.

The labs were impressive, but outside the group of tourists there was nothing going on. The guide said that 200 people work in the labs.

I noted that this left 13,800 FBI employees unaccounted for. Were the bulk of them out gathering evidence on the political beliefs of American citizens?

Next I took the tour of the Identification Division. This is a six-story building plus a basement and an underground garage, covering an entire square block near the Capitol. It is surrounded by a cyclone fence.

This depository contains the FBI's hoard of eight-inch-square fingerprint cards. Newly arrived cards are marked with a red label to identify criminals; yellow for others. A counter proclaimed that in the criminal file were the fingerprints of 12,694,406 people.

(Hoover prefers to call these people "scum from the boiling pot of the underworld," "craven beasts, public rats, vermin, vultures," a "horde larger than any of the barbarian hosts that overran Europe and Asia in ancient times.")

THREE DRUNKS
The guide picked out three cards at random. He turned them over and read the offense listed on the back. Each of the three cards was marked "drunk." Hundreds of clerks were at work among the millions of cards. They were all white. The only Negroes I saw on the tour were two cleaning women.

(The American Civil Liberties Union in 1938 denounced the FBI's swollen fingerprint file as "an early — and effective — move in the direction of general regimentation of the people." Prints of aliens, of members of the armed forces, of industrial workers increased the collection ten times during World War II — from 10,000,000 to 100,000,000. The *N.Y. Times* [Jan. 12, 1958] reported that currently "the FBI receives on Tuesdays and Wednesdays large supplies of fingerprints of

"Saturday night drunks," submitted by conscientious sheriffs.")

I thumbed through the free copy of the pamphlet given us at the beginning of the tour, *The Story of the FBI*. Some 573,000 people had received free copies before I got mine. I read at random. "I mortally wounded in a gun battle with a notorious criminal... Told that the criminal had been killed on the spot, the Agent murmured with his dying breath, 'May God have mercy on his soul.'"

I decided to ask our guide about the FBI record in the South where crime against Negroes is rampant. "How come the FBI can't catch kidnapers, arsonists and bombers in the South?"

The guide seemed prepared for questions like that. "Maybe they're not federal cases."

I argued with him. A man's constitutional freedoms, which are federal, are seriously infringed, aren't they, when he is murdered for voting or defending his human dignity?

This flustered the FBI spokesman. Maybe, he answered, the FBI is working on it but is not giving away its hand.

(The truth is, of course, in view of the years of terror in Dixie, that the FBI is either completely incompetent. Or else it doesn't give a damn. Or else its real job, as more and more people are beginning to understand, is to serve American big business as a political police.)

... Liberals Fold

(Continued from Page 1)

field (Mont.) said he thought the Senate would "at least advance as far" as to adopt Johnson's proposal. This is a plan to allow debate to be cut off by a vote of two-thirds of all senators present. Debate would end three weeks after the vote.

When Johnson put forward his "compromise" several weeks ago, Douglas and a few other senators opposed it. They argued that since a vote to shut off debate on a civil rights measure would be sure to bring almost every senator onto the floor, it would require nearly as many votes to end a filibuster under Johnson's plan as at present. For all intents and purposes, Rule 22 would remain in effect.

Thus the prospects are, despite the sweeping Northern and Western Democratic triumph last November, that the power of the Dixiecrats will not be smashed either in the House or the Senate. Rayburn and Johnson are there to prevent it. And the liberals won't buck the Texas "twins."

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... Soviet Planet

(Continued from Page 1)

Republic and Fairchild jointly announced that from now on they will join forces on missile and space projects "whenever advisable." The ambiguously worded statement did not allude to what will certainly be the criterion for "advisability"—whether such cooperation will mean more or less profits.

In the main, of course, all the private companies involved in the U.S. missile effort will continue on their merry individual way, duplicating each other's efforts, trying to steal skilled engineers from each other, sharing mistakes, and kowtowing to Army and Navy brass hats far more concerned with discrediting each other than with getting a missile off the ground in one piece.

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Mankind stands at the threshold of the space age, but it stands in the chains of medieval national boundaries and of an outmoded economic system that can drag us into an atomic holocaust.

At the same time, "Mechta" tells us something about contemporary Soviet society to which every socialist must give heed. The Khrushchev who took credit for the rocket is also the Khrushchev who stands at the head of a totalitarian bureaucracy which helps thwart the development of socialism in Europe and wherever else it can.

SEEK PRESTIGE
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Stalin's heirs recognized this and made a number of concessions including putting an end to the cult of Stalin. But they had no intention of giving up their rule.

While Khrushchev and the other top bureaucrats seek to exploit Soviet scientific achievements, the development of Soviet science and technology, along with the growing weight, skill and understanding of the Soviet working class undermines the bureaucracy's position in Soviet society. A working class capable of so mighty an achievement as "Mechta" will not endure indefinitely the yoke of a parasitical bureaucracy that stands in the way of any substantial measure of economic equality and political freedom.

And in the United States the same policy is expressed when the Communist Party leadership seeks to block socialist electoral activity and independent political action in order to help mobilize support for the Democratic machine.

Thus the message from the new "planet" is not that the Kremlin bureaucracy has justified its rule. It is, instead, that the space age has no room for either capitalism or Stalinist bureaucratism.

The Cleveland conference of socialists marked an important turning point in the difficult process of rebuilding the socialist movement in America. What comes next?

Radicals are discussing this question wherever they gather, wherever possibilities for common action appear feasible. What can be done now and in the next year in the light of the 1958 election results?

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Let's Abolish It!

