

AMERICANS IN PARIS, OR TWO NOT-SO-INNOCENTS ABROAD

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THE MILITANT

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Ford Empire Shut Down by Strike Against Speedup

DETROIT, May 10 — By this time the whole world knows that 62,000 workers employed at the Ford River Rouge plant and 3,200 workers at the Lincoln plant are out on strike

have been meeting with the Ford Company over the speedup of the final assembly lines in the "B" Building. But despite numerous agreements on paper, the speedup went on unabated.

Greek Government Murders Another Jehovah's Witness

Another member of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Greece, 22-year-old George Orphanides, has been executed after a military court martial by the U. S.-controlled Greek monarchist government. His "crime" was refusing military service as a religious conscientious objector.

Before Orphanides was committed to trial, Awake reports, military authorities beat him daily until he bled in an attempt to force him to renounce his religious views. He was finally brought to trial before the Corinth Extraordinary Court Martial at Nauplia on Feb. 12 and was sentenced to death.

Tsoukaris and Orphanides were murdered by the Greek government, which is financed and armed by Washington, at the time the American capitalist press was filled with propaganda about the Mindszenty case in Hungary.

Atlantic Pact Aimed Against Socialism, Dobbs Tells Senate

Kutcher Group Will Carry Case Into Federal Court

NEW YORK — Declaring that the denial by the top Loyalty Review Board of James Kutcher's appeal "is an alarm signal for every American concerned with civil liberties," the National Committee of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee at its meeting May 4 voted to take the legless veteran's case into the Federal District Court.

PUBLIC WORKERS RIGHTS

The statement adopted by the national non-partisan group defending Kutcher said: "The discharge of this legless veteran solely because of his political beliefs raises issues of constitutional rights which go beyond the discrimination against Kutcher and his party, important as these are."

"Two decisive questions are at stake in this case. First, have public workers the same rights as other Americans, including the right to their own political opinions, as guaranteed by the Constitution — or can they be demoted to second-class citizens?"

Second, do representatives of the party in office have the right to proscribe other parties and organizations by decree and penalize their members? Or shall the principle of free political activity be preserved so that the American people can enjoy full and free expression for their political ideas and affiliations?"

"CLEAR JUDGMENT" SOUGHT Through its court action the committee hopes to obtain a "clear and conclusive judgment" on these basic questions.

"Above all, our Committee intends to carry Kutcher's case to the people of this country," the statement concluded. "An alert and aroused public opinion can be decisive in halting these restrictions upon our civil liberties. Organizations representing millions of Americans have already rallied behind our efforts on Kutcher's behalf. We call upon every supporter of democracy and fair play to join our campaign to win justice for the legless veteran."

PETITION FOR SIGNATURES

The National Committee meeting also approved a drive to secure the signatures of 500 American educators to a petition asking justice for James Kutcher. The statement sponsored by Nobel Prize-winner Dr. Harold C. Urey and signed by 105 faculty members of the University of Chicago, forms the text of this petition which will be presented to the Washington authorities.



NEWS ITEM: Truman says he's hopeful of getting Taft-Hartley Act repealed, reminds his term still has nearly four years to run.

SWP Spokesman Demands Repudiation of War Alliance

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5—For the first time in the history of Congress, a Senate body heard the genuine Marxian socialist answer to imperialist war

when Farrell Dobbs, National Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, testified against the North Atlantic Pact before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today.

"Although the Atlantic Pact is represented as an instrument to preserve peace, its real aim is to preserve oligive capitalism," the SWP's 1948 presidential candidate told the hearing.

"While propaganda in support of the pact is directed only against Stalinism, the pact itself is directed against the movement for socialism. This is demonstrated by the record of post-war diplomacy and by the presence of fascist totalitarians in the present alliance."



FARRELL DOBBS

Dobbs off short and rudely interrupted his answers to the few questions they asked. This was in marked contrast to the treatment accorded others who testified, including Henry Wallace.

