

American Labor And the A-Tests

AN EDITORIAL

The number one job for those in this country fighting to build a movement to halt nuclear tests is to win the active intervention of organized labor.

American scientists have done outstanding work in the fight against the nuclear menace. They have painstakingly explained the dangers of the nuclear explosions. In recent months, in the face of intimidation and victimization, they have entered into battle against the powerful forces of the Atomic Energy Commission who engage in fraud and deceit to conceal the extent of the hazards.

These courageous scientists have been joined by pacifists, churchmen and liberals. The radical movement, of course, has also been in the forefront of the fight. These efforts have helped to crystallize substantial popular sentiment for a halt to the tests.

Yet the scope of the movement remains limited. The reason for this should be clear enough. All of these groupings and individuals combined, do not possess the social weight essential for victory in such a fight. But the trade union movement, 18 million strong, has the power to decide the issue.

The need to win labor's participation is graphically illustrated by the advanced state of the anti-bomb movement in such countries as England, Germany and Japan where the ranks of labor are being mobilized on the issue. In England, militant intervention by the left wing of the unions and of the Labor Party has made the anti-bomb fight the top political issue.

It is true that there are greater obstacles in this country to winning decisive action by the unions. The highly conservative top leadership is wedded to the capitalist parties and to the pro-war policies of the State Department and has little stomach for such a fight. If sufficient sentiment is generated in the ranks these officials can be compelled to move.

Convince Fellow Unionists

A number of voices have already been raised within the unions against the tests, but nowhere near enough. Those who recognize how urgent it is to stop the tests must now enlist their union brothers and sisters in the campaign.

Wherever feasible, resolutions should be introduced in the unions demanding that the government immediately stop the tests. Wherever adopted, such resolutions should be given maximum publicity and circulated in other union bodies for additional support. The widest possible education campaign should be conducted on the issues.

While the job will not be done overnight important progress can be made. The nuclear-test issue is not a narrow one. The movement that already exists indicates the striking extent to which it crosses the lines of partisan politics. A maximum unity of forces can be welded in the fight. Eminent scientists have provided a wealth of facts that demonstrate the justness of the cause. And organized labor abroad has shown by example how much can be accomplished. It's time for American labor to act.

Friends Give to Keep Socialist Fund Climbing

By Murry Weiss
National Fund Drive Director

APRIL 9 — The drive to collect a \$20,000 Socialist Expansion fund this spring is moving ahead at a steady clip. Branches of the Socialist Workers Party are now aiming toward May 1 — when the two-thirds mark in the campaign will have been reached — with the objective of overcoming the 8% lag that still persists. This will put them in good shape for the last month of the campaign and enable them to hit the bell by May 31.

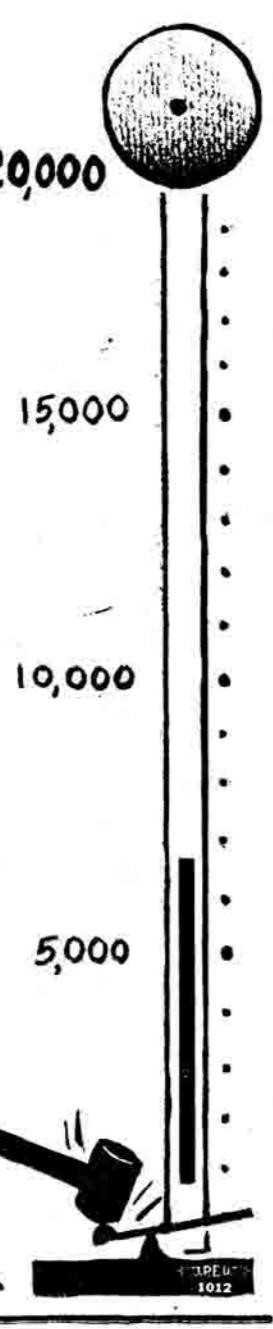
Our contingent from the South jumped from fourteenth to second place this week and is now tied with Buffalo which has maintained the lead since the beginning of the drive. (See scoreboard page two.)

Fund Drive Director for the South, Ronald Jones, writes: "We here are gratified to know that the Socialist Expansion Fund is getting off to a good start. In this there is real determination. Of this we have plenty. (Certainly more than we have money!) Like other friends of the SWP throughout the country we don't consider the inconveniences necessitated by getting our pledges in on time as sacrifices." Jones says that the struggle "for that brighter tomorrow" is "part of our very being."

Two more areas have joined the active list on the scoreboard this week — Denver and Oakland. Denver, along with the South, is participating in a national SWP campaign for the first time in many years. We expect to hear a lot from them in all fields of socialist activity.

Oakland Fund Director reports: "Our branch is slightly over the quota in pledges. But collecting on them will be a real problem. The recession hurts; about a quarter of our membership is unemployed and about as many on reduced work-weeks."

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U.S., British Peace Walks Demand Halt to A-Tests

Report N.Y. Area Highly Radioactive

By Myra Tanner Weiss
"The fallout of radioactive strontium on New York increased by 50% in 1957," a study by the Atomic Energy Commission revealed. April 3. And AEC science member Dr. Willard F. Libby announced that northeastern United States is "one of the hottest places in the world" for radioactivity. "No other point in the world approached the cumulative level of strontium-90 reported for New York," says the April 3 New York Times.

By way of giving reassurance to New York residents, the AEC's New York office hastened to point out that there were also other cities in the nation that had high rates of fall-out. These include Salt Lake City, Utah; Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Grand Junction, Colorado; and New Orleans and Boise, Idaho. On March 27, from Berkeley, Calif., "sharp increase in radioactivity content of rainfall" was announced. Radiological checks gave a reading "200 times higher than the standard established as safe for drinking water."

IOWA PONDS
An Iowa professor reported on April 1 that "A selected group of farm ponds in southern Iowa has shown a sharp increase in radioactivity following ten rains that fell between July and November last year.

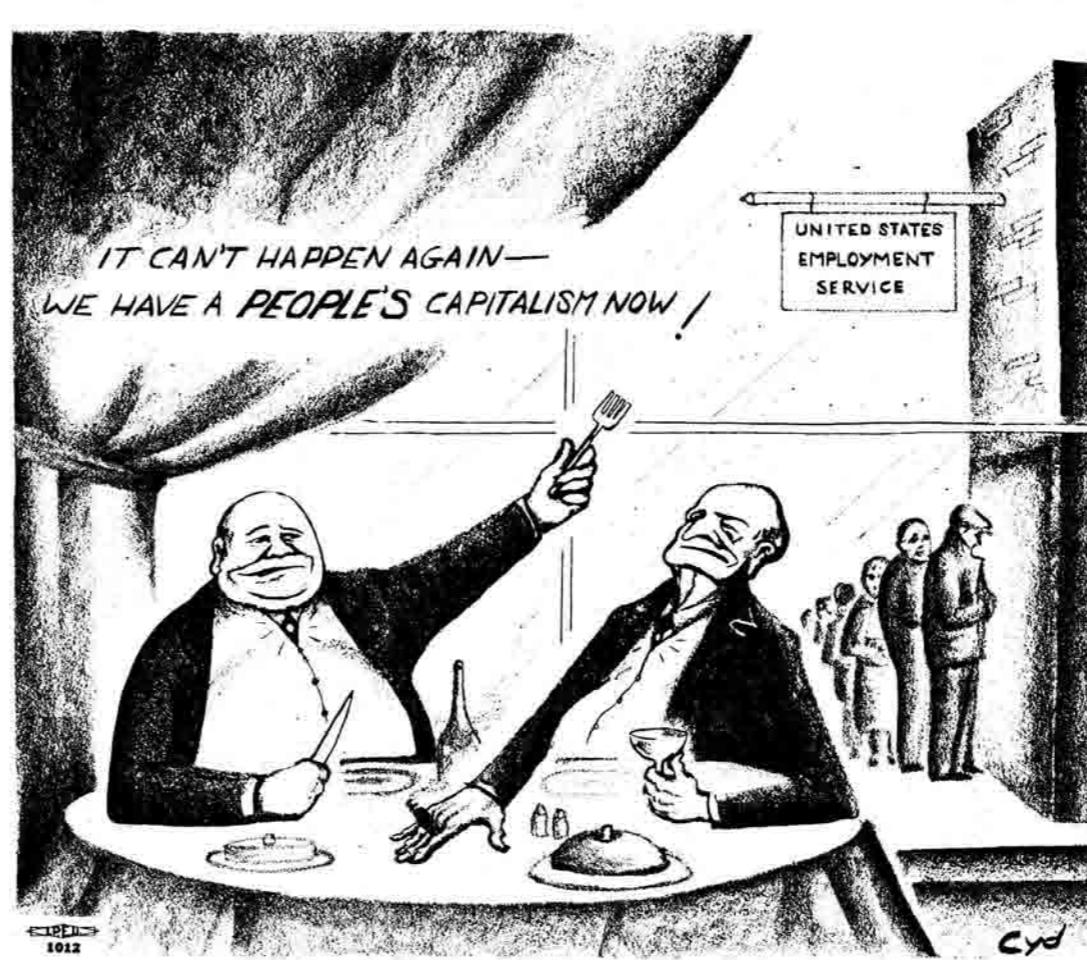
A broad, the "radioactive count in the atmosphere is the highest recorded in four years," reported Japanese scientists at Osaka University on March 27. And Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn.) has announced that Sweden reports increased radioactivity to "within 25% of the maximum permissible level."