As Congress convenes, a wide range of opponents of the witch-hunt, including civil liberties groups, liberals and radicals are pressing for abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee. This campaign is progressive and deserves energetic support from all socialists. The fight will certainly help to increase popular understanding of how such bodies as the House Committee have participated in the erosion of our basic constitutional liberties.

Socialists can also make a special contribution by striving to broaden the scope of the battle for democracy, of which the abolition campaign is a part.

Since the crisis of the 1930's, witch-hunting congressional committees have become an outstanding feature of the rule of capitalism in this country. This particular committee gained its first international notoriety under the chairmanship of the late Texas Democrat, Martin Dies. The role of such committees in both houses of Congress was given new impetus when Wall Street launched the cold war—a war that requires maximum degrees of conformity at home. The thought-control "investigations" reached their worst under the McCarthy committee, which served as a sounding board for the senator's nascent fascist movement.

Almost a quarter of a century of experience demonstrates that these bodies are not simple aberrations "serving no useful purpose" as some liberals would believe. The "democratic" form of capitalist rule has two basic features. One is to provide expression for popular discontent in mild form. The other is to repress popu-

lar discontent, sometimes in far from mild ways. Among the repressive instruments are congressional committees of the Un-American type.

In the period of the decay of capitalism, such as we are living in, the overall tendency is for the democratic side of this form of rule to diminish and for the repressive side to grow more dominant.

The elimination of the democratic side is a risky and expensive step, but one that big business will not shirk from if its rule is seriously threatened. We have seen this in Italy, Germany and Spain. And France now appears to be on the road to totalitarianism. The elimination of the repressive side, however, means the end of capitalist rule. Modern capitalism, under which a tiny minority controls the productive resources of the country, is by its very nature incompatible with full democracy.

The present erosion of democratic rights underscores the need to defend what democracy we still have; even more important, it underscores the need to fight for democracy with full economic and social content. This can be achieved only through the development of workers' democracy. The fight for workers' democracy is in turn directly linked to the fight for working class political power and for socialism.

Properly understanding the interconnection between these various stages of the development of democracy gives better perspective in the struggle against those, such as the House Un-American Committee, who seek to destroy our heritage of democratic rights.

Top Dog Again

On Dec. 28, 1949, the U.S.-led Western powers established an International Authority for the Ruhr in Germany. Its declared aim was "to assure disarmament and demilitarization of Germany" and "to prevent persons who furthered the aggressive designs of the Nazis from acquiring ownership, interests or positions of direction and management in these industries."

Commenting on this, the Militant of Jan. 10, 1949, said: "... the real aims are different from the public pronouncements ... the Ruhr industries will inevitably be geared into the war machine now under construction." Charging that U.S. wanted to "hearten and encourage the German capitalist class as prospective allies in the projected assault on the USSR," we then predicted that the new Ruhr Authority would be "a transition to returning the German capitalists and Nazis to full power in the Ruhr."

When those lines were written, Alfred Krupp, the powerful German industrialist who had helped finance Hitler to power, had just been sentenced to a 12-year prison term as a war criminal. He was convicted of having employed and brutally abused hundreds of thousands of slave

laborers as his plants poured out arms for the Nazi war machine. Most newspapers pictured Washington as really going after the men responsible for Hitler. Readers of The Militant had the advantage of a more realistic interpretation.

Less than three years later the U.S. occupation authorities ordered Krupp released and returned his industries to him. This "act of clemency" was accompanied by an order telling him to "deconcentrate" before March 1959 by selling the bulk of his holdings.

Now, two months before that deadline, Krupp announced to the world Jan. 6 that he has just received authorization from the Allied powers to buy Bochumer Verein, a large producer of specialized steel products. "Another deconcentration order against the German industrial empires that created the Nazi war machine has apparently been jettisoned," commented the New York Times.

"Of all the dogs, top dog was he," runs a line in the *Three Penny Opera* of the German artist, Berthold Brecht. Hitler fascism or U.S. "free-world democracy"—the Krupps remain top dogs.

"Political Scab"?

One of our readers who also follows the Worker has asked if Arnold Johnson was accurate in his article on the Cleveland Conference of American Socialists when he wrote the following in the Dec. 21 Worker: "The Trotskyite condemnation of every worker who voted in the Democratic party as a 'political scab' did not sit well with trade unionists who had won victories in the past election."

The answer is, no. Johnson's mind appears to be still riveted to the frame-up methods of the Moscow Trial days. No Trotskyist made such a statement at the Cleveland conference and, according to our correspondent there, neither did anyone else.

It is an obvious fact that millions of workers, including a good many union militants, voted for the Democratic party. They did so for a variety of reasons. Some mistakenly accept the fake claim that the Democrats are basically more progressive than the Republicans. Others have few illusions about this capitalist party but seeing no immediate alternative to it, vote for its candidates as a "lesser evil." Still others are deceived by the argument of top union brass and leaders of the Communist Party and the Socialist Party—Social Democratic Federation that labor should try to become a decisive force in this party.

