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Campaign Shows Socialist Ideas Attract Workers

By Joseph Hansen, Business Manager

The Big League Militant Circulation and Sales Campaign is warming up. Last week's work brought total subscriptions in the campaign to 504, sales of single copies to 7,279. Subgetters continue to underline the favorable reception they are getting. Working people, they report, are worried about the drift toward atomic war and indicate increasing interest in the socialist program for achieving enduring peace. That makes for brisk sales of The Militant.

The Twin Cities held their lead in the Coover League with a score of 6,638 points. (Every paper sold counts one point; a \$1 six-months sub, 26 points; a \$2 one-year sub, 52 points.) New York, however, moved forward in a determined effort to close the gap.

Los Angeles and Detroit spurted ahead almost neck and neck and San Francisco moved into the thousand

Congress Acts To Boost Tax Load on Poor

Reduces Proposed Levy on Profits

The House Ways and Means Committee has been readying a new tax bill in Congress which is nothing else but another savage onslaught on the pockets of the poor, with a continued free ride for the billionaire profiteers.

An additional 3 billion dollars has been piled up in "individual income" taxes on top of last year's \$5 billion hike. The burden of this falls, of course, on the lower income groups who are already paying out in direct taxes approximately a month's wages each year. The new tax boost will bring the average tax payments from approximately 5 to 6 weeks' wages yearly.

