Worker's Journal

Facts About Communists?

A reader has written to ask for facts about the support of the Communist Party in the United States. (See Workers' Views, p. 6.)

I would say, first, that his experience in the union or politics has not meant very much. Any worker can give a hundred examples of things that have happened to him in any given time at the hands of both the company and the union leadership. But when you ask him for these facts, are you asking for proof?

IAT KIND OF PROOF?

If a worker tries to give proof he usually finds himself in an awful mess. Both the company and the union will say, "Prove it." Then, all they have to do is deny a particular statement.

I have known it to be a fact that workers have been still being pointed out by union leaders to the company. I have also known workers to be paid off and at the time the company is running the company. But to give proof is not easy.

A worker made the statement in the Ford plant that the most common of Communist workers in Detroit, that C. F. was in support of Reuther since the Congress of the United States. This worker was a supporter of Reuther, active in the Congress for some time after the Conference. The union was coming up. He stated that many of the Communists ran for office in that caucus and were elected by supporting the Reuther program.

AUTHORITIES WOULD DO THE SAME

The reader stated that in his local union in California, C. F. was different from what they are here in that they took out strikes there. The authorities would do the same if some opposition was in power and he wanted to show the workers they are the good leaders in order to win the support of the workers. The Reutherites would do the same because both have this conception and picture of the way the world is run.

The reader seems to say the same thing and I feel he is right. But I must make clear that Reuther of the C. P. is different from what they are here in that they pay a fine of $25 imposed several months ago for violation of the constitution, which prohibits the employment of men at city work for more than eight hours a day.

The company will take the case to the Supreme Court of the United States. At the same time they are waiting to find out whether the workers will strike or not.

The union has the right to strike or not and they will work the long hours, not only because the company and the union both demand overtime work.

EMPTY PHRASES

In his speech to the convention, Reuther said, "If you will look at the possibilities you will find that within the ten or twelve years the American people can double their average earnings. We can have higher wages and we can have a shorter work week."

"Be His Payment High or Low..."

Guys have been working a hell of a lot, ten hours a day seven days a week, which it a new development at Chrysler. They say, "You've got to get it when you're home, or it may not be there long."

Auto Worker
Los Angeles

They told us we're supposed to be working ten hours a day, five and six days a week. The truth is, we never know from one day to the next if we're going to work or not, nor how many hours.

After 23 years at Chrysler, I feel that my leisure is worth something. At three o'clock, I want to be totally free of this place. Saturday and Sunday, I want to be home so I can work on my car or do what I please.

Auto Worker
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In my neighborhood, the housewives were discussing how their husbands worked ten and 12 hours a day. All said they would rather have seven hours, but would rather have their husbands home with them.

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INDIVIDUALITY — A LUXURY OR A NECESSITY

Walking along a busy city street, I was attracted by a sign in a large store window, filled with modern furniture. It read, "You too can have the luxury of individuality."

Into my office, came a patient, recuperating from gall bladder surgery. She was disturbed by the hospital bill, which she had found much higher than expected. Though her illness was covered by insurance, she had paid an additional $125.00 to the hospital over the amount paid by the insurance company.

EXPENSIVE MEDICINE

I looked over the bill and noted repeated charges of $5.00 for a vial of antibiotic medicine. The patient had been injected twice a day after the operation. This price appeared exorbitant to her, and she asked, "What can I do with that?"

BEETTER NOT WORKING

With pay checks like this, it's better not to be working. She had been unemployed for three days a week lately. The union officials had obtained this concession, paid $5.00, the other $13.75 for the same medicine. It was then quite clear about the extra $125.00.

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD

When I called the hospital pharmacist and told him what I had learned, his explanation was that the hospital had to pay the salary of a graduate nurse to give the injection. But when I pointed out that the $18.50 per day the patient paid for a bed included nursing service, he readily agreed to come down to $5.00 for the same medicine in the future.