Reading all this cheerful news in the daily press, an old melody with new words invented by a correspondent for the New Yorker keeps intruding into my brain: "It isn't raining rain, you know, it's raining strontium."

Matters aren't helped any by news that the AEC is working on a \$35 million program "to determine the effects of radiation in man." After all, 141 atom and hydrogen bombs have been exploded already. And the U.S. is hell-bent for exploding about 18 more this spring.

Now is there any comfort in

(Continued on Page 2)



LAYOFFS MOUNT STEEPLY; SEASONAL HIRING DOWN

By George Lavan

APRIL 10 — Eisenhower's attempt to draw optimistic conclusions from the economic report, which was issued jointly by his Departments of Labor and Commerce yesterday, has fallen flat. The unemployment figures in it, going up to March 15, were in themselves cause for alarm and not complacency. Moreover, jobless figures for the weeks following the period covered in the report show a serious acceleration.

Nevertheless, the administration persists in the attitude that emergency anti-recession measures are not yet needed. And the leaders of the Democratic-controlled Congress, who are in a deal with Eisenhower to stall emergency legislation, went off on their business-as-usual ten-day Easter vacation (with pay).

DOWNTURN REBOUND

Eisenhower pretended to see a silver lining in the fact that unemployment on March 15 had risen only 25,000 above Feb. 15. This, he said, showed a "leveling off of unemployment . . . a slowing up of the decline." The whole strategy of the administration's optimistic predictions

for past months has been to await the usual seasonal pickup that comes with the resumption of outdoor construction jobs, agricultural hiring and Easter shopping as proof that the economy was "rebounding."

To demands for emergency legislation, such as the much-talked of tax cut, the White House answer was, "wait till the mid-March figures are in." The Democratic leaders of House and Senate agreed to squelch emergency proposals till then. Before March was over the AFL-CIO, whose economic anti-recession proposals have been ignored by both party leaderships, called for the early release of the figures in the hope that they might galvanize Congress into action. But they were kept a government secret till yesterday.

The long-awaited, much-juggled, mid-March figures show that the seasonal upturn fizzled. Construction jobs increased by only 139,000 or 250,000 less than a year ago. Transportation jobs are 200,000 less than in 1957. But the key figure — non-farm employment officially adjusted for seasonal changes — was

down 300,000, the biggest drop in any month since the recession began last August. Those working short work weeks total 2,290,000.

NEW JOBLESS CLAIMS

Eisenhower's "levelling off of unemployment" statement was false even while he uttered it. In the week ending March 22, the unemployment compensation claims were up 14,700 over the previous week. On the week ending March 29, 421,900 people filed new jobless claims sending the figure up still another 17,500. The rate of increase has apparently continued into the week ending April 5 to even new records. In the Detroit area joblessness on April 1 had reached 265,000 or 17.4% of the labor force. One in six workers there was unemployed.

For the whole state of Michigan the figure was 15.5%. Sharp increases are reported from the other industrial centers.

But what must be remembered about the spiraling unemployment compensation figures is that about 35% of the unemployed aren't covered by the compensation system at all.

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an electrical worker: "If the union officials will not black work on the nuclear weapons and rocket bases it is up to the members to take matters into their own hands and use strike action to enforce their demands."

A secretary of a local Labor

Party unit: "The sooner we break the shackles of American capitalism the better off we shall be."

When American workers come here in military uniform their presence is much resented. But if they were to come for a fraternal visit as trade union-

ists, they would be eagerly welcomed. Wide interest is shown in the problems, policies and actions of the American unions, particularly on the issue of unemployment.

Although joblessness does not yet run as high as in the United States, pockets of un-

employment are spreading throughout British industry. It is well understood that economic crisis in America will cause serious repercussions here. The workers are watching to see how the U.S. unions will meet the problem, hoping for effective action which will give them ammunition to defend their own livelihood.

Admiration for the fighting qualities of the American workers runs high, as shown by a miner who remarked, "When the Yanks have a strike they bloody well go at it."

Looking from afar many even get the mistaken notion that American union officials are a cut above their British counterparts.

But the most experienced rank and file unionists know better instinctively. Their interest is not in David J. McDonald. They want to know about the leaders of the dues-protest movement in the steel union. It is not Walter Reuther who captures their attention but the real fighters who lead the wildcat strikes against the speed-up in the auto plants.

Rebel leaders of the same stamp in the British union ranks would welcome direct talks with their American

Prominent Scientists Sue in the Courts to Outlaw Explosions

By Harry Ring

APRIL 9 — The movement in the United States to prevent further nuclear tests was given fresh impetus on April 9 when 700 Walkers for Peace converged on the UN headquarters in New York last Friday to petition for "an immediate end to nuclear weapons tests." Their arrival at the UN coincided with the opening of a huge British anti-bomb march. At the same time it was announced that prominent test opponents had filed a Federal suit to prevent further test explosions.

Of the 700 marchers in New York, who covered a five-block span as they proceeded through Times Square, over 100 had walked from Philadelphia, 90 miles away, and from New Haven, 75 miles away.

IMPRESSIVE SIGHT

The Philadelphia and New Haven marchers provided an impressive sight as they filed into the lounge of the Carnegie Endowment Center where a press conference was held. Many in the group showed signs of fatigue and several were limping, but all were in high spirits. Youngest of the marchers was a 10-year-old boy who walked the full distance from Philadelphia. The oldest was a spry looking woman of 71 who also walked from Philadelphia. A large number of the demonstrators were students from 20 of the major colleges in the New England and Middle Atlantic area.

Declaring that the Soviet decision to halt nuclear tests meant that the various groups in this country fighting for a test ban would now step up their activities, Muste outlined plans for future demonstrations on the issue.

Elaborating his view of the Soviet action, Muste said: "The Soviet Union has taken this step. Regardless of motive, or U.S. interpretation of it, this does not alter the responsibility of the U.S. to halt the tests. This is particularly true of the Pacific tests which are held in international waters in violation of freedom of the seas, and especially because the danger falls on people who have nothing to say about it."

It is the duty of the U.S. government, Muste continued, "to react positively" to the Soviet action.

In England, an effective new

(Continued on Page 2)

Dobbs Tells of Interviews with British Workers

employment are spreading throughout British industry. It is well understood that economic crisis in America will cause serious repercussions here. The workers are watching to see how the U.S. unions will meet the problem, hoping for effective action which will give them ammunition to defend their own livelihood.

