

Leading Radicals On West Coast Back Jack Wright

SEATTLE, Feb. 2 — Terry Pettus, Northwest editor of the People's World, a west coast weekly associated with the Communist Party, today announced his support to Jack Wright for the Seattle City Council. Wright is running on the platform of the Socialist Workers Party and has the endorsement of Local 158, International Molders and Foundry Workers, to which he belongs. Growing united socialist support for Wright was given strong added impetus with the release on Jan. 28 of a letter of endorsement from Vincent Hallinan, 1952 Progressive Party Presidential candidate, who has been playing a major role in the national movement for united socialist action.

SMITH-ACT VICTIM

Terry Pettus, one of the Seattle Smith Act victims who recently won reversal of their conviction, declared his support of Wright at a Washington Pension Union forum this afternoon. Pettus told the forum that Wright has been virtually the only candidate to inject real issues into the campaign. Referring to Wright's endorsement by the Socialist Workers Party and the Molders Union, Pettus stressed the fact that the supposedly "non-partisan" character of the Councilmanic campaign is really a farce in that all candidates, in reality, represent particular interests. (Continued on page 2)



VINCENT HALLINAN

Young Socialists Hold Spirited Chicago Party

CHICAGO, Feb. 4 — The building of the socialist youth movement in America made a major advance this week with the successful convening of the Midwest Conference of Socialist Youth Feb. 1 and 2, in a beautifully decorated Hall at the University of Chicago. About 140 young workers and students from more than 16 cities and 12 colleges and high schools, representing nearly every shade of socialist political opinion, met to discuss the problems facing today's youth and to outline steps to deal with them. All young socialists had been invited regardless of political affiliation.

The Conference passed with but one dissenting vote a resolution demanding that the State Department return the passports of the 42 students who visited China in defiance of an unwarranted government ban. This resolution and others that were passed will go to the appropriate government agencies as well as to youth groups in this country, Europe and Asia.

The conference heard a report on the case of Morton Sobell and passed a resolution unanimously backing efforts to free him from Alcatraz. It also condemned as an infringement of civil liberties the conviction of Gil Green and Henry Winston under the Smith Act, called for a halt to the testing of nuclear weapons and an end to restrictions on passports.

SET UP BULLETIN

In a further action, the group voted to establish a mimeographed bulletin containing news of the activities of all clubs represented at the Conference as well as discussion material on political and theoretical questions. Each club will be asked to appoint a correspondent to the bulletin. All material submitted to the

Southern Editor Greets Conference

Eugene Feldman, editor of Southern News, delivered an inspiring address to the Midwest Conference of Socialist Youth, held in Chicago, Feb. 1 and 2. "You are the future," he said. "Not the young Republicans, not the young Democrats, but you are the future." The Conference sent a message of greetings to Mrs. Daisy Bates of Little Rock, Ark., and the Negro students of Central High School for their courageous fight against the racists.

LAYOFFS IN RUBBER

The rubber industry, like auto and steel, does not try to "whittle away at this tire mountain" by price cuts. That would reduce profits. Big Business answers with production cuts and layoffs. The United Rubber Workers union estimates close to 2,000 have been laid off in Akron rubber plants alone with another 1,000 layoffs expected in a week or so.

But the jobless are not the only ones with problems. The Feb. 6 N. Y. Mirror reports, "When the President's council of economic advisers wrote his economic message to Congress, they were given strict instructions not to use that fatal word 'recession.' As a result Chairman Raymond Saulnier, who wrote most of the message, kept a dictionary on hand to look up words that meant the same thing as 'recession' but sounded better..."

(See other stories on jobless, page four.)

bulletin will be published, the group declared. The board of editors will not have the right to refuse any article. In this way, the bulletin will be representative of all points of view, and cannot become the mouthpiece of any particular tendency. Cost of publication is to be borne by supporting clubs.

The Conference worked in seminars, panels and general sessions. It heard reports on youth activities in various cities, discussed economic problems, civil liberties, civil rights and the struggle for peace. The entire conference met Saturday afternoon for the discussion on civil liberties. Norman Hodgett of the Denver Young Socialist Club spoke on the struggle against the witch hunt on the campus. I. Warwick of Chicago spoke on

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Denial of Jersey Hall to Radicals Hit by ACLU

NEWARK, Feb. 4 — The American Civil Liberties Union today protested actions by red-baiters here and in nearby Paterson trampling on the rights to free speech and assembly. Rental of a hall was cancelled here for a meeting scheduled to hear Tim Wohlforth, editor of the Young Socialist. Last month, in Paterson, a meeting hall rented for a reception for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Martha Stone of the Communist Party was cancelled. The hall cancelled for the Wohlforth meeting is in the Masonic Auditorium, 188 Belmont Avenue. On Jan. 31, the rental payment was returned along with a letter which stated: "It is learned by the management, through sources which cannot be disclosed, that the name of your organization is 'Un-American' and not the labor group as designated. Therefore, it is the policy . . . not to allow such

Bronx Reception To Honor Eliz. Gurley Flynn

FEB. 3 — The Bronx Committee for Civil Liberties is sponsoring a reception for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn on Saturday, Feb. 22, 8:30 P.M., at 683 Allerton Ave., in the Bronx, New York. Miss Flynn spent three years in Alderson federal prison after being framed on Smith-Act charges. Ironically, it was only after men and women like her had been convicted and served their sentences that the Supreme Court ruled against some of the unjust features of the Smith-Act, making convictions much more difficult to obtain.

As a result of these Supreme Court decisions in June of last year, new Smith-Act cases were dropped. But the limitations placed thereby on the persecution of workers for their political views came too late to save Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and others from years in prison.

At the reception Miss Flynn will be greeted by Ammon Hennacy, "Pop" Mindel and others. A musical program has been arranged and refreshments will be served. A contribution of \$1.00 will be asked from those attending.

Socialist Studies Program To Feature Nathan, Lamont

The Socialist Unity Forum has announced its Winter Session of "A Program of Socialist Studies." Corliss Lamont and Dr. Barrows Dunham will deliver six lectures on "A Philosophy for Socialists." The class will be held on Tuesdays beginning Feb. 11, at 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Otto Nathan will speak under the heading, "A Socialist Looks at the American Economy." He will discuss boom and depression, prices, wages and inflation, international trade, and imperialism. His eight lectures will be on Tues-

days, beginning Feb. 11, at 8:30 P.M.

