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Where France Stands After General Strike

By Murry Weiss

The French general strike revealed the true relation of class forces in what has been called the "sick nation" of Europe but it has settled nothing. The workers are back on the job. The government headed by the millionaire Lanier remains in power. The National Assembly has not been called into emergency session. The economic decrees which provoked the general strike wave are still in force. And the officials of the trade unions and workers parties remain in their posts.

In these respects everything looks the same as before August 7; yet everything has changed. What is profoundly different is the balance of social forces which has shifted in favor of the workers. With one stroke they ripped away the facade of stability and strength that screened the capitalist regime of France. Rarely has history witnessed such a display of working-class power. The new consciousness the workers have of their own power and the weakening of capitalist rule is a major factor in the immediate political outlook for France.

But just as the workers showed their magnificent capacities to launch a struggle and carry it to the door of victory, so their official leadership displayed the most cowardly urge to curb their offensive and save the day for capitalism. They fumbled, wavered and betrayed. The bureaucracies

Detroit One-Party Press Scored by SWP Candidate

DETROIT, Aug. 25 — Frank Lovell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, today scored the one-party press here which appears to be deliberately excluding news about all the mayoralty candidates except Republican wheel-horse Cobo.

As an example, Lovell referred to an election story in the Detroit News which was "so flagrantly biased that it failed even to mention all but the choice of the Democratic Party machine among the opponents of Cobo."

Lovell declared that he had been interviewed by reporters but nothing they wrote got by the censors of the one-party press. The SWP candidate has appeared at many public meetings — trade union, civic and fraternal — yet no news about it is screened through to the public.

"Just as at one time it was necessary to legislate the Federal Communications Commission into existence to ensure certain democratic rights for radio and now television," said Lovell, "similar legislation should now be considered in regard to the monopolized press."

The explanation for this studied policy of the press is not difficult to determine. Cobo is the choice of the big corporations. Under his administration, rents in Detroit have reached an all-time peak. Street railway fares have soared to among the highest in the country. Schools are scandalously inferior and social services are neglected.

Demands for transfers were refused by Gen. Tucker, who said: "If we were to remove the Negro boys that would be discrimination too — discrimination against the whites."

The NAACP has protested these conditions. The prevalence of Jim Crow in this northern town is a timely reminder that discrimination is not confined to the South but is epidemic throughout the country.

(Continued on page 4)

Jim Crow Disease Reported Virulent At Sault St. Marie

At Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., army base on the northern border of the United States, the disease of Jim Crow is reported to be virulent. Negro airmen can't get service in barber shops, restaurants or taverns. Negro servicemen are forced to cross to Canada where, they report, "the people seem to be more civilized."

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(Continued on page 4)

By Art Preis

The recent national conference of the CIO Political Action Committee in Washington, D. C., on Aug. 18 was its first major gathering since the Republican victory last November cracked the 20-year Democratic-labor coalition.

Every leading CIO figure was present. CIO President Walter Reuther, Steelworkers President David J. M. McDonald, CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey and CIO-PAC Director Jack Kroll all spoke. Their individual and collective words revealed no understanding of the significance of the Republican triumph nor any capacity to give the political leadership labor needs in this crucial period.

LESSER EVIL

They did not seem to recognize that the Republican victory and the advance of reaction has been

the consequence of their own policy of placing reliance on the corrupt Democratic machine of the big city bosses and Southern Bourbons. They did not say so, if they did realize, that their policy of supporting one capitalist party against another, one evil — though "lesser" — against another of the same kind, has only led to the "greater" evil they sought to avoid.

Hence, their thoughts and attention were centered on will-o'-the-wisp, illusions, seeking out some non-existent good in the Democratic Party and even in Eisenhower. They still propose to find salvation within the Democratic fold and place hopes in a vague "realignment" of the liberal and labor elements within the old-line boss machines.

Reuther, for instance, made no serious and honest attempt to analyze why the labor political policy of the union leaders has

ended in bankruptcy. To him, the last elections showed only that union workers must engage in more political activity — by which he meant ringing more

door-bells, handing out more literature for candidates endorsed by the union officials, etc. "Where the most work was done, the candidates we favored did reasonably well," he claimed. But why was it hard to get union workers to campaign enthusiastically? Reuther did not go into this vital, indeed basic, question.

THEIR COMPLAINTS

But even if they did not seem to grasp the real score, nevertheless on several occasions some of the key speakers indicated a certain uneasiness about the situation. PAC Director Kroll complained that reports from every state showed that the CIO state political activity had no perspective of legislative gains, only of defense against anti-labor laws. Carey's words were meant as a threat to the Democrats, such as union leaders have made from time to time before. "I am convinced," he added, "that there must be a realignment within the Democratic Party. And if the realignment can't come within the

Democratic Party, then perhaps there must be a realignment outside that party."

LEASON OF HISTORY

Why the "perhaps"? Study the history of the Democratic Party for most of the 20 years it was in power under both Roosevelt and Truman and you will find that "realignment" of the liberal and labor forces inside the Democratic Party has been a theme song for a long time. And it has been demonstrated over and over again that labor can find no constructive political course inside the Democratic machine.

The PAC conference and its leaders had the duty to point out that labor has nothing to gain and everything to lose by fooling around with the Democratic Party. It has everything to gain and nothing to lose by taking the road of independent class politics through a new party of its own.



JAMES B. CAREY

CIO-PAC Leaders Evoke Labor Party Issue



ART PREIS

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Fund Campaign Total Reaches 62% of Goal

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Manager

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party contributed \$1,491 this week to the Party-Building and Publication Fund, which raised the total through Aug. 31 to \$11,242 or 62% of the \$18,000 goal. With the deadline only a few weeks away, the national campaign is 23% behind schedule.

Chicago went over the top to 101% and these comrades aren't through yet, according to Hilda Smith who says: "There should be some more coming in to put us further over the top!"

Newark is coming down the home stretch at a fast clip and is within 10% of the goal post.

Buffalo scored a \$93 gain and Minneapolis-St. Paul pulled ahead with \$91. Comrade Jean writes for the Twin Cities: "Ches made a very good appeal at the Minneapolis branch meeting last night and collected money as well as getting some additional pledges."

Comrade Dave says for Los Angeles: "Enclosed is a check for \$126. We are going to make every effort to have our quota paid by Sept. 15, although the going is tough. But we're working on the problem."

This note from Comrade Larry accompanied \$52.50 on Boston's quota: "We will make our quota of \$550 — on time — as usual for Boston."

New York hit 51% with a \$461 contribution, and Youngstown raised its percentage to 48 with \$75.

San Francisco sent in \$163. The comrades there are planning a rummage sale and a couple of other things to help speed up completion of their quota.

Detroit chalked up their \$220 gain.

"General" took a \$17 step forward with two welcome contributions from friends of the Socialist Workers Party — \$2 still exists.

from J. M., Massachusetts, and \$15 from H., New York.