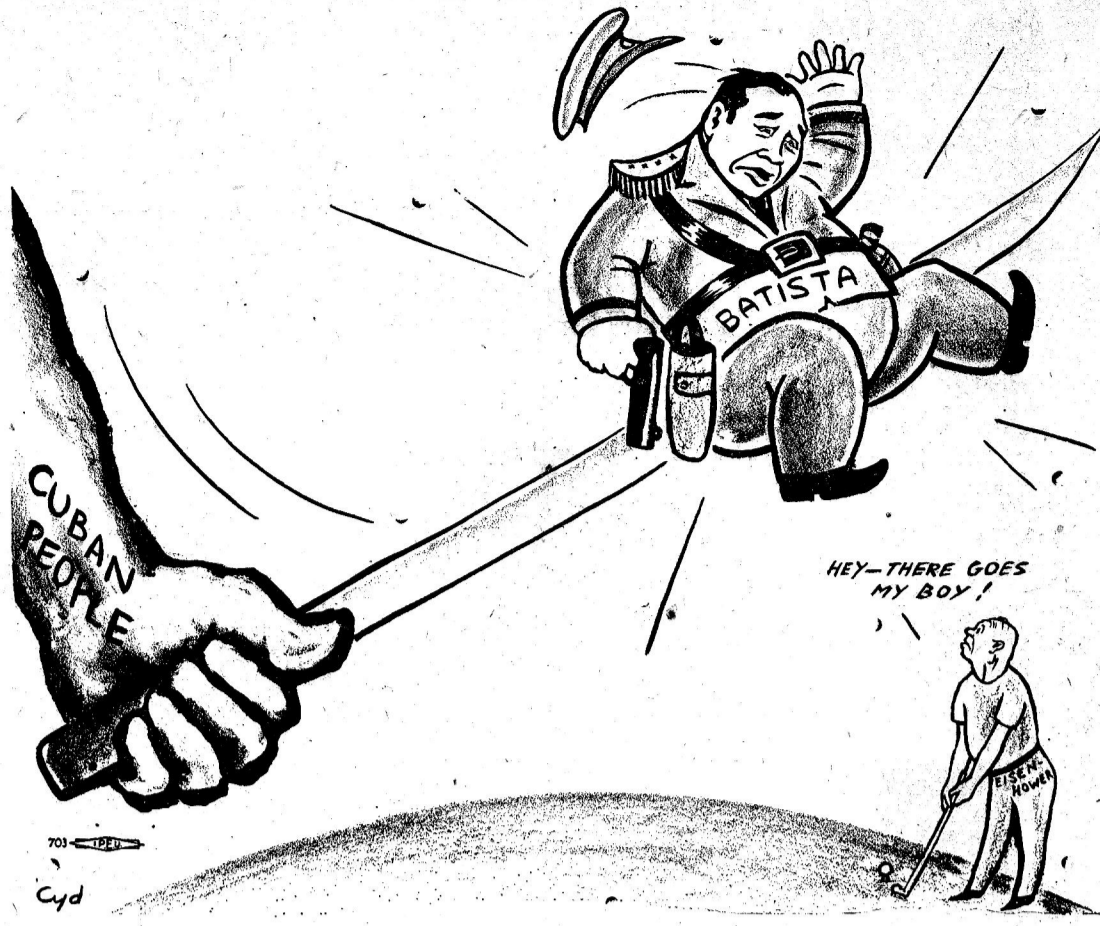
Socialists have the obligation to do everything they can to convince workers that they are acting against their own interests when they vote for either capitalist party. Socialists also have the obligation of working to create a meaningful alternative to both capitalist parties.

This was the stand of the Trotskyists

at the Cleveland conference. Spokesmen for and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, along with many independent socialists, urged the extension of united socialist political action as a means of helping to convince the workers of the need to break with the capitalist parties. Obviously if the SWP considered such workers "political scabs" it would not be devoting its energies to trying to win them to a socialist program.

But Trotskyists and others at the Cleveland conference did sharply condemn the pro-Democratic party line of the CP and SP-SDF tops as a betrayal of the principles of socialism to which they profess adherence. It is one thing for the ranks of the workers' movement to follow a mistaken course. The building of an effective socialist party is essential precisely in order to help lead them onto a correct course. But it is an entirely different matter when leaders of working-class parties pursue a class-collaborationist policy that seeks to keep the workers tied to the political agencies of their class enemy. And those who do so should be a bit sensitive about using a label that so easily fits their own particular shoe.

We doubt that Arnold Johnson believed what he was saying when he made his accusation. We think also that this doubt is shared by all those who attended the Cleveland conference. Why then did he write such a sentence? We think it's because the "new look" that the CP leaders promised party members and supporters at the time of the Khrushchev revelations has pretty well worn off. Johnson's mud slinging reflects the return to the old Stalinist methods.



Cite New Evidence of Court Shift on Schools

"Some Northern Senators who are most deeply involved in campaigning for federal laws to enforce civil rights are saying that the Supreme Court now will settle for 'token integration' in schools of the South," states the Jan. 9 U.S. News and World Report. "They say that the next step is for 'massive resistance' in the South to give way to 'token integration' and thus ease the tensions that have developed."

This item indicates that leading Northern politicians are taking the same view of a Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision—upholding the Alabama Pupil Placement Law—as do their Southern colleagues. On Dec. 30, Arthur Krock reported in his column on the editorial page of the New York Times that "private discussions in the inner councils of Southern states" have led officials to conclude that the high court's ruling shows them "a means whereby most all-white schools can be constitutionally preserved."

(Alabama's school-placement-law allows school authorities to assign pupils to definite schools on the basis of 17 criteria, none of which mention race. The law was passed in 1955 avowedly to circumvent the Supreme Court's integration decision.)

OUTLOOK FOR LEGISLATION

The U.S. News item about how Northern liberal senators view the school-placement decision is ominous because it helps confirm the view that the Supreme Court, in effect, has made a deal with the Dixiecrats. In addition, it is a hint that the shift in the high court's stand will dampen the ardor of Northern liberals for federal legislation against Jim Crow.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Florida has spelled out more fully the meaning of the Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision. He ruled, in effect, that Florida's school assignment law (similar to Alabama's placement law) was a proper means for carrying out desegregation. In a decision, reported in the Jan. 2 U.S. News and World Report, Judge Lieb held that a section of Florida's constitution requiring racial segregation in the schools violated the federal constitution. "But the judge refused to order racial mixing in the schools." He held that Negroes have "adequate remedy under the assignment plan" against discrimination, even though so far, under the placement law, no Negro has been admitted to a white school.