This patient had come to me for surgery, even though through her job she was covered by a surgical and hospital plan. She had paid an extra $125.00.

I knew this woman to be a member of a clerks' union. Unions were formed by the actions of working men for the purpose of bettering their own conditions, those of their own type and those of the human race. But what about thinking and feeling? The inner drives which differentiate one person from another and which are the source of movement and growth, seems to me to be something more than a luxury.

I knew this woman to be a member of a clerks' union. It was through this union that she had received the complete coverage medical plan, which she had chosen not to use. The union officials had obtained this concession, paid $5.00, the other $13.75 for the same medicine. It was then quite clear about the extra $125.00.

INDIVIDUALITY AND ACTIVITY

Unions were formed by the actions of working men and women to improve the conditions, under which they live. But any real and permanent betterment in people's lives depends upon the real ownership of their own wants and their course of action. The organization that does things to and for a person, (even when it improves his conditions) is just as non-thinking and feeling? The inner drives which differentiate one person from another and which are the source of movement and growth, seems to me to be something more than a luxury. The union officials had obtained this concession, paid $5.00, the other $13.75 for the same medicine. It was then quite clear about the extra $125.00.

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BIG PAY CHECKS LOOK GOOD, BUT GRIND IS UNBEARABLE

LOS ANGELES—Recently I was threatened by my foreman with discharge and imprisonment for refusing to work overtime. We have been working 10 hours a day for several months now, sometimes for weeks straight. This morning, when one of us started to take a day or two off each week just to look over his machine, he found it looked good but the grind was becoming unbearable. The foreman then started to jump us.

"40-HOUR WEEK"

I told the union committeeman that I didn't think too much of a union contract which works for the company to work its men as long as they pleased. It seems that the union contract mentions the 40 hour weekly. Therefore, any time after 40 is to be calculated at overtime rates. The company schedules the working hours as 14 hours, but I don't think there is anything to say about hours of work each day or the summation of working days in each week.

He told me this is an issue that has been fighting for many years. He said that maybe the next contract, three years from now, is the time to say something to the point. I let him know that any talk of what the corporation in three years is just talk about pie in the sky. He had to agree.

I think the men are going to strike these long hours are just shortening their lives.

SICK CALL

In talking around about this problem I did find out that there has been certain improvements made because the men themselves wouldn't have to stand their heads down completely broken by the company schedule.

It used to be that the men wouldn't know until Friday if they were going to have to work the weekend. Last one Friday, when the men were given notice of Saturday work, they all decided not to come in Saturday. Everyone called in sick. Reprimands were given freely, but from then on the company gave notice early Thursday of any Saturday work. Even now, though, they sometimes wait until Saturday to give notice of Sunday work. That's when the foreman is going to work.

12 HOURS A DAY

The company used to schedule 13-hour working days. After 12 hours there was a compulsory 2 minutes lunch break so the men were actually at work better than 12, with 14-hour, and no one would be compelled to take that extra unpaid lunch break. After some time of this working schedule, all of the men started to clock off after eight hours of work. They refused to work any day overtime at all.

Management held a long three-hour meeting with the men over this. The outcome was that the maximum scheduled day would be 12 hours and no one would be compelled to take that extra unpaid lunch break. The workers in my department not only want to know when the company day ends and theirs begins, but they want overtime work to be voluntary and not compulsory.
EDITORIALS

WORDS NOT DEEDS

There are many words written in daily newspapers and spoken from official platforms about the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the recent interstate commerce railroad case.

There are thousands and thousands of words about it from Negro leaders. But when it comes to brutality and death by white Southerners against Negroes there is very little in print by comparison—and no concrete action.

They seem to want people to think that all they need is big legal laws, passed on the books. The more such laws are passed, the more beatings, shootings andlynchings occur in the Southern States.

The signs in the railroad stations, marked "For White Only," still hang in those stations. Days after the Supreme Court decision on interstate commerce, Negroes were still looking at those signs.

