

NEWS & LETTERS

"This Paper Belongs to the People Who Read It and Write for It"

VOL. 2—No. 22

34

SEPTEMBER, 1957

10c A Copy

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

In all previous years of the model changeover in the auto shops, workers were somewhat happy for the time off, and because they felt they had a job ahead of them for 4 or 5 months of steady work on the new model. Also, they felt there would be quite a lot of hiring of new workers for that length of time. Furthermore, ever since World War II, workers with 5 years or more seniority were not laid-off at all if only minor changes were made in the new model.

But the majority of the workers are saying that this lay-off for the '58 model is the strangest and most different they have ever witnessed.

We were working on the '58 model for a week before we were laid off. On our last day, workers with 3 to 8 years were given a clearance slip, and workers with more were told that that was all. No one knew, or said, when we would return. In previous years, they would say we would be notified when to come back. The clearance slip means you are permanently laid-off—maybe you will be called and maybe not, no one knows anything.

NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING

The foreman could not tell the employees anything. The stewards didn't know what was happening. So confused was the situation that some workers said they were going in to work the following week and get someone to tell them they are laid-off and when to expect to return.

WHAT KIND OF LABOR

During the previous model change, the company not only completely changed the model, they also made a complete change in the factory. But we knew when we were to return. It's different now. As some workers say, "What kind of security does a working man have? What kind of rights do we have over our labor?"

We get a penny or so raise and our hospital insurance goes up the same day. Everything, especially food, increases above our raise. One worker said, "Man, this is an awful world for working people, laboring barely to exist. We go to file for compensation and those long lines, with all those people unemployed, reminds you of the bread and soup lines in '31 and '32." Some workers spend 5 hours before they get to file—it's rougher than a day's work.

MANY FIRED — NONE HIRED

To think there won't be any new people hired on the new model, and they are saying there will be 5,000 that will not return. Automation machinery may seem to be progress, but when it causes humans to suffer, then something is wrong somewhere. But the rich people do not look at the working people as human beings.

The workers want some time off, in fact they need some time off, but their need to continue to exist is so great that the average worker says he wishes he could have continued working.

FEWER WORKERS—

MORE INTIMIDATION AND SPEED-UP

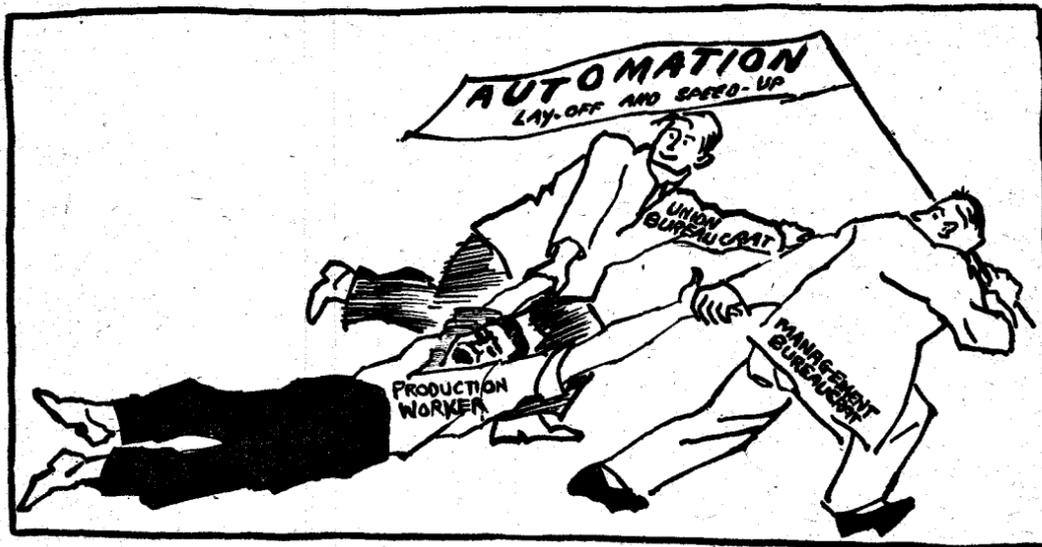
The daily papers are reporting that auto management is saying they will produce more cars in '58 than in '57. This was good news to workers 8 and 10 years ago, because they would have steady work. Today it is bad news, because this means fewer workers and more speed-up, with workers keeping up with the speed of the line and the machine. It means pressure upon us, intimidation, and firing.

The union is not going to protect us from this. Workers are caught in this economic squeeze and the vise tightening by the day. Somewhere and sometime—soon we hope—we must have a voice about our labor: what kind of labor it will be, if we are to survive and live as human beings should.

Reuther goes to some other part of the world giving big speeches about how well we are doing here. Then he comes back asking for automobile to be cut \$100 in price. What does this mean to us workers? The truth is that our take-home pay is only a few dollars above what it was 5 years ago.

Sure, on paper we make close to a \$100 a week, but to have a take-home pay of \$70 to \$75 you have to have from 5 to 10 dependents. Reuther never tells workers in other countries about that.

As another worker stated, "We have no peace at work, and it is worse when you are not meeting the bills. The collectors are driving you mad at home; the foreman and the company are driving you insane in the shops; and it is a fight when you demand a grievance from your Union."



MARXISM AND FREEDOM:

What Kind of Work?

The present Automation lay-offs and speed-up in Auto, Coal and Steel; the violent attacks against school integration; the mounting threat of nuclear poisoning even before a war—all are deadly symptoms of the total crisis which stalks our lives.

Against this, the resistance of production workers to the authoritarian demands of management and union bureaucrats, and the insistence of Negroes on full integration, are part of the new passions and new forces for a way of life free from degradation and tyranny, and therefore free from threat of H-bomb destruction.

DOMINATION OR CO-OPERATION?

This is the question around which everything else turns: What kind of labor shall man perform?

Is the worker always to be

dominated by the machine so that his labor and life itself belong to others who despise him? Are he and his family to be tormented by the increasingly arrogant demands

of the Planners and Leaders for more and more production to be torn from his aching back?

Or is the worker to control his own life and, as a free human being, decide what and how to produce in brotherly cooperation with his fellow-man?

We were privileged to read the manuscript of a book which will be published in the next few weeks, *Marxism and Freedom*, by Raya Dunayevskaya. It is the first book we know of that describes and analyzes man's struggles for freedom—from the start of the factory system nearly 200 years ago to the present reality of Automation—in terms of the efforts, needs and hopes of those who are most oppressed.

There is no separation here between what the worker thinks in the shop and the greatest theories of philosophers, historians and scientists. On the contrary, the book states, as a fundamental principle of human life, that the only source of serious theory is the living activity of the common man.

THE ONLY ENEMY OF COMMUNISM

There is no other way to fight Communism. Whoever thinks there is need only look at the catastrophic "brink-of-war" policy of Dulles; he need only look at the inhuman practice of Arkansas' Faubus; he need only look at the ruthless attack now launched against production workers by management, union and political bureaucrats. (See: "Two Worlds," page 5.)

Whoever thinks there is another theory and practice for fighting Communism

(Continued on Page 8)

Obstacle Race

Prof., are your lungs filling with chalk-dust, book-dust, the dust of outer space?

Does it choke your lectures on "Academic Freedom" and "Our American Heritage"?

Come on, Prof., worm your way out of the books and into the sun for a breath of life.

A little sport is good for the mind, OK?

Take off those Ivy League togs, strip down to the bare facts of life.

Here, try on this dark skin for size.

You've got to squeeze a little, it came off a kid.

Sure you can do it, aren't we all the same under the skin?

You'll have the time of your life, great exercise, just

SQUEEZE.

Good, you're in, now here's the game.

JUST WALK FROM HERE TO THE LITTLE RED

SCHOOLHOUSE.

That's all there is to it.

The trick is to get through the white citizens of Little Rock.

Go on, don't chicken, lots of kids have tried it. I never thought I'd see kids trying to get into school.

They're marching right up to those courageous National Guardsmen.

Behind the guns, clutching the school in hairy fists, the Governor shouts, "Go home!"

Go home, kids, you wouldn't like school, now beat it." Those are the words of Governor Fearless Faubus, a peace-loving, family man.

Between the guns the kids see paper flowers on the kindergarten windows.

They'd like to be inside instead of learning history the hard way.

They're making the history their kids will study on warm days, no heroes, just kids are making it.

Go on, you try it, in your brand new dark skin try it. It will clear your head, clear your lungs, you can lecture a lifetime about it.

Little Rock may break your bones but words can never hurt you.

They can even cure what ails you, you're always saying:

"You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."

Hurry! Who'll be the first to get through?

— M. G.

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Miners' Worry and Resentment Grow As District Ignores Workers' Grievances, Approves Scab Violations by Operators

MORGAN TOWN, W. Va. —The shameful treatment of the miners, mostly old men, who work in the small mines in this area continues. Protest meetings have been held spotlighting their grievances, but their situation remains unchanged.

