

All Labor Must Rally to Aid Of Coal Miners!

By The Editors

The failure of the trade union leaders to support the miners, who are fighting with their backs to the wall against the whole wolf-pack of Big Business and government, borders on open treachery to American labor.

True enough, CIO President Philip Murray has made a minor gesture by his offer of legal aid to the United Mine Workers in fighting Denham's Taft-Hartley injunction. But more legal assistance is the least the UMW needs against the concerted attack of the capitalist class and government.

If Murray, AFL President William Green and the rest of the union leaders had a real sense of loyalty and responsibility to the American workers, they would have gone in a body to Truman weeks ago and advised him in no uncertain terms not to interfere with the miners. They would have held him publicly accountable for any move by any government agency to invoke the infamous Taft-Hartley Act against the coal workers.

And they would have done more than pound on Truman's desk. They would have opened their treasuries to the miners — just as the miners last October proposed to the AFL to contribute a joint fund of millions of dollars a week to the striking steel workers. They would have summoned every local, state and national labor body to extend full moral and material aid to the miners. They would have rallied meetings and mass demonstrations everywhere to thunder into the White House and the halls of Congress: "Hands off the miners!"

How strangely their silence and inaction in the miners' struggle contrasts with the fury of their activity in conducting witch-hunts against critics and oppositionists within their own unions. The Murray machine in the CIO spends money like water to conduct its "cold war" against the Stalinists, to purge and expel whole international unions.

This is what the corporations and government labor-baiters want them to do — to tear up their unions from within while remaining quiescent and unresisting to attacks on labor from without.

Covering Up for Truman

It is easy to fathom the motives for the scandalous — the treacherous — conduct of these union leaders. They fear to expose Truman's real role in the mine struggle and thereby jeopardize their dirty political alliance with him. A genuine campaign in defense of the miners would rip the "friend of labor" mask from Truman and show him up as the true author of the move to shackle the miners with a Taft-Hartley injunction while he uses Denham as his front-man to evade personal responsibility. The Murays and Greens are determined to cover up for Truman at no matter what cost to the miners and the organized labor movement.

Their behavior is all the more indefensible because the developments in the mine conflict give them a wonderful opportunity to strike a powerful blow against the Taft-Hartley Act. If they would concentrate some real heat on Truman and force him to remove Denham, they could nullify the whole move to use the Taft-Hartley Act against the miners. Murray himself admitted last week that Denham is Truman's appointee and the President has "ample power" to remove him. But Murray and Green don't want to put up the kind of fight on the Denham issue that would "embarrass" Truman.

Moreover, there is reason to suspect other sordid motives in their conduct. Do they nourish the hope that they can make a bit of capital for themselves out of a defeat for Lewis and the miners? Perhaps they think that by currying favor with the "Hate Lewis" mob, they can keep the corporations from turning on them after the miners are "dealt with." What a vain and dangerous illusion!

Miners Only First Target

The very reason why Big Business and its political henchmen are so determined to crush the miners is to open the way for an effective attack on the rest of organized labor. The miners have been the biggest single obstacle to the plans of the employers to undermine the massive American trade union movement. The miners are a pillar of strength to all labor. They were the backbone of the CIO in its formative stage. During the past decade they have been the shock troops who have opened the way for one gain after another by all organized labor.

For its own protection, the labor movement must step in and call a halt to the Big Business-government assault on the miners. It is clear the CIO and AFL leaders will not act effectively unless forced to do so by the rank and file. The initiative must come from below, in every local union.

Vote full support to the miners. Send resolutions to Truman demanding that he remove Denham and halt the Taft-Hartley injunction proceedings. Call on your top union leaders for immediate nation-wide mass action and all-out material aid to help the embattled miners.

Tito Regime Announces New Important Reforms

A number of reforms have been introduced in the current session of the Yugoslav Parliament which may have a far-reaching influence on the evolution of the Tito regime. The most important of these reforms is the proposal to "de-centralize" major branches of industry, turning their management and operation over to local authorities and giving the workers in government-owned enterprises a voice in policy and management through the creation of workers' councils.

The electoral laws have likewise been liberalized, allowing candidates apart from the official slate, to run in any constituency where they can obtain signatures of 100 voters. At the same time the number of constituencies in the Lower Chamber has been increased from 384 to 444, or one to every 40,000 inhabitants.

Previously the Central Committee of the Yugoslav party introduced a reform in the field of education.

CONTRAST WITH PURGES

On the whole the projected Yugoslav reforms constitute concessions to the mass of the people. These concessions stand in sharp contrast to the intensification of repressions in the other countries of Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union itself. Bulgaria points up the mounting purge that has been engulfing the Kremelin's satellites. One member of the Bulgarian Political Bureau and six members of its Central Committee have just been lopped

off and another "treason trial" is rumored in preparation. In Moscow the death penalty has been restored.

The economic reform in Yugoslavia envisages a break with the system of rigorous centralization, patterned after the regime instituted under Stalin. Under the new set-up the mining industry, all light industries, the production of electrical energy, part of the chemical industry and certain branches of the transport system will be turned over to the governments of the six constituent republics of the Yugoslav state, and they will have full responsibility for the operation of all these enterprises.

WORKERS' COUNCILS

On the other hand those industries, primarily minor ones, which up to now have been under the control of these federated governments, will pass over to the local communities.

EDUCATION REFORM

The education reform recently announced by the Central Committee of the Yugoslav party can likewise be considered a positive step. Yugoslav schools and universities are instructed to replace Russian Stalinist text books along with those inspired by bourgeois ideology and imperialist apologists; and Yugoslav Marxist scholars are directed to write new books on history and economics in a "genuine Marxist spirit."

These new bodies will be set up autonomously alongside the trade unions. "Members will be elected for one year and are subject to recall by the workers."

The return to genuine Marxism — which has nothing whatever in

it — will leave members free

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Workers of the World, Unite!