Several months ago, a Negro priest was refused admission to worship in Louisiana with white Catholics and was turned away by them to show how firm they were. Since then, a white Catholic woman was attacked and beaten by three white Catholic women for teaching prayers to Negro and white children in the same school room. The Bishop excommunicated the three women after the teacher brought a suit in court against them. One must wonder would he have taken this action without the teacher suing the women.

The question now is, words and the Supreme Court legal decision versus the living life of Negroes without any action to protect their civil rights as humans.

There is no other minority in this country to whom it could happen in this way without some intervention by the federal law. Where is the democracy, the civil rights, the freedom which is now so often talked about so loudly?

...AND MORE WORDS

The Seventeenth and last Convention of the CIO was held last week. Actor Melvyn Douglas recited a very militant poem about how tough things were 20 years ago and how much better they are now thanks to the struggles of the CIO.

Folk-singer Joe Glazer sang a few old union songs and when he sang "Joe Hill," Walter Reuther joined him, saying he did not have permission from Jimmy Petrillo and the AFL boys who are touchy about questions of jurisdiction.

Then there were a lot of speeches about stout-hearted workers who struggled to organize themselves.

An old needle trades worker who took part in the bitter struggles before World War I, when told of these speeches, said, "I know what we did them. That doesn't excuse what they're not doing now."

Finally, the new AFL-CIO Convention opened in the armory on 34th Street and Park Avenue, New York City. The opening prayer was by Cardinal Spellman who prayed to Christ, the worker, to guide the industrialists not to regard the new unified labor body as an enemy but rather as the protector of their interests.

There were many speeches. About 15 million workers were represented by about 1500 delegates. It was a long road since the armory was first established to maintain order after the great strikes of the last quarter of the 19th century.

When president Meany was reported as having been invited to address the National Association of Manufacturer's, one commentator was heard to say, "How much more of this maturity can we stand?"

FACTS ABOUT COMMUNISTS

n order of times

NEWS AND LETTERS has reported that the Communists are having a honeymoon with Reuther and that both are now united against the AFL-CIO. At the recent UAW new conference, against wild-cat strikes. I would like to see someone write an article on this for the paper and present all the facts.

Where I work the union is dominated by an anti-Reuther faction. They certainly are not having any honeymoon with the Communists in the plant. In this local situation the Communists seem to be interested in provoking wild-cats and, in fact, were evidently very active in a recent showdown between the Communists and the UAW international and Reuther.

But the issue is more fundamental than mere factional bickering in the union movement. NEWS AND LETTERS has reported that all workers must be constantly aware that at certain points the Communists might "play devil" in the unions, at other times they are with the union bureaucracy against the Communists.

The fundamental truth remains throughout in that the Communist tactics are motivated by the desire to duplicate Russian conditions in the United States in the false belief that this will win their ends. They say nothing more or less than a situation where (1): all property is owned by the state; (2): the state is in the hands of a small, ruthless minority party; and (3): where the "stupid and backward" workers will produce to stimulate the so-called "revolutionary" thoughts of controlling production themselves in a free and human manner.

Editing Committee

Los Angeles, Calif.

* See Worker's Journal, p. 1.

STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

Burroughs spent a lot of money propagandizing how well linked with insurance plans are for the workers. But they never bothered to explain that it's a 50-50 proposition and the worker has to pay half for this high-priced insurance.

Burrough Worker

Detroit

I remember those dark days of the Depression real well. How could I forget them? They took every bit of furniture in our house—for the rent. But they'll never do it again! I'll make sure of that! I think you know that there are thousands of you that are the thought of how hard you had to work for what you had. And they just took it without a blink. I still get mad about it, when I think of it. No matter how long ago it was! I don't think people will ever stand for that sort of thing again.

Miner's Wife

Fairmont, W. Va.

