

'We Began with Best Idea in the World'

The following are major excerpts from a speech by James P. Cannon, National Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, at a meeting in Los Angeles, Nov. 15, celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Militant.

... As has been announced and referred to by other speakers, we celebrate tonight the joint anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the founding of the Militant. It was not designed that way but it turned out that both these events occurred in the month of November. Thirty years ago, our struggle for the ideas of the Russian Opposition had come to a head, resulting in our expulsion from the Communist Party on October 25, 1928. That imposed upon us the necessity of starting our own paper and the first issue was dated in November.

The timing was accidental; nevertheless, I think the coincidence was significant and deeply symbolic. The Militant and the Russian Revolution have been tied together all the time. The Militant from its first issue up to the latest one to come off the press has been the champion of the Russian Revolution and the advocate of its extension throughout the world. That has been the central meaning of every expression of revolutionary socialism in every part of the world since November 1917.

So the Militant began as the champion of the Russian Revolution. It began with a big idea—the biggest and best idea in the world—the idea of the Russian Revolution and its extension to all other countries including the United States. That idea is still the chart not only for the Militant, not only for us, for the Socialist Workers party, but for the future course of all humanity on this planet.

Started on IWW Paper

Now I have worked on radical revolutionary papers for 45 years. The first one was Solidarity, the Eastern organ of the IWW which was published in New Castle, Pa., in the early days. After the 1912 convention of the IWW, I showed up in New Castle to visit with the staff and see what was going on. I didn't hitch-hike there. I went by train. I got off in the freight yards with a pal of mine and we walked down to the Solidarity office and said hello to the boys who worked there. They decided I should stay and work on the paper for a while.

I often recall that paper of the IWW as an example of how much the pioneers of our movement did with so little. Solidarity was printed in a tiny shop by one editor who spent three days a week at the type case. We had a press but no linotype and so it was set by hand. The other two members of the staff were a fellow named Bill Wall-gast and myself. We did the press work and the mailing and the clerical work. The three of us got out a paper once a week. That was common in the early radical movement.

In 1919, I helped in starting a local paper in Kansas City, Missouri. During the war, the first world war that was, the movement was under great persecution. When we began to

The Cleveland Toiler

I was arrested and indicted on the accusation of conspiring to interfere with the production of a war-time necessity—namely, bituminous coal. This was the Cleveland Toiler. This was a year and a half after the war was over, but the wartime Lever act had not yet been repealed. I was thrown into jail and the paper then had no staff.

The Workers World was forced to discontinue, but it had served a certain purpose while it lasted. It gave us a little experience that was of use later. The fact that I had edited this paper was known to the national leadership of the newly formed Communist Party, and in 1920 when I had been elected to the Central Committee, I was appointed to go to Cleveland, Ohio, to be

come editor of the Daily Worker—that is, the paper that later became the Daily Worker. This was the Cleveland Toiler.

The Cleveland Toiler was controlled by the state executive committee of the Socialist Party in Ohio, a left-wing group which had joined the Communist Labor Party. After I had edited the Toiler for about six months in Cleveland, we moved the paper to New York because it was the only legal paper we had in the country. The official organ, the Communist, and everything else had been proscribed.

We eventually changed the name of the Cleveland Toiler to the New York Toiler and then to the New York Weekly Worker. The New York Weekly Worker, which was still open

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In early 1933, ringing appeals of Leon Trotsky to the German working class parties and to the international working class to unite in struggle against Hitler and his storm-troopers were history-making headlines in the Militant. Two typical headlines of the period are shown.

on the same mailing permit, eventually became the Daily Worker published in Chicago; so that by a sort of remote association you can say that I am one of the former editors of the Daily Worker for whatever that may be worth.

I already knew what I was going to say but I was just asking. You know, to make conversation. So he said, "Why don't you tell about all the other papers you worked on?"

I didn't say yes or no. I just listened. Then he came back, I am told, and announced that I was going to speak about the things he had suggested I should speak about. And he mentioned it again tonight. So here I am.

