A Flood of "Green" Leaflets

By CHARLES DENBY

This is what I heard a worker telling some other workers last week: "The heat is on in our shop. After the Reuther "green slate" stands for the coming UAW convention. They have flooded the plant with their green leaflets every day since. The first leaflet told the workers to 'defend themselves against mobs.' The second leaflet carried the Reutherite program and told the workers that they have been accused by the Rank & File of not having done a thing for workers in the past 10 years since they took office. (Many workers say that's a true accusation.)

"Then the Reutherites tried to show that workers' wages were $1.25 an hour 10 years ago and now it's up to $2 an hour and the Reutherites claim credit for that. They concluded by the Rank & File to put out a leaflet on what they stand for. This, the Rank & File (the slate of many ranks of workers) have completely ignored. Instead, they said they will put out a leaflet on what they are against.

AGAINST
"Against workers having to make appointments to see Union officers.
"Against workers not being accorded in their supposed-to-be own Union hall to see an officer on grievances: 85 per cent of the time they never see one even after accepting appointments.
"Against calling for a committee and he never shows. And when he does he first consults the foreman; then calls your chief steward and tells him to tell the workers what has been agreed upon and if you fail to carry it out you are subject to be fired; and do not call them any more.
"Against Reutherite chief stewards taking the place of the foreman in bossing the workers.
"Against the way Union meetings are run.
"Against the bad working conditions the bureaucrats have helped the company create.
"Against a few workers working overtime 6 and 7 days a week when thousands of members of our Union are unemployed.

"MUSCLE-MOB ACCUSATION"
"The next day the Reuther boys' leaflet accused the workers' slate of being a 'Muscle-Mob.' Practically all the workers laughed at this. But a few said it was serious because the Reuther boys are planning on vicious attacks against the Rank & File slate and are putting out such leaflets to be able to say they had to 'defend themselves against mobs.'

"They are not fooling all the workers. In this shop the Reuther boys have built up the most powerful machine of any local in the UAW. This machine consists of every type of man you can find anywhere. Many of them, a few years ago, were in opposition to them. At that time, the Reuther boys told us what type they were: every type of politician including the Communist; every type of thug; every type of hoodlum. Now they are part of that machine.

"No, the 'green slate' has been handling the elections their own way until now. Now, the newly-elected committee of the Rank & File are going to handle it as they see fit."

"GREEN SLATE" BLASTS TRIM SHOP
"The Reuther boys say these workers learned this 'muscle-mob' action from the trim shop workers. No. They know they won't get a vote out of that department. They haven't for several years and they don't care.

"Many workers say they see the end in sight so they are not worried about the green leaflets and what they say. They have no time for answering them. The Reuther boys have access to all the facilities of the local including its funds and also the International. We have to organize our caucus and build it with rank and file workers who know what we stand for and what Reuther's 'green slate' stands for."

Chrysler Production Workers Jubilant as Rank & File Opposition Sweeps to Victory Over Reuther's 'Green Slate' in Election

By A Group of Trim Shop Workers

DETROIT—On Thursday, Feb. 21, workers in the Chrysler-Mack plant defeated the powerful machine of Reuther, Mazey and their supporters by almost a 2 to 1 margin, to sweep the entire slate for Local 212 delegates to the coming UAW Convention.

When we learned the good news on Friday, one worker in the trim shop said, "We're on our way to be free at last." Another worker was jumping around, laughing and saying, "I don't think a lifer in prison who gets paroled could feel any happier than I do about this.

MACHINE TRIES INTIMIDATION
"The action of the Reuther 'green slate' machine was so powerful before the election that many rank and file workers were in doubt about what would happen. One said, "If we lose this election we're done forever." They shoved leaflets at us day after day (See Worker's Journal).

These machine attempts to intimidate us beyond reason. Many workers who put on Rank & File buttons were forced to pull them off.

One rank and file worker, who had never been an activist in the union, was handing out some Rank & File buttons for a fellow worker who was threatened by a Reutherite bully-boy "told him it would be wise if he did not come over to the Union hall the next morning.

He asked, "Why?" and was told that he wouldn't want to show up at the plant the next day looking battered and bloody.

