

# NEWS & LETTERS

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## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### Politicians Play With Segregation

The appointment by Detroit's Mayor Cobo of James McFall and Edward Davis to the Community Relations Commission has caused a big controversy among Negroes, especially the position the NAACP has taken when they expelled these two men from membership.

Some people feel that the lackadaisical attitude the NAACP has taken in regard to leading or carrying on a consistent fight against all forms of discrimination since World War II is the main reason its branch membership has dropped from 25,000 to 4000 in less than three years. As one said, "If these men are expelled by this branch for taking an Uncle Tom position, they must really be awful."

I don't think that is what is involved. It is true, as branch president Turner stated, that the policy of the Mayor's Housing Commission is a segregated policy. No Negro should condone it or support it.

#### SOME PAST EXPERIENCES

But some years ago, Rev. Bradby was president of this NAACP branch and he was also appointed as a member of the housing commission by the late Mayor Jeffries.

After serving a year or more, Rev. Bradby got into some differences with the members of the commission and he resigned or was thrown off. Only then did the holler begin about the segregated policies that Mayor Jeffries had originated long before he passed. Nevertheless, another Negro was appointed to succeed Rev. Bradby and he accepted. He served for three or more years before he resigned, or was fired. Then, afterwards, he began to shout about the segregated policies.

#### DEMOCRATIC MANEUVERS, REPUBLICAN SHENANIGANS

It does not seem to be a principled thing with these particular Negroes nor with the NAACP. The NAACP has left behind its non-partisan position and is going overboard in politics. It seems to be struggling to ally itself to the Democratic Party.

The UAW has a controlling hand in the branch. The UAW supported Mayor Jeffries during his life time. He had already made his position clear on discrimination in housing. That is the reason the NAACP could not and would not say a word openly and publicly against the housing policy then.

Cobo is a Republican. His appointment of those Negroes is to try to swing as many Negroes to support the Republican Party as possible. I feel this is what the present controversy is mainly about.

It is true, the accusation the NAACP makes of the Mayor and his committee. But if the NAACP is going to take the position to expel any member that holds a job or office that has a segregated policy, they should start with their own leaders first. Let the ranks of the membership discipline them.

Much praise and happy shouting will come from Negroes when and if the NAACP takes the position of fighting against all forms of discrimination.

#### SLIGHTLY INTERRACIAL

There are many white members who, I feel sure, could accept the Mayor's appointment and you would not hear a word from the branch, especially if these whites were leading Democrats or supporters of the Democratic Party.

There is a building down town that houses, or used to house, the Wayne County CIO Council. It has a restaurant and a bar. Two Negroes that hold high office in the CIO Council and also high office in the NAACP could be served there. But its segregated policies keep other Negroes from being served there.

These incidents and many others have happened, make me feel it is not only the segregated policy of Mayor Cobo that caused the NAACP expulsions, but politics which Negro leaders today often play for a particular gain.

(See Page 6)

## A Look at East-West Relations

"Listen," a steel worker said, "I don't pay any attention to their world conferences and I don't even think about them. They spend a lot of money, they horse around in Geneva and when they finish, things are worse than when they started, because the things they talk about openly are only a small part of the things they fight about under cover."

### Long Hours and Rough Jobs Trouble Small-Town Workers

When I arrived in this small city. I went to the employment office to get work. They said to come back in three months — that's how bad the job situation is for women in a small town.

I finally did get a job; baby-sitting sitting for a working couple. They said that's all they wanted me to do and the first day, that's all I did do. The second day there was a little ironing to be done. The next day there were some baby diapers. Then I found there were beds to make, dishes to wash, a vacuum cleaner to run and "would I mind getting dinner ready and setting the table?" Pretty soon I was doing the shopping, ironing the husband's white shirts and coming back in the evening to sit for a "few" hours, about five or six. I was getting \$15 a week for six days, but some weeks I had to wait for my pay until their check came in. I finally told them I thought they'd better get someone else.

My second job was in a factory. I worked on a machine putting threads on a pipe. I got good money there—\$175 a month. But when they started laying all the new people off I was out of work again.

Then I got a job in a hospital as a Nurse's Aid. I got \$20, for working from 7 to 3, seven days a week. We were supposed to get a day off during the week. Sometimes I did. I really worked like a slave there. One nurse took me aside one day and told me I did too much and was a fool to work so hard. She said that the more you do, the more they expect. She may have been right. At any rate, they started giving me worse and worse jobs. One day the nurse in charge told me I did everything wrong, and she said maybe it was because I was a foreigner. She took me by the arm and told me I was staying, that the next day she'd put me someplace

where she would be sure I'd work. I left.

Then I worked in a bake shop. I worked from 2 A.M. to 10 P.M. seven days a week again. I served customers, washed the floor, washed the windows, made doughnuts and did anything else they could think of. When I applied for the job I wasn't told my salary or the hours, so I asked one of the other girls how much they made. She said they weren't allowed to tell. On payday I asked for my check and the boss said I'd get it next day. "Next day" kept going on for one and a half weeks before I finally got a check. It was for \$19.50. Nothing for working extra on Sundays or overtime. I worked like that for a few weeks without saying anything—until one day when I had a bit of an argument about staying two hours late and the boss got mad. That week-end, when he kept putting off giving me my check, my husband went after it for me and I lost my job. I know there were at least 100 applications for that job, because one of my jobs had been to file them.

That's not the end yet. At present I have a pretty nice job looking after a professor's children. I don't work many hours, so when I heard about a job where I could earn a little extra, I decided to try it out. It was at a "club." I started at 2 in the afternoon and was told I'd leave off late in the evening. "Late in the evening" turned out to be 5 the next morning. The job turned out to be washing hundreds of dishes and scraping off left-over food to be used on other orders. After I washed sixteen sinksful in the first four hours, I told them to wash their own dishes and went home.

I think that at last I'm catching on to American ways. It took me only half a day to leave this last job, instead of three weeks like it used to!

The paralysis of the Big Four ministers, in the current Geneva conference, has been noted by every commentator who has reported on the talks. (See WORLD OUTLOOK, p. 8). Their absolute deadlock on the question of what will happen to Germany is a measure of the totality of the crisis in Europe. This is but one side of the world-wide crisis. The other side of the question—and this is the hidden side of what baffled them in Geneva—is what will happen in Asia and Africa, where the Chinese Communist Government seems to have a powerful attraction for all of the colonial movements of the Far East.

#### WHEN WORLD WAR II ENDED

Everybody knew that the expulsion of the Japanese meant, not peace, but a violent upheaval in China unless Chiang Kai-shek was got rid of as well. The Chinese peasants did not fight for the liberation of their land from Japan to remain enslaved to the corrupt Chiang Kai-shek regime. If it had not been for the war with Japan he would have been got rid of long ago. Even such big World War II generals as Joseph Stilwell and George Marshall knew this.

But American "democracy" had long since lost its vigor. The leading politicians thought they could just work out an administrative compromise in China. Toward that end they collaborated with the Communists. Stalin was willing enough to go along on this but Mao Tse-tung was not. Accordingly, shortly after a compromise "national government" was achieved, it fell apart.

Though the U. S. State Department lost vigor for "democratic reforms," they lost none of their arrogance with regard to the peasant unrest. No sooner was Chiang Kai-shek driven out of China than he was installed on Formosa and hailed by the State Department as an outpost of Western democracy in Asia. Not only was this hypocrisy obvious to the masses of Asia, it was no less obvious to the American workers as well.

#### THE PEASANT REVOLT

The Chinese Communists under Mao weren't tied either to the old vested interests of (Continued on Back Page)

#### In this Issue . . .

Coal & Its People . . . . .	Page 2
Labor . . . . .	Page 3
Editorials . . . . .	Page 4-5
Two Worlds . . . . .	Page 5
Negro . . . . .	Page 5
Youth . . . . .	Page 7
Women . . . . .	Page 7

Make Sure to Read . . .  
**Everything Seems Backwards**  
... on Page 7

## A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

### WHAT BRINGS ON HEART ATTACKS?

Since President Eisenhower's heart attack, there has been an increased concern, by many people, with their own hearts. Doctors found themselves with new appointments for heart examinations. Life and medical insurance companies found an increase in their sales, even as the stock market dropped.