They would also welcome union support within the United States in the fight to prevent Washington from converting this exposed island into an American nuclear-weapons base. Strongly socialist-minded themselves, they want no part of a war to save capitalism. They want to live at peace with the rest of the world.

In fighting to defend their class interests the British workers tend to attach prime importance to fraternal solidarity with their fellow trade unionists in the United States. They sense where the real power lies in America. Their feeling was well expressed by one worker leader, a battle-scarred veteran of many labor struggles, who said, "One bloody growl from the American workers and things will shake across the world."

Farrell Dobbs in Europe; Corresponding for Militant

With this report from London, we begin publication of a series of dispatches by Farrell Dobbs who is now touring Europe as a correspondent for the Militant. Dobbs is the National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and was its Presidential candidate in 1956.

He is making the European tour to obtain a firsthand picture of the European labor and political movement and will report them through our pages. A former leader of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union, Dobbs is highly conversant with trade union problems and plans on making a careful study of the European union movement, the mood and political thinking of the workers, as well as important socialist regroupment developments now taking place in Europe.



FARRELL DOBBS

The Menace Of Strontium-90

(The following are excerpts from a letter to the April 8 New York Times from W. Selove, former chairman of the Radiation Hazards Committee of the Federation of American Scientists and a member of the panel convened in 1957 by the AEC to estimate future strontium-90 levels in bones.)

"The publication on April 4 of a report giving the accumulated fallout to the end of 1957 points up again the fact that the Atomic Energy Commission has consistently taken a highly optimistic attitude toward fallout effects."

"According to the consensus of a panel convened by the AEC in July, 1957, to make the best possible prediction of future strontium-90 levels in bone, the accumulated fallout due to those tests conducted before 1957 would give rise to average strontium-90 levels in young persons in the northeastern United States over the next 20 years or so of 1.5 to 10 strontium units..."

"The AEC has now reported a 50 percent increase in strontium-90 levels during 1957... One may reasonably estimate that the corresponding expected average bone levels in northeastern United States from all tests to the present will now lie in the range of perhaps three to 20 strontium units."

NO SAFE LEVEL

"In estimating the effects of such levels it is not correct to believe that there is a 'safe' level. There is good reason to believe that even small doses of strontium-90 can cause leukemia or bone cancer in proportion to the dose..."

"It is not difficult to see the genuine cause for alarm for groups of people as large as the entire Japanese nation, whose rice crop in 1956 was contami-

THAT'S DIFFERENT

The Little Rock high school student who was not expelled for hitting Minnie Jean Brown with a pocketbook and calling her a "nigger bitch," was expelled for hitting a white school teacher.

... Radioactivity in N.Y.

(Continued from Page 1)

the March 27 statement by that ardent supporter of testing, AEC-member Libby that the extent of radioactive fallout hazard from nuclear weapons testing is "not known exactly and probably will not be well understood for many years."

All concede the danger to human genetics. Considerable debate exists, however, on how much strontium-90 can be accumulated in the bones of children before cancer of the bones or blood (leukemia) is produced. Dr. Libby claimed that the total dose of radiation added from fall-out to freshly formed human bone is estimated at the most at 5% of the amount added by natural radiation. But Libby also pointed out, "Of course, this does not mean that any of the effects from radioactive fallout are in any way negligible and it does not mean that certain numbers of people will not be injured by radioactive fallout radiations, even though these numbers are very small relative to the total population of the world."

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, 1937 Nobel Prize winner in physiology and medicine and now Director of the Institute for Muscle Research, wrote to the N.Y. Times, April 6, giving the proper reply to Libby and others who would gamble with human life. He protested against the way statistics are bandied about. He said:

CAN'T EVEN JUNK IT

U.S. authorities are faced with the problem of what to do with fantastic quantities of obsolete military aid equipment including tanks, trucks and planes piled up in its European depots. Suddenly dumping it on the junk market, the authorities say, "would jolt the world scrap markets." However, storage space has become a grave problem. Among the obsolete equipment are turbojet fighter planes, less than three years old, which cost \$100,000. They have "relatively little value as scrap."

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The "Recession" Deepens

Mounting layoffs and slimmer pay checks mark a transition in the economy. Is it a "breather" or the ominous prelude to a far worse decline? Arne Swabeck, author of the article "The 'Recession' Deepens," in the spring issue of International Socialist Review analyzes trends in the main sectors of the economy and the growing disproportions that push it toward a major crisis.

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International Socialist Review

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New York 3, N.Y.

The Scientists vs. AEC

By C. R. Hubbard

It isn't easy for the layman to follow or understand fully the argument that is raging between thousands of American scientists and the Atomic Energy Commission. But for those who take the trouble to read the arguments for and against U.S. plans to continue nuclear tests, a dark picture begins to move into focus. One discovers secrecy in government aimed, not to conceal anything from another nation, but to conceal information from the American people. One discovers decisions made under protection of this secrecy that may result in tragic death to many people.

TV DEBATE

Those who saw the March 30 television broadcast over CBS on the question of nuclear tests were dramatically introduced to this life-and-death debate. The AEC's Dr. Willard F. Libby tangled with some of the leading opponents of the tests, including Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize chemist at California Institute of Technology.

Libby insisted that the continuation of nuclear weapons tests was "a risk that we can expect to see each additional testing nation adding large amounts of contaminating fission products to the soil and food of other nations around the world, including our own."

"Is our Government never-

theless going to persist in its reluctance to make an agree-

ment to stop tests, on the ground that it wants to develop

"clean" bombs, in "fairness" to its

responsibilities to the American

people and perhaps to humani-

ty?"

... That's Different

The Little Rock high school student who was not expelled for hitting Minnie Jean Brown with a pocketbook and calling her a "nigger bitch," was expelled for hitting a white school teacher.

Heading for Danger Zone



This small ketch, the *Golden Rule*, manned by four pacifists, sailed from San Pedro on March 25 to reach the danger zone of the Pacific where the U.S. has scheduled its Spring bomb tests. Last month the vessel was forced back by storms. The crew hopes to reach the Marshall Islands area and there, at the risk of their lives, challenge the tests.

would be shortened by ten to 15 years. He said that this was the meaning of the statement by Dr. Edward Teller, nuclear-test proponent, that the nuclear hazard shortened life by an "average" of only two days for the entire world's population.

SCIENTISTS' LETTERS

For a number of weeks there has been a steady flow of letters from scientists to the New York Times. It would appear to be an organized effort of conscientious people to inform the public of the danger involved in the tests. In one of these letters, W. Selove, formerly a

member of the panel set up in 1957 by the AEC to estimate future strontium-90 levels in bone, pointed out that it may be many years before precise knowledge is obtained on the dangers involved. He said, "If the answers should all turn out to lie at the worse end of the present range of uncertainty, then from tests so far we can expect an increase of perhaps five per cent in the present rate of leukemia and bone cancer in the northeast United States."

On March 20 a 2,000-member group of scientists charged that

the AEC could not be trusted

to report the facts accurately. They charged that AEC issued "incomplete and misleading" information on radioactive fall-out and made facts public "only under the pressure of outside scrutiny by nongovernmental experts."

The Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, an organization of prominent liberals, issued, March 7, a special study of "AEC bias in favor of optimistic interpretations of the fall-out hazard." This study showed that the AEC was studying the consumption of strontium-90 as early as 1948. Yet up to 1955 the AEC reports made no mention of specific facts that render strontium-90 fall-out dangerous.

DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

After assuring the public that fall-out could not cause "a detectable increase in mutations," the AEC finally admitted that the "ultimate world-wide increase of defective children (from tests already conducted) is 2,500-13,000 per year." This ominous news to future mothers was given out only after widespread investigation on the genetic effect of radioactive fall-out had developed — outside of AEC control.