I was in Minneapolis during the 1934 strike—the strike that made Minneapolis a union town. So far as I know this was the only long-drawn-out strike in which the union published a daily paper throughout. We Trotskyists did that in Minneapolis. The daily paper was called the Organizer and I served as its policy editor.

During the time we were in the Socialist Party, Rose and I came out to California. We hadn't been here more than about two months when we moved up to San Francisco where a big maritime strike was brewing and there was sentiment to increase socialist activity. The state executive committee of the California Socialist Party, agreed to publish a weekly paper in San Fran-

cisco and I was appointed editor of that paper. Its name was Labor Action. That is not the same Labor Action that some of you may have run across later...

This weekly lasted until early in the spring of 1937 when the Socialist Party leadership decided that we hadn't become Social Democrats after all. They didn't want Trotskyists in their organization and they prepared to expel us. That ended the Labor Action of San Francisco.

Shortly thereafter it was re-born in the form of the Socialist Appeal in New York. A little later, the Socialist Appeal changed its name to the Militant.

So that's about the sum and substance of my participation in labor journals as an editor. The one thing that I am proudest of is the fact that I was the founding editor of the Militant and have always been an off-and-on contributor to its columns; and it is about the Militant, for which I have the most affection, that I want to speak.

Militant Is Activism Plus

The name was deliberately designed to express its distinctive character. It is not so commonly used nowadays as it was in the earlier movement. "Militant" was the word for the active, fighting member of the various radical organizations—IWW militants, Socialist Party militants, anarchist militants. Nowadays they have a much weaker word, I think for that. They say "activists." Those that are always working for the organization. But in the old days we called these people the militants, which is activism plus.

We decided that by calling our paper the Militant, this would indicate our intention of appealing directly to the vanguard, to the cadre people, to the militants—a paper of and for the vanguard.

We did not pretend, when we started the Militant, that we were producing a great mass paper, simplifying everything to the lowest common denominator. On the contrary, our paper was devoted to the education and re-education of the vanguard militants of the Communist movement. It was primarily a cadre paper, the educator and guide of the cadres. The people who hold the party

together and keep it going in all kinds of weather. The people that never quit. Who never float down the stream like dead fish but swim against the current no matter how rough it may be. That is the meaning of "militant" and that was the meaning of the paper we started to represent such people.

We had learned a good deal by then, although we have learned a great deal more, since, and were applying something from Lenin's program for Iskra. Many of you have read in his great pamphlet, *What Is To Be Done*, what he considered to be the role of a national paper.

As Lenin conceived it, the role of a revolutionary paper is to function not merely as an agitator dealing with protest issues, not merely as a propagandist concerned with educating people and dealing with questions of theory and politics, but as the best organizer of the party.

That was the way we conceived our Militant and for that reason the Militant was never and never could be a personal organ. It broke entirely with the earlier socialist tradition in this country in which the most widely circulated press, the most influential press, was a privately owned and privately conducted enterprise.

The Appeal to Reason

You have heard many good things about the Appeal to Reason, the paper published in Girard, Kansas, which had at one time as high as a half million circulation and which undoubtedly did a great deal to popularize the general idea of socialism and the struggle against capitalism and against capitalist wars. But when the war broke out in 1917, the proprietors of the Appeal to Reason, this privately owned paper, decided that they did not want to get in conflict with the government. They came out in support of the war. And all the readers and supporters who believed in the paper and trusted it, who had built its tremendous circulation, were just left helpless, completely incapable of exerting any influence on the policy of the paper. Now the Militant was never in that tradition.

... *

From its first issue the Militant was an internationalist paper. It has always been concerned with the great problems of the world and has done all it could to help the world

movement of revolutionary socialism. It was through the Militant—and in this we take special pride—that the message of the Russian Opposition was carried to all corners of the world and even penetrated the Soviet Union itself...