Everybody's talking about the problem of automation. Some are saying that it will bring about peace, others are saying that it will cause a short recession and after that better prosperity than ever. Reuther has nothing to say about the question. He pretends to use it against the company, when in reality he is just a hugger but otherwise he keeps away from it.

About three or four years ago, was planning to put automatic into one of his plants here and was moving some equipment to Cleveland to make room for the new automation machinery. The Ford local almost struck to prevent it when Reuther stepped in and said: You don't know anything about automation so don't play around with things you're ignorant of and try to prevent them.

Detroit Auto Body Worker

Machinist

Los Angeles, Calif.

The leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States now have the word on the world that everyone is right and who is wrong in what they call the ideologies. I say neither.

The United States is supposed to be fighting for freedom abroad while a person here at home fights for the right color of skin and enough money in order to obtain his freeedom, and low enough motels to keep us free.

John Ex-GI

West Virginia

Our world situation to-day is not the result of religion, loss of culture, or loss of confidence. The world's present status is a clash toward universal man. The world today can be shown up for the election of the world today. It is like worrying about the house when the house is burned down.

The true tensions in the world are not so much more easily in Morocco or Kenya. All people—no one could have wanted their eminent dignity and they will someday have it.

VWU Student

Morgantown, W. Va.
NEGRO AMERICANS

The NAACP is trying to take over the Till case. They're politicians trying to make hay out it but they don't propose to do anything about it. If there's something to be done, the Negroes will leave it to the people to do and then they'll try to hold it back and use it for themselves.

Ford Worker
Detroit

* * * * *

I wanted to give out copies of the paper at the Till protest meeting. I tried to hand out copies of the NAACP on November 13th at the Cow Palace here in San Francisco. I went to the meeting in a downpour of rain and found that I couldn't get along with the grounds with the paper, because the NAACP had asked them to keep radical literature out of the area that belongs to the Cow Palace.

Committee Member
San Francisco

It was bad enough that they got away with murder, but then the NAACP on the kidnaping, and got away with that. How they let them get away with murder in Mississippi, that's the central government is they haven't even succeeded in the North, would step in. The Civil War after all, was it. They really tore it up and ordered some of the papers. It sure made them look bad. It was one time they were all dead sober. They went in fighting, and found that I couldn't make them do anything. Negro Housewife
Osage, W. Va.

There was one restaurant in the room that used to have a sign in the window saying that colored weren't served there. It was some of the white boys that decided to get rid of it and got some of their colored friends and all went in the place together. They pretended they were "high"—but it was one time they were all dead sober. They went in laughing and cutting up and ordered some beer. When the owner told them he couldn't serve the colored, it was what it was. They really tore into the place. The next day, the sign was out of the window.

Woman Reader
Scots Run, W. Va.

WOMEN

The front page article on women (Oct. 26) was very good. Some of the things like international topics and the thing that women in other countries are doing would add a lot to the paper. It would be very interesting to hear what the miner's wives would do in case of a strike. I'd like to get a thing going on the paper of the group of women throughout the state, somehow or other and would like someone to go in his place. He asked for suggestions and getting none, asked for a volunteer, or he'd "just have to get everybody." One of the staff, a GI from World War II simply said, "We've all been in the Army, you won't get any volunteers." Students at the university are much in common with their prods, but the Army sure gave them out complete atitude!

WVU Student
Morgantown, W. Va.

I'm not ashamed of my race—I'm proud of it. I wouldn't be any other color.

What makes me a little mad is how some people try to link like whites—or how some, like this Negro girl is attractive by how Caucasian her features are. I was really tickled when I found out there was one beauty contest that was conducted among Negroes so long ago. They sent pictures of different colored girls around in the country. All the boys picked colored girls with "white-looking" skin. But one troop picked a girl who really looked Negro—and they were proud some conference and I was proud of it, too.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

It would be interesting to hear about the automobile as a household appliance. There's all these rules made for women now, colors, easy driving and so on.

