WORKER'S JOURNAL
Rand & File Opposition to Reuther Grows
By CHARLES DENBY

We are getting ready to elect delegates for the coming UAW Convention. For the first time in the past seven or eight years it appears that the Reuther and Massey supporters will have some real opposition: the opposition of many rank and file workers who never opposed Reuther before.

For the first time in all these years, workers who were afraid to oppose this powerful machinery of the Reuther group are speaking out openly against them. For years the Reuther boys have plastered the plant with their stickers and torn down any and all they would see of opposition. After continually defeating the opposition, they bought to their side those opposition leaders who accepted. Others were put into a position where they were afraid to open their mouths.

NEW OPPOSITION CAUCUS

There is an opposition caucus now being organized. Workers are giving it their support. Some of its leaders are old trade unionists who could get top positions in the Reuther group. They are calling the Reuther boys porkchoppers and opportunists. But these leaders are the same. If they defeat the Reuther boys workers will soon be faced with the same problems: unsettled grievances, speed-ups, and bad working conditions.

But, as some workers are saying, if it is the same afterwards, they will still get pleasure and happiness out of the fact that the stranglehold of the Reutherites has been broken. And unless they all accept them, how would they like to let them know that they cannot keep our votes locked in their pockets forever.

The opposition has plastered the plant with leaflets and stickers. Their program is against the dues increase; against more porkchoppers being put on the payroll; and for the strike fund money to be distributed equally among workers if and when on a strike.

They did not mention those thousands of unemployed union brothers and sisters (as we call them and felt for them in the early days of the union).

They did not mention workers' problems in production: foremen's working; unsettled grievances; safety hazards.

They may nothing of the worker's life, most of which he is forced to spend in the shops.

THEIR WEALTH, OUR TAXES

Many workers say the proposed dues increase is a shame since the International boasts about its wealth. In the same way this government boasts of being the richest in the world and the next day comes out with a budget that workers will be paying more taxes and working for less money.

The Union is not saying that we should work for less, but they figure on the workers' wages just as the government does. And they proclaim today that the only way to help the union is to workers giving their earnings that they so desperately need to keep existing. Any worker knows that is not the way the UAW would exist.

The Reuther boys once claimed that all opposition were communists of some sort. Most of these are now on his staff. Today, they are calling the opposition, communists. They are saying that if the opposition were serious and good unionists they would come with them.

OUT OF OUR HAIR

As a worker said, "It's good to see them afraid. When we have shop problems we have to make special appointments to see a union officer. Nine times out of 10 you cannot ever see him. When we have a wildcat strike, the company workers like we are not human. And they still think we are so dumb and backward that we forget it when election time comes around.

"Their stickers and leaflets are being torn down now and the new people's, the opposition's stickers are the ones that are staying up. This year we mean to get them out of our hair forever,"
Our Life in the Balance
(Continued from Page 1)
Where Teddy Roosevelt's "trust-busting" at least produced an anti-trust law on the books; and F. D. Roose-
velt's big talk produced a constitutional Convention. The particular quotes taken here are representative of the
last contract in discussion concerning the acceptance of the coal company's proposal, which was presented to the
debaters for their approval.

LIKE THE DONKEY
Delegate: "Prior to the end of the war, I was at a mine where I worked we had 1100 workers. With the introduction of machinery that man was down to 800 and now there are 400 working. There are 200 on the job. Others have gone elsewhere to seek employment. There are 200 who expect to work here and try to get an agreement calling for a shorter work day so some of these men could be re-
employed. You know those who are working will receive an increase in wages. From 800 to 400 a year and he thought the increases in wages were the best for the economy and didn't wonder that is so, whether a shorter work week would be beneficial in the mines in my district, jump on a belt line and ride maybe a thousand or two thousand feet, get an respirator on and go to the face and work. When we got to the face and work with that machine, I won-

done resentment against this thing. I mean the right to life, you won't have to do sto. You won't be any of us left. I was on the third shift the night the report came about this rumored con-
tract. I went to the cutting machine and I never saw one man in our mine satisfied with the in-
crease in production. It is a command, the working time is about 6 hours. There is no other answer to machinery in the mines."

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.
The following are some excerpts from the proceed-
ings of the last contract in discussion concerning the acceptance of the coal company's proposal, which was presented to the debaters for their approval.