If members of the AEC were to sneak around at night and poison a few hundred, or a few thousand babies, people would get mighty indignant. But their crime is not that direct. They simply order tests that produce fall-out, strontium-90 comes down in the rain, is absorbed by vegetation, eaten by cows that give off milk containing the poison. It is then consumed by children who accumulate it in their bones. It can't be called murder because the AEC says it is a risk we must tolerate. Most of the people of the world would probably disagree.

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But the majority do not make the decisions — as yet.

Eisenhower's Gauge Of Peace Intentions

By Daniel Roberts

In a recent letter to former Soviet Premier Bulganin, President Eisenhower cited as evidence of the peaceful intentions of the U.S. government its failure to attack the Soviet Union "when we had the hydrogen bombs and the Soviet Union had none."

Now that's a good argument. The only question is whether it applies to the U.S. or to the Soviet government.

For Soviet Academician Igor V. Kurchatov denied in a speech two weeks ago that there ever was a time when the U.S. had hydrogen bombs and the Soviet Union had none. Indeed the reverse was true said Kurchatov. The Soviet Union had a deliverable H-bomb half a year before the U.S.

He stated that the first U.S. thermonuclear (hydrogen) explosion was of a device so large and heavy that it could not be delivered and thus was not a weapon. The Soviet bomb tested in 1953, he said, was based on a completely different principle, and Kurchatov implied that it was small enough to have been a weapon.

Kurchatov's statement may sound like a throw-back to the type of boast prevalent in Stalin's latter years when Soviet spokesmen claimed that the Russians had always invented everything first—from Marconi's wireless radio to American baseball. But Harry Schwartz, New York Times expert confirms Kurchatov's account.

"The fact that the 1952 United States thermonuclear device was not deliverable has long been known," said Schwartz in the April 5 Times. "It has also been reported unofficially by responsible United States officials—though never officially or publicly—that the Soviet 1953 hydrogen explosion used a completely different principle from that employed in the United States explosion in 1952... It is known that the analysis of the radioactive effects of the 1953 Soviet hydrogen explosion gave American officials a severe shock at that time and spurred research aimed at duplicating Soviet technique."

So the shoe, it appears, is on the other foot. The Soviet Union had a hydrogen weapon first and did not attack the United States. In fact, at the time it stepped up its proposals for peaceful settlement of the cold war just as it did recently after announcing that it had the intercontinental ballistic missile and after launching Sputnik. In 1953 as now, top U.S. officials denounced these proposals as "propaganda."

There was a time, however, when the U.S. government had clear nuclear-weapon superiority. That was from 1945 until 1951, when the Soviet Union presumably caught up in the stockpiling of atom bombs after successfully testing one in 1949. And what did the U.S. government do with its nuclear superiority? It dropped two A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a terrible warning of its superiority. It launched the cold war and intervened with armed forces in the Korean civil war. It kept rattling the bomb by means of constant test explosions. High-placed U.S. politicians and brass kept up a furious agitation for "preventive war" against the Soviet Union while "we are ahead" in the nuclear-weapon race.

If all that doesn't testify to bellicose intentions, what does?

Can Blow Up World Now

To this day, the U.S. continues to threaten war and atomic annihilation. "We already have more than enough bombs to blow up the world," wrote William V. Shannon in the April 6 New York Post. Yet, the U.S. government insists on further nuclear tests. Dismiss as mendacious the argument that these are needed to develop a "clean" bomb. The real reason for the tests is to keep the threat of thermonuclear attack dangling over the Soviet Union—and the Afro-Asian people struggling for national independence, too—even though Washington knows that no one can win a nuclear war.

* * *

Postscript: Now that Schwartz has revealed what responsible United States officials reported confidentially about the Soviet thermonuclear explosion, what happens to the claim that Soviet nuclear-weapon development was made possible only because spies and traitors stole the secret from this country?

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg died in the electric chair in July 1953 for "espionage conspiracy" in the midst of a spy hysteria deliberately whipped up by all Big Business politicians. One month later—"though not officially or publicly," as Schwartz says—U.S. officials conceded that the Soviet government had used a completely different nuclear-explosion principle than the U.S. and that the Soviet principle had proved superior.

CRISIS IN TURKEY

Economic crisis in Turkey has reached such dimensions that people have to stand in line for as long as three or four hours before butcher shops for a meat ration while the black market is booming. Even residents are not in government employment and thus unable to buy at the U.S. Air Force commissaries, are having great difficulty in getting food, particularly milk, for their children.

WE SHOW GOOD SENSE

One friend came into our office two weeks ago and contributed \$25 expressing the feeling that "socialists are at last showing the good sense to work together where they can agree." Another friend asked that his \$50 contribution be credited to the Detroit quota as his tribute to their splendid job of collecting 31,000 signatures to put the SWP on the ballot in Michigan. From Fresno, California, a militant subscriber sent a renewal for his sub and asked that the balance of his five-dollar bill go to the Expansion Fund. From Bellingham, Washington, a friend writes, "Please continue your progressive, splendid paper to the world. Enclosed is a ten dollar bill to help out in your drive for funds."

SWP branches are planning numerous social affairs and meetings throughout the country to help raise money for the Fund. One of the best ways to assist our drive is to support these functions. Watch the Calendar of Events in the Militant. Come down and get acquainted with other Militant readers.

Calendar of Events

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Militant Forum presents a talk and film on The Sobell Case Saturday, April 19, 8:30 P.M. This first public meeting on the case to be held in Cleveland in several years will be in the Johnson Room, YMCA, 2200 Prospect Ave. Admission: Employed, 90 cents; unemployed, free.

LOS ANGELES

Smorgasbord, Sat., April 19, at 7 P.M. Forum Hall, 1702 E. 4th St. Donation: \$1.75. A.S.P.: International Socialist Review.

SEATTLE

Second open forum of the Socialist Workers Party spring series: "American Youth under the Cloud of Atomic War," Ann Dorsey speaker, 655 Main St. April 19, 8:15 P.M.

Philadelphia

Dr. Otto Nathan

Noted Economist; Executor of the Albert Einstein Estate Speaks on

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... Aid Socialist Fund

(Continued from Page 1)

alternative to capitalist war and depression in the elections this year.

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SUBSTANDARD

The most recent government survey (1956) showed that 13 million U.S. families were living in what the U.S. Bureau

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Monday, April 14, 1958

1. The People Intervene

Recently, Joseph C. Harsch, foreign affairs expert for the Christian Science Monitor, devoted a rather bitter column to the fact that so many people have been swept up by the "anti-bomb" movement. "For some curious reason," Harsch complained, "popular imagination has fixed on this weapon [the H-bomb] as being the common enemy of mankind, and overlooked others quite as bad, in some cases worse."

The immediate reason why the H-bomb rather than, say, germ warfare has gripped the "popular imagination" is readily apparent. Germ warfare may perhaps be even more devastating than nuclear explosions. But humanity is not being subjected to the effects of wholesale germ tests and it is being exposed to the radioactive fallout from the nearly 200 thermonuclear weapons that have already been exploded.

But the militant anti-bomb movement that is developing across the globe has significance that goes even beyond mass recognition of the dangerous affects of the tests. For millions of people, the H-bomb has become the dread symbol of war itself and opposition to the bomb is increasingly becoming a conscious expression of opposition to war. The test issue has become a focal point for mass anti-war sentiment primarily because wide layers of the world's population sense that it is a concrete issue on which mass pressure can make itself felt and where a significant victory can be won.

Thus, in England, for example, the demand for a test halt is swiftly developing as a political struggle for a banning

of the bomb, removal of U.S. missile bases and an end to the cold war. This movement may well topple the pro-war Tory government.

