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Shanghai Strikes Show Growing Unrest in China

By Li Fu-juen

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Cardinal Spellman -- Strikebreaker

An Editorial

Taking advantage of the Stalinist trial of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary, the Catholic hierarchy in this country has taken the lead in creating an atmosphere of lynch-hysteria against "communism." Now American workers, including those misguided Catholic workers who have been lured into the "anti-communism" campaign, can better understand against whom and what this campaign is ultimately aimed. The real target is organized labor itself, its right to strike and picket, its basic democratic rights.

This was spelled out by Cardinal Spellman, supreme authority of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in America, by his conduct in the eight week strike of CIO cemetery workers for the 40-hour week at two Catholic burial grounds in New York. Under the cloak of religion, Spellman has demonstratively mobilized priests and seminary students as scabs against these strikers.

The Cardinal went all out in lending the odor of religious sanctity to the foulest crime against the working people -- strike-breaking. For when he boasts that he is "proud" to be called a strikebreaker and deems it a "thing of honor" to scab-herd against the CIO cemetery strikers, he is actually laying down a line of "morality" and conduct for 25 million Catholic communicants. He is demonstrating in action the policies and program of the entire Catholic hierarchy. He is revealing the real aim of the "labor" program which this hierarchy is trying to foist on the American unions through its more than 100 "labor" schools, its army of professional "labor" priests and its Association of Catholic Trade Unionists.

Even the ACTU Is Embarrassed

The striking workers -- almost all devout Catholics themselves -- have denounced the Cardinal as a strikebreaker in a resolution condemning "the union-busting tactics of any employer, including the Catholic Church, when it acts as an employer." Even the priest-ridden ACTU, the Vatican's power machine inside the American labor movement, has been forced to disassociate itself publicly from Spellman's actions lest the ACTU, too, be thoroughly exposed and discredited in the eyes of Catholic and non-Catholic unionists alike.

The ACTU leaders seek to divorce the Cardinal's actions as "employer" from his position as the authoritarian head of the Catholic hierarchy in America. But he does not speak and act as an individual; his words and deeds carry the full weight and authority of the Roman Church itself. That is what gives his strikebreaking its especially evil character.

In trying to break this strike, the Roman Catholic hierarchy -- trafficker in a thousand profitable enterprises from commercial real estate to sales of grave lots -- has vast material interests at stake. It employs tens of thousands of lay workers, mainly non-union, at notoriously low wages and long hours. A victory for the cemetery workers would set an example for the others.

Emboldened by the "anti-communist" hysteria around the Mindszenty case, the Catholic hierarchy now feels free to fling "communism" as a deadly epithet, at any individual or idea that does not conform to its special interests, aims and dogma. Even Catholic workers, engaged in elementary union defense of their rights, are smeared with this label. And it does them no good to deny the charge -- as the cemetery workers have done by their disaffiliation from their international union at the behest of the Cardinal. He has only sneered at them -- "They're getting repentant kind of late!" -- and asserted that even if they are not "communists" then "their tactics certainly are communistic."

He Calls the Strike "Immoral"

Merely daring to strike and picket for the 40-hour week that has long been a legal standard for American workers -- this is what the Cardinal calls "communistic" as well as "morally unjustifiable." Even the promoters of the Taft-Hartley Act didn't dare to go to such extremes.

By his own strikebreaking, Cardinal Spellman has demonstrated just what program and service he is now offering, in the name of the Roman Catholic Church, to the American capitalist class. The Catholic hierarchy, fearful for its own vast properties and investments, is showing what it can do for American capitalism in return for the latter's protection. By singling out a group of Catholic workers as the first victims of his open strikebreaking, Spellman has simply issued a voucher to the American plutocrats that he will draw the line at nothing in aiding their assault on labor.

The Eleventh Commandment

Are American workers now to be governed by what this hierarchy, linked by immense property interests to capitalism, chooses to call "moral" or "immoral" in the way of union activity?

In the past 15 years, the American workers have established their own standards of morality. They have added an 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit strikebreaking." Whoever violates it casts himself out from the respect and society of decent men and women, be he private employer, government official or Prince of the Church.

American workers of all creeds, the leaders of organized labor, the unions of every affiliation should make known in no uncertain terms their rejection and abhorrence of the latest violation of this 11th Commandment.



Cannon Pamphlet On Minneapolis Trial Reissued

NEW YORK--Pioneer Publishers, at 116 University Place in New York City this week announced the publication of a third edition of "Socialism on Trial" by J. P. Cannon, Nat'l Sec'y of the Socialist Workers Party. This new edition of the most popular pamphlet in the history of American Trotskyism contains 120 pages and sells for 35 cents.

Socialism on Trial is the official court record of Cannon's testimony as a defendant in the famous 1941 Minneapolis trial of the SWP leaders under the thought-control-Smith "Gag" Act. Cannon's testimony, in the lively form of questions and answers during a court battle, covers the whole range of Marxism and serves as a simple and clear introduction to the principles and tactics of revolutionary socialism.

STRIKING CONFIRMATION

Farrell Dobbs, one of the 18 Minneapolis defendants who served prison terms during the war, has written a special new introduction for the present edition of Socialism on Trial. Dobbs, who is National Chairman of the SWP, explains the background of the Minneapolis case and relates the government's present prosecution of the Communist Party leaders to the precedent-setting trial of the Trotskyists under the same Smith Act and on similar charges. "This new prosecution," Dobbs points out, "is a striking confirmation of Comrade Cannon's prediction, in the Minneapolis court, that the assault on civil liberties which began with the prosecution of the Trotskyists would be later directed against other organizations."

FEAR OF DEPRESSION IS VOICED AT TRIAL OF 11

By Farrell Dobbs

NEW YORK, Mar. 8 -- Mass fear of threatening economic depression today walked among the jurors brought into the courtroom where the Stalinists are on trial.

A clerk employed by an eastern railroad wished to be excused because he couldn't be away from his job for the long period of the trial.

"Do you mean to say such a big company can't find somebody else to do your work?" the judge asked.

The clerk replied that they could and for that reason he didn't want to be away from the job. "They are already laying off a lot of people," he added.

A different approach was taken by an agent for a big insurance

company who walks a neighborhood beat selling nickle-a-week policies and collecting premiums. He was willing to serve on the jury if the judge would make the insurance company promise to put him back to work when the trial ends.

"Can't you find out about that?" the judge asked.

"It will be better for me, judge, if you write a letter or telephone the company," he replied.

Both the clerk and the agent were excused, as were an accountant and a grocery salesman who feared they might be included in a lay-off while they were doing jury duty.