PRICES, PROFITS & WAGES
To say that the budget is the biggest in peacetime history does not give one any idea of how really fan-
tastic a budget it is.

Just 10 years ago, the budget was only $33 bil-

lion, less than half of the current budget at $72 billion. Just 20 years ago it was less than one-tenth of that, it was only 7 billion!

At that time, 1937, millions were unemployed and it was suggested that the government appropriate $2 billion for road building and other employment to alleviate the depression. Any one who endorsed that sug-
gen and cut a hard row of part of the human race was found through the war, and now the military, pay increases in wages. Price increases.

Delegate: "I suppose I am a little bit like the donkey

chipping a windmill, but my resentment against this contract, which fails to recog-

nize the increases in production that are on the job, I will do it.

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DETROIT — We held a meeting for the purpose of selecting a committee to be in charge of handling the new election for convention delegates. For 10 years, the Reutherites ‘green slate’ has won these positions without opposition.

‘GET THEM OUT!’

In the past several months workers have said “We are going to get them out!” They formed a caucus called the Rank & File caucus. Some splinter and old opposition bureaucrats who could not find a position under Reutherite’s slate came running to this meeting.

Sunday they had a caucus meeting. Workers were saying, “We are going to defeat the ‘green slate’ today. We told workers in our department to be at the union hall.”

**The Working Day**

By Angela Terrano

It Can’t Go On Much Longer Like This

It seems to me that some skilled workers can find as much intellectual satisfaction in turning out a shiny piece of metal as the thousandth of an inch as in reading a book or writing or thinking.

The point is: does he know what an unskilled worker has to go through, just to that, or is that something to behold.

Could he take the pressure of knowing that he is expendable at the slightest moment, when or production schedule of the boss or foreman? That his work is one monotonous operation after another?

**HOW MANY TIMES?**

After all, how many times can you wire up a switch and feel that you have contributed vastly to mankind? Or how many almost good cars can you put on the assembly lines again?

The point is: does he know that an unskilled worker has to go through, just to that, or is that something to behold.

**Ambitious Type**

LOS ANGELES — There’s a fellow in my department who represents a certain type of guy. He hired in because he knew his wife would be the one who would be trying to get our old foreman’s job when he retires soon.

He says that some of the things that Hitler started out to do were good. He admires that tyro who tries to be friendly with everyone, who tries to be kind to everyone, who tries to be friendly with everyone, who tries to be kind to everyone, who tries to be friendly with everyone, who tries to be kind to everyone.

**Way of the World**

We Know That It Is Time

Today, discrimination against Negroes has become a worrisome thing for the white people. They try going on with their low-down ways against the Negro people, when the Negroes have learned to speak up for themselves.

No matter what the whites may think, we know that it is time for the white Americans to give up and let us have our rights because we are Americans too.

So why try to get up a KKK to frighten us to death or shoot and kill us for nothing? We know that you are just a white man with a mask over your face.

**LIVE & LET LIVE**

You can believe me if you may: we are going to get in on to something that is going to be a big war, that is going to be a big war, that is going to be a big war.

**Some Day**

That may be all right now, but some day you will need our Negro help in your ‘Tigers’ struggle to win a pennant, to play in a World Series, to get a little extra money, to hold on to your white supremacy team.

But we will do unto them as the Negroes in the South have done unto us. We will do stop doing business with them and they will soon stop discrimination against us.

**Automation Also Worries Foremen**

DETROIT. — Automation has not only every worker but the majority of the foremen feeling that the are just hanging on to something that is likely to fall any time soon.

This is especially true among older foremen. The one thing these foremen, who tries to be human with workers, was telling us the other day how much fear there was among foremen about their jobs. They have no idea what in the world they are doing cut back to the workers on the line and some are talking on the streets. He told us that Ford, GM, Chrysler, and all the automobile companies are too frightened to behold.

What the sight of power has done to him is something to behold.

Sheet Metal Worker.

Los Angeles.
EDITORIALS

Only the Workers Care

One of the most important facts today is the layoff of workers throughout the country when this is supposed to be one of the highest points of prosperity.

In our last issue there was a small article on layoff warnings in Los Angeles. Another article told of layoffs here in Detroit in a shop that has the reputation of never laying-off.

