

Fallout Made It A Death Ship

(See Page 4)

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SOVIET TEST HALT JOLTS WASHINGTON

More Jobless, But Congress Is Still Stalling

The recession deepens. The lines at the unemployment compensation offices lengthen, despite the dropping out each week of thousands whose benefits have expired. Almost half of the country's 149 major industrial centers are now classified as distress or "labor surplus" areas.

The much-heralded "spring upturn," on expectation of which the Republican administration and Democratic Congress base their do-nothing policies, has been a fizzle. The seasonal increase in jobs, resulting from resumption of construction operations and the Easter shopping, proved too weak to turn the economic tide. The ominous unemployment figures have resumed their climb. Compensation claims for the week ending March 21 increased in such key centers as Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Los Angeles.

In New York City — till now less hard hit because of the commercial and diversified character of its economy — that same week showed a jump in unemployment claims of nearly 10,000. The situation will get even worse in the next few weeks with the post-Easter layoffs.

EASTER EGG

"It's laid an egg," is the way retail businessmen are describing this year's Easter season. Department store sales nationally are running below the same week last year though normally they should be 6% higher because Easter is earlier this year.

The desperate situation of the unemployed is reported from all over the U.S. In Biddeford, Maine (pop. 20,000), for example, one-third of the labor

force is unemployed; many of the jobless textile workers have exhausted unemployment benefits; 500 families daily apply to the Overseers of the Poor for free food. Around Houston, Texas, authorities have to distribute surplus food to jobless including those still drawing unemployment compensation but unable to feed their families on the small amounts. In Levittown, Pa., the "model" town built to house workers from U.S. Steel's huge, new Fairless Works, home foreclosures and evictions are becoming commonplace.

In the face of all this, Congress continues the bi-partisan stall on adequate emergency legislation. Back on March 8 Eisenhower conceded the need to extend jobless benefits for another 13 weeks. The Kennedy-McCarthy bill, authorizing this extension and an increase in benefits from the present average of \$28 weekly to about \$38, has been bogged down in the House for almost a month now. It is this bill which the AFL-CIO leadership calls for.

FOR DURATION
The first demand from an important union leader for more than the inadequate Kennedy-McCarthy bill came from Thomas Kennedy, Vice-President of the United Mine Workers. He told an audience of 5,000 West Virginia soft-coal miners on April 1 that compensation "should be paid for the duration of unemployment, not for 26 or 30 weeks as it is now."

Senate Quiz Of Reuther Shows Bias

The Senate labor-probe committee concluded five weeks of hearings on the Kohler strike March 29 and promptly began hearings on the 1955 Perfect Circle dispute. Both strikes involved locals of the United Auto Workers. This phase of the committee's activities has featured attempts to smear the UAW with responsibility for strike violence. It is also a propaganda assist to the big three auto corporations with which the UAW has just begun contract negotiations.

MEANY'S BLAST

As the Kohler hearings concluded, the committee's latest anti-labor activities were denounced by George Meany and Walter Reuther — who had previously given support to the committee — in the sharpest terms yet used by top AFL-CIO officials. In addition, Senator Pat V. McNamara (D-Mich.) resigned from the committee March 31 declaring that the hearings were "rigged against labor."

AFL-CIO president George Meany denounced the committee's report on its first year of probing. He said it was a "disgraceful example of the use of sensationalism" and "raises grave doubts as to the impartiality and objectivity and integrity of its future operations." The committee report, published March 24, recommended legislation similar to that previously proposed by Eisenhower — virtually requiring government licensing of union activity. It was supported by the "liberal" Democrat, Kennedy of Massachusetts, and all other members of the committee except McNamara. Until McNamara quit, the committee had four Democrats and four Republicans.

DESIGNED AGAINST UAW

Reuther centered his attack on three of the Republican senators, Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska and Karl Mundt of South Dakota. He said their handling of the Kohler hearings was "part of a design" to destroy Reuther and the UAW.

Actually, the Democrats are responsible for allowing Mundt, Goldwater and Curtis to have their way in the committee. In the first place, the Democratic Senate majority did not have to give the Republicans half

(Continued on Page 2)

Khrushchev Takes Top Post In Soviet Govt.

By George Lavan
Khrushchev's assumption of the premiership on March 27, thus becoming holder of the two top posts in the USSR — head of the Communist Party and head of the government — merely formalizes what had been the power actuality since last October.

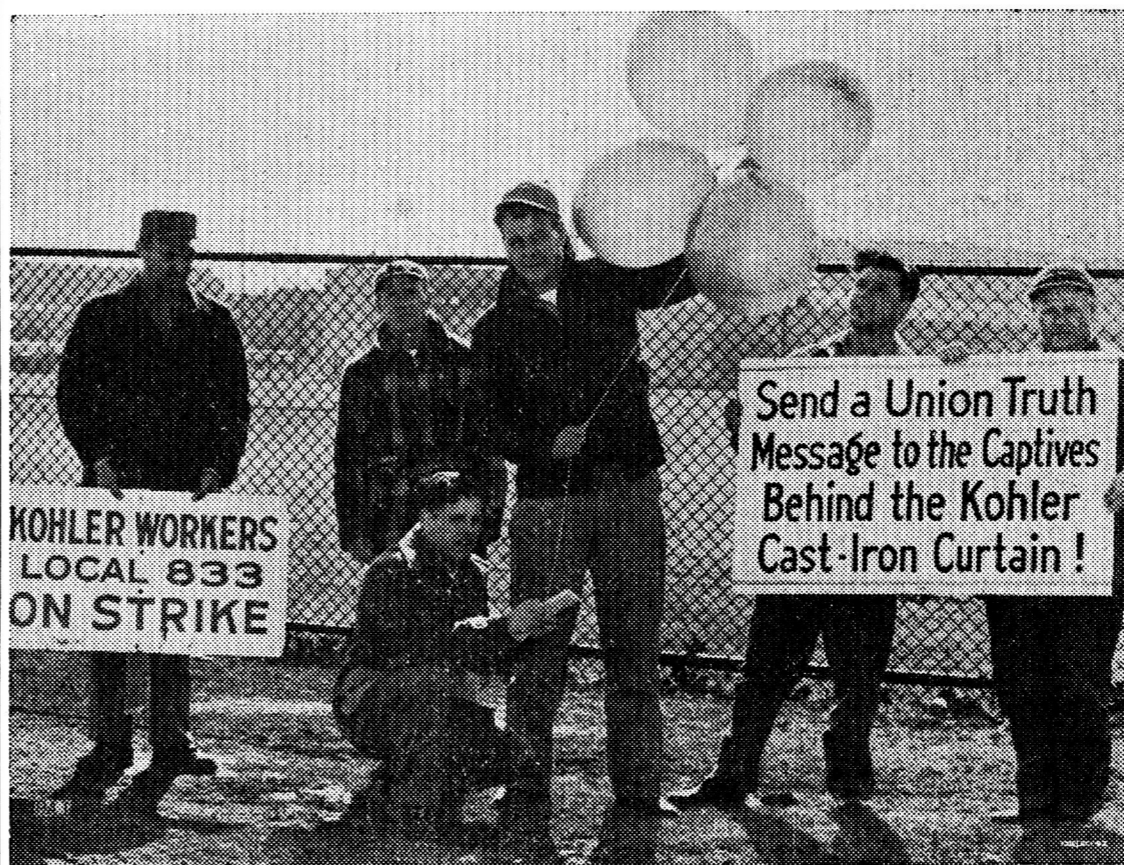
That Khrushchev waited five months to oust Bulganin and take the premiership himself simply shows how secure his predominance was in those months and his new found taste, which he can now afford, for doing things with due legal formality.

DAYS NUMBERED

That Premier Bulganin's days in the top leadership were numbered has been no secret ever since he guessed wrong last summer when Molotov, Malenkov and Kaganovitch mustered a majority in the party praesidium to oust Khrushchev. Bulganin, who knew the rules of the game, forgot his "loyalty" to Khrushchev and climbed onto the majority bandwagon. But Khrushchev broke the rules by refusing to accept the praesidium's vote and carrying the issue to what had theretofore been the praesidium's subordinate body, the 125-man central committee,

(Continued on Page 2)

Attacked by Anti-Labor Senators



Kohler strikers such as these were attacked by anti-labor Senators during recent hearings of the Senate labor-probe committee. This picture was taken in 1955 at a plant gate in Kohler, Wisc., when the strike was one year old. It entered its fifth year April 5.

Who Prevents Peace — Let The Record Speak

AN EDITORIAL

"The banner of peace now flies over the Kremlin" complained the editors of the N.Y. Post, April 1, after the Soviet Union announced its decision to abandon nuclear tests. The effect of the U.S. State Department's reply, they continue, "will be infinitesimal compared to the explosive psychological impact of the Russian action."

The Post is wrong. U.S. insistence on continuation of nuclear tests will have a great, but "undesired, effect on the war-weary people of the world. Washington's obstinate position will make itself felt with increasing impact — a radioactive impact — with every H-bomb it explodes in the coming spring series. Each test in the Pacific, as it adds to the radioactive poison in the atmosphere, will remind everyone that the Soviet Union agreed to a ban on tests and the United States did not. The anger already felt by humanity at U.S. refusal to end the race toward annihilation will mount.

A "Bluff"? Call It!

The banner of peace flies over the Kremlin and the Big Business rulers of America are increasingly exposed as the real source of the war danger to the world. No amount of squirming, diplomatic confusion or legalistic verbiage will obscure the source of the threat to peace.