The social and political implications of this world-wide development is enormous. In "normal" times, such issues as the stockpiling and testing of weapons of war—as well as the issue of war and peace itself—are generally assumed to be the exclusive property of governments, not problems for the people themselves to decide. So when great numbers of people begin to act in the form of mass meetings, demonstrations and marches in a determined effort to decide such issues for themselves, capitalism and its governments have serious cause for worry.

Massive popular intervention is the only thing that can halt the warmakers. Today that process of intervention is beginning to be realized in the dynamic, international anti-bomb movement. As it continues to grow it will necessarily assume an ever-deeper anti-capitalist content. This is already indicated by the British movement which was originally sparked by scientists and other intellectuals. Now labor itself, most particularly its socialist wing, is beginning to assume leadership of the movement.

It is worth recalling that the greatest social transformation in modern history—the Russian Revolution of 1917—began with the militant intervention of the workers and peasants to bring an end to war. Present mass anti-war activity, if it continues to grow, offers every hope of finally culminating in similar social transformations.

2. Washington Put on Spot

Since the Soviet announcement of a unilateral test ban, the editorial columns of the U.S. daily press have been filled with anguished cries about the propaganda defeat that this action inflicted on Washington. But the real reason for the despair and anger is delicately avoided.

The Soviet announcement coincided with a peak of popular agitation for a halt to the tests. The fact that the USSR was the first to yield to this world demand obviously increases its prestige. But far more decisive, the Soviet action puts the U.S. squarely on the spot. The world-wide anti-bomb movement is now focused on a single target—Washington. This is the really big reason for the gloom that hangs over the capital.

The scope of the problem is indicated by a roundup of world reaction to the Soviet decision in the April 6 New York Times. These are some excerpts:

Tokyo: "All strata of Japanese public life welcomed the Russian decision. The Japanese have not forgotten the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki . . . If the United States continues its nuclear tests unilaterally . . . America's friends in Japan will have a difficult time defending Washington's position . . ."

New Delhi: "Ever since the case of the Japanese ship Lucky Dragon, India and other Asian countries had a feeling that the West was too nonchalant about

holding tests in this part of the world . . . 'Halt the tests' has become something of a national slogan."

Bonn: "... the Soviet Union is seen as having moved to break the weary disarmament deadlock. If the United States fail to deal positively with the opportunity, it will pay the price . . . in the reduced regard of the atom-fearful people of West Germany."

The growing concentration of anti-war sentiment against the American government is not due to the nuclear-test issue alone. There is a growing, popular conviction throughout the world that the war danger emanates from the U.S. Big-Business ruling class and its imperialist aims. Washington's stubborn resistance to the demand for a test ban has served to dramatically underscore its reactionary role.

The deep crisis of U.S. foreign policy has developed even though an organized mass opposition has not yet emerged at home. There is, however, strong anti-war feeling among the American people, and in recent months the opposition has begun to crystallize, especially around the nuclear-test issue.

It is entirely realistic to anticipate that the powerful opposition abroad to U.S. policy combined with a growing movement at home will force some significant concessions from Washington for the cause of world peace.

Q and A on Informer

[When Nello Amedei, president of Local 1190, United Steel Workers of America, Steubenville, Ohio, testified against Eric Reinharter in the Cleveland T-H "conspiracy" trial, he came under severe criticism from the membership. (See story this page.) Amedei then handicapped an "investigating" committee which interviewed W. W. Greenhalgh, assistant U.S. prosecuting attorney in the trial. The following are excerpts of the "investigating" committee's report to the membership of their conversation with Greenhalgh. The committee members ask the questions and Greenhalgh answers.—Ed.]

(1) Q. Is Mr. Nello Amedei a communist? A. No. If he was, he would be on trial now . . .

(2) Q. Was or is Mr. Amedei an employee of your Dept. or FBI? A. We consider an employee a person who receives a monthly or annual salary. But Mr. Amedei was reimbursed for his time and expenses on different occasions.

(3) Q. Was he ever employed by the Immigration Dept? A. We have reason and facts to believe that it is so. But on the same basis as the Justice Department . . .

(5) Q. Has he at any time committed any act or acts detrimental to the U.S. Steelworkers of America? A. Absolutely No! But he has been helpful in prosecuting and is an extremely important witness, referred to in my letter to your committee.

(6) Q. Is Mr. Amedei worthy of being President of a Local Union? A. I would be proud to have him as President of a union I belong to. I would consider it an honor to run on his ticket as Vice President in your Local Union Election . . .

(7) Q. Is he ever employed by the Immigration Dept? A. We have reason and facts to believe that it is so. But on the same basis as the Justice Department . . .

(8) Q. Is there any question as to his loyalty as a United States Citizen? A. He is one of the best. There isn't very many that would throw themselves open to criticism and persecution like he has. He should have the re-

spect of his fellow employees and citizens of the community.

(9) Q. What can we do in Local 1190 about this bad publicity and press we are getting when he appears in these trials?

A. That was the reason I had a letter typed and signed by Mr. Canary, Prosecutor for the Attorney General Office, thinking that it would exonerate anyone most anywhere of mis-understanding or doubts when signed by him. That article that was in the Steubenville Herald Star made me mad when I heard about it and read it, and I called the Herald Star the next day and told the editor, Michael, that was a hell of a way to head that article you had in your paper, and told him that Mr. Amedei was a witness for the prosecution and not on trial up here . . .

DIDN'T BELIEVE "That war," Marlene Dietrich said of World War II, "I believed! I REALLY believed. Later, they wanted me to go to Korea, but I said no, I could not believe." (L.A. Times, March 2, 1958.)

Case of the Union Official Who Informed

By William Bundy

The United States Attorney General's office in Cleveland has been caught in an embarrassing situation in connection with the recent Taft-Hartley "conspiracy" trial. A good part of the membership of Steel Workers Local 1190 in Steubenville, Ohio, got hopping mad when they found out that their local president had acted as a stoolie in the trial.

The local president, Nello Amedei, went to Cleveland early last January to testify against Eric Reinharter, an Ohio trade unionist who had

once belonged to local 1190, the membership contained a place no confidence in Mr. Amedei, United States Attorney Canary, the Investigating Committee and myself."

This thinly veiled threat—an invitation to the investigating committee to turn the names of Amedei's opponents over to the FBI—failed to silent those who were disgusted with the informer. As this is being written, Amedei faces renewed anger of the membership because of an expense account of almost \$500 he reportedly submitted for his committee's one-day, 100-mile trip to the Cleveland Attorney General's office.

The investigating committee's report was distributed to the membership on a leaflet. One side contained ten questions posed by the committee to Greenhalgh, and his answers. (See excerpts, this page.) Greenhalgh's letter was reproduced on the other side.

Under the precedent involved in this case, the Government need only attempt to prove that unionists have associated with signers of allegedly "false" non-Communist affidavits. Almost no active unionist is immune from prosecution under such "conspiracy" charges.

UNIONS BACK VICTIMS

The seven defendants in the Cleveland case who were convicted in January—on the testimony of such witnesses as Amedei—have announced their intention to appeal. Concern over the case is being expressed in important sections of the union movement. The Mahoning County CIO Council, which includes the Youngstown steel area, has recently gone on record condemning the Cleveland T-H "conspiracy" prosecutions.

This followed action by the Wayne County (Detroit) CIO Council which contributed a money to the defense of the victims. Similar action has been taken by AFL-CIO local unions in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Youngstown.

World Events

Conflict in Japanese CP Involves Basic Issues

By Ota Ryu

TOKYO — The present central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party has lost most of its authority with the party's rank and file. It could not cope directly with criticism from the membership, so it decided to postpone the seventh congress which had been scheduled for the beginning of January.

The sixth congress was held toward the end of 1947. At that time, the CP controlled the strong trade union called Sanbetsu (equivalent to the CIO in the U.S.) with 1.5 million members. Its daily paper, Akahata (Red Flag), had a circulation of about 300,000 copies. The party's general secretary Tokuda, who died a few years ago, was one of the best-known and most popular political figures among the working people. The Communist Party leadership enjoyed great authority among the Communist workers and among the masses generally.

