

NEWS & LETTERS

VOL. — NO. 16

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

13

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

n What Basis Do the Unions propose to Organize the Deep South?

There is talking among workers as to why the unions have not openly stated their support in regard to the recent attack made against them and the Negroes by the White Citizens Councils in the South, especially in the Montgomery bus boycott and the Autherine Lucy case.

There was an attack by some 90 white steel workers in Birmingham, Alabama, telling president Meany that if unions are for integration they would withdraw from AFL-CIO.

It was stated that when president Meany received the letter he turned it over to McDonald, the head of the United Steel Workers, without making any remarks.

No worker has read or heard where Meany, McDonald Reuther has given those workers an answer.

Many workers will have to ask how can it be possible at not one Negro labor leader has uttered a single clear word in the face of this.

On what basis do the unions propose to organize the deep South?

Practically every American has had something to say, one way or the other, about the Montgomery bus protest, and has said it openly and loudly. But nothing above a whisper came from the leaders of the largest and strongest organizations in this country.

BREAKING THE WEDGE

The reactionaries are trying to drive a wedge between workers.

During the Southern Bell Telephone strike last summer, relations between Negro and white workers in Birmingham were never so close before—especially when it was proposed that the steel workers take on a work stoppage in support of the Bell workers.

It is through participation in a struggle together that people learn and get better understanding. Thousands and thousands of people want it though some die-hards refuse to accept it as these 90 white steel workers.

Seven or eight years ago, when they were thrusting power and the issues were not so sharp that they could take a direct part in action, the union leaders would roar until the roof shook about the union's stand on civil rights.

At one NAACP meeting, in those years ago, Reuther spoke. He said we can build atom bombs to split this earth, if America will never be the country it should be and must be until it removes its iron curtain that has kept them in bondage since the days of Reconstruction.

Congressman Adam Powell almost proposed a one-day work stoppage in support of the bus boycott.

Many people feel it should be a one-day stoppage, both on the effectiveness of it and on job security.

Powell also stated that he would ask the fullest cooperation of Negro union leaders. As yet, not one union leader has mentioned it.

Reuther and the rest of the big labor leaders are quiet. They are so quiet they cannot reply to the reactionaries who threaten to quit the AFL-CIO if they open their mouths in support of the Negroes.

WHEN THEY'LL STIR TO ACTION

In a short time now, workers will hear from these union leaders who will come out of their hidden holes in hopes of selling workers the Democratic party ticket. They will be on every corner ringing working people's door bells, calling meetings, attending any meeting where ten or more people are gathered.

They will have the Negro union leaders out talking because of both parties' reactionary position on the Negro question.

The White Citizens Councils are attacking the union as harshly as they ever did. The law under which they are trying 90 Negroes in Montgomery is a law designed against unions since 1921. And still there is no open fight from our labor leaders.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

If they came to the full support of the Negroes in Montgomery, which is a part of their principles on paper, the White Citizens Councils would be forced to take stock before challenging such overwhelming odds.

The situation is changing so rapidly that all theory must immediately be put in practice. The Negroes are demanding immediate action on the question of civil rights.

As one worker said, "Reuther is going to India to sell our democracy. Why won't he go down South and sell some to the White Citizens Councils? How can he have such interest in the workers of India and forget the struggle of the Negro people here under his nose?"

AFTER THE 20TH CONGRESS OF THE RUSSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Where Is Russia Going?

Since the recent 20th Congress of the Russian Communist Party, the capitalist press and spokesmen of the West have been so busy publicizing what the Russian Communists wanted publicized—the destruction of the so-called Stalin myth—that they failed completely to see what is new in the present Russian situation.

The Russian people never believed in the Stalin myth in the first place, or in "the cult of personality," as the present Russian rulers call it.

The millions in forced

labor camps testify to more than mere disbelief in the myth of Stalin "the miracle worker." These imprisoned millions are proof of the continuing revolt of the Russian people against the tyrant, Stalin, and against his heirs who are now his detractors.

Contrast the big noise in the press, about the Stalin myth, to the matter-of-fact knowledge of the Russian peasant who, when asked by reporters for the name of his collective farm, answered, "Up to now it was called the Stalin Collective."

THE AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

To the Russian peasant it matters little whether it was Stalin or Khruschev; or whether it is Khruschev alone or Khruschev plus a dozen other bureaucrats who rule "collectively." What does matter—and what is new, is that the newest Plan demands nothing less than 100 per cent increase in agricultural productivity per person.

Since the Russian peasant has resisted the rate of output set by all previous plans and intends to continue his resistance to totalitarian planning, this new, impossible demand can have but one meaning:

A new move against him that will be more ferocious and more charged with terror than even the forced collectivization of the 1930's.

In the depth of the internal crisis of Russia, can be seen the reality and non-reality of the "collectivity" of the Russian leaders. Khruschev, the leader, dares not openly stand forth as such. He tries to cover himself against the wrath of the Russian people, first by attempting to divert their anger to the dead Stalin and then, by surrounding himself with the collective approval of the leadership. He does not, for one moment, fool himself about any approval by the Russian people.

WORLD CRISIS AND COLONIAL REVOLTS

What does give Khruschev his confidence is the world crisis. The Russian masses know the Communist system for the tyranny it is. So does Eastern Europe that has fallen under its domination. But the gigantic Communist bureaucracy has no vested interests in the countries suffering under British and French imperialism. The Asian and African people have also come to know what is attached to the American dollar. It is this which gives

Khruschev a free hand in demagogery.

He hopes to reap a rich harvest from the hatred of the colonial peoples against British and French imperialist rule to which American dollar-diplomacy and "brink of war" strategy is tied.

By casting away from himself the name of Stalin, Khruschev hopes to parade under the unsullied banner of liberation of Marxism.

To counter this, the American Government can think of nothing better than a junket for that "brink of war" strategist Dulles, to be followed by that spokesman for "people's capitalism," labor bureaucrat Walter Reuther. But Reuther is no match for the Russian appeal for a "popular front for peace" which will travel from Nehru's India to Western Europe and back again, not excluding America.

The majority of the world's population live in the oppressed colonial portion of the earth. The Russian bureaucracy has shown how brave they can be with other people's lives, as they were with the lives of the Chinese and Koreans during the Korean war.

Khruschev can now dream of starting the next world war from the East and enjoying the luxury, which America has always enjoyed heretofore, of not having the battle fields in his own country.

At the same time, Russian power has grown mighty enough so that its Defense Minister, Eisenhower's "old friend" Zhukov, can threaten America with the "mighty guided missiles" he has at his disposal and can hurl at American cities.

INTERNAL CRISIS IN RUSSIA

If the American capitalists and their State Department have freed Russia's hand, the Russian working class has not.

1) Out of 12 million industrial workers in Russian enterprises, no fewer than 2.8 million left their jobs in 1954.

2) 1.45 million workers in the building industries simply left the building sites altogether. In an attempt to counteract this movement, Bulganin proposed to promise building trades workers that ten per cent of all the living space they construct will be for their own use.

The Russian worker can—
(Continued on Back Page)



Foreign Correspondent: "What's the name of this place?"

Russian Peasant: "Up to now, it was called the Stalin Collective."

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A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

SCIENTISTS AND PEOPLE

A youngster, left a science-fiction picture book in my office and I read it. It was about Mars, and describes scientists involved in mysterious and evil actions.

Of course the Martian scientists were weird compared to those on our own planet. But I have come across people, who consider our own scientists no less abnormal; and look upon them as super-men and persons without simple feelings or interests.

LACK OF COMMUNICATION

I think the reason for such an attitude lies in the lack of communication today between American scientists and the American people. This separation of the scientists from others, is due, not so much to his being in a specialized and complex field, as it is to the unnatural division between groups of people inherent in a society like ours, which uses and develops only that part of an individual that is useful for its purpose. Perhaps the field of medicine is in part an exception to this.