A Friendly Man
Los Angeles

I'd like to read something I could learn something from, not just husbands. No matter how hard my husband works, we can't seem to get the things we need to make our life more comfortable. Even when I went out to work, we were still only able to get the bills paid on time.

Housewife
Los Angeles

ANY VOLUNTEERS?

The GI students who were still in college this term (Oct. 26) aren't the only ones. At a meeting of some staff members, the department head (a much older man than the others) announced that he couldn't handle it, and another one, too. One of the staff, a GI from World War II simply said, "We've all been in the Army, you won't get any volunteers." Students at the university are much in common with their prods, but the Army sure gave them out complete atitude!

WVU Student
Morgantown, W. Va.


Notes from a Diary
TWO WORLDS
EUGENE VICTOR DEBS: AMERICAN SOCIALIST

One hundred years ago Eugene Vistor Debs, who was to become the greatest American socialist, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was in prison for having led the great Pullman strike in 1894. As Debs put it, it was the gleam of the bayonets of the regular army that put down the strike for elementary rights that transformed him from a union organizer into a socialist: "In the gleam of every bayonet and the flash of every rifle the class struggle was revealed. The class struggle! The whole socialist problem."

The passionate belief in a new society free of all tyranny, capitalist exploitation and war, led him to oppose the first world war. "If I had found myself in prison, this time for his anti-war views."

WENDELL PHILLIPS, ABOLITIONIST

Eugene Vistor Debs was proud of the fact that when he was a young man he chaired a meeting for the Abolitionist head of the Temperance Society. Wendell Phillips, the great orator of the Abolitionist movement to speak to his union. Phillips was then 70 years old, but still in the forefront of every social movement. Just as in the struggle to abolish slavery, he had felt that true freedom could only be achieved in the South only if the freed men were made the basis of a new South, so now he felt that only labor itself, white and black, could reconstruct society in its own true human humanism.

"We affirm as a fundamental principle," read Phillips' full body of faith, "that labor, the creator of wealth is entitled to all it created."

"Affirmation of ours, we avow ourselves willing to accept the final results of the operation of a principle so radical, such as the overthrow of the whole profit-making system, the establishment of popular and not privileged classes, universal education and fraternity, perfect freedom of exchange, and ..., the final obliteration of that foul stigma, the so-called Christian civilization—the poverty of the masses."

THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

The real mass organization of the population for a profound political and religious cause, such as the Abolitionist and Socialist movement, involves all the modern problems, including what we now call the problem of worker and intellectual, and what was then concretely the relationship between the revolts and movements that we call here the American Abolitionist movement, and the political, journalistic and speaking societies that were headed by men and women who headed the Abolitionist movement.

It is it's own organization the relationship of white to Negro was not what it was outside—the principle and need to abolish slavery. In its own organization that relationship of white to Negro became a relationship, a new relationship. Phillips was a leader of the Abolitionist movement hereofore led by an idealistic white group of intellectuals. Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, that few groups of escaped slaves who became leaders. In truth, Abolitionism moved from a mere idea to an organization when the white intellectuals surrounded themselves with the bitterest militant ex-slaves.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF MEN TO WOMEN

A new relationship of men to women was also first worked out in that movement to abolish slavery. After the first, women were active in the anti-slavery societies. The world anti-slavery movement forbade women's participation and this split the movement. The American Abolitionists not only welcomed their participation but some of them, in turn, became involved in the women's movement for their own rights. Frederick Douglass was among the first to come forward and advocate for women's rights. And the movement for the vote for women. It was he who chaired the first meeting of the Women Suffragist movement when the women still felt they needed a man to carry on the meeting for women.

Finally, take the question of a world outlook. William Lloyd Garrison, the founder and editor of the Liberator, from the first made the slogan of his paper, "Our country in the world surrounded themselves with the bitterest militant ex-slaves."