The apologists for Wall Street argue that the Soviet statement is only propaganda; that nuclear tests can be conducted secretly, without the world's knowledge. This is a lie. The United States, for example, has complete data on the last nuclear tests of the Soviet Union. "So effective is the system of detection," writes syndicated columnist Marquis Childs (April 1), "that we know exactly where the tests were conducted. We know the yield of radioactive fallout they sent into the atmosphere. We know the chemical makeup of the weapons tested and the exact number."

But all this information is top-secret. Hardly to the Soviet Union. But to the American people. The U.S. government has gone to fantastic lengths to conceal information about the tests. Only last year the Atomic Energy Commission falsely reported results of its own underground test in Nevada. It claimed the explosion was detectable for only a few hundred miles, whereas in truth it was easily detectable at least as far away as Alaska.

The U.S. imperialists claim the Soviet Union is bluffing and will probably resume tests after the U.S. and Britain have completed theirs. In that case, anyone who isn't hell-bent for war might reasonably ask, "Why not call the bluff of the Soviet Union — if bluff you think it is?" If the U.S. and the British give up their test plans this spring, would it not be a devastating exposure of the Soviet Union if it resumed testing?

Lack the Desire

The U.S. could capture the peace banner that flies on top of the Kremlin. If the U.S. not only agreed to abandon nuclear tests, but also announced it would immediately end all production of nuclear bombs, scrap all its existing nuclear weapons and foreign bases, who then would accuse the U.S. of plans for war?

But it is not that the U.S. State Department lacks "idea men" and clever propagandists, it lacks a desire for peace. The record speaks clearly enough.

The United States was the first and only nation to drop atom bombs on people — after Japan had already sued for peace. It was the United States, not the Soviet Union, that devastated Korea with napalm bombs, threatened to use the A-bomb on Asians again, and ventured to the brink of war with China.

It was the United States that subsidized French imperialism's war in Indo-China and ventured again to the brink of war when the French forces proved unable to conquer the Vietnamese people. It is the United States that today subsidizes French imperialism's war against the people of Algeria. And finally it is the U.S. that has surrounded the Soviet Union with bomber bases, which are now being converted for rockets.

Labor Should Act

The Big Business rulers of this country cherish the capitalist system and its profits far more than peace. But the American people earnestly want peace. The trouble is that they have no say in foreign policy. If peace is to be won, the American people through their own organizations — primarily the labor movement — must intervene in the sphere of foreign policy which for all too long they have allowed to be a monopoly of the Big Business interests.

American Ruling Class Views Peace Move by Soviet as a "Tragedy"

By Harry Ring

APRIL 1 — World-wide opposition to nuclear testing registered a major advance with yesterday's announcement of the USSR's decision to halt its test explosions of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The Soviet action dealt a stunning new setback to the pro-war diplomacy of the U.S. government and its allies.

For two years Washington has defied global public opinion by refusing to accept Soviet offers of an agreement for a monitored ban on such tests. The present Soviet action puts Washington squarely on the spot — if the deadly tests continue, the entire world will know beyond doubt who is responsible.

MERCILESS PRESSURE

While the administration's initial reaction to the Moscow declaration appeared to be one of stiffened determination to keep the tests going, it actually is under merciless pressure now to consent to some kind of agreement to halt the tests. Several of the State Department's favored correspondents are knowingly predicting that following the scheduled April blasts in the Pacific, the U.S. may agree to a test suspension.

Meanwhile, the Capital is steeped in gloom over what it sees as a spectacular propaganda victory for the Soviet Union. "Propaganda A-Bomb," laments the headline in today's New York World-Telegram, "Russia undoubtedly will win world praise for her 'peace' gesture, while America appears stubborn and addicted to horror-bomb testing," the article continues.

The U.S. "has come into the propaganda arena with one eye, and like Carmen Basilio, it has taken a terrible beating," wrote James Reston in the New York Times. "This was the tragedy of Washington tonight as it tried to deal with the announcement . . ."

U.S. imperialism's difficulty in dealing with the Soviet announcement is not exaggerated. Around the globe, millions of people now recognize with

Halt This!



Filling the atmosphere with more radioactivity, the mushroom cloud from a U.S. test explosion billows toward the stratosphere.

alarm that radioactive fallout is a terrible menace to the health of humanity. And all of the bitter words about superior Soviet propaganda techniques cannot erase the fact that this particular piece of "propaganda" is not composed of mere words. The USSR has informed the world that it is giving up the atmosphere-poisoning tests. Nothing less than similar action by the U.S. and Great Britain can counteract that.

(Continued on Page 2)

Minneapolis Labor Holds Jobless Meet

By Tom Leonard

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24—The union movement has taken a positive step toward providing organized leadership for the unemployed in this city. Last Wednesday

over a thousand workers attended a public rally at F.D.R. Memorial Hall to deal with the growing unemployment in this area. The meeting was sponsored by the Hennepin County CIO Council, and, according to its chairman, St. Clair Beeman, it was endorsed by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and the local Teamsters.

Beginning March 10, leaflets announcing the meeting were distributed at the unemployment office in this city. Some 25,000 leaflets were distributed in the days preceding the rally. According to the Minneapolis Morning Tribune an estimated 135,000 workers are unemployed in Minnesota — about one-tenth of the state's labor force.

ITS PROGRAM

The program raised by the CIO Council to combat unemployment includes the demand that "unemployment compensation should be increased to a minimum of 39 weeks and payments increased to 50% of the individual's regular wage with a maximum of two-thirds of the state average wage." It called for an immediate surplus-food program, increase of the minimum wage, a two-month moratorium on federal withholding tax, increased Social Security benefits, and a liberalization of relief board policies.

Featured speaker at the meeting was Governor Orville Freeman (Democrat-Farmer Labor) who blamed everything on the Republican national administration.

CARDS SIGNED

Beeman informed the meeting that a temporary committee had been formed and that unemployed workers could get information locally regarding their personal problems by telephoning Beatrice Kirstin, CIO Representative on the Community Services Committee (FEderal 2-5275). Prior to the meeting, cards were distributed asking for names and addresses and comments on what to do about unemployment. Beeman informed the signers of these cards that they would be notified of any meetings held in the future.

Friends Respond to Appeal Of Socialist Expansion Fund

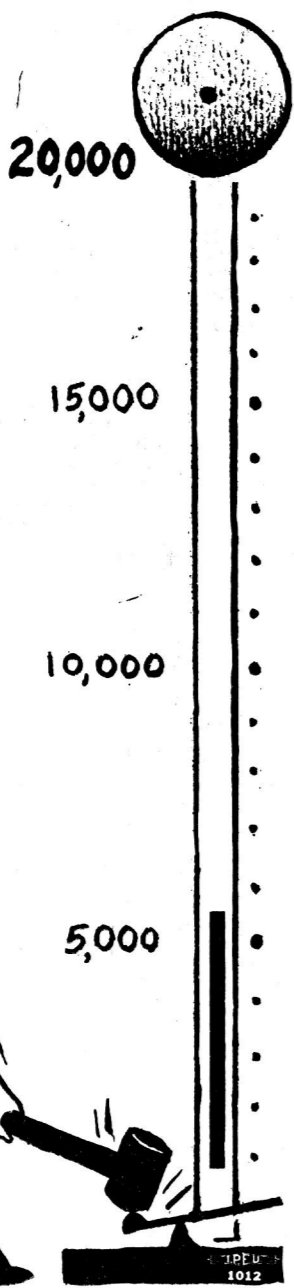
By Murry Weiss
National Fund Drive Director

APRIL 2 — The Socialist Workers Party is appealing to all its friends and sympathizers to pitch in and help raise a \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund this spring. At the one-third mark in the campaign, SWP branches have fulfilled 27% of their quotas. Despite the continued 8% lag, numerous assurances are coming in that the full quota will be raised by the May 31 deadline. A good part of these assurances are based on the conviction that friends of the party, including workers just becoming interested in socialism, will respond to this appeal. The experience of the first month of the drive seems to justify this expectation.

For example, Twin Cities Fund Director Fannie Curran writes: "We are circularizing our friends and sympathizers for funds in this campaign. We have already had very good success as we have collected \$142 from friends so far." This means that more than one-third the amount sent in thus far by the Twin Cities branch has come from these friends.

Many of the branches are planning Fund affairs to help raise money from circles beyond their membership. In our opinion such affairs provide the means for making the Fund Drive an important political activity where socialist-minded workers can gather together in a united and fraternal effort to expand the socialist movement in 1958.

The Buffalo branch is still leading the drive with 49% quota fulfillment. And the Detroit branch took a jump from seventh place to second during the last week. These are the two branches which are the hardest hit by unemployment and short work weeks! The Youngstown branch, which has suffered from

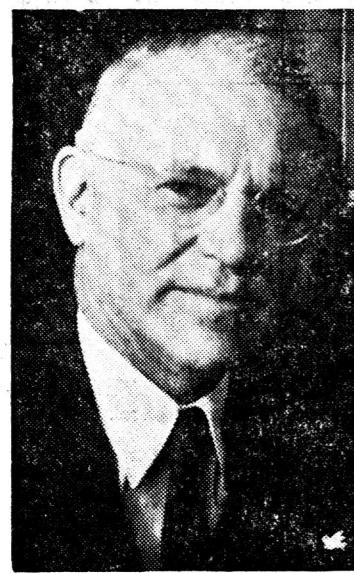


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Dr. Roberts Campaigns As Socialist in California

SAN FRANCISCO—Dr. Holland Roberts, noted West Coast educator, has entered the contest for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the June 3 California primary elections on an independent socialist basis. His candidacy has already won support from a wide range of socialist, liberal and union forces. Vincent Hallinan will act as state campaign manager.

