

Detroit Unions Ready Plans on Trip of Jobless

DETROIT, March 22—Organizing a delegation to the April 8 unemployment conference in Washington is the main point on the agenda of the union movement here now.

Last Tuesday a "briefing session" of 1500 UAW local officials and representatives was addressed by president Walter Reuther and secretary-treasurer Emil Mazey.

Two days later the union organized a demonstration and passed out leaflets publicizing the conference in front of an unemployment compensation office.

Later this week mass rallies will be held on the west and east sides of town.

The number of people willing to go to Washington greatly exceeds the number that will actually board the train leaving here on April 7.

Mazey told the local representatives that "500 or more" will be sent from Detroit. The exact number will depend on how much money the locals raise for the purpose, at \$22 round-trip fare per person. The international UAW will pay only for meals en route, and the AFL-CIO will pay for box lunches in Washington.

This puts the delegation's

Flint Jobless Sell Apples to Get to Capital

United Auto Worker members in Flint, Mich., are selling apples on the streets to finance a delegation to the April 8 AFL-CIO unemployment demonstration in Washington.

The first day's sale, March 23, netted \$450. The union apple vendors ignored a city ordinance requiring a license for any kind of street sales but were not interfered with.

Thirteen per cent of the Flint labor force of 140,000 are jobless and General Motors has just laid off an additional 5,500 at its Buick and Fisher Body divisions.

With relief rolls swollen and the county claiming lack of funds, food orders were cut 10% last week.

Castro, Kassin Deal Blows To Pentagon Military Pacts

The U.S. government's military pact system received two stiff blows last week from Cuba and Iraq. Both countries are in the throes of national independence revolutions.

In Cuba, Premier Fidel Castro told a gathering of thousands of workers that Cuba should be neutral in the military line-ups. His declaration came about in the following manner according to R. Hart Phillips' account in the March 23 New York Times:

Former President Jose Figueres of Costa Rica was speaking to workers who had marched to the presidential palace. His address was carried over a radio and TV hook-up to all Cuba. When he said that Cuba and all Latin America should be on the side of the United States and the other "democracies," David Salvador, secretary general of the Confederation of Cuban Workers, who was on the speakers' platform, ran to the mike and shouted: "We cannot be with the Americans who today are oppressing us!"

WHY BACK EITHER SIDE?

When Figueres—"visibly disturbed by the interruption," says Phillips—finished his speech, Castro took the microphone. "He voiced his opposition to the idea expressed by Colonel Figueres and, by implication, attacked the United States. He was sorry, Dr. Castro said, that his old friend, Colonel Figueres had been influenced by campaigns in the international press attacking the Cuban revolution.

"Why should Latin America be with either side?" Premier Castro asked.

"Declaring that Cuba is defenseless, Dr. Castro said the island had joined the democracies in World War II and out of that collaboration the Batista Government had received 500-

size partly up to the locals. Employed members are being asked to contribute for this purpose—in some locals with good results, it is reported.

In addition, some groups more keenly alert to the unemployed crisis are making donations out of their treasuries, like the trim unit of Dodge Local 3, which voted \$500.

These acts of solidarity between the employed and unemployed auto workers testify to their common desire for an effective fight for jobs and a shorter work week.

How effective the Washington conference will be is another story.

Unemployed delegations from unions in 15 cities in the eastern half of the country—"properly credentialed," George Meany warned in a letter to AFL-CIO affiliates—will arrive in Washington on the morning of April 8.

There will then be a meeting at the National Guard Armory. It will be addressed by union officials and politicians; Reuther has urged Eisenhower to speak.

So far as can be learned now, there is no plan for a single unemployed worker to be heard at this meeting on unemployment.

They will be expected to listen, applaud at the right places, eat their box lunches, get on the train that afternoon and get out of Washington before dark.

The next day, after they are gone, a legislative conference of AFL-CIO officials and representatives will meet to discuss what to ask of the government.

If their approach is like the one Reuther took last Tuesday, they will complain about "Republican inaction" and try to cover up the refusal of the Democratic majority in Congress to pass meaningful legislation for the jobless.

"We must shatter the complacency of that man in the White House," Reuther said.

Of course Eisenhower can't prevent the Democrats in control of Congress from passing

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Congress Tapers Off Aid On Eve of Jobless Meet

African Leader



KWAME NKUMAH, President of the Republic of Ghana, was a leading figure at the All-African People's Conference at Accra, Ghana, last December. British imperialists allege Nyasaland nationalists hatched "plot" to foment force and violence at the conference.

"Massacre" Plot Alleged In Nyasaland

MARCH 24 — Within weeks of the exposure of its frame-up of Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the Kenya independence movement, the British government is attempting a similar frame-up against the Nyasaland independence movement. Yesterday the Colonial Office in London published a "White Paper" outlining an alleged plot by Nyasaland nationalists to commit wholesale massacre of white settlers — including, of course, women and children.

Earlier this year, in a sworn affidavit, the principal witness, whose testimony sent Kenyatta to prison for seven years, revealed that he had lied when he said that the nationalist leader had attended a secret "Mau Mau" meeting and administered terrorist oaths.

The present White Paper lays the ground for similar charges against Dr. Hastings Banda and other leaders of the Nyasaland African Congress which is demanding separation from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and self-rule for their country. Dr. Banda was arrested March 3 and along with some 750 other Africans thrown into a concentration camp in Southern Rhodesia.

Now the British government charges that 140 Nyasaland African Congress delegates plotted the alleged massacre at a Jan. 25 meeting at "which those

(Continued on Page 2)

"Our Missile Program Is Swan Song," Two Scientists Charge

MARCH 23—Two leading space scientists and a prominent banker-economist last week charged that the U.S. missile and space program is designed to keep the unstable American profit economy going.

"Our missile program is the swan song of a dying civilization," cried Dr. A. R. J. Grosch from the floor of a conference of scientists at California Institute of Technology on March 20. "We don't need better missiles to destroy each other—the ones we have now will do the job adequately," said Dr. Grosch, who is manager of space programs for the International Business Machines Corp., manufacturer of missile and space vehicle computers.

"And there isn't any point in zooming off into outer space. We could spend the money better solving problems here at home—taking care of our overcrowded, underfed millions. If we did that, we wouldn't need to find new worlds to colonize."

"INTERESTED IN PROFIT"

Dr. Grosch's startling exposure of the meaning of the atomic missile war program—an exposure in which he also assailed the corporations for being "interested primarily not in new scientific knowledge but in their 7 per cent profit"—followed similar remarks by Dr. Lotis J. Ridenour Jr., assistant general manager of research and development in the missiles division of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Dr. Ridenour, in a speech from the platform, linked the missile program to America's "traditional economy of waste." He said:

"ECONOMY OF WASTE"

"We turn in our cars before they are worn out and our nation would go broke if we didn't. Our missile program fits into the system very well. We send up missiles that never come back and so we have to make more missiles. This is fine. It creates jobs and keeps money in circulation.

"In the not too distant future, man will be boarding the other fellow's satellites and destroying them. This means more satellites must be built and the economy is kept functioning at top speed."

In Boston the next day, Wall Street financier and economist James P. Warburg admitted before the Northeast conference of the Society for the Advancement of Management that peace and disarmament would bring almost instantaneous economic

catastrophe to the American capitalist profit system.

He said, in the words of the Associated Press dispatch, "that if a disarmament agreement were reached next Monday, the nation's economy would go into a tailspin on Tuesday."

"Our economy is not healthy because it is based upon constant overstimulation of the acquisitive glands," said Warburg, "upon a wasteful cult of premature obsolescence, and above all, upon a tacitly assumed continuation of the cold war."

"PEACE AN EMERGENCY"

This "constant overstimulation of the acquisitive glands," which Warburg speaks of, is nothing less than the private profit motive.

"We are not prepared and are not preparing for peace," Warburg said. The country would be paralyzed by a major depression if actual peace came "before we could even complete plans for dealing with this emergency."

Peace would confront the capitalists with a terrible "emergency," this astute financier warns. And yet, he makes plain, circumstances may force the American ruling class to thaw out the cold war a bit.

Dr. Grosch, in his spontaneous outcry before the conference of scientists in Pasadena, Calif., addressed himself to these two horrible alternatives of the American economic system—war or depression.

"We are planning to spend millions of dollars a year on new missiles and space probes. And I ask you?"

