

Fascist Danger Revives

See Page 3

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N.Y. SOCIALISTS TO OPPOSE 2 PARTIES

Presents Platform

UNITED INDEPENDENT-SOCIALIST ELECTION CONFERENCE



Dr. Annette Rubinstein reads draft platform to United Independent-Socialist Conference, at Sunday morning session, June 15. Nearly 500 independent socialists and members of organized socialist tendencies attended sessions of the three-day conference.

Auto Workers Rally To Defense of Union

By Frances James

JUNE 18 — In the three weeks of work without a contract the rank-and-file United Auto Worker members, as well as the secondary union leadership, have demonstrated their solidarity and readiness for militant struggle against the Big Three auto companies.

With the expiration of the contracts around June 1, the companies launched an attack against in-plant union representation in grievance-handling procedures. International union officers, in line with their "turn the other cheek" policy have instructed workers to remain on the job and accede to company demands. In the locals and plants the workers have swung into militant action and are moving to reinforce their in-plant set up.

General Motors plant committee in Flint report in the June 5 Searchlight (published by Local 659) that attendance at the regular Committee Body has risen from 10% to 90%. Chairman of the Body, Carl Bramlet, has announced (in the same issue of the Searchlight) the calling of a policy meeting to establish representation under a revived steward system.

The militant mood in the union ranks is reflected in the call for this policy meeting. "As most of the old timers know, the UAW was founded on the steward system and in the opinion of many of these 'old timers' this system was much more effective than our present set-up. . . . This will mean, however, that our complete collective organization will be reorganized. . . . Again, I request you to explain the situation to the people in order to offset the handbills placed in the plant by Management because it is obvious that Management is taking this opportunity in an attempt to bust our Union. I say let 'em try it, the 'old timers' did it in '37 and by all that's holy, we will do it in '58."

According to the June 14 Ford Facts, Ford Local 600 Tool and Die Unit is setting up a Stewards Council, and, "to as-

Text of Socialist Draft Platform

PREAMBLE

America, once the hope and inspiration of the oppressed, has become the most feared and hated power on earth. While the bulk of mankind has turned resolutely in the direction of socialism, our country stands as the main fortress of reaction. The United States appears to the rest of humanity a bristling arsenal of militarism, its patrol planes armed with H-Bombs ready to level civilization to the ground as it did Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The responsibility for bringing our country into such disrepute lies with the Democratic and Republican parties, who hold every top office. For the peace of the world, for the well-being of the people of our land, it has become necessary as never before to challenge the political monopoly exercised by the giant banks and corporations through these two corrupt political machines.

BRINK-OF-WAR

The Democratic and Republican architects of the bi-partisan Truman and Eisenhower "doctrines" are committed to brink-of-war policies which cannot fail to involve the world in catastrophic conflict unless reversed. In place of recognizing the New China, of seeking peace and fruitful trade with the Soviet-bloc countries, they have persisted in the testing of weapons of mass annihilation which even now are destroying lives and sapping the health of present and future generations through radioactive fallout.

The alleged aim of the "cold war" conducted by the State Department under both the Democratic and Republican guidance is to safeguard democracy everywhere and to "restore" it to Eastern Europe and China. The real aim of the cold war is to safeguard capitalism in the old colonial empires and to restore capitalism where it has been replaced by a better system. But this aim flies in the face of reality. The monopolists cannot win against the opposition of the majority of

stewards. The Tool and Die Unit is establishing a steward for each foreman. Meetings will be scheduled for Department Stewards. . . . Some of the duties of the Stewards will be as follows: a) To keep members informed on union problems. b) To assist in collecting dues. c) To help maintain a 100 per cent Union Shop. d) To see that regular department meetings are held.

These actions are a militant rank-and-file implementation of proposals set forth in "How to Operate a Local Union Without a Contract," a plan distributed by the international officers.

This plan includes suggestions for setting up a steward system, for choosing "a job steward for every foreman," for Stewards Councils meetings to be held each week, for communication systems with workers inside the plants, for dues collections patrols, town organizations, organization of the unemployed and retired members, weekly leaflet information to the union members, etc.

It is the kind of union organizational plan that should be in effect with or without a contract. It is up to the rank-and-file militants in the plants to put this plan into immediate operation.

With the expiration of the contract, the Big-Three companies have refused to make payment dues deductions. The union now has to collect dues directly from its members. Management hopes to undermine the union's financial base and thus weaken its ability to fight in contract negotiations.

The plan sent out by the top union officers suggests dues patrols, gate checks, wearing of dues buttons, etc. But even before any patrols or checks appeared, the members rallied to the defense of their union and began paying up dues in mass.

(Continued on Page 4)

Labor's Rights Hit By Supreme Court

JUNE 17 — While the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday strengthened the right of Americans to travel freely in its passport decision, it tightened the noose around the neck of labor in a six to three decision on the "secondary boycott" or "hot cargo" issue. This decision of the Court, tightening the Taft-Hartley Act's interference with labor's rights, strikes at the solidarity of the working class. The Supreme Court held that only if the boss agrees can workers refuse to handle goods from a plant where fellow-workers are on strike. This open show of court bias in favor of the bosses is another manifestation of the drive to impose government control of the unions.

The dissenters to the majority opinion, Justices William O. Douglas, Earl Warren and Hugo L. Black, did not argue for the complete freedom of the workers to strike in support of the struggles of their brothers, but they did insist that unions had the right to enforce contracts that contained this right. Calling the majority opinion "capricious," Justice Douglas said it "strains to outlaw bargaining contracts long accepted, long used."

Conference Adopts Program Draft

They have sought to crush labor, the family farmer and the small businessman. They have driven the scientist from the laboratory of peace. They have impoverished and corrupted our educational system, driving fine teachers from the classroom and others into unwilling conformity.

FOSTER JIM CROW

They condone and foster race hatred, deny the American birthright of freedom and threaten millions of foreign birth and their families through repressive statutes which are a restoration in our time of the iniquitous Alien and Sedition Laws which Thomas Jefferson and his followers fought to destroy in the founding years of our republic.

Speaking for the Presiding Committee, Murry Weiss then explained that the draft submitted was the product of months of discussion among the sponsors and should not be regarded as a final product but the product of an agreement so far reached. "In our discussions on the platform prior to the conference," Weiss said, "we were guided by the common determination to arrive at a minimum agreement on the essential points of a socialist platform. We were unable to come to agreement, up to this point, on a number of questions and I trust that efforts to do so will continue. For example, the Socialist Workers Party feels that a necessary point in a minimum platform of socialists in this election is a clear stand on the relationship of socialism and democracy. The SWP is in agreement with the sponsors of this conference in irreconcilable opposition to the anti-Soviet war mongers.

However, it is our conviction that socialists who support the Soviet Union should view the struggle for socialist democracy as a necessary part of the process of building socialism."

The delegates thereupon discussed the platform for several hours. In unanimously adopting the platform, the conference referred it with suggested amendments, rewordings, etc., to the Continuations Committee.

mankind in the world of today. They can only succeed in plugging us into a nuclear war that might mean the extinction of the human race.