UMPIRE'S RULING AGAINST CONTRACT

These men work in so-called Union mines. They pay their dues and are supposed to be covered by the contract.

One of the provisions in the contract concerns vacation pay. If a man works in a mine for a year, he is to get \$180 at vacation time; if he doesn't work a year, his vacation pay is pro-rated on a monthly basis. These miners have not seen a cent of vacation pay. Therefore one of them filed a grievance.

The District representatives and the Umpire were in on the case. The Umpire's decision was that 11c would be paid by the operator for each car of coal that these men loaded. This money was to be turned over to a local bank and the men were to receive it at vacation time.

Besides the fact that the decision is strictly against the contract and the men, but for the coal operators, another fact is that these

men wouldn't load enough cars in a year to make the \$180 at 11c per car. They were given another kick to add to their many grievances.

DISTRICT AGREES WITH DECISION

In the first place, the Umpire's job is to aid in the interpretation of the contract where no agreement can be reached by an aggrieved party and management. He is stepping completely out of his jurisdiction when he tries actually to change a provision which is as specific as the vacation clause. This has been negotiated. The umpire is supposed to see to it that it is carried out in cases of dispute.

But even though the Umpire did overstep his bounds, the District officers were involved in the discussion arising out of the case. Instead of bringing the Umpire sharply back in line, they agreed with his decision.

These District representatives are specifically charged with the responsibility of making sure that the provisions of the contract are carried out. Lord knows that when there is a wildcat strike they are the first ones on the scene, yelling that the men are violating the contract, that they have to go

back to work. Why aren't they as "responsible" now? The issue involved isn't one to tax their brains. There is no matter of interpretation involved. The vacation clause is a flat statement, understandable to anyone who can read.

ANOTHER BETRAYAL

One fact is inescapably clear. These District officers calmly participated in, and agreed to, a decision which was not only contrary to contract, but which actually took away from these men something that was fought for and won in contract negotiations.

The matter is by no means over. The men directly involved are understandably bitter and angry at this kind of double-dealing. The miners working in the larger mines are watching these developments with growing concern. There is no question but that their own operators know what is going on.

If the Umpire and the District can get away with something which is so clearly against the contract and for the coal operators, the men are wondering how long it will be before something like this will be "negotiated" for them by the District and their own operators.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

WHO CAN FACE THE NATION?

The big question of today is: Who can Face the Nation? Well, I don't know of anyone, except the poor Negro people, who have to face not only the whole nation of people, but also the whole white army of people who have guns, swords and poison gas.

ONE OF A KIND?

Just so it is something to destroy the poor Negro's soul, just to keep him from sitting on the bus beside the whites, or to try to go to any of their white schools. They say that God meant for each nation of people not to mix, but just stay one of a kind. They seem to think that Negroes are trying to mix with them, to marry their white women or men.

We are not trying to change their white life or mix with them as much as they try to mix with the black folks, who are only trying to be free Americans, to go into any public place as the whites do.

NORTH SUPPORTS SOUTH

The Southern white people don't seem to think the Negro people should have any freedom to do anything with them, but to be a slave for them for ever.

And there are so many white Northern people who take sides with the South, on the way the Southern whites want to still hold on with their low

down ways against the colored people.

If you want to know something, it is that the South is trying to keep the Negro back so far because they are afraid the colored people will do something against their white children for what they themselves have done to the older ones.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION

The President of the United States told the people at the White House that he was going down South to make the white Southerners move those National Guardsmen away from those schools, and let the colored people go to school wherever they want to.

But the Southerners know how little the President means to do to stop their fighting against the colored people. They know that whenever the Negroes get ready to stay there and fight for what they want, things will change. Just like the bus boycott in Alabama, a victory which will always stand.

STAY AND FIGHT

So that is the way it is about colored children going to the same schools. There is nothing to do but stay there and fight for what they want, just like they are doing. They want to live just as bad as you do, so let us stay there and fight for our freedom.

Mine Super Lies to State Safety Inspector, Danger to Miners' Health Goes Unchecked

CASSVILLE, W. Va. — We've been trying to get water for the pinners on the continuous miner for a long time. They've got the hoses and everything on it. All they need is the spray fixture to spray the top when we're pinning. We've told them about it plenty of times, but they still haven't done anything about it.

BREATHE ROCK DUST

It's dangerous when you're drilling in that rock and you have to breathe that fine dust in the air. That rock dust is a lot more dangerous than coal dust.

I know when I was pinning on a conventional pinning machine, they said we had to use water when we were drilling. As a matter of fact, they were going to send me out one day when they caught me pinning without water. If it was dangerous then, it's dangerous now.

SUPER COVERS UP

When the state safety inspector was here last week, he came on the section with the super. It just so happened that we were drilling through a cross bar to pin it to the top.

The state inspector noticed we were drilling without water and mentioned it. The super knows we don't have the spray fixtures on the machine, but he covered up real quick. He told the inspector that we didn't use water when we were drilling through wood because the wet wood would bind the auger!

The inspector swallowed that and the super got out of a spot. But we're still on it until we get those spray fixtures.

More Than He's Worth

SCOTTS RUN, W. Va. — We were going down in the cage at the beginning of the shift. A boss was going down with us. One of the men asked him a question about a problem that had come up on the section.

The boss said that he didn't know what to do about it.

The miner said: "Why don't you know what to do about it? You're the one who's getting paid to do the thinking about these things, not us."

Another miner chimed in with, "Yeah, the company pays him a salary to do the thinking all right. But if he was paid what his thinking was worth, he and his family would starve to death."

"Stupid and One-Sided"

"Private property has made us so stupid and one-sided that any kind of object is ours only when we have it, i.e., when it exists for us as capital, or when we possess it directly—eat it, drink it, wear it, live in it, etc.—in short, use it. But, from the point of view of private property, all these direct forms of possession, in their turn, exist only as means to life: and the life to which these serve as means is the life of private property = labor and capitalization.

"Therefore, in place of all the physical and spiritual senses, there is the sense of possession, which is the simple alienation of all these senses. To such absolute poverty has human essence had to be reduced in order to give birth to its inner wealth!"—Karl Marx

(from, "Private Property and Communism")

Negro Farmer Shoots Cross-Burning Night Riders in Alabama

SELMA, Ala. — Because the Tuskegee boycott is putting a lot of white businessmen out of business, after they have lived off of us for years, the whites are trying to force Negro businesses out by getting white wholesalers to quit supplying them. This has not been very successful.

As a matter of fact, Negro business has steadily increased.

Now they're trying to intimidate Negroes out of business by night riders burning crosses.

NIGHT RIDERS

In the farm areas around Selma, Negroes outnumber

whites 4 or 5 to 1, and in some places as high as 10 to 1. The KKK burned a cross on one Negro's place here. He did the only thing anyone would do to protect his home and loved ones: he shot at them. They turned tail and disappeared.

The next day, a group of Negroes went around among the white community in Tyler asking who were those low-down night riders who burned the cross.

These whites said it was awful and none of their actions. They said none of them would do it because they do business with us, and we're neighbors, and they wouldn't treat us that way. They said they didn't know exactly who the night riders were but they heard it was a group of whites from Sandusky, about 40 miles away.

CROSS-EXCHANGE

We feel pretty sure that they were telling the truth about not burning the cross here. We also feel pretty sure that these whites go to other communities, and do to Negroes there what those Sandusky whites came here to do to us. That way they figure they can cover themselves and if it ever came to court they couldn't be identified.

—Negro Farmer

Reader Writes Open Letter to Gov. Williams (Mich)

It is fine to see you take a strong stand on the Negro question in Little Rock, but how about taking strong action at home, in Michigan?

Take the City of Midland, Michigan, home of the largest chemical plant in the country, the Dow Chemical Corp. This firm employs no Negroes and has a policy which prohibits hiring Negroes. Through company domination of the City of Midland, it is impossible for a Negro to rent a home, or to buy a home, or to get a job anywhere in Midland.

Midland is not the only city in Michigan where the unwritten law against Negroes is practiced. You know, as well as I, that most of Upper Michigan practices discrimination against Negroes and the State administration does nothing about it.

The State F. E. P. C. is laughed at by hundreds of employers, throughout Michigan, who continue to discriminate in their employment policies, fearing nothing harsher from the State than a slap on the wrist.

SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Look into the school situation in East Detroit, where Negroes have been attending school for years up to now. This year they have been found to be living on the wrong side of the street and have been forced to transfer to schools in Roseville.

Need I also remind you that Mayor Hubbard, of the lily-white City of Dearborn, not only shows the face of fascism, he flaunts it by praising the White Citizens Councils?

—"For Human Rights" Howell, Mich.