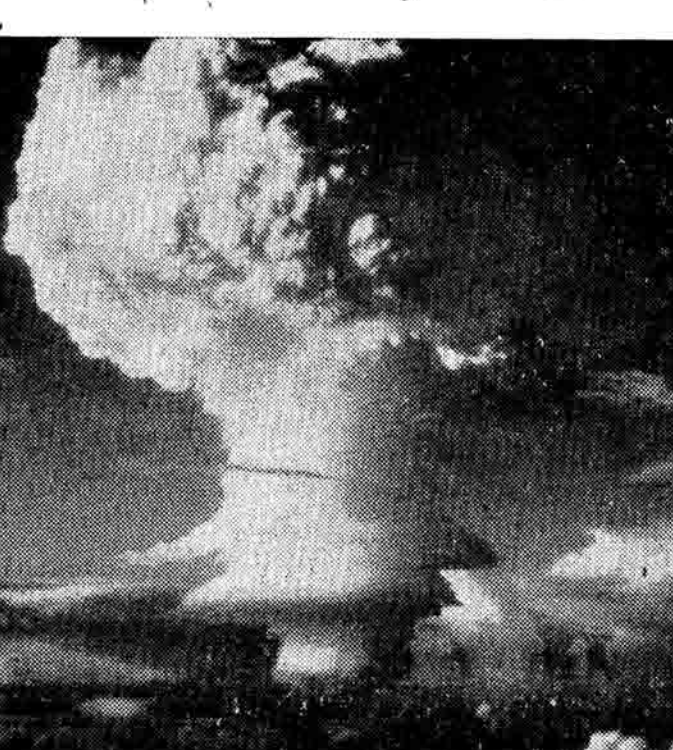
WANT THEIR 7%

"Why must we continue to shovel these millions into companies that are interested primarily not in new scientific knowledge but in their 7 per cent profit? That 7 per cent alone would go a long way toward solving the social problems that create warfare and make space exploration and colonization a necessity.

"We are in a bad way, I'm afraid, when we try to solve our problem by mass killing—or by padding off to a bigger island in space."

The IBM Corporation hastened to inform the press that Dr. Grosch was not speaking for the company.

Deadlier Than They Admitted



The U.S. Defense Department now admits that poisonous debris from atomic tests is falling to earth far more rapidly than it had previously "estimated." Sen. Anderson (D-N.M.) accused the brass hats of "gagging" the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy in an effort to keep this information from the public.

Socialists Urge Big Washington Turnout

DETROIT, March 22 — Candidates of the Socialist Workers Party are urging workers here to send the biggest possible delegation to Washington April 8 to put the heat on Congress and the White House for full federal unemployment benefits and a shorter work week.

At Dodge Local 3 of the United Auto Workers, Rita Shaw, socialist nominee for the Board of Governors of Wayne State University, scored the do-nothing policy of Democrats and Republicans and explained the socialist program to combat unemployment.

The regular membership meeting was swelled by a large turnout of unemployed. Some 400 were present.

Speaking at a meeting of Ford UAW Local 600 Assembly Plant, Evelyn Sell, Socialist Workers candidate for Regent of the University of Michigan,

Promises To Unions Torn Up

MARCH 26—April Fool's Day came early for the jobless this year. Yesterday the Democratic Party "friends of labor" in the U.S. Senate followed the example of the Democratic Party "friends of labor" in the House of Representatives by breaking their promises to union officials. They jammed through a bill to "taper off" federal aid to the jobless. This was their alternative to letting such aid die abruptly.

This pinch of crumbs for the jobless further underscores the need for a militant mass AFL-CIO unemployment demonstration in Washington April 8. According to some top union officials, all that's really necessary is to "wake up" their "friends" in Congress to the needs of America's five million jobless. The present Congressional action makes clear they aren't asleep—they just don't give a damn.

The leaders of the Democratic Party, who control Congress, had pledged that they would introduce a bill to extend for one year the March 31 deadline on the federal emergency program of supplementing state unemployment compensation benefits. Instead they threw in the present bill which merely provides that those drawing federal benefits as of March 31 will be permitted to finish collecting the maximum of 13 extra checks the program provides. Those whose state benefits run out on April 1 will be entitled to nothing.

When this "taper-off" measure sailed through the House last week it was blasted by the March 19 Michigan AFL-CIO News as an "almost meaningless bill." This union paper easily demonstrated that the measure is nothing but "stop-gap unemployment assistance for a relative handful of the nation's jobless, leaving still unprotected the bulk of two million unemployed currently receiving no compensation benefits."

But perhaps the jobless should not be too harsh on the Congressmen who rushed through this bill. A Washington dispatch explains: "The brisk series of actions was dictated by Congressional plans for a ten-day Easter recess starting tomorrow. Many members had reserved space on trains and planes leaving tonight."

And you can be sure that if any of the congressmen happen to pass the local welfare office when they get home, they'll wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Down on the Farm Where the Greenbacks Grow

By Alex Harte

Wouldn't it be a fine thing if labor had a bloc of representatives in Congress to put through a wage "support" and worker "bank" program?

Under the wage "support" law, the government would agree to a fair rate of pay and make up the difference whenever wages fell below that amount. Under the worker "bank" program, if many workers were looking for jobs so that they might drive down the price of labor power the government would retire a percentage of them temporarily to a "bank" and pay them prevailing wages to stay unemployed.

Sounds pretty radical, doesn't it? But it really isn't. Farmers have that kind of arrangement with the government. That is, some farmers do.

The federal farm price support and soil bank programs take a lot of sting out of such invidious terms as "country hick" and "hayseed." No city slicker ever lined his pocket at the taxpayers' expense more

expertly than a handful of millionaire farmers who are getting handsome sums from the government for what they grow plus dazzling payments for what they don't grow. In 1957, for example, the government paid out more than \$3,400,000 in price supports to just three corporate farms.

HOW IT WORKS

If the price support plan didn't mean such lush profits for them, the huge farm outfits would surely condemn it as "creeping socialism," state regimentation and the subversion of private initiative and free competition.

Under the plan, the government sets a price for wheat, rice, cotton and other crops. If the actual market price falls below this figure, the farmer delivers his crop to a government warehouse and is "loaned" the federally established price for it. If the market happens to rise, the farmer repays the "loan" and sells the crop. Otherwise he lets the government keep the crop and he grows

another one. It costs \$1,000,000,000 a year just to store the surpluses that are piled mountain high.

Last month Senator John Williams (R-Del.) listed in the Congressional Record 54 farms which received price support payments of \$100,000 or more. Prize winner for the year was the Delta & Pine Land Co. of Scott, Miss. This outfit drew \$1,187,602 in cotton price supports.

Runner up was Producer's Rice Mill, Inc., of Stuttgart, Ark., which received \$1,460,902 in price supports on rice.

But don't get the idea that this money is being pitched that generously to all farmers. It takes a lot of land and huge crops to put that kind of bite on the U.S. Treasury. According to Senator Williams, the subsidy paid to the two corporations of Arkansas and Mississippi is greater than the price supports received "on all crops produced in 1957 by all the farmers in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey." In fact, the Senator contends,

the price support plan "is little more than a Government guarantee on the operation of corporate type farming . . . to the detriment of the small farmers."

SOIL BANK PAYMENTS

The amounts paid off on the soil bank program are not quite as impressive in terms of dollars and cents, but this deal is a profiteer's dream. "Soil bank payments," the Senator explains, "are direct subsidy government checks paid to a farmer for acreage he agrees to leave idle or for crops he agrees not to produce."

Nine farms drew more than half a million dollars in 1957 for not growing cotton, wheat and rice. Westlake Farms, Inc., of Stratford, Calif., which received \$854,450 in price supports for cotton it grew was handed an additional \$125,942 for cotton it didn't grow.

The soil bank melon is whacked up by the big capitalist operators with little of the pink going to dirt farmers. For instance, in contrast to the

\$125,000 that went to Westlake Farms only \$80,000 in soil bank payments went to all of the farmers in Nevada, New Hampshire and Vermont.

In fact the setup works in reverse for the family farmer. He faces stiff fines if he grows a larger crop than federal controls permit. The government seized an Indiana farmer's tractor because he planted 16 more acres of wheat than the government said he could. A similar criminal in Pennsylvania was fined \$404 for growing 24 acres of wheat to feed his cattle.

Stanley Yankus, owner of a 100-acre poultry farm in Dowagiac, Mich., decided to emigrate to Australia after the government attached \$1,700 of his bank account to cover fines imposed because he refused to stop growing wheat to feed his poultry. "My crime is using my land to produce crops," he said.

But even with the kicking around he gets from the government, the small farmer owning a piece of land isn't as bad off as the landless farm hand.

The National Sharecroppers Fund estimates in a 1958 report on the condition of farm workers that the total cash wages of America's 2,000,000 farm workers this fiscal year will be less than half the cost of price supports.

Average farm wages remained frozen at \$5.90 a day in 1956 and 1957. Average income for a hired farm worker for the entire year was \$892. Last year, 227,000 children between the ages of 10 and 13 were forced to hire out as farm hands.

