WORKER'S JOURNAL

Politicians Always Underestimate Workers
By CHARLES DENBY

Workers were discussing Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's new political move as to supporting Ike and Nixon in opposition to Stevenson and Kefauver.

Some were glad from the point of view that one leading Negro in Washington is not tied so close to the Democratic party as he cannot have a streak of independence. Some were saying that Rep. Diggs was blowing loud and hard several months ago, to the tune: if the Democrats did not do anything on civil rights he would bolt the party.

The Democrats have not done a thing but push it farther backwards and, as the daily papers stated, Diggs' comment was that regardless of what Powell does, he was still a solid Democrat and is supporting the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket.

NO BIG DIFFERENCE

Many workers did not feel that supporting Ike against Stevenson, or vice versa, would make any big difference in regards to civil rights.

This action by Powell made them see clearly the Negro leaders' role in relation to politics.

The daily papers also stated that the elder Diggs (Rep. Diggs, Jr.'s father) has come out in support of Ike, even if it causes young Diggs to lose his election and position.

CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL

Some workers say that young Diggs is caught in the whirlpool of Reuther and Gov. Williams. When he ran for State Senate, he did not have the support of the union. The union tried so hard to beat him, they put a Negro on the slate in opposition. Diggs was independent. He won by a landslide. The union and the Governor of the state saw he had some support so they got him to join with them.

As one worker said, "Diggs was getting his support based on the question of Negro rights. But when he opposed Cora Brown, a Negro woman, in favor of Ike, even if it causes young Diggs to lose his election and position."

HOW CROOKED CAN A POLITICIAN BE?

Another said, "How crooked can a politician be?" Powell says Ike will take a better position on Civil Rights than Stevenson. One will have to ask: Has Powell forgotten how strongly Ike opposed the Powell amendment to stop government aid to schools that refuse to comply with the Supreme Court decision?"

Some workers are saying, "What is the talk that Ike and Powell had, to cause him to make the break? Why doesn't Powell make it public?"

Some say that as soon as Reuther and the Democratic big leaders see that Diggs does not hold the Negro votes in his pockets, they will drop him faster than they picked him up.

But such is the life of these politicians. They always underestimate the thoughts and understanding of life of everyday working people—and especially the Negro people.

They keep saying that the Negroes are welded to the Democratic party. But this new break by Powell and the discussion of Negroes around it, will prove that no one can be absolutely certain how the Negroes will vote. The ballot boxes are secret.

UMW Convention Ignores Rank & File

Lewis Condemns Wildcats, Threatens Wildcatters

The 42nd International Constitutional Convention of the United Mine Workers of America came to a close on Tuesday, October 9, 1956. From the 2nd through the 8th, the delegates to the convention met confirmed what had been told them by their membership before they left for the convention: "You guys aren't going to be able to do anything but say 'aye' to anything that Lewis wants to put up and down.

LAY-OFFS VS. PRODUCTIVITY

One of the most serious problems that many of the delegates tried to get something done about is that of the increasing lay-offs that are taking place. The new machinery, continuous miner, is throwing men out of work by the score.

It so happened that the new contract negotiated by Lewis and Pax, representing the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, was presented to the Convention for ratification by the delegates. This gave the delegates an opportunity to speak about the things that they wanted.

The one thing that received the most attention in the discussion was the problem of lay-offs. The men wanted a six-hour day and said so.

With a six-hour day, the men who are now working can reasonably expect to keep working. More than that, the many, many thousands of miners who are out of work—many of them permanently—would have a better opportunity to get back to work. Particularly those miners who have reached the age of 45 and whose prospects of finding employment in other industries are very, very slim.

WAGE-CUT OFFERED

Lewis replied. He said that the miners (those who are working, that is) are able to have such high wages, the highest in any major industry, because of the high productivity of the American miner. Those high wages, Lewis said, are possible because of the mechanization that has taken place in the mines. The men never had it so good, he said. About the speed-up and unemployment that have been caused by this automation, he had nothing to say—except that the UMW is in favor of legislation to provide unemployment benefits for the unemployed for the length of time that they are out of work.

