NERO STRUGGLE SHOWS ITS VITALITY

By CHARLES DENBY

The Independent Struggle of the Negroes has its own vitality. It is being put into practice to its fullest degree in the South today.

It is changing the attitudes and minds of the Southern whites. It is also changing the attitudes and minds of the leaders of the labor unions there.

NEGRO STEELWORKERS IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Just the other week, a Negro steelworker in Birmingham, Alabama, told me of an incident that happened in the shop where he works. The company has Coca-Cola machines all over the shop where workers can get a coke on their break or lunch period by depositing a nickel and pulling a lever.

Sometimes these machines refuse to operate and there is no return of money. When that happens, the worker is supposed to report it to his supervisor and when the Coca-Cola man returns he is supposed to refund the lost money or give the worker a coke. The Coca-Cola man is white and works solely for The Coca-Cola distributing company. He doesn't work for the steel company.

One of the Negro steelworkers in the plant lost a nickel or 10c in the machine. When the white Coca-Cola man returned he used abusive and derogatory language to the Negro worker about refunding his money. A fist fight started between them. The white man was beaten up by the Negro. The Negro worker was fired by the steel company.

For several months, the union and company played around on grievance procedures. The Coca-Cola man was back working but not the Negro.

The Union would tell the other workers that they need more time, "Maybe next week we will have him back," and on and on.

BOYCOTT COCA-COLA

The Negro workers are a majority in this plant. They decided they had had enough of this playing around both the union and the company. They boycotted all Coca-Cola machines in the plant. Several days later it began to spread to other plants of the same company.

The company called a meeting—this time with Negro workers—to ask why they stopped buying cokes.

The Negro workers told of the man who was fired. They said if he was not back by a given day, they would start their boycott in their communities. They said they would stop every Negro in Birmingham from drinking Coca-Cola. They set a date.

FULL VICTORY

On the day set, the Negro worker who was fired was put back to work. The other workers said, "No. You also have to pay him for the time he lost." The company paid that worker for every hour of lost time.

Many white workers gave the Negroes support, but it was this Independent Struggle, now being so solidly organized among the Southern Negroes, that stood the company and the Union on their ears.

This has frightened the whole Southern System. The Negroes use it to the fullest extent when they feel it is necessary. The successful boycotting of the Montgomery buses has given them a weapon that they use in many instances to get full and quick recognition of the special problems confronting them.

I have recently come back from a trip to Alabama where I was born and raised. Montgomery is my home town. From what I've seen and feel there is a social revolution going on in the South that has it in a turmoil of a kind that hasn't been seen since the days of Reconstruction.

I got to Alabama on Friday, December 21st. That was the high-point since the beginning of the boycott. That was the Friday that the Negroes of Montgomery went out fully in relation to testing the decision of the Supreme Court with regard to riding buses that had been segregated from the beginning of the history of the city. That was the Friday when they went out fully to sit wherever they saw a seat and wherever they pleased.

THE FIRST DAY

I stayed in Birmingham that day and visited with a group of friends whom I hadn't seen in years. The old tradition of spending your moments of happiness with people you hadn't seen for a long time was changed. This time, the moments of happiness came from listening to the radio and watching TV which was full of what was happening in Montgomery that day.

The TV in Birmingham showed where the Negroes were sitting in the buses and how free and calm they were. It also showed that if a Negro sat in a white, if the white didn't move, he was soon contacted by a city detective and asked where he was born; where he went to school; why he didn't move.

It showed one white girl who went to sit by a Negro and a detective stayed with her until she got off the bus and then he followed her home, asking her questions all the time.

THE SECOND DAY

I arrived in Montgomery on Saturday, the second day. The movement was still at a high pitch. I stood on a corner where once I had trouble on a bus. I can't remember any day when I was as ready to die as that day many years ago.

Now, when I saw these people sitting everywhere and going about, I had a feeling I don't think I'll ever be able to explain. I never dreamed I would live to see in America what I saw and felt that Saturday.

I rode that same bus line, on which I had trouble so long ago, from one end of the car to the other. I sat in the first seat behind the driver. There were a number of youngsters sitting up front with me. They were in their teens and in their twenties. One of them asked me, "How old are you?"

I said, "I'm 50."

He said, "That's bothering me. We don't see too many older ones up front like you. They sort of sit from center to back. We sit as soon as we get on the bus. We need a few more older people sitting up front like you and then the others will come up front too."

YOUNG PEOPLE & OLDER PEOPLE

I talked with working people. I talked with women who work in the small shirt factories and laundries. They always rolled the conversation around to the leadership of the movement.

The older ones say the leadership is their Moses. They resent any opposition or criticism. The younger ones are different. They have the greatest respect for the leadership. Many of them are very glad that Rev. King, who is at the head of the movement, is also young, 23 or so. But they have criticism in regard to his not going forward forcefully enough.