SWP'S DEMANDS

Dobbs concluded by demanding repudiation of the pact, publication of all details of the secret negotiations, withdrawal of all troops from foreign soil, repeal of the peacetime draft law, cancellation of the military budget and of grants to foreign imperialists, a halt to the witch-hunt, and a referendum vote of the people to decide whether there shall be war or peace.

This was the first time a Trotskyist spokesman has ever been permitted to testify before a federal legislative hearing.

Full text of Dobbs' statement against Atlantic Pact is printed on Page 2.

Opponents of Purge Win New Strength in NMU

By R. Bell

Opposition to the yellow-dog amendments to the CIO National Maritime Union constitution has mounted since the National Council of the union first made public its proposal to purge all so-called "subversives" and compel all members to "affirm in writing" that they are not members of the Communist Party or any other so-called subversive group.

Sparking the opposition were 21 officials in the Port of New York who circulated a statement condemning the repressive character of the proposed amendments and calling on the membership to vote "No" in the 30-day referendum now in progress. Following their lead, all the union patrolmen and the dispatcher in the Port of Baltimore published a statement in opposition to the yellow-dog amendments.

Membership meetings in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, the largest ports on the east coast, condemned the National Council amendments by huge majorities. From the largest ships sailing off the east coast has come a stream of resolutions blasting the proposal to subvert the non-discrimination clause in the NMU constitution.

The union's Lakes Area Director, a member of the National Council who originally supported the proposed amendments, last week published a statement reversing his position. All these developments reflect the tremendous pressure of the ranks who are thoroughly aroused at the attempt to establish a totalitarian

regime in the union under the pretext of combatting alleged "subversives."

The reaction of the sponsors of the yellow dog amendments is typical. From the southern ports have come reports that the members voting there are being intimidated and terrorized into supporting the amendments. The officials in the southern ports, where the yellow-dog amendments originated, have become known in the union as the Dixiecrats.

These officials have jammed through a stock resolution in their ports demanding that those who openly called for a "No" vote on the amendments be expelled from the union as "undercover agents of the Communist Party."

This move, exposing most clearly the utterly reactionary character of the amendments, roused a storm of indignation and protest from the membership in the large northern ports. The membership meeting in Baltimore, by a vote of 247 to 2, "condemned all of these Dixiecrats who with their threats of charges and expulsions are attempting to run this measure down the throats of the members."

After learning of the Dixiecrat threat against the opposition officials, a special meeting in the Port of New York took up a collection to circulate to the ships a resolution condemning the National Council proposals.

The opposition is led by members of the Rank & File Caucus which ousted the Stalinists from office last year. In this fight the Stalinists have been shunted to

one side where they play the role of "kibitzers" with no influence over the opposition movement.

Typical, for example, of the attitude of the opposition is the resolution adopted at the last Baltimore meeting, which asserts: "The membership has already defeated the Communist Party dictators and will not tolerate any new dictators."

David Drummond, New York Port Agent, has warned that "there are reports from the Gulf that some officials have been voting members without giving them a stamp in their book, and instructing them to vote in other ports, so they will have two votes." Because of such rumors the balloting in the 30-day referendum now in progress is being closely watched.

It is generally conceded that the yellow-dog amendments will be decisively defeated if there is no tampering with the ballots.

A Senate Hearing at Work

By Farrell Dobbs

WASHINGTON, May 5—Perhaps you're interested to know what it's like to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in opposition to the North Atlantic Military Pact, as I have just done. Here's the story from the time I entered the Senate Office Building at 10 A.M. today.

As I mounted the marble staircase to the second floor, I saw a large group of people queued up outside the door to the Senate caucus room where the committee is hearing testimony on the pact. At the door stood a uniformed guard, a gun slung from his belt and a blackjack protruding ominously from his hip pocket. What a fitting symbol, I thought, of the foreign policy of American monopoly capitalism.

IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM

My telegram of invitation from the committee got me past the gun and blackjack without delay. That is, the first gun and blackjack, there were others inside. The large caucus room, with its marble walls, scroll work and ornate chandeliers, struck me as gaudy, something like the inner lobby of a first-run theater, where you pay four-bits extra for the decorations.