Lewis went on to say that he could, if the miners wished, negotiate a six-hour day contract. But, he said, this would increase production costs for the operator and would have to mean a six-hour pay for the men. It is a matter of economics, he said, of efficient production. The more you produce, the more you get. For the ones who remain working, that is.

WILDCATS AND CONTRACTS

On one subject, however, Lewis came to life. On the subject of wildcat strikes, Lewis had plenty to say.

There were 170 such strikes from January through April of this year. Of these strikes, the one to which Lewis gave the most attention, was the massive wildcat which recently paralyzed the entire coal industry in Northern West Virginia. It involved the men of District 31. (See full story, NEWS & LETTERS, Sept. 18 & Oct. 2.)

Lewis branded that mass eruption of miners as the work of "Some individuals, ambitious in character—perhaps hoping—they would be called upon and elected to some high office."

He said it was a dispute involving four men.

There isn't a miner working in the mines who doesn't know better. It was a dispute involving all of the miners and they all fought to preserve two men rather than one, not only on the roof-bolting machine, but on all machines.

Apparently the head of the Miners' Union thinks it a shame that the miners fought to protect their lives instead of letting the company get away with having one man on a machine.

Lewis wound up his blast against the miners (Continued on Page 8)
COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

MINERS KNOW THIS . . . AND SO SHOULD YOU

CINCINNATI, O.—Many comments made concerning the United Mine Workers convention will appear nowhere. Much of what the men felt was said outside the convention hall, not in it. Here are some of the observations and comments most frequently heard:

"Did you see all of those guys in there with those hats on? All Lewis' hand picked men. It looks like there are more of them here than there are delegates."

"For all the good that we're doing here, we might as well have stayed home and saved the local economies."

"At the last convention there were some 3,000 delegates. At this one, there are 2,100. I'll bet at the next one there won't be much more than a thousand. If all the delegates represented a minimum of 100 men."

"That increase in wages won't do those guys out of work any good. They're all going to be much better off for those guys who are going to be laid off when we get back. And you know that the press will be plenty laid off now."

"A lot of guys say that you can't fight him, all you can do is join him. But I'm puzzled many delegates don't want to do too much to help me."

"I would up get and say something about what the tige . . . nowhere else in print. Much frequently heard: and comments most fre­quent about the negotiations either Lewis and John just what he wants and not what the miners want."

Convention Visitor Cincinnati, O.

"I'd heard about Lewis all my life but this is the first time I've ever seen it in action. He sure can chop his opposition up. The only way you can beat him is with the rank-and-file, and they're not here."

"The rules committee said that there would be a limit of five minutes for the speakers. All the delegates got five minutes, but Lewis, Owens and Kent, they could take all day when they argued with anyone."

"The Constitution says that no appointed member of the convention can act as a delegate other than from his own local. But the book on credentials shows that those guys from the districts picked up credentials from a bunch of small locals that couldn't send delegates. Even if you did get the votes stacked against you."

"We got our dues increased from $4 to $4.25. No one can argue too much about that. But that quar­ter increase for the pension­ers, the disabled and the members under the age of 21, a thousand. I'll bet at the next one there won't be much more than a thousand. If all the delegates represented a minimum of 100 men."

"That vacation business, the way it came up in the report, sure wasn't the real thing. I'll bet that a lot of guys think they have 14 days, plus those three days in December. Act­ually, they have 11 days less than we had before. In the last contract, we had twel­ve straight days; and those other three days, well, most of the men took those three days out any­how."

New Bargaining Technique . . . Without Miners

Lewis told the convention that a "new tech­nique" has been employed for some years in the negoti­ating of contracts. A two-man team, composed of Lewis and Moses and, since Moses' death, of Lewis and Fox. This new technique has been very suc­cessful" as the contracts were "proven." It is so successful, he said, be­cause before, when contract negotiations were conducted, the public press was allowed and there was publicity. Since the public press, as Lewis put it, is controlled by big business, they put out re­ports that the operators were under their thumb. But now they've found that anything will be accepted, and that we should not be afraid of any­thing we do."

