

## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### Where Is The Union Going?

There is some talk going around in the shop that the 10 union dues we are paying (in the UAW-CIO) will continue through September. Many workers are mad as hell about it, not only if it continues through September, because we had to pay it in the first place.

He said that at one of the local meetings, their president gave a talk for the \$5 increase. It was to be a three month increase. No more than that. And it was for the coming strike, "Twenty-five million is all we need."

This worker said he had read in a daily paper where one of the Ford brothers said that the union is not going to strike, so why are they continuing to take \$5 a month from the workers? Ford has a different reason than any other worker when he says this, but many of us are asking the same.

#### UNION WIDE OPEN FOR ATTACKS

In the Koehler strike in Wisconsin, the company managers charge that the UAW's only interest in the strike is to collect dues. Everyone understands what it means when such statements come from the company. But the fact still remains that the way those union leaders have gone about taking money out of the few dollars of workers' earnings, the way they have turned a deaf ear to workers' advances in production, (this the company also knows) leaves the union wide open for such remarks and attacks.

Some workers are puzzled about many of those on the union staff. Many, who came up in the shops, were good and true unionists at one time, true and earnest with their fellow-workers; but they are now part of the bureaucratic machinery and have to stand before an audience of workers and lie and betray them in order to sell what they call "unionism."

As another worker said, "Maybe I would accept a job on the union staff, but if I had to lie and deceive workers like those others do, I would return to the plant."

It is the same as the company operates. They ask you to do some work you do not have to do. But they ask you to do it for an hour. You do it. Then they come later and ask you to do it for two hours, three, a whole day. When the worker finally signs up a holler, the company then says he must do the work because he did it once.

#### SHORT PAY

Last pay-day was a short one for many of us. The trouble was so unbearable that the majority of workers had to wait several days or short hours. The checks in our department were reduced from \$40 to \$60 when all deductions were taken, including the \$7.50 union dues. It was awful to see and hear the expression coming from some of those workers. Some taxes run to \$8.50 on some. One worker said he was sure he would be garnished by the next pay and this extra union dues could stop it.

#### WORKERS WON'T TAKE IT FOREVER

Another said, "You have a chance to get some of your income tax money back if you overpay, but you will never see any of this union dues again. But those leaders never have a short check. That's what's going to wreck the union." He said, "I cannot believe that workers are going to take it forever. If you pay attention, you cannot be a worker who says anything good about the union."

Today, one worker asked another, "Where is the union going?" The other said, "I am not worried about that. I am worried where it has gone. I am wondering when are we going to stop letting them carry us with them."

Some years ago, this local said it was against a dues increase from \$1 to \$2.50. Delegates to the convention, voting on a program against dues increase, were elected. At the convention, however, they all voted for the increase to \$2.50. They came back giving us the line of bull that they were getting there they understood how necessary the dues increase was and that was why they changed. They understood the need for a strike fund, they said, and the \$2.50 would build it to what was needed and more. Two years later, they need \$5 more for strike fund. At the same time, they give away everything they can to avoid a strike.

The worker said, "How can you ask where is the union going? Brother, it is gone."

Such are the actions of the union leaders and such is the feeling and thinking of the members. Somewhere and sometime, these two opposing forces will have to meet in a head-on clash. The members, the workers, are the anger force. As one worker said, "We have as many in our department as the International has on its whole staff."

## Conflict Behind Peace Talks

So overpowering is the anti-war feeling among the peoples of the world that they compelled a meeting between the American government and the Russian, despite the unwillingness of both.

Ten years after World War II ended and the cold war began, the complete sterility of power politics was revealed by the empty and perpetual smiles on the faces of the Big Two at the Conference of the Big Four. Germany, the key to the European situation, was not there at all. Shattered to smithereens is any illusion about disarmament. The United States delegation did not even include Harold E. Stassen, although but a few months back, Eisenhower created a special Cabinet post on disarmament for him.

Russia sent its minister of war, General Zhukov, as their expert on disarmament.

"I know that the Geneva conference was an empty show," an auto worker told me. "But I can't afford to laugh. They're playing with our lives. Communists in my shop have already changed their line. They're beginning to sound like the Salvation Army at Christmas time. When America and Russia were together in World War II, I remember these Communies were for the no-strike pledge and speed-up. They were the biggest pushers. Eisenhower doesn't fool me, but what are the Russians up to!"

#### THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA

It is not so hard to fathom Russia. Take the present crisis in Russian agriculture.

30 per cent. This total failure in agriculture is shaking the regime to its foundations.

#### TRANSFORMING NATURE BY DECREE

What to do? Khrushchev had a plan. He always has a Plan. Each time it is more gigantic than the time before. Our readers may know little of the Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature of 1948-1950. That is the plan Khrushchev is now reviving under a different name.

When Stalin was alive, they wrote songs about his irrigation projects which would "soon" produce enough food to feed 100 million people. But nothing came of it. Absolutely nothing.

The following year, 1949, Stalin brought Khrushchev to Moscow. Another fantastic scheme was born: to abolish,

and on his own time, his little hut from the collective farm to the agro-town. Especially since the apartment house in which he was to live like an industrial worker had not even been planned, let alone built.

#### TRANSFORMING PEOPLE BY DECREE

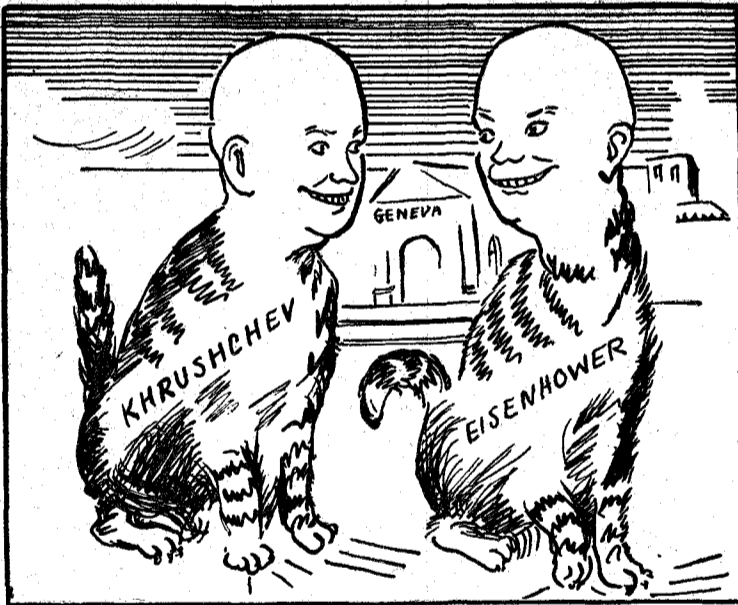
The Stalin plan aimed at "changing" farmers into City workers. The 1954-56 Khrushchev plan aims at changing city workers into farmers. The Russian totalitarian bureaucracy is ordering a mass transportation of people to cultivate the virgin land in the wilds of Siberia and the Ural Mountains.

In Russia, youth are compelled to take state training from six months to two years. These are called State Labor Reserves. In exchange for this, they are obligated to work for the State for the next four years "at the prevailing rate of pay," wherever the State sends them.

From these Labor Reserves, Khrushchev sent 150,000 "volunteers." In addition, he has sent demobilized units of the Army who showed an alarming degree of restlessness. Also, he sent experienced Machine Tractor Station operators who were promised an especially big bonus for work in Siberia and the Urals.

Into these arid lands the state has made phenomenal investments—12 billion rubles in 1953, 21 billion in 1954, and 55 billion in 1955. This sum is more than half of what is invested in heavy industry and fully five times as much as that invested in light, food and local industry—a mere 10.6 billion. They plan to plough up some 32 million acres of virgin lands. They have now increased this to the fantastic figure of 70 million additional acres for the three years, 1954 through 1956.

(Continued on Back Page)



The Russian worker knew this was behind the fall of Premier Malenkov last February. The American experts said Malenkov fell because he was "for" light industry, and Khrushchev was "for" heavy industry.

The Russian worker knew the crisis came because the Government couldn't even assure sufficient food for the population. Fully 70 per cent of his meagre budget goes for the bare necessities of life, but there wasn't sufficient bread and potatoes in the stores, let alone shoes and radios.

Soviet agriculture has been stagnating for 25 years. Official government figures claim a tenfold increase in heavy industry in the last quarter of a century; but they show that grain is now only at the 1928 per capita level. The per capita level of meat and milk has declined

by decree, the difference between country and city. The ruling bureaucracy ordered the establishment of agrōgo-rods, or agricultural towns. Between 1950 and 1953, 150,000 collective farms were forcibly merged. These mergers, far from producing agrotowns, produced such chaos on the country side, that the plan collapsed.

The peasant refused to transport, at his own expense

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## Experiences and Expectations

Most of the spontaneous sit-downs in the early days of the union were against the speed-up and for the right of the men to determine the speed of the line. . . . Not the wage demands were primary to the auto and rubber workers in the formation of their unions, but rather the right to determine the conditions of their employment through instruments of their own. . . . The burning problems in the shops today are centered not around wages so much as around the bitter hostility of the workers to their role in production. . . .

