

NEWS & LETTERS

'The Root of Mankind Is Man'

10¢

VOL. 7—NO. 7

Printed in 100 Percent Union Shop

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1962

10c A Copy 6d in Great Britain

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By Charles Denby, Editor

My Vacation With Jobless Miners

This year I took one of the few vacations in my life and spent it in southern Pennsylvania and West Virginia among unemployed coal miners.

Before we were laid off for model changeover in the auto plants, we were working 10 hours a day for several months. We were so beat from these long hours and the fast speed of Automation that every worker said he felt it was impossible to make the next day. I never heard so many workers before in my life saying they were just leaving town—just going somewhere to rest.

"NO ONE REALLY KNOWS"

In Pennsylvania I spent a week in a mining district. There, the vast majority of men are unemployed—some for as long as five years. In talking with a white miner, unemployed for four years, he said, "You know, people in other parts can read about us, see about us on TV and hear about us from radio news, and many will sympathize. But no one really knows unless they live here or come here and be with us for a while.

"Long ago I read of the problems of colored people, and sympathized with them. But I know now that I could not feel like them because I was not one of them and was not living with them where they were facing the problems of being permanently unemployed, of being degraded to the point where you do not think. I lay home in bed and sit around the house until I feel sick. Sometimes, you get a job for a day. They tell you what they will pay. Instead of finishing the job, you work on it two and three days—just to say to yourself, 'I have something to do tomorrow'."

RATS, SNAKES, LIZARDS, AND BUTTERFLIES

One morning I saw a dozen men standing in an open field. Several were holding .22 rifles; all were laughing and talking. I walked up to them and asked where they were going. They said to hunt rats, snakes and lizards. Two of them had some kind of net, said they were hunting butterflies. I laughed. One asked if I was employed. When I answered "Yes", he said, "We unemployed miners, we do this to keep our minds active." I never felt so bad in my life. I made all kinds of apologies. The miner told about a college student wanting several different species of butterflies for her studies in biology. After he caught her amount, it seemed to occupy his mind, so he continued to catch them. So now, he has hundreds of different species. If no one wants them, he will turn them loose and probably catch them again.

I was told of a miner some 25-miles away further south that I had not seen since childhood. In this area, practically all of the mines are worked out or closed down. Most of these miners are older men, and they all seem to have asthma, with shortened breath. When I asked my relative about this, he said it wasn't asthma, it was silicosis. Then he drew a diagram of the human lungs, as some lab technician might do, saying how much coal dust is likely to settle in the lungs each year. After 30 years in the mine, you are very fortunate to come out with no silicosis.

At one time, he said, miners died rapidly. But now the doctors have found a way to make you last longer—only there is no cure. The disease slowly clogs your breathing and smothers you to death.

I thought of all the wealth these workers have produced, and the profits they have made for the companies, and now they are forgotten human beings with feelings and not belonging to anything, a part of nothing. As one miner said, "When we first got out of work, we were all afraid of hitting bottom. We felt we were as low as we could go. And after a year or two, something would come along and we would lift our heads up and have hope of going again. But we have wallowed in this bottom so long, we feel it's hopeless now. If the women here were not working, we would be like mad dogs."

When I asked about the commodities of government ration food, he said, "Man, we are used to having some money of our own in our pockets. This food is the same thing every two weeks. After you eat it for a while, the taste leaves it. It never tastes like the food you buy. And you don't have any choice—it is just something to keep you alive. Your children ask you 'Can I have an ice cream pop?' You never have the money. You feel as though you are nothing. They say when you hit rock bottom, the only way you can go is up again. If I thought this was possible, I would feel better."

SOCIAL RACE RELATIONS

In West Virginia, the army of the unemployed was the same. My amazement was the relationship of the white miners and their families and the Negro miners and their families. I could not believe I was near the Mason-Dixon Line, the border states or the South. I am not saying there is no prejudice there I'm

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Krushchev Helps Kennedy Create War Hysteria

'Alliance For Progress' Helps Generals Crush Mass Movements in Latin America

The flaring of war talk over Cuba, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, is giving Russia the chance to shift attention from Russia's responsibility for war build up through their atomic explosions, and has given Kennedy convenient cover-up for the complete failure of his "Alliance for Progress" to be anything other than a military alliance supporting, and supported by Latin America's hated dictatorships.

Kennedy marked the first anniversary of the "Alliance for Progress," on Aug. 18, by officially recognizing the new military dictatorship in Peru. Exactly one month earlier, however, he had denounced their seizure of power that voided the June elections which gave obvious victory to the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA)—the party of Peru's radical agrarian leader Haya de la Torre. When he broke diplomatic relations with the junta, on July 18, Kennedy charged them with violating the principles of the "Alliance for Progress" which, he continues to assert, calls for industrial growth, agrarian reform, and the elimination of military dictatorships in Latin America.

How the Peruvian dictators changed their character in the course of one month remains a mystery which Kennedy doesn't feel it necessary to clear up because, a few days later, attention was diverted to U.S.-Russian tensions over Cuba. In the ensuing editorial and congressional clamor for military intervention, Kennedy once more assumed the pose of a liberal moderate while, at the same time, he won unanimous approval from Congress to call up 150,000 reservists without even the formality of having to declare a national emergency.

JFK BREEDS COMMUNISM

Having thus sidestepped taking responsibility for his about-face in Peru, he proceeded to whitewash the positive failure of his year-old "Alliance for Progress" by saying, in his Sept. 13th broadcast, that things are so bad in Latin America it will have to take a very long time for progressive change.

By his words and deeds Kennedy has struck a blow against the many millions who are seeking an independent road to social change without having to choose between Russia and the United States. He has thereby become the greatest breeder of Castroism and Communism in Latin America.

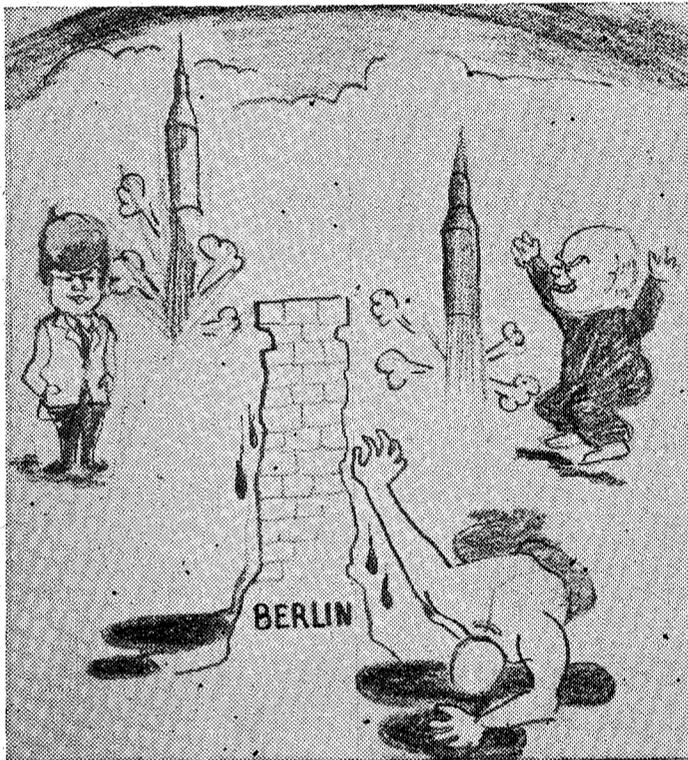
At the same time Khrushchev has given notice at the United Nations that he will charge the United States with preparing a war against Cuba. He had already threatened that an "aggression" against Cuba "will be the beginning of the unleashing of war."

This type of rocket-rattling has spurred some Congressmen on to talk of invasion, but given the President his chance to appear the calm, cool—and also calculating!—leader who is the non-belligerent, non-warlike Commander-in-Chief, asking all Americans to "keep both their nerve and their head."

Typical of American workers' response to Kennedy's

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Our Life and Times



All Roads Lead to Berlin—See p. 8

Farmers' Strike Shows Rising Rural Discontent

Illinois, Sept. 1—At midnight last night the National Farmers' Organization started its holding action on hogs, beef and grain.

The membership of the organization has increased very rapidly recently, and now has an estimated membership of some 180,000 farm families. At a meeting in Des Moines on August 28, over 20,000 people filled the main floor of the Veteran's Memorial auditorium and overflowed into the basement.

The attendance was far greater than the N. F. O. officials themselves had anticipated, and one speaker called it the greatest gathering of farmers ever held.

FARMERS BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

The audience gave tumultuous approval to the N.F.O.'s proposal to hold farm products from markets in order to boost the prices farmers receive for their commodities, by forcing the processors to enter into production and price contracts with farmers through the N.F.O.

Oren Lee Staley, who is the president of the seven-year-old organization, stated: "Whatever length of time it takes to win this battle we will do it. We mean to win." He said it was a "battle for survival" of family-type agriculture and called the American farmer the most underpaid group in America.

As one farmer said, "Farmers do a good job of farm-

ing, but they let somebody else do the most important part of their business, pricing their products. This is why the average farmer makes only about 85 cents per hour. I've been amazed to find that some people think this is enough."

About 70 percent of the farmer's 1961 gross income went to pay for production costs compared to 50 percent in 1940, according to a study by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

ACTION AGAINST FORD AND SEARS

Demonstrations were organized last month by the N.F.O. against both Ford Motor Co. and Sears, Roebuck and Co., when the Committee on Economic Development, of which a Ford vice president and a Sears director were members, issued

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On the Inside

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The Hypocrisy of Steel Safety Seen in the Mill

Homestead, Pa.—The difference between what the company says and what it does about safety in the steel mills is considerable. These two examples from the Homestead plant of U.S. Steel are only two of many—any steel worker in any plant in the country can fill in many more.

An overhead crane man was picking up a machine. A first helper was directing him, motioning with his arms to let the crane man know what to do. When the lifting hooks were all placed, the first helper gave the motion for the crane operator to raise the machine.

LOSES FINGERS

But just at this point, another worker came up behind the first helper to ask him when the machine would be returned. At the same time, the worker placed his hand on the machine just as the lifting hooks tightened—and had his hand between one hook and the machine. Before anyone could do anything, the worker lost two fingers caught between the hook and machine.