WHEN IT WAS DIFFERENT

Over one hundred years ago, the situation was somewhat different. Much less, of course, was then known about the world around us. Scientists, however, were not so completely tied to industry. They had an outlook that was more universal and human. They were able to bring the feeling of the unity of nature closer to people; but only to a selected number. Today, living compatible with the oneness and totality of the whole world is imperative for all humanity.

The scientific method is an orderly and careful study of the world about us and is not a new invention. All of us are scientists to one degree or another. A famous scientist, Thomas Huxley has said, "The method of scientific investigation is nothing but the expression of the necessary mode of working of the human mind."

INTELLECTUAL ASSEMBLY-LINE

The wealth of new material, brought to light by scientific study, has created technical jobs for hundreds of thousands of people. Often their work, whether in medicine, chemistry, physics, engineering or other fields is no different fundamentally from that of the assembly-line production worker. The fact that they may have one or two college degrees is of little significance. They labor at tasks, where there is little opportunity to develop themselves or to relate their experience to other phases of life.

This may be part of the reason why there is a shortage of good students of science in our colleges today.

At present there is an outcry in the newspapers and magazines that Russia will outstrip us in the number of future scientists. A totalitarian country can stamp out any number it wishes, but that will not add anything to the well-being of the Russian people or of science.

SEPARATION MUST BE ABOLISHED

Perhaps there is a connection between this and the controversy around Einstein, who, some months before his death and during the discussion on the H-bomb, appealed publicly, with a few other scholars, that more freedom—in determining the direction and purpose of his work—be given the scientist. Actually, this was an attempt to abolish the separation between science and the people as a whole. In reply, newspaper columnists and government officials ridiculed these scientists as impractical dreamers not to be trusted with "politics."

The more our knowledge of this world is extended; the further our minds dig into the mysteries of life; the more complicated and specialized become the fields of study; the greater is the necessity of those who work in special fields to maintain complete communication with people in other fields. When science is understood as human activity, scientists will be able to universalize their experience and thus have roots in the community. This will keep them from becoming characters fit for the comic strip.

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COAL AND ITS PEOPLE**We Did It Our Own Way**

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—The way I see it, it's up to the men what happens with this automation. We knew about the continuous miner before they tried to put one in our mine, and we were ready for it. We had all talked to men that had worked on the miner: We had all talked with plenty of the men who were out of work because of it, too.

FIGHTING COMMITTEEMAN

But an important part of what happened was also due to one of the committeemen that we had. He was one of the best I've ever known. He was a Negro and had come from the South.

He used to say that some people could "go back home" if things didn't work out for them where they were. But he couldn't go back home—all of the Negroes had been driven out of the small town he had come from, so he didn't have any "back home" to go to. That's why he said, "I live here and I'll fight to make things right where I am."

He was a man who couldn't read or write. He used to amaze me. He didn't seem to have to know how to read or write—he knew contract and was the best leader we ever had. He'd have someone read him the contract just once and, from then on, he could quote it word for word. There was one guy who was always on his toes.

"WHAT WE WANT"

We were waiting for it to happen and it finally did. We got the news that the company was bringing in a continuous miner.

There was a lot of talk about men losing their jobs,

but this committeeman just told them, "I don't have to tell you what to do. If you want to keep your jobs, you know what you have to do. The machine doesn't run by itself, men run it. That's something we have to look to.

You know who the company will pick to run the machine, the biggest company suck they have in the mine." And he pointed the guy out. "But," he continued, "we can do something about that, to. We all have had experience in handling men. If he doesn't do what we want him to do, instead of what the company wants him to do, it'll be our fault."

Sure enough, the company put the guy on the miner that the committeeman had pointed out. But he had been given plenty to think about. He knew better than to try to cross the men. And the others knew what they were doing. The machine kept breaking down or getting hung up. The company kept trying to get the machine to pay off for a long time.

REST IN PIECES

But the story kept repeating itself. Break down, fix it up; break down, fix up. Once they got the machine into a place with some soft bottom. They kept it going until it was really sunk in. They tried to pull it out by hooking a buggy on to it. It didn't move. Another buggy was hooked on. It still didn't move. They finally hooked a cutting machine to the two buggies and were able to get it out.

They took the machine out all right—in pieces. It was torn down so much, they finally gave up.

EVEN IF IT KILLED ME . . .

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—It was during the hand loading days and I was working on this pillar section making a fall. I had already charged the stumps with powder to blow them out and let the top come in, but the rails were still in the place.

OUT AND BACK

My boss came up to me before I shot the stumps and told me to drag the rails out before I made the fall. I said all right and went about the work of hauling all of those rails out.

I got them all out and shot one of the stumps when my boss came around. I told him that I wanted to see a couple of extra hours on my statement for taking the rails out.

He told me, "Oh no, nothing. Insofar as I'm concerned, that was all in a day's work."

I didn't say anything at all to him. But when he left, I got real busy. I pulled every one of those rails back to

make sure that they'd be under the fall when the top came in. But I wanted them to know what I was doing, too. So I pulled them back far enough to leave just the

ends sticking out under the fall. Then I shot the other stumps and made the fall. It came down just the way I wanted it.

IF IT KILLED ME

When the boss found out what I had done, he wrote out my time and sent me to the superintendent. When I got to him, he asked me why I had done it. I told him I had done extra work and was entitled to extra pay, only my boss had refused to agree to pay. The super gave me my time, and told me, "Now you

know that if you would have said anything to me, you would have gotten that extra time. I don't care what your boss said. And I'm not firing you because you covered up those rails. I'm firing you

because you took a big chance on getting yourself killed by being under that top that could have come in any minute for as long as you were."

And you know, he was right about that. I was taking a big chance in getting those rails back there. But I just wasn't going to let them get away with any far enough to leave just the

The Boss Knew Best

PENNSYLVANIA — We were working on this pillar section and I was operating the continuous miner. In our mine, we have a loading machine behind the continuous miner to load the coal into the buggies. If the buggies would get the coal directly from the continuous miner, the miners would be working only a part of the time. But the company wants that thing going all the time. So the miners throw the coal back of it and the loading machine behind loads the loose coal into the buggies.

WATCH THAT TOP

On a pillar section, you've got to watch that roof all the time, because you're taking all of the coal out. When you do that, you know the top is going to come down. The thing to do is to keep the top up by timbering, setting posts or cribbing to keep it up until you want it to come in. When you get all the coal out of a heading, you want it to come in to take the pressure from the places you still have to work.

The only trouble is that sometimes the top just doesn't do what you want to do. That's something you never argue with a second time. The first time puts you in trouble or the cemetery. Sometimes a boss will help you get there, if you let him.

"GIVE ME ROOM"

Just like the time I was working with the miner pretty far in a heading. The posts that were set were popping like fire-crackers and you could see them taking on weight. The top wasn't going to stay up much longer.

I got hold of my boss and told him that the place was about to come in. If he didn't want the machine covered up, I had better pull out.

The boss looked at the top and said that it was all right that it would hold up long enough to make a couple more sets with the machine. I didn't argue with him.

I went to the loading machine operator and told him, "Now look, that top is going to come in. Just make sure that whatever you do, you leave me room to get back out when it starts."

I went up to the machine and started to make a set. That's when the top started to come in.

The loading machine operator had left me plenty of room and I was right on his heels getting out of there.

It took three shifts to dig the miner out from under that fall.

LABOR

MORE STEEL WITH FEWER WORKERS

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—They've got a lot of new machines in the steel mills. They're getting out more steel than they ever have, with fewer men than ever. A lot of them just had to go out and look for some other kind of work, pick up anything they could.

"It's got the men who are left in the mill, on the run. You're busy all the time."

They've got it down pat now. They have a public address system installed all over and two-way radios, so they can keep tabs on you no matter where you are.

WO-WAY CHECK

They have you coming and going. Somebody said they're going to give all the bosses a walkie-talkie. Some bosses have men at one section, while they're off with some other men someplace far away. With their walkie-talkies they can keep check on you no

matter how far away you are.