Democratic and Republican parties alike are committed to an antiquated economic system for the profit of the few which oscillates periodically between boom and bust. One of the most ominous signs of the wearing out of capitalism is its increasing need to rely on wars and war preparations for prosperity.

This year, despite almost two decades of the greatest armaments budgets in the history of the world, our country is once again in an economic collapse that arouses memories of the great depression of the thirties.

To patch up and hold together this outgrown economic system, both the Democratic and Republican machines have burdened the working people of our country with an unprecedented and unrelieved tax burden, they have plundered the hard-earned savings of the people through inflation; they have enabled and encouraged enormous profit-making of Big Business through government handouts.

They have sought to suppress all political opposition and to render as difficult in the public mind and indeed in the laws of the nation, the search for peace and a better way of life, and for a world of brotherhood and equality among men and nations.

(Continued on Page 2)

Reign of Terror Against Georgia Negroes Bared

By John Thayer

Police in Dawson, Georgia, are carrying on a reign of terror against Negroes. So far they perpetrated two legal lynchings—one with blackjacks, the other with guns. Other Negroes have been wounded, beaten, and jailed. In the Negro sections of town people are fearful and observe the unofficial 11 P.M. curfew imposed upon them by the police. The police have neither been punished nor reprimanded for the two murders, as is to be expected under the American Way of Life (Southern Style).

Nor is there much likelihood that they will be. The Federal Civil Rights Commission, set up under last year's watered-down Civil Rights Law, is doing its utmost to dodge an investigation of Dawson.

The third case was that of physicist Weldon Bruce Dayton of New York who was charged by the Secretary of State with associating with "Communist espionage agents."

Dayton denied the charges under oath. Dulles refused to reveal his secret source of information and continued to refuse the scientist a passport.

AS UNDER NAZI RULE

The danger for Dawson Negroes was so great that procedures similar to those of resistance movements under totalitarian regimes had to be used. Negroes "were afraid to be caught talking to a reporter in their Dawson homes," writes Baker. "They set up elaborate plans for meeting at night outside the city and outside Terrell County. They talked softly, earnestly behind tightly drawn shades. They froze and scuffed and they had to hit him on the head with a blackjack." At any rate next morning before the Mayor's

BEATEN AGAIN

Apparently young Brazier was beaten again at the police station. Chief of Police Howard L. Lee says that Brazier "buckled and scuffed and they had to hit him on the head with a blackjack."

At any rate next morning before the Mayor's

(Continued on Page 4)

United Conference Votes to Place Full Slate on Nov. Ballot

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK, June 16 — The movement for united socialist political action took a major step forward at the three-day independent political conference which ended here yesterday. The conference voted by a near-unanimous majority in favor of nominating a full slate of socialist candidates to challenge the Republicans and Democrats for the five major offices in the coming state election. A militant socialist draft platform expressing a wide area of agreement on a minimum program was adopted unanimously. (See text this page.)

Co-Chairman



JOHN T. McMANUS, General Manager of the National Guardian, was co-chairman of the United Independent-Socialist Conference.

the debate on whether to nominate candidates for the top five places on the ballot or only for U.S. Senator. The single, senatorial nomination would avoid a contest against Harriman, the Democratic Party choice for election as governor. The single-candidacy proposal was put before the conference by Benjamin J. Davis—in his capacity of state chairman of the Communist Party—in the opening of the debate on the presiding committee's unanimous resolution for five candidates and a socialist platform.

The eleven, who also were the presiding committee of the conference, are: John T. McManus, general manager of the National Guardian; Morris Goldin, Henry Abrams, Babette Jones and Annette Rubinstein, former American Labor Party leaders; Murry Weiss of the Socialist Workers Party; Milton Zaslow and Muriel McAvoy of the Socialist Unity Forum; Richard DeHaan, chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance; George Stryker; and Sidney Gluck.

The composition of the conference was estimated by the June 23 National Guardian as follows: "Independents made up some 300 of the attendance, with leaders and members of the Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance estimated to make up the rest."

The decisive point in the conference came Saturday with

(Continued on Page 3)

Kremlin Murders Imre Nagy, 3 Others

By Myra Tanner Weiss

JUNE 18 — Imre Nagy, Pal Maleter, Jozsef Szilagyi and Miklos Gimes were executed by the Kadar government of Hungary. They evidently failed, despite long

war and returned to Hungary to become an officer in the Hungarian army. His "crime" during the November 1956 events was to refuse to shoot down Hungarian workers and youth who were fighting for socialist democracy in Hungary. Instead, he and the entire Hungarian army joined the insurgents.

The victims of the first Kremlin blood-purge since Beria's execution were accused of the traditional frame-up charges. They were accused of "plotting" with Anglo-American imperialists for the overthrow of the government. These charges were likewise hurled at the entire Hungarian people, including the Workers' Councils. To all oppressors, popular uprisings appear as "plots" of a foreign enemy.

Actually Nagy was a Communist and as such became a symbol of the break with the hated Rakosi era. The aims of the workers in the revolution were clearly marked out in their program. They were for

(Continued on Page 3)

...Text of United Socialist Platform Draft

(Continued from Page 1)
shown for the worsening plight of the unemployed.

Under the Harriman administration the urban centers suffer discrimination in the allocation of funds for social welfare; yet these large cities are forced to carry a disproportionate tax burden.

While piously deplored persecution and terror against the Negro people of the South, Harriman has failed to use the power of his office to push vigorously for legislation and executive action to end discrimination against the Negro and Puerto Rican people in private housing in New York State.

HOUSING CRISIS

In New York City, under Harriman's political mentor De Sario, the world's largest and wealthiest city has suffered the worst rent and housing crisis in the country since the end of the war; its transportation system has degenerated in proportion to the rise in fares; its schools have become more and more inadequate.

The same Governor Harriman has openly supported the machinations of the Tammany boss, De Sario, in removing Congressman Powell from the Democratic ticket because he voices the demand of the Negro people for full equality. The people of Harlem have rightly answered this attack with a wave of indignation at the attempt of the Harriman-De Sario machine to dictate who should represent them.

In short, neither in the nation or the state have the Democratic and Republican parties

PLATFORM

For peaceful relations with the rest of the world:

We propose an immediate ban on tests of nuclear weapons and an announcement that the United States is willing to join other powers in dismantling its stockpile of atomic weapons by a specified date. Such action would at once relieve international tension and help pave the way for further negotiations.

The new government of China must be recognized without further embarrassing delay, and generous aid should be offered the Chinese people in the difficult task of modernizing their country.

Instead of the bi-partisan policy of waging cold war on the countries of the Soviet bloc, a policy of friendship must be adopted. The first gesture in this direction should be the elimination of trade barriers and the extension of long-term loans for the purchase of goods from American industry. Cultural exchange should be expanded. The schemes of reactionary circles to restore capitalism in the Soviet bloc countries must be disavowed.