(See scoreboard: Page 3)

Brownell Hints Unions Next on Witch Hunt List

In an interview published in U.S. News and World Report of Sept. 4, Attorney General Herbert Brownell made ominous hints regarding a projected attack on the trade unions. Asked about the fields in which "communists" are concentrated, he replied, "there are more in the labor unions than elsewhere."

This statement, taken together with his declaration that the FBI considers "the Communist Party a greater menace now than at any other time," constitutes a warning signal that moves are being prepared to involve the unions more directly in the current witch hunt.

Walter Reuther, President of the CIO, was quoted as saying that Brownell was wrong; that the union officials were "eternally vigilant in fighting communism."

This kind of reply plays right into the hands of the union busters. It accepts the formula of the witch hunters. It leaves the unions wide open for union-busting McCarthyite investigation under pretext of establishing to what degree the "red menace" still exists.

STALINISTS BAIT TRAP FOR WORKERS IN NEW YORK ELECTIONS

By Murry Weiss

This is the election policy of the Communist Party in New York City: Regardless of whom you intend to vote for in November, get into the Democratic primaries on Sept. 15. By supporting Wagner against Impellitteri we can defeat the worst danger — the Dewey-Impellitteri machine. Thus we will knock the reactionaries out of the elections during the primaries and everybody can feel free to vote for whatever party he chooses in November without fear of a reactionary getting in. This will pay off with a bigger vote for the American Labor Party, Liberal Party, etc.

This latest gimmick on how to beat the capitalists at their own game is as worthless as all the past slick opportunist election tricks of the Stalinists and the labor bureaucrats. The main trouble with these "clever" schemes is that they overlook the class interests of the workers and put the workers behind the eight-ball — that is, behind their worst enemies on the political field, the capitalists.

Wagner and Impellitteri represent two wings of the corrupt capitalist political machine known as Tammany Hall. It's a case of heads I win, tails you lose, in the contest between these two nominees so far as the workers are concerned. The Stalinists claim that Wagner's silence about McCarthyism shows he is a liberal while Impellitteri's allegedly "outspoken" support for the Wisconsin demagogue makes him a reactionary. Even if true, does this provide a choice for the working class? It's as much a choice as between hanging and shooting for a condemned man.

The real choice before the workers of New York as everywhere in the United States is not between one capitalist politician and party or another but: either to continue the ruinous policy of company unionism in politics; or make a complete and principled break with capitalist politics and launch a Labor Party.

As long as the workers remain trapped in the hopeless game of supporting "progressive" Tammany politicians against "reactionary" Tammany politicians, the road to a Labor Party will be blocked.

Even if Wagner were a "good man" (the Stalinist only claim that he is "less bad" than Impellitteri) he couldn't change the basic character of the Democratic-Tammany machine which is owned and operated by Big Business and Big Gangster interests.

The real purpose of the Stalinist election policy is to corral the left-wing vote into the Democratic Party camp. They are laying the basis for the next pitch when they can say after the primaries: "Wagner is a lesser evil than the Republican candidate. We must choose him instead of the worse evil of a reactionary Republican." And even if they don't say this publicly, the end result of supporting Wagner in the primaries is to start a bandwagon trend for him that can slash deeply into the vote which might otherwise have gone to the ALP, the Liberal Party or the Socialist Workers Party.

In this way the Stalinists add their weight to the treacherous policy of the labor bureaucracy which has led to one defeat after another for labor on the political field and made American labor despite its power politically helpless before the Big Business Eisenhower administration.

The Stalinists are having some difficulty selling this policy to their followers. That's why it's being dished up in this step-at-a-time, easy-to-take, it-won't-hurt form.

The Stalinists lie when they pretend that it is only a question of the primaries in New York. In Los Angeles just a few months ago they pulled a similar trick. They supported the "lesser evil" Republican Bowron against the "worse evil" Republican Poulsen.

They succeeded in keeping the Progressive Party from running independent candidates and then in the run-off they continued to support Bowron against Poulsen. This was the same policy the Los Angeles labor bureaucracy followed. It ended in fiasco — Bowron was defeated, Poulsen got in, and the cause of independent political action wasn't advanced one inch.

The treacherous policy of the Stalinists in Los Angeles was even more flagrant because the workers had a clear choice between four capitalist candidates for Mayor and the working class anti-war candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. The Stalinists supported the witch-hunter and warmonger Bowron against the revolutionary Socialist candidate, Myra Tanner Weiss.

In New York they are giving us a repeat performance. These people, who claim to be revolutionaries and against the war, have already lined up behind a Wall Street candidate while the SWP is running a campaign against Wall Street's war and witch hunt and in favor of socialism.

The Stalinists are trying to convince American capitalism that they are "respectable," "reasonable," and "harmless." "Look!" they shout, "The Stalinist tiger is tame. You can harness it together with the Tammany tiger and they'll both pull Wall Street's wagon."

This is designed to help the Kremlin bargain for a deal with Eisenhower. It is the continuation of the same policy that lined the Stalinists up behind the Roosevelt war machine, behind the LaGuardia Republicans, behind ex-Mayor O'Dwyer, and behind the capitalist politician Wallace.

We say to the radical workers of New York — the Stalinist policy serves the interests of the Kremlin but not the interests of the working class. Opposition to Wall Street's war plans can not be furthered by deals that weaken the class independence of the workers or by cynical election maneuvers that poison the consciousness of the left-wing workers with opportunist trickery.

Support the candidates of the SWP! Fight for an independent Labor Party! That is the way to fight the capitalists and their war plans in the New York elections.

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Wall Street's Drive to Sell the U.S. on Another War

By Joseph Hansen
(Third of a series.)

The "Get-Us-Home" movement of the American troops at the end of 1945 and beginning of 1946, together with the powerful strike wave that swept the country at that time, forced Wall Street to postpone the date for the Third World War which it had projected at the close of World War II. As I pointed out last week, the American people dismantled the forces needed to carry out a successful attack on the Soviet Union when it stood weakened and devastated from the Nazi assault.

Wall Street had to make a fresh start. First of all, it had to secure its home base. This meant above all convincing the American people of the necessity of going to war against the Soviet Union. To win a war of such a scope, the minimum requirement is a people thoroughly convinced of its justice and inevitability. If possible, their enthusiasm must be aroused. To drive the American people into such a conflict would most certainly prove suicidal. They must be led. This was the major problem facing America's 60 ruling families.

The capitalist class in our time, however, is capable of leading only a certain kind of people — a people that is thoroughly housebroken. They are not able to lead masses accustomed to think for themselves, concerned about preserving their liberties and willing to fight for their rights. In fact, to the capitalists, masses of that cast of mind are not only thoroughly undependable in wars of conquest but a deadly danger, particularly if they have

powerful organizations such as trade unions.

Thus to overcome the unfavorable position they found themselves in 1946, the strategists of the capitalist class set out to achieve two main goals in the United States: (1) Try to convince the American people that the Soviet Union is an aggressor power like Nazi Germany, plotting to attack America; (2) Try to stamp out freedom of thought and hamstring the unions.