This worker said it brought tears to his eyes because it hurt him to think that for 10 years he'd been paying dues into this Union and they were..."
COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

NO WAY OUT

Miners Often Trapped Behind Tons of Coal

FURGUSON, W. Va.—They're just another continuous miner coming into No. 15. I've heard a lot of guys talk about that job. I don't want any part of it. It's bad enough the way it is with the regular cutting and loading machines. I know these guys who work on the machines. I just don't have that much weight to lose as they have lost since they've been running the machines. The dust and heat are bad enough, but there is more to it than that.

ALWAYS GOING

You take the way they run it here. There is the continuous miners at the face, gouging, ripping out that coal. Always going. You've just got to keep that machine going and no two ways about it. It's there for production and you just can't run it in every minute it can operate.

Since they keep it going all the time, they have the regular loading machine behind it all the time. The miners throw behind it all the time, they have the loading machine can stop. But not the miner. It keeps going.

TRAPPED

Because it keeps going, there are plenty of times when these guys on the miner are trapped there with the machine. They have put out so much coal that it is piled up to the roof, from rib to rib.

Now suppose something happened? Say there was a roof fall, or an explosion, or the machine caught on fire. Where could you go? You couldn't get to him. He'd have to wait until the buggy got back to him. That's in the near the problem of the UMWA, he said, because the miners are fully organized. And, he added, coal is the most organized industry on both sides.

UMW'S BIG PROBLEM

For the UMWA, he said, the big problem is the intimidation of contracts. The only thing they might issue public statements on is mine safety — but they don't always do that, because they accept the government's standards in the determination of which they have representation just as the operators do.

Then he went on: the big problem in coal is the lack of new miners, shortage of labor. The supply of Mountain People, he said, is exhausted and no new-cut labor is showing in (this was back in 1948).

As a result, he said, coal here was beginning to face the same problem as in England: young people refused to stay in the mines.

YOUNG MEN LEAVE

He blamed it on the war which changed many things. It took the younger men of the mines and showed them California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Chicago and Paris. They net and fell in love with girls from the outside and didn't want to be stuck in isolated mine communities anymore.

KILL & HIRE

They're just for that production. They don't care too much for the men except where they have to. They work, they say, when someone gets hurt. That's the only reason they are concerned with the men at all. They have too many accidents, they have to pay more in compensation.

If they didn't have to pay that, they'd never worry about the men. Kill one today, hire another tomorrow would be the rule of the mining industry.

The UMWA, K. C. told me, is not like the CIO or AFL because the miners are fully organized. Everything in this society so far has been authoritarian life.

NEW APPRENTICES

Another reason, he said, the miners are being hired is because the miners are fully organized. And, he added, coal is the most organized industry on both sides.

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WASHINGTO N, D. C.—I just have run across my notes of a half-hour's interview with old K. C. Adams back in April 1948. K. C. is now dead, but at that time he was still editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal and our correspondent in Washington. In that interview he pointed out again the feeling of being closed in, and feeling that there is more to it than it is just a white person trying still to rule the world. Oh, no. Never no more.

HIRE

Will they put a mask over their face to try to frighten the Negro people back, like they did in the old days? But that just does not work any more against the Negroes. But that just does not work any more against the Negroes. They can see that you are just a white person trying still to rule the world and it is not so high. But that just does not work any more against the Negroes.

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LOS ANGELES—This Friday nearly everybody in our plant went home at the end of 8 hours work. The company is now running a 20-year custom of no overtime on Fridays. The men want time off on payday to take care of their own business.

Three weeks ago on Friday, 160 men were scheduled to work overtime, they walked out after 8 hours. The company is now running a 20-year custom of no overtime on Fridays. The men want time off on payday to take care of their own business.

MEN HOLD FAST

The Union then held a special meeting and voted no overtime on Friday. The company threatened to give each of them 2 days off. This was to be done in 5-man crews in order to disrupt production.

Right now Chrysler is elections, its defense work and, for the first time in 3 years, scheduled overtime for defense workers.

At the next meeting of the defense workers, they showed up in force for a vote on the selection of Miss Luenos, the no-Wednesday overtime motion that had been passed by the local at the previous meeting. But they were defeated.