Technicians swarmed all over the room, setting up their cameras and lighting for newsreel shots and hooking up their radio broadcasting equipment. I finally found Mr. C. C. O'Day, the committee clerk, in the midst of this

scramble, and he showed me every courtesy, for which I was especially grateful, since this was my first experience before a Congressional committee and I didn't know the ropes.

When the technicians were ready for the day's work, about 200 spectators were let in to fill the seats at the rear of the room. Next some 75 reporters and press photographers drifted in to take their places at four long rows of tables.

A few minutes before 10:30, the scheduled starting time, Senator Connally of Texas, the committee chairman, walked in. He was soon followed by Vandenberg of Michigan, McMahon of Connecticut, Hickenlooper of Iowa, Fulbright of Arkansas, Wiley of Wisconsin and an uninvited, unwanted non-member of the committee who has forced his way into the hearings, Senator Donnell of Missouri, an isolationist.

The committee's tables were laid out in a T-format on with long wings and a short stem. The Senators took seats along the wings, facing the reporters and spectators. The witness chair stood at the base of the T facing the Senators, with most of the press and all of the spectators behind it. At the right of the witness chair sat the committee reporter, pecking away at his little machine, taking down the record of the proceedings.

On the wall immediately behind the committee hung a large map of the world with the 12 member nations of the pact

marked out in black. That too, I thought, is a proper symbol for the reactionary governments gathered together in this holy alliance against the human race.

WALLACE'S TESTIMONY

Promptly at 10:30 Henry Wallace walked in with a substantial entourage. Looking much older than he did last fall, Wallace shook hands with Connally and Vandenberg and seated himself in the witness chair. Connally rapped the gavel, the Klieg lights went on, the newsreel cameras began to grind, the radio an-

(Continued on page 2)

Next Week:

Farrell Dobbs will continue his on-the-scene reports of the Stalinist trial in New York, analyzing the government's case to date.

There was an explosion in the coal mine, and then the section boss told the miners to get back to work under dangerous conditions. Read how they reacted.

Also, J. Meyer will review Ray Sprigle's new book, From the Land of Jim Crow, and our Detroit correspondent will explain the latest Ford strike news.

Send to The Militant for extra copies. Only 3c. each in bundles of five or more.

Answer Congress With 24-Hour Stoppage

By Art Preis

Even if Truman and his Congressional colleagues pull a rabbit out of the hat, that is, finally push through a labor bill of their own sponsorship, the best labor can hope to get by dependence on the Trumanites will be a re-hashed version of the Taft-Hartley Act under a different label.

The maximum the Truman Democrats are now prepared to fight for is a measure along the lines of the Sims Bill, which the House defeated. So close to the Taft-Hartley Act in spirit and content was the Sims Bill, with its provision for injunctions in "national emergency" strikes, that even the pro-Trumanite labor leaders, who were ready for almost any kind of "compromise," were forced to repudiate it publicly.

But that did not prevent them from passing the word around privately to any Congressmen

they could button-hole to vote for the Sims Bill. They thus sought to "make the record" against the Sims Bill while secretly plugging for its passage.

TRUMAN IS PATIENT

If their slyster game had worked, they would now be hailing the adoption of the Sims Bill as a "big victory" for labor and would be claiming that it represented fulfillment of Truman's key election promise. Instead, the Trumanites are now claiming as a "big victory" only that something worse than Taft-Hartley is not on the books — that is, that the Wood bill, which they called "even worse" than the existing law, was recommitted in the House.

Truman, in his last press conference, talked blithely about winning repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act — if it takes the rest of his term. But he evaded the question of the Sims Bill, refusing to

commit himself on it publicly. However, his Congressional cohorts drafted it and pushed it, although they are now talking even further concessions to the avowed labor-haters.

In the next weeks, the Senate will be taking up the issue of Taft-Hartley repeal. This will give the labor movement another chance to fight for the kind of bill it wants. However, if the top union leaders are permitted to continue their present policies, labor is sure to end up tied and gagged by the Taft-Hartley Act or a virtual replica of it under a different name.

