

How Socialists Plan to Raise Expansion Fund

By MURRY WEISS
National Fund Drive Director

March 26 — How do the members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party plan to raise \$20,000 in the spring Socialist Expansion Fund despite limited forces, the spread of unemployment and the high cost of living? With today's receipts from the branches the fund has been 20% completed (see scoreboard page two). Although we are running 8% behind schedule word is coming from all areas to expect full payment by the May 31 deadline.

Well, how do they plan to do it?

One answer comes from Buffalo, an SWP branch where half the membership has been hit by layoffs and most of the employed members are working the four-day week with reduction in pay. Buffalo Fund Drive Director R. Riley writes: "One of our members, Chuck, used to maintain to his wife, Anne, that they should buy 50-cent instead of 30-cent hamburger. He is now on four days and Anne's unemployment benefits have run out. They have pledged \$325 to the Socialist Expansion Fund. Adding to this their \$12 weekly pledge, means they will contribute \$37 a week to the party during the fund drive. There have been no more arguments about 30-cent hamburgers."

Riley adds, "It will take earnest effort (and some of our people going into debt) to make our quota with the dreary employment picture on the Niagara Frontier. But no one thinks of this as 'sacrifice.' Adapting to the needs of the party is built into our thinking. You can be sure we will be 'in full and on time.'

Currently, Buffalo is leading the other branches, with 35% of their quota completed.

Across the country from Seattle comes a report similar to that from Buffalo. Ann Dorsey writes: "Although the Seattle branch has just finished an election campaign which was an extra financial burden on all our members, we know the necessity of fully participating in the Socialist Expansion Fund. All in all I feel that our people are displaying a fine sense of personal sacrifice in the face of immediate political needs. Again I assure you that Seattle will be paid in full and on time, although it is possible that we will come in just under the deadline; we will make it branch members and friends have given me this assurance."

Twin Cities Fund Drive Director, Fannie B. Curran, tells how our Minnesota friends are doing it: "You ask how the members intend to raise the money for their pledges. This is a very good question . . . I can't say for most of them. A few of us have pledged very heavily, far above a ten percent increase over the last fund. In fact 50% would be a closer estimate. One member has gone to work in order to enable payments, and that with two young children. Others are taking it out on the cigarette manufacturers. Very few of us are overweight."

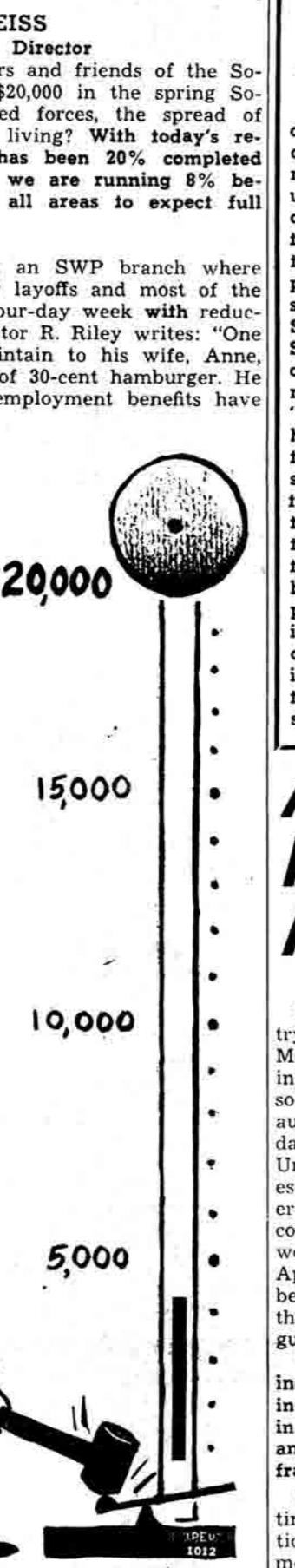
From Minnesota we also get another clue to how the drive will be successfully carried out. SWP State Organizer Vincent Dunne sent out an appeal to all friends of the socialist movement enclosing the text of the statement of the National Committee of the SWP entitled: "For United Socialist Ticket in the 1958 elections."

Dunne says: "A reading of this statement readily answers the many questions in the minds of advanced-thinking workers as to what can be done in the present regroupment period — to definitely advance the cause of socialism — and by so doing to offer realistic and effective answer to the program of the capitalist parties on all fundamental questions."

The letter continues, "In order to reach an ever-wider strata of American workers, we are expanding our press and our activities generally. The Socialist Workers Party has launched a Socialist Expansion Fund nationally for \$20,000. We ask you to help further the cause of socialism by contributing as liberally as you can to this Fund."

The letter requests that contributions be sent to Fannie B. Curran, 322 Hennepin Ave., Rm. 205, Minneapolis, Minn. We can only add our voice to this appeal and suggest that friends outside of Minnesota send their contributions to Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

(Continued on Page 2)



Wall St. Big Boys Quietly Unloading

Ever since its steady fall during July through October came to an end, the stock market hasn't been acting up. There are, however, new disturbing signs. Reporting the March 26 sag in prices, the N. Y. Times financial-page headline noted, "Reassurance by President and Satellite Launching Fail to Stir Market." More significant is the report in Business Week (March 22) that "more and more big stockholders — those owning thousands of shares of an issue — are unloading blocks that are too big to go through the ordinary machinery of the stock exchange." Put on the market all at once these blocks would depress or panic the prices. They are being unloaded by a "secondary" device of sale "by an investment banking house in the same way that a new stock is floated."

Auto Bosses Harry Union Militants

By FRED HALSTEAD

Reports from across the country indicate that the General Motors corporation is engaged in a concerted campaign to soften up union strength in its auto plants as the expiration date on the contract with the United Auto Workers approaches. UAW contracts with General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, covering some 655,000 auto workers, expire in May. By April 1, separate negotiations between the unions and each of the "Big Three" will have begun.

The GM campaign includes increased speed-up accompanying mass layoffs, heavy increase in the number of "warnings" and disciplinary layoffs, and frame-ups of militant unionists.

Supervisors have been "putting the pressure" on production workers who have been most active in resisting speed-up and on traditionally staunch union members. For example, in one Eastern assembly plant, certain workers who had filed speed-up grievances in the past, but who had perfect work records, have been shifted to jobs beyond their physical capacity and then given repeated warnings and disciplinary layoffs. The workers respond by filing grievances, but long before the six months that it often takes to process these, the company will have "built up a case" for firing.

'YOU'RE DEAD'

Another example, involving disciplinary layoffs against a worker with 25 years seniority and an excellent record is cited by the March 13 Assembler, published by UAW Local 216 in South Gate, California. "Local Management," says the Assembler, "is determined to impress on the weak that no matter how much seniority you have, how good an employee you are or how weak the case may be against you, if they set

(Continued on Page 2)

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XXII — No. 13

222

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1958

Price 10c

RISING PRICES ADD TO JOBLESS WOES

That March Upturn



NEWS ITEM: Bankruptcies in March, the month in which Pres. Eisenhower predicted the beginning of recovery, stood at highest level since 1940.

The AEC's Deceit

AN EDITORIAL

The National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy made public, March 19, a documented study of the conduct of the Atomic Energy Commission, the agency required by law to safeguard the public from atomic radiation. The report charges that the AEC has not discharged this vital responsibility, but instead, has "tended to foster the most optimistic interpretation (i.e., which most minimizes the expected hazard from fallout radiation) . . . This evidence tends to show that the AEC's evaluation of the fallout hazard has not been based on the standards of objectivity and candor that are customary in scientific matters."