We have some lifts that go all over the mill. It used to be an awkward time locating those guys sometimes. But now that they put two-way radios in the lifts, there are no alibis left.

As far as the new machines themselves go, I don't see that the expense of installing them can be much of a problem to the company. Any new machine they put in the mill, pays for itself in a very short time. They can probably get rid of the old stuff without suffering too much loss. There are always smaller companies who are willing to buy older machinery, because they can't afford the newer machines.

With all their increased production, they sure seem to be making more profits than ever.

—Steelworker.

Why Be Engineer?

WEST VIRGINIA—I've come to the conclusion that, today, they pick an engineer for his political views and not his abilities. At least that's how they pick the ones for advancement.

The rest they shove into a drafting room and let them stay there. You'd better not let any liberal terms even slip through your mouth. That's the general advice we get from the guys who've graduated and have written back to the guys still in school.

The ones who don't advance to administrative positions generally wind up doing one specialized operation. After a few years of that, no matter how much you knew when you graduated, you're not much good.

One of the worst things, to my mind, is the fact that it's the engineers who are put into the position of being responsible for the speed-ups in the factories. (That is, if the workers are willing to do it, of course!) It's the engineers who are given the time-studies to read and go to work on.

If an engineer wants to, he can read them and turn them upside down. But that's why the boss picks his engineers to be on his side. The boss tells the engineer he wants a certain amount of jobs turned out and the engineer's supposed to fix it up that way, no matter what. You're not supposed to think about human beings, but just about figures and measurements and such.

—Engineering Student

Nut Head Says—

"Look at the bright side. There's lots of guys on the streets, but if you are working you're going back on five days."

Be Careful, Foremen. They Can Bump You!

LOS ANGELES—During the recent layoffs at the plant, several of the line foremen got bumped back to the production jobs they originally held. One of these foremen, a guy named Roberts, was known throughout the plant as a louse who was always giving the workers assigned to him a rough time.

FACING THE MUSIC

When the union heard that he was entering the bargaining unit again, it was decided to do something about it. It wasn't a serious enough case to refuse him entrance into the union but it was serious enough to make sure that he knew what the workers thought about him.

At the membership meeting immediately following the lay-offs, a motion was introduced to have Roberts appear before the Executive Board to explain his actions against union members when he was a member of supervision. This motion was passed unanimously. There was a lot of laughter at the thought that Roberts was finally going to get a well deserved chewing out.

This isn't the end of the story, though. Before Roberts had a chance to appear before the Executive Board, he got into trouble because he had been a louse of a foreman.

BACKFIRE

It seems that when he was foreman, he had scheduled a job for one man that was more than one man could handle. He had set up this job just a few days before the lay-off.

When he got bumped back to the line he himself was assigned to do this job. Management claims that he refused to do all that work and they disciplined him with a two-day lay-off.

What Kind of World Is It?

By Angela Terrano

What is happening in the Middle East? Every once in a while this question pops into our mind at work and we wonder if this is the one. The one that might break into another world war.

Everybody is sort of sitting on pins and needles. Knowing that somewhere it will break out and no matter where or when the United States and Russia will be in on it.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

The talk always gets back to brothers or friends who were killed in World II and Korea. One of the girls lost her brother in Korea. He was just 21 years old. She told us all about him, what kind of person he was. When you try to figure out why this guy has to lose his life you can't come up with many good answers.

Ford Tries to Out-Maneuver "Guaranteed Wage," Worker Says

DETROIT—The Ford Motor Co. has undertaken many swift maneuvers which, if successful, will all but nullify the much-bloated "Guaranteed Annual Wage."

In order to collect this benefit, you must be laid off on or after June 1, 1956. Therefore, all employees off now, who are not recalled before June 1st, are disqualified.

Workers expected this situation to be relieved a little by recalls during the vacation period from May 15th to September 30th.

VACATION PLANS

The contract reads: The Company has the right to schedule vacations with due consideration to the wishes of the employee.

The Company now plans a three-week shut down in August. During this period, all eligible employees must take their vacations. Only high seniority workers rate

AUTO LAY-OFFS OUTNUMBER CALL-BACKS

DETROIT—Some workers are getting called back to work now since the auto lay-offs started last December.

Many are still jittery, thinking they will soon be out again. Some say it is a trick by management, hoping to fool the people and strengthen the Republican Party come the election time.

The daily papers carried a headline recently, that Packard was calling back 5,500 workers who were laid-off and Chrysler called back almost 5,000. This gave many workers an encouraging feeling.

Those called back—some only worked a week and were laid off again along with many more who were laid-off that had not got the axe before. Many of

Or when a country like Korea is torn to bits and the Korean people lose everything—you begin to realize that somewhere the line had better be drawn.

When we were kids we used to look at the war and say, "If these leaders want a war, why don't they get together and fight it out among themselves and leave us alone."

It seems simple, but it means that it is always the poor people in no matter what land that have to do the fighting and get the worst of it. I would like to know what the people of the Middle East are thinking.

WHAT KIND OF WORLD?

What kind of world is it? The U.S. yelling their heads off about Russia selling arms to the Arab countries then they turn around and do the same.

In France, the Communists who claim to be for the oppressed the world over vote for harsher measures to be taken against the people of Algeria who are in revolt against France.

The childhood thoughts don't seem so simple now. Maybe it should be done that way—and then dump them all in the garbage can.

IT'S NOT WHAT IT WAS

FAIRMONT, W. Va.—Many of my friends are old-time miners, just like me. Many of them lost their jobs when the great lay-offs took place a few years back. Some of them finally were able to get jobs, at the dirtiest kind of work, in a small mine near the Fairmont region.

These men were brought up in the militant tradition of miners' unionism but, because they had to, they went to work in this scab mine.

There were 53 men there and all of them knew the value of organization and wanted it. No District representative was needed to organize these men. They organized themselves. Then they petitioned the District to send a man down to sign them up. That was a year ago. The District still hasn't sent anybody down to sign them up.

They didn't have to convince anyone of anything. Just have a man there. A cut-and-dried proposition. But the District hasn't gotten around to it yet. It makes you wonder about the kind of organization you have. It sure isn't what it used to be.

A New York dock worker had a pretty good idea of what was happening during the great British dock strike last year because he was on strike at the same time.

EDITORIALS**EASTER—FORTY YEARS AGO**

Forty years ago this Easter, on April 24, 1916, the Easter Rebellion in Dublin was entered upon.

The shortage of food, which was being used for World War I military needs, the threat to conscript Irishmen for service in the British army, the heavy taxation, the jailing of thousands under the "Defense of the Realm Act," all brought to a fever pitch the anger of the Irish people.

The worker and intellectual, the clergyman, the shopkeeper and the manufacturer, all were determined to rid themselves of British domination. As Maurice Joy wrote: "There were no intellectual boundary lines—poets wrote treatises on wireless telegraphy and wireless telegraphers wrote dramas, above all there were no dilettantes among them."

The military force was the Irish Volunteers, first organized in 1913 as an aftermath of the heroic strike of the Irish Transport Workers Union to defend its constitutional rights.

The insurrection began with the proclaiming of the Irish Republic at the foot of Nelson's Column in Dublin. Detachments of Irish Volunteers seized important positions throughout Dublin: the General Post Office, the park called St. Stevens Green, the Four Courts, many bridges and rooftop vantage points.

At Jacobs Factory, the poor workers of the district formed themselves as an unarmed human barrier around the factory, protecting their means of making a living from destruction by the British Army.

Women and girls carried food and ammunition to the barricades: fought alongside their men; carried dispatches between points held by the rebels. The teen-age girls—organized as Cumann Na Ban—the Boy Scouts—organized by Countess de Markievicz—were everywhere in the fighting and dispatch carrying.

On the first day, the British were stunned by the activity and success of the Irish. The conduct of the Irish during these events was above reproach as even the most bitter English enemy had to admit. There was no looting, rapine or brutality. Captives received the same treatment as those defending the barricades.

