

Conference in Mexico Hails Cuban Example

By Joseph Hansen

MEXICO CITY, March 9 — The Latin-American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace, which ended yesterday, reflected in the most vivid way the depth and intensity of desire among the 200,000,000 people below the Rio Grande to break out of poverty and stagnation and win their rightful place in the modern world of technological and cultural progress.

The delegates were unanimous in their opinion that U.S. imperial-

ism is the main obstacle to the swift and rounded development of Latin America which could bring prosperity to the masses. They were likewise unanimous on the need to defend the Cuban Revolution against counterrevolutionary attack and American aggression. The revolutionary course of the Cuban people was held to point the road to victory for every Latin-American country in seeking political independence and economic freedom.

A most significant development — so far as the pattern of "peace"

conferences is concerned — was the general realization, repeatedly voiced by the delegates in their deliberations, that the way to a world of enduring peace lies through revolutionary struggle against imperialist reaction and its native allies and agents.

This linking of the concepts of peace and revolution lifted the conference out of the realm of pious declarations about the need to end war. True, some of the delegates proudly displayed bulky petitions containing thousands of "peace" signatures which they had

collected, but this did not become the business of the conference.

Instead, the delegates preoccupied themselves with the main economic and political problems of Latin America. They related the solutions to the struggle between U.S. imperialism and the Cuban Revolution. The theme of peace thus took on revolutionary content. In Latin America, it is clear from this conference, the opposition to a war of nuclear destruction is moving toward the channels of political and social revolution.

All the Latin-American countries were represented. Mexico, of course, had the largest delegation — some 2,000 — but there were impressive delegations from countries like Argentina and Chile where long trips had to be made at considerable expense.

(The counterrevolutionary press claims that the conference cost \$400,000, of which half was laid out by the "Cuban Embassy" and half by the "Soviet Embassy." The truth is that each delegation covered its own expenses. The Mexi-
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THE MILITANT

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Rights Fight Mounts Throughout South

"Don't Buy for Easter" campaigns directed against Jim Crow business establishments, coupled with sit-ins and stand-ins from South Carolina to Texas, brought the Southern rights fight to a new pitch last week. The militant demonstrations spread despite racist violence and wholesale arrests.

In downtown Louisville, Ky., 177 Negroes were arrested as they re-

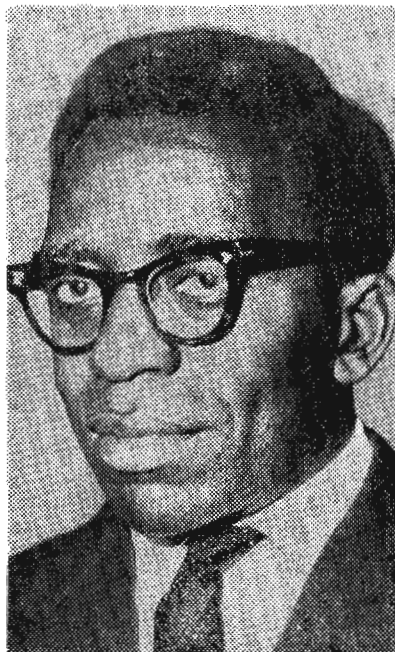
newed stand-in demonstrations against segregated eating places and theaters.

A Chattanooga Negro Episcopal priest was slugged by a white hoodlum as he marched with high school students demanding an end to Jim Crow at a local theater. The attack on the minister came after four successive days of white attacks on the students. The demonstrators had to defend themselves against knives, flying rocks and garbage cans.

In Rock Hill, S. C., scene of the student jail-in movement, William Massey, who spent 30 days on the chain gang, was arrested again on a dime-store picket line. The day before he was knocked unconscious when a gang of whites attacked the pickets while cops looked the other way.

In Lynchburg, Va., the employment color bar was cracked when Leggett's department store hired two Negro sales clerks, the first such in a white-operated store in the city. Seven other downtown stores agreed to follow suit to avert a planned Easter season boycott.

And in Maryland, Glen Echo Amusement Park decided to open its gates to Negroes. Scores of Negro and white demonstrators were arrested there last fall. Picket lines were extended throughout the area and won integration of restaurants and lunch counters in Bethesda and Rockville.



Antoine Gizenga

Union Leader Urges Fair Play for Cuba

SAN FRANCISCO — Despite last-minute cancellation by a municipally-operated auditorium, more than 700 people attended a Fair Play for Cuba rally March 11. They heard Longshoremen's union president Harry Bridges and Robert F. Williams, militant Southern Negro leader. Paul A. Baran, Stanford economics professor, presided. The rally would have been even larger but many people could not be informed of the new meeting place.

National Tour

The meeting wound up the Bay Area portion of a national speaking tour by Williams for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. In Berkeley and San Jose he addressed University of California, San Francisco State College and San Jose State College students and a Negro church audience.

The contract for Nourse Auditorium, operated by the San Francisco Board of Education, was cancelled after every insurance company in the area refused to sell the committee the liability insurance required for meetings at the hall.

Williams told the rally that in Cuba, "I saw an integrated army of an integrated nation taking over the segregated property of the Jim-Crow Texaco oil company. American reporters asked me if I didn't feel angry that the Cubans were taking over American property. I answered, 'What property? I have no property here.' I couldn't feel too much sympathy for this company that exported Jim Crow to Cuba."

Harry Bridges declared that as a unionist he felt it "in my own interest and in the interest of the American people" to defend Cuba against the attack on its sovereignty.

Kennedy Hurts Jobless By Opposing Cut in Hours

By Tom Kerry

Shortening the work week without cutting weekly pay is an indispensable part of any serious program to fight unemployment and the pernicious effects of automation.

