

## WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

### Are Our Union Leaders Hypocrites?

The separation of the union leaders from the production workers in the plants is wider today than the planets from the earth. They act and talk to the workers with hostility and hate as though we are vicious beasts.

Rank and file workers see how close the stewards and committeemen are to the foremen and superintendent. They see the division union and management have tried to make between individual workers, groups of workers, workers in different sections and departments and workers in different plants.

#### CHRYSLER WILDCAT

During the last wildcat at a Chrysler plant, the union representative said that workers at another plant were mad as hell with us because we were forcing the company to send them home too. Before he could finish telling this, one of the head superintendents walked up and shook his hand and said that if he could keep the men on the job, they could go out together and play golf!

The wildcat lasted for several days. The hate and temper of the workers grew sharper, mainly against the union officials. The union finally called a meeting. More workers attended than at any meeting in the past six years. Ninety per cent of them in full support of the striking department.

#### RIGGED MEETING

The president spoke for two hours through boos and name-calling by the workers. Long speeches are customary in union meetings today in order to bore and tire workers out. And in order that no rank and file workers will report the truth to the membership about a given situation in his department.

After the president finished, two other international reps spoke for an hour. Then a chief steward jumped up and called a motion to adjourn.

Many strange faces were on the platform with the union leaders. Tape recorders were going, something they never used before in a general membership meeting. Some workers felt these strangers were agents, there to finger the workers who talk and brand them as "Communist." Photographers were walking up and down the aisles, snapping workers' pictures. The union was absolutely opposed to this in the early days. It was a crime for anyone to think of wanting a worker's statement recorded. Certainly never think of getting it from his union meeting, no, not out of his organization!

#### UNION'S DOUBLE-TALK

Emil Mazey, UAW Secretary, said the union had received reports that workers in our plants are throwing up to them how hard Ford and GM workers have to work. He said that when those workers want to do something about their working conditions, the International will help them.

The GM workers were the first to do something about their conditions in the beginning of the organization of the UAW. They laid the basis for this UAW. Today, Mazey is saying these workers are to blame for speed-up and bad working conditions.

Several years ago, the Ford workers were striking over speed-up. Mazey went into the plant to investigate. A worker said that Mazey reported the company argument that no worker had died from overwork. And the speed-up continued.

Several months ago, a Ford foreman pushed a worker into a moving line because the foreman felt the worker was not moving fast enough. When the worker asked for a committeeman, the foreman yelled: "I will get you a hundred of them."

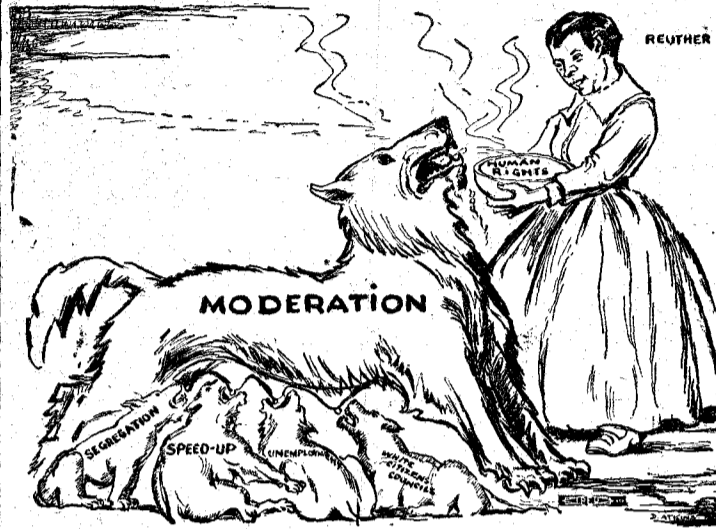
The following day, workers in that department went home in support of the worker who was hurt. The president finally got them back. These workers were doing something about conditions. Neither Mazey nor the International gave them help.

The company gave some 200 men a two-week lay-off for supporting that worker, and another 150 a week off. The only thing we could hear from the union leaders was that they were asking management to "reprimand" the foreman.

## Campaign's Off to a 'Sickening' Start

By ETHEL DUNBAR

I watched and listened with interest to the conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. Somehow my attention and feeling were drawn closer to the Democrats because they say it is the party that represents the interests of the low, middle class and working people. Nothing seems so far from the truth according to what I saw on TV.



The big majority of the speakers talked about foreign affairs, what people of other countries thought of America, their distrust of the United States, etc. Practically every country in this world was mentioned but Africa. I did not hear a speaker mention it, neither Democratic nor Republican.

#### CIVIL RIGHTS

It seemed to me that everyone at the conventions had a sense of feeling that one of the big issues would be the question of civil rights.

When Truman nominated Harriman it seemed to throw the convention in a turmoil. Many Negroes felt this was done because Harriman would take a better stand on civil rights than Stevenson—or a little more liberal.

As the convention proceeded, the agenda was followed down the line—until it came to civil rights. That night, they would not start the discussion. Everything was substituted: music; all kinds of off-the-wall speeches not pertaining to civil rights; caucuses.

#### "THE AMERICAN WAY"

Many people may ask why, but the majority of the Negroes know that was the "American way of life" when it comes to Negro rights.

With all the speeches before, about our democracy and freedom for every individual, when it came time to put it in practice they all clamped up like a snail.

One had to ask if this is the party that has the interest of workers and Negroes at heart. Very, very seldom did they mention the name of the factory worker or the lower working class people.

#### THIEF IN THE NIGHT

On civil rights: At one o'clock in the morning, after ten million Southern Negroes had gone to bed and asleep, the Democratic party crept into their homes and stole what little rights they had already gained in the last several years. And, as customary, they used a Negro Congressman Dawson from Illinois, to lead the way for them.

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#### THANKS TO FRIENDS & READERS

### News & Letters Is Back

News & Letters is back after four months' absence. When we found we didn't have the money to publish we invited all our readers and friends to a conference.

Those who came, came at their own expense, from as far as California. Many were on strike, had just been on strike, or felt the squeeze of lay-offs.

There were no delegates who claimed to "represent" others. Everyone present was free to take the floor. Everyone present took the floor and spoke freely.

The bond uniting the conference is the greatest idea of our age: that the working people, grappling with the deepest problems of their lives, are the only force which can bring into existence their own great vision of a new society where they control their own lives.

After the main report on this idea, the discussion revealed how much took place during this paper's absence, which wasn't reported anywhere.

A coal miner told of the wildcat strike which shut the West Virginia coal fields in opposition to John L. Lewis' bureaucracy and the oppressive weight of the coal operators. Though it is weeks old, the full story appears on page 2 for the first time anywhere.

A Detroit auto worker told of wildcats against

the stranglehold of Reuther's machine as against the brutal speed-up by the giant auto corporation.

A Pittsburgh steelworker told of the men in his mill who would have walked out even if the union had not called the official recent strike.

As part of this total search for a fundamentally new way of life, the practical conclusion of our conference was that this workers' paper, News & Letters, shall appear at least every two weeks.

Edited by a worker, the articles in News & Letters will be written by growing numbers of people all over the country. They are their own best reporters because in their daily lives they make the news.

News & Letters committees were formed by people with the most different backgrounds: some are workers all their lives who have just clarified their feelings in opposition to management and union bureaucrats; others have years of experience in the American radical movement; still others are young people, growing up since World War II.