The missile workers had to follow the Union rule of 8 hours, so they were feeling divided among them against the auto workers for preventing the same for them. The company said they had to pay 50c an hour extra. They felt that the auto workers had plenty of work and should be paid extra hours, but they didn’t want the same thing.

CHRYSLER MANEUVERS

I think that the company was trying to split the union by using a small minority—the 300 men workers in a small unit, 4,000 auto workers—to make the auto workers in overtime to please the demands of the company. The company is using this to break a wedge to make the Union ineffective.

On Friday, the company scheduled 9 hours but stated that nobody did that, was going to be given off if they went home after 8 hours.

Los Angeles

Workers Jubilant as Rank & File Sweeps Election


Election Results:

Workers were asking what were the results and the first report came down that they finished counting the ballots yet, but the company and file were leading about 2 to 1. About 30 minutes later the actual report came down and every group of workers who got the list out yelled a yell and a shout.

One worker said, "I feel I’ll live with my curse bashed over my head for the last 10 years. And now for the first time in my life, I see through that curse to see some light and breathe some fresh air again.

The workers were yelling and shouting as the news spread through the plant like wildfire.

One old-timer said, "This is the way we felt when we won our first bargaining agreement against the company in the early days when we built the union."

The first thing we have to do is to break up the stranglehold of the Reuther machine and put those bureaucrats back to work.

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EDITORIALS

Rank & File Opposition

The entrenched labor bureaucracy in basic industry has been stunned by the recent eruption of a forceful rank and file opposition such as they have never faced in ten years. These pages are full of current developments in Auto.

In Steel, rank and file Donald Ratliff has challenged the Union presidency of McDonald. With neither a majority nor huge funds, but with the support of other workers, Ratliff has dealt McDonald powerful blows, apparently defeating him in his own local in Pittsburgh.

Whether it's Ratliff in Auto, or McDonald in Steel, or Lewis in Coal, these bureaucrats react with one voice: "You've never had it so good. We're experienced and tested. Things are getting tight now. Don't change horses in mid-stream or you'll lose everything."

To which the workers are answering: "You've got it backwards. You've been riding us like management. We've got to get you off our backs or we'll drown."

Hungarian Refugees

Word has come from workers, in depressed areas like West Virginia, expressing opposition to the influx of Hungarian refugees. Our Readers' Views, in this issue, indicates its reaction: 1) the Hungarian refugees are being used by factory management against the American workers; and 2) the Administration covers up its discrimination against Negroes by the following words of democracy to these refugees from Russian totalitarianism.

The very workers who show hostility to Hungarian refugees now, were the ones who hailed the Hungarian Revolution against the Russian oppressors.

The American workers were in no way diverted from their feeling of solidarity with the Hungarian workers, either by the slander of the Russian tyrants that this revolution was a "fascist counter-revolution," or by the Administration's attempt to use the revolution for its own purposes.

As one worker-reader put it to News & Letters, when the Workers Councils were bearing the whole brunt of the counter-revolution, "It is always the workers who get the short end of the stick. But it is they who stick it out and continue to fight. It must be the rich who are leaving."

That was the first attitude to the Hungarian refugees. Then, as freedom fighters shown on the TV screens, the American workers were anxious to have laws that would make it easy for them to come to this country, but they discovered that the extremely reactionary laws on the books of this country, like McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, excluded the bulk of the Hungarian revolutionaries who, in any case, chose to face their fate by continuing their resistance in the underground of their own country.

The present objections come mainly from West Virginia where, it must be admitted, the capitalists are using the Hungarian refugees to enforce conditions in factories, like the Ruby faucet factory, against which the workers have been fighting for years. As one worker wrote us: "I figure the Hungarian refugees don't know the score now, but it won't take them long to learn the score—and become just as hard to get along with as the Americans."

This put in a nutshell the true working class spirit of the American worker, who even when hostile to the Hungarian, feels that they will soon be together in fighting capitalist management. In the same way, the American workers recognized that it was the Workers Council which gave the revolution its direction, stamina and daring.