Kumar Goshal, of the National Guardian, will give six lectures on the social and political developments in China and India. Classes will be held on Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 12, at 6:45 P.M.

Science writer Irving Adler will head six sessions on "Science and Modern Life." Dr. Chandler Davis, of Columbia University, and Dr. Vernon King, a research chemist, will be guest lecturers. The sessions are on Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 12, at 8:30 P.M.

"The Contemporary Novel — English and American" will be the theme of eight lectures by Dr. Annette T. Rubenstein on Thursdays, beginning Feb. 13, at 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Stanley Moore will give six lectures on "State and Society," dealing with various Marxist and non-Marxist concepts of the state, on Thursdays, beginning Feb. 13, at 8:30 P.M.

All classes will be held at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Ave., New York. Admission for single lectures is \$1.50. Six lecture courses are \$7.50 and eight lecture courses are \$10. A 20% reduction will be made for couples or for registrants in two courses.

"What is a Peace Program?"

By Leon Trotsky

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Nathan Discusses War and Peace

By George Lavan

"War and Peace in the Atomic Age" was the subject of a lecture by Dr. Otto Nathan, distinguished Marxist economist and executor of the estate of his late friend, Albert Einstein, before the Militant Labor Forum in New York City on Feb. 1. The interest of the audience of 100 in the speaker's views was attested by the prolongation of the question-and-discussion period by popular demand for well over an hour. After the adjournment a large portion of the audience remained for informal discussions of the subject of the evening.

Dr. Nathan's thesis was that "war in the atomic age is qualitatively different from what war was in the pre-atomic age." The principal differences were that the imperialist wars between capitalist nations such as we have known in the past are today unlikely. What we face today is "a war which would be fought for an ideology to determine what kind of an economic and political system should exist throughout the world."

COP PUSHES PRIVATE BAN

The News also reported that a local captain of detectives, active in "veterans circles," says "he plans to put before the Veterans Council a proposal to request all owners of public meeting places to scan all requests for meetings, and if there is any reason to believe that the sponsors of any meeting are motivated by Communist sympathies that the meeting place be denied them and that the FBI be informed."

A letter from Patrick Malin Murphy, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, addressed to the editors of the Paterson News and the Paterson Call, said in part: "... we deplore what is an admitted discriminatory denial of the hall because of the meeting's political coloration . . . the Paterson community has been treated to an example of the thwarting of free speech. The decision reached in Paterson may have affected freedom of speech in other communities, too, for we have been informed that the Young Socialist Alliance in Newark has been denied the facilities of the Masonic Temple building for a meeting . . .

"We note in the press that persons will request veterans groups to urge all owners of public meeting places to scan carefully all future requests for their facilities, and if there is any question of Communist connection to deny the assembly. We hope public authorities and private hall owners will stand firm against this pressure and uphold the spirit of free assembly."

(Continued from page 1)

Army Security and Civil Liberties, Gil Turner of New York spoke on "The Right to Travel." The case of Morton Sobell was presented by Gene Tourneau of St. Louis. Steve Max of New York spoke on "Freedom for Political Prisoners — the Green, Winston Case." Sam Reed, defendant in the Cleveland Taft-Hartley case, spoke on his fight against government persecution.

'YOUNG SOCIALIST'

The final session of the Conference was devoted to a discussion of the youth paper, the Young Socialist. Tim Wohlforth, its editor, discussed the policy of the paper and the problem of extending its circulation, especially to high school and working-class youth.

Norman Hodgett of Denver described the successful campaigns on several campuses to assure



This poisonous mushroom cloud was released by the explosion of a giant hydrogen bomb at the United States testing site at Eniwetok in the Pacific. Realization that an H-bomb war could mean the end of civilization has made the fight for peace the number one issue confronting humanity.

friends, if war should come to day the entire territory of the world would be war territory."

Dr. Nathan, himself a victim of the witch hunt who has distinguished himself by his principled stand against the House Un-American Activities Committee and the passport division of the State Department, then gave an eloquent description of yet another change that modern war has brought about. This is the perversion of values and institutions in peacetime by the preparations for H-bomb war. Not only is there a slashing of all social benefits and legislation but a total "security" or witch hunt preparation of the home front is undertaken.

RISK TO MANKIND

The decisive change however, the speaker said, is the change in the character of weapons. Unlike World War I which, outside of the combat zones, did not physically endanger the civilian populations, World War II began with the bombing of cities. But, the U. S., because of its favored geographical position, was used every human being in the world might be annihilated.

(Continued from page 1)

the individual's "reliability." "This is clearly a mechanism for restricting political activity," she said.

Gil Turner of New York reviewed the case of the 42 students who traveled to China in defiance of the State Department's ban. "We are not going to let the State Department tell us where we can go," Mr. Turner said, "although we reserve the right to tell them at some time in the future where we can go."

Both the Justice Department and the courts have a stake in preventing justice for Morton Sobell, declared Gene Tourneau of St. Louis. If Sobell's conviction is reversed, the government thereby admits something was wrong with the case against the Rosenbergs, now executed. Sobell himself was convicted on the testimony of one witness, a confessed perjurer. The charge against Sobell was that he allegedly engaged in certain

conversations with the Rosenbergs. It was not alleged that he had actually passed any secrets to anyone, Tourneau pointed out. Yet Sobell must spend 30 years in Alcatraz unless efforts to free him are successful.

The fight against the Smith Act must continue, declared Steve Max of New York who reviewed the Green and Winston case. A petition for review of the Smith Act was refused recently by the Supreme Court. The defense is trying also for a review of the contempt charges against the two, which arose when the men jumped bail. Green and Winston are the first two in America to receive jail sentences for jumping bail, Max stated. This fact points up the punitive nature of the prosecution against them, he said.