The workers in building their unions thought that they were creating instruments of organizing and controlling production in their interest. The capitalists, aware of this, insisted that the unions recognize the capitalist mode of production. This is the basic conflict. It is this conflict that the labor leadership is unable to resolve. This is the dilemma that destroys innumerable leaders who have risen out of the working class. This conflict arises constantly in many different forms. It plagues the union leader on the local level constantly. . . .

For example, a production standard is established. The man assigned to the job refuses to perform according to standards. He is sent to Labor Relations office where

he is disciplined . . . and ordered to produce as required. The committeeman who is there to represent the man can only chime in and tell the worker that on the basis of the contract, he must produce according to production standards or face discharge.

Another example: Production is set for a whole line of, say, 200 men. The men protest the production that is set and are ready to strike. Either the company or the men call the committeeman. He tells the men that . . . the company has the right to set the production; that it is illegal to strike; and that the men should accept the standard. . . .

The higher levels of the leadership try to solve this dilemma by fighting for concessions outside the process of production. They give the impression of social workers in and out of the plant. The workers . . . are aware of this. One day a worker was protesting a speed-up and said to me: "What are you guys going to do about it? I know, nothing as usual. What good is the union? Now don't tell me about the local's grocery store or about being able to get women's clothes cheaper. Do something about the speed-up."

(The above is quoted from the introduction to a booklet, THE AMERICAN WORKER, which was published in 1947.)

## A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

### THEY MAKE THEIR MEN FEEL IMPORTANT

Some time ago, I saw a review of James Michener's book, *Sayonara*. *Sayonara* is concerned with the tortured love of an American Army officer, stationed in Japan, and a Japanese dancer. Through social pressure, he is finally railroaded back to the United States and gives up the girl.

There is, however, a wedding of an American soldier to a Japanese girl; and we learn that the GI's married to Japanese girls always look as if they knew a big important secret. The secret is this: The Japanese women make their men feel important.

A physician, in the course of his work, often has the opportunity to obtain a first-hand look at intimate family life. In the past three or four decades, there has been a gradual change in the relationship between husband and wife. The dominant role of the male has been challenged and weakened. The resulting improved status of women has been a healthy step. But something more has taken place. In giving ground to women, socially and politically, men have also tended to become recessive biologically. A sort of male intimidation has taken place with the result that women frequently find something lacking in men.

I think that the American male needs this something that Japanese women know. He needs to feel important: to feel that his life, his individuality, matters to someone.

Lately, various groups in the American Medical Association have been concerned with the deterioration in relations between doctor and patient. At a recent AMA medical public relations conference, held in St. Louis, physicians were urged, by a speaker, to try to understand the feelings of anxiety, fear and insecurity that motivate some patients.

Then he said something which struck home to me: "They want to sense that he cares how they feel."

A physician often sees human beings at times of their greatest weakness. When we are ill and fearful, men and women alike tend to feel the huge, impersonal universe pressing in on us. Everyone who has been seriously ill knows that sensation. We feel all alone. Then it is that we have a compelling need to have the closeness, warmth and support of other human beings.

We need this knowledge also when we are healthy; not only between man and wife, but also in our relationship with people about us. This feeling, that we are important to someone, that what we say and do matters, is necessary to bring out what is in us and to help us make our individual contribution to living.

# COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

## Miners, John Lewis & Coal Operators

Morgantown, W.Va.—Over the last couple of years John L. Lewis has joined the coal operators in lobbying with the politicians in Washington to cut down on oil imports and try to get the government to pay the union wage scale to miners who weren't getting it but who were mining coal for government contracts. In the meantime, he has cut out welfare payments to widows and disabled miners; he has done nothing about the worst conditions that men have had to work under for many years; he has done nothing about the joke the operators have tried to make of the vague seniority provisions in the contract when they laid men off.

### GRIEVANCE MACHINERY AND RESULTS

The men tried time and again to use the grievance machinery set up in the contract. After much bitter experience, they found that the District officials were more concerned about the problems of the operators than they were about the men. When these disputes were settled, the men generally lost. Often, the disputes dragged on with nothing coming out of them but a continuation of what the men objected to. The men finally realized that they could depend on no one but themselves. The result was the use of the only weapon they had left—wildcat strikes. When these took place the District officials became active. Not supporting the men, but trying everything in their power to get the men to go back to work.

But by this time, it was too late for the District bureaucrats. The men had seen the organization they had given their lives to—the organization that was once respected the world over for fighting along with the men—now being used against the very ones who had created it. The men could no longer be fooled by the words of the District. No boss or operator was more bitterly criticized than were the District officials.

### MINERS FRUSTRATED

A very deep sense of frustration was felt by the men. They knew the value of organization and they know they must have a strong one. They know that they have been able to get the things they have in the past for only one reason: They were willing to fight for it. But now they were not supported by their organization. When the men came out on strike, the District yelled "Illegal!" "Unauthorized!" "Back to work!"

When the men did go back to work, it was not after making terms with the company but after making terms with the District.

It was just too much to take. Wildcat strikes flared up everywhere. Where Lewis

and his officials ignored these matters, the rank-and-file were more than willing to take leadership into their own hands to fight them. And so it has continued for the past two years.

### LEWIS MOVES

Today, production in coal has improved to the point where Lewis is ready to move. There are some observers who say that Lewis is moving because Reuther and McDonald were successful recently in their demands. This is only a part of the picture.

Lewis and the officials of the United Mine Workers have lost so much respect and prestige among the rank-and-file miners that something has to be done to regain it. Lewis has to lay the groundwork for his battle with the operators. How critical the situation is can be seen by the lengths to which Lewis has gone to get the men back under control. He is willing to chop off the heads of Cavalcante and Shuba popular leaders of the largest UMW local. (See details in story below.)

### DEMONSTRATION FOR OPERATORS

Cavalcante and Shuba have led important battles in the Pennsylvania mine fields. They enjoy a prestige and re-

spect with the rank-and-file miners that the Lewis appointed officials of the District do not. They have opposed Lewis directly and indirectly due to the pressures of the rank-and-file and have had their support.

Lewis cannot bargain with the operators with this situation existing. The only reason the operators will bargain with him, or any other man, is because they feel that he has absolute control over the actions of the men. Lewis knows this as well as any man. So Lewis hits Cavalcante and Shuba. In doing, he is telling the operators that he, and he alone, is the voice of the miners. This is also a warning to any man who feels he can bargain right by being with the men and still be against Lewis. In his actions, Lewis is showing that his ideas and plans come first, regardless of what the miners may feel. Because of this attitude, the miners have had to take matters into their own hands in the past. They will be forced to do so again in the future.

There are very few miners who will say they are opposed to Lewis. But they are forced to act against him and his policies in their never-ending struggles to solve their every day problems.

## UMW Moves Against Local

Uniontown, Penna.—On Friday, July 22nd, newspapers and radio announcers reported that Alfred Cavalcante, President, and George Shuba, Mine committeeman of Robena local, were recommended for a two year suspension from office by an investigating commission of the International of the UMW. Robena mine is the largest mine local in the country, having some 2,8000 men. It represents a powerful force among the miners in Pennsylvania.

### TOO MANY WILDCATS

The charges of the International accused Cavalcante and Shuba of being responsible for the calling of, or participation in, wildcat strikes over the past two years which the International felt should have been settled through the grievance machinery set up in the UMW contract. The final blow, it seems, was the report that Cavalcante had instructed the men at his mine not to work for straight time on the Saturday after the miners' vacation. The International had ruled that it would be worked for straight time.

### MINERS ANGRY

Cavalcante had just been re-elected president of his local union, by an overwhelming majority of the rank-and-file membership in the yearly elections held each June. When the miners heard of the proposed action of the International, they voiced immediate opposition. Lewis and the International were blasted for their do-nothing

policies. They said further that if Lewis wants to replace anybody let it be somebody he put in office, not someone the men had elected.

What is significant in this is that the miners expressed their views to reporters. This is something that miners will seldom do since they have had a great deal of experience with the public press which is seldom favorable to miners when disputes arise.

### CAVALCANTE BACKED BY MEN

A regular meeting of Robena local was held at Mason town, Penna., on the Sunday following the news of the proposed suspension. The hall was packed by the local membership as well as many other miners from nearby communities. District officials were also present.

When the meeting opened Cavalcante made an attempt to step down as chairman. The roars of protest from the men almost brought the hall down. The men refused to let Cavalcante step down. One miner who was there said "All of the men were just waiting for any of the District officials to say anything. The men would have thrown them all out of the hall if they would have dared open their mouths."

Cavalcante and Shuba have until September to appeal their cases. Both have indicated they will. What the outcome of the hearings will be remains to be seen. One thing is certain. The future lies in the hands of the most important men in the mine fields—the rank-and-filers.

LABOR

Factory Question

ica is a broad land where  
ur plant sits,  
the world the old guys  
ame from is far away.  
lag flies over the factory's  
ump and roar  
e side by side we work;  
ien from Slavonia, from  
lexico

old guys long ago left  
heir little farms in Bavaria,  
took off from the celo,  
hey pulled up stakes in  
alabria,  
day we work in East L.A.,  
reer people and richer,  
why are we afraid?

een a long time since the  
hipyard strike in Glascow,  
the Potatoe famine in Ire-  
and.  
Murray is dead, and the  
uy they hanged from a  
restle in Montana  
college scholarships named  
fter him.

e, Arizona is only a mem-  
ry of men shipped out of  
own in cattle care,  
few people now remem-  
er Ludlow, Colorado and  
he miners,—  
how could they sleep?

