

AN ANALYSIS OF THE GM CONTRACT

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Vol. XII - No. 23

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Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1948

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AUTO PAY BOOSTS REOPEN WAGE FIGHT

Farrell Dobbs' Talk Over ABC Radio Network

The following is the text of the speech on "Capital and Labor in 1948" delivered by Farrell Dobbs, Socialist Workers Party Presidential candidate, over the ABC network on May 29.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY GEORGE CLARKE,
SWP CAMPAIGN MANAGER:

The speaker this afternoon is eminently qualified to deal with the topic under discussion which involves the problems of the trade union movement today.

Farrell Dobbs was one of the leaders of the great Minneapolis truckdrivers strike in 1934 and Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 544 of that city. Subsequently he directed an organizing drive which brought 200,000 motor transport workers into the union. During the recent war Farrell Dobbs was railroaded to prison for his defense of democratic unionism and for his opposition to the imperialist war. In recent years he has been editor of *The Militant*, weekly newspaper of the American Trotskyists.

Farrell Dobbs has been nominated by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party as the Presidential candidate of the party in 1948. The nomination is subject to approval of the national convention of the party which will be held in New York, July 1st to 5th.

Copies of the speech this afternoon can be obtained by writing to the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, New York.

It is my privilege now to introduce Farrell Dobbs.



FARRELL DOBBS

Bigart Links U.S. Mission Head to Greek Executions

Correspondent Gives The Lie to Griswold

Homer Bigart, Greek correspondent for the conservative N.Y. *Herald Tribune*, has refused to be intimidated by the attacks on him by the Greek Government and Dwight Griswold, director of the American mission in Greece.

As a result of pressure from Greek authorities and the U.S. State Department, Bigart was recently transferred from Greece to Yugoslavia. Bigart's unpopularity in official circles was caused by his honest reporting of the mass executions and government corruption which mark the American dominated regime in Greece.

Dwight Griswold, top strategist of the civil war in Greece, personally wrote a long letter to Bigart's employer, the *Herald Tribune*, charging that the correspondent was giving a false picture. On May 30, the paper carried a reply from Bigart completely refuting Griswold and pointing the finger of accusation at him for the recent mass executions in Athens.

One of Griswold's hangers-on in Athens is Rentsis, the Minister of Justice. Bigart states that a single word from Griswold would have stopped the mass executions. But Griswold never gave that word and the firing squads are still working overtime.

Griswold brazenly claims that freedom of the press exists in Greece. Bigart writes: "He knows very well what I think of his freedom of the press statement. You either have it or you don't and in Athens today all papers of the left have been closed by government order except *Machi*." And even the editors of *Machi* have been arrested for mildly criticizing the government.

Bigart tells of the smear campaign against correspondents who insist upon writing true reports instead of accepting the official news handouts. Bigart's Greek assistant was framed on an intoxication charge while Bigart was still on the scene. After he had been transferred out of Greece his assistant was arrested for "espionage."

According to Bigart, who is now in Yugoslavia, there is less terror than in American-controlled Greece.

Bigart was a friend of George Polk who was murdered by Greek reactionaries because of his unflattering reports about the Greek regime.

Let us review in brief the price that the workers have already paid in the last year or so for tolerating the misleadership of the present labor officialdom and the false policy that is imposed upon the unions.

Labor's purchasing power has been driven down 15% since V-J Day. At the same time corporation profits have soared to unprecedented billions of dollars.

Concessions to the unions are bitterly resisted. The steel trust rewarded the no-strike pledge of Philip Murray, president of the Steel Workers Union, with a cynical refusal to grant any cost-of-living wage increases whatever. Henry Ford II has even had the effrontery to demand that the Ford workers take a wage cut.

CONGRESS SERVES WALL STREET

Today Congress works directly from the blueprint laid out by the National Association of Manufacturers. Price controls were obediently smashed and taxes reduced for the rich when the NAM cracked the whip. With the corporation heads dictating policy, the Washington government enacted the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law, a dagger aimed at the very heart of the trade union movement.

The Taft-Hartley Act fosters company unions, legalizes scabbing, sanctions the firing of union members and restores government by injunction. It restricts freedom of speech and freedom of press, entangles the unions in a maze of red tape and proscribes political activity by the unions.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, the National Labor Relations Board operates openly as an agent of the employers, as it did when it obtained anti-labor injunctions against the Typographical Union.

