

Belgian Strikers Remain Defiant

Fail to See Why They Should Pay for Losses to Capitalists

By Tom Kemp

BRUSSELS, Jan. 16 — At the end of three weeks of struggle, the workers of Belgium stand firm in the whole of the heavy industrial region of the French-speaking South, as well as in the more class-conscious sections of the Flemish North.

Supreme Court Voids Travis' T-H Conviction

A long and costly legal battle forced upon a former official of the independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers ended in victory Jan. 16. The Supreme Court reversed the conviction of Maurice E. Travis, former secretary-treasurer of the union, on charges of filing false non-Communist affidavits with the Labor Relations Board.

The conviction was reversed on the ground that Travis should have been tried in the District of Columbia, where he filed affidavits in 1951 and 1952, and not in Denver.

The drive to imprison Travis marked the opening of a combined government-employer assault on the union which was expelled from the CIO in a cold-war move in 1950. Last year 17 present and former officials of the union were convicted on a similar charge. Indictments were brought against them at the height of bitterly fought strikes against the major copper producers.

Nigerians Score U.S. Racialism

The National Council for Nigeria and the Cameroons, a major political party in Nigeria, has demanded that the government protest to the United States for racial discrimination in a Virginia restaurant against C. Uchomo, Second Secretary of the Nigerian Embassy.

"It is a matter of regret," said a statement to the press, "that America, self-appointed leader of the Western power blocs and great advocate of racial equality in other peoples' countries, should be a country to practice racial discrimination against Nigeria."

"The NCNC believes that a country devoid of respect for human dignity, a country with completely bankrupt racial policy, a country which still lives in the dark ages, has no claim to leadership of free men."

A Traveling Advocate Of World Brotherhood

By Harry Ring

The Rev. Ashton Jones is a tall, wiry man who speaks in a soft, pleasant way. When he walked into the Militant office one afternoon last week his tanned face and lumber jacket suggested an outdoor worker.

For the past 30 years he has been outdoors a good deal. Ashton (he believes all men are brothers and should call each other by their first name) is a traveling advocate of world brotherhood.

This occupation in his native South has kept him in the forefront of the integration struggle. For some time he and his wife, Marie, traveled in a trailer specially built on a truck chassis. To express the theme of brotherhood, the sides of the trailer were decorated with a white hand and a dark hand clasped together.

Marie is in poor health now and can no longer accompany her crusading husband. The trailer was wrecked by racists in Louisiana and with the aid of friends he has replaced it with a British compact car. Like the old trailer, banners on the car urge brotherhood.

Two American Heroes



Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter as they returned to the University of Georgia after their lives had been threatened by armed Ku Klux Klansmen.

Ga. Racists Retreat On School Jim Crow

Under compulsion of new federal court orders, the University of Georgia reinstated two Negro students Jan. 16. Four days earlier, university officials had bowed to a mob organized by the Ku Klux and had suspended the two students. Meanwhile, Gov. Vandiver outlined plans to the state legislature Jan. 18 to retreat from a policy of "massive resistance" to school desegregation to one of legal evasion.

In the first three days after their return to the Athens, Ga., campus, Charlayne Alberta Hunter, 18, and Hamilton E. Holmes, 19, went quietly to classes, followed ten paces behind by plainclothesmen. Only occasional jeers greeted the courageous pair and a number of students made a point of extending friendly words of welcome.

Boston Crowd Gives Fuehrer Hot Reception

BOSTON, Jan. 16 — George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the swastika-wearing American Nazi party, who came to this city yesterday with a truckload of uniformed "storm troopers" from headquarters in Arlington, Va., got a hot reception.

Rockwell had announced his intention to picket the film "Exodus" which deals with Israel. By the time the fuehrer arrived, a crowd of counter-pickers which police estimated from 2,000 to 10,000 had assembled. When they began chanting, "We Want Rockwell," as the Nazi chief appeared, police hustled him away.

The Harvard Crimson, estimating the crowd at 500, said today that part of the counter-pickers consisted of refugees from Nazi concentration camps. Many college students also showed up.

"Most of the students said they felt that the Nazis had a right to picket the theater," the paper continued, "but upheld their own picketing as 'the only way we can protest against what they stand for.'"

"The Young Socialist Alliance, whose leaflets were distributed all over the Boston area, had a small group of picketers. Many labor unions, including the ILGWU, also marched in protest. A young couple, carrying a baby, typified the sentiments of the rest of the crowd when they said, 'We don't belong to any group, we just came down to do anything we can to help.'"