We do not think it will be easy, but we think we can maintain the paper on the sound foundation being built. We are confident that many who could not be present will do all they can to assure the continued existence of this workers' paper.

# COAL AND ITS PEOPLE MINERS STRIKE FOR LIFE

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — During the early months of the year, State mine inspectors inspected Consol's Williams mine. An inspector watched one man work on a pin machine by himself. He pinned five places. The mine inspector could see no violation in safety procedure. On the basis of this report, Consol began to institute a policy of having one man work on a pin machine by himself.

## FIRST STRIKE

On Thursday, April 26, the Williams miners struck against having one man on a machine. Owings mine, another of Consol's, was pulled out. Joint action by these men closed all of Consol's mines in Northern West Virginia. Some 4,000 men went out because their lives were at stake.

There is not one man who works in the mines who doesn't know that the difference between having one or two men is the difference between life and death.

There is not a miner who does not know of situations where a buddy on a machine has saved lives and limbs of men who would have lost either if they had been alone.

The difference of minutes, even seconds, in a roof fall or a machine going haywire, can make the difference between life and death. The men were striking for their lives.

The UMW District officials declared the strike a wildcat and unauthorized. The strike lasted for three days. The union and company "negotiated." They proposed to the men that a team of state inspectors would inspect the Williams and Owings mines during the first week the men went back. They said they would accept the decision of the state inspectors.

The men said they would accept the decision — but only if it was for two men on a machine.

## THE BIG STALL

The state inspectors made their inspections the following week. One week passed. No word from the inspectors. Two weeks — still nothing. After three weeks, it was learned that the state inspectors were not going to make the decisions. They turned the whole matter back to the company and union for negotiation.

Finally, on May 23, a month after the first strike, an agreement had been made.

Who made the agreement? Judy—a big wheel of Consol; Higginbottom—a little smaller wheel; Urbaniak—UMW District 31 president; Pnakovich—District 31 vice-president; Fer-

guson—International UMW safety director. These men do not involve themselves in local disputes. Their agreement was to include the entire district. It was not reached according to the grievance procedure as outlined in the contract.

They agreed that—under certain conditions the company could have one man operate a machine by himself; if the conditions were bad, they would have two men.

The joker is that the company would make the decision. The men knew what the company's position would be. They had seen the company cut the men down to the bone; now they were cutting into the bone itself.

The men figured that the big stall was to wait until they were about to start to work on their vacation pay. By springing the news of the agreement then, both the company and union hoped to head off a strike. If the men went on strike, they would lose money on their vacation pay.

## STRIKE IS ON

On Thursday, May 24, the Consol miners started their walkout. By midnight, all of them were down. On Sunday, May 27, a mass meeting was held. District officials were there in force. But the District and International were blasted completely.

The union of the men represented life; the union of the officials and the company represented death. The men refused to talk about "procedure" or "contract" where life was at stake. They made their own decision. Every mining operation in Northern West Virginia was to be closed.

On Monday, May 28, Consol pickets roamed Northern West Virginia. Every big operation was closed down. Now almost 8,000 miners were out. Consol announced it would buy up coal to meet its contract obligations. The men answered by stopping everything that could produce or haul coal.

## INTERNATIONAL STEPS IN

After the third day of the strike, Lewis sent telegrams to the Consol mine locals. He ordered the men to return to work. He said that the agreement had been signed and would be honored. He said that to refuse to work would be a violation of the Joint Wage Agreement signed in 1951.

The telegram was either ignored, or read and placed on file. The men stayed out.

With the strike a week old, some 10,000 miners out and the number increasing daily, three International representatives

were sent in to knock the strike out. At a mass meeting they called they got the same treatment that was given the District officials who had tried earlier to get the men to go back to work.

The men's lives were more important than a hundred agreements. The union had misrepresented them. They had made their position absolutely clear the month before, but the official union had seen fit to ignore their wishes. They could depend on no one but themselves. By their actions they were showing the kind of representation they wanted.

## A VICTORY FOR MEN

The strike lasted 16 days. By that time, some 12,000 men were out and the strike was still spreading. Pennsylvania miners were waiting for the pickets to hit them. They were ready to join in the battle.

The company finally backed up. Higginbottom stated that the agreement pertained only to the Williams mine and to no other. Many men wanted to continue the strike, but the men of the Williams mine finally agreed to go back.

The miners had withstood the might of the company and of the official union. It was almost a complete victory for the men.

## LEWIS LASHED BACK

The strike did not end on this note, however. A six-man committee from the Williams mine went to petition Lewis in Washington, D. C. It was very hard for some miners to believe that Lewis could betray them. Lewis told them that the agreement was made and for them to go home and back to work. He ended it in a grand style. He fined the Williams local \$600 and other Consol locals \$300, for striking.

## The Men Were Right

CASSVILLE, W. Va. — We had been to work just one day after the strike was over when it happened. We knew it was bound to happen. We were changing clothes to go to work when a man who lives in Fairmont came in with the news that the Grantown miners were going out on strike. A man had been operating a pin machine by himself. He was caught in a roof fall. He was killed. The men were bitter.

"The District and International bucked us all the way when we were out to stop just this sort of thing."

"Anybody who works on a machine had better get his insurance policies paid up. You can expect anything now."

## DISTRICT 50 BEATS DOWN STRIKERS AS FAUCET COMPANY USES VIOLENCE

SABRATON, W. Va. — There was a lot that happened in that Ruby faucet factory strike that a lot of people don't know about. One thing that's for sure is that the people who know about it from what they read in the papers around here got the company's side, which is nothing but a bunch of lies.

The strike wasn't just over one thing; it was over a lot of things. A part of it goes back to the last contract that was signed. We got a couple of cents raise and a no-strike clause in the contract. It was a cheap price to pay. If you can't strike you can't fight.

There were plenty of men who were against it, but were just beaten down by the union, John L. Lewis' District 50. Those District 50 representatives came out with a lot of stuff about Ruby closing the plant down if the workers didn't accept the contract the way it stood.

It wasn't a contract for us; it was a contract for the company. A lot of people know that now. A lot of the things that the workers warned about has come home to a lot of us now. Especially about the no-strike clause.

Just before we came out, the guys in the buffing room were hit with a new type of faucet that had more operations added to it. Some guys worked their heads off but still couldn't make piece-rate. Guys who were making \$20 a day—buffers and color buffers—were down to about half what they were making before and they couldn't do a thing about it.

The people at the plant work under miserable conditions, especially in the

buffing room. The fine brass, from polishing and buffing the rough faucets, fills the air and enters the pores of the body. This often causes a worker to break out in terrible rashes that sometimes cover his whole body. It is hot in summer and cold in winter and you're green from the brass the whole year round.

## WATER SETS OFF STRIKE

Then the water went bad. The company had put into use some old wells they had on their property. It got so bad that workers were rushing to the bathrooms ten or 12 times a day. A lot of them were throwing up.

The company said that through an error too much chlorine had gotten into it over one week-end. There was sulfur in it too, not only chlorine. The company said it would look into the matter.

The next day the water was the same and the buffing room workers led a strike that closed the Sabraton plant. When this was closed, pickets went to Arthurdale, where Ruby has another plant, and closed that down too.