The company immediately laid off the crane man and the first helper. The worker who had lost his fingers was not penalized. It should be noted, however, that the first helper involved is also a grievance man and has a reputation for being a fighter for the men.

This incident, of course, is supposed to demonstrate that the company takes stern measures when accidents occur, and does not tolerate unsafe working conditions or practices.

Action protesting the company's lay-off was brought by the crane man, who returned to work, as did the first helper. The case is still being processed in an attempt to determine where the blame lies for the accident.

SAFETY CONTACT

There is also a rule in the mill that every shift a boss is supposed to demonstrate that of a safety manual put out by the company. This is called safety contact.

It sounds good, but in practice the only time you have safety contact is when there is a delay in your work. More often than not, because of the speed-up working conditions, the boss is more concerned with production than reading from the safety manual. As for the men, they know it is a big farce in the first place. They know safety comes first—after production.

This other example ably demonstrates the hypocrisy of the company—shown by the head of the Safety Department at Homestead.

He came through the mill this one day, and every working crew or individual worker he came to, he asked if they had their safety contact for the day. As it so happened, me and my crew were delayed at the beginning of the shift, and we actually had our safety contact. So when he asked us and we answered yes, it was the truth. But if we would not have had it—like the majority of the men who did not—we'd have given the same answer.

It is no secret that the bosses have briefed their men that if they are asked about their safety contact, whether or not they have had it, their answer is to be yes.

You can say no, of course, but this would make your boss very unhappy. And it would probably take him a very short time to find you doing something "wrong" and manufacture an excuse to get rid of you.

But what followed after he came to us is what really takes the cake. This top safety wheel in the whole plant goes up to

a worker operating a big lift. This lift operator was in his seat, and he has a windshield he looks out of to see what he is doing that is about 18 inches wide and about three feet long. This windshield was shattered in at least seven places, with the broken streaks practically covering the whole windshield, greatly restricting vision and making it look like a bunch of big spiderwebs were on it.

HEAD SAFETY MAN IGNORES DANGER

Now you'd expect that a company representative that was serious about safety, and especially the head safety man, would really blow his top to see this kind of a windshield on an operating piece of equipment. Here was an opportunity to at least put on a show for safety, if nothing else. But no—the only thing he asked the lift operator was if he'd had his safety contact! Then he just walked away.

Near the lift operator at the time was a big sign that said: "A worker is only as safe as his equipment."

It makes you kind of wonder if anything more would have been said and done if that lift operator was a grievance man and a fighter.

Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

"These No Good Leaders"

What can we do to make a better world to live in? To me nothing is going right. Our so called leaders have turned their backs on what they said they would do to help. They have turned so far away from everything that you have to give up all hope with these leaders.

People like Walter Reuther, the head of the NAACP and leaders of other organizations don't practice what they preach, so why go on following such no good leaders.

In 1942 I was talking to a person who came from the South just as I did. I was telling him just how bad the Negro problem was since he left the South. Then he said to me, "Well I don't see it that way because something tells me that the South will turn out to be a better place to live than the North. Those white people have gone the last mile of the way with the Negro people down South and the North is taking up right where the South is leaving off." This is so true.

REDISTRICTING VOTES

Just look at what is happening in the North today between the white and the Negro. White people are moving so far out of Detroit until they can't vote for who they want while the Negro is staying right on

in the city and voting for who they want to run the city.

Now you can see just how they are trying to change the voting districts. They are doing away with one section to get another with mixed white and black votes, so that the Negro people can't change things so much.

NEGRO VOTES GOT MIRIANI OUT

They remember what happened in the last election for Mayor of Detroit. It is said that the Negro people on the East Side went all out to vote to get Mayor Miriani out of the Mayor's chair because he was doing so much damage to some of the poor whites and to all the Negro people. That is what some of the head officials wanted too, but when they saw that Miriani was out of City Hall they stayed up all night trying to find out some way to break up the vote of the Negro people. That is why they are mixing up the districts today.

There is one more thing that the people are saying about these head officials. There was a place between Gratiot and Jefferson Avenue that was once called black bottom because all Negroes lived there. But to go up in those high buildings down town and look out all across this fine land and see nothing but black Negro faces and raggedy houses was too much. The man said we must move these Negroes and change the name of this place to paradise so that his people could move back to town.

THE FIRST QUESTION

So you can see just what I mean about what these Northern cities are doing that the North will be just like the South. The whites are moving out of Detroit to keep their children from even going to school with Negro children or living on the same street with them.

That's why it is so hard for this country to try to take over other countries because the first thing that is said to them is "How are you going to be so good to us? Look at how you treat the Negro people in your own country. You bar them from public places and keep them from voting."

Farmer Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

a report calling for removal of some two million farmers from the farms and reduction of farm price supports over the next five years. Both companies were forced to quickly disclaim any connection with the farm plan, emphasizing that the officials were members of the CED as private citizens and not as company representatives.

The present action will be the fourth holding action organized. The N.F.O. has said, "If processors do not sign a contract, they will find that previous holding actions were mere scrimmages compared to the battle N.F.O. is prepared to wage." The last three did little more than get the processors shook up.

HOLDING ACTION IS LIKE STRIKE ACTION

One reason for past failures was that many of the farmers within the organization did not keep their hogs and beef off the market when they were told to "hold them." This is like men scabbing on strikers and crossing the picket line, because a

Parkinsonism

A friend has asked me to describe the nature of Parkinsonism, a disease which is seen more frequently as more people live longer. In this disease there is slowness and poverty of movement, weakness, muscular rigidity and tremor. The tremor is a coarse alternating one with 4 to 8 movements a second, present during rest and tending to diminish on movement and during sleep.

It is present in the fingers, forearm, head, eyelids and tongue. In addition there is a mask-like appearance to the face. Speech is impaired and sometimes almost unintelligible because of the low intensity and rapidity.

AFFECTS MID-BRAIN AREA

The cause of this condition is a disturbance or loss of cells in certain mid-brain centers, the basal ganglia, and is produced by a variety of agents. In relatively young people, a number of cases have appeared after epidemic encephalitis or brain inflammation. A toxic form occasionally is seen as a result of poisoning with carbon monoxide.

In older patients, where it occurs most frequently, it is believed to be caused by arteriosclerotic brain changes with diminished blood supply to the important mid-brain centers. Occasionally, a blow to the head is responsible.

In recent years symptoms typical of Parkinsonism have appeared in patients given large doses of tranquilizers for an extended period. These symptoms disappear when the medication is stopped.

NEURO-SURGERY USED EFFECTIVELY

In the treatment, antihistamines and belladonna drugs have been of help in controlling the tremors. In recent years spectacular results have been achieved by neuro-surgeons destroying certain basal ganglia with heat or chemicals. Apparently the complete destruction of the area eliminates electrical impulses from the diseased site.

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News & Letters

holding action is in reality nothing less than a strike. Maybe the N.F.O. is using a little psychology by calling their strike a holding action instead, since the word "strike" has a distasteful meaning to some farmers.

To most people around here the idea of a holding action is brand new. But history shows it is not. In a book called "American Farmers Movements" I read that the idea of holding products off the market for higher prices was carried out in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1932, during a period known as the Farmers' Holiday, inspired by Milo Reno. From what my uncle told me, and he was participating in it as part of the National Guard, things were almost on the verge of a revolution. I don't think this coming N.F.O. action will be violent, but nobody is claiming that it couldn't be.

—Farmer's Son

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on this question, see Readers' Views, p. 4 and 5.)

My Vacation With Jobless Miners

(Continued from Page 1)

sure it's there. But the attitudes of these miners to each other, their social relationships, were unbelievable. When you walk into a bar, they are there on the same basis. Whites call Negroes over to sit and take a drink with them and their wives. On the street, they stop each other for discussion. They visit each other in their homes.

When I asked how this came to be, one old miner said he believed that every miner for many years past discussed his conditions of work with his family and made them understand that one miner's life down underground depends on every other miner. He went into the organizing of the United Mine Workers and the struggle the miners went through together. He said the state militia and yellow dogs did not single out race to shoot, and if the white miners had not stood with Negroes, the UMW would never have been organized. There are white miners alive today because some Negro saved them, and vice versa.

He said, "When you're in the belly of hell and something happens, you never think about Negro and white." He went on to tell about the disaster in No. 9 mine some years ago in Barcksville, W. Va., the worst in the history of this country, and some say the worst on record anywhere.

He said, "I can't explain what it did to this town—to see women, men and children at the mine screaming, praying and mourning. Not just Negroes. Nor just whites. But the whole town was there. So I think this is one of the reasons we have this human relationship that exists here. And now, the unemployed white miner's family suffers just as the unemployed Negro's family does."

I thought of something I had read once written by a revolutionist: "A tickle affects different people in different ways, but a red hot poker affects all humans alike."

Many of these miners are from the South. Some list before World War I. Some I once knew but had long forgotten. They told me how they followed the coal region after leaving the Southern farms. Some started mining in Birmingham, Ala., then moved on to Tennessee and Kentucky, and finally ended up in West Virginia.

EVERY LAWN NOW A GARDEN

They all have vegetable gardens. They said since the depression hit them and things got so rough, every lawn was turned into a garden. Many get sick eating only ration food, so what you can't find in one garden, you can find in another. And there is an exchange of vegetables that are grown. Whites come to Negroes for certain types of vegetables, and Negroes go to whites for what they need.

When I hear or read some of the things race haters are saying, I wish they could go to these places and listen to some of these unemployed miners or some of those that are employed. Let these miners tell them what Automation has done to them and their families. What it means to be out of work for two, three or five years. What it is like to be hungry in the wealthiest country in the world. What it is like to be part of the forgotten group of the working class.

These are the things that don't hit the headlines of the daily papers, radio or TV. They don't call this a depressed area today as they did during the presidential election. But it is more depressed now than it was then.

One miner said, "I wish I could carry you into some other parts of the state, and through the mining areas of Kentucky. Those that are employed will tell you this is one of the worst years in the history of mining. The continuous miner, and those new wide conveyor belts, can dig and transfer more coal in one day than 100 workers used to. That is why we don't see any way out of this bottom. We know nothing but mining. What else can you fit into after 30 or 40 years following mining and nothing else?"