The report cites a 21-state study of housing conditions of migrant workers by the National Council of Churches. It found: "Bad housing, flies, mosquitoes, lack of screening, dirty beds and mattresses, unsanitary toilets and a lack of hot water and bathing facilities. . . . One report told of a camp without water or toilets."

It should be added that Democrats and Republicans passed the price support and soil bank programs on the claim that they would aid the "little man" on the farm.

"Raisin in the Sun"

By Harry Ring

The relationship between art and politics has long been debated in the radical movement. To gain full validity, must a novel or a play with a social theme articulate a "message?" If you are still undecided on that question and are anywhere within traveling distance of the New York theater district then make doubly sure to see Lorraine Hansberry's play, "Raisin in the Sun."

It's the story of a Negro family in Chicago's black ghetto. There aren't any speeches in it about the sources of Jim Crow and nobody outlines a political program. The author, director and cast combine their substantial talents to offer an evening of splendid entertainment. But in presenting an artistic truth they deliver as powerful a condemnation of racism and as eloquent a plea for human brotherhood as any orator ever made.

Lorraine Hansberry is the first Negro woman to reach Broadway with a play and she has earned the distinction. She is clearly concerned with the struggle of her people for full emancipation. But there aren't any cardboard heroes in her play, just human beings—human beings with the virtues and failings of a people suffering poverty, oppression and discrimination.

Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeill, Ruby Dee and Diana Sands star. Expertly directed by Lloyd Richards, they present the Younger family. It is a family that loves and hates and laughs and cries. And as they do they reach into the hearts of their audience. The final curtain came down to an ovation greater than any I have ever heard in the theatre.

The story is about a \$10,000 insurance check received by the widowed Mother Younger. The check almost destroys the family, its dignity and its long, uphill battle for such elementary things as a decent home and respectability.

Center of the conflict is the son portrayed by Sidney Poitier. A 35-year-old chauffeur, he sees with hatred at the prospect of spending his life as servant to a rich white man. He becomes obsessed with a "big deal"—a hopeless dream of money and power and escape for himself and his family. The conflict he provokes as he abandons dignity and integrity is stark. But warmth and love and laughter light up even the darkest moments of the play.

Elementary truths about the struggle of

the Negro people for a decent life are powerfully stated. Mother Younger, matriarch of the family, buys a home in a white neighborhood, not out of any crusading intent, but simply because houses in the Negro district are twice as expensive and not half as good. The tormented, frustrated son wants to accept an offer from the sanctimonious head of a white "community" organization to repurchase the house at a higher price. The mother sternly reminds her son that he is of five generations of slaves and sharecroppers who were never so poor that they took money that meant they were no better than dirt.

Humor about race prejudice is biting. The daughter-in-law, who works as a domestic, is ill. Call up and tell them you won't be in, but don't just say you're sick, advises Mother Younger. Tell them you've got the flu. White people have that too. If you just say you're sick, they'll figure you got yourself cut up.

The predominately white audience develops a strong identity with the Negro family as the emotional level rises. The agony of mother and son when he betrays her trust cuts like a knife. When the sister berates him, tears are unrestrained as the mother turns in fierce anger on her daughter: "What does love mean to you? Do you only love people when they do good? . . . Do you ever think what makes people bad?"

The New York press was unanimous in its acclaim of "Raisin in the Sun." The only sour reaction I have seen was in an otherwise favorable review by William Patterson in the Worker. Judging the play, apparently in accordance with Stalinist norms of "socialist realism," he made this rather incredible comment:

"The splendid acting and the brilliant direction help greatly. But precisely because both are so entertaining they also retard the deepening and broadening of your thought process unless you are conscious of all that is unfolding, unless you are conscious of the Negro question."

Far more accurate and perceptive was the appraisal made by Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times, most serious of the critics in the capitalist press. He said the play "is honest. That is Miss Hansberry's personal contribution to an explosive situation in which simple honesty is the most difficult thing in the world. And also the most illuminating."

... "Massacre" Plot

(Continued from Page 1)

attending were sworn to secrecy under threat of death. Mass assassinations were claimed to be slated for an unspecified date, known as "R Day," which would take place after the arrest of Dr. Banda. Colonial Office spokesmen were unable to tell newsmen what "R Day" meant or where the claimed "secret meeting" was held.

This frame-up has been built

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up for weeks with scare headlines in the Tory press featuring statements by the racist rulers in the Rhodesia-Nyasaland Federation and by British Colonial Secretary Lennox-Boyd. Their charges are so patently false that the March 7 issue of the liberal weekly, the New Statesman, was moved to declare:

"Who were the Africans going to massacre? For a week they were in complete control of the northern province of Nyasaland and not a life was lost. But on Tuesday, when the emergency was declared, at least 26 Africans were killed by the security forces."

"The conspiracy was organized by the other side," the New Statesman daily charges. What has happened to "R Day"? As of March 19, 16 days after the arrest of Dr. Banda, there were a minimum of 50 Nyasaland Africans dead and still not a single white settler killed. The only British casualties have been security force members wounded by Africans defending themselves against guns and tear gas with sticks, stones and spears.

Yet on March 22 the New York Times helped give credence to the frame-up by publishing a syndicated article by Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This British ruler writes about an "outbreak of disorder and violence" by the "still primitive" Africans and repeats the lie that the violence was organized by Dr. Banda and his associates. Welensky adds a McCarthyite twist when he asserts that the "plot" unfolded after Nyasaland delegates returned from the

Acra All-African People's Conference where, he says, "we now have evidence that a pact was made" with a Soviet delegation that lurked secretly in the background.

In language befitting a senator from Mississippi, Welensky complains of the ingratitude of the Africans. He writes, "education was something that had to be forced upon the Nyasaland Africans." The amount that was "forced" is indicated by the 1954 figure (the latest available) of 311 Nyasaland Africans in secondary schools.

Welensky further complains that "even today strong resistance is encountered when the authorities attempt to apply essential soil-conservation measures." The nature of this "resistance" is illuminated by a 1951 British report which found that on "the land set aside for African use there is considerable pressure of population . . . the position has been reached where it will be no longer possible for every African family to cultivate land."

The British can well afford to let sections of stolen land lie fallow. But the sight of this idle land is not pretty to the dispossessed, hungry Africans. The Encyclopedia Britannica's 1954 year book reported that Nyasaland Africans "resented the holdings of large estates by Europeans, especially when the estates included land not currently in use. The title to these areas was not easily understood by Africans who regard the right to a piece of land as being derived from the use of it."

But the African demand for land and freedom is, of course, a "red plot."

'Monthly Review' on Lippman's Proposals

By Daniel Roberts

The last five months have seen an easing of the cold-war tensions. This raises the question anew whether permanent peace might not be achieved through a "peaceful coexistence" agreement between the respective leaders of the Soviet bloc and of the bloc headed by U.S. imperialism.

To many socialists the question of a "peaceful coexistence" agreement between the Soviet Union and imperialism is a thorny one. They want peace; they know the source of war is lodged in Wall Street's anti-Soviet offensive, and they want to see this drive defeated. A deal seems to offer the prospect of ending Washington's war drive. But a deal implies a quid pro quo. It implies that the Kremlin must help maintain the status quo. And no genuine socialist wants to endorse the retention of imperialist exploitation in Asia, Africa and Latin America and of capitalist rule in Western Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

A WAY OUT?

The editors of Monthly Review believe that there is a way out of this dilemma along the lines advanced by Walter Lippman in his recently published little book, The Communist World and Ours. Monthly Review comments on it in its March issue. Lippman's proposals for "peaceful coexistence" in turn derive from a two-hour interview with Soviet Premier Khrushchev last fall. Lippman believes that his own proposals would be acceptable to the Soviet leaders and would also correspond to the interests of the U.S. ruling class.

Lippman's point of departure — and Monthly Review's — is an interpretation of Khrushchev's remarks in the interview. The reason for the cold war, Khrushchev told Lippman in effect, was that the Western statesmen did not wish to accept the status quo but wished to return the entire Soviet bloc to capitalism.

Lippman envisages the following settlement of the cold war: (1) The U.S. would accept Soviet and Chinese domination in Asia and Africa to determine whether they or the West will lead the national-independence revolutions there. (This implies, as the Monthly Review editors correctly indicate, that Lippman would accept Soviet leadership in Asia and Africa if the U.S. fell behind in the "competition.") (2) The U.S. would withdraw its troops from Europe and abandon attempts forcibly to "liberate" East Europe. (3) The Soviet Union would withdraw its armed forces from East Europe.

