



THE FUTURE IS HERS

"...To rebel with reason against ignorance, bigotry and the rule of gold and brass" (see Seeman, p. 6). Not to the aging "crusaders" who would turn the schools into halls of bigotry belongs the future, but to this child of the new China, to the children of America and of the whole world.

SCOTT LUCAS: Best-dressed double dealer in the Senate

PAGE 8

FARMERS RISE: Support for Brannan Plan scares politicians

PAGE 5

TURTLE CREEK: UE fights CIO to standstill in E. Pittsburgh

PAGE 4

THE PRIMARIES: What they mean for '50 elections

PAGE 4

Also in this issue

	Page		Page
Advertisements	6-7	Labor news	4
Books	6	Letters to Editor	2
Calendar	7	My Day world over	3
Chicago: rents	8	Pots & Pocketbooks	7
Dollar Stretcher	7	Politics	4
Farm news	5	Report to readers	2
FBI and you	2	Roundup of news	3-5

Cost of World War II

SEVENTY-FIVE million lives (26,000,000 murdered in concentration camps).

Homes of 150,000,000 people.

Money enough to provide every family in the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, Ireland, France, Germany, Russia and Belgium with:

- A \$30,000 home
- \$10,000 worth of furniture
- \$40,000 in cash

plus \$150,000,000 worth of schools, hospitals and libraries for every city of over 200,000 population in each of those countries.*

Five Years After

The U.S. is spending more on war preparations in one week than on education for a whole year.

Britain is spending more for military purposes than for health, housing and education put together.

* Figures from Intntl. Review of Diplomatic & Political Science, Geneva.

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NATIONAL **5 cents**
GUARDIAN
the progressive newsweekly

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NEW YORK, N. Y., MAY 10, 1950

THE SHAME OF THE SCHOOLS

Ouster of 8 N.Y. teachers bares 'cesspool of bigotry'

By Lawrence Emery

WITH the suspension without pay last week of eight members of Teachers Union Local 555 in New York, a foul growth in the city school system has festered into the open. It was named in March by Cyril Graze, chairman of the Teachers Union Academic Freedom Committee, when he said: "There is a cesspool of bigotry at the Board of Education."

The eight suspended teachers are all active members of the Teachers Union; one is president of the local, another is its secretary. All have long and perfect classroom records; their tenures range from 10 to 28 years and all of them have the highest academic standing. They have one thing in common: all eight are Jews.

The truth is that control of New York City education is being captured by bigots, racists, anti-Semites, Negro-baiters and union-haters. The only result must be chaos in the school system.

INJUSTICE PILES UP: Two weeks ago headlines from coast to coast told of the boisterous demonstration by tens of thousands of high school students who for four days straight stormed New York's City Hall with demands for a pay increase for their teachers. The pay increase was the prodding issue. New York teachers are woefully underpaid; in 20 years they have received but two small boosts, both won only because teachers put up a united battle for them. Present take-home pay of a teacher with a master's degree and 15 years' experience is about \$66 a week.

Behind the wage question are other grievances. Classrooms are impossibly overcrowded. Schools are understaffed and suffer a chronic shortage of teachers. Teachers are overworked, currently are subjected to an exhausting speed-up. Most New York schools are dismal relics of the past; many are firetraps.

These have long been sources of smoldering discontent to teachers and students alike. The discontent flamed into action when Mayor William O'Dwyer betrayed an election pledge to boost teachers' salaries and then gave himself a \$15,000-a-year pay raise. At the same time Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Jansen got an increase to \$32,500.

POGROM IS THE WORD: Teachers took modified "strike" action by refusing to perform extra-curricular voluntary services; students sided with

them and the uproarious demonstrations followed. The school administration responded with the pogrom against the eight.

Actually the pogrom was months in the making. During those months Dr. Jansen accumulated "evidence" from reactionary sources of "alleged association with the Communist Party" by the eight unionists. While he was doing that, Board of Education member George Timone, an O'Dwyer appointee and formerly associated with the anti-Semitic Christian Front in his staunch support of Spain's dictator Franco, offered a resolution to withdraw recognition from the Teachers Union.

In these moves Jansen and Timone had the active support of such groups and figures as the American Legion; Catholic War Veterans and other Catholic organizations; Alfred Kohlberg, national chairman of the American Jewish League Against Communism—the man named as head of the Nationalist China lobby who fed Senator McCarthy with material for his current attacks on the State Department; and Theodore C. Kirkpatrick, a co-editor of the magazine *Counter-Attack* and representative of a "City-Wide Committee Against Communism."

DEVELOPING CANCER: The pattern is a familiar one: use of a red witch-hunt to destroy a militant union—both moves rooted in violent racial bigotry.

The racial basis of the Board of Education has been thoroughly documented by the Teachers Union. In an exchange of letters between the Union's Academic Freedom

Committee and Dr. Jansen, the union assembled material relating to nine separate instances of bigotry. The list led off with the classic case of teacher May Quinn, under attack since 1942 for using her classroom as a forum for anti-Jewish and anti-Negro propaganda and eventually exonerated by the Board of Education after a three-year fight to bring her to trial.

The list included a speech of an assistant superintendent of schools, who suggested a quota



system by calling for more Catholic teachers to "restore the balance" of faiths in the school system. It included the free circulation of the *Educational Signpost*, organ of the American Education Association, which is openly anti-Semitic. It included the case of teacher Gladys Laubenthal who, without rebuke, daily made anti-Semitic remarks in her classroom and advocated jail for foreign-born citizens.

WILL THE PEOPLE ACT? The eight suspended teachers were charged with "insubordination and conduct unbecoming a teacher" because they declined to participate in Dr. Jansen's probing of their private political beliefs without counsel, which he denied them. They will be tried under Board of Education proceedings.

But Dr. Jansen considers them guilty in advance. On Friday he said: "Until we have definite information that teachers are or have been Communists, we don't question them." He announced that an undetermined number of other teachers will be questioned.

To the Teachers Union this was not only intimidation of all teachers active in the pay fight, but was a vicious threat to the entire school system. Said the union: "We are confident that the people of New York will not long tolerate the steady deterioration of our public schools taking place behind the smokescreen of this 'anti-Communist' witch-hunt."

The suspensions must be lifted and the teachers reinstated, otherwise no teacher is safe from the new inquisition, and education itself is threatened with extinction."



ABRAHAM LEDERMAN
Local 555 Head: Suspended

First the teachers—now the doctors. (See p. 4).

PEACE

Red Cross warns U.S. on atomic war; 'Peace' is May Day slogan world over

"BAN the H-Bomb" is the cry of the plain people over the world. Last week it was spoken in Geneva as a solemn last warning by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The committee pleaded for an international conference to effect "the prohibition of all atomic weapons." The atom bomb, it said, made the Red Cross



mission impossible: legal texts cannot protect non-combatants in an atomic war, nor would ambulances have access to them.