Dr. Roberts' program calls for ending loyalty oaths and other witch-hunting devices and for using a big slice of the military budget to build more schools and pay higher salaries to teachers. He has declared that the Democratic and Republican parties are starving the schools and wasting the substance of the people. "Nothing less than a complete change of our economic and social system can save our schools from decay and our civilization from collapse," he concludes.



DR. HOLLAND ROBERTS

RECORD AS EDUCATOR

Dr. Roberts, a former Associate Professor of Education at Stanford University, has for 40 years been a stalwart fighter for progressive methods and freedom of thought in the educational system. He recently directed the California Labor School which was strangled by a noose held at one end by the Subversive Activities Control Board witch-hunters and at the other end by Treasury officials.

In a statement following the announcement of his candidacy, Dr. Roberts said:

"Our shattering crisis in American education is moral and economic. A society which pays out more every year for liquor and tobacco than for the education of its children is travelling down the road to national bankruptcy.

"The bipartisan administration in Washington is wasting the substance of the people in preparations to destroy our civilization. The 45 billion dollar budget voted to blow up the world at the command of the merchants of death is final proof of the senility of the Democratic and Republican parties.

They are offering the people only depression, death and destruction.

"American schools are starving and our children are being cheated of their birthright. Our ablest young people refuse to enter teaching, the profession without a future, and the most capable, experienced teachers are leaving to go into work that pays more than a bare living wage. Two hundred thousand children in California alone are in double and triple shifts. They are getting only a cut-down, half-day's schooling.

"For a time the decay of our once proud American school system could be covered with a curtain of words. Now Sputniks I and II have broadcast to the whole world the decadence of the political and financial leaders who dominate America today. They cannot evade responsibility for their actions. Their greed has laid the basis for their downfall.

"The Soviet Union is spending 10 percent of its national income for education as compared to two to three percent in the United States. I have observed Soviet schools and colleges at first hand and have talked with children and teach-

ers in Poland and Czechoslovakia. These countries dedicated to the building of socialism provide every possible advantage for their children and they are reaping the harvest of the world's most effective educational system.

PENNY-PINCHING

"Our country can do as well, but the time is late. We can have better schools with lower taxes if only one-fifth of the present war budget were used for building more schools and paying higher salaries to teachers.

"But Congress is proving every day that it is only pretending it will pay for a sound system of public schools. The plans for spending are miserly, the contradictions are deep, and the 10 billions the schools must have are already pledged to the war makers.

"The people of the United States will soon discover that nothing less than a complete change of our social and economic system will save our schools from decay and our civilization from collapse. As they face the struggle with monopoly for the education of their children, they will find that only a socialist America will safeguard their children. Only under socialism can we educate all our children up to the full development of their capabilities."

Dr. Roberts' program called for:

- 1) Efforts to secure 45,000 new qualified teachers for the state. He proposed a minimum salary range from \$5,000 a year at the beginning to \$10,000 after ten years of service. He also called for an end to "loyalty oaths" and other restrictions that discourage teachers from thinking independently.

- 2) The construction of 300 new schools in the state to relieve overcrowding and halt half-day sessions. "Let us put union men to work on building the 4,000 classrooms our children lack, with the necessary libraries, science laboratories and gymnasiums," he urged.



REV. JOSEPH P. KING, independent socialist candidate for Congress, 2nd District, Illinois.

Detroit Group Launches New Socialist Forum

DETROIT — A public symposium on "Disarmament, Coexistence and World Politics" will be held Thursday, April 10, 8 P.M., at the Central Methodist Church, Woodward and East Adams. It is sponsored by the United Detroit Forum, which recently ran a successful meeting for A. J. Muste, chairman of the American Forum for Socialist Education.

Although not affiliated with the American Forum, the United Detroit Forum shares its desire to encourage free and untrammelled discussion of all social problems. It has invited representatives of the various progressive and radical groups in Detroit to present their views at the April 10 symposium. The public is invited.

REMEMBER?

An article published by the United Auto Workers back in April, 1949, has the heading: "What's Wrong With Profit-Sharing Plans?" The article's answer says in part: "They undermine purchasing power when you need purchasing power most; they make workers pay for company mistakes; and they don't work."

Rev. King Steps Up Congressional Race

The united socialist campaign in Chicago's Second Congressional District for Rev. Joseph P. King, Pastor of the International Church and President of the Washington Park Forum, has gotten down to brass tacks. The organizing committee called a meeting on April 2 to plan the actual legwork of getting the required number of signatures to put an independent candidate on the ballot and to map out other practical campaign work.

To this meeting all socialist organizations in the Chicago area were invited by special letter. In it Rev. King wrote: "This is not to deny the existence of differences between the socialist tendencies. But fraternal cooperation and solidarity in practical action need not exclude differences of opinion, and does not exclude discussion and debate as we go along. But while we discuss our differences, we should also remember what we have in common as socialists and act together in support of it.

"We have said at the outset and we repeat: our campaign is an endeavor to unite the broadest socialist forces around a concrete issue.

"In our opinion it is not most important who or what party will contend with the parties of capitalism, although we believe that little can be accomplished without working-class party organization.

"What is uppermost today, in the forthcoming electoral contest is not who will provide socialist leadership — but the burning consciousness that socialist leadership must be provided. Certainly the capitalist liberals are not going to lead the way out of capitalist decay for the working class."

Another letter was sent to socialist and socialist-minded individuals in the Chicago area. They were invited to attend the organization meeting and to participate in the campaign.

The letter pointed out the encouraging progress made in little over a month since the idea of a united socialist campaign was broached. "Today we have a united sponsoring committee, a united program, a united candidate. These steps were endorsed at our last meeting March 13 at the Essex Community Church." It was also noted that the projected campaign had already received news coverage in four national publications — the National Guardian, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Militant and the Worker, as well as in a local newspaper, the Crusader.

OUTLINES PROGRAM

The letter then outlined salient points of the united socialist candidate's platform. Briefly these are: 1) Against the war program, for friendship and aid to the Soviet and Colonial peoples; 2) Against Jim Crow and police brutality; 3) Defense of witch-hunt victims, including Sobell, Green, Winston and Potash; 4) Abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

'Walkers for Peace' March 90 Miles to Protest A-Tests

NEW YORK, April 3 — Three hundred Walkers for Peace, 100 of whom will have walked as far as 90 miles from Philadelphia, will march down 42nd Street to the United Nations tomorrow morning. At the UN they will present a petition calling for an "immediate end to nuclear tests."

LEARN OF SOVIET BAN

The group had arrived in Princeton, N.J., last night where they learned of the announcement by the Soviet Union that it will halt nuclear tests. The Newark Evening News reported that the group was surprised at the news and quoted the Philadelphia coordinator of the march, Robert Luitweller, as commenting: "I am sorry that my country was not the first one to win in this great moral issue."

The marchers' petition is addressed to the Secretary General and the delegations of the UN member nations. It appeals "to the United Nations and member states to do everything possible to achieve an immediate end to nuclear weapons tests, both as a safety measure and as a step toward the abolition of war through effective world disarmament."

The marchers have been receiving newspaper publicity along their route and will undoubtedly attract much attention here as they proceed through Columbus Circle, down busy Broadway and across 42nd Street to the UN building.

Supporters of the group's aim ed and 47 wounded at that time. A company union was then set up but the workers eventually gained control of it and converted it into a local of the UAW. In 1952, after an election, the UAW local was certified as bargaining agent. It got a weak contract for one year and then Kohler refused to renew the agreement unless the union gave up the right to challenge firings by the company.

The 3700 workers struck in April 1954 for a new contract. They maintained mass picket lines — and a solid strike — until an injunction limited picketing. Then the company recruited scabs from other areas and resumed production. As the hope for a quick settlement waned, some of the workers returned to work. But about 2,000 are still on strike. Wages at Kohler are 60 cents to 70 cents per hour below those of competitors, all of whom are organized.

...Senate Bias Shown in Quiz

(Continued from Page 1)

the committee seats. Secondly, the committee chairman, John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas, voted with the Republicans in deciding the procedure to be followed in the Kohler hearings. The "liberal" Republican, Irving Ives of New York voted the same way.

In spite of the slanderous smears by the senators, the Kohler hearings failed to generate any genuine public indignation against the UAW. This is a hopeful sign. The committee was able to create considerable anti-union sentiment with its earlier exposures of "sweatheart contracts" and the pilfering of union funds, but the bulk of American public opinion apparently doesn't think mass picketing by strikers trying to protect their jobs is quite as bad as the senators pretend it is.

