WORKER’S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

WORKING WITHOUT A CONTRACT

On June 6th, five days after the union contract expired on the 1st, some of the production workers in the trim shop walked out against company-instituted speed-up. This department is the largest and has better solidarity among the production workers than any other in the plant. It has been the backbone and has taken the lead for years in the fight against speed-ups.

This was a playing a different role in this situation. They say there is no trouble between them and the workers; it is all between the company and the union officers, stewards and committee men.

Yet, the company began this speed-up to test not the stewards and committee men who had agreed to abide by the union decision to stay on the job, but the trim shop workers.

NEW SPEED-UPS

That Friday morning (June 6) we went into work at 6:30 A.M. At 7:00 A.M. the company instituted the new system of work. Some workers told by the company, that they were expecting trouble on the production line. That if the workers walk off, the called back workers would take over the jobs. If they refused, they would be fired and unable to draw unemployment compensation in the future. The company was trying to use the unemployed as scabs to break the union and solidarity that has been established in this department throughout years of working together.

But the workers stayed on the job protect not only their own jobs but the called back workers who were laid off at the end of the day.

WORKERS ASKING HOW WE GOT INTO TROUBLE

Some years ago, when Emil Mazey was president of local 212, and a very good militant, the majority of the workers thought of him as a man who had looked after his own. He took one of his speeches to the membership in which he said that the struggles of the CIO, the working class struggle, is an irreconcilable fight between the workers, on the one hand, and management, on the other. We are now moving forward in our struggle. When we get to the point where we stop moving forward, he said, then we’re going to be in a bad situation because we will start sliding back. When that time comes, the truth will be the death knell of the trade union movement, and especially of the UAW-CIO. He said this over 12 to 15 years ago. Today he says the exact opposite.

IT BEGAN WITH REUTHER’S 5 YEAR CONTRACT

When the 5 year contract was signed, it was the stopping point for many workers, the stewards and the committeemen. You know anything to say on production and our daily lives in the plant.

Just before the 5 year contract was signed there was a fight in some UAW locals as to whether we should sign a document concerning the Taft-Hartley Law. The opposition was getting support from many workers because they opposed it and had some basic principles against the Law. Reuther himself had come out and say that the sole purpose of the Taft-Hartley Law was to keep Communists, whose sole interest is Russia, from being allowed to take over the American working class. One opposition man said he would rather cut his own throat than sign such a thing. Today he is with Reuther.

During that period not only did the company feel bold enough to speed up production but committee men began being called away from the production lines to do other things. One committee man asked why you would yell “you guys are not working so hard, you should be at GM or Ford.”

Today a worker in the shop said “I feel like I’m walking on very thin ice over 90 feet of water and the ice is liable to break any time.” It is just that tense and very serious. Workers are being isolated from the committee and the union. Workers will organize themselves to hold the union but they are bitterly about the committee men and stewards that have everything and turned it against the production worker.

Make sure to read: RUSSIAN BARBARISM — June 17, 1958

In “Our Life & Times” . . . . . . . page 8

France at the Cross Roads

PARISIAN WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AND WAIT

250,000 demonstrated in Paris against De Gaulle’s coming to power. The overwhelming majority of the French people are deathly sick of the bourgeoisie talking-shop, called the Parliament, which has brought them two world wars in a single lifetime. Yet De Gaulle was able to gain the support of the dictator-general De Gaulle they demonstrated “for the Republic.”

One New York Times reporter in Paris asked a cab driver why he was not in this mass demonstration. The cab driver answered that he doubts De Gaulle will any more than any other politician to get France out of its mess, but he wouldn’t fight against him.

But, he added, “I’ll tell you what I’ll fight for: my personal liberties, food for my children, my wife, and that away from me, I’ll fight.”

See related Readers’ Views articles on pages 6 & 7.

DE GAULLE AND BIG BUSINESS

They will now move more quickly to take that away from him. That is why De Gaulle was pushed into power. He was pushed not because he didn’t want power, but because he wasn’t strong enough to get there on his own. That is to say, he had no mass base.