IN NEW CONTRACT

Steel Workers Gain Little

Pittsburgh, Pa.—One of the most sweeping changes in the steel contract that went into effect at the first of September affects seniority workers.

Before this contract, lay-offs were handled on a departmental basis. A worker in one department with 20 years seniority could be laid off, while another worker doing the same job in another department might have only 10 years, but couldn't be bumped by the older worker.

Now the contract specifies that all workers in groups 2, 3 and 4 (which include most of the unskilled jobs) are pooled together on a plant-wide basis, and high seniority workers can bump lower seniority workers in these groups anywhere in the plant.

This means that many workers with 15, 20 or more years who were laid off before should now be able to claim jobs from lower seniority workers. And some of these men coming back have been laid off for as much as one or two years. On the surface, it would seem like this was a big step forward for the men.

HARASS RECALLED MEN

For example, at the Homestead U.S. Steel plant there were quite a few first helpers working on Open Hearth furnace No. 4 (OH 4) when it was shut down two years ago and the men were laid off. Now these first helpers supposedly have the right to reclaim the jobs of lower seniority first helpers who are working on OH 5. Only it doesn't work out that way.

The company has made clear that it doesn't want these recalled first helpers bumping those working on OH 5. Through a policy of steady harassment of those who tried to do this, the company is forcing them to take jobs in the open hearth labor pool.

There are so many small things that may not be perfectly right at all times—like a bad bottom, a leaky joint or pipe, a whole raft of ridiculous and petty things—and the bosses use these to keep on the backs of recalled first helpers.

Thus, these workers are being forced to give up the rights the new contract supposedly was to give them. The workers say it just isn't worth it to have to put up with this kind of harassment, even though it means practically a cut in half in their pay as well as reducing the amount they will get when pensioned off, since the pension is based on the average wage scale in the seven years before retirement.

WIN IN CONTRACT, LOSE IN MILL

In some steel mills, management has reclassified many workers who would fall into labor groups 2, 3 and 4 to keep them safe from bumping by laid-off higher seniority workers. However, management at

U.S. Steel plant in Homestead has not done so, but has relied on its harassment tactics to get what they want. The way it seems to be shaping up, management has given up something on paper—the contract—but the steel workers have won little if anything in the mills. And that's the place where everything counts.

Worker Recall Halted By Overtime, Company Greed

Detroit, Mich.—The union was organized, above all else, to restore the dignity of the workers as human beings. Today, the company has stolen the dignity of the union and has made slaves of the men.

The line is nothing less than regimentation, where nature—human nature—has no part. The simple necessity of a worker to relieve himself is madness to the company. There is no place in the shop for anything but production. This is true of the Chrysler Highland Park plant where I work, just as it is true of every auto plant in the country.

THE FICTION AND THE FACT

Greed is the main thing that marks the companies, greed and profit. There are many reports of Chrysler getting government contracts. The publicity in the papers, on TV and radio when announcements of these contracts are reported always repeat that these contracts will provide more jobs for the unemployed.

This is not true at all. As all Chrysler workers know, when Chrysler submits a competitive bid on a government contract and gets the contract, they set up production on the item or items. Soon after production starts, it often becomes clear that the job can be done cheaper per unit than the bid called for. When this happens, the company slacks up on production to get behind in orders. This is done to get Washington squawking for more production. Then the company steps up production, scheduling overtime work. This keeps up the cost per unit, and the company gets the work done on time.

So what actually happens is that very few, if any, of our unemployed workers are called back to work; those still working have to work fantastic overtime hours; the cost of production is kept up and the taxpayer—you and me—have to pay for these inflated costs which are paid by the government from our taxes.

The whole crazy set up stems from the fact that there is nothing in the UAW contract to limit the hours the company can make you work. The only thing the contract does is set the rates the company has to pay for overtime work.

With the new model change-over there will be the twin forces of overtime and Auto-

To All Workers

NEWS & LETTERS welcomes articles from rank-and-file workers. We know that workers have plenty to say about their conditions that are never published in any other press. Use this paper to help you fight your battles. Write up your articles and send them in. They'll be printed in NEWS & LETTERS.

N & L Makes Impact at Chrysler Highland Park

Detroit—The last issue of News & Letters that carried the articles on Negroes being denied skilled jobs and the effects of Automation and speed-up at Chrysler Highland Park plant did more good than all the talk about these problems in the past 20 years.

We had a full force of 6,000 workers at the plant (there are only 3,000 new), and regardless of how serious problems were—problems of overtime, safety and violations of the badly written contract in general—no one seemed to take the

initiative about doing anything about the problems.

UNSOLVED PROBLEMS

In the plant, of course, we have the union which is supposed to represent us. But within the union itself, we've got small politicians, and as a result, corruptness begins to come in, permitting some old problems to grow that shouldn't even be allowed to start, and making more new problems.

There are Negroes who are fighting against the whites, whites fighting against the Negroes, politicians against the non-politicians (which is really a big problem), and it gives management a free hand to do anything it so desires.

PAPER MAKES A CHANGE

Since News & Letters was passed out at the plant, conditions seemed to change somewhat overnight, inasmuch as no one wants to be attacked. No one wants to say or do anything that might come out later. Many things were done frequently because you just accepted it, put it under your hat—and that was all.

Now, the thinking is: "Well, maybe I better not say this, or do this, because it might get published. It might not go under the hat this time." So it has done an awful lot of good.

There are many workers who are interested in the paper—when they will be able to learn more, and what they will be able to read concerning their problems and conditions in the plant. Several workers even went to the paper's office and bought some other publications of News & Letters, including the Workers Battle Automation pamphlet, and this has also been passed around. All of the comments heard were very favorable.

REUTHERITES RESORT TO LIES

But you have to know about the Reutherites, too. Some of these small politicians are vicious. When the paper was passed out at the plant, there were many workers who did not know about it. Some Reutherites took advantage of this, spreading outright lies about the paper by saying it was against the Negroes and against the union.

Of course, when the workers in the plant read it, they knew the paper was reporting the truth. But there were others who took what the Reutherites said, until they found out different. As a matter of fact, some Reutherites were running all over the plant trying to get as many of the papers as they could to keep the workers from reading it.

"THIS IS WHAT WE WANT"

You just aren't supposed to say anything. And if you do say anything about conditions among the group which represents the Reutherites, well, pretty soon you're a trouble maker; you'll find that things are happening to you.

There has been a big stir made within the plant over the publication, because now the workers in the plant are saying: "Well, who had the nerve to write something of this nature? No one has been heard before, and this is what we need. This is what we want, to do something about the problems."

Discrimination In the Suburbs

DETROIT—I used to work at both Montgomery Ward's and Federal's and I know what I'm talking about when I say that it is shocking to me that not one of the big suburban stores in East Detroit, Roseville, Mount Clemens, Fraser, or the other suburbs—where there is a large Negro population—still never employ a Negro worker as saleslady or clerk, but only as a cleaning woman or janitor. In fact, in one of the stores where there were two cleaning women, one Negro and one white, they laid off the Negro woman and use her only when the other one is off.

DISCRIMINATION EVERYWHERE

This discriminatory policy is also in force at the supermarkets in these suburbs—Krogers, Wrigleys, Food Fair, etc.

One colored girl was employed at one of the stores I worked in at one time—because they thought she was white. Then someone found out she wasn't, and they found some excuse to lay her off.

Federal's is organized by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, but I never once saw a union person in the store the entire time I worked there. They simply had everyone sign a membership card to join, in order to be hired in, collected their 70 cents dues every week, and that was it. The "steward" we were supposed to have was a joke. If you told him some grievance, the boss came down to tell you off about it in a short while.

NEED A GOOD UNION

The pay in these stores is very low. We used to get 75 cents an hour as starting salary, plus 1% commission. Since the \$1 an hour minimum wage law went into effect, the starting pay now has to be \$1—but without any commission—so that it boils down to almost the same thing.

These employees could certainly stand a good union set-up, instead of the joke that passes for a union now. And I also think that a boycott of those stores that refuse to hire Negro personnel could be very effective. If these tactics worked in the South, they could certainly work in the North, too.

—Ex Saleslady

mation squeezing the life-blood out of workers. How many workers will be mutilated by these twins? And where are the unemployed?

The workers are in a state of constant frustration. No worker makes enough in a normal eight-hour day to do more than exist. All of those little extras he wants for himself and his family has to come out of overtime work.

OVERTIME AND UNEMPLOYED

All of his life, however, the worker has been concerned with unemployment, concerned for himself and for others that are out of work. He knows that working overtime is not only helping to keep the unemployed worker out of a job, but that he is pushing himself that much closer to being unemployed also. All of these forces pulling at him make him a mental wreck.

Older workers in the plant say: stop this overtime; let the younger ones come in to work, then we won't have to support them through welfare. And when a younger worker is called back to work after a long period of being laid off, he is so far behind on bills and things he and his family have to have that he can only say: what am I going to do, I have to work as much as I can.

THE BUCK-PASSING

And then the round robin starts. The men say, why doesn't the union do something about it. If the union can't stop it, nobody can. And the union says, let Congress stop it by passing legislation. They are the ones who can do it. And the buck-passing goes on and nobody does anything. Except that the company still keeps on squeezing the last ounce of profit from the workers using their twins of overtime and Automation, and always trying to regiment the workers more and more.

EFFECTS OF REGIMENTATION

This regimentation in the factories and the effects it has on workers is unbelievable. There are workers in plants that are people of note in fraternal, civic, religious and other community organizations. Many are recognized leaders in these organizations. But when such a person comes into the shop, he becomes a slave to the machine; bows to its every demand; takes every company abuse.

What is responsible for this transformation, this Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde existence, where outside the plant a man calls himself a human being and shows it through his talents and capabilities, but inside the plant reverts to nothing more than a robot, and seems to leave all of his humanity at the plant gate when he comes into the factory? Nothing can justify this kind of life.

WORKERS BATTLE AUTOMATION

By Charles Denby
Editor of News & Letters



The Workers' Answer To The Problems Created By Automation:

- UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE NEGRO
- WAR AND THE H-BOMB
- YOUTH THE WORLD OVER



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Editorial

Telstar Giveaway and The Filibuster Fiasco

At the very moment that the twin Russian cosmonauts were marking up new propaganda "victories" for Khrushchev's Russia — the spectacle of Kennedy's "giveaway" of the American communications satellite, Telstar, to a private corporation, was marking up a new propaganda fiasco for the United States.