The first aim dovetailed with a vast armaments program, which in turn could help stave off depression. The second aim, of course, fitted in neatly with the open show sentiments of the big corporations. And both aims coincided with the need to satisfy the ravenous hunger for profit-taking with which the capitalists were troubled after feeding at the public trough during the war years.

THE WITCH HUNT

Anti-union legislation culminated in the Taft-Hartley Law and an epidemic of similar slave-labor measures on the state books of the states. The drive against freedom of thought began with Truman's "loyalty" decrees and rapidly mushroomed into the worst witch-hunt America has ever seen. The end result was the ominous rise of McCarthyism.

Truman's "loyalty" order was promulgated in 1947. For six years the drive on civil liberties has continued. It has made deep inroads into freedom of thought in America but has not yet succeeded in its final aim of breaking up the independent outlook of the masses. The Taft-Hartley Law

likewise has made organizing difficult, particularly in the South, but the unions still remain intact. In fact they now have a membership of some 17,000,000.

The corporations have made impressive gains in imposing the speed-up, containing the struggle for better living conditions, bounding the militants, and so on. But accounts have not yet been settled with the unions. Big Business now appears to think that it may take more than the witch-hunt and union-busting legislation to discipline the union membership and make the country safe for another war. It may take a bit of depression and an accompanying strong-arm assault. But to engage in that battle with labor — a most dangerous battle for the capitalists — would require postponement of World War III.

The alternative is to try to buy off the union leadership and a considerable segment of the working class as Roosevelt did in World War II. That course, however, seems to have been ruled out by the Morgans, Rockefellers, etc. That was one reason why they wanted Eisenhower in the White House instead of Stevenson.

WAR PROPAGANDA

Let us now turn to the effort to enthuse the American people with the prospect of an atomic war on the Soviet Union. The principal vehicle for this has been the powerful propaganda machine at the disposal of the capitalist class. The warmly praised ally of World War II was converted into "the enemy." The crimes of Stalinism, accommodatingly covered up during the war years, were hustled into the limelight. The press, the radio, the pulpits and later TV began an even more sustained campaign than that waged against Nazi Germany. The moralists joined in the attack — many of them with what turned out to be the best of credentials, former scoundrels of the camp of Stalinism.

The grist for this mill was provided by the State Department. Rejecting all overtures of the Kremlin for a deal, it abruptly cut off lend-lease to the USSR despite the desperate needs of the Soviet people. Winston Churchill, then the most admired and respected statesman of the western capitalist world, was brought to Fulton, Missouri, where in March 1946 he laid down the line against the Soviet Union in a saber-rattling speech.

Provocative actions were organized, such as maneuvers by the armed forces in the Antarctic and Arctic under conditions obviously simulating those in the Soviet Union in winter. A whole series of diplomatic incidents were touched off, all designed to display the Soviet Union as an "aggressor" power, although it is not, since its economic foundations do not require it to follow the policy of imperialist expansion at all.

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With the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine, the "cold war" opened up full scale, with occasional scares of possible hot war as in 1948 at the time it appeared the Communist Party might win the elections in Italy.

KOREAN WAR

All this led up to June 1950 when civil war broke out in Korea. The Truman administration seized on this pretext to plunge America into the conflict.

The Korean war appeared to give American Big Business the final clinchers in its war preparations: an excuse to convert a huge sector of the economy into war production, an excuse to vastly expand the armed forces and stockpiles of armaments, an excuse to get into a conflict which had every prospect of expanding into a general conflict in which the Soviet Union would be sucked in.

Above all, it seemed to be a perfect means for finally convincing the American people about the justice and inevitability of war with the Soviet Union.

But this war, which appeared to offer such a favorable opening for carrying out the sinister plans of American Big Business, turned into its opposite.

The fighting capacity of the North Koreans shocked America's rulers. And when the Chinese Armies took up the challenge that Gen. MacArthur flung at the Yalu river, it quickly became apparent that Wall Street had taken on far more than it bargained for. Truman's "police action" turned into a war of completely unexpected scope. In another article we will discuss the forces American imperialism ran into; right now we are interested in what happened to the effort to use Korea to psychologize the American people about fighting abroad.

MOST UNPOPULAR WAR

Korea turned out to be the most unpopular war in American history. This is admitted by every serious observer. It became a key issue in American politics. It helped bring a landslide defeat to the Democratic Party.

FEARED MASSES

The CP policy exposed the Stalinist leaders' fear of the masses' participating in struggles of a revolutionary nature. It is reported that the behavior of the leaders provoked widespread discontent within the ranks of the CP. The best Stalinist militants wanted to take the measures required to strengthen the unity of the working class and go much farther than their leaders would permit them.

MOST UNPOPULAR WAR

In a number of places, especially among the metal workers where the CP is strong, Stalinist leaders did not hesitate to intervene openly to crush the initiatives taken by their ranks, condemning them as too "left."

One of the big factors in Eisenhower's victory was the hope many people had that he would bring the fighting to an end, a hope that was fostered by Eisenhower's promise to go to Korea personally. No doubt at that time, Eisenhower and his backers had already considered the advisability of ending the Korean adventure.

Even Stevenson had to recognize on the eve of the election that it was necessary to say something

about ending the war in Korea. Of course, what he said was too little and too late to save the Democrats.

The popular opposition to the war in Korea is a tremendous new fact in American politics. The Pentagon and its spokesmen indicate their awareness of it by their openly expressed fears about a new "Get-Us-Home" movement among the American troops.

The Korean war, which was

undoubtedly a long step toward World War III, thus had contradictory effects. While enabling Wall Street to step up its military preparations for global conquest, it ended by inducing war weariness at home. The grass-roots bitterness over this "police action" is a new complication that America's capitalist rulers dare not overlook in deciding whether to start World War III soon or to postpone it.

Letters from Readers

Suggests Increased Correspondence on Union Problems

Editor:

I have been reading *The Militant* for quite some time and I notice that you have quite a bit of news on the UAW-CIO. I work in a General Motors plant and I am very interested in what *The Militant* reports in its pages. The news that you print is not available in the UAW's own publications.

I would like to suggest to your readers that they send in to your paper the news that is happening in their particular plants. Then we could get some idea of what's going on in other parts of the country. As it is now each of us is only familiar with what is happening in his locality. In short your paper could be used as a means of letting each other know what's going on.

The leadership of our Union only prints what they want us to know and I'm quite sure there must be more things going on than what is printed in the UAW publications.

For instance on the West Coast the GM workers are very unhappy with the five-year contract. In fact, not even the Reutherites will claim that it's a good contract, although they were the ones that sold it to the rank and file.

