

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

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WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

THE U.A.W. CONVENTION

After reading Reuther's report to the U.A.W. convention held in Atlantic City, any one can see clearly where these leaders stand in regard to the workers—and the Negro workers in particular. The 32 page report, printed in the union paper, covered everything from every corner of the earth to every national problem here. However it did say one thing about workers in the shops in regard to production speed-up and run away shops. Not one thing about the working people that fought this kind of inhuman speed-up and organized the C.I.O.

ALL AROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH . . .

All the things Reuther talked about and proposed were so-called broad and international problems. He said the convention was just as important to the struggling peasant trodding the mud of India as it is to the millionaire in a pent house on Wall Street. He talked about peace and freedom. Millionaires do not need Reuther or the U.A.W.'s help. War or peace depends on whether the millionaires want it or do not want it, and they have always had their freedom.

He also spent some time on Civil Rights as a national question. Any worker can tell you about the discrimination in the U.A.W. In the plant where I work there are departments that are lily white and Negroes have been trying to get into them for 20 years.

THE A.F.L.-C.I.O. CONVENTION

Every worker in the shop said that not one thing in our interest was done at the recent A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention either. The only thing that happened in California at that convention is that Meany and his officers voted a big raise. Meany's true colors showed when the Negro Vice President, A. Phillip Randolph, introduced a resolution asking the union to abolish discrimination in the unions. After Meany blasted Randolph the resolution was voted down. The so-called great liberal labor leaders, Reuther and Mazey, voted against the resolution.

The U.A.W. has moved so far away from the production workers that they didn't even call a meeting to report the U.A.W. convention to the membership. In the past we always got written reports of the convention proceedings and then had a meeting. This time we received a letter telling us to watch Emil Mazey on T.V. to get the report. That is as close as they want workers to get to labor leaders. That way no one can ask any questions.

A worker in the shop said he wanted to ask Mazey how could he be against giving Meany a raise at the A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention and a few weeks later vote one for himself? This worker said that is the only thing this convention was called for. "It was called to raise our dues and the union brass' salaries. Every delegate to that convention is a faker. They pretend they are opposed to Reuther but when we get in a production dispute we never see them. At election time they come around and vote for Reuther's boys."

Another worker said, "They also have these conventions so that so-called 'liberals' and 'friends of labor' can talk and lie about what they will do for the working people if they get elected etc. These same politicians are among the first to sign bills in Congress against workers."

Still another worker said, "If it was Reuther and Mazey bargaining for the steelworkers the steel strike never would have even begun. It would have been like our last contract. That was written for or maybe even by the company. That contract already has in it what the steel companies want. One question I would like to put to Reuther is how could he ask Khrushchev if workers have the right to strike in Russia when workers in his own union do not have a right to vote. When some delegates asked to let us vote on the dues increase they were told this is not a mail order union. But that's what it looks like to me. Our dues are deducted by the company and mailed to the union leaders."

CONDITIONS GET WORST BUT UNION DOES NOTHING

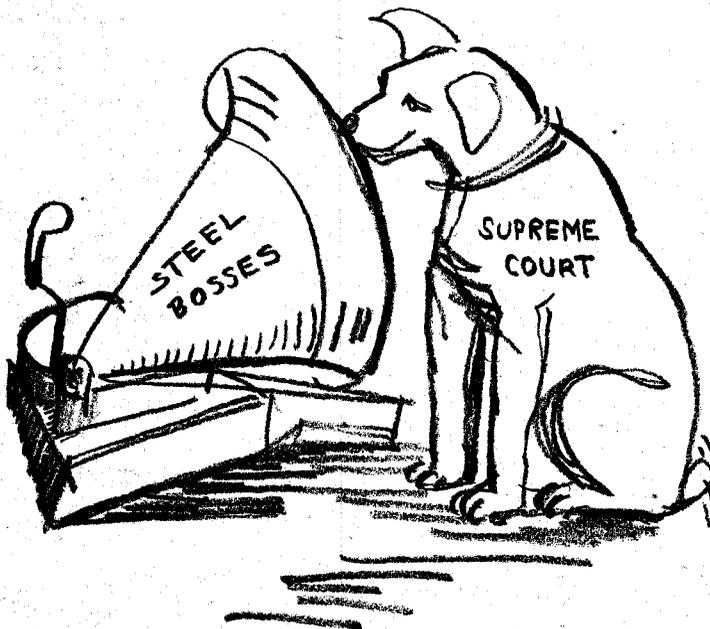
The week after the convention workers struck one of the Chrysler plants because of the company's complete disregard of seniority and working conditions. The union forced them back and six workers were fired. Several days after they went back to work three more were paid off. The company said they participated in the strike. As yet not a word has been heard from the union.

A union convention that should have taken up automation and its toll in the shops—speed-up, lay-offs, unemployment and even death—was a complete bust as far as the working man is concerned. The officers got their raises and the workers got a dues hike. The union leaders go to work in nice offices and the workers continue to go into the shop facing speed-up and lay-offs. Certainly this must stop somewhere.

Youth Conflict Exposes Delinquent Society

by Robert Ellery

"The police push the kids, and tell us to keep moving. They walk behind you, listening to what you're talking about. They swear and tell you to get away from the school area in a hurry. They ticket the kids who cross the street against the light. It's like a concentration camp." This is the way a Detroit teenager described to News & Letters what happens every afternoon when school lets out.



HIS MASTER'S VOICE

In the city of Detroit, a teenager's fist fight with a school teacher makes the headlines, and similar incidents get the same kind of publicity in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. The press, radio and TV all conspire to plant in the minds of adults, fear of and hostility toward the young generation and artfully dodges any serious approach to understanding this new generation, confronted with the threat of H-Bomb War and technological unemployment—a world they did not make.

IN NEW YORK

The most recent interest in teenagers follows a series of teenage murders in New York. Like so many acts of teenage violence, the motivations for the murders were not readily understood, and thus enraged officials and police moved against the youth, as if solutions could be found by a show of force.

Mayor Wagner in New York has sought to drop the age at which a juvenile may be tried as an adult from 16 to 15. Parents have been made financially responsible for property damaged by their children. The police rounded up hundreds of "juvenile delinquent suspects" and booked them as "undesirables."

The attitude of Samuel Liebowitz, a Brooklyn, N.Y. Circuit Court judge and one of the leading exponents of the J. Edgar Hoover, "Get tough" policy toward youth which is beginning to hold sway, is exemplified by this statement he made some time back when sentencing a 16 year old who had a record as a juvenile offender. He said: "These kids are desperate, vicious and depraved and the approach of the courts toward dealing with these young thugs must be reappraised and altered."

LIEBOWITZ RACIST

He has more recently coupled his personal war on youth with sheer unbridled racism. Ignoring the fact that the rate of "juvenile delinquency" in Puerto Rico is less than 1/10 the rate of "juvenile delinquency" in Manhattan, Liebowitz has placed the responsibility for teenage crime at their door, making these Americans responsible for the very system they have been victimized by. It is not by choice they live in ghettos, pay exorbitant rents, and work in

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Editorial

STEELWORKERS AND TAFT-HARTLEY

The Taft-Hartley Act has been used by Eisenhower to send the steelworkers back to work without any of the basic issues of the strike settled. If it had not been clear before, it is now very clear that the Taft-Hartley Act has as its sole aim strike breaking and union busting. Eisenhower claimed that the "national interest" was at stake. The question of workers' rights and working conditions never concerned him in the slightest. Automation continues to take its toll of workers' lives but the Administration and the Courts have heard their master's voice and ordered the steelworkers back, for production of steel is of the greatest importance.

The Landrum-Griffin-Kennedy anti-labor bill is already on the books to regulate and bust unions. It was no sooner there than they began clamoring for new "labor" legislation. This time to "prevent industry-wide strikes, such as the steel strike." Under the guise that the "rank and file" workers are not opposed to the Landrum-Griffin law they are determined to intervene on the part of the company more openly, to actively participate in union affairs in a manner which would turn them into the kind of unions maintained by the Fascist and Communist states.

STEELWORKERS HARDEST HIT

When 850,000 American workers were out of work as the result of the longest steel strike in U.S. history, the huge majority of these workers were solidly behind the strike. They have suffered a lot, done without many things they needed, but nowhere had there appeared a "back to work" movement.

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British Labor News

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Automation In The Mines

Union Committee's O.K. Permits Loading of Coal Between Shifts

Morgantown, W. Va.—One of the big squabbles at our mine has been the business of loading coal between shifts. This has become a big issue ever since we got the continuous miners in the mine.