(Continued from page 1)

Sam Reed, recently convicted along with six others of conspiracy to violate the Taft-Hartley Act, pointed out that theirs was the first "conspiracy" conviction under this act. Only two of the defendants, Fred and Marie Haug, were actually accused of falsely signing non-Communist affidavits. The others were accused of aiding the Haugs to do so by such acts as meeting with them or driving "co-conspirators" in a car. "The government, now that it has won this first case, plans to try to convict others in the same way," he warned. Reed urged the mobilization of all youth around the fight for civil liberties.

(Continued from page 1)

should give him all support. In addition, they should be grateful to him and the Socialist Workers Party for the sacrifice of their time and labor in presenting the electorate with an opportunity to learn and approve Socialist principles. I hope this campaign results in victory, at least to the extent of procuring enough votes to encourage support in future struggles."

DR. C. H. FISHER'S STAND

Another gratifying message of support came to the rally from Dr. C. H. Fisher, President of the Washington Pension Union. Dr. Fisher wrote: "We had the pleasure of hearing Jack Wright, City Council candidate, speak to the regular Sunday Afternoon Forum of the Pension Union, and who heard him are in complete sympathy with his program and endorse his position on the questions of the day. We are glad he is running as an independent and socialist candidate, and wish him success in his campaign."

At the rally a declaration of support to Wright was also made by Dr. Jay Friedman, national committee member of the American Forum — For Socialist Action. Previously, in a written endorsement, Dr. Friedman said:

"I wish to express my endorsement of your candidacy for City Councilman on a labor-socialist

possessing its own military force, and with various changes such as end of the great-power veto."

Saying that he knew many would be completely opposed to his proposal, Dr. Nathan continued: "But as socialists we must have the abolition of war as our guidepost. Unless we build a world movement against war the abolition of war will never come."

DISCUSSION PERIOD

In the lively discussion period that followed, all speakers agreed with Dr. Nathan about the paramount need of socialists to crusade for world peace. However, many challenged as unrealistic his belief that America's capitalist ruling class would ever agree to permanent and total disarmament or to world government in which it would have to abide by the majority vote of all nations.

A crusade to abolish war will get an increasingly favorable response from the American working people, one speaker said. Socialists must organize that sentiment, expose American Big Business as the source of the war danger, and work for the elimination of its rule and for the democratic rule of the working people. This would lead to world peace and to socialism.

Dr. Nathan defended his views vigorously, and from the stimulating clash of ideas many interesting arguments emerged. However, it is quite safe to say that when the chairman reluctantly declared the meeting adjourned the question remained far from exhausted or settled.

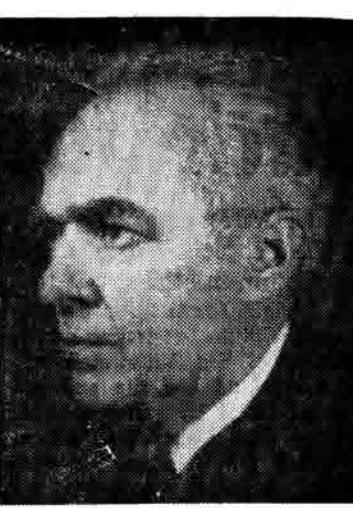
'WORKER' ATTACK

Several weeks prior to Dr. Nathan's appearance at the Militant Labor Forum, the weekly newspaper, The Worker, refused to accept a paid advertisement of the meeting. Representatives of the forum could get no explanation or justification of this action from the management of the Worker. The next issue (Feb. 2) of that paper, however, carried a news item to the effect that Dr. Nathan would speak at the Militant Labor Forum on Feb. 1. This was followed by the statement: "A paid advertisement for the above, submitted by the Trotskyite group running the Militant Labor Forum,

was rejected by The Worker. Dr. Nathan, a veteran fighter for peace, is honored by The Worker. The Trotskyites, who term 'peaceful coexistence' as 'international class collaboration' are another matter entirely. The Worker does not care to accept their ads."

It was in reference to the banning of the advertisement for the meeting that Dr. Nathan said in his opening remarks: "I feel honored that I was asked to appear before you tonight. . . . And I feel it my duty to accept. Whether it is the Militant or Socialist Workers Party, or whether it is the Communist Party, or whether it is any independent forum — wherever freedom of speech is guaranteed, I shall be there."

"And I wish we would deal with each other with humility and tolerance, that we would not deny to each other the announcement of one another's lectures. . . . I hope that the Militant would not do the same as that other newspaper tried



OTTO NATHAN

to do with the announcement of this meeting. Unless we accord to one another . . . tolerance and decency we shall never be able to build up the kind of movement which we all hope for."

'Future of U.S. Socialism' Topic At Bronx Forum

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 — A major step in extending the regroupment discussion initiated by the American Forum for Socialist Education to the New York boroughs was

slate run on a minimum program of opposition to the U.S. government's war plans, for civil rights, against support to capitalist politicians, and for Socialism.

Joseph Clark stated he was re-reading Marx and reviewing all aspects of socialist tactics and strategy. He expressed doubt that many of Marx's tenets were valid today. He warned socialists of the dangers of self-delusion, and declared that adding all the present socialist groups together would still produce a zero. He did not indicate what form a new socialist movement would have, nor what its program would be. He advised socialists to overcome their isolation and enter the mass organizations of the workers.

The four speakers were Dr. Albert Blumberg, member of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party, Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, Joseph Clark, former foreign editor of the Daily Worker and Rev. A. J. Muste, Chairman of the American Forum for Socialist Education.

REASONS FOR LOW EBB

Dr. Blumberg was the first to speak. He began with an analysis of the low ebb in which the socialist movement finds itself today. He cited three reasons for this ebb: McCarthyism, the expansion of U.S. capitalism following World War II and the errors of the radical parties. The latter consisted of five mistakes, according to Blumberg. "The socialist movement in all of its varieties has been the victim of sectarian practices," he said. In addition socialists had a "dogmatic and intolerant attitude." Thirdly, "We Communists were wrong in thinking we had some kind of monopoly" on socialism. But, Blumberg added, "We are not going to relinquish this monopoly so that other groups can claim a monopoly . . .

"The Communist Party was wrong with its blind acceptance of the Soviet Union without developing its own independent view," he said and added, "Other groups also made the mistake of blind rejection of everything that happened in the Soviet Union." And finally, the "socialist movement of these years was characterized by a great disunity."