The speedup in our plant is terrific and the only thing the International Representatives say is to write grievances and the International will back you up. In the meantime the worker has to maintain the pace that the employer has set and by the time the International forces the Local Union through all the steps of the grievance procedure you are practically dead. They say if you strike over the issue you won't win anything because GM will transfer the production to some other plant and you won't be able to meet your bills and they will freeze you out till you are ready to return to work under the old conditions.

I'm sure that these tactics are applied to the other unions as well.

If you will print our letters, other union members will read them, and perhaps we can exchange our ideas and information through *The Militant*.

I do not want to take up too much space, instead I think it would be better to write shorter letters frequently than long letters at longer intervals.

J. D. Van Nys, Calif.

Congratulations on Nomination of David L. Weiss

Editor:

Warmest congratulations on the Socialist Workers Party nomination of David L. Weiss as candidate for Mayor of New York.

I am certain that he and those associated with him in the SWP campaign will do great credit to the cause of socialism and most sincerely hope that all members of the Socialist Party in New York City will give him their full support in waging the common fight.

Fraternal yours,

George R. Stryker,
Treasurer, Local Nassau-Suffolk Socialist Party

Layoffs Increase in Chicago Plants

Editor:

The Chicago plants have started layoffs and from all appearances there are more coming.

In my shop there has been a decided increase in conversations about the economic health of the country. Invariably the workers connect the layoffs with the Korean true. They note that layoffs haven't been so heavy since 1949. There is an immediate response to the slogan for a 30-hour week at 40-hours pay. The Republican administration is often blamed.

"It's a damn shame that we can't keep these plants going without a war" is no longer a radical idea.

On the whole I would say that the workers around me are not demoralized by the situation. They feel fairly sure they can get jobs elsewhere for a while anyway. They expect a small depre-

sion but not like '29. (If you ask them why not like '29 they have no answer — it's merely a hope.)

They don't know what the answer is but, "If this keeps up we're going to have to do something."

Some workers are reading the financial pages of the daily press and report to the others what plants are laying off in which city. Many have expressed admiration for the French workers. "Four million at a time, that's the way to do it."

In a word, the immediate period we are living in seems to be characterized by increased discussion of social questions and deeper thought concerning them.

B. D. Chicago, Ill.

Offers Criticism On Two Articles in 'The Militant'

Editor:

I enclose \$2 for your fund drive. I'm not sure if the drive is over or not, but I guess you know what to do with the money, in any case. I've had four surgical operations since I wrote to you last, and this is my first week back on my job, and I'm sending you this money out of my first pay.

If I can ever get back enough health, I'll try to sell a few papers. Nothing would please me more than if I could build up a route of customers for *The Militant*.

And now may I say the critical part? I am addressing the important part of my criticism to Mr. Hansen; I usually admire his articles very much. In the issue of Aug. 24, he writes the first of a series of articles about the H-Bomb and the next world war.

The tone of his article implies that if Wall Street attacks the Soviet Union with H-bombs, then the Soviet Union would be justified in doing the same thing, even if it caused 50,000,000 civilian deaths.

And that is what I must object to — Mr. Hansen, do you believe that one atrocity justifies another?

My other criticism is on the defense of the atomic scientists in the same issue of the paper; they are as guilty as hell, they gave the capitalist class the worst weapon the world had ever known, and they KNEW the capitalist class would use it against helpless populations.

When they committed this terrible crime, they earned the hatred of mankind, and they certainly deserve it!

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To Safeguard Your Wages

Another rise in the cost-of-living index between mid-June and mid-July gave more than a million workers who are protected with an escalator clause in their contracts an additional one cent an hour in their paychecks.

No matter how inadequate the escalator clause is, as it has been formulated by the labor bureaucracy, it still constitutes a measure of protection against inflation. About 98% of the working class has not yet won even the principle of automatic wage adjustment to accompany increased living costs. That means that the overwhelming majority of American workers took another cut in their real wages with the new rise in the cost of living.

The need to fight for protection against inflation is emphasized with every new wave of price increases. But in this struggle the working class will not get the help of the American Stalinist newspaper, the *Daily Worker*, which has opposed the escalator clause from the very beginning. The Stalinists have not confined their opposition to the obvious weaknesses in present contracts but have attacked it in principle. And naturally they attempt to ridicule an automatic wage adjustment to rising living costs as a "Trotskyist" invention.

The argument of the *Daily Worker* has been that the escalator clause constitutes a "wage freeze."

However, the *Wall Street Journal* which

is also opposed to the escalator clause, complains that just the opposite is the case. In an editorial Aug. 28 the *Wall Street Journal* says that "...labor unions which have succeeded in putting the clause in their contracts with employers have taken the first opportunity to ask that the additional pay resulting from it be consolidated into the basic wage rates." The editorial concludes that "when existing wage contracts that include the clause have expired, employers will be disposed to take another look at escalation."

Those workers whose unions are strong enough to win an escalator clause are also in the best position to increase their basic pay; and thus not only protect existing living standards but improve them as well.

The opposition of the *Wall Street Journal*, spokesman for big business, is to be expected, for every pay increase the workers win comes out of the profits of the capitalist. But the opposition of the *Daily Worker* shows how far removed the Stalinists are from the real interests of the American workers.

As inflation eats into the standard of living of the working class, all obstacles to the extension and strengthening of the escalator clause must be overcome. The conception of automatic wage adjustment must also be extended to include automatic pension increases with living costs. Those with fixed incomes are always the hardest hit in periods of inflation.

The Bar Commits a Crime

The American Bar Association, meeting in Boston Aug. 26, committed a serious crime against civil liberties. We say this despite the fact that they passed two good resolutions — one against "book burning" and another upholding the right of lawyers to defend anyone regardless of his political beliefs.

It's a fine thing to speak out against "book burning." The *Militant* is always eager to hail any step, however small, against the reactionary McCarthyite tide. But we can't stand hypocrisy and double talk. The American Bar Association policy committee passed a measure calling for a political blacklist of the legal profession. A preliminary blacklist has already been drawn up and submitted to the attorney general.

With this blacklist they open a political heresy hunt in the field of legal practice. Lawyers who don't hold the "right" ideas are subject to disbarment, likewise lawyers who don't cooperate with Congressional inquisitorial bodies.

These are the same people who passed a pious resolution against "book burning." They say they believe that the "truth can be counted on to prevail in a free competition of ideas." But it is clear they want to supplement "free competition" with coercion and blacklists.

Their blacklist is so all-inclusive that it names lawyers smeared as "communists" in the testimony of "friendly" witnesses before McCarthy's committees. Provisions

for getting off the blacklist require that a victim turn stoolpigeon.

The ABA's witch hunt measure is a big victory for the McCarthyite forces. It has been their aim all along to drive the witch hunt deep into national life by blackmailing organizations, unions and professional groups into establishing a voluntary, self-imposed purge.

The union bureaucracy has been playing this game for many years. The reasoning they used was that "If we don't clean our own house, they'll do it for us." This only resulted in feeding the demands and appetites of the witch hunters. It didn't save the union bureaucracy from becoming a target for the McCarthyites.