SALESMAN WORRIED TOO

Also excused were a number of salesmen working on commission who said sales competition is stiffer than it has been for a long while. They feared other salesmen would grab their customers while they were on the jury.

A stock broker was excused because he didn't want to lose close touch with the shaky stock market.

Worry about "all the talk of a recession" won dismissal for a corporation head who plans to tour his empire in order to "shape a new policy." At every stop on his tour the corporation's employees will no doubt be anxiously scanning the seniority lists wondering who will get the axe.

(See page 4 for a report on the selection of the jury for the trial of the Stalinists.)

Minimum Wage Bill Undergoes Surgery

In the first stage of House action on the proposed new minimum wage law, the House Education and Labor Committee has approved amendments to exclude millions of the lowest-paid workers.

Agricultural workers, employees of retail and service establishments doing less than a \$500,000 annual business, home newspaper deliveries and certain categories of telegraph employees will continue to be denied minimum wage law protection.

These exemptions were adopted by a 13-12 majority of the Democratic-controlled committee. During the last election campaign, Truman and the Democrats had promised a broad extension of the minimum wage law coverage.

Is the 30-Hour Week Program a "Dream"?

By Art Preis

Walter Reuther recently pooh-poohed the program of the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay as "idealistic and a dream at this time." Thus, the head of the CIO United Auto Workers dismisses today a program which his union, along with most other unions, had advanced some ten years ago as the immediate answer to unemployment. Why is this decade-old program a "dream" now?

Certainly, it cannot be claimed that unemployment is no longer a menace. The U.S. Census Bureau on Mar. 4 reported that the number of jobless nationally rose by 550,000 last month to a 7-year peak of 3,231,000. The unemployment compensation offices in Reuther's own state, Michigan, are being besieged by thousands of laid-off auto workers. The trend is shown by the announcement on Mar. 2 that the Hudson Motor Car company was laying off indefinitely, effective Mar. 7, 4,500 workers in line with a 17% cut in production.

Reuther is undoubtedly aware

of the threat of mass unemployment. This dismissal of labor's key programmatic answer to this problem must be taken then as an attack on the soundness of the demand or its realizability. What arguments can he raise? Only that the employers "can't afford" this program or that organized labor is too weak to achieve it.

A CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE

The struggle for the shorter work-week and work-day at higher pay has been continuous from the earliest beginnings of the labor movement. At every stage of this struggle, the capitalists and their apologists have fought against shorter hours on the grounds that they couldn't afford it, that it would "ruin" them. "More production" was their cry, even when millions walked the streets -- and by that they meant more speed-up, more output from each worker for the same or less pay.

A century ago, the capitalists determined the "normal" work day by the extreme limit of physical endurance -- anywhere

from 12 to 18 hours daily. And if the capitalist didn't work their wage-slaves seven days a week it was because, as they claimed, even the Lord had to rest from His labors on the seventh day and they wanted to follow Him in all His ways.

Karl Marx, in Capital, his scientific analysis of the laws of capitalist development, devoted a special section to a detailed description of the struggle of the English working class to win the 10-hour day during the first six decades of the 19th century. He told of the extension of this struggle to America, citing the resolution of the General Congress of Labor in Baltimore, Aug. 16, 1866: "The first and great necessity of the present, to free the labor of this country from capitalistic slavery, is the passing of a law by which eight hours shall be the normal working day in all States of the American Union."

THE FIRST NECESSITY

Twenty years later, the American labor movement made a great leap forward in the historic 1886

strike struggles that led to the eight-hour day. Those pioneer fighters of American labor did not heed the Reuthers of their day who claimed that the eight-hour day was "idealistic" and a "dream." Nor did they heed the capitalists' complaint that the "ruination" of the economy.

A half-century later the rising industrial union movement of the CIO continued the battle for the shorter work week and won the establishment of the legal 40-hour week under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Was that battle "idealistic" or a "dream"?

The reduction of the work week and work day has been accompanied by ever increasing labor productivity. Since 1940 alone, the average worker in this country has increased his hourly output 25%. But his real wages, relative to output, have declined 20%. It is this widening gap between wages and output that is once more leading to "over-production," the glut of goods that cannot be sold, and to unemployment.

When Reuther says that the program of the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay is a "dream" he really means that it can't be secured without a real fight. But if the weak, inexperienced labor movement of 1886 could win the eight-hour day, if the young and far smaller CIO of 1936 and 1937 could triumph in the fight for the 40-hour week, then today's giant and tested labor movement can achieve the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay -- if it fights for it.

OUTCOME RESTS WITH US

The tremendous increase in productivity and the approaching crisis of "over-production" have once more put the issue of the shorter work week on the order of the day. The outcome rests with organized labor and its will to fight. For, as Marx wrote over 75 years ago, "the determination of what is a working day for a working week presents itself as the result of a struggle between collective capital, that is, the class of capitalists, and collective labor, that is, the working class."

World-Famous Scientists Aid James Kutcher

CIO Lawyer Seeks Right to Attend Veteran's Hearing

NEWARK, Mar. 8--Sol Kapelsohn, official counsel for the New Jersey CIO State Council, has petitioned the Loyalty Review Board of the U.S. Civil Service Commission for permission to appear as "a friend of the Board" in the forthcoming three-man panel hearing at which James Kutcher will ask for a reversal of his dismissal from the Newark VA. The date for this next step in Kutcher's fight for reinstatement has been set for Mar. 30, and the hearing will be held in New York City.

In his petition in the name of the New Jersey CIO Council, Mr. Kapelsohn pointed out that "a great many thousands of employees in various industries are members of the CIO, have served in the armed forces of the USA and are veterans in such service. Many of them have employment with the Veterans Administration and with other federal governmental agencies."

"DIRECTLY CONCERNED"

He urges the Loyalty Board to grant the CIO the opportunity to participate in the Kutcher hearings on the ground that "the rights and interests of its members in New Jersey, totaling upwards of 250,000 members, and of the members of the CIO in this country, totaling many millions, are directly concerned in these proceedings and the ruling to be made and principles to be established by them."

The New Jersey State CIO Council, of which Carl Holderman is president, was the first of the many labor organizations to rally to Kutcher's defense.

Call for Defense of Legless Veteran in Civil Rights Case

CHICAGO, March 7 -- Five world-famous scientists and scholars, including Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner and director of the U. S. War Research

Atomic Bomb Project, today called on their colleagues at the University of Chicago to join them in defending the legless veteran, James Kutcher, in order to combat "a frightening atmosphere that cuts the nerve of independent thinking." Kutcher is seeking reinstatement in his clerk's job in the Newark Veterans Administration, from which he was discharged last October solely because of membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

The five signers of the appeal are: Prof. Anton J. Carlson, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prof. Richard P. McKeon, dean of the Division of Humanities and former chairman of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Prof. Malcolm P. Sharp of the University of Chicago Law School faculty and noted authority on civil rights.