De Gaulle is, first of all, the choice of heavy industry, which has been re-tooling and has achieved a tremendous rate of growth in past few years. Although they can’t yet match Great Britain or West Germany in the much less critical Europe and America, they feel strong enough to get rid of the so-called leaders of the national economy — the small shopowners, small landowner, the petty bourgeoisie in general who has his hands in the small leaguers ever since the end of the first World War.

What Happens After?

Detroit — This title is a chapter title in a book and if the author recognizes it I hope that I am forgiven for using it.

I am not writing this article in the same sense that the author explains this chapter in the book, but in relation to what is going to happen to the workers now and after working without a contract. What is going to happen to the so-called leaders of labor? Are we going to continue to follow them down or up the path of destruction? Will this be the spark that will bring all of the workers closer together? I hope so.

Are we going to have to go to the point where we gain what we have struggled so hard for, some have died for: the union shop, representation, improvements in production, etc. Some workers are broken and maligned.

Are the labor leaders causing a complete reversal of the policies that unionism has taken in the past 20 years or more or are we workers who are in a hurry, afraid, or both, where we used to be bold and fearless.

In some past years, our problems were not so much wages as the conditions of work and I quote, “the burning problems in the shop today are centered not around wages,” but around the working conditions and representation.

Today, in some shops we are working without contracts, and in others the contracts are so weak and, in the representation, that at times they do more harm than good, because the workers’ hands are tied with the no-strike clause.

Where the workers used to settle their grievances at the point of production, now they have to go to the top leadership and during the times out of a hundred, the verdict is not for the sonsal liberties, food for my children, my wife, and that away from me, I’ll fight.”

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Big Capital would like to exploit labor too in a “new” way. They have learned from Russian state capitalism what advantages can accrue to them, if only they can make the trade unions into a part of the State apparatus. If a “strong man” could achieve for them what the labor bureaucracy has achieved under Stalinism — doing the disciplining of labor for capital — then they would be willing to recognize “the rights of the workers” to such unions.

His attempt they are not yet showing their hand to labor. They dream of shackling each man or woman to his job with little effort as it took to get the eager cooperation of such “automatons” as those of Lacoste.

In their dream world of capital, they have forgotten only one thing: Mollet and Laval, no matter what label they pin on themselves, have as much influence on
At Some Mines Machines Run Men But Here Men Run The Machines

FAIRMONT, W. Va.— When I hear these guys at the collieries make claims about how they're getting more and more continuous miners in I always think about the mine where I work. We have a continuous miner, and I don’t know if we’ll get any more in or not, but I do know that there’s never been a day when the mine has worked that the men on the continuous miner haven't loaded more coal than the men on the conventional section.

Now I’m not saying that it can’t be done. All I can say is it hasn’t been done. There are some guys who can’t figure it out, but it’s simple.

This one day, for example, things on the continuous miner were going real good. And the first thing the men knew they had 86 cars loaded on the continuous miner in a single 10-hour shift. Now you don’t think that the loading machine broke down. Not another pound of coal was loaded. And, of course, time out of the section, and there was at least a half of the continuous miner that produced more coal during that shift.

THE BOSS ANSWERED HIMSELF

BARRACKSVILLE, W. Va.— The boss on this section was a rough character. Not only did he not give his men any breaks, he was often out of his way to make things rough on them.

One morning the machine- ry on his section broke down, and the men were ordered to go to another section to work. It was about an hour before dinner time when the men got in the man-trip to go to the other section. The men got settled in the man-trip car and were about to leave when the boss came along and you guys know that it'll take us a little while to get to the other section. You know we haven’t got much coal today so far, and we’re losing all this time moving to the other section. So what do you say, do me a favor and eat your lunch on the way there, so that when we get there we’re all ready to work.

One of the men said "What?" You want us to eat on our own time? We have an established dinner. We’ll eat when we get to the section." Not a man op- posed an bucket of eat, just the boss.

CAN’T EXPECT FAVORS

The men finally got on the section and took their dinner. During the time the men were working, the boss went up one of the men and said, "Now you see, that’s the way it has to be done. It’s stuff like that, that causes bad relations between the men and management. You can’t ex- pect to get any favors unless you give some." The man replied, "Well, I think you just answered yourself."
**The Trend**

Democrats Win at Polls — Lose In Plant
Company Has Own “Right-to-Work” Laws

Los Angeles—On June 5, Chrysler gave the union grievance committee a one day disciplinary lay-off for not following proper procedures. The union allegedly took more than the allotted time for settling grievances and dragged out the contract there was no time limit on settling the grievances, but now that the contract has been signed the plant won't have two hours to settle grievances at each meeting.