The revolt was not crushed until all forces were completely out of ammunition and isolated from all support. Yet the struggle was not in vain, for out of it came eventual Irish independence. The slogan of the men was, "Tis better to have fought and lost than never to have fought at all."

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Whatever the outcome of the Bus Boycott Trials in Montgomery, the Negro people have precipitated a tremendous battle in the minds of every American and have been victorious in it. The conviction of Rev. King can only deepen and widen the struggle.

The spontaneous and highly organized actions of the Montgomery Negroes have forced every American to recognize that integration is not something they are playing with. Their courageous actions and determination make it impossible for their own leaders to back down or compromise.

The reactionary white South is hysterical over the prospect of being compelled to go out into the world and compete with Negroes on equal terms. They are afraid they will have to run on the same race track of life without any handicaps being placed on the Negroes.

The politicians have suddenly discovered that Negroes do not have full civil rights up North either. So have the labor leaders. It took them all this time to find this out. They have now "discovered" it not to stamp it out everywhere but to divert from the struggle.

This diversion is reminiscent of the early Northern trade unionists, one hundred years ago, who dodged the issue of slavery by saying they were opposed to all slavery—wage slavery as well as chattel slavery. Southern slave owners also criticized Northern wage slavery.

Those who know where the issues are will win the present struggle.

SOMETHING'S WRONG

They talk an awful lot about the "prosperity" we're having, but it doesn't make me too sure about it. The miners who are working are making out O.K., but there are so many who are laid off and don't have any prospect of getting back. At my husband's mine, the men who are working have been working six days lately. But they just put a new "Joy" continuous miner in and that will mean more lay-offs sooner or later. We can't quite figure out how come all the extra work and all the Saturday work right now. We figure they must be piling it up somewhere—and that's not a good sign.

Miner's Wife
Morgantown, W. Va.

* * *
It seems to me that what "prosperity" we do have, the cold war has brought about. It isn't too much exaggeration to say that probably the entire high school graduating class, except the ones somebody could afford to send to college, is or soon will be in the Army for two years. So they're not "unemployed."

Student
West Virginia

* * *
We were discussing the fact that incomes today are based on "family as a unit" because so many families can't make out unless both husband and wife are working. One Student said an article he read in a national magazine boasted, as a high point of our American civilization, that so many jobs were being created for women as well as men. They used to say that Russia was breaking up the home, because almost all the women there were forced to go out to work. But when it happens here, it's a "high point of our civilization."

There are a lot of women who want to work, but there are plenty who are only working because they have to. As a matter of fact, by now it has become so "normal" for the whole family to work, that people no longer consider it a sign of temporary "rough times." It used to be an "emergency" measure or a sign of poverty—but now it is just the "normal" way of living.

Committee Member
West Virginia

The scarcity of jobs for women, which makes the competition so rough and the pay so low, is held as a club over the men too. One factory, where I worked, the women seemed afraid to go on strike. If the men wanted to go out, the company would tell them that they could go and they'd get plenty of women who would be glad to take their jobs. The thing they held over them was the fact that they could run the plant with only women for maybe six months, if they had to.

Ex-GI
Morgantown, W. Va.

* * *
A lot of people who are living better than they ever have think that means that everyone has it as easy as they have it. That's why I like the little articles you are putting in showing how many children can't even graduate from high school. I would like to see more facts like these in our paper and others about the standard of living in America and in the rest of the world.

Housewife
Los Angeles

LEADERS & RANKS

I wrote a while back that there are a lot of so-called "smart people" who seem to think that they have the world by the tail—but don't know which way to swing it.

But after I thought about it, I came to another conclusion: there are also a lot of people who have the world by the tail and are afraid to let loose of it, for fear it'll fly back in their faces!

Waitress
Morgantown, W. Va.

* * *
The manager of one of the big chemical plants recently wrote, for one of the chemical magazines, about how things were done in his company. They've got the thing down to assembly-line proportions. There are so many millions of tests to be run, with the control lab as part of the chemical plant. They have it broken down into how many technicians work there; how they keep tabs on how much work each one puts out; how forms are filled out in triplicate; how the samples are carted in to eliminate as much time as possible; and on and on. It sounded awful. All the fun of the job was out.

Chemist
New York

Some letters to this paper are signed "Professional" and "Intellectual"—names that are perfectly right so long as they don't conceal the brotherhood of mental worker and manual workers... A "professional" or "intellectual" may be just a poorly paid, poorly housed and poorly treated by his government as a manual worker. Writers, teachers, lawyers and clergymen have helped out in strikes in struggles for the right to think and speak controversial thoughts; and in the present Montgomery bus boycott. All workers can, if they work together build a more just and happy world...

It is true that there are many "phony liberals" who simply hate dictators and Southern senators and war and bureaucracy and sing union songs and vote with "labor" (which means voting for the party of those Southern senators).... It is true that only the more courageous of intellectuals jeopardize their jobs by taking sides in a crisis. Yet those who do, like the Montgomery ministers, do so partly because there are thousands of oppressed people behind them, pushing them forward to challenge confidently the old order and inform the rest of the world...

Another Intellectual
Detroit

"STARS FELL ON ALABAMA"

I've talked to a few Negroes I met about this proposed work stoppage to support the boycott in Montgomery, Ala. The women seem to be for it, but the men hedge around the subject—maybe they just don't want to talk to me.

Reader
Los Angeles

* * *
A young Negro fellow in my department was talking about the bus boycott down in Alabama. He said, "I can see them dividing the buses into front and back sections if the white people sitting in front have to pay say 17c and the colored in back have to pay only 15c. But if they did that then the white people of course would want to sit in the back also and that would settle everything."

GM Worker
Los Angeles

* * *
There's very little talk in the shop about the boycott. The white workers are in sympathy with them, but the Negroes just don't say much. There seems to be a certain remoteness from what's going on in Montgomery.

Puzzled Skilled Worker
Los Angeles

Readers'

Views

Our shop is equally divided between Mexican-Americans and Anglo-Saxons. The Mexican-Americans are whole heartedly with the struggle going on down there. Most of the other guys think the white Southerners are getting just what they deserve. There are a few who feel "the n----r should stay in his place." But they don't say anything, they just keep their mouths shut.

Skilled Worker.
Los Angeles

* * *

We practically had martial law here in Birmingham lately. The cops began to notice that the firearms in pawn shop windows and second-hand stores were disappearing. They went around and asked and were told that people had been buying them since it's hunting season. The cops asked who was doing most of the buying and the store-keepers said Negroes were. The cops got mad and said, "Why did you sell arms to Negroes?" The store-keepers told them it's hunting season and people always buy shotguns and rifles this time of year. Anyway, the cops clamped down a curfew and until just a few weeks ago people had to be off the streets from 8 o'clock in the evening until the next morning.

Steel Worker
Birmingham, Ala.

* * *

What's going on down South makes you sick. The way they're treating Autherine Lucy! It makes you feel that it couldn't be any worse, even in Russia. It just makes you sick to see that happen right in your own country. What hurts most, is that the colored people are really in the majority in the world.

White Student
West Virginia U.

* * *

I'm against predjudice, but I now read that Autherine Lucy didn't go into this so innocently. She went into it representing a group rather than as an individual. I read where she never went to the school before she was admitted except at the head of a delegation. She really wasn't so interested in an education after all. Well if that's really the case I'm beginning to change my mind about her. But you've got to admire her though. I don't know if I'd do what she's doing.

Housewife
Los Angeles

There's nothing that gets me so angry as the national leadership of the NAACP. It was sickening to watch Thurgood Marshall trying to silence Autherine Lucy and to give her a "line." What would be wrong if she isn't "really a student" and is solely interested in establishing the right of Negroes to go to any college? Is being "really a student" more important than putting up a courageous stand for human rights?