Prof. Harold C. Urey, winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry and director of the War Research Atomic Bomb Project (1940-45). Prof. Louis Wirth, president of

both the Sociological Society and the American Council on Race Relations in 1947.

Their letter warns their colleagues that "whether you know it or not, you are involved in one way or another in developments on the civil rights front. What is happening often appears to be a series of dull, legal events seemingly beyond the competence of non-specialists in the field. But behind this the whole fabric of American justice is being tampered with in a severe way."

"Administrative agencies have been and are dealing with government employees in procedures which violate the basic tenets of notice and hearing which are part of our tradition of due process of law. People are being fired from jobs and are being forced to suffer various indignities, not the least of which is impugning of character. All of this at the hands of administrative officials and other non-judicial bodies proceeds from the doctrines of 'guilt by association' and 'subversion' arbitrarily defined."

The letter links the case of Dr. Edward Condon with that of Kutcher, "a legless veteran of World War II who has decided to stand up and make a fight," as outstanding instances of this type of arbitrary treatment.

"James Kutcher was fired from his job in the Veterans Administration because of membership in the Socialist Workers Party, a fact he openly acknowledges. Kutcher challenges the administration's right to deprive him of his job without a public hearing for himself and his party, and demands the right to defend himself against the administration's 'star chamber' proceedings which have condemned him without trial."

The signers of the letter state that the Kutcher case "goes beyond sect or party" and "involves every type of man and group concerned with civil liberties and freedom of conscience."

An accompanying statement to be signed by faculty members protests the denial of genuine freedom of association and freedom of thought in Kutcher's case and urges that Kutcher be granted the public hearing he has asked for. It also supports the efforts of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee to win justice for the victimized veteran.

Novack's Tour Schedule

George Novack, now on tour to mobilize support for James Kutcher, will be in Toledo Mar. 16-17, Detroit Mar. 18-23, Chicago Mar. 25-29, Milwaukee Mar. 30-31. The remainder of his schedule will be printed in a subsequent issue. See Page 2 for report on the beginning of his tour.

CAREY McWILLIAMS ANSWERS STALINIST SLANDER ON SWP

NEW YORK, March 8 -- In a letter to the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, Carey McWilliams, noted author and fighter of the slanderous statement about

James Kutcher and the Socialist Workers Party attributed to him by the West Coast Communist Party paper, Daily People's World, in its Feb. 18 issue. In addition, McWilliams strongly reaffirmed his interest in the Kutcher case and his support of the fight to reinstate the legless veteran.

In the course of an attack on the defenders of Kutcher, the Stalinist paper quoted McWilliams as calling the SWP "a sort of international conspiracy for the assassination of Joseph Stalin." McWilliams answered this distortion on Feb. 26 in a letter to George Novack, national secretary of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, which read as follows:

"Dear Mr. Novack: The quote to which you refer was from a speech in which, discussing civil rights in general, I made a specific appeal for support in the Kutcher case. I was trying to make the point that there was no connection between Kutcher's political views and the present orientation of American foreign policy. In doing so, I said that the organization to which Kutcher belonged and by reason of which he was rated a 'bad security risk' was one which might be 'facetiously described as a sort of informal conspiracy to bring about the assassination of one Joseph Stalin.' It seems to be necessary, nowadays, to label your facetious remarks as 'facetious' which is what I did in this case. Furthermore I pointed out that

I was a sponsor of and actively interested in the case.

"You can quote me as saying that I am deeply interested in this case, not only because I feel that an individual injustice was done, but because I disapprove of the entire loyalty program. I can see no connection between this program, as it is being carried out, and any legitimate concern for the national security of this country. On the contrary, I believe this program is primarily intended to intimidate opinion in the United States. On all sides, now, we are being asked to acquiesce in the proposition that freedom is incompatible with security; that we must consent to inroads on civil rights in the name of national security. To me, of course, this incompatibility is non-existent."

"With best wishes Carey McWilliams."

MALICIOUS ATTACK

The Stalinist article had maliciously attacked Kutcher's defenders as people who either want to "disrupt the fight for civil liberties" or to find "a convenient escape from the battle, a safe civil liberties case on which they can speak up without fear of being tagged as Communists themselves." The ironic thing is that McWilliams' speech, which he delivered in many cities on his recent national lecture tour and which they misquoted, strongly condemns all attacks on the civil rights of the Stalinists as well as of Kutcher.

Next Week:

A new threat to civil liberties! The Militant analyzes the anti-Communist, thought-control bills now pending in Congress and state legislatures.

Six men in a Trenton death cell. The shocking story of police brutality, stony justice and race hatred behind the conviction of six innocent Negroes in the "Northern Scottsboro" case.

"Four of the Unemployed" by Theodore Kovalesky. A column that packs a wallop -- two who couldn't find jobs and two who didn't care.

"Which Plan to Build Homes in America?" by Milton Alvin. Is Walter Reuther's housing proposal as realistic as the plan suggested by the Socialist Workers Party?

Send to The Militant, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, for extra copies. Only 3c each in bundles of five or more.

GEORGE NOVACK'S TOUR GETS OFF TO NOTABLE START IN PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, March 7 — George Novack, national secretary of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, opened up a six weeks' speaking and organizational tour on behalf of the legless members of his own union. He stressed the threat to unionism when the rights of free speech and free political affiliation are denied.

Additional Groups Support Kutcher

NEW YORK — Among the latest supporters recorded for James Kutcher are: Mechanics Educational Society of America, Detroit; Slovene National Benefit Society, Fontana, Calif.

On Sunday Novack addressed members of the Slovenian Hall on the case and led a discussion on local work with the members of the committee.

LOCAL SUPPORT

In conjunction with his visit, the local committee announced that the following organizations had endorsed its work: The District Council of Electrical Workers, representing 60,000 members in Western Pennsylvania, Local 601, 610, 623, and 526; the Pittsburgh Fur Workers Union; Teamsters Union, Local 609; the Baptist Ministers Conference; the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and the Terrace Village Chapter of the AVC.

Novack also met with local leaders of the AFL and CIO and plans were made for other unions to go on record for support of Kutcher. His visit acted as a welcome stimulation to the local committee's work.

Successful Work on Petitions in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Mar. 6 — In its first mobilization to gather petitions last Sunday, the local Kutcher Civil Rights Committee secured a total of 1,414 signatures and collected \$112.70. The petitions were circulated in three boroughs of the city. Sympathy for the victims of the reactionary government purge was widespread and the petition-circulators were greeted warmly when they explained the dangers of thought-control. During the week other petitions brought a collection of \$46.85. Complete figures are not yet available.