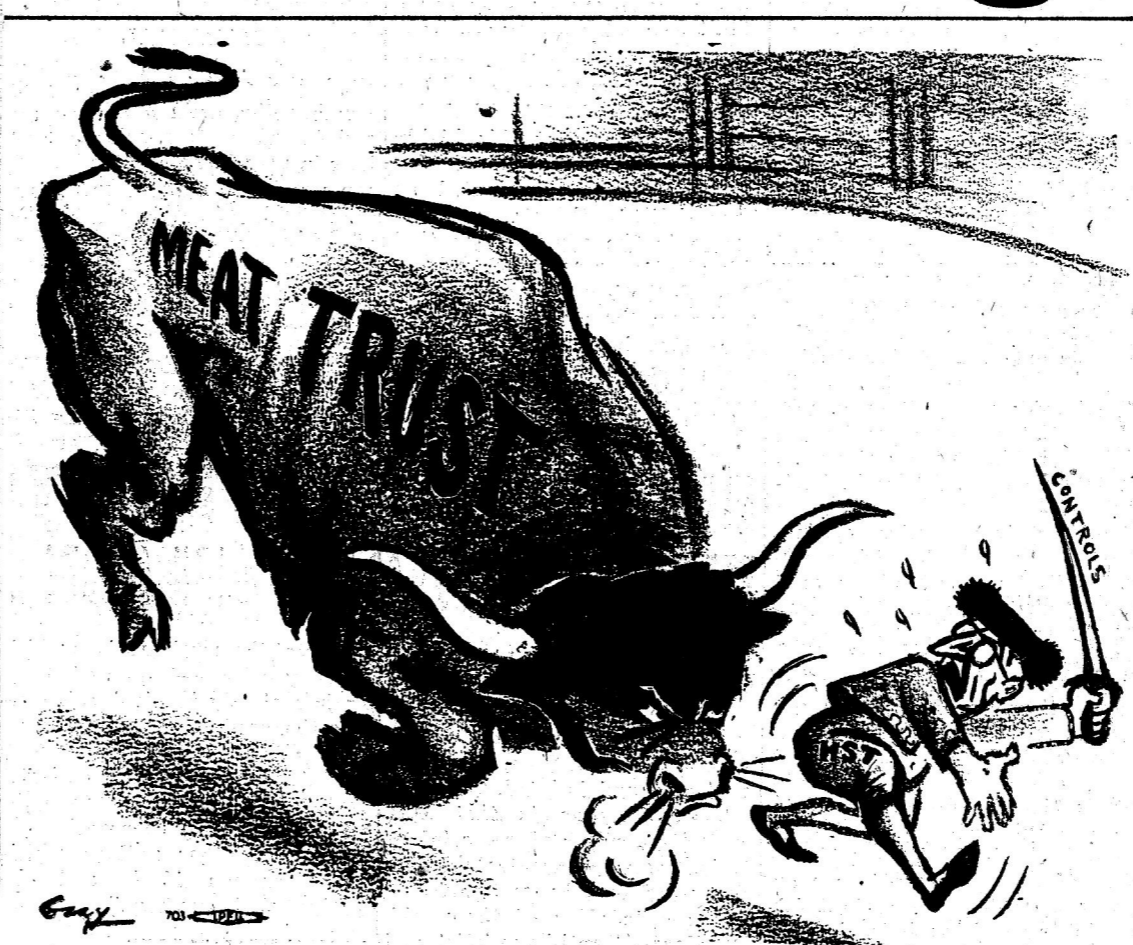
INDIRECT TAXATION

But even these huge sums are only part of the actual tax toll. For piled on these direct taxes are the "indirect" ones—excise taxes of different sorts, paid by the poor. These are to bring an additional 3 billion dollars, with the boost on liquors, beers and wine alone amounting to a quarter of a billion. While the figures are by no means complete, the 1951 tax steal is almost as big as last year's when the tax load of workers and other toiling sections of the population was increased by about 40 percent.

The tax load on the poor has thus virtually been doubled in the last 11 months since Korea. The profiteers have meanwhile ripped the hide off the population by the soaring prices, which have already cost some \$250 a year to every man, woman and child. On the other hand, the profits of the corporations have been climbing to all-time highs.

And what do the rich pay? The new tax on corporations is estimated to bring in—\$2.1 billion more! The scope of this swindle may be gauged by the fact that in one year, 1944, when corporation profits were far less than they are today, the old excess profits tax raised more than \$10 billion, or five times as much as the 1951 rate. And this separate and apart from the countless "escape clauses," 5-year "amortization provisions" and other devices in corporate taxation which make the biggest sieve seem watertight by comparison.

Big Brass Plot "Right" War at "Right" Place



Bradley Counters M'Arthur's "Fight Asia" Proposal with Plan for Global Conquest

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who direct U.S. global military strategy, complained before the Senate hearings on Gen. MacArthur's ouster that the policy proposed by the cashiered Far East commander would involve this country "in the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time and with the wrong enemy."

Charges of Mass Murders, Graft Rock Rhee Regime

There was scarcely a mention of the South Korean regime of Syngman Rhee in the hundreds of thousands of words of testimony by MacArthur and Marshall before the Senate hearings on the Korea war policy.

Yet it was to save Rhee's regime from "aggression" that Truman began his "police action" which has poured into Korea about a half million U.S. ground, air, naval and supply personnel, cost nearly 150,000 U.S. casualties from all causes, slaughtered and maimed millions of Korean civilians and reduced the country to rubble.

What kind of regime are American soldiers killing and being killed for? That is an explosive question that MacArthur and Marshall, Truman and Taft alike want to avoid.

The question has become especially explosive in the light of recent dispatches from Korea about the conflict raging within the South Korean government. It seems that the despotic Rhee regime, kept in power by the U.S. forces, is so corrupt and murderous that a majority of the South Korean National Assembly members themselves can't stomach it.

DEMAND RHEE RESIGN
Last week the United Press reported that "the South Korean Government was rocked to its foundations today (May 11) by brawling within its ranks." This "brawling" involved nothing less than a demand for President Rhee's resignation on charges of corruption and thievery, mass massacres of South Korean civilians, the assumption of dictatorial powers and other crimes. The conflict was brought to a head by the resignation of Vice President Lee Si Yung in protest against, among other things, the embezzlement of 5 billion won (about \$2 million) from the government treasury.

WORLD CAPITALISM
MacArthur is right when he contends that the Asian revolution, undermining imperialism in a third of the world, threatens the very foundations of world capitalism. And Bradley is equally right when he insists that a victory of the socialist revolution would correct all the problems.

MILITANT BIG LEAGUE SCOREBOARD

Branch Scores		Individual Scores	
League	Points	Player	Points
Coover League	6,638	Paul	1,807
Twin Cities	4,847	Don	962
New York	2,738	Pauline	858
Los Angeles	2,518	Harry	627
Detroit	1,764	Marie H.	612
Buffalo	1,581	Jean	426
Chicago	1,001	John	405
San Francisco	744	Bill B.	391
Seattle		Walt	364
		Winifred	336
		Artie	312
Konikow League			
Flint	1,814	Emmett	508
Newark	935	Marve	373
Philadelphia	810	Sol	340
Milwaukee	483	Bill	311
Cleveland	312	Dotty	285
Youngstown	234	Jack W.	162
Boston	67	Fred	137
		Helen	132
Kujac League		Bob	130
Akron	214	Dave	107
Pittsburgh	150	Sally	77
West Virginia	130		
Oakland	120		
St. Louis	109		
New Haven	63		
Allentown	39		

point class. Most spectacular jump for the week was registered by Chicago — from 468 to 1,581 points.