Our mine committee had taken the position that there would be no coal loaded between shifts, except in cases of emergency where it was a matter of safety affecting the men. It is very seldom that you have a situation like this come up.

The reason for this stand was based on two things. First, we had a lot of guys laid off, and everybody knows that if the company can fill its contracts by having the men work overtime, those guys would never be called back. And second, even the guys working on some conventional sections were working short weeks.

MINERS FIGHT OVERTIME WHILE SOME UNEMPLOYED

So you had a situation where some men were getting three and four days a week, while others, on continuous miner sections, were

8 HRS. IN PIT IS TOO LONG, SAYS MINER

SCOTT'S RUN, W.Va.—I'm working on this continuous miner section and the boss always wants us to stay in between shifts and load coal.

They say we're only supposed to stay in and load coal when there's an emergency, but every day is emergency day.

The way I feel, eight hours in that hole is too much, let alone working overtime.

The boss, of course, doesn't feel the way I do, and one day we had to lock horns over it.

It was pretty near the end of the shift, and he told me, "You're staying in tonight." He didn't ask me, he told me. I told him right back that I wasn't, and he blew up.

"I'm the boss on this section," he yelled, "and I expect my men to do what I tell them. When you're boss, you can tell me something, but until then, you'll do as I say or I'll see to it that you're moved to another section. And right now I'm telling you you're staying in to work overtime!"

I was as hot as he was and yelled right back at him:

"You're boss of this section all right, and for eight hours while I'm here, you can tell me what to do. But my contract tells me that all I have to put in this hole is

getting five and six days, plus overtime.

The committee made their stand because the men were raising hell about the situation and said no loading of coal between shifts. A few men were permitted to stay in to grease the machines and rock-dust when this was required.

COMMITTEE GIVES IN TO COMPANY

But now that's been changed. An agreement has been made with the new committee we have, and the district was in on it and o.k.'d it, which permits the company to load between shifts.

This agreement is also supposed to be only in case of emergency, but emergency this time is decided by how much coal is left in a block. If there is not very much left at quitting time, it is an emergency and the men are to stay in to get the block.

The only thing about this is that there isn't a guy on the section, let alone a boss, who can't figure out the work almost every day so a little bit is left at quitting time. What it amounts to is a green light for the company to do what it wants to; and now they have a union agreement to back them up.

The mine committee did do something though. They cut out what wasn't really hurting the men any—they said there could be no more greasing of machines or rock dusting between shifts.

eight hours, after that neither you, John L. Lewis or the President of this country can tell me a damned thing!

"And I'm telling you right now, I don't want no overtime. When my eight hours are up, I'm going home, so don't ask me to stay in.

"As for moving me to another section, that's your business. So far as I'm concerned, maybe that wouldn't be a bad idea at that."

Then I grabbed my lunch bucket and took off for the outside.

The boss never did ask me to stay in after that, but about a week later he came up to me and said:

"Now just because I haven't asked you to stay in to work overtime doesn't mean that I don't want you to. If you ever want to stay in, just say so."

But like I say, eight hours in that hole are too much, let alone working overtime.

DETROIT EDITING
COMMITTEE
MEETS
EVERY SUNDAY
EVENING
7 TO 9 P.M.
AT
8751 GRAND RIVER
(1 FLIGHT UP)

BOSS READY TO BREAK YOUR BACK

SCOTT'S RUN, W.Va.—I was running buggy on this section during the shift and was parked at the loading ramp, waiting for the men to move the continuous miner from one place to another.

The boss came up to me and asked me to go to help them move the machine cable.

I went down to where the cable was, but there wasn't another man around. This same thing happened before, and the boss expected me to move that cable by myself.

You can do it all right, but the cable on that miner is no plaything. Its a good job for two men to drag it, and I wasn't about to bust a gut trying to move it myself.

So I just stood there by the cable.

In a couple of minutes the boss came running up and said, "I thought I told you I wanted that cable moved. Why is it still laying there?"

"What you told me," I replied, "was to help move the cable. I haven't seen any help yet, and I'm sure not moving it myself."

He went off mumbling to himself, but in a few seconds, I got plenty of help. And we moved the cable.

UNION OFFICER BUCKING FOR BOSS'S JOB

SCOTT'S RUN, W.Va.—Talk about having a fouled up situation in a local union . . . man, we've got it.

We've got a guy who is both president and a member of the grievance committee, but who is going to school to get to be a boss in our mine.

The company changed his shift from afternoons to day so he can attend the classes, but on top of that, they changed his classification to utility man so he can go on any job. This also makes sure that he will stay in case a lay-off comes up, because the company has said during earlier lay-offs that the utility men will be the last to go.

PLAYS BOTH ENDS . . .

So it's obvious that the company is looking out for him.

Everyone knows that his getting a job as boss depends on the company accepting him. And if he fights too hard for the men against the company, he sure can't expect that they'll give him the bossing job he's bucking for.

. . . BUT MEN GET WORST OF IT

They've got that job as a stick over his head, but at the same time, that stick is also over the heads of the men. And here's one thing the men in the mine know, they might as well forget about it if they have to depend on this so-called officer to take a strong stand against the company.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

"A POOR MAN HASN'T A CHANCE"

A road to peace will be pretty hard for the President and the administration to straighten out. With the laws we live under today, whenever a so-called leader sets up something crooked against the working people it is hard to straighten it out again. The rich man and the lawyers want everything to go their way. They want things to come out the way they see it, or they'll go and make it plain to the judge, in one way or another, to fix it so it will come out in their favor.

It is hard for the poor people to get anything to come out in their favor on this new road to peacetime without their weapons to fight for it. They keep passing laws to take everything away from the working man.

A poor man hasn't a chance to win or do anything in this crooked American world without putting up the same kind of fight that John Brown had to put up when he tried to make peace for the poor white and the Negro, 100 years ago.

JOHN BROWN

In one of his talks, John Brown said how hard it was for him to go on fighting for peacetime after his two sons were killed trying to help free the slaves. He said to his men that those that were left should be brave enough and go on to fight for freedom for the poor because if they fought in the favor of the rich nothing would be done. He said if they must die, die like a man trying to free the American slaves.

It is a true fact that the President of the country and

the President of the U.A.W., Walter P. Reuther, do not mean the poor people and the Negro any good at all in the fight for peace.

IKE, REUTHER AND WILLIAMS

When Reuther had his convention on October 9th, he talked about finding peace for the workers. When a rich white woman heard about his talk she turned to her maid and told her that Eisenhower and Reuther and Governor Williams should be ashamed of themselves trying to fool the Negro people that they care for them, because it isn't so. "Not one of them would have a Negro come near them or work in their homes."

These people work for the rich who put them in the chairs they fill, because the rich rule America.

The Negro maid said, "I don't care what they do or say about keeping the poor white down and holding the Negro back, we are going to show them that we Negroes are going to swing. Even if some of us have to die trying to get to first base in getting our rights. We have let them know that we are here to stay."

This is not only a white man's country but it is for the black and white. Nothing will be solved until the Negro question is answered, nor until the white man quits making laws for himself and against the Negro people and the working people in general. When this happens things will be so much better for the American people.

"WITH A SMILE"

People talk about this country being a wonderful place to live. As far as I'm concerned it is just as bad as Russia.

They use about the same tactics here. The only difference is that they use them undercover.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

If the good old United States would keep their nose out of other people's business and take care of their own affairs this would be a better place to live. The poor steelworkers and factory workers can't even get a little raise without it causing inflation. As much money as the workers make for the capitalists they can afford to give the little raises that are asked for, with a smile.

You always see on TV, or hear on the radio, that we should send to CARE. If the U.S. would take care of the people over here, they would be better off. They preach about people in other nations being hungry and ragged, but we have the same problems in our own country.

If the government would

stop spending so much money on missiles, bombs and other war weapons and take that money to care for the needy people here, they would have accomplished something. The starving people certainly can't digest nose cones, missiles or bombs.

IS THIS FREEDOM?

I'm still mad about that Khrushchev business. I thought that the president of our good old USA was supposed to be so brilliant. Yet he played one of the dumbest tricks I've ever heard of, taking him around to show him the weapons and best industry interests we possess.

I don't see what's so different about the U.S. and its freedom. What about the Negro? He was created just like the rest — or maybe some think he came from the moon or Mars. It would really be funny if the U.S. landed on the moon and found Negroes there.