The bi-partisan policy of intervening on the side of reaction in other countries must be halted. No more arms for reactionary regimes!

This means specifically, for instance, ending support to French imperialism in its war on the Algerian people. It means ending support to Chiang Kai-shek, Franco, the Mikados and the Latin-American dictators. It means ending the "oil imperialism" that seeks to prevent the Arab people from uniting and modernizing their countries. It means letting the people of Puerto Rico decide whether they want full statehood or independence in fraternal economic relation with the United States. It means offering all the colonial and semi-colonial peoples the economic aid they need without any strings attached.

Withdraw U.S. troops from foreign soil; relinquish foreign naval and air bases; abandon the attempt to establish rocket missile bases; renounce secret diplomacy and all military alliances such as NATO and SEATO. Let's put America on the side of peace!

For realistic measures to combat the depression:

We propose that the colossal armaments budget be converted into a peace budget and used for public works, including schools, hospitals, homes, highways, playgrounds, parks and other public facilities.

We likewise propose the repeal of all taxes on incomes below \$10,000. This should be supplemented by repeal of sales taxes, hidden excise taxes, telephone, transportation and so-called "luxury" goods taxes.

To spread employment, the work-week should be reduced to 30 hours but at no reduction in weekly take-home pay.

Unemployment compensation should be extended to cover all jobs, for the full period of unemployment and at the full scale of pay. The government should declare an immediate moratorium on time payments for household necessities for everyone who becomes unemployed.

Surplus goods held by the government should be distributed to people in need whether in this country or abroad.

Plants shut down by private industry should be operated

What Press Said About Conference

The daily newspapers of New York City gave considerable coverage to the three-day conference for a United Independent-Socialist Ticket in the 1958 state elections. The N. Y. Times, which ran four consecutive news stories on the conference said in its June 16 article: "With the Communists apparently put to rout, the three-day leftist 'unity conference' here ended yesterday on a note of surface unity. The conference adopted a platform said to represent 'maximum agreement on a minimal program'."

The New York Post in its story of June 16 entitled "Leftists Start Choosing Ticket After Walkout by Communists," stated: "Despite a Communist appeal to put only one candidate, preferably for U. S. Senate, in the field, the conference decided to name candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Controller, Attorney General and the Senate."

State Communist chairman Ben Davis walked out of the conference Saturday after arguing vainly that most Democratic candidates in the state must be supported because they are backed by organized labor."

grappled with the real needs of the great majority of the people. Instead they have fought for the reactionary interests of the monopoly capitalists they represent.

The people of our country are beginning to search for pathways to a better future. They have rallied in increasing numbers against repression. They have begun to roll back the evil known as McCarthyism and have scored signal victories in the courts for civil liberty. The Negro people have embarked on a great effort for full equality. Citizens of all walks of life have joined in protest against the development and testing of nuclear weapons. Throughout the house of labor is heard the repeated demand for an independent political course that will open the way to a labor party able to offer America the choice of a labor government.

This trend has strengthened the forces for social change in our country. It points to the socialist alternative to the greed, brutalization, repression, economic insecurity, and war-making tendency of capitalism.

By voting for the United Independent-Socialist Ticket, working men and women of every shade of belief can register their opposition to the economic and social evils of today. By voting for these candidates, they can register their desire for a world of enduring peace, economic well-being, and the full application of atomic-age science to the conquest of nature—a world of democracy, freedom, and cooperation on an international scale.

Under government auspices, with management subject to election by the workers.

As relief for depressed sections of the economy, and as a step toward international economic cooperation, the Administration should encourage American industry to fill the gaps in the planned economy of the Soviet bloc, arranging the exchange of all types of goods on a cost basis.

For an immediate end to Jim Crow:

America's greatest shame is continued racial segregation and discrimination almost a century after the Civil War that abolished slavery.

Further procrastination in integration is intolerable. The Supreme Court decision to integrate the schools must be enforced regardless of the cries of bigots and race haters for fresh delays. Similar swift action must be undertaken in housing, transportation, recreation facilities and throughout industry. Let's have Fair Employment legislation with real teeth.

To further speed the struggle for full equality in both the South and the North, let the labor movement bring its vast powers to bear in close alliance with the Negro people.

For restoration of our Constitutional freedoms:

America has suffered an erosion of its Constitutional freedoms. We are saddled today with reactionary legislation and administrative practices limiting freedom of thought, the right to a job regardless of beliefs, and the right to travel abroad. The Smith Act, the McCarran Act, the Subversive Activities Control Act and New York's Security Risk and Feinberg acts are police-state laws that should be wiped off the books.

End the government witch-hunt in America. Abolish such police-state practices as the blacklisting of "subversive" organizations by the Attorney General, the snooping of the FBI into political views, the "investigations" of the House Un-American Activities Committee, into matters of belief and opinion, and the refusal of the State Department to issue passports to American citizens.

Restore the civil rights of all Smith Act victims. Free Gil Green and Henry Winston. Grant executive clemency or a new trial to Morton Sobell. Reinstate all government employees victimized in the witch-hunt.

Unshackle the labor movement:

The Taft-Hartley Act, the so-called Right-to-Work laws, and all similar anti-labor legislation must be repealed. No curtailment of the democratic right of the union movement to organize all wage earners and to conduct its own affairs without interference from the government or labor-hating corporations.

The corollary of this is internal union democracy. It is hypocritical of the union bureaucrats to call for democracy and a free labor movement in other countries while imposing dictatorial practices in their own unions. Democracy begins at



home. This is the only effective way to meet the anti-labor McClellan "investigating" committee and similar government bodies that are seeking to put more shackles on our unions.

Labor can win recognition of its rightful place in the life of America only if it rejects company unionism in politics and begins organizing in this field. What is needed is a powerful party of labor whose concern extends to the working farmers, the Negro people and small businessman. Such a party, able to organize a coalition of all the low-income groups, can offer an effective challenge to the monopolies.

For democracy, for planned economy, for socialism:

The cooperative system of socialism is superior to the profits-first system of capitalism. This is no longer a matter of who but of fact. In the short time of four decades, planned economy brought Russia from the most backward country in Europe to the position of second power in the world.

Planned economy in America can register even more phenomenal success. It will begin with the world's most advanced industrial plant, the largest and most skilled working class and a powerful democratic tradition. Moreover, America will not face the obstacles that hindered the Russian workers. We will

not be subject to a Hitlerite invasion, to the devastation of war, or to the pressure of a surrounding hostile world.

Planned economy in America can rapidly find links with other planned economies, thus bringing into play a new force of immense proportions—planned international economic cooperation.

In America the assurance of a world of enduring peace and prosperity will certainly release sources of energy and enthusiasm among the working people that will more than match the swift development of atomic energy as the basic power for industry-wide automation.

The slums and unsightly factories of today that pollute our streams and atmosphere will give way to shining cities and gleaming plants designed to help heal the hideous scars of industrialization under capitalism.

As living becomes easier and richer, the blighting prejudices and hatreds of today will surely give way to feelings of solidarity and friendship with all mankind.