This lack of "candor" springs from political motives. While the Administration is considering yielding to the worldwide demand for a test halt, it permits the AEC to carry the propaganda ball for keeping the tests going.

A case in point is the whitewash given the AEC by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy after it was caught in a brazen lie by I. F. Stone.

The publisher of I. F. Stone's Weekly had marshalled facts refuting an AEC press release which claimed that last summer's underground A-blast in Nevada had been detected only 250 miles away.

The claim was made to bolster the AEC's

fraudulent contention that an agreement to halt nuclear tests cannot be enforced. Stone presented evidence to show that the blast had been detected in far-off Alaska and forced the AEC to correct its first release.

Confronted with this scandal, the Joint Congressional Committee held a one-hour "hearing" with but four Congressmen present. Brushing aside evidence proving deceit, they found the AEC had merely committed an "inadvertent error."

The incident is not isolated. The report of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy reveals that for almost three years the AEC suppressed the fact that leukemia-causing strontium 90, released in the atmosphere by nuclear tests, finds its way into milk and is then absorbed in the human body. For almost a year the AEC kept secret the terrible extent of the fallout resulting from the 1954 Pacific H-test. Yet no one in the government has moved to discipline this agency.

Clearly, the decision to halt the deadly tests cannot be left in the hands of a government so completely callously unconcerned with human safety. The people themselves should decide the issue through a national referendum.

The possibility that the U.S. may accept the Soviet offer for a test ban was also reported, March 13, by the Christian Science Monitor. The Monitor correspondent, however, wisely adds that "The American position is still not completely jelled. Pentagon objectors may still toss a spanner (wrench) into the works."

Thus, despite its fervent wishes to the contrary, Washington recognizes that it has little chance of escaping a summit meeting and is even compelled to consider the need of granting certain concessions that would ease the cold war.

While the allies were compelled to accept a form of partnership with the USSR in World War II, they held to the following: "The United States is understood to be con-

sidering for the summit a proposal for a suspension of two or three years of nuclear tests. This proposal is divorced in all but semantics from the earlier United States requirement that suspension of tests be accompanied by a cutoff in production of fissionable materials for weapons."

The question is answered neither by the mistaken notion that Dulles is a fool nor by the correct one that he is a warmonger. The significance of the projected top-level conference and of Washington's attitude toward it comes into focus only when they are related to the basic perspective of American Big Business.

BIG-BUSINESS GOAL

That perspective is ultimate domination of the entire globe for the sake of profit-making. Integral to realizing this aim is restoration of capitalist property relations throughout the Soviet Bloc.

Washington's first attempt was participation in the ill-fated intervention from 1919 to 1921 in the Russian civil war. The anti-Soviet objective has never been abandoned.

While the allies were compelled to accept a form of partnership with the USSR in World War II, they held to the following: "The United States is understood to be con-

Idle Pay Plan Drags; Labor's Tax-Cut Plea Ignored by Democrats

By GEORGE LAVAN

MARCH 27 — The recession is spreading and deepening yet the Republican and Democratic politicians are callously refusing to take emergency steps needed for the unemployed — who by official admission now total well over five million, and in actuality probably number between six and seven million.

The desperate plight of over three million jobless trying to feed their families on the grossly inadequate unemployment compensation checks (national average: \$28 per week), of the unknown number whose compensation benefits have expired, and of the two million jobless not covered by the unemployment insurance setup, is aggravated by the fact that the cost of living has reached a new all-time high.

INDEX AT 122.5

This bitter example of the anarchy of the capitalist system was announced March 21 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, although working-class housewives already knew it from actual experience. The cost-of-living index for February rose .2 index points above that of January. With the already-inflated prices of 1947-49 used by the government as a base of 100, the index for February stood at 122.5.

Eisenhower's main contribution to fighting the recession is synthetic optimism about the bottom of the slump being reached or even passed — he has used all of Herbert Hoover's old formulas except the fatal phrase, "prosperity is just around the corner." Illustrating his "private enterprise" approach was the following exchange at his press conference of March 27.

Reporter Sarah McLendon of the El Paso Times asked: "Mr. President, Sir, back to this food question. There are people out in New Mexico right now who can't get even beans because they can't get them out of surplus food stocks. They



SAM RAYBURN, Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

are going hungry. There are some unemployed in this country who can't get anything but starches to eat, and that has been going on for months. Can't we do something to give better distribution of surplus foods or to get meat into the surplus pile so that we can give these people a balanced diet?"

Eisenhower replied: (1) the price of meat was such that it couldn't be declared surplus (2) the extension of the period of unemployment compensation benefits recommended by him would ease the financial burden on the states (3) this would give state governments "more opportunity" to take care of hungry people.

The Republican administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress are going about extending jobless compensation benefits at a leisurely pace. On March 8 Eisenhower (Continued on Page 2)

Govt. Launches New Persecution of Bridges

By ROY GALE

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21 — Harry Bridges, President of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union has come for the sixth time under legal attack by the Federal Government. The Internal Revenue Service now demands that Bridges along with J. R. Robertson, Vice-President, and Henry Schmidt, Executive Board member, pay income taxes on the funds collected to pay for their defense in the 1949-50 "perjury" trial.

This is the first time the government has ever tried to collect taxes on defense funds in civil liberties cases.

ESTABLISHED PRACTICE

"None of the defendants in the Bridges' case saw five cents of this money," ILWU attorney Anderson said. "This sort of thing has been going on in other unions all over the country for years."

"It was done in the Tom Mooney case and the Scottsboro case. It is being done to defend Negroes at Little Rock. The Government has never attempted to collect income tax on this money before."

Bridges has been ordered to pay \$81,870, J. R. Robertson \$82,267 and Schmidt \$81,604. The government contends that all the money collected by the Bridges, Robertson, Schmidt Defense committee is personal income for the men involved and is taxable. Over \$500,000 was collected and spent by the committee. The exact claim filed by the government is for the years of 1952-53.

ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt condemned the government action and said: "This is petty vindictiveness. It is an attempt to twist the law for a continuing program of harassment and persecution of the union by moving in this way against the three top officers. It is something that should be beneath the dignity of our government and its administration."



"This action won't fool a single member of our union. It is apparent that it grows out of frustration after five deportation and conspiracy gimmicks against our union and its officers have failed."

Bridges told reporters: "It's a smear. The Government men are lying and they know it. None of the money in our defense fund was ever received as income by any of us."

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. Policy Makers Accept Summit Reluctantly

By HARRY RING

MARCH 26 — Despite terrible reluctance, born of the knowledge that it has nothing to gain, the Big-Business controlled U.S. Government is being pushed toward a conference of heads of states with the Soviet Union.

There are good prospects that a summit conference will force the State Department to again ease the cold war and, more particularly, that it will result in a temporary U.S.-Soviet agreement to ban nuclear tests. This would be a clear-cut gain for the peoples of the world in their struggle for peace.

While Washington may well keep propagandizing for a last-minute escape from the summit, the pressure of world-wide anti-war sentiment has grown so powerful that the State Department has been unable to slam the door on the projected conference.

SHABBY GAME

Throughout, Washington has put forward proposals carefully designed to be unacceptable to

the USSR and then tried to depict Soviet rejection of these proposals as a bar to the parley. The two principal issues being utilized in this fashion are the demand for big-power negotiations for the unification of Germany and the proposal that a summit meeting be postponed until some tangible agreement is arrived at by a conference of foreign ministers.