THE KOHLER STORY

Union spokesmen at the hearings also managed to get into the record some of the brutal story of the Kohler management. The company, which manufactures plumbing fixtures and bathtubs, is located in Kohler, Wisconsin, a company-owned and operated town near Sheboygan. The company broke the first strike of its employees in 1934 by shooting down strikers. Two pickets were killed

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
BUFFALO	\$1500	\$730.00	49
DETROIT	825	295.50	36
Youngstown	300	100.00	33
Cleveland	750	239.10	32
Newark	265	86.00	32
Los Angeles	4600	1407.00	31
Chicago	1716	475.00	28
New York	5000	1386.74	28
St. Louis	80	20.00	25
Seattle	550	125.00	23
Twin Cities	1742	374.50	21
Milwaukee	300	55.00	18
Allentown	112	15.00	13
South	200	25.00	13
Boston	600	45.00	8
Philadelphia	528	31.50	6
Denver	40	—	—
Oakland	265	—	—
Pittsburgh	10	—	—
San Francisco	440	—	—
General	177	25.00	14
Totals through April 1	\$20,000	\$5,435.34	27

... Friends Aid Fund

(Continued from Page 1)

many months of depression in the steel industry, is in third place.

Thus the branches which have the toughest problem are leading the way, providing both an inspiration and example to the others.

READY TO LISTEN

More people want to hear what socialists have to say about war and peace, about depression and how we can build a future of peace and abundance. The SWP has proposed that socialists unite to present a ballot alternative to the two capitalist parties in the 1958 elections. (See stories from California and Illinois on this page.)

One often hears that socialists should break out of their isolated existence and their tendency to talk exclusively with one another and get their message before more people. That's exactly what the movement for a United Socialist Ticket aims to accomplish.

In the 1958 elections socialists can go before the American people, united by their opposition to capitalism, the war drive, the depression, Jim Crow, the witch hunt, the broken-down and impoverished school system, slums and heavy taxes on the lowest incomes and spell out a concrete program for the socialist answer to these plagues.

CAN REACH MILLIONS

Socialist candidates can reach millions of people who have never heard a first-hand exposition of the socialist program. Tens of thousands of new friends could be recruited to socialism and we could begin in earnest to transform the socialist movement in the United States from its present shattered and ineffective state into a vigorous and influential force in American life.

These are the objectives of the Socialist Expansion Fund. If you want to support these objectives send your contribution to the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, New York.

Calendar of Events

NEW YORK
Patrick Hehir, Transport Workers Union militant witch-hunted out of his job, will tell his story, Friday, April 11, 8 P.M. Contribution 50¢, free to unemployed. Auspices: Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place.

TWIN CITIES
"Struggle for Algerian Independence." Speaker: W. Z. Brust. Friday, April 11, 8 P.M. 322 Hennepin Ave., Minn., Auspices: Twin Cities Labor Forum.

CHICAGO
Sunday, April 13, 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. "What kind of a party can lead to socialism?" Speaker: Howard Mayhew, Chicago organizer Socialist Workers Party. Auspices: Washington Park Forum, 306 E. 43rd St., Second Floor. Admission free.

MILWAUKEE
The Cuban Revolution — speaker: F. Fernandez, student representative of the Cuban Revolutionary Directorate. Friday, April 11, 8:15 P.M. Auspices: Militant Labor Forum, 777 W. Adams.

New York
PATRICK HEHIR
Veteran Trade Union Militant, Witch-Hunted From His Job by the N.Y. Transit Authority Will Tell His Story
Friday, April 11 8 P.M.
116 University Place
Auspices: Militant Labor Forum
Contribution 50¢ Unemployed Free

We're Mobilized for Freedom!!
WANTED: You and all your friends.
FOR: Reaching signers with our appeal to the President on behalf of Morton Sobell.
JUSTICE: Depends on you — join us
NOW: Every Saturday — 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Sunday — 1:30 to 4 P.M. At the L. A. Sobell Committee Office, 462 No. Western Ave., Suite 3 Hollywood 4-4725

...Soviet Move Jolts Washington

(Continued from Page 1)

The fact that the Kremlin decision coincides with deep-rooted mass sentiment is most dramatically shown in the anti-bomb developments in England. There the "ban-the-bomb" movement has swelled to the point where it is the central, overriding issue of British politics. In recent months three by-elections were decided by this question, with heavy majorities casting their ballots for Labor and Liberal candidates who advocated a halt to the tests.

An accurate reflection of the feelings of the British labor movement was given when the Daily Herald, long the voice of the right wing of the Labor Party, called for unilateral suspension by Britain of the tests

and a halt to the production of nuclear weapons. Then came the stand of the Liverpool Trades and Labor Council in opposition to the building of U.S. rocket bases in Britain and in support of any workers who refused to work on such construction.

Similar sentiments are held by the ranks of labor in West Germany. They were voiced at a March 23 meeting where Erich Ollenhauer, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, declared he favored a general strike to upset the Bonn government's decision to accept nuclear arms from the U.S. His stand was greeted with roars of approval.

In this country, anti-test sentiment is growing more manifest despite the failure of the

labor officialdom to spark a movement on the issue. Independent scientists are conducting a vigorous exposure of the sinister efforts of the Atomic Energy Commission to justify continued testing by falsifying results. Already, several thousand U.S. scientists have demanded a test ban.

These are all factors which give the Soviet action the character of "a propaganda A-bomb."

SMALL CONCESSION

While the State Department is going through the motions of marshaling fake arguments to belittle the Soviet decision, it nevertheless has already been compelled to make a grudging concession to the popular demand for an end to the cold war. This was embodied in the

coordinated diplomatic messages delivered to the Kremlin yesterday on the projected summit conference toward which the U.S. is being so reluctantly drawn.

Presented in the names of France, Great Britain and the U.S., the notes had been composed in anticipation of the Soviet nuclear test announcement and represent a retreat from the original conditions laid down by Washington. As part of its strategy for delaying or even avoiding such a heads-of-governments conference, the U.S. had originally insisted that it would not participate in such a gathering unless a prior meeting of foreign ministers had arrived at substantial agreement on the issues to be negotiated at the "summit."

However, yesterday's notes yielded some by declaring, "It would not be the purpose of these preparatory talks to reach decisions but to bring out, by general discussions, the possibilities of agreement."

This does not mean that the State Department has decided to give in to the steadily growing anti-war sentiment. All of the tactical steps in its bi-partisan foreign policy proceed from the basic premise of eventual war against the Soviet Union for domination of the world by Wall Street. Essential to that policy is the need to mask reality, i.e., to make the drive toward war appear as a campaign for peace.

DECEPTION FAILED

The present crisis of U.S. foreign policy springs from the ignominious failure of this attempted deception. On every continent great masses of people today correctly regard U.S. imperialism as the fomenting of the cold war and the potential instigator of a global holocaust. U.S. resistance to a ban on nuclear tests deepens this conviction.

This leaves the Big-Business government in an intolerable contradiction. To shake off somewhat the onus of being the source of the war danger, it must make concessions to world peace sentiment. At the same time it will know that such concessions only strengthen and advance the movement for peace. That is why it finds itself in the situation unhappily described by the March 30 New York Times: "No matter how it turns its policies, Washington finds itself reeling from reverse to reverse on the propaganda front."

... Khrushchev Takes Bulganin Job

(Continued from Page 1)

which as party secretary Khrushchev had well packed. This audacious move succeeded because backing Khrushchev was Marshal Zhukov, ready to use the armed forces that he headed.

Khrushchev immediately expelled the organizers of the abortive political coup against him. But Bulganin, the "waverer," was simply listed for later punishment. To make the situation clear, giving notice to members of Bulganin's own machine inside the bureaucracy that the time had come to seek other protectors, Khrushchev first imposed a virtual news blackout on the premier for a week and ordered his public role diminished. But for the while that was all. For Khrushchev had really serious work to attend to — the removal of Zhukov, an aggressive, popular and potential challenger. This was successfully accomplished last October.

DONE "CORRECTLY"

Bulganin's removal was left till this spring, to be brought about by the "constitutional" and "democratic" device of not "re-electing" him. In the elections to the Supreme Soviet, Bulganin, previously a candidate from Moscow, was this time unexplainedly a candidate from an unimportant area in the northern Caucasus. Moreover, he received the fewest "nominations" (marks of bureaucratic honor) of any of the 15 members of the party praesi-

dium. Khrushchev, of course, received the most. Thus officially Bulganin was not purged from the premiership, he simply failed of re-election because he had lost "popularity."

His punishment — demotion to head of the State Bank — is less, as was his "crime," than the banishment to the furthest reaches of the USSR of Molotov, Malenkov and Kaganovich. In the whole Bulgarian episode Khrushchev has achieved a number of propaganda ends: setting an example to tighten discipline in the bureaucracy, showing the people that he is not another Stalin in cruelty but on the contrary has a great regard for the forms of "Soviet legality."

Khrushchev's assumption of the premiership in addition to his secretaryship of the party definitively ends the period of "collective leadership." That was the name which the heads of the various sections of the Soviet bureaucracy gave to the situation in which they found themselves upon Stalin's death. They tried to make a virtue of necessity by publicly painting their "collective leadership," the result of unresolved contradictions and rivalries within the bureaucracy, as a step away from Stalinist tyranny towards democratization.

NEEDS ARBITER

But the inner logic of bureaucratic rule is toward one-man dictatorship. Having expropriated the masses politically, the privileged bureaucrats

have been unable to establish an orderly and stable system for resolving the disputes that arise among them. For, in addition to personal and clique rivalries, all the material contradictions within Soviet society find a distorted expression in the conflicts between the various groupings in the bureaucracy. Thus the bureaucracy needs a super-arbiter to resolve its conflicts and to maintain united its strength to smash back the masses should they try to reclaim their economic and political rights.