The possibilities of achievement under the rational planning of socialism, bold as they may seem, are completely feasible. All that is required is the breadth of view, the confidence in progress, and the courage and determination needed to carry through the struggle to success. In opening up this new continent of economic and social change, America's pioneer spirit faces its greatest challenge.

The United Independent-Socialist ticket welcomes every development which brings labor into the political arena in collision with the entrenched political machines. We welcome every development which brings the Negro people against the parties of the racist-Big Business ruling clique.

The alliance of labor and the Negro people in the struggle for common political objectives will result in the emergence of an independent mass Labor Party which will attract the support of the small farmer, the professionals, the youth and all the forces of the people. This new political alignment can effectively battle the monopolist parties—only then will we have a real two-party system.

We socialists know that the solutions to the grave problems facing the American people will not come as a gift from well-meaning liberals; such solutions can be won only through gigantic struggles involving labor, the Negro people and other minority groups. Through such struggles, waged on both the economic and political fronts, the American people will replace the profit system with a planned society. Only a socialist economy can end the recurrent crises, war drives, race prejudice and poverty of today and harness the vast resources of our country and the abundant energy of our people to meet the complex needs of the nation in the atomic age.

We invite all socialists—Marxists, Christian Socialists, humanists, pacifists, to support the United Independent-Socialist slate as a way of affirming their belief in the great human goals of socialism.

We invite all independents—Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters—to register their protest against the do-nothing and do-wrong policies of the Republicans and Democrats by voting the United Independent-Socialist ticket.

Excerpts from Floor Debate on Electoral Policy

[The following are verbatim excerpts from the floor debate at the Conference for a United Independent-Socialist Ticket. Asterisks indicate close of one speaker's remarks and beginning of another's.]

"... No matter how much I admire and respect and want to work with Mr. [John T.] McManus, and people who work with him, I feel very strongly that he did not make a good case. I believe that he put forward a very inflexible, a very rigid approach... I believe that we need a position of growing influence, not a rigid, mechanical, and perhaps obstructive, so-called ballot position in overcoming our isolation in proving our leadership over the people who want an alternative to the two-party, cold-war, brink-of-extinction policies that some currents here seem to be pushing us in the direction of..."

"That's what I believe, and I'm certain that whatever merits or demerits there may be to Mr. [Benjamin J.] Davis' position here today... his approach kept open the door for a more flexible and less obstructive opportunity to get away from the brink-of-extinction policies that some currents here seem to be pushing us in the direction of..."

"... The question of a united socialist ticket means in essence a united front. A united front of various socialist opinions doesn't necessarily mean an acceptance of each other's views completely. It isn't the same thing as organizational unity, as the formation of one party... It doesn't mean that we have to subordinate our particular views whether we are independents or members of various parties or groups... A united front doesn't mean that you exclude somebody from the ticket. As far as Comrade [Benjamin J.] Davis is concerned, I see no reason why he shouldn't become a member of the five-man ticket — of course based on a socialist program which I hope this conference will adopt..."

"... We speak here of the fact that we're isolated. Now that's pretty bad. But to make a virtue of isolation — that's a crime. And some people here make a virtue of isolation and decorate it with Marxism and the red flag... Take for instance, the idea of the development of independent political action. Now if you're satisfied, then of course you can make a beeline and establish a whole united socialist ticket and you'll be just as you were before. But if you're interested in promoting independent political action you must participate with organized labor..."

"Now, when we say a single candidate, that gives us all an

opportunity to participate in a proposition of this kind. Do you want all to participate? Or do you want to have some kind of little monopoly of your own and carry on? Now you say you want to advocate socialism. Well, if the Socialist Workers Party is advocating socialism according to their light, a single candidate doesn't stop them from advocating socialism. But I believe that to reject the socialist world and to maintain that you're advocating socialism is like advocating kosher ham. There's no such that. Because Benjamin Davis and a few of the people around him decided they did not want a full slate. But it was more than that. It was that they didn't want a slate at all and they would do us a favor by accepting one candidate. Now I would like to ask a question. Supposing we give in to this handful of people. And I question how much influence these people have in the state, when out where I live 99% of the people who want a full slate had affiliations with the Communist Party, not with the Socialist Workers Party. Supposing we give in to the Communist Party and this goes back into committee and it comes out with a slate of one man, I know that the Socialist Workers Party will not work for this — for one man, and on the rest of the line you support the Democrats. And I know that the independents won't go along with this. Is the Communist Party going to get this one man on the ballot? Are they going to work for this all by themselves? But we will work for a full slate — with them or without them — and we will have most of them, whether they know it or not.

"And there is something else I feel very resentful of... And that is the inference that anyone who wants a full slate is of the Socialist Workers Party. This is an old, old story with the Communist Party, and

"First, I am very glad to be

I was weaned on the milk of the Communist Party. I never saw a Trotskyite until three months ago. And that is the story if you get up here and disagree with them. They call you a Trotskyite, even if you don't know what a Trotskyite is. And they are pulling that again in this room tonight. They are saying that everyone who wants a full slate is an SWP. And I think they deserve the same apology that was made to Ben Davis. I don't resent being called an SWP. But I resent the inference that I am not an independent."

"... None of us are for [Gov.] Harriman. I wouldn't endorse him for a million dollars. But he did something good sometimes. He vetoed that bill that some of my people can live in the projects. All right, we worked for it. He didn't do it by himself. But he did it and some people think that he's better than Rockefeller. I may not agree with them. But that's not the point. This is the situation we are in... What is the difference between one and five candidates if we want to bring the issue before the people. With one candidate can't we speak on radio and television? We can bring our ideas as good with one as with five..."

"First, I am very glad to be

here and to see so many young people here. I am in the Jewish progressive movement, next year will be fifty years. Originally, I am from what the workers call the hell-hole — Pittsburgh. For the last nine years I have lived in Brooklyn. I was very much interested all my life in the political movements. I might as well tell you, from 1909 to 1920 I was active in the Socialist Party, from 1920 to 1950 in the Communist Party.

"When I came here I was active in the American Labor Party. We had a club of the American Labor Party in East New York and suddenly and to our surprise, one day I read in the N. Y. Times that the American Labor Party was dissolved... I was shocked. I want to tell you the sentiment of the people I work with in East New York in many Jewish progressive organizations... We were not asked and we felt very bad. And our people — I want to tell you — our people are very angry. The people that I work with, there are still thousands and thousands of progressive people and they are angry. You know why? Because when election day comes they have nobody to vote for."

"We were told one time to vote for the Democratic party and I tell you the truth, I committed that great sin two years ago. I went into the

"... Mitsubishi Company put over in Japan to its own final destruction.

Talk about dominance of the House of Morgan in this country. From 1944—that was the year before Franklin Roosevelt's death—until 1952 when Eisenhower succeeded Truman, there were four secretaries of state. Of those, three were officials of the House of Morgan...