But tomorrow the machines will  
run, and so will we.  
We will not starve, and the car  
can always be fixed on  
credit.  
Eddie is getting married; a  
certain number of families  
are expecting little steel-  
workers.—  
Or will they be corporation  
presidents, or maybe another  
Marilyn Monroe?  
Are we afraid of something?

Who, in that Swiss village long  
ago by the Rhine,  
Ever heard of Contract Negotia-  
tions?  
Did Mynheer by the Zuyder see  
dream for his grandson of  
fringe benefits?

Or back in our South, in slavery  
days  
Before Lincoln, before the war,  
Who could foresee the miracle  
of a lithograph oven  
Needing Americans to run it,  
Making fancy-colored beer cans  
And extending the human race  
another generation?

Brother, we have come a long  
way.  
**OR ARE WE AFRAID OF BE-  
ING BROTHERS?**  
—Construction Worker  
Los Angeles, California

DEF BENEFITS

AN FRANCISCO—I  
v a young woman who  
an accident a few months  
She fell down some steps  
hurt her back badly. It  
her many weeks before  
could get around and  
had her pains.

je collected sick disability  
g her illness, but at the  
of this period found her-  
without a job. She had  
replaced at the office  
e she had been working  
clerk.

ecause of her aches and  
s she wasn't too anxious  
return to work. However  
went on unemployment  
f.

ie state department of  
ployment sent her out  
several prospective jobs,  
she never called her in  
a talk.

e was quite impatient as  
oked her over disapprov-  
r. He asked her first  
her hair was so short  
ragged and why it wasn't  
bed. She told him it hurt  
back to get her arms  
up. He then phoned her  
or and asked him if rais-  
her arms could give her  
. The doctor apparently  
t know what to say but  
ly thought it shouldn't  
n her. When the super-  
r had satisfied himself on  
score, he asked my  
id a few other questions:  
y don't you wear stock-  
? Why don't you wear  
heels? Why don't you  
on lipstick? You won't  
a job until you change  
appearance," he told

e was dissatisfied and un-  
py. She was something  
had to clean up, for she  
messaging up his records  
his bookkeeping.

e must have wiped the  
e clean because she soon  
nd herself without either  
relief or unemployment  
payments.

90-DAY PROBATION

LOS ANGELES—One of  
the things the new auto con-  
tract didn't settle is the long  
90-day probationary period  
for new employees.

It doesn't take 90 days  
for the company to know if  
a guy can do the work or  
not. Many places get along  
quite well with a 30-day pe-  
riod. But in auto, the 90  
days allows the company not  
only to judge a man's work  
but to see if he is what they  
call an "agitator." They don't  
want agitators in the auto  
plants. The company figures  
there are too many in the  
plants right now who are  
protected to some degree by  
the seniority system.

Any time a man lets on,  
during his probation period,  
that he is a liberal they will  
fire him. For example, I  
have been told that after the  
recent wildcat in the Los  
Angeles General Motors  
plant, which started in the  
body shop there, the com-  
pany fired all employees in  
the body shop who did not  
have their 90 days in and  
who showed their support of  
the wildcat.

'FOREMEN ARE HUMAN'

Dr. F. J. Sauerkraut, fa-  
mous psychologist, says that  
a lifetime of study has con-  
vinced him that foremen are  
human beings.

"The fact that they are  
not permitted to join the  
union makes them feel left  
out," says the Doctor. "Their  
ferociousness is also due to  
the fact that in inspired mo-  
ments they may realize they  
don't know it all. I knew of  
one foreman who realized  
after six years that he wasn't  
perfect. The shock was too  
much and he hung himself  
with a chain hoist."

Dr. Sauerkraut has recent-  
ly written a book entitled,  
**Be Nice To Your Foreman.  
He Is Probably Somebody's  
Father.**

"Subversive" Charge  
Used Against Strikers

Copper workers are now in  
the second month of their  
strike against the huge cop-  
per corporations. They have  
shut mines and smelters from  
Montana to Michigan to New  
Jersey.

In a move to smash the  
strike, U. S. Attorney-Gen-  
eral Herbert Brownell has di-  
rected the Mine, Mill and  
Smelter Workers Union to  
register as a Communist or-  
ganization under the "Com-  
munist Control Act of 1954."  
This is the second time he  
has tried to use that Act as  
a club against American  
workers.

One year ago, shortly after  
the Act was passed, he tried  
to challenge labor by threat-  
ening to use the Act against  
the Square D strikers in De-  
troit, members of the United  
Electrical Workers Union.  
Workers from all over De-  
troit rallied to the support of  
the Square D pickets and  
forced Brownell to back  
down. Now, he is moving  
against the copper workers.

**DIRECTED AGAINST  
LABOR**

The Communist Control Act  
was passed by Congress in  
the closing days of the 1954  
session, last August, during  
the height of McCarthy's  
hysterical campaign. McCar-  
thy, as a name, may be in  
the background, but the Act,  
in all its evil intent, is first  
now being pushed forward  
and applied.

The Mine, Mill and Smelter  
Workers Union was expelled  
from the CIO as Communist  
dominated. At the time of  
the expulsion, the CIO car-  
ried on a vigorous campaign  
against the union's leader-  
ship, urging the members to  
break. Nevertheless, the  
workers chose to support the  
union, whether or not the  
leadership was Communist-  
dominated, because it was  
their union and had a history  
of militant struggle. The  
present action by the Attor-  
ney-General would make it  
appear that the copper work-  
ers are striking because they  
follow the Party-line. As far  
as the copper strikers are  
concerned—and this is the  
only thing that matters—they  
went out on strike in  
protest against their condi-  
tions of labor.

FIRST ATTEMPT FAILED

The situation was similar  
in the case of the striking  
Square D workers of the  
United Electrical Workers  
Union which had also been  
expelled by the CIO as Com-  
munist dominated. As far as  
the strikers were concerned,  
however, it was their union,  
good or bad, and their weap-  
on of struggle against the  
company. Despite Brownell's  
threat to use the Communist  
Control Act, despite the pre-  
sence of hundres of police  
and court orders, thousands  
of UAW auto workers gath-  
ered at Square D every  
morning and every night to  
support the picket lines.  
These spontaneous actions

finally forced Reuther to sup-  
port the striking UE work-  
ers. The workers forced the  
Attorney-General to retreat.  
**PART OF A WIDER  
CAMPAIGN**

Timing their present action  
to help the copper corpora-  
tions, the industrialists run-  
ning the Eisenhower admin-  
istration are seeking to use  
the charge of Communism to  
smash a union in the course of  
a strike. This is the craziest  
kind of union-busting that  
was popular before the rise  
of the CIO. It is part of a  
much wider campaign to  
smash the unions. In more  
than 18 states, "right to  
work" laws has been passed  
which wipe out the civil  
rights of labor unions.

Wisconsin, home state of  
McCarthy, has the most vi-  
cious set of anti-labor laws.  
The Koehler workers there,  
members of the UAW, have  
been conducting a strike for  
over 18 months. The Repu-  
blican Governor of the state  
is a nephew of the owner of  
the struck firm, the Koehler  
Co. The company is using all  
the old fashioned union bust-  
ing tactics it can summon up.  
Here is an excerpt from a  
company leaflet: "promotion  
of class hatred and violence  
... Union leaders who con-  
vince the workman that his  
employer is his natural ene-  
my ... serve only the Marx-  
ist doctrine." They refuse to  
bargain in any way with the  
U.A.W.

Even Walter Reuther is  
not safe in his home stae of  
Michigan. The Federal gov-  
ernment has reached in and  
slapped him and the union  
with an indictment for using  
union funds for political pur-  
poses. The union is fighting  
the case in the courts. He  
claims that he is being  
charged with his "crime" of  
supporting Democrats instead  
of Republicans.

The real crime was that  
he stood aside, or actively  
supported some of the very  
measures that are now being  
used to break up the unions;  
and that he fostered the il-  
lusion that support of Dem-  
ocrats was an effective sub-  
stitute for independent labor  
political action.

These cases are all tied to-  
gether, all part of a concert-  
ed campaign to deprive labor  
of its civil rights in the name  
of "fighting Communism."

Smiling with the Russians,  
Eisenhower now tries to im-  
itate them in "labor disci-  
pline." It has made him for-  
get that the day has long  
since passed when that kind  
of program can be shoved  
down the throat of the  
American worker.

WORK STRAIN  
BLAMED FOR  
ACCIDENTS

By Jerry Kegg

The starting whistle was  
due to blow when I punched  
in. As I was leaving the time  
clock to go to my job, I  
noticed groups of women  
standing around and talking.  
No one made a move to go  
to work when the whistle  
blew.

"ACCIDENTS IN  
GENERAL"

I walked over to one of  
the groups and asked what  
was wrong. One of the wo-  
men said that they had just  
heard about an accident, in-  
volving three people in our  
department, which happened  
on the way home from work  
the night before. No one had  
been seriously hurt, but it  
had happened so soon after  
two other accidents, involv-  
ing people in our department,  
the week before, that the  
topic became "accidents in  
General".