So President Kennedy dealt the unemployed a heavy blow at his March 15 press conference when he threw the weight of his administration against a shorter work week. By the same act he pleased and aided the big businessmen and bankers, for whom a shorter week would mean lower profits.

In defense of his position "new frontiersman" Kennedy argued that the 40-hour week is "traditional in this country." This is a sign of either ignorance or deceit.

The Real Tradition

We haven't always had a 40-hour week. The previous "tradition" was 50 hours, 60, 70. Hours were lowered, and new traditions were created, because the workers and their unions fought bitter battles to cut the work week. And in each battle they had to contend with the stubborn resistance of businessmen and politicians who wanted to stick to the old, longer-week "traditions," just as the



TOM KERRY, labor editor of the Militant, who began a national speaking tour in the Midwest last week on the subject, Jobs for All: A Program for American Labor. Reaching Los Angeles around April 1, he will be speaking at major centers along the West Coast until the middle of the month.

Divide-and-Rule Plotted for Congo

Having murdered Premier Patrice Lumumba because he stood for a united and independent Congo, the imperialist powers are now using their Congolese stooges to try to carve up the country into a so-called confederation of so-called sovereign states which would be helpless spheres of economic exploitation and political manipulation by foreign corporations and banks.

Divide-and-rule has always been a favorite imperialist method of controlling colonies and sucking them dry of their wealth and resources. And imperialists seldom lack for traitors and accomplices among the people they exploit.

A select crew of these — including Moise Tshombe of Katanga, puppet of the Belgian imperialists, and Joseph Kasavubu of Leopoldville, favorite quisling of the U.S. and British imperialists got together this month outside of the country, at Tananarive in the Malagasy Republic, and said they were dissolving the Congo Republic and replacing it by a loose federation of ten or more states. Each these states, they said, would be autonomous, except that they would collaborate in foreign affairs under Kasavubu, who has UN recognition.

Whether Tshombe, Kasavubu and their masters will get away

with this scheme is still uncertain. They (and UN representative Rajeshwar Dayal) invited and pressured Antoine Gizenga, Lumumba's deputy premier, who heads the government at Stanleyville, but he refused to attend their conference. Afterwards, Gizenga rejected their partition plans and demanded a meeting of the legally-elected Congolese parliament in a neutral country.

While the imperialists who dominate the UN gave a go-ahead signal for the Tananarive conference, they have been cautious up to now about publicly endorsing its decisions. They fear that the plan may boomerang to the benefit of the Gizenga forces, who already control 30 per cent of the Congo and may gain added support as the only advocates of a centralized Congo government.

If it seems unwise to proceed quickly with the confederation move, the imperialists will probably try to carry out the UN's Feb. 21 resolution — to use force to establish the kind of regime and the kind of "law and order" that are most favorable for colonial exploitation. The Congo events have opened many eyes to the true nature of the UN, but more is yet to come. No course is too foul for those whose hands are stained with the blood of Lumumba.

Henry Ford IIs and John F. Kennedys do today.

The real tradition in this country is for workers to try to shorten the week and for bosses to try to maintain or lengthen it. The bosses have always cried that shorter hours for labor would mean disaster and economic stagnation. If the workers of the past had listened to the Kennedys of the past, we'd still be working a 70-hour week. Fortunately, they didn't listen, but fought for their needs.

That's what has to be done now too, Kennedy says he hopes "we can have employment high five days a week and 40 hours." But pious hopes don't fill foodbaskets or pay rent. The fact is that the profit system is becoming less and less able to provide full employment, and that the reserve army of permanently unemployed gets bigger after every recession.

That is the basis for the growing sentiment among auto, steel and other workers for the 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay. Kennedy condemns this or any other cut as "arbitrary." But he's the last one who should talk about arbitrariness. Because, as he says, the best he hopes to achieve through his program is to lower the unemployment rate to 4 per cent. That is, he will be satisfied if almost three million workers remain permanently jobless.

What Comes First

Cutting hours to provide jobs for all may seem arbitrary if you think that profits come ahead of everything else. But it is reasonable, rational and absolutely necessary if you think that unemployment is a crime against human beings.

Kennedy's attack won't stop the movement for the shorter week. All it will do is show that this movement can't expect any help from the old capitalist parties, including the liberals. If unemployment is to be erased, the workers, employed and unemployed, will have to do it themselves — with their own program and through their own party.

Rubber Workers Ask 30-Hr. Week

AKRON — On the eve of contract negotiations with the major rubber companies, 160 delegates from 104 locals of the United Rubber Workers met in Cleveland last week and voted to seek, among other objectives, the 30-hour week with no loss in pay in all rubber plants. The action came after Kennedy's March 15 statement opposing a shorter work week.

The standard work week in Akron rubber plants, center of the industry, is now 36 hours. In Canadian and some U.S. plants it is 40.

About 21,000 members of the union, one-sixth of the membership, have been laid off in the current recession.

Socialists Ask for Votes In Los Angeles, Michigan

By Della Rossa

LOS ANGELES, March 17 — Speaking as a fellow member of the Carpenters union, Oscar G. Coover, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, reminded Local 1976 here this week that Peter McGuire, founder of the Carpenters international, was a socialist too.

The Carpenters' Los Angeles district council has just come out for the four-day week with no reduction in weekly pay. Coover praised this step and noted that he and the Socialist Workers Party are fighting for the 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay to meet the problems of unemployment and automation.

"Peter McGuire, in his time, fought for the 8-hour day," Coover said. "Now we're going for 30-for-40 — but we can't get it until we change politically. We must organize our own labor party, with our own candidates running on a labor program.