The Democratic and Republican politicians in the state capitals have not lagged behind their Washington cousins. Wide-

(Continued on page 2)



NEWS ITEM — "I look on myself as the best friend capitalism has in the United States today."

—Henry A. Wallace, Portland, Oregon, May 24, 1948.

Mounting Protest Delays Mundt 'Police-State' Bill

Opponents of the Mundt police-state Bill testified last week before a hostile Senate Committee whose intention was to rush the measure to a vote. The Senate Judiciary Committee

hastily adjourned the hearings if passed, by refusing to register. The Senate Committee attempted to turn the hearings into a hysteria against the Stalinists by demanding to know whether they would support American imperialism in a war against Russia.

The battle did not end with the close of hearings. Behind the scenes powerful reactionary forces were pressuring Senators to put the bill on the statute books before Congress adjourns June 19. Opponents of the bill, which would violate all the political freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, organized March on Washington of about 5,000 people. These picketed the White House demanding that Truman veto the Mundt Bill in the event it passes the Senate.

Leading the fight against the bill in the heated Committee hearings were spokesmen for the Communist (Stalinist) Party and the Wallace movement. It appears that the strategy of the Senate Committee was to give preference in the hearings to spokesmen of these movements, in order to create a popular impression that these were the only important opponents of the repressive measure.

Henry Wallace, presidential candidate of the Third Party, told the Senators that his party would refuse to register under the proposed law.

Among other spokesmen against the police state bill were Oswald Frankel, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, and Norman Thomas, Socialist Party Candidate for President. The Senators and the newspapers continued their tactic of using Norman Thomas as a counterweight to the Stalinists and Wallaceites. Thomas denounced the bill.

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Presidential Aspirants V

Arthur H. Vandenberg

By George Lavan

In the recent movie, *The Senator Was Indiscreet*, a politician went after the presidential nomination by insisting that he was not a candidate. This has been the strategy of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. With each strongly worded statement that "I am not a candidate," the presidential chances of the Republican wheelhorse from Michigan have shot upward.

Of course Vandenberg has a "but" at the end of his refusal. This "but" says, in effect, "If the people of this country should draft me against my will, I would have no choice but to do my duty to a grateful citizenry."

Vandenberg is a senior "statesman" of the Republican Party. He has been Republican Senator from Michigan since 1928. Be-



VANDENBERG

fore that he was a power in the Republican machine in Michigan as editor and publisher of the *Grand Rapids Herald*. He devoted himself to editorials telling the Republican politicians of the state what to do and what to say. The paper was quite influential and Vandenberg consequently wielded great power in party politics.

The young editor, later known as an isolationist, hailed American entry into the First World War as "the greatest revival the world has ever known since Christ came upon earth." His hatred for Eugene Debs and other anti-war fighters never left him. After the war he wrote of the Socialist program as "hideous sedition," "imported communism," "which—thank God—had no effect other than to galvanize the implacable fidelity of an overwhelming American majority into grim determination that Columbia should not be shot in the back."

An influential editor in the Republican stable Vandenberg helped build up Harding. Vandenberg was enough of an insider to know all about the notorious Ohio Gang and Harding. Nevertheless he praised Harding to the skies. Since his job was to befriend the public with words he became an expert in propaganda ballyhoo. He coined famous slogans such as "Harding is just one of us folks" and "With Harding at the Helm we can sleep over."

While the public was sleeping over.

New York's CENTRAL BRANCH will hold a Chinese dinner and social on Saturday evening, June 12, at 116 University Place. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

OPPORTUNIST

When the depression swept the New Deal into office Vandenberg had enough sense not to appear anti-Roosevelt. In the 1934 election he presented himself to the voters not as an opponent of the New Deal but as a co-operator with it. While the political winds blew in Roosevelt's direction Vandenberg stuck close to the administration. As public disillusionment with the New Deal grew so did his opposition. The record of those days is a tribute to Vandenberg's skill as an opportunist navigator of troubled waters.

In the period of preparation for World War II Vandenberg was an isolationist. It wasn't that he was anti-war but against the war as planned by Roosevelt. He dropped his isolationism during the Finnish-Soviet war and was hot for all possible assistance to Finland. Vandenberg was also sponsor of the Senate resolution ending the Japanese Trade Treaty. Walter Lippmann called this act "the longest step on the road to war" since Wilson's action in 1915.

The isolationist wing of American capitalism was severely defeated during the war. Today very few important isolationists exist. Senator Taft keeps his mouth pretty much shut on foreign affairs. Others have swung over.