MODEL CHANGEOVER:

New Chrysler Speed-Up and Lay-Offs Remind Auto Worker of The Way It Was in '32-'33

DETROIT—We have just gone back to work (on Sept. 23) at Chrysler after the '58 model changeover. It reminds me of the way it was back in 1932 and 1933. They told us that any production we didn't make this hour would be added on to the next hour; and what we didn't make today we'd have to make tomorrow; and what we didn't make next week—or else. Are we going back to the slave days?

They told us if we couldn't make production there are

plenty of men on the streets who will. Then they turn around and tell the foremen if they can't make us get production they'll get foremen who know how to do it.

Some of the foremen have even asked to be cut back and are working on the jobs they used to supervise. They say they wouldn't have the job again the way the company has cut men and increased operations. They even cut back 250 foremen and 40 from personnel.

We're running the same amount of production on the new model with half, and in

some places one-third the manpower we had on the '57 model. There's not a bit of change in the new model either, except a little change in the tail-light and a little in the grill.

LAY-OFFS PILE UP

A man has to work so damn fast he can't take care of his own arms and legs. There'll be plenty of us all torn up if this keeps on. Take the Trim dept.: on the '57 model there were 2,600 men, counting day and night. Now there are only 1,300. They cut manpower by 50 per cent but they cut production only by 15 per cent—and already they're asking for 5 per cent more production.

This time they cut from one-half to two-thirds. Last year they cut from one-third to one-half. Just add it up and you can see how many thousands of auto workers Chrysler dumped on the street permanently in the one year since they changed from their '56 model to the Automation "Forward Look."

The first day back all the stewards went down to have a meeting with the Local officers. All the stewards, Green Slate, Rank & File, Independent, were unanimous that the Local had better do something at once or they all threatened to drop their steward buttons right then and there. They said that if they have to work under these conditions while having a Union, they may as well admit to the company that they have no Union and dump their buttons.

DOUBLE-TALK

The Local officers asked them to keep their buttons and to go back and quietly tell the men in their departments not to do any more production than last year. They said if management fires a man, we'll shut the place down.

On Wednesday morning (Sept. 25) Dept. 90 walked out and shut the place down. We expect that management will fire the 2 chief stewards there.

Now, the local officers tell us to stay on the job if a man is fired because that makes too many problems. The important problem, they say, they have to settle with the company is production. But if they also have to worry about getting fired men back it takes away from the main problem and gives the company an out not to negotiate on production!

TOO BUSY TO MEET

They also said they want to take a strike vote to have the authorization when they meet the company. They do this every year but they don't use it and things get worse and worse.

We went down to the Local Hall and told them we wanted to have the strike vote meeting this Sunday (Sept. 29). We were told that the Hall is rented out for this Sunday but we'll have the meeting next Sunday, or as soon as possible after that.

Whose hall is this supposed to be anyway?

—Body Worker

LETTERS FROM NEWARK, DELAWARE:

'Stay Away from Here If You Don't Want to Work Like a Slave,' Chrysler Worker Writes

Aug. 4, 1957

"I take time to write you a few lines today and let you know how things are in this great city, Newark. Well, the town is all right, but work is rough. No production on any line and you can guess the rest. A slave shop, but I think we can work it down and make it a better place to work. I think all Dodge-Main is coming down here to work.

WHAT A UNION

"Here is another funny thing: all of the stewards work, and the Local president does too. He is stock handler.

"If I want a chief steward I have to tell the boss and he will go for him—if he thinks I have a grievance. If not, No. So you see what a Union we got here.

"I have a relief job. I relieve 10 men and I make \$2.51 per hour. Foreman is one job I wouldn't have. Those crazy guys don't walk around, they run. My boss has got 3 operations and 20 men to look after. I'm going to quit when the boss gets a broom and sticks it in his — and starts sweeping the floor at the same time. Ha, ha.

"I don't think Negroes are getting very much discrimination here. I was talking to one from body shop and he said he was treated good by everybody, but I can't tell what they do yet.

"You tell all of our friends to stay away from here if they don't want to work like a slave."

Aug. 11, 1957

"I am still slaving, but it will make a man out of you or it will kill you—I think it's going to kill me. Ha, ha. Now let's get down to business:

NEW PLANT—OLD GRIEVANCES

"We are working under a UAW-CIO Union. What a Union! But I think we can build it up so it will be all right.

"The president said he would go along with us

Detroiters but he and the committeemen and chief stewards still work. We have made a little progress though, we have stopped foremen from working on the lines, and have got more relief men, and have stopped them from speeding the lines up and down. The company said they would put all of us on our right jobs after the changeover. We'll have to wait and see.

"Well, I am still in there swinging. I have turned in two grievances: 1) for 18 minutes changing time, and 2) for another relief of 30 minutes in the morning and one in the evening. Right now we only get 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening, and that's not enough.

"Here's what takes the cake: Our Union hall is a room on the second floor, about 20x20, which has about 18 or 20 chairs. Last Monday night we had a general membership meeting. So many Detroiters were there the president was afraid the floor would collapse and said to stand around the walls, just in case. He said we would start making plans to get a bigger hall. He said he was depending on the Detroit boys to help make a good Union. If that's what he wants we got it. Oh, I think in time we can get a better place to work—if we live through it.

HELL IN THE SHOP

"The boys tell me they have hell in the trim shop. It's the worst place in the whole shop to work. We have a beautiful shop and a lot of new Automation, but the worst thing is the company doesn't have the right tools to work with and that makes it hell.

"In the booths they have 5 men: 4 grinders and one blow-off man. They run 30 jobs an hour but this is the catch: they run 2- and 4-door hard-tops, 2- and 4-door sedans, and 2- and 4-door station wagons, including a few Dodges. Each grinder has 3 motors to use and it keeps him going as fast as he can to keep up."

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

NEW "UNION-BUSTING" IN DETROIT

What is going to happen to Detroit? The companies in this town are hell bent to wipe out the Unions and the solidarity of workers. Not Reuther's bent to wipe out the Union of workers, working together and fighting the threat of Automation to their lives.

I bet every company throughout the country is looking at this spot to see what is happening.

One way they are breaking up this union town is to move shops or departments to non-union shops in other states.

The little shop I work in told us, about 2 weeks ago, that come the first of the year, due to business and economic reasons, they will move the jobs out of the Detroit plant to their Ohio plant. It will mean a general lay off.

UNION IS HELPLESS

The first reaction, when the stewards went around with the news, was to put our tools down and stop working. Some of us asked the Union what were they going to do. The Union said there was nothing they could do about it.

I wondered how some could say, "Well, it's the company's money and shop to do with as they please." Most of the workers have spent 15 to 18 years of their life working here. There are many men here who are well over 45 years of age, and some are in their 50's. Where will these workers go? How will they live? Some women in their 40's are working to supplement what their husbands bring home from the auto shops. Some are supporting themselves. Where will they go?

A few of the younger women, whose husbands are laid-off permanently with this model change-over, are talking of picking up, selling their homes, and moving to other states. Will it be any better in those other states?

Once the Unions are busted in this town it won't take long in other places.

SPREAD THE LIE

The foremen try to spread the lie that it is the people's own fault, because they don't produce enough and sit around and talk. When I hear this kind of malarkey being spread around it infuriates me. This type of work is supposed to be precision work. When the job is completed it costs thousands of dollars, and a profit of thousands of dollars is made on each job. It is very precise work and you cannot sit at it all day, or you would go a little mad.

This is also a lily white shop, and so prejudice has been brought in too. One or 2 workers blame it all on the Negro people. Don't ask me how or why. I told one man he was being a little ridiculous since this shop has always discriminated.

Many of the women don't want to fight the company in any way because they say the shop is too small to win any support from the governor or mayor. And if we are locked-out and fired because of a strike we cannot collect unemployment insurance in this town.

PLAYING POLITICS

The companies know that Reuther is playing politics and is no longer behind the production worker. The South is bringing its full force to keep the white and Negro people segregated. The world goes from one fire spot to the next where war might break out. And the attempts to break the backs of the workers all go hand in hand.

Young workers are out because they have no seniority. Older workers are too old to get jobs. If you strike you can't get unemployment insurance. They try to make us fight among ourselves.

And through it all, working people are asking, what will we do? Where will we get work and what kind of work will we do?

Efficiency and Deficiency—at \$1 an Hour

MARYLAND—In popular magazines a most every month, the people of the United States are told (courtesy of the power companies) how efficient privately owned power is.

To the men who work for the power company here, efficiency means a deficiency in pay. Temporary employees receive a dollar an hour. The permanent employees get around \$1.25 at the most, except for some of the top foremen.

All of the guys I work with are temporary except for the foreman. We had an efficiency lecture not too long ago, where we really got "chewed." We are doing as much, if not more, than was done last year, per man. The wheel that "chewed us out" realized that, but he is looking for progress (increased efficiency).