"COPE's endorsement of Mayor Poulson is a tragedy," he continued. "Poulson has been anti-labor all the eight years he has been in city hall." He urged the local to repudiate Poulson.

After hearing Coover, an unemployed member of Local 1976 sent in a contribution to his campaign committee.

Yesterday tens of thousands of radio listeners heard Coover defend the Cuban revolution in a 45-minute broadcast over station KNX.

After briefly explaining his platform on Ralph Story's *Firing Line*, Coover spent the rest of the program answering questions phoned in by listeners, most of whom seemed eager to learn more about what is really happening in Cuba.

Coover showed that the revolution has benefited "the mass of the Cuban people, and I support that. It's true that it has curtailed the special privileges of a minority of exploiters, but I have no sympathy with those people."



WILLIAM HATHAWAY, student at Los Angeles City College, is a candidate of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party for Office No. 2 of the Los Angeles Board of Education. The election will be held April 4.

Twin Cities Drivers Win End of Bus Speed Up

By Joe Baker

MINNEAPOLIS — Bus drivers in Minneapolis and St. Paul won a victory March 16 over the speed-up policy of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company. For three days the men stuck rigidly to the company work rules that heavy schedules have long forced them to ignore. These were three days of tardy service which saw dozens of rush-hour runs cancelled and hundreds of riders stranded on street corners.

Union officials said that tight company schedules "practically force" drivers to break some traffic regulations. Howard Valois, president of Transit Employees Division 1005, said: "Drivers represented by the union had been badgered for six months — especially older employes have been called in for 45-minute reviews of their driving records. Many interviews ended with the threat, 'one more accident will mean dismissal.'"

At a union meeting last Sunday afternoon members recommended that bus drivers who have been making extra trips turn down the overtime and that they begin a safety campaign based on a literal interpretation of the company's book of regulations. This combination of fewer available drivers and rule-book observance brought the company to agreement.

Now a new survey of the bus runs will be made by former bus drivers and union representatives will make sure the surveys are fair.

Moneylenders' Paradise

The U.S. national debt was recently reported to be \$289,769,978,638.13.

DETROIT, March 18 — A demand for an honest count in the April 3 state election was made today by Robert Himmel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Michigan superintendent of public instruction.

Secretary of State Hare's office had just disclosed, after a check of last November's election records, "that not all the election boards have been crediting the vote for the minor party candidates on the statement sheets."

"I may not win the election," Himmel said, "but an accurate count of the votes would reflect the growing discontent with both parties of capitalism, Democratic and Republican. It is in the interest of democracy and fair play that citizens have the knowledge that there are a growing number of people who wish to change this war-and-depression system."

Frank Lovell, Socialist Workers state chairman, said:

"I hope this admission by Hare's office knocks some of the wind out of the sails of House Bill 159, designed to double the requirements for minority parties to get on the ballot. Apparently those who claim to be looking for a 'show of strength' to justify a place for the SWP on the ballot have based themselves on a fraudulent count of the votes." Lovell was referring to Rep. Russell Strange and Bill 159, introduced last month.

"Or perhaps," Lovell continued, "they are afraid the real number of votes of the SWP is growing too rapidly for them, and they don't want any competition."

The SWP will wind up its spring campaign for state educational offices Sat. evening, April 1, with an election rally and social at 3737 Woodward, Detroit.

In this campaign the main points of the SWP program are:

End the cold war; use the arms funds for social welfare.

A free education for all, including college; lift all restrictions on academic freedom and democratic rights.

The 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay; jobless compensation for the duration of unemployment.

Tax the rich, not the poor; no taxes on family incomes under \$7,500 a year.

Abolish racial discrimination and segregation in all fields.

Vote against the state constitutional convention amendment that would perpetuate unrepresentative government and open the way to heavier taxation on working people.

Other Socialist Workers candidates besides Himmel are Larry Dolinski, state board of education; Sarah Lovell and Edith Gbur, University of Michigan board of regents; Robert Fink, Michigan State University board of trustees; Harriet Talan, Wayne State University board of governors.

SWP Candidate Balks At Illegal N. J. Oath

Acting on behalf of Ruth Shiminsky, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New Jersey, the American Civil Liberties Union has demanded that the secretary of state stop requiring candidates for state office to sign a "loyalty" oath that was declared unconstitutional eleven years ago.

Mrs. Shiminsky refused to sign the oath which had been struck down by the state supreme court in a case involving James Imbrie who was Progressive Party candidate for governor.

After the ACLU threatened contempt action March 11, the secretary of state's office denied it had told Mrs. Shiminsky that she would be denied ballot status if she refused to sign.

A Reply to New York Paper On Case of Major Morgan

NEW YORK — The author of the following letter to the WORLD-TELEGRAM is secretary of the New York Fair Play for Cuba Committee:

Your editorial March 13 entitled "Cuban Executions" ends: "We wonder what the so-called 'Fair Play for Cuba Committee' — apologist for Castro — has to say about this."

The answer is simple: we say that trials in Cuba and punishments meted out at them should be judged by Americans on the same basis as trials in other countries. Despite your assertion, we are not apologists for the Cuban government, we simply seek fair play for it. That is something which your newspaper is decidedly not giving. On the contrary, along with the rest of the daily press of this country, it is trying to whip up a lynch campaign against Cuba.

I personally am opposed to capital punishment but I cannot condemn Cuba any more for passing death sentences than I do the other nations of the world. Since your policy is not against capital punishment I cannot see any basis for your editorial on the execution of William A. Morgan — unless you believe he was innocent of the charges against him. Yet nowhere — in your news dispatches about his trial nor in your editorial — is this stated or implied.