However, the Soviet Foreign Ministry officially announced, March 14: "At the present time negotiations are being carried on actively among the principal interested parties concerning concrete questions connected with the organization of such a meeting."

At the same time the Moscow correspondent of the New York Times reported that while the issue of a preliminary conference had not yet been settled, "a Foreign Ministry spokesman here said that 'new ideas' had been or would be advanced during the unpublicized talks that are now taking place."

At his press conference yesterday, Secretary of State Dulles declared that proposed Soviet terms raised the question of whether it was worth agreeing to a conference. But Dulles was quick to add that "many of these things they talk about are negotiable." And in further deference to world opinion, he carefully stated: "I do not want to imply that I think that there will not be a summit conference."

ISSUES TAKE SHAPE

A significant indication that the "unpublicized" pre-summit negotiations are further advanced than the public is led to believe is contained in the March 28 New York Times. On the basis of information from "diplomatic officials," the Times reports that "probable United States and Soviet bargaining positions for a summit conference are beginning to take shape . . ."

According to this report, Washington is "believed to lean" toward a reversal of its previous stand of refusing to

consider a "comprehensive" disarmament agreement without prior agreement on German re-unification. Also, the U.S. is reported to be examining the idea of trying to bargain over the Soviet proposal for "control of outer space." This proposal would relinquish the Soviet lead in the field of inter-continental missiles in return for abandonment of U.S. bases in Europe.

While the possibility of the U.S. accepting this proposal is more than remote, the opposition of the European people to the presence of American bases is apparently forcing the question on the agenda.

More, there is talk in Washington of maybe offering to reduce U.S. foreign bases in return for substantial reduction of Soviet conventional weapons and ground forces in East Europe and the USSR itself.

SHIFT ON TESTING

Finally, and of key importance, the N. Y. Times reports the following: "... the United States is understood to be con-

(Continued on Page 2)

Socialist Unity Promoted at Chicago Banquet

By ISADORE WARWAK

CHICAGO, March 23—Socialists of several tendencies filled the Forum Hall for a dinner-meeting last night on the topic "Prospects for United Socialist Political Action in 1958."

The speakers urged united endeavor to place Rev. Joseph P. King, Pastor of the International Church and President of the Washington Park Forum, on the ballot as socialist candidate in the Second Congressional District.

Howard Mayhew, Chicago organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, was the first speaker. "This meeting is a victory celebration," he said. "Just one month ago the prospects for a united socialist candidate in Chicago was an idea. In the brief time of one month remarkable progress has been made. Two organizations have joined forces in this campaign—The Washington Park Forum and the Chicago branch of the SWP, plus independent radicals, key socialists and trade unionists. The forces gathered here are moving toward the formation of a united socialist campaign committee to get the candidate on the ballot and bring a socialist program to the voters."

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY
The next speaker was Rev. William T. Baird, Minister of Essex Community Church and head of the Midwest Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born. He said he had been thinking about a campaign like this for some time. "This is my first opportunity since the Progressive Party to vote as a free citizen. I resent it when the State Department calls for political freedom in the Soviet Bloc when we haven't had it here. Where are the representatives of the masses of people in government? Prospects have never been better for a socialist campaign. We have a wonderful opportunity to educate people to the socialist solution to capitalist war and depression."

John Hamilton, Washington Park Forum chairman and veteran trade unionist, commented on the Chicago Police Department's Red Squad parked outside the hall. "We are beginning to do a job when the Red Squad is looking around counting noses." Referring to the struggle to build the Packinghouse Workers Union of which he was a founding organizer, he said, "When we built Packing, we had to fight an empire of Capital. We had to fight and sweat. We didn't quit. We had to do a job, and we needed the help of people and got it. We here know that the old parties cannot serve the interests of the people. Maybe we won't send King to Congress but we can open the eyes of a lot of workers."

Rev. Joseph P. King then was introduced. He received a standing ovation.

"For 48 years I have lived in America," King said. "Everyday I have felt oppression and discrimination."



REV. JOSEPH P. KING, independent socialist candidate for Congress, 2nd District, Illinois.

"Despair mongers say that this is not the time for a socialist campaign. The time will never come unless you make it. How can the workers get ready for Socialism unless we the socialists, explain it to them. The men who founded America were radicals, not 'decent' people. 'Decent' people never have done anything but conform."

"The America of today is an America of reaction and imperialism, an America that went to war against the revolutionary peoples of China and Korea and was defeated."

"American capitalism has within it the seeds of its own destruction—unemployment and war. All it has to offer youth is death on the far-flung battlefield fighting Communism. The Chinese say it is a 'paper tiger.' They also have a saying that 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.'

"If I was alone in not voting for Democrats and Republicans then I would do it. I say to American radicals let's strike a blow for freedom. American capitalism can't stop Socialism just as feudalism couldn't stop capitalism. This is the starting ground now with socialists all over the U.S. recognizing the need for a socialist electoral coalition. We have a world to win and nothing to lose but our chains."

Dorothy Mack chaired the meeting and described the role the Militant is playing and will play in the election campaign. Contributions and pledges toward the paper and the SWP national expansion fund were made at the meeting.

Between a well-prepared chicken dinner and the speeches, Louise Urquiza entertained the group with selections on her accordion.

...Socialist Expansion

(Continued from Page 1)

Other reinforcement is coming from areas of the country, which we are hearing from for the first time in many years. This is most appropriate for an Expansion Fund! You will notice that the scoreboard carries quotas from the South and from Denver. The group of supporters to the Fund from the South are in the thick of the fight against segregation, young people who are already tested veterans of civil rights battles. The group from the Rocky Mountain area are likewise young and also deeply involved in active work for the cause.

We welcome these forces and hope to hear from other "new" areas of the country.

FUND SCOREBOARD

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Buffalo	\$1500	\$525.00	35
Cleveland	750	224.10	30
Chicago	1716	475.00	28
Los Angeles	4600	1171.00	25
New York	5000	1013.70	20
Twin Cities	1742	324.50	19
Detroit	825	150.00	18
Milwaukee	300	55.00	18
Youngstown	300	50.00	17
Allentown	112	15.00	13
South	200	25.00	13
Boston	600	45.00	8
Newark	265	5.00	2
Seattle	550	10.00	2
Oakland	265	—	—
Philadelphia	528	—	—
Pittsburgh	10	—	—
St. Louis	80	—	—
San Francisco	440	—	—
Denver	40	—	—
General	177	—	—
Totals through March 25	\$20,000	\$4,088.30	20

Stellato Candidacy Poses Issue: Can Labor Reform Democrats?

By JAMES KOZAK

DETROIT, March 23—At today's meeting of UAW Local 600, its president, Carl Stellato, announced his decision to run in the Democratic primaries for the U.S. House of Representatives seat now held by John Lesinski, Jr., of Michigan's 16th congressional district.

Stellato had been urged to enter the campaign by the unanimous recommendation two weeks ago of Local 600's general council. He said today he believes workers should have their own representatives in Congress, and that he will run "as a workingman, a union man and a Democrat."

The members of Local 600 are pleased and enthusiastic by Stellato's decision. For them it represents a way to express their dissatisfaction with the Reuther policy of subordinating the labor movement to the Democratic Party machine and of relying on "friends of labor" rather than electing labor's own representatives to office. Many view it as some kind of step toward the formation of a farmer-labor party, which Local 600 continues to endorse as an eventual goal while it follows the AFL-CIO policy of supporting liberal Democrats.

WHAT STANDARDS?
Stellato's candidacy can have a number of positive results. For one thing, it will focus attention on the "standards" that the Meany-Reuther leadership uses for evaluating candidates.

