Unions at Dead End, Worker Says

"I just received a letter from my international union," a California building trades worker writes the workers who have organized strikes in New York. It's not here. The whole story: "We are in a dangerous situation. Our traditional craft jurisdiction is threatened by other unions seeking to encroach on our jurisdiction and take away our members."

The rest of the letter simply explains that if we are to prevent this, we have to get in the field first. Then they ask for a dollar to help with this and this is the mission. Even though they put millions of dollars and hundreds of men into the battle, the time will come of it.

The AFL-CIO arouses no enthusiasm in the shops as far as I can see or hear." That letter concludes: "The action takes place in the top leadership. They hold conferences, conventions, take action, and then..."

20 YEARS AGO & Today

Twenty years ago, the union was threatened at dead end. As a movement of organized labor, they were incapable of keeping what the workers had gained, much less of moving out and organizing the unorganized.

Today, the CIO is reaching a dead end. It is trying to offer its own rank and file, file, file, and for only two reasons: 1) to tighten the hold of the top leaders over the workers; and 2) to build the political prestige of these bureaucrats. Many are saying this and practically all of us know it.

"Workers don't give a damn about the AFL-CIO," a Detroit auto worker told NEWS & LETTERS. "Everybody knew the merger to be only for two reasons: 1) to tighten the hold of the top leaders; and 2) to build the political prestige of these bureaucrats. Many are saying this, and practically all of us know it.

"All the time, things keep getting worse, management keeps cracking down. We are forced to fight and to help us fight back. We've got to fight management and our union leaders as well if we want any better because the union tops really think management is their friend."

(Continued on Back Page)
I THE MOST CRIPPLING OF HUMAN DISEASES

We thus become infected with grief. Would be shaped into something more abnormal than the deformed foot. This separation of thinking and doing produces millions of people whose capacities have not been touched and who therefore remain incomplete. The stamp of inferiority and inadequacy is a label that they do not wear. Many men have experienced the stimulating living, the strength and pleasure which comes out of the combined activity of the work of the mind and the hand. Within the past century, three heroic attempts were made to destroy this division within human beings. They all failed in the end, but the zest for living and the re- sorption of sound and unity in thought and action of just ordinary people during these periods was something amazing to behold. The first was the Paris Commune of 1871. The second, the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the third was in the early days of the Spanish Civil War.

THINKING SEPARATED FROM DOING

The Nazi in Germany and the Communists in Russia made a determined effort to raise the young in their image. Hunger and isolation, reward and punishment are potent persuaders and they are desired, inestimable. But such physical methods are not necessary to deform the young mind. Continually, from the life about us, we receive suggestions and expectancies unconsciously conditioned us to a particular way of looking at the world. We thus become infected with an old widespread disease; that only special people have the ability and right to think and all others are excluded.

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THREE HEROIC ATTEMPTS FOR FREEDOM

Within the past century, three heroic attempts were made to destroy this division within human beings. They all failed in the end, but the zest for living and the re- sorption of sound and unity in thought and action of just ordinary people during these periods was something amazing to behold. The first was the Paris Commune of 1871. The second, the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the third was in the early days of the Spanish Civil War.

There is little known in the United States about the last attempt, which took place only twenty years ago. The late George Orwell, an Englishman, the author of Animal Farm and 1984, also wrote a small book in 1936 called Homage To Catalonia. It is a personal account of his experience that comes only from activity in which there is a common soldier in the army against Franco. The third was in the early days of the Spanish Civil War.

Although we have seen in some of the places.

You're staying here with me now. I want to stay in the clear. Paddy took it all in, money more than anything else.

I went back in again to get the mower. I guess you get coal dust in your veins—once a miner, always a miner. But what makes a miner is the money more than anything else.

I was working in a gas station just before I got into the mine. I was averaging $5 a week. This past week, my first back in the mine, I worked $20. I never thought about the reason for it. Re- cently, I saw a picture of how, within a few years, this child's mind would be shaped into something more abnormal than the deformed foot.
DETROIT — A couple of weeks ago we went back on a four-day week at Chrysler. The way it was explained to us was that the union talked it over with management and they agreed to spread the work because there are already too many layoffs in Detroit.

One of the workers said, "Hell, I don't mind working a short week if it helps other guys not being put on the street. But I bet we get short weeks and layoffs, both."

That's how it is.

Detroit Milk Strike

IMLAY CITY, Mich. — This is the largest milk producing station in Michigan. A farmer here told me, "After a milk farmer deducts his expenses from his earnings at the end of the year, he finds he's made about ten cents a pound."

That's how it is.

The way it was explained to us was that the union told the consumer the same price. 'We'll get it to you guys don't give us a fair day's work.'