But after the sixth congress, the present Communist Party leadership showed that it is capable only of betraying the confidence placed in them by thousands of militants who want to fight against imperialism and capitalist exploitation.

McARTHUR PURGE

In the middle of 1948, the great capitalist offensive against the working class began with General Douglas MacArthur's blessing. Actually, the CP leadership did not want to seriously fight against this offensive. They placed a brake on the struggle from 1948 through 1950. During these years, almost all Communist Party leadership showed that it is capable only of betraying the confidence placed in them by thousands of militants who want to fight against imperialism and capitalist exploitation.

DRAFT PROGRAM

The CP leadership presented the new draft program toward the end of last September. In this document it is stated that Japan will first have to go through a people's democratic revolution before a socialist one. The transition to socialism, it says, can be made in a constitutional and peaceful way.

The Tokyo local committee has expressed strong criticism of this document—especially of the projection of the "people's democratic revolution" instead of the struggle for socialism as the next task before the party. The Tokyo local committee, while itself advancing many opportunist positions, stands to the left of the top leadership. This is highly significant because one third of the CP members are in Tokyo.

In the beginning of 1950, Moscow ordered the CP to start fighting against the U.S. Army rule. The party tops then undertook the most stupidly adventurist tactic imaginable. They organized a "revolutionary army" and from time to time attacked isolated police stations. The CP had lost its internal democracy completely, so that this stupid tactic could continue for a few years.

After the Geneva Conference and especially since the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the CP leadership turned toward the social democracy. Now, more and more, one can not see the difference between the policies of the CP and the reformist Socialist Party.

For 12 years, the rank-and-file Communist Party members were prevented even in a formal sense from participating in the Kansai local committee, which stands at the head of the CP's second largest center followed the lead of the Tokyo local committee.

Most CP militants are against the concept of the two-stage revolution. Some of them have also expressed themselves against sowing illusions about a peaceful transition to socialism. They are still strongly in-

fluenced by Stalinist policies, but they cannot bear the present bureaucratic regime in the party. The Tokyo local committee stated that at the seventh congress the sick elements of the Central Committee—which they charge was never elected by the party—should be removed, and new blood which ran through the mass movement should be elected instead.

It was because of such threats to its tenure that the CP leadership decided to postpone the seventh congress.

STUDENTS MOVE LEFT

But a loss of posts is not the only danger confronting the CP tops. The strong oppositional current threatens to go beyond the bounds of adherence to Stalinism set by the present dissident leaders. This is already to be seen in the case of student CP members, who are tirelessly searching for the real Leninism. In the course of that process they have begun to rethink the fundamental perspectives of Stalinism.

For the first time, young Communists, not as isolated individuals but as a group, are turning to Trotskyism for a revolutionary-socialist answer to their questions. Should the ideas they are beginning to adopt spread throughout the CP, the present internal ideological struggle will mature to the point where not only the present leadership will lose control, but also the position of various vacillating opposition elements will be put in question.

The leadership has tried to conclude a compromise with the present oppositionist leaders, so far without success. This is a very good sign. For the Japanese Communist Party to be transformed into a genuinely revolutionary-socialist organization, it is first necessary that the die-hard Stalinists be removed from leadership. Otherwise, it is inevitable that the CP will radically decline and become a tiny sect of no importance in the Japanese labor movement.

LABOR COST AND PRICES

Labor cost per unit produced in U.S. factories went up only an average of 2% over the past five years, but wholesale industrial prices of the units produced rose 11%. You-know-who got the difference.

ONLY 3 ARE ASIAN

The U.S.-sponsored and supported Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) is composed of eight nations, only three of which are Asian. The others are the U.S., Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand. Of the three Asian members, Pakistan is not even in Southeast Asia, only Thailand and the Philippines are.

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BAHAMAS ISLANDS LABOR leader Ronald Fawkes has just finished a ten-day visit to the U.S. to enlist the support of AFL-CIO labor leaders to the struggle of the Bahamas Federation of Labor against almost medieval economic and political conditions. The BFL led an 18-day general strike in Nassau last January. It began with a walkout of taxi drivers and hotel workers who are forbidden by law to belong to

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BARCELONA WORKERS ended their slow-down and folded-arms demonstrations on April 5. Only six major plants, closed by government lock-out on March 26, failed to reopen. These, however, opened their pay windows and gave each worker a full week's wages. This concession by the Franco regime was officially described as a decision by the plant managers to consider the previous week as a paid vacation.

Some 40,000 workers were involved in the slow-down strikes in almost every branch of industry in Barcelona. The northern province of Asturias remains under a state of martial law proclaimed to force miners back to work after a two-week strike.

YUGOSLAV WORKERS' complaints against bureaucracy and abuse of privileges by factory directors plus demands for wage increases and better living conditions have brought about a governmental shake-up. Trouble-shooter Vukmanovic-Temps has been named to head the Yugoslav Labor Council. The Tito regime was galvanized into action by a miners' strike at Trbovje last January.

PAKISTAN is a land of gloom, deep dissatisfaction and anger, according to N.Y. Times correspondent A. M. Rosenthal, writing from Karachi. This is the only sizable nation in Asia to follow the line laid down by the U.S. State Department. About 40% of the government's operating budget is supplied by the U.S. Nonetheless: "The disenchanted with affairs at home grows. But even faster is the growth of disenchanted with Pakistan's Western allies."

Local Directory

BOSTON Workers Educational Center, Gainsborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave.

BUFFALO Militant Forum, 831 Main St.

CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736.

CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9.

DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.

LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. An 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M.

MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave.

Booming but Risky Business

One of the virtues of capitalism, which would be irretrievably lost under socialist regimentation, is that somebody can always make money out of another's misery. An unemployed worker, who has just lost his home or had his auto repossessed, should not wallow in narrow self-pity but rather console himself with the broad, overall view that the transaction was not a complete loss because it gave employment and profit to others. And though he may be personally inconvenienced, still he has contributed his patriotic bit to stimulating the economy.

That many workers are helping to stimulate the flagging economy is brought out by the report of the American Collectors Association that 1958 repossession are already 87% higher than 1957 — which itself wasn't a bad year for repossession.

The inherent dynamism of free enterprise is amply proved by the new methods and advanced technology employed by this increasingly vital sector of people's capitalism. Curious as to just how one goes about taking away a man's car, the Wall Street Journal (April 8), asked an expert employed by finance companies, banks, credit agencies, etc.

"We 'steal' most of our cars," was the highly accurate reply from Lee Exeter, owner of the Rhode Island State Detective Bureau in Providence. "With special burglar tools," the article continues, "he and his staff of eight, operating in two-

way-radio-equipped cars can get into a locked auto 'without breaking doors, windows, or locks,' and then jump the ignition and shift wires under the hood to start the motor and drive away. The next morning the disgruntled debtor usually calls the police, indignantly reporting his car stolen, but the officer, notified by Mr. Exeter, will calmly tell him who took his car, and where he can go to reclaim it by paying what he owes."

"Taking a long cigar out of his mouth, sunglasses-wearing detective Exeter explains why stealthy operations are preferred to knocking on the door and demanding the car keys: 'I've had my men clubbed, stabbed and shot at, so we always try to take the car by peaceful means.'

That onto the balance sheet of even this most flourishing sector of recession-struck free enterprise a little gloom must fall, is revealed by the following incident.

"A Chicago repossession went to an Illinois farm one night to 'yank' a truck, and found it loaded with manure. Wanting to spread the work load, he went into a nearby town to hire a helper and they shovelled away until the truck was empty. Suddenly the door of the seemingly deserted farmhouse opened, and an elderly woman said, 'Thanks, boys, we've been wondering how to get that truck unloaded. Now you just run along.' Since she was enforcing her request with a leveled shotgun, they obeyed."