## DISTRICT 50 STEPS IN

The district officers were immediately called and they declared the strike unauthorized and illegal. At first, the local union officers were with the workers, but the district started to put pressure on them, saying that they could be fined, thrown in jail, or have their wages attached for the rest of their lives.

Of the officers, only the treasurer remained with the men in their fight. He was among those discharged by the company before it was all over.

The strike lasted for four or five days, during which four meetings were called to try to get the workers back. They were finally worn down by the district and at their fourth meeting voted to return to work.

## FIRING & COMPANY VIOLENCE

The strike took place just before the faucet workers were to start their vacation. On reporting back for work, men and women were fired for participating in the strike. The reaction to this was another strike. Then the company showed its true colors.

Pickets hit the Sabraton plant early in the morning and the company was waiting for them. They had a fire hose that they trained on the pickets, men and women alike. The force

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## In The Steel Mill After The Strike

PITTSBURGH. — Some commentators said that the steelworkers were so happy to get back after the strike. They ought to work in that steel mill for a week and see if they'd be happy to get back.

The steelworkers, from what I could see, felt 50-50 about it. Some wanted to come back and some didn't. I didn't hear anybody in our gang or department crying about being off. They enjoyed that 36 days off.

The only ones who were crying were the bosses. They still are. We got our raise; they didn't get theirs. And they worked, eight hours a day or more, during the strike. They were worked hard, too.

Most of the steelworkers had a lot of work around the house. A lot of them wanted to take trips. They took the strike as their vacation. When they came back and found that the company wouldn't let them work through their real vacation period, they just took their vacations, too. They said they lived through 36 days off, it wouldn't hurt them any to have a little more time off.

### PRESSURE IS OFF

"One thing sure. We're doing less work since we came back than before the strike. There's no push on us at all now.

I've been trying to figure that one out. I know that they've put on a lot more bosses. I don't know whether that's because they're trying to whip it into shape, or what. All I

### Steel Porkchoppers

LOS ANGELES—To be eligible for union office in the United Steelworkers of America a worker must attend at least half of the union meetings in the two-year period between elections.

At one of the Los Angeles plants of the Continental Can Corp., only 30 workers are eligible for union positions out of a working force of about 600. Therefore just about each of these 30 people are going to have some kind of union post regardless of the elections to be held soon.

One worker there said that this system prevents the feelings of the rank-and-file from being known. If there is dissatisfaction with a committeeman, the workers have to plan for two years or more before they can try to get rid of him. Practically all a committeeman has to do to keep his position is, attend union meetings.

know is that the pressure is off us for a while.

At quitting time, at starting time, what you do when you get on the job, there's no tension at all. Before we went on strike, somebody was there to greet you all the time, to see how many men the foremen had, see what he was planning on doing and keep checking up. Now you hardly see the man at all.

There are rumors about laying off a lot of men. I don't see any reasons why they should, but that's one rumor.

Then it could be because the foremen are dissatisfied about not getting their raise. They've taken some regular salary men and given them white buttons and put them over some of the foremen who've been there ten years. There could be some confusion

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### New GM Strike In Los Angeles

We have just received a special story on the current General Motors strike in Los Angeles. It arrived too late to print in this issue. It will be in the next issue.

For background on this strike, see "Unrest in Auto," page 4.

## "Negroes Out-Think Us 2 to 1," White Southerners Admit

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Everybody here is laughing at all the stupid things the whites are doing to try to put fear and pressure upon the Negroes to submerge to what the whites call their "way of life".

One of these stupid things is the recent \$100,000 fine levied against the NAACP by the Alabama court for refusing to turn over its membership lists.

They operate two bus lines to the two army bases, but only on Sundays. Then, on week-days, several buses go through the all-white section in the morning; they stop running until late afternoon and run again for an hour.

In Birmingham, Ala., the bus company has bent over backwards trying to be courteous, hoping that this courtesy will make Birmingham Negroes content with segregation.

Some week ago a committee of Negroes went to the officials of the city with a petition asking that segregation be abolished on the Birmingham buses and if this was not done by a given time, they would refuse to ride them any longer.

## Striking Cab Driver Blasts Union & Co.

LOS ANGELES — It is impossible for a cab driver to make a living wage. The guarantee of \$8.25 daily that we now get is based on a weekly average. I can make \$10 one day and if I make only \$5 the next day they divide the two days' total, so that it is no real guarantee at all.

What the men are after striking for now is a guarantee of \$12.50 per day. Even the \$10.25 the company is offering is still on a weekly basis and there will be small chance of making anything above the minimum.

The men are angry and although they never go to union meetings most of them showed up to vote for the strike.

It is almost like a company union. The meetings are a joke. There are always a few oldtimers there and, if you are a new fellow, they declare you out of order. They filibuster the meetings to all hours of the night and even pass around beer to get you a little high. Then when you leave they pass what they want to. That's how the contract was signed two years ago. All we got then was an extra pair of pants every two years and the company claimed that they paid the rise in medical insurance.

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## Way of the World

By Ethel Dunbar

Time is a word that means so much to everyone and can do so much for you, too. That is, if it does not take so long to come so that we colored people can live in peace.

But I think the time would have come for the colored people to live a better life if there wasn't so much bad in the best of the white people and so much good in the worst of the white.

### CIVIL RIGHT-TIME

We colored people have to take time out to try to let all of the white people know that we are trying to get our civil right-time which is due to us for some time.

The struggle for our civil right-time has meant that the NAACP is called a "Communist" group by the judges in the South—and in the White House, too. They are wrong.

The NAACP is an organization that the Negro people have organized for years to see if we can bring our time out from under so much pressure. That is why white judges and lawyers in the South are trying to call an organization as old as the NAACP Communist.

I can see today, that if the people of the U.S.A. organized something new now, it could easily be called "Communist" because "Communist" is a new

word that just came out a few years ago. And now I think it will stand for a while, until the people of the U.S.A. let the government know that the Democratic and the Republican are just as much "Communist" as any other party.

Why pick on the Negro people when we are only fighting for our freedom? The truth is that when we come so close to winning our freedom, the people of the White House start getting together and making plans how to stop us by calling us "Communist" which does not mean a thing to me.

To me it only means something if you say something good about trying to get from under the prejudice white people are trying to keep the Negro under.

### FREE TIME TO REST

The time was Sunday morning when I heard a reverend preacher. His sermon was about the interest in the poor working white people and the poor Negroes who have nowhere to live but in the South, and the time has come for the man to do something about it.

We will still go on fighting our battle to see if there is any free time left for the Negro people to have a little time to rest.

## The Working Day

By Angela Terrano

### Poor People Can't Afford to Get Sick

"Poor people can't afford to get sick." You hear working people say that all the time. You could have both the husband and wife working with good pay, but along comes a serious illness and it can near break you in a couple of weeks.

### COSTLY DELAY

I was telling a friend at work about a member of my family who recently got pneumonia. At first the doctor didn't think it was real serious and told him when he feels better he could go to a hospital as an out patient and get a free X-ray. After a week of not getting much better, we're told, "You should have an X-ray taken at a lab right away." That way, the doctor could get a report the same day. The report of the free X-ray would take seven days. If anything is wrong it can get much worse in seven days, so it is better to pay for it and get good service. That, plus expensive anti-biotic pills, doctor fees and a number of other things, added up to 50 bucks in one week.