The only time these union leaders have shown any "militancy" has been in their frenzied opposition to any form of effective independent mass labor action. On the eve of the adoption of the Taft-Hartley Act in June 1947, the Murrays and Greens frantically opposed a labor march on Washington initiated by a number

of local unions. They denounced even talk of a nation-wide general protest strike. Their "reasonableness" at that time did not prevent passage of the Slave Labor Law.

THE NET RESULT

In the struggle for Taft-Hartley repeal, they have continued all caution and timidity, offering every sort of "reasonable" concession and loudly disclaiming any suggestion of the mobilization of labor's ranks for a real battle. The net result of this policy has been to embolden the union-haters and assure continuation of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The mood of the organized workers, however, is in sharp contrast to that of the top bureaucrats. The union ranks are giving substantial evidence of their growing readiness for militant action. A new series of strikes has begun against leading corporations, Ford, Singer Sewing Machine, Philco and others. Every

where the workers are becoming fed up with the speed-up and company provocations that have been in large measure the result of the Taft-Hartley atmosphere and the retreat of the union officialdom.

This retreat has now reached its dead end, so far as the Taft-Hartley Act is concerned. The distance separating "compromises" like the Sims Bill from the Taft-Hartley Act is so small that not even the "labor statesmen" can find a space between in which they can still squeeze. They have no place to hide.

The only recourse left labor, outside of abject unconditional surrender, is to turn and fight with all its united power. The union ranks must force the leadership to mobilize real action — a 24-hour national work stoppage. That's the kind of language — and the only kind — the Big Business Congress understands.





# Socialized Medicine

By Grace Carlson

In the famous Oath of Hippocrates, which is administered to all graduating medical students, occur these solemn promises:

"I will follow that method of treatment which according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous."

As one observes the wild attacks of the American Medical Association bureaucrats upon all proposals for the betterment of the people's health through national health insurance, one is forced to the sad conclusion that many high-placed American doctors have violated their Hippocratic Oath. Most outstanding violator of the Oath to "abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous" is the vociferous editor of the Journal of the AMA, Dr. Morris Fishbein.

With the issuance of the Truman Health Plan, or the National Health Insurance and Public Health Program as it is named officially, Dr. Fishbein has pulled out all of the stops to attack what he twists around to call "socialized medicine." Almost weekly, editorial attacks are made in the Journal of the AMA upon the National Health Insurance Program now being debated in Congress. Here Fishbein follows the same pattern set in his past vitriolic attacks upon the Wagner Bill, the Wagner - Murray - Dingell Bill and every other proposal to introduce a much-needed system of voluntary health insurance in the United States.

Here are a few choice quotations from the reactionary editor of the AMA Journal:

"The Congress, if it should adopt any considerable number of the recommendations made would move the nation away from its present status as a republic or a true democracy into a condition which resembles what is called in Europe a socialistic democracy."

And Fishbein, once again —

"At the same time that many of our political leaders oppose communism, they move toward communism by embracing socialism."

But Dr. Fishbein to the contrary notwithstanding, the National Health Insurance Program is not "socialistic." Here, I am in complete agreement with Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing, who maintains that the proposed health program is "no more socialistic than fire insurance." Ewing has also said, quite truly, on many occasions that neither President Truman nor any other advocates of national health insurance wanted to change the present system of medical care. The only change being sought, Ewing has insisted, was in the method of paying the doctor bill.

But paying the doctor bill is only part of the great problem of bringing better health to the masses of the American people. True socialized medicine will bring the benefits of modern medical science to all of the people all of the time. True socialized medicine would concern itself with "health care" as well as "sick care." In the bright light of the socialist future, the present National Health Insurance Program will appear as only the dimmest reflection of a genuine, all-embracing, well-rounded socialized medicine program.