In Europe, Latin America and Africa, Ceylon, India, China, and many other parts of the world the message of the Militant sparked and inspired the organization of the first cadres of the International Left Opposition so that when Trotsky, six months later, was deported to Turkey, he found a forum all ready for him in the Militant and groups and organizations springing up throughout the world very largely as the result of the preliminary message of the Militant.

Among the countries I neglected to mention was England. The English Trotskyist movement had its origin in copies of the Militant that a few members of the Communist Party got hold of in 1928-29. The Militant inspired the organization of new cadres everywhere and was recognized in

the result of the preliminary message of the Militant.

They mobilized to vote for Harriman but it turned out that Rockefeller got elected. Rockefeller couldn't have gotten elected unless he won working-class votes. New York is an industrial state and the workers can decide any election they see fit to. So if a large percentage of workers and the Negro people voted for Rockefeller, it looks to me like they

corrupted revolutionary movement of the past. The Militant has always strictly defended and incorporated into its own teachings much of the early Communist Party tradition in this country—and at that time it was a real CP—and of the older movement of Debs and Haywood which helped to prepare the way. In the unions you all know that the Militant has always stood for militant action, for class-struggle policies, for trade-union democracy for the rank and file against the privileged bureaucrats, for the rights of the Negro people every day and on every occasion without any compromise.

On the political field, the Militant has always stood for independent political action and applies that doctrine in practice at every opportunity. If we can get anyone to cooperate with us, the party, small as it is, has tried to put up socialist candidates just to keep the idea of socialism alive and to show that even a small group that takes its socialism seriously can do things considered impossible by large bodies who are less serious.

The Militant fought for all these basic lines—which are ABC for anyone worthy of the name socialist—all these policies which are not new, very old in fact, but still good and far better than the new counterfeits. We have been swimming against the stream all the time.

Destruction of a Tradition

As the chairman, Warde, mentioned, in the old days anyone calling himself a socialist wouldn't even dare to suggest that you campaign for or support a candidate of a capitalist political party; but in the last twenty-odd years we have seen a different course pursued by the majority. The net result of this trifling with principle, of this class collaboration in politics was a demoralized radical movement. The destruction of socialist tradition and even the habit of independent socialist political action.

That took time to bring about and it had to be done stealthily and a step at a time. It began in 1936. Prior to then it was ABC for the Socialists, or the Communists, to nominate their own candidates and to use electoral campaigns and the expanded audience they provide to popularize the ideas of socialism and communism. But in 1936 the right-wing socialists in New York and the Communist Party of Browder decided that these old-fashioned ideas were out of date; that it would be much smarter and much slicker to join the majority.

That was the year when Browder campaigned for President on the ticket of the Communist Party. He wouldn't have dared then to advocate not run-

ning their own ticket; so they compromised with the rank and file who wanted the CP to have its own campaign and they nominated Browder and Ford for President.

What do you think was their chief campaign slogan? Defeat Landon, at all costs!

So they campaigned all over the country to beat Landon at all costs with the result that ninety per cent of the people under their influence voted for Roosevelt.

In New York the radical workers, especially the great mass of needle-trade workers had the habit year after year of voting for the socialist ticket. To get around this inconvenient habit and tradition, the needle-trade union bureaucrats, in an undercover deal with Socialist and Communist Party leaders, as was later revealed, worked out a clever scheme. They couldn't ask the socialist-minded New York workers to jump over and vote straight Democrat. But they could ask them to vote for something new—a labor party. So they said, Let's form another party; call it the American Labor Party; and put just one little catch in it: that the ALP endorse the Democratic ticket.

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Subscription: \$3 per year;
foreign: \$4.50 per year;
Canadian: \$3.50 per year.

THE MILITANT

Published Weekly by the Militant Publishing Association
116 University Pl., N.Y. 3, N.Y. Phone: CH 3-2140

Second class postage paid
at New York, N.Y.