"What the H—?"

You could have knocked me over with a feather. On the last day of the convention, Lewis had three guests of honor on the platform — three of the biggest business­men you could find. The hell were they doing at a United Mine Workers con­vention?

CAMPAIGN VISITOR

Convention Visitor Cincinnati, O.

"The Constitution says that no appointed member of the convention can act as a delegate other than from his own local. But the book on credentials shows that those guys from the districts picked up credentials from a bunch of small locals that couldn't send delegates. Even if you did get the votes stacked against you."

"We got our dues increased from $4 to $4.25. No one can argue too much about that. But that quar­ter increase for the pension­ers, the disabled and the members under the age of 21, a thousand. I'll bet at the next one there won't be much more than a thousand. If all the delegates represented a minimum of 100 men."

"That vacation business, the way it came up in the report, sure wasn't the real thing. I'll bet that a lot of guys think they have 14 days, plus those three days in December. Act­ually, they have 11 days less than we had before. In the last contract, we had twel­ve straight days; and those other three days, well, most of the men took those three days out any­how."

New Bargaining Technique . . . Without Miners

Lewis told the convention that a "new tech­nique" has been employed for some years in the negoti­ating of contracts. A two-man team, composed of Lewis and Moses and, since Moses' death, of Lewis and Fox. This new technique has been very suc­cessful" as the contracts were "proven." It is so successful, he said, be­cause before, when contract negotiations were conducted, the public press was allowed and there was publicity. Since the public press, as Lewis put it, is controlled by big business, they put out re­ports that the operators were under their thumb. But now they've found that anything will be accepted, and that we should not be afraid of any­thing we do."

"What the H—?"

You could have knocked me over with a feather. On the last day of the convention, Lewis had three guests of honor on the platform — three of the biggest business­men you could find. The hell were they doing at a United Mine Workers con­vention?

CAMPAIGN VISITOR

Convention Visitor Cincinnati, O.
Way of the World

Desegregation & Who to Vote for Are Talk of Town

By Ethel Dunbar

Voting is the talk of the town. You can pick up your newspaper and you will find that the papers are asking anybody to send in their candidate's name.

All of this is because people are undecided who they want for president.

Talk with people about who they want for president. No one wants like And no one wants Steven son. Because neither one is for the black race.

WHO TO VOTE FOR?

A lot of whites don't know who to vote for. They are afraid that the Republicans will bring on another Depression to starve the poor people to death and the rich will live. They also think that if the Democrats get in for pres ident, there will be another war. Which means that their hearts will be broken again when they look at the faces of their husbands and some of their sons.

Then who would you vote for?

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

They Hide the Real History of the Common People

What is work like these days? You get up in the morning, go to work, come home, more work. Somewhere, somehow, squeeze in some recrea tion, some "leisure time."

They say people have more time for themselves these days. (Yes, the man who has no job has more time.) What did they do in the days when they worked 14 to 16 hours a day? That was literally existing to produce power and wealth for someone through your labor.

WHERE IS IT KEPT?

Where is the history of that time.

They also think that if the Democrats get in for president, there will be another war. Which means that their hearts will be broken again when they look at the faces of their husbands and some of their sons.

Then who would you vote for?

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

They Hide the Real History of the Common People

What is work like these days? You get up in the morning, go to work, come home, more work. Somewhere, somehow, squeeze in some recreation, some "leisure time."

They say people have more time for themselves these days. (Yes, the man who has no job has more time.) What did they do in the days when they worked 14 to 16 hours a day? That was literally existing to produce power and wealth for someone through your labor.

WHERE IS IT KEPT?

Where is the history of that time.

They also think that if the Democrats get in for president, there will be another war. Which means that their hearts will be broken again when they look at the faces of their husbands and some of their sons.

Then who would you vote for?
The French colonists peaceful co-existence means* "the was jailed by Napoleon III. Over 15,000 members of his Movement) has been exiled to lonely Belle Isle, in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Brittany—the same island where the great revolutionist Auguste Blanqui was born. In all the years before, when a new job was to be signed a contract that Lewis was putting up for ratification. Most of the criticized the fact that the union didn’t say a thing about the terrible working conditions inside those new factories every day with the new automatic machines. The men are more concerned with a 6-hour day than with all the double talk about wages.