Our foreman, while arguing with this wheel private-

ly, gave him a pretty good answer. He asked him, "After all, how much efficiency do you expect for a buck an hour?"

DETROIT EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING 7 TO 9 P.M. AT 8067 GRAND RIVER (1 FLIGHT UP)

LOS ANGELES EDITING COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 8 P.M. AT 1904 S. ARLINGTON AVE. (Cor. Washington Blvd.) ROOM 203

EDITORIALS

School Integration and Human Rights

In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States outlawed segregation in the public schools. Ever since, this has been one of the first political questions on the mind and agenda of many people, not only in this corner but in every corner of the globe.

They have pulled every trick in the book, and some that are not in the book, to avoid integration. On the other hand, so-called liberals and Union leaders are saying: It's awful because people of other parts of the world see that we are not practicing what we preach, and it makes it hard to sell our democracy to them.

Three years have passed since the decision was handed down. This year, 1957, the Negroes want the law to be put into practice. Many have enrolled their children in white schools for the first time in history.

Several years ago, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell stated, at the Bandung Conference in Asia, that in recent years a total change had occurred in this country, and that the Negro had gained and was gaining his full and just rights.

Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP recently stated that they had got the Supreme Court decision passed. Now, he said, ordinary Negroes must not sit home and wait for the leaders to come and drive their children to school in Cadillac cars.

Practically every Negro feels that Faubus and the Southern governors planned this at their Southern Governors' conference, last year, as a way to stop the move finally taken by the administration after years of incessant struggle by Negroes.

The daily papers played up the fact that Gov. Faubus' son is going to an integrated college. And when Faubus arrived in Newport to confer with the president he was widely photographed shaking hands with a Negro reporter.

Eisenhower is the president of the United States. Faubus is the governor of one state. Yet they came together as two heads of state on an equal level — and Faubus emerged the stronger for he has not stepped back one inch from his position.

Despicable violence against children had to occur before the president finally acted. By then, the Negroes had made it clear that they would not swerve from the cause of freedom, and there had already been a world-wide outcry against the outrage in Little Rock, USA.

When finally the president moved to enforce desegregation in Arkansas — and what a picayune desegregation it is — he said it was because law, not man, is supreme.

Another Republican president who, in his time, was also widely criticized for his vacillations on the question of human rights, Lincoln, at least had the grace to cloak his reality in lofty sentiment when he spoke of government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The net result has been to transform the question of human rights into an insidious debate on "States' rights." They hope thereby to bury the living question of segregation—which blights all of American life—under a dead mountain of pious hypocrisy, while the evil continues to gnaw at our vitals unchecked and intensified.

News & Letters

Vol. 2, No. 22 September, 1957

News & Letters is published every month by News & Letters, 8067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich. Telephone: TYler 8-7053. Subscription: \$1 for 12 issues; single copy — 10c; for bulk order of ten or more — 6c each.

Charles Denby Editor
Saul Blackman Managing Editor

Second class mail privileges authorized at Detroit, Michigan.

Readers'

MODEL CHANGE-OVER

Nobody knows anything at Chrysler-Mack. We went into work one day and got cards with green stripes on them. Every worker had to go running around to find out what it meant.

They are also pitching workers against each other by saying that if one division has overtime the other cannot share. But at the same time any worker can be shifted around in either division.

Chrysler Worker, Detroit

I am the wife of a Chrysler employee who is laid off with 5 years seniority. I understand our great president Walter Reuther has asked the company to cut the price of their cars \$100 each.

I wonder if Reuther thinks this \$100 proposition will solve the problem of buying clothes and shoes for sending our children to school.

Now, as I understand, Reuther has a great part to play in cleaning up and tearing down the slum areas. But not a thought does he give to the people who live there.

Disgusted Housewife, Detroit

After this change of model we know and realize our chief steward elections are coming up. Are we going to do as we've been doing or are we going to elect some chief stewards that will represent the production workers?

Chrysler Worker, Detroit

I remember how we got kicked around before we had the Union, and how good it felt when we got the Union and you could come into the shop like a man.

Chrysler-Trim Detroit

IS THIS SO?

Olga Madar's brother, Arthur, ran for Councilman recently. Olga works for the International UAW in a responsible job.

I remember when Don Frankenstein did the same when his brother was running and Emil Mazey had him fired from the International payroll — which was right because it is against Union rules to do this.

I would like to know who gave Olga the authority to use the facilities that we built and our dues money makes possible.

Old UAW Member Detroit

SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Gov. Faubus said on TV that the only way to get rid of prejudice is through "education." That is really too much!

First of all, he is depriving the Negro children of their right to a free and equal education. Secondly, he is trying to "educate" the white children to be prejudiced, through his actions.

But Governor Faubus is right in a way he knows nothing about. History does not happen in law books, but in the lives of people.

A court decision for integration means nothing until it is put into effect by the Negro children themselves. And when they have to do this in the face of National Guardsmen and jeering mobs, then it is truly an "educational experience" for all concerned.

Mother of 1st Grader, Detroit

Though the Attorney General of South Carolina protested, "It's against public policy!" 5 Hungarian refugee students registered at Allen University this fall.

University Student, Detroit

I do hope your paper will give as much prominence to the fact that the Hungarian Freedom Fighter, Andrew Toth, enrolled in an all-Negro college in South Carolina, Allen University, as you gave to the criticism by some Negroes against the Hungarian refugees.

South Carolina's governor retaliated by withdrawing accreditation from the school. Although they are no longer recognized, the faculty and students decided to stick it out.

Norris, Tenn.

NEGRO STRUGGLE

First, I am a white man. I'm godfather to a little boy who is a Negro. If you let people say as Miner's Wife in West Virginia did (see News & Letters, August 1957), you folks will lose all that you won!

Also, why not boycott Lawrence Welk? He has only Catholics and no Negroes. I know.

Good luck from a white subscriber. I'm trying to get some more to take News & Letters.

New York City

Thank you for your good wishes. We look forward to hearing from you again.—Ed.

When an out-of-towner comes in, down South, they have a group of 10 young men or so watching your car. They caught a fellow throwing lye on a car, took him down to police headquarters and found out that he was a detective that had been throwing the lye all the time.

I didn't stay to find out what they did to him, but I can guess. Nothing. Just like what they did to the fellow that killed that Till boy.

Negro Miner, Osage, W.Va.

The ones behind all this segregation and the ones that fear integration the most are the plantation owners and farmers. They'll lose their field hands.

Once a colored man starts working on a white man's farm down there, he is usually in debt for the rest of his life unless he picks himself up and moves on.

Miss.-Born White Worker, Detroit

Views

Hurrah for Louis Armstrong. I hope he doesn't take the trip for the state department. It's about time Negro artists stopped letting themselves be used as pawns to depict human relations which don't exist and which give the impression that anyone from Louissana can get to the top.

What is particularly heartening to me as a white is that for the first time the leading Negro artists backed him, specifically Lena Horne and Eartha Kitt.

I may be wrong but it seems to me that Miss Kitt's feeling revealed that she too has been subjected to shocking humiliation—in that New York night club when John Ireland was her escort.

White Professional
Lexington, Ky.

* * *

It seems to me that Louis Armstrong had no right to call Eisenhower, "two faced," or to say the government could go to hell after he has made the fortune he has in this country.

Salesman
Los Angeles

* * *

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East, always a political powder keg, became even more explosive when Russia achieved the dominant position in Syria. The shipment of vast quantities of Russian arms to Syria has been matched by an American air-lift of quantities of arms to Jordan, neighbor of both Syria and Israel. There are current reports that these arms are being smuggled back and forth across the borders of these uneasy Arab states. Israel knows that the arms supplied by both sides could be used against her.

* * *

The Russian and American fleets are conducting naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean, where a stray shot in the wrong place could set off a general war.

* * *

It seems clear that the whole area is now but a pawn in the larger struggle for world domination, being fought by Russia and the United States. So long as that situation persists, there can be no true self-determination of the Arab peoples, or any real peace for Israel.

Veteran, U.S.N.
New Jersey

CRITICISM

I think that much of the space in *News & Letters* has little or no value. . . . The personal chit-chat of the Youth and Women's Column are little better than useless. They fail to deal with problems in any depth, relating the particular to the general, or to pose any solutions to them. Also, the letters are of a generally low standard. I can see little use in having a letter column that contains comments of the same type and standard as one would get if one went for a walk in any working class district.

R. C.
Newcastle, England

* * *

TEACHING & LEARNING

Students take many different kinds of summer vacations from the local brain factory, West Va. University. Some really live it up, although I think most of the students here take some sort of job during the summer. They take them for different reasons, though.

One girl at school had quite a problem this summer! Her father gave her a car for her birthday, so her problem was what to do with the money she earned during vacation. I think she finally decided on a color-TV set for her mother to replace the old '56 black-and-white job!