But the National Health Insurance Program does represent a step in the right direction, and, as such, deserves the support of trade union workers and radical thinkers. For this reason, I will make a detailed analysis of the National Health Insurance Program, as well as rival Congressional bills, the Taft Bill and the Hill Bill, along with discussions of the AMA proposals, the voluntary insurance programs, the union-sponsored health programs, etc., in future issues of The Militant.

# Box-Score of Marshall Plan

By Joseph Keller

Instead of leading to an integration and permanent rehabilitation of European economy, the billions of dollars spent by the United States through the European Recovery Program are having a directly opposite effect. This is the conclusion of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in its annual survey issued in Geneva on May 6. The 100,000-word ECE report, according to Michael L. Hoffman, N. Y. Times correspondent, is "the most complete box score of European progress during the critical year of 1948 that has been issued or is likely to be issued."

Although last year saw a 16% rise in production and a 25% reduction in the overseas deficits of Europe as a whole, the present and future prospects for capital investment, says the report, are "far from adequate to secure any really substantial improvement in living standards."

Contrary to the avowed aim of the "planning" under the ERP "to bring about a higher degree of integration of European economy," continues the report, "the observable tendencies appear to move in the opposite direction. This is true, not only in relations between the two great complementary regions, the West and East of Europe, where political cleavages hamper the development of economic cooperation. It also appears to be true within these two regions. . ."

The principal effect of the Marshall Plan, according to the data assembled by the report, is to increase the tendency in each European country to "self-sufficiency" — the national "autarchy" that was part of the intensified nationalism that reached its prewar climax under fascism. This trend, stated Nicholas Kaldor, ECE research director and one of the principal authors of the survey, "is perhaps the most disturbing feature of the entire economic situation in Europe."

Production programs of all the Western European countries reveal their plans to import less goods proportionately than before the war, and to increase their home production. This increased home production, moreover, is by and large aimed for export.

To whom will they export? To one another, when each is trying to reduce its own imports on the "autarchic" pattern? To the colonial countries, which are dominated by the largest imperialist powers and where these powers are coming into increasing competition for shrinking markets? To the tariff-surrounded United States, which

has increased its own productivity enormously compared to Europe and is striving to increase its own exports at the expense of all its competitors throughout the world?

The report points out that in 1937 only six-tenths of one per cent of the goods consumed in the United States was of European manufacture. Since the war, this has shrunk to but two-tenths of one per cent. American capitalism, while seeking outlets everywhere for its manufactured goods, shuts out competition in its own home market from European goods.

The report concludes that the United States "faces the anomalous prospect that by the end of the program which it will itself have financed, it will have surpluses and excesses of productive capacity in commodities for which it has helped to develop substitute sources of supply elsewhere; its own exports will have been reduced below the depression-shrunk level of 1938; and Europe will nevertheless still be short of dollars to cover its imports from the United States."

Even a 60% increase in their overseas sales — a possibility that the survey itself virtually excludes — would still leave the European countries with a \$3 billion deficit in trade with the United States — if the current U. S. import volume were maintained. It is actually declining, while "competition for the United States in world markets will steadily become more intense, partly because of the success of our own efforts to aid Europe. . ." (N. Y. Times, May 8.)

To balance its dollar accounts with the United States, Europe would have to increase its exports to this country by more than 300%. Will American manufacturers permit an expansion of European manufacture, with American funds, to permit a 300% increase of exports to the U. S. to compete with U. S. goods? Just last week, reports the May 8 N. Y. Times, the oil industry here complained that the Economic Cooperation Administration is "moving too fast in its efforts to expand oil operations abroad" and "the Marshall Plan is causing the domestic units of the American oil industry to lose markets. . ."

The contradictions of capitalism are operating with increasing force, and all the efforts of American capitalism to get around them have the effect, in the end, of aggravating them. This is strikingly shown by the early consequences of the Marshall Plan, as admitted in the ECE report.

# World Events

By Paul G. Stevens

7th PLENUM OF 4th INTERNATIONAL — The Seventh Plenum of the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International, which met from April 9 to 18, according to the Fourth International press service report, was the most representative gathering of the International ever held. It was attended by regular members and fraternal delegates from organizations in Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Eastern Europe, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, England, Latin American, India, Ceylon, Indo-China, and China.