There was no doubt in Europe as to the target of the warning. From Geneva, Michael Hoffman wrote in the N. Y. Times:

This intervention by the Red Cross... is expected to have a profound effect throughout Europe. It expresses from a source unimpeachably non-Communist, a source whose status actually defines the word 'neutral,' the concern and dread felt in Europe at the present U.S. policy of being prepared for atomic war. That such preparations are motivated by fear of attack or distrust of Russian intentions simply fails to impress most Europeans of whatever political hue.

It is the U.S. that dropped the first atomic bombs and it is the U.S. that is publicly avowing its intention to keep on accumulating them—and that's all that most Europeans know for sure. They are very unsure about what the U.S. intends to do with its bombs and where it might drop them.

MISSION TO MOSCOW: The Red Cross warning made a fitting backdrop for UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie's peace mission. From western Europe he was to take off May 10 for Moscow, where he hoped to see Stalin. He had talked with Truman, Bidault, Attlee. He was cautiously optimistic, grimly determined. The cold war must near its end this year, he said. "The situation is the most critical since 1945."

Peace on parade

PEACE, in all languages, was spelled out on May Day banners last week. Government officials in the west thought the word held a threat, tied a red tag to it and primed the cold war pump. Here's how May Day looked in the key spots:

BERLIN: For the first time in weeks the sun shone brightly. Bands blared in the Lustgarten where east-zone Germans celebrated. There were marching athletes, workers, people's police. Western sources reckoned the crowd at 250,000; eastern at 800,000.

Speakers and marchers said to the Germans, Unite; to the Americans, Go home; to the Russians, Thanks; to the world, The Soviet Union and the People's Democracies stand for peace, the U.S. for war.

It was sunny too in West Berlin between the ruined Reichstag building and the Kroll Opera House. The flags of western nations waved from the ruins. Western estimates said 500,000 gathered. Among the speakers were Berlin's Mayor Ernst Reuter and the AFL's Irving Brown. Their message to the Germans was, Join an Atlantic Alliance backed by the U.S.; to the Russians, Go home; to the Americans, Thanks.

DRUM FIRE: May Day past, the diplomats and press of the west resumed their drum-beating for Whitsun on May 28. Last winter the youth of the east zone announced a Whitsun peace rally. U.S. officials promptly spoke of reinforced garrisons; Mayor Reuter called for tanks to stem the "invasion." Repeated disclaimers that the paraders would enter West Berlin brought no end to the carefully-propagated jitters. Apparently the ground was being laid for a great U.S. "victory" when the boys and girls fail to capture the city. The beating of drums, it was hoped, would prove diverting: in West Berlin one out of every four workers is jobless.

The 300,000 unemployed—nearly three times as many as during last year's winter blockade—are victims of the U.S.'s cold war.

In pre-war days Berlin sold in East-ern Germany more than half the output of its machine tool, electrical, textile, and optical instruments industries. Today that market is lost because of the cold war. At the same time, western authorities have been quietly moving the city's machine tool and electrical industries to the western zones.

Before the war Berlin's electrical industry accounted for 40% of Germany's total electrical equipment output. Today it represents barely 7%. Electrical production in West Germany jumped 33% from 1948 to 1949 partly as a result of the shift from Berlin.

LEST WE FORGET: May brought another anniversary. Five years ago May 8 was VE Day. This year the U.S. disclosed a plan to occupy Germany for five years more, called for the expenditure in Germany next year of \$60,000,000 (believed to be for the development of war bases). The plans seemed designed to permit full integration of West Germany into the Atlantic Pact.



Peace meets violence

CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: All parades and demonstrations on May Day had been banned in the Witwatersrand, South Africa's rich gold-mining district. Ruthlessly jimcrowed, beaten into forced labor, denied any democratic rights, South Africans had spoken of May Day as Freedom Day. They gathered in the streets at nightfall. Street lights were smashed. Fighting ensued in the dark. At least 12 workers were killed, many others wounded.

TOKYO: It was Japan's May Day; 500,000 gathered in the Imperial Palace Plaza to denounce the U.S. and the Yoshida government as a U.S. puppet. Gen. MacArthur "advised" the government to outlaw the Communist Party. A government spokesman said it would not comply "immediately"; further bowing to U.S. "advice" is complicated by Japan's desperate need for trade with Communist China.

CANADA: In Montreal, police raided Peace Movement headquarters, arrested people distributing its leaflets, followed home and questioned some men who had signed peace petitions in a restaurant. Canada is another country where the "Outlaw Communism" phase of the attack on the peace movement is under official discussion (others: Australia, South Africa, Western Germany, Malaya).

PARIS: In the working class districts, thousands turned out. They called for peace and a living wage. Leading a contingent of the Partisans of Peace was Frédéric Joliot-Curie, recently dismissed, after U.S. pressure, as head of France's Atomic Energy Commission. De Gaullists gathered in the more fashionable Bois de Boulogne.



SPY HUNTER McCARTHY UNMASKS SOVIET AGENTS
From left to right: Little Father Truman, Peoples' Commissar Jessup, Comrade Acheson and Red Army soldier Lattimore.

ROME: In the Piazza del Popolo there were 200,000, in all Italy 10,000,000 who celebrated May Day. They demanded jobs, land, bread, peace. In Celaho, just east of Rome, unemployed had gathered to wait their turn for job assignments. Police broke up a meeting there. Two workers were killed.

MOSCOW: The socialist world centered its celebration in Red Square. Soviet jet planes flew overhead. Soviet workers, soldiers, children marched. Tractors were wheeled along, newly named and flower-decked. Statistics were paraded like bathing beauties. Pravda's editorial summed up:

Again the heralds of capitalism are glorifying destruction and death, glorifying weapons of mass destruction of people, glorifying Maldanek and Oswiecim [German extermination camps]. But war, if it is started by them, will bring the liquidation of the whole system of world capitalism.

NEW YORK: For five hours men and women marched through New York's streets to Union Square. The May Day theme was peace and civil rights. Press headlines featured a scattering of eggs hurled from one spot along the route, neglected the fact that thousands of people had defied the witch-hunting climate of the country to march. Un-reported was the life-size dummy in the contingent of newspaper workers. The dummy, at a typewriter, bore on his back a placard reading: "If I tell the truth, I'll get fired."

MORE FOR PEACE: These were some other U.S. voices raised for peace:

- Dartmouth college students held a conference with students from 13 other schools to plan action for peace. Students represented Quakers, national student organizations, Young Progressives.

- In Detroit's Central Methodist Church, a conference on the Church and War was to open May 8. Dr. Clarence Pickett, former Quaker head, was to speak.

- The Committee for Peaceful Alternatives was making final preparations for the Mid-Century Conference for Peace in Chicago May 28.