Lippman believes that eventually East Europe would shake off Soviet political and economic domination and return to capitalism, and that the Kremlin knows this and will accept it. He also believes that communism has no appeal for the working people of Western Europe. Thus his schema would envisage a Soviet bloc made up of the USSR, China, and probably the rest of Asia plus Africa, while all other countries would belong to the "non-communist" world. All ideas of establishing peace through "One World"—whether capitalist or communist—would be abandoned. There would be "Two Worlds" as the basis for the status quo and for lasting peace.

The Monthly Review editors indicate that they accept this schema as a realistic way of re-

Can They Guarantee Peace?



British Prime Minister Macmillan (l) and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev (r) during recent meeting on Berlin crisis. Many radicals contend that through negotiations heads of present governments can eliminate the threat of a new world war even though they represent conflicting social systems.

solving the cold war and of combining "peaceful coexistence" with the need for revolution.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

But what Lippman proposes is at best a reshuffle. Asia and Africa would be swapped for Eastern Europe. That would still leave unresolved the profound need for change to socialism in Western Europe, Japan, Latin America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Lippman's assumption that communism has no appeal for the peoples of these countries is at most only temporarily true. The onset of economic crisis will alter this completely. It will impel the working class in all these countries to struggle for the elimination of capitalist rule and the establishment of workers and farmers governments. Thus a deal allowing for social progress only in Asia and Africa (and for retrogression in Eastern Europe) would do violence to the basic needs and aspirations of the working people in the rest of the world.

As a matter of fact, it would do violence to the people of Eastern Europe, too. Lippman is wrong in his contention that they seek a return to capitalism. In the Hungarian revolution the majority of the working people fought for a regime of workers' democracy and specifically declared against any restoration of the old order. Lippman's proposal takes care of the interests of imperialism in Eastern Europe at the expense of the needs and desires of the working people.

Finally, we come to Khrushchev's declaration that the progress of revolution in Asia and Africa is part of the status quo. Lippman interprets this to mean that Khrushchev is determined to allow the Socialist revolution to achieve victory in Asia and Africa. But to ascertain whether this is what Khrushchev really meant, it is necessary to examine the policy of the Communist parties in the Asian and African countries in question. Not one of these parties aims at a socialist transformation. All are bound up in one form or another in close alliance with nationalist leaders who aim at a reform of the imperialist structure so as to give the native capitalist class more scope for development.

The bourgeois nationalists aim at their country's formal unification and independence

native, the creation of workers' and peasants' governments, and the institution of socialist property relations. The nationalist struggle even under capitalist leadership can win certain important improvements for the masses. But native capitalist leadership cannot secure lasting victory over imperialism. This requires the independent mobilization of the workers and peasants. Nowhere in Asia or Africa do the Communist parties give any indication of organizing the workers for independent struggle.

(Even in the current conflict between the Arab CP and Nasser, the former did not strike out on an independent line. The Arab CP leaders' break with Nasser meant a reinforcement of their bloc with Kassarim in Iraq.)

Now, although the U.S. imperialists tend to rely primarily on the most reactionary elements in Asia and Africa, they are able to maneuver with the nationalists, particularly if support to them becomes the only means for halting the revolutionary advance of the masses. Washington has also indicated readiness to turn to the Kremlin, if need be, to help stem the masses.

WASHINGTON PONDERED DEAL

In a story in the Nov. 17, 1956 New York Times, Dana Adams Schmidt reported that a deal with the Soviet Union covering the Middle East was being seriously discussed in official circles in Washington.

Summing up the arguments pro and con, Schmidt cited the "pro" arguments as follows: ". . . sooner or later the Arab nationalists are bound to win all the way through the Middle East and to throw out the feudalistic, oligarchic regimes we favor in Jordan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. As long as we are committed to the preservation of Israel, we cannot have the support of the Arab nationalist movement. Our only hope is to come to terms with the Soviet Union" which does enjoy the nationalists' support. Washington decided against seeking a deal at the time, but it might very well reconsider that decision in the future.

In light of the CP's policies in Asia and Africa, we must conclude that what Khrushchev really proposed in his talk with Lippman was the kind of deal that the State Department weighed in 1956. His statement that the revolution in Asia and Africa "is the status quo" boils down to sophistry. The deal in question would really provide for arresting the development of the colonial revolution through a tripartite agreement among U.S. imperialists, the Soviet bureaucracy and the native capitalist class on the basis of the latter's program for limited reforms.

In my opinion, Lippman's proposals offer socialists no escape from the fact that "peaceful coexistence," as promulgated by the Soviet Communist Party leaders, means preservation of the status quo pure and simple.

Ceylon Unions Report Record Response for General Strike

COLOMBO, Ceylon, March 23 — The token general strike planned by the Joint Committee of Trade Unions against the MEP government's public security bill took place on March 3 when more than 800,000 workers (over 80% of the working class population of this country) staged a 24-hour strike. This was the greatest number of workers ever involved in a single strike in Ceylon.

More than 600,000 plantation workers struck. (Some 75% of Ceylon's working class are on the plantations.) This was a 100% response to the strike call. Ninety per cent of the port workers went out at the call of the United Port Workers Union — an affiliate of the Ceylon Federation of Labor. (The Federation is led by the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, a Trotskyist organization.) Among the other CFL unions on strike were the All-Ceylon Oil Companies' Workers' Union whose jurisdiction embraces all workers in the three companies on the island (Shell, Stanvac and Caltex); the Lanka Estate Workers' Union and the Engineering firms. The Government Clerical Servants Union reports that over 80% of its membership responded to the strike call. The Government Workers' Trade Union reports similar success.

GOVT. KEEPS UP APPEARANCES

Faced by the strike of the latter union, the government tried to maintain the appear-

ance of normal train service in Colombo by promoting firemen to do the work of striking engineers, sending the trains out before the strike to suburban stations, canceling all night movements and getting these trains back to Colombo during the day.

As to the bus service, despite all attempts to intimidate bus workers through military occupation of bus depots, and despite scab efforts by Stalinist and MEP unionists, every unit of the Ceylon Transport Board was affected by the strike. The All-Ceylon United Motor Workers' Union was able to stop work completely at all depots in the Northern and Eastern

provinces. Several other units also went on strike, and the buses on the roads were empty.

The Ceylon Bank Employees Union brought the entire banking business in the commercial sector to a dead stop. The government-sponsored Central Bank was paralyzed too. The Ceylon Mercantile Union in reviewing its strike performance reports that nearly 13,000 members shut down 146 work places — port enterprises, newspapers, movie houses, hotels, import-export agencies, shops and stores, paint shops, co-op wholesale establishments, brokers and professional firms, estate agencies, insurance agencies and engineering firms.

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Socialism and Democracy

by James P. Cannon

In the same easy and highly readable style for which he is well known, Cannon makes clear the basic Marxist view on socialism and democracy. He says: "What is needed is not a propaganda device or trick, but a formulation of the issue as it really stands; and indeed as it has always stood with real socialists ever since the modern movement was first proclaimed 109 years ago." Cannon tells how the real view has suffered distortion and falsification by Stalinism, Social Democracy and the American ruling class. Send 15 cents for this attractive 21-page pamphlet.

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(More details in next issue of the Militant)

Notebook of an Agitator



"Debs was no colorless saint standing above the battle. He was a warm and passionate partisan, and his whole life's activity is a record of unceasing devotion to the cause of the workers in the class struggle. His great love for the masses cannot be understood if it is separated from the movement whose struggles and ideals he incarnated. . . . He saw always the golden future which will follow the final victory of the workers and he was able, in the fight for that future, to conduct his personal life according to its nobler and higher standards." When Eugene V. Debs died, that's what James P. Cannon jotted down in his notebook. Read his balanced tribute in "Notebook of an Agitator." \$4 clothbound, \$2.50 paper.

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Monday, March 30, 1959

Whose Friends?

"We must march on Washington and wake up our friends. We have a right to expect right-to-eat legislation." This is what Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Auto Workers, said at a March 17 meeting in Detroit, according to Ford Facts, official organ of the world's largest union local, Ford 600.

Mazey also said, "We won an election last November but until now we have not received a single thing from this victory." He pointed out that "unemployment is not only the problem of those currently unemployed, but also of those who are employed, because one out of every four workers in America was either unemployed or worked short weeks during the year."

Undoubtedly Mazey's words reflect the heat of angry unionists who demand that the labor movement get on the ball and force some immediate action on unemployment out of Congress and the White House. It's the same heat that compelled Meany and the AFL-CIO Executive Board meeting in Puerto Rico to take the historic step of calling for a Conference of Unions in Washington April 8 and demanding a shorter work-week without reduction in pay.

But what Mazey said raises some questions that demand answers:

If, indeed, "we won an election last

November," why have we not "received a single thing from this victory?"