"Really a Student"
Albany, New York

* * *

HERE TO STAY

Ethel Dunbar's column is an absolute masterpiece (Feb. 29). It has everything, including humor. Just look at the humor in the second paragraph where she talks about the religion of the white Southerner. There have been all kinds of learned analyses that in order to have humor you have to stand above a situation and look at it from the outside. Dunbar's humor is from inside the situation and not outside of it. It comes to the most revolutionary conclusion: "We are here to stay."

Professional Writer
Chicago

* * *

The editorial on "The Sham of Gradualism" (Feb. 29) is the finest yet achieved. Here are the Negroes breaking up the two-party system, the corruption of the labor bureaucracy, an exposure of capitalist polices and gradualism — without ever using the word capitalism. It is a profound analysis of an objective situation in the most concrete terms. Sometime I would like to send it around very widely, including a lot of journalists and editors, and ask, "Where have you seen anything like this before?"

Old Politico
Detroit

* * *

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

I've been a Democrat all my life. But with guys like Stevenson representing the Democrats, I'd even say Ike couldn't be worse. I understand that the Negroes are organizing their own committees in the Republican committees. The South used to be the Democrat's stronghold, but if the Negroes organize the way they're talking, there won't be anything left of the Democrats.

Negro Miner
West Virginia

I'm going to vote Democratic that's for sure. I don't go in for it. I really don't know what to say. I wouldn't vote for Eisenhower because of his health. I don't think there's much of a choice. They always promise you everything 'til they're in office. I guess Eisenhower got in because he was a general and therefore was supposed to know how to stay away from war.

Housewife
Los Angeles

* * *

APPEAL TO READERS

I didn't know that NEWS & LETTERS goes in for "the poor little rich girl" type of stories, but what else would you call the "Just a Housewife" article in your last issue (Feb. 29).

Disgusted
New York

* * *

I am enclosing a small contribution in keeping with my status as a white collar worker.

I am not so sure which side you are on since you keep attacking the unions. Would you prefer pre-union days? Do you prefer a Republican Administration dedicated to the destruction of unions? Is Republicanism your aim? If your answer is in the affirmative please keep the \$1, also the paper.

White Collar Worker
Muncie, Ind.

* * *

I can't begin to tell you how good it felt to receive NEWS & LETTERS, No. 15 (Feb. 29). No other paper carries the news of the great beginnings the American people are making in their own behalf—as in Montgomery—by uniting their feelings, thinking and actions . . . The whole of America will learn from the Negro people in Montgomery.

What worries me is the financial difficulties NEWS & LETTERS is in. We contribute regularly, but until more of the readers do, I must "steal" a little extra from my next week's budget. Enclosed is \$2. I hope that helps with issue No. 16. I know it would if a lot of housewives who read the paper helped.

Housewife
Los Angeles

P. S. Another subscriber of NEWS & LETTERS typed this for me and asked me to include her \$2 also.

NEWS & LETTERS is published every two weeks by News & Letters, at 8067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich., Tyler 8-7053. Editor: Charles Denby; Managing Editor: Saul Blackman. Subscription: \$2.50 for 36 issues. Single copy, 10¢.

Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

WITHOUT A PAST AND WITHOUT A FUTURE

The 20th Congress of the Russian Communist Party, which met on February 15, 1956 in Moscow, was the first to be convened since Stalin's death in 1953. It wasted no time in launching a campaign against him. The First Deputy Premier, Anastas Mikoyan, perfunctorily dismissed the heretofore sacred Stalin-History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and asked, "How can you justify our lack of an accepted history of the party for two decades?"

A TRAGIC FARCE

"So the Russians are rewriting history yet once again," I heard one Russian specialist say, "I understand that they now publish their Encyclopaedia in looseleaf form."

These vainglorious bureaucrats, without a past and without a future, rule over a land of 200 million, are armed with the H-bomb and are reaching out for world domination. Let us see what is new and what is old in their latest rewrite of history. The last two decades evidently need "correction." Mikoyan specifies the period to go back "about 20 years."

"ABOUT 20 YEARS"

Lenin died not "about 20 years" ago, but 32 years ago. He left a Will in which he called Stalin "rude and disloyal" and asked that he be "removed from his post of General Secretary."

Instead of removing Stalin, the present leadership collaborated in hiding the Will, which to this day has never been published in Russia. To talk only of "about 20 years" means the bureaucracy is anxious somehow to skip a decade. It is the decade in which they helped Stalin not alone to maintain his post but to transform it into one of dictatorial power.

Above that struggle for power that followed Lenin's death, was the struggle against the newly-established workers state itself. Indeed, the struggle for power among the bureaucracy was only the reflection of the counter-revolution that took from the Russian workers their rights and freedom, instituted bureaucratic planning. In a word, established a relationship between worker and management that in no essential respect differs from that in Western countries.

"About 20 years" correctly sums up the basis on which they mean to begin their rewrite. No one who had not participated in the counter-revolution, following the death of Lenin, is included. Trotsky is therefore excluded. Indeed, their present establishment of "collective leadership" is only a farcical imitation of Stalin's struggle for power against Trotsky on the basis of a collective leadership against alleged one-man rule. Not only that, with the sole exception of Tito, there is not a living person whom they are "rehabilitating." Not only are those to be "rehabilitated" dead, they are those who, in the first place, made their peace with Stalinism. As for Tito, he has power in his own right, rules over a country which is strategically placed, is flirting with "the West" and the Russian bureaucracy needs him. He is of the same cloth as they.

WHEN TO STRUGGLE FOR WORLD DOMINATION

As we can see, the truth is that the entire "collective leadership" lives by virtue of Stalin's leadership which brought them to power.

It is the only foundation for all exploitation: the rulers continue to sit in the seats of power and rule while the workers continue to slave the harder and produce the more.

This does not mean that there have been no changes initiated at this congress. Tito is one of those changes. Stalin had, in fact, lost power long before he died. Not that any one dared challenge him. But he ceased to represent the bureaucracy which wanted a breathing spell between wars, while he was so drunk with power that he was in a mad rush for world domination the day after World War II concluded. The bureaucracy that dared not challenge his rule openly, "collectively" plotted to hasten his natural death. He no sooner was dead than the Korean war came to a conclusion, on the one hand, and some internal changes occurred within Russia.

Although they "collectively" agreed that Stalin was in their way when he was alive, Stalin was no sooner dead than a new struggle for power began. But by now the regime is too crisis-ridden to dare public trials. That, and not the "collectivity" of leadership, is the reason why Malenkov was not "liquidated" when he lost out to Khrushchev.

Greater and more terrifying than the "myth of Stalin" is the present identification of revolutions with counter-revolutions under the gigantic fraud of an alleged return to Leninism. The only way the present "collective leadership" could follow out the Leninist principle is to remove themselves from power.

If Khrushchev, the heir, is not all that Stalin was, his ambitions and appetites are just as insatiable. It was merely a question of when to fight for world power. History, however, will not give the new pretenders to world rule another period of "about 20 years."

NEGRO NEWS

The Way of The World

By Ethel Dunbar

Before 1935 or 1939, the average working family did not have to worry or concern themselves very much about taxes. Today, the burden of taxes is one of their biggest problems and worries when they receive their pay checks.

In those early days, all I know about taxes is that it was said the rich and people in business paid federal taxes. The working people who owned property paid county and state taxes. This sounded far, far away from me. It was of no concern.

THE FIRST TIME

The first time I felt serious and shocked by it was when a woman friend of mine bought a pair of shoes. She told me the price of the shoes was \$6 plus a dollar or two for taxes. She could not get me to understand why the extra dollar of taxes and when did it come to this?

It was not long afterwards before I and all working people were paying some taxes on many things we had to buy.

WHEN MONEY BROUGHT MORE

Most of the working men were still bringing home their pay checks without any federal tax deduction. The money seemed to buy more of the family's needs than the money they bring today, which is three times as much as it was in those days.

The taxes—federal taxes, state taxes, luxury taxes and all the other taxes that have been added and also tripled—have caused many worries and grief for the working family on their pay day.