What Evidence Was

I hasten to add that if I believed Morgan innocent and his trial a frame-up I would have raised my voice in protest. But the evidence of the witnesses at his trial, as reported in the anti-Castro press of this country, made it appear conclusive that Major Morgan had indeed been secretly delivering arms to the guerrillas in the Escambray. Since these weapons were used to kill Cuban militiamen, I doubt that there is any government in the world which would not have carried out a similar court martial with a similar verdict.

The trials which have taken place recently in Cuba should be distinguished from those which took place soon after Batista's overthrow. The latter were "war criminal" trials, patterned on the *ex post facto* legal principle which this country endorsed for the Nuremberg "war criminal" trials. No anti-Batista Cubans question the guilt of those so tried. Their crimes during the dictatorship, totaling at least 20,000 murdered or executed (proportionately larger than U.S. battle deaths in both world wars), were as well known to the public as those of Himmler, Eichmann and their Nazi henchmen.

By calling for revolutionary law and order and promising that Batista's professional murderers and torturers would be brought to public trial when the revolution triumphed, Castro prevented the outbreak of bloody and indiscriminate vengeance by relatives and friends of the victims — such as took place after the overthrow of Machado in 1933.

Not Afraid to Talk

I was in Cuba just before the State Department rang down an iron curtain to prevent U.S. citizens from going to Cuba and discovering for themselves how false a picture they have been getting of the true situation there.

I and other Americans traveled about freely and unaccompanied, talking to whomever we pleased. Although we found people opposed to the regime to be in a small minority, still we met a number of such — especially in the upper class districts of Havana. They were not at all hesitant to speak out to us in criticism of the Castro government, nor afraid to do this

in Spanish in crowded buses, restaurants, etc.

The point is that people were not being tried for "opposing the regime," as the U.S. press puts it, but for overt acts of a military and terrorist nature. Such acts include planting bombs in public places, firing shots from speeding cars into crowds, shooting or running over lone militiamen, killing rural school teachers (as in the Mexican Revolution, educators of the illiterate peasants are regarded as the worst kind of communists). The perpetrators of such deeds are, to be sure, "opponents of the regime." But they are not being tried for their political opposition but for their acts which would be punishable under any code of law.

People may be sent to prison for their political beliefs in this country (Smith Act) and in the Soviet Union and in a number of Latin-American countries high in the favor of our State Department, but from my observations and inquiries this was not true in Cuba in January nor is it so now.

The Real Crime?

I imagine it could become so if the threats of invasion, the hostile acts, the air drops to guerrillas, the assassination attempts and sabotage continue. If this comes about, I think history will place the blame not on the Castro regime but on our big corporations, the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (which, according to U.S. press sources, gives at least \$400,000 a month to Cuban counterrevolutionaries for invasion preparations and terrorism).

So how about a little fair play for Cuba? If you can't give as friendly a press as you did to Batista's Cuba or the Perez Jimenez's Venezuela, how about waxing as wrath about Spain, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, El Salvador and other "allies" as you do about Cuba? These countries, of course, are untainted by any charges of trying to improve the living conditions of the common people at the expense of the U.S. corporations' investments. Can this be the real "crime" for which you are condemning Cuba?

Berta Green

Los Angeles

An Election Dinner - Meeting

Guest Speaker

TOM KERRY

Labor Editor, *The Militant*

on

Kennedy — Friend or Foe of Labor?

Sat., April 1

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 8 p.m.

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Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

Socialist Workers Party Election Rally and Social. Sat., April 1, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.

MINNEAPOLIS

Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein, just returned from abroad, speaks on *The Cultural Climate in the USSR and Eastern Europe*. Tues., April 4, 8:15 p.m. 704 Hennepin Ave. Hall 240. Contrib. \$1 (students 50 cents). Aisp. Twin Cities Labor Forum.

NEW YORK

The New Left Movement and the Views of C. Wright Mills. Second of two lectures by William F. Warde. Fri., March 31, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Pl. Contrib. 50 cents. Aisp. Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance.

Local Directory

BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-5044. If no answer, call HU 6-7025.

CLEVELAND. Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euclid Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

DENVER. Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California. Main 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227 1/2 California. Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. TEmple 1-6135.

LOS ANGELES. Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily, Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.

MINNEAPOLIS. Socialist Workers Party and Labor Book Store, 704 Hennepin Ave., Hall 240. FEderal 2-7781.

NEWARK. Newark Labor Forum, Box 361. Newark, New Jersey.

NEW YORK CITY. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place. AL 5-7852.

OAKLAND-BERKELEY. P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. Phone OL 5-1764.

PHILADELPHIA. Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday 8 p.m., followed by open house. Call PO 3-5820.

ST. LOUIS. Phone Main 1-0969. Ask for Dick Clarke.

SEATTLE. 1412 18th Ave. EA 5-0191. Library, bookstore. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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Castro Tells Kennedy Something

On March 13 Kennedy announced a "ten-point, ten-year" economic and social "development program" for Latin America to meet "the challenge" of "a future full of peril, but bright with hope." Nine points consist of pious generalities. One point is a request to Congress to appropriate \$600,000,000 for Latin America. Of this amount, \$500,000,000 was authorized last September at Eisenhower's request. The remaining \$100,000,000 was authorized for "long-term" rehabilitation of earthquake areas in Chile.

On the same day Fidel Castro, speaking in Havana, analyzed the perspectives facing the Cuban people under the siege laid on the small island by the U.S., mightiest imperialist power on earth. Many hardships and difficulties are to be expected, he said. Some consumer goods went into short supply soon after the economic blockade was applied; other goods will become unobtainable. The denial of spare parts will affect maintenance of many kinds of machines. But no major breakdown of the economy will occur, thanks to timely aid from the Soviet bloc and other countries. And the rise in agricultural production since the 1959 victory assures the Cuban people that they will not go hungry; in fact, ordinary people who starved in Batista's time are now guaranteed all the basic necessities.