The attempt to pretend that "private enterprise" achieved the new scientific feat and thus "ought" to own it could scarcely be expected to convince the American workers, who know all too well on whose backs has fallen the burden of the billions of dollars spent by the government on research and technology to launch the satellite. Even such a staunch spokesman for private enterprise as former President Harry S. Truman was moved to support Senators Wayne Morse, Maurine Neuberger and Estes Kefauver in their charge that the bill was nothing short of a complete "giveaway" of Government-paid space research to an already huge private corporation, American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

SENATE GAGS LIBERALS — NEVER REACTIONARIES

So determined was the United States Congress to remain true only to whose representative it truly is—the capitalist class and their octopus monopolies — that the Senate managed, for the first time in 35 years, to get a cloture vote through to end the "filibustering" of the bill's opponents, winning the motion by a vote of 63 to 27, three more than the required two-thirds of those voting.

Not once in its entire history has the Senate been able to end the eternal filibusters by Southern reactionaries against every civil rights bill that has even been proposed.

The maneuvering by which Majority Leader Mike Mansfield accomplished this "historic" feat was a spectacle of "democracy at work" that could scarcely be expected to win many to its side in the battle for men's minds that now rages in the world. With Senators such as Russell of Georgia declaring contemptuously that "I'll vote to gag the Senate when shrimps start to whistle Dixie," Mansfield knew that he could not persuade the Southern reactionaries—who were violently opposed to the filibustering liberals, but even more opposed to voting for cloture — to vote with him to silence the bill's opponents. He therefore managed to persuade them simply not to vote at all.

THE TRUE FACE OF BOTH PARTIES

Some went on business trips. Others just stayed home. Still others came late enough not to have to record their "no" vote until after the motion was sure of passing. Following suit, Arizona's Harry Goldwater, one of the only two of the entire 36 Republicans to vote against cloture, lurked in the Republican cloakroom until his leader, Dirksen, sent him word that his vote wouldn't make any difference anyhow.

The fact, moreover, that the Senate ended this filibuster is no indication that they will ever use it against the reactionaries in the future. As the real head of the Democratic Party, Harry Byrd of Virginia, gloatingly put it, the vote was proof that "the Senate can invoke cloture . . . any time it really is of a mind to." That the Senate has "no mind to" ever stand in the way of reaction and decadence is all too clear.

GIVEAWAY ONLY 'NEW FRONTIER' SUCCESS

The record of the 87th Congress is, in fact, a monument to backwardness. Almost every one of Kennedy's promised landmarks for his "New Frontier" has been wiped off the Congressional map—from Medicare, to a Dept. of Urban Affairs, to his farm program.

Almost the only Administration-backed bill that Congress has passed, in fact, has been the "giveaway" of Telstar to one of the richest corporations in America. The very next week Congress refused to extend unemployment compensation for 13 more weeks to those who have already exhausted all benefits—the so-called "hard-core" of the unemployed, whose hungry families number in the millions.

No wonder that Russia is winning. It is not because of the performances put on by their cosmonauts in outer space. Rather, it is because of the performances put on by "the West", such as these spectacles in the Halls of Congress.

CAPITALISM'S DECADENCE PAVES OWN ROAD TO DEFEAT

Everyone — even the most conservative — who has taken a trip anywhere to the newly emerging countries of the world has come back aware that in the battle for the minds of men the decisions are being made against "the West." This is true in Africa, in Asia, and in Latin America alike.

In that latter poverty-stricken land, in fact, Kennedy's Alliance for Progress was admittedly launched in order to stave off the growing influence of "Communism"—as if the hatred for "Yankee imperialism" which has grown out of no less than 150 years of American exploitation can be erased by a declaration of good intentions, especially when every action has continued to back up all the old realities, instead. (See lead article, page 1.)

It can only appear as ridiculous to the great masses throughout the world, who long ago relegated Free Enterprise to the past and not to the future of world history, for so much passion to be dedicated to the cause of private ownership of property in outer space. They know all too well that capitalism represents a dead cause, but a very live profit.

News & Letters

VOL. 7, NO. 7 August-September, 1962

News & Letters is published every month except during the summer months when issues appear June-July, August-September, by News & Letters, 8751 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.

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Readers'

FARMERS AND WORKERS

I'd like to comment on some of the government local entanglement with the farmers whom I know.

Under the farm program, a farmer may let land lay. It is then called "diverted acres" or as I always hear it called, "Kennedy Land". To try to make it clear, this "Kennedy Land" is to be mowed for weeds or if oats have been planted, it is to be cut before it ripens which is about the 15th of July. If it isn't, too bad. In some counties the oats may be baled for oats-straw, depending upon local conditions.

But that isn't the half of it. Getting the land measured by a local farmer working for the county ASC office is really confusing. A fee of \$4.50 is required every time it is measured. Sometimes the measurement taken by the ASC worker doesn't jive with the figures taken from aerial maps. Who gets the blame? The farmer, of course—with time lost measuring it over and another \$4.50.

Some of the local entanglements are hard to explain but as a result of this, I've heard one farmer state that "I'm through with this. I've gone along two years with them and that's enough for me." Fortunately, we never went along with any of the farm program.

Farmer's Son
Illinois

* * *

The plan of the Committee on Economic Development to move some two million farmers from the land and send them to the cities to work sounds pretty fantastic to anybody living in the city already. The unemployment is so deep in the cities now that most of the workers who originally came from the farms have been moving back there, where they figure they can at least grow something to eat instead of starving here. Where the devil do they think these 2 million are going to work, once they get them moved?

City Dweller
Detroit

* * *

I wonder if, when they count their statistics, they include all the migratory workers in the category of "farmers" — and if these are part of the 1/3 of the farm population they want to move to work in the cities. Most of these poor farm workers would be in the cities now—if they could just find work there.

What world do these "planners" live in, anyway? They surely can't live in the same world I do, or they wouldn't come up with such out-of-this-world ideas.

Worker
Detroit

* * *

I thought you ought to see how some of the farmers here in the Mid-West look at the "farm problem." Here are some excerpts from letters I have read recently:

From a farmer in Minnesota: "Control of the market doesn't start back on the farm when we plant our corn and get our sows bred. The government has spent many

years and billions of dollars trying to do this, and they still haven't solved the farm problem. The market is being controlled from the other end by the chain stores. This all adds up to a dangerous situation for the family farm."

* * *

From a farmer in Missouri: "Some people are talking about not compromising with murderers. I would say that a million or so of us were murdered from 1952-1960 as far as farming is concerned."

"Yes, keep a surplus of grain so it will remain cheap. Then the packers and chain stores and huge commercial feedlots can eventually get control of all cattle and hog feeding."

* * *

From another farmer in Minnesota: "Every day one reads that farms are getting larger and farmers fewer, and most articles would have one believe this is the ideal trend. Yet our government spends much to advocate land reform in other countries, while going headlong in the opposite direction themselves."

Student, from the Farm
Illinois

* * *

Recently I met a young married couple who have been trying to make a go of farming. After ten years they have a farm of 80 acres, an old farm house that needs repairs, a tractor that cost \$4,000 and two trucks, over 100 hogs and I don't know how many cows.

Besides working the 80 acres on his farm and taking care of the animals the husband works 20 acres of another farm AND has to work 8 hours a day in an auto plant in Flint to try and make a go of the farm. They owe on everything they have.

Even though he is dearly loved by his fellow workers, this worker - farmer loves working the land so much and dislikes the factory work equally so much, that he is actually killing himself for the farm, which they see being less and less able to "pay" for itself.

Angela Terrano
Detroit

* * *

FREEDOM-RIDE, BOB-LO STYLE

EDITOR'S NOTE: We print below a letter received from one who identified himself only as "A Pro-segregationist." That, in itself, shows how far out of step with the forward movement of humanity he is. The fact that he is only 16 shows, in addition, how very early capitalism ingrains its prejudices.

* * *

A day or two ago, I was going downtown on a bus, when I noticed one of your papers, and picked it up out of curiosity. I was thoroughly astonished at the article titled: "Freedom Ride Bob-Lo Style" . . .

These girls are white girls. God made white boys for those white girls. He also made colored boys for colored girls. If these colored boys can't find colored girls

to suit them, at least they can have the decency to keep away from white girls. Next, the white dates had the gall to let them dance with the colored boys. These boys haven't the right to let them do what they did. They should have thought of the girls' reputation. You know as well as I do, if white boys found out what happened, those girls wouldn't be too popular . . .

Sir, I am a normal 16-year-old white boy. If a colored boy had the gall to ask my date to dance, I think that I'd kill him . . .

Segregation is the only and I mean only thing for the United States. Integration is the most absurd thing I've ever heard of. It can't and won't ever work. The NAACP can try to push integration as far as they want, but they're wasting their time. The sooner they realize that it won't work, the better off they'll be.

A Pro-segregationist
Detroit

* * *

When I read the article, "Freedom Ride, Bob-Lo Style," in the June-July issue of NEWS AND LETTERS, I found myself wishing that I was on the boat, and participating in the fight I most certainly support.

White Teenager
Los Angeles

* * *

Just as the new stage of the fight for freedom in America is marked by the Sit-Ins and Freedom Riders, so the twist marks the latest dance craze. When I rode the Freedom Boat for Bob-lo, it was no surprise to find myself twisting for freedom!

Bob-lo Freedom Rider
Detroit

* * *

READER DISPUTES MALLORY

I disagree strongly with Peter Mallory's views of Laos. How can he equate Pathet Lao with Boun Oum? Boun Oum represents all that is rotten. Pathet Lao rank and file if we could only reach it (and, as usual, we can't) is dynamic and idealistic (I would imagine).

Moreover, the new Stalinist ruling elite is historically progressive, just as the European entrepreneur was a hundred years ago. That doesn't mean we should join it. No, we must fight it—but we must recognize that Mao is quite different from Chiang.

Student
California

* * *

Editor's Note: We print Peter Mallory's comments below:

I am always interested in views of readers. This view represents to me the misguided opinion of one who has good intentions but selects the road of the lesser evil rather than reasoning out a political position.