A number of people talked to me about their hearts and wondered if they needed special tests though they had no symptoms. I discouraged them, saying that people may have a heart with normal electrocardiograph findings, yet a few days later suffer a heart attack.

Sometimes it is easy to determine heart disease by a physical examination. In the majority of people, there is nothing abnormal evident on examination. The signs of a poor or failing heart can only be recognized by a person's own description of how it is carrying on its work. If the heart functions without shortness of breath or pain, there is usually little wrong. Of course, there are other causes of pain over the heart area and of shortness of breath and these must be eliminated.

Not all heart disease is of the same nature. There are individuals with weak hearts from birth on; congenital deformities of the chambers and outlets. These are not difficult to recognize early in life; it is now possible surgically to correct some of these abnormalities.

Most acquired heart disease falls into two groups: the Rheumatic, found in younger people and the Arteriosclerotic or Coronary, usually found in the middle ages and beyond. The Rheumatic type is an inflammation, probably due to bacteria or their products. Primarily it damages the valves between the chambers of the heart. This may disturb the pressure relations within the chambers and interferes with the pumping action and the force required to circulate the blood.

Coronary heart disease is the type usually present in what is commonly called a heart attack. It is an injury primarily of a section of heart wall muscle, which is deprived of its nourishment by the blocking of a branch of an artery carrying blood to it. The muscle then becomes soft and may even rupture, bringing sudden death. If the portion of the heart wall involved is not too large, the heart will recover and healing takes place by the formation of a scar. This generally takes several weeks.

The blocking of a branch of the Coronary Artery usually takes place by means of a clot or thrombus. This is often preceded by a thickening and rigidity of the artery wall—a condition called arterio-sclerosis. Very little is known for certain about the cause of arteriosclerosis, but it seems to bear some relationship to the type and quantity of food eaten by civilized people today.

Many coronary deaths occur even before any serious degree of arteriosclerosis has set in. More and more people in the forties and fifties, frequently men, especially those who undergo mental stress and tension, die of this disease.

There is little physicians can do, following a coronary thrombosis. The outcome, as far as life or death and capacity to work, after recovery, depends entirely on the amount of damage to the heart wall.

However, I think it is possible to prevent many of the heart attacks due to sudden closure by spasm of a blood vessel. But this calls for an emotional stability very difficult to have in the competitive and dehumanizing life of today where the central axis is production.

### A DETROIT AUTO WORKER SAYS:

You must have spot reporters the way you know things are happening when they happen. You've got a sincere paper all right, it's all sincere. People aren't used to that.

**Do Your Friends Read  
NEWS & LETTERS**

## COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

### Pit-Boss Gets Lesson When Joke Backfires

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—I had just come down in the cage and was getting into the waiting man-trip which was to take us to our section. The pit boss had his foot stuck in our man-trip car and was talking with a miner who was sitting near the door. The usual conversation buzzed among the men. The voice of the pit-boss suddenly came out loud and clear, "Weren't you the one who said that you could cut 16 places in a shift?" At this point, the men became suddenly quiet.

We all knew that the pit-boss was figuring on having a little fun at the expense of this miner, both from the tone of his voice and the smirk on his face.

#### "I'M NO DOG"

"I never told you no such a god-damned lie!" the miner exploded. "I told you what me and my buddy had done at the other mine. There's a guy right here who was with us and can tell you the same thing."

"That's right, they did. I was there," the other miner said.

"Just exactly what the hell are you trying to do, make a fool out of me?" the first man continued. "I know the things you have tried to pull on other guys. I've known you for a long time. I'm telling you right now, don't go trying to pull any of that stuff on me. I'm no dog!"

The pit-boss was stunned at this reaction. It was anything but what he had expected. We all were pleasantly surprised at this unexpected, but more than welcome, turn of events. There was not one of us who had not wanted, many times before, to jump with both feet on the pit-boss.

#### "YOU CAN'T EAT ME"

The pit-boss tried to calm the man down and at the same time get himself out of the hot spot he suddenly found himself in. The joke had back-fired and he was the one who was now trying to wiggle out of a situation.

"Now look," he said softly, the smirk gone from his face, "I just asked you a simple question. There's no need to carry on like that. I need to have a man to do some cutting on the haulage and thought that you would do it."

"Don't keep giving me any of your stuff," the miner shot back. "You know I can't run the kind of machine you have there. I told you that yesterday. You're just trying to make an excuse and I know it. Well, I'm not having any of it. You can kill me, but you can't eat me. I'm in here for the same reason that the

rest of the guys are. To make a living, not to take any crap that you have to put out. I'm a man, not a dog. If you don't think so, I'll get out of this man trip right now and we'll see about a few things."

#### AND AWAY HE WENT

By this time, the pit-boss was so embarrassed that he didn't know what to do. He opened his mouth, but nothing came out. Where he had tried to show that he was only trying to be reasonable, the miner had proved that he was trying to make him the butt of a joke. He stood fidgeting for a couple of seconds, then walked away, muttering something under his breath that sounded like, "Ah, to hell with that kind of talk."

The pit-boss had just had a lesson in human dignity that he would not soon forget.

### "I Had Jumped Off Too Many Cars—"

WEST VIRGINIA.—A retired miner, who went to work in the mines when he was 13, was telling me about some of the hazards he lived through. It sounded as though one of the biggest hazards was the attitude of the bosses who are pretty hard to convince they don't know it all.

#### CAVE-IN

He had worked as a brakeman on the wooden cars they used to haul the coal underground. One day another brakeman was making a turn and an empty car jumped off the track, hit a pillar, and pulled down tons of rock over the spot.

When the men gathered to try and dig the man out, the boss insisted on digging into

the spot where the man was last seen. That spot was covered with more than 16 feet of debris.

He said, "I knew the man couldn't be under that spot. I had jumped off of cars plenty of times to save my life, and I knew that the brakeman would have jumped and started running to the side as soon as he saw the car heading for that pillar. I figured out about where he would have got to by the time the roof fell in. I just knew that that man was buried under a much smaller pile off to the side."

#### WHERE TO DIG

"The boss put most of the men to work digging into that 16 feet. But when I kept insisting we ought to dig at the other place, he got mad and told me I was too damn smart and thought I knew it all. But he told me if I wanted to, to go and dig there. I got a few other guys and we started digging."

"We had thrown off a lot of stuff when we came to a big slab of rock and I could smell hair burning. We got jacks and worked to jack the rock up and then I could see his feet."

"We had to work to raise the rock far enough for me to crawl under and grab his feet. It took more than eight men to pull us out. The man must have been dead for half an hour when we got him out."

"I don't know that he wasn't killed instantly. Maybe we couldn't have saved him anyway. But we would probably never have found him if we had kept digging where the boss insisted."

"It's the bosses who think they 'know it all.' I was working in that mine before that boss of ours had ever heard of one. I had jumped off of too many cars not to know what I was talking about."

### FOLLOWING THE BOSS' ORDERS

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.—We were working on a pillar section. A block of coal had been worked up to the last cut. The heading had been safety posted and bars had been put up to try to keep the place in safe operating condition. But there are times when all of the posts and bars on a section won't keep a place up. This was one of those times.

The bars were bowed in and the posts were bent and kept up a continuous cracking. The boss wanted to get the last cut out of the place. The cutting machine operator and his buddy looked the place over and went to the boss. They told him that the place wouldn't hold up much longer; that if they cut it, it would probably fall in.

#### JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS

The boss checked the place and, in his judgment, it was safe enough to cut. The cutting crew wasn't very much concerned about being covered up. There is generally

enough warning just before the fall comes. The thing that was involved was that the machine could not go as fast as the men could in that situation.