It is not a matter of griping about \$50 spent. Some people spend much more than that. But be-

tween the slowness that they take care of human beings at clinics and the fact you don't get your insurance money 'til you are practically back at work, you could swear that they are waiting to see if you are going to pass away before they do anything.

### IN THE PLANT

My husband was feeling real bad one day. He had 102 fever but because of factory discipline he went to work. When he finally went to see the nurse she asked him what was he going to do if she let him go. He got real mad and said that he'd probably go bumbling around 'til three or four in the morning. She said he was being sarcastic and gave him a pass to go home. His fever then was near 103.

But when someone like Eisenhower gets sick, he has 10 or 12 doctors by his side constantly and I bet he doesn't have to pay for it either. I know some people will say, "Well, he has an important job." But who will say that a member in a family isn't just as important to that family?

### Free Day

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The boycott here is even more effective than in Montgomery because the fares collected on Negro routes paid for the entire city's bus system. Not a single Negro is riding so they had to shut down completely.

About a month ago, the beginning of August, the company decided to try again. They hired Negro drivers, offered free morning coffee, newspapers, even orange juice. To get you in, they announced that the first day of resumed service was "Free Day".

Everybody rode on "Free Day". The next day, when fares were back, everybody walked. They're still walking.

—A Walker

EDITORIALS

EDITOR'S CONFERENCE SPEECH

I remember a song that we used to sing back on the farm down South:

You never miss your woman 'til she says goodbye;

You never miss the water 'til your well runs dry.

That was the situation I was in, especially during the wildcat in my shop. The paper wasn't there for the auto workers to say what they were doing and why. The necessity was greater than it ever was before. It was something that was really clamping me.

I don't think there's a greater necessity than now for NEWS & LETTERS in the face of this powder keg the whole world is sitting on, and the way the real news is kept from the working people and from the American people as a whole.

That's the reason News & Letters has filled such a need for me. It not only published news of happenings, but it published it in the form written by the deepest layers of the people involved in those happenings.

During these last few months, auto workers in different plants and departments have been on some of the sharpest wildcats I have ever experienced.

At the same time wildcatting coal miners shut down all the coal fields in West Virginia.

And at the same time, the Negroes in this country, and especially in the South, were keeping up their pressure for full human rights.

All this was happening and there was no place for the rank-and-file people to write down what they were doing, feeling and thinking, for everyone to see and understand.

That is why there are so many articles in this issue about the actions people were taking during the summer and there will be more in the next issue.

This isn't old news. It's part of a complete change that is taking place and building up. A complete change in the attitude and reaction of workers with regard to the labor bureaucracy.

Their whole feeling is so sharp and so strong that I'm absolutely positive workers won't even open their mouth in front of the labor leaders in the shop today. That's how sharp is their distrust of the way the labor leaders have been acting against workers' rights.

Some may say that this isn't news; that they can only believe what they see and this isn't anything they can see.

I remember listening to an argument in the shop one day and one man brought up this old saying, "Well I have to see it to believe anything."

Another worker said, "That's not true. You believe many things you don't see."

He said, "You can't tell me you've ever seen the wind but I know you believe it's a wind. If a tornado warning was sounded you wouldn't stand and say, 'I'm going to wait and see', you'd clear out, but you haven't even seen the wind."

He said, "It's the same thing when you think about electricity. You don't see it, nor a reflection of it. You see the results of it—like the results of the wind—what it has done after it has passed through."

He said, "I will unscrew that bulb and have you look in the empty socket. You won't put your finger up in the empty socket because you believe it will shock the hell out of you. Yet you tell me you only believe what you see."

People have a mind, thoughts, feeling and sense of understanding that forces them to believe without seeing.

As I have been listening to what people have been saying in regard to strikes and struggles, I am sure they are happy News & Letter is back.

I am sure we are publishing a paper that hundreds of thousands will want to read, to get a feeling of the workers' actions and the intellectuals who are aligning themselves with the struggles being carried on. I have no doubt of it. I see it, I live it and I'm there.

—Charles Denby

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Charles Denby ..... Editor  
Saul Blackman ..... Managing Editor

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

Readers'

MINERS' WILDCAT

The day the pickets from Consol came down to shut down Kelley Creek, those men almost fell off the machines to get out of there. One guy even left the machine running and just walked out.

Kelley Creek Miner, Morgantown, W. Va.

There were some who went into work before the other men set up picket lines. One of them was a man who doesn't have any bills or big payments or young family or anything. The men who have payments to meet or families to support were the ones who wouldn't think of "scabbing."

It seems to me that it shouldn't even require picket lines. When a miner knows that other miners are striking, they all ought to all go out without even waiting to be asked. Everybody ought to just go out—and not in just one area either, but all over. That's the way you get it settled fast.

Miner's Wife West Virnignia

Money is so tight down here that one miner said it was the first time in 20 years he broke down and bought some food at the company store against his next pay. It's been a principle with him not to buy a penny's worth at the company store, but they were down to no food and a few bucks hard cash and nobody to borrow from since they're all in the same boat.

White Collar Worker West Virginia

We sure got washed out down here by the floods at the beginning of August. It was even on Dave Garroway's program. We made the news for the flood, even if we didn't for the wildcat. I guess it's safer to broadcast news like that.

Student Morgantown, W. Va.

UNREST IN AUTO

We held a strike vote at the General Motors plant in South Gate. 1942 votes were cast for strike and there were 62 votes against.

The union is combining all the grievances into one nut shell. There are speed-up and relief problems and they're all going to be

together. They'll have to be settled at one time because we on the Executive Board realize that if something isn't done, this will be the last time we will ever get support from the rank and file.

Local Union Official Los Angeles

At Chrysler we took a strike vote. 95 per cent voted for a strike. The union always gives the strike vote in percentages, not in actual numbers, presumably to keep management from knowing how many didn't vote at all. But management knows anyhow so all that the union is doing is keeping these figures hidden from the workers.

They say that when the new line is organized and set up one man is going to be doing three men's work.

Chrysler Worker Los Angeles, Calif.

We were informed by the International Union (UAW) that if any workers walk out on a wildcat, as far as the union is concerned there is no protection for them.

If the whole plant, the whole membership, walks out and the officers don't know anything about it, we're not responsible. They hold the officers directly responsible otherwise.

The wild cat strike of last year was pulled off nice. The officers remained in the clear and there was nothing management could do about it. In this strike management just said that if the union would get the men back in the plant no one would be penalized. But if you take ten or 15 men and the others decide not to go out, those ten or 15 are the goats.

Local Union Official Los Angeles

The union officials always get authorization for a strike through a strike vote. It doesn't always make them act differently, though. In the last contract negotiations they got about a 100 per cent vote for a strike and then they went in and signed what the men had rejected the week before. Anyway, that's the way they've been acting in the building

trades for some time.

Construction Worker Los Angeles

They're spending a million bucks in my plant to get rid of ten highly paid workers. Why don't they take this million dollars and pay these ten guys a decent living wage for the next twenty years?

They're putting in all-automatic plating tanks for the bumper line. They're going to get rid of at least thirty guys on that operation.

Production Worker U.S. Spring & Bumper Los Angeles

At the General Motors plant in South Gate, the 3300 men who were laid off were called back according to seniority. Out of the 3300 only 800 came back. The others rejected it. Of the 800 I think the reason most came back was to get their vacation pay. About 400 of these 800 quit after they got their vacation checks. You know that if it was a good place to work the whole 3300 would have come back. But they know the working conditions there and didn't.