News & Letters

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Tuesday, March 5, 1957

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Charles Denby Editor
Saul Blackman Managing Editor

Application for entry as 2nd class matter is pending at the Post Office, Detroit, Mich.

WE APOLOGIZE to our readers for the typing error in our last issue (Feb. 19). The worst of these was in the front page story, "Our Lives in the Balance." To correct, we'll indicate the last 3 paragraphs on page 1. They are repeated later on, where they belong, on page 3.

Readers

Leaders & Ranks

Two workers ran up and shouted me a paragraph from a leaflet put out by the Rank & File workers' slate here at Chrysler's.

It said that if the Reutherite's Committeeeen and top officers had been one-tenth as active on workers' grievances and problems as they have been in the past 10 years, as they have been in the past 2 weeks in passing out leaflets to try to influence workers to vote for delegates for the coming UAW convention, we would have a perfect union today!

Chrysler Worker
Detroi...

PUBLIC "WELFARE"

Over where we five, 3 children got killed within 6 or 7 months. We don't have any signals at all and the cars have to cross with the cars going 60 and 70 miles an hour. Mothers wrote a petition for signals and the county officials told them that they have 7 deaths before they will put in a signal.

Working Mother
California.

What does it mean to have small amounts of money doled out to people in need?

Here is the accumulated wealth of this nation in the hands of the present leaders of this country. We've gone through for the last several weeks this budgeting they do every year. They plan so many billions for this and so many for that. And this is the money that has been taken from millions of people and put in the hands of these governmental agencies and these people have the right to dole it out as they see fit.

There is a certain creed that goes with these professional doles and handlers of our money.

They get diplomas, you know, for holding it and doling it out. They get graduations of advancement depending on how much they dole it out to people. That's the social worker. It's a part of the bureaucracy of government.

Professional, Low Paying.

If they didn't take the tax money out each week they would have to do it at the end of the year. The government would have to put 50 per cent of these people in jail every April for non-payment of taxes.

GM Production Worker
Los Angeles.

NEGRO STRUGGLE

Things sure have changed. And it seems as though the colored people in the South have changed the most. It used to be that they were scared. But they're not scared any more.

I wish sometimes my grandmother were still alive so I could show her how wrong she was. She used to believe the craziest things. She used to tell us to be sure we brought an umbrella and told us that the white man was always right. A white man never lies, she'd tell us. And she really believed it, I think. People had been ME believing her for years.

We printed an article in the daily paper where he told them that they were going to build a new town for the Negroes and then showed them pictures. He didn't allow them to ask questions or do anything. And so does Ruby. And so does everybody else.

New Reader
West Virginia.

I'm afraid there may be a lot of people who will never realize what a wonderful country we have. A lot of people are going to die before freedom really exists. But they won't be building it all along, and keep on building it. The structure has already been laid, and little by little it will keep going on until the day the building is finished. It can't be stopped now.

Retired Miner
West Virginia.

Eisenhower can't go South in answer to the Negroes' appeal for help in getting human rights. His rebellion would blow it. So where does he go to play golf the following week? Or was this Northern Georgia?

Veteran
New York City

I have nothing against helping others, but this way this country is acting with the refugees doesn't make sense. What I mean is this. If I had neighbors whose children were hungry I would not fire that back with them. But I would be a fool or worse if I let me other children starve and gave their food to the neighbor's children. A normal person would make sure all the children were fed.

What doesn't make sense is us helping the refugees with homes and clothes and good jobs, when I can name plenty of people right around here who have absolutely nothing—and are getting nothing from our government.

West Virginia
Miner's Wife

Everybody knows why Ruby was so anxious to hire the Hungarian refugees. There is even a rumor that he plans to bring as many as two or three hundred into the place. He wants to know he can "count on them" if anything happens.

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Tuesday, March 5, 1957

NEWs & LETTERS

TWO WORLDS

Exclusion of Negroes Warps Mind of Whites

This is the time of the year when many books appear on "The Great Emancipation," on Abraham Lincoln. As if the Negroes are not part of this nation's history, it is also the month of Negro History Week, celebrated almost exclusively by Negroes.