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Says Steel's Steal Not Big Enough

Ben Morell, president of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., which is also owner of strike-bound "captive" coal mines, on Jan. 25 told the Senate committee investigating the recent steel price rise, that the \$4 a ton increases "are not so high as they should be."

He said he thinks steel prices ought to be raised at least another \$17 a ton and "just as soon as competition will permit it, damned if I'm not going to do it."

90,000 STRIKE AT CHRYSLER

JAN. 26 — A nation-wide strike of 90,000 workers at the 25 plants of the Chrysler Corporation began last night after the breakdown of negotiations between the CIO United Auto Workers and the third largest auto corporation.

In an effort to avoid a strike, the union negotiating committee headed by President Walter Reuther, had reduced its demand from 11½ to 10 cents an hour, leaving it up to the corporation to decide for itself whether it should be granted in the form of a wage increase or a pension-insurance program.

But the corporation refused to compromise on its own offer, which was to assume pensions of \$166 a month to 65-year old workers with 20 years' service by paying the difference between social security allowances and the \$100 figure.

The Chrysler negotiators insisted that this miserable offer was comparable to the recent welfare settlements of the Steel, Glass and Rubber Workers unions. But the UAW replied that the Chrysler offer amounted to an increase of only 3 cents an hour.

The strike, which will affect many other companies supplying Chrysler, illustrates the growing toughness of the employers in their relations with the unions. It also shows that last year's inadequate welfare settlement with Ford, instead of setting a pattern for the industry, merely established the maximum that the UAW would demand — and even that it cannot get without putting up a hard fight.

Labor-Haters Gang Up On Embattled Miners

White House Ready to Come To Aid of Coal Operators

By Art Preis

JAN. 26 — Truman is preparing to intervene personally and directly against the militant coal miners, who have been battling courageously for eight months for wage increases, a strengthened welfare and pension program, and the retention of union security safeguards.

The pretext for the threatened intervention, which may take the form of a Taft-Hartley injunction under the "national emergency" clause, is the refusal of some 70,000 soft coal miners, primarily in the mines of the steel corporations, to discontinue their strike against the stalling of the operators.

CLEARED WITH TRUMAN

Through a statement by Dr. James Boyd, Director of the Bureau of Mines, to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee yesterday, the Truman administration laid the basis for Taft-Hartley action by claiming that coal production has declined to the point where "the national economy, health and welfare is now or soon will be imperiled."

Boyd's statement, reported the N. Y. Times, "was first cleared at the White House." It is further reported that Truman may offer the United Mine Workers the choice of submitting the miners' demands to the members of a "fact-finding" board hand-picked by Truman and accepting a 60-day "truce" or being clubbed with an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction.



ROBERT N. DENHAM

owners were yelping that the strikes were a "plot" by Lewis and demanding louder than ever that Truman crack down with the Slave Labor Law.

The only revolt the miners are staging is against the continued stalling of the operators who hope the government will force the miners into submission; against the move by Truman's NLRB General Counsel Denham to tie up the UMW with a T-H "unfair labor practices" injunction; against the \$9-million "damage" suit brought by the operators in Ohio; against the mine owners' halting of payments into the union welfare fund; against legislative moves by House and Senate Democrats to

JUDGE RYAN CALLS FBI WIRETAPS "UNLAWFUL"

Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan has given the lie to the claim of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney General J. Howard McGrath that wiretapping is somehow "legal" when it is "authorized" by the head of the Department of Justice.

"STILL THE LAW"

The judge in the Coplon-Gubitsch case, ruling on the admissibility of evidence secured by wiretapping, declared on Jan. 20: "Such authorization did not clothe the FBI with the unlawful activities of the wiretappers nor detract at all from the interdiction of the Supreme Court on evidence secured by this type of investigation."

Pointing out that the Federal Communications Act prohibits wiretapping and wiretap evidence, and makes telephonic interception and use or divulgence of information so obtained a felony, Judge Ryan ruled: "This is still the law. It has not been repealed or modified, it contains no exemptions as to any individual and no exceptions as to investigation of any particular type of crime, irrespective of how heinous or dangerous to national safety and security... The fact that these interceptions were carried on under written authorization of the Attorney General imparts no sanctity to them; they remain unlawful and prohibited."

Nevertheless, Judge Ryan ordered the case to trial on the grounds that the government "has shown to my satisfaction" that it has "independent proof" of the facts obtained by illegal interception.

Although admitting that the FBI has engaged in criminal acts by wiretapping, Judge Ryan did not propose that the FBI agents and their superiors — former Attorney General (now Justice) Tom Clark, McGrath and Hoover who "authorized" FBI violations of the law — be brought to trial for their crimes. Nor did he call for proceedings against the FBI agents for numerous perjuries in court regarding their wiretap activities.

Judge Ryan's affirmation that these top officials of the highest federal law enforcement agency are themselves guilty of gross violation of criminal law, gives added weight to the demands: Remove Clark, McGrath and Hoover!

Washington Aims to Save Franco

For a long time Washington has been carefully preparing public opinion in this country for a resumption of "normal relations" with the fascist Franco. To the great consternation of Truman's liberal supporters, the decision has now been made to pass from preparations to action.

Washington's official line on Spain is set down in a letter to Senator Connally of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the text of which was released on Jan. 19 by Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Dropping all previous pretenses, Acheson announces that the Truman administration will move in the United Nations General Assembly to rescind the 1946 resolution which directed participating members to withdraw their ambassadors from Madrid.

This will "leave members free

(Continued on page 2)

to send an ambassador or minister to Spain, if they so choose." Coolly asserting that the previous action of the UN had only "served to strengthen the position of Franco, Acheson goes on to claim that the resumption of diplomatic relations "would in no sense signify approval of the regime in Spain."

The N. Y. Times Madrid correspondent, Sam Brewer, cabled on Jan. 21 that the Franco regime "has taken the astonishing step of advertising for offers of grain on practically any terms."