**ELECTION GAINS?**

...In the Detroit area, the/UAW and the Democrats are boasting about the probable victory of President Truman and the Right-to-Work Law. There are those who say that there would be one election on the Right-to-Work Law in California. Whether that will be or not is another thing. But for all practical purposes the company has won that election.

Even though the Democrats and their supporters in the union won at the polls, the workers are not so pleased. He hit local 212 for with that he hit a local for $150,000. I heard that at a meeting of the executive board, the financial secretary

**Speed-Up**

Since we've been working without a contract they introduced a new work rule which cut our speed. Now the time study man men used to be probably a little slower but not by a great deal. Now the time study man men have changed and double checking. Before we had the job the time study man men would check and the others would check and come up with the same answer. Now the time study man men have changed and there is no longer any comparison that they do the job right.

**The Working Day**

By Angela Terrano

UNEMPLOYMENT

There are still over 5 million unemployed (and it's rising at an average of 50,000 a week). The big brass in Washington say it's leveling off, 5 million isn't much. But that means their friends in big business can shuffle workers around, pick and choose whom they want and try to break up the union. Are they trying to do that? It's one of the most important jobs a company can take up, if you place all the

**The Day After**

We are now facing a more critical situation than we faced when we organized...
EDITORIALS

TERRMINATION OF UAW CONTRACT: MANAGEMENT LASHES OUT AGAINST UNION & WORKER

The capitalist offensive against the working people extends from France to the United States, and from the halls of Congress (the McClellan Committee) directly to the production line. Now that auto workers are working without a contract they are as seriously involved here as "over there.

MANAGEMENT wants to do some experimenting with open shopism. But we have to see how the labor bureaucracy has handled management bring us to this state. It is not from that we will learn how to survive and keep our heads up.

ROLE OF THE LABOR BUREAUCRACY

The labor bureaucracy was the one to saddle us with a Five Year Contract in 1953, and with a Three Year one in 1955, although it was clear the rank and file wanted one on a yearly basis. Again Reuther was dead to the workers, as in the situation a shorter workweek and against the extra speedup that came with Automation. Now that he sat through months of negotiations on his and the company's terms of total disregard of what the production workers wanted, the companies slap him down anyway, and terminate the contracts.

The labor bureaucracy, instead of hitting back at the company, copies many words from it in lashing out at the workers. The first leaflet distributed by the union in the shops whose workers were terminated asked the workers: "Tighten your belts. Roll up your sleeves. Do not let the company come out into the open. But when the production worker fights speedup and intimidation, it is an

open shopism. But we have to see how the labor bureau-
cy, to fight to get the union back into their own hands. Conditions in the shop changed, will continue. All have to do to see it is to watch "the local situations."

Ch. D. News & Letters

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UAW-CIO

Last year with over-
time I made over $5,000, more money than I ever made. Now I have
bigger debt than I ever will get into my life. This happens from regular and irregular time put in, $2,000, I'll be very fortunate in the shop last year made 5, 6, and some 5,000 dollars. Workers have to work all the houses, cars and many other things. People are in debt up to their necks and they don't even have an unemployment check. The company knows all this and is taking ad-
vantage of it. Workers are saying what will happen if we walk out on STRIKE supporting these stewards? "Chrysler worker Detroit".

Workers are so hot against committee men and against management it is hard whether the company will make a deal or not because they feel these men will do anything they wish. They come into work looking more like bishops going to church than a man going to work.

Local 212

I was one of the first stewards at Ford's, shortly after that I was eliminated. I had the contract in the last 5 years it was put into ef-

fect. Then he pay my dues because I was a "local situation." "But," he added, "I want different representatives.

PRODUCTION WORKERS' STRIKES

The union is with the company in playing up or playing down actions by the workers. As long as it is the stewards and committee men who are walking off, they can use the open shop. It is production workers fight speedup and intimidation, it is another story. Then it is either written up or dismissed as a "local situation."