The government statement says that the worker makes at least \$4000. But, in a way, the workers think that they only make \$2500 cash money, because when they buy groceries there is so much more taxes have to come out of that same check.

That's why I say that the little money that workers used to make went so much further than this Big Money today.

"It Could Be Everywhere"

WEST VIRGINIA. — That business down South is just like dynamite! What they're doing down there is a disgrace. Take that law they just dug up about a boycott. They haven't used that law for years! It doesn't make sense—it's like trying to force them to use the buses. If they want the Negroes to use the buses, why don't they just stop all that segregation business? That's the answer!

It just makes me feel that the government ought to throw those states right out of the Union. They don't act like they're part of the country anyway.

Montgomery Protest Grips Nation

SAN FRANCISCO — The Montgomery boycott has gripped the nation. The tremendousness of this has not yet been fully grasped. Too many of us in the North can't visualize or understand emotionally the political and social conditions that the Negro lives under in the South. During World War II, I got a taste of that humiliating atmosphere, ever fraught with terror.

Yet in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, over 50,000 Negroes have refused to ride the Jim Crow buses and thereby set the South on its ear.

VOLUNTARY DISCIPLINE

The organized discipline of these Negroes, in their effort to overcome Jim Crow in the South, has not been equalled, to my knowledge, by any other group of people in this country.

The independent struggle of the Negro people for human dignity and concrete human rights—and the

ability of the Negro masses in Alabama to organize, discipline and direct their own affairs without any machinery of coercion—has mystified the white South.

"OUTSIDE AGITATORS"

The white South tries to explain this mass movement by blaming "outside influence," "agitators" and so forth. Unable to find any, they insist, "There must be, because my Negro worker tells me that he isn't for the boycott."

After 300 years, the Southern whites have not learned the simple fact that Negroes always tell them what they want to hear and then act in the opposite way. This is the classic stupidity of all ruling classes.

In Washington, the administration is willing to make a lot of statements about civil rights but can't give one Negro woman a seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus.



Jumping on the Bandwagon

DETROIT. — Recently, I attended a meeting held by the Detroit NAACP which featured, as the main speaker, Rev. Abernathy, of Montgomery, Alabama. About 3500 people attended the meeting to hear about what is happening in the great bus protest in that community.

The boring speeches by the local NAACP leaders had nothing to do with the Montgomery situation, they served only to introduce every Negro Democratic politician in town.

Congressman Diggs took a very long time to berate the "old leaders" in the Negro struggle, while the Uncle Toms and the old leaders sat on the platform and applauded. Reluctant as he had been to approve the

Montgomery protest, he finally gave it the nod, but hastened to assure his listeners that he does not recommend it for other cities.

Diggs was followed by State Senator Cora Brown, a candidate for Congress, who took a long time to say nothing. Other politicians followed in line and then more NAACP leaders came back to collect money and membership cards.

It was not until 10:30 p.m. that the NAACP leadership saw fit to give the floor to Rev. Abernathy who gave a very fine talk and told the group all about the strike situation. But the inept leadership of the meeting only used the Montgomery protest for its own ends.

The local NAACP collected over \$3,500 and did not even promise to use it to assist the Montgomery protest. The Democratic politicians had a field day.

The audience got a mess of sore feet and were forced to stay until after midnight if they wanted to hear about the boycott. Many left in disgust with this NAACP leadership.

in a show with a really beautiful white actress. They held hands right in front of the cameras and at the end she blew a kiss to him. It was all real natural. I couldn't help thinking that it could be that way everywhere.

—Miner's Wife

How Many Negroes Are Coming?

Mayor Asks As Shop Moves

LOS ANGELES. — The plant where I work has been taken over by Rheems. Now they are planning to move the plant out to Fullerton, Calif. Not many Negroes live out that way, so the Mayor of Fullerton came over to the plant to find out how many Negroes and Mexicans were planning to move into his little city. He said that he wanted to "prepare" a certain section for the Negroes to move into.

In the plant there are 72 Negroes and 60% of the workers are Mexican. The company asked a Negro committeeman how many Negroes he thought would move over.

The committeeman said, "That's a silly question. I don't even have any intention of asking the men that question. They know that if they wanted to move out there they'd have a hell of a time finding homes."

When word of this conversation spread through the plant everyone was very angry that the Mayor of Fullerton had made the proposal

to set up a segregated area for Negroes. The white guys were just as angry as the Negroes.

As it is, ever since Rheems took over, there has been discrimination against the Negroes. Under the old management they at least kept the proportion of Negroes in the plant up to the proportions they have in the general population of this area. But since Rheems took over not one Negroes has been hired.

It's a funny thing that I can't understand. Lots of white Texans and other white guys from the deep South work in the plant. There has never been any friction between them and the Negroes. They work together, eat together and go to union meetings together. Two Negroes were elected as committeemen. But once they hit the streets after work it's different. It's like walking into a different world. These white Southerners wouldn't think of inviting a Negro to their homes. In social life these white workers just seem to feel a superiority.

INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the fifteenth installment.)

SOUTHERN JUSTICE

My second job in Memphis was for Peter Lynn Randall from 1936 until 1943. He was a lawyer from a large family of lawyers. They owned a building called the Randall Building.

Shortly after I started to work for Randall, a Negro who lived next door to me got into trouble. He got into a fight with a white man. The white man was his friend. He was a worker and he and the Negro often went on drinking bouts together. Often they would stay away for one or two days on a drinking bout. The misunderstanding had happened when they were both drunk. The Negro beat the white man and the white man said the Negro had taken his money.

He was lying but the white man sued the Negro. Randall defended him.

When the Negro testified that he and the white man had been drinking, Randall said, "Gentlemen of the Jury, you see the kind of case this is. When a white man starts eating and drinking with a Negro he gets to be just like one. There is no difference, only one has a white skin. The defendant should be freed."

In twenty minutes the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

Another case had to do with me. My old foreman Mike introduced me to a money-lender. His name was Jaspers and he was supposed

to be a 'coon hunter like myself. Mike had told him about a good dog I had. Jaspers came to my house. He told me that he wanted to borrow my dog to train his dogs. I didn't care too much about the bargain, but I let him take the dog.

I didn't see Jaspers for three months. One day I saw him getting a haircut in the barber shop. He asked the barber to tell me what had happened to my dog. The barber asked Jaspers if he meant the dog that had the black plague and died. He had taken the dog to the city dump and burned it.

I went to the office and told P. L. the story. P. L. told me he didn't believe the dog was dead.

While Randall was cursing Jaspers in such a vicious tone saying that a white man who lies to a Negro should be run out of town, it came to me what he was saying. I said to myself, "My God, is this it? Is this the Southern system, white supremacy and the laws of the South?" They feel that a white man has no need to lie to a Negro or lie about him. I was not thinking of the dog then. I said, "No wonder, when a Negro is involved in an incident with whites, he is always guilty if the whites say he is. That's why in the courts when a Negro is in trouble, if he has twenty Negro witnesses testifying for him, and one white is against him, he is guilty on the one white's statement."

(To Be Continued)

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

(Note: I have received a bitter letter from someone in Iowa. It appears below without comment from me. You may want to answer after you have read it. I'll be glad to make this space available. —R. E.)

"Every year the vast majority of Cold Wartime veterans receive questionnaires pertaining to their availability should the government decide to call up the Reserve. A grim reminder that you're not as free as you were feeling.

"You have a Reserve obligation of seven years," was the way they phrased it. They drafted you, pushed you around for two years and then sentenced you to seven uncertain years, where at any time they could snatch you back in at the drop of a hat. They call it an obligation. With that cleverly chosen word which they incessantly use they would like to convince you that you ought to be glad to give up those years of your life.

"They're great ones for words. Before going overseas we were constantly reminded that we were to consider ourselves "good will ambas-

sadors." We were to occupy a country, rip up farms, fields and vineyards in war games and make the people love us. Still we might have fared better if people hadn't held us responsible for what our state department was doing.