Blumberg came to three conclusions on the basis of his analysis. Our first task, he said, is to plunge into the broad movements of the people around such issues as peace, the economic crisis and civil rights. Secondly we must spread and deepen the process of discussion among the radicals and lastly, we must seek "an increasing joint action of various socialist currents."

FOR JOINT SLATE

Farrell Dobbs, the second speaker, made a concrete proposal for joint action. He proposed a united socialist ticket for the 1958 New York elections. He pointed to the sharpening contradictions of capitalism on the world arena that in turn are producing worsening conditions and dissatisfaction among the masses at home. The past year, he declared, has shown increasing signs of a desire of advanced workers to break out of the strait jacket of two-party politics. "The support given by the National Guardian, Vincent Hallinan and others to the SWP candidates in 1957," he said, "indicates good prospects for assembling a slate of socialist candidates from various tendencies that would draw the support of tens of thousands of workers." He proposed that such a socialist

The Soviet Union

WHAT IT IS WHERE IT IS GOING

A guide to the study of Leon Trotsky's "The Revolution Betrayed."

By Theodore Edwards

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That '54 Support to Harriman

On Feb. 4 Democratic Governor Harriman of New York recommended reenactment of the witch-hunting Security Risk Law, as well as amendment of the Civil Service law to make Communist Party membership evidence for firing state employees. This latter would take off the state and put on the victimized employee the burden of proof about advocating "overthrow of the government by force and violence."

Harriman's moves to prolong the witch-hunt atmosphere call to mind his election in 1954. Then his opponent was liberal Republican Irving Ives, politically pretty

much a carbon copy of the liberal Democrat. Yet, in that campaign, the Daily Worker, ostensibly pledged to the American Labor Party ticket, began whooping it up for a Democratic victory.

Undoubtedly many radical workers fell for this piece of Stalinist jesuitism. Whether they constituted the slim margin of Harriman's victory, they certainly constituted the vote deficit that lost the ALP its place on the ballot. Those radical workers should now read Harriman's witch-hunt recommendations and ponder the lesson. Not as an abstract lesson in history, but as preparation for what should be done in this year's election.

High Priest of the Dollar

That outstanding hypocrite of our time, pistifical, sanctimonious Secretary of State Dulles, tries to portray U.S. imperialist policy as pure moral endeavor on behalf of a free world. This "free world," of course, includes such figures as the recently overthrown tyrant of Venezuela. The police-state brutalities and concentration camps of that unhappy country escaped Dulles' moral fulminations and received a minimum of notice from the capitalist press in the U.S. For they were useful in the protection of over \$3 billion in U.S. capital invested there.

Now that a wave of anti-U.S. imperialism is sweeping Latin America, critics of Dulles like Drew Pearson attribute it in

part to "the repeated statements of John Foster Dulles blessing the dictatorship of President Perez Jimenez and calling it, in effect, a model for South America."

Now that rebel leader Fidel Castro has launched a campaign against dictator Batista that may damage the considerable U.S. holdings in Cuba, the New York Times (Feb. 3) notes "the U.S. State Department's attitude toward Señor Castro" may change "from one of apparent neutrality to outright hostility."

Thus Dulles draws inspiration for his "moral" and "free-world" policies in Latin America not from Holy Writ but from the foreign investment tables of U.S. Big Business.

It Won't Help the Teamster Ranks

One Federal judge, Hoffa's lawyers, and lawyers representing 13 members of the Teamsters union have usurped the prerogatives of the union's membership and given a Federal court the power to rule the union. All this in the name of defending the rights of the membership — which was not consulted.

The suit which gave rise to the deal was filed last fall in the name of 13 IBT members who charged that 50% of the delegates to the September IBT convention had not been selected according to the union's constitution. The suit did nothing to change the convention which selected Hoffa and a partially new IBT executive board. But Federal Judge F. Dickenson Letts issued an injunction barring the new officials from taking office until a decision on the suit was reached.

The trial was begun in December and attorneys for the 13 members rested their case last week. Then, during a recess, lawyers for both sides worked out a "compromise" which was agreed to by Judge Letts. Under this deal, Letts dissolved the restraining order barring Hoffa and the new executive board from taking office. But the court retains jurisdiction over the case and the Judge can suspend the IBT officials any time he finds a "breach of good faith."

To watch over the "good faith" of the IBT officials, a three-man board of monitors was agreed upon. They will over-

see the finances, elections and qualifications for elective office of the entire union. This board of monitors is to serve for at least one year and thereafter until a convention is held to elect new officers. It will also draw up a "model code of local union bylaws."

The lawyer for the 13 members who brought the suit, Godfrey Schmidt, has been appointed one of the "monitors."

Schmidt first gained fame as legal counsel to Cardinal Spellman when Spellman was breaking the famous New York cemetery strike in 1949. He was an outspoken McCarthyite and the head of AWARE, a blacklisting agency which ran roughshod over the democratic rights of Radio and TV union members during the height of the McCarthy era. He has also spoken on radio in favor of "right-to-work" laws.

The entire deal has been denounced by the major, organized anti-Hoffa forces in New York, who have called instead for a union-wide referendum to pick a new set of international officers.

A committee for the "New Deal" slate that is seeking to unseat Hoffa's chief local supporter, John J. O'Rorke, as president of the Teamsters Joint Council in New York, issued the following statement which is right to the point: "Unions must be controlled by their membership. The appointment of outside czars, dictators or 'monitors' does not contribute to this objective."

"Give Me that Pencil; I'm a 'Communist' Too!"

By Ruth Norton

For those who in the past years may have experienced apathy and red-baiting while trying to get petitions signed for some working-class or civil-liberties cause, there is a welcome change in the atmosphere. This is being proved by the response in Michigan to the Socialist Workers Party campaign to put a ticket on the ballot for the coming election. State laws require 15,000 names on a petition to put an independent party on the ballot. As the SWP sees it the state officials can do less fingaling if it submits 30,000 — so that's the number it's shooting for.

If you are a doubting-Thomas but still would like to see a working-class ticket on the ballot, just go down to 3737 Woodward Ave., in Detroit and pick up a couple of SWP petition boards. Here's a description in general and particular of the kind of responses you'll run into — especially at the unemployment compensation offices where long lines are always found these days.