According to one newspaper account the truckload of Nazis never arrived, due to breakdowns and wrong turns. However, a few swastika-wearers did show up on schedule.

When the crowd saw them, a great shout of anger went up. Eggs were thrown, some of which splattered the 125 police. They hurriedly ushered the Nazis inside the theater and then out of town.

N.Y. Tug Strike Involves Fight To Save Jobs

By Alex Harte

JAN. 19 — Some 100,000 railroad commuters in the New York metropolitan area were compelled to seek alternate means of transportation when the New York Central and the New Haven Railroad suspended operations after striking harbor tug and ferryboatmen established picket lines at their passenger terminals.

The strike began on Jan. 10, when crews on tugs, ferryboats, car floats, barges and lighters, under contract to 11 railroads serving the port of New York, walked off in a dispute over manning scales on the railroad tugs.

Contract negotiations broke down over the demand by railroad management that they be given the right to reduce the size of the present five-man crews on railroad tugs.

The negotiations remain deadlocked over this issue. The employers have proposed to freeze the present crew size for one year, after which reductions could be made 120 days following written notice to the union involved. Disagreements to be submitted to final and binding arbitration.

The unions involved are AFL-CIO affiliated Masters, Mates and Pilots, Marine Engineers Beneficial Association and Seafarers International Union. They are standing firm on the position that no jobs be eliminated unless changes in technology or methods of work abolish the need for the job.

The unions counter management's arbitration proposal by demanding the retention of the status quo for a period to be fixed by the employers. After the termination of that period all proposals to cut crews and establish minimum manning scales would be subject to reconsideration.

While the immediate dispute involves only 664 workers, the issues raised are far-reaching and can affect a great many thousands of railroad and other workers. This is made plain in the paid advertisement of the railroad tycoons.

What is involved is the issue of "featherbedding" which the railroad companies of this country have made their number one target. Millions of dollars have been expended in newspaper, magazine, radio and television advertising to create a favorable "public opinion" in opposition to "alleged" "make-work" union rules.

It is the same issue which was raised by the steel corporations in their assault on union work-rules in the 116-day steel strike last year.

The main issue in the New York tug strike, say the railroad ads, is the demand for union "make-work" on railroad boats. "This is the same basic economic issue that confronts the nation," they claim, "in almost every area of business and industry."

For the railroad owners and managers it is a matter of "principle," they aver, "to fight the unions' demands for 'make-work' every step of the way." Recently, Eisenhower appointed his Secretary of Labor, James Mitchell, to head a committee to act as a fact-finding board in

509,000 Layoffs Stun Forecasters Of Mild Recession

Admit Situation Will Worsen During February and March

By Tom Kerry

JAN. 17 — The rise in unemployment last month exceeded all forecasts as 509,000 were added to the growing army of jobless workers. The official "unadjusted" total of 4,540,000 was the largest for any December since 1940. (The "seasonally adjusted" figure was 4,900,000.) The increase from November totals was three times the usual rise.

"No informed person had expected the December statistics on employment and unemployment to make pleasant reading," was the editorial comment of the Jan. 15, New York Times, which added: "The reality, however, has proved to be even worse than was expected. The number of unemployed last month was more than 4,500,000, the highest for any December since 1940. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, the highest since the 1958 recession."

And, the editorial adds, "the Department of Labor, whose estimate for last month proved too low, now estimates unemployment will be 5,600,000 this month and almost as great during February and March."

"This, the editorial concludes, 'is, obviously, too much unemployment.' It most certainly is!"

Yet, the outgoing Eisenhower administration still insists it is no recession, but simply a "rolling adjustment." "Mr. Eisenhower's advisers," says the Jan. 17, Wall Street Journal, "blame the downturn mainly on a business inventory adjustment they believe will end soon. The President's farewell economic report to Congress, due Wednesday," it adds, "is expected to predict an early business recovery."

Meanwhile, as the U.S. Department of Labor's monthly report on the status of the Labor force points out: "The number of persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer was unchanged over the month at 1.0 million. However, this group of long-term unemployed rose by about 200,000 between the third and fourth quarters of 1960 and was also 200,000 higher than a year earlier."

"As in November, about half the long-term unemployed had been jobless for more than six months. The majority of this group of very long-term unemployed was made up of adult men. The groups most affected by prolonged unemployment are workers over 45, nonwhites, and workers last employed in mining, transportation, or durable goods manufacturing."