In its 1955 implementing decision, the Supreme Court had placed enforcement of its 1954 ruling in the hands of local school boards and federal district judges. The judges were supposed to supervise the school boards and issue orders, where necessary, to make a "prompt start" and to proceed with "deliberate speed." Validating the school placement law set up a potential conflict between state authorities and federal courts as to who now had charge of desegregation. Judge Lieb resolved the conflict, in favor of the state authorities.

If his decision is upheld, Southern officials are confident that judges will intervene only if they find "an enduring and deliberate pattern of exclusion." A few Negroes integrated in a few schools will be enough to break the "pattern."

As of this writing, we have not yet seen the Negro press published after Krock's Dec. 30 column. Comment on the Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision was scanty. Only the Pittsburgh Courier, of the papers that

crossed our desk, "sounded the alarm."

FAITH IN COURTS

The NAACP press releases carried no mention of the decision. However, on Dec. 12, Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's chief counsel, in a speech in Kansas City again voiced the illusions prevalent in the Association's top leadership. "Have faith in your federal government," he said, "and if you can't have faith in all of the federal government, have faith in the courts." (Reported in the Dec. 19 Call, a leading Negro weekly published in Kansas City, Mo.)

In outlawing school Jim Crow in 1954—90 years after the Civil War!—the court did not act out of devotion to principles. Like any other capitalist politician, the judges acted out of expediency—that is, out of the need to adjust capitalist rule to immediate social pressures.

Throughout the post-war period the Negro people in the South asserted their demands for equality ever more forcefully. This served to expose American racism throughout the world. It put American imperialism on the spot especially in the colonial countries where colored people compared the actual treatment of the Negroes in the U.S. with Washington's professions of democracy. The 1954 decision was designed to get around this problem.

There is no doubt that the decision encouraged the Negro people to step up the struggle in the South. The militant mass action in the Montgomery bus boycott, for instance, was a product of the greater confidence in their own strength the

Negro people had gained from the court victory.

The white supremacists, however, also went into action. Already in 1955, their campaign to nullify the decision of the court resulted in the Supreme Court sanctioning all kinds of delay in enforcing integration.

As white supremacists organized, the amount of new school integration progressively declined in 1956, 1957 and 1958. School closings in Arkansas and Virginia marked open defiance of the Supreme Court ruling. The racist campaign to discredit the Supreme Court gained among "legal authorities" as did the drive for Congress to legislate against the Supreme Court rulings. Finally, last November's elections in the South showed gains for the rabid racists over the "moderates."

(The high court ruled on school placement after the elections.) Under this new set of pressures, the Supreme Court evidently decided to readjust its legal stand on school integration. Open defiance of the 1954 decision will not be upheld, but the court will look the other way if a subterfuge is employed to achieve the same end.

What this indicates, of course, is that the Negro people and their principal ally, the labor movement, can reverse the school placement decision not by "faith in the courts," but by organizing for renewed militant struggle to abolish Jim Crow.

SWINDLERS ACTIVE

Business men embezzled more money during the 1957-58 recession than at any time since the 1930's says a top insurance company spokesman.

The American Way of Life

We've Got to Pay Attention to Education

"If ever this nation had the opportunity to improve, expand and intensify its educational efforts, it was during 1958," declared Terry Ferrer, education editor of the New York Herald Tribune (Jan. 4).

"As the year opened," she explained, "with two Russian satellites in the sky—and no American counterparts—the American public was angry and anxious about the 'failure' of our schools and colleges to beat out the Russians with the talent necessary to launch the Space Age. Americans of every type blasted away at John Dewey, 'frills,' progressive education, the high school, scientific training (or the lack of it), American technology and all educators with shotgun loads which often missed the target altogether. Every one became an educational expert. Every one agreed that 'something' had to be done to American education."

And what happened? The Pentagon got some bigger rockets and satellites up into the air and the furor about education died down. "The public, reassured by American satellite successes, turned toward more economy in school spending and seemed inclined to feel that perhaps American education was not so bad after all."

But there was one section of the public that did not lose interest in improving American education. In fact they dug deep into their pockets to demonstrate that our schools should be the concern of every civic-minded citizen. Alexander R. Hammer explains this in the Business and Financial section of the New York Times (Jan. 4).

"An increasing number of companies are discovering that it pays to furnish schools with teaching aids."

"Although most concerns have long considered formal assistance to education to be both a responsibility and an opportunity, they now are investing millions of dollars each year in supplying elementary and high schools all over the country with a wide variety of assistance materials."

These "assistance" materials include booklets, charts, films and even "handsome, expensive handbooks and texts."

"This generosity brings a much more substantial reward than a good conscience. 'By helping teacher ... the companies also are building the potential of sales to generations of consumers to come.'"

Another return on the investment in education is that "The aids also help build a favorable corporate image for the sponsoring companies in the community," as Hammer notes,

"This is especially important in cities where they have their plants." And where, it should be added, they have their workers and are most directly affected by union activities.

Hammer estimates that one out of five major corporations supplies "teaching aids." A typical example is the Ralston Purina Co., manufacturer of animal and poultry feeds and breakfast cereals. Besides documentary films it supplies printed guides to 100,000 teachers. Also it offers prizes to teachers who make the "best use" of its weekly television series in the classroom.