'ARE YOU FOR LABOR?' A common question to the SWP signature gatherers was: "Are you for labor? Then I'm with you." Also typical was:

"Sure I'll sign. I have no money, no job, and it doesn't look like the situation is getting any better. I don't have anything to lose."

One signature solicitor had an amusing experience in reverse red-baiting. An unemployed worker, standing in the midst of a group, loudly demanded, "Are you a communist?" And before she could reply, said, "I'm a communist too. Gimme that pencil." Whereupon the rest of the group followed suit.

Family differences on politics were revealed when a wife said to her husband: "Don't sign that, it's for a socialist workers' party." The man, while signing, remarked to the petitioner, "My wife thinks she's an aristocrat, a blueblood." But in other cases, however, the wife signed despite the husband's admonishments.

In one case a young man commented while signing: "I've been out of the army for over a year now, and I've been out of work for most that time. I'd sure hate to go back into the army, but a man's got to eat. I hope you people can do something."

"I'm over 70 years old," was another comment, "and I've seen too many depressions and

13,739 business failures were recorded by Dun and Bradstreet for 1957, the highest since 1939 and a sharp rise from the 2,686 business casualties recorded in 1956.

Form National Group To Aid Spanish Sailors

JAN. 20 — Organization of the Committee to Defend the Anti-Franco Sailors, headed by a group of labor and civic representatives, was announced by the Workers Defense League.

The committee will raise funds for appealing the cases of five Spanish Sailors facing deportation to Spain where they would face years of imprisonment or death. Members of the committee include: James B. Carey, Norman Thomas, Victor Reuther, Dwight MacDonald, Charles S. Zimmerman, Professor Paul R. Hays, William H. Fitzelson, Harry Laidler, Arnold Zander, Rudolph Faupel, and Sal B. Hoffman.

Francis Heisler, west coast attorney for the Workers Defense League has joined A. L. Wirin, southern California attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union as defense lawyer.

The case is now before the ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and in the event of an adverse decision it will be taken to the U.S. Supreme Court. The five sailors defected from a Spanish ship in San Diego harbor because of their anti-Franco convictions. They fled to Mexico but were brought back to the U.S. under false pretenses by an American immigration official, who intended to return the sailors to their ship. The Mexican government has announced its willingness to provide asylum, but the State Department has refused to permit the sailors to leave.

In recent oral argument before the appeals court, Judge Chase A. Clark asked the U.S. attorney: "Since the Mexican

USSR Reports '57
Economic Data

Through Radio Moscow the Soviet Union made public on Jan. 27 its economic report from 1957. According to an AP dispatch from London the report said there were 37 million metric tons of pig iron produced, an increase of 4% over the previous year; steel 51 million tons, an increase of 5%; coal, 463 million tons, an increase of 8%; electric power, more than 209 billion kilowatt hours, an increase of 9%. Also, auto and trucks, 495,500, an increase of 7%; tractors, 210,000, an increase of 11%; cotton fabric, 5.6 billion meters, an increase of 3%. Wage and salary earners increased by 2.1 million to a total of 52.1 million.

On The Beam pointed out that "In Franco Spain, the unions are outlawed. The Spanish workers' living standards are the lowest in western Europe. In view of these facts, it is not difficult to understand why the five Spanish sailors are politically opposed to their government."

Local 2058 sent in \$25 to support the sailors in their court case.

Happiest news of financial support locally is that the Joe Springer Committee, which has successfully concluded its own civil liberties fight, is donating \$200 to the Committee to Save the Five Spanish Sailors. (Joe Springer, an active trade unionist, had been charged with perjury because he told an American Activities Committee that he had not been known by another name.)

General James E. Moore, U. S. gauleiter of the occupied island, ousted Kanejiro Senaga, the elected mayor of Naha, because of his leftist program and his demands that Okinawa be returned to Japan. The newly elected mayor, Saichi Kaneshi, has proved to be just as much a thorn in the side of the U.S. high commissioner. In what the U. S. papers call another anti-American (it is really anti-U.S.-occupation) vote, the people of outlying suburbs, recently united to Naha by U.S. order, elected seven city assemblymen of the Okinawa Peoples' Party — the party of Senaga and Kaneshi.

FRANCE'S PHONY LAW to "reform" its rule in Algeria was finally enacted on Jan. 31. However, all indications are that it will in no degree appease the Algerian people's desire for independence and that the civil war there will continue to rage. The rival movements leading the Algerian freedom fight, the Algerian National Movement (MNA) and National Liberation Front (FLN), both denounced the new French law and predicted that the fighting in Algeria would continue despite it.

INDONESIA has cancelled two oil field concessions of a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell interests.

CUBAN DICTATOR Batista eased up on press censorship and civil liberties immediately after the overthrow of Venezuela's dictator Jimenez. Nevertheless opposition to Batista continues to grow. Rebel guerrilla chief Fidel Castro's forces have become more aggressive in the eastern mountains and a "second front" has been opened up by a guerrilla force in the center of the island. Castro has announced that an "industrial" campaign is to be launched to consummate Batista's overthrow. It will feature action, including sabotage, by factory workers.

**SUCH UNPOPULARITY
MUST BE DESERVED.** The voters of Okinawa gave another smashing repudiation of U. S. occupation, in the Feb. 2 elections in Naha, the island's main city. Last year Lieut.

Seek Funds to Publish Book of Gray Cartoons

The Only Victor



Reprinted from the Militant, August 18, 1945

messages from individuals and organizations expressing sorrow over the death of Laura Gray. We print excerpts below.

"If a book of her cartoons is to be published, place my name at the head of the list of purchasers. I only hope you will not forget to include my favorite, the crocodile tears ... With deepest sympathy.

B. M.
Cambridge, Mass.

"Here in England we have reproduced her work on many occasions, and I think it is true to say that she was as

E. H. S.
Paris

much appreciated by militant workers here as in the USA. This was especially true during the Korean War, when it became necessary to hold the banner of socialism aloft with firm hands.

London

We who knew Laura quite well personally realize what a loss her death is both in terms of the wonderful human being she was and in terms of her contributions to our struggle by her cartoons which we looked forward to every week.

spoke of the exorbitant demands of the striking unions, describing the speed-up conditions in the mailing room where the same number of mailers handle papers coming off today's high-speed presses as they did with the slower press runs of a decade ago.