If, indeed, we have "our friends" in Washington, who are they, and why do we have to march on them to "wake them up?"

If, indeed, we do have to march and parade and mobilize, and we certainly do, why is the AFL-CIO brass trying to reduce the April 8 Conference to a hand-picked, carefully screened, bureaucratically rigged, tame, harmless and toothless affair at which the only parading that will be done will be the parading of capitalist politicians across the platform?

Brother Mazey! You used to advocate labor's break with the capitalist parties and the formation of a labor party. You abandoned this position in 1954 in deference to "wiser heads" who thought that labor could still gain its political ends through the Democratic Party. Isn't it time to "wake up" yourself and face the facts?

We have no friends in Congress. Labor has been voting for its enemies and has been paid off accordingly.

And if you go along with restricting the Washington Conference to a select group, dominated by union officials, the capitalist politicians will continue to sleep and play deaf when the unemployed cry out for help.

We Greet "The Militant" of India

We note with pleasure the appearance of a new Marxist newspaper in India. It is a bi-weekly bearing the name, The Militant, and is printed by the Revolutionary Workers Party of India.

The RWPI is a new party resulting from the merger of three Marxist groups—the Socialist Party (Marxists), the Communist League and the Madzoor Communist party at Calcutta. This regroupment is considered but a first step. The RWPI is discussing with the Revolutionary Socialist Party of India and the Revolutionary Communist Party of India the possibility of forming a united party of Marxists on a class-struggle program.

We hope that these efforts are crowned with success, for the Marxist movement in India as in a number of other countries is badly splintered.

Repeal the Smith Act

Evidence accumulates that before the movement for civil liberties in the U.S. can claim to have won a decisive victory in the cold-war witch-hunt, it will have to fight some additional battles. The crucial one is repeal of the most active and frequently used thought-control measure on the books—the Smith "Gag" Act.

This law was first directed against the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the Minneapolis Teamsters Union during World War II. After the cold war began it was used in a broadside attack on the leaders of the Communist Party. In 1957 the witch-hunt suffered a major reverse when the U.S. Supreme Court overruled the California courts in what is legally known as the "Yates decision," after the name of the first defendant in the case, Oleta Yates.

The Yates decision seemed to strike down the conspiracy provisions in the Smith Act. The high court ruled that the charge of reorganizing the Communist Party in California in 1945 was invalidated by the statute of limitations and that insufficient evidence against the 14 California defendants had been presented. Following this decision the California case was dropped by the government. Immediately thereafter, other Smith Act "conspiracy" cases were either dismissed by Circuit Courts of Appeal where they were under review, or dropped by the government.

It became clear, however, that the government had reorganized its witch-hunt strategy in this field and was mounting new attacks. First of all, in addition to the "conspiracy" cases, the government had scored several convictions under the "membership" clause of the Smith Act. These remain to be fought out.

Secondly, the government renewed its offensive under the conspiracy clause in two instances—Cleveland and Denver. (The conspiracy clause requires evidence of continuing organizing activity in an organization alleged to advocate the overthrow of the government by force; under the membership clause mere affiliation with such an organization is sufficient.)

In Cleveland and Denver the Circuit Court of Appeals, after reversing the decision on the organizing charge, sent the cases back to court for retrial. An additional factor in these cases was the "alternate" strategy of the government. Com-

munist Party members in Cleveland and Denver were also indicted under the Taft-Hartley "anti-communist conspiracy" law. Meanwhile, the case of Junius Irving Scales is now before the Supreme Court in the first test of the membership clause of the Smith Act. The American Civil Liberties Union, in a friend of the court brief, has argued that conviction of a person for mere membership in an organization advocating overthrow of the government by force cannot stand without violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By equating speech crimes with ordinary criminal conspiracies, in effect, the lower court violated "fundamental constitutional principles," the ACLU asserted. "The basic activity of a group engaged in advocacy—political speech—has a high social value, receives special protection under fundamental law. . . . Moreover, a revolutionary political group invariably has a complex program of social, economic and philosophical objectives, many of which are likely to bear no necessary relation to the prohibited advocacy," the brief stated.

"To apply the harsh conspiracy rule of imputed guilt to members of a radical political group is contrary to basic principles and fairness and political liberty," it declared, adding: "The validation of convictions under the first federal statute which has sought to punish mere membership in groups advocating revolutionary doctrine, will have a damaging effect on the characteristically American habit of expressing political and social views by joining the countless groups of all types that dot our national scene."

As Marxists we don't agree with everything the ACLU says about the concept and character of such legislation as the Smith Act, but we think its views should be given the widest circulation. The fight for the defense of the Bill of Rights is now actively and intimately bound up with the case of Junius Scales and all other Smith Act cases.

We think the situation calls for concerted and united action that will coordinate the scattered efforts of all defenders of civil liberties in one powerful drive to provide the fullest aid to all victims of the Smith Act and to bring to the broad public the facts about this odious witch-hunt law.



"I see cocoa and copper in danger."
"Good heavens! Gutworth was right. Those superstitious Africans are going to nationalize us."

Wall Street Gets Cash Ready As German Plants Go on Sale

Denationalization of government-owned industry in West Germany is being camouflaged with fancy phrases about "people's capitalism" and "free enterprise." The Adenauer regime has embarked upon what it says is a campaign to sell German "workers' 300,000 shares (\$10 million) of Preussag, a Prussian mining, oil-drilling and steel company.

The government set the price of the shares at \$35 each and sale is limited—five to a customer. However, after these shares have been sold the Bonn government will retain control of 72% of Preussag's outstanding shares. Edmund K. Faltermayer reports in the Wall Street Journal that this highly profitable company "last year had sales of approximately \$192 million."

Sales of nationalized property to private investors is

nothing new for the Bonn Government. Business Week (March 21) reports that since 1949 Bonn has sold 36 companies worth \$20 million. They ranged from Junkers, the airplane producer to UFA Theater. Herman Lindrath, Federal Property Minister is continuing these sales "through direct negotiations with interested buyers."

If denationalization is so approved by the German people, why is it necessary for the government to go through the farce of selling shares to workers? Why the cover up?

The Adenauer government wants to end nationalization once and for all. But this is contrary to the interests of the workers. Their indignation over re-consolidation of trusts and cartels has been high since the detested Alfried Krupp coolly announced in January that not only did he intend to retain his huge family empire but to expand it as well.

Krupp, convicted as a war criminal in 1947, signed an agreement with the Allied High Commission in 1953 to sell large sections of his property within five years. Today Allied officials have encouraged him to tear up the commitment like a scrap of paper. In their cold-war offensive against the Soviet Union the Allies need a man like Krupp whose very name spells "war."

The "people's capitalism" formula is reported to represent a compromise in government circles. The Social Democrats are against denationalization. The Christian Democrats, who are in power, are divided over how decontrol should take place. Right-wing Christian Democrats favor outright sale of industries "to the highest bidder." Left-wing Christian Democrats opposed this because "of the possible effect on the labor vote."

The compromise: "A program of 'people's shares,' aimed exclusively at the 'little man.'"

Such spokesmen for American big business as the Wall Street Journal and Business Week take this tongue-in-cheek. They both greet gleefully the total denationalization program proposed at Bonn. "These would be the biggest plums," Business Week tells its readers as it describes the openings for lucrative investment.

Preussag is small potatoes compared to what is coming up. When the West German Republic was established in 1949 the Government became owner of 278 industrial companies. Business Week reports that they are valued at "between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion, they constitute over 72% of aluminum production, 44% of zinc, 42% of automobiles, 40% of lead, 34% of iron ore, 26% of hard coal mining, 17% of crude oil, 16% of shipbuilding, 15% of electricity, 5% of ingot steel and 5% of pig iron."

Minister Lindrath is most anxious to get Volkswagen shares on the market. "It will be the bonbon of the century," says Lindrath. Last year the "bonbon" turned out a record of 550,000 cars, trucks and miniature buses worth \$644 million.

It is easy to see why Business Week is more than willing to let Preussag workers have the "first crack" at the \$35 shares. They are even willing to wait until the next eligible category—any German with a 1957 taxable income of "\$3,810 or

less"—has had its crack at buying.

"U.S. and foreign investors," reveals Business Week, "though ineligible now—later will have a chance to buy Preussag shares on stock exchanges in such cities as Duesseldorf and Hamburg."

This is what Wall Street bankers and financiers have been waiting for. They're ready to put the money on the line for their cut in the "people's share" of industries reconditioned and modernized since the war by the West German government.