The Queer One

By George Lavan

Some decades back a Republican wit declared that Democratic Party politicians had but two aims—grand and petty larceny. This by-and-large true characterization, of course, neglected to define the aims of the politicians in the Republican Party. But when the refreshingly frank statement was made it probably applied more to Democratic politics than to Republican. For by then the Republican machine had controlled the White House, Congress and the major state governments for a pretty long stretch. Consequently the Democratic politicos were hungrier for the "rewards" of political office. Hunger doesn't make for refined table or political manners.

The Republican office holders hadn't abandoned grand and petty larceny—far from it. But they had had the leisure and security which is necessary for the development of any art form. And so they had elaborated a whole structure of refinements upon the cruder and humbler techniques invented by the long line of crooks, con-men, boddlers and swindlers who had preceded them as "public servants" back into the mists of antiquity.

This refined technique is today the common property and practice of both capitalist parties. Not that good old g and p have disappeared from Washington. The current "investigation" of the Federal Communications Commission by the most reluctant investigating committee in U.S. history shows that it still flourishes. But it also shows how inferior it is to American know-how's most advanced, automated technique. The proof? Why the FCC commissioners are caught red-handed and already Commissioner Mack has had to resign in disgrace.

Ignored by most newspapers, buried in the others, was a very unusual incident that took place during the FCC investigation. On April 4, a freak was on the stand. Not that anyone could tell till she started talking, for to all outward appearance Frieda Henstock is a normal woman. But her testimony made her stand out like a full-garbed eskimo at a nudist party.

By some political boner she had once been appointed to the FCC. There she revealed her dangerous thoughts and so was replaced by a safe and solid free-enterpriser—the now-departing Mr. Mack.

Miss Henstock told the investigators that they should stop wasting their time on the penny-ante graft exposed so far and get to the heart of the matter—"the monopolistic forces that control the entire field of TV and radio." "Three men in New York," she said referring to the heads of the NBC, ABC and

CBS networks, controlled 80% of everything seen on TV and were responsible for stunting the medium's development. To these Miss Henstock added the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., which owns the transmission circuits for radio and TV circuit hook-ups.

Branding herself thereby as a screwball in the eyes of all Washington officials, Miss Henstock stated her sincere belief that the air waves belonged to the people and that Big Business should not be allowed to prevent educational and cultural use of television. It was her attempt as an FCC commissioner to get some little bit of the frequencies allocated to educational TV that got her dumped off the commission.

"The fact is I was not reappointed, and I fought those interests. All I know is that I was kicked off the commission unceremoniously because Commissioner Mack was so badly needed on the commission." Before that she "heard rumors about how certain large interests felt about my work. I just assumed I was marked for extinction. I've been in the world long enough to know the signs." Further confirming what a queer one Miss Henstock is by Washington standards, is the fact that while on the FCC she always insisted on paying her own travel, hotel and other expenses.

Miss Henstock puts her finger on the significance of the revelations so far brought out in the FCC investigation. The grand and petty larceny exposures do not involve taking something from the public and selling it to this or that corporation. The misdeeds charged are of one corporation getting a TV channel that another was conniving for. The aggrieved party does not appear as the public—for it was sold out long ago by the FCC—but the corporation which got done out of "its" free multi-million-dollar slice of America's air waves.

Ironically enough, the FCC and all the other independent government agencies still due for a once-over-lightly investigation by the embarrassed House committee, are a heritage from the trust-busting crusade. They were set up to defend the public interest in these vital areas better than could the White House or Congress, who were considered too susceptible, to the big economic interests. But this was another of the trust-busters' illusions.

The monopolies simply took over the independent agencies that were supposed to watch and regulate them. So today, the commissions like the FCC are less government agencies than branch offices of the corporate giants they are supposed to protect the American people against.

Worker's Bookshelf

AMERICAN LABOR STRUGGLES. By Samuel Yellen. 398 pp. Paper: \$1.50 plus 15c postage.

For those unacquainted with American labor history this is an excellent book to begin with. Union members should read it to learn how unionism was built in America, and socialists will find it not only a storehouse of information but an invaluable tool for their educational work.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL AFTER LENIN. By Leon Trotsky. 416 pp. Cloth: \$4.00. Paper: \$2.50.

An indispensable source for the study of the degeneration of the Soviet Communist Party and the rise of Stalinism. The actual internal documents put out by Trotsky and the Left Opposition in 1927 but suppressed from party members by the regime. With a new introduction.

THE JUDGMENT OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG. By John Wexley. 672 pp. \$5.00.

An intensive, carefully documented examination of the trial of the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell. Of this book, a review in the Western Po-

litical Quarterly by Prof. Francis D. Wormuth said: "Obviously the Department of Justice cannot answer all criticisms. But unless it answers Mr. Wexley's, we must conclude that the Rosenberg case is our Dreyfus case, outdoing the first in sordidness, cruelty and terror."

THE NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN THE EAST. By V. I. Lenin. 348 pp. \$1.00 plus 15c postage.

Excerpts, articles and speeches from 1914 to 1923, some of which have never before appeared in English, on a subject which today is of prime importance.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY. By Karl Kautsky. 401 pp. Originally \$5.50. Now \$3.00 plus 15c postage.

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IN DEFENSE OF MARXISM. By Leon Trotsky. 211 pp. \$2.75.

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THE MILITANT

VOLUME XXII

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Ala. Negroes Mass at Capitol

New Republic Hits Record of Judge Kaufman

The projected appointment of Judge Irving Kaufman, who presided at the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to the U.S. Court of Appeals in New York is causing uneasiness even in circles that declare they are convinced the Rosenbergs were guilty as charged.

That onto the balance sheet of even this most flourishing sector of recession-struck free enterprise a little gloom must fall, is revealed by the following incident.

"A Chicago repossession went to an Illinois farm one night to 'yank' a truck, and found it loaded with manure. Wanting to spread the work load, he went into a nearby town to hire a helper and they shovelled away until the truck was empty. Suddenly the door of the seemingly deserted farmhouse opened, and an elderly woman said, 'Thanks, boys, we've been wondering how to get that truck unloaded. Now you just run along.' Since she was enforcing her request with a leveled shotgun, they obeyed."

Commenting on Kaufman's "undistinctive" career as a jurist, the editorial concludes, "in sum, the reason for his preference is the unprecedented death sentence he saw fit to impose, after some rather public soul-searching and prayer, on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

CAUSE FOR UNEASINESS

Reiterating its belief that the Rosenberg verdict was just, the New Republic adds however, ". . . the heightened atmosphere in which it was tried gave cause for uneasiness."

"But," the editorial continues, "the ferocity of the sentence — and sentences are in our system virtually unreviewable by higher courts — reflected no credit on American administration of justice."

In conclusion the New Republic says that ". . . to honor the sentence by honoring man whose only claim to distinction it is — that is callous almost to the point of indecency."

Helen Sobell To Speak at Detroit Meeting

DETROIT — The Morton Sobell case will be discussed by his wife, Helen Sobell, at a public meeting here on Tuesday, April 22, at 8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Central Methodist Church, Woodward and East Adams, under the auspices of the Detroit branch of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell.