They appreciate his looking for peaceful solutions. They don't oppose peaceful solutions. But, as many of them told me, "If violence comes, we're not running away from it."

COWARDLY VIOLENCE

I was told that at the beginning whites were throwing lye at Negroes' cars which were identified with the movement. The Negroes organized themselves in groups of eight and watched most of those cars.

I was told they caught a man throwing lye, held him and brought him down to the police headquarters where they found out he was one of the leading detectives. Since then, I was told, there hasn't been another report of lye being thrown at cars.

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Report from the South
(Continued from Page 1)

On the first day, whites at the Negro girl waiting by herself at a bus stop. They thought it would cause some Negroes to be afraid. They did make those who didn't need to ride the bus to say they didn't need to ride it on purpose. They're not afraid.

Several of the Negro youth were telling me about the woman who had been shot on the bus. They mentioned other incidents. They said, "All this violence comes from the White Citizens' Council."

They said, "But look how cowardly they are. They're shooting at the men. They're shooting at the women and the kids. They don't want to have to do anything to continue this way there's going to be bloodshed regardless."

(In the last days, the daily papers have carried reports that Rev. Abernathy's home has been badly bombed. Abernathy is one of the leaders of the Montgomery movement. But again, his home was bombed while he was away (in Georgia and only his wife and children were at home.).

KKK & WHITE CITIZENS' COUNCIL

In the past few days, there have been quite a few white bus drivers talking around behind the scenes. They strike in a sneaky way and run for cover if a Negro finds out what they're doing. Something they never thought of doing in the past. If they wanted to do something like that to a Negro they didn't care who knew. Now, they're nervous about what the Negro will do.

KKK members and their unhooded brothers of the White Citizens' Council are talking to the bus drivers and telling them the terrible situation was in. They finally got me a construction job.

I worked so hard on that job that I was afraid that I would get hurt. I was afraid that I would get killed. I was afraid that I would lose my job.

"I don't care how close they sit to the front or how far they sit behind. All I want is my job."

"I want to tell you one thing: The first shot is a call to come back to my job. I was never so glad in my life when I heard that voice telling me to stay where I was."

WHITE DRIVERS CHANGE ATTITUDE

On the other hand, I talked to a white bus driver. He asked me, "How do the bus drivers feel now in regards to desegregation?"

He said, "Man, I want to tell you one thing: The first shot is a call to come back to my job. I was never so glad in my life when I heard that voice telling me to stay where I was."

I turned around, and there were the cutters, looking like they would like very much to kill me.

"What's your guys talking about?" I asked them.

They said, "You know damn well we're coming after you! You're supposed to make sure that no one is in line of fire when you shoot a shot. That's what the hell you're supposed to do, kill somebody!"

The boss started.

SHOT BLOWS THROUGH

I wired up my shooting cable and strung it around a corner, yelling the usual warning and put off the first shot. I went up to wire up the second shot and heard someone yell, "What the hell you trying to do, kill somebody!"

Not so long ago there was a Ku Klux Klan parade in Montgomery. Hooded Kluxers went behind them and told those white storekeepers that if they ever wanted another nickel under contract, they better not let any more Ku Kluxers parade through their streets.

The storekeepers were shaken. They were afraid of being pulled out of town. First, they tried to say that they didn't know the hooded paraders and that they were all from another city or another state. But everyone knew that plenty of them were from Montgomery. Then the storekeepers hastened to promise no more patrols.

EDUCATION OF SOUTHERN WHITES

Among the things I was impressed with is the education a lot of Southern whites are getting out of this. An education I don't think will ever be blotted out.

Many whites who would like to be neutral, or support the movement, are afraid of the heat; they're afraid of those violent whites. They hide behind the Supreme Court decision in order to have to say anything.

But if you're white and you don't speak loud and you don't support the Negro, the White Citizens Council and the KKK blast you as being automatically on the side of the Negroes. They've got those white people afraid.

NEWS & LETTERS

Tuesday, January 22, 1957

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

The Boss "Forgot"...The Men Almost Died

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — The cross-cut was just about finished. Ordinarily, it took about five and a half cuts to put one through, and the fifth cut would show the miners whether there was ever a place to use. But they had turned down the next heading and I went in to see how they felt, and I felt just so strongly about it, but for my own reasons.

I put it to him. "Why didn't you pull out the cutters that you were supposed to and said you would?"

He stopped and looked at the men. "Oh, I—I just forgot," he stammered. "A buggy man told me the loading machine was having a little trouble when I left you and I went to tell the mechanic about it. I meant to tell them through. But you got them out all right, so what's the hold up?"

BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT YOU

One of the cutters exploded, "He didn't get us out! A shot blew through! That's what got us out! If we would have been standing in the head of the machine, we'd be dead right now. And all because you're so damned coal hungry the loading machine is more important than the men on the crew."

"Now look fellas— the boss started."

"Look my eye!" yelled the other cutter. "You look! This man told you to pull us out. You didn't do it. We've got to depend on each other to keep alive in this hole. It's bad enough without having put up with guys like you. They ought to take your papers away from you and throw you out of the mine."

"And now," I said, "I want to get one thing straight. I can see what you are. From now on, I'm not depending on any boss but I don't want you to pull a rank on me all day. Or shoot a place or if I have to hold that loading machine up for a week. I'm just going to say when I look at a place is safe before I shoot. I don't ever want to hear a shot fired from you about me. You or no other boss is ever going to put me in a position where I might be able to kill a man."

"This boss was soon gone but, good for you. To this, I have never trusted a boss. Nothing has happened since then to make me change my mind, but plenty has happened to make me think that I don't trust them."

"The Best Boss I Ever Had"

FAIRMONT, W. Va.— I've worked for many a boss in my life. I've worked in the mines since 1917, and the longest time I was out of the mines was during World War I when I was in the service.

NEVER BORRHERS YOU

I've worked for some good bosses and I've worked for some rotten ones, but the boss I have now is the best one I've ever had. He never bothers you. You can be laying up on a machine sleeping. If it's a warm spot, the only thing he'll do is try to edge up to get enough room to get it too.

If you're sitting down waiting on a machine, he doesn't care how long you sit as long as your work is done. He doesn't allow the pit-boss or anyone else to interfere with his men.

He's been at the mine for years, but not as a boss. He's done a bit of almost everything else. It has been just lately that they put him on salary. He said this is because, as he put it, his wife likes to eat and he has some kids that he doesn't want to have to go hungry. He said, "I don't care. They can fire me today or tomorrow—I'm straightened out."
Piece Work & Speedup in the Needle Trades

LOS ANGELES.—I have been employed by a garment manufacturing company for the last three years. The jobs I have done have made good wages and our boss was easy to get along with. We used to work two and three seasons a year, and we were always desperate for the money. We had no "nest-eggs" stored up; and were desperate for the money.

Something just happened to me Monday. A lot of the women got their Christmas bonus but I was one who didn't. I asked the secretary for the reason for this. She told me that I hadn't worked the week before, so I wasn't entitled to the bonus. I talked this over with the boss. I told him that I hadn't worked the week before because I had been quite ill and that he knew about it. Well, he said he would see that I got my check. I did.

But just before he gave me the check he told me that he expected me to make $12 a day. How can I make $12 a day when I'm doing pays 48c a dozen garments. Each garment has to be sewed and finished in four different places and also the crotch of the suit has to be sewed.

MAKE YOUR TIME

I told him this and he replied, "Well I expect you to make your time." By making my time he means that I should be able to put in $9.00, my rate being $1.20 an hour. That means I have to make about 240 garments a day. Chances are that by this coming week. I'll be called into the office, either to be bawled out or fired.

Women Workers Try to Work Out Seniority Problems Not Covered by Union Rules

WEST VIRGINIA.—I used to work in a shop where the women had been hired in "bunches." One group had been hired when the departments were first being set up. The company had to keep many large "groups" until almost ten years later, when another large group of women were hired again.

LAY-OFF TIME

When it came time for a lay-off, naturally all the younger—seniority women were going to be laid off and the older—seniority ones kept on. The only thing was that a lot of the older women wanted to be laid off. They could use a "rest"; would be able to collect unemployment; and quite a few had husbands working and weren't desperate for the money.

Most of the younger women didn't want to be laid off. They wanted to go on working and supporting themselves; had no "nest-eggs" stored up, and were desperate for the money.

Women Workers Try to Work Out Seniority Problems Not Covered by Union Rules

Strict Rules

The women got together and asked the Union if the older ones who wanted to be laid-off could "volunteer" to take that place of the others. But the Union said "no soap." The rules were strict—last hired, first laid-off.

I've often thought about how the women would have handled that situation so much better than the rules.

Just the other day a friend of mine told me about the same sort of situation a friend of hers was in—when the women did handle it in that case.

Her friend had a lot of seniority, but really wanted the job. So she decided to catch up with her work at home for a while. Another girl at work needed the job badly. They asked the Union if they could switch places in the lay-off. The "Union said, "No." The younger girl was laid-off.

Talk it Over

The two women talked it over. They decided that since the one with seniority would be making enough money, she would keep working and pay the other girl to come in and help her with her work at home. She had a garden, too, but a lot of the vegetables were just going to pot since she didn't have enough time to can most of them. The girl who was laid-off could come over and can enough for both of them. Some of the others who lived near her would stop and pick up and bring them over for her. It worked out fine for all of them.