Headlines in Other Lands

"Echo Wave" Hits Italian Workers

Unemployment and the terribly depressed areas in Southern Italy and Sicily, though never cured, had receded somewhat from the foreground of Italy's political problems during the past few years of "mild boom." Now they are again in the forefront. Out of a labor force of 20,000,000, Italy has an admitted 1,600,000 jobless and the figure is steadily rising. A government spokesman on March 21 told the N.Y. Times correspondent in Rome that Italy was experiencing an "echo wave" of the U.S. recession.

Cut Miners' Food Subsidy in Bolivia

The two-week strike in the nationalized tin mines ended March 18 with the union officials assuring the men that there would be no immediate cut in the subsidy which permitted them to buy food, fuel and clothing from the mine commissaries at reduced rates.

Because of the inflation in Bolivia the commissary subsidy is regarded by the miners as one of their most important economic gains.

U.S. imperialism, threatening through the International Monetary Fund to slash economic aid, demands that the food subsidy be taken away from the miners. The attempt of the Siles Zuazo regime to obey Washington's order precipitated the bitter strike.

Two days after the strike was called off, however, the government announced that one half of the subsidy would be ended April 1 and the other half on July 15. In recompense the miners would receive two wage increases of 7½% each to coincide with the stages of ending the subsidy.

Whether the miners will consider these increases in money, whose value can be greatly diminished by inflation, as an adequate substitute for the hard reality of food, fuel and clothing remains to be seen.

On March 23 the New York Times, disturbed by Washington's "get tough" attitude, sounded an editorial warning: "Any Bolivian government today faces desperately difficult problems. To supplant the present moderate government with either a rightist or a leftist regime would solve nothing and doubtless make things much worse. The Siles Zuazo MNR government must be encouraged to take as strong measures as possible to bring economic health. If it is pushed

The American Way of Life

Crown Jewels for the White House

The following "Washington Letter" by Betty Beale was sent to us by a reader of the Militant who clipped it from the March 8 Dallas Times Herald. As a public service we are reprinting the exciting report complete, whole and unexpurgated:

WASHINGTON, D.C.—There's a movement afoot in Washington to start a privately donated national jewel collection to be worn by First and Second Ladies of the land on dressy state occasions, and to be on display at the Smithsonian Institution the rest of the time.

The idea was actually born in the House of Winston, which donated the fabulous Hope diamond to the Smithsonian, but it is catching on among Capital officials and their wives.

I can just hear you scream, "What! Crown jewels? Isn't this a bit rich for our blood?" But hold your fire!

The reasons for the plan are several. . . . The establishment of a collection of exquisite jewels worn by Presidents' and Vice Presidents' wives would at once become so famous and historic it would attract gifts from private donors in the same way a great art gallery attracts famous paintings. . . . It would not only help check the exodus from America of beautiful and important jewels now being bought up abroad—mainly by rich Greeks—but would add wealth to the government.

Secondly, it seems contradictory for a country as rich as ours to provide a lovely and historic residence for the Chief Executive and his wife and an elaborate gold service for state dinners, then expect the First Lady to depend on her own expensive, imitation jewelry—if

that is all she had—to highlight her dress when entertaining elegantly jeweled visitors from abroad.

Someone will say, "But this is a democracy." So it is. But there's nothing imitation about that gold service on the White House table; and the magnificent chandeliers in the East Room are crystal, not glass.

Smithsonian boss, Dr. Leonard Carmichael said, "Jewelry making in its highest form is a form of art; so we would certainly be interested in acquiring a great jewelry collection" . . . If the donor of a piece of jewelry specified that it could be withdrawn for particular use by the First and Second Ladies, the Smithsonian would have no objection, he said.

Chief of Protocol Wiley Buchanan, who attends all dressy state functions, called it "a worthy project" that would afford considerable pleasure to the many persons who visit the Smithsonian.

"I am certain," said this wealthy Texan and past Smithsonian donor, "that many of America's leading citizens, families and organizations would feel it a privilege to contribute to such a collection" . . . Winston's thinks other leading jewelers would also gladly contribute. (P.S. Such contributions are tax-deductible, you know.)

The Smithsonian's First Ladies Hall where the inaugural ball gown of every President's wife is on display is already a huge drawing card. . . . What do you personally think of a collection of beautiful and wearable jewels to be displayed in the room that now houses the Hope diamond and to be worn by Mrs. Eisenhower and Mrs. Nixon and their successors at official functions? . . . Write me and tell me.

Latin-American Exiles Granted Asylum in Cuba

too hard it will collapse. If it shows too much friendliness or gratitude to the U.S. and too little national pride, the leaders will be labeled as 'Yankee stooges.'

As the astute N.Y. Times editors realize, the art of U.S. imperialist policy should consist in not making its Latin American stooges obviously appear as stooges.

Work Brigades Appear Again in Eastern Europe

The East European countries of the Soviet bloc have announced restoration of the youth work brigades which were a feature of the post-war years but which were mostly abandoned after 1950 and the economic recovery from wartime devastation.

Reinstitution of the work brigades in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania aims at mobilizing labor power to help increase production. Other objectives include curbing drinking and delinquency or "hoolliganism" among the youth, and facilitating official indoctrination courses.

At the same time, the East European governments are adopting the Soviet Union's plan of having children work part time in factories and on farms. The youth work brigades, however, will cover youths 18 to 26, most of whom are out of school. They will be enrolled in the work groups for from one to three months and subjected to semi-military discipline.

Scientista, the Communist Party newspaper of Rumania, recently announced: "In all parts of the country the youth will take part in this unpaid patriotic work."

Ever since the Polish and Hungarian uprisings of 1956, in which youth played a prominent role, Communist Party leaders in the Soviet bloc countries have displayed uneasiness over what they might do next. The work brigades appear to be part of their answer to the mood of rebelliousness.

Finland Faces Jobless Crisis

Unemployment in Finland has reached an all-time high. Out of a population of four million, the number of registered unemployed is 100,000. Unemployment relief, totalling \$94 million, is the biggest item in the government budget.

The new regime in Cuba is welcoming revolutionary exiles from all Latin American countries ruled by dictators. Many organizations of these exiles have been formed in Cuba. There are at least three groups opposing the Duvalier regime in Haiti. Others oppose the dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Paraguay. While Cuba's Castro regime announces that it will observe the diplomatic amenities of not permitting the actual organization of armed expeditions against dictator-governments to take place on its soil, it is protecting the exile groups and giving them moral support.

Mao Regime Hits Tito Statement

On March 18 the People's Republic of China lodged a "serious protest" with the Yugoslav embassy over a remark made in Yugoslavia by Marshal Tito after his return from his African-Asian tour. Tito had charged that Chinese Premier Chou En-lai had "appealed to the Indonesian people not to give us welcome." The Chinese declared this was an "unfounded fabrication."

On the same day that the Chinese government lodged the protest, it signed a trade pact for 1959 with Yugoslavia. It cuts the amount of trade between the two countries to about half of what it was last year. The reduction is generally regarded as a form of economic pressure on the Tito regime.

Yugoslav Industrial Output Rises; Crops Hurt by Drought

Statistics of the state of Yugoslavia's economy in 1958, issued last week by the Yugoslav government showed a rise over 1957 in all fields save agriculture. Industrial production rose 11% according to the report, while the number of proletarians grew by more than 200,000. The drought cut agricultural production by about 20% from the bumper crops of 1957. Since Yugoslavia is still a predominantly peasant country this calamity kept the national income at almost the same figure as in 1957. On a two-year basis, however, the government claims that the national income has risen above 1956 by an average of 11.6% each year.

Is New Struggle Breaking Out in N.Y. Fur Workers?

Editor: According to an article by J. Fogel in the Jewish Daily Forward of Feb. 26, and a statement by the "Executive of the Right Wing Trade Union Furriers" in the same paper March 16, a struggle is taking place in the Furriers Joint Council in New York.

The fur industry in New York is plagued with almost chronic unemployment. Many small shops have given up the ghost. Since World War II the number of workers has been reduced to about 7,000—half the pre-war number.

The struggle for leadership in the Joint Council has nothing to do unfortunately with better working conditions. There are plenty of complaints among the fur workers; there is lots of room for improvement even on the basis of the signed agreement, but that's not what the conflict is about.

Since the Furriers International merged with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen some three years ago, there was supposedly a united administration.

Three groups, right wing, center, and left wing managed to exist together. Now it seems that some of the people who were in the New York leadership before the merger, are ready to challenge the present administration; and have already done so by electing their man to the vacant post of manager.

The victorious group has been charged with unethical behavior; appeals have been sent to Gorman, Secretary Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters.

According to the same source (J. Fogel in the Feb. 26 Forward) the 28 on the Joint Council also forced through the election of an assistant manager, even though the hour was late—12 midnight; and even though it was not on the agenda; and there is no constitutional provision for such a post.