The same correspondent reports that Franco's Spain "is virtually bankrupt and to all intents and purposes is living on capital — selling the bonds to buy tomorrow's lunch or, in this particular case, mortgaging the national gold reserve to buy enough wheat to tide it over between harvests."

POPULATION STARVING

The mass of the population have been on starvation rations.

Franco regime finds itself in the throes of a paralyzing economic crisis. Madrid has been publicly admitting that it must have half a million tons of wheat immediately in order to avert famine.

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Atomic Energy and Capitalist Society

By Arne Swabek

Atoms have now become a subject of universal interest. This is quite natural, for atoms are everywhere. Everything in the world is made up of atoms, our eyeballs as well as the blacksmith's anvil, trees, plants, the air we breathe, and even the dollar bills that come so hard and slip so easily out of our hands.

The atom is the fundamental unit of which all elements are composed. And since there are 92 different natural elements there are 92 different kinds of atoms.

The atoms of different elements have different characteristics. Each type has a characteristic weight, size and chemical behavior which is different from other atomic types. Chemical combination of elements is actually the joining together of different kinds of atoms to form tightly-bound composite particles, which are then the units of a new substance.

A simple example of this formation of a new substance by the joining together of two kinds of atoms is that of water. Two atoms of the hydrogen gas join with one atom of the oxygen gas to form a liquid molecule of water. These atoms are linked together by their electrons. Atoms of the element carbon, which combine with atoms of other elements to form an infinite variety of substances such as foods and fuels, etc., have the extraordinary characteristic of being able to join together in chains and rings.

But the elements combine according to the structure of the atoms. When this became known, science undertook a painstaking study of these infinitesimal particles which cannot be seen nor are ever likely to be seen through any microscope. Many of the atom's mysteries are still unexplained, but its basic structure is known.

RESEMBLES SOLAR SYSTEM
The modern theory of this structure suggests a picture resembling the solar system, that is, the sun and the planets revolving around it. The atom consists of a central body called the nucleus, which corresponds in a rough way to the sun, and a number of small particles called electrons, corresponding roughly to the planets, which revolve in concentric orbits at various distances from the nucleus.

The bulk of the weight of the atom is concentrated in the nucleus; the weight of the electrons is insignificant in comparison. The nucleus, although only about one ten-thousandth of an atom's diameter, contains about 99 percent of its weight. The



speed of probably hundreds of thousands of miles an hour; thereby they produce from this emptiness — solidity.

STOREHOUSE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY

These incredibly small units, the atoms, are a veritable storehouse of electric energy. Both the nucleus and the electrons rotating about it are electrically charged. The protons of the atomic nucleus have a positive electric charge while the neutrons have no charge and are neutral. Electrons, on the other hand, are negatively charged. The number of protons and electrons are the same within each atom.

Thus the atoms of element number 1 (hydrogen) have 1 proton and 1 electron. Atoms of element number 2 (helium) have 2 protons and 2 electrons, and so on up the scale to the atoms of element 92 (uranium) which have 92 protons and 92 electrons. It follows, therefore, from the point of view of this equality of opposite electric charges that the symmetry of the atoms is perfectly balanced.

Moreover, it is the attraction of these opposite electric charges which holds the atoms together; it prevents the rapidly whirling electrons from flying into space. On the other hand, it is clear also that it is the momentum of the rapid motion of the electrons which prevents them from falling into the nucleus and keeps them in rotation.

However, since similar electric charges repel each other, the question arises: what keeps the protons so tightly bound together within the atomic nucleus? Very little is known as yet about these mysterious binding forces, although their strength has been calculated.

EQUIVALENT TO BOULDER DAM

The physicist Niels Bohr is authority for the statement that if iron could be reduced to its actual solids, that is, if all the empty space within the iron atoms could be eliminated, it would take the combined tonnage of at least 20 normal-sized freighters to carry iron solids the size of a marble, across the Atlantic Ocean.

How can this emptiness be explained? The answer is fairly simple. When the blades of an electric fan are rotating rapidly it becomes difficult to differentiate between the blades and the spaces between them; the faster the rotation the closer do the blades approach a uniform disc. The electrons in the atom whirl around the nucleus — and at a

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Doing Fine



Posing together at a Waldorf-Astoria luncheon in New York are (left to right) the three top men of General Motors Corporation, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr.; Charles E. Wilson; and Charles F. Kettering. They're happy because GM made record profits of more than \$1.6 million a day in 1949, after taxes.

LABOR-HATERS GANG UP ON EMBATTLED MINERS

(Continued from Page 1) remove unions from the exemption of the anti-trust laws and restrain the miners' union as a "monopoly."

These are just part of the ferocious assaults which the government, in cahoots with the steel corporations and other owners of coal mines, has launched against the United Mine Workers. Whether with or without Lewis' direction, the miners have determined to fight this assault tooth and nail.

This is far from the kind of "revolt" the press had previously tried to manufacture. Roefully, the N.Y. Times of Jan. 22 admits: "The surest way to get a punch in the nose in any of the centers of the current 'insurrection' is to tell a miner that the UMW ought to find itself a new president..."

HIDING BEHIND DENHAM

Up to now, Truman has preferred to exert pressure on the miners indirectly. For reasons of political expediency, he has refrained from using the Taft-Hartley Act, although he has repeatedly stated he would not hesitate to do so whenever he considered that the coal struggle had reached a stage of "national emergency."

He let Denham, his appointee, take responsibility for the first open move to invoke the Taft-Hartley Law. At the behest of the coal operators, and with no objections from Truman, Denham filed with a federal court for an injunction to forbid the miners from taking any action, whether maintaining a three-day week or striking, in support of what Denham calls "unfair" and "illegal" demands.