"Open the books!" was the demand of the Union Advocate in answer to this boss propaganda. In the issue of Jan. 23, the Advocate challenged the company: "Tell all the people, you owners of the D-PP (Dispatch-Pioneer Press), how out of the profits of the D-PP and its use as collateral for loans to buy other properties that quickly paid for themselves out of their own profits, your publishing family was able to build the following newspaper, radio and television empire." And the Advocate went on to list holdings of the Ridders — two daily papers, radio and TV stations in Duluth, Minn.; a daily newspaper and radio station in Grand Forks, N. D.; three other daily papers in San Jose, Long Beach and Pasadena, Calif.; a big interest in a large TV station in the Twin Cities and in a Seattle, Wash., daily paper — and then apologized if they had left out any of the Ridders' properties!

In spite of company efforts to discourage public support, "the citywide spirit of sympathy and support for the strikers has become more widespread each week," according to the Union Advocate. Support of the strike paper was such that the Sentinel found it had to double its press run and more than double its size to keep up with the demand. This, despite a boycott of the Sentinel for advertising purposes by the big department stores who issued their own "Downtown St. Paul News" rather than support the strike paper.

Solidarity of the organized labor movement was expressed throughout the strike in many ads taken in the Sentinel wishing good luck and a speedy victory. It helped considerably in winning the strike.

Calendar of Events

Chicago
Friday, Feb. 14, 8:15 P.M.
Prosper for American Labor
In 1958." Ausp.: Militant Labor
Forum.

Detroit

See the great American film, "Salt of the Earth." Friday, Feb. 14, 8 P.M. at Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Contribution: 50c. Ausp.: Friday Night Socialist Forum.

A. J. Muste, chairman, American Forum — For Socialist Education, will speak on "Sputniks, Missiles and World Peace." Thursday, Feb. 20, 8 P.M., Central Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams at Woodward.

New York
Conrad Lynn, prominent Civil Liberties Attorney and fighter for Civil Rights, will speak on "The Political Future of the Negro People." Friday, Feb. 21, 8 P.M. 116 University Place. Negro History Week Celebration: (1) "Songs of Free Men" Auspices: Militant Labor Forum. Contribution: \$1.00.

It's Legal If You're Rich

By Joyce Cowley

I have just read a brochure put out by Prentice-Hall addressed to the successful businessman who wants to acquire a fortune. I'm not a businessman but I've had daydreams about money in the bank, and I thought I might pick up some useful information. I'm sorry to say that while Prentice-Hall throws a good deal of light on how businessmen accumulate money, there is nothing in their brochure that would help an employee. They briefly dismiss the idea that anyone on a salary — no matter how big — can become wealthy. Acquiring a fortune is obviously not a matter of hard work, talent, or starting a savings account.

I knew all along I didn't have a chance, but I was surprised to learn that it's the man with a cooperative bookkeeper who is most likely to succeed. According to Prentice-Hall, special tax methods are "the foundation of virtually every fortune now being built." I had been thinking in terms of the robber barons, of iron men who destroy competitors and ruthlessly force their way to the top. I find it difficult to adjust to the idea that building a fortune is primarily an accounting problem, that if you juggle figures successfully you can come out a million or so ahead. This is apparently legal, too, because Prentice-Hall winds up by offering a *Tax Ideas Manual*, "indispensable for any man who wishes to accumulate a substantial amount of money." He must show some aptitude for accumulating money even before he buys the book, since it costs \$24.50.

As a teaser, the brochure outlines seven "fortune building" tax methods. For example:

"Limit the tax rate to 25%."

I thought the government set the tax rate, but it seems you can easily adjust it yourself by "converting ordinary income into capital gain," and there are nine good ways to do this.

"Out of the Depths"

OUT OF THE DEPTHS by Barron B. Beshoar. Denver: Golden Bell Press, 372 pp. \$3.50.

The Ludlow Massacre, famed in labor history and folk song, took place April 21, 1914 when the Colorado state militia, with its heavy complement of company guards and detectives, attacked and burned the striking miners' tent colony, killing 21 women and children. The tragedy focused national attention on the bitter 15-month-old strike against the autocratic coal companies.

An complete account of the strike in the Southern Colorado open-shop coal fields must necessarily show the domination of the Rockefeller interests. It must show their influence over state and county officials that enabled them to violate state labor laws with impunity. It must portray the miserable conditions in the mines and company towns that drove the miners to strike.

FULLY DOCUMENTED

Out of the Depths is such an account. It is written by the son of a local doctor whose life, of necessity, was closely bound to those of the miners. The book is a carefully compiled document of every stage of the struggle and provides the student of labor history with an example of the class struggle in its most naked form.

The book is at the same time a biography of John R. Lawson, a member of the Executive Board of the United Mineworkers Union and leader of the organizing drive and of the strike. Lawson exemplifies the keen, fearless and devoted workers' leader that always emerges in the heroic periods of union organization. A self-educated miner, he was able to meet every problem of the struggle: from the careful underground organization drive to the strategy of setting up camp colonies for the strikers and for picketing the far-flung mines; from combatting the lies and slanders

Robert Chester

Several of the methods recommended arouse curiosity and doubt:

"Greatly increase your 'Take' from the company . . . This," they say enthusiastically, "is where the big money lies."

"Company profits can be credited to your personal account tax free . . . This is a natural for the successful man who wants to build up personal wealth quickly, say an extra \$100,000 in the next few years."

I wonder, as a layman who knows very little about accounting procedures, whether the businessman can stay out of jail as he rapidly accumulates \$100,000 by crediting company profits to his personal account. I suppose more details are available in the *Tax Ideas Manual*.

"The tax bonanza in the Short Term Trust." This one is easier to understand and I'll outline it briefly so that you can pass it along to any property owner who is groaning about his tax burdens. He won't have to pay taxes at all. If he has income-producing property (real estate, stocks or bonds) he can set up a trust. The income from the trust is not taxable and the property itself is returned when the trust terminates.