If freedom means making slaves out of people, then I don't want any. I don't know if you can print all of this, but it's how I really feel.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

STRIKING COPPER WORKER BLASTS U.A.W. RAIDING

Los Angeles—It was five or six months before I knew about the expulsion of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union from the C.I.O. The U.A.W. accused Mine and Mill of being a Communist union when the U.A.W. tried to get into our plant, and raided it.

OUT ON STRIKE

Our contract is up now and we have been on strike for almost two months. We have a lot of fellows who are getting discouraged and saying that we shouldn't have gone out. There are about 400 of us on strike now. A lot of the men are still not in the union, but they want the raise, so they went out too. The contract calls for a closed shop, but I don't think the union will get it. We are also striking for better conditions.

THE "INCENTIVE" PLAN

We work piece work and we get a bonus for everything over a certain amount of work. In other words, you do a lot more work than you should do ordinarily. The way they cut man power on a lot of things is by boosting the rates of the bonus. Years back you could work pretty good and make bonus, but now you have to almost kill yourself to make it. If we get a raise, they'll raise the rates for bonus again and we won't be able to make it anymore. Anyway, we are still about seven cents behind what the other copper workers across the country make, as a result of all this raiding by the U.A.W.

UNION OFFICER TRIES TO DIVIDE WORKERS

I think the President of the shop in Mine and Mill, was responsible for the U.A.W. raiding us. He was the one who passed out U.A.W. cards and said that the Mine and Mill was broke. He is a white man, and the rumor was that he wanted separate seniority rights for the white men and separate ones for the Negroes because the colored

EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Detroit—I went to a union meeting a few weeks back that took up seniority. The company called back the men with the lowest seniority for a new job they put into the plant. They trained and called back these men until they had about 50% of the younger men back. Now they are bringing us older guys into the department and the workers with less seniority than us are getting up a petition against us. It's not a race question either because the majority of workers in both groups are Negro.

OUT OF WORK FOR 2 YEARS

It's just that people have been out of work so long they lose sight of a lot of things that we fought hard to get. It is just what the company planned.

What can you say to a man, who has less seniority

men have more seniority there. The U.A.W. sent raiders to the gate during this time, and passed out literature saying what the U.A.W. would do for us. That started a fight among the men in the plant. Some wanted the U.A.W. and some wanted the same union they had.

The International Representative sold most of us on the idea that the UAW was a fine union for auto workers, but that Mine and Mill was better for copper workers.

We had an election and Mile and Mill won by 20 or 30 votes. But ever since that time the U.A.W. has been raiding us and is still trying to get in. The company didn't do anything during this fight, and had promised us a seven cent raise. But after it was all over, we didn't get it. Because of this raiding, we worked the rest of the year without a contract and went on strike. We struck for five weeks and we got a raise.

Now we have to win this strike.

—Copper Worker

New Job at Chrysler Means More Intensive Speed-Up

Detroit — I work over at Chrysler and I was just transferred to a new job. When we got there the foreman told us to sit down and he told us that it was a great opportunity they were giving us: "The company has been good to you fellows and you do likewise to the company. You are entering school for 10 days and the company is paying you to go to school to learn a trade. After you learn this trade you can get jobs in other places and it will be because this company taught you and paid you at the same time." He said it as if we're not really doing anything for them. I've just been working there 20 years.

NEW SPEED-UP

He went on to tell us that when we get on the floor that we are not to touch our welding gas. "You touch it only in the morning to start and at noon and quitting time to stop it." This way they can speed you up to anything. They make you go to school to teach you how to weld, they say. What they teach you is how to weld as fast as they set the vent on the generator for.

"NO TALKING"

Some more of the brain-

than you, when he comes up to you and tells you, "You're right, it should be done by seniority, but I've been out of work for 2 years. My family just about starved. I can't think straight. Every morning my wife asks me do you think we can borrow from someone or somewhere today. I'm scared to get laid-off again. My kids had hardly any food to eat." This isn't a simple thing. You can't tell a guy like that "tough luck," and you can't let go of the few remaining union principles either.

SLOW DOWN

River Rouge, Mich. — The old saying is: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." And that same idea is true as far as the steel workers are concerned.

They threw the Taft-Hartley Act at us to force us back into the mills, but what we do when we get in there is something else again.

I know there hasn't been a man I've talked to who works in that mill that has said he's going to like working under this set-up.

As for myself, I guess I'm about the slowest worker they'll have in that mill. But I can tell you it's not going to be easy to work slower than a lot of other guys I've talked to.

In the past, the company used to give us cigars for breaking our backs when we set new production records. What the union ought to do now is give some kind of prize for the men who get out the least amount of production.

washing is: "There are 20 of you guys in school and we don't want to see 2 or 3 of you congregating and talking to each other. The same thing applies when you're on the floor. You have to stay on the job at all times. The only exceptions are the two 12 minute breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Don't talk or discuss even with the guy next to you because he doesn't know either. If you need help call one of us."

A worker said, "You know what this means. Any time he and a worker get into an argument he doesn't want anyone else to hear and no one to get together to talk over working conditions."

They went on to tell us: "We give you 5 minutes to clean up the booth. You should sweep off the table and around the table, sweeping the booth clean." When we had a union that was a union, sweeping was another man's job. Production workers didn't sweep unless they felt like it and they didn't do it very much because they figured it might be taking a job away from someone. With these semi-skilled jobs, sweeping is part of it.

USE FEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT

That school they sent us to made my flesh crawl. They lined us up and marched us down a flight of stairs to the front end of the building to see a film. The whole thing is designed to put fear into you. At no time do they mention the union as a body they have an agreement with. What they do tell you though is that the job was originally done over at Midland Steel and they could have hired right off the street for the job. "You know how long some of you were out there." Another

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

LIFE OF A SALESGIRL

This is the time of the year that a sales girl working on commission begins to think that, "maybe I'll make good now," the Christmas season has started and lots of people will be buying.

Sales work is not terribly hard physically but the pressure put on you builds up to such tension that by the end of the day you are not just worn out but completely frustrated. Of course this might not apply to the "top" that is the women that, with a little help from the managers, have a knack of always making good commission. I suspect that their insides get pulled apart by the end of the day also.

"A GOOD DAY"

You start out the day saying to yourself that today, you will have a good day and nothing in the whole wide world is going to upset you, not the managers nor the customers.

Two hours later, finds you suspecting some other salesgirl of trying to "steal" your customer, finds you complaining that not every one is doing their job and the anxiety of your weekly pay check begins hammering away in your brain. Women that have to support themselves solely by this job sometimes become so tense that instead of making you "sell" better it has the reverse effect and you begin thinking not only of your small pay check and the bills this small check will have to cover but also you begin

wondering if one of those small conferences between you and one of the managers might not be due.

The company helps build up some of these tensions because supposedly it will make you "stay on your toes" and really sell anything and everything to the customer.

Since the recession started a few years back the sales girl's lot has really taken a turn for the worse. While the steel strike was going on it found the downtown stores in Detroit virtually empty of "buying" customers.

PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL, OR ARE THEY?

When you are hired you are told that if you enjoy meeting people this is the job for you. In the beginning this is quite true. You enjoy meeting people and think aren't people wonderful but soon you begin thinking, "while I'm over here being nice to this lady that other sales girl has had a \$100 sale." You begin disliking people if they take up too much time or if they spend \$4 instead of \$50.

There is no union here and you live solely on the basis that you have to do a good job, hoping the managers will continue to "like" you. As far as I am concerned working on a commission is just like the incentive plans in the factories and no way for anyone to have to make a living.

YOUNG WORKER FACES AUTOMATION

What happens to the youth that hire into an automated shop? I'll tell you... 60-70 hours a week he feeds an expensive machine.

The machine I'm feeding is sometimes even more than a man killer. I can't even tie my shoes, get a drink of water, or go to the hospital at the time of an accident. I can't even make a mistake. It is all work—8 to 12 hours a day.

little speech is, "When you graduate from school, you should go onto the floor with but one thought in your mind and that is to do the best job you can as fast as you can." He told us there have been all kinds of bids for this job by other companies and if we don't do exactly like they say we'll all be out in the street.

When one worker remarked that this reminded him when he was in the C.C.C. camps during the depression, another worker said, "Heck no, this is the Army. When he yelled, 'Fall in, single file.' I felt like I was back in the Army. What is this business of people working together and not talking to each other. We learned more from each other than we ever did from those guys."