Working Student,
West Virginia

* * *

In my U.S. History class we have a grading system which I think is very fair. It divides the grades into 3 categories. First, are regular assignments, such as questions from a text book; in this category an A is 4 points, B is 3 points, C is 2 points, D is 1 point and F is 0. Next, are oral reports and book reports where an A is 8 points, B is 6 points, C is 4 points, D is 2 points and F is 0. Finally are the tests, where an A is 12 points, B is 9 points, C is 6 points, D is 3 points, and F is 0.

I won't go into any more detail about it, but the reason I think it is fair is because anyone can copy reports, etc., but on tests, which show what you have really learned, you are graded highest.

15-Year-Old,
Los Angeles.

* * *

WHY A MARRIED WOMAN WANTS TO WORK

I coax my husband lots of time to let me go to work. He doesn't want me to, but I went to work once when he was laid off for a long time, and I still think of all the fun I had. I think what I miss most is the other girls I worked with and the good times we had.

Even my housework was easier when I was working out. I used to breeze through the housework then.

It was summer-time, and after work I used to beat it home so I could change clothes and then my husband and I would go to a lot we had planted. I'd work in the garden until 6, come home and get supper, wash the dishes, play with the kids until it was time to put them to bed, do my scrubbing and washing and ironing after they were in bed—and I still felt better than I do now.

I felt alive. Now everything seems so monotonous. I feel that all I do now is sit and look at the same 4 walls every day.

* * *

If you get too fed up, you can always take off somewhere with the kids, or with some woman friend. But it's been so long since I've been out anywhere without my husband that it feels strange, and I don't really enjoy myself.

* * *

There's more to it than the monotony, though. You feel different about money you've earned yourself. My husband signs his check each payday and gives it to me. But I always feel that it's his. I don't admit that to him, of course, and I know it isn't right to feel that way. But you just can't help it.

* * *

I took in sewing for a while, to make some money of my own, when I couldn't go out to work. At first I tried "pooling" our earnings. But somehow it didn't work—I still couldn't seem to get what I wanted for the house. So I kept my own earnings separate. That's how I bought a lot of things I felt we had to have. Like a new furnace to replace the old burnside we used to have. When I had enough money, I just called up the store when they were on sale, and had them deliver it. I didn't have to ask—I just got it.

It makes a difference. It's such things that make a woman want to work instead of just keeping house.

Mother of Two
West Virginia

* * *

NEWS & LETTERS COMMITTEES

What the News & Letters Committee means to me I cannot express in writing. I cannot express my feelings and thoughts about our little group. But there's a place in my heart for the group—not one, but all. They have been wonderful to me and my family. They made my 15 days in the hospital more easy by their visits and also by the cheerful little cards and jokes, and I want to say many thanks to all for everything they did.

L. W.
Detroit

TWO WORLDS

A Challenge and a Promise

(I have received the following letter from a colleague of mine.)

* * *

I have just had one of the most exciting experiences of my life. I had the opportunity, some time ago, to read several draft chapters of *Marxism and Freedom*, and, as you already know, was tremendously impressed with them. But I have just read the complete manuscript, and I can hardly contain my excitement—so powerful is the impact of the book as a whole. (See: "What Kind of Work," page 1.)

COMMUNISM AS A WORLD WIDE PHENOMENON

It is the most devastating exposure of Communism that I have ever read. I was greatly impressed with the chapters on Russia when I first read them. Even in preliminary draft, it was unmistakable that a mammoth job had been done in tracing the step-by-step transformation of Russia from the first workers' state in history into its very opposite—the most barbarous totalitarian regime of the modern world. But not until you have digested the book from beginning to end can you appreciate what a powerful weapon this work is in the fight against Communism, precisely because it does not let the reader go on thinking of Communism as only a "Russian phenomenon."

The warning that permeates it, from beginning to end, is that the state-capitalism of Russia—which culminated in Stalin's (and now Khrushchev's) One-Party State—is, in truth, a world-wide phenomenon: "Let no one think, because we took Russia as the supreme example, that America is exempt from this development."

WORKERS' DICTATOR

While Lassalle, the first "workers' dictator," may be an unfamiliar figure before reading this book, after the reading he will be known in his fully developed form not only as the Stalins, but even as the Reuthers and the Lewises. You recognize the Planners, one and all, and the "Planned Society" is seen to be precisely what Marx warned about, as far back as 1844, in these prophetic words: "We should especially avoid establishing society as an abstraction opposed to the individual. The individual IS the social entity."

I cannot tell you how deeply moved I was to see just how simple and yet how profound is the essence of Marxism—its deep Humanism—and to realize that all of history is nothing more nor less than the history of the struggle for freedom!

THE COMMON MAN'S ACTIVITY IS THE MOVING FORCE OF HISTORY

What struck me as the most profound theme in the work is the simple truth that it has indeed been the common man who has made all of history, and who has pushed the world forward at every critical moment.

The minute you open the book, you are immersed in the dramatic description of the activity of the common people during the French Revolution, and the impact of that activity upon Hegel, the greatest of all philosophers. The tracing of Marx's own development becomes the exciting description of the Paris Commune, the American Civil War, and the struggle for the 8-Hour Day, and their impact on his philosophy.

The powerful history packed into the pages of *Marxism and Freedom*, rarely receives more than a line or two in standard history "texts." This alone would make the book an exciting experience. But it is not the history alone that makes the book so gripping. It is the proof, in that history, that there has never been an idea, even in the mind of a genius like Hegel or Marx, that was not first in the activity of the common man; and the warning that "whoever fails to recognize the limits of a theoretical work, although he may glorify theory and genius, also, in actuality fails to recognize the indispensability of the theoretician."

A CHALLENGE TO EVERY INTELLECTUAL

This is the challenge to every intellectual today: "If, as a theoretician, one's ears are attuned to the new impulses from the workers, new 'categories' will be created and a new way of thinking, which at one and the same time is a step forward in philosophic cognition and a leap into freedom."

I cannot help but add that if your ears are not attuned, you have the pitiful helplessness that passes for "theory" today but is incapable of answering a single one of the critical problems the world faces—What to do about Automation? About totalitarianism? About the H-bomb? It is no exaggeration to say that these questions must be answered if civilization itself is to survive.

The challenge is nothing more than to match in theory the activity our contemporary common man is writing into the history of our age. That is the history that left me the most breathless of all. From the Freedom Fighters in Hungary to the Montgomery boycotters in America, to the miners' strikes against Automation—you can almost feel the pulse of our age's struggle for freedom.

It is not enough to see the totality of the crisis the world faces. That, everyone can see today. But to see, in the activity of your fellow-men, the affirmative answer to the question, "Can man be free?"—that is almost to see the new society already!!

Consciously to be aware that you are standing on the threshold of that, the new, society, that you have a place on that threshold, that you are living in the birth-time of true freedom—that is an experience that defies description.

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

THE IDEA OF FREEDOM

The General Assembly of the United Nations has voted to censure the Soviet Union for its action in crushing the Hungarian Revolution of one year ago. The American delegation, the resolution's strongest supporter, is eager for the State Department to appear in the world arena as staunch champions of freedom, especially now that the revolution has been suppressed. When it was alive there was no thought of aid to the Hungarian workers, and some official mumbled that he didn't like to see armed rebellions against established governments.

Prime Minister Nehru of India, who recognized the Red Army's intervention as criminal a year ago, didn't want to join in the condemnation of Russia this time. He figures what happened has happened and there's no sense increasing world tensions by riling the Russian chiefs.

The action taken by the General Assembly will not help the Hungarians one iota. It is a public relations job for all the phonies to proclaim themselves for freedom with no responsibility to back the words they mouth.

Freedom is not solely the

cause of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters, but the cause of the common man everywhere. Far more telling activity and direct support for freedom has recently come from the South.

SOUTHERN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The vast majority of the Southern Freedom Fighters remain anonymous, but we are confident the actions of two of them electrified the world and gave heart to the most cynical.

Elizabeth Eckford, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Dorothy Counts, from Charlotte, North Carolina, are 2 Negro teen agers in whose bones the idea of freedom is deeply imbedded. It supported Elizabeth Eckford as she vainly attempted to squeeze through the file of Arkansas National Guardsmen who ringed Little Rock's Central High School. And it sustained Miss Counts and many others in the face of public derision.

The idea of freedom seems so elementary, yet it causes world leaders to forget, equivocate and lie, while it was the only weapon that armed a couple of frail school girls as they went forth to challenge soldiers and angry mobs.

'Peace and Good Will'

I think most everyone is familiar with the recent trip of about 50 American youth to the Moscow Youth Festival in Russia, and the State Department's objections to their going.

