

# TILL MURDER CONFESSION

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It's All There in Print



George Weissman, Treas. of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, and James Kutcher check over the transcript of the hearing held in Washington Dec. 30. The Veterans Administration backed down on its attempt to deprive the legless veteran of his World War II pension. For the first time a witch-hunt, administrative hearing was opened to the press.

## The Fight Continues!

An Editorial

The attempt to rob James Kutcher of the disability pension that was his due when he lost both legs in the Second World War has been defeated. The Veterans Administration, after its "I-make-the-rules" hearing, decided that it didn't have enough grounds for picking the pocket of the Socialist veteran.

Very good. The fight for justice that Kutcher has waged for nearly eight years scored a victory. But Kutcher's civil liberties will not be restored until he gets his job back. The fight goes on and it will continue until people are free to think as they please, to write as they please, to associate with whom they please without fear of persecution. Nothing short of that will satisfy Kutcher — or the majority of the American people.

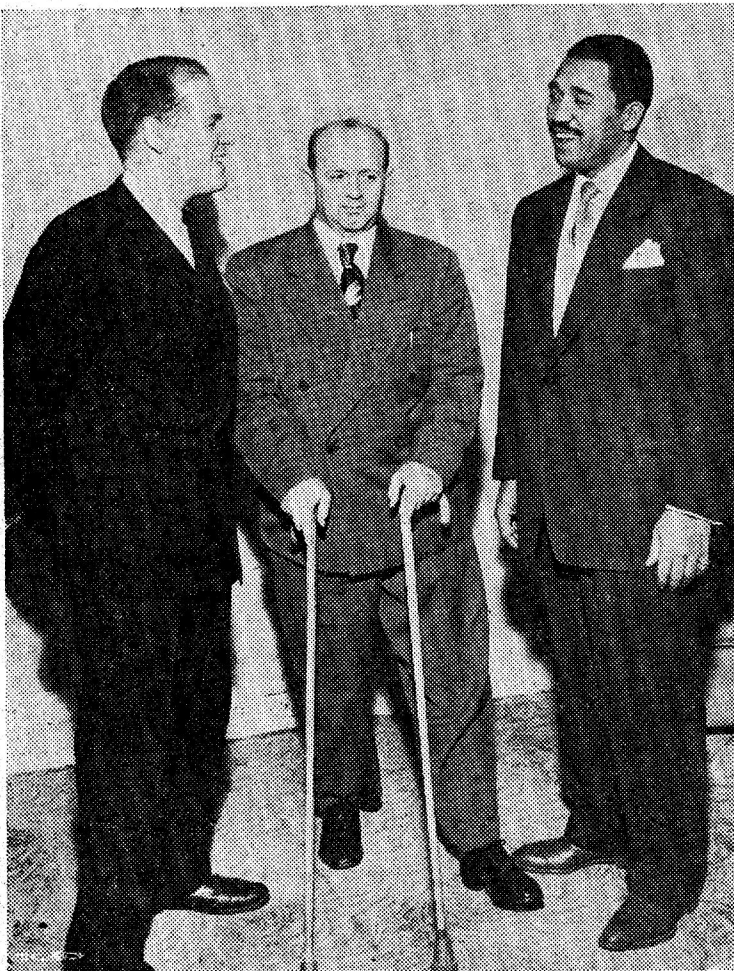
In addition to Kutcher's means of subsistence — an absolute minimum that had to be won — what gains have been made in this fight against the witch hunt? In 1955 the government, for the first time, began to invade the impartial and non-political administration of social security legislation.

The attempt of the VA to take Kutcher's pension away was part of a political decision by the witch hunters to tighten the economic squeeze on political dissidents even to the extent of depriving them of what was legally and specifically theirs — old age pensions of Communist Party functionaries and the pensions of disabled war veterans.

The laws governing these payments were clearly constructed to prevent their use by changing political powers. The sole basis for determining pension payments has always been of a technical, not a political nature.

In Kutcher's case the VA did not yield its usurpation (Continued on page 3)

### Kutcher's Job Fight



The American Veterans Committee was among the first of many national organizations to give Kutcher support in his fight for his job. Here Kutcher is shown at the 1948 convention of the AVC as he was greeted by Chairman Chat Paterson (left) and George L. P. Weaver, Dir. of CIO National Committee to Abolish Discrimination (r.).