Under Automation, the time study man is the God—the ultimate for time-study is slave labor. We aren't very far from modern slave labor, and by slave labor I mean where man can be controlled by other men and machines to such limits that they can draw all the physical and mental energies from a worker in a given limit of time. If their electronic computer says it can be done, you have to do it. It's true that they are not yet getting what they want from the working force, because men are finding ways of fighting it — after two months of operation the company has not been able to obtain full production.

FOREMEN WELL TRAINED

The foremen today are psychologically geared for a whip—the company uses the kind of men who know only how to drive men and themselves. If they can't do it, the company sifts and sifts until they find a man that will.

The people with the H-bomb think it is the ultimate weapon, but the ultimate weapon is what the ruling class opposes. If they succeed in breaking unionism—there is no place for them to go but to face that weapon—and that is the working class and its reaction to automation.

Chrysler Worker
Los Angeles

EDITORIAL

STEELWORKERS AND TAFT-HARTLEY

(Continued from Page 1)

Eisenhower has ignored their demands, taken numerous vacations and the only "fact" uncovered by his fact finding committee was that the steel companies refused to bargain in good faith. This was called a breakdown of collective bargaining.

The issues of the steel strike are clear enough to the workers, and it is not a question of money. The basic issue on both sides is a question of production relations.

* * *

"SELL-OUTS"

In recent years the labor bureaucracy has been trading away the hard won rights of labor, giving concessions on the questions of production, moving back, closer and closer to the days of the non-union shop, all in return for a few miserable cents in a "package deal" which the workers never saw. For so-called "fringe benefits" they saw job rights, working conditions and union democracy traded away to the point where in auto even their rest time has been cut in half.

The capitalists have moved into the void left by the labor leaders. It is big steel that has taken the ball lost by the labor bureaucracy. Their demands would force more production for less pay, cut the working force by 25%, break up long established and hard-fought-for working rules. They call it "featherbedding" and the railroads, following their lead, have begun a campaign to smash the Railroad Brotherhoods under the same pretext.

In auto, Walter Reuther does their job for them. He raises the "rights" of the consumers, as if they were a "class" apart from the workers. He seeks two votes at the bargaining table, both of which he uses against the workers.

* * *

WORKERS STILL TO HAVE THEIR SAY

The campaign against the working class, to take away their rights and to make their working conditions worse, has begun. Taft-Hartley was the first step, the Landrum-Griffin-Kennedy anti-labor bill provides the legal framework. The capitalists are out to smash organized labor and to bring in slave labor and to drive down conditions in the shop.

But the progress of the working class will not be stopped by either one. The men may be back at work but nothing is settled.

Comments Heard at a Meeting of the American Association For Afro-American Relations

The struggles of the African masses to obtain their freedom are of direct concern to the Negro rank-and-file here in America.

* * *

The movements toward freedom travel a two-way road between Africa and America. When 24 Africans are killed demanding independence in the Belgian Congo, when continuous outbreaks occur in South Africa in protest to vicious policies of segregation practiced by the White rulers, when mothers are banished to exile in the jungle for preaching solidarity and organized action in Kenya, when American Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., march by the thousands against the state capitol in protest to a trumped-up rape charge against a Negro youth, as they stiffen daily resistance to police brutality and policies of political, social and economic discrimination—all these actions counteract one on the other, buttressing the determination of each to carry the movement for freedom forward.

* * *

I know and understand the class struggle in any country. Anywhere and any time a revolution breaks out in a country, I have a strong feeling that I am part of it. It means something to me as a worker. And the African revolutions take on a twofold meaning for me: as a worker and as a Negro American.

Readers

TAFT-HARTLEY AND THE STEEL STRIKE

Right now, all the guns are trained on the steelworkers and their union. If they're broken, it sure won't long before all the other unions get the same medicine. I don't care what they have to do—I hope they win—for the good of all people in the working class.

Auto Worker Detroit

* * *

When Khrushchev was making his visit here and the steelworkers were on strike, Ike said this was a sign that we had freedom in this country—that workers had a right to strike.

Now we know what he meant: So long as only 500,000 steelworkers were hurting, we had rights; but as soon as the big steel outfits started to feel the pinch, we better forget about rights. When Ike says we've got rights, we got them. When he says we don't, we don't. What's the difference between that and what you have in Russia?

Steelworker, Wyandotte, Mich.

* * *

McDonald preaches that the company is trying to break the union. If he thought that he could get away with it he would sell them out and think nothing of it. I watched him on TV one night and he said that if the company thought the men were going back to work without getting what they wanted, they were crazy. It sounded good, but he wasn't fooling anybody. It's still true, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Miner's Wife West Virginia

* * *

I don't know just why, but when the unions were testing the Taft-Hartley, I didn't have the feeling that the workers themselves were involved. I kept feeling that something was being put over on the workers. It's a sure thing that the settlement made with Kaiser was a complete sell-out.

Woman Worker Detroit

* * *

The Taft-Hartley law is being made more reactionary than ever by the government's interpretation of "health and safety" to mean, of all things, that the nation's health and safety is being endangered because we can't make. The press goes along, avoiding any mention that an injunction is only against the workers and the union, and for the company. They try to

make it sound as if "it is a sad day for the country," as though no one wanted to get this injunction, as though management wasn't jumping for joy. As though it penalized both sides.

Intellectual Massachusetts

* * *

Ike walked up to Wall Street with his hat in his hand when he threw the Taft-Hartley Act at us.

Steelworker, Ecorse, Mich.

* * *

Ike is the President of this country, and he ought to have some smart advisers. But those guys who advised him to use the Taft-Hartley on us sure didn't have much sense. Why there isn't a man in the mills who can't mess things up. Sure, the bosses are going to watch the men close now, but you don't have a boss to watch every man — and all it takes is one.

Steelworker, Wyandotte, Mich.

* * *

A lot of men are being called back to the mills since Ike threw the Taft-Hartley at us, but there are also plenty who won't be called back for weeks. I know the company has beaten men out of compensation before by saying repairs had to be made because of a strike, that the company wasn't responsible for the strike and the men were out of luck. Now that we've all been ordered back to work by the government, our union lawyers ought to make sure the men who aren't called back right away get their compensation.

Steelworker, River Rouge, Mich.

* * *

LEADERS AND RANKS

Workers in our shop talked a lot about the steel strike. Everyone of them seemed convinced that if Reuther had been negotiating he wouldn't be holding out any 100 days. He would have sold the men out right at the start.

Auto Worker Detroit, Mich.

* * *

Before the UAW convention was held, there was discussion on what constitutes a member. Apparently the UAW leaders want to get around the unemployed members who claim to be union members. The way I understand it, now you are a member for only 6 months after you're laid off. If you want to remain a member after that you have to inform them in writing etc., etc. — some

procedure that seems designed for making it difficult for unemployed members to stay in. They added something else about remaining in the area besides. I guess they're trying to cut the membership down to what they can handle.

Unemployed Detroit

* * *

NEGRO STRUGGLE

I don't care what anybody tries to tell me, I think there's a lot more colored in the South than white. No matter how far out you go in the country, you find colored people living. I know places where there's one white man with thousands of acres, and he has poor colored people working the land. There must be places where there's a thousand colored to one white. Even in the big cities, like Montgomery, I don't know any white neighborhood as big as the colored neighborhoods.

What I can't understand is how so many colored can let such a few whites rule them.

Negro Woman Detroit

* * *

I fail to see how we can talk against the totalitarian one-party system in Russia, when we have what amounts to a one-party system in 13 Southern states right in our own country! That's what's bugging them in Washington, too, I'm willing to bet.

Engineer Los Angeles

* * *

We got a letter from back home in Alabama about a big fight that took place over the preacher at church. Many of the Negro people are going in for young preachers of an intellectual type, like Rev. King, for example. Some of the older people are trying to stick to the old-timers. The fight that took place finally went to the courts and somebody must have tried to get the old-fashioned one ousted by saying that he preached integration from the pulpit. The Court said that if that was true, the young preachers would be even worse—and they wound up putting a padlock on the church, and letting the people use it only for funerals.

A few years ago, it would have been fantastic to think that a church would be padlocked over this question. It shows how far the situation has gone.

Auto Worker Detroit

News & Letters

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Views

Down South they don't beat around the bush. You know right away they don't like you if you're Negro. But up North some pretend. They say "Oh, I don't mind" but when you sit down on a bus they get up to change seats.

E. D.
Detroit

Things are getting worse in Chicago. My cousin was telling me about how tense it is there now. She said not a Negro is living on the North side. And one better not look at a house there, either.