Whether you were with or against these youth, I think the story behind their going is an interesting one. The story comes from the Congressional Record.

A Mr. O'Hara, of Illinois, addressed the House for one minute on the subject of a Miss Barbara Perry who had tried to get an audience with the President, but had not been able to.

Miss Perry had been a rabid fan of President Eisenhower, and had worked very hard with the Youth-Fore-Eisenhower group during the recent election.

RABID FAN

Some time later, Miss Perry listened to a speech by the President in which he stated that the best way to promote world peace and understanding was for the people of this country to meet and become better acquainted with the people of other countries, and vice-versa. Worshipping President Eisenhower, and naively taking him at his word, she sought a way to do just this. She found it. She heard that soon there was to be Youth Festival in Moscow with youth there from all over the world.

She started to round up a party of 40 or 50 youth to go to Moscow and represent American Youth. She met with great opposition from the State Department in spite of the President's grand words.

WHO TRUSTS WHOM?

Confronted with this, Miss Perry proceeded to Washington get an appointment with the President and ask him, point blank, this question: If the American Youth trusted President Eisenhower to mix with King Saud of Saudi Arabia and were not afraid that the President would be tainted by association, and be won over to the other side, why does the President not trust the American youth to the same extent, and let them mingle with Russian youth?

Miss Perry obviously got to see the President or someone of importance in Washington, because of Mr. O'Hara's plea, for they went to Moscow, and later on to Red China.

I'd like to say that I was for these youth. I think many of them went with the idea of selling "Americanism," but the principle they fought for was that they should be able to go, and mingle with Russian youth if they want to. I know if I had been in a position to go I would have jumped to the chance to talk to Russian youth and learn what youth under Russian totalitarianism have to say.

—Carolyn Goldsmith

Workers Need Voice on Labor Conditions

DETROIT—Instead of representing all of us, Reuther has fallen back on the contract.

It's true, Local 212 is supposed to have the best contract in the UAW up North. But what good is the contract to the production worker today? We would rather have a group of people back of us and sticking together, than a contract.

One of the reasons they can always sing this contract song is that this contract is better than Ford's G.M. and the rest. They say it's better but it is better only in writing.

WHEN THE WORKERS MADE THE CONTRACT

We wouldn't care if there was no contract, if we only had the solidarity that we had back in 1940 to 1949. Workers had their say in labor, how they were to do the job, and what they would do, and what they wouldn't do. They also had something to say about the time it would take to do a job.

Every worker knew and felt this. This was his life. It wasn't what the contract said, but his daily routine, his daily life. His thoughts

were the contract. He thought out the contract as he went along.

This was a cooperative thing among workers. Each and everyone was doing the same thing: defending and protecting each other against the company action and against all opposition to workers.

NOW THE LEADERS MAKE THE CONTRACT

Today, it's strictly the contract that the leaders agree to behind our backs. The company and the Union leaders are forcing us to walk a hard road. That's no kind of life for anybody.

As we see it today, chief stewards are being elected in little separate groups, in separate departments, instead of all being together. The chief steward is saying that his only interest is the workers in his own department. He's got a funny way of showing it.

Some workers say the real reason for being chief steward is to be able to draw a pay check and not have to work. But all of it stems from the contract.

—2 Production Workers

When South Says, "Give Us Time to Integrate," They Mean Time to Fight Against Integration

When the white South cries, "Give us time to solve the 'Nigra' problem!" it really means, "Give us time to organize an army of intimidation against the Negroes!" The longer integration is delayed, the more violence there will be.

By preventing integration in the Little Rock high school by means of the National Guard, Governor Faubus has given aid and comfort to the racist mobs that have gathered to threaten and insult a handful of Negro students. He and the other Dixie governors who have been planning anti-integration strategy are encouraging the growth of White Citizens Councils and the flowering of violence all over the South.

In Jefferson County, Ala-

bama, where integration in the schools has been completely stalled, numerous crosses have been burned this last month. Near Birmingham, two carloads of armed whites kidnapped, kicked, stabbed, and emasculated a 34 year old Negro, Judge Aaron. They told him, "This is what will happen if they integrate the schools in Birmingham." No Negro is really safe until the battle for integration is finally won, and that must be accomplished as soon as possible.

Even a Negro like Aubrey Murphy of Marion, Alabama, who shot at three carloads of attacking "night-riders", wounding one man and scaring off the others, is not really safe. If the "lawless" whites don't get him, the white "law" may.

"Things Don't Work Out, You Have to Work Them Out"

WEST VIRGINIA—I read about a woman in California who almost burned her house down when she set fire to a pile of dirty diapers, because she was so tired of washing them. She said, what got her was how her husband came home every day, ate his supper, laid on the couch, drank a bottle of beer and watched TV until it was time to go to bed.

That does get you, I suppose, but doesn't a woman like that realize that her husband works hard all day, too?

There are times when a husband has to pitch in, too, of course. And they don't always do it on their own. That's where the friction comes in. When we were first married, I didn't want my husband to do a thing when he came home from the mines, but just sit. I figured he was pretty tired, and since I wasn't working out, it was

my job to take care of the house jobs. Everything went smoothly until I had my second baby.

Then, I was pretty sick, and not supposed to do very much. But my husband was so used to "just sitting" when he was home, that he went on "just sitting" then, too.

One day I just had to sit down and point out all the dirt I couldn't clean up. I told him what I thought he should have pitched in to do. He looked amazed.

He said, "But you never let me help, before." I had to explain to him why it was different now that I was sick. It just never would have occurred to him otherwise.

Once I got it out, things went pretty smoothly again. That's the way I think you have to work it out. You can't expect it to go right all the time. But things just don't "work out" either — you have to work them out.

—Housewife and Mother

Separation Outcasts Handicapped Kids

LOS ANGELES—Recently I called to mind a situation that took place when I was in Grammar School. The horrible significance of the whole thing never hit me until now.

"PROBLEM KIDS"

In our school, we had one special room that was set

aside for kids of all ages who were slow in learning, or had something a little unusual about them, such as, a speech impediment or some type of illness which caused them to miss so much school that they could no longer keep up with their regular class. It was also a class for so-called "problem kids."

These children were considered by the other students as "freaks." No one associated with them or even spoke to them. They were looked upon as a sideshow in a circus.

The teacher, instead of being kind and patient, to help these kids, was older and intolerant, and no longer capable of teaching. These kids were completely segregated from the rest of us. They even ate lunch at a separate table. So, at the early age of 9, 10 and 11, these kids were already outcasts in their society.

CREATES OUTCASTS

To me, it is so typical of our whole society in that it creates outcasts. Instead of helping these kids to adjust, they do something which will leave an impression on them for the rest of their lives. I would like to know what has become of these kids, I'm sure nothing good came out of the way they were treated.

I don't blame the kids for their actions towards these segregated pupils, the world they live in has taught them to act that way. I do blame the school authorities who set up such a situation.

Things like this are one of my strong reasons for wanting a new society.

—High School Student

8TH GRADERS PRAISE TEACHER WHO MAKES SCHOOL INTERESTING

My 8th grade teacher is new in our school. We all like him very much because he makes our work interesting. He will have us doing math, and if there is a certain word there we will talk about English, and that is the way the morning goes. By the time we go home we have covered reading, spelling, English, and math.

And we enjoy doing our work. But sometimes we think that he looks and finds what words there are, because they come right in order. He lets us have a water break, and a club. We have a ten-minute break, too.

He lets us teen-agers fix the bulletin boards the way we want them. We have a news board and an amusements board. He is giving a prom for the 8A's.

Everybody says men teachers are worse than women teachers. If that is so, something went wrong somewhere, because this teacher is better than some of the women teachers. Many cheers for a wonderful teacher. Everyone likes him. He makes us like our work and school.

—Two Detroit Schoolgirls

"Are We Going to Let Them Continue to Do This?"

Discrimination in Detroit Auto Plant Hurts Whites and Negroes, Production Worker Says

DETROIT—It has been 2 months or better since those 2 men were fired from the trim shop. Nothing has been done, and no progress made to get them back to work. They were fired because supervision refused to recognize them while they were temporarily filling the place of the chief steward who was on vacation. (See: "Readers' Views," Aug. 1957). A crane operator from the Vernor plant was discharged about the same time. He is still out on the street, too.

The company has been making men jump cranes instead of having operators in each, as it used to be. This man was charged with causing a work stoppage by refusing to jump cranes—as any good Union man would have done. If we had the support and backing as we used to have and as we should have now but haven't, this man would not have been fired.

NO TIME FOR WORKERS

As it is, our Local officers seem to find more time to go behind closed doors with the company, and go into agreements with them, and figure out how they can cut manpower and keep the same production or more. But they don't seem to have time to negotiate grievances like these.