The cutting crew went into the place and cut across the top. They had just started to put the shear in the side when the place started to fall in. They shut the machine down and came out. The machine was buried.

The boss was quite upset about the machine being covered up. It would take a long time to get to it. Falls on pillar sections bring down hundreds of tons of rock.

When the super of the mine asked the cutting crew why it was that they had gotten the machine covered up, they explained that they were not paid to do the thinking on a section. The section boss is paid to do the thinking. All they were doing was following his orders. And, like the company always says, you can't refuse to follow the orders of the boss. You can get fired if you do that.

## LABOR

## A Beef About Steak

LOS ANGELES — Over at the Lincoln-Mercury assembly plant, the maintenance department won a good housekeeping contest that the company ran. The prize was to be a steak dinner in the company cafeteria for all the men in the winning department. Things didn't work out that way. The day shift got their dinner all right but the night shift of maintenance didn't, even though they were just as responsible for the cleanliness of the maintenance shop.

When the general foreman was asked about this he flatly told the men that no dinner was being scheduled for the night shift. He added, very nastily, that they could have his own steak if they wanted. That evening there was talk of filing a grievance under the union contract.

## 'NORMAL' GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Before I go on with my story I want to say a few words about the grievance procedure as I have seen it work in auto. If the complaint is about something explained specifically in the contract, like wages or call-in pay, a worker has got a good case. It's easy to prove that there has been a violation of the contract and the union will usually back such a case without reservation.

Most of the trouble in a shop, however, comes from conflict over working conditions. More often than not, these are either not spelled out clearly in the contract or the right to control the working conditions is specifically given to the company. The contract isn't just a union contract but a company contract as well in which the union agrees to company control over production. The union therefore usually discourages the workers from filing grievances on working conditions. The workers often react to this by ignoring the grievance procedure and taking matters into their own hands. That's what happened at Lincoln-Mercury this particular time.

## MEN WRITE LETTERS

One of the millwrights suggested that the night shift would certainly get their steak dinner if they negotiated directly with top management. He went home and wrote up a letter on the situation. All the men signed it next day. Then he mailed the letter directly to the plant manager and other high officials in the company. The men thus by-passed the union, the foremen, the superintendents, the labor relations office and all those who could not settle the matter directly.

## MESSED-UP PRODUCTION IN SMALL FACTORY

WEST VIRGINIA—I don't know if big places like the auto factories and aircraft plants are run as mixed up as the little factories I've worked in, but if they are, it amazes me how industry manages to get out as much as they do.

Some of the things I've seen get downright ridiculous. In one place I worked, they were installing a new machine to wash sand out of the brass. An ordinary guy could have figured out the problem of where to set it up pretty easily. But when all the bosses got in on it this is what happened.

## CAN'T DECIDE

First they had the carpenter boss set it up along the lines the vice-president or somebody had suggested. Then another boss came along and decided it should be moved a little one way. None of the bosses ever seemed to get together on it, but they kept coming along and each one would have it moved someplace else—one foot forward, two feet back, one foot this way, another foot that way.

All that was involved was that it had to be set up so there was enough room for

the man working on it to shovel the stuff in. You didn't need to be an expert to figure that out. But instead of figuring it out first, they just kept moving the machine around. It was a heavy thing, too. Four guys couldn't move it alone. I was one of the guys they kept calling from other jobs to move it. I helped to move it at least six times. It got to be a real joke in the factory.

They finally got it to the point where they figured they could pour the four cement pillars they were to set the machine on.

## ALL FOULED UP

The next time they called us, we saw they had busted the cement pillars out, and we had to move the machine so it could be set up again! What confused it even more was that they had another machine to install to select the brass. That machine had to be set up in relation to the washing machine. That could have been a simple problem, too. But the whole thing was so messed-up that the "engineer" they called in to measure it set up his instrument on a pile of cement they had on the floor for the pillars that had been

knocked out and somebody moved it and the measurements came out wrong.

It was such a ridiculously confused business that nobody could really describe just what all did happen. All I know is that they had to knock out the pillars twice before they finally got the machine set up where it was when I left the place. I doubt that it's still there. It just doesn't follow that it would be.

What gets me most is the thought of all the time they had us spending just moving that heavy thing around day after day. If things were run right, I'm convinced that the guys could put out the same amount of production in three hours as they do now in eight—and spend the other five hours fishing.

They put out a lot of stuff about the high productivity in America. But from what I can see, it's sure not because American industry is run so efficiently. Any "high productivity" under this kind of set-up is only because the workers put out more work.

## "Incentive Pay" Means More Work Less Pay

By Jerry Kegg

A friend of mine worked at Burroughs when the wild cat strike took place there about three or four months ago. She said you couldn't blame the people in the production departments for walking out because they worked at a terrible pace. They have the "incentive pay" and many of the jobs have such high quotas that the workers can't even make them, never mind making any "incentive pay." And they are always being timed and the quotas raised. These incentive pay workers can average \$80 a week where non-incentive pay for women runs around \$72.

She said that some of the workers were fired because they walked off the job after the lunch bell rang instead of during the lunch period. One guy was manhandled by a foreman who tried to push him back to his place. He was fired when the foreman accused him of kicking his shins and swearing at him. My friend said that everyone in the department knew this worker was such a religious man that he never used a swear word in his life.

They just had another sit-down strike last week in the department that started the first strike. Two rumors were that it was about higher quotas set and about a new insurance plan they have.

## Why I Quit General Motors

LOS ANGELES. — (The following letter was submitted by a worker at the G.M. assembly plant in Los Angeles to the union newspaper *The Assembler*.)

"1. Management feels that production of cars is more important than the safety of its employees.

"2. The superintendent sees that he can avoid an accident by stopping the line; yet he does not do so.

"Men have been thrown from cars, cut with sanding discs, etc. I was knocked unconscious one Saturday night (a few months ago) and the extent of my injuries are yet not known. General Motors is a fine organization but their method of production is not for me. The superintendent will browbeat any inspector to buy a job that is unsafe and not fit to be on the road which in the long run will cost the company a lot more. He pulls red tag jobs that are supposed to be held for the chief inspectors.

"I believe that this isn't the method of production for a company as large as General Motors. I feel that the superintendent is afraid of losing his job and will get production regardless of accident and lives.

"All the above information are facts which I can prove and I have no objections to this article appearing in the Union paper *The Assembler*."

## Women Decisive in Rejecting Contract

DETROIT — A&P warehouse workers in Detroit rejected the contract proposed by their union leaders by a vote of 154 to 59.

The women, who are a minority among the warehouse workers, were the decisive influence in the contract rejection. The men, who were to get 15c an hour raise, were all in favor of accepting the contract. But the women, whose raise was to be only 7c an hour, put up a protest and succeeded in influencing enough men to reject the contract.

Matters now go back to the negotiating committee for a better proposition.

## STEAK AND SPEECHES

To make a long story short, the men on the night shift got their steak dinner in a matter of days. The plant manager came down to the dinner and spoke to the men. He encouraged such direct relations. I have no doubt that he was trying to use the men's criticism of the union grievance set-up to break the union. I don't believe anyone fell for his line. They didn't feel that the present union set-up could handle their grievance but their course of getting together and putting pressure on the top policy-makers in the company is the basis of all working class struggle and unionism. In fact, they are such good union men that they won't tolerate situations where the union bureaucracy prevents the men from putting pressure on the company.

## The Unity of Labor

LOS ANGELES—The men don't talk much about the coming unity between the CIO and AFL. They don't particularly object to it, but they don't see where it is going to do them any good. One man said, "It looks like Reuther and Meany are trying to get the political power they never really had under the Democrats and know they don't have under the Republicans."