Truman subsequently informed the press that he "had nothing to

do" with Denham's action, but that Denham "had the right to take such steps as the law provided," and that it is not Truman's business to "bless" or "unbless" the action Denham has taken. In this way, Truman sought to continue the fiction that Denham is a free agent, acting entirely independently of the White House.

Although he has continued to cover up for Truman, CIO President Philip Murray was constrained to admit in a statement calling for Denham's removal: "During the CIO Convention, I issued a statement calling upon President Truman to remove Denham... The President possesses ample power to take this action."

TOUGHEST BATTLE YET

The United Mine Workers is in the toughest battle it has faced in more than two decades. The coal operators, backed by the whole capitalist class and the government, are determined to beat the UMW down. The owners have huge reserves of profits and a tremendous coal stockpile to fall back on. But many of the miners were working only one and two days a week even before the series of strikes and the three-day week began. Last week, the coal company stores, like those of U.S. Steel's H. C. Frick Coke Co., began to cut off the miners' credit. It is a tribute to the miners' union loyalty and spirit, that in the face of these odds they are still full of fight, defiant as ever and ready for even greater sacrifices.

The greatest weakness of the miners is their isolation. They are being forced to carry on single-handed a battle against the combined forces of the American plutocracy and its government. They are holding the fort for all American labor, but they are beleaguered and their resources are dwindling.

So far Lewis and the UMW leaders have chosen to continue the battle alone. In the past they were able to do this successfully. But despite their commendable aggressiveness and their readiness to lead the miners in struggle, their chances for success are far less favorable than in past years. The miners need and must have the help of the whole labor movement.

An appeal by the UMW to the entire labor movement for moral support and material aid would electrify the whole American working class. Union workers of every affiliation know the great debt of gratitude they owe the miners, who have led the way year after year in labor's battle for a decent life. They will respond eagerly and gladly.

Let Lewis but speak and millions will respond. They will call on their own leaders for action. They will send relief funds. They will send resolutions to Truman to keep hands off the miners. The will make the miners' fight the fight of all labor.

The fourth article of this series will appear next week.

formation into atoms of lead which are stable.

The Curie learned that a whole group of the heaviest elements shows this radio-active phenomenon. Radium itself was found to be a product of the radioactive decomposition of uranium.

From these discoveries the revolution began to dawn that within the atomic nucleus is enclosed a tremendous reservoir of energy. Scientists began experimental attempts to split the atomic nucleus by artificial means in order to release this energy.

But no sooner had the capitalist rulers thrown humanity into the second world slaughter than a savagely fiendish idea began to take shape — the idea of turning this terrifying energy into weapons of mass destruction.

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Harry Greene, Militant Negro Unionist, Dies

YOUNGSTOWN, Jan. 21 — A mass union-conducted funeral was held here today for Harry Greene, veteran union militant of the CIO Steelworkers. Greene died of a heart attack at the age of 61 a few hours after returning from the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization at Washington, D. C., which he attended as one of the delegates from Local 1330, United Steelworkers of America.

The main funeral address was delivered by Sam Camens, president of Local 1330, close friend and union co-worker of the deceased member. In a moving speech, Camens portrayed the character and work of Harry Greene, a man who "grew younger in spirit as he aged in years, a man who would not knuckle under who would not bend his back to the powers that be." Seated and hard-bitten union fighters wept openly as Camens spoke the last farewell to the fallen fighter.

To the time of his death, Harry Greene had served as zone grievance committee man at the Carnegie-Illinois, Ohio Works plant here. He had held that position for eight years. He had also served as chairman of the labor committee of the local NAACP, and as president of the NAACP Credit Union. A man of unquestioned integrity and influence, he was a tower of strength in the local labor movement. The Buckeye Review, local Negro paper, devoted its main headline to the news of his death, saying "HARRY GREENE SUCUMBS FROM HEART ATTACK."

General Truman had spoken at the funeral.

Conrad Wright's article states that General Yamashita was "in no way connected with the Bataan death march" of 1942.

That Yamashita's testimony stood up under grueling cross-examination," etc.

This is indeed a strange, misplaced sympathy that appears in a workers' paper. Are we to assist in the anti-Japanese "atrocities" propaganda that sees the Bataan incident as morally worse than the rest of the bloody shambles? Consult any veteran of the hell of the Pacific war for an expert opinion on this!

All the generals are to be held guilty for their role as the slaughter-supervisors for their capitalist masters!

When they have a falling out among themselves and treat each other roughly, it is not our concern to equate the defense of the weaker gangster with the defense of workers and workers' leaders.

Comrade Wright concludes by connecting Yamashita's case with the Bill of Rights, and all the "precedents" connected with it using the courts as one of the main instruments. It is the duty of Marxists to arouse the workers to this dire reality.

To be sure, there is no direct connection between the Yamashita case and the struggle for civil rights. But it would be folly to dismiss the indirect connection. I sought to stress this point in the review, namely, the workings of militarists and witch-hunters, who are becoming more and more dominant in the life of this country, and, in particular, in the operation of its courts and other "law enforcement" agencies — up to and including the Supreme Court.

John G. Wright

Workers Forum

A Criticism of Yamashita Review

Editor:

The feature article in The Militant, Jan. 9, "The Strange Case of Yamashita" by John G. Wright will have the effect of muddying the whole issue of civil liberties.

Marxists have the obligation to cut through the jungle of bourgeois law in order to demonstrate the class nature of the state. We must explain tirelessly that "democracy" in a capitalist country is measured solely by the amount of freedom exercised by workers and workers' organizations.

The fight for civil liberties is fundamentally a fight of the workers against the bourgeois state which seeks to restrain our freedom to the fullest extent that they can get away with. Oppression intensifies as workers' resistance is impaired. Mis-education can do as much damage as misleadership. That is why the entire American educational system is geared to perpetuate the myth of "abstract justice" and the "same law for all."