G. M. Production Worker, Los Angeles

THIS WHITE WORLD

You remember that at the beginning of the boycott somebody tried to bomb Rev. Abernathy's house but the bomb didn't go off. Everybody down here knows the rumor and is talking about it:

The police commissioner's brother was the man who planted the bomb and when it didn't go off he took it back to see what was wrong with it. While he was carrying it in his car it went off and killed him.

Then the widow wanted to sue the city because she said her husband was killed on city business since he did this job on official instructions from her brother-in-law the police commissioner. The mayor got mad and tried to hush the whole thing up but she is still trying to sue.

It was hushed up to the extent that it never was reported in the papers, but everybody knows about it.

"Boycotter" Montgomery, Ala.

# Views

First, let me tell you that I am a white woman. I know how the Negro people are being treated and it's a shame. Of course, not all the whites treat them dirty. For example, take the real true Christians, color doesn't matter with them for God says we are all equal. . . . If you find one Jehovah's Witness that is against them, I'll eat what I have said and if you don't believe me I wish you would look into it and have a talk with some of them.

This letter is to tell you that if we all followed God in the same way, there would be no fighting against the white and colored. And I don't think the white isn't going to get their punishment at the end of this system of things. They will be wiped off the face of the earth and it isn't too long off either.

Housewife of a Factory Worker, Detroit

It's not the big shots the colored people need to help them. They don't even help us ordinary white people. They don't give us a chance either. We have to fight for everything we get, whether we're white or colored. It's the ordinary white people, not the big shots, that could help if they got behind the colored people.

Miner's Wife Morgantown, W. Va.

## TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

A white worker told me if we put a Republican in the White House we'll have four years of starvation and depression. I'm going to have to starve then.

I'm 50 years old. If the Republicans give me my civil rights and at the end of the platform say there might be a four-year depression, I'll vote Republican and try to live through four years of depression. I've had to live through 50 years as a second class citizen.

Negro Auto Worker Detroit

I think I'll be forced to vote Democrat because it's depression and civil rights that's involved. That's why I'm cramped because those no-good b—ds are Democrats. But I'm scared of the Republicans. Packard sold out because they were pressured by that Republican Wilson who wants General Motors to

dominate in Detroit. Negro Chrysler Worker, Detroit

I heard the South is the stronghold of the Democrats, but no, these guys up here are, like Reuther and Williams. The South is only firm in what they believe but these guys are the power and that's all they believe in.

GM Worker Detroit

One man in my shop, who's been a Reuther supporter for many years came up to me and said, "I had come to the point of resenting you because I couldn't believe these people were as bad as you said. I had the firm conviction they would really try to do something."

"But after the convention I know Reuther's no good, Williams is no good, Diggs is no good, and that Dawson—Negroes should do something about him. I may not vote at all or I may cast a blank ballot, but I won't vote for any of these guys again."

Auto Body Worker Detroit

One of the International reps came down because he heard that some workers in the trim shop are going to sign for their PAC assessment to go to a charitable organization instead. The International rep asked a whole group of guys if they were going to sign too and they said "Hell yes. It's not a question of giving to the Republicans but I sure don't want to give it to the PAC for the Democrats."

Chrysler Worker Detroit

Some white workers who have been firm for the Democratic party, and still are, are caught in the middle. They hate to hear Negroes say that they're done with the Democrats but they can't face them on civil rights. They try to excuse it by saying, "You know, Stevenson doesn't shoot his mouth off. He's so quiet he may be the man who'll do the big things."

Negro Chrysler Worker, Detroit

The bus strikes in Alabama put Eisenhower on the spot. They applied to him for help but he's playing neutral and won't say a word. You can't

keep still forever. Ex-Miner West Virginia

## VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Both parties moved to the right, the Democrats and the Republicans. Nobody's voting for president this year, everybody's voting for vice president.

Intellectual New Jersey

Kefauver's the only man who didn't sign the Southern manifesto against integration. He has integrity and the new people of the South are with him. I supported him all the way, even when he was campaigning for presidential nominee.

ADA New York

I don't know exactly whom Kefauver represents, but there's definitely a mass base somewhere, maybe the new South who do want Negroes and whites working side by side.

Social Researcher New York

Kefauver's a radical. Too radical for me. Nixon's the good man. He exposed Hiss and the Communists and good Americans should vote for him.

Christian Endeavor Pennsylvania

## FAN MAIL

I think real progress has been made with News & Letters. Personally, when I read the paper I feel that I have been a part of the events. I am impressed with the force of the struggle that exists day by day and with the fact that new forms develop right in the midst of spreading controls.

Scientist New York

I have read your paper with interest. I like (1) the critical viewpoint which tackles the sacred cows of liberalism, unionism and party socialism as well as those of reaction; and (2) the free expression offered the reader in the columns. This makes for a writing style which is vital and real, and I have found some very fine interpretations of current things.

Clergyman Chicago

## Notes from a Diary

# TWO WORLDS

## A SECOND LOOK AT KHRUSCHEV

It is time to stop repeating truisms about Russia. Of course nothing essential has changed since the death of Stalin. The only thing that distinguishes that regime of state capitalism—which calls itself Communism—from private capitalism—which the Reuther labor bureaucracy like to call "people's capitalism"—is that side by side with exploitation in the factory there are the forced labor camps.

Of course Nikita Khrushchev, the First Secretary of the Russian Communist Party, who dramatically discarded the Stalin myth, continues to bear astonishing resemblance to Stalin.

The point is: why did he blow up the Stalin myth; and why does he rule Stalin's totalitarian party, not in Stalin's name, but by deflating him? THE INTERNAL REASONS

It is easy to see why he did so for external reasons. It is not easy to see what were the internal reasons which compelled the change. It certainly wasn't any illusion that he could pass his tyranny off, as Marxian freedom, to people who live under his totalitarianism.

At the time of Stalin's death I wrote that no tyrant had left his fighting heirs a more pathetic last testament than did Stalin with his "Economic Problems of Socialism."

## STILL "IN THE NAME OF STALIN"

This is where Khrushchev came in. He never wanted to be saddled with this last testament of Stalin. He thought he could cinemascope that vision, precisely in his special field—agriculture, by moving away from the total concentration on kolkhozy. Instead he looked to plowing up virgin territories in Siberia and creating agrogorods (agricultural cities), not by the peasants but by turning city youth into farmers. At least he sent them by the thousands into that wilderness hoping that this ideal of agricultural cities would arouse their dynamism and dedication as of old.

Purposeless suffering they would not take. But, if Khrushchev could, "in the name of Marxism-Leninism," create that vision, then the ossified party that Stalin left might yet be recharged and made ready for world conquest. The point was to get undisputed control of the Party leadership in order to embark on this social scheme.

## MOVING IN FOR THE KILL

During Malenkov's brief reign of power, the attempt was made to recharge the "atmosphere"—that is to say, overcome the crisis undermining the regime—by embarking on expanded production of consumer goods. That failed. Then Khrushchev moved in for the kill.

Just at Stalin, once he crushed all opposition, came out as theoretician "in the name of Marxism-Leninism," so Khrushchev, now that he had Malenkov demoted, moved in his own name. Where, before, he was scuttling some of Stalin's last policies "in the name of Stalin," he now decided to move head on against the status quo in agriculture which was in the greatest crisis.