"They haven't been keeping up that chatter and enrollment at West Point has fallen off. Classes are not up to full strength. The powers that be don't want to believe that the army just isn't popular, so they're planning a publicity campaign to acquaint the public with the purposes of the Point. After all there might be a few patriots around who didn't know about our Academy.

"With more words they try to recruit into the armed forces. My own television set looks me square in the eye and tells me to join up and see far off lands and exotic places. It doesn't mention that one of the places could be the Middle East and that I could be taking the excursion with a battalion of Marines recently alerted for the jaunt—no thanks."

—Bitter

Notes on Youth Overseas:

Rebels With a Cause

High school students in Caracas, Venezuela, recently went out to protest the change of the traditional July examination period to February.

They marched on the Ministry of Education and were intercepted by police armed with guns and sabers. The police used their weapons

News of the dead and wounded was spread by the medical students of the National University serving as internes in the city's hospitals. These medical students registered their indignation by raising aloft, on a flag pole, the bloody dress of one of the murdered students.

The Jimenez government is doing its best to suppress news of its atrocities by ruthless censorship of newspapers.

Since the initial episode, students all over Venezuela have turned out in demonstrations against the government, wrecked class rooms and stoned police.

* * *

Because of the shortage of mine labor, Polish youth are being drafted into the mines. As an inducement to produce, they are given free clothing at the beginning of

Pupil Describes Junior High Punishment

LOS ANGELES.—In our Junior High School they have a system of punishment, called the citation, system in case you do something wrong, like throw paper, etc. They have so-called officers, who are divided into three groups.

The first group, called councilmen, is made up of boys in the ninth grade. They are stationed in the halls and at the head of each stairway. You must walk around them or they will make you go back and walk the area over again.

The second group is Tri-C, there are girls in the eighth or ninth grades. They are stationed at the main entrances to the building from the yard. They won't let you in the building at lunch-time without a pass, but I manage to sneak into the build-

their service and one month free food and lodging in a "workers' hotel."

If they prove to be eager beavers they are awarded a 400 zloty bonus at the end of six months for "faultless" work. At the end of a year of "faultless" activity, the budding shock worker is given an 800 zloty bonus.

ing just about any time I want to.

The third group is called Starr Patrol, this group is made up of boys and girls who are situated around the building. They stop you if you enter the building when you are not supposed to, or if you run.

If you disobey anything any one of the three groups tell you to do they may give you a citation and if you get three citations in a semester you will be called to court to answer charges on all three.

If you plead guilty to the charges they will give you a penalty such as an hour after school for each, but if you plead not guilty you have to go through a trial. It is just like a real trial with a judge and jury, who usually are the student body officers — they go through the whole procedure with witnesses and all.

The thing that makes it so funny is the people who are the jurors take it so seriously like it's a life and death matter, and after all that, if you are found guilty they can only give you a little sentence.

WOMEN

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

In talking with some of the girls I work with, I am amazed at the contempt they show for ordinary people. They are middle-class girls, it's true, but they speak of the masses of people as "apathetic" and stupid.

When I asked about the Civil War, the American Revolution and the Russian Revolution, they insisted that a handful of people had instigated the whole thing each time and that the masses went blindly where they were led.

Particularly with regard to the Civil War, one girl claimed that the colored people had very little to do with it and that it was all handled by the government for economic reasons. She also insisted that the slaves never cared enough whether they had freedom to fight for it as a whole group.

DECEIVE THEMSELVES

People who believe that it takes one or two talented people to lead any movement are deceived by the seeming silence that accompanies a mass movement and the outward appearance that nothing is happening. Her superior attitude prevents her from seeing below the surface.

AUTHERINE LUCY

This girl often comments on the Autherine Lucy case in Alabama. She is indignant at the injustice. She rightly blames the college officials

and the Government, but she believes that Autherine Lucy is just one person who is intelligent enough to fight back. She does not see that Autherine Lucy could not wage such a fight if she did not know that she had the support of every colored person in the United States, with very few exceptions. And not only the support of the colored people, but that of a growing number of white people and also the sympathy of the rest of the world who do not practice our particular variety of discrimination.

Masses of people are not "backward" or apathetic, they are simply fighting for the kind of world they want to live in and they have to fight a little every day in any way at their disposal.

Teaching the Teachers

LOS ANGELES.—It seems to me that one of the things that is really bothering the educators is the fact that parents are pointing a finger at their system and making demands.

It's rather annoying to them especially when you consider that they are the ones who usually do the pointing and lecturing to parents.

I was a teacher not long ago and I was always struck

by the extreme modesty of most parents when speaking with a teacher and the arrogant or patronizing attitude of the teachers.

The attitude among the teachers was usually that the parent knew very little if anything at all about children.

Well this seems to be a period of turning the tables on the educators. Everything from their methods and what is being taught, to segregation among students is being questioned.

Worker's Dictionary

A friend of mine who's a waitress was talking about the hostess at their restaurant. I would define a hostess as their "boss" like a foreman in the shop.

She said the girls had their own definition of what a hostess is:

She's too old to be a waitress.

She's too dumb to be a cashier.

She's been with the company too long to fire.

So they make her a hostess.

"Stand Up For Yourself—Or Stop Complaining."

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Many of the articles on your Women's page are from housewives who are at home all the time and want to get out. But there is another side to the question—the women who have to go out to work and want to be home.

I've been in both positions. I've stayed at home until I got so sick of it, I had to get out to work. But when I've been working for a while, I get to the point where I have to take some time off to rest and catch up with the home.

PLAN TO GET OUT

If a woman stays home all the time, she has to get out once in a while. To do it, she has to work out a schedule and plan it—even if it means she has to put the kids to bed herself before she can get out.

A working woman has to

schedule her time, too. It's just as hard for me to get out as for the woman who stays home all day. You get out when you work, but you still have to have at least one evening a week to get out with your own friends, whether it's to go bowling or to go to a union meeting.

WORK TOGETHER—OR SEPARATE

To be happy, a man and wife have to work things out together. That's what I think you have to find out before you go into a marriage. If you don't find out then, it certainly has to be worked out before the kids start coming. If a man doesn't feel the same way the women does, I'd say to separate right then.

Why should a woman go through all the troubles of child-bearing and have all the burdens on herself? I just can't feel sorry for a

woman in that fix. I figure she asked for it. I don't have much sympathy for women who just get into a situation and then complain about it.

One woman I know is so scared of her husband, that she waits on him hand and foot. If he's reading in bed and is lying away from the lamp, she runs over to carry it closer to him. If he gets up and moves to another spot, she runs and carries the lamp to his new position. I'd conk him over the head with it. But I don't blame him. I blame her.

No matter what the situation is, you either have to stand up for yourself—or let it go on and stop complaining about it. You have to work on a problem. Nobody else can solve it, especially in a home. You have to solve those problems yourself.

. . . —Working Mother

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Where Is Russia Going?

(Continued from page 1)

not strike, but he has managed to resist the labor bureaucracy's demands for continuous and heightened production by labor turnover and slow down on the job.

RESISTANCE OF LABOR

The Russian bureaucrats are now breaking their heads on how to solve the problem of the resistance of labor and the shortage of labor.

Just as, at the end of World War II, the Russian rulers had to grant a general amnesty for all labor offenses, to gain some kind of labor force, now, they hope to gain some more production from labor by promising a shorter working day.

The Russian workers have just been promised a 7-hour day, 6-day week. First of all, this promise doesn't give the Russian worker something "new." He had a 7-hour day before the war which was never restored to him when the war was over. Secondly, the "new" 42-hour week is not promised as of now, but, presumably, by 1960 when this newest—the sixth—Five Year Plan ends. For now, all the Russian worker got was a reduction of two hours a week. Instead of 48 hours, they now need work only 46 hours.

The joker is in the decree which announced this "new" reduced work-week without pay cut. The decree also states: "Managers are instructed to see to the carrying out of the decree and are also responsible for the unconditional fulfillment of the set assignments for the volume of production."