History is, unfortunately, full of people who chose the "lesser evil" as the "more progressive" side in a concrete political cause. From their support came not only defeat, but neither the people involved in the struggle nor the working class of the world gained anything from such abstract "progressiveness".

Views

Never mistake the position of Marx, who argued that there were forces within capitalism during its emergence from feudalism that showed a progressive tendency, with the position of the Communist today as they argue that they are "more progressive" than the forces they oppose.

Unless you show the meaning of real freedom—what a better society can mean for the workers—then you, too, are willing to condemn the workers to a life of Communist totalitarianism on the theory that it is "more progressive." I do not think so.

Peter Mallory

* * *

WORKERS PROTEST IN EAST BERLIN

A brief news report I heard mentioned, in passing, that two East Berlin youth who escaped over the Berlin wall had reported that the workers in East Berlin sat in their factory to protest the wall on the anniversary of its construction, August 13.

This was all that was said. However, there has been much said by reporters that the recent West Berlin demonstrations "were on the wrong side of the wall." Yet, when it is apparent that the workers in East Berlin have done something to protest it, nothing is said of the revolutionary courage it takes in a totalitarian system to "just" sit-in.

This kind of editorial silence does more to help Russian Communists propagate the myth that they have iron control over their workers than the volumes they themselves can and do write.

Working Mother
Los Angeles

* * *

WORKERS, STUDENTS, AND PEACE

Some of the students at the CNVA meeting against nuclear war were almost fanatical in rejecting politics and economics. This seems an irrational approach to me. I can't understand it. They don't seem to comprehend the existence of a class society, rejecting all class ideas and all politics. It seems as if it would be easy for the Communists to take over a grouping like this. They have no idea of what the working class represents.

The students in general are against nuclear war, and most of those that you talk to are for the Southern Freedom Riders, but they don't go further than that.

Student
California

* * *

One of the peace marchers in the CNVA (Committee for Non-Violent Action) demonstration asked me why the workers do not join with the students in their marches. I showed him a copy of the daily newspaper that had headlines that day about the aero-space workers who had just gone out on strike. I told him I felt that the workers on the picket lines are on the same march.

Nurse
California

* * *

I don't understand how the "non-violent" committees can connect their phil-

osophy to that of Ghandi and not see that there is more needed to a philosophy than that. So far as I can see, the Indian people have actually been held back in obtaining their freedom because of Ghandi's actions. He blocked their attempts for a true social revolution—what have the Indian people got now?

There is a lot more to it than "violence" or "non-violence"—and it is never the revolutionaries who seek the violence. It is always the other side that uses it—like the white segregationists in the South — to hold on to their rule.

Committee Member
Los Angeles

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on the CNVA March see article on page 6.

* * *

OF, FOR AND BY THE PEOPLE

The post-war world powers know, and have realized for some time, that they can no longer force upon their so-called empires a way of life that so many of the "home" front gave up their lives to fight against.

These big powers can no longer hide behind the claim that it is an "internal" affair, for all the world has also suffered to insure their freedom; and wherever in this world it is denied, all the eyes of the world are on them. No longer will the eyes of the post-war generation be closed.

All over the world these post-war empires are slowly fading away because the new generation has found the three most important things of life and without these the world knows there will be no life. These three? Free speech, free press and government of the people and by the people.

Postman
Detroit

* * *

I believe Justice is meted out equally to all, regardless of their station in life, or the color of their skin—like blazes I do!

Politicians are all fine, upstanding gentlemen whose chief concern is obeying the will of the people, who favor the working class because it is they who are the mass of the populace—what rot!

It is not fair, nor sane, nor humane to work a man like a horse, give him only enough pay to feed him and his family like canaries, and expect him to be satisfied with the proposition that the government is one "By, for and of the people."

I would rather see ten thousand people with shoes on their feet than one hundred driving big limousines.

Because I dislike the rich capitalists, some would call me communist; but I cannot enter into that faith for I do believe in Almighty God. I have a premonition that I may be developing into a socialist, without any guiding hand, other than viewing the general, abominable structure of our so-called democratic society, and the tor-

ment it so graciously inflicts upon the average human being.

A Reader
California

* * *

THE ARMY STORY

The Army reservists that were called up by Kennedy during the Berlin crisis last year have, at long last, returned to civilian life, and I hope that there will be someone around to tell their story. Everybody has read about, or heard about the revolts, the hunger strikes, the refusals to obey that took place because some Mr. Big decided to make thousands of guys stand around as a "show of force."

I bet there are a lot of ex-G.I.'s who would have given their eye teeth to see the looks on people's faces when those soldiers refused to obey and got away with it. I hope News & Letters will interview one of those guys. I know no-one else would.

Draft Age
New York

* * *

NEW READERS AND SUPPORTERS

I heard Raya Dunayevskaya speaking in Glasgow and although some of the young Socialists were scared to come in case they got their illusions smashed about Russia, I really enjoyed and appreciated it.

I have now come to the conclusion that the tactic of entering the Labour Party to change it is as futile as it is dishonest. The so called Trotskyists have a concept of socialism which is completely authoritarian, they put forward transitional demands which are completely unrealistic. They seem to be wanting the workers to come to "Socialism" (!) by a mistake.

These double standards are a disgrace to anyone calling himself a socialist but seem to be accepted by all the so-called revolutionaries and for these reasons I am almost certain to leave the Labour Party very soon now.

You might be interested to know that reviews of the 'Freedom Riders' pamphlet appeared in *Solidarity*, Vol. II, No. 2, *Young Guard* (See page 7—Ed.) and *Tribune*.

I enclose an article I wrote about the dissensions among the people in Britain and Glasgow especially.

J.F.
Scotland

Editor's Note: Watch for J.F.'s article in the October issue of News & Letters.

* * *

When the paper hit our plant you would have thought somebody from Mars had just descended on it. I have never seen the politicians so disturbed, or the rank-and-file so pleased.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

* * *

I was happy to hear that you had received the pamphlets on our freedom struggles which I sent to you. I am happy also to receive your publications. I shall always help in promoting NEWS AND LETTERS here.

New Friend
Nigeria

TWO WORLDS

By Raya Dunayevskaya, Author of
MARXISM AND FREEDOM

Our Underdeveloped Intellectuals

I have just returned from a trip to West Africa where the dynamism of ideas is in sharp contrast to the mental blankness of "the great debates" here. In my analysis of the impact of Communism and neo-colonialism, (1) I wrote about the dynamism of 'Freedom Now' which infuses even old ideas with a force capable of piercing through any shield of apathy. This subject, with which I have dealt in the articles in *AFRICA TODAY* as well as in *Political Letters from Africa* (2), is not my topic this time. Here I am concerned not with Africa and Africans, but with books on Africa by Europeans and Americans, especially the latter.

Though it surely doesn't take a genius to discern that the economies of Africa are primitive, unindustrialized, left so by centuries of imperialist domination, reams and reams of books are coming off the press on the "underdeveloped countries." But there is not a single book that deals seriously with their ideological battles. Where the "political picture" is not a mere recitation of existing parties, or a propaganda tract extolling "the West," it still veers between one of two extremes: either it equates any brand of independent thought to Communism, and bemoans the latter's victory. Or, contrariwise, it states categorically that Communism never will win because it "does not understand" that the African is deeply religious, (3) or his tribal character is simple and/or complex, or—well, anything at all, in order to avoid confronting the reality of African socialism.

What is more obvious even than the African continent having a monopoly of underdeveloped economies is that the technologically advanced countries have a monopoly of underdeveloped intellectuals.

"PERHAPS WE SHOULD BECOME MARXIST . . ."

Turning away from books by our so-called Africanists to non-Marxist studies of Russia and Marxism, I did find open admission that, if Russia were nowhere around and the Africans had never heard the name of Marx, Marxism would be a popular philosophy. It is contained in a book titled *The Unfinished Revolution*, by Professor Adam Ulam. Professor Ulam is an anti-Marxist, but not a vulgar one. He is not one who contends that "since" Communism is the only "Marxism" that exists in the world instead of just in books, that "therefore" Marxism and Communism are one. He may not agree that Communism is a total perversion of Marxism, but he does see that it is its "other side", that is to say, not the underlying philosophy of revolution, but what comes after the conquest of power to those who wish to hold on by any and all means. As a serious student of the works by Marx himself, he senses its revolutionary, humanist spirit and contends that, in the African context, Marxism is a "natural"—that is his word and his emphasis.

The catch to this admission of naturalness is that it is supposed to be so only to underdeveloped countries. So convinced is the professor that Marxism does not apply to the industrialized nations, that he comes up with a most original suggestion, "Perhaps," writes Prof. Ulam, "we should become Marxist to the point . . ."

No wonder his co-defenders of capitalism shied away from such a conclusion and gave very indifferent reviews to the book when it first appeared two years ago. Since he is a non-Marxist scholar from a well-established university—Harvard—the reviewers could not surround *The Unfinished Revolution* with the conspiracy of silence that usually surrounds a serious Marxist study, but the type of reviews it did rate elicited no compulsion from the reader to go find the book, nor was he aware of the fact that it dealt with Africa in the ideological field that has remained so barren in the specialized studies of Africa. What interests us is the desperation that produced the original suggestion that "perhaps we should become Marxist to the point . . ."

THE THEORETICAL VOID

The bourgeoisie is never short of "explanations" as to why Marxism remains so alive when Marx himself has been dead nearly 80 years, and the bourgeoisie has never stopped burying him alive and reburying him every year since he died. It would appear that he was "always" wrong, and that his theories especially do not apply to "our age"—but that nevertheless, people by the millions, live and die by that philosophy of freedom. What is new about Prof. Ulam's theory is the originality of his suggestion that "Perhaps we should become Marxist to the point . . ."

Here is a serious anti-Marxist student of Marxism who is so weighted down by the fact that capitalism is losing the battle for the minds of men in the newly-independent nations of Africa; so conscious that the popularity of Marxism is not due to a "Communist conspiracy" that he is begging his own class to recognize its naturalness for a period transiting to industrialization, that is to say, searching for a method to industrialize other than via capitalist exploitation, a different way of life resembling the Marxist philosophy of freedom.

The other books do not even face the problem. It is so much easier to make jokes about "dialectics" (3) and, to counterpose to its alleged abstractions, statistics about the state of the economy.