As to the long-range perspectives, these are most promising, Castro said. Colonialism and imperialism have become outlived and are doomed.

"We can tell Mr. Kennedy something," Castro declared. "A victorious revolution will be seen in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba."

Mankind is moving away from capitalism and toward the establishment of planned economies. Castro cited the impressive performance of the Soviet Union in rebuilding after the devastation of World War II and going on at such a rate that it is only a question of time until it overtakes the United States. America, on the other hand, which escaped devastation, which has not lost a screw in the past fifty years, "unless it be screws in the heads of its leaders," is unable to run its economy at anywhere near capacity.

"What Kennedy does not tell us is why, why the industrial capacity possessed by the country has produced much less than it could have produced; what he does not tell us is that this crisis of hunger, this increase in poverty, is simply the consequence of imperialism . . ."

This telling reply to Kennedy received but scant attention in the venal American press. At best only isolated sentences were reported and these were torn out of context, garbled and misrepresented as part of an unwarranted "attack" on the tiny, defenseless United States. But in the eyes of the majority of mankind, the U.S. government is a conscienceless bully trying to crush a valiant people that want only to be left in peace.

Laos - Another Korea?

"Will American military units be fighting in Laos next week or next month?" begins an editorial in the March 22 *New York Times*.

Alarming though the question is, it is put seriously by a capitalist newspaper noted for its avoidance of sensationalism. For the fact is, though the American people are not aware of it, this country has once again been taken to the brink of war — this time by President Kennedy over the Laos situation.

The American people were not consulted about the decision which has perched us on the brink of war in Laos nor will they have a voice or means of affecting the next decision rapidly coming up — the commitment of U.S. land, sea and air forces to actual battle. That decision will be made by Kennedy, if it hasn't been already, like the preceding decisions in secret conferences with top advisors.

Going to war in Laos would be a repetition of Truman's "police action" in Korea — one of the bloodiest and most unpopular wars in American history. And, as was the case in Korea, a war in Laos carries the built-in danger of exploding into nuclear world war.

Yet Kennedy's Democratic administration, like that of Republican Eisenhower, is willing to shed the blood of Americans and Laotians, and risk nuclear war to get its way in the tiny southeast Asia country whose very location is unknown to most Americans.

Laos looms large in Washington's Asian policy because it borders China and North Viet Nam. Pentagon and State Department planners for the war to restore capitalism to those two countries desire at any cost to hold the Laotian "gateway" to their southern flank.

But a decision by Washington to start the firing could be based on economic as well as cold-war motives. The U.S. economy is in the midst of a recession. Even more, the general trend of the capitalist economy is slowing down or stagnation. Wouldn't a "police action" in Laos turn the same trick as the Korean war — which "cured" the 1949-50 recession?

Whatever Washington's decision on Laos, the "curative" quality of war for a sick capitalist economy is one of the factors being taken into consideration.

... Mexico Conference Hails Cuba

(Continued from Page 1)
 cans, as hosts, paid for the hall and conference organization. These costs, amounting to some \$15,000, were met through rank-and-file efforts of organizations that supported the conference.)

In political coloration, the conference extended from the left-bourgeois radicalism of former President Lázaro Cárdenas to the terrorist inclinations of underground revolutionary fighters carrying on armed struggles against such dictators as Stroessner of Paraguay.

Much of the organizational work was done by adherents of the Communist party or related tendencies. It should be added, however, that this did not signify Stalinist domination of the conference. The influence of Cárdenas, a firm believer in the principles of democracy, kept the discussion free and open. It should be noted, in addition, that the former Stalinist monolithism in Latin America has been shattered. In Mexico alone at least five split-off currents are vying with the eroded official CP for leadership.

Wanted United Front

In view of the wide political differences among the delegates, it was to be expected that as the discussion on economic and political tasks became more and more concrete, the cleavages would sharpen. The natural inclination of the delegates was to press their individual positions, or the positions of the tendencies they represented. They did this in resolutions, in caucuses, in conversations. At the same time all of them, without exception, were eager to present a united front against U.S. imperialism and in defense of the Cuban Revolution. They were similarly eager to reach common understanding on at least the great basic historic tasks facing all of Latin America.

The contradiction between the limitations of the conference and the political aims of the various

tendencies came most clearly to the fore in the commission that considered what kind of continuing body should be set up.

After considerable debate, the view prevailed that the conference represented essentially a forum of Latin-American opinion as it exists at the moment; that it could realistically seek to express many common views that would serve notice on the State Department and the Cuban counterrevolution; but that it would be unwise to attempt to set up a continuing body with any political or disciplinary mandate.

Vote of Confidence

In appreciation of their contribution in making the conference possible and as a kind of vote of confidence, the three sponsors, Lázaro Cárdenas of Mexico, Alberto T. Casella of Argentina and Domingo Velasco of Brazil, were named as a continuing body entrusted with publication of the resolutions of the conference, the handling of correspondence, and preparations for another gathering to be called in a year or so.

The Cuban Revolution dominated the conference from beginning to end. This was not due to any organizational power plays of the Cuban government in relation to the gathering. The Cuban delegates, in fact, did everything possible to avoid monopolizing attention and leaned over backward lest they be accused of unduly influencing the deliberations.

The effect of this policy was to underline the impact of the Cuban Revolution on the thinking of the delegates. They vied to appear as the best defenders of the Cuban Revolution and as the most alert to its implications for freedom struggles throughout the rest of the hemisphere and the colonial world.