Shanghai Strike Indicates Growing Unrest in China

By Li Fu-chen

An event of great revolutionary significance, with an extremely ominous culmination, took place in China during the week ended Feb. 19 when railroad and bus transportation workers at Shanghai — the country's greatest industrial city and port — went out on strike and suffered brutal repression by troops of the local garrison commander, Gen. Tang En-po, one of Chiang Kai-shek's henchmen.

HIGHLY SYMPTOMATIC

Neither the immediate occasion for the strike, nor its duration, were given in the press of this country. The N. Y. Times of Feb. 19 reported the strike and its

them to preserve order (which means submission to Kuomintang-military rule, and to maintain production (which is for the benefit of the capitalist exploiters). The Stalinists have made themselves the protectors of bourgeois property. Thus the proletariat, for the time being, is politically disarmed in the face of its mortal foes.

SUMMARY EXECUTIONS

Shanghai is the economic center and the revolutionary heart of China. The tenseness of the situation there is revealed in the previously mentioned Times dispatch: "With the strikes of bus drivers and railway workers forcefully suppressed by the army in recent days, the fear had arisen of mass disorders. Thursday night some soldiers seized three demonstrating bus drivers, court-martialed them summarily and executed them by firing squad for violating the anti-strike proclamation.

politicians for "peace" and a coalition government. China's ruling classes and their political representatives welcome this lengthy breathing-spell and are making the greatest possible use of it. Little did they dream that on the very edge of the precipice, face to face with their doom, they would be given another chance — by the "Communists."

All of China south of the Yangtze (except for small rural pockets held by Stalinist guerrilla forces) is still under Kuomintang control. This territory includes the country's greatest and richest cities. From his place of "retirement" Chiang Kai-shek is working night and day to firm up control of this vast area. He is in constant telephone communication with his provincial generals, press reports assert. Troops are being moved about freely and readied for action.

Both Shanghai and Nanking are held by troops whose top commanders are Chiang's henchmen. The triple cities of Wuhan (Hankow, Wuchang, Hanyang) are held by large troop formations under Gen. Pai Chung-hsi, an old ally of Chiang. On the is-

CP Oppositionists Reported Active in Hungary, Germany

According to a special N. Y. Times dispatch from Vienna, Mar. 2, a group of dissident Hungarian communists are issuing a multi-graphed oppositional newspaper. Four previous issues, the editors assert, had been published in Hungary, but the activities of the secret police made necessary a transfer to Vienna. The Hungarian dissidents are anti-Stalinist, anti-capitalist and express themselves in favor of Tito. They claim that "the loyal soldiers of Comrade Tito and 100,000 French and Italian comrades stand by our side."

The Stalinists are also reported running into unexpected difficulties in the Eastern German zone. According to an Associated Press dispatch Mar. 4, the official Stalinist newspaper, Neues Deutschland, recently carried an article "praising Leon Trotsky's role in the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations of 1918." The Political Bureau of the German Stalinist party denounced its own organ for "fostering anti-Bolshevik sentiments," and ordered the elimination of the "discussion section" where the article lauding Trotsky had appeared.



Past a heap of uncollected garbage outside the Polish Community Center in Yonkers, N. Y., marches a picket of the American Federation of Musicians. How did he get in this picture? Some 500 AFL and CIO city workers went on strike in protest against the firing of sanitation workers who refused to cross this AFM picketline. City officials fired the 500 — but rehired them eight days later. Now City Manager Peterson says he will enforce Condon-Wadlin law that provides loss of seniority and of pay increases for public workers who go on strike in New York state.

Labor Union Trends

History and Program of UE Opposition

By Bert Cochran

Last week we went into the record of 13 years of Stalinist misrule in the UE—a record of bureaucratism and betrayal of the best interests of the CIO Electrical and Radio Workers. The Stalinists had it easy in fastening their dictatorial grip on the UE because in contrast to the auto and steel unions, most UE locals were not built in the fire of battle, but were strictly "NLRB babies." They were successful in preventing the formation of any serious opposition until 1941. Then James Carey, at that time president of the UE, broke with the Stalinists, with whom he had worked cheek-by-jowl up to that time. What was the fight all about?

to follow. Matles and Emspak were for the Kremlin. Carey wanted to line up the union behind the U. S. State Department.

THE FIGHT BEGINS

At the Camden, N. J., convention in September 1941, where the fight was first thrashed out in the open, the Carey group was completely overwhelmed by the Stalinist steamroller. Not only did the Stalinists have a far superior machine, but Carey and his supporters made a very bad impression on the convention and antagonized the most progressive elements.

Beyond demonstrating that the Stalinist leadership switched its position on the war after the Nazi invasion of Russia, Carey and his supporters had nothing to offer except flag-waving and red-baiting. Many independent progressives figured that the Stalinists were nevertheless the better union builders and consequently threw their support in that direction. That the opposition was not an inconsequential one, just the same, is seen by the fact that Carey received 539 votes for the presidency as against 635 for the Stalinist-backed candidate, Albert Fitzgerald.

UE joined hands with Murray and Carey in all-out support for the war effort. Indeed, the Stalinists were even more frenzied in their flag-waving than Murray.

After the war, the opposition in the UE came to life again when the U. S. began its "cold war" with the Soviet Union and Murray broke his alliance with the Stalinists inside the CIO. This time they went about it in more serious and systematic fashion. They formed a national caucus called the Committee for Democratic Action and issued a national paper, The Real UE.

Unfortunately, they had learned nothing and forgotten nothing since 1941. The Stalinist sell-outs of the war period? They found no fault with that. Bureaucratism? That was OK with them. Progressive union program? They had none. It was the same old story—wrapping themselves in the American flag, plus anti-communism and red-baiting. The spiritual advisers of the opposition were the "labor" priests of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, whose sole interest is kicking all radicals and militants out of the unions, eradicating all manifestations of a class struggle policy and making of the union a tame and harmless thing.

But a strong anti-Stalinist wind was blowing up throughout the labor movement at this time and the UE leadership was getting worried. They determined to crush the opposition by main force before things went too far. In March 1947, the UE General Executive Board declared the opposition "a dual movement" and ordered it to dissolve. The UE Boston convention in September 1947 ordered the expulsion of the opposition forces if they did not comply with the cease-and-desist order. You have to go some to find a more brazen display of bureaucratism in a CIO union!