Acheson: headaches

As the world-wide movement for peace gathered momentum, Secy. of State Acheson flew to Europe to patch the leaking seams of "the western partnership." On the eve of his departure the U.S. dispatched a stiff note to Moscow on the Baltic plane incident. Simultaneously, the Senate passed the Marshall Plan authorization, slashing it by \$250,000,000, to bring it down to \$2,850,000,000.

Acheson had some explaining to do before the Big Three meetings in London. In France, where the government wants U.S. help in crushing the Indo-Chinese independence movement, he found "several ministers," according to the N. Y. Times, "very angry because the U.S., as they put it, appeared to desire to replace France in Indo-China." In Britain, officials were angered by a "Washington-inspired" campaign to the effect that "there was no hope of an improvement [in European 'integration'] until this government had given way to one less concerned with Socialist doctrine."

THE NATION

PRIMARIES

Pepperless program loses in Florida

LABOR lost its best friend in the Senate when Claude Pepper was overwhelmingly defeated in the Florida Democratic primary by the red-smear, race-baiting campaign of Rep. George Smathers. Smathers did not so much take away Pepper's vote as bring out an enormous additional vote which drastically reduced Pepper's traditional majorities in Dade County (Miami) and Hillsboro (Tampa). Pepper won Dade by 1,000 votes as compared to 32,000 in 1944.

POST-MORTEM: Factors behind Pepper's defeat were:

- While there was a big increase in the Negro vote, more than 300,000 qualified Negro voters didn't go to the polls.
- In a state where labor is weak and dominated by jimcrow AFL building trades unions, Pepper achieved little campaign organization against Smathers' 30,000 campaigners in 67 counties, heavily backed by Du Pont and other big northern interests. Cold-shouldered by the national Democratic organization, Pepper made a direct appeal for aid to the White House, but was turned down.
- Pepper answered Smathers' strong anti-Fair Deal, pro-war campaign by trying to match many of Smathers' reactionary attitudes. By tearing up his own record—backtracking on FEPC, civil rights, foreign policy—Pepper enabled Smathers to call him a liar.
- The issues before the people were almost totally concealed behind a barrage of fascist-type hysteria in the press (with exception of two small papers) against Negroes, peace sentiment, FEPC, health insurance, housing and opponents of Taft-Hartley. Campaigning on a straight Republican-Dixiecrat program, Smathers was



backed by the Saturday Evening Post and Chicago Tribune, and northern Republican publishers J. S. Knight, James Cox and J. H. Perry came to Florida to give personal aid. Smathers had the support of Florida's 63,000 registered Republicans.

FATAL COMPROMISE: Progressives who pressed Pepper to fight on a straight New Deal program saw in the Hillsboro County state senator race an endorsement of their conviction that

(Continued on following page)

(Continued from preceding page)

Pepper's cover-up and compromise attempts were fatal. In that race John Branch, campaigning in behalf of Negro rights and refusing to red-bait, won by 31,000 to 18,000. Pepper carried Hillsboro by only 3,500 votes.

Republican attempts last week to present the Smathers victory as indicating a national trend carried little conviction. In the north, FEPC, Taft-Hartley repeal, housing, health insurance, the Brannan Plan are factors favoring liberal candidates; peace sentiment is stronger.

President Truman seemed to recognize the increasing strength of the peace sentiment when in his press conference on the eve of his political journey across the northern states he insisted there is no danger of war and that arms expenditures will go down, not up.

He boarded a train in Washington on Sunday for a 10-day "non-political" barnstorming trip during which he expects to make some 50 off-the-cuff speeches; with him went a Republican denunciation as the country's "worst president."

In Florida, at the week-end, AFL leaders were blaming "leftist talents" in the CIO for Pepper's defeat. Tampa papers reported that Pepper might shortly turn up in the new job of \$75,000-a-year general counsel for CIO.

OTHER PRIMARY RESULTS: In Alabama, Sen. Lister Hill won easily over Dixiecrat Lawrence McNeil. Regular Democrats recaptured control of the state party machinery. In the race for governor, Gov. James E. Folsom received a setback when his candidate Phillip J. Hamm came in 70,000 votes behind Gordon Parsons, head of the State Public Service Commission.

In a seven-man race in Ohio, State Auditor Joseph T. Ferguson won the Democratic nomination for Senator. The collapse of President Truman's and the Democratic Party's opposition to Sen. Robert Taft was reflected in the fact that Taft, unopposed in the Republican primary, got 100,000 more votes than the seven Democrats combined.

**RENEW YOUR SUB!
PAY YOUR BILL!**

WITCH HUNTS

McCarthy denounced; new front opens

SEN. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wisc.), his witnesses and his charges won these comments last week:

● From Senate Majority Leader Lucas: "Liar." Lucas was ordered to his seat for the breach of Senate etiquette.

● From his chief target, Owen Lattimore, concerning McCarthy's chief witness Louis Budenz: "A professional informer . . . a twisted, malignant personality."



● From Rep. Karsten (D-Mo.) concerning McCarthy's charges: "Inquiry should be made as to whether or not a hoax, a deceit or a fraud has been practiced upon the American people."

On his side McCarthy had ex-British Communist Freda Utley, who admitted that she had been a war-time advocate of peace with the Nazis and had written a book which was acclaimed by Jew-baiters. Even she could not support McCarthy's claim that Lattimore was "a top Russian agent" or even a communist.

Late in the week Sen. Lodge (R-Mass.) said: "I'd like to see this show taken off the road." At the week-end McCarthy switched the spotlight from Lattimore to "Case No. 2"—"a U. S. Minister to a foreign country." To a gathering of Young Republicans at Janesville, Wis., he complained that the State Dept. file on the case had been "thoroughly and completely raped."

DOCTORS NEXT: The "red" witch-hunt moved on to a new front when New Yorkers learned that Dr. Shepherd Carl Thierman, surgical interne at the Kings County Hospital, had been dismissed by the Dept. of Hospitals after a two-hour interrogation about his political views last February. No charges were presented, and Dr. Thierman was refused a hearing. Thierman had been active in the wage-rise cam-

paign of the N. Y. Interne Council.

The American Civil Liberties Union, and N. Y. Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs had taken up the case, and from house staffs of city hospitals protests poured in against the first recorded case of political firing of a physician. It was learned that a week after Thierman's dismissal Dr. Mark Strauss of the Kings County Hospital staff had been asked to resign following appearance of his name in a newspaper article deploring the lack of child-care facilities in Brooklyn.

LABOR

5,000 in line for 110 jobs as porters

IN New York City last week 5,000 jobless men stood in line—some for two days—to apply for 110 city porter jobs. In N. Y. State 200,000 workers had exhausted their unemployment insurance; at least half were still without work. On the nation's waterfronts a third to a half of U. S. seamen were "on the beach."

Unemployment dropped by 600,000 to 4,200,000 by government count; it was 6,000,000 according to the United Electrical Workers. Even the government admitted the drop was seasonal and less than expected. About 30% of the unemployed had been out of work 15 weeks or more.