It would have worked out better if they had been able to handle the seniority rules themselves in the first place. But they made the best of the situation any-how.

The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

Well, the shop that spreads the most propaganda throughout the city of Detroit, of never having lay-offs (except, of course, if the workers vote the union in the company "cannot provide employment") has shown its colors as all true-blue patriotic souls do. Hurrohs. Our shop has just come around with another 250 people laid-off. A few months ago they laid off 300 or so.

Real Gentlemen

They do it in true gentlemanly fashion, of course, but where will that get you? The workers might get called back by June. What happens if they don't? That's just about the time when unemployment compensation will run out.

Very few of the women there work just to save money or to buy something. Even their husbands are working they need to work. Still, it will be easier for the woman who is married and whose husband is working, than for the single girl who is supporting herself and supporting a couple of kids by herself. There are 125 men who are being laid-off. What of their families?

Nearly all the "fair seniority policy" turns out to be not so fair when it comes to production and work.

As one of the girls who was just laid-off told me, "We knew we could do very little about it, and we didn't want to be one to lose a few more work. But we did want to show our friends how we'd foreman a little bit of trouble. He knows nothing, sees nothing and acts like he knows it all.

"We asked him why some girls with less seniority were being kept and we were getting laid-off. We caught him at every turn, and he finally resorted to, "Well, I can't give you an answer. I really want to know ask the company. They'll have an answer."

Schedules vs. People

It will never cease to amaze me that a society can be built up in which the most important thing is production. The most important thing is the production. Another company—schedules are the thing to watch. Schedules, mist you, not people!
ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED

I’ve just been told by a friend who visited here that Walter Reuther, the president of the CIO, has been trying to organize the unorganized workers would be the people who work in banks.

Right here is where he better come and get into a fight that means something. Here in the South is where we got to organize the people and stand up against these white companies and politicians.

Has Reuther ever bothered to find out what it’s like to work in some of these little shirt factories and laundries where our women work in?

If he’s serious about his Union he’d better come here. If he don’t white South will sure as anything whip him.

Birmingham, Ala.
Steelworker

For years, the Unions have mentioned organizing the banks and banks and now Reuther has said that’s his next goal. I’m not sure what we got to do to make him organize me. First of all, whenever I’m sick I know this, I get paid just the same. I don’t know if there will be the same liberal policy with the union. Then too, we paying our regular paid holidays than most any other employees. Will it be the same with the Union?

Bank Teller
Detroit

Reuther has his nerve saying that the way to organize the unorganized is to start the next drive in the banks.

Our trade is supposed to be highly organized, but just go out Los Angeles and even right here in New York and you’ll see plenty of open shops—selling shoes—just like the kind we fought bloody strikes to improve. I’m young back in 1910 and 1913. Where are the Clothing Workers, or the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union when all this is going on under their noses? They know about it but they don’t do a darn thing.

Retired GM Worker
New York City

LEADERS & RANKS

You don’t know how far back the Union has gone until you talk to GM workers. You can’t get a thing done to relieve anything the company tries to put over.

Right after the last GM wildcat, they threatened to fire wildcatters, especially those workers they tabbed as leaders. Naturally, the Union didn’t say anything about that except, “Amen.” That was bad enough.

Now, the foreman walks into the plant and says “You open the door and if there’s another wildcat, the company will see to it you’re fired.” Wildcat leaders are put in jail. And the Union hasn’t said a damn thing about that.

Chevy Worker
Detroit

 Those Negroes down South have a lot more guts than the whites up here North. They know the only way is to fight. We know it too, but we don’t do anything. The Union does anything it wants and the company does anything it wants. And we just let them do it. I think we ought to take a few lessons from those Southern Negroes.

Negro Auto Worker
Detroit

There are guys in the shop today who are as different today from what they were ten years ago as day from night.

When they were younger, and when their wives were working, back in 1946, 1947 and 1948, anything the company did, they were up.

Today, the younger ones have got the ball. These older ones won’t even shout when there’s a touchdown. They become wise in a hurry or they’ll be mobbed in the pile-up.

Chrysler Worker
Detroit

THIS WHITE WORLD

Somehow, when you read about thousands and thousands of people fleeing in Hungary in order to escape tyranny it seems unreal and far off.

The pictures of the fighting white people are more real and you know it’s really happening, but still it’s something at a distance and its easy to turn off the TV if you don’t want to see it.

The idea of having to leave our own homes never really occurs to us and we feel comfortable in being where we are.

But right here in our own backyard a very similar thing is happening.

I just read an article which tells of a Negro family who had the Union to get a report on the inequality that surrounds them because the article appeared in the magazine this family was driven out of their home.