Most noteworthy was the increased representation from the organizations in the Far East, a delegate of the Chinese Trotskyists appearing at an international gathering for the first time. In addition, there were also delegates from a newly formed group in Sweden, applying for membership in the Fourth International. There had never before been an organized Trotskyist movement in that country.

The report of the International Secretariat on the activity of the leadership and the sections, and the discussion on the report, noted the growing political maturity and homogeneity of the International as a whole as well as the consolidation of each of the national organizations. The gathering presented evidence, in particular, of improvement in the work of the European sections, some of which had been in the midst of a serious internal crisis a year ago.

There were also extensive reports on the situation in the Far East and on the development of the Trotskyist movement in Latin America, sections of which are being prepared for publication.

The main political resolutions of the Plenum, on "The War Danger and Our Tasks," "The Third Chinese Revolution," and "The Evolution of the Soviet Buffer Zone Countries," which formed the basis of the most important discussions in the ten days' sessions, are to be made public soon.

DUTCH TROOP MUTINIES — Negotiations for peace were resumed by the Dutch in Indonesia last week. This signifies the collapse of the "police action" undertaken by the imperialists of Holland against the embattled Indonesian masses since last December. Undoubtedly, pressure from the U. S. was one of the prime causes.

Wall Street is becoming ever more alarmed over the futile wastage of its loans to the old European powers on the boiling cauldron in the Far East. Protests from official labor organizations and liberal church movements probably also played a role, because such flagrant cases make it very difficult for these agencies to sell "Western" democracy abroad. But a more important, although less known reason, was certainly the restlessness among the Dutch masses and particularly, rebellions within the army.

Thus, the European Trotskyist press reports, a mutiny broke out recently in a military camp in Brabant among soldiers about to be embarked for Indonesia. It was accompanied by the issuance of a manifesto of a soldiers' committee, declaring: "We do not want to lay down our lives for the planters who are stuffing their pockets with money. We demand the recall of all troops from Indonesia. For peace and friendship! Not a single soldier for this war!" Many arrests are reported to have been made in these barracks.

Another report relates that, after Netherlands troops suffered heavy losses in the Surakarta region in Indonesia, the survivors refused to continue the combat. An entire unit was disbanded, 17 soldiers condemned to death and 72 to long prison sentences.

The Associated Press also carried a dispatch from Singapore recently regarding a mutiny of Dutch troops which was crushed in blood at Fort De Kock, in Sumatra. 200 soldiers, according to this dispatch, were executed "for revolt against their command."

THE PURPOSE OF THE PACT — What the North Atlantic Pact means to the reactionary politicians in Europe was plainly indicated by Percy Winner's column in the May 9 New Republic. The day before the Pact was signed, Mario Scelba, the Italian Minister of the Interior "and by far the toughest man in the government," made a speech at Siena in which he said, "The arms entrusted to the state [by the Pact] do not constitute decorative elements but are instruments of defense and of attack." Winner says Scelba also "suggested that the Pact would give the de Gasperi government the right to go beyond the Constitution and the law in its struggle to suppress Communism."

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# THE MILITANT

## "Right" to Fire for Political Views Claimed by Company

By A. Smith

LOS ANGELES, May 4 — In a precedent-making case, private industry has served notice of its intentions to use the present government "anti-subversive" drive to alter, amend and wipe out the seniority provisions in union contracts.

The case involves the Maywood, California plant of the Consolidated Western Steel Corp., a totally-owned subsidiary of U. S. Steel, and one of its employees, Robert Blair.

Blair was called to testify before a federal grand jury investigating "communist activities" in the Los Angeles area. Blair, along with other witnesses called, refused to answer certain questions, basing himself on his constitutional right not to give testimony that might tend to be self-incriminating.

Federal Judge Pierson M. Hall instructed him to answer the questions, and when he failed to do so, sentenced him to jail without bail until such time as he would answer.