CHRYSLER STRIKE ENDS: The 100-day Chrysler strike came to an end when Walter Reuther's United Auto Workers (CIO) agreed to a three-year contract without wage increases, without the union shop, without seniority guarantees and without a fair employment practices clause. The contract may be re-opened for economic improvements in 18 months. It provides for a \$100 maximum monthly pension inclusive of social security, and for health and hospital benefits, shared equally by company and workers.

TEXTILE WORKERS: In Boston, 1,800 delegates to the convention of the CIO Textile Workers heard their officers assail the Marshall Plan they once ardently supported. President Emil



EMIL RIEVE

The picture wasn't pretty

Rieve complained that the rise in textile imports from low-wage Marshall Plan nations is reducing jobs in the U. S. industry already plagued by unemployment. He suggested that U. S. industry give away its surplus rather than "buy foreign goods at the cost of unemployment at home."

The union, long in the grip of a tight right-wing dictatorship, lost 30,000 members last year and is smaller now than at any time in its 11-year history. Its officers presented no program to spark its growth or to alleviate the heavy unemployment in Lawrence and New Bedford, Mass., Wilkes Barre, Pa., Cumberland, Md., and other textile towns.

The convention was instead focused on a bitter power fight between Rieve and vice president George Baldanzi. Rieve's candidate for Baldanzi's post, Mariano Bishop, was defeated 1,038 to 742. Charges against Baldanzi included collaboration with the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia and with employers in N. J.

The 1950 Convention of the United Office and Professional Workers, recently expelled from the CIO, will be held in Atlantic City May 15. (See next week's GUARDIAN for report).

UE and CIO: The Battle of Turtle Creek

By Tabitha Petran

IN Turtle Creek, a 15-mile area in East Pittsburgh dominated by the Westinghouse Electric Corp., a battle carrying great portents for labor remains undecided.

Workers in the plants of Turtle Creek are members of Local 601 United Electrical Workers. One of UE's three biggest locals, 601 was captured last year by the right wing. But in elections April 27 UE fought to a standstill the combined attack of:

The Mellon-controlled company.
The Taft-Hartley labor board.
Un-American Activities Committee.
The CIO and the Steel Workers.
Assn. of Catholic Trade Unionists.
Pittsburgh's press and radio.

The CIO's raiding party, the International Electrical Workers, won 601 by a bare 100 votes—5,763 to 5,663. But 147 were challenged, making a run-off necessary. (In the Westinghouse chain in a dozen states UE and IUE each won 20 plants.)

CIO USES TAFT-HARTLEY: The Greensburg, Pa., Morning Review said recently:

CIO officials lose no opportunity to denounce the Taft-Hartley Law but at the same time they are using the machinery of that law to try to win over the members of the UE union.

This is how the machinery was used at Westinghouse:

● CIO-IUE's petition for a Taft-Hartley election was ruled illegal last November since IUE could prove no signatures. IUE never had to prove it had representation in Westinghouse plants because the company itself petitioned for an election.

● UE demanded simultaneous elections in Westinghouse, General Elec-

tric and General Motors before expiration of its contracts April 1. The Taft-Hartley board scheduled elections after UE's contracts expired and so that GM, where IUE was sure to win, came first and GE, where UE was strongest, last.

● During Taft-Hartley hearings, IUE, Westinghouse and the Board worked hand in glove to break up UE's bargaining units and split off plants to enhance IUE's election chances. Splitting off the Nuttal unit from the East Pittsburgh plant cost UE the 601 election.

TERROR ATTACK: The House Un-American Activities Committee contributed a police-state atmosphere. In February it produced Matthew Cvetic, FBI spy for ten years in the Pittsburgh progressive movement (GUARDIAN, April 19). Cvetic's "revelations" launched a violent press attack on UE. IUE made the ex-spy an honorary member, hailed him as "America's hero," sponsored his appearance before Westinghouse workers whom he warned about "the Red March throughout Asia and the world" to Pittsburgh. Following Cvetic's attacks, UE was barred from the local radio station, which IUE used daily.

Pittsburgh's Father Charles Owen Rice of the Assn. of Catholic Trade Unionists, mentor of CIO president Phillip Murray, led the attack on UE on the religious front. The Sunday before elections almost every Catholic church in the area distributed leaflets about "Russia" and her dominant unions in the U. S. pouring fabulous sums of money into the fight" to win the day for "diabolical, unpatriotic and atheistic-controlled unions."

THE FABULOUS SUMS: Actually it was the CIO that poured in money—an estimated \$500,000—to capture 601. Early in April CIO had directed its organizers to concentrate on destroying UE. As Michael Clune, CIO National Representative in Western New York, wrote April 23 in a letter of resignation to Murray:

"My full-time job at your direction has been to raid UE at Westinghouse, the union which has done so much for Westinghouse workers during the past 14 years."

CIO tried to buy UE organizers with higher salaries and lavish expense accounts; bombarded workers with leaflets twice a day, and sent in its big guns—Murray, Haywood, Mike Quill and James Carey.

CIO hired the Turtle Creek Stadium for the week before election to keep it out of UE hands, planned a huge election-eve rally with Murray as the star attraction. But in his home stronghold Murray drew to the 10,000-seat stadium only about 800 townfolk and steelworkers and 1,500 UE workers.

THE STUBBORN FACT: CIO and IUE officials expected an easy victory in Turtle Creek. Some said they would win 11 to 1. The almost tie vote caught CIO by surprise.

Fighting with a fraction of the money and resources of the CIO and against reaction's complete arsenal, UE could thank for its showing the fact that it has stuck to its business of fighting for the welfare of its workers. Westinghouse workers under UE get better pay, more holidays and vacations, better seniority and speed-up guarantees than do Murray's steel workers.



UE News photo

A VICTORY FOR UE
The celebration was in Trenton

Politicians get panicky as farmers rally behind the Brannan Plan

GUARDIAN staff correspondents

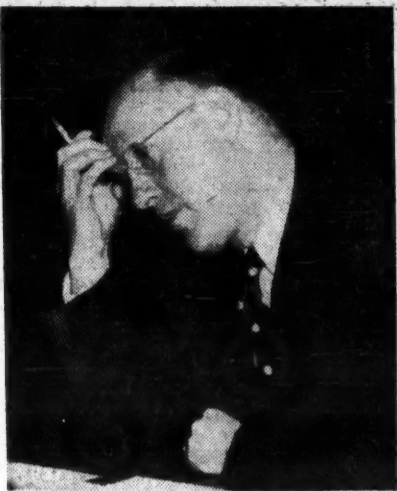
THE country is bursting at the seams with good things to eat. BUT: consumption of food by the American people is decreasing; what they do eat costs too much; farmers' income has fallen as much as 30% in the last two years. And the government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to perpetuate this idiom.