The American Bar Association is playing with fire. They have set a precedent that will be seized upon by the McCarthyites. They will attempt to follow up in the medical and other professions. That's why the ABA's declarations against "book burning" are worthless. Actually it serves as a cover for the blacklist move. Eisenhower has given the cue to faint-hearted capitulators to McCarthyism. He showed how to make cheap meaningless protests against "book burning" and then cover up the real witch hunters and book burners with silent consent or measures of his own.

The legal profession has a big job on its hands to reverse these reactionary moves. Lawyers will hardly be in position to fight for civil rights of their clients if they are to be straitjacketed by their own professional organization.

The Legion's Roman Holiday

The political atmosphere in the United States generated by Wall Street's war drive had its perfect expression at the American Legion Convention in St. Louis this week. Every war-mongering, witch-hunting, race-baiting proposal was passed. It was a Roman holiday for reaction with the smell of a lynching bee against anything that doesn't conform with the war preparations.

Speeches choking with reactionary hatred for unions and "Reds," patriotic hysteria and the defense of "white supremacy" are not unusual features of a Legion convention. What is notable is that the Legion no longer stands out as a reactionary sore thumb. It is entirely in tune with the times as expressed in the official summits of the government — and in the top circles of the labor movement.

This is made graphically evident by comparing the Legion's resolutions, the speech of John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, and the speech of George Meany, head of the American Federation of Labor.

The American Legion called for the following measures: If peace "fails" in Korea, the United States should use its full military strength including "every weapon at its disposal" to open up all-out war. In harmony with this proposal to hurl the H-bomb it called for stepping up the witch hunt by investigating and prosecuting "if necessary" the American Civil Liberties Union. It pointed to the "communist and socialist" infiltration of unions as a "stark menace to our freedom." It called on Eisenhower to block entrance of "displaced persons" to the U.S. It defeated a proposed amendment to the Legion constitution bar-

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's policies. These are expressed in its editorials.

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Republic Steel Firings Hurt Youngstown Local

By Jack Wilson

YOUNGSTOWN, Aug. 30—International officers of the United Steelworkers of America have reached an agreement with Republic Steel Corp. providing for the discharge of Charles Kalby, President of the 5,500 member Local, and the disciplining of 12 other officers and members of the Local for allegedly allowing work stoppages and slowdowns to occur at the steel plant.

The union officers who agreed to this settlement were Arthur Goldberg, chief counsel for the International, representing Pres. David J. McDonald; James P. Griffin, district director of the Youngstown area; and Russell Thomas, staff representative serving Local 1331.

The agreement included the following provisions:

(1) Three men to get a one-week suspension.

(2) Four men to get a 3 1/2-week suspension.

(3) Five workers to get a 7-week suspension and then be reinstated on probation.

(4) Pres. Kalby to be fired and the union to take no action through grievance procedure to get him reinstated.

(5) The union and the company to cooperate in seeking harmonious relations to increase efficiency.

URGE ACCEPTANCE

At a meeting Aug. 27, officers of Local 1331 urged the members to accept the agreement, which had been negotiated by the International officers.

Even Kalby urged acceptance, saying he had agreed to be fired. He said that he had visited a member of supervision, accepted sole responsibility for all the work stoppages, and agreed to accept being fired if the other 12 were reinstated.

In accepting sole responsibility, Kalby of course did not present an accurate picture. The company is responsible in most cases for the way it treats its workers. Moreover, Kalby was fired because he was the president of the Local. Such a firing constituted an attack against the union and not against Kalby as an individual. It was a union case and not Kalby's own grievance.

Very few of those who urged acceptance put full responsibility on the company. Most apologized for taking part in work stoppages and talked about greater utilization of grievance procedure.

Others showed fear of the Eisenhower administration, declaring that the Taft-Hartley Law

A Presidential panel that studied the first general strike in the atomic city of Oak Ridge, Tenn., last July recommended a seven-cent-an-hour wage boost Aug. 17.

The AFL Atomic Trades and Labor Council had at first demanded an increase of 15 cents an hour, later pared it to 10 1/2 cents. It was believed that the union would accept the panel's recommendation.

Persian Royalists Demonstrate



Pro-royalist troops stage triumphant parade through streets of Teheran following overthrow of Iranian Premier Mohammed Mossadegh, paving way for return of recently exiled young monarch, Shah Riza Pahlavi. Shah's picture is carried on tank. The monarchist coup caused rejoicing in Big Business circles in the U.S. and Great Britain. They expect to regain their grip on the oil industry which was expropriated under Mossadegh.

Where France Stands After the Strikes

(Continued from page 1)

come a revolutionary fact. Only the treachery of the official leaderships prevented this.

Third, by the revolutionary deed of general strike they submitted the relationship of forces between the workers and capitalists to a rigorous test. The test showed that the decisive power was with the workers. The Lanier regime was revealed to have no mass support and according to all reports could not rely on either the police force or the army.

Fourth, they balked at allowing their unity of action and their newly founded organs of common struggle to be disrupted by the treachery of the Catholic-Socialist leaders on the one hand and the Stalinists on the other. They were determined to either stay out together or go back together.

LEADERS' BETRAYAL

What did the official leaders do? They were dragged along by the enormous impetus of the mass movement of the workers. This is not in the least to their credit. The general strike demands conscious guidance toward a clearly defined goal, not merely being "dragged along." The general strike poses the question of struggle for power. In such a situation to be "dragged along" and to maneuver "not to be outflanked from the left" is treachery. The "leaders" were chicken-hearted, frightened philistines who had been thrust against their desire to the head of a great revolutionary movement of the French working class. They proved worthless as leaders; worse than worthless, they were untrue to the trust the workers had placed in their hands.

The Socialist-Catholics, through

the agency of the MNR (Catholic party) representatives in the government, were the first to order a return to work. Without gaining even a minimum of the basic demands of the workers they accepted promises and a few token concessions. The Stalinists denounced the leaders of the Socialist-Catholic trade unions as betrayers — which was correct. They called on the workers to stay out until their demands were met and appealed to the ranks of the other trade union federations to continue the strike under CGT leadership. This "left" maneuver does not in the slightest exonerate the Stalinists for the role they played. Calling on the workers to stay out on strike without carrying the struggle to its conclusion — to a political solution through taking state power — meant compounding their treachery with irresponsibility.

Together with the Socialist and Catholic trade union leaders the Stalinist leaders didn't lift a finger to organize the kind of struggle that the situation demanded from the first moment. Where was the broad congress of labor to generalize and reproduce at the top the unity of action that had been achieved below? Where was the call to establish a Workers and Peasants Government which would have given national political direction and perspective to the powerful mass initiative? The leaders killed the strike by deliberately marking time. The Stalinists clamped down on all initiative and proposals from the ranks calling for a united workers struggle for power. They remained inactive when the moment called for audacity. This is sometimes the worst, the most despicable form of treachery.