The head of the Cuban delegation, Vilma Espín de Castro, the wife of Raul Castro, did not take the floor until the second day. As she stepped toward the micro-

phone, she was given a tremendous ovation. It was a spontaneous response to the way she symbolized the Cuban Revolution — this vibrant 25-year-old woman, veteran of the heroic underground struggle against dictator Batista, now about to speak for the victorious revolutionary government before this first parliament of 200,000,000 people.

She told how Cuba won its freedom from Spain in 1898 only to become a semicolony under American imperialism. The island, she said, was converted into an immense sugar plantation and the Cubans became "slaves of the dollar."

Through revolution the Cuban people were finally able to destroy latifundism and the mercenary army, the basis of the dictatorship. Now an armed people is defending its revolution. She affirmed the conviction of the Cubans that the counterrevolution will be defeated: "It is possible to struggle against a class, against a dominant group, but it is absolutely impossible to defeat an entire people which has taken possession of the land, which it waters with its blood and sweat, and which has in addition more than enough courage and arms to defend it."

A New Consciousness

She reported the rise of "a new consciousness" in Cuba. People are now able to face both friends and foes on an equal basis. "Now we are able to speak without having our replies dictated. On foot, and not on our knees, which is an undignified posture, in addition to being very uncomfortable for conversation."

"We don't export revolutions," she said. "But neither are we able to prevent the example of Cuba from extending beyond our frontiers and revealing to brother peoples of our America and of the world that imperialism is not invulnerable and that when a united people decides to obtain its full liberty and its total independence there are no forces that can stop it."

Resolutions were passed opposing the Monroe Doctrine and the "Pan-Americanism" of imperialism. The struggle for Puerto Rico's independence received strong support as did the movement for the return of the Panama Canal Zone to Panama.

The State Department's "Hemispheric Defense" was denounced along with American military missions and bases.

Some of the appeals for action were addressed to the United Nations, but the main theme of the conference was that the Latin Americans must rely on their own efforts to win their freedom.

As a delegate from Honduras put it, "In Latin America the hour is one of revolution. Cuba shows it . . . One big question faces us: How to make a revolution at the opportune time."

\$16,000 Socialist Fund Lagging — Six Weeks to Go

By Marvel Scholl
 Fund Drive Director

With this article, we enter the last six weeks of the fund campaign — but we are twenty-five per cent behind schedule as you can see from the scoreboard. Now is the time to really begin bearing down on collecting pledges. It goes without saying that we will be OVER THE TOP BY MAY DAY, but at this point a word of warning is in order.

Frank Lovell of Detroit tells us they sent a letter to all their friends asking contributions both for their election campaign and for this fund. Frank writes, "Some good results are now coming in — we were especially heartened by an anonymous contribution of \$10 from Toledo."

Boston lost its lead this week to Allentown — but if we know those Hub of the Universers that situation will not be allowed to stand very long.

During the past week we, have had some very nice mail — with long green stuff in it. We thank A. C., Rochester, N. Y.; J. R. K., Greensburg, Pa.; C. E. B. and S. R., both of New York City for their generous contributions.

Los Angeles, which also is engaged in an election campaign, is working hard to fulfill its very large quota. They are running a raffle to raise part of the money. George S., L. A. Fund Director, doesn't say what is being raffled, but the idea is worthy of consideration by others. In fact, Ed F., New York's Director, initiated a raffle last week — for a table model Hi-Fi!

I wonder if I might take this opportunity to pass along my congratulations to the many branch fund directors who must be having the same problems I have here in the center. Sleepless nights, with figures and dollar signs chasing themselves around in my head — brilliant ideas which fade in the morning light into the hare-brain schemes they were — a sinking feeling when I don't find any mail on my desk — and a wonderful glow when there is a big pile!

It goes without saying that the wonderful day when the total shows 100% plus will be MAY DAY!

Fund Scoreboard

BRANCH	QUOTA	PAID	PCT.
Allentown	\$ 120	\$ 90	75%
Boston	500	350	70
Detroit	625	405	65
Connecticut	150	95	63
New York	4,400	2,286	52
San Francisco	500	245	49
Cleveland	500	243	49
Chicago	800	350	44
Twin Cities	1,200	450	38
Berkeley-Oakland	500	175	35
St. Louis	90	30	33
Newark	150	49	33
Pittsburgh	10	3	33
Milwaukee	300	93	31
Philadelphia	300	89	30
Los Angeles	5,000	1,385	28
San Diego	280	71	25
Denver	85	15	18
Seattle	500	50	10
General		40	
Totals	\$16,010	\$6,514	41%

Most Likely to Succeed

By George Lavan

I can't for the life of me see what all the ruckus is about down at Rider College in Trenton, N. J.

Rider is one of the oldest business colleges in the country. It numbers among its alumni bankers, corporation executives, in fact a goodly glob of the "cream" of Jersey's business leaders. So why does it expel 22 students for being imbued with the true capitalist spirit and showing initiative?

Here are the facts in the case; judge for yourself.

Back in January a student approached a young administrative aide in the office where the marks are recorded with a hard-luck story. One parent had died, the other was in the hospital. Because of his family troubles his academic record was poor and he had just flunked two more courses. If these failing grades were put on his record he would be dismissed from college. The newspaper accounts don't make it clear whether the student's story was true or a snow job. In either case, the kind-hearted administrative aide altered the student's records so that two failing grades of D appeared as passing C pluses.

When the next marking period

came around 22 of that student's fraternity brothers descended on the good Joe in the records office and laid it on the line. Either he upgrade all their marks or they would expose his original sin and get him fired. He gave in.