PAST AND PRESENT

Thus every fundamental modern problem—relationship of white and Negro, new, of men to men, the role of intellectuals in their solutions and its world-wide connections—all these were first put forward in America on the eve of the Civil War.

For Wendell Phillips, it was the movement in his time for a new and free society. That is what socialism was for Eugene Victor Debs. Those who today praise Debs for his dedication and struggle in the past, actually besmirch him when they fail to see that the new society on totally new, truly human beginnings.

"WENDELL PHILLIPS, ABOLITIONIST"
The Way of The World
By Ethel Dunbar

Word is getting around now about the Negro question, and since the NAACP is trying to hand the Negro people a hard task, we are all trying to get civil rights and freedom for them.

But we have found out that all the leaders of the NAACP and the Negro government, when we take our problems to them, is what they say: Go out and raise money and we will try to solve your problems for you.

That is why we will try to break up all this discrimination.

SCARED ERRAND BOYS
But they are afraid to put up a fight themselves, so they will run down to the NAACP and tell them what he will have to say about our problems. And then the Mayor will say: You go back and tell them Negroes not to start a thing because they will discourage you.

Then the leaders run back to their office and are ready to answer your questions. This is what you get for an answer: Go home and stay there until we can handle several problems like yours. We will call in a few days.

That day will never come. But they will keep the money that you raise to pay for the high officers and to have a place to sit around and guess and say that they are leading the poor Negro. But the secret is out that the NAACP "ain't nowhere" for the poor Negro people.

THE UNION'S THE SAME
The UAW treats the Negro people as bad as the NAACP does. If you try to ask about civil rights and about the killing of Negro people but don't do anything about the words.

It looks to me that the union leaders can't get any help from the individual in the union to solve the problems of getting freedom for the Negro people. The president of the union is trying to get help from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to be part of his organization so that he can be leader of the Negro people, but he will never say anything that matters against the Southern white man for killing Negro people.

We realize that no white man will give the colored man power to get in power because they know that we will bring freedom to the black man forever.

FREEDOM WON'T HAPPEN WITHOUT A STRUGGLE
OSAGE, W. Va. — They pass all those new laws about inter-marriage and no segregation in buses and such, but they know when they pass them that they'll never work. Not until there is some struggle anyway.

I don't think they pass them expecting anything to come of them. All those new laws started after the U. S. got into trouble for sticking their noses into Europe and Asia, trying to tell those people how to be democrats. Those people told the U. S. to clean up their own house first and the Community told them there would never be an end to discrimination in the U. S. Next thing you know the U. S. started passing all those anti-discrimination laws.

INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGE
But a law about inter-racial marriages could never pass down South, when things are so bad that they even have separate space on the free highways for whites and colored. We could hardly believe that one ourselves until we took a trip South this summer. In Pullaski, Virgi­nia, we started to pull off the highway into a cleared parking area for "rest", and there was a big sign "Parking for White People". A few ways up the highway was another sign "Parking for White People".

COULDN'T BE STOPPED
I frankly don't see how the people down South can stop it. They wouldn't have to put up with it if they all just stuck together and fought it. They could stop it right then and there. All they have to do is start dishing it back.

Indignant Heart
By Matthew Ward

(Editors Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1926. This new edition has been especially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the tenth installment.)

The second lynching was of Willie. Willie used to buy standing timber off of Negro farms. He'd sell it at a mill, but he couldn't sell it to some white people and couldn't meet a payment. The man took him up. He was working near me. It was rare to see a Negro with a horse and every day in mid summer but Willie said he was carrying it to keep from being beaten.

One Saturday night Willie went to the store to pay the whites. Another white man was there and they tried to whip him. He wounded two men slightly and was wound­ed himself. The report went up that he had taken the store and wounded two white men. He knew the woods and hid in the swamp.