It looks to me like Montgomery, Ala., has more freedom than Chicago does now.

Housewife
Detroit

YOUTH . . .

I don't know why all the mystery about how to "treat" the youth. Youth want to be treated as young men and young women—which is just what they are.

High School Student
Detroit

Sometimes I think most adults must be crazy the way they're down on teenagers. Cops treat us like animals. Teachers treat us like criminals. Even our parents often act that way. Have they forgotten that they were also young once?

High School Youth
Detroit

I think the kids should have courts of their own, with a teenage judge and jury. Maybe some adults could watch what they do, but I think that would be the fairest kind of court.

Mother of Five
Detroit

I gave my 16 year old permission to smoke. He was coming home one night when the police stopped him and searched him like they do kids around here. They found a pack of cigarettes and tore them to bits. He said he couldn't even save a butt, from what was left. That's why a lot of kids and the police don't get along.

Concerned Mother
Detroit

A friend of mine has a teenage daughter who likes to go dancing at the Graystone Ballroom. She stayed out beyond the curfew hour a couple of times and was ticketed for it. Naturally she was afraid to tell her mother. Pretty soon her mother was called down to the court building and she had to pay a fine of \$20, and that came out of her welfare check.

Another Mother
Detroit

If people tried to understand and bring out the reasons why kids are in gangs and need them, it would show a lot of what is wrong with parents and adults in this country.

Teenager
Detroit

A few statistics can reveal a lot. For example, in New York, where the Puerto Rican kids are getting the blame for so much of the juvenile delinquency, there are 100,000 Puerto Rican youth who don't speak English. And there are 90 teachers who speak Spanish.

Ex-New Yorker
Detroit

AND EDUCATION

Rickover's method of education is an education for war. He wants all scientists. For what? There's no clamor for youth to become educated men and women in order to do the world any good—just to blow it up.

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

Education would mean a whole lot more to me if I had it. I came from the South and had to work all the time and I didn't have a chance to go to school. Education would have meant a better job and a better life for me.

New Subscriber
Los Angeles

WITH THE COMMITTEE

The neighborhood work, going door to door with the paper to introduce it to new readers and then going back to get reactions—and subs—is great. I never used to like work like that before, but something's happened to make it seem very different now. It isn't just the subs we've gotten that makes it seem so worthwhile, but that a whole area, even those who don't subscribe, know us, and that many give it to their friends in still other areas. You feel you really are getting to know the people you visit.

Committee Member
Detroit

I hope you'll forgive me if I seem slow to accept everything, but frankly, I'm skeptical of organizations, and I think there are a lot of people just like me. You get leery of organizations when you throw your whole self into one that seems to have your aims, like I did, and then find out it's not what you thought at all. The worst part is that it sometimes takes you so long to get out of it again, because they've done such a good job of brain-washing you. An experience like that sometimes spoils

it for you when the really right group comes along.

New Reader
Detroit

I got interested in the committees because I was made to feel that the contribution of anyone would be appreciated. I like to be in the sort of organization where the one with the least seniority can feel that he still may have an important contribution to make. An organization that recognizes it needs everyone has to grow, the way I see it.

New Friend
Detroit

WAR AN PEACE

The world seems so reverent before the Almighty Dollar. In one way, you really have to bow down before it because it's a struggle these days just to earn enough to keep alive. But there are so many who want money because it means power. I've seen for myself how power changes people, even power on a little scale. I sure don't want any parts of it. And I don't want "money." All I want is enough to live in security and peace.

New Reader
Detroit

All this wanting to go to the moon—they're trying to go somewhere else instead of staying here and do what they should. They should study cancer instead of going to the moon. How about spending some money on that instead of taking collections from everyone's pocket?

Copper Worker
Los Angeles

The development of capitalism has produced an undistributed surplus. It is everywhere so much so that men all over the world are forcibly prevented from producing any more wealth . . . The cost of armaments today is almost prohibitive. Millions of people are engaged in utterly useless work merely to have it destroyed or so destroy others and if we add to this the large amount of men actually in the army, navy, air force, etc., the proportion is simply staggering.

Veteran
Walthamstow

In every nation, large and small, there are men courageously and tirelessly engaged in awakening the people to resist at every point those who from selfishness and greed, ignorance and intolerance, still defend the war and profit system.

Railway Worker
West Germany

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya, Author
of Marxism and Freedom

EXCLUSION OF NEGROES WARPS MIND OF WHITES

A group of West Africans are so interested in Americans of African descent that they are considering doing what our own "Talented tenth" has not done here—publish the original out-of-print pamphlet by David Walker, with a new introduction relating the struggles of the American Negroes to the African revolutions in our era.

They have asked us to reprint the *Two Worlds* on this classic that is yet to gain recognition in our country.—Ed.

The split of this country into two worlds—white and Negro—warps the mind of the white much more than it does the Negro.

In a small way this warping can be seen in the books on Lincoln. The current crop are as superficial as they have been for nearly a century, because the white historian will not seriously grapple with the life and time and the activity of the Negro people in the era of the Civil War.

It is as if, during that great turning point of history—1861 to 1865—history didn't turn at all. At best, the Second American Revolution is presented as a mere economic development which made this country the great industrial land it is, without in the least remaking, or being remade by live people. Let us turn instead to one of the live people of that critical era, the Negro, David Walker. He made history then, and his utterances are more alive today than this month's crop of books on Abraham Lincoln.

DAVID WALKER'S APPEAL

In 1829, so extraordinary a sensation was caused by the appearance of a pamphlet entitled *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the United States*, that legislatures in the South were called into special session to enact laws against free Negroes as against slaves for reading it. They put a price of \$3,000 on the head of its author, David Walker.

David Walker was a free Negro from North Carolina who had settled in Boston where he earned a living by collecting rags. His *Appeal* was addressed to the free Negroes. He took them to task for their meekness. He urged them to make the cause of the slave their own because the wretchedness of the free Negroes' conditions was due to the existence of slavery.

Walker urged them to make freedom their business. He pointed to the superiority of Negroes, in numbers and in bravery, over the whites. He took the great to task as well—especially Thomas Jefferson. Prophetically, he wrote that race prejudice would yet "root some of you out of the very face of the earth."

50,000 copies of this 76-page pamphlet were sold and circulated from hand to hand. Those who could not read had others read it to them. The South trembled at the simple words of an obscure Negro.

The *Cambridge Modern History* writes that "the excitement produced by Walker's *Appeal* had not subsided when the danger of writings of this sort was brought home to the slave-owners by a rising of slaves in Virginia—an outbreak known as 'Nat Turner's Insurrection'."

What the historians fail to see is that it was not "writings of this sort" that produced the revolts, but the revolts that produced the writings. Before Nat Turner and the *Appeal*, there was Denmark Vesey and the Underground Railway. The revolts of the Negro slaves were in fact one continuous chain of struggle from the moment they were brought to this country in chains of bondage. These slave revolts not only produced the writings, but the actual Civil War.

The Negroes had no money, no press, no vote, no party. They were armed only with their feelings for freedom and the certainty that they were right and could not and would not be kept down.

THE ABOLITIONISTS & TODAY'S HISTORIANS

Out of the genius of America, with no assistance from any alien tradition, there emerged the great Abolitionist movement which combined white and Negro in the cause of freedom.

As Wendell Phillips put it: "We do not play politics; anti-slavery is no half-jest with us; it is a terrible earnest, with life or death, worse than life or death, on the issue. It is no lawsuit, where it matters not to the good feeling of opposing counsels which way the verdict goes, and where advocates can shake hands after the decision as pleasantly as before."

This great American saw more clearly 100 years ago than the intellectual sees today. He saw that even the Civil War would not establish new human relations unless "the blacks (became) the very basis of the effort to regenerate the South. We want the 4 million of blacks—a people instinctively on our side and ready and skilled to work; the only element in the South which belongs to the 19th century."

Until the historian today begins where Wendell Phillips left off he will be unable to understand either the history of his country or its future perspectives.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

UNEMPLOYMENT HITS YOUNG WORKERS

When I started working the pay was so low and the jobs were so scattered that it was a long while before I made enough money to entitle me to collect unemployment compensation. I used to look upon those workers who drew checks as well-to-do. I was on my own fully two years before I was able to draw my first check, and that was a small one.

I've never worked a full year. There have always been interruptions of strikes and lay-offs or both. I mention these things because I believe they are the common experience of young workers.