The Wayne County CIO-PAC has always endorsed Lesinski on the ground that he has a "near-perfect voting record" in Congress. But all this means is that he has voted "right" on a small and carefully-selected list of bills.

This list is deliberately com-

pled not to include bills (especially on civil rights and civil liberties) on which the liberal Democrats duck or vote wrong, and so it doesn't at all mean that Lesinski and Co. really fight for labor's interests.

As a matter of fact, Lesinski is strongly disliked by Local 600 members and Negro voters in his district for his insulting opposition or indifference to important civil rights bills.

The Wayne County CIO-PAC and the Reuther machine that runs it are going to be put on the spot by Stellato's candidacy. Will they endorse Lesinski again? If they do, they will antagonize large numbers of union members in that district. If they don't, then they will anger Lesinski and all the other Democrats who vote "right" on a few bills to get PAC endorsement—including the Williams-Stabler leadership of the Michigan Democratic Party.

In either case, and even if the Reuther machine remains "neutral" in the primary, the experience is going to open a lot of eyes to the essentially conservative nature of the labor movement's official political policy.

But after recognizing the progressive character of the workers' desire for working class candidates in office, and after noting certain positive possibilities, socialists also have the duty to point out the negative aspects and dangers in Stellato's candidacy.

TWO CHOICES
To understand these correctly, we believe, it is necessary to recognize that American labor is faced with two fundamental choices regarding political action:

One is the policy of the Meany-Reuther leadership—to try to reform the Democratic

Party into an organization that will represent the workers' interests. (They have been following this policy for over 20 years and the more they work at it, the more the Democratic Party moves to the right.)

The other is the policy advocated by socialists and other left-wing unionists—that the labor movement must break with both capitalist parties and form a labor party along with the Negro people, working farmers and other allies. (Local 600 still remains on record for a labor party, although in practice it has gone along with the AFL-CIO policy of supporting liberal Democrats.)

NOW SOCIALISTS WOULD WELCOME AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT A CAMPAIGN FOR CONGRESS BY CARL STELLATO

If Stellato should get past all the obstacles and be elected on the Democratic ticket, the very first thing facing him after being sworn into office would be a vote on which party should organize the new House of Representatives.

VOTE FOR DIXIECRATS?

If he votes to have the

Democrats organize the House, then he automatically votes at the same time to give control of the House and all its committees for two years to the conservative Southern wing of the Democratic Party—which uses its control to block, bury or defeat all of the progressive legislation favored by labor and Stellato.

That's a high price to pay, isn't it? And yet if he doesn't vote with the Democrats, then he in effect reads himself out of the Democratic Party, gets no appointment to committees, and becomes a pariah with great difficulty in even getting on the floor. **And also raises the logical question: why did he run as a Democrat in the first place?**

Many of our friends in the union movement, we know, will disagree with us when we insist that **EFFECTIVE** working class representation in government can be won only through running candidates independently of the capitalist parties. To them we can only explain our views patiently, hoping that a majority will sooner or later be convinced by our explanations—and by their experience.

DOES IT EXPOSE, OR DOES IT REINFORCE, ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF REFORMING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

Will Stellato's election as a Democrat change the nature of the Democratic Party?

We socialists readily grant that as a Democratic congressman Stellato would far more faithfully express the needs and grievances of the workers than Lesinski does. But with what results? And at what cost?

Here is just one example of the cost:

If Stellato should get past all

the obstacles and be elected on

the Democratic ticket, the very

first thing facing him after

being sworn into office would

be a vote on which party should

organize the new House of

Representatives.

INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD IN THE ELECTION FOR PARLIAMENT IN MONTREAL AND THE QUEBEC REGION.

In Montreal, Ross Dowson,

national secretary of the

Socialist Educational League and editor of Workers Vanguard, has been nominated. In two Quebec districts socialist candidates have been nominated by the newly organized Council of Socialist Clubs. The councils represent the majority of the former membership of the Quebec Labor Progressive (Communist) Party. Their leaders were expelled recently by the party's national leadership which is headed by Tim Buck who is following a course of total ideological subservience to the Kremlin.

The nominees of the Socialist

Educational Councils are Henri Cagnon, formerly a leading spokesman for the LPP, and Jacques Roubeau. In a release announcing these nominations, the Socialist Educational Councils declared their hope of realizing the unity of socialist forces in Quebec. The release charged that the Buck leadership of the LPP has been mummified and ossified since the 20th Congress to the point of complete isolation from the Quebec population and keep back the unity of the socialist forces.

REAL SPLITTING MOVE

The Canadian Tribune, organ

of the LPP, has denounced

these candidacies as a "splitting move" and an "anti-working class action."

Commenting on

this charge, Workers Vanguard

points out that actually it is

the LPP which is playing a

splitting role in the election

by running candidates in districts

where the Cooperative Com-

monwealth Federative (Canada's labor party) has a chance

of defeating its Tory opponents.

Ross and the SEL is urging

working class support to the

CCF. For its own candidate, a

district was selected where the

CCF has little strength and

therefore would not be jeopardized by Dowson's bid.

DOWSON IS RUNNING ON A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PLATFORM CENTERING AROUND THE FIGHT FOR

Socialist Election Bloc in Canada

Prospects for united socialist electoral activity and development of the socialist regroupment process are now advancing in Canada, according to information in the March issue of Workers Vanguard, voice of the Socialist Educational League.

Independent socialist candidates have been put forward in the election for Parliament in Montreal and the Quebec region. In Montreal, Ross Dowson, national secretary of the Socialist Educational League and editor of Workers Vanguard, has been nominated. In two Quebec districts socialist candidates have been nominated by the newly organized Council of Socialist Clubs. The councils represent the majority of the former membership of the Quebec Labor Progressive (Communist) Party. Their leaders were expelled recently by the party's national leadership which is headed by Tim Buck who is following a course of total ideological subservience to the Kremlin.

The nominees of the Socialist

Educational Councils are Henri

Cagnon, formerly a leading

spokesman for the LPP, and

Jacques Roubeau. In a release

announcing these nominations, the Socialist Educational Councils declared their hope of realizing the unity of socialist forces in Quebec. The release charged that the Buck leadership of the LPP has been mummified and ossified since the 20th Congress to the point of complete isolation from the Quebec population and keep back the unity of the socialist forces.

PEACE AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF THE DEEP ECONOMIC SLUMP

Prospects for united socialist electoral activity and development of the socialist regroupment process are now advancing in Canada, according to information in the March issue of Workers Vanguard, voice of the Socialist Educational League.

The nominees of the Socialist

Educational Councils are Henri

Cagnon, formerly a leading

spokesman for the LPP, and

Jacques Roubeau. In a release

announcing these nominations, the Socialist Educational Councils declared their hope of realizing the unity of socialist forces in Quebec. The release charged that the Buck leadership of the LPP has been mummified and ossified since the 20th Congress to the point of complete isolation from the Quebec population and keep back the unity of the socialist forces.

DISCUSSING THE ELECTORAL SITUATION

Discussing the electoral situation, Workers Vanguard declared: "The Socialist Educational League does not pose itself as the organization around which the regroupment of Canadian socialists must take place, nor its program the one which those concerned with the vital need for regroupment must underwrite 100 percent.

<p

Subscription: \$3 per year;
\$1.50 for 6 months. Foreign: \$4.50 per year; \$2.25 for 6 months. Canadian: \$3.50 per year; \$1.75 for 6 months. Bundle orders: 5 or more copies \$2 each in U.S.; 7c each in foreign countries.