There had been so many  
lately, especially since we  
have been working so much  
overtime. Many of the wo-  
men told of near-mishaps  
they had on the way home  
from work.

"It's a wonder we all  
haven't been killed by now,"  
said Helen. "When the whis-  
tle blows we all dash out of  
here, bumping whatever gets  
in our way. We jump into our  
cars and drive home the  
same way we leave the  
plant."

BLAME THE FACTORY

"Let's put the blame where  
it belongs," Lee said. "Right  
here in the plant. This is  
where we have to work—at  
such a feverish pace, that we  
become unnerved. This is  
where we spend so much of  
our time that every minute  
with our family counts. We  
don't rush from home the  
way we rush from this place.  
This factory and others like  
it are the cause of most traf-  
fic accidents."

Women Work Overtime

LOS ANGELES.—I work  
with nine other girls. We  
work a 60-hour week. Most  
of our overtime is put in on  
evenings. We work till 10:00  
p.m.

We got double time for  
July Fourth. We listened to  
a radio as we worked. When  
the announcer asked if we  
were having a safe and sane  
holiday, one girl laughed and  
said, "Safe, anyway."

The same announcer later  
said, "Aren't you glad you're  
not out on the highway get-  
ting killed?" Another girl  
answered, "Yeah, this is the  
slow way."

Once a girl asked, "What  
are you kids going to do with  
all your money?" She was  
answered unanimously, "Silly  
question. Pay it out to a doc-  
tor, of course, so we can get  
back on our feet and con-  
tinue to work."

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LETTERS**

## EDITORIALS

## TEN YEARS AFTER V-J DAY

Ten years ago, about 14 million of us were in uniform all over the world.

Christmas of 1944 was the day the Japanese sent their last air raid over Saipan. An American soldier, taking shelter in one of the caves, was writing home about his Christmas dinner. A few months later, his bones were still in the cave along with pieces of the letter which was never mailed. Nearby was a razor blade with the trade mark, "Lucky Boy," showing through the rust.

On Easter Sunday — April Fool's Day in 1945 — the bloody Okinawa campaign opened.

A few weeks later, the war in Europe ended. Defeated Germany was in ruins. Victorious England was covered with wreckage. Victorious Russia was devastated. France, Italy, Poland, Greece—all of Europe was shattered. The people began to come out of the underground and started to think of rebuilding a new world free of Nazism, Fascism, totalitarianism, slave camps, refugees, displaced persons, wars.

But still the war went on in the Pacific. American servicemen were fed up. Soldiers made up bitter sayings like: "Golden Gate in '48;" "On the line in '49;" "Back at Dix in '56." There was restlessness in the States, in the European Theatre, in the Philippines, in the Mariannas, on Okinawa—wherever troops were stationed.

Then the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The horrified bombardier who dropped it cried, "Oh, God, what have I done?"

Within weeks, hundreds of thousands of soldiers, staged huge demonstrations to go home. Within a few months, one of the speediest demobilizations in military history took place. Several millions of us became civilians again.

We had a lot of finding out and catching up to do. We weren't going to be pushed around again. During the war we had learned, both as civilians and as military, that we could do anything that had to be done, if we did it together making full use of our tools and our talents. It had given us a feeling for freedom.

We had seen the world in a new way. We knew things and people were pretty much the same all over. We didn't want a world of depression as before the war. We didn't want the prosperity of war with its restrictions and no-strike pledge at home, and its death and destruction abroad. We wanted a new and better world.

So, in 1946 and 1947 and 1948, we went on strike. Whether we were veterans or civilians; steelworkers, coal miners or auto workers; telephone operators or railroad men, we went on strike. Riding on our backs, the McDonalds and Reuthers, the Meanys and Becks, dug in. Instead of freedom we got the bureaucracy.

Abroad, instead of peace we got the cold war. Boys from new generations were going into uniform. There was the "police action" in Korea which devastated that country. And now, not war exactly, but not peace.

At home, we're working. We're in hock up to our eyes, but we're working. It's not depression, but not exactly prosperity.

We've got peace talks and war production.

It's almost hard to remember how things were ten years ago. It isn't such a long time ago, but so much has happened. The sons of some of the veterans are already in uniform. In a few years, more sons will be ready.

## NOT IN CHURCHES, RESTAURANTS, OR BALL PARKS

When World War II began, many Negroes in the South said they were going to enlist. They were tired of living the miserable life of the Depression. They wanted to try to escape the segregated life and discriminatory policies that were part of the makeup of the Southern system. They felt that in a uniform of the Army they would be looked upon as a soldier and protected against abuses as any other human.

The Northern-born were sent to Southern Army camps. The attitude of the whites was sharper against them than it was against Negro civilians. Some wondered how could it be possible? Others said it was deliberate that Northern Negro soldiers were sent South, not only to be disciplined by the superior officers but by Southern white civilians.

Some were talking and hoping for a better life after the war. President Roosevelt's slogan of Four Freedoms was what they were fighting for. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Progress has been made in that direction through the struggles that Negroes and their organizations have carried out. But at the same time that the Supreme Court upheld the principle of desegregation in public schools, Southern states reaffirmed their standing laws that whites and Negroes may not mix in public places. They said that though they might be forced to allow mixing in schools, Negroes were still prohibited by law from attending the same churches with whites, eating in the same restaurants, or playing in the same ball-parks.

## STRIKES, CONTRACTS &amp; CONDITIONS

Workers in my plant don't worry none about the foremen or supervision, but when they see the committeeman coming they say, "Watch it. He's coming!" They're the ones who will get you fired quicker than anything these days.

Detroit Auto  
Production Worker

There's no use to forming any opposition caucuses to oppose Reuther and the International. There's no future for them. They all wind up marrying the bureaucrats they oppose: Some C P'er married Stellato; Stellato married Reuther. That's how it goes. I'm not talking about anybody's wife or husband. I'm talking about union politics. What we need is an entirely new kind of opposition.

Detroit Ford-  
Rouge Worker

When they agreed to merge the AFL and CIO some of the men in my shop were asking if the new union dues were going to be as high as AFL dues are now. The general feeling was that the merger wouldn't make any difference except the money would all be going into the same pot.

UAW Worker  
Detroit

The union hasn't said what they will do with the strike fund we're paying for if there is no strike. Is it to pay for their vacations in Florida, or what?

GM Worker  
Detroit

Workers don't want to have to be doing everything. They want to know exactly what they're going to have to do and they want to have a say about it.

Auto Worker  
Lansing, Michigan

In Stefan's column, in the July 8 issue, and elsewhere in the same issue, much is made of the fact that it was skilled workers in Detroit who led and organized the wildcat strikes against the recent auto contracts. Undoubtedly, this is true for Detroit from what I have heard. However, when I expressed this opinion to an auto production worker here in Los Angeles, he was quick to say that in L.A. it was the unskilled assembly workers who were the inspirers of the wildcat at General Motors here. He said Local 600 of the United Auto Work-

## Readers'

ers has only a small proportion of the more than a million CIO auto workers and did not at all represent the general situation in the UAW.

Factory Worker  
Los Angeles

I'm not letting seniority rule my life anymore. I had 12-13 years seniority at the Murray Body plant here in Detroit. Then they closed down when Chrysler reorganized and I was out along with everybody else.

Woman Auto Worker  
Detroit

Seniority and GAW don't protect the workers at all. The way they've been moving auto plants to different cities, they just break up old groups of workers and start new ones. Older workers have suddenly found their jobs abolished and moved from Detroit to Flint and Pontiac and even out of the state and vice versa.

GM Worker  
Detroit

When they first started in with GAW propaganda, some women started to call it the "Charity Fund" and "Another Red Feather."

Woman Production  
Worker, Detroit

People who work for themselves by owning little businesses should not be called capitalists. They do this to get away from the slavery and drudgery of the shop.

Grocer  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

There was a big fire in the department over mine the other day. As the smoke was pouring out, one of the men yelled, "They always talk about firing us when we go out on wildcats. Now they're firing the whole plant."

Production Worker  
Detroit

A few weeks ago, one of the union bureaucrats died and you should have heard the sweet things the others were saying about him. It reminded me of a story they used to tell down South about two lawyers who were partners. One of them got sick, and as he lay dying, he asked for his partner to come in.

He said, "Now that my time is come, I want you to forgive me so I can go in peace. Do you remember all those cash shortages we used to worry about? Well, I'm the one who stole it."

The other lawyer, tea streaming down his face said, "I forgive you. All now I want you to forgive me before you go. I'm the one who gave you the poison."

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

## COAL &amp; ITS PEOPLE

I liked your article about the coal mines (August 5). It's a dying industry. My father raised us in 20 different coal towns. Whenever a mine closed down we just moved to another. When we grew up most of us moved away from the coal towns altogether. You should see all the ghost towns in the mine area.

Miner's Daughter  
Detroit

The coal population is shifting population. The industry is dying and the people have to move.

Ex-Miner  
Pennsylvania

## WAR &amp; PEACE

I have been listening for comments on the Geneva peace talks. It is obvious that the desire for peace is so strong that they had to have the talks. It is pretty obvious that everybody hopes they will do some good, but that nobody really thinks so.