The basic reason why these leaders were wretchedly unequal to the moment is that they owe their primary allegiance not to the workers but to the capitalists or the Kremlin. The Social Democrats and the Catholics are the direct agents of French capitalism and Wall Street. The Stalinists are the agents of the Kremlin, who, on Kremlin orders, "deliver" the workers to the capitalists in payment for some actual or hoped-for Kremlin deal.

The Stalinists in France are under orders from the Kremlin to refrain at all costs from taking power. They are motivated by two considerations in this.

CRISIS NOT OVER

Nothing has been settled. This means that the solution to the crisis still remains the political act of installing a government of the Communist and Socialist parties, on a program of socialist measures.

In the course of fighting for this urgent slogan the vanguard of the French working class can be welded together and the treacherous leadership of the official workers organizations removed.

The crisis is far from over. The struggle will reach new heights. The masses have learned. They must be helped by the revolutionists to find their true leadership in the heat of further struggle. The Trotskyists, who have been fighting with great energy and determination for a revolutionary program, now have an historic opportunity and task. Trotsky taught that even a small revolutionary cadre, armed with the correct program and a burning will to make that program live in the experience of the masses, can grow very rapidly under conditions of such an upsurge of the workers.

The conditions of growth for the forces of a revolutionary party are better than they have ever been. All the prerequisites for a solution to the crisis of leadership are present. The masses have shown they are distrustful of the bureaucratic misleaders. They are still loyal to their organizations but they are seeking all possible ways and means for

exerting their will through these organizations against the policy of the traitor-leaders.

The moment is at hand for the Trotskyist movement in France to grow rapidly. Coming events will provide fresh confirmation of their proposals in the daily experience of the masses. Lenin's words to the Bolsheviks after the February 1917 revolution in Russia, when the leadership of the masses was still in the hands of the Menshevik betrayers — has great application to the strategic task of the French Trotskyists, whatever the intervening stages. "Have the courage to build a new party and all the oppressed will come to you."

The American Council of Education announced Aug. 21 that 14 colleges or universities have refused to sign a contract with the U.S. Armed Forces Institute because of fear it gave the Government dismissal power over teachers. A "loyalty" clause could be used against any teacher whose ideas might not jibe with those of the Pentagon.

DETROIT Election Rally HEAR

Frank Lovell Candidate for Mayor

Speak on

"The Real Election Issue: How Can Labor Replace Big Business in City Hall?"

Sun., Sept. 13, 3 P.M.
6108 Linwood.

\$18,000 Fund Scoreboard

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
AKRON	\$ 150	\$ 175	117
CHICAGO	1,500	1,510	101
ST. LOUIS	75	75	100
Newark	500	452	90
Philadelphia	400	357	89
Buffalo	1,500	1,212	81
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	919	76
Los Angeles	2,500	1,593	64
Boston	550	349	63
Cleveland	350	215	61
Oakland	250	137	55
Milwaukee	400	202	51
New York	4,500	2,311	51
Pittsburgh	30	15	50
Youngstown	450	217	48
Flint	250	115	46
San Francisco	1,000	414	41
Seattle	450	183	41
Detroit	1,500	603	40
Allentown	60	10	17
General	385	178	46
Total through Aug. 31	\$18,000	\$11,242	62

Elite "Forget Times" With Biarritz Brawl

By John Black

Not all news from France deals with strikes, political unrest, colonial disorders and the perpetual cabinet crisis.

This morning over my coffee, toast and one egg, I pondered a dispatch from the fancy resort town of Biarritz in France. There the Spanish Marquis George de Cueva, who directs ballets, and his wife, the granddaughter of the late Standard Oil billionaire John D. Rockefeller, threw the party of the century — eighteenth century that is.

They built the party on the theme of France around the time of King Louis the Sixteenth. The reported cost of this little fling is said to have been up to \$20,000.

But it was worth it. Nearly 2,000 of the choicest bums of the international elite, wearing appropriate costumes of the period of Louis XVI, showed up to eat sucking pig off gold plates and revel

Ralph Cooper's Parole

By George Lavan

The New Jersey Parole Board has granted a parole to Ralph Cooper, last of the prisoners in the infamous Jim Crow frame-up of the Trenton Six case.

The freeing of Cooper was predicted in the March 2, 1953, Militant which analyzed the court windup of the case as a symmetrical frame up — that is, the case began with fake "confessions" and it ended with a fake "confession."

It will be recalled that after three trials, four of the Trenton Six — who had been sentenced to the electric chair — were freed by a jury. This jury brought in a compromise verdict by which two defendants — Collis English and Ralph Cooper — were sentenced to life. The "evidence" against these two, however, was the same as against the four who were freed. These were the "confessions" to which the Trenton Six had been forced to affix their signatures in order to secure an end to the merciless grilling, terrorization and administering of drugs by the police.

Collis English went back to prison until eventually the New Jersey Supreme Court got around to hearing the appeal. Their conviction was too raw and a new trial was ordered.

Meanwhile Collis English, whose weak heart had barely managed to keep going through the days and nights of police inquisition, a stay in the death house and three trials, died. The Trenton police and prosecutor, who wanted to end the running sore of their frame-up, which had become a political disgrace, somehow coerced or tricked Cooper into a deal.

When Cooper was brought before a judge for a routine setting of the date for his new trial he surprised reporters by stating that he wanted to change his plea from "Not guilty" to "No defense." Cooper said nothing more except to reply, "Yes, Sir," to several questions asked by the judge.

These questions with the answers were a "confession" that the police dic-

tated "confessions" with which the trial began were true. The judge thereupon congratulated Cooper and announced that this "confession" vindicated the Trenton police and prosecutor. He then gave Cooper a six-to-ten-year sentence, retroactive to the time of his arrest. Since Cooper had already been in prison for over five years this meant that he would be paid for his four "Yes, Sirs," by a parole in a matter of months. The announcement of Cooper's parole confirms what we said about the whole dirty deal.

No blame can be placed on Ralph Cooper — his "Yes, Sirs" endangered none of the other Trenton Six victims. Four had been acquitted and were thus beyond the reach of another trial. Collis English had succumbed to the American Way of Jim Crow frame-up and prison life (possibly his death was hastened by pressure put on him to make a "Yes, Sir" confession).

Cooper also knew there was no money for his new trial and this may have greatly influenced his decision to purchase his freedom with those "Yes, Sirs." Certainly there should be some soul-searching in the top NAACP offices and in the Jersey labor movement about this lack of money for a new trial.

The blame for this new mockery of justice and the official acceptance of a "confession" that everybody knows is a fraud rests squarely on the crooked, corrupt, Jim Crow Trenton police, district attorney and their abettors and protectors on the bench and in high political office.

These frame-up artists think they have saved face. They feel safe. If Cooper tells the truth they will revoke his parole, and after his parole is over, they think they can keep him quiet by threatening to prosecute him for perjury if he admits that his "Yes, Sirs" were lies to get out of prison. But the truth will out and out with it will go those blots on the face of humanity, the perpetrators of the Trenton Six frame-up, who just now are sitting high and mighty.