Our mailbox was on the highway and one of us went for mail each day. I got the mail two or three days after Willie had been killed. I saw the new laws started after the World War wasn't fought for Germany. I used to be but no more. So I used to be a pretty devout Catholic. She said if it weren't for just being what they are and what they are, she couldn't stand to have the laws of God preached to her. She didn't believe it so she didn't want to me. I could see. Surely they could see. Surely they would explain the difference to her. All she had to say was, "I used to be but no more."

This White World

DETOIT. — One question that's trouble you to have a white man, a white man, white is dark. They would be better off to me.

I asked about the Negro people. She said they aren't anywhere. She asked me the "Till boy" if he wasn't killed for being colored. She said no.

BLIND AND SKEPTICAL
I told her about an article I read in the papers, about the good Christian whites that couldn't stand to have the laws of God preached to them by a Negro priest down in Louisiana. Here was this man who believed as they did, who had all the knowledge and the church. If he wanted her, she was willing. Only he couldn't break. Only he couldn't break. She was willing. Only he couldn't break.

"We should have finished him there. What if he lives?"

"If this nigger lives he's better than a cat and they're supposed to have nine lives."

They said they would take Willie up the road and finish him. They couldn't let him live. They didn't want him to live. They didn't want him to live.

(Two) Continued)

Buy Your Copy of INDIGNANT HEART
from NEWS & LETTERS
8067 Grand River
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Price: 5¢
A friend told me a little story. A 14-year-old daughter who had been working in a five-and-dime store for 85c an hour until she was fired. She worked behind the fountain with a girl friend. When it was not busy, they would sit and chat with each other. It seems this natural and human reaction disturbed the store manager no end until he had finally given them a 10-day to two-week suspension.

The only one that will come out of this in a bad way is the store manager. I'm sure. He has probably been worried about it for weeks. The girls laughed about it and said there are other jobs for that kind of nonsense.

YOUNG & OLD

These places hire young high school girls or older women who are looking for steady jobs because of their age. I know they treat the students better than the boys in the store. Their teachers are in school.

I used to work in a place where the owners were friends from my high school. I was supposed to talk and when you did they came over and asked if you wanted them to talk too. All that for 65c an hour.

BOY DOESN'T LIKE BOY SCOUTS

There's too much discipline in the Scouts. With our baseball club it's much more fun. I'm not sure if I want to be in that. There's no one to lead you or direct you, to say, "You do this or else." You have to work as long as the way Boy Scouts hike at all. They just go in a big line. They eat an apple on a whole trip or bottle of water. You get to stay in line. When I go hiking we rest when we want to. If you want to go up a mountain just to see what's on the other side, or down a ravine, you can do that too. You can't take your time in the Scouts and go directly to a place and that's it. Maybe it's a lot of fun to camp out. It probably is fun too, but I'd rather camp out with my father or with our baseball gang.

FOR NEW RELATIONS

Where they used to come home, there the men stopped. And they just don't know that the women workers would "have it in them" to come home and stay home. They were determined that no such thing should happen.

When the women proved themselves, both at work and on the picket lines, as human beings with a class loyalty, they began to get up sufficiently in their relations to note that something new had appeared on the American scene. The men began to say of the women, "I don't know what they had it in them.

BACK TO THE HOME

But when it came to establishing new relations in the home, there the men stopped. And they just don't know that the women workers would "have it in them" to come home and stay home. They were determined that no such thing should happen.

The women, however, took their new role in production seriously. They had gained a new conception of what their relations to their fellow men and fellow women should be and they refused to submit to the subordinate role which had been theirs in the home before they got their factory jobs.

FOR NEW RELATIONS

So where they could not work out the new relations there, they turned to breaking up the home, even where it meant that the woman would be the sole support of herself and of her children.

The politicians thought that as long as the old "stability" of the home was to give the women a few posts in the government, army, business, and to point with pride to the expanding American economy and as the badge for the kitchen to make life easier for the "little woman."

Not so the women. They absolutely refused to remain an appendage to the men. They are out searching for a new way to make life easier for the "little woman."