About 3 weeks ago, I asked one of the committeemen about these fired men, and he said it looked fairly good for 2 of them to come back to work. The man who was fired out of Vernor is white (there are no colored crane operators), and the 2 who were fired from trim are Negroes.

DISCRIMINATION

As I understand it, the company is willing to take back the white man and one of the colored, but they don't want to take the other colored man back because, it has been said, he was seen going to lunch with a white woman and they don't like that. The company knows that if they take one man back they've got to take all 3 back, so they and the Union are looking

for a way to take 2 of them back but leave the third one out.

The other day I asked another committeeman what had been done about getting these men back.

He said he hadn't done a darn thing about getting them back for they were too damn hot headed, and that was the reason they were out in the first place.

TOO HOT-HEADED

This committeeman happened to have been elected on the Rank & File slate, last May, but he talked just the same as if he had been elected on the Reutherite Green slate. These men out of trim had campaigned for him to be elected last May and that's how he represents them! But when he was running, during the May election, there was no one "too hot-headed" to campaign for him, white or colored, hillbilly or Northern. Now that they're elected some of them say they could have won anyway and they don't like any darn hillbilly, white or colored.

BEHIND THE DEAL

This discrimination is on both sides, Rank & File and Green slate, and the result, as we can feel and see, is that these 2 colored men and one white man are being left out on the street. We understand now that the company has said a flat "No," about getting the men back, and we can see and know, from what is being done, that discrimination is at the bottom of this unfortunate deal.

The majority of the trim workers know why this man was put out, and we feel that neither supervision nor the Union officers have a right to try to live his life. He is over 21 and should have his own rights to go and come with whom he pleases as long as he does his work and fulfills his job. Anyone who goes with him goes of their own accord and free will and it's strictly their business and nobody else's.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

We can recall back when Emil Mazey and other International officers were working on what they called a "great step" and a "great victory" in organizing the office workers in our Union—which is a lily white department where no production worker can break in anywhere.

What can we expect from the International representative on this discrimination case, when the president of the International, as we all know very well, is in on the discrimination himself? He showed it in the 16th Convention when he wouldn't let the Harvester worker from Tennessee sit on the floor and cast his votes as he was elected to do.

What can we expect from the great Local 212 officers who are representing us production workers, when there has been discrimination throughout the Mack plant for the last 20 years? **They have used the colored man, and all other production workers, as a tool to secure themselves permanent jobs in the Local offices.**

We have seen, time after time, the company playing discrimination in 19-B department, and others as well, where they know that the committeemen will play along with them.

WHO IS TO JUDGE?

Who is anyone to judge who may or may not go in or out with whom? Is it Walter Reuther's place to tell me who I can take out to lunch? I work and earn my money and I feel I can spend it with whom I please. I definitely don't feel that the UAW has any voice as to where or how I spend my money, or with whom I spend it. And it isn't any of the company's business either. This is supposed to be a free country but it doesn't seem to be so with these people running it and holding on to their jobs. Are we going to let them continue to do this? NO. We are not!

—White Production Worker

Laid-Off Worker Asks:

"What Good Is Automation If We're In the Street?"

DETROIT — Reuther is still talking about Automation and how it is going to help us—but if we are out in the street what good will it do us?

You take this model changeover at Chrysler: they just told us to go home at 10 o'clock, a temporary lay-off, they said, but they didn't give us any indication of when to go back.

CUT WAY BACK

Before that they started to lay men off. In my department the lay-off went back to '51 seniority; in the trim department they went back to '48; and in the press department they went all the way back to '41.

Always before, temporary lay-offs usually had a notice put up on the board when to

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

THE FITNESS OF AMERICAN YOUTH

In a popular weekly magazine I saw a blazing headline—"Is American Youth Physically Fit?" The article points out that over 50 per cent of the 4,000 Americans tested failed to meet minimum standards of muscular fitness as measured by a test of physical strength and agility.

The reasons offered for this failure are: that today's youngsters ride too much; walk too little; spend too much time at TV sets and movies; are mostly spectators in sports; and have no home chores.

ONE THIRD OF THE YOUTH

It was mentioned that since 1950, of almost 5 million draft registrants examined at induction centers, one in 3 was found unfit for military duty. About half of these were disqualified for mental reasons.

It appears that our president is very much shocked at these facts and has appointed a commission to study this "near national emergency."

The above information may be quite true, though one type of physical test does not tell the whole story. Still, I cannot see any great cause for alarm in looking at the physical condition of our youth. There is, however, something disturbing as one looks at youth's reaction to their environment, to te activity about them. Then, it seems to me, it is not a matter of youth being fit, but that our society is not fit for them.

Delinquency, which is so widespread in the U.S. comes from youth's inability to live in the framework of the social life we have created. The young often see, with eyes and minds clearer than adult's, the contradictions in school, home and the world outside—all of which fail to measure up to human values. They oppose, resist, and find themselves misfits.

In school, it is necessary above all to conform. In the home, the pressures of the factory or office on the parents dominates all activity. In the world outside, it is often impossible to find reason or truth.

AMAZING REASONS

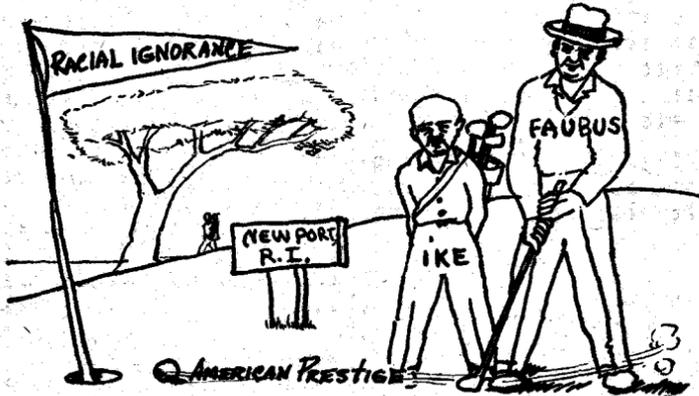
The reasons that some people give for delinquency are amazing. A learned judge holds the parents responsible and wants laws to punish them. I talked recently to the mother of a 15-year-old boy. He had all the signs of the delinquent, He hated school, associated with a wild gang, was a petty thief, and refused to obey rules. She was worried and unhappy over him and wanted to do something. Yet the problem to her seemed to resolve itself into her statement. "The trouble with him is that he is a coward."

I believe young people are looking for something that they find difficult to express or even to bring to consciousness: an association with people who value one another, and who live and grow through working with each other. This must be a relationship in which the full development of each individual will be the condition for the development of all.

Automation—As It Was Foretold a Century Ago

"An organized system of machines to which motion is communicated by the transmitting mechanism from a central automaton, is the most developed form of production by machinery. . . . The lightening of the labor, even, becomes a sort of torture since the machine does not free the laborer from work, but deprives the work of all interest. . . ."

"By means of its conversion into an automaton, the instrument of labor confronts the laborer during the labor process, in the shape of capital, of dead labor, that dominates and pumps dry living labor power. The separation of intellectual powers of production from manual labor, and the conversion of those powers into the might of capital over labor, is . . . finally completed by modern industry erected on the foundation of machinery."—Karl Marx



Your Subscriptions and Contributions
Keep NEWS & LETTERS Going
See Special Offer on Page 8

come back, but this time they didn't put anything up. It just happened so fast. They gave us 10 minutes to punch out and that's all.

Reuther is trading off the contract for the machines. If Automation is going to help only a few there's no sense to it. If people are going to be on the streets I don't see any reason why they should be making these machines when men can do the work.

If a man's only got one year's seniority he's still entitled to have a job. These machines are only helping those guys on Wall St. and those who are riding around in Cadillacs, Imperials and Lincolns. But it's throwing all the rest of us out on the streets without jobs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

The fault I find with the Local Union is that we don't get any information. The only reason we knew there was a lay-off coming was because there was a rumor. But the Local didn't post any notice on the bulletin board or anything. They must have known something.

Suppose we have it again as in '55 when I was off for 8 months, what will happen then? Plymouths weren't selling. Why do they need machines to make cars people aren't buying? We don't need the machines if men aren't working. I think we have to have unlimited compensation to make up for what we don't have in the way of jobs.

—Chrysler Production Worker

WHAT KIND OF WORK SHALL MAN PERFORM?

(Continued from Page 1)

should recall that the determined struggles of the workers and youth against tyranny in East Germany, in the slave labor camps within Russia itself, in Hungary, and indeed throughout the Iron Curtain countries, heralded the beginning of the end of Communist totalitarianism.

OUR ARTICLES

We are proud to have given Miss Dunayevskaya permission to quote freely from **News & Letters** articles written by working people and youth, Negro and white, about the kind of life they want fundamentally different from the life we now have to endure.