The whole "theory" that Marxism applies only to 'backward' countries is of course only a variation of the sterile debates when fascism arose in Italy. Rather than confront its naturalness for capitalism in decay, the theory propounded in the "advanced" countries is that fascism could come only because Italy was a "backward" land. Then, when Nazism came to the highly technologically developed land of Germany, the argument was reduced to calling Hitler a "madman." Mad he was, but it was not the madness of an individual but the insanity of an exploitative system in total crisis. It was impossible to find a "liberal" capitalist willing to fight this mad monster. Both the private and state varieties of capitalism preferred Munich or Hitler-Stalin Pacts to a battle of sanity against "insanity." Only when Hitler made it clear he would not settle for a mere revision of the world but wanted mastery of the whole world were the other capitalistic nations compelled to undertake the battle to the finish.

This time they would like to fight the opposite—Marxist Freedom Fighters—to the finish, but they dare not yet. They recognize that a philosophy one lives by—and millions of

(Continued on Page 7)

YOUTH

New Beginnings

By Eugene Walker

Well-Heeled Birchism vs. Student Left

In recent months there has been a great deal of emphasis put on, and publicity given to, the rise of conservatism among university students. Much has been made of new groups and new publications allegedly arising spontaneously out of this conservative sweep of American youth. There certainly has been some increase in activity among conservative students. But they have received publicity far beyond their actual strength, and thus a distorted impression has been created. When compared to the greater activity carried on by the student left, the whole gamut of conservatives, from Goldwater Republicans to out-right Birchers, influence a very small portion of American youth. UCLA

The situation at the university I attend (U.C.L.A.) will illustrate what I mean. During the past year there has been a great deal of political activity initiated by the liberal and radical youth, ranging from participation in the Freedom Rides to disobedience in civil defense drills, from peace demonstrations to the building of a campus political party.

Ten students from U.C.L.A. were Freedom Riders. Upon their return to the campus, a movement was started to loan the students \$5,000 from the Student Body Fund for bail money. As many as 700 students participated in campaign rallies on this issue.

In opposition to this activity, two rightist students began an anti-loan campaign. These two grew to four or five who banded together to issue a rightist mimeographed sheet called the *Gargoyle*. After only a few issues this became a four page printed paper. One wonders how this mimeographed sheet of but a few, suddenly blossomed into a printed paper. It certainly was not due to any mass support by students. Quite the contrary. These students failed to hold so much as a single open meeting on campus.

What the rightists do attract are not other students but Birchers. One of those who joined had recently won a contest sponsored by the Birch Society on the topic of "Grounds for Impeachment of Supreme Court Justice Warren." This was certainly not an issue which agitated the student body. Just as the Communists unquestioningly follow the line of their party, so do the right wing youth. It is because of their willingness to "follow the line" that these students obtained the money from well-heeled rightist organizations to print their paper. In contrast, the liberal campus party which attracted 40 to 50 people at weekly meetings received no such outside help.

PUBLICITY OUT OF LINE

Due to this well-heeled backing, the rightist student groups are obtaining publicity far out of line with their actual influence. Large press space is given to these small rightist groups, while actions such as a recent demonstration against civil defense drills by 150 U.C.L.A. students are not mentioned in the daily press.

I am not saying that the conservatives do not exist on campus. The student body of any university is usually middle class and it would be most unusual if, among them, there weren't some rightists. What I am saying is that it is a slander of today's youth to give the impression that, in great number, if not an actual majority, they support rightist causes. Nothing of the sort is true.

A REPORT ON

CNVA's 46 Day Peace Walk

Los Angeles, August — We have been on a peace walk sponsored by CNVA (Committee for Non Violent Action) for a week now. It is to be a 46-day march from San Diego to Vallejo, California. While 28 are committed to walk the whole 46 days, our strength varies from town to town. In Los Angeles, for instance, we had our strongest point so far, with 130 people on the walk.

From here, the march goes up the coast through Berkeley to the military base at Vallejo, where a car load of people will be transported to keep a vigil and thereby publicize our coming. At Berkeley there will be a rally.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

As of now, 12 people on the walk are considering civil disobedience in the nature of entering the base, distributing leaflets to the workers and perhaps for those who wish, blocking entrances to buildings or attempting to lie on a ramp where submarines are launched or even boarding a submarine. If the base is blockaded they intend to block the entrance off for not less than 16 hours. If they are kicked out they plan to re-enter until such time as the 16 hours are up or they are arrested.

I myself am considering civil disobedience, although I don't consider myself non-violent. I can put myself in the position of civil disobedience and arrest, and consider myself as non-cooperative, but I can't actually feel real compassion or sympathy for a person who is beating up on me. I have difficulty in doing this.

We left from Point Loma, and walked through a naval base for four miles. You are restricted to the road. While walking we were constantly patrolled by the naval police. We had a mixed response. A lot of the sailors who were working behind the fences came over, even though it is illegal for them, and accepted our leaflet, but some who were in the barracks started jeering catcalls.

In San Diego on the first day I think people were confused by this number of people marching down the sidewalk. They didn't quite know what was happening.

THREAT OF WAR SEEN

The next day was different in that we had been on television and had been in the newspapers so that the response we met, considering that San Diego's support is based largely on military, was good. We had very few people who catcalled, etc. Quite a few people were truly curious to see what we were doing, they walked and talked with us for a while.

On the walk, in certain towns I have been surprised at the favorable reaction we have had. Through Laguna Beach we got a tremendous number of peo-

300,000 LIVE IN CARACAS SLUM

VENEZUELA TODAY

In Venezuela you have only two classes. You don't have any middle class. You have a powerful class and a very poor one. These two classes have been formed for hundreds of years by the Spaniards. The high society was created long ago but the industrial fortunes have been made very quickly in the last few years. Now you have very big fortunes and very poor ones.

The main point of the economy is the petroleum industry. The petroleum industry is very

new, only about 15 years old. The workers in this industry are the first generation of workers. Their fathers were not industrial workers but worked in agriculture. The working class has only existed for 10 to 15 years. Besides petroleum there is agriculture such as cane sugar.

The Venezuelan government does not want to be dependent on the petroleum industry which is mostly American controlled. It wants to have something owned only by Venezuelans so they are trying to cut out all importations and build new factories. This will create a true working class which actually does not exist in great numbers yet.

In Caracas you have about one and a half million inhabitants and you have about 300,000 who live in slums. All the land is owned by very big land owners and most of the people don't have any land at all so that everybody wants to work in the factories. They have to come to the cities to have some work. In those 300,000 you have many who are unemployed.

In Venezuela you have only six million inhabitants, and you already have one and a half million in Caracas. In the second largest city you have one million. So you see most of the people live in the cities.

Fixing the streets, that is the Government's answer to unemployment. They break up a street and never get it all done. They say they forgot to put in the telephone line, and they break it up another time. Then they say they forgot to put in the sewage tubes and they break it up again, put them in and construct the street yet another time. Then, when all is established, they say, "We don't need this avenue anyway, let's build another one." And they build it another time.

Many of the youth and workers are pro-Communist since Betancourt came to power. From the time of the revolution against Jimenez, until the election of Betancourt everyone was democratic. But since Betancourt's election some "democratic" parties went to the left. One party became completely pro-Communist. You have the Communist Party and nothing which is completely independent from Russia nor from Betancourt.

The three "democratic" parties agreed that whoever won among them, the other two would not form an opposition. But since the election of Betancourt, little by little the "democratic" parties came to be the opposition. One went right to the Communist Party, one went to the "democratic" opposition and the third one is now going to the "democratic" opposition also.

IN ACTUALITY you have two Communist Parties. One is completely dependent on Russia and the other one does not officially receive orders from Russia but they follow them anyway. So that now we have something strange, the opposition is bigger than the Government. So everybody claims that he has a right to rule. The opposition says, "We are more than you, if we vote now, we are going to win the election, because we are the majority." The Government says, "No, we have to rule for one more year because we were elected three years ago for four years." So it makes the situation a little confused.

THE UNIONS are under the hands of the Communist Party on one side or the Government on the other side. They are not free to do what they want.

The Communists in Venezuela say we have to attain economic freedom now from the United States. So on the one side they say that we have to struggle against the capitalism of Venezuela and on the other side against the capitalism of the U.S. They say that we should strike against the Government but not big strikes because if we make the strikes too big, it will make the economy of Venezuela go down and by this means the U.S. will be able to control for even longer the economy of Venezuela.

* * *

IN CARACAS we have very few Government schools and when I say that in Caracas we have few, that means in the country we have almost none. Most of the schools are private and many are Catholic. There are not enough schools in Venezuela for everybody and many, many children from five years up have to work in the streets.

If you're an oil worker and want to send your son to school? Well there are not enough schools for all the children so you would have to put them in a Catholic school, which I don't think many in Caracas can do because of the prices. I don't think they would be able to send them to any school. There are about five or six public schools in the whole of Caracas, for one and a half million inhabitants.

We heard absolutely nothing of what the youth in this country were doing with the Freedom Rides and Sit-ins. If it were not for NEWS & LETTERS we could not have known of it. No one there wants to cover it. While the Communist press covers discrimination in the U.S., they do not cover what the Negroes themselves are doing to fight it.

IN VENEZUELA there are many coups d'etat. Many youth are pro-Communist even in the military. About two months ago we had a little coup d'etat in a little city by the military. The Government went there and crushed it and left about five or six dead. One month later there was another coup d'etat in a bigger city when the young militarists didn't want to obey the orders of the Government. The people of that city were completely in agreement with the militarists. You had the whole population of that city and the militarists in that coup d'etat. Betancourt began to be anxious because it was the second time in one month that it happened, and this was very much bigger than the first time. The government crushed it with at least 300 dead. They made a massacre there.

In Caracas you have the University, which is like a little city, in which the police cannot enter. So whenever there is a riot, the students go into that university city and make all their arrangements inside, then go outside for the riot, and return back there as the police chase them.

WHENEVER there is something happening outside of Caracas, you have something happening inside of Caracas too. It is possible to hear gun fire all night in the workers' area when there are riots. You can hear it even when there are no riots—but when there are riots, always.

