THE GM STOPPAGES

GENERAL MOTORS admits that the wave of stoppages in its system spread to seven cities and affected at least 42,000 of its workers. Those stoppages paralleled similar local strikes affecting about as many of the Ford Co. workers.

The return to work movement began after wires from United Automobile Workers general headquarters warned 67,000 members against the company and charging them with "sabotaging national negotiations" in Detroit.

As is well known, the Ford workers protested because most of the contract demands -- those they had been anxious to take up for five years -- were ignored in the agreement. The GM workers showed "opposition" with GM's stalling and a fear that in their case, as at Ford, most of the demands would be scrapped.

Instead of relying on these stoppages for greater strength at the collective bargaining table, the Reuther leadership tagged the "sabotage" label upon them. As a matter of fact, if the GM agreement proves better than Ford's it will be in large measure due to the protest movement that developed in the Ford locals and spread to the GM chain. And didn't John Livingston, head of the UAW's GM negotiating committee say just last week his group hopes to get a better deal than Ford?

To charge workers with "sabotage" and threaten companion strikes is a means of political warfare. That warfare of the GM workers is undoubtedly the strongest argument that GM has heard since negotiations began.

IKE AIDS THE DICRAXCTS

IT has to be said plainly-President Eisenhower, in announcing his opposition to anti-segregation amendments to any and all his bills in his press conference last Wednesday, bolstered the Dixiecrats rebellion against the Constitution. In effect he told the country that he considers civil rights "extraneous." And the only thing to do with legislation dealing with the national welfare. Sixteen million Negro citizens, he seems to have been saying—or thinking—can wait if they have their full American citizenship until the Dixiecrats decide to abide by the Constitution of the United States.

Undoubtedly the President felt "safe" in making the statement he did because he had been urged to do so by the Democratic Congressional leaders. He figured he had nothing to lose and everything to gain by attacking those fighting for civil rights safeguards.

He also knew that liberal Democrats and even certain labor leaders have been in opposition to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's fight for anti-jim-crow safeguards in school construction legislation.

The Eisenhower announcement should be denounced for the pro-Dixiecrat encouragement that it is. The Dixiecrats have been completely unresponsive for holding up social legislation. The right to full citizenship for the Negro citizens can never be viewed as a stumbling block of American progress. And to argue for no good for any of us, and least of all for labor.

DEMOCRATS AND THE $1.25 LAW

A SHARP rebuke to the Lyndon Johnson leadership in the Senate from the AFL and ADA has brought some show of action on labor's economic program. Following the rebuke, the Senate defeated the Eisenhower housing bill for a token 70,000 units within two years and substituted the Democratic measure for a token of 200,000 units with three years...

On the chief item is labor's program at this session --boosting the minimum hourly wage from 75 cents to $1.25. The Senate leadership hastened itself to the extent of defeating the Eisenhower plan for 90 cents an hour and adopting a "compromise" $1 minimum.

Actually a switch of three Democratic votes in the Senate from a coalition of Senators Douglas, Hill and Kennedy who opposed $1.25 an hour, could have resulted in the committee recommending labor's full demand of $1.25.

When the bill reached the floor, Senator Johnson maneuvered to avoid a roll-call (and hence tell-tale) vote. This was the same tactic he used in the House when he fought for the full $1.25 should be renewed as the AFL urged yesterday along with the issue of extended coverage. The ever-ready appeal to the House may still hold alive its program—despite the opposition of the GOP and the Dixiecrats. It can't be done by praying Lyndon Johnson in the name of Senator Kennedy. He has glared at Chrysler, but only by blasting-away and demanding action.

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

DURING the past five years, so the claim is, there has built up an enormous mass peace movement and growing opposition to the use of atomic weapons in war. The same thing is happening around the world. This movement has spread to all over the world. It has had its greatest effects in Great Britain, in the United States, in Japan and in India.

In the United States, the movement of World Peace Council was the first wave of this movement. The World Peace Congress in Tokyo in 1955 was attended by representatives from almost every country in the world.