Since only Stalin simultaneously held the two top posts Khrushchev has arrogated to himself (not counting Malenkov who for a few weeks, many commentators are shouting that Khrushchev will now be another Stalin. But they overlook the most important factor — the difference between the Soviet working class in Stalin's day and now. Stalin could destroy Soviet democracy because the small Soviet working class had been bled white in revolution and civil war and discouraged by the defeats of socialism abroad. The Soviet working class today has grown tremendously in numbers and education. It is spurred on by revolutionary developments abroad and its appetite has already been whetted by concessions wrung from the bureaucracy. It will have the determining say in the matter.

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24-Hr. Strike in West Germany Biggest in Country Since 1920

By Hans Jochen

The biggest walkout since the General Strike of 1920 took place in Adenauer's West Germany and in West Berlin on Wednesday, March 19. The union, representing

a quarter of a million municipal-transport and public-service workers, called a 24-hour warning-strike to strengthen its hand in deadlocked negotiations with the cities over a meager five to seven cents-an-hour wage increase. The strike call met with the solid support of the workers.

Many additional workers were idle on that Wednesday because the supply of gas, water and electricity was kept down by the strikers to the level normal on Sundays and thus quite inadequate for the operation of large industrial concerns. The Continental Tire Company with 10,000 employees in Hanover was forced to close for the day and the Howaldt Shipyards in Kiel with some 13,000 workers was shut down. With municipal bus drivers and

for the West German capitalist class were the messages of solidarity sent to the strikers by a number of unions. Among these was a greeting and pledge of support from the million-strong, white collar, civil-service workers' organization. Even more ominous for the employers was the support promised by I. G. Metal, the union covering all metal workers in West Germany. This union, with close to two million members, is the largest in the country and has a reputation for militancy. Its negotiations on behalf of 125,000 steel workers in the Ruhr are coming to a head and there is a good chance that a strike will be required. Thus there is a possibility that a repetition of the municipal workers' walkout and a strike of the steel workers may hit at the same time.

LESS TAKE-HOME

I. G. Metal points out that production in the industry and the productivity per worker increased through 1957 in spite of the fact that the work week was reduced to 45 hours. This meant a wage cut for the workers and higher profits for the companies. Negotiations for a 10% increase in take-home pay and further reduction of the work week to 44 hours have dragged out since the end of last year.

At that time steel workers in many parts of West Germany staged big demonstrations during working hours. In Stuttgart, for example, last November 15 about 40,000 metal workers gathered in the center of town to demand concessions from the companies. Nothing has come of it so far and feeling is running high.

West German workers are showing that they have new confidence in their union organizations and in their own strength.

CLASSROOM SHORTAGE

Because of the classroom shortage many American children are being taught in corridors, cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, rented store buildings, etc.

Road to Democracy In USSR Discussed By Socialist Review

In the spring issue of International Socialist Review, just off the press and on the newsstands, Joseph Hansen discusses "Proposed Roads to Soviet Democracy." Dis-

tion, in which supreme power is transferred from its present possessors to the people is the only realistic way of democratizing the Soviet Union."

The main burden of the article is an examination of the reform and political revolution arguments. The reform course would undoubtedly be the smoothest, most economical and safest road for the Soviet Union to travel, Hansen says.

Furthermore, in the course of applying pressure on the bureaucracy, the masses can win important reforms. But Hansen points to the social and economic roots of the bureaucracy, which he believes, lead it to resist fundamental change thus forcing the masses to eventually adopt a revolutionary course.

He holds that the differences are over strategic estimates, which socialists should continue to discuss in the light of unfolding events. At the same time, because they pursue the common goal of Soviet democracy, those who belong to the reform and to the political-revolution schools of thought can and should work together in promoting concrete democratization measures.

Another fine piece of analysis in the spring issue of ISR is contained in Arne Swaback's "The 'Recession' Deepens." Why Eisenhower's prediction of a March upturn fell flat on its face is explained in context of a review of the basic causes of the economic slump.

The issue is rounded out in stimulating fashion with an editorial on united socialist electoral action, Harry Ring's study of the struggle in the Communist Party during the last two years, M. Bernz' "The Politics of Soviet Music" and reviews of five new books about revolutionary China.

—Daniel Roberts

Neutral on Batista's Side

The U.S. Information Agency spends millions of dollars trying to convince the world that Washington, above all else, favors freedom. One small act beyond the three-mile limit off the coast of Texas gives the lie to this claim.

The arrest of 35 young men in the Gulf of Mexico on charges of violating the Neutrality Act for embarking on a voyage to Cuba to aid the struggle against dictator Batista speaks louder than all the propaganda issued from Washington. These men are now on a hunger strike in protest against U.S. aid to the Cuban tyrant. They want freedom more than they want food. Their fight for freedom encountered the opposition, not the help, of the U.S. government.

The Neutrality Act, under which 35 freedom fighters were arrested, has little to do with keeping the U.S. neutral in the Cuban revolt. For the U.S. is not neutral — it supplies economic, financial and military aid to Batista. The Neutrality Act is taken out of the files and dusted off for use only against the revolutionists.

It will be recalled that this Neutrality Act was passed just prior to World War II. One might say that it helped prepare the way for that war. It was applied first to prevent American workers from send-

ing aid to the embattled Spanish workers fighting to prevent the fascists from seizing power.

The Big Business government was then "neutral" in favor of Franco. Today Washington, while showering him with money and arms, keeps his regime afloat as a bulwark of the "free world."

The U.S. labor movement should immediately protest the arrests in Brownsville, Texas, and other parts of the U.S., of Cubans and Americans opposed to Batista. Cuban unions have already appealed to the powerful labor movement of the United States for solidarity in this struggle.

The International Labor Organization, in which the AFL-CIO is represented, has intervened in the Cuban struggle to the extent of demanding from the Cuban government "as a matter of extreme urgency" precise information concerning the deaths of certain labor leaders. The ILO also noted that police and military intervention in union meetings "is contrary to freedom of association."

But this is not enough. The AFL-CIO should take the lead in demanding that Washington immediately end its policy of propping up Batista and imprisoning his opponents.

The Crime Against Labor's Daily

The AFL-CIO numbers more than 13 million members. Treasuries of its larger international unions contain millions of dollars. Yet after five and a half years of precarious existence, Labor's Daily, the lone daily voice of organized American labor, died March 29 for lack of funds.

The responsibility for this shameful fact was placed right where it belongs by one letter writer to the final issue of the paper. He declared that the death of Labor's Daily constitutes "an indictment of the leadership of the American labor movement."

Death did not come suddenly to Labor's Daily. Union officials had ample warning of its financial plight and the fact that they did not come to its aid can only mean that they did not want to.

More than a year ago the International Typographical Union, which founded Labor's Daily, warned the union movement that it could not continue to carry the full financial burden of its publication and that if assistance were not forthcoming the paper would have to cease publication.

Last December the AFL-CIO General Board set up a subcommittee which was supposed to enlist union support for the paper. But with the honorable exception of a handful of the smaller international unions, no pledges of support were made. Seven unions pledged to invest capital in the paper. They were the International Union of Electric Workers; United Packinghouse Workers; Upholsterers; State, County and Municipal Employees; Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers; United Papermakers and Paper Workers and the Hosiery Workers. Four even smaller unions pledged subscriptions to the paper.

Why did such large and wealthy unions as the United Auto Workers, for example, fail to come to the aid of Labor's Daily? We cite the example of this particular international union because its president, Walter Reuther, has over the years been among the most talkative about the need for expanding workers education and the need to counterattack the anti-union propaganda of the daily press.

Another letter of farewell to Labor's Daily suggested the answer. It said: "The evidence would indicate that Labor's Daily was too good for union leaders who prefer adulatory house organs to a free militant newspaper."

To this another letter writer bitterly added: "I hope that as long as I live that I shall never hear another labor leader make the pious ritual that he is not getting a fair deal in the commercial press and that what 'we need is our own daily labor publication'. . . The obvious alternative to this, of course, is to get labor's side before the public . . . namely, through its daily newspaper — and I don't mean house organ — I mean a militant and honest daily newspaper that could report the news straight and also serve as a valuable weapon in strike situations."

There can be no argument that Labor's Daily did its best to fill this prescription. Operating within the framework of AFL-CIO policy it tried to cover all of the news of importance and interest to labor. Unlike the AFL-CIO officialdom, it refused to take a narrow, factional approach to labor developments and covered the news about independent unions as fairly as it did that of AFL-CIO unions.

Also, unlike the top union bureaucrats, it took an unequivocal stand in support of civil liberties and civil rights. And, unlike the weekly or monthly publications of most international unions, it was not an "adulatory house organ." It was for these reasons that union bureaucrats, concerned above all else with privileges and prestige, permitted such a necessary instrument of the working class as Labor's Daily to die.

In its final editorial, Labor's Daily stated: "We are firmly convinced that future labor historians will be better able to assay its accomplishments and analyze its potentialities than today's labor leaders."

To this can be added the certainty that the assessment will include a condemnation of those responsible for the death of Labor's Daily and a warm tribute to the pioneer efforts that went into the paper's all too brief history.



West German steel workers are reported preparing to declare a strike to win their wage demands. Above is a scene at a metal plant in Munich during a 1954 strike on wages that embraced 220,000 Bavarian workers. Nine persons were injured as cops tried to run in scabs.

A Witch-Hunt Victim Tells His Story

By Myra Tanner Weiss

Patrick Hehir wouldn't be a "carey" (this, I learned, is an old Irish term for stoolpigeon) and so he lost his job in the New York City subway. He was fired just a short time before he would have been eligible for a pension.