• In Columbiaville, Mich., stacked to the roof of a huge abandoned woolen mill, are 100,000 hundred-pound sacks of beans (enough to fill 135 boxcars), the finest in the world. The government is buying them at the rate of \$7.25 a bag, not counting storage costs. This is only part of a national "surplus" of 9,000,000 bags.

• "Surplus" wheat is stored up to the rate of 369,622,000 bushels; corn, 996,000,000 bushels; cotton, 8,274,000 bales. When the 1950 crops are in these figures will be enormously increased. Since 1943 the government has spent \$25,765,000 just to store "surplus" wool. Currently \$500,000 a day is being spent on storage rentals for "surplus" crops.

• The egg cave at Atchison, Kansas, is bulging. "Surplus" potatoes are being made unfit for human consumption and fed to livestock. Butter is about to become the newest scandal: under present legislation the government may have to buy and store 200,000,000 pounds in 1950 to keep consumer prices artificially high. Already in storage are 89,000,000 pounds bought last year.

A BIG NOISE: Politicians now are smug about an old political axiom:



CHARLES F. BRANNAN
How blows the wind?

Congress never passes major farm legislation in an election year. But not every election year has rumbled so loudly with the sounds of farm revolt as 1950. The results of the Truman Administration's Agricultural Law, a mess of patchwork, guesswork and dirty work, are being felt in the farm belts.

Price supports are sliding down toward the 60% of parity which reactionary opponents of the Brannan Plan have set as desirable. For the farmers flaxseed is down \$1.17 a bushel; eggs 10c a dozen; price supports for turkeys and chickens are

eliminated entirely; for hogs, off temporarily, perhaps for good; supports for dried beans, oats, rye and barley are due to go down.

In 1948 the farmer could get a low-priced car for the equivalent of 60¢ bushels of corn; today it takes 1,435 bushels. A tractor, in terms of hogs today, costs double the 1948 price.

Such cold facts of life in a cold war world are turning the farmer toward the Brannan Plan. In March 1,000 farmers from every county in Ohio drove to Columbus to hear Secretary of Agriculture Brannan speak on his program, which would assure low prices for consumers and a fair return for farmers. This would be achieved through direct payments to the latter to make up the difference between the market price of his products and parity income. In April 10,000 Minnesota farmers, half of them county and community committeemen of the Production and Marketing Administration, turned out in St. Paul to hear Brannan.

SUCH A FUSS: The crowd, largest of its kind in the state in 10 years, set off political repercussions which are still resounding all the way to the Northwest. Most of those present belong to the Farm Bureau Federation, whose national leaders are violently opposed to the Brannan Plan. A spot poll showed 85% of the farmers present in favor of it.

Because the meeting was a regular annual get-together of PMA committeemen (who received per diem expenses and transportation) the Cowles Minneapolis Star denounced it as "po-

litical propaganda for a captive audience." Sen. Aiken (R-Vt.) charged the Agriculture Dept. had spent between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to "hire" an audience for a "political speech".

The virulence of the denunciations seemed to bear out Brannan's declaration that the tide has turned in favor of his program. Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn.), who has a sharp nose, jumped a plane to appear with Brannan in St. Paul. His key argument was that "Joe Stalin is waiting for a depression in America."

HOW DEAD A DUCK? Pres. Truman himself is aware of the direction of the wind. Timing his farm message to Congress with the St. Paul meeting, he called for farm legislation modeled on the Brannan program. But his own Congressional leaders took scant notice. They termed the Brannan plan a "dead duck," predicted that the 81st Congress would make no general revision in present farm law. Truman's message they regarded as "for the record."

But the grass roots revolt is on, and out in Minnesota chairman Walter E. Johnson of the Progressive Party sent this memo to farmers:

"This kind of action from the Democratic-GOP bipartisan line-up in Washington should come as no surprise because both of the old parties called for flexible parity in their 1948 platforms. Two leading Democratic Senators, Majority Leader Lucas and Clinton Anderson, took the lead in fighting against the Brannan Plan and 99% supports in the 1949 Congress. ... It's time for us to realize that we can't have the Brannan Plan as long as the cold war program has priority; so we farmers have to get into the fight for peace as well as for the Brannan Plan."

NEW YORK

"GET MARC"

Marc's answer: "Get the stogoes"

FOR public consumption New York Democrats were outshouting each other last week in holy denunciation of American Labor Party Congressman Vito Marcantonio. What they were doing out of public sight was something else again. An example: Democratic state chairman Paul Fitzpatrick sent a letter to all county chairmen ordering them not to accept ALP endorsement for any Democratic candidate. But Marcantonio had a fast answer:

"His (Fitzpatrick's) Democratic state machine is not only seeking, but stealing ALP nominations. With the knowledge and consent of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Albany O'Connell machine has been planting public payroll stogoes as ALP enrollees in a desperate effort to snatch ALP primary nominations for hand-picked Democratic candidates."

Biggest "Get Marc" show of the week was a Tammany Hall dinner in New York City where Mayor O'Dwyer, District Attorney Hogan, Borough President Robert F. Wagner Jr. and others heaped abuse on the man they have never been able to beat. Again Marcantonio replied with a contemptuous reminder: "Every person who attacked me has at some time or other sought my aid. That goes for Wagner, DeSapio (Tammany chief), Hogan and O'Dwyer."

MARC'S OFFENSIVE: O'Dwyer himself cooled off efforts in other quarters to reach agreement on a coalition candidate who could unite Democrats, Republicans and Liberal Party voters; he insisted that Marcantonio's opponent



be a Democrat on a Democratic program. This would hardly sit well with Republicans, especially since Marcantonio's district is one of the few in the city where they have some strength. While Tammanyites concentrated on

thinking up slogans like "Veto Vito," Vito himself was launching his own offensive in behalf of the electorate. He announced an ALP conference of all persons and groups interested in electing a Negro judge to the court of General Sessions.

The purpose, he said, was "to break up the Tammany plot to keep the Court of General Sessions a lily-white court." He reminded Tammany that it was the ALP in 1942 that brought the election of the first Negro to a borough-wide court—City Court Justice Francis Rivers.

WEST COAST

TEACHERS, STUDENTS

Let's be free

ON the University of California campus last week, the fight was renewed against a contract clause ruling out members of organizations "advocating violent overthrow of the government." It was substituted by the Board of Regents for a separate loyalty oath they had previously demanded. Some teachers clamored for a court test.

SWEET FREEDOM: In Los Angeles students on three college campuses were campaigning against the Mundt police-state bill with penny candy. They passed out thousands of lollipops with the legend: "Don't be a sucker for the Mundt-Nixon bill. Enjoy this lollipop and give the Mundt bill a licking too."