But the convention adopted this anti-democratic resolution by a vote of 3817 to 596. The overwhelming size of the vote is not explained solely by the entrenched power of the Stalinist machine. Progressive independent elements throughout the union were simply disgusted and fed up with the red-baiting of the opposition and wanted no part of it. Doesn't this vote indicate that a big majority of the membership was satisfied with the Stalinist leadership? Nothing of the kind, as we will easily prove. As a matter of fact, conditions in the UE were rotten ripe for the formation of a widely-supported opposition, because there was

much discontent in the membership with the Stalinist sell-out policies of the war period. But the Carey-Block opposition was so discredited that independent progressives were afraid to have anything to do with it for fear of getting smeared themselves.

After the 1947 convention, the opposition gave up its paper and folded up temporarily as an organized national caucus. Despairing of breaking the Stalinist grip by a frontal attack, the ACTU crowd then worked up its "secession policy." In collusion with the Reuther leadership of the auto union, it began calling for Taft-Hartley-NLRB elections in all plants where it had influence. Of course, this was a rotten union-splitting scheme. But the fact that 9 times out of 10 the workers voted against the UE proves pretty conclusively that the Stalinists had no real support in the ranks, that their leadership had no legitimate basis in the membership.

The secession movement reached alarming proportions. But after the Portland convention of the CIO in 1948, where Murray rode roughshod over the Stalinist forces, the word went down to cut out the secession game. The opposition now grew more hopeful of getting national CIO aid in ousting the Stalinists and the speech of UE President Fitzgerald at the Portland convention denouncing Molotov and Vishinsky as "war mongers" set off speculation that he might split with the Stalinists and head the opposition, following the trail previously blazed by Curran in the NMU and Quill in the Transport Union.

Since the Portland convention, despite the lack of a national organization or coordinating apparatus, and despite the fact that Carey, its titular leader, was scarcely near the UE but running all over Europe selling the Marshall Plan — the opposition has won victory after victory in the local union elections. The ACTU, which is the strongest single force in the opposition and knows more about the mathematics of UE politics than anybody else in the opposition block, declares that "The recent victories mean that the anti-red camp has practically doubled its strength and now represents about 140,000 members while the Stalinists retain the support of 280,000, a 2 to 1 margin." (Labor Leader, Jan. 17, 1949.)

As a matter of fact, these figures under-estimate, if anything, the full strength of the opposition, as many local leaders who have traditionally supported the Stalinist international machine, are now, with the shift of the wind in the opposite direction, likewise in the process of shifting their allegiance.

include such policies as industry-wide bargaining and common termination dates for all contracts in order to bring the full weight of the union behind its demands in negotiations with the employers, to equalize wage rates from locality to locality and ensure that any pension program adopted will have industry-wide application, and a worker will not lose credit for years served if he has to change jobs from one corporation to another.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Recent Issues Meet With Warm Response

Recent issues of The Militant have met with a warm response from members of the Militant Army.

Mass., doubled its bundle order for the Mar. 7 issue. "Many good comments from our friends on the exposures of the Stalinists," wrote P. and J.; "also on the exposure of the collusion between the UAW official and California employers. Let's have notice in advance of coming important articles. We find it good in contact work."

Detroit ordered an extra 200 copies of the Mar. 7 number for distribution.

Minneapolis took an extra 25 "for concentrated work with Stalinist trade unionists and students," according to C.E.S. "Some copies of these papers will be mailed out; others will be handed out personally by comrades who are in touch with Stalinist workers." C.E.S. likewise appreciates "the advance notice of coming articles."

St. Paul similarly sent in for 25 extra copies of the March 7 issue "containing the articles directed against Stalinism."

Literature Agent Harry God of New York reports that an attempt to sell the paper to col-

lege students brought "very good results." Comrades Edith Bartell, Sarah R., Kitty Green and Betty Valey sold 17 Militants as well as seven copies of the Trotskyist monthly magazine Fourth International. Harry Riing, Bertha J. and Leah D. braved a snow storm to try the response of workers entering a union meeting. They sold 19 Militants in about a half hour.

Event of the Week was an order from A Railroader in Minnesota for 400 copies of the issue telling about the Greek puppet government murdering a Jehovah's Witness because his religious convictions prevented him from serving in the armed forces. "From time to time," he writes, "I may send for a large bundle of certain issues."

Taking a bundle of extra copies like this is in the crusading tradition of native American socialism. In Debs' time it was a universal practice to spread the word about socialism by distributing extra papers. This was one of the means that gave the Appeal to Reason a steady circulation of hundreds of thousands of copies. We hope A Railroader started something with his order.

Comrade Singman of Pine Bush, N. Y., came in with a subscription for a friend of his. "It pays to advertise," this old supporter of The Militant told us. He left his copy of the paper on the table for visitors to see. When this friend saw the headline about the killing of the Jehovah's Witness in Greece, he said: "Pop, I want to get a sub to The Militant."

Comrade Singman promised to send in \$2 to help get out The Militant even though the high cost of living makes it difficult to get by on the little he was able to save when he was younger.

Bob D. of New York dropped in to let us know that a Jehovah's Witness distributing the Watch Tower was glad to see that The Militant "gave them a break by featuring the murder of one of their Greek members in a headline. Most newspapers played up the Mindszenty case but didn't have a word to say about this case of religious persecution."

LAI D OFF

What can you do about the lay-offs? Millions of American workers today are asking that question as the threat of another depression looms closer.

The answer can be found in The Militant. This Marxist weekly analyzes the basic economic and political trends with scientific precision, gives you the straight, unvarnished truth about what is happening and shows how the labor movement can safeguard employment by taking action in time.

Join in the struggle for job security in America by subscribing to The Militant. Fill out the coupon today and mail it together with cash, check or money order to The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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☐ \$1 Six months. ☐ \$2 Full year. ☐ \$4 in combination with Fourth International, monthly magazine of American Trotskyism. (Fourth International alone is \$2.50. You save 50c.)

Subscriptions: \$2 per year: \$1 for 6 months. Foreign: \$3.00 per yr; \$2 for 6 mos. Entered as second class matter Mar. 7, 1944 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of Mar. 3, 1879.

THE MILITANT

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Monday, March 14, 1949



TROTSKY

The processes of great changes must be measured by scales which are commensurate with them. I do not know if the Socialist society will resemble the biblical Paradise. I doubt it. But in the Soviet Union there is no Socialism as yet. The situation that prevails there is one of transition full of contradictions, burdened with the heavy inheritance of the past, and in addition is under the hostile pressure of the capitalist states. The October Revolution has shown only the first stages of its realization. Edison's first lamp was very bad. We must learn how to discern the future.