## "You Restored My Pension -- Now Give Me Back My Job!" Kutcher Tells Witch Hunters

### Seamen Rally Behind Westinghouse Strike

By Art Sharon

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 — The three-month strike of Westinghouse workers remained at a deadlock this week. This, the nation's major strike, involving 55,000 production workers, has turned into a deadly test of strength between the second largest electrical manufacturer and the unions: the AFL-CIO Electrical Workers union representing 45,000 workers and the independent United Electrical Workers union, which has come under government witch-hunt attack, representing the balance.

Negotiations that were sponsored by the Federal Mediation Service were broken off by the company in Pittsburgh but were later resumed in Philadelphia. The two sides are meeting at the negotiating table, but the real war continues at the plant gates where Westinghouse is attempting to smash the strike with the aid of scabs and police.

Every strikebreaking trick in the book has been used by the corporation and it has succeeded in getting some scabs into the plants, notably in the Columbus and Mansfield, Ohio, plants. There have been a series of violent assaults on the picket lines. Many have been injured and one worker, Troy Tadlock, is dead.

Big Business is watching the Westinghouse situation with direct interest and concern. The outcome of the strike will have great bearing on "labor relations" throughout the nation. For that reason there is a growing awareness of the strike's importance in the labor movement.

A signal demonstration has been made on the initiative of the Baltimore branch of the Seafarers International Union. In that city the SIU initiated a local labor rally under the banner of the unified AFL-CIO for support to the Westinghouse workers.

But even more important is the SIU's action in dispatching its members daily to the picket line to help out the IUE workers. This strike is serving to rationally disrupt the labor-management harmony pipe dreams that have been the favorite themes of AFL-CIO leaders. It is almost like a dramatic confrontation of James Carey of a year ago, when he introduced Gwinn Price, President of Westinghouse, to an IUE meeting with great praise for the new wisdom animating the heads of industry and labor and the end of the class struggle.

### President and Liberals Pull Civil Rights Fraud

By Herman Chauka

Reporting on civil rights, President Eisenhower in his Jan. 5 State of the Union message to Congress solemnly announced that "in some localities allegations persist that Negro citizens are being deprived of their right to vote and are likewise being subjected to unwarranted economic pressure." He recommended that a bipartisan Congressional committee investigate these "allegations."

LETTER TO EISENHOWER

Evidently Eisenhower has not kept up either with the state of the union or with his mail. For on Dec. 10, the Pittsburgh Courier, leading Negro newspaper in the U.S., addressed an open letter to the President informing him that Southern Negroes are being deprived not only of their ballot rights but their very lives. The Courier demanded that he immediately dispatch federal troops to Mississippi to protect Negroes in that state from a savage reign of terror.

Northern Democrats, with a sharp eye on the 1956 elections, were quick to denounce Eisenhower's proposal for an obviously meaningless "investigation." Senator Lehman (D-N.Y.) labeled it "just a way of stalling." Senator Douglas (D-Ill.) chimed in: "It's time we got some action. I'm more for action than study at this point."

### The Hypocrite From Mississippi

SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM RED FORCE AND VIOLENCE!



### SEN. EASTLAND'S WITCH HUNT SEEN AS PART OF DIXIECRAT OPERATIONS

By Harry Ring

Jan. 9 — Senator Eastland (D-Miss.), who has been busy organizing a federation of race terrorists in the South, has also, as head of the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, taken charge of the search for "subversives" in the nation's press.

While Eastland declared for the record that the activities of his committee were not aimed at any specific paper, just "com-

munist," it was quite apparent that, in addition to the destruction of freedom of the press in general, he was out to do a special hatchet job on the New York Times.

In its closed sessions last month the committee hauled 38 witnesses before it. Thirty of them were past or present employees of the Times. In the week of public hearings which concluded Jan. 6 there were 18 witnesses. Thirteen of these were also past or present employees of the Times.

CRITICIZED EASTLAND

The Times has in the recent period been critical of the "excesses" of the witch hunters. Even worse, from Eastland's point of view, the Times has editorially advised Eastland and his white supremacy cohorts to accept the Supreme Court ban on school segregation.

There was no direct effort at the hearing to show that the conservative Times actually committed the diabolical "crime" of publishing radical views. Eastland confined himself to inference and innuendo. By demonstrating with a parade of witnesses that various employees of the Times had at one time or another been allegedly associated with the Communist Party, he put the sign of "subversion" over the most authoritative mouthpiece of U.S. Big Business.

With this attack on the Times, Eastland served due notice to the press in general that if it dared to criticize his nefarious activities, it was laying itself open to the same treatment.