Editor: DANIEL ROBERTS

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

Vol. XXII — No. 50

Monday, December 15, 1958

Pardon for Winston, Green

The U.S. Board of Parole's denial of the application of Henry Winston and Gil Green is additional proof that the witch hunt is far from over. These two Smith Act victims have served over a third of their sentences, have good behavior records and have furnished the Parole Board with all the assurances and sponsors in their home communities required by penologists of parolees. It is the normal practice of federal authorities to parole first offenders meeting these requirements. Yet Winston and Green have been denied parole. The reason is obvious: they are still being persecuted for their political beliefs and affiliation.

The only immediate step that can now be taken on behalf of these two political prisoners is to appeal to President Eisenhower to free them by an act of executive clemency. A campaign has been launched to barrage the White House with as many letters as possible asking such

amnesty for Winston and Green by Christmas, the traditional season for presidential grants of clemency.

The Smith Act was opposed by organized labor and by all civil liberties organizations when it was being rammed through Congress. It has been repeatedly condemned and deplored by them since. It is the duty and the elementary self-interest of all union militants and other defenders of civil liberties today to speak up on behalf of the actual victims of this "dangerous-thoughts" law. That means specifically coming to the aid of those under Smith Act indictment, of those being harassed and threatened by retrials and particularly of the two still behind bars.

So put Winston, Green and their families at the top of your Christmas list and send a "Christmas card" to Eisenhower on their behalf. Mail early!

Marian Anderson Rebels

Throughout most of her life when she was engaged in building the career as a concert artist to which her superb voice entitled her, Marian Anderson refrained from all comments about politics or racial discrimination.

In the post-war World the State Department found its attempts to woo popular opinion throughout the world greatly hindered by the international abomination of the racism known to exist in the U.S. For propaganda advantage, therefore, it decided to send prominent Negroes on "good will" tours—particularly to Asia—in an attempt to "disprove" the stories about American Jim Crow or at least to mitigate their effect. Accordingly Marian Anderson who, thanks solely to her own talent and efforts, and no thanks to the government, had achieved world fame, was sent on a government-sponsored world tour.

She won the hearts of millions because of her personal charm and marvelous voice, and because in her, Asians and Africans saw personified the American Negro achieving greatness despite all obstacles of prejudice, poverty and discrimination. The resounding success of her tour shone all the more in the eyes of the State Department because, when foreigners raised the subject of Jim Crow in America, she showed no inclination to pursue the subject but to drop it with a few remarks about how rapidly it was being overcome.

So this year the State Department made her a member of the U.S. delegation in the United Nations. This appointment had served two aims. First, her presence on the delegation would serve as living "refutation" of charges about racism in the U.S. Secondly, her appointment would please the Negro voters in the U.S. who justifiably want to break down the barriers to top government posts like those in the diplomatic corps.

But the State Department got more than it reckoned for in Marian Anderson. She came to resent doing the dirty work

—especially against the colonial peoples of the world—that is part and parcel of U.S. policy. On Nov. 25 she rebelled. In the UN Trusteeship Committee the Asian African countries were demanding a special meeting of the General Assembly to hear long-pending demands from the British and French Cameroons for unification and independence.

The U.S. government opposes demands of the colonial slaves of "free world" powers. When open opposition is no longer possible, it pretends acquiescence with as much foot-dragging and sabotage as possible. Accordingly Miss Anderson's instructions were to vote against the proposed special session.

After casting her vote against the aspirations of the people of the two African colonies (in one of which—the French Cameroons—the imperialists have been butchering the people in droves), Miss Anderson declared that though she had followed her government's orders she personally was against those orders and for the Cameroons. The press officials of the U.S. delegation tried to conceal this unprecedented statement by phonying up the press releases. But the truth will out—even over the ethics of John Foster Dulles and his underlings.