OWNER IS MOVING: Readers of a movie trade paper in Hollywood were startled by an ad offering a house for sale for this reason: "Owner going to jail." Owner was Ring Lardner Jr., one of the Hollywood Ten under prison sentence for defying the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947. A midnight rally in their defense last week brought an overflow audience of performers to the Coronet Theater, 342 of whom signed a telegram to Chief Justice Vinson urging a Supreme Court review of the case.

PP vs GOP: In Oakland the Independent Progressive Party announced the candidacy for state senator of the Rev. G. Linwood Fauntleroy, Negro pastor of the Greater Cooper A.M.E. Zion



G. L. FAUNTLEROY
The reverend senator?

Church there. An old fighter for civil rights, he listed peace, jobs, relief, pensions, housing as his main campaign issues. His sole opponent in the primaries next month will be a diehard Republican with a long anti-labor record.

FREEDOMS

Dennis: no hearing

CAN a Communist Party leader get a fair trial by a jury composed largely of government employes under loyalty-oath pressure? In the case of Eugene Dennis, Communist general secretary convicted of contempt of Congress for defying J. Parnell Thomas (now in jail for fraud) in 1947, the Supreme Court ruled a month ago that he could. By last week it hadn't changed its mind. It denied a rehearing in the case and turned down a plea to delay his imprisonment.

The Communist Party planned one of its biggest campaigns around the case. A testimonial rally to Dennis attended by 3,000 leaders pledged to "move heaven and earth" to keep him out of jail. At the end of the week his lawyers were in court again to argue for a new trial and a stay of execution of a one-year jail sentence and a \$1,000 fine.

STAY FOR LAWYERS: While the Supreme Court nudged him toward a

cell in that case, another court received briefs in the appeal by Dennis and ten other top Communist leaders from their conviction on charges of conspiring to advocate the overthrow of the government. Argument was set for June 12.

In still another action the five lawyers for the 11 sought a rehearing on their own appeal from a contempt of court conviction. They did win a stay of execution of sentence ranging up to six months until after the appeals in the case of the 11 were heard.

FISHERMEN: In other rulings the Supreme Court refused to review a conviction of 14 members of a CIO fishermen's union local for violating the anti-trust laws by setting minimum prices on their catch; and declined to interfere with a new registration law in Georgia designed to bar Negroes from the ballot.

GEORGIA

The Henderson case

WHEN an all-white jury convicted Clarence Henderson, Negro, for the murder of a white student at Carrollton, Ga., last January, Henderson cried: "I got something to live for—my wife and kids. I'm fighting for my life for something I never did."

He was convicted because a pistol he once owned was used in the killing. He said he had sold it. A girl who saw the attack did not identify Henderson; he said he was at home when it happened. He said police handcuffed and beat him. Forty state troopers were in court during his trial.

Georgia Progressives and the Civil Rights Congress, under the leadership of Larkin Marshall, acted to save Henderson. A Defense Committee was set up with headquarters at 175 Auburn Av. NE, Atlanta. Last month five white and Negro leaders of the committee, including Henderson's lawyers, were cited for contempt by Judge Samuel Boykin of Newnan, Carroll County, Ga., for distributing a leaflet denouncing the conviction. During the contempt hearings the judge, who had presided over Henderson's trial, pointed to Henderson's friends in the courtroom and demanded that they too be charged with contempt.

RENEW YOUR SUB!
PAY YOUR BILL!

A word to the Class of '50: Blow your top or get it blown off

By Ernest Seeman

ERWIN, TENN.
It seems there is to be a lot of "General Education" at this year's commencements. General Clay is to address the University of Chattanooga graduates; General John (Fixer) Dulles those of Vanderbilt. Other student bodies will hear from Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Louis Johnson, Gordon Gray, etc. Even the FBI's "Flying General" Budenz, the ghost of General Forrestal and that of Adolf Hitler will probably be whistling through their teeth this June at some jerkwater college.

On that gala morning there will be flags and martial music to drown out thinking, and these great oxen of "educators" will try to bull and sweet-talk our young collegiates, who have struggled and got a little knowledge, into believing that what they should do is go out and get their blocks blown off so the world will be safe for a few fat boys in Wall Street.

To take imperialism abroad and perpetuate fascism and jimcrow at home, our Wall Street hogs figure they will need a lot of young blood. And young brains (the spilled kind that waters the sand of battlefields and can be spattered against walls). They have decided all on their own, without consulting the rest

of us, that no humane or sensible ideas making for the common welfare must get a foothold in our land.

And so, this June Wall Street's generals will roar about the red menace and the yellow menace. But



they will not tell the graduates how many billions the DuPonts, Morgans, Mellons and Dukes made on youth's blood in Wars I and II. They will conceal from youth the fact that all our perils are being made in the U.S., and not anywhere else.

But as our college lads and lassies listen to this moronic barrage from these professional red-baiters

and butchers, let us hope that many of them will recognize this kind of "education" for what it is: vicious anti-social propaganda wrapped up in the flag. That they will say to themselves: "If Wall Street is so hell-bent on getting up another profit-war, then let the Wall Street fats go out and fight it for a change."

SOME of these youths have heads capable of producing great symphonies, inventions and songs. Mathematical and philosophical formulae that could put the world 1,000 years ahead. Sane and constructive thinking that could free millions from drudgery, starvation and despair. Books to make people kinder or the germ of ideas that would end unemployment, abolish generals, bankers and kings, repair the ravages already wrought by such, or save 100,000,000 people from the clutches of cancer.

All of them possess physical and psychic equipment far too precious to be sacrificed on Mammon's altar; that can at least live and love and develop and enjoy the wonders and beauty of life. That can produce children and train them to think straighter than their ancestors thought—to rebel with reason against ignorance, bigotry and the rule of gold and brass. To force crooks out of government, and men trained only for destruction out of education.

Books for progress

The facts of socialism

By Cedric Belfrage

"The truth about socialism will come as a complete surprise to nine out of ten people. In the press, radio and movies, in the schools and churches, they are told the exact opposite day in and day out. . . . Most people are convinced it is an invention of the devil, or it can't possibly work, or it means the destruction of everything they hold dear—none of which is true."

RECOGNIZING the state of collective idiosyncrasy into which the American people are letting themselves be bemused by their own knaves and fools, Leo Huberman has, documented out of the mouths of capitalist and government sources the inefficiency, waste, immorality and injustice of U.S. capitalism. The simplicity with which he has put together the pieces of our current mess to prove the truth of scientific socialism is deceptive. Huberman is a scholar who has gone to endless pains to simplify the truth because he loves America and knows that only the truth can make it free.

His book of truth will find its way with difficulty on to bookstore shelves in the country which once—do you remember?—prided itself on welcoming "truth though heaven falls." In America truth itself has become a dirty word even while "backward" peoples are accepting it by the hundreds of millions and re-modeling their lives by it.