In the Konikow League, Flint remained well in front with no letdown in their fast pace. Newark moved ahead to nose Philadelphia out of the second notch.

In the struggle for the prize of a free week's vacation, a free trip to New York and a seat as Guest of Honor at the National Militant Champions Banquet, which is being offered by the Socialist Workers Party to the highest contestant in each league, Paul of the Twin Cities was still the national pace setter with 1,807 points.

Don of Buffalo, however, reported in belatedly but impressively to take second place in the Coover League with 962 points, forging ahead of Pauline of the Twin Cities.

In the Konikow League, the Four Horsemen of Flint still led, Emmett's 503 points keeping his edge over the others.

More about the campaign in "Militant Army" on page 2.

TRENTON SIX DEFENDANTS EXPOSE WHAT WENT ON IN POLICE GRILLINGS

TRENTON, May 16 — The jim crow, frame-up trial of six Negro men for the 1948 murder of William Horner, junk store proprietor, today went into its 51st day. Today was also the sixth day of testimony by defense witnesses. This testimony already has completely demolished the prosecution case which is almost 100 percent based on "confessions" extorted from the defendants after days of grilling, psychological terror and the administering of drugs.

COLLIS ENGLISH

On the stand today was Collis English, the second defendant to testify so far. English, a 135-pound veteran, who was honorably discharged from the navy because of a rheumatic heart and malaria, related his activities the morning of Jan. 27, 1948 — the morning Horner was killed in the alleged hold-up attempt.

That morning he stayed home to await the arrival of his unemployment compensation check and helped his mother with the laundry she takes in to make a living. The mailman came at the usual time around 10:30 — the time police have fixed as that of the murder of Horner in another part of the city — with the expected check. English took the (Continued on page 4)

Iran Nationalizes Oil, Defies British Threats

Under the irresistible pressure of the Iranian masses whose revolutionary ferment is rising to a fever pitch, the Majlis, Iran's Parliament, is carrying through the measure nationalizing the British-owned oil industry. The Laborite flunkies of British imperialism employed every device to balk the nationalization and are now threatening to occupy the oil fields. Defense Minister Shinwell, who had previously hurled one threat after another, has issued an alert order to British parachute troops. The Iranian press has responded with a counter-threat of "holy war" against Britain.

The Iranian crisis, precipitated by the nationalization move, is aggravated by the highly strategic importance of this country and its vast oil reserves in the Middle East.

BILLION DOLLAR EMPIRE

At stake for British imperialism is its largest remaining foreign investment, valued at well over one billion dollars. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which Iran is now preparing to take over, supplies one-third of Britain's total oil needs and keeps the British Navy running.

Britain's exploitation of Iran has been ruthless. Production costs in the Near East oil industry are the lowest in the world and Iranian costs and wages are at the bottom of this wretched scale. "Actual cost of delivery of oil to tankers in the Persian gulf . . . is relatively nominal," smugly comments the N. Y. Times on May 16.

The bulk of these "nominal costs" consists of royalties paid to the Iranian government, a mere pittance which is then embezzled through graft and

corruption. It has been British policy to keep Iran in degradation precisely in order to keep oil costs "nominal," that is, continue to extract fabulous wealth while paying little or nothing in return.

This Is the Kind of Foreign Policy The American People Really Want

1. Stop the war now. Don't let it spread!
2. Withdraw all American troops from Korea!
3. Recognize the government of New China!
4. Let the American people vote on the issue of war and peace in a national referendum!

Why the Morale of the GIs Is So Low

By Joseph Keller

Why is the morale of the GIs so low? This question is keeping the Big Brass awake nights and stirring anxious comment in the press. For never before have GIs shown so little eagerness to wear the uniform and to fight.

The N. Y. Times, frankly acknowledging the low level of Army morale, assigned one of its ace investigators, Benjamin Fine, to do a survey of the problem. He spent months interviewing some 5,000 Army trainees, as well as officers, in Army camps in six states. His findings are reported in a series of articles last week in the Times.

WHY ARE THEY FIGHTING?

Fine concludes that: 1. "Few American soldiers know why they are in uniform"; 2. "because they don't know why they are in uniform, the morale of many of the nation's service men is poor"; and, 3. "the armed forces education program does not do an adequate job. It does not answer

the many 'whys' asked by the man."