The split of this country into two worlds—white and Negro—warms the mind of the white much more than it does the Negro.

In a small way this can be seen in the books on Lincoln. The current crop are as superficial as they have been for nearly a century, because the white historians will not seriously grapple with the life and time and the activity of the Negro people in the era of the Civil War. It is as if, during that great turning point of history—1861-1865—Negroes were not reading for reading it. They put a price of $3,000 on the head of its author, David Walker. David Walker was a free Negro from North Carolina who had settled in Boston where he earned a living by collecting rags. His Appeal was addressed to the free Negroes urging them to task for their meekness. He urged them to make the cause of the slaves, and he urged them to make the cause of the Negroes because the wretchedness of the free Negroes' condition was due to the existence of slavery. Walker wrote to them that those who hold that those who stay the real heroes rather than those who try to add to the employment situation that 21,000 can effec-

In 1853 Walker's Appeal appeared in the Cambridge Modem History writes that "the writings of this sort" that produced the revolts, the revolts that produced the writings of this sort was due to the existence of slavery. As if the Negroes were in fact one continuous chain of struggle for freedom and the certainty that they were right and could not and would not be kept down.

As if the Negroes were in fact one continuous chain of struggle for freedom and the certainty that they were right and could not and would not be kept down.

R.D.
Students Resist Free Inquiry, Teacher Complains

By Robert Ellery

Detroit—As a teacher, I have often wondered "What Is Schooling For?". M. D. stresses—"every teacher should know—and what many of the younger students who are presently being students themselves, realize: that "Teachers are often major obstacles to the intelligent learning." (Feb. 19)

Many of the older teachers deliver the facts and the "acquiesced and independent" positions in lectures, holding that understanding, stress the major disputes within each field and try to encourage free discussion and improve the students' ability to understand and discuss the material. The students are not middle-class. Many are children of workers; some have been workers for many years. Their beliefs, their gullibility, their lack of curiosity result from their wish to be middle-class. I am not blaming them as individuals. I simply want to say that teachers are not the fundamental obstacle to free thinking in the classroom. It may result in everyone nodding in agreement with certain prejudices, and that teachers are unfortunately not independent. "TREAT THEM RIGHT"

The Department of Agriculture, in attempting to ridicule so-called socialistic food stamp plans, has therefore revealed that almost one sixth of this prosperous nation is not able to afford the proper kinds of food.

You're Not Hungry If You're Well-Fed

— Some 25 Million Americans Aren't

LOS ANGELES—Mrs. Sullivan, Congresswoman from Missouri, has again introduced into Congress a food-stamp plan for distributing government surplus food to 25 million Americans. Mrs. Sullivan's plan, by revealing that a food-stamp plan to assure an adequate national diet would embrace about 25 million Americans and would cost upwards of $21 billion, is also arguing that food stamp plans do not help reduce the major agricultural surpluses which exist in wheat, corn and cotton. Mrs. Sullivan's plan would, it is claimed, be financed by the surpluses held in such perishables as cheese, butter, dry milk, shortening, corn oil, dry beans and beef.

The Department of Agriculture, however, is not in favor of food-stamp plans which it considers a form of socialism. It is attempting to sabotage Mrs. Sullivan's plan by revealing that a food-stamp plan to assure an adequate national diet would embrace about 25 million Americans and would cost upwards of $21 billion. It is also arguing that food stamp plans do not help reduce the major agricultural surpluses which exist in wheat, corn and cotton. Mrs. Sullivan's plan would, it is claimed, be financed by the surpluses held in such perishables as cheese, butter, dry milk, shortening, corn oil, dry beans and beef.

LONDON, Feb. 8—Last week over 20,000 Ford auto workers employed at the Briggs Motor Bodies plant in England on strike over the suspension of 5 shop stewards. The auto workers refused to back down unless the bosses reinstated the five men.

After promises by management they went back to work. However, when the union turned out, the negotiations between the management and the union broke down.

Once more the workers struck. This went on and off for days at the time of writing the deadlock is complete.

The British auto workers are known the world over for their strong class-bred militancy. They always fight on the principle of "one out, all out." The Briggs auto workers are conservative in most people as the most militant and the most politically advanced section of the industrial workers.