Another man brought to work an article he clipped from the *Reader's Digest*. In part it said, "The preamble of the AFL constitution, written largely by Samuel Gompers in 1886, proclaims: 'A struggle is going on between the oppressor and the oppressed of all countries—a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer which grows in intensity from year to year.'"

## OUT OF DATE?

The article went on to say that "this sounds so out of date to the American worker today that the AFL and CIO, in framing the new constitution under which they will merge, substituted a new preamble. This recognizes that class warfare is dead and that the unions are an integral part of American life."

There was little comment, just laughter. A young kid asked if anyone had a copy of the new constitution. No one had even seen it. An old-timer, who was in Detroit when the CIO was formed, said, "It's difficult to think of Reuther as being even more conservative than old Gompers of the AFL."

—Machinist

## Nut Head Says—



"What are you guys complaining about? Statistics prove that you're making more money than you ever made before."

## WHO SUFFERS MENTAL BREAKDOWNS?

The University of Chicago recently conducted a survey of over 12,000 patients in mental hospitals to find out if there is any basis for the belief that a man in an unskilled job is less likely to suffer a mental breakdown than the overworked and harassed business or professional man. The study showed that by far the largest proportion of the patients were not professional and businessmen, but waiters, peddlers, laborers, porters and unskilled workers generally.

—Skilled Worker  
Los Angeles

## EDITORIALS

**Who Is to Control Production?**

There has been a great deal said about the fact that with the ever increasing use of the continuous miner in the coal fields there is a corresponding decrease in the number of men employed in the mines. It is certainly true that this problem is weighing heavily in the minds of the miners.

There is something else that they are giving increasing voice to. The tremendous speed-up of the men who are working on continuous miner sections. As the miner said in Readers' Views (Oct. 26):

"Nobody likes the continuous miner. It has to be tended EVERY SECOND of the day . . . Everything is on the fly now instead of just walking . . . I've lost 30 pounds since I was put on this thing . . . the machine itself is a man-killer . . ."

With the reorganization of the productive process that the continuous miner effects, for the first time, the miners are caught in the pressures of belt-line production.

The first feeling of security that some miners feel, when they are put on a continuous mine section, is replaced quickly by a conviction that it is not worth it. Those who are working on continuous miner sections are trying to get other men to change with them. They have no takers. Many have openly said that they would rather be laid off than work on the continuous mine.

It is obvious to any observer that tremendous forces and passions are being put into play in the minds of the miners. These forces and passions are not unlike those felt by the factory workers in the 1930's which exploded in the formation of the CIO. This was the weapon the workers fashioned for their defense against the inhuman conditions that management had been forcing on them in the shops. When the CIO was in the hands of the workers, they used it often and effectively for their own interests.

This, however, is not 1936, but 1955. The miners are not unorganized workers. They have a history and tradition of organized struggle which is second to none in the nation. Because of the very nature of the underground conditions under which they work, miners have always been deeply concerned about their conditions of labor. The speed-up condition on a continuous miner section poses itself as a threat to their lives and limbs. This condition is not one to be tolerated by them.

The traditional policy of the United Mine Workers—non-interference with mine management over the introduction of new machines and methods of production—is being seriously questioned by the miners. They have seen no indication that the UAW, as it was presently constituted, is prepared to engage the coal operators in a battle to obtain for the miners a voice in determining the production of coal. Yet this is precisely the question that the miners are posing in their present situation.

The current struggle, which is shaping itself in the coal fields, is not going to be carried out on the same level as that of the industrial workers when they formed the CIO.

No one can predict the actual form that the struggle will take to resolve the problem. But this much is known:

The miners' struggles in the past have set new patterns for workers over the whole nation. The manner in which they will struggle to meet this problem of belt-line speed-up may very well pose the solution to the problem which is on the minds of workers everywhere: Who is to control production?

**STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS**

I had a fight with one guy in the shop who says that unions are good. I think they stink. They never do anything but take your money.

Ex-Waitres  
Detroit

How can the ordinary worker get representation in his union? When they run for delegate to the UAW conventions the guys who run want to be elected because they like the "all expenses paid" good times they have at conventions. In order to get elected to have fun, you know they're going to vote the way the administration wants.

The steward hopes sometime he can be a committeeman so he'll do what the committeeman wants. The committeeman hopes to be able to get into local office so he'll be a good boy and do what the local officers want. The local officers have ambitions to get into the front office in the international so you know they'll go with the administration right down the line. The worker just has not got a chance against the machine.

Ford-Highland Worker  
Detroit

The union will never get into Burroughs. I remember when I worked for the union 15 years ago turning out leaflets for them when they were trying to organize Burroughs. They've been trying since then. The union won't do anything about production anyway.

Woman Worker  
Detroit

The UAW has raised its initiation fee to \$15. They are really going up on that. I guess they're trying to equal the high fees in the AFL now that they're getting together. A friend of mine had to pay it even though she was laid off only six weeks after she got her job.

Woman Auto Worker  
Detroit

Anyone who says the union enforces the contract, poor as it is, is a hypocrite. The contract says that a worker shall be up-graded on the basis of merit alone. But there are very few Negroes who ever get up-graded. With all the strikes that have taken place lately, whether authorized or wildcat, not one has been on this question. This isn't only a matter of bias, it's a working class question right at the point of production.

Negro Auto Worker  
Detroit

**Readers'**

I liked your last editorial about the martial law in Indiana (Oct. 26), but I didn't like the title "Back to the Good Old Days?" It should have been "This Is What's New In the Good New Days."

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

At the tool crib, the other day, some workers pasted up the daily paper article about a worker killing a foreman. Everytime a foreman passed a worker would call out, "Hey, did you see this article?" They fixed it up with a plastic cover over it so it wouldn't be ripped. It's still up there near the crib.

Auto Body Worker  
Detroit

The story on the brain-washed guy (Oct. 26) should have had another paragraph. I couldn't quite figure out why he changed so much, except that he was figuring on getting married. But whatever the reasons for the apparent change, I'm almost sure that he won't be able to think that way for long. You just can't keep working at the rate he was working for very long. His brain-washing just can't last.

Contributor  
West Virginia

A guy in my department told me he used to be a miner laying track in the mine. He told me that before they won portal-to-portal pay he'd often be delayed an hour or an hour and a half getting out of the mine because there was coal on the track or something like that. Since they won portal pay he says there are no delays at all getting in or out of the mine.

Chrysler Worker  
Detroit

**PROSPEROUS AMERICA**

I have recently made a cross country tour and was surprised to find how great is the number of areas where the local press dares not play up the ballyhoo about "national prosperity." Unemployment is widespread and wages are so low that it is impossible to make ends meet. The big joke is the recently passed Minimum Wage Law of \$1 an hour—it applies only to people in the basic industries in interstate commerce. These are highly unionized and no miner or steel or auto worker would work for a miserable \$1 an hour. But in the service industries—sales ladies, waitresses, bake shops, gift shops, etc.—the average wage is \$20 a week for a 6-day week!

I knew of two cases in West Virginia where the families were so big that the "young ones" in the family just "hired out." That is to say, they became servants to any home that would take them for just board and room. This, in the richest land in the world, in the highly prosperous year of 1955!

Professional  
New York

It seems like there's a never-ending bunch of myths about how efficiently business and government is run. But in real life it's like a city council that builds a new building with special staircases and maybe a marble effigy commemorating somebody. They make it look real fancy, and it falls apart in a year.

West Virginian

With all the advertising about what a terrific car the new '56 Buick is, here's something a GM production worker told me. He said they suddenly quit working on Buick parts because there's something wrong with the transmission. They were in such a big hurry to get ahead on production and now they suddenly quit. The parts are all stacked up like in a store room. They're not sending them out and new cars are all backed up in the parking lots until they get them fixed up.

Auto Worker  
Detroit

A few weeks ago Ford made the big announcement about how good production was and that they would be working 54 hours until January. On the basis of that estimate they tool-ed up and hired on a lot of new help. It appears that they didn't know what they were talking about and overestimated the future. Right now they're laying off all probationary workers at the Highland Park plant. Just the other day they laid off 250 workers in the trim division.