The locals comprising the Joint Council will now hold meetings and seek to move up the date for the general election from June to April.

As I said before the conflict has nothing to do with better conditions for the workers. Only, as you well know, workers always look forward to a change in the administration in hope that the new broom will sweep cleaner.

The disappointment and amazement of the present administration isn't warranted. To give them the credit due, they have helped stabilize and improve conditions somewhat. But they forget that the merger with the Meat Cutters was not because of the needs of the

union and industry. It came about because of the general political situation in the country. It was an outgrowth of the dark days of McCarthyism, when the Furriers Union had a left wing leadership. So it's natural for those individuals who were formerly in the leadership and remained in the industry and the union to band together for the attainment of leading posts in the union.

So there's quite a bit of talk in the fur market, but not much hope. You see there are still a lot of old timers who remember well that it was no milk and honey, as we say in Yiddish, when the union had a left wing administration. There was neither more democracy for the opposing point of view, nor more justice for the individual worker, nor more concern about conditions and unemployment and no greater effort to improve the lot of the workers.

The fact that the center group and the left wing groups on the Joint Council united now to elect a manager, is also natural—it has been done before. Even the Forward would admit that. The resignation of the old manager created an opening for the left wing and they took advantage of it. This too is natural. But whether this is "an overturn" and "Left Wing Gets Control" as the Forward headline states, is yet to be seen.

As an old-timer I would think that Gorman or the AMCBW will step in and patch things up. This will be a "summit" business. The workers will stand around and talk about unemployment and how it drags down the conditions of the employed. They have no real spokesmen who would bring forth a program reflecting the needs of the workers.

Retired Furrier New York

Westinghouse Steps Up Drive for Profits

Editor: In an intensified drive to speed up work and combine jobs, the Westinghouse Corp. has caused two stoppages in the last two months. The latest one is a result of Westinghouse's determination to "housebreak" the steward body and the union.

The vast majority of the membership has adopted a policy of "no steward—no work" to combat the company's attack on the steward body by issuing furloughs and indefinite suspensions.

A typical incident starts with some supervisor ordering a man to perform some duties which his job never called for previously and which was usually performed by another man in a different job description. The man asks for his steward and then things happen quickly. The steward is told to instruct the man to do this unusual work, and if he balks, the

steward is suspended, the man is punished similarly and then the snowball begins growing. After years of negotiations, the company and union have agreed on description of duties for almost every job. Now, without any change in technical machinery or methods, the foremen decide a material handler must drive a motor truck, a chipper must run a crane, etc. These may seem like trivial incidents to someone outside the mass industries, but it is basic and fundamental to industrial trade unionism. The union doesn't fight the introduction of new machines or new methods, but the irrational combining of jobs cannot be excused or permitted, even if it were for the safety factor alone.

H.L. Philadelphia

Socialist Again

Editor: I registered socialist again after some 25 years; Mr. Weiss's article last week very convincing on that.

J. K. Pennsylvania

Says Many Jobless Ready to Vote for Socialist Candidates

Editor: Readers of the Militant, I believe, will be interested in the following letter which appeared in the March 14 issue of Ford Facts, official organ of Local 600 of the United Auto Workers union.

Evelyn Sell Detroit

As far back as January 1958 unemployed were desperate enough to eagerly sign petitions to place on the ballot something called "Socialist Workers" Party. In normal times men would hear the word "socialist" or "workers" and hear no more providing they were employed. Few of them would pull their noses out of their beer mugs long enough to listen and learn even now.

Now they eagerly sign for it and many will vote for it because it is something different and to mutely express their indignation at the unemployment we should not need to endure.

They all know that fear of electing radicals is senseless because as all political students tell us, authority and responsibility of office will modify their philosophy and cause them to pull their heads out of the cloud and feel for firm earth to stand on. Elect a radical of any hue and all the damage his colleagues, the electorate and the courts will let him get away with is to cause the unemployed, the welfare clients, pensioners and mental patients to be treated like human beings instead of impounded animals; and perhaps add a few nickels to the cost of rendering common justice to them.

George P. Kingston Ferndale, Mich.

Newark and Belzoni Aren't So Different

By Herman Chauka

William Simons, a 30-year-old Negro was beaten, clubbed and kicked by two white cops in front of his home in Newark, N.J., Jan. 4. His wife Maybelle, also 30,

knife although his wife insisted it was only a small penknife. NAACP PROTESTS The NAACP lodged a strong protest and Newark Police Director Weldon, who used to be a top New York cop in Harlem, promised a thorough investigation.

On March 17, the first results were in. Chief Magistrate Castellano heard the police charge of assault against Simons. He found that the evidence showed "one uncontradicted fact—that the officers beat Simons." After giving due consideration to the sworn testimony of the seven witnesses that the cops had beaten Simons and that the victim hadn't fought back, the judge reflected. After all the two cops had testified that Simons "fought them like a wild man."

The chief magistrate then stated his judgment: "I believe that the officers were justified in using the means they did to subdue him and make the arrest and that they used no more force than was legally necessary to make the arrest." He sentenced Simons to 90 days in prison and referred the charges against him of assault with a deadly weapon to a grand jury.

He also found Mrs. Simons guilty of interfering with the officers but he decided in her case to temper justice with mercy. He sentenced her to the time she had spent in jail when she and her husband were arrested.

Emil Oxfeld, the prominent Newark civil liberties lawyer who defended Mr. and Mrs. Simons, told the judge, "I am flabbergasted at your findings." The cops and judges of Newark, N.J., may not be as bad as those of Belzoni, Miss., where Emmett Till was lynched for allegedly whistling at a white girl, but they sure belong to the same breed.



William Curran, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor in the Minneapolis primary election, is the only independent candidate in the race. A member of the Sheetmetal Workers Union and delegate to the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, he will be heard at a rally at campaign headquarters, 322 Hennepin Ave., Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m.

He will speak on "Labor's Next Step—From Union Hall to City Hall." Running on a program for peace, jobs and socialism, Curran is making the need for developing independent labor political action a central point of his campaign.

New York City Employees Vote One-Day Strike

By Lillian Kiesel

NEW YORK, March 24 — "We're tired of being used for political patsies!" This sentiment rang through Manhattan Center here last night at a meeting of 2,500 members of District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. Called to take action on Mayor Wagner's decision to reduce promised pay raises for 80,000 city employees, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution to stage a one-day strike on March 31 to picket city hall.

The proposed action is supported by the protesting city employees' International Union and the New York State AFL-CIO Executive Council. It is also endorsed by Paul Hall, President of the Seafarers International Union, AFL-CIO.

Mayor Wagner provoked the protest action when he announced he would cut the \$32 million he had promised to allocate for pay rises to only \$20 million in his city budget. This means, for example, that teachers would receive raises of \$270 instead of \$400 annually. However, a whole section of municipal workers who are designated Career and Salary workers will not even receive these meager raises.

NO RAISE IN 5 YEARS

Some 22,000 of District Council 37's 30,000 members fall into this category. The union has been trying to negotiate with Wagner to persuade him to revise the Career and Salary plan in order to provide two additional pay increments for employees. Jerry Wurf, regional director of the union, declared that these workers have not received a raise for five years.

He accused Mayor Wagner of refusing to bargain in good faith. In fact, the union has received a runaround since last October. "It is not collective bargaining," said Wurf. "It is collective baloney."

Wurf blasted Wagner, a Democrat, for "escaping" to Bermuda after taping a TV announcement of the budget cuts without even notifying the union. He also blasted Governor Nelson Rockefeller, a Republican, as being equally to blame. Wurf said that Rockefeller added "insult to injury" with his "tax the poor" program.

This "battle" between Albany, the state capital, and New York City is staged yearly. "Every year," declared Wurf, "I go through this same farce whether there is a Democratic or Republican governor."

BOTH ROOK WORKERS

The "battle" this year revolves around the question: How to get \$250 million out of New York workers? Confronted by Rockefeller's state payroll tax program, Wagner found it impossible to institute a still higher city sales tax due to heavy pressure from the voters. So the political football has been tossed back and forth. Wagner's solution is to penalize the municipal workers.

Pointing up this fact, Charles Cogen, President of the New York Teachers Guild Local 2, American Federation of Teachers, sent a letter to Wagner criticizing him for failing to object to legislation at Albany which intends to "grant disproportionate pay rises to certain more highly paid school administrators." The Teachers Guild will hold

San Diego Socialist Group Starts New Branch of the SWP

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — A branch of the Socialist Workers Party has been organized here by worker-militants who have been active for some time in the labor, civil liberties and civil rights struggles. The group, during the last year, has been carrying on discussions and studies of the various socialist organizations and programs.