What of the prediction of an "early business recovery"? Seymour L. Wolfbein, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor and manpower specialist for the Labor Department, said that even without any further economic downturn, "normal seasonal factors probably would swell the jobless total to 5,500,000 this month, 5,600,000 in February,"

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Cuba Rally Big Success In Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14 — More than a thousand people came to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee's first public meeting in the Bay Area last night. This outpouring of people anxious to learn the truth about Cuba exceeded the committee's expectations, and a second hall had to be hastily rented to accommodate the overflow. Speakers shuttled between the two halls to repeat their talks.

Even the second hall was filled to capacity and finally about 200 disappointed people had to be turned away.

Marshall Windmiller, San Francisco State College professor, chaired. He pointed out that no major political event abroad had been so misrepresented in the American press as the Cuban Revolution. One purpose of the meeting, he said, was to set the record straight.

The internationally famous sculptor Beniamino Bufano was the first speaker. Viewing the more than capacity crowd, he said the meeting was a fine thing; but to be really effective we should be on the street corners speaking to those millions who are reading only the lies of the American press about Cuba.

He said that the foreign policy of the government was the responsibility of all of us, and he pointed to the latent power of America's 60,000,000 wage earners.

"If the American labor movement had a different leadership," he declared, "the workers could stop the wheels of industry until the government reversed its policy of aggression toward Cuba."

Paul M. Sweezy, coeditor of the Monthly Review, was the main speaker. A recent visitor to Cuba, he categorically denied published reports that the Cuban economy is on the verge of collapse. Far from that, he said, Cuba has registered a 30 per cent

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Lynn to Debate Blackwell on Events in Cuba

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — "Is the Castro Regime Progressive?" will be the subject of a debate here Saturday, Jan. 28. The affirmative will be upheld by Conrad J. Lynn, civil-liberties attorney and a sponsor of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Russell Blackwell of the Libertarian League will defend the negative.

Sponsored by the Labor Educational League, the debate will be held at 8:30 p.m. at 228 Ashland Place. (BMT or IRT to Fulton St. in downtown Brooklyn.)

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Labor Needs New, Militant Leadership

By Jack Barton

DETROIT, Jan. 14 — What the labor movement needs now is a united rank-and-file conference in Washington to plan and start a campaign for the 30-hour week at 40-hours' pay.

What the United Auto Workers needs is the mobilization of rank-and-file and local sentiment demanding that the coming UAW convention in April make 30-for-40 its major demand in the 1961 contract negotiations.

And what both the UAW and the rest of the labor movement need is a fight for internal democracy to return control of the unions to the rank and file.

Misheff began with a bristling attack on the corporations. He cited facts and figures to prove that their lust for profits at home and abroad has turned automation into a weapon for eliminating workers from their jobs and weakening the unions.

Equally sharp was his criticism of the top union leaders, whom he charged with being soft and timid toward the employers while being tough and hard with the ranks of their own unions.

He gave numerous examples to show how the union leaders pay lip service to the fight for shorter hours, but in practice impede and block that fight. And he quoted chapter and verse to show how the union bureaucrats have been taking away, restricting and undermining the democratic rights of rank-and-file union members.

meet these problems, and is working hard to win support for it. He urged all auto workers and UAW locals to join with it in flooding Solidarity House with resolutions and telegrams demanding that 30-for-40 be made the number one demand at the April UAW convention.

Jobless Should Act

He also expressed the conviction that it would be a good and healthy thing for thousands of jobless UAW members to hold a mass demonstration ringing Cobo Hall, where the convention will be held, with slogans calling on the union to fight for jobs for all.

Other points touched on by Misheff were the need to intensify the fight against anti-Negro discrimination, especially acute in the skilled trades jobs, and the need for labor to develop an independent policy on disarmament.

Unlike Goldberg

Misheff was introduced to the forum by Art Fox, also an NCFDA member and a co-chairman of the local unemployed movement in the 1958 recession. Fox contrasted Misheff with Arthur Goldberg, the new secretary of labor.

rank and file rising to assert their democratic rights to leadership.

Misheff explained his willingness to speak at a socialist forum by declaring that the crying need is for a united labor movement capable of beating back the corporation and government offensive against labor's standard of living, and that he didn't care what the color or politics of a man is as long as he will join the campaign to build that kind of movement.

The Hard Way

The New York Board of Education has raised \$142,000 for a special project to seek improved methods of training teachers assigned to "underprivileged" neighborhoods. The board hasn't considered the idea that it might be easier and better to just improve the neighborhoods.