Fine studied particularly the Army's Troop Information and Education Program, which was originally set up during World War II to "educate" the draftees on why they ought to be willing and eager to fight. Fine emphasizes the inadequate pedagogical methods of this propaganda program. He found it "put the men to sleep," that the instructors didn't know their subjects or were not interested themselves, that the men were crowded into hot and airless rooms, that there wasn't enough discussion, etc., etc.

PROPAGANDA USELESS

If the young men are not convinced by the time they enter the Army, what reason is there to believe that any kind of propaganda program, however clever and interesting, can "sell them a bill of goods" once they don the uniform? If their parents and friends at home, as all the polls and the flood of letters to Washington prove, are against the Korea war and want the troops withdrawn right away, why should the GIs be expected to view the Korea war any differently?

In previous wars, the men customarily "griped" about conditions of army life, the food, the clothing, the shelter, the "chicken" of the officers, the discipline. But there was not so much questioning of the "why" of the war itself. Korea has changed that. "The 'gripes' are more than the typical Army complaints. They are serious," Fine reports.

He devotes most of one long article to a typical "cross-section of the attitude" of the men. Their own words reveal they do not believe the Korean war is just and necessary; they regard terms like "democracy" as mere propaganda; the only thing they want is to get out of the army as fast as possible. Here are some of their statements:

WHAT THE GIs SAY

"We are not fighting to protect our country; we are fighting to protect other countries."
"If I were wise I wouldn't be here. The smart ones will stay out."

"Why do we pay income taxes and generals don't?"

"Democracy doesn't mean a damn thing to me in this hellhole (the training camp)."

"If democracy means fighting for freedom, why don't we have some of it in the Army?"

"Why am I in the Army? I'll tell you why. It's because Truman made a blunder."

"I've lost all sense of religion here. I just have no stomach to fight the United Nations war. It's only for Wall Street anyway."

"Why are we kept in the dark about everything? What we get tossed at us is just a bunch of propaganda."
These are the attitudes current in the armed forces, Fine reports. The men regard the army as an institution with profound dislike and view the war aims with utmost distrust. Their attitude, Fine complains, is "heartbreaking." And, as he admits, "it would oversimplify the case to say that a good information program would correct all the problems."



Undergoing a second trial for their lives are the world famous Trenton Six, saved from execution after their first jim-crow frame-up trial by popular protest. Front row (l. to r.): Collis English, James Thorpe, Horace Wilson. Rear: R. Cooper, McKinley Forest, J. McKenzie.

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The Socialist Alternative to War

After the end of World War II the people of the United States and the whole world hoped for an era of peaceful collaboration between nations. Roosevelt's "Atlantic Charter," now trampled in the dust, promised an end to wars, freedom and independence to all peoples.

But events since the atomic destruction of Nagasaki and Hiroshima have shown that this was nothing but another capitalist lie. The Militant warned on August 18, 1945 that "There Is No Peace!" We warned humanity that "the end of the Second World War does not mean peace, but only an interval between wars, marked by smaller conflicts."

A Bloody Preview of the 'American Century'

After six years of World War II, and the emergence of the U.S. power as dominant in the world, there has not been a moment's peace. A few days after the surrender of Japan, the U.S. government was sending transport planes into China to bolster the military forces of the Butcher Chiang Kai-shek.

a society which will enrich human life, a new system is needed. The people of Asia and Europe, the overwhelming majority of the people, are striving toward this new system. Millions upon millions of people are struggling to cast off the yoke of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.

And these terrible years are only the beginning — a preview of Truman-Bradley's "right war, in the right place, at the right time, against the right enemy."

The struggle between socialism and capitalism is world-wide. While the dictators in the Kremlin attempt to use the anti-capitalist mood of the masses in their diplomatic maneuvers, seeking to gain time and preserve their own privileged rule, they know that the victory of socialism will spell their doom.

Only Socialism Can Build 'One World'

The hope of the world's peoples for "One World" is now deeper than ever. The realization that the greatest enemy to freedom and independence is U.S. capitalism has spread throughout Europe and Asia. And in the U.S. the American people are beginning to awaken.

is any chance for peace under the present leadership; whether Taft and MacArthur have their way, or Truman and the Pentagon prevail, U.S. foreign policy leads to atomic war. It remains for the American people to draw the conclusion from the present impasse that the cause for war is the capitalist system; when this truth is discovered, then the necessary preconditions for the world collaborations of the peoples will have been laid down.