The production workers, who have a bear the full crushing weight of these huge machines, in one instant know more about Automation as a method of capitalist production—invented by management to extort more profit by ruining the workers' health and shortening their life and their families' through speed-up, intimidation and unemployment—than all the big scientists, labor leaders and management officials who call it a "crowning achievement of American progress."

In the thinking and analyses of the miners, auto workers and steelworkers—just to name those who work in basic industry—Miss Dunayevskaya found the most penetrating understanding of the modern world and the grandest vision of a new and truly human way of life. Such penetrating thoughts, as she writes in the Introduction of her book, imposed upon her the obligation to match, in depth of philosophy, a method of thought which can penetrate to the core of today's total crisis by having a vision and idea of a totally free tomorrow.

NEW HUMANISM

This philosophy, this method of thought she calls **Marxism and Freedom** because it derives from Karl Marx. Having absorbed the best of all civilized thought, which found its greatest expression until then in the idealist philosophy of Hegel, Marx could penetrate to the inner and outer reality of the modern world because his greatest theories came from what the workers were doing and thinking to free themselves from the domination of dead capital.

The self-styled spokesmen of "the American way of life," be they businessmen, union officials or politicians, like to say that we are practical people who call a spade a spade. In the cold war competition to control the minds of men, they call the spade with which they are digging at the American workers' lives, "people's capitalism." The only thing capitalism shares generously with the people is debt.

With the same kind of calculated dishonesty, these "spokesmen" say that Marxism is Communism. The Russians also dare to call their theory and practice of enslavement, "Marxism." It gives them a propaganda edge because the workers, particularly in Europe, Asia and Africa, know that the

heaped-up evils which plague them are the fruits of capitalism, of which the United States is now the classical example.

Miss Dunayevskaya punctures this Russo-American curtain of lies by showing that Russian Communism is state capitalism. She analyzes Russia's Five Year Plans, the bureaucrats who draw them up and the police who try to enforce them. She shows that this is the state capitalism predicted by Marx as the logical outcome of the machine's continued tyranny over man in production.

The Russian Communists boast that they will outdistance American capitalism in 7 years. In tyrannical discipline over the worker they have already outdistanced American capitalism. - But the American Planners, as any production worker can testify today, are working without pause, to catch up with the Russians in that respect.

OUR TRUE HERITAGE

American history has been so re-written and vandalized that we have all but forgotten our true heritage.

Thus, with the abolition of chattel slavery in the U. S., the world-wide movement for the shorter working day leaped ahead as the first condition for the abolition of wage slavery. Right after the Civil War, the American workers spear-headed the movement for the 8-Hour Day.

We have often been told that Marxism is a "foreign doctrine." **Marxism and Freedom** is a pioneering anti-Communist study of the American roots of Marxism. It shows that the American Civil War deepened Marx's theories and was fundamental in the final development of Marxist Humanism.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE

The Negroes' struggle for full human rights is again being fought, now on a deeper base that embraces all of America. Automation is forcing the workers again to struggle for a shorter working day—not, as the labor leadership proposes, based on unemployment and speed-up—but in terms of controlling their own lives and conditions of work.

This new book, **Marxism and Freedom**, is a challenge to all, workers and intellectuals alike, because it shows the relationship of history to theory. That is to say, it shows that the New Humanism—the greatest theory of human liberation—comes out of the activity, out of the practice of the workers. The need is for a new unity of theory and practice.

It is also one of the most pressing needs of everyday life if the thinking and planning and doing are to be united in each and every one working in free cooperation with each other so that work is not a torture nor leisure a worry.—S. B.

(Editor's Note: This is the first of our series: "What Kind of Work Shall Man Perform?" It will continue regularly. For related articles, see: "Model Changeover," p. 3; "Letters from Delaware," p. 3; "What Good Is Automation?" p. 7.)

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

LITTLE ROCK, U.S.A.

The disgraceful spectacle in Little Rock, of a state governor using National Guard troops to prevent little Negro children from going to public schools, is having worldwide repercussions.

Communists throughout the world are having a field day showing how badly democracy works in the United States. Even so-called friendly governments are forced to apologize for their friendship with the United States.

In West Berlin, a cartoon was published showing the Statue of Liberty with her torch dipped to two National Guardsmen dragging off a Negro child. Newspapers throughout the world, in Japan, India and Africa were all loud in their protestations.

There is no question but what the 2 billion people of the yellow, brown and black races, now organized into 29 nations, all identify themselves with the Negroes being persecuted in the United States. It is the minds of these people which are at stake in the struggle between Russia and the United States.

No wonder Strijdom of South Africa always points to the U.S.A. for justification. His racist policies dominate not only South Africa, but South U.S.A.

JOHANNESBURG

The African women, 2½ million strong, are waging a successful fight against the government of Strijdom in South Africa. The women were ordered, in Sept. 1955, to start carrying "reference books" which amount to an internal passport, as they move about the country in search of work. They refused.

Their refusal has led to the building of a resistance movement which, in Pretoria on Aug. 9, assembled over 20,000 women, who stood for 30 minutes in silent protest with upraised thumbs of the Africa salute when officials refused to talk with them. They marched off

singing, in their own Zulu language, "Strijdom, you have tampered with the women, you have struck a rock." * * *

In Standerton, 1,000 women marched in protest on July 9. 900 were arrested for staging an illegal procession. On July 18, the date of their trial, they came to town in another procession carrying their babies and laughing. The small police force stopped them at the edge of town and acquitted them of the charges. * * *

POLAND

The communist regime of Gomulka in Poland, which has friends in the American State Dept. as well as in Khrushchev's Russia, is having a great deal of trouble with the Polish working class. So much so, that Gomulka recently found it necessary to exclaim, "Beware of provocateurs who incite you to strike. The workers have nothing to gain from this in People's Poland." This was his speech to the workers after the end of the transport strike in Lodz.

Men who are forced to work 12 hours a day, are refused the right to change their jobs or their place of residence, and who carry the heavy burden of the Soviet reparations policy on their shoulders need not be told to watch out for provocateurs.

The state of mind of the Polish worker can be seen in statistics released by the Gomulka government: productivity off 30 per cent in the first 6 months of 1957, absenteeism up by one third, vodka consumption up 24 per cent, a picture of a state of complete demoralization in the working class.

Yet, the Polish working class continues whenever the opportunity presents itself, to strike and strike hard against the regime, and against the miserable conditions of labor fostered by it. Bread and Freedom still loom large in Polish life.

INDIA

The Government of Nehru in India is very fond of maintaining a neutralist position in the struggle between Russia and the United States. Last week its "neutrality" went so far as to attempt to whitewash the Russian bloodbath of the Hungarian revolution.

At the same time, India, now in the second of its five year plans, is running into trouble. To establish steel mills, industry and transportation requires more capital than India has available. Nehru's request for a British loan of 200 million pounds has been rejected with the advice that he seek private capital.

He has now sent out feelers for an American loan of 500 to 600 million dollars. If he gets it, it will mean he must pay closer attention to the wishes of the American State Dept.

Does Nehru hope that his double flirtation with Russia and the U.S. will help the masses of the peoples of India to forget that bourgeois independence from Great Britain has not brought India out of its economic backwardness, poverty and unemployment? * * *

THE LUCE PUBLICATIONS & THE DJILAS BOOK

A million dollars worth of free publicity has been given the book, **The New Class** by Milovan Djilas, the former Vice-President of Yugoslavia, by the Luce publications in our country. LIFE hopefully called it "A Book That Will Rock Marxism." No greater dud could have been set off to "rock Marxism." Djilas talks out of both sides of his mouth when he pretends to be a "democratic socialist," but he does not pretend to have elaborated a new theory "to rock Marxism" or the world. He claims only "to describe" the Communist tyranny which he helped build up, and rightfully does not claim to have been the first, or the best, to have done so. He now chooses "the West" with as little understanding as he had formerly chosen "Communism." That choice of "the West" as some sort of supposedly Marxian socialist at a time when Western capitalist thought is so bankrupt that they cannot win a following in Western or Eastern Europe, although both are trying hard to break with Communism, is what emboldens Luce to play with Djilas. We wouldn't be surprised to find out tomorrow that Tito, with whom Djilas broke, and who also plays with the West, allowed Djilas's book to be smuggled out of the country. * * *

(Editor's Note: A true Marxist analysis of the Communist tyranny is being published. See front page article on **Marxism and Freedom**.)

SPECIAL OFFER

Marxism and Freedom

... from 1776 until Today

by Raya Dunayevskaya

An Anti-Communist Study of the American Roots of Marxism

AND

12 Issues of NEWS & LETTERS, \$1

BOTH FOR ONLY \$6

Use This Coupon to Order

News & Letters, 8067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich.

Please send me your special offer of **Marxism and Freedom**, by Raya Dunayevskaya, and a subscription for 12 issues of **News & Letters**. I enclose \$6 in check or money order.

Name

Address

City..... Zone.... State.....