But here, without one slogan from cover to cover, are the simple answers to all the current fantasies about socialism and communism: about "incentives," about the "un-Americanism" of seeking social sanity, about those who seek it "advocating" violence. Calmly Huberman exposes these popular illusions about capitalist



LEO HUBERMAN
The simplicity is deceptive

America:

"FREEDOM": In 1948 a whole community (Nashua, N.H.) was sentenced to slow decay when its textile mill employing 3,500 was closed down "by order of the dictator"—the company, to which the fate of Nashua meant nothing.

"DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL": In 1947 in Centralia, Illinois, 111 coal miners were killed in an explosion because the company admittedly would not "bear the expense" of \$1,800 worth of rock-dusting.

"HIGH LIVING STANDARD": A committee of our own government estimated that even in 1929—when 42.5% of all families earned less than \$30 a week—every family could have had \$87 a week if all our productive resources had been fully used.

Instead of denouncing capitalists, Huberman does the more effective job of explaining why they must act as they do. This is the book you have been waiting for, to put in the hands of people—especially young people—seeking first steps toward truth in the jungle of lies we are now privileged to inhabit.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM, by Leo Huberman, Lear Publishers, 105 E. 15th St., N. Y. 242 pp., \$3.

The empire in the pawn shop

R. Palme Dutt is Britain's leading modern practitioner of Marxist analysis in world affairs. Taking up where Lenin left off, he has recently published Britain's Crisis of Empire (Intl. Publishers, N. Y. 164 pp. \$1.25.)

Dutt documents the emergence of Bevinism and the disasters of British foreign policy in the light of a great present-day fact: that the empire is in hock to U.S. "economic and financial domination of the entire capitalist world."

Says Dutt: "The former owners become balliffs . . . The empire is mortgaged, even if the creditors have not yet finally foreclosed . . ." The moral is drawn as it has been by every socialist student of empire—the British and American people themselves will be denied freedom while freedom is denied to colonial peoples.

Pamphlets: Africa, prejudice and the schools

THIS is a time for pamphleteering, a point which is proved by four brochures published recently. All relate to peace and freedom in specific terms.

AFRICA FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM is a 15-page pamphlet by Alphaeus Hunton, secretary of the Council on African Affairs, with a foreword by Eslanda Goode Robeson. The facts about the struggles of Africa's people are rarely reported in commercial publications in an understandable way. This obstacle Hunton overcomes in a simple, lucid narrative.

SEGREGATION: A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY, by Margaret C. McCulloch, the American Missionary Assn., devotes 40 pages to five questions: Why is everybody talking about segregation? What is it? Why do we have it? What is wrong with it? What can we do about it?

"Segregation," says the author, "is the Achilles' heel of America in world affairs." The pamphlet is a constructive effort to tell Americans the cost and dangers of bigotry and some effective ways to fight it.

BIAS AND PREJUDICE, written by members of the New York City Teachers Union, rips the veil of smugness from school texts which teach

that American Negroes are "inferior." One after another the books are exposed.

The pamphlet quotes a seventh-grade text written by William Jansen, now N. Y. School Superintendent, and Nellie B. Allen: "Because the native people of Africa, most of whom belong to the Negro race, are very backward, the greater part of the continent has come under the control of European nations since its opening up began."

THE BIG PLOT, issued by the National Non-Partisan Committee, outlines the Justice Dept. plans to jail Americans who believe in such things as peace, colonial freedom and tolerance. It is built around the verbatim testimony of Asst. Atty. Gen. Raymond P. Whearty, before a Congressional committee.

AFRICA FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM. Council on African Affairs, 23 W. 26th St., N. Y. 5c.

SEGREGATION: A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY. Race Relations Dept. American Missionary Assn., Fisk Univ., Nashville, Tenn.

BIAS AND PREJUDICE IN TEXTBOOKS IN USE IN NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS. Teachers Union, 206 W. 15th St., N. Y. 25c.

THE BIG PLOT. National Non-Partisan Committee to Defend the Rights of the 12 Communist Leaders, 23 W. 26th St., N. Y. 5c.

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The Senate's best-dressed double-dealer

Time for a change in Illinois: the career of Scott W. Lucas

By Rod Holmgren
GUARDIAN staff correspondent

CHICAGO
IN the Truman Administration's latest exhibition of concern for the people's welfare, Senate Majority Leader Scott W. Lucas (D-Ill.) rides on to the front pages this week as champion of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission. The spotlight will be on the farm-raised lawyer-Senator, who discourses reverently about Abe Lincoln but has been called the Senate's "John Barrymore" and "best-dressed man," at a drum-beating



"Jefferson Jubilee" in Chicago May 13-15. The three-day jamboree, featuring a foreign-policy statement by the President and a precedent-breaking "informal" Cabinet session in the Civic Opera House, is intended to boost Lucas' campaign this fall for a third term in the Senate.

As chairman of the Democratic caucus, Lucas is a key man whose defeat would be a blow to Truman's 1952 hopes. Yet treasurer Nathan Cummings of the Chicago host committee has announced that "important money" has been contributed to the Jubilee by Republicans.

"PEOPLE'S FRIEND"? In February Jack Kroll, director of CIO-PAC which will endorse Lucas, said last February: "We are concerned that Lucas faces a strong fight and may even be beaten." Democratic master-minds share Kroll's concern and are putting a high polish on the knightly armor of this friend of the people.

Lucas' Republican opponent, Rep. Everett M. Dirksen, is a frank, out-

spoken reactionary; Lucas will fight him with liberal phrases and promises. But the facts of Lucas' record are in total contrast with his words and claims today.

In view of this the Progressive Party is running its legislative director, Sidney Ordower, against the Senator whose faithfulness Truman recognized by dubbing him "Scotty."

"FDR DISCIPLE"? Lucas parades as a devoted follower of FDR. But here is some of his record under Roosevelt:

- In 1937 Lucas attacked FDR's Supreme Court reorganization bill as "this useless, selfish and futile gesture [whose] evil path may ultimately shatter the very foundations of American liberty and life."

- Lucas was a leader in the fight against the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wages and Hours Bill).

- When FDR asked Congress to limit salaries to \$25,000 as a guarantee against war profiteering, Lucas voted against it.

- Lucas supported the 1943 tax bill which FDR opposed.

- When FDR vetoed the 1944 tax bill as a measure "for relief of the greedy instead of the needy," Lucas voted to override the veto.

"FRIEND OF LABOR"? Called a "fair-weather friend of labor" by Illinois state CIO president Joseph Germano, Lucas has a record of dubious friendship even when the weather was fine.

- In 1943 he voted for the Smith-Connally anti-strike bill.

- In 1946 he voted for the Case anti-labor bill.

- In May, 1946, at the climax of the miners' fight for a welfare fund, he introduced his own anti-labor bill with penalties including a year in prison, \$5,000 fine, loss of all Wagner Act protection, and loss of seniority if a worker failed to return to his job. U.S. News promptly eited him as the "new leader in the fight for anti-strike laws."