Can you conceive of a better example of the application of hard-headed business tactics, of practising that Commandment in the Businessman's Decalogue: Thou shalt never give a sucker an even break? Though practised here by fledglings, this was the spirit that built many of America's industrial empires. Moreover, without any charge they had imparted valuable business education to the administrative aide, namely, that American business, let alone a business college, has no room for do-gooders and bleeding hearts.

Can't you just hear one of these student's tycoon-father proudly telling how his boy had pulled off a real sharp deal while his corporate cronies chuckle and predict that such a boy will go far?

When the matter came to light a few weeks ago the administrative aide was promptly fired in disgrace, then the 22 students were called onto the carpet. No sniveling penitents they! Their first re-

action was to threaten to scandalize the college by spilling the story to the newspapers if any action was taken against them. But while the college authorities were mulling this over, the story leaked out. So they were given some talk about ethics and expelled. But it doesn't seem to have abashed them. "The thing that alarmed me," said Dean McBane, who had read them the lecture, "there was no feeling of moral guilt in them."

As for the students themselves, their expulsion should be considered as advance graduation — it is obvious they were ahead of their classmates anyhow. Their whole venture should count as a thesis or original work project required of some scientific students and should rate a commercial *summa cum laude*.

Their careers ruined? Nonsense! Talent scouts from the big corporations, who usually visit the campuses in June looking for embryo executives, are probably tracing them down right now. Chances are that General Electric, which has had to retire some of its top executives because of their 30-day sentences on the price-fixing conspiracy rap, have got half of these promising lads signed up already.

Shame, Blame and Gravy

By Fred Halstead

This month the Ford Motor Company issued an annual report to stockholders, whose essence can be summed up by the refrain of the old English song: "It's the rich what gets the gravy, it's the poor what gets the blame."

The report reveals that the company made \$427.8 million in straight, unconcealed profits in 1960. The dividend to stockholders was increased from \$2.80 in 1959 to \$3.00 in 1960, an increase of 7.1%. During the same period, the increase in hourly wage rates and fringe benefits came to only 4.4%.

Under the heading of additional gravy is \$33.6 million in bonuses for the year which, the report

shows, was passed out among Ford's top managerial employees—about 7,000 persons.

This amount is about \$1.5 million more than the total of all raises and increased benefits received in 1960 by all Ford's hourly-rated workers — about 120,000 persons.

Under the heading of blame, the report to the stockholders contains the following statement: "Management believes it essential to hold the line on all costs, avoiding particularly any labor cost increases that could force us to raise prices."

Could it be that what the company really means is that wage increases might force Ford executives (who are also large stock-

holders) to cut down on their own bonuses and dividends?

The chorus to the old song runs: "It's the rich what gets the gravy. It's the poor what gets the blame. It's the same the whole world over. Ain't it all a bloomin' shame."

It will be a bloomin' shame if anybody in the labor movement falls for the company-inspired argument that wage increases — or the shorter work week — can't be granted because they would cause inflation. It's just a question of which you think is more important: decent pay and jobs for honest workers; or more wealth for the double talkers who've already got too much. There is nothing sacred about profits or the privileges of executives, you know.

It Was Reported in the Press

Man for the Job? — Charles J. Conrad, a Republican assemblyman in California, is urging Congress to okay chemical warfare against "Communist-inspired uprisings throughout the world." Queried on the possibility of this damaging the U.S. propaganda-wise, he replied: "A glib fellow like Adlai Stevenson could get the idea across in the United Nations that the Americans are actually showing great humanity."

Big Deal Department — "Registered blind persons in Britain recently were granted a 25 per cent reduction in yearly television licenses." — A London UPI dispatch.

Jobless Aid Program — To eliminate unemployment, says the National Association of Manufacturers, don't increase the minimum wage, don't liberalize old age benefits, don't provide medical care for the aged, don't give federal aid to education or depressed areas and don't extend unemployment compensation. Just cut the taxes on the rich and put new curbs on unions.

Lettuce Strike Broken — The lettuce harvesters strike in California's Imperial Valley was called off March 18 by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and the United Packinghouse Workers. The unions assailed Secretary of Labor Goldberg as responsible for defeat of the strike, charging he refused to order with-

drawal of Mexican nationals used as strikebreakers until after the harvest peak had passed. They said Goldberg refused to act despite demands by the Mexican government that its nationals be removed.

Sliding Scale of Hours — A plan for a federal hours law that would automatically reduce the work week without cutting pay whenever unemployment becomes serious was outlined to the AFL-CIO executive council last month by O. A. Knight, president of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers. Meanwhile Albert J. Fitzgerald, president of the United Electrical Workers (Ind.), urged a fight for a shorter work week, pointing out that this would be of particular benefit to Negro workers who have been hardest hit by layoffs.

Delivery Fees — From 1953 to 1958 the average cost of having a baby went up from \$193 to \$272, an increase of 42 per cent.

Freedom Train — Commenting on the trial of Pete Seeger, who defied the House Un-American Activities Committee, poet Carl Sandburg said: "I would put Pete Seeger in the first rank of American folk singers. I think he ought to be a free man, roving the American landscape, singing for the audiences who love him — Republicans, Democrats and independents."

Negro Majority in Capital — Washington, D. C., has become the first major city in which Negroes

are a majority of the population. The Census Bureau reports that there are 411,737 Negro residents there, or 53.9 per cent of the population.

Ohio Sanity Law — The Cleveland Civil Liberties Union has urged revision of a state law under which a person can be committed to a mental hospital by a simple affidavit that may be filed by anyone and which is often acted on without investigation. There are reported instances of sane persons snatched from their homes and hospitalized as the result of a marital dispute or neighborhood grudge.