He refurbished his 1950 scheme. Only now he sent 150,000 youth into the Siberian wastelands. In Russia the youth are in State Labor Reserves and must go wherever they are ordered.

Khrushchev then came out openly against Stalin, the tyrant, who had ossified the Party leadership and made them incapable of moving forward. With him he had the army, which had long suffered from Stalin's military strategy. He had no further need of Stalin's ghost to recharge his bureaucratic colleagues. The last service that Stalin could do was to be the scapegoat—provide a reasonable explanation for the sufferings of the Russian people and for the bureaucratic regime's unpreparedness to meet the Nazi attack. Khrushchev now could move for the final revision of party history.

Where it took Stalin more than ten years to consolidate his power, Khrushchev could do it in two short years because no class issues were involved. The counter-revolution, which transformed the early workers' state into the greatest tyranny on earth, had already been accomplished by Stalin.

The more total the perversion of Marxism, the more compelling the need to do it "in the name of Marxism-Leninism." That ideology of liberation, however, means something totally different to the Russian people. Under its banner, they overthrew the corrupt autocratic Tsarist regime. They will do as thorough a job on the present totalitarian rulers.

—R. D.

## YOUTH

### Thinking It Out

By Robert Ellery

A friend recently suggested, after reading *News & Letters*, that the Youth page wouldn't have much appeal for the more sophisticated college student, since so much material found on it deals with a younger age group.

Another younger friend of *News & Letters* said that he would write for the page and solicit articles from acquaintances, but he wasn't sure what would constitute articles. Student strikes don't happen every day.

#### YOUTH SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

These reactions prompt me to make some observations about this part of the paper that's devoted to youth.

These columns provide an opportunity for youth to say what interests them; what they think about the world in which they live; and what they are doing. Society is full of people who want to do things to or for youth. Both are dangerous.

No one can speak for the new generation. They must speak and do for themselves.

Contemporary history

certainly illustrates that youth are a powerful force in society. If they aren't won by working class forces, they turn to the demagogic promises of the totalitarians.

#### WRITTEN BY MANY

It would be possible to get a few intellectual youth to write everything, making massive generalizations, and so forth. Some papers do this and the writers represent few but themselves.

I think we must stay as far away from this as possible. The section is, and must be written by as many youth as possible so that all who read and write for the paper may really come to know American youth.

All youth activity is legitimate material for this section. Here is a place for trading ideas and experiences. It informs the older people who look in on the page, just how serious the younger generation is.

If those who feel the necessity to analyze and generalize regard the section seriously, it will help them to keep their feet on the ground.

### Teenage Mother Blasts School Prudes

I have a friend, Phylis, from St. Paul, Minn., who said the high school kids are just bored and fed up.

She is 16 and the mother of two children. She got married when she was still in high school and had to keep it a secret. She wanted to finish her education, but one day the grade adviser called her to the office. She was bawled out because she wasn't doing so well.

Phylis came back at her with, "I've got news for you. I'm married and have a six-month-old baby at home. That's more important to me than the stupid things you're trying to teach me."

The grade adviser was horrified and acted like Phylis had committed some sin. She told her that the school couldn't allow it and she'd have to leave.

#### SCHOOL IGNORES PROBLEM

She told me, "Some of the girls were pregnant. The school couldn't help knowing about it but they never said a word. They acted like what they didn't know, didn't hurt them. As soon as they were forced to make a policy on something like me being married and wanting to learn at the same time, they acted like it was a crime."

"What's wrong with kids getting married if they want to and still want to go to school? Are we supposed to wait until someone tells us we're old enough before we are human beings?"

#### NO RESPECT FOR TEACHERS

"No one had respect for the teachers. We used to tell them off all the time. I don't think they even knew what they were supposed to do."

On the relations between boys and girls, she said that was a joke. They kept shutting their eyes to a lot of things going on but you should have heard the racket if a girl came to school in slacks.

"They had nothing to offer us, but just let someone break one of their crazy rules in an open way, and they kicked you out."

#### Prejudice Lake

DETROIT—It all started last week when I was walking my dog. One of the kids on the block yelled out my name. He sounded pretty excited about something.

I turned around and he told me that he had just got his membership card to go swimming at Crystal Lake. I asked him where it was located and we got into a conversation about it. He told me that you can't go swimming there unless you are a member and Negroes can't get in regardless.

That ended our conversation and I told him off but good, and said that Crystal Lake should be called Prejudice Lake.

I told all my friends that he is prejudiced. My friend and my brother pushed him around a little. Now hardly anybody talks to him and he is always getting beat up.

### TEENAGER DEMANDS RESPECT

LOS ANGELES—People just don't consider kids humans. Even when they're young themselves. I know this even from the way I'm apt to treat younger kids.

Even kids my age, teenagers, just don't seem to think they have to be civil or nice to young children. They don't seem to think children have any feelings,

and they don't give them half the credit for the sense and the intelligence they have.

Kids have twice as much intelligence as we give them credit for. People just think they're stupid but they're not. People treat me like that, too, like I haven't got any brains in the world.

### District 50 Beats Strikers

(Continued from Page 2)

of the water knocked the window out of a car, threw pickets around with a great force.

There was a whole army of company men there. It looked like there were about 100 of them. Four or five company men would hold one picket while another company man worked him over. One picket was worked over with an iron pipe while four men held him.

The pickets naturally defended themselves. While they got their knocks, they gave more than they got. Those white collar boys of the company walked around for a week showing their marks from that little affair.

In trying to get pickets' cars out of the way, the company damaged four of them. A trailer truck was used to try to move one car. The truck driver didn't hook his rope on to the bumper, but on the grill, and ripped out a part of the front grill.

District and local officers got about 100 women together and found a gate with a couple of pickets on it. They told the women to go through the line. Most of them did, but some didn't.

Some women were fired, not for being on the picket line, but for refusing to cross one.

#### THE STRIKERS' STORY

The reports given by the company to the local press, was nothing but a bunch of lies. First they said that only eight workers were fired who were responsible for the strike and the picketing.

Four workers went to the press and gave their own story. They said that more than eight were fired, that they were being made the scape-goats, and that all of the 1500 workers were involved in the picketing. The walkout was a rank-and-file movement, not an official local union action, and the firings were unfair labor practices against their contract.

The company then changed the figure to "about 20" being fired. Actually, the figure is closer to 50 who were fired.

The company said that it had the hose out to water down the dust in the parking lot. Since when does the company use an army of white collar workers, at 6 o'clock in the morning, while it is actually raining and had been raining several days in a row, to water down the dust in the parking lot?

#### STRIKE OVER—END NOT YET

This strike was over in a couple of days. But there is plenty coming out of it. The company swore out warrants for assault and battery and felonious assault against some pickets. The union lawyers wouldn't help them at all. The pickets got their own lawyer to collect damages done to their cars. The company lawyer said the company would drop its charges if the men would drop theirs. The men refused and this is still to be worked out.

Now the company is trying to intimidate the workers. They are trying to keep them in line by saying that they can fire any of them any time in the future—even 10 years from now—and use the excuse of this picket line to get away with it.

How can any workers say they have any union if the company can get away with something like that?

If there was anything found out in this strike, it was that the District 50 officials did more against the men than the company could ever do. I know this much: when I look for another job, and I find that District 50 is the union there, I'm going some place else. I've had enough of them.