Almost all of the criticism came from young delegates. One old stogy of Lewis’ got up and criticized the young guys. He said they didn’t know the hard times the old-timers went through; that they should be thankful that they had a job. But, most of those criticisms were based on what the company has decided it wants, regardless of anything.

Finally the time-study man came down and told the foreman that the timing, on one particular line, is 53 jobs an hour.

As every production worker knows, after years of struggle, it is accepted even by management that the workday is 60 minutes rest each hour. And, as every production worker knows, even a 54-minute hour is brutal and killing pace.

The strike had been on for two weeks and was a big problem for us. We had a makeshift kitchen. The men walking the line could all get a hot meal. The International Union gave $12 a week to a married man and $6 to a single man, as the duration of the strike. This was only given on the basis of need. If your wife was working or if you had any other income, you wouldn’t get it.

Nine or 10 construction workers were buried under debris in Jackson, Mich. They were killed when a portion of a building under construction there, collapsed. In the weeks to come, they will be joined by other bodies and the facts and half-truths in the “expert” testimony of others who have died which will get under way at the state capital in Lansing. Will any labor movement come in with an editorial power-sheer to clear away the debris over the bodies of the construction workers? It will, if enough construction workers lose their lives and get the fire under the fat editorial backside.

My polite suggestion is that you try to keep up with some news and basic information about this accident at Jackson.

**CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER REPORT**

It rarely makes the headlines, but construction workers also have their share of deaths. Ten were killed on the job. Just the other week, 10 were killed in the collapse of a building under construction in Jackson, Mich. Two Edison workers were killed the same week on high voltage electric lines. Little or nothing is done to enforce safety regulations that put down the death toll.

**CONSTRUCTION WORKER REPORT**

**THIS WHITE WORLD**

When you hit Michigan Ave., downtown, you immediately think of Dixie. The bar owners serve all people except Negroes. You can call the "tips" and say you are drunk. The police can be so hateful while they are questioning you, here in Detroit. They talk to you as if they want to kill children. I am over 30 but they talk to me as others grow up. As things we never had rights at all.

Negro Worker Report

**READERS’ CORNER**

If Negroes were given a chance, you would see that the world would be a better place for everybody to live in. I know a lot of colored people that went to school with me and they had a college education and came along with it, unless they are in politics or have contact of other sorts.
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

I'm a Democrat but I'm not speaking for Stevenson. He said he is going to leave it to the States. I don't know the South. If you say you are going to leave it to the States it means you are going to do nothing.

These officials in the South are expected by speaking out publicly on how they will keep the Negro in his place it they can.

Even some integration in the Southern cities means nothing if the rural places remain without schools. Those white people in the rural communities know if a Negro kid goes through high school he will never work for them again. And just make sure he doesn't go anywhere in school.

Rubber Worker Los Angeles

They don't want any thing before the elec tions. Everyone is afraid of losing, so they let the States go around. I'm a Democrat but I don't much like Stevenson. I can't see how thisAdminister

This is the year of world peace: Algeria, Morocco, Indo-China, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Mozam. Have I left anything out?

-Student

Amur Arbor, Mich.

Your last issue, dated Oct. 16, reminded me if my memory is right —that exactly 16 years earlier on Oct. 16, 1940, was the day we all had to register for the first peace-time draft in our lifetime.

It's only 16 years ago, but we're getting middled aged and old now. There's a new crop of youngsters who keep doing that same thing every year after year, since we did it the first time. My son wasn't even born when I registered, but pretty sure he's going to follow in his father's footsteps. What a tradi tion—going from father to son.

—World War II Vet New York City

ABOUT NEWS AND LETTERS

I am so enthusiastic about the newsy News & Letters, especially the second and third issues (Oct. 2 and Oct. 16) that I feel like doing some work for the paper. Up to now I have only done the endless thing in not too much of that.