We, of course, don't think Miss Anderson, or any Negro, should serve on the U.S. delegation because they are put there to camouflage the ugly truth about Jim Crow in America. Similarly, we don't think George Meany should serve on the delegation because he only serves there as labor window dressing for the Big Business, anti-labor government. But we commend Marian Anderson for her outspokenness on Nov. 25. And since George Meany won't resign and do some organizing of the unorganized workers in this country, why doesn't he at least take a page from Miss Anderson's UN book and say an honest word rather than faithfully parrot the speeches Dulles has written for him.

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FBI's Files: 75 Million Under Watch

By Henry Gitano
(Second of a series)

The FBI's most powerful weapon and its major activity revolves around the compiling and filing of information, mostly defamatory and unverified, about persons against whom no crime has been charged. Most of the FBI's work is done by stooges, anonymous letter writers and filing clerks. Secret files are the raw material needed to impose thought control on the American people through blackmail, intimidation and victimization.

Kenneth Robb wrote in McCall's, May 1955: "The FBI knows a little something about a great many people—75 million persons, or about one half the population of the U.S. . . . Size of dossiers may range from a few sheets of paper to a thickness of several feet."

The FBI was aptly spawned through a mating of deception and blackmail. Repeatedly demanded by Attorney General Charles Bonaparte, authorization was withheld by the 60th Congress in 1908. The views of Congress were summarized in the Congressional Record: "There is no desire for a general detective service . . . It is considered absolutely contradictory to the democratic principles of government."

BONAPARTE'S DECEIT

On July 1, 1908, one month after Congress adjourned, Bonaparte established his secret police. Max Lowenthal in The FBI reports: "Both houses of Congress were disturbed and directed investigations of the Federal police agencies. Newspaper articles appeared disclosing the fact that dossiers had been assembled for President Theodore Roosevelt containing information about the personal

affairs of various Congressmen active in the campaign to investigate the Federal detectives."

Congressmen charged they had been shadowed and their mail rifled. Roosevelt denied this, insisting that detectives would not violate the law. "But sometimes," he added, "through the accidental breaking of such [a] package, the contents are exposed." With this explanation, he published the private correspondence of Senator Tillman (N.C.), one of his leading opponents.

FRAME SACCO, VANZETTI

During the Palmer Raid witch-hunting hysteria, FBI dossiers compiled on two Boston militants, Sacco and Vanzetti, were instrumental in executing these heroes of labor. FBI files were used to fabricate the greatest frame-up in American history. Despite repeated efforts by defense attorneys, the files were never produced in court.

Later, FBI man Fred G. Weyand stated: "I am also thoroughly convinced and always have been, and I believe that is and always has been the opinion of such Boston agents of the Department of Justice as had any knowledge on the subject, that these men had nothing whatever to do with the South Braintree murder and that their conviction was the result of cooperation between the Boston agents of the Department of Justice and the District Attorney." Another FBI man, Lawrence Letherman, said: "It was the opinion of the Department agents here that a conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti for murder would be one way of disposing of these two men."

Edward Crankshaw notes in his book "Gestapo" that the secret state police bossed by Goering in 1933 was Department 1A of the old Prussian Police. Like the FBI, 1A was an underground arm of the government, keeping its methods, personnel and records secret—becoming a law unto itself. Goering took over 1A's voluminous files, secretly compiled from secret sources on Germans active in politics; it was an apparatus made to order for fingering and breaking those opposed to the Hitler regime.



HOOVER

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FDR ORDERS PROBE OF 'COMMUNISTS'

In 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave the FBI a secret directive to investigate "communist activities" throughout the country, he also ordered the FBI to resume wire tapping after a Senate Committee condemned it. It was in a period of social crisis that FDR felt the need for a more powerful

secret political police. "The responsibility for internal security" Hoover revealed, was "assigned the FBI in 1939 by presidential directive."

The FBI became responsible for the federal loyalty program, and the questioning of accused employees were based on FBI confidential files. Alan Barth in Harpers (March 1954) notes questions which do not even pretend to deal with force and violence. "One board member inquired if an employee favored or opposed the segregation of blood in Red Cross blood banks, the question arose, he said, out of information given to the board that she had written a letter to the Red Cross about such segregation."