Ford Worker  
Detroit

All of these auto companies are putting out big figures of expected sales. It can't be based on brains so it must be based on false hope. The big economists hired by the auto companies can't have faith in the economy if they use such figures born out of hope not fact.

Working Mother  
Detroit

# Views

There should be something in your paper about those little children down in Louisiana, going around picking up food out of garbage cans. That's what they were living off of. They didn't have anything to eat in the house. The two children were killed by something they ate from that garbage.

The mother and father weren't sick. But they just didn't have any work and nothing to feed the children. They claimed that a case worker had been there and the mother had said she had plenty to eat. She must have been ashamed to say the children had to eat out of garbage cans.

After the two little boys died, they took the rest of her children away from her and put them in foster homes. The husband said that when he got out of jail, all he was hoping for was a job so he could take care of his family. That's a pitiful story.

And with things like that going on in this country, they have all that talk on the radio about the president! Instead of talking about him, they ought to be thinking about families like these, that are really in need. Eisenhower has enough money to wrap us all up in. I get so sick hearing about him on the radio! And when you think of things like those little children, it makes you sick-er.

Miner's Wife  
Jeri, West Virginia

## SIXTEEN TON

A lot of the disc jockeys who play "Sixteen Ton" say they don't know what's making this song so popular today. They say they just don't understand why the teen-agers go for it like that since they can't remember how it was in the old days. Those disc jockey always apologize for playing the song by saying that "of course things aren't like that today."

Miner's Daughter  
Detroit

Four of us women in the department were talking about the new song "Sixteen Ton". We all come from Pennsylvania coal towns. One of the girls said she wondered why the song was so popular today. She said it's not true, the way it used to be, that miners' families are tied to the company store that way. She said miners now shop around in Montgomery-Ward and other stores like that. Another girl said, "It may not be just the company store they're in hock

to, but they're in hock just the same to all the other stores. So when St. Peter calls, they still can't come because they still owe their soul to the store."

GM Worker  
Detroit

I have a loan with one of the finance companies down town. I couldn't meet my payment the first of the month so I called and told them I'd be three days late before I could get down there. They called back and told my wife I'd better get down there right away or the whole loan would be due. My wife went down and told them we've had loans there before and always made our payments on time. She asked why were they making such a strong fuss. The first thing the man asked was I still working. As soon as he found out that I'm working steady he said it was just a routine check-up and did we want to borrow more money we could get it right now.

Working on Credit  
Detroit

## ARMISTICE FOR VETERANS

It's ironical when you think they changed November 11th from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. My oldest son was born on Armistice Day. While all the celebration and shouting was going on because World War I ended, I looked at my infant lying next to me and I said, "Thank God, my son will never have to go to war." He didn't go. That is, not until 1942.

Grandmother  
New York

All my life, the only thing I can remember as being certain is war and violence. I was just turned 15, in the last year of the war, when I was shipped off to a German concentration camp. Since then I've been in all kinds of DP camps, draft, cold war. Wars and soldiers seem to be the only thing we can count on now. It would be a mockery to celebrate Armistice Day. Changing the name to Veterans Day doesn't make it better. What I remember from my childhood in Europe is the wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Truck Driver  
Los Angeles

I was in grammar school for only a couple of years when World War II started. Armistice Day just couldn't mean anything to us kids with a war going on. I guess they had to change it to Veterans Day. If you just go by the

meaning of words, Armistice means peace. According to the way they've fouled this world up, they can't promise us armistice. They can only promise us more and more veterans every year.

Ex-GI  
Philadelphia

## WOMEN

I liked your front page story about women (Oct. 26). It didn't just show women in the home or in the factory but in every phase of life. Sometimes women seem isolated or you get the idea they're isolated from the things that are written in women's magazines and the like. Here, the only one who was isolated was that strike-breaking woman in Chicago some weeks back.

Working Woman  
Detroit

They always try to give the impression that women aren't interested in anything except the house and clothing and that they are opposed to the kind of struggles and fights that men have to go through. But I have always met women on the picket line who were better than the men and ready to fight harder and longer.

Old Time Auto  
Worker, Detroit

The women of Taylor Township, just outside of Detroit, have been putting up a first class battle to get a traffic light installed on an intersection on Telegraph road. They have organized a mass blockade of Telegraph road, fought the police who have sought to restrain them, set up heated tents to warm up those not on duty, serve coffee and soup to their squads, etc. They are on the verge of winning their demand.

Respectful Male  
Detroit

We get to serve a lot of college professors in our place. There really isn't a much more stupid bunch. It seems as if they think they know everything if they know just one little subject. But about real life, they don't know anything. They don't make very much money in salary either, but they seem to think if they have a job like that, that they have the world by the tail. Maybe they do, but they sure don't know which way to swing it!

Waitress  
West Virginia

## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

### ATTITUDES TO AUTOMATION

The sharp division between the rank and file worker and the labor bureaucrat is seen nowhere so clearly as in the different attitudes each has toward automation. Where the auto worker, for example, deals with it as it affects his daily life, Reuther speaks of the future and "the promise" automation holds for a "vast improvement in living conditions" and "leisure."

### AUTO WORKER

"I do not know what he is talking about," one woman worker told me, "I don't have any time to breathe, much less to loll about. The work-week at Ford's now is 53 hours and here that man goes around talking about 'leisure.' As for working conditions, they are worse than they have ever been since the CIO first came into being. All automation has meant to us is unemployment and overwork, both at the same time."

### MINER

I spoke to the miner who had written in to News & Letters about what the introduction of the continuous miner has meant to him—a loss of 30 pounds in weight caused by the speed-up and tensions of automatic production. He added that that was only half of the story. The other half was safety—you just don't take out the time any more for the right underpinnings and there has been a serious rise in accidents.

The coal operators are trying to divide up the unity of the miners by making "maintenance men" part of management. What has happened with automation is this: The continuous miner needs the constant attention of men while it is in operation in order that the mechanic can be on the spot when the machine breaks down. The maintenance man thus assumes a very key position. He is generally younger, more skilled, better paid and outside of the direct production line. Management hopes thereby to use him to divide up the men in the mine.

Safety concern, however, brought the men together again. Because the continuous miner can work 24 hours a day, the foreman expected the men to proceed with the work although a death had just occurred in the particular mine. The men told the foreman in no uncertain terms that he could operate these machines if he was so concerned with production. They would go to the funeral. The maintenance man said he would go with the miners: "Human life is cheap enough around here."

### YOUNG WORKER

A young worker in Los Angeles was most concerned with this question of human life and the fact that the human being in this day of automation is nothing but a "button pusher." "Work would have to be something totally different," he continued, "What skill do you need? What pride can you have in your work if everything is done electronically and you are there—if you are lucky enough to get the job—just to blow the whistle when the machine breaks down. What about the human being?"

### SKILLED WORKER

A skilled worker, on the other hand, could not see automation as a reality. It seems there is very little automatized industry outside of aircraft on the West Coast. Unlike mechanization, automation requires not only new machines but the product itself has to be completely redesigned. Naturally this requires not alone the introduction of new machines. You cannot just superimpose new controls on old assembly lines. Everything, including the end product, has to be newly conceived for mass production electronically controlled.

This worker pointed out all the machinery and factories that would have to be scrapped; that to be fully automatized the investment in capital would need to be so immense because every fraction of a second would count up in the thousands of dollars in the question of production costs.

The whole question of obsolescence of machinery, caused and to be caused by automation is very crucial for this second industrial revolution. The mergers in the auto industry last year are but a slight indication of the strange mergers to come, now that electronics is in a controlling position over all industry. The whole pull is toward centralized control "in the hands of one single capitalist or one single corporation," as Marx put it some 83 years ago. We will return to this subject again.