At the Scottish Co-oper­ative Party national conference last week-end, a de­mand from members of the party advocates a nation-wide 24-hour gen­eral strike to prevent the Rent Bill from becoming law. This demand was put to the conference by the Cambuslang Co-operative Society.

Mr. Claud McKendrick, the director of the Society, declared that the workers have achieved this by demonstrating to the powers-that-be that we are a fighting folk, and that we have our home strong, and that we are not to be out of our beds with our pen but by the withdrawal of our Labors. The conference, representing over one million co­operators in Scotland, car­ried unanimously an emer­gency resolution which condemned the Rent Bill as "a purely partisan attempt to make landlordism more profitable.

The struggle against the Rent Bill is gathering mo­mentum. The Clydesdale workers are approaching factories in this famous shipbuilding center for their views on the forma­tion of a workers' council of action, to bring the local trade unionists' bodies and the tenants' defense organizations. The Shop Stewards Committee at British Polar Engines has decided to take this step.

London.—Correspondent

A Woman's Viewpoint

WEST VIRGINIA—The woman who wrote in the paper about being so proud to only have one child made me just a little mad. You have to have a houseful of children like I do, to know that it is to be really proud. What made me a little sore about the article was that she seemed to think only "dumb immigrants" would have a big family.

KIDS ARE WONDERFUL

I have kids, and finally got a girl last time. I was a year older one and it starts to grow up, I keep looking for one more. If I live to be 107 and am still alive, I'll prob­ably still be having them.

There was only one time when we didn't have a baby. It was such a habit to have one around, every time the old ones were old. I was making a racket, I'd automatically tell them to be quiet or they'd wake the baby. It got to be a joke when the boys would have to tell me, "Mom, we don't have any baby now."

LIKE A SISTER

In our house the home belongs to all of us. People often think at first that my oldest sister is instead of their mother.

In a way it's true. I had my first when I was 17 and I've been growing up along with my kids. I have them close together so they play together. I don't have any need to care take care of each other.

TREAT THEM RIGHT

I learned a long time ago to treat them like I'd like to be treated. If I ask them to do something, it's good as done. If I tell them, it's a different story. They learned early that yes at made them worse, and told me that they should be treated with respect.

You hear them making noise, laughing, crying, yelling, crying!

A friend of mine who visited us once couldn't get over how smoothly everything went. She couldn't understand why the noise didn't upset me. She asked me if the kids didn't ever go to bed. If I told her I didn't know whether I just didn't have any nerves or if the kids had just worn them out a long time ago. All I know is that we just on­joy each other.

Miner's Wife
WEST VIRGINIA — Everything is set at such a fast pace today, that it almost seems as if people are living on their inside tensions. Even home life is paced by the conditions the family has.

Take a working woman especially. She more or less sets the pace for the family when she comes home. If everything she has to do when she gets home has to be done in a rush and tension, the whole family is living at that same pace.

YOU FEEL IT

No matter where you work, or what kind you do, it seems as if the pace of the day is getting faster and faster all the time.

The past 20 years seem to be the period where the greatest change in the way work has taken place. It might seem that if you work steadily at one job for a long time, the change would come so gradually that you would get used to them and not even realize what a drastic change there has been. But that’s not true. So many people I know have told me stories about how drastically the differences are, and how hard you press it.

SHIRT FACTORY

A friend of mine who works in the shirt factory for 20 years, was talking to me recently about how fast the work is now, compared to when she first started.

In those days, the sewing machines were moved by one long shaft that ran the length of the machine line. Each girl controlled her own machine to start it or stop it, but when it was going there was a top speed you could run the machine, no matter how hard you pressed the treadle.

MACHINE RUNS YOU

She was always a good worker and put out her work very easily, generally more than the average operator. There were times when she would have liked to work faster, but there was a top speed you couldn’t get over, so you just had to sit and guide your work at that speed. She could get plenty of work out and not feel rushed at all.

Now all that’s been changed. They’ve installed all new Singer machines. Each machine is run individually. She said they run so fast the minute you start them that you can hardly keep up with them. You have to work at the speed the machine sets. You have almost no control over it any more.