The reports which came to light in the Judith Coplon case showed other criteria used by the FBI to determine "loyalty." FBI files told of "affiliation with the Progressive Party," "writing a master's thesis on the New Deal in New Zealand," "making a strong progressive speech which attacked an anti-Semitic teacher."

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These committee inquisitions which publicize secret, unverified slander and gossip from FBI files, also act as a transmission belt for still other parasitic organizations like the American Security Council in Chicago, organized in 1953, which maintains a massive file of one million names. This private agency with a \$100,000 yearly budget supplies employers with information on alleged "subversives." It is used by some of the nation's largest firms to check prospective employees. The files are culled from Congressional and legislative hearings. "Interest for or against the free enterprise system—that's the thing that starts our interest," the president of ASC, John M. Fisher, an ex-FBI man attached to the N.Y. office for Communist Investigations, said.

How Worker Reported Cleveland Conference

By Harry Ring

After reading the account in the Dec. 7 Worker of the Conference of American Socialists held in Cleveland Nov. 23-30, those who were there could easily get the impression they attended a different meeting. Among other things, the report deliberately tries to give the impression that there was strong support at the conference—particularly among the unionists present—for the Communist Party policy of working in the Democratic Party.

In fact, according to the Worker, opposition of the unionists to a united socialist presidential ticket in 1960 was so strong that the Trotskyists and others had to abandon plans for a vote on the issue. Actually the conference was convened with the clear understanding that its sole purpose would be an exchange of views and experiences. The discussion showed that the great majority present favored united socialist opposition to the Republicans and Democrats.

Reporting the conference for this paper, I took extensive notes on the entire two-day discussion. A check of these notes show that apart from the panelists, 24 speakers addressed themselves specifically to the issue of working in the Democratic Party. Six of these, including three unionists, spoke in support of the CP "coalition" line, four took a middle position and 14 argued against socialists trying to work in the Democratic Party.

WHICH SIDE IN UNIONS?

(Continued from Page 1) militant struggles for labor's demands, to organize the unorganized and to express the real sentiment of the union membership, it has also become completely intertwined with the political machinery of capitalism, the government apparatus, the State Department, the FBI, and the two capitalist parties—particularly the Democratic Party.

When we talk of not becoming isolated from the labor movement we must specify what part of the labor movement—the workers or the bureaucracy? When socialists launch election campaigns, they do not become isolated from the labor movement, unless one is speaking of becoming victimized by the labor officials. It is true that socialists in given union locals can suffer dismissal and expulsion if they dare to oppose the policy of the bureaucracy on political questions as well as union matters. Socialist unionists are therefore compelled to exercise caution and not make it easy for the bureaucrats to get rid of them.

But is this a reason for the socialist in a union to abandon his views? Or, more pertinently, is this a reason why a socialist party should fail to say in the open electoral arena what the persecuted socialist in the shop cannot say for fear of landing on the blacklist?

THEY PIN HOPES ON BUREAUCRACY

Actually, it is not a question of adapting to the needs of the beleaguered radical in the labor movement. The blunt truth, and nothing is to be gained by mincing words about this, is that both the Communist Party leaders and the Social Democrats are pinning their political hopes not on the present and

charge that the Socialist Workers Party is "anti-Soviet" and asserted that John T. McManus of the National Guardian and others who collaborated with the SWP in the united campaign belonged by that fact in the "anti-Soviet" camp or were on the way to it.

How does this "anti-Soviet" charge square with the Worker's own reporting from Cleveland? Many supporters of the National Guardian and of the SWP were active participants at the conference. Yet the Worker reports: "An unprincipled and pro-Dulles attack on the Soviet Union by a Socialist Party observer received applause from only one person. Both Communists and non-Communists assailed the attack." It adds that the conference was scored by the SP-SDF "for its refusal to take a hostile attitude toward the Soviet Union . . ." Obviously, if there were any truth to the Worker's charges against the Guardian and SWP, the anti-Soviet stand of the SP-SDF would not have been so thoroughly isolated.