Charles Wilson, who lorded it over the Eisenhower administration—who first introduced him into the American government? Franklin Delano Roosevelt. John Foster Dulles, probably the most hated man in the world—although I do not want to deprive Vice-President Nixon of what glory he may be entitled to—first became the dictator of American foreign policy when he was placed in the position to do so by Harry S. Truman—a Democrat.

We have heard here that because some of these gentlemen have been opposed to certain policies and principles of the Soviet Union, that the Socialist Workers Party is anti-Soviet. But nothing is said at all about the anti-sovietism of Harriman—probably one of the most vicious of anti-Soviet spokesmen and the one who has expressed himself the most vigorously in that connection.

Excerpts from Speech by Vincent Hallinan

[The following are excerpts from speech by Vincent Hallinan to the United Independent-Socialist Ticket Conference. He spoke Friday evening, June 13.—Ed.]

In discussing with some of my friends of the Communist Party... I was told, "But Hallinan, socialism does not enter into the mainstream of the thinking of the American labor class." I said granted. And if it did go home and read books. What we want is to put socialism into the thinking and mainstream of the American working class.

And if we are going to wait for mass movements of this people and that people—whether they be the colored people or the Puerto Ricans or the labor class—if we're going to wait until they leap fully armed from the head of Zeus like Pallas Athena, why then we can just sit back on our laurels and rest. We don't have to bother about that movement anymore. That my friends is the simple and easy solution—if it were a solution at all. But unfortunately it is not such. Because it seems to me that the building of a socialist movement is going to be a dif-

ficult, arduous and patience taking task...

And I say to these people—Are you telling me now that the socialist movements of the past were invalid? Are you telling me that the work of Debs for instance was valueless and useless? Are there to be no more movement until suddenly by some spontaneous decision of people like Meany and Reuther, the labor movement decides to go socialist?...

That one should support a man because he is a Democrat or a member of the Democratic party or its candidate seems a contradiction in term. People are always saying there isn't any difference between the two parties, and the very person who will say to you, "Now don't go out and start a socialist movement because we are committed to support the Democratic party and we want to bring

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Vol. XXII — No. 25

Monday, June 23, 1958

Fascist Menace Revives

The lesson of France has world-wide significance. The destruction of parliamentary democracy by de Gaulle poses once more for mankind the question of Fascism. True, de Gaulle's regime is at present not fascist, but represents a stage in that direction. But behind him—in the racist organizations of the Algerian colons, in the brutalized paratroop battalions, in the emergence in France itself of remnants of the Pétainists and their merging with new anti-Semitic, semi-fascist and outright fascist groupings—lies the ominous threat.

The crash of Hitler's and Mussolini's regimes in World War II was so resounding that most people throughout the world concluded that fascism had been destroyed for all time. This belief was reinforced by the official propaganda guise given the war by the victorious coalition headed by the U.S., Great Britain and the USSR. But the real motivating contradiction between Wall Street and the British Empire on one hand and the German, Italian and Japanese governments on the other had been that of an imperialist power struggle. On the part of the victorious capitalist powers the democracy vs. fascism theme had simply been a propaganda cloak to persuade the toiling masses that the war was being fought for progressive and humane ends.

Nonetheless at the end of the war it seemed that fascism had not only been physically destroyed but discredited beyond redemption in the eyes of mankind. The existence of Franco's regime in Spain was regarded as an anachronism and in-

creasing U.S. support to it deplored as inconsistent with the outcome of World War II. Similarly the recrudescence in Germany and Italy of neo-Nazi and neo-Fascist parties were considered echoes of the past rather than signs of the future.

It must now be understood that the assumption that fascism was a relic of the barbarous past which mankind no longer had to fear, was mere wishful thinking. The bitter truth is that fascism remains a recurrent threat as long as capitalism survives. The bitter truth is that already there are incontestable signs that world capitalism is approaching a cycle similar to that which followed the first imperialist world war—a cycle in which in country after country the capitalist class will seek to solve its problems with the bloody ax of fascism.

Most ominous is the rapidity with which these fascist harbingers appear. The swift growth of McCarthyism in this country showed an incipient tendency towards fascism even before the onset of a serious social crisis. The shamefully speedy surrender of capitalist democracy to de Gaulle's "strong-man" rule in France and the concomitant emergence of a fascist movement is a second warning.

To the recognized nightmare shape of things to come under decaying capitalism—depression, and nuclear war—must now be added the horror of fascism. The battle of the working class for socialism today is more than ever the very battle for the continued existence of human culture and humanity itself.

Reaction vs. Progress in USSR

The secret trial and execution of Imre Nagy, Gen. Pal Malter and several other prominent Hungarian Communist Party members associated with the November 1956 revolution, marks a new swing to repression by the Kremlin.

It testifies once again to the fundamental conflict in the Soviet-bloc countries between the working class, the youth and the intellectuals against what the Hungarian Communist writer, Tibor Dery, called a "regime of gendarmes and bureaucrats."

The conflict is born not of "failure" of the planned-production system, but, on the contrary, of its gigantic successes. The workers seek to translate these gains into greater benefits for themselves by curtailing the swollen economic privileges at the top and by gaining the democratic right to shape the economic plans.

Against them, the hordes of office holders—factory managers, party functionaries, bemedaled generals, etc.—whom Khrushchev represents, seek to hang on to their disproportionate share of the national income and to the tyrannical power needed to preserve it.

But the struggle for workers' democracy also expresses the profound needs of the Soviet system itself—of what Leon Trotsky called the "grandiose problem which may be comprised in the concept of independent, technical and cultural creation." The totalitarian regime stifles

such creation. Great achievements, such as the sputnik, are made despite despotic rule. Yet every industrial and cultural advance renders the conflict between the needs of the Soviet system and the bureaucratic oligarchy more acute.

As Trotsky predicted in 1937, "The socialist culture will flourish only in proportion to the dying away of the state. In that simple and unshakable historic law is contained the death sentence of the present political regime in the Soviet Union. Soviet democracy is not the demand of an abstract policy, still less an abstract moral. It has become a life-and-death need of the country." That life-and-death need gave rise to the Hungarian revolution and its slogan of socialist democracy.

The revolution was crushed by the Kremlin. Nagy, Palter and other leading participants have been framed-up and executed. But the clash between the working people and bureaucratic tyranny will not be ended by bloody repressions. All genuine socialists—all genuine partisans of the Soviet Union—all defenders of the system of planned economy—must take sides with the working people against the bureaucratic oppressors. For the victory of the working masses will immeasurably advance the construction of socialism in the Soviet-bloc countries and its spread to the other countries of the world.

...Kremlin Kills Nagy, 3 Others

(Continued from Page 1) socialist democracy, not capitalist restoration. The official Hungarian announcement of the murder of Nagy took note of the apparent pro-socialist nature of the struggle when it charged the prisoners with "voicing demagogic and false socialist slogans."