When the public was sleeping over.

Pickets from a number of AFL building trades unions went into action against the 12 million dollar Ivy Hill housing project in Newark, N. J., after the construction company announced an open shop policy and fired 300 workers. Federated Pictures.

ARRA

spread state legislation has been adopted restricting the right to strike and picket, undermining union security in collective bargaining agreements and interfering in the internal affairs of the unions. These repressive laws have been passed not only in agricultural states, but even in major industrial states like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The Democrats are no less guilty than the Republicans for the latter governmental attack on the unions. President Truman has dragged the coal miners into court three times in 18 months in strikebreaking assaults against them. Truman has twice used the army to break strikes of the railroad workers. The President has been eagerly assisted by Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, Judge Goldsborough—one man—proclaims, "I am the law." This one man vetoes the will of 600,000 coal miners, tens of thousands of railroad workers, and ultimately, the will of 15 million organized workers.

The Republican governors of Iowa and Minnesota called out the national guard to break up picket lines of the packinghouse workers, fighting in self-defense against the greedy meat trust. New York City's Democratic mayor, William O'Dwyer, sent his cops into Wall Street to club the striking AFL financial employees away from the doors of the stock exchange.

Strikebreaking is the one field in which government monopoly is replacing "free enterprise." The bi-partisan coalition of Democratic and Republican politicians are in the strikebreaking business up to their necks.

What are the official labor leaders doing about it?

Instead of mobilizing the workers for defensive battle, they have retreated before the corporations and the government. They have tried to buy friendliness in the circles of wealth and state power by so-called "labor statesmanship."

WALL STREET'S CRIMES

CIO and AFL officials alike eagerly support the Marshall Plan. Both unions have sent representatives abroad to sell the program of Wall Street imperialism. They have stood as apologists for the bloodthirsty monarchist government in Greece—a Government which decreed the death penalty for strikers.

Two weeks ago, Philip Murray rammed through the convention of the CIO steel workers' union a resolution empowering Murray to decide union policy on peacetime military conscription. This undemocratic procedure is nothing but pre-

pared for the coming American Revolu-

tion and 15 The Struggle for Negro Equality. We intend to keep this up."

** *

In Los Angeles, "both newsstands have sold all their bundles of *Militant* for the last eight weeks. Belmont News wants the bundle increased by one-half immediately," wrote Al Lynn.

** *

Milwaukee sent eight more subs last week. "This gives us a total of 18 for May," writes Carol Andrews. At the same time Milwaukee trebled the size of its bundle order. Two of the new subscribers are members of Norman Thomas' Socialist Party. Another works in a plant that is producing bombs; he's sure another war is in the making. Still another knows of SWP work in the trade unions. These notations were on the backs of the sub cards sent in.

** *

Flint's drive for 400 new subs, hampered from the beginning by union activities and then postponed two weeks ago when it appeared there might be a General Motors strike, will probably be resumed Sunday," reports Genora Dollinger. "We shall most likely have to revise our quota and the length of the campaign, because of the coming national convention, our election campaign banquet and other activities. While we'll have to lower our sights for the time being, we'll have another campaign later."

** *

Sara Ross of San Francisco reports *The Militant* and *Pioneer* pamphlets sold very well at two major Wallace meetings in Oakland and San Francisco last week. "At Oakland we sold about 20 *Militants*, 40 *Build a Labor Party Now* and 20 *The Struggle for Negro Equality*. In San Francisco we sold 50 *Militants*, 50 *Build a Labor Party Now*, 20 *The Coming American Revolu-*

Report on Conference Of British Labor Party

LONDON, May 25.—The 47th Annual Conference of the Labor Party symbolized the growing frustration of the yet unorganized left wing.

On January 10, 1945 Vandenberg became, in the course of one speech, a "statesman." He announced to the Senate that he was no longer an isolationist but was now an interventionist.

Roosevelt promptly made him a delegate to the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco. Then Vandenberg became a close collaborator of Secretary of State Byrnes. He accompanied Byrnes to international conferences in Moscow, Paris, London and New York.

They saw eye to eye about getting tough with the Russians. When the Republicans gained majorities in Congress Vandenberg, as head of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, carried out the bi-partisan support of all the "cold war" acts of Truman. For the record it should be also noted that he voted for the Taft-Hartley Act.

Vandenberg thus emerges as a typical opportunist politician, a wheeler, always ready to adapt his "principles" to the needs of Big Business and do their bidding.