Laboratory Worker  
West Virginia

The few men I have spoken to at work about the Geneva Conference believe that the presence of atomic weapons on both sides of the Iron Curtain is the greatest barrier to war that exists today. They all expressed the opinion that if either the United States or Russia had sole possession of atomic power the war would already be on. They had little confidence in the peace desires of any politician, American or Russian.

I said it was the peace desires of ordinary people everywhere, which is making it difficult for the leading American and Russian politicians to come out openly for war, but they didn't see how ordinary people could influence the long range perspectives of politicians.

Auto Worker  
Los Angeles

This talking in Geneva all sounds fishy to me. All I don't like that business about swapping plans on a bit. That's no way to stop a war. You just know that Ike can't be serious about it. He'd better not be.

Housewife  
West Virginia

# Views

I agree with an old guy who was interviewed on TV. He was asked what he thought the Geneva Conference would accomplish and he said, "Nothing. They've had them before. The big boys get together and we foot the bills."

Electrical Worker  
New York

Nobody in the plant wants to talk about the Geneva Conference. They're just not interested in what they're doing there.

Woman Auto Worker  
Detroit

A businessman told me that all this talk about peace means that business is going to be bad next year.

Listener  
Pontiac, Michigan

Where do we go from here? My husband was in World War II and now they're still hoping they can end the cold war and prevent a third war. How can they settle anything that way?

Saleslady  
New York

What kind of business is that supposed to be — swapping war plans? What would they show each other? Each one would show just what he wanted to show. It's nonsense.

Miner's Wife  
West Virginia

I don't think Eisenhower is trying to start a war, but he's willing if they're willing. Everything depends on Russia — they don't want to start a war now, they're too poor. Maybe they'll want to start one in ten years, but not now. I think Russia is just biding her time. They're hot for power.

High School Girl  
Los Angeles

I saw a TV appeal for people to join the Ground Observer Corps. They used to ask people to join for defense against unspecified enemy attacks. This time the appeal was for defense against "the threat of Red bombers attacking unexpectedly." This was just one week after the peace talks took place.

Iron Worker  
Detroit

I'm glad to see a cartoon on the Negro page at last August 5. I was always leery of cartoons on that page lest they be stereotypes. But this one was very good. Any Negro will know at once what this is about.

C. D.  
Detroit

Do you know why those two men aren't facing each other in the cartoon? Because the white doesn't dare look at the Negro while he's saying that he's moving to an all white suburb.

Negro Reader  
Detroit

I see by the papers that the Urban League has recently reassured a group of white suburban New Yorkers who protested against Negroes moving into their lily-white community. The League said they would their best to see that only the "better class" of Negroes are admitted to buy homes in the area. They hope that this policy will result in an inter-racial neighborhood without the lowering of property values.

Korean Vet  
New York

Whites must see how they gain by not being prejudiced and by supporting the Negro struggle. The whites must see that if they continue to discriminate, the company will continue to use the minorities to scab or lower conditions. They must see that when the Negro struggles, it advances all labor's cause. Most of all, the white worker must see that when each supports the other in their struggles against the company, both can really gain.

Painter  
Detroit

## YOUTH

My son just got out of high school and now he wants to go down and enlist for the Air Force. He says most kids who graduated with him are doing it. They have been looking for work but no more than four or five found anything worthwhile, what with automation and changeovers. My boy says he doesn't want to spend all his time going to school just waiting for his life to begin. He says, "We're all looking for a decent human way of life but we can't find it. The service doesn't offer it exactly, but at least it's something. You get paid in the service and then you get the GI Bill. By then, maybe things will be better."

I just can't see it that way, but what can I tell him?

Father of Three  
Detroit

My older boy was drafted and has already served his time. Now the younger one has volunteered. He used to tell his brother he wouldn't serve for anything only to come out half-crazy. Now he says, "What else is there to do?"

Railroad Worker  
Pennsylvania

## WOMEN

I was interested in that article in the Women's Section, (August 5), about not being able to exist on the 40-hour week. I believe we exist, but Americans want so much more than that.

Housewife  
Detroit

## ABOUT NEWS & LETTERS

I'm more interested in reading something broadening and something I know I am in sympathy with, rather than just an exchange of letters. I want to be sure it's really adding to what I know, because I have such a limited time to sit down and read. I must say, too, that the tone of the paper lends encouragement to readers to write articles for NEWS & LETTERS. Some other papers I subscribe to, tend to talk down to their readers. I like the tone of NEWS & LETTERS.

Secretary  
Los Angeles

Thank you very much for sending me copies of your paper. I'm sorry I cannot pay for them because I have been unemployed for five years and scarcely have enough from my unemployment relief.

However, I would be glad to send you clippings from German papers which I consider important. Also, I would be glad to write short articles for you from time to time.

Berlin, Germany  
R. S.

(Turn to page 8 to read the rest of this letter.)

Write for  
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&  
LETTERS

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## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

## NEW TURN TO THE "POPULAR FRONT"

Like a road marker, Russian Communist boss Khrushchev has been tracing a turning point in world history. The facade is impressive enough. I do not mean to say it is just an empty shell. No one like Khrushchev is to be dismissed out of hand. He is the man who coached General Zhukov to tell his "soldier friend," President Eisenhower, the "inner secrets" of Russia's highest political body, the Political Bureau, of which Zhukov is not even a member.

Naturally, Eisenhower is not letting himself be diverted into any direction he doesn't wish to follow. He has allowed himself to be impressed with "the new concept of leadership" which has replaced Stalin's dictatorship, because he is compelled to play the part of "we're-brothers-under-the-skin-where-peace-is-concerned."

The political difference between the leaders of the two powers aiming for world conquest — America and Russia — is that the Russians are masters not only of governmental shows, but also of what is known as the "Popular Front" — a non-governmental get-together of assorted characters who cut across both the working class and the middle class.

I have been leafing through my diary for instances of this specifically Russian concoction which Stalin invented back in the 1920's when he moved to "building socialism in a single country."

The more familiar name for "Popular Front" is "collective security." This has an official, governmental flavor and does not disclose the Communist Party tentacles so readily.

Let no one think that this problem does not exist in the 1950's because we "now know all about it" thanks to the ex-Communists who recently turned informers.

It is not a question of changing allegiance from the American flag to the Russian flag, though there may be that on the part of some. For every convicted or alleged "conspirator" there was an honorable intellectual who flirted with the Communist "idea" and who is presently as opposed to Russian Communism as is possible for intellectuals without roots in the working class.

That's just it. There is no total opposition except from the workers who alone can change things from the roots up because they must! It is on their backs that all exploitation takes place.

It wasn't out of malice, nor out of stupidity, that American intellectuals were sucked into the Communist-led Popular Front during the 1930's. They were sucked in because they were driven by despair over the economic chaos and saw no other way out.

## THE 1929 CRASH AND THE AMERICAN MIND

With the 1929 crash, production had come nearly to a standstill. Millions of workers were thrown into the streets. Now that everyone saw that production is primary, the class lines became, not weaker, but stronger. The New Deal is proof enough that the capitalist class too had suffered a "serious" split. Every serious tension between the working class and the capitalist class produces a rift in the camp of the ruling class itself. But that is not irreparable.

To run production in capitalist society, the rulers sit upon the direct producers. When there is a crisis, these bureaucrats do not get off the workers' backs. They sit the harder. The New Deal did not tamper with that relationship at the point of production. Neither did the intellectual planners who came out of Harvard and Columbia, Yale and Princeton, the College of the City of New York and the University of Chicago.

Just as there are only two fundamental classes in society — the working class and the capitalist class — so there are only two fundamental ways of thinking. The 1929 crash, which shook the world to its foundations, cut sharply across the American mind, splitting it into two opposing parts:

1) The Brain Trust, or intellectual planners, small and large. Those who invented the New Deal to save capitalism and those who wanted to use the New Deal to move headlong to total planning according to the Russian model, were not so totally different from each other that they did not find cohabitation pleasant. Both had one word for all the ills in the world. It was: Plan.

2) On the other hand, the rank and file workers tried to reorganize production on entirely new foundations by demanding that those who labor should control production. They too, had but one word to describe how to do it. It was: SIT DOWN. The very spontaneity of the action overflowed into the organization of the CIO.

## THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL ADRIFT

While the workers were creating organizations of their own, characteristically American and specifically working class, the American intellectual was rudderless, drifting into the Communist created Popular Front.

The Russian Communists had a field day, penetrating everywhere from the Newspaper Guild to the State Department, from the labor bureaucracy in Detroit to filmdom in Hollywood. The American intellectual was not an unwilling victim. He zealously tried to influence the American worker. If he failed it was not his fault. The American intellectual has one trait in common with all intellectuals: he looks down upon the native working class as "backward." But while the Communist Party of the United States took over the American intellectual bodily, emotionally and financially, it remained without serious roots among the American working class.

## THE TOTALITY OF THE CRISIS

The world crisis is creating another field day for the Communist bureaucrats in this country. The other day a production worker pointed out to me that the labor bureaucracy is so cocky about its "knowledge" of Communism, that already they have been caught off guard by the actions of the Communists in defending the status quo and in stopping some of the actions of the workers against Reuther. Politics makes strange bedfellows.

The one sane element in all this, is the solid common sense of the American worker. He is showing a total indifference to the shouting out of Geneva through the press and over the air. Rather he is showing a total concern for the fundamental issue of what happens day in and day out at the point of production.