The witch hunt has victimized many people throughout the land. It has punished people for their ideas — not for crimes committed. It has punished people for their associations. And it has punished them simply because they wouldn't point an accusing finger, name names and involve others in the inquisition.

\$\$\$ PATRIOTS

There once was a time in America when stoolpigeons were looked upon as a scummy lot. A man who would point his finger to save his own miserable skin was regarded with contempt. But today the witch hunters call their stool-pigeons "cooperative witnesses," hail them as "patriots" entitled to rich rewards. Faced with a man of honor, who doesn't place his own skin or comfort first, the witch hunters try to crush him into the dust.

America's reactionary inquisition has carried in its wake grief and misery to many thousands. Fortunately many of those who were hit were young and healthy. They could move to a new town or find a new job and start all over again.

But not so for Patrick Hehir. He is no longer a young man. He is a grandfather. Moreover, he no longer has his health. Long ago he was stricken with tuberculosis. And since, there have been other complications, making it difficult for him to breathe. When he was fired—without trial or witnesses or evidence, he was left with no income, with nothing, save his great dignity, his integrity and his honor.

Patrick Hehir is an old Sinn Feiner, a rebel among the Irish against the English masters. He told me how his father, a locomotive engineer in the old country, had been fired from his job for refusing to work a train carrying armed British troops. Others followed his father's example, but his father, Daniel Hehir, was the first to strike.

"I arrived in America in 1925," Patrick Hehir told me, "and started to look for a job in New York. When I applied for work in a structural iron shop, I showed the foreman my Irish union card. I got my first lesson in the conditions in which

the American workers labored. The foreman turned red in the face, pushed me and hollered at the top of his voice, 'Get the hell out of here. This is an open shop.'

BEGAN JOB IN 1926

"I worked for the subways for 29 years. I was in the hospital for about a year in 1939 but I was reinstated on my job and later qualified for civil service when the city took over the system. If I hadn't been fired I should now be getting at least the civil service disability pension amounting to about \$11.88 a week."

Hehir was fired under the New York Security Risk Law. The actual charge was insubordination, which, as he recounts, came about as follows. "In 1954 my wife and I went back to the old country for a visit. We always planned that trip. And we finally managed to go. As it turned out, it was a sad affair for my mother was dying. She died without regaining consciousness so there were no goodbyes."

"When we returned to New York the FBI was at my door. I was hauled before Peter Brown, Mayor Wagner's appointed Commissioner of Investigation, three investigators and a stenographer. They gave me a spiel about how I should cooperate and so forth. Then they asked me if I was a member of the Communist Party. I told them I wasn't. 'Were you ever a Communist?' That was the second question. But the law allows them to investigate only present affiliations. So I answered, 'No, I am not a member of the Communist Party.'

"A union lawyer by the name of Schwartz at this point asked for a postponement of the record. So the stenographer stopped taking notes. It was suggested that I have a little conference with the union lawyer and I was reminded that I had a wife and children. I just told them I didn't want any conference with Schwartz. Then I was told to go back to work and return in a week or two.

"Toward the end of February I was called up again by the Transit Authority. Edward T. McNally conducted the interrogation. The set-up was about the same as the first time—but

POISON GAS

Morocco's Army of Liberation charged on Feb. 25, that French and Spanish forces had used poison gas and killed 600 civilians in the desolate Sahara.

they seemed to be in more of a hurry. 'Patty,' said McNally, 'I can't understand your being mixed up in a thing like this.' NO SOFT SPIEL

"I was sworn in. Then I asked, 'Aren't you going to give me a spiel about why I'm here?' But they had no time for friendly advice and reminders about my family. I was asked the same questions and I gave the same answers.

"Then I said, 'Let's postpone the record.' That's what the lawyer had said on my first visit. It stopped things then, so I tried it again. It worked. Proceedings stopped and they asked me why I wouldn't answer the second question. Was I afraid of violence? Or of losing my job? And again I explained that I had already answered the only question they had any right to ask me."

Patrick Hehir hasn't done anything he's ashamed to talk about. He hasn't even thought anything he's ashamed to talk about. Like everyone else he's probably made his share of errors and been wrong on many things. He's probably been right more often than others. But his inquisitors weren't interested in opinions, past or present. They were interested in names. But how could a man like Hehir, with his history, with his self-respect, pay such a price for his job? To ask the question is to answer it.

So Patrick Hehir went to work as a subway trowman for the last time on March 4, 1955. Not long after he went to the hospital again—this time for five months.

There are a few questions

that we, the fellow workers of Patrick Hehir, must ask ourselves. Who is responsible for discarding this proud and militant member of our class? Who gets the credit for doing this union warrior out of his last years of security and rest? WHO GETS CREDIT?

Was it the "great friend of labor," the honorable Mayor Robert F. Wagner, who appointed the snooper-in-chief? Does he get the credit for doing a sick subway worker out of a tiny disability pension? Or should the credit go to the millionaire governor of the state, Averill E. Harriman, who renewed the Security Risk Law, under which Patty Hehir was robbed of his rights, despite widespread pleas to let the odious law expire?

Hehir joined the Transport Workers Union early in 1936. The first TWU book in the Towerman's Section was issued to him. What has TWU President Mr. Michael Quill done to see that a member, with 29 years on the job and a safety record to be proud of, gets the pension his work had earned for him?

Patrick Hehir told me of a visit he made to the union office in Brooklyn. "Can you imagine it? On the door of an organizer's office 'Mr.' is printed before the name. A union organizer is a 'Mister.'" He repeated incredulously.

MICH. LABOR BODIES UNITE

The Michigan State CIO merged with a substantial section of the AFL Feb. 24, two years after the national unification of the two labor bodies.

Program to Fight Unemployment

- (1) Organization of the unemployed by the labor movement. For union unemployed committees to fight their jobless members' grievances on rehiring, unemployment compensation, rent, mortgage and installment payments, relief, etc.
- (2) Unemployment compensation to all jobless for the entire period of unemployment at trade-union wages.
- (3) A 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay to be the number one demand of all unions in contract negotiations. Amend federal and state wage-and-hours laws to include 30-for-40.
- (4) A giant public works program at trade-union wages to build all the schools, hospitals, low-cost housing, highways and other useful and peaceful construction needed in this country today.
- (5) Union action and FEP laws to prevent discrimination in layoffs, rehiring, unemployment compensation, public-works hiring, relief, etc.
- (6) A debt moratorium for the unemployed. No evictions or foreclosures on homes, autos or appliances.
- (7) No taxes on yearly incomes of \$7,500 or less. End withholding and sales taxes to restore workers' purchasing power. Tax the rich and the corporations.
- (8) Build a Labor Party based on the unions in alliance with minority peoples and working farmers.

Indian Socialist Urges Book of Gray Cartoons

A project is underway to publish a selection of the cartoons of Laura Gray in book form. This proposal was raised at the Jan. 16 memorial meeting held in New York City shortly after Laura Gray's death. Over \$350 was pledged for the project at that time and some contributions have been received since.

It is estimated that a minimum of \$2,000 will be required to publish a suitable memorial edition of Laura Gray's cartoons. Each person donating \$5.00 or more will be entitled to receive a copy of the book. Donations should be sent to: Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

The Militant continues to receive messages of condolence over Laura's death. The following letter, dated March 24, is from Calcutta, India: "The latest mail of the Mil-

litan gave us the rudest shock in years. It is really difficult to imagine that Comrade Laura Gray is no more and that we would no longer find her inspiring and entertaining cartoons in the pages of the Militant. Although separated by a long distance, we felt we knew her intimately through our long acquaintance with her cartoons, some of which were also reproduced in our organs here. All our comrades grieve this loss as that of one of their dearest ones.

"We dip our banner in memory of this all-sacrificing revolutionary artist. We also heartily congratulate you on your decision to bring out a compilation of her cartoons, which will be a unique guide to political education for the younger generation."

(signed) K. Bhattacharyya

Local Directory

- BOSTON: Workers Educational Center, Gainsborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave. Meetings: Tues. nights.
- BUFFALO: Militant Forum, 831 Main St.
- CHICAGO: Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736.
- CLEVELAND: Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9.
- DETROIT: Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.
- LOS ANGELES: Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M.
- MILWAUKEE: 150 East Juneau Ave.
- MINNEAPOLIS: Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays.
- NEWARK: Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J.
- NEW YORK CITY: Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852.
- OAKLAND-BERKELEY: P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif.
- PHILADELPHIA: Militant Labor Forum and Campaign Hqtrs. Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave.
- SAN FRANCISCO: The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Open Wed. 4-6 P.M.; Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.
- SEATTLE: 655 Main St., Mutual 7139. ST. LOUIS: For information phone MO 4-7194.

The Negro Struggle

By John Thayer

Are Jobs and Civil Rights in Conflict?

The March 29 Philadelphia Tribune prints an article of widely-syndicated columnist Dean Gordon B. Hancock, under the heading "Dilemma: Vote Jim Crow Out, or Depression In?"

The gist of Dean Hancock's argument is stated thus: "So when Negroes vote the Republican ticket they indirectly vote in depression. Come when they will, depressions work a harder handicap on the poor masses, among whom the greater number of Negroes is to be found. On the other hand when the Negroes vote the Democratic ticket, they vote into power Southern rule of the nation."