The management of Consolidated Western Steel notified Blair that he had been discharged for unauthorized leave of absence. Blair was finally released on bail following an appeal to the circuit court in San Francisco, and immediately reported for work but was told that the discharge remained in effect.

### THREE PRETEXTS

A member of Local 2058, United Steelworkers of America, Blair filed a grievance contending that he had complied with company rules pertaining to leaves of absence and that his discharge was unjustified.

In discussion of the grievance with the union, the company withdrew its charge of unauthorized leave of absence against Blair

and bluntly stated that they have the prerogative to discharge "undesirable employees."

When the union proved the contract does not give the company this prerogative, the company withdrew its second position and replaced it with a third: namely, that the clause on management prerogatives gives the company the power to discharge "for proper and lawful cause."

While the company officials agreed with the union that there was no law justifying Blair's discharge in connection with the agreement's use of the word "lawful," they contended that it was public policy to remove Communist Party members and fellow travelers from their jobs.

The union now must take the case to arbitration if the discharge is to be reversed.

### UNITED TO DEFENSE

To date, the grievance committee and officers of Local 2058 have been firmly united in the fight to prevent the company from establishing its right to discharge employees as "undesirable" either because of their political beliefs or their association with persons of certain political beliefs.

The union has also challenged the latest position of the company which, in effect, would give it the right to serve as a quasi-legal agency of the government with power to legislate, try, convict and execute sentence upon any of the union members.

District Director Charles Smith of the United Steelworkers' has written a letter supporting the position of the officers of Local 2058 in this fight.

On the basis of a previous vote of the local's membership, it is anticipated that Blair's case will be carried all the way through the grievance procedure including arbitration.

## Strike Against Speedup Shuts Down Ford Empire

(Continued from page 1)

prevailing speed of the lines. But the committeemen had been the victims of precisely this kind of run-around for three months, and had learned the worthlessness of this type of "agreement" as a means of halting the speedup.

In protest against further stalling on the part of the union, 13 committeemen handed in their resignations, saying that under present conditions they could not honestly carry out their obligations to the members. Their action precipitated a walkout which resulted in the closing down of the "B" Building.

Reuther and Mazey, sensing that they were losing control of the workers, called an emergency meeting for the next day. At this meeting Reuther blasted the committeemen for not adhering to international procedure in provoking the walkout. The committeemen answered that the international was stalling and that they could not face the members under the circumstances.

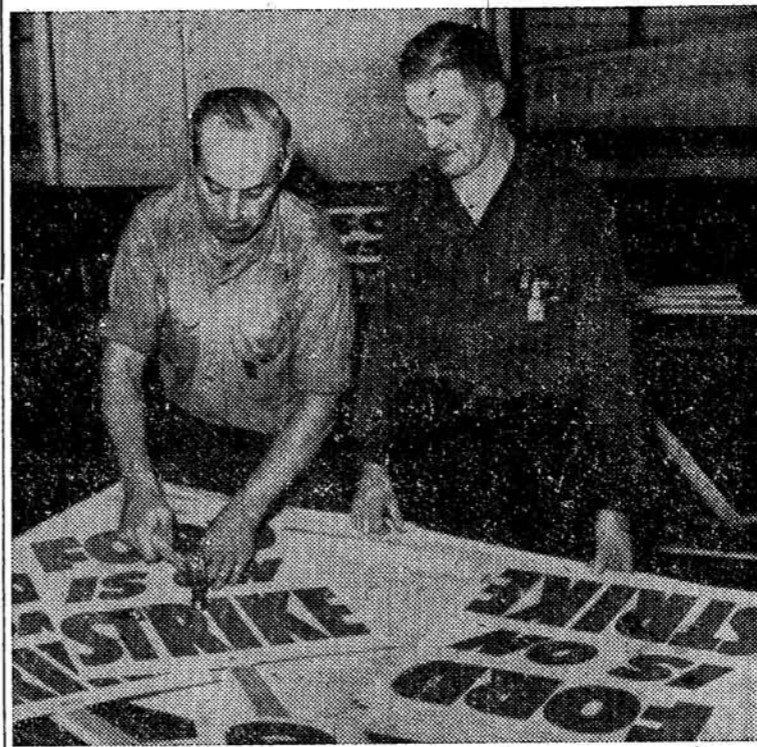
On May 2 the company again increased the speed of the line. The officers of Local 600 now could buck the overwhelming pressure from the ranks no longer. The following day the local executive board voted to call a strike on May 4 at 10 A. M. Reuther, thrust into this difficult position, finally reached a compromise with the local leaders and agreed to authorize a strike for the following day, May 5.