But the workers know that a "local situation" ex-

presses workers' anger, what he is fighting against, expresses what everyone knows is the situation everywhere—the conditions of labor which never come to the negotiation table. First these grievances get all piled up all "contract time." Then they get into the big all, and these are referred back "to be settled locally." They never are and that is what you get in the local situation, at which the labor bureaucrats pair up with the company and fight the workers.

These reports members that production workers built the CIO. It is this they are now to out. But they have not counted with the rank and file who will never let open shopism. Accidently the labor bureaucracy, to fight to get the union back into their own hands, get in the changed, will continue. All have to do to see it is to watch "the local situations."

JULY, 1958

News & Letters
Views

history, wrote Marx in his analysis of the coup of Napoleon III in 1851: "... but where, if not here, is the 'Manchester Guardian' mentioned last time as farce. Today, two weeks after the coup of De Gaulle, this applies both to General de Gaulle and to the French Communist Party. The General had pledged that he could become the heroine of Orleans merely by substituting the "I, De Gaulle" for Petain's capitulation to Nazi Germany. The French Communist Party thinks it can delude the workers because it is saying all the correct things against De Gaulle, although it did nothing to stop him.

There is no greater obstacle in the path of the workers striving for the New World than the older New Deal Communists. If the French Communists should gain control of their movement and once again thwart their aspirations, as they have done ever since the end of World War II, when they used their prestige as Resistance fighters to establish bourgeois parliamentarianism which brought De Gaulle to power in 1945, and again in 1958.

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communists had been officers in the French Resistance, and they, of course, thought of De Gaulle as a traitor who had sold them out to their chauvinistic attitude to Germany. In both cases it was because they followed the Moscow line, and the Party line. So long as they thought they could keep him from attaining himself to the other pole of world capital—America—they didn't find much to criticize in the General.

Meanwhile, a million Frenchmen had joined the Communist Party. Other millions—workers in trade unions—let the Communists try to organize them, but these workers, however, were not playing parliamentary politics. They had hoped thus to have "the form of organization" with which to establish an entirely new society free from capitalist exploitation.

The Communist Party, however, had no intention of reaching this power—not when there was no Russian Army at hand to control the workers. Instead, it began to expand its "cultural" activities while engaging in polticking at its worst. For example, it called a strike in which forbade workers' demonstrations and was part of the paramilitary force which completed the downfall of the Fourth French Republic. The way in which the social composition of the Communist Party in France, has changed radically since the by-elections away from proletarian action. The only successful Communist call for strike action in 1958 was from the Teachers Federa-

EXISTENTIALIST INTELLECTUALS

HELP TIGHTEN THE COMMUNIST STRANGLEHOLD

A key role in this will be played by the French intellectuals. The most infamous of these are the Existentialists who have been running victoriously the idea of "being free," who leave free "to engage" or "disengage" from any activity in the mass movement by taking over all "responsibilities of life,"

1948 witnessed the first breakaway of a part of the French intelligentsia from the stranglehold of the Communist Party. Existentialists offered to lead the workers right back to Communism. The most prominent Existentialist apologist for the idea of the workers' movement, Jean-Paul Sartre, was completely destroyed long ago. He is totally blind to the fact that the greatest obstacle in the way of the workers' establishing a totally new society, new human relations, is the so-called self-styled Marxist parties like the Communist, Socialists and Labor Party.

TASK OF THE INTELLECTUAL

Where Marx removed theory from a dispute among intellectuals and made it into a weapon in the class struggle, the Existentialist intellectuals have merely sold out their worth for a small price. Where the Existentialist intellectual thwarted the proletarian attempt to break away from their party a bit, where they suffocate for lack of any comprehensive revolutionary theory with which to accomplish their task, to Communism. Where they did not thirst to lead, to sit in the seat of power and plan "for" the workers, they nevertheless did nothing to face their own conscious leadership to the intellectual sloth that has accumulated in the Marxist movement. Despite all protestations to the contrary, small theoretic groups who did see Communism for the state capital tyranny it is, did try to re-establish Marxism in its original form of a new Humanism, it is high time for a serious reappraisal.
Thinking It Out

A LETTER FROM FRANCE

In place of the usual column in this corner we are reprinting a letter received from a French Student—Robert Ellery

PARIS, May 31— I am very interested to learn that you are interested in Marxist "humanism" and I am un­ happily in agreement with you on the subject of Russia, although it seems to me that you are looking for something in Russia. Thus you speak of Russian Communism as a snare and a shackle, and one can reproach them in certain cases; this is not the case. I am sure that this image is rather the lack of real Communism ... Let's leave it to the French to speak a little of France.