She said that with these new machines she is put under at least 4 times as much as she used to. She can’t help it, the machines themselves put out so much work that people have really been running all day that she’s nerve-wrecked.

SAME IN THE MINES

In the mines it’s the same thing. My husband and I asked how different the work is now than it used to be. It used to be that the hunkier guys could work and told out the old days. Now work out in maybe half a day—when they felt like working fast and hard—and then take it easy and loaf through the rest of the shift.

Or, on the days when they weren’t feeling so good, they could plug along and still get their work out, which is more-or-less an easy pace all day long. But, he said, there’s not much thing as an easy pace in the mines today.

It’s true that the machines they have now do a lot of the work the men had to do with their muscles and sweat in the old days. Instead of that making it easier, actually it makes the work harder.

When They Compete for Votes

Bureaucrats Expose Each Other

DETROIT — To show how bureaucrats operate when they’re pushed, let me tell you about one that is in or a worker’s caucus. He is a character and not one bit better than all other bureaucrats. I’m sure he would put the worker up against him because he’ll show the others up.

At a recent meeting of about 300 workers, he got up and told a story against one of Reuther’s bureaucrats.

He said that while he was president of one of the local Unions they were fighting discrimination in restaurants around the plant. This Reuther man came over to him and said, “I noticed that you just elected a Negro for Recording Secretary of your Local. How did you fellows let this happen?”

He told him it looked to him that his Local should have more than just a couple to top offices, too. The Reuther man replied that “Negroes are too backward and dumb” to hold top offices.

By being one of the first bureaucrats to expose another on this point, he drew the sympathy of every worker at that meeting, especially Negroes. But we realized that it was said for a political reason and many say he is no better than the one that spoke better.

— Auto Worker

NO SLEEPING PILLS

The man who sleeps the soundest in the room is the one who has a little money that he can’t worry about what to do with it. If you have a little money, your head keeps going round and round wondering what to do with it. But if you really broke, you disturb your sleep. You can’t lay awake worrying what you’re going to do with money you don’t have.

Sound Sleeper

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Now they just press but­

tions and the machines do things that you could never do with the picks and shovels. But the pace that the machine sets is something they no longer control the way they could control the pace they worked those picks.

The machines all run smooth and quick and continuous, and the machine men have to be on constant attendance.

He said he often wonders if the average miner in the mines can know what a difference there is, the way the older men can. He told me that when they got through the “old days” and describe what the work used to be like, the younger guys will say, “Boy, mining must have really been hard work in those days!”

My husband thinks it’s just the other way around.

The work in the mines today may be done by machines but you have to get down to it, it’s really harder on the men today than it was then. He tells them, “Give me the old pick and shovel days, anytime.”

When you put out a day’s work today, you really feel it. You feel it in your whole body— and your nervous system most of all.

Working Woman

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

Benjamin Rush—M.D. & Revolutionist

Most doctors have found their place alongside conser­
vative and even reactionary groups in maintaining exis­
ting conditions of living long after those conditions have become a cance ver society. Their allegiance appears to lie with those elements among us that hold a privileged economic position.

The medical profession’s lack of serious influence, not only in Government and Industry but also in the thinking of ordinary people, is explained away by the need to concentrate on an ever-expanding science as well as to limit their political glorification.

IGNORE SOURCE OF SYMPTOMS

But while there is entrenched perfection in the management of symptoms and disease that is local, there is little concern with that which defec­tively total living of millions of Americans as a source of these symptoms.

However, organized medicine and its leaders (which must be distinguished from the individual doctors) itself somewhat isolated. It has therefore entered upon a campaign to bring the profession into favorable public light by advocating better health with patients and encouraging political activity among physicians. But, in view of the fact that organized medicine discourages any fundamental change from what exists, it is difficult to foresee any success in these ventures.

A recent issue of the weekly Journal of the Amer­
ican Medical Association reported that over the years 350 physicians “helped to shape the destiny of the country and members of Congress.” A sketch is given of some of the more prominent physicians. Here is the one about Benjamin Rush, M.D., a close friend of Thomas Jefferson.