The article makes a number of acute observations — "under the Republican administration efforts are obviously being made to throw labor for a loss" and "every Negro vote given the Democratic party is a vote for the perpetuation of Southern rule in Congress." Nevertheless the dilemma that it sets up — whether to vote against Jim Crow and for depression (Republican) or against depression and for Jim Crow (Democratic) — is invalid.

Things are hard enough as is. It would truly be a hopeless situation if the Negro people were limited to the either-or stated above. Then the decision would be whether to go hungry while voting for equal rights or to vote against civil rights in order to feed oneself and one's children. It would set up in each Negro a war between the needs of the flesh and the needs of the spirit.

But that isn't the situation at all. The Republican Party, first of all, is not against Jim Crow. When Republican majorities controlled Congress they made anti-civil rights deals with the Southern Democrats. Republican efforts to build a lily-white party in the South, the conduct

of those few Republicans who have got elected in North Carolina and Florida, as well as the metamorphosis of Dixiecrats into Democrats — for — Eisenhower, show where Republicanism really stands on racism.

As for the Democrats being the Party to restore prosperity, this legend nurtured by the Democratic politicians and their allies among the labor bureaucrats, is also false. The memory of depressions which began under Democratic presidents, for instance Grover Cleveland, has faded. For this generation's great depression experience is identified with the Hoover administration. But it was only a matter of luck for the Democrats that Al Smith wasn't elected in 1928 to preside over that great capitalist crash.

As a matter of fact, the economy which Roosevelt pronounced cured early in 1937 collapsed a few months later into the "recession" from which time dates popular use of that word. Only the war orders which began in 1939 brought "prosperity" back to the capitalist system. In 1949-50 under Truman we saw a recession in which unemployment reached five million, almost what it is officially said to be today. Truman's "police action" in Korea restored the capitalist boom.

Actually when Negroes vote either Democratic or Republican they are voting for Jim Crow and inevitable depressions — for they are voting for the parties of capitalism. And American capitalism bears within itself the causes of color discrimination and of economic suffering for the masses.

Is it possible to vote against Jim Crow and against depression at the same time? Sure, but that means voting Socialist — and it's a good idea.

UAW Skilled Trades Debate 'Profit-Sharing'

By Joe Davis

CHICAGO — The Skilled Trades Conference of the United Auto Workers held its sixth annual meeting here over the weekend of March 1. Limited to advisory powers, the Conference can only make recommendations to the UAW Executive Board.

Heated discussion on the resolution on wage demands lasted for two-and-a-half hours. The resolution plugged UAW President Reuther's "profit-sharing" plan plus "an across-the-board wage increase based on a realistic assessment of productivity rises under full employment conditions." Many delegates rose in opposition to this latter clause. They proposed that the union demand a specific figure or a minimum hourly figure for skilled trades. It was also argued that "full employment conditions" do not exist today thus weakening the already vague demand.

Despite the gavel-pounding of Richard Gosser, Director of the Skilled Trades Department, and his half-hour vehement speech for the Reuther profit-sharing plan and productivity gimmick, only 60% of the vote could be mustered for it.

A lengthy resolution on political action boiled down to "keep on doing what we're doing." One delegate expressed the desire that labor would give political "leadership" by running its own independent candidates.

Letters from Readers

Some Observations About the South

Editor:

A few comments about the South: On a newscast on March 11, there was a report about a prison riot in Tennessee. The same appeared in the next day's papers. The prisoners had a chance to air their grievances to the proper authorities and won all their demands except a five-day week in the mines (probably coal) and to abolish the strap (that is, the whip). Texas abolished whipping prisoners some years ago. Probably the South has the worst prison system in the world. Ever read Scottsboro Boy or Rock Bottom? Both are in pocket-book editions.

Another thing, the juvenile courts in many cities deal in a high-handed way with a family's life. Especially with the poor and uneducated. If you ask your readers to write about the cases they know of or experienced, you'd get replies by the score.

Among the poor, people marry young in the South — 15 or 16-year-old parents are common. There are also many illiterates or people hardly able to read or write. More people make an "X" for their signature than is spoken of or advertised.

The radical religious sects flourish among the poor, and as drab and bleak as their lives are, self-imposed restrictions are added like no movies or lipstick. Big wheel religion-

ists are lionized and have made millions by writing books or handing out advice. Faith healers especially hit the jack pot.

Mrs. T. L. Dallas, Texas

Expressing His Views in Verse

Life's Battles

The years have come and gone In the battles of our class Added to the score one by one Have made the history of our past

Years of poverty, years of toil Triumph of hard-won victory The bitterness of defeat The handclasp of a shopmate And the poor tiller of the soil Now advancing in common struggle

Now forced grudgingly to retreat But have added knowledge to our store One day we will win the final battle

Poverty and ignorance will be no more Black and white united in all lands We hold mankind's freedom in our hands.

Jack Wright Seattle

WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY

In the past five years hourly wages of factory workers went up about 20% but the rise in the workers' productivity increased so in the same period that the labor cost for each production unit went up only 2% according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

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THE MILITANT

Fallout Made It a Death Ship

THE VOYAGE OF THE LUCKY DRAGON. By Ralph E. Lapp. 200 pp. New York: Harper & Bros., 1958. \$3.50. Reviewed by David Dreiser

On March 2, 1954 the Atomic Energy Commission announced that the day before an atomic device had been detonated in the Marshall Islands, as the first in a series of tests. Actually this "device" was the most devastating explosion ever created by man, equal to 15 million tons of TNT and thousands of times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

A boiling cloud rose seventeen miles in the sky and by weather prediction was supposed to blow north, but instead blew east and south dumping fallout material on inhabitants of the Marshall Islands and on American personnel. Although measures were taken to decontaminate and protect these known victims, apparently no effort was made to warn vessels in the area by radio or air search. Obviously, if any ships were in the fallout area their crews were in great danger unless warned and advised in decontamination procedure.

The curt announcement by the AEC made no mention of an accident. Evidently, officials of the AEC, accustomed to clam-like security in all matters, hoped that somehow the "secret" of their error would get by undiscovered.

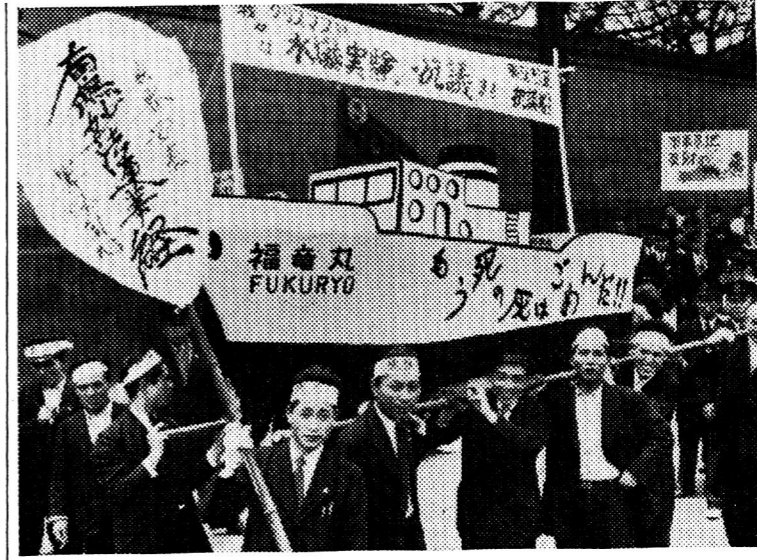
However, 85 miles to the east of Bikini and well outside the restricted area lay a Japanese fishing boat and its 23-

man crew peacefully fishing. Early on the morning of March 1 the sky was suddenly lit up as if by the sun rising in the west. Soon the decks were dusted with a whitish ash that fell from the sky. The men generally concluded that they had witnessed an atomic explosion but were certain that they were too far away to be harmed. They did not connect the ash with the explosion in any way.

2 WEEKS EXPOSURE

They did not report their experience by radio to their home port of Yaizu out of fear they might be apprehended by U.S. authorities for spying. So for two weeks they were in daily contact with what turned out to be highly radioactive ash. It was in their hair and under their nails and imbedded in the ropes with which they worked. Only as their skin turned black and their hair began to fall out, and as they became listless and ill, did they begin to comprehend that somehow, mysteriously they had been affected by the explosion.

Their return was followed by 14 months of hospitalization and complete sterility for a longer period for the survivors. The ship's radio operator, Kuboyama, died after seven months. The knowledge that once again countrymen of theirs had become atomic victims sent a wave of revulsion



Japanese workers marching last May Day carried a float depicting the Lucky Dragon, the fishing boat that was showered with radioactive ash from the United States hydrogen bomb exploded in the Pacific in 1956. The horrifying incident swelled Japanese opposition to the tests.

through the whole Japanese population.

There began what has since become a world-wide campaign to force cessation of atomic bomb testing. A request to the U.S. by the Japanese government at least to give more specific warning of test dates and to halt the testing during the fishing season was ignored, although tuna is a basic source of protein in Japan and 457 tons from 683 boats had to be dumped or buried as radioactive during 1954.

Even the requests by Japanese scientists for information

about the composition of the fallout ash, which was necessary for proper treatment of the victims, were ignored by U.S. officials.

Public spokesmen in the U.S. minimized the Japanese tragedy in every possible way. Some anonymous medical authority claimed that Kuboyama did not die from exposure to radioactivity, but from too many blood transfusions! Of course, had there been no bomb test he would not have needed any transfusions.