Obviously, News & Letters was too much of a fighter that was just mad and swinging wild. Now it's beginning to look like a trained fighter who is going in there to win victories (maybe take a few beatings on the way).

The most discouraging thing in the world is to see truth buried below tons of garbage. Up on the other hand, there is nothing more encouraging than to see a newspaper like yours, a small but powerful bulwark, getting in there to clear it away.

Professional Editor

In showing News & Letters and Friends, I am always asked, "Where do you see a few sons of the people?" This time, I was asked by house wife whose husband is in the garment industry. She is a member of a union, of course, social groups, PTA, etc., and she's anxious to do something about demo cracy.

I sat down with her and showed her what that average worker does to change his working conditions and how he can make that a little more than a grin.

Housewife Los Angeles

READERS ABROAD

Thank you very much for sending me the News & Letters regularly. I am one of the "professional intellectuals." I know Charles Denby... writes. I am the political editor of a social democratic here.

For some time now, I have been very interested in your paper what the working people there feel... I am particularly interested in the Negro question and I take every oppor tunity to learn for the rights of the colored people.

I shall be very happy to receive the next issue of News & Letters and also, when I find it possible, to contribute something toward your publication fund.

Newspaperman Beverly Hills

Please find enclosed a few Internal Revenue Coupons, the only way for me to pay you for my subscription. I will send another lot with in a few weeks. I always enjoy your paper which gives a lively unofficial picture of life in USA.

-Subscriber

Paris, France

I am happy to see your paper back again. I enjoyed it during the period when you were not able to publish. I find it a breath of fresh air. I urge the propaganda put out through the official channels from America, which is beset by the foggy propagandists here. I find News & Letters an invaluable source for insights into what the American common man is really thinking and feeling.

I remember some time back you advertised the first English translation of Havelock Ellis' "Little People's Notebooks." Would you please send me a copy?

—Amy Riding London, England

Editor's Note: We are sending "Socialist Writer" and all readers who have received our latest "call for papers" requests, that we can no longer fill orders for "Little People's Notebooks." The column has been completely sold.

TWO WORLDS

THE ABSENCE OF A MASS LABOR PARTY IN THE U.S.

Although it has no labor party of its own, labor dominates other political campaigns. This is natural since they constitute the majority of the population and this is the time when everyone is out to get "the labor vote."

IT'S FANTASTIC

The labor bureaucracy is busy "getting out the vote" for one of the capitalist parties—the Democratic Party—while the other capitalist party is suddenly showing a hypocritical concern with the rank-and-file's liberation. One can see from the fact that the trade union heads "cannot deliver the labor vote," the Republicans draw the fantastic conclusion that they will have the labor vote.

The absence of a mass labor party is the fundamental factor in American life. It underlies the politics of the big parties as well as the little groupings, the daily lives of people and the general direction of the nation's development.

There is certainly no stranger phenomenon, anywhere in the world, than the Democratic Party which, since the Depression, has gotten the labor vote. Here the party was a capital workers' party which, as a body, contains the most reactionary element in American life—white supremacy South which is openly boast ing of its "labor victory" (that is, underpaid, sweet labor)—and the labor vote of the North. This is due to the absence of a labor party.

It isn't that the workers, during the Depression, left their fate up to the NRA. Quite the contrary. They built their own organization, the CIO. They did that, to the astonishment of the world, in a few short years. But they voted Democratic.

THE REALLY BACKWARD ONES

From the small radical groups conclude that the American worker is "politically backward" and tell him, year in and year out, that he "should" build a labor party.

The labor bureaucracy itself, at least in words, has threatened to do just that. For the old radicals, now is always the time to build one. For the labor bureaucracy, now is never the time to build one. Neither of them pay much attention to what the workers themselves are thinking on the subject.

In some respects, the American workers may be at a disadvantage in not having built a labor party. But then the others have also been guilty of not doing so and thus escaping the stranglehold of the bureaucracy that dominates the mass party in each country. For example, the worker certainly had much less freedom of action when "its" Labor Party was the Government.