- When Truman proposed a bill to "draft strikers" after smashing the 1946 rail strike, Lucas voted for it although even Sen. Taft couldn't.

- During the Taft-Hartley debate in 1947, Lucas voted for the Taft version. Under labor pressure he later switched to sustain the Truman veto, but refused to make any effort to line up additional votes against the bill.

- On Jan. 7, 1950, he took active leadership in the offensive against the miners' three-day week, from which he suggested the NLRB should go to court and "ask relief." On Feb. 6 he led the Democratic "Big Four" (Vice President Barkley, House Speaker Rayburn, House

Majority Leader McCormack) to the White House. An hour later Truman ordered a Taft-Hartley injunction against the miners.

- At a press conference early in April, Lucas said the Administration forces on Capitol Hill "never considered repealing Taft-Hartley at this session. There's no point going through the same debates." (On Nov. 18, 1949, he had told a Young Democrats meeting in Chicago: "When Congress reconvenes we shall repeat our efforts to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law. We shall ask or give no quarter...")

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER? During a 1942 debate on civil rights legislation he opposed cloture "on principle." He has since reversed this stand—he claims—but his record as a majority whip shows him "ineptly playing into the hands of the GOP-Southern Democratic confederacy" (Chicago Sun-Times).

- When the Illinois delegation to the NAACP civil rights crusade in Washington visited Lucas, he spent 20 minutes explaining why immediate action was "impossible." The delegation responded with a warm round of boos.

- On April 10 Lucas told the press that the Senate Democratic Policy Committee had agreed to further postponement of floor tests on the civil rights program, which he was reported "vowing to fight for" the previous November. The Committee would "give priority to foreign economic and arms assistance," Lucas said. This repeated the pattern of continual postponement set under Lucas' leadership in 1949. It was under irresistible goading from labor, minority and liberal groups that

Lucas irritably agreed on April 17 to bring up an FEPC bill "as quickly as possible."

- In June, 1949, Lucas introduced a bill to speed prosecution of 3,000 foreign-born trade unionists and progressives, set up a "Devil's Island" for foreign-born citizens whose native lands wouldn't accept them, and provide for holding them in prison without bail while the courts decided their cases. Poles now living in England because of their hatred for the present Polish government are, however, "a most desirable group of immigrants" to Lucas. On April 5 he urged passage of a bill to admit 18,000 of them.

And last March it was Lucas who personally intervened with the State Dept. to deny a visa to artist Pablo Picasso, who wanted to come here to discuss peace.

LOYAL BUT DUMB: "I'd rather have people around me who are dumb but loyal," Lucas told Democratic precinct workers reassuringly. Lucas' own accomplishments do not stop at loyalty. "I am not familiar with the issues," he told the CIO Steelworkers when they appealed for his support of the strike last fall. "I have not had the opportunity to study the bill," he was still writing to thousands of protesting Chicagoans two months after the Mundt-Ferguson bill was reported out by committee.

The Chicago Tribune's Col. Robert R. McCormick has applauded Lucas for his repeated calls for full U.S. recognition of Franco and admission of Spain into the UN. Al Horan, Chicago Democratic committeeman and owner of the insurance company that gets all the premiums for municipal, state and federal agencies in Chicago, calls Lucas "a big man. . . . He was the unanimous choice of all Senate Democrats as their majority leader—including the Dixiecrats."

TIME FOR CHANGE: The Illinois branch of Labor's League for Political Education (AFL) and Railway Labor's Political League have endorsed Lucas for a third term; ADA's Independent Voters of Illinois is so committed to the Democratic Party that it has no other choice. But the Negro and minority vote in Illinois, where Lucas' real record on civil rights is widely known, is not so certain.

Progressives are convinced that 15½ years of Lucas in Congress (11½ of them in the Senate) are much more than enough. The 8,000,000 Illinoisians should, they believe, be represented by someone who acts more and talks less for the people's welfare.



SCOTT W. LUCAS
"I am not familiar. . . ."

Chicago acts to save rent control

All around the country the housing crisis grows more acute, while Harry S. Truman's Fair Deal Administration gets set for another sellout of a major pledge to preserve rent controls. Lack of dwellings and rising rents are adding new troubles for an over-troubled population. In the story below, the GUARDIAN's Chicago correspondent, Rod Holmgren, tells what tenants there are doing. In future issues the GUARDIAN will report on the housing and rent situation in other parts of the country. It welcomes information from its readers.

DELEGATES from nearly 100 tenants' councils in all Chicago neighborhoods will meet in the ballroom of the Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams St., Saturday, May 13, for a citywide emergency conference to save rent controls, due to end June 30.

Last June Chicago landlords gave a preview of what will happen if the lid is lifted: they went to court to get a 45% blanket boost. The grab was defeated by the Chicago Tenants Action Council, sponsor of the present conference. Even under the present law, Chicago rent director Norman Shogren has granted increases to 75% of landlords applying. Average rent in the city has gone up 39% since 1940; national average is 29.4%.

Some of the facts of Chicago's hous-

ing crisis were described by CTAC chairman Victor Ludwig and secretary Earl Abel before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in Washington April 27. Their testimony was not reported by Chicago newspapers.

They described one area of the city into which is crowded more than one-third of the population, where 20 to 30 families live in houses built for four or five. A typical "converted" building was cited. Designed to accommodate 65 families in 5- and 6-room apartments renting from \$35 to \$45 a month, it now holds 2,000 tenants without any remodeling or structural changes. Rentals are \$10 to \$16 a week for each room, an overall boost of 800%. Ludwig and Abel reported that "thousands of tenants are considering rent strikes even now, because rents as they stand are too high."

Since 1940 only 55,000 new dwellings have been built, although there is an urgent need for 300,000, they reported. They made a special point of the effect general rent increases will have on consumer industries:

"It is well known that installment buying is far more prevalent among the lower income groups, and a serious increase in rents must inevitably result in

inability to meet credit payments. People will sooner give up a car, furniture, or any other industrial item before they give up food. There are no savings in the budget of the moderate income family, and this rent money must come from somewhere. This cut must fall on industry and this means increased unemployment and still further hardships upon the mass of the American people."

Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson also testified before the committee that a sudden end of federal controls on June 30 would result in disorder, confusion, and "perhaps some violence." But he said he would go along with a compromise on the rent control issue. Sidney Ordower, Progressive Party candidate for U. S. Senator, said:

"Stevenson's testimony reveals the bankruptcy of Democratic Party promises. . . . Instead of waging a real fight for strengthening rent controls for a period of at least two years, Stevenson agreed to all the 'compromises' which would end rent control in six months and wreak havoc on tenants."

The emergency conference will propose extension of federal controls for two years, a moratorium on evictions while the housing crisis exists, rents to be rolled back and frozen at June 30, 1947, levels, and a special session of the State Legislature to devise a local rent control law for Chicago.

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