As Others See Us
News & Letters and The
Freedom Rider Pamphlet

By John Lane

News and Letters is a monthly newspaper that claims, with some justice, to be a "unique combination of worker and intellectual". Produced and edited by Detroit auto workers, it develops a distinctive ideological position which Young Guard readers should find highly stimulating.

Raya Dunayevskaya is the paper's leading theoretician. From her penetrating understanding and horror of the bureaucratic mind (she was secretary to Leon Trotsky) she rejects the usual points, Planning for Whom? Planning for What? Reorganization of society from the base up, starting with the mass creativity of workers freed from outside control over their work-process — this is her answer to the "twin poles of state capitalism—Russia and America."

* * *
"SICKNESS OF THE UNITED STATES"

This pamphlet (Freedom Riders Speak For Themselves) is a collection of personal experiences by a half-dozen Freedom Riders, and sitters-in, interspersed with editorial comment from the paper. The style is always unsophisticated, sometimes repetitive—but the obvious lack of editorial interference assists the reader's growing sense of direct communications. The writers have the knack of recapturing their own emotional responses to situations ("It

Deformity From Drugs Also Shows True Face of Society

The world-wide attention now centering on Thalidomide has also given publicity to the extensive drug testing now taking place in the United States. In recent years sums approaching billions of dollars have been given by the government to agencies, private institutions and individuals engaged in tests on heart disease, arteriosclerosis, mental retardation, and above all, cancer and virus diseases.

Thousands of old and newly created chemicals are being screened for their effects on malignancies in animals and in man. It is inevitable that many of the drugs useful against the malignant cell will also be harmful to normal tissue. The bio-chemical processes which govern reactions between nor-

mal cells and tissue are the same as those which control a malignant growth or even a virus. At the present time, investigators might be said to be groping about in a huge, dark, unknown field hoping to discover a bit of information which will be useful.

At the same time, a great deal of investigative work in the search for new medications for a variety of human ailments—sleeplessness, peptic ulcer pain, swollen feet, etc.—is being carried on by the pharmaceutical or drug houses.

THE MARKET GAME
There is no doubt that these organizations have improved the quality, quantity and availability of many desirable medications. The larger corporations employ large staffs of chemists, pharmacologists, physicians and other research assistants. Above all else, they employ salesmen and a heavy dose of modern advertising and persuasiveness directed at the physician.

It is the primary aim of the drug firms to make money; to cash in on a new discovery or some variation of an old medication; to tap the product of some rival firm. Watching the market one can see the sudden spurt of one company's stock following the announcement of the marketing of a new discovery for clinical application. It is also amusing to see how quickly other firms come out with a similar product under a different name. As seen from a doctor's office, the waste of human energy involved in this cycle is appalling.

Today, I read about ex-Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey and his Hanna nickel corporation manipulation of stock-piling in order to win millions of dollars from the American tax-payer, all quite honorably and with the blessing and commendation of his friend Eisenhower. At the same time, I learned that the flight of Mrs. Finkbine to reject a Thalidomide deformed baby had reached a successful conclusion in Sweden.

I was struck by the similarity, the close relationship of the root of these two problems, both products of capitalism, both the result of a way of life in which the motive force is the accumulation of surplus labor, of profit rather than human well-being.

Under capitalism, it is inevitable that the needs of a drug company to market its products can make possible inadequate testing of a product. Anything which interferes with the market may be eliminated rather than resolved.

SOCIETY DEFORMED, TOO
Some physicians in practice are flattered to be the first to receive quantities of a new drug for distribution and trial by their patients. Reprints of their favorable comments from small and obscure medical journals are widely distributed. A few physicians may even be paid for this "clinical investigation."

Only when a crisis such as the present one with thousands of deformed babies in Europe arises, do some of us become aware of the foundations on which capitalist society rests.

Almost every page has some example of arbitrary assertion of authority by the jailers. The catalogue builds up unrelentingly — "Everything was done to keep us in a state of nervous tension." The political lessons are left to the reader. They emerge naturally from the felt experience of these young people asserting their humanity. Here is a portrayal of the frightened, petty and dangerous sickness of the United States. Here also are the potential creators of a new and sane society.

This pamphlet can be obtained from: Peter Cadogan, 5 Acton Way, Cambridge. 1/9 post free.

Reprinted from Young Guard April 1962

Our Underdeveloped Intellectuals

(Continued from Page 5)

anti-Communists live by Marxism—is not something to play with and in that respect they are right in rejecting Prof. Ulam's original suggestion.

It is one thing for a Bircher to copy the Communist method to fight Communism. There isn't very much difference between Communist totalitarianism and capitalist authoritarianism.

It is quite something else to try out the Marxist method. The gulf between Marxist Humanism and liberal capitalism is unbridgeable. And any one who tried to win adherents for capitalism under the guise of being a Marxist would fall into the cross current. Of all the people who recognize paternalism, under whatever name, the African does. And he would make short shrift of such double-tongued orators.

There is a great deal more to the African reality than the figures of its underdevelopment. But there is also a great deal more to its attraction to Marxism than its desire to achieve rapid industrialization. The human factor which gave little Guinea the courage to say "No" to the mighty de Gaulle revealed the latter not to be almighty.

Where the preoccupation of "the West" with "fighting Communism" has stultified thought, the preoccupation of Africa with freedom has given birth to the flowering of thought which will yet overcome Communism as well by the return to the Humanism of Marxism, fructified by the new leaven that is African aspirations for a totally new society. In "the affluent society," on the other hand, the theoretical void sucks in the intellectuals, transforming them into nothing but—to use a phrase from Marx—"prize-fighters for capitalism." (5) They are not very good prize-fighters at that; they are losing the battle for the minds of men.

FOOT NOTES

(1) See AFRICA TODAY, July issue, for the article "In the Gambia during the elections", and the September issue for the article "Under the Impact of Communism and Neo-Colonialism."

(2) See NEWS & LETTERS Political Letters from Africa: April 30—"Theoreticians at the Cross Roads, or Toward A New Formulation of the Relationship of Theory to Practice." May 28, "The African Revolutions at the Crossroads: Role of Labor, the Single Party, Neo-Colonialism, State-Capitalism and Africa, Africa, Africa."

(3) Paradoxically this type of analysis appears in the very same journal (SURVEY, London, '62) which specializes in studies of the effect of Russian

Communism on Western Europe and how the biggest Communist Party in the "Western world" can be in a country predominantly Catholic—Italy—very obviously this has not cut the membership of the Italian CP which is no less than 2 million. But, somehow, on African soil this religious or national or tribal character is supposed to be the factor that will assure Communism's defeat.

(4) 3 issues of the USIA Problems of Communism were devoted to Africa, but see especially the March-April 1962 issue for the article by Christopher Bird, "Scholarship and Propaganda".

(5) Karl Marx, Preface to CAPITAL, Vol. I.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M. D.

The Decay of Age and The Decay of Society

As I grow older in the practice of medicine, I have become impressed with two facts: the decay of human beings associated with aging, and the decadence of a society incapable of releasing full individual human potential.

As people live longer, and more reach the seventies and beyond, the physical and mental deteriorations associated with degeneration of the blood vessels and organs like the brain, heart, digestive tract and others just as essential, are depressing to behold. The change from youth to age has always amazed me. It is inevitable and yet it is like a thief in the night; no one expects it.

NEW DISCOVERIES PROMISING

We can, however modify the harshness of accumulated time. We are now in the beginning of a Renaissance of biochemical knowledge which will give us new useful understanding of the human body's needs for optimum growth, for equilibrium, for repair. The ideal should be not for just maintenance of life, but for a healthy life. A healthy life, however, depends on more than chemical manipulations.

To a large extent, each one of us is what the past years of living have made us. I find it saddening at times to take a good look at the people about me. For though the change from youth to age is inevitable, the failure to live complete lives is not. That is why we should look closely at our earlier years—the best years of our life.

Conditioning of a human being is inevitable from birth on. Some of this is necessary and good, so that the infant may survive. Youth questions the existing regulations and habits and customs. There is a clash between his senses and the conditions imposed by a society based on property relations.

Gradually many are "educated" and fall into line. Their center of concern becomes earning a living. The average individual finds a "spot" where

in labor can be extracted from him at a profit to his employer. The existing class-divided society thus continues to create divided human beings in its own image.

LIFE NOW INCOMPLETE

Out of this trap that is present-day society comes incomplete human lives, for the employer's concern is with value and surplus value, not with well-rounded, whole, creative individuals. This abnormal relationship of a thinking, feeling, growing human being to production in an office or factory largely determines and regulates all other avenues of our existence—schooling, marriage relations, family life, as well as the existing abnormal relations between races of people and nations.

Today, the goals of our society seem to be more and more industrialization. All new discoveries further this development. The millions of people in the newly released colonies are also looking in this direction. The measure of the value of increasing industrialization and automated machinery today is how many more and how much cheaper can some commodity be manufactured.

There is the need to question as to how all this will develop human life — fully developed men and women through using mind and body in a free association of their energy with their environment.

DANGER IN MONOTONY OF AUTOMATION

At a recent meeting of the American Academy of Occupational Medicine, I noted a report concerning on-the-job boredom resulting from Automation as a spreading cause of work injuries. The monotony of repetitious operations on automated assembly lines is often so distracting as to be unbelievable.

The number of new chemicals being developed for use in industry is increasing so rapidly that their dangers cannot be adequately defined by present toxicologic research methods.

The subtle changes of long-term exposure with potential cancer danger or harmful influence on genetic tissue is largely unknown.

Subscribe To AFRICA TODAY One Year—\$3.50 Published 10 times a year by the American Committee on Africa, Inc. 801 Second Ave., New York 17, N.Y. Look for articles by Raya Dunayevskaya in the July and September issues.

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'Alliance' Helps Generals

(Continued from Page 1)

statements is that of a young reservist who said:

"I don't like the idea of Russian technicians in Cuba, or I don't like the idea of U.S. technicians in Turkey either, or in South Vietnam where those aren't war games they're playing. I think Kennedy wants to make us war-minded so maybe we'll forget about our troubles at home."

An older worker told NEWS & LETTERS: "This country is going to have to take responsibility for everything that happens in South America. Whether it's Cuba, Brazil or Argentina it's our fault. It's the same old dirty politics in Cuba now. Not that things aren't tough for the people down there, but our government isn't helping them and that's why they're going over to the Communists. Then the Communists sell them out just as bad if not worse. It shows you what a joke this 'Alliance for Progress' is. But it isn't even a good joke."