All their credit was cut out by the wife, who is a school teacher was fired. No one would sell them anything. In order to escape they had to move and then hurriedly because even as they did so the white population was beginning to threaten bodily harm to them.

This happened to a family that had established roots in a community, and had their kids there all their lives. Then had to get out quickly because the white population didn’t like an article they helped write.

When I read this it made me real mad. I think of how magnanimous Mr. Eisenhowers sound in calling for financial aid to the Hungarians and how all the big shots are climbing on the bandwagon. They put on such a good show that they can pretend the “Democracy” spilt out of their mouths. How much can they mean when they said virtually nothing in their civil rights planks during the elections and people in their own country are forced to leave their homes because of tyranny?

Nurse
Los Angeles

Readers?
NEGRO STRUGGLE

Here's something you don't see every day in print: the bus boycott in Montgomery was only the beginning. But the people of Montgomery showed strength in all phases of their fight for full human rights, especially in relation to any white business.

Not only that, they gave their support in the bus boycott against any Negro business who don't give the Negro a chance. They're using it against the Uncle Toms so the whites don't have any loved ones. They maneuver the way they used to.

So you put more fear in the white supremacy Southern whites than the bus boycott ever did.

Negroes. Montgomery, Ala.

The white officials of Montgomery are going nuts. They just do not know what to do. Here's an example: the Thanksgiving football game between Tuskegee and State Teachers College is an annual high point. The white Crampton Bowl in Montgomery is turned over to the two agrarian colleges for the game and the key to the city to the Negroes. There are big parades and floats and so on. The police route goes down the side streets—it's a gala event, as big a day as the inauguration of the confederacy.

This year, with the bus boycott and all, the Negroes were a little leery about the Thanksgiving event. The leading professors of the two schools in this two college town and those fellows. Ask them. They run this town, lock, stock and barrel.

The Thanksgiving Parade this year was bigger than ever before.

Montgomery, Ala.

"OFFICIAL" TALK

"The only time I ever heard our UN Ambas­
dor, Henry Cabot Lodge, say anything sensible was recently when he told the UN

that it was senseless for the Russians to call the Hungarian Revolutionaries "counter-revolutionaries." Because, Lodge said, that was like saying that the Russian Revo­

lution was the last revolu­tionary history will ever see.

Intellectual Chicago

All this talk, that 1957 will be the best boom year to come, is a joke. Especially in the Detroit car­
pers, in the Detroit papers. There was no less than 20 per cent cut in payroll last year, and this was on the basis of so-called wage in­
creases that workers supposedly won this year. That means more than 20 per cent increase in unemploy­

ment, particularly among auto workers. How many un­
employed do you want before they quit calling it prosperity?

Statistician Detroit

AMERICAN WOMEN

A lot of people in oth­

er countries who read the LIFE issue on Am­

erican women, and see all those gaudy parades, are going to believe that we're all that way that it's not true.

Housewife Los Angeles

I didn't think it was a realistic picture of our lives. The picture of what's sup­

posed to be an average housewife but her hus­

band makes $25,000 a year and she has a gar­

den and a full-time maid.

Workaholic Los Angeles

If they want to show an average woman, they should pick one with a husband who works with his hands and makes under $5,000 a year, and she wouldn't have a maid or a gardener. She'd have at least two children.

BEHIND WAR & PEACE

Dear Editor:

People who should know better, people who, wanting to be admired for liberal views, speak bitterly about injustice and vaguely about free­
dom, tell me that the Hungarian "Freedom Fight­
ers" don't want freedom for anyone but them­selves. My friends tell me that Hungary is en­
gaged in an old-fashioned Nationalistic revolu­tion, which is a threat to One World: what if West Ger­

many should try to help East Germany in a sim­
ilar manner? Then I tell me that the Hungar­
ians, being Catholic, were ideologically opposed to freedom, and that Russian domination of East Europe is probably the only alternative to World War III.

Recent violence in Ireland reminds me that the Irish Revolution, especially the Easter Rebel­

tion of 1916, was criticized for similar reasons. The "democratic" English had, of course, been particularly brutal for centuries; but "democratic" Americans also criticized it for weakening the stand of England, and thus world­wide "Democracy." In the war against Germany. They said that the Irish, being Catholic, were ideologically opposed to freedom.

Finally, they said the Easter Rebellion was a futile at­

tempt.

In reading about the Easter Rebellion I came across a remark by Lenin that cleared the air. In replying to a Polish "Marxist" who had attacked the Easter Rebellion for being a petty-bourgeois pura­tion, Lenin wrote: "Only those who live in one place an army will line up and say 'we are for socialism' and in another place an army will line up and say 'we are for capitalism.' I believe this will be the social revolution, only those who hold such a ridiculously pedantic opinion could vilify the Irish rebellion by calling it a 'putsch.'