After a period of common activity and discussion it was decided unanimously that the most effective way socialists could advance their cause in an organized and systematic way was to join the Socialist Workers Party. Thus a branch was chartered and a program of party-building activity mapped out. Anyone interested in contacting the branch to learn more about its work may write to the National Office of the SWP, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

a meeting Wednesday to decide on strike action.

WORKERS INDIGNANT

Indignation and humiliation due to the glaring inequalities and callous disregard of their demands were expressed by the city's workers last night. One worker remarked: "We've been treated so badly for so long that whatever they [the union leaders] propose to do I will support."

Another worker, speaking to a small group of unionists as they were leaving, was saying: "We've got to have nine thousand people down at City Hall next Tuesday so they'll know we mean business."

BILLION A MONTH

The U.S. government now has some 2,361,000 employees and a payroll of more than a billion dollars a month.

Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK Special showing of two excellent films, Maxim Gorky's "The Lower Depths," winner of the French Grand Prix, and Marcel Mareau in his three greatest pantomimes. Fri., April 3 and Sat., April 4 at 8:30 p.m. Coffee and refreshments to follow. Two matinee showings, Sat., April 4 and Sun., April 5 at 3:00 p.m. Contribution \$1. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place.

TWIN CITIES

William M. Curran, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, will give the opening speech of the campaign, "Labor's Next Step—From Union Hall to City Hall." Sat., April 4, 8:00 p.m., 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd Fl. Minneapolis. A social evening will follow.

Local Directory

- BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. Every Sunday night, round table discussion, 8 P.M. CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Temple 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M. MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND-BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday, 8 P.M., followed by open house. Call PO 3-5820. SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, WA 4-2321. SEATTLE 1412-18th Avenue, EA 2-5554. Library, bookstore. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194.

Berkeley Group Backs Socialist Candidates; Defends Anti-Bias Bill

The United Socialist Action group is conducting vigorous election activities in Berkeley, Calif. The organization, formed last winter, is running one of its members — Marion Syrek Jr., an unemployed union pressman — for the City Council.

In his platform, Syrek states that "The most important question in Berkeley today is whether or not we are going to do anything about racial discrimination." He advocates passage of Proposition "C," the Fair Housing Initiative Ordinance, which United Socialist Action had placed on the city ballot. Syrek also favors "City Council action urging Congress to establish a 30-hour work week with no reduction in weekly pay; an end to nuclear tests; and formation of a labor party.

BACKS SP-SDF NOMINEE FOR MAYOR

In the mayoralty race, USA has announced its support for Robert Martinson, Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation candidate. The USA

stated that it endorses Martinson because "The SP-SDF challenged the capitalist politicians in the mayoralty contest" and despite "substantial disagreements with some features of the program and outlook of the SP-SDF." The USA cites as further reason for its support the fact that "Mr. Martinson is backing the crucial issue of the campaign, measure 'C'."

The USA-sponsored Fair Housing Initiative Ordinance has indeed become a major issue in the April 7 local election. On March 19, the Berkeley Daily Gazette printed an ad, taking up nearly half a page, attacking Measure "C." Signed by Berkeley Citizens Committee Against "C," the ad declares that "The measure would change Berkeley's pattern of voluntary association to one of compulsion . . . Berkeleyans would have no choice as to who would be living under the same roof, or next door." These are the usual racist "arguments" against legislation barring housing discrimination.

A few days earlier, on March 14, the West Coast Regional Office of the NAACP issued a strong condemnation of the proposed ordinance, alleging that the initiative was legally deficient. Replying to the association's criticisms, Mrs. Dorothy N. Mullen, an initiator of Measure "C," stated that the wording of the Berkeley Fair Housing Initiative Ordinance was "taken almost word for word from the Isaacs-Sharkey-Brown bill which is now in effect in New York City. The New York bill was supported by the NAACP in New York . . . and it is difficult to understand the opposition of the regional office here to a virtually identical measure."

Slate, a prominent liberal students' organization on the University of California's Berkeley campus, is campaigning for Proposition "C." The group acts as a political party in campus elections. Its intervention in the city-wide election issue, however, has been forbidden by the University Administration, and Slate is protesting the ban.

Dr. Annette Rubinstein Heard On Twin Cities TV and Radio

MINNEAPOLIS, March 17 — The need for independent socialist political action was given a strong public boost with the visit here of Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein, author, lecturer and 1958 Independent Socialist candidate for Lt. Governor of New York.

Dr. Rubinstein was queried by a radio audience for three hours last night on the popular Nightbeat program. She appeared on two TV news programs, addressed a meeting jointly sponsored by the Twin Cities Labor Forum and the National Guardian Associates and gave a lecture on literature at the University of Minnesota Socialist Club.

On the Nightbeat program, the station switchboard was flooded with telephoned questions from the audience throughout the entire three hours. During tonight's program, people were still calling in to discuss what Dr. Rubinstein had to say last night.

The questions to her ran all the way from, "Why do you think our government doesn't want disarmament if there's really no danger of attack by Russia?" to "Do you approve of the murder of 20 million Chinese just because they didn't



ANNETTE T. RUBINSTEIN

want to see children separated from their parents?"

In reply to the first question, Dr. Rubinstein explained how the armaments program was necessary to keep the capitalist system going, while the planned Soviet economy had no such necessity. At the Sunday night forum, 85 people heard a vividly presented speech on "The Outlook

Notes in the News

PAPAL PHILOSOPHY — When 3,000 street cleaners showed up at Vatican City with brooms and pushcarts March 19 to receive communion, Pope John XXIII congratulated them on their poverty: "You must be happy, free as you are of the preoccupation of handling large sums of money. It is the rich who have those worries after they have set aside fortunes. They spend their time trying to make more."

LABOR'S PAL — Senator Kennedy (D-Mass.), a Presidential aspirant who is viewed kindly by many union officials, told a March 22 New York conference of United Auto Workers local union presidents that he is opposed to the growing union demand for a shorter work week. He said such a reduction would put America at a disadvantage in "the production war with the Soviet Union."

PEEPING BULLS — New York cops raided a stag party March 19, charging an indecent performance was staged. The cops told newsmen they watched two nude dancers through a back alley peep hole for a full hour before they busted up the party.

NEGRO MAJORITY IN D.C. — Washington, D.C., is now the first large city in the country where a majority of the population is Negro. With a current population of 825,000 there are 438,000 "non-whites." Only a few thousand of the city's residents are neither white or Negro. The white population has decreased by 131,000 in the past nine years with a heavy exodus to the suburbs. Seventy per cent of the public school pupils are now Negroes. While Negro migration to the North has slackened off in recent years, it was so extensive during the war and immediately afterward that less than two-thirds of the country's Negro population now lives in the deep south.

ASBURY HOWARD RE-ELECTED — Union leader Asbury Howard, who was beaten and jailed by Alabama racists for reproducing a cartoon urging Negroes to vote, was re-elected without contest as eastern vice president of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union by the union's convention March 19. He filed his acceptance in a one-sentence letter written in jail.

WANT MADISON AVE. TO SELL JIM CROW — Southern racists are considering an \$11,000,000 fund to hire a top-flight advertising outfit to buy space in Northern newspapers and TV and radio stations to "sell" segregation in the North. The proposition is slated to be brought before the Southern Conference of Governors by Mississippi Gov. Coleman, according to a March 11 dispatch. "If Madison Avenue publicity experts can make a household word of an unknown Hollywood starlet, they can sell the public an issue that is morally right," said Florida State Rep. Reedy, a spokesman for the racist plan.

RATTLES 1,000 BOMBS — Gen. Curtis Lemay of the American Air Force said March 24 that the Air Force is ready with a fleet of 1,000 nuclear bomb-carrying jet bombers, "aimed at the heart of the Communist empire from all directions." He said his remarks were intended to allay "prophets of doom and gloom."

UE SETS BACK WITCH-HUNTERS — After three years of trying, the Justice Department announced March 24 it was dropping efforts to have the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (Independent) branded a "Communist-dominated" union by the Subversive Activities Control Board. Such branding would have been the signal for a government-employer offensive to strip the union of bargaining rights.

EARNING FROM THE GRAVE — Administrators of the estate of the late Vincent Astor have asked court permission to begin investing current earnings from his estate. The money he left behind is "earning" over \$200,000 a month and the administrators just don't know where to put it.

WILDERNESS VS. PEOPLE — Dr. Raymond B. Cowles, a Los Angeles zoologist, says that overpopulation is wiping out the last remnants of American wilderness. To save the wilderness he urges a federal tax on parents. The zoologist's plan would take tax deductions for children away from parents and give it, as a reward, to childless couples. He also suggested an increase in a family's taxes after the birth of each child. He overlooked the fact that the sales tax automatically increases as the family grows bigger.