This is nothing new. For a long time now workers have been writing us of the havoc automation has caused in the auto shops and mines.

Here in Detroit you can just talk to people in the street whom you have never seen before, and before you know it they tell you that they've been laid-off for three months though they have 16 years seniority.

One worker told of her husband being laid-off permanently. He worked in a pharmaceutical factory that has gone automatic. It used to employ 1,500. Now less than 200 can do the job.

A General Motors worker with 22-year seniority said 11 men used to work with him. Now he's the only one feeding the operation. Now, only two men do the job: one feeds the machine to push the buttons.

He said, "I better get my pension fast before they put that new automation in." About McDonald president of the steel worker's union minimizing to demand three months paid vacations and a four-day week-it's just a pipe dream. He's just talking to get himself some votes. He won't seriously fight for these demands.

Sheet Metal Worker, Los Angeles.

I object to a small article that appeared in a recent issue of News & Letters called, "A Janitor Shows Them Up." To me it doesn't say anything. I didn't like the title either. Almost anything I read any to equal it anyway.

Sheets Metal Worker, Los Angeles.

I watched Ike's inauguration on TV. Marion Anderson stood next to him and sang during the ceremonies. All I could think of her was what a fool she looked. What good came from that? That "show" do for her people in Alabama? It sure doesn't help them. Miner's Wife, Birmingham, Ala.

DEPRESSION'S "HAIR-CURLERS"

About once a week we get a Newsletter in our economics class that has information and statistics on where the best employment possibilities are, where people are leaving, where they are going to, and so on.

I remember one in which West Virginia was included high up on the list of those areas not to go to if you were looking for work. The only people that were urged to go to West Virginia were those interested in setting up new industries there. This is one more indication how bad the employment situation is in the state.

Steel Worker, Los Angeles.

It's hard to believe the circumstances or c's which some people are living right in the heart of Los Angeles. There are blocks of tenements where people are jammed in. Old people, pensioners and people with language barriers who don't know how to negotiate with governmental red tape to get their rights.

A lot of times government agencies get away with things because people ignorant of the laws have no idea how to push through their claims and are shamefully taken advantage of.

Miner's Wife, Los Angeles.

There is a new law in California which says that when a man leaves his family, the wife cannot collect from the department for 3 months after his departure. They made this 3-month period because they say too many families are leaving their husbands and when the father does this the Welfare department has to take over the financial care of the children.

They think that a lot of times wives do not want to see their husbands return. They don't want to go back to the same place and it is too easy for the wife to collect, hence this three-month period.

Miner's Wife, Los Angeles.
Most of the guys I work with do the weekly shopping for the family. They say they won't buy anything unless it's on sale. They go to a market unless there's a sale going on there. One of the fellows told me he'd rather eat meat at the wholesale price.

The price of food is going so high that unless it's on sale, some families can't afford to buy what they need.

Auto Worker
Los Angeles.

A girl I work with told me about her experience with the Depression. She said her mother, who was sick. It was during that period she met the Community Aid. They went out to different districts. An aid agencies. But the people there were not very receptive. They turned her down about three hours. Then she had to go back and fill out forms for Social Security. In the meantime, her mother died. The aid agencies helped save us from the economic crisis.
LONDON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS:

British Workers March in Mass Demonstration

LONDON, Jan. 28—Three to five thousand engineers and shipbuilders, from all over Britain, marched from four meeting points in London and converged on Trafalgar Square, the traditional meeting place of the London workers. (Note to American workers: In Great Brit­ain machine shop work­ers are called "engineers").

They met together in demon­stration to protest the flat re­jection by the bosses of the 10 per cent wage rise demand.

The Engineers marched proudly in front of their banners and their bands, including a pipe-band. Engineers carried placards with slogans supporting their demands.

Waiting at the Nelson Col­umbia, hundreds of work­ers gave cheers of welcome as the marchers ar­rived to the strains of the pipe band. The plinth of the Column were cov­ered by the trade unions' bann­ers as they as­sessed around the Column to listen to speeches.

Joe Scott, of the Na­tional Executive Com­mittee, Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineer­ing Unions, in a radio ad­dress, said: "If this re­fusal is persisted in, a series of running battles with the employers will result. They may take the form of token demon­strations or embar­rages on overtime... In every factory this week there must be meetings to tell the management we are determined to get this raise."