6 MONTHS A YEAR

In the last two years, I've averaged 6 months work each year. Now, like a lot of other guys, I've got no job and I've run out of checks and I wonder what's going to happen next.

Not long ago a friend of mine in the same boat went down to the State employment office to see if they had any jobs. The clerk told him they had a job in his general line of work that paid \$1.50 an hour. He said that would be all right and asked where he had to go to apply for the job. It was then the clerk studied his file more carefully. She noticed that on his last job he earned over \$2.50 an hour. She told him she couldn't send him out on the job because he wouldn't be happy earning that little. He could do nothing to convince anybody in the office to permit him to accept the job.

A Look at Prejudice

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, most of the people are prejudiced because of the Negroes who have come to find new jobs. The most prejudiced area is Marquette City and vicinity.

I know about this because every year, in the middle of the summer, my whole family takes a trip to the Marquette area.

One of the main reasons that makes just about everyone in the Marquette area like this, is that all of the people who live there are white. Once in a while, they may go to the lower half of the Lower Peninsula for new work or for a vacation. Whenever they see a Negro, it makes them mad because they say that "the whites are the ones, and no one else."

These people have probably never thought that "all men are created equal."

Another reason that some people are so prejudiced in the Upper Peninsula is that some of them have come from a different country and cannot remember ever seeing a Negro person. They think, "Who is this? Where

Another worker from the shop I work at, when I'm working, got fed up with all the lay-offs and switched jobs. The new boss gave him a story about steady employment and being interested only in workers who were willing to stay on permanently. The condition of employment was that he give up the seniority he held on his old job. Giving up even a little seniority is a move nobody likes to make and a lot of companies insist upon it before they hire, to have the worker completely at their mercy. He gave up his seniority and was laid off from his new job within 3 months.

"EXPERIENCE NEEDED"

It appears that employers are always looking for young men with old men's experience. That's the way the want ads read. This is clearly a challenge to a lot of guys. One acquaintance averages roughly a day's pay a week from jobs he talked his way into and couldn't perform. This is a tough way to try and make a living.

There are close to 4 million unemployed. The promises the politicians made at the beginning of this year were forgotten as soon as they were made. Reuther who feigned interest in the unemployed took them under his wing only in order to smother them.

But whatever maneuvers are made, the discontent of the young workers can't remain submerged for long.

did he come from? What is he doing here?"

All of the people in the Northern part of Michigan should remember that this is a free country. And they should especially remember that everyone must be nice to one another, instead of thinking that the person they see came from some place they haven't heard of.

If people throughout this country would act more civilized, this country and this world would be a lot better to live in.

High School Boy,
Detroit, Mich.

College Restrictions

Since college students are so pitifully immature, it is obviously necessary that concerned higher authorities administer their morals. Although the majority of women our age are either married or out working and fully responsible for themselves, we must be inside at a certain time each evening. We are permitted a certain number of "late hours" per week upon which we must sign a slip explaining where we will be and how late we

No Place to Go, Nothing to Do

We don't have a chance to make a red cent for ourselves after going to school for all these years. You get out of school and there's nothing to do, no place to look for a job.

So, it's nothing to do but sit around. You wait for your father's unemployment check so he can try to pay a little rent and buy some food and maybe take his bus fare out of it and give us half of ours. The bus fare has gone up so high that half the time we walk.

If you should happen to catch a ride with some working man to go look for a job, he tells you to drive so that he can get a little rest before he gets to work.

The minute you get under the wheel, there's a police car from out of nowhere. They tell you, you are not driving right and there they are writing you up two or three tickets before you get half way to where you are going.

If you're colored, they take you to jail and tell you to pay your ticket. When you ask them, "With what?" they just say, "Money."

Once I told them I would pay them if they would just tell us where to get a job. But they just shook their heads and said we could sit it out because we could go out and pick up some money somewhere if we wanted to. I said "Pick up some numbers so you can arrest us?" I told him I bet he didn't tell the white boys that because when you get too rough on them, they just go out and get their gangs together.

We colored kids are not that bad for the police to be beating us up and throwing us into jail for nothing. We didn't put ourselves out of jobs, you white people did.

—Detroit Teenager

will be out, and even on these there is a deadline.

The administration of course is most concerned with the "standards" of us women students who live in their dormitories, evidently not recognizing that what can be done after 10:30 can be done before.

Such conditions as these reflect more than just their concern with our morality; but also are related to a whole concept of the individual's position in society. Naturally a society with little respect for individual freedom and intelligence will indulge in minor restrictions such as these in addition to major ones in the effort to gain conformity. A society which believes in the integrity of the human being will have no need of such restrictions.

College Student
California

On John Brown

The 100th anniversary of John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry took place during the month of October. With it, many articles were written on John Brown in daily newspapers and magazines.

The period of the Civil War in the United States is one of the most distorted ever to be put down in current books.

The following is an article written by a student-worker. It is printed in full.

John Brown has been and perhaps always will be one of the most controversial personalities in American history. He is also one of the most fascinating. Fully a hundred years after his death a discussion of his opinions, achievements, and of his true character and moral worth, diverge almost as violently as in 1859.

There are those today that teach in institutions of higher learning who see in John Brown only the murderer of Pottawatomie, a horse thief and a mid-night assassin.

On the other hand there are those apologists who view Brown as a sainted martyr, a most elevated character, the liberator of Kansas, and the man who, unaided, struck the chains from more than 3 million people.

The truth lies between these two extremes.

Brown did not actually take part in the murder at Pottawatomie (May 25, 1856) but without a doubt he both inspired and approved of them.

"I have no choice," he said before the massacre. "It has been decreed by Almighty God, ordained from eternity, that I should make an example of these men."

While no sober-minded person can ever condone

violence as an instrument of social progress, it must be admitted that Brown apparently realized quite early that "this nation," as Lincoln was to say later, cannot exist half slave and half free.

Something compelled him to attack slavery by force, making no effort to plan beyond the first blow at Harper's Ferry. Yet he atoned for Pottawatomie by the nobility of his philosophy of freedom and human dignity. Those that showered the most scorn and abuse on Brown were themselves in rebellion against the Union.

John Brown anticipated the irrepressible conflict, but he goal was freedom for the slaves, not the preservation of the Union. In this undertaking he made a gross and fatal error. But if men who have moulded their time were to be judged solely by their errors, however great, all history would wear a different aspect.

Brown died with the stench of a decadent social system in his nostrils, firmly convinced that he acted in good cause and had struck a blow for freedom. A few months later the union soldiers were singing: "John Brown's body lies a mouldering in the grave, but his truth goes marching on."

—F. H.

"Emerson's prediction that Brown's gallows would become like the cross was already being fulfilled. The old hero, in the trial hour, had behaved so grandly that men regarded him not as a murderer but as a martyr. All over the North men were singing the John Brown song. His body was in the dust, but his soul was marching on.

"His defeat was already assuming the form and pressure of victory, and his death was giving new life and power to the principles of justice and liberty. He had spoken great words in the face of death and the champions of slavery. He had quailed before neither. What he had lost by the sword he had more than gained by truth."

—Frederick Douglass

* * *
"December, 1859: the execution of St. John and the Just took place on the second."

—Louisa May Alcott:
an entry in her diary.

JEWISH FAMILY PERSECUTED

I read an article recently about a Jewish family which had fled Germany before World War II and had just come back to Germany and opened a cafe and bakery in a small town. The new business was prospering.

But as soon as the people of this town found out that this family was Jewish, there was trouble. For a while the cafe did a thriving business, but soon it began getting unruly customers. Attacks were made on the owner and his wife, and his child was being tormented at school. The situation was becoming desperate, and the police refused to help. Finally the owner took his story to a Frankfurt newspaper which printed it. The State Prosecution Office in Frankfurt investigated the charges

and a trial is scheduled this fall.

Now-a-days the cafe is under a boycott. There is no violence but practically no one goes to the cafe. Some American GI's go there, who regard themselves as his protector. Besides them, the article states that "the cafe's only regular customers now, are a dozen or so youth in their late teens or early twenties; rebels at heart, they feel an instinctive bond with the hapless Jewish family."

High School Student
Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES EDITING
COMMITTEE
MEETS
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING
AT 8 P.M.
AT
1904 S. ARLINGTON AVE.
(Cor. Washington Blvd.)
ROOM 207

STEELWORKERS SPEAK THEIR MINDS

Worker Blasts Big Steel

Wyandotte, Mich., Nov. 1 —It is now evident to the nation and to the world that the historical steel strike still in progress is a result of the domineering position that Big Steel has taken.