When we understand the above, we can understand that "The Strange Case of Yamashita" (the Japanese militarist who fell out with Tojo and MacArthur) has nothing whatsoever to do with the Minneapolis case, the eleven CP leaders, the Kutter case, or any other at

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"According to Marx, the government is the executive committee of the ruling class. Today monopolists are the strongest section of the ruling class. The government is in no position to fight against monopoly in general, i.e. against the class by whose will it rules. While attacking one phase of monopoly, it is obliged to seek an ally in another phase of monopoly. In union with banks and light industry it can deliver occasional heavy blows against the trusts of heavy industry, which, by the way, do not stop earning fantastic profits because of that."

— Leon Trotsky, Marxism in the United States, 1939.



LENIN

TROTSKY

Cure for the "Sick" Coal Industry

The coal miners made their biggest gains during the war, when the exceptional demand for fuel briefly lifted the coal industry out of its state of chronic "sickness." Under the aggressive leadership of John L. Lewis, the United Mine Workers were able to take advantage of the favorable economic situation and by militant action won the highest wages and best social improvements in all industry.

Today, the miners find that despite all their magnificent struggles of the war and post-war years, the ill-managed, chaotic, profiteer-ridden coal industry gives them only insecurity and growing poverty and exacts higher and higher robber prices from the consuming public. And all their efforts to "stabilize" the industry come to grief on the intractable opposition of the mine profiteers.

The "sickness" of the coal industry — which is merely a more advanced stage of the "sickness" of capitalist industry generally — is not inherent in the nature of the industry itself. The germ of the disease is private ownership for profit. The cure is the removal of the industry from the hands of the parasites who control it for their own exclusive benefit, its nationalization and its operation under the control of the mine workers themselves.

If the mines were operated under a rational, cooperative, national plan, the miners would probably not have to work at their arduous, hazardous jobs for more than three days a week and would still make higher wages and enjoy more security than today. And the consumers would get cheaper coal.

And the Journal also notes that while

The Hiss Verdict

The conviction of Alger Hiss for perjury has spread fear and consternation among the liberals and left-wing Democrats while jubilation reigns on the extreme right. These sharply contrasting reactions to the verdict cast light on the political significance of the Hiss case.

It is often forgotten that the idea of a "loyalty" probe of government employees was first projected by the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities in 1939 to expose "Communist" agents and influences masked as New Dealers. It was explicitly aimed against Secretaries Ickes, Perkins and Wallace in Roosevelt's cabinet.

When Truman took over the "loyalty" program as his own, his close associates declared he had stolen the thunder of his Republican opponents. Now, the lighting of the purge has struck at the administration itself. On trial with Hiss was the prestige of the Roosevelt regime, the New Deal and Truman's reputation. That accounts for the widespread sympathy and support given Hiss by Supreme Court Justices and top administration officials.

It likewise accounts for the rejoicing on the extreme right, which construes

the government moves to "illegalize" the miners' three-day week designed to spread available work, "the miners have often been subjected to a two-or three-day week by the coal operators without any threat of punitive action by the Government against the operators."

This public debate is far from being as innocently speculatory and aimless as it is made to appear. On the contrary, it is part of a deliberate campaign to psychologize the American people for proceeding as quickly as possible with the manufacture of H-bombs, on top of the already huge stockpile of A-bombs.

There is of course no secret whatever about the possibility of building a bomb that could wipe out in a single blast any city in the world through the use of hydrogen. This was established theoretically through basic scientific research in the late Twenties and early Thirties. The development of the A-bomb and of the technology of atomic explosives makes the manufacture of such a super-bomb today primarily a technical problem.

The real secret therefore is: How far have such practical preparations advanced? The U. S. News & World Report, (Jan. 13),

a weekly reputed to have pipelines to high circles in Washington, blandly asserts that all preliminary preparations are completed. The project is already in its blue-print stage, "now on U. S. drawing boards." Even the

NOT IDLE SPECULATION

The dailies, the weeklies, from the most conservative to the most sensational, have picked it up, discussing with a drollard air of impartiality, the pros and cons under the general heading "Shall U. S. Make the Bomb or Not?"

WILL H-BOMB BE BUILT?

Will the H-bomb actually be built and stockpiled as a standing invitation to the American people and the rest of the world to commit global suicide?

In brief, the H-bomb will render the already stockpiled atomic explosives as "obsolete" as the bow and arrow, more accurately their use will be most

effective as "detonators" for the H-bomb. It is a direct threat to destroy our civilization and mankind itself. This may appear unthinkable, but that is the actual road ahead, and the worst of illusions is to dismiss it as the least likely variant of what the future really holds in the shape of the H-bomb.

NO PEACEATIME ATOMS

The A-bomb project was launched in wartime, in deepest secrecy and behind the backs of all the peoples. The American people were promised that peaceatime uses of atomic energy would follow slowly but surely. Above all, we were told, it was necessary to assure American "monopoly" of the A-bomb. It would take decades for others, especially the Russians, to develop it.

In the five postwar years, our

initial costs have been estimated:

they are "2 to 4 billion dollars, plants for a whole new atom industry," which would have absolutely "no peacetime use."

CAN OBLITERATE CITIES

There is no known limit to the size of the blast that can be produced by this new hydrogen bomb. A "weak" one can obliterate from 50 to 100 square miles, as against the approximately one-mile radius of the Hiroshima bomb. Hydrogen bombs of 1,000 square miles and even more are just as feasible.

Uranium and plutonium bombs inflict civilian casualties in the hundreds of thousands; the new super-bomb can wipe out New York City and its entire population. The radioactive aftereffects of A-bomb blasts, especially under-water ones, are known to be more lethal and lasting than the direct effects of the explosion itself; this holds true in geometric proportion for the H-bomb. Large areas of our planet may not only be depopulated by it but also rendered uninhabitable for a long time to come.

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the future really holds in the

shape of the H-bomb.