Texas Quizzes the Dead

By Lynn Ruggles

"Was Shakespeare loyal? A publisher in Texas may have to answer this question if he wants his books to be used as texts in any public school. Under a recently passed Texas law the publisher must sign an oath that 'to the best of his knowledge and belief the author of the textbook, if he were alive and available, could truthfully execute' the loyalty oath."

This brief item in the "Notes from the News" column of the Aug. 10 Militant is worth further thought.

If the Texas legislators effect a really thorough "loyalty check" on dead authors quite a few familiar works will be missing from the class rooms in that state.

In the English department, not only is Shakespeare to be questioned, but Milton, the great radical writer of his age, must be deleted. Shelley, who teaches that great art springs from social revolution, is verboten. Whitman must go; and, of course, William Morris, champion of the British and international working-class movement.

In the history department, we must omit one of the great historians of our time, C. A. Beard, for teaching that the class struggle is a principle of history.

In German literature, Goethe, the author of "Prometheus," must go, and certainly Heine, the associate of Marx.

The music department had better omit Beethoven. Schubert is not only occasionally seductive but downright blasphemous as well.

Notes from the News

EXPERT ADVICE. Under the caption "Invest, Don't Steal!" the financial section of the N. Y. Times, Aug. 30, reports the following item: "Why rob a bank? That is in effect what Eldon A. Grimm of Walston & Co. wrote the firm's customers last week when the news columns were full of the story of how the Franklin National Bank on Long Island was held up and robbed of \$191,280. Mr. Grimm observed that if the robber had invested \$1,000 in twenty shares of Franklin National Bank back in 1940, he now would have, as a result of stock dividends, 1,918 shares, with a market value of \$96,400. And in addition, over the last thirteen years he would have collected \$7,215 in cash dividends."

IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE SMARTER THAN THE BOSS. Preparing to lay off 400 employees, Harold E. Stassen gave an intelligence test to everyone in the Foreign Operations Administration, including himself. One of his employees who outscored Stassen on public affairs received a notice that he will be put in a lower classification with a cut in salary.

ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE NEW YORKERS today is a slum dweller, living in substandard quarters in dangerously deteriorating neighborhoods. According to Mr. Moses, head of the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance, the city is becoming sharply divided by class between the quite rich, living in new private housing, and the low-income families, living in public housing or the new slum jungles. The Department of Housing and Buildings, which is supposed to enforce tenement house laws, winks at many violations. According to the N. Y. Times, Aug. 30, this department "wants to know where hundreds of thousands of slum dwellers could go if it shut down every old tenement whose owner refused to make costly changes."

Even the ancient authors are not safe. Aeschylus does not pass a strict "loyalty check."

Most of the truly great writers have been on the side of the historic advances of their time. Many of them show a subversive tendency to hail the great social revolutions. Clearly, all of these are to be removed from Texas class rooms.

That does not mean that there will be no textbooks. All those writers who are dull, tedious, inconsequential may be sympathetically received by Texas legislators.

What these legislators do not understand is that it is not literature that brings social change onto the stage of history. It is the books of poverty, capitalist exploitation, and imperialist wars that are preparing the Texas worker, sharecropper, Negro and Mexican for socialism. It is the volumes of the policeman's club, disease-ridden slums, the witch hunt, and the book burnings that will teach young Texans social thinking — in a school over which the legislature has no control.

From such class rooms the youth of Texas may be expected to graduate with highest honors. When they have matriculated in this school there is no force capable of keeping from their hands history's great writings.

By day they will interpret Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky with magnificent understanding. By night they will take inspiration and enjoyment from the rest.

A NEW YORK TENEMENT BUILDING was in "actual and imminent danger" of falling, the tenants were told Aug. 26. With no previous notice the 50 families were ordered to leave the building immediately. However, the landlord had been notified of the unsafe condition of the building almost two years previously. It took pressure by the tenants to obtain emergency relief.

HARVARD'S IDEA OF FAIR PLAY was demonstrated in the case of Dr. Helen Dean Markham, associate professor of anatomy. Harvard Corporation which handles the administration of the University said: "We do not find proof which in our judgment is adequate to support finding that Dr. Markham is today under Communist domination." Thus lacking proof, the Corporation lifted her suspension, but announced that her contract would not be renewed next year.

A PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL BISHOP of New York, the Right Rev. Horace B. Donegan, was interviewed on his return from a vacation in Europe. Criticising McCarthy, the Bishop said: "It used to be a man was innocent until proven guilty. Now it's guilty until proven innocent." When one of the reporters asked if the Bishop thought he might be investigated for having made such a statement, he replied, "It's possible."

THE MOVIE "FROM HERE TO ETERNITY" was banned by the Navy because it is "extremely critical" of a sister service, the Army. Navy officials, after a private showing, decided that the film unfairly implied that most soldiers spend their spare time drinking and that officers and non-coms are sadists. However, the Army will not censor the film. A Pentagon official said that the Army was more or less "stuck" with it since they helped Hollywood make it.

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Petition for Strikers at Hearns



Over 150,000 New Yorkers have signed petitions calling on Hearns Department Stores to settle the strike called May 14 by Dist. 65, Distributive Processing & Office Workers (CIO). Above, a union member gets another signature on lower Broadway. Mass picketing was barred by a court order.

FRENCH POSTAL CLERKS SOUGHT WORKERS GOVT

The postal workers of Bordeaux belonging to the Socialist-led Workers Force took the initiative on August 4 which touched off the French general strike. The strike movement attained its highest level of organized unity in action among these government workers.

Strike committees were spontaneously formed which at once became the directing bodies of strike action on all levels where they were constituted. Delegates elected from these strike committees became their representatives on higher levels.

After the Socialist and Catholic leaderships of the postal unions sold out the strike and disrupted the unity in struggle by issuing a back-to-work order without obtaining satisfaction of the workers' basic demands from the government, a Congress of strike committees embracing 800 delegates unanimously decided to continue the strike.

They held an enormous meeting of 20,000 postal workers at the government Employment Office in Paris which filled the big Place de la Republique.

They set up a National Strike Committee including all the postal federations of the various unions which drew up the most complete list of demands of any category of workers on strike.

One official of the Postal Federation condemned the attitude of the Workers Force leaders and amidst enthusiastic approval formulated the three main aims of the strike as follows: abolition of the decree laws, convening of Parliament, and the constitution of a "Left" government serving the workers.

The lumber industry is the most dangerous in the country according to the National Safety Council. Coal mining is the second most dangerous. The accident rate in the lumber industry is 35.48 per million man hours as compared to an average rate of 8.4 in all other industries.

The union has gradually scaled down its wage demands and is now asking for increases of 20 to 30 cents. This is generally considered a fair demand in view of the fact that the present base wage for drivers in the East Bay area is \$1.64 an hour compared to \$1.88 in San Francisco.