I would love to initiate you to the "American history not in text books." Los Angeles

Marcel

American History Not In Text Books

Los Angeles—During her recent trip to Europe, Miss Dunayevskaya, author of "American Revolution Not in Text Books," was impressed with the "American Revolution, not in text books," which she found in the United States. She felt that the young Americans were not being taught the true history of the United States, but were instead being taught a distorted version of history. She believed that this distorted version of history was a tool of the ruling class to keep the young Americans from understanding the true nature of the United States and its history.

Today's Faulkner and Armand's Phillips

She also compared that "American Revolution, not in text books," with the American Revolution of 1861, which she found to be a much more accurate representation of the true history of the United States. She felt that the American Revolution of 1861 was a true revolution, which was fought for the freedom of the slaves and the right to write books and newspapers. She believed that the American Revolution of 1861 was a true revolution, which was fought for the freedom of the slaves and the right to write books and newspapers.

"RANK & FILE WORKED HARD FOR UNION" History of the UAW in the U.S.

One of the monuments that Miss Dunayevskaya was impressed with was the "RANK & FILE WORKED HARD FOR UNION" History of the UAW in the U.S. She was impressed with the hard work and dedication of the rank and file members of the UAW, who worked tirelessly to achieve union recognition and better working conditions for the workers. She believed that the "RANK & FILE WORKED HARD FOR UNION" History of the UAW was a true representation of the true history of the United States and its working class.
FRANCE

PARIS, May 19, 1958 — Four years ago, Workers' Tribune and others who do not believe in the peace movement have it with them to clarify their ideas on the situation in which the workers can struggle against the lowering of their standard of living. These are the ideas on which we agree.

NIGHTER PFLIMLIN NOR DE GAULLE

The "workingclass" parties, Socialist and Communist, are associated themselves with this maneuver—The Socialists participate in the new government, the Communists held themselves back at the time of Pflimlin's becoming chairman of the government for the law "on the state of emergency." The workers went along with them. All that was on the agenda was "defending the Republic." Under Pflimlin in the key, the Socialists and the Communists escaped these two problems completely:

1. The necessity of putting an end to the Algerian war by recognizing its independence.
2. The necessity of defending the living standard of the workingclass, which will deteriorate as long as the war continues.

The only effective policy against war and against the paralysis of political talks, nor alliances with bourgeois parties: it is the Communist party that can organize this struggle by establishing in each shop, in each department, committees for the defence of wages and of workingclass rights. If these committees establish themselves in each industry and region, the workingclass will know its own force and will determine, democratically, the goals it wants to achieve and the methods it wants to use for achieving them.

FOR WORKERS' POWER!

Workers' Committees, publishing the voice of workers in the Renault factories.

LAOS

The so-called anti-Communist section of Indochina was turned over to the Communists by the "legal" and illegal" de Gaulle.

Whatever be the forms of fascism, the perspective in France is a growing bitterness against the colonial war, a growing economic and political base which will be followed by agitation, some of the unions, anti-striking legislation, and a sure worsening of conditions of the workers' life.

The objective (must be) workingclass action.

Workers' committees, even if there was a network of these committees throughout France, are not, cannot and must not, substitute for the workingclass party. It must be added however that the revolutionary party will fall to a secondary task if it does not know how to work as the vanguard of a powerful collective force from the bottom of the mass. The workingclass in France contains the irresistible human potential for the social revolution.

From Battaglia Comunista

From England

H-BOMB PROTESTS

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has announced from London that there will be a demonstration on London on June 21 and 22; a meeting for women only will be held at St. Paul's, London on July 8 and 6; and a mass meeting of anti-Nuclear rallies and demonstrations, which will be addressed by Dr. Lipton are expected to arrive in June 23.