In a word, the Russian workers are required to produce as much in 46 hours as they did in 48 hours.

That is the favorite underhand trick of wage-cutting in Russia. They don't ever announce a wage cut, but they constantly revise the production norms, always upward.

The latest Plan calls for a 50 per cent increase in labor productivity.

TECHNOLOGY AND MORE TECHNOLOGY

The bureaucracy hopes to overcome the workers resistance by automation. No private property capitalist has ever dreamed more fantastic dreams of push-button factories without workers, than the present dreams of the Russian state capitalists.

Bulganin laid the basis last summer, when he told the plenary session that "some economic managers have lost their feeling for the new... Great harm is caused to technical progress in our country by underestimating the achievements of technology abroad... The main thing is not to discover first but to introduce first... Industry must be redesigned to provide proper incentive to technical innovation."

'DECENTRALIZING PLANNING'

Some Western writers have been completely confused by the new stress the

Russian rulers have put on "decentralizing planning." Like Ford's present "decentralization plans," it is not to give the worker any voice in production—but to give the director, that is the manufacturer, a freer hand and more power over the workers as to hiring and firing and intimidation to extract more production.

The increase in managerial powers is to be backed up by an increase in the percentage of profits that is at the disposal of the factory director. It was between 15 to 45 per cent. It is now to be no less than 50 per cent and as high as 70 per cent.

The totalitarian rulers place no reliance in the Russian working people. "Specialists," said Premier Bulganin, "are our gold reserves. We are proud of them and we value them." This privileged intelligentsia—the engineers, technicians and speed-demons, whom they call "innovators"—are to be wooed with even higher wages than they already receive, which is no less than 20 times more than the average worker gets.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE MINDS OF MEN

The Russian tyranny is the exact opposite, in theory and in practice, of the theory of liberation of Marxism-Leninism. In its gigantic effort to force an identity between the two opposites—Marxism and Russian Communism—it gets its greatest help from the American Administration.

The struggle for the minds of men cannot be won under the banner of "free enterprise." Empty talk about "American democracy" will not do. The majority of the world's population is colored and none is as backward as Eisenhower or Stevenson that he does not know the truth of the situation in the South, which shows in concentrated form the situation in the North.

Russia is winning battles without fighting only because it can pretend to march under the banner of Marxism. There is no way to "expose" that except through an appeal to—and the realization of—actual freedom. The only thing that will stay the hand of Russian state capitalism, reaching out for world domination, is the Russian working class in alliance with the working people of the world.

American capitalism hopes to use the American workers' detestation of Russian Communism, in order to keep them from going to Marxism. Their hope is in vain. Marxism is not in Russia. It is in the daily life of people, the world over, striving to break out of the chaos of capitalism and war to a new society.

The only thing that American capitalism will have achieved by its attempted identification of Marxism with Communism is to identify itself with Communism as the other pole of world capital striving for world power.

WORLD OUTLOOK

Re-Writing History

—American Style

While Russian history is re-written in blood by armed tyrants, American history is re-written in calculated lies by scholars and writers.

Events in the South; the determined stand of Negroes for their human rights; most notably the courageous manner in which Montgomery Negroes have organized themselves and stated simply but firmly that they mean to have their rights—all this has brought the re-write of American history into such sharp focus as this country has ever known.

* * *

Nobel Underdog

In recent weeks, robed in the Nobel prize and in his reputation as a Southern humanitarian, William Faulkner has written "A Letter to the North," warning against integration (LIFE, Mar. 5).

Faulkner writes that in the past he was drawn to the Negro's side by "the simple human instinct to champion the underdog."

Challenged in his deepest feelings by the actions of the Southern Negroes, Faulkner blames Northern "agitation."

With his fictional skill he makes the Negro the oppressor and the White Citizens Councils the oppressed. He says he will have "to make a new choice" with "that white embattled minority who are our blood and kin."

In a more open interview, in the London TIMES, Faulkner intimates that he may see himself ready to "fight for Mississippi against the United States, even if it meant going out in the street and shooting Negroes."

This is Faulkner, winner of the Nobel prize for fiction, "champion of the underdog," blood brother of Eastland.

Impartial—Gradual Compromise

Sparked by the wordy compromises of Northern historians like Allen Nevins and Southern historians like Douglas Freeman, the last years have seen such a furious re-writing of the history of the Civil War. They have dredged up words discredited a hundred years ago and offered these labels as new truths.

We are now told that the Civil War was a tragic "blunder."

* * *

Since *Gone With the Wind*, endless novels, movies and TV plays bombard us that the Confederates

were a band of gallant men fighting for honor and freedom against the plunder of the North; that the slaves really loved their masters but were forced into freedom by Northern agitators.

Ink tries to blot out what blood was shed to prove.

* * *

Since The Beginning

The British King introduced slavery into the British Colonies in America. The Colonies repeatedly sent petitions to the King to outlaw slavery. The King refused.

When the Colonies rose in Revolution to overthrow the tyranny of the Crown, slavery was understood by all to be part of the tyranny that had to go.

Thomas Jefferson, writing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, wrote a section outlawing slavery. The new Congress cut that part out because Southern Congressmen opposed.

But everybody, North and South, 180 years ago, was sure that slavery would gradually disappear in about 20 years.

About 40 years later, in the last years of his life, Jefferson predicted that slavery was "the rock upon which the old union would split."

* * *

The Link Between North and South

In 1850, the tension over slavery was sharp and bitter. Daniel Webster, Senator from Massachusetts—a Northern man of compromise—fought fanatically for the Fugitive Slave Law as the cornerstone for preserving the Union.

Henry Clay, Senator from Kentucky, joined hands with his old enemy Webster and said that the crucial question is, "Whether this agitation against slavery shall put down the Union, or the Union be preserved and that agitation be put down. There is no other alternative."

Thus, the nation became slave catchers for the South.

But a year earlier, in 1849, this same Henry Clay—"champion of the underdog" like Faulkner today—wrote a letter denouncing slavery as though he were a lifelong Abolitionist, which he never was.

Leading personalities, in the North and in the South, linked hands; and the gradualists spoke and acted then as they speak and act today.

* * *

Freed slaves went into battle singing the Freedmen's Battle Hymn: "I'll fight for Liberty, I'm not afraid to die." And on this

idea, too, people, North and South, linked hands.

When the Civil War was over, Charles Carleton Coffin, Army Correspondent with the Union forces, the Ernie Pyle of his day, wrote:

"The conflict commenced as a rebellion, but ended in revolution. Slavery has disappeared. Civil liberty is stronger than in 1861... The Rebellion was an attempt to suppress Truth and Justice by tyranny."

If, as Coffin wrote, it was a "revolution," the "counter-revolution" has brought the issues back in conflict.

* * *

Re-Writing History —Russian Style

The falsification of history is a standard practice, everywhere, though nowhere as crude as in Russia.

The last Congress of the Russian Communist Party ushered in what appeared to be a startling reversal in history. (See *Two Worlds*, p. 5).

The new turn is certainly a reversal of the recent past when Stalin was glorified as nothing less than "The Sun of the Himalayas."

* * *

Khrushev, it is revealed, told his agreeing colleagues that they lived in fear of their lives under Stalin and dared not oppose him.

How this reminds us of the wailing by leading Nazis, after Hitler's death, that they opposed him but did his bidding out of fear. As though this tells the truth about history and excuses their roles as butchers!

Will Khrushev, in this new re-writing of Russian history, tell us of his rise to power?

He became a power in the Russian Communist party by crushing the national resistance movement in the Ukraine and slaughtering untold thousands of Ukrainians between 1941 and 1946.

Khrushev dedicated himself to this slaughter on his own initiative and was rewarded by Stalin for it. That butchery laid the basis of Khrushev's victory over Beria and Malenkov and his present "defiance" of Stalin.

* * *

It is a false picture to consider that the primary changes in history are the result of change in leading personalities.

The actions of the masses of people striving for their freedom change history and write it.

Our times will have to write our history.