## Changes in Neighborhood Stores

By Ethel Dunbar

One day, Helen and I went to the A&P store to get our week's supply of groceries. When we went in, we saw that something new had happened. They had changed white cashiers and had put on all colored cashiers.

Then Helen looked around and said to me, "What a difference they have made in such a short time. I wonder what will happen next."

"Well," I said to Helen, "I think they made this change because more Negroes come to this A&P store than to any other. That's why they decided they would put all colored to work here."

But when we sat down and talked over the situation, we felt that it was wrong to see it only that the A&P, in this store, had changed its workers from white to colored within a week. It could be just another form of discriminating practices.

Helen thought, "Maybe they have opened up a new store in an all white neighborhood and have sent the white help there."

We felt that the help should be mixed, not only Negro and white, but all races, and in all of the A&P stores.

## How Deep Are the Roots

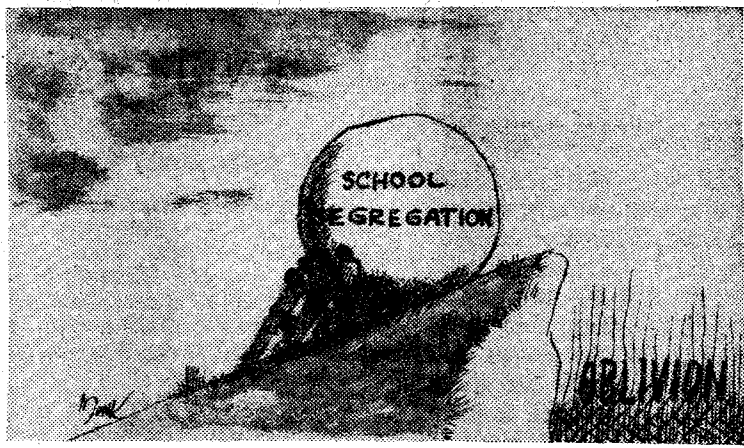
Some years ago, down South, I visited a white man I had once worked for. His father, an old doctor about 75 or 80 years old, was very ill at the time and he wanted me to stop and speak with him for a few minutes. When I went into the house to see him, he was dying of cancer. He had two nurses waiting on him and holding him in the wheel chair.

When he recognized me, he told me to come over and shake his hand. After we were through shaking hands, he said to me, "I am glad to see you as I would be of my relatives."

Then he said, "Do you know, you are the first Negro I have shook hands with in my whole life?"

I had felt glad to see the old man and looking at his condition, I felt sorry for his suffering. But when he said this to me, all sympathy left me. I had seen his sons shake hands with Negro men on several occasions. They didn't seem to feel that they were doing anything historic by doing so. The thought that struck me about this dying old man was, "How is he able to remember, from the time of his childhood, 75 years or more, that he had never before shaken hands with a Negro person? How deep are the roots of prejudice in the whites here in the South?"

## HELP NEEDED!



## Veteran Remembers War Experience

One night in 1943, about 11 o'clock, we had pulled back and had sent out a patrol to make contact and get information. They were gone so long that everyone was worried about them. We decided that six of us would go and see what had happened to them.

About 500 yards from where the main body of the company was, we found them all sitting in a trench, discussing the election that had taken place in the States while we had been fighting the Germans.

### TALK ABOUT DETROIT RIOT

On our arrival back at the company, we found that everybody was in an uproar, very much disturbed, by the news of the race riot in Detroit. One of the guy's brother was a mail clerk in one of the back posts, so he had come up and brought the news and also the Pittsburgh Courier.

There were quite a few guys in the company from Detroit. They were very worried about their people; what would happen to them during the riot. One of the fellows said it was not so bad after all, they were fighting for more than we were. At least they were fighting to protect their homes and the right to various jobs that the city had to offer.

Just then, the First Sergeant came up and said, "The Colonel wants to talk to you."

### "THIS IS FOOLISH"

The Colonel was sitting on the ground with his back to the hill. He said, in a very low tone of voice, "Everybody sit down. I want to talk to you."

Then he started to speak: "I hear all of you are concerned about the riots that are going on in Detroit. What is really happening back in Detroit? You know Detroit is a big industrial city. Most Negroes in the Southern states try to settle in the North; a lot of them in Detroit. What I am trying to show you is that this is not too serious. I bet when you get the facts of this whole thing you will learn that those who are in back of this, are the Negroes who came into Detroit from the South. I think this kind of thing is foolish, for a man or his friends to get killed for this." By now his speech

was turning my whole insides over. I just had to stand up. He said to me, "As you were, soldier." I wanted to be nice and obey, I knew he was a Colonel, but his speech made it impossible for me to do so. I just had to interrupt. I didn't know I was crying until later. He saw that I had to say something and told me he would give permission to speak.

I asked him if he knew what all of us were there for. He said, "That is a stupid question to ask a Colonel, soldier." I said, "Please answer if you will." He said, "Yes, I know why you are here, don't you?"

### WHAT TO FIGHT FOR

To which I answered, "I know what I was told." He wanted to know what. Then I started to tell him, "When we were being alerted for overseas duty back in the States, a Major briefed us Negro troops. We were told that we were not going to permit the Germans to come into America and take our watermelons, hogs and cattle. The fight that they were having back in Detroit, regardless of whether it was for a job or whether it was started by Southern Negroes, is far more important to me than what we are fighting for here."

### COMPANY GETS REST

At that point everybody started to talk back to him, about what they thought. It made me feel good to hear this. Then the Colonel went over to the Captain. I tried to hear what he was saying but I couldn't. Later he got everybody quiet and said, "Men, what this company really needs is a rest. You have been through a lot here I am proud of you."

Everybody laughed and asked, "Are you kidding?" Within two hours we were in trucks on our way back to the staging area, which is a rest camp for the front line soldiers. The Colonel took charge of showing the men around the camp; what a nice place it would be to rest; how many nice, young pretty girls there were there; what a nice time we would have. He was going to have some money there for us the next morning; paper and pencils for us to write home; and trucks would be in that evening with water so we could take a bath.

—World War II Veteran.

## White South African Protests Against Government Policy

(Editor's Note: A South African reader of NEWS & LETTERS, sent us the following clipping from THE JOHANNESBURG STAR.

To the Editor of The Star

Sir,—At the beginning of October, 1954, I employed two Africans . . . one as garden boy and one as house-garden boy. Their identification books revealed both boys as Rhodesians, presumably employable outside the municipal boundary only.

Being inside this area, I telephoned Influx to ascertain whether there was a chance of my obtaining permission to employ them.

### FARM LABOUR

According to Immigration, these boys would be given the option of accepting farm labour, the alternative being that they could return to Rhodesia.

Who is kidding who? One had worked in the Union for seven solid years, and the other one for three to four years—then what are their ties in Rhodesia and what work would they do there, and who will pay the fare?

Had I known what was going to happen to them I would never have taken them to the Pass Office in the first place but rather released them immediately to try to find employment outside the municipal boundary.

They will no doubt run away from the farm, and if and when caught, will face a prison charge for desertion.

Why did Immigration in the first place refuse to let me try to find employment for them?

Is this because the farms need their labour so badly?

(Mrs.) E. J. GRUEN.

## INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the fourth installment.)

I was seven years old when the war broke out. All the farmers talked about the war and the Germans. We wondered if the young Negroes eighteen to twenty, would have to go to war. Every Negro on the Berger plantation, but one, was strong against going. One woman said, "Go be a brave soldier." All cursed and abused her.

The story came out that if they didn't go the money in the United States wouldn't be any good. They said: we never have any. What difference does it make.

The next circulation that came out was that if the men went they would have complete freedom. All wanted this but they asked why they couldn't have it now.

One of the first three drafted was my first cousin. The night before he left every Negro on the plantation had a reception. It lasted all night long. There was singing, praying, drinking. All were trying to feel they'd see each other again. When they left, many of us went behind them on foot for miles. The families were screaming the whole night and practically the whole week.

Uncle Tim's son, Oscar, was bad like his father. He loved action. He said he wasn't going to war, cross his heart and hope to die. This was a saying we would never back down on. Oscar said he'd cross both hands before he'd go to war. He went over and sharpened the axe, laid his hand down on the chopping block and chopped off his shooting fingers. He was rejected. They had to hold Oscar when his brother got drafted. He

swore he'd kill him if he went to war. They sent Oscar to relations so that he wouldn't be home when his brother left.

We got a letter from my cousin Elwood from Camp Dodge, Iowa. No one had ever heard of it. We all visualized it as in the war zone in Europe. Someone on the farm composed a song that we sang all the time:

This war has everybody troubled now.

Not only me and you

Not only one and two

The rich and the poor

The white and the black

Every nationality

Lord we don't know what to do.

Some left home and left the mother crying

Some left home and left the wife crying

About this war

Got everybody troubled now

This war, this war.

After the war, when testing out the freedom, many boys were killed before they could get home. Dixon, a plantation owner, killed a Negro soldier in sight of his own home. The fellow had stopped to talk to his friends. Dixon couldn't stand the sight of a Negro in a uniform and shot him.