—Fired Worker

#### In the Steel Mill

(Continued from Page 3)

about that. A boss who's been there ten years doesn't like to see a guy who's just a salary man put over him.

#### NEW CONTRACT NOT MUCH

As far as the contract goes, the men aren't happy about the idea that they won't be able to take a vacation next year. You kind of look forward to a vacation every year. Out one way or the other, but not now that we have a three-year contract.

And as far as the benefits of the contract, we haven't received a copy yet. All we know is hearsay. The papers have had a lot of conflicting stories about what we did get.

We went back to work thinking we were making 10½c more an hour. One of the guys took it on himself to go up to the time-office and find out for sure. He found out we were only getting 7½c. Some of the jobs will get 10½c, but not ours.

When we first went out, we thought McDonald was fighting for an "across the board"—whatever raise we

got would be equalized for everybody. The way it's worked out is like it always has been—the more you make, the higher the raise.

#### NO VACATION?

The premium pay for Sundays didn't start until this month and turned out to be just 10 per cent more. It comes to about \$2.00 more for working Sundays. Nothing extra for Saturdays. One more paid holiday, Good Friday. Next year we get half-a-week more vacation. After five years you now get two-and-a-half weeks vacation—but they've already told us that they'll pay us for it, rather than have us take it off.

They're going to have a little trouble there because a lot of the guys are going to want their time and are going to demand it. The company says it's going to be too much clerical work to figure out half-a-week's pay, but the guys say they'll take it off and make them figure it out anyway.

When you work in the steel mills, a little time off is worth a lot more to you than a little more pay.

—Steelworker

## Wife Wants Freedom - Not "Free Time"

PITTSBURGH — They talk about the labor-saving machinery women have in the home today. But a lot of women can't see where life is any easier for them, even with all that "automation."

Some women are working out to help get the new things for their home. One of my neighbors works all week and then spends all her week-ends catching up with the housework. When she has a vacation she spends every minute of it washing walls and doing the big house-cleaning jobs she can't keep up while she's working. She really never gets a vacation.

But even women like me, who don't work out, find ourselves often working harder with the new machines than we did before. I have a new automatic washing machine. You put the clothes in and don't have to touch them until the cycle is finished.

### LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY

You just can't sit there and wait. You run upstairs between each load to do something else. I used to make about seven trips up and down the stairs. Now, with the new machine I run up and down 25 or 30 times before my washing is over. Part of that is because I have a "soap-saver." It saves the soap but it's sure not saving me. My husband tells me to let the soap go down the drain, but we just can't afford to waste that much money. No matter what they say, I'm still washing all day long.

It seems to be the same with all machines. Automatic dish washers — you still aren't free of the work — you still have to be there to put them in and take them out and scrub some of the utensils. I have a mangle-ironer, but I still iron all day long. If they ever invent something that will iron shirts for you and put all the clothes away, I'll have it made.

### FREEDOM, NOT "FREE TIME"

The thing you really want is freedom — free time from the housework. The automatic machinery hasn't given us that. That's why I'd rather work all day away from home like my husband, than work around the house. In the house, machinery or no machinery, you never seem to be through. When my husband gets through his work, he's through. I'm just starting.

It isn't just having some "free time." The important thing is what you can do with your free time. Freedom from the housework

for me would mean time to go swimming or go on a picnic with the family. Years ago we used to go on picnics all the time. Now we can't seem to find the time even to go sit in the park together once in awhile.

You want free time to spend with your family, not just "free time." It never seems to work out any more because when I'm free my husband isn't and when he's free I'm not. Sometimes when we're both "free," either he's too tired or I'm too tired to enjoy it.

If people could finally find the way to get free, I think a lot of the troubles we have would be ended.

—Steelworker's Wife



"No. Dear. I don't think you should get a job. The doctor said you shouldn't do anything strenuous."

## "Are You White?"

DETROIT. — "Are you white?" a little girl asked, pointing her finger right at me. I said yes and asked why?

She said, "I thought you were colored," and added, "some people take me for white."

This all happened as I was walking into the home of a friend of mine. My friend told me that this little girl, who couldn't be more than six or seven, wouldn't believe her little girl when she introduced a fair cousin to her.

She said, "She's not your cousin she's white."

I thought about this for days, trying to figure what was going through this child's mind and heart as she sat there puzzling to figure out what is the difference between one person who is white and another who is colored.

What a crazy world it is when a child finds herself troubled by such a thing as the color of a person's skin.

## A Woman's Viewpoint

WEST VIRGINIA — I work to help with the budget. All I earn goes on bills and what's left goes for store foods.

I like looking after children and sick people, since I've been trained in nursing. But as there isn't much around here to choose from, I take what work I can get, as long as it's a job.

I think a reasonable pay for a woman is from \$40 to \$50 a week. Less is an insult to anyone who works hard for a living. But I have worked for far less, because I needed the money, no matter how little it seemed.

At the moment I earn \$18 a week. That's for four and a half days, baby-sitting. My wages pay one bill and a little goes on our food bill. It doesn't go far though—the cost of living is so high, regardless of how the pay scales are here.

I think the pay for women here is too low because it is a small town, with few jobs for women. So many people need to work to help the family, that some will work for almost nothing and that spoils it for everyone.

I've worked at so many jobs that paid \$25 a week

for six or even seven days' work, that when I applied for a job at a shoe-store and was asked what I would consider for a salary, I said that I thought most wages here were not even worth working for.

### A "GOOD" SALARY

The man asked me what I thought a good salary would be. I told him closer to \$52 than \$25.

He said they paid well over \$25 a week, but he didn't say what that was. He just told me that he had two more girls to interview and he "would call me."

He didn't call and I know why. He probably got one of those two girls to work for him for \$25, which suited him closer than \$52.

In some cases women do as much work as men, but men often do work harder than women, and I think they should get paid more for it.

Some women earn even more than their husbands. But I think that is bad, as it makes a man feel as if his wife is supporting him.

He feels the same as a woman does when she doesn't work and has to ask her husband for every penny she needs.

## A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

Recently for the first time in my life, I became ill enough so that for a period I was forced to look at the world while lying on my back. This was a difficult experience for me.

The immediate physical and painful effects of the illness wore off quickly. It felt good to be completely taken care of and every want anticipated. I felt warm toward those about me, and grateful to the doctor. Soon however, I found myself very much depressed. I tried to shake off this feeling, knowing it would influence my recovery, but it was not an easy thing to do.

### UNCERTAINTY

In trying to understand the reason for the low spirits, I saw that I was inwardly tense because of my uncertainty of the future. At first, I took comfort from a little song I kept hearing over the radio, "What Will Be Will Be." But somehow this failed to satisfy me for long.

When the doctor next visited me, I found myself quite critical of his technique and methods. I was sharply aware of the medical profession's shortcomings and its present lack of understanding of the fundamental nature of human health and disease.

### OUT OF ACTION

I began to see that what troubled me was being out of "action" and out of "real life". There was a fear like that of being left behind in a race, and also a sense of guilt and abnormality in being thus situated.

Of course I was concerned about meeting the continuing expense of my home and office, but I knew that I was more fortunate than some other people. What was running through my mind however, was not so much concern with adequate sickness insurance, as something else. The life I had been leading was not satisfying.