Scottsboro Case--A New Review and Appraisal

By Albert Parker

Andy Wright was 19 years old when he was arrested with the eight other "Scottsboro boys" on a frameup rape charge in 1931. He was 38 years old before he finally was freed on parole and left the state of Alabama in 1950. The newest book on the Scottsboro case, They Shall Be Free by Dr. Allan K. Chalmers (Doubleday, 1951, 255 pp., \$3), tells these two stories about Andy Wright:

lumber company in Montgomery, someone taunted him as a Scottsboro boy and a fist fight followed. Afraid that this would mean his return to the prison hell, Wright fled the state. Chalmers told him he would help him as much as he could if he wanted to continue hiding out, "but I pointed out the fact that his remaining at large would seriously hinder the other boys' chances for freedom. Thus the choice was up to Andy. He had every right in the world to remain out. . . . Andy went back. It meant years more in prison for him, because the (Parole) Board returned him to jail, revoked his parole, and refused to review his case. Yet for the sake of his friends who were still not free, he agreed to go back."

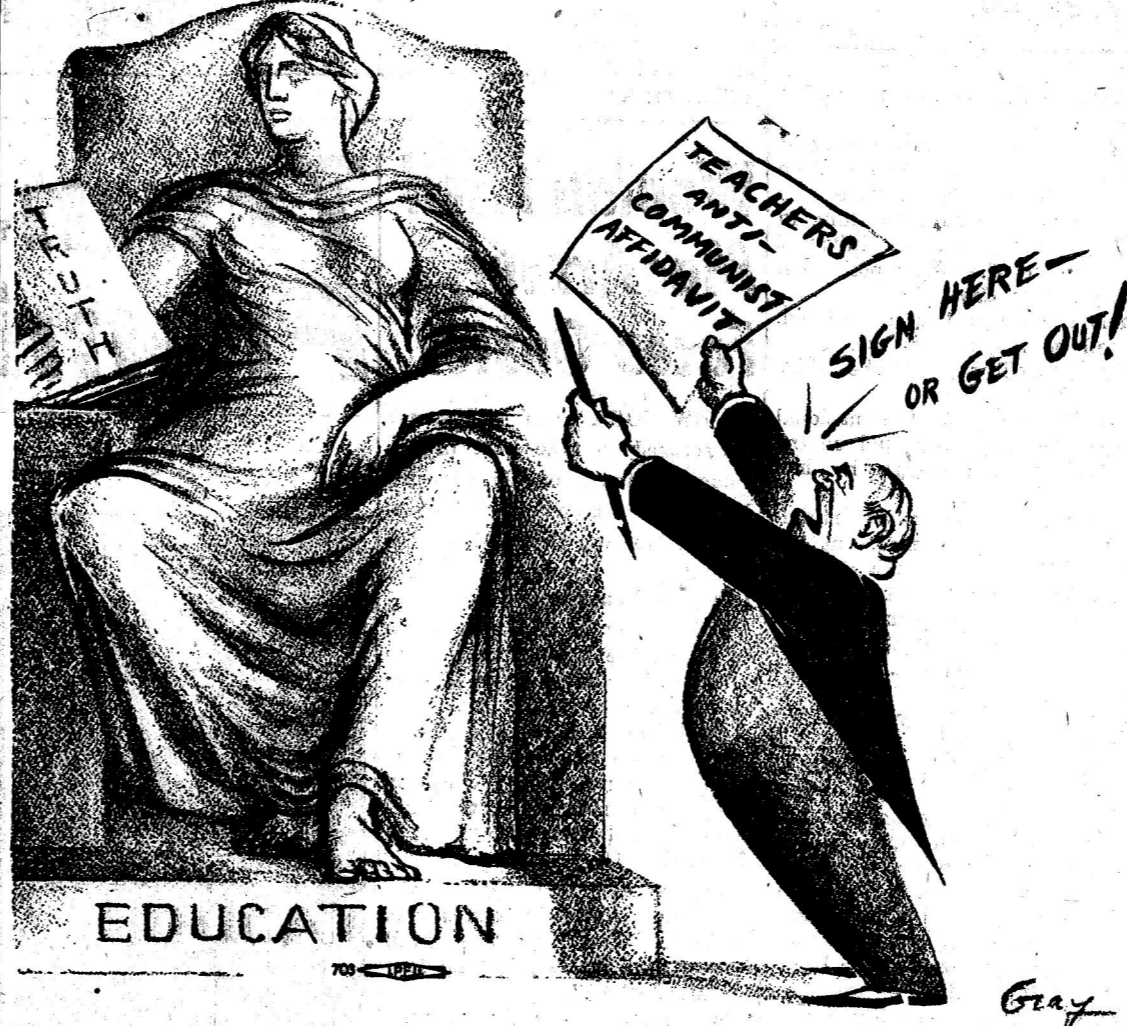
REMARKABLE DEFENDANTS

It is evident from this that when it came to integrity, solidarity and decency, the Scottsboro defendants were possessed of more than their share. These traits were all the more remarkable in view of the degradation, brutality and torture they suffered during those long years in prison, unforgettably recorded in last year's book, Scottsboro Boy, by Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. But we call attention to these traits for only one reason — because they stand in such stark contrast to the conciliating, disloyal and downright treacherous policies and behavior of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, the official defense agency in the case.

For the first four years of the Scottsboro struggle (1931-1935), that part was played by the Stalinist-dominated International Labor Defense which initiated the campaign to save the lives of the nine young Negroes that was supported by thousands of radical, Negro, labor and liberal organizations all over the world. Even the conservative enemies of the Scottsboro boys admitted that it was this mass movement which kept the defendants from the death to which they were repeatedly condemned by the courts of jim crow Alabama. But the end of 1935 marked the end of mass action struggle around the Scottsboro case. Direction of the defense was transferred from the ILD to a new organization, the Scottsboro Defense Committee, made up of the following persons and organizations: Walter White of the NAACP, Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union, Robert Minor of the ILD, Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party-dominated League for Industrial Democracy, and William Spofford of the Episcopal Federation for Social Science. Chalmers, then pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church in New York, was chosen as chairman.