The first imperialist world war

was a signal that if mankind war

was to live and civilization to flour-

ish capitalism had to die. The second

world war repeated this warning in an even more menacing way.

The A-bomb, and now the H-

bomb leave no room for doubt

whatever. Humanity has been

placed on the brink of the abyss

face to face with the choice of

plunging to destruction with the

imperialists and their Hell Bombs

or of abolishing the capitalist

system and building the socialist

society.

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"Welfare" in New York

By Ruth Johnson

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 — While Mayor O'Dwyer basks in the Florida sun enjoying his \$15,000 raise, 320,000 needy people of this city face desperate hunger and quick eviction. Relief payments were slashed on January 16.

There were more than hundred worried men and women at today's protest meeting in the Wayside Casino, 100 West 118th Street, called by the Better Harlem Association.

The meeting opened with the wistful prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." It closed more than two hours later with ringing denunciations of the Democratic City administration and the Republican State Administration which had united to take the bread from their mouths. "There has been no appreciable decline in food prices to warrant the cuts made," said a petition addressed by the meeting to the Mayor, the Governor, and the Department of Welfare. "The extra-large reduction of special diet allowances makes it practically impossible for those on said diets to provide the necessary food, and thus exposes them to undue and unnecessary hardships and sufferings, and even to premature death."

It cited the many expenses not provided for in relief budgets, which must be paid out of the miserable food allotment: "Insurance premiums on policies approved by the Welfare Dept.; recreation, especially for children; carfare to travel to and from welfare centers and for essential traveling; money for haircuts, especially where there are several boys in the family."

Mrs. Katherine White, 10 West 118th Street, told me that carfare and lunch money alone for her two high school children costs \$5.00 a week. That comes out of the food money. So does \$2 a month to make up the balance of her rent; the Welfare Department considers her rent of \$25 a month excessive, and allows her only \$23.

"I don't know how we can manage," she said. "They cut my check \$8 a month. I was getting \$13 a month altogether, for myself and my three children. I pay \$11 every two months for gas, because I have to use the gas oven to help heat

the apartment, it's so cold. I have to buy all the children's clothes, too."

"I am separated from my husband. He was sending me \$5 a week for each child, but my oldest boy was 16 years old last month, so the court stopped his allowance from his father. But I want him to finish school."

Like others in the audience around me, she was determined not to let her family suffer in silence.

"I hope that your paper will say something about the meeting. I wish everybody could know what is happening. But the daily newspapers care more about crime stories than us!"

There was applause when John Brown, representing the Lenox-Fifth Avenue Tenants' League, urged united action to prevent evictions and restore the previous scale.

"It is true that we in Harlem are the last to be hired and the first to be fired," Brown said. "It is true that relief cuts hit us hardest of all. But there will be unrest in other parts of the city, too. Perhaps we can be the spark that will set off a big protest all over the city, and that is what I think we should try to do. I am going back to my organization with the recommendation that we cooperate with you to see what can be done."

Welcoming the support of the Tenants' League, Joseph E. Ritzberg, chairman of the Better Harlem Association, issued a warning to all who live on near-starvation incomes.

"It is not only the men and women on relief today who are hit by this cut," he declared. "Everyone whose income is close to the relief level is endangered. People getting supplementary relief, those whose wages did not even come up to the old relief standard, used to get a few extra dollars to help pay their bills. Now their wages may be above the new scale, and they will lose that money too. Remember also, that you who are not on relief today, do not know that you will not be tomorrow."

They Can Dream, Can't They?

By Sidney Crabb

BOSTON — The newspapers here have not let up on the headlines about the one-and-a-half million dollar robbery of Brink's counting-house. The first day after the robbery there was a rash of solemn, indignant editorials. The governor issued a statement that the forces of law and order would prevail and the criminals would be brought to justice.

J. Edgar Hoover, the well-known wiretapper, saw this as a wonderful opportunity to direct attention away from the recently-revealed illegal activity of his FBI, and the newspapers heralded his triumphal entrance into the city.

The whole town was excited as the reporters took to the streets, asking as many of us as cared to answer, what did we think of the hold-up? The response astounded the editors, though they should have known better.

The hold-up was smooth, no one was hurt, the getaway was perfect, and Brink's and the insurance companies were out a million and a half. The city was really gleeful. There were a few people who gave advice to the police on capturing the bandits, such as: "The cops ought to take the first train to Hialeah, because boys with that kind of luck are sure to be at the track doubling their money." These advisors to the police department were in a minority.

Most people were eager to give the crooks advice on how to hold on to the money. "If those boys are as smart as they seem, they will lay low and retire for the rest of their lives." "I don't approve of robbery, but if I had that kind of dough..." Everyone was talking about it, mostly with commendation and a sort of why-didn't-I-think-of-it-first wonder in his eyes. Nearly everyone wished them long, peaceful years of enjoyment of their haul.

Why should there have been any different reaction? In other parts of the country the 19th century myth of Boston's civic purity and social

and educational progress still exists. The myth is cultivated by the newspapers and textbooks.

Workers here, however, see convicted crooks running for office and being elected with the connivance of leaders of established capitalist enterprises. They see, headlined below the Brink's robbery, the announcement of 65 millions of dollars in real estate tax refunds while the tax rate on small homes is expected to exceed \$85 per thousand.

They see themselves in a metropolitan area of 1,700,000 people divided into 22 cities and townships, each with its expensive and corrupt political machine dominating the antique school, health, fire departments. They see the decay of municipal services and the development of racetracks for horses, dogs, trotters and stock cars, the growth of treasury tickets, numbers, pools, pin games and shuffle-alley, and the church monopoly of bingo, penny sales and lotteries.

They see their governor, endorsed by AFL and CIO leadership and swept into office on the pledge not to raise fares, travel to Europe while his henchmen increase fares from 10 to 20 cents. But most of all they know how hard it is to make a buck.