Among the innumerable methods of peace work of the World Peace Council has been the circulation of mass petitions against various aspects of the war program and for definite peace moves. Two of the most significant of these mass petitions were the Stockholm Peace Pledge, put out in May 1955 and which amounted between 500,000-700,000 signatures, and the petition for a Five-Power Peace Pact of February 1957, which called for the immediate withdrawal of all American and Russian forces from Korea and China and concluded an armistice. There was also a petition for a People's Volunteer Army and an eventual withdrawal of all American and Russian forces from Korea and China.

Of great significance for the idea of Soviet-American coexistence, which has been so prominent in the recent discussions of the Shanghai Conference, has been the growing support for the concept of a People's Volunteer Army and the idea of a political settlement of the Korean War.

At the present time, the World Peace Council is circulating another mass petition, in which the Council seeks to build up a movement of support throughout the world for an appeal to the United Nations to call for an immediate withdrawal of all American and Russian forces from Korea and the establishment of a People's Volunteer Army.

THE TRENDS

THREE of the main tendencies in labor today are the movement toward increased unemployment benefits as a major gain for labor — and we say it in a sense "benevolence" of the many gimmicks, trick proposals or "new word" plans which are cashing in on the backs of the workers in chains in the plan of Henry Ford II. We are at least glad the Ford plan on the issue as it relates to reality and illusion in a piece-in-the-sky type of welfare plan.

What strikes us most, however, is the press plays up another "benevolence" of Reuther and Geiger gets a build-up, is that both sides of the negotiating table must have been feeling they are besieged by a bunch of "wildcats." Second, just like it was a three-party game with only two as the bargaining table.

It shouldn't be that way. It should be two-way negotiations with the labor leaders assuming the role of true cooperation. As with the men outside the shop, the men inside should respect each other and submit to representation. But instead the labor leaders are the men outside the source of the strength. Their bargaining hand, Reuther and associates, act as though they have power and the workers' power is "wildcatting." Hence the tactic of denigrating the people—"wildcatting" and "scabbing" and making the workers look like the bad guys.

The trend is to "benevolence" as the "wildcats" make the gain a real gain.

The number of signatures in both the capitalist and Socialist world, are growing according to the latest figures. Thus, while Italy has produced 7,853, a record number of people, including a number of signers in People's China has produced 2,000. It is evident that a growing majority of workers and peasants in the world are in basic sympathy with the peace program. The Workers' Party of Korea's Council's petition to Ban Atomic Weapons has received the signatures of all the great importance in the world. The signature of the Big Four, where the great majority of signatures will surely be included.

This month marks the 15th Anniversary of the UN. Preparations for this event are taking place all over the world. The World Peace Congress in New York. Peace forces are preparing to present petitions that call for the outlawing of the nuclear arms. This year there is a new meaning in view of the gravity of the situation of the Big Four Conference. Demands of all peace groups should express the many issues before the world. We are prepared to negotiate with such issues. Our issues are: nuclear disarmament, a part of a world disarmament, the recognition of China, and a policy of non-aggression. We American workers who contributed to making possible the current pressures for ending the Korean war and against nuclear arms, in involvement in Indochina, Cuba, and Martin, can now register the demand for international developments with the mounting at the summit.

FORD 'Benevolence': And the "Wildcats"

by George Morris

The spirit we see in auto, like the Southern states, is the proper stage for the 1955 wage fight. Labor leaders, not even their fellow fields will undoubtedly profit power. The UAW is not beasty to toss most de-mand conditions. They're not in for a price for a concessions or two. The atmosphere of the shop is for a higher level of wage demands, rather than a lowering of objectives.

The trend we see among the workers is healthy for an other reason. There is a lot of free print in the Ford "model" car. They've just been turned on the "GAW" that most auto work-ers have not yet half time to read. It isn't nearly as good as it was turned over to Ford by Ford press agents. Only a handful of packs are already turned over for a quick check up for 26 weeks of benefits.

The lack of those likely to suffer largely money for only a few months. "What does a month pay out governmental administrative bureau. If in this sense it is a plan can take effect. Payments for a period of $25 a month is a number of them suffering the same or worse, because of low seniority. Pay-ments for most of Ford's "new men" are too low to make most members feel any benefits too small.

The rise of militant spirit to make Ford come through on contract this year, he press agents claim to his plan pro-posed the "wildcats" take the gain of any gains they make and make the gain a real gain.