A DISCREPANCY

Another fact is presented by the Worker in carefully selective fashion—namely that "the greatest unanimity was achieved on the peace question. East-West trade was urged." The same conference report in the Dec. 6 People's World (unsigned in the Worker, credited to Sam Kushner in People's World) reads as follows: "The greatest unanimity was achieved on the peace issue. In this panel many speakers, including the representative of the Socialist Workers party, stressed the peace role of the Soviet Union. East-West trade was underscored as a method of helping to achieve peace." Obviously

HARD SELL NEEDED

Charles H. Brower, president of BBD&O, major U.S. advertising agency has suggested the appointment of a new Cabinet member to sell America to the world. The reason we have trouble selling the American way of life, he said, is that "We have no advertising manager, no sales manager, no director of public relations."

FUND SCOREBOARD

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Oakland	\$ 340	\$ 482	142
St. Louis	80	81	102
Buffalo	1,500	1,515	101
Boston	450	450	100
Chicago	1,000	1,000	100
Connecticut	300	300	100
Denver	50	50	100
San Francisco	440	440	100
South	200	200	100
Allentown	112	101	90
Youngstown	300	250	83
New York	4,500	3,684	82
Newark	265	214	81
Milwaukee	250	197	79
San Diego	300	235	78
Twin Cities	1,742	1,356	78
Detroit	600	445	74
Los Angeles	4,600	3,348	73
Pittsburgh	10	7	70
Seattle	550	385	70
Cleveland	750	520	69
Philadelphia	528	337	64
General	—	294	—
Total through Dec. 9	—	\$18,867	88

The Negro Struggle

A Plan for New York City Fathers

On Dec. 1 the New York City Deputy Commissioner of Buildings and other officials went on a slumming party accompanied by a large contingent of reporters. They tsk-ed tsk-ed at the wretched housing conditions which they saw in Harlem, and their words were duly recorded in the press. It was a great display calculated to show the citizenry how liberal Mayor Wagner's administration is and how it really "wants" to do something for the miserably-housed working people — particularly the Negroes and Puerto Ricans, the most victimized in N.Y. housing, whose votes have become more pivotal and important. But the expedition boomeranged. First, because the Negro people are getting on to these phony expeditions and secondly because the Deputy Housing Commissioner's failure to do something about a violation which she and all the reporters saw in one building — a grossly defective elevator — caused the death five days later of a 14-year-old boy.

Here are some excerpts from an article by James Hicks of the N.Y. Amsterdam News, written before the boy's death.

"We're not impressed. We've seen this type of song and dance act too many times in Harlem — especially when an election year is just around the corner.

"If the city fathers really want to impress us as to their sincerity in cleaning up the slums, we have a plan for them.

"And that plan simply calls for the enforcement of a law that is already on the books. All they have to do is to en-

force that law on about three or four landlords and all the others will clean up their slum areas virtually overnight.

"The law to which we are referring is Chapter 26, Section 205.0 subdivisions (a) and (e) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York.

"This law which to our knowledge has never been used, authorizes the Corporation Council of the City of New York, 'at the request of the Superintendent of Buildings' to apply to the Supreme Court for an order directing the Superintendent of Buildings to make alterations in any building which is in violation of the Housing Law.

"It further provides that once the city moves in and corrects the violation it can then reimburse itself for the work it has done on the building by attaching a mechanics lien on the landlord's property until he pays the city exactly what it cost the city to fix up the building.

"You can just imagine what would happen to a Harlem absentee landlord if he got a telegram while sunning in Florida that the city had decided to alter and renovate his slum apartment houses and he would get the bill for the job as soon as it was completed!

"Every other Harlem landlord would jump right up and hire his own contractor as soon as the news got around. And the violations would disappear.