"Everything is a racket," is one of the most commonly expressed sentiments. A widespread and deep-going cynicism pervades the working class in this conservative, church-ridden, low-wage area, and sometimes a trivial incident like a million-and-a-half-dollar robbery brings it to the surface for even the blind — and the editors — to see.

Thus, later editorials adopted the tone of "We see the city is amused by the stick-up, but do not forget the sanctity of private property, law and order." Yet the simple truth is that few besides the cops, the editors, and the insurance executives were disturbed about this "expropriation" of private capital.

Convictions Without Trial

By Fred Hart

The Supreme Court, by a 4 to 3 decision, has declared it perfectly legal for the Attorney General and the FBI to convict people on anonymous charges without any trial, to keep both the identity of the accuser and the nature of the charge, secret even from the courts, to deprive the accused of a hearing, and even of the right to be released on bail pending final decision.

All these issues were involved in the case of a refugee war bride of German-Jewish origin who came to join her husband, Kurt Knauff of Ozone Park, N. Y.

Mrs. Knauff came into this country in August 1948 and was immediately locked up on Ellis Island, without a hearing. She was then denied release on bail and finally, again without a hearing, ordered deported because in the opinion of the FBI she would be a "hazard to security."

The identity of her accuser and the nature of the charges against her remain a secret today as they were when the FBI first placed her under arrest. Mrs. Knauff's own record proved of no avail. She fled from Hitler to Czechoslovakia from where she went to England where she served for three years as a flight sergeant in the Royal Airforce in wartime. After an honorable dis-

charge she returned to Germany as a civilian employee of the American Military Government since 1948.

She married Knauff with the permission of military authorities and came to this country only to be tried, convicted and ordered deported in the manner already described. All this was authorized by the then Attorney General Tom Clark, who now sits in the Supreme Court.

This whole procedure and the majority decision is so raw that Justice Jackson, speaking for the dissenting minority, used language seldom heard in the Supreme Court. He denounced the denial of a hearing to Mrs. Knauff as "abrupt and brutal." Attacking the government for its brazen contention that "not even a court can find out why this girl is excluded," Justice Jackson concluded: "The menace to the security of this country, be it as great as it may, from this girl's admission is as nothing compared to the menace to the free institutions inherent in procedures of this pattern."

He might have added that these are the "procedures" and "patterns" of a police state which is being imposed step by step on the American people.

Notes from the News

TRUMAN'S CHOICE as Democratic candidate for US Senator in his home state of Missouri, Emery W. Allison, was the man who appointed and served on the Missouri Senate Committee which for eight months refused to report out a bill to give Negroes equal education rights.

FIVE SHOP STEWARDS of Local 1154 of the United Electrical Workers, who were given ten days penalty to "think over" their refusal to sign "loyalty" statements prepared by the company, were fired on Jan. 11 by the Stewart-Warner Corporation in Chicago. The victimized unionists declared that the corporation officials "are not concerned with oaths; they want the American right to make employees toe a political and non-union line both on and off the job."

AN INNOVATION in strike tactics was suggested by Joseph Beirne, head of the Communications Workers of America, CIO, last week when he proposed that the public use automatic equipment as much as possible in case of a strike in the telephone industry. He especially appealed to

the 6 million CIO members to help jam the automatic phones.

STUDENTS AT WAYNE UNIVERSITY in Detroit have organized a committee to raise funds for relief to striking Pennsylvania coal miners, who are being denied credit by corporation-owned stores.

CIO PRESIDENT Murray, moving forward with his own "loyalty" purge, has expelled the California State CIO Council, long controlled by the Stalinists. He has instructed his national representative, Richard Leonard, to set up a new state council in its place.

REP. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL of New York has accused his fellow-Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. of fouling up the effort to force a vote on FEPC to further his "personal political ambition" to become governor of New York. Young Roosevelt circulated a rival petition to Powell's in order to bring the bill to a vote in the House.

THE MILITANT

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Dunne Flays Role Of Union Officials In Rights Fight

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 20 — Before a sizeable audience of workers, Negroes, students and professionals, V. R. Dunne, demonstrated the links between the labor bureaucracy and the State Department, and between the cowardly attitude of this leadership and the government's assault on democratic rights.

"The CIO bureaucracy," said Dunne, "has expelled 500,000 workers. Murray now plans to kick out another million. All that means loss of dues and reducing his organization. How can this serve Murray's interests? In no way whatever. Whose interest does it serve? When we remember that Murray made the test of affiliation to the CIO support or non-support of the Marshall Plan, then clearly this proves Murray is acting for the State Department in the CIO."

In contrast to its attitude to Murray and Green, Dunne pointed out, the government is determined to crush the United Mine Workers. The independent actions of this union constitute a threat to the State Department's plans to tie the labor movement to the war machine and spread the idea of resisting Washington's attacks against labor's rights and living standards.

The real aim of the witch-hunt, Dunne said, was not merely the suppression of radical parties but an attempt to paralyze the whole labor movement to a point where it is incapable of defending itself against the monopolists' attacks on working conditions and living standards. By bringing the witch-hunt into the labor movement, Murray and Green are exposing it to great danger. But at the same time, they are arousing increasing hostility against their policies and leadership in the tanks.

Dunne predicted that American labor, sooner than we think, will rid itself of such spineless and craven leaders and raise up a new leadership capable of mobilizing the working class for new mighty struggles and victories.

The meeting continued informally after the conclusion of the address and a generous donation by the audience. Dunne was also interviewed over radio stations WNHIC and WYBC, the latter operated by Yale University. A news broadcast over WELI devoted a few minutes comment to the Dunne meeting.

Large Meeting Held in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 16 — "The campaign to preserve and extend our civil rights can be the key issue to rally millions of workers in a progressive fight against the dictatorial plans of Washington and Wall Street," declared Vincent R. Dunne in an address at Socialist Workers Party headquarters.