CRISIS IN LATIN AMERICA

Some 200,000,000 people, only a little more than in the United States, live in an area, rich with natural resources, that is 2½ times larger than the U.S. mainland. Eight out of ten are forced to live out their disease-riddled overworked lives in foul overcrowded hovels, where more than half don't so much as have beds to sleep in. Their average life-expectancy is under 45 years compared to 70 in the United States.

More than half of all Latin Americans of reading age are illiterate, reaching as high as 90 per cent, for example in Haiti. According to a United Nations estimate, at least half-a-million teachers and classrooms are needed merely to provide an elementary school education for the 19 million school-age children who are being deprived of it.

By contrast, more than half the wealth of all Latin America is owned by less than two per cent of the population. This ruthless, high-living ruling class, for the most part descended from the Spanish plunderers of South America, administers the one-crop economies by which U.S. imperialism keeps the Latin America masses in colonial subjugation. U. S. capitalists siphon off wealth represented by some nine billion dollars worth of investments.

Since World War I, and particularly during the last 30 years, Latin America's exploited workers and peasants have crystallized their movements for social change around very advanced radical and socialist ideas. To suppress this mass revolt, the backward ruling bureaucracies, actively aided by the backward U. S. State Dept. and Pentagon, have created vast military establishments. These spend up to 50 per cent of the annual national budgets for which only the poor are taxed.

ALLIANCE AGAINST PROGRESS

To head off the inevitable mass Latin American revolt against U. S. domination, Kennedy formulated the "Alliance for Progress" program which was adopted by the hemisphere conference at Punta del Este on August 18, 1961. He promised at least \$20 billion in U. S. aid, over a period of 10 years, as a spur to economic development. To be eligible for such aid, however, the various Latin American countries were to be required to democratize their economic and social structures, beginning with agrarian reform, redistribution of land ownership and tax reform.

After this first year of the "Alliance" not only is the general economic situation in Latin America worse than it was in 1960, but the bulk of U.S. aid was in the form of Pentagon expenditures to strengthen the repressive military cliques the program was supposed to oppose.

BRAZIL today is on the brink of a complete takeover by a new military dictatorship.

It took a general strike by the Brazilian unions, two weeks ago, to halt the onslaught of the Generals who are still poised to seize power in order to void the national elections which are scheduled for Oct. 7.

IN PERU, Kennedy's recent sellout to the military dictatorship gave the green light to the Brazilian Generals.

In the same way the green light was given to the Peruvian Generals by going along with the Argentine Generals' seizure of power last March.

IN ARGENTINA, the White House kept silent when the then-president, Arturo Frondizi, prevented the anti-Frondizi winners of the March elections from taking office. Kennedy continued to remain silent when the military arrested and removed from office his "friend and ally," the same Frondizi, and imposed a dictatorship which cancelled out even the results of the election of last December. By now the alleged non-fascist military has encouraged unbridled break-out of anti-semitism.

IN VENEZUELA, not only has Romulo Betancourt's inadequate economic reform program been sabotaged by U.S. oil interests, without any opposition from Kennedy, but his inability to carry out even elementary agrarian and housing reform has resulted in a growing opposition which, twice in June, was bloodily suppressed. (For a more complete account of the situation in Venezuela, see Page 6.)

FROM DULLES TO JFK

Far from encouraging, or even keeping hands off the independent colonial mass movements to overthrow their military dictators, U.S. foreign policy has consistently intervened to institute new ones. Dulles was the first actively to intervene against the post-World War II upheavals in Guatemala. The same thing happened in South Korea.

Far from encouraging agrarian reform, JFK's "Alliance" has thrust the independent Latin American mass movements towards domination by Castroites and Communists. That Castro does not have majority support throughout Latin America, is because his own internal crisis is too obviously the result of his having diverted the independent Cuban revolution into the Russian orbit.

By diverting attention from his support of dictatorship in Latin America, to the crisis over Cuba, Kennedy has repeatedly used the spread of Communism in Cuba as an excuse to impose restraints here at home. Thus he succeeded in depriving Americans of their freedom to travel. He tried to suppress the freedom of the press but failed in his first attempt.

So long as Khrushchev can make Kennedy appear as an aggressor, he does not care how this enables Kennedy to deprive the American people of their freedoms. What both nuclear titans disregard is the fact that the workers and students remain energetic in their opposition which guarantees that the last word will not be either with Khrushchev or Kennedy.

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

All Roads Lead to Berlin

On the anniversary of The Wall, the Russian cosmonauts, Popovitch and Nikolayev, completed their spectacular feat of orbiting the earth 64 times for Nikolayev and 48 for Popovitch. The celebration of the space achievement was the occasion for the Russian Defense Minister Malinovsky's bellicose statement: "Let our enemies know what techniques and what soldiers our Soviet power disposes of."

The barbarism that parallels the war threats in outer space accompanies the action of shooting an East Berlin

youth fleeing to freedom — and then letting him bleed to death.

As for the not-so-enterprising democracy on the other side of the walled-in "people's democracy" which could hear the human anguish in a dying youth's cry for help and look on the inhuman spectacle without doing anything about it, once again we become witnesses to how fundamentally alike are both sides of the Iron Curtain.

The West German youth alone demonstrated against both East Berlin and its Rus-

sian overlords as well as against West Berlin and its American military occupants, while each of the nuclear titans keeps playing the dangerous game of Russian roulette.

They know that all roads lead, not to outer space, but to Berlin. When then will the self-styled disarmament and peace proponents learn that lesson and show some humanity against those who erect a wall — not in "backward" China thousands of years ago, but in the center of Europe, 1962?

SCHOOL SEGREGATION

As the new school year opens, segregation of children by the color of their skin remains the predominant pattern of American life. Starting in the first grade, this forced segregation teaches the white child to hate, despise and to discriminate against the child whose color is darker than his own. The pattern of discrimination continues into later life in restaurants, housing, jobs, theaters and libraries.

Laws already on the books could stop this pattern if they were enforced by the Kennedy Administration. President Kennedy, however, who has bragged that all it would take to end discrimination in public housing was for him to wield a pen, refuses to do even this.

In Louisiana, some Catholics demonstrate against a Bishop who ordered desegregation of Catholic schools. But this is not so surprising, since the official Jesuit magazine has just issued a warning that Jews should stop promoting the separation of Church and State. The sins are sisters.

The authority of the Supreme Court of the United States is openly defied by no less than 5,456 school districts out of 6,368 in 17 Southern states. Only 36 school districts begin token desegregation this fall.

The man in charge of civil rights, John A. Hannah, Michigan State University President and chairman of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, does nothing either in the field of education or civil rights to end this situation. But this is not surprising since the capitalist system which he serves so faithfully needs both segregation and head fixing — and in the latter category he serves well.

Kennedy has declared May 1, a well known workers' holiday, as "Law Day". It would be well if he observed the occasion by outlawing all segregation, but chances are a million to one that he won't.

CUBA

Castro has placed tighter controls over labor to increase production. In a series of decrees signed by Maj. Augusto Martinez, the Labor

Minister, new rules of labor were laid down. "All pay raises or any variation in the wage scale without the knowledge and approval of the Labor Ministry will be null and void." Workers can now be transferred from one job to another without their consent. These "transfers" can be ordered as punishment for absenteeism, or because the needs of production are greater elsewhere, Commissions on top of wages are abolished.

The Cuban workers' 30-day vacation can now be taken away if he is absent too much. Vacations must now be taken when the government wishes. If you get a promotion you are entitled to only 25% of the difference between your old salary and that paid on the new job.

The workers of course, have nothing to say about their wages, hours or working conditions. Castro has never held an election, even under his own auspices.

GHANA

After Osagyefo (the Redeemer) Nkrumah got out of his hospital bed following a recent attempt to assassinate him, he cracked down on some of his old cronies. Arrested were Foreign Minister Ako Adjei, Information Minister Tawia Adamafio and the political boss, H. H. Cofie-Crabbe. The GHANAIAN TIMES said, "The vile trio tried to ride the wave of the peoples patience, throw dust into the eyes of the nation, trample over the leaders' forbearance and disrupt the cause of the revolution."

DETROIT'S LOYALTY BOARDS

Born during the hysterical McCarthy era of 1949, The Loyalty Commission and the Loyalty Investigation Committee were both voted out of existence in the recent Detroit election. They spent over half a million dollars in their 13-year history, investigated 66 cases of which 34 were cleared. The Commission was never called upon to decide a case.

The time and money thus wasted could have been spent on more fruitful things like solving Detroit's chronic unemployment problem.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prohibition has ended in South Africa, not because the segregationist government is trying to do anything for the native population, but because of the realization that here was another opportunity to make a profit that they had missed. The colored people have been paying up to \$1.75 a shot for inferior whiskey.

SAUDI ARABIA

The Princes of King Saud are in revolt against his despotic monarchy. Led by Prince Talal Ibn Abdulaziz, a small group of princes showed up in Lebanon and announced their revolt. They expect aid from Nasser in overthrowing the government, which spends hundreds of millions yearly on concubines, slaves and an estimated 1,000 princes who live it up in Cadillacs and palaces—while the masses barely subsist.

But Princes, being what they are, don't speak to the common people, so little response is expected from the people of Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile the bad old king, a little nervous about what outside support and inside seething of the masses might exist, called upon his own outside support. He made a pact with the King of Jordan, who has a well-trained army but no money, to combine Saud's money and Jordan's army into a common "limited unity". For "national defense" of course, the excuse of all tyrants.

ALGERIA

After 23 days in power, the Algerian government of Ahmed Ben Bella was forced to retire from the capital city of Algiers by a group of Army officers whose troops occupied the city as "Military District #4". In retiring from the city, Ben Bella accused the officers of instituting a reign of terror, kidnappings, illegal arrests, usurping civil and judicial authority.

Less than a week later, Ben Bella was able to return to the city of Algiers at the head of a 40,000-man army of his own and restore the authority of his government. He had promised general elections on Sept. 1, which the army officer revolt prevented. Now he declares that the elections will be held within 10 days if conditions permit.