Top prize last year was a trip around the world. Thirty-one other "winning teachers went on safaris in Africa, trips up the Nile and other equally glamorous voyages."

Teaching aids, as well as prizes and awards, are prepared by publicity departments, by public relations counsels, or advertising agencies. The field has become so lucrative that specialists are now appearing. One of them, starting with a rented desk in a one-room office, now has a staff of eighteen persons and branch offices in Washington and Chicago.

The head of this agency, Ira Glick, "predicts that more and more companies will provide schools with teaching aids because of the increased size and immediate purchasing power of the youth market and its buying potential."

So the Soviet Union can put a dog in orbit in outer space because of the kind of educational system they've got; it takes interest like ours in dog biscuits among student youth? But you should see Ralston's sales charts! After all, it takes interest like ours in cultural values to get the results that really count.

— Paul Abbott

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Michigan Senator May Offer 30-Hour Bill

Will Act for Jobless If Reuther Gives OK

DETROIT, Jan. 5 — U.S. Senator Patrick McNamara (D. Mich.) says he will introduce a 30-hour bill in Congress — IF the United Auto Workers leadership will endorse the bill.

McNamara announced his decision, and the condition attached to it, at a Detroit luncheon Saturday, one day after meeting in his local office with an 11-member delegation of the UAW Production and Skilled Workers Unemployed Committee. The committee is made up of representatives from several local UAW unemployed groups.

According to reports made at some union meetings yesterday, this is what happened:

Committee members told McNamara they had come to him for help because he is a union member himself, and was elected, like other liberal Democrats, with the support of the labor movement.

What they want, they said, is a bill in Congress to amend the federal Fair Labor Standards Act to reduce the work week from 40 to 30 hours. If he would introduce such a bill, they would do everything they could to publicize it and win the support of the American people for its enactment by Congress.

McNamara did not try to deny that a 30-hour week is needed by the unemployed, who still number 200,000 in the Detroit area, despite overtime production in the auto plants.

But, he said, "you people" (meaning the union movement) "ought to get together and make up your minds what you want." He said he would not introduce such a bill because the UAW leadership had not asked him to. He implied that the UAW leaders, who had dropped a shorter work week demand from 1958 contract negotiations, would not favor such a bill.

The committee members were not reluctant about expressing their resentment and disappointment at his refusal. One told McNamara indignantly that if his attitude was an example, then it was obvious that labor could not expect much from the new Democratic Congress.

Another reminded McNamara of AFL-CIO President George Meany's recent statement that labor would form its own party if it had to. He added that if workers can't get Democrats they helped elect to even introduce a bill they need, maybe the time has already come

for them to start working to elect their own representatives to Congress.

A third told McNamara that he was supposed to, represent his constituents in Congress, and that jobless workers are his constituents as much as Walter Reuther.

PULLS REUTHER ON SPOT
Taken aback by their response, McNamara finally assured them that he personally favors a 30-hour week, and would be only too glad to introduce the bill if they would get Reuther to send him a letter endorsing it.

The delegates agreed they would report his conditional promise back to their committee and perhaps try to arrange a meeting with Reuther to discuss it. The next day McNamara himself publicized the conference and his position.

From all appearances McNamara, by trying to take himself off the spot, has put Reuther on it.

Will Reuther try to ignore what McNamara said? Or will he dare to speak out and say he doesn't favor a 30-hour bill?

In either case he would incur the anger of unemployed auto workers and the many employed workers who feel he bungled the 1958 negotiations by getting the UAW to withdraw its demand for a shorter work week.

CALL DEMONSTRATION
Meanwhile the UAW Production and Skilled Workers Unemployed Committee was proceeding on another front, mobilizing the unemployed for a demonstration at the Detroit Common Council on Monday, Jan. 12. A leaflet, calling for a mass turnout, says:

"Common Council must take action to pressure state and federal governments to:

"Increase aid to unemployed — extend compensation for entire period of unemployment; increase welfare aid.

"Ban overtime — share the work.

"Declare moratorium on debts — no evictions, no foreclosures.

"Endorse 30-hour week fight to meet the challenge of automation.

"Public works — build fireproof schools, build homes and hospitals."
It should be interesting to see how the members of the Detroit Common Council, most of whom were elected with labor support like McNamara, will respond to the request that they support these proposals.

Picket Radio Station Owned by Bing Crosby

By Della Rossa
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 — Valuable free television time was rejected without hesitation here tonight by the Socialist Workers Party when it was learned that the station offering the invitation was being picketed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 45. The IBEW charged the station, KCOP-TV, with unfair labor practices.

The invitation was for an appearance on the half-hour Dan Lundberg show in a debate with capitalist representatives on the question of what to expect economically in 1959.

KCOP is owned by Bing Crosby and it is reported that his sons have also refused to cross the picket line.

An interview with Andrew J. Draghi, Local 45 business agent, revealed that the strike was the result of a long period of tension and friction between workers and management at the station. Draghi says this tension has been built up by Al Browdy, management's Chief Engineer at the station. Browdy was once a union steward at the station who later deserted the union movement for the side of the employers.