"But the city officials won't do that. They either are too closely linked with the landlords—or they just don't have the guts to enforce the law."

VOLUME XXII

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1958

NUMBER 50

THE MILITANT

Art Exhibit By Capt. Mulzac

Captain Hugh N. Mulzac, 1958 Independent Socialist candidate for New York Comptroller, who has been gaining increasing recognition as a painter, is holding an exhibit and sale of his works through Dec. 20. Thirty-seven of his oils and water colors are listed for sale. The exhibit is open daily from 2 to 9 P.M. at 106-61 Husco St., Jamaica, N.Y. To get there from New York by subway take E or F train to 169th St., then Q-42 bus to 106th Ave. By car, take 59th St. bridge, Queens Blvd., Jamaica Ave., and 177th St. to 106th Ave.

... Group for Labor Party

(Continued from Page 1)

cratic candidate, only objected to R-T-W 'in its present form' and disclaimed accepting any monetary support from labor.

"The voting statistics show that great number of Ohioans rejected both candidates but did vote NO on R-T-W... From this one can conclude that there is a reservoir from which labor, running its own independent candidates, would receive support. And we should not overlook the fact that many people voted Democratic on the old 'lesser of two evils' theory.

"Out of the R-T-W experience came the idea of a Labor Representation Committee to work for and support independent labor candidates for office wherever feasible and to build an independent Labor Party.

"It is our hope that this idea grows and takes hold since the MESA has for years been pointing out that the workers can only achieve real and lasting results by having their own candidates and their own political party. We still hold to this position."



"I want an informer who is brave, loyal, fearless, nerves of steel—and able to stomach my factory conditions."

Notes from the News

PENNSYLVANIA has been one of the hardest hit states in the recession. About 10% of the working force are out of work despite the diversity of the state's industry. Last month 175,646 unemployed workers had exhausted their thirty weeks state insurance and of these 29,065 had also used up their fifteen weeks Federal unemployment compensation.

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PROFESSOR ALEX INKELES, a Harvard sociologist, told a group of students that the amount of laughing you do in a day is an indication of your social status. He said that, "the more popular belief the lower you are in social status the less likely you are to report having laughed during the past day." He also added that women in the low income group are more likely to report having cried during the day.

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AN INVESTIGATION into the effects on the residents of Donora, Penn., of the 1948 smog which killed 20 people and made half the population of 12,300 sick showed that those who became ill at the time have since had a higher death rate and are more susceptible to disease. The death rate from arteriosclerotic heart disease has been found to be twice as high among the males affected by the smog. Right after the catastrophe, Philip Sadler, a consultant chemist, issued a report that hydrofluoric acid, coming from the Donora Zinc Works' smokestacks was contaminating the air over Donora.

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A COURSE IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE is being given on television in Cleveland by Western Reserve University. The response has been so great that 1,900 study guides were sold at \$3.00 a copy and four editions were put out before the university officials were forced to stop printing because the course had advanced too far.

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"THE AMERICAN PEOPLE by the astonishing proportion of five to one," consider discrimination, "more critical than Sputnik and by two to one as more important than the state of the domestic economy," said Dr. Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System. The American people are worried about their contribution to the "epidemic of suspicion, hatred and intolerance that infects the world." He based his remarks on a survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion.

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CHICAGO

Fri., Dec. 19, 8:15 P.M. "The Role of the United Nations in the World Today," Speaker: Theodore Edwards, Marxist Writer and Lecturer. Questions and Discussion. Forum Hall, 1702 E. 4th St., Ausp.: International Socialist Review.

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THEATRE

Fri., Dec. 19, 8 P.M. Arne Swabek speaks on "Labor After the Democratic Landslide." Militant Labor Forum, 777 W. Adams.

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DETROIT

New Year's Eve Party, Wed., Dec. 31, 9 P.M. Donation \$1 per person. Door prizes, refreshments, favors, entertainment. 3737 Woodward. Ausp.: Friday Night Socialist Forum.

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