From the point of view of revolutionists, Nagy made many mistakes—all flowing out of his training as a Stalinist. He counterposed to the power of the workers an appointed government including a majority of non-socialist and anti-socialist forces in typical "people's front" style. Had he been a revolutionist, he would have turned the power over to the popular organs of the working class, the Workers' Councils, which corresponded to the Soviets in the Russian Revolution of 1917. But Nagy was not a Leninist. Nagy still thought only in terms of control rather than leadership of the workers.

TRUCE VIOLATED

In addition both Nagy and Malter made the fatal mistake of taking the "new liberalism" of the Kremlin as genuine reform. When Nagy lost power in November of 1956 he took refuge in the Yugoslav Embassy. The Kadar government promised the Yugoslav officials

that Nagy and others would be given safe conduct to their homes. On this promise Nagy left the sanctuary of the Embassy only to be taken captive.

General Malter entered into negotiations for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Soviet representatives flouted Malter's status as negotiator and imprisoned him.

The murder of the Hungarian Communist leaders undoubtedly is meant as a warning to Hungarians and other dissidents in East Europe who press for concessions, especially the Yugoslavs. The threat to Yugoslavia is underlined by the new charges that the Yugoslav Embassy was used by the "plotters" as a center to continue armed resistance, to organize strikes, to paralyze life and reorganize underground subversion." These charges were immediately denounced by the Yugoslav government as lies.

1949 FRAME-UP

The murder of Nagy and other Hungarian Communists repeats the pattern of Stalin's frame-up murders in 1949 of Foreign Minister Laszlo Rajk who was arrested and then hanged as a "counter-revolutionary." After the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956 "instead there have come the new executions which reopen the wounds."

...N.Y. Socialists to Oppose 2-Party Rule

Clasping Hands in Solidarity



Members of Presiding Committee at United Independent-Socialist Conference join hands for the singing of labor's anthem. The conference members, too, joined hands for the singing of labor's anthem. This is custom of British labor and socialist gatherings.

excoriated the Communist party's policy of supporting the Democrats and their claim that to do otherwise would mean isolation from the labor movement. He was vigorously applauded. Benjamin Davis walked out during the speech.

AMENDMENT

In a special effort to keep the door open for winning CP support, four presiding committee members, Morris Goldin, Henry Abrams, Babette Jones and Sidney Gluck, introduced an amendment midway in the debate that the continuations committee be empowered to further explore the feasibility of designating a ticket. Passage of the amendment would have avoided recording a definitive expression of the viewpoint of the conference.

Speaking for the committee majority—McManus, McAvoy, Rubinstein, Zaslow, Stryker and DeHaan—Murry Weiss declared that he fully appreciated that the minority had in no way yielded its desire for a full, socialist ticket and that its concern for winning CP support was shared by all. But, Weiss said, "I don't see how we can avoid a clear expression of opinion from this body . . . The best way to achieve a maximum of unity on a minimum program is for an overwhelming vote here in support of the resolution."

81 TO 154

After a spirited debate on the amendment, it was defeated 81 to 154. Among the 81 who voted for the amendment were many delegates, who like the sponsors of the amendment, favored a full ticket but felt it might provide a better possibility for greater unity.

The wide support for a full slate was demonstrated after the amendment was defeated. The resolution for five candidates was then adopted on a voice vote with only a scattered handful of "no" votes. The solidarity of the participants was further registered when many of those who supported the defeated amendment returned the following morning for the work of shaping the draft platform.

That this was a gathering of convinced socialists was impressively evident in the extremely enthusiastic response to the draft platform, which was read to the conference by Dr. Rubinstein. It calls for socialist opposition to the cold war against the Soviet-bloc countries, indicts the capitalist system and its Democratic and Republican representatives, presents a program on civil liberties, civil rights and unemployment and concludes with a stirring depiction of America's socialist future.

The conference opened with a rally Friday evening which heard addresses by sponsors of the movement, including Muriel McAvoy, Richard DeHaan, Sidney Gluck and Joyce Cowley, SWP 1957 Mayoralty candidate. Though not a member of the sponsoring committee, Benjamin Davis was also invited to speak.

VINCENT HALLINAN IS MAIN SPEAKER

The principal speaker at the rally was Vincent Hallinan, 1952 Progressive Party Presidential candidate, who flew from California to attend the conference. Mr. Hallinan was state chairman of the recent campaign in California in behalf of Holland Roberts, well-known socialist educator, in his bid for election to the office of state superintendent of education.

Hallinan warmly endorsed the conference aim of presenting a socialist alternative to the two capitalist parties and detailed the record of both major parties as servants of Big Business. At the same time

In his policy speech to the delegates, Davis declared that he didn't think the statement "went far enough or sufficiently repudiated the attack." He further asserted that Murry Weiss' statement that "Mr. Hallinan had the right to make such statements" meant that there wasn't "any hope for a real debate or fight for a policy which we advocate or any hope for a compromise on some minimum basis."

This assertion was thoroughly refuted by the debate that followed. During the seven-hour discussion on the issue of one or five candidates some 50 people took the floor. All viewpoints were presented, including that of the CP, and a fraternal atmosphere prevailed throughout.

After Hallinan's speech, Sidney Gluck, of the presiding committee, expressed regret that he had attacked the CP's policies at the public rally. The floor was then given to Arnold Johnson who bitterly assailed the speech as "slanderous" of his party.

He was followed by Murry Weiss who declared: "I think Mr. Hallinan has a right to his opinion. I think the Communist Party has a full right to its opinion. Not only—as our party has always said—in the face of the witch-hunt, but in the gatherings of the radical movement . . . For our part, we want everybody in—every member of the Communist Party, every leader of the Communist Party, together with the whole movement to put up a real socialist campaign against the capitalist tickets."

PRESIDING COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The next morning the presiding committee presented a statement expressing regret that Hallinan had stated his personal views about the CP and declared that it did not assume responsibility for his statements, which do not "help to build the unity of purpose which is this conference's prime objective."

Shortly afterward he and other top leaders of the CP left the conference floor and did not return. However, a number of their supporters remained and participated in the deliberations.

Two main arguments were advanced for limiting the ticket to one candidate. The first was

the contention that significant support could be enlisted on immediate issues but that the workers are not ready to break with the Democratic party and that a full socialist ticket would stand in the way of influencing them on the issues.

The second argument advanced was that since everybody at the conference wanted maximum unity of the radical movement it was necessary to find the most minimal basis for collaboration. Limiting the campaign to a candidate for U.S. Senator would help to bring about unity, it was argued.

In his statement on policy, Davis said that the Communist Party believes that "the nomination of a full socialist ticket . . . would be a narrow, sectarian and premature move that would isolate socialists from labor and the Negro people."

He declared the CP "will not go along with any policy that will place us in a clash with the labor movement or the Negro people's movement."

Shortly afterward he and other top leaders of the CP left the conference floor and did not return. However, a number of their supporters remained and participated in the deliberations.

Two main arguments were advanced for limiting the ticket to one candidate. The first was

the argument that running a single candidate was the most they should try for as socialists. A veteran garment worker concluded his appeal for a full socialist ticket by observing "It seems to me this question of one or five that everyone's talking about is a foolish question. We're socialists, aren't we? So we put up as many candidates as we've got the money to."