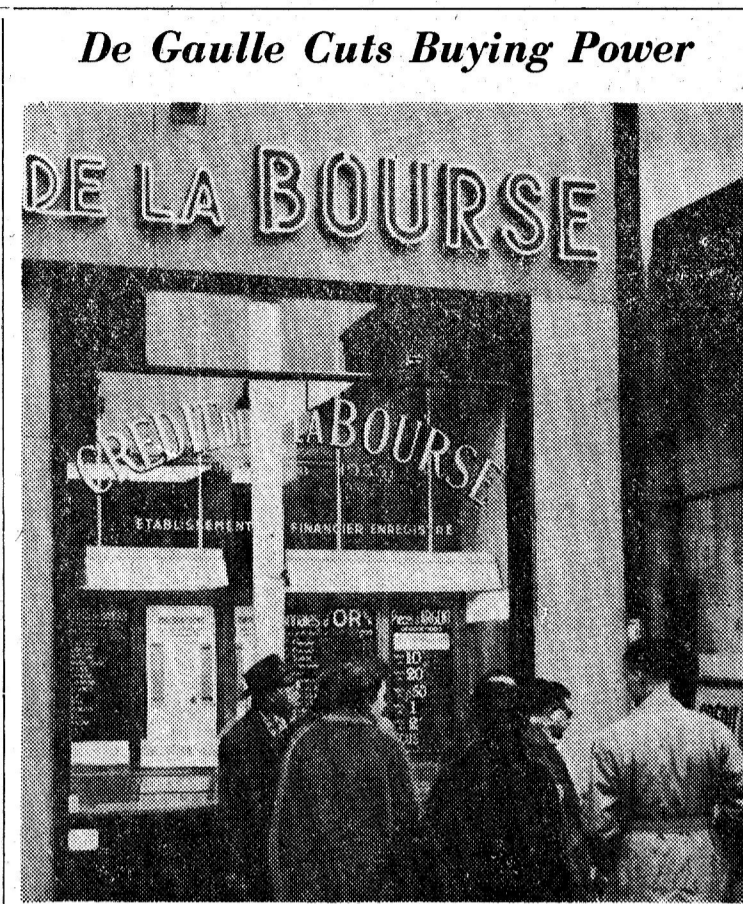
Draghi illustrated the psychological effect of the constant "snooping, intimidations and threats of firing" with the incident of the worker who received a letter from KCOP Christmas morning telling him he was fired. The man had a nervous breakdown, hit a telephone pole while driving, and is now in the psychiatric ward at the Los Angeles General Hospital.

FOREIGN TRADE

According to a Federal Reserve System report, the drop in sales of U.S. products overseas from mid-1957 to early 1958 "exceeded \$4 billion at an annual rate and was one of the major factors in the eight-month decline in U.S. economic activity."

Calendar Of Events

"Youth and Socialism" — a debate between Tim Wohlforth and Michael Harrington. Friday, Jan. 16: 8:30 p.m. Auspices Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place (near Union Square). Contribution 50 cents.



People stand in front of a closed stock exchange office in Paris, discussing De Gaulle's decree pegging the franc at 493.7 to the dollar instead of the previous 420. The effect of the devaluation move was to lower the ability of the French workers to buy foreign goods.

continued, "union shop stewards and business agents openly solicit funds and support for the White Citizens Council, and in Front Royal, Va., a local affiliate to the Textile Workers Union of America has provided space in the union's building for a class to be conducted by the private school corporation."

In his letter to Meany, Wilkins pointed to the NAACP's record of supporting the work of the AFL-CIO's civil rights department and added that representatives of the NAACP national office were active in the campaign against "right-to-work" bills in Ohio, California and elsewhere.

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Union Bias Scored by NAACP

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today charged that unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO are continuing racial discrimination practices in violation of the declared policy of that body. The charge is made in a document released today by NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins. Prepared by the Association's labor secretary, Herbert Hill, the document was addressed to Boris Shishkin, director of the AFL-CIO civil rights department.

Wilkins wrote to George Meany, AFL-CIO president, Dec. 19, calling attention to the memorandum and declaring, "discrimination can be eliminated only through a systematic program on the part of the leadership of the AFL-CIO to enforce its basic policy of non-discrimination throughout the organized labor movement." As of Dec. 31, no reply had been received from Meany.

The document charges that "In addition to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen which exclude Negroes by constitutional provision, many international unions affiliated to the AFL-CIO continue to exclude Negroes by tacit consent and other AFL-CIO unions limit Negro membership in most instances to segregated or 'auxiliary' locals."

The memorandum cites affidavits of Negro workers charging discrimination by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; United Papermakers and Paperworkers Union; Hodcarriers

Building and Common Laborers Union of America; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association; and Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union.

In a report prepared for delivery to today's meeting of the NAACP board, Hill further amplified these charges, according to the N.Y. Times, particularly in regard to the South. "The leaders of some international unions operating in the South," Hill said, "in seeking to avoid conflict over racial issues, are permitting racist elements to gain control of local union operations.

"... in many instances," he

based "on the idea that it is possible to achieve lasting peace in the present world with imperialism." (Benjamin Davis and George Charney in the Nov. 3, 1957 Worker.)

However, more than a utopian idea of how to achieve peace lies at the root of the Soviet proposal. It stems from the needs of a social strata in the Soviet Union, whose interests the Kremlin represents. This is the caste of privileged and privilege-seeking bureaucrats, who hold the commanding positions in Soviet society. They fear U.S. imperialism's drive against the Soviet property forms, because these property forms are what they feed on like leeches.

They also fear working class revolutions in the capitalist world, because such revolutions would spur the Soviet workers in their struggle to abolish bureaucratic tyranny on the road to constructing socialism. The "solution" the Soviet bureaucracy seeks is a coalition between the Kremlin and Washington, which, while supposedly guaranteeing the Soviet property relations, would hold the line against world revolution.

The Soviet proposal would seem like a good one for imperialism — and Washington keeps an option on it. That is why American officials will listen carefully to Mikoyan while he is here.

American big business policy makers face a contradiction. They continue preparing for

Strike Closes Supermarkets In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 — Grocery clerks who handle 75% of the city's food in 1,000 supermarkets have been off their jobs for the fourth day in a strike-ockout.