At least ten or twelve boys from Berger's place came home. They wanted to give a picnic to demonstrate what they had learned, marching and such. They all had their guns. The whites said they couldn't show the others. The Negroes said they had liked to shoot before they left home. They had gone to war to save the country and they were going to march to show their friends. Six whites came. Two hundred Negroes were watching the demonstration.

(To be continued)

YOUTH

Working For Independence

By ANGELA TERRANO

In the past two years I have met many young girls who were getting married or had gotten married at 18 or 19, knowing that sooner or later their husbands would have to go into the Army. But they wanted to have some time living in their own home together before he left. Even if just a few months, they would be precious months. During that time you would be scared to look in the mail box, never knowing when that letter would come.

BEFORE THE DRAFT

I remember at the beginning of the Second World War, I used to think that if I ever fell in love something was sure to happen to the guy. Well, it wasn't till after the Korean draft that I experienced what many other people had gone through. My husband was drafted and sent overseas, soon afterwards the Korean War ended, but there are a million other spots where war could have and has broken out.

THINGS YOU WORRY ABOUT

I hardly remember the feeling any more. But I know it was very important to us at that time. We had just been married less than a

year and getting settled with our jobs when he had to leave for two years. The sadness and tears are between two people and very hard to describe. The problems and the things that you begin to think about, I guess, a lot of people think the same. You worry about stupid things too, like girls in other countries. Well anyway it usually sounds stupid to other people.

You figure here you were just beginning really to know each other, starting a relationship with the person you love and then he has to go away. Besides the possibility of war breaking out again, you find yourself thinking that maybe you both will form different relationships and every thing will be different when he comes home. I don't think you are ever sure of any thing at all during these two years. Then there is the decision you have to make, either to go back and live with your parents again, or to live by yourself.

There's another feeling that maybe won't be understood when you think that war and death and a million other things are involved. But when you know that in all probability you will never

have a chance to travel there is a little jealousy. Being the woman you have to stay home and work and wait. Of course I am talking about the "peace time" Army. But I think everyone would like to know what the rest of the world is like. And you would like to go through the same experiences with your husband.

During the Second War, when I was a kid, we used to say when the first bomb drops here, we'll jump into bed with our boyfriends and to blaze with society's rules. Kids don't say that any more. Everything, all kinds of relationships have changed. No one is waiting for the first bomb to drop before they experience some things in life. One kid told me, "You can't wait around for those people to set the world straight before you even begin to become a full person and sex and marriage is part of that."

For a long time now, kids have been growing up in a world that doesn't hold much of a future for them, the way it is going, unless there is a terrific change. You begin to think, why bother with the future? I'll see what I can do now.

Children in 1941 — Soldiers in 1951

If there ever was a generation that should be able to consider war matter of factly it would be mine. When World War II started, I was in the third grade. Pearl Harbor occurred when I was in the fifth grade. I was frightened for days. I thought Pearl Harbor was in California and that the end was very close. Our teacher told us she had a nephew stationed at Pearl Harbor. She cried in class and it made us all feel uncomfortable. I recall that we discarded the geography books that pictured the German people as skilled workers and clean housekeepers and the Japanese as warm, friendly people with a country making tremendous industrial progress

**TAUGHT TO HATE**  
As a substitute for that worn out text, I remember a school assembly where the principal awarded one of the kids one dollar in War Stamps for a poster with the slogan "Wipe the Jap Right Off the Map." He had the assembly repeat it several times, until we shouted it loud enough and with the proper emphasis. We were taught to hate.

I remember German refugee children coming to our school. In our minds we associated them with their per-

secutors and gave them a miserable time. How they must have detested us. It was a long time before they won us over as friends. The Germans and Japanese were the bad guys. That's what stuck in those years.

LEARNED DIFFERENTLY

My generation grew older. We fought the Korean War and we occupied Europe. We came to know the people whom we wrote slogans when we were children. They were no different from the people we knew at home. These people weren't like we said they were. Something didn't jibe. How come the war!

There is always the guy who says, "they ought to put all those wheels, from all those countries in a ring and let them fight it out." The same guy who suggests it realizes it's crazy when he says it. But he realizes, too, that war holds nothing for the average person. After it's over, the same guys who were on top are still on top and nothing has changed.

—ROBERT ELLERY

(Editor's Note: Robert Ellery wrote the popular article, "G.I. View of June 17," which appeared in the first issue of NEWS & LETTERS.)

WOMEN

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

Capitalist society tries to wring every penny it can from the working man. In order to have anything, he has to learn to fight this in every way he can. Every working man and woman knows that you have to maneuver and connive and jealously guard every penny if you are to end up with anything. This is an attitude toward money that is created by capitalism.

This inhuman attitude reaches into the home and divides the family. I know of husbands who guard their money as jealously from their wives as they would from a used car salesman on TV. But a woman can stand such treatment for only so long and then she takes action.

One woman I know couldn't understand why she felt so restricted and unhappy, but she found the answer when she finally took a job and was able to decide herself how to spend her money. She bought an automatic washing machine, clothes for her children and furnishings for her house. Her husband did not approve her buying these things when it came out of his salary because he didn't consider them necessary. She proved that she knew more about what she needed for her home and family than he did. He is the one now, who is bragging

about what a nice home they have.

WOMAN MAKES THE HOME

Some men lose respect for their wives because they don't earn money. Everything is measured in money. It is the measure of a man's worth and to a lot of men that means that a housewife isn't worth anything. But while some women in the past may have half-way believed that idea, a woman today doesn't. She knows that half of everything her husband owns is hers and she uses it to the best advantage she can. She makes the home what it is, sometimes, against great odds. For that reason, the home reflects the effort a woman puts into making it a special place of comfort and love for her family to come to.

Working A Full Time Job

PITTSBURGH.—I'm a full-time housewife and I don't have any kind of schedule at all. I have a husband and my father and three little boys to wash and iron for.

I couldn't have any schedule for my work. I have to work according to my husband's schedule. Steel-workers work on a rotational shift and I have to, too. The shift changes every week. Sometimes my husband will have a week of midnights and then only two days of day-shift and then a few days off in the middle of the week and then afternoon shift. If I want to know what hours he's working, I have to ask him every week. Even he doesn't usually know until Thursday, when they put up the schedule for the next week. You can't really plan anything, not even a weekend.

The 8 to 4 shift is the only shift when I can keep my house straightened. On that shift, I can straighten up the house after he's gone to work and while the kids are either asleep or off to school.

On the 4 to 12 shift, the house is seldom straight. In the morning my husband may want us to do something or go somewhere. I have to let my things go. By the time he's off to work, the kids are home.

But the 12 to 8 shift is even worse. When everybody else is up, my husband is just coming home to sleep. Practically my sole job on that shift is keeping the kids quiet inside and outside the house—my own kids and everybody else's. The only way I can try to work out my own work is to work on Saturday night when everybody else is in bed.

On the rotational shifts, there are times I don't get out of the house for weeks. You just can't take that. So I take Monday as my day off. I can't take Sundays off—that's my worst day. But on Mondays the house is still pretty much caught up from Saturday night. No matter how much other work is piled up I take off. I'll take the kids and just go walking. We'll stop and look at things, buy some popsicles; it's nice just being out.

—Housewife

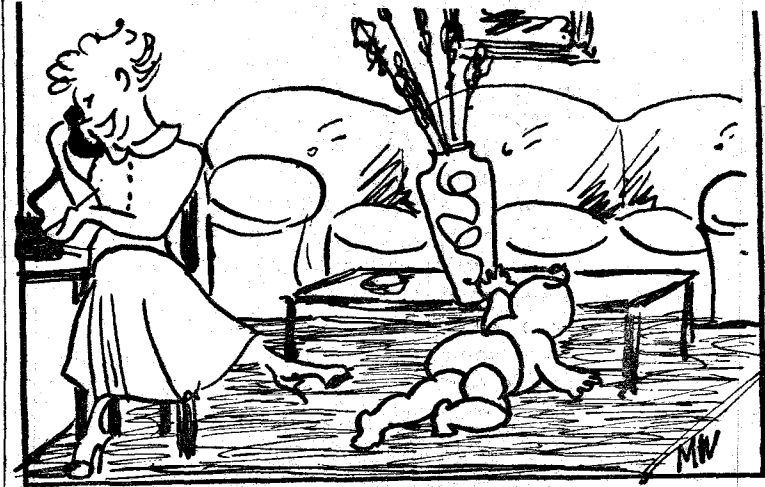
Women Look At War

We were eating our lunch when Claire says, "You don't know whether to have any children these days. If you have a girl, you have to worry about sex maniacs, and if you have a boy, you have to send them to war. You have no say about it."

Jo said, "That's true. My youngest son is in the Navy, and if he really had to fight, he wouldn't want to. He'd be scared. It used to be if your husband went off to war it was so his children wouldn't have to. But in ten years time, my husband was in, and now my son is serving."

Claire said, "My husband was in Europe. He said it was horrible and sad seeing these towns ripped up; the people's homes raided, even by our men; the people in want; what war does to people, the civilians and the soldiers."

It doesn't make any sense to me to think in terms of having another war. The last one saw the Russians as an ally and the Japanese were enemies. Now it's reversed. As I see it, this jockeying for positions in everybody else's country, by the Russians and Americans, leads nowhere but to destruction in those countries and threatens a world war which can wipe out man and earth.