A DOCTOR SPEAKS

By M.D.

THE NEED TO BE WHOLE MEN

For a nation whose foundations were laid by the French and its misfits, dissatisfied and above all non-conformists, some of the knowledge and skill to become the provinces too smug. Occasionally, I see this false pride, the belief that the professionals with whom I associate.

In one hospital where I visit, I overheard a well established physician shoot questions at a refugee Hungarian doctor, feeling the French could never gain the sort of knowledge and skill to become our equal. The by de Gaulle hates lies.

They would have us believe that in our national public life today only the voice of the individual scientist, shocked by the destruction of potential of atomic energy, is heard in protest.

What has happened to American Freedom?

Many Americans, especially middle class people — look with suspicion on the word International. The word "socialism" is tolerated from the ministers in their Sunday sermon, or in the empty rituals of the "fraternal" organizations. It is not strange that in order to give an answer to the question "how de Gaulle hates lies," that and de Gaulle and the French have been temporally settled for weeks. These have been times of political strikes throughout Britain for the past months show that the workingclass has not been forgotten. It will be followed by agitation, some of the unions, anti-striking legislation, and a sure worsening of conditions of the workers' life.

What made America uniquely different from the rest of the world, in our early forms, was the striving for freedom. As a nation two contradictions within us have been continually contested, the freedom: the degradations of the workers, the -the "tremendous accumulation of property into the hands of a few" — and of the workers. Only partly overcome by a civil war which only changed the form of oppression, or the power of material possessions—the dead labor of many men to influence, control and pressure the living—has grown enormously. The attitude of some physicians to the Hungarian refugee doctors is concretely related to these things strange as it may seem. I personally was deeply embarrassed at the subject of the "A n g r y Young Men," but the facts of the workers' trouble, the doctors, with the lawyers, with the professionals with whom I associate.

From Ghandi

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(FLIGHT UP)
labor as capital itself: none. In this sense the laborers in France thus far, but what will unfold in the next stages, the laborers will be decisive for France.

Meanwhile, big business for its part, has seen to it that all, get rid of all the many petty bourgeois representations. This was the case, in particular, in France. Shortly after De Gaulle delivered his speech in Algiers, a group of Algerian youth drove through the square, shouting, “Freedom for Algeria! We want to fight!” The ensuing fight for independence was to be characteristic of AMERICA AND RUSSIA AGAINST THE FRENCH WORKERS

Whether De Gaulle will long remain in power, or whether he is only the middleman for the fascist and troopers and their “civilian” collaborators who are armed to the teeth — not the decisive question. We ask ourselves: What will the French proletariat do?

For the fact that the French workers will impel America and Russia to make a break with the French policies.

The first to do so was the American Administration. Without bothering with the reasons, like immediately announced that he “likes De Gaulle.” So cheap are the principles of the Administration are the men who are called “Communists.”

Instead, everyone suddenly found that though De Gaulle is a fascist and dictatorial powers, he is “really” a democrat. Not only a demagogue, but one who wants to mold the French people on the American model and “stop” (1) the civil war. Nov. 19, 1958. The above has illustrated a civil war — so long as it was against workers’ power.

Not far behind in wooling De Gaulle is Russia. Each, U.S. and Russia, is trying to get his ear and enlist him in the “greater struggle” for world power. That is what De Gaulle is aiming at: that he will be the “grandeur” of France. He aims to become the balance of power in Europe, in the great world, for world domination. THE HUMAN SOLUTION

There is no doubt that the launching of satellites into outer space, or the hurtling of nuclear weapons across the continents can solve the problems of this earth. The Algerians — as the masses when De Gaulle moves to consolidate power — have been said to find it easy. And they will fight, not only defensively, but for a totally new front — one of exploitation at home and abroad.

One element that the French crisis correctly fo-cus on is the dimension of the human element that will decide the course of history. Neither the launching of satellites into outer space, nor the hurling of nuclear weapons across the continents can solve the problems of this earth. The Algerian masses for national independence showed the way. The Algerian revolution is trying to stop the clock of history with unceasing activity. The Algerian population and army of independence fought equally against the Algerians and the motherland, against the French. They have not yet had their last say; that will decide the true course of history.