THE MILITANT

Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Pl., N.Y. 3, N.Y. Phone: AL 5-7460
Editor: DANIEL ROBERTS
Business Manager: BEATRICE ALLEN

Vol. XXII — No. 13

Monday, March 31, 1958

U.S. and Algerian Independence

For three-and-a-half years French imperialism has been slaughtering Algerians who want their country's independence. The steadily increasing number of burned-out Arab villages is grim evidence of the terror and reprisal war the French military is carrying on. The concentration camps are filled, thousands of Algerians are at random subjected to French "raking" raids in which women and children suffer brutalities and men are often wounded or killed as examples. Torture of prisoners by the French police is a standard procedure.

The American people, recalling the origin of this country, believe that if a people want their independence they should have it. Thus there has never been any popular sympathy in the U.S. for French imperialism's war in Algeria. But that does not acquit Americans of responsibility in the current burning, killing, and torturing in Algeria.

The fact is that French imperialism has been able to carry on its war against the Algerian people for this long, and can continue to carry it on, only because of U.S. military and financial aid. The huge sums and huge quantities of munitions supplied by Washington explain the French government's obstinate course on the Algerian question. How many billions the U.S. has already furnished at the American taxpayer's expense is a closely kept "security" secret. But practically everything being used against the Algerians—except the electric torture machines,

which appear to have been inherited by the French police from the Nazi Occupation—has its origin in the U.S.

This was shown in the bombing raid on the neutral Tunisian village of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef last month. The planes, rockets, bombs and bullets came from the U.S.—weapons for "defense of the free world."

Nor can the means of murdering Algerians be passed off as a help to the people of France. The French common people detest the "dirty" war in Algeria. The young draftees have staged repeated demonstrations and mutinies against being sent to Algeria. But the French people have had as little to say about participation in that war as the American people had to say about participation in the Korean War.

Bolstered by U.S. arms and U.S. funds, the rulers of France have taken one step after another to destroy civil liberties in France. The wholesale suppression of newspapers, the special laws against Algerian workers in France, the "treason" trials of opponents of the war, have brought France to the present situation where the political atmosphere is full of talk of possible coup d'etats and a fascist regime.

American workers can bring the bloodshed in Algeria to an end and help the French people maintain political democracy by forcing the U.S. government to stop acting as the quartermaster and finance officer of French imperialism.

Judge Kaufman's Promotion

Judge Irving R. Kaufman is now waiting for promotion. On March 23 the N.Y. Times announced that President Eisenhower is expected to send his name to the Senate soon for appointment to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

"An unusual aspect of the prospective appointment" according to the Times, "is the fact of a Republican Administration's picking a Democrat for what is, after the Supreme Court, the most important appellate court in the country."

The Times' explanation for this "unusual" procedure is the strong backing Kaufman has in Congress. This includes Republican Senator Styles Bridges, Democratic Senator Estes Kefauver and Representative Emmanuel Celler.

But it is clear to us that the pressure for Judge Kaufman is motivated by the feeling that he should have a vote of confidence for decreeing Julius and Ethel Rosenberg's execution and sentencing Morton Sobell to 30 years in prison. Indeed Senator Bridges has praised Kaufman highly for his handling of the Rosenberg trial.

Judge Kaufman's notoriety rests on his role in that trial. It was an unusual role. Although it wasn't customary, he assumed sole responsibility for the cruel sentences he imposed upon the defend-

ants in that period of war and hysteria. It was customary for a judge in his position to ask the government for its recommendation before sentencing. Kaufman didn't.

The Supreme Court, contrary to popular opinion, never reviewed the case or Kaufman's sentence. As Justice Hugo Black pointed out after the Rosenbergs were executed, "It is not amiss to point out that this Court has never affirmed the fairness of the trial below. Without an affirmation of the fairness of the trial by the highest court in the land there may always be questions as to whether these executions were legally and rightfully carried out."

In the years that have passed since then the doubts have spread. In our opinion the Rosenbergs were legally murdered.

When Kaufman heard the pleas for mercy that followed his shocking sentence, he pointed out that the defendants had refused to admit guilt. They therefore sought "justice, not mercy," and he added, "What they seek they have attained." To Kaufman, only a confession could have brought mercy. The Rosenbergs insisted they were innocent; so they had to die.

Should Kaufman realize his ambition and get the appointment, the innocent will have better cause for fear than the guilty.

Letters from Our Readers

Praises Article And Speech

Editor:

First let me congratulate you on your "Socialist Cure for the Depression" article in the March 17 number of your paper, which was like a fresh breeze for Socialist education in this country. Secondly, my old friend James P. Cannon's long speech, an appeal for unity of all Socialist and other progressive groups, was excellent stuff, and I enjoyed it very much.

I am a charter member of the CP here but everything

seemed to have died completely in this state capital city.

Please accept a buck for the paper, which is all I can spare just now. In closing, please keep up the good work and may socialism be discussed and explained in the columns of your paper every week. I remain for socialism and socialist education.

M. C.
Trenton, N. J.

A Housewife Speaks

O Capitalist! Don't you know that I read, While in my kitchen, of your greed?

Millions of workers you have starved; Millions of workers you have robbed.

O Capitalist! Don't you know that I pray, While in my kitchen every day, For peace and freedom for everyone, And that your system shall soon be done.

M. W.
Los Angeles

About the C.N.P.

Editor:

Statisticians often express the national output as consisting of goods and services. This lumps different entities and falsifies figures.

Service and output are distinctive. They do not have the

same value as entities. Service, if productive, creates output. Much service, however, is not productive. Such servicers, therefore, are parasitic consumers. In fact, in our modern economy, there are more consumers than producers. This accounts for the inflation of prices and the high cost of living. To reduce prices and costs, the economy must be inverted, so that there will be more producers and fewer consumers. All unearned income must be abolished.

This interpretation is not traditional, conventional or orthodox, but who would refute it?

Millions of workers you have starved; Millions of workers you have robbed.

O Capitalist! Don't you know that I pray, While in my kitchen every day, For peace and freedom for everyone, And that your system shall soon be done.

M. W.
Los Angeles

Redirect Budget

Editor:

A time for action has come to direct that big war budget—around \$47½ billion—towards building up the country and the world. We want to live, eat and sleep well. Not organize our unemployed young men into armies to murder our less wealthy brothers of the world in the name of war corporations. Remember that nuclear fallout affects humans of all races. That means you!

R. H.
P.S. It won't take too much to regear from cannon and rocket to farm tractor and reaper. How many of you are tired of the fume-filled city?

New York

MILITANT

LABOR FORUM

"U.S. Policy in North Africa"

Speaker:

DANIEL ROBERTS

Editor of the Militant: Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senator from New Jersey.

Sat., April 5 — 8 P.M.

116 University Place

Discussion Questions

Contribution 50¢

Unemployed Free

French Liberal's Plan for Holding Algeria

LIEUTENANT IN ALGERIA, by Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1957. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Philip Magri

Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber is a young French journalist, editor of the liberal weekly L'Express and a close political associate of former premier Pierre Mendes-France. In the 1955 election campaign he and the other "Mendesists" like the Socialist Party of Mollet, campaigned against the Algerian war and promised peace. When the triumph of the "Republican Front" led, not to peace, but to total war against the Algerian people, Servan-Schreiber as a reserve lieutenant in the French army volunteered for active duty in Algeria. The liberal intellectual went off to wage the colonial war he supposedly opposed.