... And, Dear, you should see the cute thing baby did today.

**Conflict Behind Peace**

(Continued from Page 1)

In the early 1930s, when Russia first turned to mass production, Henry Ford was the model. Now the model is the American farming technique. The Khrushchev speech at the beginning of the year, which foreshadowed Malenkov's fall, was full of praise for American farming technique.

Malenkov must have thought it too big a gamble, when all they can know for sure is that IF the rains are plentiful, the gamble will pay off this year. These lands, now being ploughed up are marginal. In the next year or two they may become dustbowls.

Russia is the only industrially advanced country where as much as half of the population is still engaged in agriculture. At present its rulers are trying nothing short of reversing the historic trend of industry to absorb the displaced farming population. They are sending the urban population—youth, demobilized soldiers, and skilled tractor drivers—into "the country." So total is the crisis in Russia that, after 25 years of alleged socialism, the state-capitalist bureaucracy has no other way of assuring bread for the population.

**AUTOMATION, THE PLAN AND THE WORKER**

On the eve of the Geneva Conference, an All-Union Conference of Industrial Personnel was held. Who should address it but the ever present Khrushchev. He seems to be everywhere at the same time. He appears at a conference in the Ukraine to urge an increase in the yield of sugar beets. He appears at a Conference with Tito in Yugoslavia. He is present at the Conference of the Big Four in Geneva. At the All-Union Conference, he spoke of the need to change from "short term" (Five Year) planning to "long range" planning. On the basis of his speech, a new decree was issued: **Reorganization of Industry Planning.** A new Ministry was created.

All that week, the official papers, Pravda and Izvestia, ran articles on: **WHAT IS HOLDING BACK AUTOMATION?**

The Conference itself issued "An Appeal to All Workers, Engineers, Technicians and Employees in the Soviet Union" to learn from the experience of "the production innovators."

Note the awkward phrase, "production innovators." It is a high-sounding phrase for speed demons. They dare not create another Stakhanov—the production pace-setter of the 1930's. It was not uncommon for some local Stakhanov to find himself murdered. Now it is "the production innovators" the Russian workers are ordered to emulate. But by whatever name, the Russian worker knows it all comes from the sweat of his brow. The low productivity of the Russian

worker is the measure of his resistance to the totalitarian regime. At the same time, collective farm leaders are being murdered in the country while in the city there is a serious wave of "juvenile delinquency." There is no escape from the totality of the crisis. That is what sent the Russian rulers to Geneva.

**AS FOR THE UNITED STATES**

Lest anyone think that the United States, where "free enterprise capitalism" rules, is free from crises, let them take another look at our country. Ever since the 1929 crash we have moved in the same general direction that Russia did: from crisis to war to recession and unto the brink of another war. That is what sent the American rulers to Geneva.

The state-capitalist bureaucrats in Russia cannot imagine any problem which they cannot solve by a blueprint. The private capitalist bureaucrats cannot imagine any problem that the dollar sign cannot solve. A few days back, all the financial experts in this country complained that the Geneva Conference had pushed the Report of the President's Economic Council of Advisers off of the front pages. This report sounded very much like the 1928 ballyhoo of endless prosperity on the very eve of the stock market crash.

Let us for the moment disregard the signs of crisis in this country. Let us turn our heads from inflation and the billions of dollars in installment buying; from the million already displaced by automation; from the beginnings of another serious unemployment in auto; and from the fact that in free-enterprise, prosperous, highly-mechanized American agriculture, Governmental price supports are still needed to keep the crisis from showing. For the present let us take this report of prosperity at face value.

The question to be answered is: why did this report play a poor second fiddle to the Geneva Conference? We have the word of the financial editor of the Republican New York Herald-Tribune that it is "the universal quest for peace." For once, he is right.

Look at the people in Iowa who poured out in thousands to welcome the visiting Russian farm delegation. That was the biggest demonstration since Eisenhower's victory parade at the end of World War II. Eisenhower may out-smile Khrushchev, but he is not Khrushchev's equal at creating "popular fronts of all classes for peace." (See TWO WORLDS, p. 5.)

**WHERE THE REAL PROBLEM LIES**

The problem is not of antagonism between America and Russia. The problem exists within every country. It is the problem of relations between people. It is the re-

lation of the worker at the point of production to the bureaucracy that dominates over him in his own country. Here again, the crisis in Russia will help illuminate the problem in America.

Top Russian scientists are singing the glories of automation and are exhorting their fellow-scientists "to get closer to life" because "the detachment of scientists from production hinders the fruitful cooperation between scientists and practical workers."

That, no doubt, is true. But it isn't anyone's personal or individual fault. There is nothing subjective or personal about the division between manual and mental work. This separation between mental and manual work is the very foundation on which capitalism rests, whatever its form. It has our society by the throat. Automation will not lessen the division. It has brought the division to the breaking point. Nothing can stop the movement of contemporary society to utter collapse.

This law of motion cannot be reversed so long as production is at the expense of the worker. The only thing that can reverse this movement is the release of the energies of the working people working for themselves: Working in a productive system where the motive force is the development of the individual and not of the machine or of profits.

The American worker is not as poor as the Russian worker, but much more is at stake than the rate of pay. Our dollar-minded politicians and intellectuals have never understood, and do not yet understand, what the founder of the modern working class movement saw 100 years ago. The crisis of production—and hence of society—lies in this: The worker, seeking his dignity and freedom, "be his payment high or low," will oppose a mode of production which makes the worker nothing but a cog in a machine.

Today's political and intellectual leaders look for the root of the world crisis everywhere except at the relations of people at the point of production. The center of gravity has not moved from there just because they have called a conference at Geneva. Nor will launching satellites in space solve the problems of this earth.

"Can mankind be free?" is not a question posed by the H-bomb. Working people have been asking this question ever since 20 million of them were thrown on the streets during the Depression more than 20 years ago.

"Can mankind be free?" is the question the working people are now asking. They ask it not only of one party State bureaucrats like the Russians. They ask it of those leaders who have so riddled this country with reactionary laws that millions of Americans would fear to sign their name to the

Declaration of Independence, let alone express themselves freely on what type of society they want.

The political leaders cannot even hear this question—

"Can mankind be free?" — much less see the emerging new society because they have created an atmosphere of fear and deprivation of human liberties.

**WORLD OUTLOOK****A LETTER FROM GERMANY**

A recent headline in the daily press, proclaims that a shortage of skilled labor in West Germany is threatening their continued economic recovery.

NEWS & LETTERS has received the following letter from a German reader:

"I have been unemployed for the last five years. During the fourth year of my unemployment, a received half a year of work relief. That is all they usually offer in West Berlin, particularly to the older worker. Unemployed who qualify, are hired to do minor clerical work in some Senate office for 40 hours a week at underpay. After exactly six months, one is discharged and others are brought in.

"If one is lucky, he can get such work relief benefits once every five years. Eventually, people grow to old to qualify and then all they can get is the pittance of old-age pensions. One can safely predict that this is how life will be for the older person, here in West Berlin, for the next ten years.

"Previously, I had a job in East Berlin where I earned considerably more than what they pay on work relief. I have to make out the best I can with what they give.

"Those in high places, talk too much but do very little. As for the Senate, they'd most prefer to hush up the problem of unemployment.

"For those gentlemen up there, life is so much better with their secure positions with high pay and adequate old age pensions guaranteed.

"The division of the country and of Berlin is responsible for all this. Things can change only if this wretched separation comes to an end. I see no other way out.

"All of us who have become unemployed are victims of this wretched split. Nobody concerns himself with our unemployment problem.

"Only with a unified Germany can this change. I see no other way out."

**ON A KNIFE-EDGE**

England's economy is on a knife-edge. The slightest change in the world or domestic situation causes a flurry. The recent talks at Geneva, in their own way, focused on Britain's dilemma.

Britain has never recovered from World War II. With bated breath she walks the precarious patch of cold war, desperately hoping for peace.

The current Geneva talks, on peaceful use of atomic energy, spotlight it in another way. One of the three powers in the atomic triangle, Britain is feverishly seeking a new source of energy to replace its worn-out coal.

A few weeks ago, they raised the domestic price of coal and a minor crisis followed. Britain is increasingly compelled to import more expensive German and American coal. For a nation which rose to dominance on the basis of having been the first to exploit its coal resources for industrialization, this is a measure of its twilight. Its coal seams are worn out. The miners are rebelling against working under the increasingly hazardous conditions of these old seams and mechanization does not help.

The recent price rise brought forth angry criticisms both from the Tories and from the Labor opposition. The miners were blamed for not producing enough. The Government was blamed for encouraging electrification for consumer use, because this increases consumption of precious coal stocks. The only solutions offered were speed-up, labor discipline and doing without.

It is this mess that John L. Lewis is hopefully looking toward, to heal the ills in the dying American coal industry. (See NEWS & LETTERS, Aug. 5).

\*\*\*  
Families, when a child is born  
Want it to be intelligent.  
I, through intelligence,  
Having wrecked my whole  
life,  
Only hope the baby will  
prove  
Ignorant and stupid.  
Then he will crown a tranquil  
life  
By becoming a Cabinet Minister.  
(Written over 900 years ago  
by the Chinese poet, Su  
Tung-po)

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