And the great majority of the delegates registered their agreement when one independent declared: "If the CP scuttles this conference it can move over alongside the IWW because that's where it's headed."

In the debate on the amendment to avoid decisive action by the convention, delegates reiterated that the best way of convincing the CP leaders to give up their present position and support the movement was to firmly express the will of the conference. Several delegates insisted that many of their friends in the CP were sympathetic to the idea of a socialist ticket and that if the conference went ahead the CP leadership would be under strong pressure to give it some kind of support.

Dr. Annette Rubinstein said that deciding to run the full

slate in no way decreased the possibility of winning unity. If five are nominated, she said, "there is nothing to prevent the Communist Party later from reaching a degree of unity by endorsing our Senatorial candidate."

A number of delegates told the conference that they were expressing not only their own views but those of friends and associates unable to attend. One delegate read a letter of support from Max Bedacht, long-time leader of the International Workers Order. The letter said in part: "Yes, the American workers lack readiness for powerful independent political action. To create that readiness is the job of the revolutionary socialists. They must do it with example, with education through action, and with leadership. If we fail to perform this duty we reduce socialism to the unavoidable position of the capitalist Christian religion. You believe in it; say its prayers; but you condemn all those who want to practice it."

Perhaps the most moving episode in the conference came when a Brooklyn worker with 49 years devoted to the socialist cause told how in the 1957 primary election he had followed the CP policy and voted for Wagner. He then went home, he said and washed his hands to wash off the shame. (See Excerpts from Debate, page 2.)

HAIL PLATFORM

Complete unanimity of the conference was registered in the adoption of the draft plat-

From School Of Experience

Evoking hearty response from the audience were the following remarks made by a participant in the debate. "I wish I could say that I spoke for an organized group but I've been investing my time in the Democratic clubs. And those of you who have had this experience, you know that you're spotted as a progressive and they say, 'The envelope stuffing begins over there.' And that's all I've been able to do in the three Democratic clubs in which I've held membership. So from now on in, if I'm going to stuff envelopes, they're going to carry a socialist message."

During the two-hour discussion, proposals were made for improving or adding to the various planks. But not a single delegate challenged its clear-cut socialist line.

After election of the continuations committee, the conference heard closing remarks by members of the presiding committee.

Henry Abrams told the conference, "It seemed almost impossible to get unity. But I think we have achieved a good measure of unity and I think more can be achieved."

Annette Rubinstein said she was "happy we're in business." She reminded the audience of the declaration by Debs that it's better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it.

John T. McManus asked the delegates if they "realized how far we have come in two years." "How Quixotic it would have seemed a year or so ago," he said, "that the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, the Socialists and the independents would be together trying to reach minimum agreement."

On the floor and on the platform, the delegates who had discussed and debated for three days sang "Solidarity Forever" with fervor to close the conference.

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Spirits were high during the closing session. Muriel McAvoy

The Speed-Up Issue

Paradoxically, one of the major causes of the current crisis in Chrysler corporation plants organized by the United Auto Workers union (see story page 1) is the fact that the top leadership of the UAW has for years hamstrung the General Motors local unions in their fight against speed-up. Chrysler now insists on squeezing production workers as much as GM does. The near revolt this has created in the union's Chrysler set-up can be better understood in light of the following description of GM conditions excerpted from the May issue of the *Assembler*, official organ of New Jersey GM Local 595. The issue was published just before UAW contracts with the Big Three expired.

"The corporation describes the present contract as a fine document which has preserved labor peace. It is true that we haven't had many disputes since 1955 when the contract was signed. But is that to our benefit? GM doesn't tell us in its letter that there were over 110,000 written grievances in 1957 and about 155,000 written grievances in 1956, under that contract . . .

"In 1957 GM employed approximately 350,000 workers who became union members. This means that one out of every three employees ran into a situation at work which was bad enough to be written up as a grievance. Does that sound like labor peace? Yes it was peaceful for

the company all right. They went right on producing and raking in tremendous profits while the poor lunk on the assembly line waited as much as six months for the company to do something about his grievance.

"No wonder Mr. Curtice [GM president] likes the agreement! Without it, the 110,000 aggrieved employees wouldn't have been so quiet when their rights were trampled on! Without it he couldn't require a man to work like two men until his grievance was settled. And without it, his foreman couldn't ride an overworked employee until the worker was provoked into losing his temper and found himself out the door!

"We don't need a continuation of the present agreement. We need a new and better agreement. We need an agreement that actually protects us from overbearing foremen, not one that lets them pick on us while our grievance is being processed . . . What we don't need is the old agreement in which GM's high-priced lawyers found the loop-holes before the books were even printed.

Unfortunately, Reuther's policy of retreat in the face of the recession will not help GM workers fight speed-up, and they want to fight it. As the *Assembler* points out: "Things were a lot tougher through the early history of our union, but we made terrific gains."

What SWP Stands For

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY—WHAT IT IS—WHAT IT STANDS FOR. By Joseph Hansen. Pioneer Publishers. 54 pages. 25c.

This new pamphlet is much more than a presentation of the principles, aims and activities of the Socialist Workers Party. It is a brief but precise presentation of the basic Marxist analysis of capitalist evils and of the socialist alternative of planned production for use.

Socialist literature has supplied abundant material exposing the war-depression alternatives of capitalism. There is a shortage of material explaining the potentials of planned economy. This pamphlet presents the capitalist system as it appears in the United States and then goes further to give the reader a glimpse of what a socialist America would be like.

"Picture our grimy, tenement-cluttered, smog-choked urban areas turned into clean, beautiful cities, filled with modern buildings, playgrounds, grass, pools, flowers and trees! That is only the beginning. The work week can be shortened as automation takes over the burden of labor . . . Workers can retire young enough to enjoy years of leisure. With life-time security guaranteed—an ample living from cradle to grave—think how free and joyous life will become! Everyone will be able to develop his talents to

—Frances James

Worker's Bookshelf

SOCIALIST ELECTION POLICY IN 1958. By James P. Cannon. 11 pages. 10c.

The reasons why united socialist political action is indicated now and the outlook for American socialism. Discusses new opportunities opening up for American radicalism and the historical precedents for a united socialist campaign.

AMERICA'S ROAD TO SOCIALISM. By James P. Cannon. 79 pages. 35c.

Presented in simple, highly readable form, this pamphlet provides a searching analysis of the situation of contemporary American capitalism, the prospects for the socialist movement and a remarkable forecast of what Socialist America will look like.

THE IWW—THE GREAT ANTICIPATION. By James P. Cannon. 40 pages. 25c.

A former organizer for the IWW, Cannon shows how that movement was a trail blazer both for industrial unionism and revolutionary socialism.

FASCISM AND BIG BUSINESS. By Daniel Guerin. Long out of print. A very few copies still available at \$4.