## NEGRO NEWS

## The Way of The World

By Ethel Dunbar

White America's time has almost come to an end. They have gone so far in politics until they don't know what to do or say. I was sitting down reading the daily papers and I saw where the Communists here feel that their time has come again and they will reopen their offices and have a telephone and all you have to do to join is call in.

### ADDS UP TO NOTHING

Whatever it is the Government will or won't do to the Communist Party, it now approves this "outlaw" party coming out into the open. I was wondering was it because nobody has anything to say in favor of the Democratic Party or Republican Party any more and this would give them something to talk about. Will these parties now accept the vote of the Communist Party if it pulls the Democratic or Republican lever?

Then I began to thinking what will happen next since the American white politician has nothing to offer the American people. When the Democrats were in power they were supposed to have some Communists in the Government and then the Republicans came and had a lot of hearings. Now if the Republicans come into power with the Communist help, the Democrats can have those hearings. It adds up to nothing.

### CREATED EQUAL?

That same paper that wrote about the Communist Party coming out into the open in Detroit had another article about discrimination against the Negro people. Half of the article said discrimination must be cut out in Detroit but you got down to the middle of the article and you found out that the Government didn't mean it at all. At the end of the article every word of the beginning against discrimination was changed to mean the opposite.

They are not fooling the Negro people. The Negro people don't believe all that stuff the white American says about all people being created equal, because they aren't.

I think Ethel Dunbar's column on religion was terrific (Oct. 26). I couldn't help but contrast this with the hypocritical statement of Princess Margaret when she "chose duty." I don't think anything shows the greatness of ordinary people as compared to the official leadership better than Dunbar's column.

New Reader  
Chicago



## Worker Describes Faults in Detroit Interracial Housing

DETROIT — Jeffries Project is a very impressive looking place from the outside, with its spacious grass plots and planted trees decorating the surroundings.

Inside, the apartments are a tremendous improvement over the rotting tenements which a large section of Detroit's workers inhabit. To the casual observer this must be a haven of community progress. It is progress but there are faults. Let's look at them.

### NOT VERY INTERRACIAL

It began as the first interracial project in Detroit after it was ordered to be so by the federal government. This order applied to all Detroit housing projects but it remains unfulfilled. Negroes seem to be the only group moving in. The project now is about 90 per cent Negro and no more interracial than Garfield and John R. There are about 10 per cent whites living on and around Hastings.

Of course, there are more Negroes applying for public housing, but why aren't they flocking into Herman Gardens as they are Jeffries?

This seems to be Mayor Cobo's secret fear that the lily white projects will be overrun with Negroes, so he is playing the game of Dixie... "Give us time!"

### UNPAINTED WALLS

The most familiar complaint among Jeffries' tenants is about the unpainted walls. The project is about three years old and, with the exception of the kitchen and bathroom, walls are completely bare of paint. Most walls are so soiled and scratched that washing does not help at all. Promises and excuses have been offered for months, but still no paint.

### THREAT OF EVICTION

Chief antagonist in the project is the manager, Mr. Wing, a shrewd exile from Herman Gardens. Mr. Wing has the gait of a plantation overseer and his whip is the 30-day eviction notice. Walking on the grass used to be his pet complaint.

This project is swarming with children who, until just recently, had no place to play except on the grass. At any rate, he gave up and somebody decided to widen the sidewalks. It is certain no project of this size could be run without rules. But every petty rule shouldn't be administered with a threat of eviction. Mr. Wing has a tremendous job, but I don't think he measures up to the challenge. His disposition is reportedly of the most egotistical and domineering type when addressing tenants in or out of their apartments (which he can enter at will).

Most of the faults engulfing the projects seem fortified by the City Hall and its appointees. Within the community there have been many enlightening efforts by church groups and volunteer workers from all over the city. Tenant fathers and mothers have sponsored dances, games, crafts and movies. Since the city officials knew the need here, why wasn't recreation and education planned with the project.

### OFFENSIVE RULES

The educational situation is deplorable with half-day session for small children. The schools are overcrowded now and about ten 14-story buildings are waiting to be opened.

The problem of rules will be bigger and harder to enforce. Rules like women washing the hall walls weekly and mopping down the steps are forced upon tenants in order that they may be accepted in a better place to live.

## Is Michigan's New FEP Law Same Old Story?

DETROIT — The Democratic Party leaders in the State of Michigan and many Negro leaders are hailing the recent adoption of the Fair Employment Practices law as another historic step in the forward movement of progress in the State.

After reading all its meaning in the daily paper, one will have to wonder does it mean anything at all to anyone in the future?

### NO POWER TO PUNISH

The new law seems to deal with discrimination in hiring which is one of the fundamental economic problems in regard to Negroes and other minorities getting jobs. But this does not cover everything pertaining to civil rights. The daily papers also state very clearly that employers found guilty of discrimination in hiring may wind up in court where they can be ordered to stop discriminatory practices. But, this FEP law is equipped with no punishment power as such. There, anyone can see the total meaning of the bill.

### TO CATCH VOTES

If there was every a question used as a political football to its fullest extent, it is the question of Fair Employment Practices and civil rights. Everyone knows the State soon will be geared and headed for an election. The

Governor and the Democratic Party want to consolidate the Negro vote and at the same time not to change the policies of the employers or lose any white votes.

On the one hand, they will yell long and loud to Negroes in campaigning: "We have given you FEP!" On the other hand they can whisper to the whites: "You are not hurt by it. We need their votes. But the law can't really force you to abide by it."

### FAIR JOBS FOR SOME

If only on paper, the only thing anyone will accomplish out of it is the appointment of a commission to head the bill. It seems that several people will be appointed with a yearly salary of \$8,500. It seems that they are already complaining that they do not want a rash of complaints. But if they are "valid" complaints they will accept them.

One must wonder if the passage of this bill was to open up some new jobs for some of the Governor's supporters. We will see if there will be any changes in regards to discrimination in hiring and civil rights. As yet, the Negroes in the ranks do not seem to be excited about the passage of the bill. Their long experience with bills pertaining to civil rights has taught them better.

## 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 ninth installment.)

While I was South two lynchings took place in the same year. Joe Bush was a Negro administrator of the Gerson Plantation. The plantation was owned by an insurance company in the city. He was the most well-loved farmer around, that's why he was appointed. He had complete charge of the plantation. He rented the land, sold the timber and collected the money. He dealt directly with the company. Most of the land was low-land, and very rich black soil. It was noted for growing corn. Even those who lived on small plantations with bottom soil would rent some of this fertile land for growing corn.

There was a group of whites six miles from the Gerson Plantation. Two of the men were Al Brooks and Fred Beale. Brooks and Beale went to rent some land from Joe Bush but they wanted him to charge them less than the other renters. He refused and they came back two or three times.

The last time they told him, "We'll get you, nigger. You black son of a bitch."

Some few months later the farmers began to plant. When the crops are being planted the stock is rounded up so it won't destroy the new plants. Many times cows would get mixed with some-

one's stock. The cows always had a brand and the owner was notified to come for his stock. One cow came in with Joe Bush's cattle. It had a G brand. G didn't stand for either Brooks or Beale. Joe Bush sent word around that he had a strange cow. Brooks and Beale sent a Negro to say that it was the Brooks' cow. They didn't go to look at it but sent word they wanted to talk to Joe.

When Joe went to their place they put their guns on him, tied him up and took him to a dairy barn five miles away. They beat him for two hours, taking turns beating. When he was unconscious they took him to a doctor who examined him. Both kidneys were beat clear loose from his back. The doctor cursed them and told them to take Joe out of his office. He said they should go to jail. He said he couldn't do anything for Joe and he was going to die. Brooks and Beale put Joe in a wagon and on the way home he died.

The insurance company made a big fuss. They swore they'd see justice done. A few months later they went through a trial. There were several Negro witnesses but in five or ten minutes Brooks and Beale were "Not guilty." Brooks lived with a Negro woman all his life. I always had a sharp resentment about Negro women going with white men. Every time a lynching happened, I sharpened my hate toward white men and to the Negro women living with them.