Lieutenant in Algeria is the story of Servan-Schreiber's six month tour of duty in Algeria. It is an illuminating book—illuminating as to the nature of the Algerian war, and equally revealing of the author's own political position (which is also the position of many other Frenchmen who pass for opponents of the war).

Servan-Schreiber is outspoken and deadly in his description of the French methods of "pacification" in Algeria. The book begins with the story behind an everyday newspaper item about the "terrorism of a minority from which France is protecting the Algerian people": "Yesterday at — the occupants of a truck machine-gunned people in the streets. Fortunately, only one man was wounded."

REBEL ASSASSINATION

The reality, of course, was somewhat different. A man had been wounded, all right—mortally wounded, shot down without reason and in cold blood by a hero of the Army of Pacification. The witnesses, all

Moslems, had fled in terror and the killer had driven off in his jeep when the local French militia arrived on the scene of what obviously was another "rebel assassination." At this point a truck bringing six Algerian workers back from their day's work in the local mine arrived in the town. The militia stopped the truck—could these be the rebels?—and began to question the driver.

"The driver trembled like a leaf. The more he stammered, the angrier Prato and the others grew, and the more they shouted at him, the worse he shook. The dialogue became completely nonsensical. They would have to beat him up."

Afraid of being lynched on the spot, the workers took advantage of a momentary distraction to flee. A French Army truck quickly set off in pursuit of the "terrorists." "As the Arab truck continued its headlong flight, the operation was carried out without a hitch. At five minutes past eight the Arbaeche mine truck was in the ditch by the road and the workers were riddled with bullets, killed on the spot."

A book much longer than Lieutenant in Algeria could be filled with stories of this sort and worse, much worse, but this is not Servan-Schreiber's purpose. He is content to establish the real atmosphere of the war, which he can sum up toward the close of the book like this: "The war continued its monotonous course. Operations and encirclements succeeded night patrols; outrages and destructions followed their usual cycle." His basic concern is to tell the story of the "good" French soldiers, those seeking a genuine "pacification," those who reject the policy of systematic atrocities against the Algerian people.

BLACK COMMANDOS

In his six months in Algeria Servan-Schreiber was closely associated with soldiers of this sort in a project called the "Black Commandos." The "Commandos" were units of French soldiers sent out to move through the Arab villages, living among the people, gaining their confidence

French Gestapo

A detailed account of the gruesome tortures he was subjected to by French paratroopers and their officers, was somehow smuggled out of a French prison in Algeria by Henri Alleg, editor of a Communist newspaper. The tortures included use of electric-shock machines with electrodes connected to various parts of the body, including the sexual organs, to send the victim into excruciating and repeated convulsions, as well as the forcing of water under pressure into the victim.

In its attempt to keep Alleg's unchallenged story from the public, the French government has unleashed an attack on freedom of the press. The well-known, independent socialist paper, France-Observateur, which tried to print extracts of Alleg's book, was seized by the police. Similar treatment was given the liberal weekly L'Express. On March 9, Paris police raided a printing plant and smashed the type for a pamphlet by Jean Paul Sartre on Alleg's exposures.

Alleg tells how in intervals between the tortures his jailors boasted that they were more expert than the Gestapo. One torturer told him: "You will talk. Everybody talks here. We fought in Indo-China — that's where we learned about you people. This is like the Gestapo. Have you heard about the Gestapo?"

tempt is obviously doomed in the long run . . .

A cruel and hopeless problem! For Servan-Schreiber is well aware that "the decision has been made. The French government . . . has turned its army into a police force to maintain the status quo." And faced with this decision, Servan-Schreiber can propose no alternative—the best he can do is try to "humanize" the colonial war.

The reason for his bankruptcy is spotlighted by the things he himself emphasizes in his analysis: the necessity to change "the position of the French residents as it is now," the need to modify "the present forms of colonization." Behind his "sympathy" for the Algerian people appears the reality — Servan-Schreiber, the liberal, is just as much a colonialist as any "rightist," just as much in favor of suppression of the "rebellion" by force. He differs from the "ultras" on only one point—the methods used to be used to preserve French domination.

BLIND TO REVOLUTION

Where Servan-Schreiber is blind to realities is not on the French side, but on the Algerian. He fails to grasp that what is happening in Algeria today is not a "rebellion," "uprising," or some other euphemism, but a full-fledged revolution, a struggle for freedom on the part of an entire people. He thinks it is possible for a project like the "Black Commandos" to win the sympathy of the Algerian people when one of their avowed principles is "exemplary severity with the criminal outlaws." He hoped that the French Army sent to Algeria to crush the revolution could do this and at the same time be an "umpire" between Algerians and colonists. The lesson emerges clearly from his book, so clearly that even he half-sees it—a counter-revolutionary war can be fought only by counter-revolutionary methods, only by brutality, torture, and mass murder.

The concern of the Algerian people, and of all revolutionary socialists, is not how to preserve French rule in Algeria, but how to abolish it. And in this they and they alone struggle for the real interests of the French people.

UNPROTECTED

Only 25 million U.S. workers are covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage law). Some 20 million are not covered.

Calendar of Events

CHICAGO

Washington Park Free Speech Forum, Sunday, April 6, 3 to 6 P.M. "A White Southerner Looks at Civil Rights for Negroes." Speaker: Eugene Feldman, editor, Southern Newsletter. 306 E. 43rd St., 2nd Floor. Admission free.

MINNEAPOLIS

Socialist Action Rally — "Present Prospects for United Socialist Political Action in 1958" Speaker: Dorothy Schultz, former candidate for U. S. Congress, 4th Dist. Discussion follows. Donation 50¢; unemployed free. 322 Hennepin Hall No. 201. Saturday, April 5, 8 P.M. Ausp.: Socialist Workers Party.

We're Mobilized for Freedom!!

WANTED: You and all your friends.

FOR: Reaching signers with our appeal to the President on behalf of Morton Sobell.

JUSTICE: Depends on you — join us

NOW: Every Saturday — 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Sunday — 1:30 to 4 P.M. At the L. A. Sobell Committee Office, 462 No. Western Ave., Suite 3 Hollywood 4-4725

The Negro Struggle

By JOHN THAYER

India Celebrates Paul Robeson's 60th Birthday

To the chagrin of the Washington politicians and Big Business' kept press throughout the country, news comes from India of preparations of a nation-wide honoring of Paul Robeson on April 9, his sixtieth birthday.

This tribute to the great Negro artist and victim of the witch hunt, cannot be dismissed by America's reactionary propagandists as a "red-inspired" action because Prime Minister Nehru, his daughter, Mrs. Indira Ghandi, and "Indians prominent in the arts, science and government have lent their names" as sponsors of the event (Mar. 21 N.Y. Times.)

Nehru's letter to the celebration committee said in part: "This is an occasion which deserves celebration not only because Mr. Robeson is one of the greatest artists of our generation, but also because he has represented and suffered for a cause which should be dear to us all—the cause of human dignity. Celebration of his birthday is something more than a tribute to a great individual. It is also a tribute to that cause for which he has stood and suffered."

It is not only from India that the U.S. State Department will receive this direct slap in the face. We may be sure that in other countries similar preparations on Robeson's behalf are being made. Robeson is a symbol for all the world

W. Side Romeo and Juliet

By TRENT HUTTER

An "American" boy loving a Puerto Rican girl amidst a juvenile gang war between "Americans" and Puerto Ricans on New York's West Side, a modern version of the Romeo-and-Juliet theme with the dance becoming the dramatic medium, a musical about "two young lovers destroyed by a violent world of prejudice"—these were the provocative ideas that director-choreographer Jerome Robbins, author Arthur Laurents, composer Leonard Bernstein and lyrics-writer Stephen Sondheim had to work in putting together the Broadway show "West Side Story." The ideas, originally conceived by Mr. Robbins, the show's real star, were full of possibilities and dangers.