Conference highlights were the raising of the League of Youth membership age to 25; the carrying of the Co-op resolution against the reduction of food subsidies, and the re-affirmation of the previous year's decision to abolish the Tied Cottage.

The raising of the League of Youth membership age provides real scope for developing a strong national youth movement.

The main debates were centered on the National Executive's Statement on Production, the resolution of the Amalgamated Engineering Union on Control in the Nationalized Industries, the resolution of the Transport Union on the reduction of profits, the Mineworkers' pro-government re-

solution on foreign policy, and the North Salford DLP resolution on Iron and Steel nationalization.

BITTER RESENTMENT

Opening on Production, Herbert Morrison repeated the usual jargon about the need to work harder. This line was bitterly resented by a number of delegates. Waite from Eddisbury made a powerful case against the rising profits in industry and attacked the government for directing its fire against the workers. Speaking for some of the lowest paid sections of industry, he told the Conference that he was constantly asked, "When is the Government going to freeze profits?" A woman delegate from Barking stated that a satisfactory wage packet was the only answer to unofficial strikes. Almost all the contributions criticized the government's plea to the workers for more production. It is clear that a very strong opposition exists to such exhortations.

Deakin (Transport Union) initiated the debate on the reduction of prices and profits. His speech, although formally supporting the motion, was in fact against. This was pointed out in a speech by Mikardo, M.P. He roundly accused Deakin of making a speech that would do justice to the Federation of British Industries. It was left to John Bradock, the

delegate from Liverpool Labor Party and Trades Council, to make a really good speech attacking the government's policy. He warned Conference delegates that they would be answerable to the rank and file.

A resolution calling vaguely for the reduction of profits was accepted by the Executive.

On foreign policy, the usual

debate between Bevin and Zilliacus, supporting a pro-Stalinist

policy, took place. It resulted in a resounding victory for Bevin.

NATIONALIZE STEEL

A resolution calling for nationalization without compensation of Iron and Steel, under workers' control was moved by Ratner representing the N. Salford DLP. It was seconded by Jack Stanley, the general secretary of the Constructional Engineering Union.

The debate showed the powerful pressure behind the demand. Although the motion was defeated, the government were forced to assure the Conference that steel would definitely be nationalized before the next elections.

The main lesson of the Conference is the absolute necessity for the organization of the left wing.

All the major issues affecting the working class were expressed in the discussions, but the right wing and its powerful Block vote dominated the proceedings.

The struggle to abolish the block vote can be perfected only by the widest organization of all militants, both inside the Labor Party and the trade unions.

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The experience of my life, in which there has been no lack either of successes or of failures, has not only not destroyed my faith in the clear, bright future of mankind, but, on the contrary, has given it an indestructible temper. This faith in reason, in truth, in human solidarity, which at the age of eighteen I took with me into the workers' quarters of the provincial Russian town of Nikolaev — this faith I have preserved fully and completely. It has become more mature, but not less ardent.

—Leon Trotsky, Address before Dewey Commission, Mexico City, 1937.



LENIN

SWP Election Campaign

The hundreds of letters and postcards received by the Socialist Workers Party following the first two national broadcasts by its presidential nominee, Farrell Dobbs, testify to a growing interest in the program of revolutionary socialism and offer evidence of an effective SWP election campaign in the months to come.

These responses by mail — from virtually every state in the country, and primarily from people who had never heard of the Socialist Workers Party before — express a desire to find an answer to the crucial problems confronting the working people. Large numbers of Americans are evidently willing to give a fair hearing to a party that speaks out boldly in opposition to capitalism and tells the truth not only about the parties of Big Business but about the untrustworthiness and treachery of Wallace, the Stalinists, the Norman Thomas "Socialists" and the labor union bureaucrats.

In our opinion there are hundreds of thousands of such people in this country today. There are many who think, like a worker writing us from Kansas, that "this country is going like Germany fast." There are many who are reaching the same conclusion as a Navy veteran in California, that the Republican and Democratic Parties "have for the last fifty years used the workers as a tool

for autocracy." There are many trade unionists like the steel worker in Pennsylvania who agree that Farrell Dobbs' criticism of Philip Murray and other top union leaders is "well founded."

The 1948 election campaign offers the SWP and *The Militant* an excellent opportunity for reaching large numbers of such workers, acquainting them with our analysis of capitalist crises and evils, arming them with the Marxist program for combatting the drive of reaction and thus equipping them to take their place in labor's struggle for a socialist world. We promise to take full advantage of this opportunity so that the 1948 campaign will be remembered as the one that brought onto the national political scene the party of the American socialist revolution.