It is true that during the war the labor bureaucracy tried to "educate" the workers. But the labor bureaucracy here is so weak, that wildcating went on all the time and, at the end of the war, the workers broke out in the GM general strike.

ONE THING IS CERTAIN

What do to now? No one can tell the workers. One thing is certain and that is the one thing that all forget, be they capitalist leaders or labor leaders; big bureaucracy or little, old radical or liberation, the American worker is "politically backward" and tell him, year in and year out, that he "should" build a labor party.

The next fundamental political development will come from a new, a deeper layer in the population and not from the so-called most advanced, or politicalized workers. It will come spontaneously, from below, and not be a plan handed down from above. That is why what form it will take cannot be known.

It may very well be, that the American workers will "skip" this "stage" of traditional mass labor party, just as they did the "socialist worker" who formed the CIO and changed the industrial face of America. It was not the AFL which was transformed into the CIO. The CIO grew up out of the small radical groups like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which did form part of the organizing committee for industrial unionism, thanks to the pressure of these unorganized workers.

The people must ready to reorganize society were found not in the union apparatus, nor even in the "leftwing" caucuses but among these "backward" workers.
LIVING TWO LIVES: One at Work & One at Home

By Robert Ellery

People are used to the idea that the Russian totalitarian regime has forced labor camps. What is not really known is how young teenagers are forced to work for the State in the State Labor Reserve. This is not a military force but it is under military discipline.

Each year, a minimum of one million boys and girls, 14 years of age—and in many cases, as young as 12—are forced to start State training for a period of six months to two years.

In exchange for this, they are forced to work for the State for the next four years, “at the prevailing rates of pay,” to keep their homes, to keep the family, to keep their “social standing,” in the miserable shacks which are provided.

In an effort to keep the miners from leaving the mines, the State has sent 80,000 boys and girls to live in those miserable shacks. When the boys leave the State Labor Reserve, the girls are crowded classrooms. But classes were crowded when I went to school, too. We didn’t get taught one by one, but the teachers took a little time with us. And they couldn’t hire all they like about more “money” for the teachers. Looking at it that way won’t solve a thing. Those things don’t seem like the real problem to me

—Housewife and Mother

SEVENTEEN

I got a big bang out of reading in the daily paper that a year ago in December, North Carolina had Army and other government officials who had built, in his basement, a liquid-oxygen six-foot rocket equipped with fuel.

The incident brought to my mind a recent public appeal by the government to amateur experimenters to work along certain projects, among them, high explosives that wouldn’t break down under super-sonic speeds. The government has already sent out the letter suggesting that the research workers in their own laboratories, and in the homes of the less fortunate, may have the chance to work on these high explosives.

The letter is offered to anyone who might have the time and the patience to work on these high explosives. The letter is offered to anyone who might have the time and the patience to work on these high explosives. The letter is offered to anyone who might have the time and the patience to work on these high explosives.
A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

ATOMIC RADIATION: What Can It Do? (Part III)

The potential dangers to human life from radioactivity are quite varied. Some are very real and immediate, such as sterility, severe toxicity or poisoning. Other injuries are strongly suspected but delayed.

Lung cancer has followed the long exposure of mine workers to the dust of radioactive ores. Fine particles taken into the body and there deposited, can remain a source of radiation for years. This will probably influence the life of workers now active in uranium deposits.

MAY LEAD TO CANCER

While knowledge on the subject is still not complete, it is beginning to appear that chemical substances resulting from the breakdown of petroleum products — coal tars and tars from cigarette smoke and of related chemicals we inhale daily from factory chimneys and auto-pollution, among other long-range changes that, in certain people, may lead to cancer. So far, only the cigarette industry seems to be a little disturbed over this.

Following the use of radium compounds to paint the hands of watch dials for purposes of illumination, a number of workers, some years ago, after repeated exposure, became ill with bone destruction due to malignancy.

Physicians and others who work around X-rays, have a higher death rate from Leukemia, a malignant disease of the white cells in the blood. It is believed that this disease too may, at times, be induced by excessive radioactivity.