At the time of the steel strike in July of this year, they put the potatoes in to boil. They boiled, they boiled—and they boiled.

But the potato is just like any cookable matter: it can only get so hot. Then it begins to deteriorate, or becomes dry and stagnates.

Here's what happened in the steelworkers strike, insofar as negotiations were concerned:

Big Steel says: We rule the roost. But labor says that by collective bargaining we both rule the roost.

COMPANY OUT TO DESTROY SENIORITY

Detroit—The kind of "seniority" agreement that Great Lakes Steel has sent out to the men and which it wants the union to accept offers the men no protection whatsoever.

In a lay-off or promotion, the company will consider these three things: Ability to do the work, physical fitness and length of service. But only when the first two provisions are about equal will the last provision, time in the mill, decide who is to stay in case of a lay-off, or who is to be promoted.

* * *

OLDER MEN WILL GO

In other words, a man can have 15 years in the mill, but if there is a lay-off and the company says a younger man has more ability to do the work or is more physically fit, the older man goes. The same holds for promotions. It simply gives the company a free hand in lay-offs and promotions.

Another provision concerns new job classifications, and with Automation coming in more and more, there will be plenty of these. Here again, the company wants a free hand.

It says that if an agreement can't be reached with the grievance committee as to which unit the new job is to be placed, management will put the job in the seniority unit it wants to, or make a new one for it.

If the men object when

Which means that labor is willing to sit at the bargaining table and collectively debate any or all problems with company representatives to figure out just who is who or what is what.

But the companies say "No Dice." It's our plant and we will run it as we see fit. With no bargaining agency, you do or you don't.

As of the day of the writing of this article, the steelworkers have been on a legitimate strike for 107 days, which is the most extensive strike since 1919. And that was when labor had no backing from the national government in any way at all.

Today there is supposed to be a guiding hand through federal programs. But as of now, the steel workers have received little or no support through government regulation, because the Republican administration feels, or expresses by their actions, that they have a hot potato in their lap that they can't handle.

And they prefer to kick or toss the matter around for the simple reason that they just can't figure out who is the boss in the steel industry.

But these good old di-hard Republican administrators are so afraid of their job, come next election, that no stone can be unturned or no tree uprooted toward their imposition.

There can be no substitute for unity, or no subject that can replace the policies of collective bargaining.

But Big Steel says, "No! We're the boss."

the company pulls a deal like this, they can file a grievance—but the men all know just how much good that will do.

EVERYTHING FOR COMPANY

If work gets slack for two weeks in a row and is less than 32 hours a week, and looks like it might last a while, management and committeemen get together to try to work out who is to be kept and how work is to be divided. If management doesn't get its way here, there is a lay-off, and management still gets its way according to the lay-off provision.

But management will be permitted to work men on round-the-clock or complete operations even if it is for less than 32 hours a week. In other words, what the company says is it.

FIGHTING DAYS ARE BACK, SAYS STEELWORKER

Wyandotte, Mich.—We've been out for over 110 days, and all of the men have taken a beating along with their families. We've been taking this beating because the steel corporations didn't have to worry too much coming to terms with us. Steel was stockpiled and they didn't have to worry for a while about getting more out.

But now, when the steel outfits are beginning to feel the pinch, Eisenhower is throwing the Taft-Hartley Act at us. Nothing was done while we were hurting, but now that the steel companies are hurting, Ike says we've got to go back to work.

They say this is a free country, but how can anyone say that when workers are forced to go back to work against their will? I don't call that freedom, I call that slavery.

ISSUE IS SLAVERY

Nobody wants to be a slave, and as a matter of fact that's what this whole strike is about. It isn't over the wage increase. Everybody knows, and the company admits, that they can afford to give us a raise. It's what they want in turn for that raise—which is to make us slaves in the mills.

Conditions have been getting bad enough in the mills, with all kinds of agreements made between the company and union before this strike, piling up more and more work on us. All the time, the men are slowly losing what they have fought for in the past—to have something to say about their conditions.

COMPANY WANTS COMPLETE CONTROL

And now the companies want to take all that away from us. They want complete control over us, and they want this control to be put in writing, in the contract. They want to say how much work we are to do, how many are to work and when we are to work.

On top of that, they want to be able to fire anyone for striking and to change our seniority at Great Lakes to where it won't mean a thing at all—except what the company wants it to mean.

This is the kind of "fair, non-inflationary" agreement the companies want. They've got their word for it, we say it's slavery. It looks like we're going to have to go back to the early fighting days just to keep what we've got, let alone get more for ourselves.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

HUMAN EXISTENCE AND COMMITMENT

There is now on in the United States a campaign directed at the high cost of medical care. In newspapers, magazine articles, books, and editorials, over radio and T.V., out of the mouth of entertainers and after-dinner speakers, we find the same theme: physicians' fees are too high—unless doctors change their ways, the government will step in and turn them into civil servants. Though there is no doubt that illness is frequently a heavy burden financially, the present publicity blast is sparked by insurance firms in order to intimidate physicians to accept the often inadequate insurance payments.

However I cannot become enthused over whether to "socialize" or not "socialize" medicine; for I don't think this action will solve anything fundamentally. We have but to look at Great Britain to see this fact. There is a more basic issue facing doctors and all others. It too is a problem of human health but one that is central to human existence. Its solution has nothing to do with lower medical costs. It is even beyond the help of the psychiatrist—assuming one could afford his fees.

The sickness here in the U.S. as well as in all modern industrial societies is the loss in the individual of a sense of existence or being. It is also a loss of faith in his essential dignity and humanity, with a consequent anxiety, depression and despair. The physician is helpless in treating this illness—be his payment high or low.

MAN'S POTENTIALITY

The capacity to become aware of his own being distinguishes man from all other forms of life. Being is the possessing of the freedom to be aware of forces acting upon him. Looking at human existence, it is evident that the human being is more than a static mechanism in time and space. A man's existence is, on the contrary, an emerging—a becoming something—and therefore it also indicates a power, a source of potentiality.

The essential thing for the human being is: what is he becoming? What is his future? We can understand another human being only as we see what he is moving toward. We can only know ourselves or others as we use our potential in action.

"Being" in the human sense is not given once and for all. It is not like a seed that is to grow into a tree, for in man it does not unfold automatically. The human being having awareness must be responsible for him-

self if he is to become himself; if he is to use his powers to the fullest extent.

SENSE OF BEING

The acceptance of one's own aliveness—"I am, therefore I have a right to be"—is an essential condition for regaining one's existence. The experience of one's own existence is the foundation for the development of one's potential. It is also the basis for a self esteem that is not just a reflection of others' views about him.

The presence in a person of a strong sense of being prevents the separation of existence into two fractions—subject and object—a split that is so common today. The sense of being, while it unites the outer world with the inner life of the individual, unifies as well the physical and mental activities of a person. The oneness of subject and object, of one's self with the world, is very strong in young children but diminishes as the child becomes a passive conformist.

A truly healthy human being has the capacity to accept anxiety, hostility, and aggression without repression. These responses are normal to him and he builds on them. Today we tend to run away from what is troublesome. We are left with a weak and unreal sense of existence. We cannot then develop the potentiality that makes each of us unique and original human beings. The attraction toward totalitarianism as well as a belief that progress will come automatically is hiding from life.

It takes courage to be an individual; to become a being in your own right. It means to stop living as though existence were a series of accidents without thought. Action is essential, but first of all there must be commitment. Commitment is necessary before we can begin to see the truth in reality. Intellectual understanding is not enough; we have to give part of ourselves to learn who we are.

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YOUTH CONFLICT EXPOSES DELINQUENT SOCIETY

(Continued from Page 1)

the sweat shop, fire traps of lower New York. Nevertheless, the judge, himself an immigrant, proposed to a Senate committee that in the future migrants should be "discouraged" from coming to New York.

DETROIT

Detroit streets are covered with police in the evening, patting down teenagers for weapons, checking identification, making inquiries, demanding explanations for the source of money the youth may carry. They halt carloads of young people and subject them to all kinds of harassment. It is not without reason that the kids have dubbed the cops the "Blue Russians."

The daily humiliation the teenagers suffer at the hands of the authorities is met in the schools too. A Detroit high school girl told *News & Letters* of being reprimanded along with 30 other girls for wearing skirts that were deemed too short by the school officials. The skirts covered the knees. Another Detroit high school dictates that the boys must wear belts in their trousers, even though in much of the new "continental" style the trousers are not fashioned for belts. Blue jeans are also taboo, and a great many schools go so far as to dictate hair styling.