Joe Scott went on, amid a roar of applaus­es, "We must have token strikes, demon­strations and overtime embar­rages. We must organi­ze any and every protest on the small scale in the factories..."

Another speaker, Ar­thur Skeffington (La­bour M.P.), stated: "There has been a stagger­ing increase in pro­duction since the end of the war and profits have increased 159 per cent. Those who have made this increase possible..."

NOT MUCH FUN — BUT A LOT OF MONEY

MORGANTOWN, W. Va —At the UMW convention held last October, the executive council of the Union waxed very eloquent about one of the major fac­ tors, if not the major fac­ tor, in the achievement of the financial condition of the Union's treasury. In the re­port, it was stated that there were some 8½ mil­lion dollars in the treasury, in addition to what was in­vested in banks, ships, docks, transportation com­pany—which must run into many millions more.

The last time the miners got a raise, the Union placed a $20 assessment against the employers. At that time, it was $10 we were being assessed. This is an extra assessment and does not affect the regular dues we must pay.

The reasons given were to ensure the sound fi­nancial condition of the UMW treasury, which had added the expense of half a million dollars last year for the convention, plus expenses of law suits and so on.

While it may not seem to have a share in the results of their efforts..."

At the end of the demon­stration the engineers carried with acclaim and we would no­tice a unanimous voice a resolution:

"In view of rising liv­ing costs and increased pressures of life, we feel this refusal can only be regarded as a provoca­tion... We pledge our­selves to support with every action, including a stoppage, any call the Con­feder­ation might make..."

STRIKE BY FRENCH YOUTH

From France I have received a news from a trade union source that Paris post office youth, cyclers, who went 8 years, went on a strike on December 19th in protest against their wages being based on their age and to demand a short time. The hours instead of the present 45-hour working week. The youth are also making other demands for various additions and bonuses.

—V. J. Lloyd
A Woman's Viewpoint

Which Women Are They Talking About?

LOS ANGELES—I saw the TV program put on by the General Motors Corporation which dealt with women.

They spent 20 minutes talking about how a woman turns a baby into her own home. I've worked in factories for almost two years, and finally did get work and had been working for almost nine months. Her mother really blew up and asked her what she thought about the way they lump all working women together as though they were in the forefront of the labor movement instead of the American workers.

In the same way, Negroes used to be imported from the South to act as strike-breakers. Yet, only a few years ago, they had to make of my doctor a doctor called a Negro to load the place with some imported 'homesteaders' and now they are completely ignored.

The local papers here give great attention to the story of how Ruby, of the Faucet Factory, has given to 15 Hungarian refugees. They spent 20 minutes talking about how to get jobs to 15 Hungarian refugees. He has a man posted at Camp Komen to "handpick" them. No one seems to know just who Ruby thinks he's kidding, but nobody around here is "buying" any of that kind of propaganda. They all know what Ruby's "generosity" is for!—West Virginia

A friend of mine told me that her mother, who is a slave and lives in a small town some 50 miles from the plant, was really burned up about what is happening with the Hungarian refugees.

One of their neighbors has taken in two of them, and was telling her mother about the good jobs they had got in one of the mines near here.

Her mother really blew up and asked her what she thought about the next door who had been begging for a job in that same mine for almost two years, and couldn't get one. He finally did get work and was killed on the job. He left a wife and four sons, the oldest of whom is 17. Her mother said, "They wouldn't give him a job and he was an American!" Now she was supporting the whole family all the while he was out of work. And he was a "slopper" because he wanted to get those four boys through school,—so they could be anything except a "slopper" for the next few wars!—West Virginia

The fellows in Mason-town, where they laid off a bunch of miners and shut down the tipple, and then started up again with some Hungarians working there, figure that the reason they did it was because they don't understand English and don't know how much they're supposed to do. They don't want a place to get a story for the paper!—New Reader West Virginia

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

WHAT IS SCHOOLING FOR?

It is written in the Talmud—that custodian of the experiences of the Jews of old; "There are four types among those who sit before the wise: the sponge, the funnel, the strainer, and the sieve. The sponge absorbs everything; some are like the funnel which takes in at one end and lets out at the other; some are like the strainer which allows the wine to go out and retains the dregs; some are like the sieve which lets out the bran and retains the fine flour."