One out of every six auto workers are out of work at present—and more are coming.

Law of Jungle at Work

FROM GAW TO SUB TO NOTHING

DETROIT — The big joke of the week is the new "supplementary unemployment benefits" we can maybe get, if such an organization gets off the ground. They keep up with the union raises so they won't beunionized. They'll get out of their way to be paternalistic to the workers, except of course where it counts—in production. As a matter of fact, everyone is wondering how much more work they will want from their six pennies.

A little while back the skilled workers in the plant joined a skilled trades union. The company sent out letters to every employee. A worker read it. It was really something.

They say that this skilled trades union grew out of a dispute within the United Auto Workers and will probably end up back in the U.A.W. They also say that the leadership of this organization has been experienced enough to lead a labor organization. The letter goes on and on, telling Ford's company that they still want to talk to the union! Union officers are asking the members in advance that their international union had not endorsed any walkout over the Montgomery boycott.

This point was made very clearly by an oldtimer, Los Angeles UAW-General Motors local.

On Roth Shoulders

One Negro worker warned, "that the demonstration we are about to unfold the Negro workers campaigned to bring the non-Negro workers with them, at least in sympathy."

This would entail a fight with the union leadership which is the last thing Rennethin's plants. He stumbled badly trying to carry water on both shoulders.

The pressure of his Negro constituency compelled Powell to call for militant mass action. The pressure of his "civil rights" buddies in Congress, Humphrey, Roosevelt, etc., causes him to emasculate that action as far as possible.

This shell game tactic isn't fooling the Negro worker for one moment. His "civil rights" buddies, this many a time in his union. He does not feel that he can set himself up as a leadership that can back down so rapidly, whether it be Chrysler leadership or union leadership.

Ford's company that elimi

DOG EAT DOG

And what happens to the unions? The locals of solidarity are fighting union officials. As the workers are blackening the names of committee men.

Each union meeting is a civil war to stay employed. Contract changes; seniority changes; having the Negro workers combine with the Negro workers.

There are those inclined to assume that this situation doesn't exist. Let's not kid ourselves.

When jobs become scarce the desperate worker clamps on by the same roads that the strike. They are looking for a job. They just want to work. They just want to keep on working steady so they can make those few extra dollars a day. They don't even need that in that place to keep production going.

Every year they keep on increasing the pressure on them to bring in the Negro workers. The guys objected once to a new standard, a team of Negro workers. The CIO Time Study Committee came down. Their recommendations were worse than the old standards.

When we protested to the union said they, "You've got to get the work, you've got to do the work, the company has the right to set standards. If you boys want to bust a move, that's your piece of work, just do the standard."

Now every time we argue the company about a standard it threatens us with calling in the CIO Time Study Committee. They know we're very well with that we don't want any union time study men here again.
TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY

There is talking among workers as to the future perspective of their jobs. The talking among workers by the industrialists and labor leaders, in the past years, that automation and the continuing development of machines mean progress and more jobs for the working people is just a lot of hogwash.

With all their skilled technicians and mathematicians, they are trying to convince the public about the progress it shows, but automation is fully developed. No worker in the shop can believe this.

The worker asks: How can it be progress when one machine can take the place of from five to 25 workers? Where are the jobs it creates? Where is the progress it will mean to us, when in the past year it has put thousands of workers in the streets? Can these and other thousands of skilled workers they produce as we have done in the past?

These and many other questions that the so-called “backward” workers ask in relation to automation, cannot be answered by the smart industrialists or brilliant technicians or the allmighty trade union geniuses.

Automation is also wrecking and breaking up the life of thousands of families of workers to leave the city and seek employment elsewhere.

They have to leave their families behind, and the little children they have achieved in the past ten years, to try to hold on to their homes and the other commodities they are indebted with.

At this late date, the union leaders say they must call a special executive meeting to discuss automation and unemployment. They have not mentioned even then their future plans along the lines of building new plants in other cities—many of them in the South—and closing down present plants and using them for storage.

No one knows or cares what will happen to the jobs of many more thousands of workers.

A worker came into the plant with a picture of a “backward” workers ask in relation to automation, cannot be answered by the smart industrialists or brilliant technicians or the allmighty trade union geniuses.

A worker came into the plant with a picture of a "backward".
Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

THREE DATELINES

Three events have just taken place which emphasize the gulf between rank and file and those who profit by, and the labor and government bureaucracies, on the other.

The first event was a meeting in Montgomery, Alabama. We also asked for Negro bus drivers. To the city fathers, who proclaim segregation as the "Southern way of life," the boycott was a challenge. They warned the leaders, "You all deserve tremendous power. Do not associate with, the leaders."