(To Be Continued)

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—A Worker

YOUTH

Working For Independence

By Angela Terrano

(In my last column, Robert Ellery described an interracial gang in New York. He told of the first fight they had, with a member of an all-white gang, because they were interracial. Now he describes how the gang grew after that fight.—AT.)

After we got into trouble we began to hang out on one of the traffic islands that divides uptown Broadway in two. We didn't want to hang around the block because other gangs could easily attack us there when we didn't expect it.

We'd sit on the benches and just talk. More guys began to come around, guys we knew from school and guys from other blocks. They weren't used to seeing our black and yellow colors around and they figured we must be starting a new clique. We made a good impression and they hung around.

Winter came and it was too cold to meet in the street. Most of the guys were going to school or playing the hook with school friends. Things didn't get going again until the spring.

THE GANG GROWS

We started hanging around

our little island again. More guys started coming. One small gang of about 12 members broke up and they all started hanging around us. The girls from the old blocks began coming and some of their girl friends from other blocks. By then we had about thirty guys and a dozen girls. The ages ran from about 14 to 18.

At night someone would bring a portable radio and there would be dancing and singing. People would complain about us making noise. The police came and told us to get off the island and "don't bother coming back." We told them we weren't hurting anybody. He shoved one of the guys and we got off. We went back the next day.

UNDER SURVEILLANCE

The cops didn't bother us for a couple of months. We figured it was because we were in the open and they could watch us. They had one plainclothes cop stand around across the avenue from us and watch us from one of four corners. Cops are always easy to spot. In the summer when they're trying to look like anyone else, they

always wear these quarter sleeve shirts with a newspaper folded in their back pocket. Inside the newspaper they keep their service pistol. Every once in a while we would just stand in the middle of Broadway and point at the detective. Everyone walking in the street would look at him. It would drive him crazy.

One Girl in a "Boys" High School Class

LOS ANGELES.—When I moved to Long Beach, the high school I attended had started to have co-educational classes in the print shop and wood shop classes.

When a guy comes into such a class, he is astounded to see a girl running a job off on a press. His first question generally is, what's a girl doing in a print shop? The answer is she's interested in this type of work.

GIRL IN THE SHOP

The first girl I met in print shop at school was a very interesting person to know. She was deaf but could read lips and give you an answer as quickly as anyone else. She could set type faster than anyone in the shop. She could handle a press better than our best pressman in the

Everything Seems Backwards

Sometimes I think this world we live in is very childish. Everything seems to be backwards. What we are told is supposed to be most important to us are material things, not other people.

Where I work we do very small, close work. It's very hard on your eyes and the lighting is bad. Our supervisor got all excited because someone had put in a com-

plaint that there wasn't enough light and asked that we have lamps for the ones who have to do the closest work.

He started to tell us that we had the most light in the whole plant. He said we should feel sorry for the poor girls who worked where the light was worse. He started this song and dance routine because it would look bad for him if there were too many "legitimate complaints" in his department.

During the heat wave out here, when it was 110 degrees, he told us he didn't think it was so hot. He wasn't working and could stay in the air-conditioned office with the other bosses. We found out, too, that the quota of girls who had to pass out in one day, before they would let us go home early, was seven. The quota was more than filled each day because there is a lot of heat in the plant where the ovens are.

I just ask myself if this is what human beings were put on earth for—to be carried out on stretchers from heat prostration that someone sitting in a nice air-conditioned office somewhere can make a little more money off them.

shop. She did paper-cutting, book-binding perforation. On the side, she was both print shop teachers' secretary. I didn't find out until much later that she was married to a printer. She helped everyone she could when they had home work or were in trouble.

STUDENT STRIKE

A few weeks after we got over the shock of seeing a girl in the shop, one of the teachers gave her a failure notice, because she "attracted the boys" and got "their minds off their work." She cussed him out and walked out of the shop. The boys had a sit-down strike. That is, we stood in groups and threw the bull and didn't do any work until she came back. Then we went back to work. —High School Graduate

WOMEN

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

The other day, when I was at the doctor's office, I picked up a copy of the March Women's Home Companion. An article by Arnold Toynbee, on the minority question, interested me very much.

He said there were revolutions taking place among the Negro people, the people of the Far East and many minority groups; but, he said, the women of the world are suffering the most. He spoke of women and their problems today, in terms of a revolution, because they're living in a world of contradiction, particularly the women of the Western world.

THE CONTRADICTIONS

From childhood on they are taught that education is as important for them as for their brothers. After striving to attain it and struggling for years, they are plunged into a decision of being either good mothers and dutiful wives by forfeiting all their training or facing spinsterhood or divorce because they insist on going ahead with the work that they were trained to do. This is the dilemma of the career woman.

The housewife has still another dilemma to face. She finds that although her modern appliances have aided her tremendously, she still cannot find enough hours in the day to be the "good" mother that is required of her by all the

child psychology books and the good and beautiful wife she must be to keep hubby from seeking a Marilyn Monroe to replace her.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

Mr. Toynbee states that the dilemma of the housewife is that the appliances of today have not replaced the need for another human being to work by her side. This is shown by the fact that husbands are being drawn in to help in all the little human things.

I have recently finished reading a book called, Portrait of a Rebel Father, by Nora Connolly O'Brien. The reminiscences are true and revolve around her father, James Connolly, leader of the 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland.

I have an eighteen month old daughter and while reading this book, I kept thinking of her and how much love and respect and genuine happiness will she find in her family life.

Nora Connolly O'Brien grew up in a poverty stricken country. Her father was a rebel and sometimes not a very popular one. There was a unity of purpose in the family, a very large family, which bound them all together. There doesn't seem to have been any domination on the

PENNSYLVANIA. — My husband is making me a prisoner in my own home. I never get out of that house. I'm locked up with my kids all the time. It isn't that I don't love them, but you have to get away once in a while.

The only time I get to go out is to go down-town shopping: Even then, I usually have to take the kids along. We never go out together, my husband and I. Either he'll be too tired, or he'll go out alone. That's what doesn't seem fair. He can just get up and go out somewhere if he wants to, but I can't.

PORTRAIT OF A REBEL FATHER

part of the father or mother or anyone else. Each member of the family developed and responded as he saw fit.

I've read many books about various rebel leaders and in most cases they were portrayed as outcasts in their families, poor providers, no time for the children and the poor wife had to take in washing to keep the family from starvation. Never before have I read about a family who so completely approved of their father and did so much to help him. I've never read about a father for that matter, or even knew a father who shared his ideas so willingly with his wife and kids.

It is implicit in this book that the profound respect James Connolly had for his wife and children could never

HE'S PERFECT, BUT . . .

I don't want people to get me wrong. My husband, otherwise is a very good husband. He loves me, our children, and our home. He is a very good provider. He brings all his money home. He doesn't run around with other women that I know of. I think he is a perfect husband—except for this one thing—that I am a prisoner, in spite of all this.

I think it should be equal. If a man goes out, a woman should too. He works out eight hours a day. I stay

home all the time. He has friends at work. They talk to each other, and get a chance to exchange their ideas. I have nobody to talk to but the kids. I have no one to exchange any ideas with.

He fusses because I holler at the kids. How else could it wind up? When you're locked up with three kids all day long, you're bound to end up hollering. It usually ends up with me hollering at him, too. He says I don't know how to talk anymore. He's right. It's been so long since I've talked with people, I don't know how. I just sit around and holler all day.

NOT TO RUN AROUND

It's not that I want to run around. I just want to feel that if I want to go, I can. If you can't feel that way, you feel like a prisoner.

Some women don't take it. They fight it out. Rather than fight that way, I stay home and take it. I fuss about it, but just fussing doesn't do any good.

My sister keeps telling me that the only thing to do is just go. That's the only thing that would prove I mean business. But that's not so easy to do. You're not sure what would happen and you hate to risk ruining an otherwise good marriage.