There is much wisdom to be found in this study of the physical processes of the human body, but, alas, it is not always of the highest value.

One person can learn only through his own experiences, another through talking to a person who has had similar experiences, and the third by working in the laboratory. Going to school today has impressed me as a period of hibernation rather than the period of development it should be. It seems often to be a time of separation and isolation from life, rather than the entrance into living. It is this that produces the indifference, the lack of interest and the opposition in many schools.

PEOPLE LEARN WHAT THEY WANT TO

Recently a study was made by a small group composed of medical school faculty members, from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, on the subject of medical education. I believe that the results of this study are applicable to other fields as well. From this study of the teaching—learning process, four principles have appeared. It is remarkable that each of these principles is similar to the one emphasized in the Talmud many generations ago. "People learn what they want to know."

It was brought out that if a student of medicine knows the habit of avoiding errors of judgment, that he would be more likely to avoid them. It is not enough to know the subject, but also to know how to use it. This principle is similar to the one emphasized in the Talmud many generations ago. "People learn what they want to know."

Unfortunately today, many young people enter a field of study not because they like it, but because it offers the easiest way to earn a living.

The second point uncovered in the study is that knowledge and learning are different. The strongest and most direct proof of this is that memory and local schooling is the nightmare of cramming the night before, for examination after examination. True learning is an emotional experience. The things that are retained are those that are新颖-kindle a spark, arouse curiosity, incite anger, disagreement or even laughter. For each of us these things are different, for learning is also very personal, and concentrates merely on cold facts to have a great deal of accumulated data, and make this the subject of an examination, is to take away the very vitality of the process of learning.

LEARNING REQUIRES FREEDOM

The third element is that true learning implies change. A great deal of time and energy is spent in resisting change, in defending our own position, even when its unreasonableness is evident.

We use methods such as shifting the focus of discussion when it comes close to tender spots, obscuring the issue by vagueness, hair-splitting, hostility, and tautology. These are all delusive devices, by which we feel endangered. Construction by moral judgments or decrees will only strengthen the resistance. Movement and change will inevitably take place, but only in the direction that is possible and necessary.

The final principle that naturally follows is that learning requires freedom. Our educational system is authoritarian. It is based on the usual principles of power and authority. We try to encourage growth only in their own image. The student who does what he is told, gives back the official, accepted opinion when he is called on, is usually looked upon as a good student. The one who challenges statements and accepts nothing without supporting evidence is looked upon as an annoying character who probably needs a psychiatrist.

Teachers are often major obstacles to student learning. There is need for a fundamental respect for the individual student who must, be allowed the freedom to be different, and encouraged to challenge.
In Michigan for instance, its historically have proven the rising relief load. This be raised to take care of where from New England land in the world! out of the market," that is homes are so high that mits that the prices for ment and various other fall in the construction of. For example, there is a steel prices which was no­ dalous of these recently is, that our form of "bal­ pensive" by the White House. But no, it is a rush to tell us the white American interest. Whoever tells us that the Russian "turn­ overs" and tanks Saud would bring fancy prices in the market. Africa pro­ duces a quarter of all the world. The Soviets are slave-owners, human beings reduced to the question: "Who is for and who is against Russia?"

In the same crude and cynical fashion, the occupying powers in de­ feated Germany—a doz­ en years ago—restored any number of fascist dictators. * * * 

SAUDI-ARABIA

King Saud, despotic ruler of the most under­ developed country in the world, has been enter­ tained in the White House. It is said to have a great deal of publicity, but it is not known how much public reaction there is to it. It is also not known whether the President has been informed about the recent troubles in the Middle East. * * *

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SOFT SPOTS

But present unemployment and various other "soft spots" are pressing problems. "The White House is not very popular with the farmers in the country. The price of wheat has fallen and the farmers are suffering. * * *

The mass of profits keep rising to the most fabulous in history. On the other hand, the masses keep rising so that the workers' wage increases are eaten up be­ fore they are ever spent. As one of our worker read­ ers put it, "Nobody owns anything in this town. Every­ body just makes pay­ ments."

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