Key has not upped its offer of a six-cent immediate raise, if and when a fare increase is granted, it has merely offered a further three cents six months after the first raise and five cents a year later. It offers no improvement in the rotten working conditions and demands a change from a one-year to a two-year contract.

The present Key fare is one of the highest on the West Coast, a minimum of 15 cents that increases by "zones" up to as much as 30 cents. If the present wage

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1953

Union Control of Transit Lines Urged in Oakland

By Paul Williams

OAKLAND, Cal., Aug. 28 — In voting unanimously to continue their solid East Bay transit strike until their demands are met, the members of AFL Carmen's Union Division 192 are defying the combined strikebreaking efforts of the wealthy Key transit system, the boss press and radio, the capitalist-ruled politicians and the federal conciliators.

We are getting a first-class demonstration of how all these agencies work together against labor. Hardly a day passes without front page editorials lamenting the plight of the "Public" or statements and resolutions of the City Council calling for a return to work at once.

The Key System workers have voted unanimously to stay out because the contemptuous "offer" of the company and the nerve-wracking working conditions have given them no other choice.

Owned by the National City Transit Corp., a nation-wide holding corporation, Key originally offered a six-cent hourly wage raise, if and when a five-cent fare increase is granted by the State Public Utilities Commission. The company refused even to examine the union's demand for wage increases of 30 to 40 cents and improvements in working conditions, particularly abolition of the split shift. When asked by the PUC and the Oakland City Council to open its books and demonstrate that a fare increase is required, Key dismally and evasively stated that its finances are its own business and no one else's.

The real public in this area is composed overwhelmingly of unionists, their families and friends. The solidarity of the labor movement has been well demonstrated. The Greater Alameda County (Oakland) CIO Council and the San Francisco CIO Council have joined with all AFL central labor bodies to support the strike. All unions in the area are now raising a fund to support the strike.

Pointing to the arrogant refusal of the Key System to open its books for public inspection, the East Bay Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has issued a press statement by Mrs. Lillian Kiegel, former mayoralty candidate, and a leaflet calling for "OPERATION OF THE KEY SYSTEM UNDER UNION CONTROL!"

Calling for a Bay Area Com-

gress of Labor to discuss organized labor's intervention in the transportation emergency, the SWP urged that the profit-making Key System "be taken out of the hands of the mammoth monopoly. Transportation must be publicly owned and controlled by representatives of the workers who run and ride it. Only in this way can we get an adequate system of transportation with fares that would be adjusted to the prevailing average wage. Only then will the Carmen receive just and decent wages for their job. We extend our solidarity to the Carmen's strike."

East Bay Area Transit Strikers Reject "Offer"

(Continued from page 1)

He added that "the strike was forced on us and we are going to stay out until we get a decent offer if we have to stay out for five months." This was greeted by vigorous applause. At none of the meetings today was a single voice raised to ask "When do we go back to work?"

Emil Scala, Vice President and Strike Committee member, reported that when Key System Vice President Sims accused him of not bringing the six-cent proposal back to the membership, Scala replied: "I am not looking to be run out of town by the membership for bringing back such an offer."

Al Noel, International Vice President, informed the meeting that the international union had no intention of intervening in the prolonged, militant strike. He said the international officers had confidence in the local leadership and members to continue in the fine manner they have fought up to now. He said they were a credit to the union movement.

Vice President Noel explained that even if the Key System paid the 14 cents all at once, this would raise the base pay only to \$1.82 an hour and the East Bay Carmen would still be the lowest paid on the West Coast. At the same time, the fare increase asked would raise fares to 20 cents minimum, equal to the highest charged on the whole coast.

In the Unions

By Joseph Keller

Dave Beck, Czar-President of the AFL International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has intervened in the eight-week strike of 1,200 sand, gravel and concrete truck drivers in the New York area with an ultimatum, that they accept terms immediately or he will order them to end their strike and submit their demands to arbitration. Beck issued his strikebreaking order after reactionary Mayor Impellitteri called on him to come in and end the walkout.

* * *

The striking drivers, members of Local 282, have demonstrated remarkable solidarity in resisting all efforts to get them to lower their demands below the 50-cents-an-hour increase which is the rock-bottom they say they will accept. They have taken the power to make a settlement away from the union officials and have forced the union negotiators to bring everything back for a vote of the members. On Aug. 18 they refused even to vote on an offer of 40 cents put forward by the bosses after their previous offer of 30 cents had provoked the strike affecting \$600,000,000 worth of private and public construction.

On Aug. 27, the strikers took a vote on the 40-cent offer and voted to reject it by 794 to 81. It was after this that Beck sent in Thomas L. Hickey, international vice president, and two others of his key agents to take over the negotiations from the Local 282 officials. The workers were given until Sept. 1 to accept a settlement or submit to arbitration, which almost certainly would give them far less than they could win if they fought the strike out.

At any rate, Beck is not maintaining the 100% monolithic, no-strike type of union he would like.

Striking Hearns Department Store workers in New York City gained ground in their militant four-month battle to maintain their contractual seniority system when the AFL Retail Clerks International Association ceased its efforts to help break the strike. The AFL union official withdrew their AFL petition seeking bargaining recognition "in the interests of good trade unionism." When 800 Hearns workers, organized in the CIO Distributive, at its coming convention,

Council, urged the Committee to withdraw the nomination for further consideration. This maneuver avoided the embarrassment of a rejection of the endorsement in a counted vote. Later on the verge of adjournment, the name was again submitted with a statement by Miriani pledging support of labor's interests. Without further discussion a vote was quickly taken and the endorsement carried with fully 40% of the 600 delegates opposed.

LOVELL'S STAND

The sentiment that was revealed in the debate serves to underscore the correctness of the statement made by Frank Lovell on filing as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor.

"The working people of Detroit enter the 1953 mayoralty campaign in face of widespread layoffs and unemployment," Lovell said. "The temporary cessation of the shooting war in Korea will bring more unemployment. The shut-down at Kaiser-Frazer foretells the future trend of events in this city."

"Prices and rents keep breaking records. To top it off, labor is confronted by an industry-Pentagon-inspired attack against their living conditions and their unions. Speed-up and union-busting threaten in many shops."

"It was the duty of the labor movement to protect the interests of its members by entering its own candidate. The failure of organized labor to run such a candidate permits Cobo to manipulate City Hall on behalf of the corporations, the banking and real estate interests."

"I am convinced that labor will make no real advance at this time unless it builds its own party and fights politically as well as economically. Independent political action by labor in this city, center of the mighty CIO Auto Workers, could well set in motion a nation-wide movement toward formation of a Labor Party."

The dissatisfaction with the present political action policy, expressed by the convention delegates, is bound to grow and become clarified as the acute problems confronting the labor movement become even sharper in the days ahead.

At this point, Al Barbour, more astute Secretary-Treasurer of the