Leon Trotsky, Copenhagen Speech, 1932



LENIN

The Foster-Dennis Statement

Stalin's efforts to counteract the completion of the North Atlantic Pact are undoubtedly at the bottom of the statements against the imperialist war plans by his foreign puppets — Thorez in France, Togliatti in Italy, Pollit in Britain and Foster-Dennis in the U. S. These statements came after the rejection by Washington of Stalin's bids to negotiate a new deal, and are not likely to be more effective than those "peace" bids were in preventing the continuation of Washington's war preparations. The essence of the Foster-Dennis statement is the declaration: "If, despite the efforts of the peace forces of America and the world, Wall Street should succeed in plunging the world into war, we would oppose it as an unjust, aggressive, imperialist war, as an undemocratic and anti-Socialist war, destructive of the deepest interests of the American people and all humanity . . . we would cooperate with all democratic forces to defeat the predatory war aims of American imperialism and bring such a war to a speedy conclusion on the basis of a democratic peace." The significant thing about this statement is not what it says, but rather the fact that such a sensation could be stirred up by its being made. No informed persons would be surprised by a consistently Marxist party opposing the third imperialist war; such opposition would seem natural and logical if it came from a party which had opposed previous imperialist wars. But coming from the Stalinists, such a statement can produce a hubbub, even among their members and sympathizers, precisely because of their past record and their past violations of elementary

internationalist obligations — particularly their support of the second imperialist war, their spreading of nationalistic conceptions among the workers for many years, and their endorsement of the presidential candidacy of Henry Wallace, who openly stated during the 1948 campaign that he would support the government in any war it conducted no matter how reactionary he thought it was. Least of all does this statement signify the transformation of the Stalinist Party into a revolutionary internationalist organization. What the Stalinists are now trying to palm off as "internationalism" is nothing else but blind adherence to Russian Stalinist nationalism. The Stalinists everywhere subordinate everything else to the Kremlin's temporary diplomatic needs. It was these that dictated the American Stalinist "opposition" to World War II in the days of Stalin-Hitler Pact; their switch overnight to support of the same war after Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union; and the issuance now of their statement promising to oppose American imperialism in World War III. The very same needs, under different conditions in the future, can make the American CP leaders switch once more to support of American imperialism. Stalinism flies in the face of what internationalism really stands for. True internationalism means opposition to imperialism not just some of the time (when it suits Stalin) but all of the time. True internationalism means not only opposition to imperialism but also to the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union which has strangled as many socialist revolutions in its time as even the American imperialists can boast of.

Truman and the Filibuster

Truman said on March 3, after the Senate filibuster was under way for several days, that he favors a closure rule to permit the ending of debate by a simple majority vote. This is a fine sentiment. But what is he doing to put it into effect? He has allowed his own wing of the Democratic Party in the Senate to put forward the proposal requiring a two-thirds vote for closure. This stiff requirement would still make it almost impossible to end a filibuster by a determined minority. We have seen how Truman acts on any measure he is seriously concerned about. On matters like the armaments budget or the Marshall Plan, or the North Atlantic Pact, Truman does not permit his political associates to put forward something different from what he wants. On the contrary, he sees to it that an appropriate bill covering precisely what he has in mind is drafted and pushed in Congress with the full energy and weight of the administration and its congressional supporters. And he cracks down heavily on any legislator of his own machine who fails to toe the mark

on measures Truman earnestly wants passed. In the case of the filibuster and closure, Truman has no serious intention of forcing the issue and making a real battle for ending debate by a majority vote. He is once again merely making the record with a cheap gesture. This has become standard technique with him. He maintains his reputation for liberalism with verbal endorsements for liberal proposals that never get beyond the newspaper headlines, while his colleagues in Congress help to put over different and reactionary measures. In this way, Truman provides a liberal smokescreen for the reactionary conduct of the political machine of which he is the acknowledged leader. Union and Negro leaders who hail these platonic gestures are helping to play Truman's dirty little game. The political task for labor and the Negro people is to disperse Truman's smokescreen, expose the reactionary aims it conceals and organize a militant independent fight for civil rights and other needed measures.

An Analysis of Union Leaders' Role

THE NEW MEN OF POWER by C. Wright Mills. Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1948, 323 pp., \$3.50.

By Paul Schapiro

The New Men of Power by C. Wright Mills, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and director of the university's Labor Research Division of the Bureau of Applied Social Research, is a study of America's labor leaders. In it Mills has tried to show their collective physiognomy and psychology and their relation to the unions and to the social system.

An "independent left intellectual," to use his own terminology, Mills has evidently learned much from the ideas of Trotskyism. He sees clearly the internal contradictions of American capitalism, the looming economic crisis, the drive towards war and world domination, the permanence of the war economy and the inevitably growing militarization of America, the trend toward the integration of the labor bureaucracy into the state apparatus, the danger of fascism if the working class is unable to carry through a social revolution in a revolutionary situation, the revolutionary potential of the American worker.

LEADERS' DUAL SIDES In his depiction of the role the labor bureaucracy plays on the social scene Mills too is more or less directly influenced by Marxist analysis. His introduction graphically sketches this role and explains it in terms of how unions operate under the conditions of capitalism. He shows how the labor leader is at once a guerrilla chieftain in the class war and a parliamentarian intent on maintaining his elected post, a political boss holding power by dispensing patronage and an entrepreneur selling the labor-power of his members to the capitalists, a constant challenge to capitalism by virtue of the kind of organization which he heads and a stabilizing factor in capitalist society by virtue of his own needs: "All the time that he is the leader of a live and going union, the labor leader is in conflict with the powers of property. . . In his timidity and fear and eagerness to stay alive in a hostile environment, he does not admit this . . . but the fact remains that he is. . . Yet even as the labor leader rebels, he holds back rebellion. He organizes discontent and then he sits on it, exploiting it in order to maintain a continuous organization." In the remainder of the book Mills presents the factual material he has gathered from various special studies and from his own research, mainly in the form of questionnaires sent to members of the bureaucracy, in the light of his analysis. He shows the differences between the AFL and the CIO leaders (the CIO leaders are, among other things, younger and better educated); the reasons for the continued split (too much power to be lost by too many leaders); the differences between higher and lower bodies (lower bodies are more militant); the reasons for labor racketeering (it flourishes in small-scale industries in the service trades, where the little businessmen welcome and encourage it as the only means to form an industry-wide cartel to eliminate cut-throat competition); the social origins of the labor bureaucrat (he is a

One Democrat to Another



Senate majority leader Scott Lucas (D, Ill.) talks with two of his southern colleagues, Senators Russell and George of Georgia, who are engaged in the filibuster to halt change in Senate rules on closing debate that would block filibuster on civil rights bills. Are they discussing the so-called "compromise" on civil rights that will give the Southern Democrats everything they want?