"Whoever expects a 'pure' social revolution will never live to see it. Such a person pays lip service to revolution without understanding what revolution is . . ."

-Detroit Teacher

TWO WORLDS

Youth and Workers in Present Revolts

One aspect of the report from the South (see page 1) once again discloses how organic to the youth of today is organization and revolt. No one has to teach them that. Quite the contrary. The older generation has much to learn from them. It has much to learn from the youth because there is nothing technical about mass organization. Revolt is only the obverse side of organization when that revolt is motivated by the struggle for the new world.

The vision of totally new human relations dictates the Negroes' method of struggle, their organization, smashing the reactionary organizations of the past.

The struggle of the Southern Negroes—and especially of the Negro youth of Montgomery, Alabama—is under­

mining the whole monstrous institution of oppression and segregation which the capitalist press so daintily calls "the Southern way of life." This, and not guns, is the true mark of a social revolution.

With this kind of revolution has been undermining the whole world of capitalist crisis and wars by questioning the right of either of the two gigantic powers to dominate the world—Russia—America—

To dominate the world.

In this struggle out of world chaos, the much malignoned youth of this generation—whether Hungarian for the Southern Negro, Russian or Kenyan—has come to the forefront. Everywhere the youth is in revolt against this corrupt society which is in a perpetual state of warfare, motivated by one source—screaming the very fate of civilization on the tip of the H-bomb.

1950 marked the first sharp dividing line between the youth of this generation and the so-called "lost generation" that arose after World War I. That "lost generation" found itself as part of the intellectual and administrative bureaucracy trying to order the new generation about.

Contrast the high school youth of 1950. In that year, the high school youth in New York City burst forth in demonstration for such seemingly trivial matters as sports and extra-curricular activities. The demonstration was led by any radical group and risked themselves. They hadn't yet undergone the discipline of a factory, and yet in their methods of struggle they used working class forms—mass action.

One point stands out that demonstrated all the old radical leaders with no one to lead, gasping. It was when the youth had crowded onto the two vast sets of bleachers in Madison Square Garden. The cops were trying to drive them off. Suddenly, the cry "Sit down!" went up and down the stage. In half a minute every kid was sitting down.

THIRD COUNTRIES

It was the same sort of action—on a much grander historical scale—that electrified the whole world on October 29, 1956. That single day in Hungary—whether Hungarian for the Southern Negro, Russian or Kenyan—has come to the forefront. Everywhere the youth is in revolt against this corrupt society which is in a perpetual state of warfare, motivated by one source—screaming the very fate of civilization on the tip of the H-bomb.

The important thing about the present revolts, the youth of today, is that the youth is in the forefront because it is the most courageous. At the same time, the youth is intellectual domination.

In the working class alone has the cohesiveness and power which comes from being so strategically placed at the point of production as to be able to stop all production. Only that social revolution which begins on the factory level and changes the relations at the point of production can become a social revolution. It is here that capitalism—which is determined from the point of production—faces the real crisis. For it is only on the factory floor that the workers have the power to dominate the world.

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Miner's Wife Wants to Work, Family Opposes

WEST VIRGINIA — It seems as though you ought to be happy if you actually get to work on the job when you're not working. You don't feel that way out about your own little house.

When you're working out, you decide just what you can do, and you do it. But when you're home all day, you always end up doing it off until tomorrow. You figure that if you're too tired to do it today, it can wait till tomorrow, even though it did feel good to have my own money, and not have to ask for it.

The worst part was that my family wasn't satisfied when I was working. The reason for the desire to get out is, because you're not satisfied. But if the whole family isn't satisfied, it just isn't worth it. When you have the satisfaction of going out to work, you get away from you when you're not home. And if the whole family isn't also upset, I couldn't be satisfied either.

There's NO WAY to get back to work, unless you'd have to work acting as a woman could work, and still keep the family together, some special house. She could work on something, that would be "it." But things aren't set up that way. You see, I'm just going to have to "choose" your hours. My only choice was between working out and upsetting everybody else. Or staying home and getting it back to "normal." I liked working in the mining town, but now I'm back home, and the family's settled again. So that's it.

—Miner's Wife

HOLLYWOOD TOUCHES BURNING PROBLEMS—AND DROPS THEM, MOVIE-GoER SAYS

In the movie "Giant," Hollywood has once again caught hold of some burning social problems only to drop them like a hot potato. The movie revolves around three main crises: wealth, the younger generation versus the older, and the relationship problems between the sexes. In the final analysis, every one of these is side-stopped.

Oil Tycoon Jett Rink's deterioration is caused not so much by his wealth, as by the fact that he is a questionable personality all along, a "wildcat" cattin' his own "claim." The same is true even though he has his blind spots, is shown as a "good guy" and a hero. Since he is not a vulgar newly-rich man, but comes from a long line of aristocratic land-holders, he is therefore "fair" and "brave."