THE LESSONS OF SPAIN—THE LAST WARNING. By Leon Trotsky. 21 pages. 25c.

Written in December, 1937 during the civil war in Spain. This pamphlet, which discusses Big Business finances the fascist march to power and under what conditions the middle classes are attracted to the fascists.

FASCISM—WHAT IT IS—HOW TO FIGHT IT. By Leon Trotsky. 48 pages. 15c.

This is a compilation of writings on the struggle against fascism in Germany, Spain, France and the United States.

WHITHER FRANCE? By Leon Trotsky. 180 pages. \$2.50. (Very few copies left.)

A study of the working class struggle against fascism and the road to socialism. Covers events in France from 1934-1936. The revolutionary socialist line is counterposed to the Communist Party's Popular

The history and aims of the Algerian national independence revolution, written by its most heroic figure.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MONIST VIEW OF HISTORY (IN DEFENSE OF MATERIALISM). By G. V. Plekhanov. 410 pages. \$1.35.

Long unavailable in this country, this brilliant study of the rise of materialist philosophy, beginning with the French materialists of the 18th Century, is an unusual bargain at this price. Lenin said of it: "A remarkably logical and valuable exposition of dialectical materialism."

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THE MILITANT

VOLUME XXII

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1958

NUMBER 25

Art Laurent

Art Laurent, a member of the Milwaukee branch of the Socialist Workers Party, was found dead on June 3 of a heart attack in his cabin at Bay de Noc, Wisconsin, where he had gone on his annual Memorial Day fishing expedition.

Comrade Laurent was 33 years old. He was a man of memorable and unique appearance and personality. He seemed a colossus — tall, heavy-set — and since early manhood handicapped with a wooden leg. He affected a gruffness of manner that intimidated people till they caught on to his concealed gentleness, thoughtfulness, even shyness.

He spent his early years working a farm at Thorpe, Wisconsin, taking on the responsibility left him by his father's death, of supporting a large family. When his charges had grown old enough to start on their separate paths to becoming school teachers and professional men, Art with his wooden leg and his mind full of the radical, progressive traditions, migrated to the city. There he rapidly schooled himself into a reliable tool and die maker.

He lived a stoical life, hardly touched by the ordinary pleasures and comforts. He held that everyone was obligated to labor — and to think. He believed in the right of everyone to the full social product of their labor, but they must think and organize as socialists — that is go beyond the credo of the International Association of Machinists to which he belonged.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party first met Art at a Socialist Party picnic in 1944 where they were circulating petitions on behalf of the 18 SWPers and union leaders, imprisoned after the Minneapolis Labor Trial, the first Smith Act trial in America.

Art admired the socialist integrity and anti-war stand of "the Minneapolis bunch," as he called them. Soon he subscribed to the *Militant* and in 1945 joined the Milwaukee branch of the SWP. Orderly in his habits, scrupulous in always bearing a full share of the party's financial burden, he had shortly before his death taken on the post of branch treasurer.

During the height of the witch hunt Comrade Laurent was active in getting workers in his shop to sign petitions for Senator McCarthy's recall. One of the last lunch-hour "discussions" with the "Republican" tool and die makers at A. O. Smith where he worked reportedly ended with him roaring: "I voted for Farrell Dobbs three times and will continue to vote for him because he's the only labor leader who knows anything about the history of this country."

Comrade Laurent embodied the grass-roots radicalism of which he was a native product. This most precious element in the American heritage, passed on to his comrades, strengthened and will continue to strengthen the Milwaukee branch and the SWP nationally.

— J. E. B.

... Auto Ranks Rally

(Continued from Page 1)

Reports are that some locals voted to pay up a year in advance. A St. Louis local reports that more than 1,000 members showed up to pay dues in a single day.

There has been no request from UAW tops for a strike vote — just the reverse, official policy is to keep working until the stockpile of 800,000 cars is depleted. Walter Reuther, head of the Union, told a press conference, June 17, that he expects the contract to be signed in the next few months without strike action. Yet, many union locals have gone ahead and taken votes authorizing strike action by the union.

A June 10 UAW news release reports that the membership of UAW Local 51, Plymouth Division of the Chrysler Corporation, gave unanimous authorization to the officers of the local to take a strike vote.

Chrysler workers have broken out into militant opposition both to the company attacks since the contract expired and to the do-nothing policy of the UAW leadership. At a meeting of six hundred secondary leaders on June 7, instructions by the international union officers to stay on the job and accede to company demands were booed and denounced.

Ford Local 325 at St. Louis and Local 551 at Chicago have voted to strike if and when the international union calls for a walkout. (June 13 Wall St. Journal.)

The June 15 Detroit Free Press reports, "The GM department reported Saturday that votes across the country so far total more than 90 percent in favor of future strike action if necessary. The same results are reported in a proportionate vote among Ford department locals."

The court has been "severely criticized" for the unusually long delay in rendering decision. This was admitted at the June 6 bail hearing by Justice James Fee, who said the court was waiting to get a full agreement on the case. He added that the delay was not warranted.

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Spanish Sailors Refused Bail

LOS ANGELES, June 16 —

An appeal to the Ninth Circuit

Court of Appeals for their re-

lease on bail has been denied

to the Five Spanish Sailors,

who have been confined for

nearly a year now at the U.S.

Immigration Center at Chula

Vista on the U.S.-Mexican bor-

der.

The five young men from the

Spanish Navy jumped their

ships last year in order to seek

political asylum in Mexico.

They have been waiting for a

decision in their case since

Dec. 9, when the American

Civil Liberties Union argued

in court that they would be

executed if returned to Franco's

Spain.

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Local Directory

BOSTON Workers Educational Center, Gainsborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays.

NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J.

CHICAGO Militant Forum, 831 Main St.

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

OAKLAND-BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif.

PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Cam- paign Hdqrs. Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Open Wed. 4-6 P.M.; Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

SEATTLE 655 Main St., MU 2-7139. Library, bookstore. Classes every Friday evening at 8 P.M. Open House following at 10:30 P.M.

MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave.

MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave. For information phone MO 4-7194.

ST. LOUIS

For information phone MO 4-7194.

As a matter of fact the N.Y.

Post queried the AP about the Dawson situation reported by the Washington Post only to get a 360-word dispatch "that consisted largely of an ineffectual attempt to discredit the findings of the Washington reporter." It was this that decided the N.Y. Post to reprint the original story in toto.

The Washington Post printed its story about the situation in Dawson on June 8. It was reprinted by the New York Post on June 11 with an editorial which posed the question: "How is it that the Associated Press didn't tell the country the whole story many days ago? The answer is that in many Southern areas the AP—and other wire services don't investigate such unpleasantness any more than Pravda exposes terror in the Russian province of Georgia."

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After a closed meeting on

June 10, the new federal Civil

Rights Commission (which has

expended almost half of its

legal life span without doing

anything but getting its per-

sonnel appointed) told the

press that it had decided to

postpone consideration of

whether it should investigate

the situation reported in Dawson by the Washington Post.

INTEGRATION