Trained, experienced clerks now get only \$2.30 an hour. They are asking for an 82.4-cent hourly package over a five-year period. The employers have offered a 50-cent package over the same period.

Only the huge "We Never Close" Hollywood Ranch Market was shut down by pickets at the beginning of the strike. The pickets were withdrawn the following day but the 1,000 markets remain locked tight and Joseph De Silva of the Retail Clerks maintains they are being kept out by a lockout by the Food Employers Council. Negotiations are continuing.

The FEC proclaims in expensive full-page ads that the clerks are "striking against the housewife." These ads forget that the concern of most housewives, unlike the dummy "housewife" whose name appears in the ad, is how much of the family income can be allowed for food. She knows too that wage increases won through union struggles make budgeting a lot easier; and this applies to the wives of food clerks like anyone else.

analysis in our Sept. 8, 1958, issue of Hershel D. Meyer's condemnation of both Fast and his revelations. — Editor.

Appeal from India

Editor:

I am giving you news that our comrade Kranti Chandra Jain is being victimized by the management of the Amalgamated Electric Company, Ltd., Ajmer (India). Comrade Kranti Chandra is the well-known member of the Ajmer State Electric Employees Union. He was asked by the management of the company to transfer to Chalisgaom (Bombay State), an illegal request. The management's intention was to victimize comrade Chandra and to discourage the union members from taking part in trade union activities in accordance with our fundamental right as granted by the constitution of the country.

So I appeal to you to pass resolutions on this case condemning the victimization of this trade unionist.

The resolution should be addressed to:

(1) N. C. Javeri, Managing Director, A. E. Co. Ltd., 17 B Horniman Circle, Fort Bombay, Bombay.

(2) The Manager, A. E. Co. Ltd., Ajmer Branch, Ajmer, India.

(3) Collector, Ajmer.

(4) Ajmer State Electric Employees Union, Mundri Moholla, Ajmer.

Also I request you to publish this in your organ the Militant.

Yours Comradely,
Kishori Lal Sharma
Mundri Moholla, Ajmer

Yours truly,

A. M. Reeves
Antwerp, Belgium

The first article referred to was a review of Fast's exposures of Stalinist practices which appeared in our Jan. 27, 1958, issue. The second article was an

government with socialist goals was a solution not advanced by the CP leadership.

One might hear the argument that such a course would mean civil war and that the French CP leadership was afraid to take that responsibility because the working class might lose the fight.

I believe it is better to struggle and lose than to suffer the hangman's noose without resistance.

The Paris Commune failed, but it inspired generations of Marxists and workers in their struggles including the Bolshevik October Revolution.

Isadore Warwak
Chicago

On Howard Fast

Editor:

I read with great interest the articles commenting about Howard Fast's book *The Naked God*.

The conclusion of the article by Joseph Hansen: Meyer's real basic thesis is that you can't be a socialist unless you are a loyal follower of the cult of Stalin, or Khrushchev, or whoever happens to head the Soviet bureaucracy. And if you aren't a socialist according to that definition then you have no choice but to be anti-Soviet.

This seems to be true all over the world, for the followers of Soso [Stalin] or Nikita here in this part of the globe profess the same opinion.

Yours truly,
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analysis in our Sept. 8, 1958, issue of Hershel D. Meyer's condemnation of both Fast and his revelations. — Editor.

The French Events

Editor:
The setback to the French labor movement with de Gaulle's "cold" coming to power, and its harmful effect on the world labor movement demands study by working-class forces everywhere. It is only by discovering the causes of this defeat to the labor movement that class-conscious workers can turn this tragedy to some account.

How was it possible that in France, where two mass parties of the working-class, the Socialist and Communist parties, who represented a majority, that a Bonapartist regime serving the interests of French and world imperialism and opening the road to fascism could take power without a serious struggle against it by the French masses?

French SP leader Guy Mollet, who helped ease De Gaulle's path, is openly serving in the cabinet of De Gaulle.

French CP leaders remained in the parliamentary trap of "New Peaceful Paths to Socialism." The alternatives confronting France, revolution or counter-revolution, was according to French CP leaders, not that but democracy or fascism. The democracy they referred to, capitalist democracy, was clearly not the answer. The French events demonstrate once again that when the capitalist class is in a blind alley it overthrows bourgeois parliamentary forms. Hence, the struggle for democracy is bound up with the struggle against capitalism for a democratic socialist society. The fight for a workers

More Democracy in China

"I firmly believe there is more democracy in Communist China than in the United States."

These words were not said by an official of the People's Republic of China. They were among the remarks made to newsmen by Richard G. Corden, an American soldier captured by Chinese troops in the Korean war, when he reached Hongkong Dec. 19 on his way home from China to the United States.

Seeking grist for the capitalist propaganda mills, the reporters asked Corden whether he was disillusioned with Communism.

"I'm very impressed by Communism," Corden was quoted as replying.

Corden was the leader of a group of 21 American GI's who at the end of the Korean war preferred to stay in China rather than return to the United States.

Corden had a special reason for making this choice. He was interested in ancient Chinese literature. But he had other reasons, "lots of reasons — all of them started in prisoner-of-war camps. I had three more years to do in the army and I was pretty sick of the Korean war."

Notes in the News

WISCONSIN SOCIALIST VOTE

The Socialist Workers Party vote in Wisconsin last November was 1,485 for Wayne Leverenz for governor and 1,226 for James E. Boulton for U.S. senator. Georgia Cozzini, Socialist Labor candidate for senator polled 537. SWP campaigners are pleased with the vote because it was higher than that of 1952. At the same time they point to a number of instances that indicate their full vote had not been counted. For instance, in Sheboygan County, seat of the bitter Kohler strike, the count was six for Boulton and zero for Leverenz. In 1952, the SWP was credited with 100 votes. In Dane County, Boulton polled 140, while Leverenz was credited with only six.