As a result of this attack, the Times decided that the committee had carried its "excesses" to an extreme and trained its editorial guns on the committee. In doing so it was again careful to establish the fact, as when it finally opposed McCarthy, that it supported the fundamental principle of the witch hunt but that it was not ready to go along with these extremes.

SNOOPING IN GOOD FAITH

Its editorial, published Jan. 5, declared at the outset, "We do not question the right or the

propriety of any investigation of the press by any agency of Congress." But, declared the Times, "It is the inescapable responsibility of Congress to make certain that any such inquiry be conducted in good faith and not motivated by ulterior purpose."

The Times, which has already fired a number of employees for refusing to cooperate with the witch hunters, also asserted, "It is our own business to decide whom we shall employ and not employ. We do not propose to hand that function over to the Eastland sub-committee."

The editorial blast of the Times, was an undoubted setback to the Eastland Committee. The day after it appeared seven of the nine Senators on the subcommittee absented themselves from the hearing. But it would be a serious mistake to assume that in any way marks Eastland's finish as a combined witch hunter and race baiter.

Unlike McCarthy, who also sought to build a mass fascist base throughout the country, Eastland has already a solid base of power in the reactionary movement of the Southern capitalists and landlords. Through alliance with the Northern liberals the Dixiecrats have won a key position in Congress. Eastland and other Southern racists have utilized that position, in collaboration with the McCarthyites, to launch retaliatory measures against such Northern critics as the Times.

Eastland and his committee have laid new planks in the witch-hunting scaffold in the face of a trend of setbacks and reversals for McCarthyism generally. These setbacks have been registered in court and administrative decisions, all of which have sought to "regulate" the witch hunt while carefully avoiding any decision that would kick any fundamental prop from under it.

A FEW VICTORIES

The most recent of such decisions, in addition to the notable victory in the Kutcher case, are those of William Taylor, (Continued on page 2)

### VA Retreat Opens Way To Victory

By Daniel Roberts

"It was a wonderful vindication of my position," said James Kutcher, World War II legless veteran, and Socialist Workers Party member, when he learned that the Veterans Administration had called off its latest attempt to deprive him of a livelihood by taking away his disability pension. "I think it was the publicity that made them retreat. . . I think now the court ought to rule favorably on my plea to get my job back and the government ought to stop trying to evict me from my house."

The Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, a non-partisan group formed seven years ago after Kutcher had been fired from his job as file clerk with the VA office in Newark, is stepping up the fight to get him back on the job. The case will soon be argued in the Circuit Court of Appeals, possibly even this month.

VA RETREATS UNDER FIRE

The Veterans Administration Central Committee on Waivers and Forfeitures ruled on Jan. 6 that Kutcher had not been "shown, beyond a reasonable doubt, to have been guilty" of "knowingly and intentionally [rendering] assistance to an enemy of the United States."

With this formula the VA seeks to maintain its smear of Kutcher through innuendo even as it retreats from its attack under fire of unprecedented public indignation.

At the Dec. 30 public hearing conducted by the committee on forfeitures Kutcher denied every one of its fantastic treason charges under oath, and branded "testimony" against him by faceless informers as unmitigated lies. Kutcher's testimony that all he had ever been "guilty" of was advocating socialist ideas in the open — a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution — was never seriously challenged. Indeed, Peyton H. Moss, chairman of the committee, repeatedly refused demands made by Kutcher's attorney, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., that informers against him be forced to testify at the hearing where they could be subjected to cross-examination.

The Veterans Administration's (Continued on page 2)

### "So Strikes Are Treason!"

"So Strikes Are Treason!" is the way Labor, newspaper of 15 railway unions and the nation's most widely circulated labor paper, headlines the story on Kutcher's Dec. 30 pension hearing in its Jan. 7 issue. VA official Peyton Moss' statement: "If you're going to call strikes in wartime, it's prima facie evidence that you are giving aid and assistance to the enemy," didn't sit well with railroad workers who would all be branded "traitors" by such a standard. "Moss' shocking declaration amounted to branding a basic American right as a crime. . . a ban on stoppages would be equivalent to involuntary servitude. . . Workers would be compelled to toil for the private profit of a private employer, regardless of how onerous the working conditions might be. . . Yet in trying amputee Kutcher, a high VA official sought to turn advocacy of that basic democratic right (to strike) into an act of treason," said Labor. It called the charges against Kutcher "weird."