Baltimore Student Harassed — Mrs. Madelyn E. Murray, who filed suit to bar religious teaching in Baltimore public schools, has taken new legal action to end abuse and harassment of her son William, 14, by his teachers. She charged that since William refused to attend Bible readings he has been assigned 45 extra hours of homework a week and has been isolated from other pupils. Meanwhile, Michigan has instructed school boards to end Bible instruction because it violates state and federal constitutional provisos for separation of church and state.

Survival Sale — Food Fair's Jacksonville stores are test-marketing an atomic survival kit containing 42 servings of a "multi-purpose food," 14 pints of canned water, 14 doses of vitamin C, a can opener and miscellaneous hardware. Only \$4.98.

Letters from Our Readers

A Rebuttal

Fairmont, W. Va.

I am enclosing cost of renewal of my subscription. Finances prevent my sending you more.

I would like to answer some recent proposals for changing the style of the *Militant* which have appeared in your letters column.

In the Feb. 13 issue, "H. H." asks for "less 'blurbs' from the *New York Times*." I disagree with "H.H." I think it is very important that your paper maintain a high standard of accuracy and also let this standard be manifest through quoting accepted sources such as the *Times*.

"H.H." also asks for more "action-inducing" articles and "R.D.", in the Feb. 20 issue, asks for more "labor oriented" articles. I think your paper contains enough such articles now. I hope you don't degenerate to the level of the *Worker* in this respect.

I hope you retain articles on socialist theory, international affairs and other subjects, as well as articles on specific labor issues. Let the *Militant* speak out on specific factory situations, but let it always speak with a socialist content.

Best wishes. I hope it soon becomes possible to enlarge the paper.

R. W.

Uncounted Michigan Votes

Detroit, Mich.

In the presidential election, minority parties were credited with 10,400 votes in Michigan with the largest number of these, 4,437, going to the Socialist Workers ticket.

Articles have appeared in the *Militant* showing that not all of the votes for the SWP and other minority tickets were counted. But don't think this was just "sour grapes."

In a bulletin published for the Michigan Election Board, Secretary of State James M. Hare has now announced, "The state-wide election check-up now taking place has disclosed that not all the election boards have been crediting the vote for minor party officials on the statement sheets."

The bulletin urges that all these votes must be counted. Whether they will be in the future remains to be seen.

But Hare's statement is evidence from the horse's mouth that the sentiment against the Republicans and Democrats is greater than the fake election figures would let people believe. It also reveals that the election system is not as democratic as touted.

Robert Martin

Satisfied Subscriber

Los Angeles, Calif.

Count me in again. I really enjoy your fine little paper. Very enlightening. I always pass it on to other avid readers.

Enclosed you will find \$3 for a renewal. I originally subscribed during your election-time special offer and would miss it very much if it would stop.

R. T.

Goldberg on 'Ethics'

Philadelphia, Pa.

The electrical trust price-rigging scandal was hardly off the front page here when Secretary over Labor Goldberg came to town. He made a big pitch about the need to end "bad abuse of trust."

With the Westinghouse, GE and other electrical company officials just out of jail after serving their "harsh" sentences of 30 days, less four for good behavior, you might

think Goldberg was talking to them about leading ethical lives from now on.

But he wasn't. He was talking to a convention of the Hotel & Restaurant Workers. He told them he intends to enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin law.

He told the union that "a handful of people in positions of great economic and political power can bring such moral ruin to a people as to make them extinct."

You'd think he had been frightened by a labor movement that had built its own party and won political power in the country and not a movement under attack and in retreat.

He said the unions, as well as management and government, must end the "sad spectacle of a bad abuse of trust."

Goldberg, you must remember, was the lawyer for the Steelworkers Union whose members not too long ago were forced into a grueling three-month strike against some of the most powerful corporations in the land. In effect he's now saying that the workers who walked the bricks for three months had been "abusive" of their powers. Everyone knows, except possibly Mr. Goldberg, that the steel companies didn't even begin negotiating until their stockpile was practically depleted. In the face of this real abuse of power, Goldberg talks to unions about their needing "ethics."

To add insult to injury, he told a press conference that a shorter work week is "unrealistic and undesirable." I think the secretary over labor is "unrealistic and undesirable."

Herb Lewin

Too Good for the Poor?

Dallas, Texas

Dr. Bergen Evans, the professor from Northwestern University who is the star of the TV show, *The Last Word*, was in a symposium here on sex education.

He said he's against such education in the schools. The paper didn't report what he said about the rich, but he doesn't think the poor need such education. He said, "They live in it. There's no attempt to screen it from the young people living in crowded tenements."

I just hope he doesn't think sex is too good for the poor people.

L. T.

Peace Trek to End With Easter Parade

Peacewalkers on a 340-mile trek to promote unilateral disarmament are en route to New York where they will present peace petitions to the Soviet and American missions to the United Nations.

The walk, sponsored by the New England Committee for Non-violent Action, left Kittery, Maine, March 11 after a civil disobedience demonstration at the commissioning of the *Polaris* submarine Abraham Lincoln. They are scheduled to reach New York March 31 and will spend two days walking through the city with other pacifist organizations.

The group, walking 15 to 18 miles a day, will stop for a vigil at the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Conn., in support of William Henry, one of their group recently sentenced to a year in prison for the protest boarding of *Polaris* submarines.

On Easter Sunday, the walkers will conduct their own parade down New York's Fifth Avenue.

Thought for the Week

"The United States has had a federal minimum wage law since 1938; but even today only a little more than a third of the American labor force is protected by it. In the 23 years since the law has been on the books, there has been virtually no upward revision of its coverage; and even the monetary floor . . . has not been raised in over five years." — From a March 21 *New York Times* editorial.