SIGNED DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Benjamin Rush of Pennsylvania, another prac­ticing physician who signed the Declaration of Indepen­
dence, was also one of the most prominent physicians and medical teacher of his generation. Dr. Rush was a rugged character, brash and bold in debate and in conduct. His correspondence was so indiscreet—he feared violence—he had to be watched closely by Washington that his family kept his private secret until recent years.

It was to him that Jefferson wrote the famous lines: I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of men.”

AGAINST SLAVERY

In 1773 this is what he had to say on slavery: “The first step to be taken is to put an end to slavery in this country is to leave off importing slaves. For this purpose let our assemblies unite in petitioning the King and Parliament to dissolve the African Company. It is by this incorporated body that the trade has been chiefly carried on to America.”

Let such of our countrymen as engage in the slave trade be shunned as the greatest enemies of our country.

“Extend the privileges we enjoy, to every human creature born among us, and let the journals of our assemblies be disgrace with the records of laws which allow exclusive privilege to men of one color in preference to another.”

AGAINST MURDER PENALTY

In 1792 he urged the abolition of the death penalty. He argued for a complete change in the treatment of civil prisoners who, often jailed for no worse crime than a debt, were left to labor on city streets chained with heavy iron balls.

In 1796 he advocated the establishment of a Peace­
Office and argued that military and military titles be laid aside. “To affect the minds of the citizens of the U.S. with the blessing of peace” he asked that the following inscriptions be painted on the door of the office of the Secretary of State:

1. “An office for butchering the human species.”

2. “A Widow and Orphan making office.”

3. “A broken bone making office.”

4. “A Wooden Leg making office.”

5. “An office for creating public and private vio­

lence.”

6. “An office for creating a public debt.”

7. “An office for creating speculators, stock­­
jobbers, and bankrupts.”

8. “An office for creating famine.”


10. “An office for creating poverty, and the destruction of liberty and national happiness.”

Because of this, Alexander Hamilton blocked his appointment to the medical faculty of Columbia Uni­
versity on the grounds of his “too radical views.”

Tuesday, March 5, 1957 NEWS & LETTERS
WALK THE PROUD ROAD
by Tom Malcolm

"Black folk, walk!" Oh, that's the thing! Leave to the Luther King.
"Don't dare take the white folk's seat.
Well, we won't take any. On your feet!
An' old John Brown
In lastin' grace
Sits lookin' down
With a smile on his face.
Alabama, Tennessee
(Menace States in the land of the free),
Tom Paine's lan', Abe Lincoln's lan',
W.C.C. an' the Ku Klux Klan.
Must keep the negroes in their place.
Think they belong to the human race.
Gentle Jesus, meek an' mild,
Throw a bottle at a black schoolchild.
Black-skinned man in God's own shame.
Open your mouth an' you'll die for rape.
Black-skinned woman, use your vote
An' you'll feel a lynching rope around your throat.
Black-skinned folk are no damn good.
They don't act civilized like they should.
Just because of Jim Crow on the bus.
Hated to fight, started to talk.
An old John Brown in lastin' grace
Sits lookin' down
With a smile on his face.

(Original Note: With Walk the Proud Road, we are happy to introduce our readers to the poetry of Tom Malcolm, a Scottish poet who just sent us, from Glasgow, Scotland, his recently published Poems of Political Passion. Mr. Malcolm has inscribed this collection of 27 poems "For Those That Hunger for bread, for justice, or for freedom.")

News & Letters Committees
In this column we report on the experiences of NEWS & LETTERS committees in different parts of the country. The information is taken from letters written by various committee members in which they tell of their experiences. The paper has in their shops and communities, and of the people who come to editing meetings to work with, and join, the committees.

I gave a copy of NEWS & LETTERS to a friend at work. The next day he came over to me where I was working and said he had read the paper and liked it.

He said, "Now the thing to do is get to a lot of people. But also I should have given him the paper as soon as he hired in several months ago.

He gave me a $2 contribution for NEWS & LETTERS which I immediately turned over to the committee for transmittal to the publishing center in Detroit.

The Los Angeles Committee has just contributed an additional $327 for the publication fund of NEWS & LETTERS.

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