All of these fortune building techniques boil down to one simple formula: don't pay taxes! I'd like to figure this out so a worker could take advantage of it, too, but tax experts don't show much interest in the problems of men making less than \$25,000 a year, who obviously can't afford their services. The worker faces the same kind of difficulty when he looks for loopholes in the law. The men who made these laws — businessmen or their representatives — provided ways out at the top. The man who works for wages can't set up a trust fund or convert his regular income into capital gain. He's trapped until he uses the same methods that the businessman is using and sends his representatives down to Washington to make the laws.

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THE MILITANT

Walkout Closes Westinghouse

Tenement Fire in Chi. Kills 20

CHICAGO, Jan. 28 — Twenty more human beings, including at least seven children, are now dead as a direct result of landlord greed coupled with the criminal refusal of city officials to enforce the law. When the four-story converted tenement at 4211 Lake Park erupted into a sudden blazing inferno there was just no chance for escape for these 20 victims.

The city building department insists that the building was inspected regularly and no serious violation of any ordinance had been found. But independent investigation by John Hamilton, chairman of the Washington Park Forum, disclosed that huge quantities of highly inflammable paint thinner were stored in the basement of this fire trap and that the tenants had repeatedly but vainly demanded its removal.

It was Hamilton who also made known the fact that 20 persons had perished in the fire and not seven as originally reported by the daily press.

The building was so thoroughly gutted by the blaze that efforts to dig for the bodies of those lost resulted in the structure collapsing completely.

The extent of the overcrowding (and rent-gouging) being practiced in this four-story building is indicated by the fact that it was bringing in \$2,000 a month just outside Buffalo.

There are conflicting figures, but thus far, it is estimated that approximately 500 men were laid off, with seniority dating back to early April, 1955. Although the amount of workers involved is comparatively small, this layoff is very significant for a number of reasons.

MAKES ALL W-8 ENGINES

First, Chevrolet Motors is the largest manufacturing unit in the GM Auto Empire. This particular engine plant is one of only two Chevy engine plants in the country (the other is located in Flint, Michigan) and produces 40% of all Chevrolet engines. In addition, this plant produces all the new W-8 (or Turbo-Thrust) engines, which were put into production to boost the sales of '58 Chevys.

Then, to further underline the seriousness of this situation, in 1956, when the first major layoff in the plant's history occurred, it took almost three months to lay off 800 workers, the final layoffs occurring in May, with seniority going back only 13 months. This year, in a two-week period, Chevrolet has

laid off four months ahead of 1956's schedule, and the workers involved have as much as 33 months seniority. At present, the plant produces both W-8 and V-8 engines but only the W-8 is operating on two shifts. Employment is down to approximately 3,300 from a high of 5,200 in 1955.

Speed-up, always a very real problem, has been increased as the company strives for more production with less men. As usual, the assembly line bears the brunt of this man-killing method of boosting profits. The union leadership, even if it were more militant than it is on this issue, would still be shackled by the grievance procedure. As a result, more and more workers have become disillusioned with the union's ability to cope with their problems and have become bitter about the situation. As one worker put it, "There doesn't seem to be any sense in writing a speed-up grievance. I'm still working my neck off, because I've got to wait for the union and the company to settle my grievance, which may take a couple of months, and even then, from past experience, I know that the company refuses to recognize that there is such a thing as speed-up. Where we really need a speed-up is in this fouled-up and outmoded grievance procedure."

The attitude of the men who were laid off can be described as two-sided. On one hand, there is a unanimous sigh of relief at being released from the energy-sapping GM speed-up. On the other hand, an equally unanimous feeling of anxiety is evident, as the men wonder where they can get work to support themselves and their families. They are fully aware that the meager handouts of the State Unemployment Service, even when coupled with SUB, will not solve their problems.

In addition, at least half of the men who were laid off have less than one year's seniority, which makes them ineligible for any SUB payments. The sentiments of many workers were expressed best by one who put it this way, "If push comes to shove I can just about get by on food and rent expenses if I skimp a little. But how can I make my installment payments unless I get a good-paying job? This year may be a Golden Milestone for Generous Motors, but for us, this layoff is more like a tombstone!"

These layoffs which are part of a nationwide pattern, not only in auto, but in industry in general, accentuate the seriousness of the economic crisis that capitalism is undergoing once again.

'Like Depression Days' Say Minn. Jobless

Coffee Break Without Coffee

The steel industry is operating at 55% of capacity, some tin producers announced 40% slashes in output for the first half of 1958, there's a slump in shipping, demand for oil is off conspicuously, power output has been cut, but University of Nebraska agricultural economists classify it as a "gold-plated" recession, they call it, "a sort of economic coffee break."

Beshaar portrays many of the colorful rank and file leaders as well as the legendary Mother Jones who came in to help the miners. He also shows the limitations in the thinking of Lawson and other labor leaders. They hoped to change company practices by supporting the Democratic candidate against the incumbent Republican Governor only to find, after victory, that the new Governor was little different from his predecessors.

REMEMBER LUDLOW

Beshaar portrays many of the colorful rank and file leaders as well as the legendary Mother Jones who came in to help the miners. He also shows the limitations in the thinking of Lawson and other labor leaders. They hoped to change company practices by supporting the Democratic candidate against the incumbent Republican Governor only to find, after victory, that the new Governor was little different from his predecessors.

As a result of the strike the miners improved their conditions although they failed to win recognition of the union. "Remember Ludlow" was the battle cry of the miners for years after until the United Mine Workers won recognition in Colorado in 1934, as part of the organizing drive that built the CIO. Today a few pickets can shut down a mine without fear of strikebreakers, but it took struggles such as those in Colorado to prepare the victories that won these gains.

Robert Chester

By Tom Leonard
MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 12 — A bi-monthly report of the Minnesota department of employment security released in late December revealed that the number of unemployed workers in the Twin Cities would increase by 18,400 in the period from mid-November to mid-January. This figure added to the 22,800 unemployed in mid-November — an increase of 7,000 over November of '57 — indicates that the number of unemployed in the Twin Cities is now about 40,000.

The Dec. 27 Minnesota Tribune which featured the report stated that "The estimated decline will be the most serious year-end drop since the winter of 1948-49 when jobs dropped 19,000 from November to January."