Our readers can assist us enormously in this great endeavor. You can become campaigners for the SWP ticket on your job and in your neighborhood. You can assist us in getting the names of our candidates on the ballot in the states where this difficult task still remains to be done. You can help to spread the message of revolutionary socialism by distributing and obtaining subscriptions to this paper. Such efforts will be concrete manifestations of your desire to build the forces of socialism that alone can do away with the capitalist curse.

The Escalator Clause

The sliding scale cost-of-living contract signed by General Motors with the auto union has stirred up a considerable public discussion.

Comments on it range all the way from "unique" and "startling" to "revolutionary." Corporations are said to be approaching the question "cautiously." The capitalist press generally expresses uneasiness.

For ten years, *The Militant* has advocated the program of the sliding scale of wages, known also as the escalator clause, as the most effective means of safeguarding living standards in a period of constantly mounting prices.

The GM contract, however, does not contain the precise proposition that we advocate. As we pointed out last week, the GM contract lacks important safeguards which are part of our sliding scale program.

Even UAW Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey admits in a letter to the *N. Y. Times*, May 29, that "the present agreement, though headed in the right direction, starts with a depressed base period and allows too small an annual increase in wage rates."

The GM contract does nothing more than bring the GM wages up to the level of the depressed real wages of 1940. It does not improve the GM workers' living standards, as some have claimed. It freezes them at the "norm" of nearly a decade ago.

To this GM has added a three-cent "im-

provement" factor. This is based on the carefully calculated fact that since 1900 the output of the average American worker has increased 2% a year — last year, Truman stated in his January economic report, it was 2 1/2%. GM's "improvement" factor starts in 1948. What happened to the "improvement" factor for the past EIGHT years? That alone should have meant a 24-cent raise in GM hourly rates.

We do not agree with those union leaders who point to the bad features of the GM contract as arguments against the sliding scale of wages program. If the GM sliding scale were based on an adequate basic wage, it would have meant protection of a high level of real wages for the life of the contract.

Our sliding scale program, we have always taken pains to make clear, is designed to FORTIFY the basic wages. The UAW negotiators accepted a sliding scale as a SUBSTITUTE for the higher basic wages.

The sliding wage scale program, properly applied, is a tremendous weapon in the hands of the workers during the further inflation which war preparations are bound to bring. The GM wage agreement, for all of its inadequacy, has set a precedent, demonstrated the realizability of this far-reaching wage program and introduced it into the thinking of the broad ranks of the unions. In this sense, it may well prove to be a significant milestone in the advance of American labor.

National Guard Strikebreaking

The renewed large-scale use of injunctions against strikes has been accompanied by the use of National Guard units to break up picket lines and escort scabs into struck plants.

A striking example of the problems raised for the union members was an incident in Iowa, where one leading member of the CIO Packinghouse Workers was called up by the National Guard, in which he holds the rank of first sergeant, and sent to another town to interfere with the picket lines of his own union.

Commenting on the return of widespread strikebreaking activities by the National Guard, the *Seafarers Log*, weekly newspaper of the AFL Seafarers International Union, declares:

"More and more Americans are waking up to the threat posed by the National Guard and the Naval Reserve. . . As trade unionists, the members of the Seafarers International Union should have nothing to do with these governmental agencies, which have in the past, and can be in the future, used to break strikes."

That conclusion is correct so far as it goes, but unfortunately it does not go far enough. Refusal to join the National Guard may enable workers to escape such situations as the Iowa packinghouse worker was placed in,

but it will not and cannot do away with the National Guard itself or with its use as a strikebreaking agency.

In these troubled times, when force or the threat of force settles so many crucial disputes, military training is an art which it is wise for all workers to acquire.

The National Guard must be rejected because it puts its members under military discipline and forces them into actions against the interests of the working people. Instead of the National Guard, the labor movement should advocate the establishment of a guard, financed and equipped by the federal and state governments just as the National Guard is, but operating under the control and discipline of the unions themselves.

Such a guard could do everything that the National Guard does in the way of aiding victims of floods and disasters. It could teach the workers how to use arms and would attract a far greater number of recruits precisely because it would be a democratic body, free of the brass hat control which repels so many workers. And instead of being used to break strikes, it would become a sturdy defender of union and democratic rights and would stand as a block against the threat by any fascist movement to establish its dictatorship in the U. S.