Also that engulfs every young boy. I'm inclined to think things are better now than before. Society is more complex, of course, and there are many problems. But from what I've heard about family life in the mining camps, it was much worse than it is now. The men made a little more money now, and a lot of miners' families are moving into town, instead of having to live in the mining camps and to use their own homes.

WIFE BEATERS

She said that it apparently used to be common practice for a man to beat his wife. The work was long and rough, and the men came home rough and took it out on their wives. One woman she knew said her husband used to come home drunk and beat her. She said she would take somebody with guts to stop it, and that she had the guts herself. She said that right when he was out drinking, sleeping on the bed, she took a rope and tied him up and tied his mouth and beat him and took the days out of him. She never touched her again.

I don't think some of these common practices have really changed too much. It is still pretty "common" to hear about a man beating his wife.

GET UP AND GO

That the Negroes proved themselves is by no means a completed story. What They Used To

The Negro boy who had refused to submit to the subordinate role which had been theirs in the home, before they got their factory jobs.
WORLD OUTLOOK

THE UNEMPLOYMENT QUESTION

Letter from North Ireland

A reader in North Ireland has sent the following letter about conditions as he knows them:

"I am sure the problems which affect the workers in the U.S.A. are comparable to those affecting the workers of North Ireland.

"We have one major problem, that of unemployment, which is almost seven per cent of the working population."

"The industrial position is in a state of uncertainty depending for its life on export. But with the influx of material from Japan, etc., it hits our industries especially textile."

"I have been associated with the Labour movement for over a quarter of a century and despite all the benefits derived from the working class struggle, we find apathy and ingratitude amongst the rank and file. We have to go in North Ireland to bring about working class unity, and control of Parliamentary and Local Government."

"Sometimes when we consider Labour’s policy in Britain, we can find a little hope to way of action from the Tories, that is, on Conscription, Foreign and Colonial Polity, War and atomic dangers."

"The old wing of Labour is in a state of decline, but there is a definite move towards the left to bring socialism in our time."

North Ireland

LABOR ARISTOCRACY

Clamette Aitken, one time Labour Prime Minister of Great Britain, is the leader of the British Labour Party, has recently retired from political life.

He spent many years talking about socialism and worked to obtain a reward, no doubt, for his long service to labor, when he retired, the Queen made him an Earl.

TWO TRAVELLERS

In a previous column (November 11), we commented on Molotov’s re- tractions of his statement that Russia is only “on the way” to completing socialism. We said that since then, this statement has been saying that socialism had indeed been completed, in Russia. To be more accurate, Molotov formally proclaimed the socialization of socialization in Russia in 1932, when Stalin’s First Five Year Plan was completed.

LABOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Four years ago this month there was a strike of Israel’s seamen which deserved remembering. The General Federation of Labor in Israel (the Histadrut) is not only the largest trade union in the country but also owns 16% of the industry in Israel. Out of the four shipping companies, the Histadrut owns three in joint collaboration with the Israeli government. As can easily be seen by this, the trade union movement and the government bureaucracy in Israel work hand in hand.

As a result, the Seamen’s Union of Israel, one of the unions inside the Histadrut—had to negotiate with its own trade union bureaucracy for a union contract.

There was no dispute over wages or hours, but the General Federation of Labor was concerned with making the Seamen’s Union more of a company union. It tried to take away from the Seamen the right to an independent hiring hall and the right to negotiate through its own elected officials.

This question of independent hiring hall is one that has been disputed by company and union on the waterfronts of many countries in the world, including the United States.

In the course of the strike, the Histadrut executive formed a rival company union made up of “volunteers,” most of them with no previous maritime experience. All of the seamen who went on strike and were drafted away, were drafted into the army by the government, which also owns 50% of these companies. Meanwhile scabs were recruited to man ships that are actually operated by the Histadrut Federation.

The strike of the seamen was finally broken by the combined weight of the trade union bureaucracy and the government.