"self-made man," mainly of American stock, the way capitalists are supposed to be according to legend but no longer are, and he has a good deal of the individualistic psychology of the "self-made man"). Finally, Mills shows how the labor bureaucrats think: their stupefaction by the concept of labor-capital cooperation and their lack of clear awareness of the dangers and opportunities which lie ahead for labor and what it can do about them. While offering all of these things, however, Mills' book does not wholly live up to its promise. There is a certain lack of substance to it. The chapters are short, slick, journalistic summaries which require development and detail. One feels constantly the need for concrete illustrations and instances from the internal life of the unions that would give color and animation to Mills' facts and figures. In trying to draw a collective portrait of America's labor leaders Mills has succeeded only in drawing the outlines for a portrait—although, to be sure, such a sketch is not without value.

WHERE HOPE LIES The book ends, moreover, with a false conclusion. Mills finds hope for the unions to lie in their producing a group of "union-made intellectuals," "men who combine solid trade union experience, preferably of militant character, with the degree of self-awareness and wider consciousness associated with the best sense of the term intellec-

CABINET-POST SHUFFLES BY TRUMAN AND STALIN

Who is Louis Arthur Johnson, Truman's choice for Secretary of Defense to replace Forrestal? Like Forrestal, the corporation lawyer Johnson is a multi-millionaire, a notorious reactionary. There is one difference—Johnson is also a machine politician with a 30-year record of subservience to the Democratic Party bigwigs. His new job is a pay-off for personally underwriting Truman's 1948 campaign fund to the tune of \$250,000.

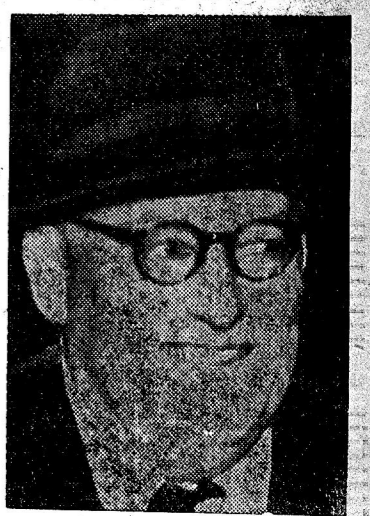
Johnson knows how to make politics pay. As Assistant Secretary of War from 1937 to 1940, he was responsible for placing army orders. He campaigned for a bigger air force, bigger bombers. Today he is a director of the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation. During the war the Alien Property Custodian handed him the posts of director general of the Aniline and Film Corp. and president of General Dyestuffs Corp., subsidiaries of the great chemical cartel, I.G. Farben. Johnson still serves as a director for both these corporations, and his law firm, Steptoe and Johnson, is their legal counsel.

SOLD OUT VETS In 1932, Johnson was chosen National Commander of the American Legion. He pushed forward its red-baiting program and its opposition to recognition of the USSR. Under his dictatorial rule, two Legion posts were expelled for having liberal tendencies. His last act as Legion Commander was to sell out the veterans' program for a 25% cut in veterans' pensions.

From that time on, he climbed fast in the Democratic Party ranks. He had become a member of the West Virginia House of Representatives in 1917, and a delegate to the party's National Convention in 1924. But he was relatively unknown. In 1936 however he was chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Committee of the Democratic Party, and in 1942 was Roosevelt's choice for a mission to India. His task was to secure supply bases for the U. S. while helping Britain hold the Indian nationalists in check.

Now his loyalty to Pendergast politician Truman has put him in the Cabinet where he can still more effectively serve both Wall Street and the Democratic Party. The second most important post in the Soviet government is that of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

to the highest posts under Stalin's patronage. A son of a well-to-do notary, Vishinsky began his political career in the ranks of the Russian Mensheviks where he played a minor role among the extreme right wing. Throughout the October Revolution and the years of



ANDREI Y. VISHINSKY

the Civil War he remained a bitter opponent of the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky. He played a minor part in the camp of the Russian White Guards, fought arms in hand against the young Soviet republic. Vishinsky announced his "conversion" to communism toward the close of the Civil War when victory was assured to the Red Army. Official Soviet biographies still refer to his Menshevik past and date his party membership back to 1920. What they omit is that Vishinsky began by singing praises to Zimoviy. But he made his shift to Stalin in ample time and for the next fifteen years held various minor posts, remaining just one of a legion of toadies who worked hand in glove with the secret police.

His close tie-up with the GPU became apparent when in 1935 he received the appointment to the post of Public Prosecutor. This was the year when Stalin made the preparations for the monstrous Moscow Trials and the multi-millioned blood purges of 1936-38. In all this a key role was played by this former White Guard. There are very few individuals in the USSR who are unaware of the ominous significance that attaches to the name of this modern "grand inquisitor."

HATCHET-MAN In 1940, during the days of the Stalin-Hitler Pact, Vishinsky was elevated to a post of international prominence, becoming a deputy in the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs. Since then he has attained the position of ranking Soviet diplomat, carrying out many important assignments for the Kremlin. His department included the special problem of the Soviet "buffer zone" in Eastern Europe. In particular, in the execution of the Czech coup of a year ago, Vishinsky played an important behind-the-scenes role. It might be noted that a few weeks prior to his recent promotion Vishinsky was reported as "convalescing" in Czechoslovakia.

PHILADELPHIA COPS RAID INTER-RACIAL MEETING

PHILADELPHIA, March 6 — Last night a spokesman for the Socialist Workers Party warned a gathering of Negro and white workers at a private house party that police mishandling charge but that "we are out to break this up."

The magistrate further declared that he was convinced "these people are not acting in the best interest of the United States" because their literature (a pamphlet on the Jenkins case) criticized the police and judges of Philadelphia! Thirty-eight of the defendants were discharged, but the host for the party was held in \$500 bail on a charge of running a disorderly house!

NOT INTIMIDATED All of the victims of the raid have indicated their intention of giving further support to the SWP's efforts to win justice for Bayard Jenkins and the abolition of the police campaign to discourage and break up interracial social gatherings of workers in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia branch of the SWP has announced plans for a meeting and a further campaign against all forms of police and judiciary oppression of the Negroes of Philadelphia, which it charges is part and parcel of the capitalist scheme to keep the working class divided on racial lines so that the exploitation of both Negro and white will continue.