NAACP Broadens Fight To Reinstate Frank Barnes

WORKERS FORUM

From Topeka, Kansas

Heard your talk over radio. Would appreciate it very much if I could have a copy. This country is going like Germany fast. I think it is about time the workers took things in their hands.

S. J. M.

From Harrisburg, Pa.

Please send me a copy of Mr. Dobbs' radio speech on the subject "Capital vs. Labor." Generally I should appreciate any literature you can send me on the economics, politics and sociology of America, or the whole world, for that matter.

R. S. K.

From Fond Du Lac, Wisc.

... I am interested in your party. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

J. R. L.

From New Albany, Ind.

... would appreciate any material which you might be able to supply me concerning the Socialist Workers Party.

D. B. S.

From Corning, N. Y.

Please send me one or more copies of Dobbs speech over the air May 29. . . I would appreciate it if I had a number of these copies to spread among those of this community who are so much in need of political education.

L. M.

From Napa, Calif.

I have finished listening to your speech. . .

I would appreciate receiving a copy of your script for that speech—not that I want to keep it—but I would like to send it to the FBI just in case they missed hearing your speech.

I am 52 years old, have lived all my life so far, in this, the best nation on earth. I don't claim our economic or political system is perfect, but it is the best of any on earth, and we have, for the most part, prospered under it. The law of "supply and demand" still largely controls periods of prosperity and depression, and the problem to establish an even-running prosperity and avoiding depressions is a larger problem than YOU or any other fathead like yourself can solve.

I am a veteran of the First World War, and I am wondering if you ever had the guts to be in uniform for your country—or did you wear the uniform of that presiding over a strike committee meeting.

Federated Pictures.

A. W. B.

From Kennbunkport, Maine

I would like to request a copy of your May 29 speech.

R. E. C.

From Ft. Dodge, Iowa

I am interested in learning more about the socialist party and your 1948 platform. . . Please send me any free literature that you have and also a sample copy of your newspaper if you publish one. . . enclose a list of any publications that you sell.

A. W. B.

From Pontiac, Mich.

Please mail copies of Saturday evening's broadcast. Send as many as you can spare. Can use one half dozen.

J. W. M.

From Groton, Conn.

Honorable Mr. Dobbs. . . I just heard you over the radio. I am 80 years old and have been interested in the welfare of the common people all my life. As a young man I worked for a rich family on a farm and they wanted me to work over the ten hours and I asked pay for overtime. Old Hannah Norman said the men that got up the ten hour law ought to have been hung. My mother, at eight, worked for a rich woman and heard her say, "It won't be good times until a poor man is willing to work for a sheep's pluck and eat it under a cart body." This was under a

pleased with it.

J. W. C.

From Akron, Ohio

Comrade Dobos speech was a dandy. He told them just what is what, right from the shoulder; didn't mince words. I wish we could have the ticket in Illinois, but I guess I will have to stay home on election day because if I can't vote socialist I won't go near the polls, never have for 48 years. Well, tell them all to work like hell and roll up as big a vote as they can. I talk with a lot of fellows that take *The Militant* and they are all well pleased with it.

J. W. C.

From Longview, Texas

. . . would be pleased to receive a copy of the address by Mr. Dobbs of this date over ABC.

E. L. J.

From Kewanee, Ill.

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J. W. C.

From Akron, Ohio

On Saturday, June 19, at 7 p.m., the Akron Branch of the Socialist Workers Party will hold a Smorgasbord supper and entertainment as a send-off celebration for the Akron delegates to the SWP National Convention. Militant readers invited. The SWP headquarters is at 4 South Howard.

J. W. C.

Activities of 'Militant' Readers and the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

AKRON — 4 So. Howard St., 2nd fl. Mon. through Fri., 7 to 9 p. m. Branch meeting every Thurs., 8 p. m.

BALTIMORE — 1121 E. Baltimore St., Phone Wolfe 17352. Daily 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. COOPER ST. MILITANT and FOURTH INTERSECTION.

BOSTON — 29 Stuart St., Sat., 1-5 p. m. Tues., 7:30-9:30 p. m.

BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 62 Main St., 2nd fl. Phone Madison 3960. Every afternoon except Sun.

CHICAGO — 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Phone DEARborn 4767. Daily except Sun., 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. Library, book-store.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum, Sun., 8:30 p. m. Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 2nd St. Phone 7-4324.