The second event was a UAW conference in Washington, D.C. The leaders, of course, can play the game of politics as well as the Democratic and Republican politicians.

The third event was a mass meeting at the summit—total. The summits are so far away from the people it is hard even to remember that it is all taking place on the same planet. This newest "summit" meeting happened in England, which played host to those two totalitarians: Khruschev and Bulganin. As during Geneva, peace was on everybody's lips while the most devastating preparations for war were being made.

THE BIGGEST LIE OF ALL

The Communist Party frontiers, including the so-called Left of the British Labor Party, as well as American liberals (not excluding Alger Hiss) all chanted: "Peace is more possible now than at any time in history."

The greater the scope of war from national to international dimensions.

There is in fact no greater lie than this peace theory. It is on a par with mouthing phrases about peace while nuclear arms are being set off at Hiroshima.

The hypocrisy of the labor bureaucrats, being no more to bear with the government bureaucrats, whether on the international or national scenes. In the present conference of the U.A.W. Local 600 in England, a case of double-dealing was shown.

Being out of power, Democratic hopeful, Stevenson, had nothing to lose when he dangled before the U.A.W. bureaucrats, as a "step child," a "good solution". When he asked, "from organized labor speaks at this cabinet meeting now? There have been sitting at the cabinet table three men mentioned as candidates for one from the 16 million membership of the AFL-CIO."

While Stevenson was bargaining for the labor vote, Reuther was supporting the Negro vote. "You cannot have labor and Eastland in the same party," he said.

When he plays politics, he counts the millions of organized labor as if he had their vote in his hip pocket; out of his grip the millions for the cause of equality, all he can do is shut into the micro-phone. It is picayune, indeed. A typical example of that is the manner in which UAW Local 600 treated Rosa Parks who per­cipitated the Montgomery boycott.

Here is the largest union local in the world, numbering something like 500,000. The leaders of the union, to address the local but keeps it so deep a secret that only 200 show up at the meeting. The rest of the U.A.W. members first heard about it when most of us first heard it—after the event when it was reported in the regular press.

How could Mrs. Parks have concluded anything but that she was grossly cheated? Was she a white face down South, hypocrisy does up North?

THE GREATEST THING OF ALL: SPONTANEOUS ORGANIZATION

In contrast to the hypocrisy of the labor bureaucracy and the big lie of the "peace meetings" at the summit, there was the forceful voice of the Alabama Negroes who have their own laws, their own codes of conduct, and their own hands and have never let go in all these months. Because the spontaneity of the walkout and the organ­ized forces to keep up the boycott was a simultaneous action, it is here that we can see what is truly historic and contains our future.

1) They have been in continuous session; daily there are small meetings; three times weekly, mass meetings; at all times the new relationships.

2) The decision is always their own. When the Supreme Court handed down its decision against segregated schools, the Alabama Negroes refused to be tied down. They gave no notices they would obey decisions, the Negroes said: We also asked for Negro bus drivers. To the city fathers, who proclaim segregation as the "Southern way of life," the boycott was a challenge. They warned the leaders, "You all deserve tremendous power. Do not associate with, the leaders."

3) They have created their own transportation, without either boss or political supervision, is a model.

Clearly, the greatest thing of all in this Mont­gomery spontaneous organization is the workers' own working existence. It should serve as a living lesson to the many who see strikes, revolts and struggles but fail to see a new society emerging out of these struggles.
The Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

The greatest struggle that the Negro people have taken in order to get civil rights, has almost shaken the world. Especially the Negro in Alabama has made a new leaf in history. Which looks to me that it will change the whole South from so much prejudice and hateful ways against the poor innocent black people whom this white world has run over for many years.

And now the Negro people have decided to try out some of these promises that the United States has offered them for some time. But I think it is pretty hard for the middle-aged white people to break the laws that the old white people have laid down against the colored people for years.

But the time has come for the colored people to have some changes. They are trying to bring back that old law they had against colored people a hundred years ago. But that will never happen in these years to come.

In Chicago, they tell me, that the white people are trying to work their way back into the city by buying the whole South Side. They want to get some rest from the long traveling they have to do, to and from work, and they have found out they went too far to get their proper rest, which made them decide that they got to make a way to get back in order to be a citizen of that city.

But all of this was to get away from living among the colored people. But they found out that Negroes will take over the city and run it and that would be too much for them. So they have decided to come back to run the city.

It is truth that we can't see too much difference between North and South in giving the Negroes their freedom. Mayor Hubbard of Dearborn and other big leaders in the North spoke in favor of the South to hold on with their prejudice and hateful ways against the Negro people.