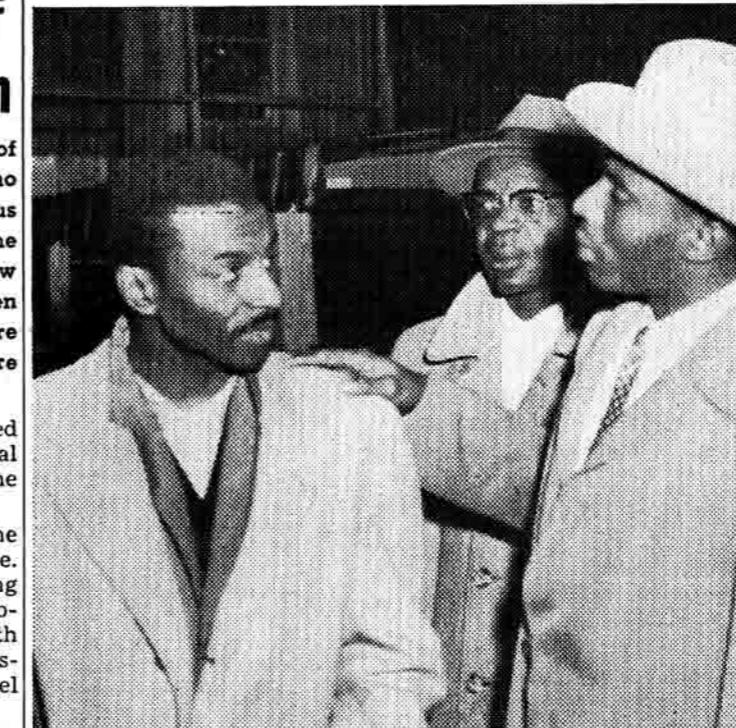
The meeting will give Detroiters an opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the case and to join with the many thousands of Americans who believe Sobell should have a new trial or presidential pardon. Mrs. Sobell, making her first appearance here in years, will also report on her husband's recent transfer from Alcatraz to Atlanta Penitentiary.

The national Sobell committee is engaged in a campaign to collect one million signatures this year to a petition asking President Eisenhower to grant executive commutation or help secure a new trial. Michigan signers of the appeal include Judge Patrick H. O'Brien, Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, Prof. Anatol Rapaport, Rabbi Oscar Fleishaker and Mrs. Clara M. Vincent.

LOW INCOME BRACKET

Before the recession more than 14 million American families had incomes of less than \$3,000 a year (i.e. less than \$57.69 per week). Of these over five million had incomes of less than \$40 per week.

Files Desegregation Suit



Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth (left) of Birmingham, Ala., together with other parents of four Negro pupils, has filed federal suit to get Alabama's segregationist "school placement" law declared unconstitutional. He is shown here with friends following the bombing of his home by racists, Christmas 1956.

L.A. County FEP Bill Killed by Supervisors

By Hilde McLeod

LOS ANGELES — The long-awaited hearing of the County Board of Supervisors on a Fair Employment Practices ordinance took place March 18. Supervisor John Anson Ford's proposed ordinance had the support of the NAACP and the labor movement.

Supervisor Dorn's substitute, introduced about a month ago — no doubt to fulfill his recent election promises — served as a well-greased toboggan for tossing any county FEP into the discard.

In opening the hearing the Board Chairman made a big point of the Supervisors' generosity in allowing the hearing at all since they had the legal right to pass ordinances without listening to people's opinions. In payment for this "generosity," he asked spokesmen to be brief.

LABOR SPEAKERS

Attorney Loren Miller, Co-Chairman of the Committee of Equal Employment Opportunity, forcefully exposed the legal "jokers" in Dorn's proposal and asked for the passage of Ford's original law. He was followed by speakers representing the NAACP, several churches, the CIO Council and the AFL-CIO Council.

CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE was given that private employment agencies had been instructed by several hundred employers that no non-whites be referred to them for jobs. A social worker told of the growing problem of discouraged youth due to insecurity from racial discrimination.

Then the Big Business opposition was given the floor. Randolph Van Nostrand spoke for the Merchants and Manufacturers Association. In rude and contemptuous terms he denied

Hold Easter Protest Over Legal Murder

By John Thayer

The Negro people of Montgomery, Alabama, again made history. This time with an unprecedented mass protest rally against Jim-Crow justice before the state Capitol on Easter Sunday. The instance of racist injustice, exemplifying the whole Southern Way of Life, that the rally protested was the recent electrocution of one man — Negro, and the failure of authorities even to arrest another man — white, though both allegedly committed the same crime — criminal assault.

The man executed was 22-year-old Jeremiah Reeves, Jr., who denied the charge of attacking a white woman, till the end. During his trial he maintained that a "confession" obtained from him after his arrest had been extorted by police methods which included strapping him in the electric chair and threatening to throw the switch unless he signed.

WHITE NOT INDICTED

The white man, who the Negro community alleges brutally attacked a colored woman, the very day before young Reeves' execution, has gone free — not even indicted.

Rev. Martin Luther King, of bus-boycott fame, told the meeting that Negroes in the South "are robbed openly with little hope of redress." He praised the Easter Sunday rally as a spontaneous reaction on the part of Negroes to the recent electrocution of Jeremiah Reeves, Jr.

According to the Big Business daily press, which ignored or played down the historic meeting, the audience numbered "over 2,000." Whatever number attended, they did so in the face of Ku Klux Klan threats. On Friday night racists painted 25 to 30 KKK signs about three-feet high on the streets of Montgomery, including a number around the scheduled site of the rally at the Alabama Capitol. Police and Capitol guards claimed not to have seen the painters.

More signs appeared Saturday night. Undeterred by these threats, Montgomery Negroes massed before the Capitol at the appointed time. The area bristled with city police and



REV. MARTIN L. KING

state cops. There was no interference, however, with the meeting.

The protest was called by unsigned leaflets which circulated throughout the Negro community the preceding Thursday. Stating time, place and purpose, they called for an "orderly, dignified protest."

Another blood-curdling example of Jim-Crow lynch law occurred in Tallulah, Louisiana, on March 27. The sheriff phoned C. S. Gandy and said: "Your son is at the jail. Come and get him."

"Is he hurt?" the father asked.

"He's dead," was the reply. Young Gandy's crime had been keeping company with a white girl in town. Police found out about it and trapped them together in a car. Young Gandy was put into the rear of the police car and there shot eight times. "Trying to escape," is the official story. The girl is charged with "miscegenation," the Dixieland word for inter-racial association.

... Layoffs Rise Steeply

(Continued from Page 1)

Moreover, untold thousands of people are each week exhausting their benefits. According to the Labor-Commerce Department's report on March 15 there were 1,446,000 who had been out of work for 15 weeks or more. In the eight industrial states which publish such figures, 62,400 jobless exhausted their benefits in February and another 80,000 in the first four weeks of March.

PLANT SHUT-DOWNS

That more workers are going to be consigned by the corporations to the army of the unemployed is clear from the steady stream of layoff and plant shut-down announcements. For example, Ford suspended all auto assembly plant operations for the week beginning April 7 in Dallas, San Jose,

Memphis, Chester and Louisville. A follow-up layoff is to take place at the latter plant upon re-opening. General Motors announced a week's shut-down of its engine plant in Tonawanda, N.Y. for April 14. In Michigan a year's shut-down of the small Chevrolet truck plant at Willow Run will idle over 400.

U. S. Steel announced the two-week shut-down of a Steel and Wire Division plant in Donora, Pa., that will idle about 1,300.

Bethlehem Steel will close its Lackawanna strip mill for a week. This mill, which used to hire about 2,000, has recently employed between 500 and 700. In Spokane, Kaiser Aluminum announced a layoff reducing a work force originally 1,570 to about 950.

Since auto sales for March were the lowest for any month

since March of 1952, there is little prospect of improvement for the workers of that city. Similarly with the other durable goods industries and basic metals, that central core of U.S. industry, where unemployment is so concentrated. Steel production is below 50% of capacity and expected to stay there or drop even more.

The prospects for the summer are pretty dim. In June nearly two million young men and women will come out of the high schools and colleges with smaller chances of getting a decent job than any graduates since the famous Class of 1929.

Other economic indicators show: U.S. exports in Feb. were 13% below Jan. business failures, higher in 1957 than in any year since 1939, are still increasing — 352 in the week ending April 3.

Program to Fight Unemployment

(1) Organization of the unemployed by the labor movement. For union unemployed committees to fight their jobless members' grievances on rehiring, unemployment compensation, rent, mortgage and installment payments, relief, etc.