Before the largest audience to hear an SWP speaker in recent years in Boston, Dunne analyzed the desertion of the fight for labor's rights by the official leadership of the AFL and CIO.

He demonstrated that the trade union officialdom with one or two exceptions is following the pattern set by the government and business in conducting loyalty purges within the unions. The Murray and the Greens hope thus to gain political and economic favors from the bosses and, at the same time, strengthen their own control over their membership.

OPPOSITION GROWING

Government purges, firings of so-called subversives from privately-owned industries on orders from army and navy bureaus, FBI Gestapo methods, destruction of reputations by Congressional committees, he stated, will hit more and more people and create widespread resentment.

Even now, when the witch-hunt is just beginning, workers throughout the country are suspicious and conscious that the real purpose is not to catch communists but to terrorize militant fighters for labor, weaken the unions internally, and prepare the country for another war.

Dunne reported that there are many signs that the ranks of the labor movement and leading liberals and intellectuals are prepared to resist these encroachments on their rights. This is indicated in the support that has rallied around James Kutcher and John Mahoney, expelled from the Sailor's Union of the Pacific for opposing the Lundeberg gang, and in the outcry that has gone up over the law-breaking activities of the FBI.

Strikers' Families Evicted



Failing to crush the spirit of CIO Woodworkers on strike for the past eight months, the owners of Bond Bros. railroad tie plant got a court order evicting families from company-owned houses. Here a mother and four children watch their furniture being moved out.

Curran Machine Continues Purge Of Opponents

The surge of oppositionists continued full blast in the National Maritime Union as Vice President Jack Lawrence was placed on charges and two rank and file members were expelled from the union at the New York Port membership meeting on Jan. 19. Another member was suspended for one year and fined \$100.

All were charged with activities arising from the resistance by the New York membership to President Joseph Curran's recent arbitrary ouster of 15 elected Port officials. In the intimidating atmosphere, accompanied by the crooked voting of Curran's hand-picked master-at-arms, the great majority of those present abstained from voting on any of the cases.

PACKED TRIAL COMMITTEE

Charges against Lawrence were brought by Neal Hanley, National Secretary, repeated the well-known pattern of "inciting to riot," "creating a dual and hostile organization," etc. Lawrence will be "tried" by a fifteen-man trial committee of Curran supporters. What his "findings" will be is not hard to predict.

George Irwin, charged with refusing to recognize the authority of two Curran appointees and distributing anti-Curran literature aboard his ship, stated in his defense that he was guilty only of backing up the legally-elected officials. Eladio Paula, refusing similar charges, also took occasion to deny present or past membership in the Communist Party as a matter of record.

The banquet will also hear a report by Kutcher on his recent six-month tour of the country where he spoke before hundreds of organizations on the significance of the issues in his fight for reinstatement to his VA job.

The banquet is sponsored by the New Jersey Kutcher Committee. It will be commemorated with a souvenir booklet containing greetings from organizations aiding Kutcher, as well as friends and merchants. Support for the banquet has come from the following groups:

SUPPORTING GROUPS

The New Jersey State CIO; Passaic County CIO Council; Essex-West Hudson CIO Council; Passaic and Paterson Textile Joint Boards.

Textile Workers Union Locals 73, 654, 656, 1983 and 2247; United Auto Workers Locals 688, 736; 824; United Steelworkers Locals 1264; 1339; 1725; United Rubber Workers Locals 111; 202; International Electrical Workers-CIO Locals 440; 441.

Also, Retail Clerks Local 108; Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers Local 287; Amalgamated Clothing Workers Local 128; Amalgamated Toy Workers Local 304; United Packinghouse Workers Local 624; Construction Workers Local 1267; and Local 571 of the International Association of Machinists.

Group to Picket at Spanish Consulate

A three-day demonstration against Franco's terror and the murder of workers in Spain is being organized by the Libertarian Committee for a Free Spain. The demonstration will be held in front of the Spanish Consulate on February 8, 9 and 10 between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. and will be followed by a mass meeting on February 10, 18 P.M. in the Labor Temple.

First, the Trotskyites in the SIU are a pitifully small group and do not constitute a remote menace to Harry Lundeberg's administration. (Whereas Curran's rule very definitely was menaced for a time in the NMU.)

Second, the bill of particulars against the Socialist Workers Party is vague in the extreme. The resolution which was circulated through Atlantic and Gulf branches, and unanimously passed, charges the Trotskyites with using the trade union movement for their own ends and with possessing a "disruptive record on the waterfront."

The only specific charge involves the beating of an SIU dispatcher, but the Seattle Post Intelligencer, which is cited in corroboration, merely reported that the dispatcher said his assailants were supporters of former members who had been expelled from the union. (Since the writing of Seligman's article it was proved in a court hearing in Seattle that no one but the dispatcher and another seaman was involved in the brawl. Both men were sentenced by the judge.)

Third, the expulsion resolution is directed not only against

Communists and SWP members but against any seamen who contribute to or as a fellow-traveler knowingly follows the policies of these parties. Which might, of course mean that anyone who knowingly follows CP and SWP policies of fighting Harry Lundeberg could be expelled.

1 Out of Every 9 Jobless in Germany

Unemployment, rising steadily, has become the No. 1 problem of the puppet government in Western Germany. The officially admitted number of jobless workers is now 1,783,142, according to a dispatch from Frankfurt on Jan. 24 N. Y. Times.

This represents more than 11% of the working force. Almost a quarter-million workers lost their jobs during the first two weeks of this month alone.

The official figures do not include an estimated 100,000 other workers who have lost their employment but have not thought it worthwhile to register at government offices.

This explosive economic situation, reminiscent of the period in which Hitler rose to power, is certain to have important political repercussions. Either it will spur the revival of militancy among the workers, or it will increase the breeding ground for the growth of the fascists, who are already operating in the open and reuniting their forces with increasing boldness.