DIGEST OF CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

Richard B. Tussey, Eric J. Reinthaler and Jerry Gordon, the resident Steering Committee named by the National Conference of American Socialists, which was held in Cleveland Nov. 28-30, have announced that a summary and digest of the proceedings is in preparation. Advance orders for the 50-page report are requested. The estimated cost is \$1.50. Contributions are also asked to help defray the deficit left by the conference. Those who send \$3 or more will receive a copy of the digest free of additional cost. The address is Committee of Correspondence, P.O. Box 5407, Cleveland 1, Ohio.

ASK CLEMENCY

A New Year's plea for clemency for Gilbert Green and Henry Winston was made to Eisenhower by a group of liberals and socialists who published their letter in a quarter-page advertisement in the Jan. 5 New York Times. Green and Winston are the last members of the Communist Party still in prison on charges of violating the Smith Act. Among the signers were A. J. Muste, Culbert L. Olson, Norman Thomas and Howard Fast.

PROTEST TWENTY-YEAR SENTENCE

Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade have sent telegrams to John Foster Dulles, Spanish Ambassador De Arellazar and U.S. Ambassador Lodge protesting a 20-year sentence by the Franco regime of Leoncio Pena, a veteran of the U.S. Army. "This sentence is tantamount to death," the telegrams pointed out. The group scored the persecution of political opponents by the Franco regime and expressed its concern over the jailing of edu-

Similarly on his decision to return to the United States, Corden had a special reason—he was homesick.

On top of that he was unable to finish his studies in ancient Chinese literature. Corden did not go into this, but it seems that he, like most students in China, was not permitted to concentrate on school work. He volunteered with the others to supplement his studies with factory or field work.

He found himself carrying baskets of earth on a dike project near Wuhan, but "it was tough work and I could not keep it up."

Letters from China indicate that even doctors and medical specialists, who are relatively few and therefore heavily burdened with patients, are expected to volunteer "after hours" for heavy work in construction, planting or harvesting.

Corden's home is in East Providence, Rhode Island. Now 31 years old, the former GI said that he had nothing to be ashamed of. He said that he had learned "a lot" during his five-year stay in China.

As for "talk that China is a backward, stupid country, [that's] just a laugh."

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STRONTIUM INCREASE IN MILK

The United States Public Health Service reported Jan. 4 that levels of radioactive strontium 90 increased during September in eight out of ten sampling stations across the country. The increase was due to recent tests of nuclear weapons. Besides causing bone cancer and leukemia, the radioactive poison induces damaging genetic changes that can affect generations for centuries to come.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN

With the ouster of Batista and the assurance that Cuba's sugar crop would be harvested a sharp drop occurred in sugar futures in New York. Said the Christian Science Monitor (Jan. 2): "Dealers reported general selling, predominantly by commission houses, in the belief the end of the war will increase Cuba's exports and hike global supplies, but they doubted the decline in futures would affect the price of sugar to consumers."

WHOOPIING IT UP IN FOREIGN PLACES

After a night of revelry in Pisa on New Year's, some American tourists tied a steel cable around the famous Leaning Tower and fastened it to the rear bumper of an automobile. The car roared forward; but the tower did not straighten up. Instead, the bumper came ripping off the car.

In Havana on the same night another American tourist had a different experience. Harry Pratt of New York went to sleep after a big party and was awakened by "what I thought was a terribly noisy celebration."

MARCH AGAINST SEGREGATION

Some 1,000 Negroes and a few whites marched 17 blocks in pelting rain in Richmond Jan. 2 to protest the shutdown of schools in Virginia. The demonstration was labeled by its leaders a "pilgrimage of prayer for public schools." At the steps of the state capitol a rally was held, where the demonstrators shouted their approval of a resolution calling for a change of policy. Gov. Almond had been invited to be present but he did not choose to accept and he kept his whereabouts a secret. Sponsors of the demonstration said that they were surprised at the size of the turnout. They had not expected more than 500.

... Mikoyan Visits U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)

for collaboration between the Kremlin and Washington to police the world against revolutionary change. It is in that sense that Moscow seeks to "carve up" the world with U.S. imperialism. By mutual agreement, the world — already divided into two antagonistic social systems, one based on nationalized property and planning and the other on capitalist property relations — would remain divided indefinitely the same way. In the Kremlin's schema, trade, some disarmament, nuclear-test cessation, etc., would be obtained as concessions from imperialism in exchange for a status-quo deal.

Defending the type of agreement the Kremlin is seeking, two American Communist Party leaders explained that it is

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Local Directory

- BOSTON: Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. Every Sunday night, round table discussion, 8 P.M., Room 200.
- CHICAGO: Militant Forum, 831 Main St. Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736.
- CLEVELAND: Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9.
- DETROIT: Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.
- LOS ANGELES: Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4853 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M.
- MILWAUKEE: 150 East Juneau Ave.
- MINNEAPOLIS: Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays.
- NEWARK: Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J.
- NEW YORK CITY: Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852.
- OAKLAND-BERKELEY: P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif.
- PHILADELPHIA: Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave.
- SAN FRANCISCO: The Militant, 1145 Folk St., Rm. 4. Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321.
- SEATTLE: 655 Main St., MU 2-7139. Library, bookstore. Classes every Friday evening at 8 P.M. Open House following at 10:30 P.M.
- ST. LOUIS: For information phone MO 4-7194