Chalmers undertakes to explain why the Stalinists decided to turn the control of the defense over to a committee in which they would be a minority. "It was becoming evident, even to them, that their tactics were incapable of securing the boys' freedom." That, he says, was why they were "compelled by circumstances to abdicate in favor of a more effective organization," apparently forgetting that on another page he says, "I think the communists would have been content to lose the case if only they could publicize their part in it and point out the weakness in American legal practice." STALINIST TACTICS This only proves that Chalmers is as ignorant about politics as about the most elementary principles of labor defense struggles. The Stalinists turned over the case in 1935 not because they felt their previous tactics were inadequate, but because the new political line laid down by the Kremlin that year — the notorious People's Front policy — required that they should strangle all independent labor and Negro movements and struggles in the interests of promoting an alliance between Washington and Moscow. To further this policy, the Stalinists were directed to become "respectable," ingratiate themselves with the "progressive capitalists" and the liberals, and subordinate every consideration of principle that would stand in the way of the formation of a People's Front.

There was, therefore, good reason even then to suspect that the transfer of the case meant a change in defense policy. The Militant appealed to the new committee to follow a class struggle policy in its efforts to win freedom for the Scottsboro victims. But class struggle was the last thing the Scottsboro Defense Committee had in mind, and it set out on a course that played squarely into the hands of the Alabama authorities. The inside story of its activities is not widely known. One reason is that the organizations that founded the SDC pledged to refrain from public criticism of its policies, and they kept this pledge. Over the years The Militant has managed to breach this conspiracy of silence and to let the labor and Negro movements know the truth about some of the SDC's sordid deals. Now Chalmers' book makes it possible to fill in some of the gaps. Unwittingly, he has written a crushing criticism of liberalism and, although not in the way he intended, of Stalinism. We will discuss this further next week.



Campus Thought Control Already Nation-Wide

By Joseph Hansen

The New York Times is worried about the low state of intellectual life on the campuses. When the N. Y. Times worries about something, everybody better worry. It's the most influential capitalist paper in the country.

Yes, intellectual life on the American campus has deteriorated, says the N. Y. Times. Professors and instructors are "wary" about "speaking out" on "controversial issues." Freedom of thought no longer exists in the classroom. Students it seems are being trained in strict accord with the real moral code of the capitalist system. To find openings in government or industry or even get into a graduate school they've got to start making the record the day they register. FBI agents are prowling around the campus. Scholastic standing is checked and nowadays that doesn't mean how did you do in math but were you ever "associated" with anything that Joe McCarthy considers disloyal? Number one requirement for a job after graduation is not some conspicuous collegiate achievement but a most conspicuous failure — failure to ever take up a "humanitarian cause" or any cause associated with words like "liberal," "peace," "freedom."

FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

This blight upon "free exploration of knowledge and truth" is in part due to the witch-hunt, the Times reports, but it is also due to the "probable inevitability of the draft, the fear and uncertainty in national life and a fatalistic and frustrated conviction that little can be done

in the college area to alter international developments." Now why should the Times suddenly get worried about intellectual life dying out on the American campus? Hasn't the Times supported all Truman's "loyalty" purges and the witch-hunt that's been raging under Democratic and Republican auspices for some five years? Doesn't the Times do painstaking research on its own prospective employees to make sure everybody on the Sulzberger payroll meets the thought-control standards of J. Edgar Hoover? Could it be that the editor has reformed? No, the Times hasn't suddenly taken the cure or gone socialist and decided to really fight for democratic rights. The editor probably just started reminiscing about the discussions he underwent in his day on the campus — controlled discussions that created a mild, short-time fever about freedom of thought, the evils of capitalism and even what socialism could do to eliminate poverty, depressions and war. It was like vaccination. Today they're turning out an unvaccinated student body. Is that safe? What if a student runs up against a genuine socialist and gets the full contagion of these dangerous ideas about freedom, peace, progress and a better world. What then? My advice to the N. Y. Times is not to worry. It's true today's students lack that vaccination scar. But if I understand what the witch-hunters are after, the scheme is to graduate them with something else also missing. Let's call a spade a spade. Back in my home, Sevier County, Utah, when we reached a certain age

some of the elementary facts of life were explained to us along these lines: It's necessary to perform that operation on Mary's little lamb so he won't grow up into a ram full of steam and fire. The same operation, for the same reasons, is performed on cattle. They are then known as steers or oxen. Among the gang there was considerable free discussion on the point and we wondered if the stories about completely trustworthy harem guards were just made up like the rest of the Arabian Nights? Now the Times has finally cleared this up to my complete satisfaction. Not only are there eunuchs but they are trying to turn them out on a mass scale. The American campus it appears is becoming just an animal farm. Like the old X-Bar-B ranch they plan to produce them by the hundreds of thousands, tender, spiritless, docile and guaranteed virgin. Emotions like solidarity, pity, compassion, love of humanity are unknown to these emasculated. "Higher" education removes their capacity for real living. They don't carry the FBI thought-control brand on their hides but you can always get the necessary papers if need be and of course a mental examination is absolute proof positive that the operation was a complete success. THE REBEL GENERATIONS It seems a pity. To turn youth — rebellious American youth searching for ideals worth living for, into spiritless, hang-head cattle! Especially when you think back about the youth who came before them, the great rebel generations. Those who really believed in America — really believed it to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. Those who refused to bow to the British tyrant. Who refused to accept slavery. Who said America must not be afraid of change but must seek it when the time is ripe. The pioneers. The fighters. The Times, not wishing to paint too dark a picture, claims that here and there a voice is still heard in the suffocating atmosphere. It offers no opinion on how long these pockets of resistance can hold out against the combined mopping up operations of the Truman Administration, school boards and trigger-happy local McCarthyites. WHERE THOUGHT LIVES Does this mean a hopeless outlook for free thought among the generation now in school? I don't think so. Not every youth is willing to make the required sacrifice for a cramped, stifling, pigeon-hole future. There are rebels among the youth today as there always have been and always will be. You can regiment the campus but you can't regiment thought or those who feel its power burning and stirring and awakening in them so they never can be broken and taught to wear the saddle and take to the whip. I felt this on the coast to coast speaking tour I just concluded. The campuses are fenced off like barn yards by the barbed wire of reaction. Nevertheless centers of free thought do exist in America, centers of unfettered study, of clash of ideas, of great new vistas that lift you right out of the deadly humdrum daily routine. These centers are also sources of

The Negro Struggle Meek Pleas, Civil Rights And Congress

By J. Blake "Congress is engaged in 'a wilful sit-down strike against civil rights.'" That is what Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said last week in reviewing the record of the 82nd Congress. Pointing to the long list of proposals for civil rights legislation on which Congress has not acted, White said this "demonstrates the urgent need for a national conference to develop plans for a new and intensified drive for enactment of civil rights measures."