DETROIT — 6108 Linwood Ave. Phone TY 7-6267. Mon. through Sat., 12-5 p. m.

FLINT — 215 E. Ninth St., Daily 7-9 p. m. Open house, Sat. eve. Forum, Sun. eve.

LOS ANGELES — Militant Publ. Assn., Room 201, 124 W. 6th St. Phone VANDYKE 8061.

NEW YORK — Militant, 1008 S. Pacific Room 214.

WATTS — Militant, 1720 E. 97th St. LYNN (Mass.) — 44 Central St., Rm. 1-5 p. m. Discussion, Tues., 7:30-9 p. m.

MILWAUKEE — Militant Bookshop, 605 S. 5th St. Mon. through Fri., 7:30-10 p. m.

MINNEAPOLIS — 10 So. 4th St. Phone TWIN 7781. Daily except Sun., 10 a. m. 6 p. m. Library, bookstore.

SEATTLE — Maynard Bldg., 1st Ave., S. 2nd fl. Phone 4-0100. Daily except Sun., 12-4:30 p. m.

SPRINGFIELD — 423 Springfield Ave. Phone Biegelow 3-2574. Reading room. Open daily, 12-4 and 7-10 p. m.

NEW YORK CITY — 1148 Broadway, 11th fl. Phone 4-1161. EAST SIDE — 251 E. Houston St. 1st fl. HARLEM — 103 V. 110 St., Rm. 23. Phone 2-1860. Open discussion.

CHICAGO — 4-1148 Prospect Ave., 1st fl. Phone LU 9-0101.

BROOKLYN — 635 Fulton St. Phone ST 5-7433.

DETROIT — 1-2444.

OAKLAND — 1351, Oakland 4.

PHILADELPHIA — 1-0505 W. Girard Ave., 2nd fl. Phone Stevenson 4-5320. Open daily. Forum, Sat., 8 p. m.

PITTSBURGH — 1415 Fifth Ave., 2nd fl. Open meetings, 1st & 3rd Sun., 8:30 p. m. Marxist Study Class, Thurs., 7-8 p. m.

SAN DIEGO (Cal.) — For information write P. O. Box 537.

SAN FRANCISCO — 1739 Fillmore Ave., 4th fl. Phone FL 6-0410. Daily except Sun., 12-4:30 p. m.

SEATTLE — Maynard Bldg., 1st Ave., S. 2nd fl. Phone 4-0100. Daily except Sun., 12-4:30 p. m. Branch meeting, Fri., 8 p. m. Library, bookstore.

ST. LOUIS — 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312. Forum, Thurs., 7:30-10 p. m.

CHICAGO — 1-2444. Open daily. Bookstore, Forum, 3rd Sun. of each month, 3:30 p. m.

TACOMA (Wash.) — Write P. O. Box 100, Tacoma. Wed., 8 p. m. Odd Fellow Hall, 6th fl. Faculty.

The League of Frightened Men

By Mary Wood

You might call them the League of Frightened Men . . . the great scientists who see so clearly what their inventions mean for mankind. They cry out in horror and wring their hands in anguish, helplessly driven on to new, more ghastly discoveries that haunt them constantly.

"There never was a time," the British scientist Robert Watson-Watt admitted recently, "that the scientist was more frightened of the citizens' representatives, the politicians, and what they can do with his work."

With all their vast knowledge, these brilliant analysts of the physical world stand trembling like schoolboys before the power of their masters—the politicians. Some seek escape, as Sir Robert said, "by staying in their ivory towers," others have developed "an acute social conscience."

In the second group, for instance, are the six leading atomic scientists, headed by Dr. Albert Einstein and Dr. H. C. Urey, who held a special session recently to arouse the world to the dangers of atomic war.

"Atomic bombs have been developed to the point where we can't expect to use them in large scale war and have the human race survive," Urey said.

And so these scientists, who have explained and harnessed the energy of the atom, turned their attention to politics. You might expect them to weigh all the elements, the contradictions, the conflicting forces, and arrive at a scientific conclusion. But all they produced was a feeble and hopelessly Utopian reliance on some kind of

The Negro Struggle

Keep an Eye on Congress

By Albert Parker

Keep your eye on Congress during the next two weeks. That's when the Democrats and Republicans will put on their bi-annual football game with civil rights bills demanded by the Negro and labor movements. The game generally ends in a tie, so far as these two parties are concerned; the bills get buried in the muck of capitalist duplicity; and Negroes and unionists are left on the sidelines, with no greater satisfaction than the right to hiss.