Young Benedict, the son and namesake, breaks away from the family traditions and from his father's authority by marrying a Mexican girl. He is a good father for what he is, but he still lives within the family fold, and pretty much relies on his old man to fight his battles for him. But at least the son comes to grip with the race question, and on his own. He tells the mother to consider it a personal, and not a social, question.

The mother's attitude to Mexicans is patronizing and sentimental. She tries to "help" the Mexicans, but shies away from an outspoken defense of their class.

Jett Rink, who in his younger days attacked Benedict for dating the Mexican girl, ends up by barring Mexicans from his luxury hotel. But Benedict will fight for his daughter-in-law, but obviously cannot accept his own half-Mexican grandson.

There is one strangely symbolic scene, however, that seems to me to point the way to the future. During the funeral of the younger Mexican, who was killed during the war, the camera points to a young Mexican boy who is playing with a ball outside the cemetery. He says nothing, just stand there, being hurt and being happy, feeling about this little boy. He is independent, he is free, he is not tied to his own kind or his own little house. He is indifferent to the hypocrisy that is going on behind the sacred walls of the church. He is responsive to the world, and its changes. And he is saying that this new and different world is going to be good for him. He is saying that this new and different world is going to be good for all of us.

—Movie-Goer

A "GIANT" HOAX:

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—Movie-Goer

YOUTH

Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellory

A few years ago, a worker in a safety campaign initiated by the company, turned in a safety idea. He suggested that all workers in the plant be required to wear safety glasses.

The company liked the idea. They can provide impressive statistics to show a real decline in eye injuries since the adoption of safety glasses. More important, as far as they are concerned, is that there are fewer loss-of-time accidents.

DOUBLE IRRITATION

The glasses are uncomfortable. Some workers complain of irritation behind the ears. Others say they come worse since they've been forced to wear the glasses.

The guy whose brain-splintered ear was stepped on—as frequently happens with the others who are wearing his glasses. Anyone can be fired for not wearing his glasses.

"GUFF" IS WORSE

If someone comes down on the floor from the locker room, and you say as frequently happens—one of the foremen, supervisors, or what have you, will rush up to him and shout, "Get those glasses on."

Often, this kind of guff is more annoying than a steel splinter. I feel that the majority would gladly risk the real danger if they could win from the company the right to wear or not to wear the glasses as they see fit.

The spiritual uplifting of such a victory would be a thing to see.

MINISTRY

West German Youth Oppose Induction in New Army

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MINISTRY

West German Youth Oppose Induction in New Army

According to a recent issue of the NATION, a national magazine, the youth of West Germany are rebelling in large numbers against the new military machine being set up and staffed with former Nazis.

In America, only objections to war on religious grounds are legally recognized, and even from service in the armed forces. But in Germany—as a result, I am sure—some of the constant opposition of the people themselves since World War II—exemption is "guaranteed" to anyone who is "opposed to every use of weapons of destruction against the nations of the world.

Many of the youth, currently refusing registration, are members of large organizations which are opposed to war and the draft itself.

Mother Says Today's Schools

Are the Same As Ever

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Mother Says Today's Schools

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LOS ANGELES—I don't think, it's anything new. I have just one thing to say, and when I went to school, I don't think kids are any more trained for any thing any more than we were then. I just found myself around when I got out of school. I think they shouldn't be allowed to have their minds, and that it should be brought to their minds.

—Housewife & Mother
A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

PIECE-WORK AND ULCERS

...or in the region of the outlet of the stomach is not as continuous in women as in men, but Ladies' as well. It is estimated that in the U.S. at least one person out of 25 has this disease.

This week, I found an ulcer in a woman who complained of abdominal pain and nervousness. She has been employed in the needle trades for many years, operating a machine. She does piece-work on dresses and says she prefers getting paid for each article, rather than by the hour or day, because she can make more money.

INCREASED STRESS, TENSION & HURRY

It is evident, however, that to make money in this hurried manner, she is paying a price in increased stress. This tension and hurry she also carries over into her home.

She shop the woman works in is non-union. She is not particularly concerned about this. The union doesn’t appear important to her. In fact she believes she is the one to not having to pay union dues. Though she says that the unions have had a lot in the past to improve working conditions, this past doesn’t seem to mean much to her now.

A few months ago I read a newspaper report about a conference on job evaluation and time study. The conference was attended by the union and management employees in Los Angeles Institute of Industrial Relations. There, Dr. William Gomberg, head of the management engineering department of the International Ladies’ Garments Workers Union, stated that the object of management is “to maximize profits by minimizing costs,” while the object of unions is “to assure that the worker does his job and gets paid not as piece-work can be one way of accomplishing this.”