NEWARK Spring Frolic SATURDAY MARCH 19 9 P. M. 423 Springfield Ave. DANCING GAMES DOOR PRIZE



LOUIS A. JOHNSON

On Mar. 5 Stalin appointed to this key post 66-year old Andrei Y. Vishinsky. This individual who figures so prominently in the sudden reshuffle among the Kremlin high command is one of the most obscure and sinister personalities from among those who have risen

Visit your local headquarters of the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. AKRON, 4 So. Howard St., 2nd fl. every afternoon 1 to 4 p. m. Meetings Sunday 2 p. m. BALTIMORE—1121 E. Baltimore St. 3rd floor, front. Phone WO 6321. Open daily 8-9 p. m. MILITANT and FOURTH INTERNATIONAL on sale. BOSTON—Workers Educational Center, 20 Stuart St., open Mon. 5:30-9:00 p. m., Wed. 7:10 p. m. BUFFALO—Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd fl. Phone MA 1508. Every afternoon except Sun. CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted), Phone DE 4677. Daily except Sun., 11:30 to 3:30; or phone for an appointment. CLEVELAND—Pecks Hall, 1446 E. 32nd St. (off Wade Pk. Ave.) Monthly Public Forum, 1st Sun., 8 P. M. DETROIT—1108 Linwood Ave. Phone TY 7429. Mon. through Sat., 12-3 p. m. FLINT—Socialist Workers Party Hall, 215 E. Ninth Street. Phone: 2-2496. Open House Saturday evenings. LOS ANGELES—Militant Pub. Assn., Room 325, 124 W. 6th St. Phone VA 5496. 8:00 p. m. SAN PEDRO—Militant, 1008 S. Pacific Road 214. LYNN, (Mass.)—Militant Pub'l Ass'n, 44 Central Ave., office open Tues., Wed. MILWAUKEE—917 N. 3rd St., 3rd fl. Sun. through Fri., 7:30-9:30 p. m. Phone Hopkins 2-5337. MINNEAPOLIS—10 So. 4th St. Phone Main 7781. Daily except Sun., 10 a. m. - 8 p. m. Library, bookstore. NEW BRITAIN, (Conn.)—Militant Discussion Group every Fri., 7:30 p. m. Militant Labor Club, 105 Main St. (next to Strand Theatre). NEW HAVEN—6 Church St., Room 311. Telephone: 7-3750. Open Wed. and Fri., 8-10:30 p. m. Literature available. NEWARK—423 Springfield Ave. Phone ME 4600. 5-1866. Open Wed. and Fri., 12-4 and 7-10 p. m. NEW YORK CITY (Hq.)—116 University Pl., Phone GR. 5-8149. EAST SIDE—251 E. Houston St., 1st fl. HALEM—105 W. 110 St., Rm. 24 Phone MO. 5-1866. Open discussion, Friday, 8 p. m. BRONX—1024 Prospect Ave., 1st fl. Phone LU. 9-0101. BROOKLYN—135 Fulton St. Phone ST. 3-7423. CHELSEA—130 W. 23rd St. Phone AL 2-8485. OAKLAND (Cal.)—1408 Webster. PHILADELPHIA—1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd fl. Phone Stevenson 4-5830. Mon. through Sat., 8 p. m. PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd fl. Tues., Wed., Fri., 7 to 9 p. m. forums. Sun., 4 p. m. SAN FRANCISCO—1739 Filmore Ave., 4th fl. Phone FI. 6-0410. Daily except Sun., 4 p. m. SEATTLE—Maynard Bldg., 1st Ave., R. 201, So. & Washington. Tel. Main 9273. Mon. through Sat., 12-5 p. m. Branch meetings Fri., 8 p. m. Library, bookstore. ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312. Militant Forums, Thurs., 7:30-10 p. m. ST. PAUL—540 Cedar St. Phone GARfield 1157. Open daily, Bookstore. TOLEDO—Monthly open meeting, second Saturday, 8 p. m., Kappa Hall, 418 Summit. Rm. 5. WORCESTER, (Mass.)—For information write P.O. Box 554, Worcester. YOUNGSTOWN—224 E. Federal St., Phone 3-1858. Wed., Fri., Sat., 1:30 to 4 p. m.

Letters from Our Readers

Favors Relief for Cemetery Strikers

Editor: After considering all the facts as related in the daily press, I suggest that union workers everywhere support the striking cemetery workers in New York and provide them full strike relief (in money) and thereby keep "straw boss" Spellman where he is indefinitely and also keep his crew of strikebreakers working at this useful occupation. And although I am a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and not affiliated with either the AFL or the CIO, I would gladly donate several dollars per month for said relief to the strikers who have shown the courage to go against the wishes of their "spiritual" overlords. A Railroad worker, Minn.

Liked Article on Jehovah's Witness

Editor: Although I can see that it is not your desire or purpose to propagate the educational work or position of the Jehovah's Witnesses in regards to the racketeering and selfish religions of this world, nevertheless, I fully appreciate and understand the purpose of your Feb. 21 headline and main article concerning us. It was excellently and timely written. It served its purposes, and it will bring results. There will be no peace on this earth until this planet is rid of demoralized religion and its cohorts, the warmongers. I hereby desire to express my sincere thanks for said article. I have recently permitted my subscription to The Militant to lapse, but that doesn't mean I have ceased to have respect for those men with whom I became acquainted while at Sandstone [the prison where Trotskyist defendants in the Minneapolis Trial were imprisoned during the war,

Workers Should Vote On Work-Day Length

Editor: The program to make jobs for the unemployed should ask for four 8-hour days in plants having continuous operation. In other plants where operations would not be affected, workers should be allowed to vote on whether they work four 7½-hour days or five 6-hour days. Three 8-hour days would be more in keeping with the productive capacity of

Workers Should Vote On Work-Day Length

American industry. A thought occurred to me which I believe could be proven. I think that American labor gets less of what it produces than the workers of any other country. If the give-away-to-foreign-countries programs were stopped, you would soon see what I mean if the powers that be haven't yet been successful in launching the third world war.

CORRECTION

The Militant regrets the typographical errors which completely distorted the meaning of the final paragraph in last week's editorial on "Liberals and the North Atlantic Pact." The paragraph should have read as follows: "The old-time liberal, with all his weaknesses, was at least a principled defender of the people against any encroachments on the democratic processes. Today's liberals and Social Democrats are termites undermining democratic processes and the already limited constitutional safeguards against abuse of governmental power. Such 'anti-totalitarian' are really totalitarians under the skin."

Jim Kutcher Thanks 'Militant' Readers

Editor: I would like through The Militant to thank the many readers of our paper for their thoughtful expressions of sympathy in the letters sent me while I was in the hospital. I have left the hospital, am practicing walking again on my artificial limbs and

James Kutcher, Newark, N. J.

L. K., Walnut Park, Calif.