The report (based on employers' forecasts) indicated that "The situation may become worse by March . . . Without any explanation, however, the clever pencils of the statisticians have reduced the estimated unemployed by March to about 34,000. This is 2,000 below the 36,000 which would designate the Twin Cities as a 'distress unemployment' area entitled to federal relief aid."

STATE-WIDE PICTURE

Figures on state-wide unemployment are equally grim. The Jan. 7 Tribune reports that

"Some 3,400 iron ore miners are now unemployed in Range cities — most of them victims of an early shutdown of some ore operations because of the slackening steel industry."

Most of the miners laid off have less than two years seniority and are not entitled to SUB benefits. In addition, some mining firms have "cut older employees to a 32 hour week," the Tribune.

The same article stated that more than 500 workers had been laid off at the American Steel and Wire division of United States Steel in Duluth.

During 1957 over 76,000 unemployment claims were filed in Minnesota. Of these, 14,000 were exhausted. Workers who have exhausted their claims along with civil service workers and others not covered by compensation laws are not included in the reports released by the Minnesota Department of Employment Security.

In addition to the so-called "normal" seasonal layoffs, the biggest cause for mounting unemployment is a cutback in production affecting virtually every segment of manufacturing in the area.

Neil C. Sherburne, secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota AFL-CIO State Federation of Labor stated in an interview in the Jan. 7 Tribune that "there has been a sharper decline in employment than the

state has felt in a long time, but that it is not spectacular because there are only small but general layoffs in the plants." He also said that "the first six months of the year are going to be rough."

FOR SHORTER WORK WEEK

Jerome J. Utecht, Head of two locals of the Amalgamated Butcher Workmen of America (AFL-CIO) reported that an autumn gain in employment failed to materialize and as a result the number of members working part time had increased 10% since October. He said his union expects to push for a shorter work week with no reduction in take home pay when current contracts expire.

He observed that "too many union people have come to depend on overtime pay — they can't make ends meet when the overtime is eliminated."

A spokesman for the employers, Paul Wishart, President of Minneapolis Honeywell Regulator Company, which normally employs 14,000 workers, claims that "we have the opportunity to improve our position both for sales and for profits." However he said, "I don't mean to say that we shall not have any further reductions in the work force. We may well have . . ."

The full impact of unemployment however, is best seen at the State Unemployment Of-

fice. There workers often have to stand in line outside the building in sub-freezing temperatures, when they report for their compensation checks. Personal conversations with these unemployed workers revealed that many of them are deeply in debt.

One of them told me that

"my wife and I went into debt

nearly \$900 two days before I got laid off. They didn't even

give me any notice."

Another worker standing next to us who had five dependents said bitterly "You're not the only one."

LIKE DEPRESSION YEARS

Several of the older workers

I spoke to compared the present unemployment to the depression in the 1930's. One of them said "I've been tramping all over town looking for a job.

and

once again."

I can't even get an interview.

I can't remember it being this bad, even during the depression."

I asked one unemployed member of a Teamsters local if he thought he could get his union to do something about unemployment. He replied "What could they do?"

I reminded him that there were a lot of union men unemployed and unable to meet their debts. Did he think it was possible that the union could, for one thing, demand a debt-freeze or moratorium on debts for the duration of the unemployment crisis. His eyes lit up at this idea, but then he said "Look! I had a heck of a job getting the union to move while I was working. Do you think they'll do anything now that I'm laid off?"

What Radical Youth Need

An organization independent of control by any adult tendency is the paramount need of socialist youth, says Tim Wohlforth, Managing Editor of the Young Socialist in the Winter Issue of International Socialist Review.

Send 35c for a copy

International Socialist Review

116 University Place

New York 3, N. Y.



Reprinted from the *Militant*, December 30, 1957

Workers at Phila. Plant Fight Layoff

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28 — Production at the South Philadelphia Steam Turbine Works of Westinghouse was at a complete standstill after a week of gradually increasing walkouts which started Jan. 20. On this day several "A" clerks (production) were notified that their jobs were being eliminated and they were to report to new locations where they would "bump" men with less seniority off their jobs. The company had agreed, toward the end of 1957, that they would not institute any action of this kind without first negotiating with the union.

When the men refused to be reassigned without first having the matter negotiated they were indefinitely suspended (fired). Stewards were given the same treatment for not instructing the men to go to work. Other clerks stopped work and went to a meeting to discuss the problem.

When the foreman proceeded to issue work tickets, blueprints, etc., the production workers refused to work on jobs which normally should have been issued by the union clerks. This led to more furloughs and indefinite suspensions. In this manner the stoppage spread. The workers assumed that when other members were furloughed or suspended they had to support them and their fight, even without official union sanction.

The company met with the committee but refused to discuss the immediate issue on the technicality that the grievance procedure had not been complied with. As the stoppage spread and the company stubbornly refused to discuss the issue and the firings, the union had no alternative but to give a three-day strike notice, technically on other, older grievances.

A meeting outside the union hall was arranged for Monday morning, a week after the action had started. At 8:00 A.M. that morning 5,000 members of Local 107-UE gathered outside the union hall and were addressed by their officials. A vote was taken to authorize a secret ballot to be held immediately for a strike vote. The final count was 3,738 for strike, 1,042 against and 14 voided.

With this strong vote and the solid shutdown on Monday, a sudden favorable spurt in negotiations took place so that by early this morning the negotiating committee was able to send out a recommendation that the men return to work pending further negotiations. The first obstacle had been removed when the company lifted all indefinite suspensions and furloughs.

REGROUPMENT — A Programmatic Basis for Discussion of Socialist Unity. 8 pp. 10 cents.

the American Forum-For Socialism Education. 29 pp. 25 cents.

Lens, a trade union official and author, poses seven questions, which he considers require reconsideration by all socialists, and gives his views on them. Critical comments by John Dickinson, Tim Wohlforth, Stephen Grattan, Farrell Dobbs, Conrad Lynn and Albert Blumberg. Introduction by A. J. Muste. The first printed discussion pamphlet of the AFFSE, founded to facilitate free discussion among all socialist groups and individuals on the basis of non-exclusion.

THE NAKED GOD — The Writer and the Communist Party.