There is no segment of the population more style conscious than the youth. It is an area where they assert their individuality and at the same time their collectivity. It is part of the youth culture as is their particular speech, music and dance. What does it matter if the adults frown upon them, they carry on their activities in the face of reprisals infinitely more criminal than anything they do.

The imbecility of the school authorities would be laughable if it wasn't so seriously resented by the teenagers, and wasn't symptomatic of a drive toward greater regimentation of the nation's youth.

YOUTH LAWS

Dr. Milton L. Barrow of Cornell university in his book, *The Juvenile in Delinquent Society*, points out that the laws youth must put up with "generally cover not only most violations for which adults are held responsible, but they also burden the children with the responsibility for the avoidance of a number of ambiguous and indefinite acts, conditions and behavior problems presumably peculiar to children and representing no violation of the law if committed by adults."

An article that appeared in the August issue of *Reporter* magazine stated that, "From 1948 through 1957, the latest complete figures available, juvenile court cases increased 136% while under-seventeen population increased only 27%." In September the FBI released its figures for 1958. Arrests of persons under 18 years of age rose 8.1% over 1957.

Undeniably a staggering problem exists and it is undeniable that officialdom has been unable to cope with it. Administrations—federal, state and city—all stint on funds, and yet where the funds are made available the problem still persists. It was the very area in New York where church, police and social workers went all out to pacify, that first erupted in teenage violence in September. It suggests that the precepts of even the dogooders are all wrong. The society is outrageously more delinquent than the youth born into it. Those youth who "just seem bent on destroying one another" are an expression of the perverse relationship of man to man that begins in production and pervades the rest of society.

A Negro mother told *News & Letters*, "When my boy was a youngster he wanted to be a policeman. But by the time he was 12 he had seen so much police brutality he was educated away from the idea."

A writer for the *New York Times* accompanied a psychologist as he interviewed some New York City youth. A young Puerto Rican was asked why he belonged to a street gang. He answered, "Look don't call it gangs; it's clubs. Everyone belongs to something. Businessmen belong to clubs; there's a club for this kind of people, that kind, and you probably belong to a professor's club. Well, this is our club."

THE UNEMPLOYED

The modest estimate of Governor Grimes of the Detroit Commission on Children and Youth asserts that 10% of the country's male youth between the ages of 16 to 25 who are willing and able to work, can't find employment. Speaking of the job counseling at her school a 16 year old Detroit girl said, "They told the boys a little something, but they told the girls there were no jobs for them and they should stay home and help their mothers."

As dull and uninspiring as the jobs offered to youth are, even these can't be had. The Armed Forces recognizes this and builds its recruiting propaganda upon it. They boast of the educational opportunities afforded, regular pay, travel, free medical care, etc., etc. As a result many an old sergeant is being driven to distraction by the recruit with fringe benefits on his mind. The bulk of the small minority of youth attracted to the military, view it not as a career but as an interlude, a step toward another pursuit.

EDUCATION FOR WAR

Top ranking educational administrators have nothing to say about organizing their efforts in support of real school integration. Men like Dr. Conant and the "interested layman" Admiral Rickover are solely occupied with gearing education to the nation's war-making machine. The discussions of

BRITISH ELECTIONS

The victory of the Conservative Party, which has been hailed as a landslide, was far from that. It did give Macmillan a 100 seat majority but only 1.5% of the voters switched their political views. The campaign of the Labor Party and their program failed to stimulate the kind of mass response necessary to win. The main emphasis on reform measures, pensions and health issues left undisturbed the basic issues of British life.

Socialism was pushed into the background. Nationalization of industry has no practical meaning. The railroad worker has no more sense of "owning" the nationalized railroads than the British sailor thinks he "owns" the British Navy. Nationalization for the worker has meant exchanging one boss for another, that is all. The exploitation goes on.

The youth are the key to understanding the election. They constitute 13% of the adult population and the program of neither party holds any appeal for them. Since there was no choice their vote was split between both parties, the working class youth voting Labor and those who have found their way into white collar jobs voting Conservative.

The defeat of Michael Foot and Ian Mikardo has been cited as a rejection of "left wing" policy. Actually it is nothing of the kind; it is a rejection of the type of fake socialism and pro-Communist policies that these men have advocated.

The British worker is still vitally interested in a government where he can manage his own affairs, but he is tired of following the old line labor politicians.

CUBA

The new government of Fidel Castro is in trouble at home and abroad. The great promises that Castro would bring prosperity to the working people have failed to materialize because the Castro government has no clear pro-

educators all revolve around the ways and means of turning out as many scientists, engineers and technicians as rapidly as possible, to match the Russians. Toward this end there is less and less hesitancy about adopting the methods of the totalitarian state capitalism. The desires and ambitions of the youth don't enter into the deliberations.

But the Russian youth problem is every bit as critical as the American. The laws controlling the youth are even stricter and the penalties are even more

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

gram to bring it about. Nationalization without workers' control fails in Cuba, as it has elsewhere, to give anything concrete to the workers. A one crop economy, sugar, depends largely on the support of big friendly customers.

The Cuban people have become increasingly hostile to the United States and the meddling of the U.S. State Dept. in its internal affairs. They know that these people actively supported ousted dictator Bastista and shelter the criminals who use Florida as a base for their counter-revolutionary activities. They resent the use of Florida air bases for leaflet raids on Havana. They resent being treated like an American colony and want to build their own country.

BRAZIL

A classic protest vote has been cast in Sao Paulo when a rhinoceros received over 100,000 write-in votes and won a seat on the city council over her nearest opponent who got only 10,079 votes. "Better to elect a rhinoceros than an ass" was her campaign slogan.

BELGIAN CONGO

24 Africans have been killed by Belgian troops as the Africans attempted to hold a public meeting. A riot took place when the troops fired tear gas into a meeting of the Congo National Movement in Stanleyville. The Africans fought back with stones, spears and arrows.

At the same time a riot took place in the city central prison, where numerous Africans were being held.

The Belgians have forbidden any public meetings and have set a curfew between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Patrick Lumumba, leader of the movement.

WEST GERMANY

The West German metal workers have sent 100,000 marks (\$23,800) to the relief fund for the American steelworkers who had been on strike for over 3 months.

FEAR YOUNG WORKERS

LOS ANGELES — I was wondering why they were so hesitant about using the Taft-Hartley Labor Law in the steel strike?

Giving the steel companies complete control of working conditions and eliminating the seniority clause in the contract cuts into the union's strength in the shop because the union's strength today is based upon the older element. With the coming of Automation, the company has to get rid of these older men and replace them with younger ones. If they weaken the union too much with the Taft-Hartley law and subject these younger men to the working condition of Automation, they don't know who will discipline this force they turn loose.

fierce. No answers will be found here. Over 1 million American youth have come into conflict with the law. Millions of youth who want school integration are thwarted from achieving their goal. Over one-half of the students who enter high school don't stay to finish. Facts like these add up to indict a delinquent society.

INDIA

Repeated border clashes between India and Red China have served as nothing else has in recent years to build up a feeling of national unity in India and to provide a convenient scapegoat for the slow pace of India's economic development. The victim in the affair is, oddly enough, the Communist Party of India.

The Communists refuse to go along with the popular demand to condemn the aggression of Red China on India's borders. The result is that they must submit to being called parrots, whose masters live abroad. The party in Kerala, the only one freely elected to power, which was ousted by Nehru, had stood a fair chance of returning to power. But with the inability of the Communists to put the interests of their own country above the needs of Mao Tse Tung, they have little chance for victory.

RUSSIA

The 42nd anniversary of the October Revolution shows Russia to be a powerful nation with at least 12 other countries having regimes led by Communist parties. Yet, the dream of Lenin, a workers' state in a workers' world, is far from being a reality.

The Revolution of 1917 began by establishing the world's most democratic institution, the Soviet. Under Stalin and later Khrushchev, it has become transformed into its opposite, totalitarian dictatorship. Instead of helping workers of other countries, it has by force of arms invaded and subjected other peoples, drowned in blood their revolutions as in Hungary, or stood aside while the Nazis did it for them, as at Warsaw.

Russia can and will change, but it will be from the efforts of those who revolt against the tyranny that the best results will come. The slave laborers of Vorkuta, the workers of East Berlin, the revolutionists of Poland and the workers of Hungary have shown how to face the Red tanks. The future is in their hands.