The fear of being left behind, actually reflects the concrete facts of today's life. Like others, I am in competition to sell my ability to work. Looking on from the sidelines, temporarily free from pressure, this activity to use up labor time can be seen for what it truly is—self-destruction.

### THE MOST SERIOUS DISEASE

What is more harmful to human life than to separate it into two parts, one for working and one for living? And to receive little joy from the first, and have a fear of not being able to keep going, poisoning the other?

The monstrosity of living only when away from work, instead of in and through the kind of activity which in itself can make work and living a oneness, a wholeness and a unity, is the most serious disease of our life and times.

Begins Next Issue—"The Dangers of Radiation," by MD

### Jitters

I scared my neighbors half to death the other day by an innocent remark. Some rats had found their way into the garage and were chewing into the walls, and I had declared war on them and bought some sure-fire rat poison.

When I came home with it, I told my neighbor who was reading her newspaper on the porch, "Well, the war is on." She dropped her paper and said "When?!" in such alarm that I had to hurry to explain which war I meant.

A little later, when the other neighbors were "rallying around" to help me place the poison out, I asked the man upstairs if he wanted to join the army. He said, "No!" so quickly that I had to hurry to explain to him, too, that I meant the army against the rats, and we both laughed in relief.

Talk about "brink of war" jitters! Everybody's got them around here.

—Typist, West Virginia

### Striking Cab Driver

(Continued from Page 3)

The Yellow Cab Co. works it like a syndicate. Not only on the franchise it holds in the city of L.A. but on the men, too. Just before a contract, it gets a couple of the older drivers, for whatever they give them under the table, who circulate among the men always talking and saying, "We have it good here in L.A. You should see what they do in New York or another city."

They have L.A. sewed up so no other company can get in. You remember a few years ago when some GIs organized to get a franchise for the Veterans Taxi Co.? The Yellow Cab prevented it.

I never saw such a cheap company. There is no bonus or anything. I have been with them for six years and all I got was a ball point pencil for my birthday. The pencil advertised the Yellow Cab Co. This year they extended themselves and we got a notebook with a pocket for a comb, nailfile and ballpoint.

—Yellow Cab Driver

### Campaign's Off to "Sickening" Start

(Continued from Page 1)

I sat up until 12 o'clock at night waiting and hoping to hear the platform read and discussed. After hearing Sparkman from Alabama state how firmly they were against any civil rights, I felt they would bring it up. This same man was a candidate for vice president in 1952 with Stevenson and this same Democratic party was telling Negroes to vote for that vice president.

After hearing from Johnson from Texas say Negroes should not be paid on equal basis with whites for the same work, I turned off my TV and did not want to hear any more. It was enough.

#### "BORING & SICKENING"

I did not want to see or hear the Republicans after that, but I listened and looked for one or two nights. It was the same. Boring and sickening, they talked about the freedom of 17 million Negroes, but their platform seemed to have been made up long before the convention.

In fact, I saw a debate on TV several months ago, between Hall, the chairman of the Democratic party, and Butler, the chairman of the Republican party. They disagreed sharply and

angrily on every question that was asked. When the question of civil rights was asked, the Democratic chairman, Hall, spoke first. When the question was referred to Butler, the Republican chairman, he said: I will agree with what the Democrats say on it. That is why I did not listen with interest to the Republican.

#### ALL THE SAME

When it comes to Negro complete rights, the Republicans, the Democrats, the liberals, the radicals, the middle-of-the roader, some Negro politicians, all agree together.

In the end, they are all for, or going with, the reactionary white South on the question of the American Negroes.



### FORD WORKERS READ NEWS & LETTERS

DETROIT. — News & Letters made its appearance and impression on the tractor job, here at the Ford Highland Park plant. I don't know how many papers were circulated, but they were still floating around the next day.

This is no new policy at Highland Park. Every possible kind of literature has been distributed at the Manchester gate: Communist, King Brooks (men's clothing), Car Dealers, Insurance Companies and what have you, have stuffed workers' hands with bargains and new deals.

Usually, these pamphlets and leaflets are swept away in bundles inside or outside of the plant — unread! Truthfully and, to be unbiased, they weren't all bad, and

I try to read all non-commercial literature.

In the past, workers have seemed afraid and skeptical of all. Now, either they've changed or News & Letters has a special appeal. Personally, I think the small letter of introduction was warm diplomacy, plus the fact that it spelled out the truth of present-day journalism.

At any rate, men whom I would never have considered as a possible subscriber to News & Letters were showing the paper to me in praise.

The paper was being read openly in full view of foremen. I was really shocked. It will be interesting to see how many will subscribe.

—Ford Worker

## Our Life and Times

By PETER MALLORY

### FRANCE

The French struggle in Algeria to deny the Algerian people their independence is becoming increasingly unpopular in France. Over 400,000 French troops are now engaged in Algeria.

Recently French troops being sent to Algeria were met at the railroad station in Marseilles, seemingly by prior arrangement, by a large crowd of friends. The friends and the soldiers became so hopelessly intermingled that they got lost, and remain lost to this day in the big, friendly city of Marseilles.

### ALGERIA

Though France has committed some 400,000 heavily armed troops to all-out war in Algeria, and has clamped a blackout on all news of operations, the high military leaders have to admit that the Algerians are winning.

The Algerians are teaching the generals a new lesson in military theory: modern armament is ineffective against a civilian population overwhelmingly determined to free itself of foreign rule.

The near-fascist Marshal Juin—until recently a loud advocate of all-out war in Algeria—is now urging political negotiation.

The so-called Socialist premier, Mollet, is itching to march against Suez in a desperate attempt to curb the sharp hatred the French workers express against his Algerian policy.

### SPAIN

A new paper, named RUTA, has recently come out of the Spanish underground.

News & Letters knows nothing of this paper beyond the fact of its circulation in Spain in defiance of Franco's fascist regime.

These paragraphs have been translated from the first issue, dated March 1956:

"The inescapable needs of the future Spain are summed up in the class

struggle that has broken out anew in the underground. The masses are preparing to hurl themselves into the streets again . . .

"The politico-social aspects to be taken of the historical development of our people will depend on the clarity, theoretical solidity and ideological firmness that, in these coming days, is developed among the toiling masses. Tomorrow's outbreak — now within arm's reach — must be fruitful. . .

In spite of the impotent prophets of doom, Spain has absorbed the experience of the revolution of 1936 and has gone beyond it in a vital sense. . . ."

### POZNAN

The events at Poznan will stand for all time among the historic struggles of the working class. The bare facts speak eloquently. Starting as a demonstration for bread and freedom, the workers of the Zispo Factory were fired upon by Russian occupation troops. They dipped their banners of protest in the blood of a murdered 16-year-old boy. Under this red flag they proceeded, with revolutionary force to attack the seat of the Communist Government.

Like their brothers in Germany on June 17, these Polish workers defied the tanks and machine guns of their oppressors. The reactions of the police and some of the soldiers reminds one of the actions of the Tsar's troops on the eve of the Russian Revolution. They gave over their arms to the workers and wished them luck in their undertaking.

Many hundreds of workers lost their lives. The government they fought still lives. But it lives today in fear, fear that others will break out at any moment, that next time it will spread from city to city. It is indeed only one of the manifestations against Russian totalitarianism that is spreading throughout Eastern Europe.

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