Before summarizing the dangers of radiation — using knowledge obtained from accidental or industrial human exposure and from animal experimentation — we can state that each exposure has some effect and that every new exposure is added to the old. The effects vary with the different body tissues and degree of exposure. In general, there may be a shortening of the life span and premature aging.

SUMMARIZING THE DANGERS

Damage to the sex glands has been mentioned. The blood may be affected, producing Aneuplasia (a shortage of red blood cells), and, after some years, Leukemia. The intestines early may ulcerate and bleed, later may form scars and malignancy. On the skin, scars may be produced, which degenerate to cancer.

Hair-growth may be temporarily or permanently lost.

In the lung, congestion, scarring and cancer may be produced. The thyroid gland may suffer depression of its healing effects. — Skipping over various deformities of the new-born.

Physicians, who work around X-rays, have a higher death rate from Leukemia, a malignant disease of the white cells in the blood. It is believed that this disease too may, at times, be induced by excessive radioactivity.

SAFETY IN MEDICAL USE

This material is not presented to put fear into people, concerning the use of radioactivity in medicine. X-rays, Radium and Radioactive isotopes are in the hands of people aware of their dangers as well as of their healing effects.

While these powerful tools of medicine need to be safeguarded even further, with the proper application of the knowledge available, they can be safe to human beings.

What I am concerned with is the real danger of adding to essential and limited medical action of radiation — the uncontrollable, unpredictable and unnecessary addition of atomic activity that we are now playing around with in military missiles.

In the next issue of NEWS & LETTERS, I will present further aspects of industrial and military use of radiation.
In District 31 with this article: "Career is the message back," he said. "Don't do it again. You will catch the hies that I am breathing down your necks."

AUTONOMY DEFEATED

On the question of the rights of men in a Dis- trict to elect their own repre- sentatives, the miners wanting it didn't have a chance. Their issue was brought up at every con- vention with the same re- sult—nothing doing.

The policy is clear. The Constitution provides for District autonomy. Do what it says and you can have it. The catch here, is that an International Commission investigates any peti- tion for autonomy present- ed to the International.

They investigate, but when they do, it is always "just a few individuals" wanting to form a new businessmen. That, as far as the International is concerned, ends it. Besides, Lewis pointed out, not every man who is elected is qualified to handle, and protect, the members in a District.

A delegate put it more clearly when he said that an appointed man depends upon the one who appoints him. He is not the wishes of his membership so long as he remains in the good graces of the one who appoints him. The one who appoints him is Lewis.

Perhaps the most sickening aspect of the convention was the increase of dues for the pensioned, dis- abled and unemployed miners. That dues was raised from $1 a month to $1.25. Every delegate who spoke, whether in favor, or against, or spoke out against it. They said they would much rather have their own dues increased than to have these people—who are often in the most destitute conditions—have to pay the increase.

Lewis said it was a sound business proposition. He said these people would bank the delegates for looking out for a sound financial arrangement. They would provide a revenue for the locals, which he preferred for doing the bulk of the paper work. Two things that matter most in the satellite regimes are instability of the satellite regime.

SOME OLD STORY

To delegates who had never been to a convention before, it was a new experience. They saw Lewis' machine in operation for the-first time. They came to believe in the system that was built for their membership. They left wondering just what had happened. For those who had attended the conventions before, it was the same old story.

A delegate who has attended many conventions, said, "Trying to fight Lewis and his boys is like trying to beat him in a game of poker, deuces wild—With Lewis holding all four deuces."

News & Letters Committees

A delegate, who had been out to a Ford plant to hand out a sample copies of the paper. We wonder, as these people see themselves that News & Letters "belongs to the people" to read and write for it.

We were in front of the plant around three o'clock in the afternoon, when the workers were about to change shift. We distributed about 500 sample copies of the October issue, last week. The lead story on automation.

It wasn't more than 20 minutes after we got there that the story rang. The man on the phone introduced himself and said, "I just got the call. I'm going out of the plant—papers that you were handing out at Ford a little while ago."

He said, "There's a lot of good stuff in there. That story on Chrysler you have on the front which said, "was that pretty good."