The North was rated so much higher over the South for giving the Negroes their freedom. And now they have decided to set up a white organization to try to get Negroes back under the old laws.

But that will never happen because Negroes are trying to produce and improve their race of people and not tear it down like white people who are trying to build machinery to take the place of the white woman.*

It looks to me that white Americans are trying to destroy the whole world because Negroes are trying to get out from those prejudiced white people.

*Ethel Dunbar is referring to a recent article describing new automation machinery to take over the housewife's work.—Ed.

Discrimination In the North

DETROIT.—In a number of Catholic churches in Detroit and Dearborn and other Catholic parishes, there have been set up under the name of "Home Owners Associations," a doctrine which prohibits its members from joining any "secret society," the basic secular reasons for these organizations is the protection of their own dirty white concepts on ecology. These societies operate on the basis that any neighborhood Catholic will not wash, and that if he does not buy into the society, instead of into a Negro. The society then finds a white Catholic owner.

Hamstrumak used to be "white only" and it's still plenty prejudiced. But that's being broken down. We press p. to Dearborn too.

Dodge Worker Hamstrumak

Terror in the South

GRINNELL, Iowa.—A 13-year-old white boy was arrested on the charge of "looking in a window" and effecting where a Southern jail over these four weeks while the white people have "alleged" the arrested."

After four weeks of persecution, beatings, all in a school, where the white people finally let him go. When he returned home he was a harmless-looking boy. His mother had to send him off to a relative in the North to recuperate from his brutal treatment.

Whom this white world is afraid of giving the Negroes their freedom. Mayor Hubbard and other big leaders in the North spoke in favor of the South to hold on with their prejudice and hateful ways against the Negro people.

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INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

THE WAY OF THE WORLD, by Ethel Dunbar, is the first play produced by the Negro American Theatre. This play is a moving story of a Negro black woman who has an encounter with a white bigot.

The Negro black woman is a worker in a white-owned factory. She is fighting for her rights as a union member. She is a member of the NAACP, which stands for Negro American Theatre. She is determined to fight for her rights as a member of the NAACP.

The white bigot is a union leader who is determined to keep the Negro black woman out of the union. He is threatened by the NAACP and is afraid of being exposed as a bigot.

The play is a moving story of a Negro black woman who is determined to fight for her rights and to fight against bigotry. It is a story of courage and determination.

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When the Kids Raising a child isn't the easy job that just "happens." You have to give a lot of time to give them. -Parent

**A Story of Rank Injustice**

NEVADA—This is the story of a rank injustice. When I was pregnant we were living in an apartment about ten minutes from the American base where my husband was stationed. I started to hemorrhage about 6 o'clock at night and my husband stayed in the base for an ambulance. The man on the phone asked him what rank he was. When my husband finally got there, they had to go to the next base hospital, 415 miles away. We finally got to a hospital at 9:10.

My baby was born finally by Cæsarian operation, but he didn't send the ambulance, but he might get into trouble for it. At 7:30 the ambulance arrived, but passed by the house and went into the village by mistake. It eventually came back and we got started, but when we reached the hospital he was bleeding to death. On the way my husband tried to stop them, and so on—she still has an active life after the children are gone.

She's the one who is lost when the children grow up and don't need her any more. But the woman who was so perfect in being a housewife and mother, the woman who has spent all her life looking after her children and making the perfect home and looking after her children—and never got out of the house.

**WOMEN**

*What Happens When the "Perfect Wife" Grows Old?*

*Odd of the women in our office was having difficulties with her mother-in-law, and she told me how she couldn't stand the way her mother-in-law treated her children.*

**A LIFE FOR A STRIPE**

A few weeks later a tech sergeant's wife had her baby on my husband's base. It was the first baby to be born there. With the difference of one strip we lost our baby. We wonder if this was justice, or rank injustice?
**WORLD OUTLOOK**

**First Automation Strike**

- In England
- In the last year, British auto workers, like American auto workers, have been suffering growing layoffs.
- Adapting what they once called the "American method" of laying-off men while new automation is being installed, the Standard Motor Co., at Coventry, England, recently threatened to go into lay-off 3,500 men while converting to automation.
- On April 26, 12,000 workers at Standard, laid-off in protest against the automation lay-offs. They insisted that the work should be enjoyed by the work-er and that they be given a chance to learn other work.
- No sooner did Franco force the first strike wave, which it is said, barely got off the ground, than the workers, now in slave labor camps, were promised they would be put to work if management would provide them with more work.
- France's Socialists have come to this conclusion recently: "No sooner than the hour that the workers, now in slave labor camps, will be promised they will be put to work if management would provide them with more work."