The idea of strength through union is as old as the tribal life of mankind. However, with the beginnings of industrialization and modern civilization, the unity of “factory hands” became an absolute necessity for survival. It had to take a revolutionary form in complete opposition to the factory owners, who paid no attention to their needs or desires, to pleasure or pain. Gradually and brutally an unstable compromise was forced on the working man.

DIFFERENT ROADS

The rise of the CIA pointed to a new direction—a different road. With the first sit-down strike and the second sit-down strike, the nature of labor in modern society and what it was doing to his life.

In the 20 years since, however, the American unions have not kept pace with the feelings and actions of these ordinary people. The union’s main concern is still in wresting a few small concessions from the employer.

A large union bureaucracy has arisen which seeks to prevent the involvement of ordinary people in solving their own affairs. Instead, it tries to force them to look to “specialists” and “leaders” for guidance. This kind of unionism blocks, rather than opens, the road to progress and improvement.

Dr. Gomberg, the ILGWU official, in spite of being “the only industrial engineer with a Ph.D. degree in the country,” was one of those who looked to the removal of wages as a competitive factor through the use of piece-work. He glorifies an activity which is the most intensified and exploitative. It is a type of work that not only exploits the worker and keeps him in the same old place. But the worker can no longer remain in this place. "It is not merely the product that the laborer produces that is alienated from him. In this alienation is crystallized the renunciation of the labor itself." And through this is created the stress that gives birth to ulcers as well as to other ills.
Report from the South

By PETER MALLORY

State of Civil Rights

The progress of mankind, and the process of change, is often determined by different ways by different individuals or groups. The only true measure of success is whether or not mankind has improved the freedom, the self-determination of all peoples from the factory level up. Whether or not we can learn to live and develop internationally and technologically development, which result in more work and less for the broad masses of workers in any country becomes meaningless in this context.

This year-end review of the world will try to measure what, if any, progress has been made.

Hawaii

The most outstanding blow struck this year for freedom was the Hawaiian movement to end the guidance of the workers and students of Hawaii. Though they did not take power at the moment, the revolt demonstrated the ability of workers and youth overthrowing a despotic communist dictatorship on their own. They struck blows for real freedom every time. The government leaders who believed that it could not be done.

United States

Despite the election campaign, civil liberties in the United States have not advanced during the year and show no promise of changing in the next year. The notorious struggle of the Negroes of Montgomery, Alabama, has set a new pattern in the struggle against segregation and their success in securing integrated buses has struck deep into the stronghold of the reactionary South. But the reactionary laws, like the McCarran Act and the immigration Act, do not speak of segregation, remain.

England and France

These two countries turned back the pages of history with their unwarranted repression of reports to force they have completely disrupted the

Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

Mobile East, and left a power vacuum in which Eisenhower pro poses to throw the weight of American military and financial might. The people of the Middle East will be no better off under American domination than they have been under the British and French.

Africa

Africa is moving fast. Its people no longer accept exploitation and domination by the big powers. GHANA, formerly the Gold Coast, has won its independence. Africa still suffers under the segregationist practices of its dictatorial leaders, but native African movements are gathering strength to throw off foreign yoke. The concentration camps of Kenya still hold thousands of Kikuyu, Meru, and Embu people but liberty and freedom do not exist.

Russia

Russia still stands at the top of the list of those countries where no civil liberties exist. The reactionary laws which have broken out into the open in the Ukraine. Student demonstrations and factory strikes are widespread. The government is weaker than at any time in the past 20 years.

Far East

The dominant power in the Far East is Red China. During the last year some improvements have been made in the living standards of the vast millions of the Chinese people, in terms of more and better housing, consumer goods. The number of factories, railroads and irrigation projects have increased.

Yet, the vast populations and resources of China, with the reactionaries and technocrats in power, is a long way off in China today.

Indonesia is in the midst of a large-scale military revolt.

Japan has rebuilt its economy and society but remains pretty much under American domination as it has since 1945.

The Philippines remain an area of economic distress. Inflation and political mismanagement have created a critical situation there. Political opponents of the Magna Carta government live in fear of their lives.

South and Central America

Political dictatorship continues to thrive in Central and South America. Revolts continue to take place with clockwork regularity. The rich have grown enormously wealthy and the majority of the natives live in increased poverty.

Cuba, under the dictatorship of Batista, was shooting down oppositionists in the streets as recently as Christmas Day.

None of the South American dictatorships could live for an hour without the active support of the American State Department.

Only the self-organized Hungarian workers have struck blows for real freedom this year that will long be remembered. They and the Negroes of Montgomery, Alabama, have set a new pattern in the struggle against segregation and their success in securing integrated buses has struck deep into the stronghold of the reactionary South. But the reactionary laws, like the McCarran Act and the immigration Act, do not speak of segregation, remain.