What Is the U.S. Congress? It's not hard to understand. What is Congress? A body of politicians put in office by the Democratic and Republican parties for the purpose of passing laws in the interest of the people who run the country. The people who run the country are not the Negroes, not the working people. The rulers of the country are the same people who run Big Business — the capitalists. Their chief aim is to run business at a profit and to oppose everything that challenges their right to do just that. Civil rights for everyone would make it difficult to play off Negro workers against white workers, to make the underpaid and underprivileged white workers think they are not so bad off because another group, the darker workers, are worse off. Once that division is removed, black and white workers might decide the time had come to get together to challenge the right of the minority, the capitalists, to own and control the factories and farms where workers are permitted to produce all the wealth of society only so long as the capitalist makes a profit.

A Labor Party Needed If the civil rights conference actually goes to the bottom of the question of why Congress does not pass civil rights legislation, it will map out a very different kind of drive from the past. It will stop petitioning and pleading with capitalist politicians to do things that are against their nature, and begin a campaign to replace them with representatives of working men and women. A labor party would have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the greatest unity of all workers. Such a party would not have to lie to the people in order to gain their support, since it would not be serving one class while trying to buy the votes of the other with false promises. Moreover, just the first steps in the building of a mass labor party would scare more concessions out of the bunch now in Congress than any amount of "respectful petitioning" of the old type. If the conference in Washington fails to draw the lessons of experience with the old petition and lobbying campaigns, to recognize that those methods failed and new ones must take their place, the result of the May conference will simply be less confidence in the NAACP leadership, and no progress in the fight for civil rights.

IRAN NATIONALIZES OIL, BRITISH HURL THREATS

(Continued from Page 1) columnist Joseph Alsop last April. And he adds that "the weak corrupt postwar (Iranian) governments have utterly failed to combat the misery and hopelessness that daily increase here." On top of this there is the threat of famine. Early in April locusts were spreading 10 inches deep in the northern areas, threatening a four-year famine, Iranian agricultural officials warned. Their plea for help to U.S., Britain and France has ignored. MASS DISCONTENT That the nationalization measure has been passed overwhelmingly by the Majlis is irrefutable evidence of the mass anger and discontent. The Iranian government from top to bottom has been completely under the thumb of the British imperialist. The reigning Shah is the son of a sergeant in the Iranian army who was raised as a "strong man" to the royal throne 25 years ago by the British. And here is how Time magazine, on Feb. 5, characterized the Iranian parliament: "The Majlis, Iran's parliament, represents cliques of landlords and courtiers competing for patronage and graft." These corrupt creatures now do not dare oppose the popular will and determination to rid the country of the intolerable imperialist yoke. U.S. PLOTS TO MOVE IN A sordid feature of the situation is the maneuvering of the American oil corporations, headed by the Rockefeller Standard Oil super-trust. Already entrenched in Saudi Arabia, these gentlemen estimate that circumstances are propitious for moving in on their British rivals, who up to now have successfully shut them out of Iran. According to columnist Walter Lippman the British financiers have been publicly charging "in substance that the Iranian government would not have risked expropriating and ousting the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company if it did not think that the American oil companies, which have no concessions in Iran, would step in."

There is feverish haggling behind the scenes over the price the British imperialists should pay for Washington's "backing" of their demand to "negotiate" the nationalization decree. The Iranian events help expose the whole fraud of the Korean intervention. In Iran, as in Korea, the protagonists are basically the same: the native insurgent population on the one side, the imperialists on the other. The American imperialists, backed by the British, plunged into Korea to "halt aggression." The British are guilty of crassest economic aggression against Iran. They threaten military aggression. And what happens? The American imperialists are now busy trying to settle their differences with the British aggressors — at the expense of the Iranian people. inspiration to the entire movement, so thoroughly American in its tradition, of stubborn opposition to the witch-hunt and everything it represents. I refer to the branches of the Socialist Workers Party. PROMISE OF SOCIALISM These are the bright spots in this land, where you can think and breathe and live as an American should, in the spirit of those magnificent, untameable innovators in human thought who knew how to stand up against bigots and despots, fighting for the future and that limitless promise which science in a new social order holds for the world. The truth is that socialism has become the inheritor of all the best traditions of the great emancipating movements of the past. Socialism has become the only hope in face of the threat of universal barbarism and atomic destruction. Let the Times shed hypocrite's tears in the funeral over free thought on the American campus. Free thought lives just the same. Before long it will reappear on the campus lustier than ever. And the youth of America will again make the point that it is an error to consider humanity and cattle as synonymous terms.