There is no reason why juvenile gangs and discrimination should not provide the subject matter for a serious play, half ballet, half spoken and sung. It is a bold project indeed, but there is nothing wrong with boldness in the arts if coupled with genius and sureness of taste. "West Side Story" is a hit on Broadway. That is not surprising: Juvenile crime is topical, and so is Leonard Bernstein who tries to be the glamor-boy of music. And Robbins' dances are brilliant and imaginative; his staging is very good.

Yet the plot did not entirely satisfy me. Mr. Laurents is a competent craftsman but no genius. His outcry against discrimination is unequivocal, but I am under the impression that he does not know too much about Puerto Ricans. His "Puerto Ricans" remain somewhat abstract, with a few picturesque traits added. And why are most of these stage Puerto Ricans played by non-Puerto Ricans? There are quite a few talented Puerto Rican actors, actresses, singers

and dancers around, some of them desperately looking for work.

Psychologically, I have certain doubts about the scene where we see the lovers in bed immediately after the boy-friend has—unintentionally—killed the girl's brother. And there is an atrocious number in the second act, a mixture of low comedy and smart-alec lyrics, which, coming after this killing, completely shatters any unity of style and mood.

Shakespeare knew how to fit comic or tragic interludes into his tragedies, intensifying mood and atmosphere by a kind of dramatic counterpoint. But Mr. Laurents is definitely no Shakespeare. Nor is he an Oscar Hammerstein.

As for Mr. Bernstein's music, it certainly is far from being the worst I have heard on Broadway; but, lively as it is, it isn't the best either. It does, however, succeed in evoking the candy-store juke boxes and in conveying the rhythm of the big city; and it also has some moments of greater sensitiveness.

Despite its shortcomings, the play quite truthfully depicts the role of teenage gangs formed to fight minorities that are moving or have moved into their neighborhood, and of those gangs formed by the minorities primarily for self-defense.

Moreover, the play does not attempt to glorify the police. And although it may not be perfect, it still represents a worthwhile experiment of the contemporary American theatre—a gripping dance-drama with a background of present-day tension and a hope of future brotherhood symbolized by the lovers, the tragic victims of a society that generates so much distrust and hatred.

Fringe Benefits

By JOYCE COWLEY

Fringe benefits for executives includes hideaway hunting lodges, yachts, private planes and railroad cars, jaunts to exotic watering places and spectacular soirees. I got the list from a recent article in the Wall Street Journal which explains that corporations consider executive expenditures of this kind necessary to aid executive morale and spur business.

Executive morale must be at a new low judging by the extraordinary measures that are required to prop it up. For example, a plywood firm spends \$10,000 a year on a quiet woodland retreat, just for running expenses. This covers well-stocked fishing and hunting preserves and plenty of free liquor.

The Florida ranch of a food manufacturer sounds even better. A typical breakfast menu—platters of fried eggs, pancakes, hominy grits, pork chops, country fried steaks, sausages, biscuits, ham and bacon—is enough to indicate that it promotes physical well-being, but it's the hunting that makes the place so popular. Stocks of pheasants are released in such numbers that "birds come at you like a freight train and it's kind of like shooting fish in a barrel." Anyone who can hold a gun is sure to bag some game, and this gives dispirited executives a wonderful sense of achievement.

A Texas oil company supplies its chief executive with a Boeing Stratocruiser so that he can travel comfortably. It requires 2,000 gallons of expensive aviation fuel for a single filling of its tanks.

The Conrad Hilton Hotel rents suites for executive conferences at \$300 a day. For this you get a 2,000 square-foot living room, and a couple of bedrooms with color TV, satin sheets and cashmere blankets, which explains why it is possible to spend as much as \$9,000 on a three day conference. Entertainment comes even higher. "Oil men are big spenders," a hotel manager concedes, "but it takes bankers, particularly Eastern bankers, to throw a real shindig. A cocktail party costing \$8,000 to \$10,000 is about standard for them."

But the recession is affecting all areas of

U.S. economy and even the company expense budget, which covers so many items obviously vital to the promotion of new business, has begun to feel the pinch. A Southwestern manufacturer has ordered its traveling vice president to eat in hotel dining rooms instead of taking his breakfast in bed. A steel company famous for its parties for visiting oilmen has discontinued the customary raffle of pretty girls.

Further hardship is caused by investigations of the Internal Revenue Service which check company expense deductions to determine whether they are for legitimate business costs, or just a form of tax-free compensation for executives. But I'm sure a visit to a hunting lodge or ranch would convince any doubtful official that these investments are valuable for building goodwill and maintaining happy relationships with customers.

In fact, living it up in one of these retreats sounds very attractive to me, and I certainly don't think corporations should discontinue this kind of luxury spending. On the contrary, I have been suddenly inspired with an idea for the more extensive use of corporation yachts, Stratocruisers, ranches, lodges and executive suites.

If executive morale is so shaky, the morale of unemployed workers, which is being subjected to even greater strain, must need bolstering too. President Eisenhower has said on numerous occasions that the most important thing we can do to aid recovery is to maintain a cheerful and optimistic attitude, and I know that business executives want to do everything they can to aid recovery.

I think they can make a real contribution by opening up all of these luxurious facilities to the unemployed. After five days of job hunting, a worker could go cruising in a yacht, or step on a plane and spend the weekend in Florida. The food, rest and entertainment would certainly put him in a better frame of mind for looking through help wanted ads, hanging around employment agencies and tramping the streets.

THE MILITANT

VOLUME XXII

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1958

NUMBER 13

Police Brutality Angers Negroes in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, March 21—Pressure, threats and string-pulling had to be employed by the administration of Mayor Frank P. Zeidler to prevent a mass parade and prayer demonstration by this city's Negro community against police brutality. The parade had been scheduled for March 23 and was to culminate in a prayer meeting in front of Police Headquarters.

Anger with police brutality reached the boiling point on Feb. 2 with the killing of Daniel Bell, 22-year-old Negro, by a motorcycle policeman. Bell had fled the scene of a minor traffic violation. It is charged that upon catching Bell the policeman, without provocation, shot him in the back. Public dissatisfaction with the police whitewash of the killing forced the reluctant District Attorney to schedule an inquest.

The cop testified that he shot Bell in the back because the latter drew a knife. A white witness to the killing, put on the stand at the insistence of the dead man's family, testified that there was no knife in the victim's hands. Nonetheless the all-white jury refused to indict.

A citizens committee was spontaneously formed, and from a protest meeting emerged the Christian Civil League with Rev. R. L. Lathan as president. It issued the call for the parade.

The Zeidler administration for six weeks did its utmost to prevent a protest by Milwaukee Negroes. Policemen visited Negro ministers warning against "radicalism," leading advocates of the protest march were followed, an investigation of Rev. Lathan was made in the hope of finding material for a smear. Negro political appointees and others tied to city hall as well as the professional Uncle Toms were mobilized to speak against the protest movement. The Mayor's commission on human rights was roused from its slumber to oppose it. In face of

and danders around, some of them desperately looking for work.