In the meantime Japanese scientists proceeded over a pe-

riod of weeks to analyze the traces of ash culled from the ship and not only determined its exact composition, but reconstructed the principle of the bomb. Previously, only the rare uranium-235 had been used in bombs as fission had never been produced in the immensely more abundant uranium-238. The fission by-product of uranium-238 is uranium-237 which had originally been discovered in Japan by the very nuclear scientist who worked on the ash analysis and who found uranium-237 as one of the principal elements in the ash. Further work established that the bomb had apparently used a conventional fission core merely as a trigger which set off a hydrogen fusion reaction, which in turn developed the tremendous neutron speed necessary to cause fission in natural uranium. The estimate was made that approximately one-half ton of uranium was exploded. This meant that bombs of virtually any power could be made relatively cheaply.

Thus the shroud of secrecy which the AEC threw around the bomb and its effect were to no avail, except to cause the death of a poor fisherman and the prolonged and painful illness of 22 others. The test secrets were exposed, the main one being that the AEC had proceeded with a test of an explosion of hitherto unknown power, gambling on what its effects might be. And when the gamble went awry it tried every means to cover up. Certainly no one, after reading Ralph E. Lapp's compelling story of these events, could place any faith in the official AEC claim today that continued bomb tests are necessary and safe.

Appalling Child Suicide Rate in New York City

By Morris Zuckoff

A 16-year-old boy, brooding over a family argument, attempts to commit suicide. A 13-year-old child, depressed because both parents were ill, attempts suicide. Another boy of 13 tries to take his life because he is unhappy — both parents work till 5 P.M. and are rarely around the house.

These are but three instances in 23, of children between the ages of 12 and 17 who attempted to commit suicide between March 1955 and January 1956 in New York City. In 1956 the Department of Health listed 10 suicides.

The lines penned by the English poet A. E. Housman, "I, a stranger and afraid in a world I never made," find tragic expression in the growing rate of youthful suicide attempts and emotional disorders. Studies now being conducted by the N.Y. Department of Health under the supervision of Dr. Harold Jacobziner reveal at least 100 suicide attempts a year among young people under 18 years of age in the city. But these figures are limited to suicide attempts with poison. Not listed in any official figures are countless other attempts by drowning, jumping, hanging and the use of weapons.

THE CAUSES An official at the Health Department's Poison Control Center pointed out that those children attempting suicide were troubled by insecurity, deprivation and fear. After a nurse

treats them for poisoning and a staff psychiatrist gives them a cursory examination, they are returned to the very life that impelled them to self-destruction to begin with. A staff psychiatrist, connected with the Department of Health, observed that suicide becomes "a last desperate effort to remain free and independent."

According to a study, published by the city's Mental Community Health Board, entitled "Mental Health Resources in NYC," 18,758 persons under 18 were patients of various mental clinics in New York City between January and August, 1956. Their treatment varied from a single interview to long-range treatment. Half of them were seen and treated in public school clinics. But they are only a fraction of the 72,154 children who were merely interviewed, in the same period, for the purpose of determining the need for any kind of treatment.

These figures give no indication of the many children who never even got as far as the first or diagnostic interview because of 1) the limited facilities of the Bureau of Child Guidance, 2) the long waiting lists in municipal hospitals or because 3) parents, not understanding or ashamed, hushed up their child's emotional or mental disorder.

1 FOR 5,372 The Bureau of Child Guidance, established in 1931 to provide clinical services to school

children, is hopelessly understaffed. At present it has 175 full-time and part-time professional workers. For a school enrollment of approximately 940,000 children there is only one guidance worker for every 5,372 children.

The recent tragedy of Louis Diamant, a seven-year-old boy who was lured to the Hudson River and allegedly pushed in by an 11-year-old friend focuses attention on the imperative need for greater psychiatric facilities. The Bureau of Child Guidance in the school which both boys attended is staffed by a school psychologist in attendance one day a week and by a social worker in attendance one and a half days a week. The school has an enrollment of 1,100.

"Of the New York City young people (14 to 21 years of age) hospitalized for various causes, 21% were suffering from mental disorders; about one-third with schizophrenic manifestations and another one-third with psychoneurotic and other non-psychotic disorders" (Mental Health Resources in NYC). Schizophrenia is a mental disorder in which the individual, unable to cope with the harsh demands of the world withdraws into a world of fantasy.

According to a Public Affairs pamphlet on Mental Health, 21% of the people admitted to mental hospitals nationally are schizophrenic. It is among youth that this disease is most common. They are the least capable of absorbing and dealing

with the shocks and brutalities of the world. "At least 150,000 children are seen in psychiatric clinics each year," the pamphlet points out.

KIDS FIRST VICTIMS

Experts agree that suicide, mental disorders, delinquency, and drug addiction are acts of desperation arising from inability to cope with a brutal and horror-laden world. All four categories increased among young people between 1939 and 1945, decreased between 1945 and 1948 and rose again between 1948 and the present. The first victims of the cold-war tensions are children. Then too, discrimination, the spectre of joblessness, talk of wars of annihilation — all these have a disastrous effect on children's sensibilities.

Despite the dire need of funds for more psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, social workers and mental clinics, New York's capitalist politicians on March 6 cut \$3,000,000 for child day-care centers out of the state budget. At the same time they restored \$283,000 to the State Naval Militia. That is a sum ten times the amount spent by the NYC Mental Health Community Board in 1956-57 to help maintain the only psychiatric clinic serving adolescents in the whole city. It also represents two-and-a-half times more money than the annual city appropriation for The Juvenile Delinquency Evaluation Project.

Sobell Freedom Banquets Slated In Two Cities

APRIL 2 — Helen Sobell returned last night with her son, Mark, from their first visit with her husband in Atlanta Federal prison. For the first time in nearly five years the prisoner and his wife embraced. "A guard sat with us in the room. But he was reading and didn't disturb our small measure of privacy," Mrs. Sobell reported.

"Mark's comment after our visit," she said, "summed up the joy of the occasion. 'This was the best one yet,' he said. At Alcatraz we could never see more than just his head and shoulders. This time we could see all of him. We sat beside him on a couch. We could touch him. Can you understand my new hope that our full life might soon be restored?"

TWO BANQUETS

The struggle to free Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in prison on framed-up charges of "conspiracy," has gained new hope and energy throughout the country. Close on the heels of the April 12 Freedom Banquet in Los Angeles, a New York banquet will be held. On Monday, April 21, New York supporters of Sobell will gather at the Tavern on the Green restaurant. Reservations for dinner are \$10 a plate. All who collect 25 signatures and \$10 in contributions for the fight to free Sobell will be given a reservation.

The Reverend Peter McCormack, former Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz, will be one of the speakers at the banquet. The dinner will mark the opening of a national drive for petitions appealing for executive action to free the scientist from prison.

Reservations for the New York dinner may be obtained by writing to the Sobell Committee at 940 Broadway, or telephoning AL 4-9983. In Los Angeles reservations may be obtained at 462 N. Western.

Strike Wave Hits Franco Dictatorship

By C. R. Hubbard

MARCH 31 — A new wave of strikes has hit Spanish fascist dictator Franco. In response to a general strike called in Barcelona approximately 30,000 workers left their jobs due either to strikes or to government lockouts. In the province of Catalonia thousands more protested government repression by slow-downs and folded-arms strikes. Other parts of Spain were quickly affected. In the north four paper mills at Tolosa were shut down as well as a metal factory in Andoain.

News of the beginning of this new militant upsurge of the oppressed Spanish workers was

practically buried in the U.S. daily press. Early this month a March 11 N.Y. Times dispatch reported, "Labor's disputes in northern Spain's Oviedo coalfields today all but paralyzed production. Three mines shut down." This story, quoted above in full, was the first mention of the miners' strike that began March 4 and quickly spread to other mine areas, sparking a wave of strikes throughout the country.

The strike movement spread despite savage repressions unleashed to stop it. On March 15 Franco announced suspension of three articles in the constitution. The suspension sanctioned

forcible removal of strikers and their families from their homes and the areas in which they live. It allowed authorities to invade private homes without warrants at any time of the day or night. And Franco's cops were empowered to jail strikers and keep them jailed without any legal formalities.

The regime's attempt to terrorize the strikers evidently failed. On March 27 the N.Y. Times reported that the miners returned to work "only after the government had agreed to restore" the suspended articles in the constitution.

Another partial victory was scored on March 29 when Gen.

Felipe Acedo, Civil Governor of Barcelona, announced that "all workers would be paid whatever money was owing to them." Clashes had been expected to break out between strikers trying to collect deferred pay and cops at the closed plants.

ECONOMIC PICTURE

The mounting inflation in Spain is one of the immediate causes of the workers' new upsurge. "A serious flight of Spanish capital to Switzerland" is reported taking place in semi-secrecy. Franco has appealed to his friendly ally, the U.S. State Department, for a 30-40% boost in economic aid to prop

up his shaky dictatorship.

Past U.S. contributions to help Franco keep the Spanish workers in chains have totaled \$811,800,000. In addition \$200,000,000 in military equipment has been given to Franco's armed forces. Another \$200,000,000 is scheduled for delivery within the next year. Total cost of U.S. air bases in Spain, nearly completed, will amount to another \$350 million.

CAMPAIGN COFFERS

The contributions of eight of America's richest families to candidates in the 1956 campaign totaled more than all contributions by labor unions.

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