(And even that right is now being threatened by the Mundt Bill.)

It's the same old routine of big promises and bigger double-crosses. That goes for the Democrats and Republicans who pretend to be friends of civil rights just as much as it goes for the Southern Democrats who make no bones about their devotion to Jim Crow.

It's many months now since Truman made his bid for the Negro vote by endorsing the proposals of his civil rights committee. It's many months now since he promised to issue an executive order eliminating discrimination in federal employment. But, as we predicted, nothing has come of it. Truman didn't introduce a single bill into Congress, saying he would leave that to the members of Congress, although he followed an entirely opposite procedure on such measures as the aid-to-Greece bill and the Marshall Plan. And, of course, he still refuses to make even a down-payment on his promises by issuing an order, as commander-in-chief, to abolish segregation in the armed forces.

The Republicans have played pretty much the same slimy game. Again and again they promised that if they got control of Congress they would pass the anti-Jim Crow bills. Now they have a clear majority of Congress. But all they have done is stall and maneuver and postpone votes

Portrait of a Red-Baiter

By Joseph Keller

It was made to order for the yellow capitalist press. A well-known member of an American Legion "Americanization" Committee was found dead in a locked hotel room. His face was bruised, his skull fractured. He was reported to have been engaged in "anti-communist investigation," including "undercover" work for the government.

"It looks like murder," solemnly stated Police Chief Thomas J. Marks of Long Branch, N. J., where the body of Harold S. Adamson was found in bed in his room at the Elkwood Hotel. That's all the newspapers needed. Before any investigation was made their headlines began screaming "Reds" and "Murder."

"Legion Foe of Subversive Groups Found Dead, Believed Murdered," proclaimed the headline in the May 25 N.Y. Times. The N.Y. World-Telegram announced: "Anti-Red Link Probed in Legionnaire's Death." With sundry dark hints, surmises and innuendoes, the Times reported that the victim, "a member of an old Monmouth County family," had just returned from Washington "after having completed a six-month course on subversive activities."

But within 24 hours, the press began to dummy up. The big headlines disappeared; small, discreet items carried the news for another day. Then thundering silence.

Notes from the News

SOUTHERN JUSTICE—E. Blaine of Memphis, Tenn., went to police headquarters to lodge a complaint that he had been robbed of \$10 during a police investigation of a disturbance. The cops thereupon beat him up so badly that he is in the hospital where it was necessary to remove his right eye.

\$1,000 REWARD—H. L. Mitchell, president of the AFL Farm Labor Union, offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailants who shot down James Price, president of Local 218 of the farm union which is running the 8-month old strike at the DiGiorgio fruit ranch, near Bakersfield, Calif.

NO-STRIKE CONTRACT—The AFL Printing Pressmen's Union signed a 5-year no-strike con-

tract with the employers. It calls for no strikes or lockouts for the contract's duration, with all disputes to be settled by arbitration.

WALLACE ON BABIES—Wallace opined at a luncheon in Salem, Oregon, that "If the people insist on living on such [submarginal] land, then the government should not let them have children." Later Wallace assured the press that he had "no idea of interfering with anyone's desire to procreate."

RAIL STEAL—The Senate passed the Reed-Bulwinkle bill and sent it to the White House. The bill permits railroads to fix non-competition rates and permits further gouging of the public.

OPEN THE BOOKS—The auto union has challenged Ford to "open the books" and prove if it can—"that a wage increase would require an increase in the prices of Ford products."

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THE MILITANT

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No. 23

Appraisal of Wage Settlements With General Motors and Chrysler

By E. Kennedy

DETROIT — The current wage drive was the first serious test for the Walter Reuther administration in the auto union. Following the UAW convention in November 1947, the new leadership stalled on the wage problem. At the convention, Reuther confined himself to pleas for a "roll back of prices."

There, say the atom-smashers, is the unsplittable nucleus of the problem—national prestige! They go no further than Professor Charles W. Bishop, of Ottawa, who told a World Citizens Conference a few days ago, that the history books should be re-written to prevent war—because "a tendency exists in most history texts toward nationalistic bias."

Before that, they said, there should be another attempt to negotiate. "We understand and share the distaste among democratic peoples for secret negotiations. But we see no hope under present conditions for any settlement to come out of public negotiations in which each statesman is the prisoner of national prestige."

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