The campaign of intimidation initiated by the Post Office Department two months ago against postal workers was stepped up here yesterday. The two top officers of the United Postal Workers Union were fired for leading a "picket" line demonstration for higher wages and better working conditions last November 17. Then to make sure that no postal worker misunderstood that new and tougher regulations meant business the Post Office Department banned the wearing of union buttons by postal workers.

The two fired men have the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union in their fight to regain their jobs. Ernest Besig, Northern California Director is in charge of the defense by postal workers.

The two fired men, Conrad C. Eustace, President of the union, and Thomas H. Monroe, secretary, charged that the ban on union buttons was "just fur-

Union Chief



David Dubinsky, Pres. of Int'l Ladies Garment Workers Union addressing recent mass strike rally at New York's Madison Square Garden. Walkout of the 105,000 dressmakers was most complete in union's history and secured tangible gains.

Grievance Man Barred; 10,000 Workers Strike

CHICAGO, March 23—Ten thousand steel workers closed the Youngstown plant at Indiana Harbor from 12:30 P.M., March 20, to 4 P.M. yesterday. This is the second plant-wide strike within the last six months.

The strike was precipitated when the mechanical superintendent had union grievance man Bernard White ejected from the plant by two company guards while he was in process of bargaining a grievance. The grievance involved the downgrading of an employee.

When the workers in the Electrical Department saw their union griever being ejected, they walked out. They were followed by the men in the Mechanical and Blacksmith departments—some 300 in all.

After a brief meeting at the union hall they picketed all five gates of the Youngstown plant. The outgoing day shift and the incoming second and third shifts joined the line. The plant was shut down solid.

NO HELP FROM GERMANO

But the workers got no help from the Germano district leadership of their union, the United Steel Workers of America, and they didn't like it one bit. On the picket line they stated their opinion that Foreman Holt and Superintendent Theirs had the gall to eject White only because the union leadership had become so soft with management that they thought they could get away with it.

The two fired men have the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union in their fight to regain their jobs. Ernest Besig, Northern California Director is in charge of the defense by postal workers.

On the picket line and at yesterday's jam-packed union meeting, the rank-and-file spokesmen demanded that the USW leadership stand up to the company and police the contract.

The vote to return to work was prefaced by many assertions during the discussion from the floor that the rank-and-file

INCOME DWINDLES

American farmers earned a net of 4% less in 1957 than in 1956.

Post Office Dismisses Two for Union Activity

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19

The campaign of intimidation initiated by the Post Office Department two months ago against postal workers was stepped up here yesterday. The two top officers of the United Postal Workers Union were fired for leading a "picket" line demonstration for higher wages and better working conditions last November 17. Then to make sure that no postal worker misunderstood that new and tougher regulations meant business the Post Office Department banned the wearing of union buttons by postal workers.

The two fired men have the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union in their fight to regain their jobs. Ernest Besig, Northern California Director is in charge of the defense by postal workers.

The two fired men, Conrad C. Eustace, President of the union, and Thomas H. Monroe, secretary, charged that the ban on union buttons was "just fur-

ther intimidation of union officers still employed by the Post Office."

The order to leave union buttons at home came from Regional Postal Director C. Verne Scoggins who said: "The Post Office wants employees with grievances to consult their superiors and not the shop stewards."

The two fired men have the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union in their fight to regain their jobs. Ernest Besig, Northern California Director is in charge of the defense by postal workers.

U. S. STATISTICS

The U. S. has 6% of the world's population living on 7% of the world's land area.

'Conspiracy' Verdict Endangers Unions

ERIC REINTHALER, prominent Cleveland unionist, is one of seven persons convicted in T-H "conspiracy" trial.

In determining whether any person is acting as an "agent" of another person so as to make such other person responsible for his acts, the question of whether the specific acts performed were actually authorized or subsequently ratified shall not be controlling.

BLANKET TRIAL

A blanket indictment, a blanket trial for all defendants, is being conducted in the Cleveland Taft-Hartley "conspiracy" case. The defense has announced its intention to appeal the blanket sentence imposed by Federal Judge Paul C. Weick—18 months in prison and a \$2,500 fine each.

Should the appeal fail, the labor movement will be confronted with the most serious erosion of basic union rights since 1840, when it won its first major court decision in the Massachusetts Supreme Court that unions as such do not constitute a conspiracy. Prior to 1840, associations of workers or unions were viewed by the courts as "conspiracies."

Practically every court injunction applied to labor strikes, picketing, etc., implies a "conspiracy" aspect in union activities. Contained in the Taft-Hartley law is the following interesting language, not too well known or understood by labor:

that had originally opposed Taft-Hartley and then later came to the opinion that it should be complied with. Both the prosecution and the court were very impatient with suggestions by the defense that the Communist Party should not be given credit as the only organization taking those positions.

They were also impatient with the defense position that in fact it was the unions that first opposed the law and then decided to comply only because non-compliance had serious disadvantages for the success of organizing campaigns.

The jury got the picture that since the Communist Party took these positions, the positions were evil and carried within them the kernel of conspiracy which was charged against the defendants. When this type of reasoning was compounded with the admitting of uncorroborated evidence, hearsay, coincidental or unrelated acts, guilt through associations—evidence inadmissible in ordinary criminal proceedings but permitted in "conspiracy" charges—the defendants' position was foredoomed.

CONSPIRACY WEB

Judge Weick in his instructions to the jury advised them that in the first instance there was a "conspiracy." They could consider all the odds and ends of evidence as part of a web in which all the defendants were enmeshed, even if it were uncorroborated evidence or testimony given by paid informers. He also instructed the jury that if they found that a "conspiracy" existed they must determine the individual guilt or innocence of the defendants in relation to this conspiracy.

To hear the prosecution's version of what happened, it was only the Communist Party

in this trial of union history and the accrediting to the Communist party of the international union, whether AFL, CIO or independent...

The labor movement... has not altered its original stand of opposition to Taft-Hartley and Section 9(h) [which provides for the "non-Communist" oath]. It so stated in the 1954 hearings before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on proposed revisions to the (Taft-Hartley) Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947, when a parade of union officials affirmed the labor movement's uncompromising opposition to the act.

DEMOS, GOP, LOOK OUT! To heighten the irony of the Cleveland "conspiracy" case is the position of the Democratic Party for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law, and the position of the Republican Party for amending the act to make it "fair and just"—with the Eisenhower Administration now proposing, among other things, the outright repeal of Section 9(h). With the infinite variations through which the conspiracy doctrine can be applied, care had better be exercised by both Democrats and Republicans before they find themselves enmeshed in the web of "conspiracy" woven for the unions.

WAYNE CO. CIO COUNCIL Joining the many other unions already on record as opposing the application of the "conspiracy" doctrine to union activity see in the Cleveland Taft-Hartley convictions before they find themselves enmeshed in the web of the antilabor Taft-Hartley Law. The labor movement, they feel, must be alerted to this insidious development.

In winning [the Cleveland] convictions, the government achieved its step in introducing the "conspiracy" doctrine into the Taft-Hartley Law. By the selection, in this case, of controversial labor figures and by linking them to an unpopular political grouping, it has established legal precedents which in the next stage of the antilabor activity can be applied against the more "respectable" unions and unionists.

LOS ANGELES

APRIL 12—SATURDAY—7 P.M.—\$10 PER PERSON—PARK MANOR, 607 SO. WESTERN AVE., L.A.

PROGRAM GUESTS: Rev. Erwin A. Gaede, Westwood Unitarian Society; Prof. Malcolm P. Sharp, Univ. of Chicago Law School and Mrs. Morton Sobell

Auspices: L.A. Sobell Committee, HO 4-4725

LOS ANGELES