But when you reach a point you know that just talking won't help, I guess you just have to do something.

—Housewife

**EAST-WEST RELATIONS**  
(Continued from page 1)

China or to Stalin's politics. For more than 25 years they were part of the peasant unrest which was a genuine mass movement. The peasants refused to return to the old regime. They demanded that the armies Mao had built up against Chiang Kai-shek and against the Japanese invaders now be used for their liberation. That is what gave the Chinese Communists their boldness.

They were supported by the mass movement, it is true, but they didn't depend on it. Their armies carefully by-passed the few industrial centers, like Shanghai, and swept into the vast agricultural regions where the peasants were waiting for them with open arms. It wasn't only the peasants who were with them. Whole layers of intellectuals and liberals flocked to them, thrilled at the prospect of a new order.

**COUNTER-REVOLUTION**

The Communists had a network of administrative bureaucracies which they automatically installed. When they took over the government of China, they took over the State complete with total controls.

On the one hand, the government of Mao Tse-tung broke up the huge estates of the old corrupt landlords and gave small family plots to millions of land-hungry peasants. On the other hand, with great terror and little mechanization, he moved, first and foremost to consolidate his

power and to create a base for himself not among the poorest of the peasants but among the middle peasantry. On the one hand, Mao could open schools and hospitals. On the other hand he coupled these reforms with widespread purges which have given the world a new word — "brainwashing." The brainwashing is not limited to "capitalists" or "landlords" but was directed against all revolutionary opponents to his totalitarian regime.

The Chinese Communists are free from the taint of personal corruption and collaboration with the discredited Western imperialist powers. Under the circumstances, various colonial leaders can look at the Chinese Communists and feel confident that they, too, can take over and, in the name of reform, impose a total control under their own leadership. This is not only irrespective of the hardship and terror against the peasant masses in whose name they move, but it is in direct preparation for World War III.

If there is one thing that Mao knows as well as Russia's Khrushchev, it is that nothing has been decided by World War II or by Korea. The division of the world into two main camps, U. S. and Russia, is pulling to a totalitarian solution.

As against this, the Chinese masses have not yet had their say. Moreover, forced industrialization is creating a Chinese working class whom Mao will not again be able to by-pass as he did in 1947. That, and not Mao's or Khrushchev's will, will be decisive.

**WORLD OUTLOOK**

**PARALYSIS & TYRANNY**

The empty smiles of the summit conference in Geneva, late last summer, became quite frozen shortly thereafter, as was to have been known even before they first appeared (See NEWS & LETTERS, Aug. 19).

No more smiles at the second Geneva conference just dragging to an end. Even the most enthusiastic commentators write gloomily about deadlock and paralysis. They sigh that the Western powers seem to lack a unity of purpose and a boldness of program. They hint that Russia, thanks to its totalitarian control at home can follow its aims vigorously and with determination.

Let us look then, at these four powers who control the fate of the world today and pretend to speak in the name of more than two billion people.

**FRANCE**

The measure of French decay is to be taken in the man who now heads the government, Edgar Faure. How long he will remain prime minister is anybody's guess. French politics is like a roulette game.

Just recently, while the Moroccan revolt against French rule was at its highest and France was ripped by violent strikes at home and by popular demonstrations against cin-scripts being sent to fight in North Africa, one French deputy cynically described the Edgar Faure Government as "the political equivalent of a badly run brothel."

He is a slick operator who has won the reputation of being clever and charming. He uses every public relations trick as a policy of government. He is a marvel of energy when it comes to having little private conferences, dinner dates and luncheon engagements where he makes clever conversation.

Above all, his policy has been to appease the most reactionary elements of France, while at the same time keeping the support of the so-called liberals. To complete the picture, in his latest successful maneuver, to have early elections at the end of this year, he is reported to have the support of the Communists.

The cement binding them all together is fear of a popular movement which will sweep them all into the incinerator of history, for the French workers have no use whatever for the government.

Looking at this decay, the American press very grandly offered advice to the French. The Detroit News openly advised them that they need a dictator, a strong man to lead them back to glory. The New York Times was more dignified, they advised the French to subordinate their differences and pull together in the interests of a rebirth of French power in world affairs.

**GREAT BRITAIN**

Great Britain, whose empire is cracking up under the blows of colonial revolt in Asia and Africa and even in Cyprus, is looking fearfully at the possibility of depression at home.

The Tory Government has nothing to offer except to encourage business and to warn the workers to produce more and to spend less. As one example, the acute housing crisis which has beset England since the war has kept millions of workers in shocking living conditions. This has just been intensified by a Government - encouraged rise in rents which hit the workers a double blow.

The Labor Party, hoping to profit from the troubles of the Tories, is busily studying its own belly-button. Try as it may, it has nothing to offer British workers except more of the same: Government controls, tighten the belts and, above all, no unauthorized strikes.

**RUSSIA**

The Russian crisis, in a way, is very neatly summed up in Molotov's recent experiences. That man has weathered every storm and purge which has torn Russia and he has definitely kept up as the foreign minister.

Yet, on the eve of this recent Geneva conference, where he came to represent Khrushchev and to cool off the earlier smiles, he is made to retract in a public confessional, his statement that Russia is only "on the way" to completing socialism. Instead, he is forced to say that socialism has indeed been completed in Russia.

Since 1927 this same Molotov has been saying socialism was completed in Russia and on the eve of World War II he said that not only was socialism completed but they were going on to the "higher" stage of Communism.

Molotov's retraction is not for the Russian masses who don't believe anything he says.

His retraction is beamed to the satellites behind the

Iron Curtain where the unrest intensifies daily. They see no difference between Russian rule and other imperialist rule except that the present is harsher than the past has been. For these, Molotov is forced to say "We have completed what you have only started," that is, "peoples' democracy."

Khrushchev is afraid of recurrence of what happened in East Germany when Beria's puppet "approved" of the demonstration which developed into the June 17th revolt.

The planners of Russia, who are expert at grandiose plans and pitiable accomplishment and who are even more cynical of the human element than any other ruling class, have suddenly burst forth with such concern for the thought and creativity of the poor worker whose capacity must go into automation. These planners are suddenly full of talk that the engineers will fail unless the creative capacity of the worker is incorporated in their plans.

This accomplishes two things: 1) It blames the engineers in advance for the inevitable failure of Khrushchev's plans. 2) It is a sop to some of the union stewards in England and elsewhere who see the breakdown of automatic machines in the United States but see no such breakdown in Russia where they see no machines at all, only blueprints.

**UNITED STATES**

We have been repeatedly assured that Dulles has Eisenhower's full confidence in his Geneva policies. a loss to explain the deadlock, however, it is hinted that the international paralysis is caused by the President's heart attack.

It isn't the President's heart attack. It is the resistance of the American workers and the fact that there is no totalitarian regime to control them.

So obvious is the resistance of the workers and their refusal to accept the enthusiastic statistics of present prosperity and the bright future under capitalism that Republican spokesmen have been shouting warnings to who will listen. They have repeatedly said, in recent weeks, that the Democratic-minded trade union leadership is out to political power and to transform our "traditional way of life."

This they say of the labor bureaucracy, with whose help industry cannot maintain production of the worker in plant against his union leadership, no less than against management proof of this.

**An Appeal to Our Readers**

Dear Reader,

News & Letters, which has been appearing but a short time, tries to be a very modest paper. It is not out to formulate a program for reshaping the world. It tries, in its own way, to be the medium through which Workers, Women, Negroes and Youth are best able to express their thoughts, air their grievances, tell how they think the world can be made a better place in which to live.

We do our utmost to listen to what other people have to say and not to tell other people what to do. That, if nothing else, distinguishes us from all other papers.

But News & Letters is a small paper. Its articles, letters, cartoons, its finances and its circulation are all carried on by working people, with no thought other than how they can help the paper.

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