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY

The fact that the Ford workers have now hit the bricks in what may prove to be a prolonged strike is due, above all, to the Reuther leadership's policy of retreat on the speedup issue. The whole problem of speedup was posed sharply for the auto workers a year ago in the major corporations. The international leadership permitted speedup in GM and in Chrysler. They did not fight the victimization of militants who were putting up a battle against the speedup.

As late as January of this year, the four top officers of the UAW issued a statement prominently featured in the United Automobile Worker, claiming that the charges of speedup were untrue and were being circulated for ulterior purposes by "Com-

### "Ford Is On Strike!"



Joseph Palevranph (l.) and Edwin Fitzpatrick are shown getting signs ready for the picketline at the Ford plant, which has been called the "longest picketline in UAW history."

munist, Trotskyite and free-booting opportunists." It was this policy of retreat that emboldened the corporations to proceed with the speedup.

The campaign to squeeze more work out of the auto workers was accelerated with the model change-over and the narrowing of the market for automobiles. The Detroit News carried a series of articles by Ralph R. Watts, its industrial reporter, that "spilled the beans. On April 20 he wrote:

"Every point and detail of manufacturing processes are being critically reappraised and tightened up to eliminate every penny of needless cost. Suppliers of raw materials and component parts are being relentlessly pressured to tailor their quotations to the lowered prices initiated by GM, and followed by K-F, Willys, Nash, Ford and Hudson. Orders by top management to 'trim ship' are now being followed by 'call to stations' for the fight ahead. Previous bottlenecks in supply of materials having been eliminated and with labor playing ball like never before, the threatened slackening off of demand has electrified the industry into feverish backstage activity." (Our emphasis.)

The Ford Company understands fully how unenthusiastic Reuther and Mazey are about the present strike and how eager they are to reach any sort of "compromise" on the speedup issue. To further push them to the wall, the company, on the day after the strike began, announced the discharge of 14 workers who were involved in the earlier stoppages at the "B" Building; it also announced disciplinary layoffs would be imposed on 14 others. In addition, the company disclosed that it would not negotiate on wages or other contract demands while the strike was on.

But despite the preconceived notions on both sides, the Ford workers are now out on the battling line and intend to put labor-management relations on an entirely new basis before they return to manufacture more Ford cars.

Already there is evident a noticeable increase of militancy on the part of many auto workers. In the past week the Briggs workers staged a series of walkouts on the speedup issue. Workers of the Chevrolet assembly plant in Flint voted to strike because of the speedup. A new wind is starting to blow in labor's ranks.

## WORK - STOPPAGE PROTESTS MURDER OF ILGWU MEMBER

NEW YORK, May 12 — 65,000 members of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union stopped work for four hours today as a public protest against the murder of William Lurye, a special organizer for the union.

All of the 2,100 unionized dress factories in the city were shut down this morning and a mass meeting was held in and around Manhattan Center, with speeches by ILGWU President David Dubinsky and other union officials, and a huge funeral procession by the union membership.

Lurye, who was a member of the executive board of Dress Pressers Local 60, had taken a leave of absence from his regular job in order to participate in the union's drive to organize a number of shops whose employers have been resisting unionization.

On May 8 he was in a telephone booth at 224 W. 35 St., when he

### \$25,000 REWARD

The ILGWU General Executive Board yesterday posted an offer of a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his murderers or their instigators.

A police official had said Lurye's murder was not connected with his union activities. When challenged on this by Dubinsky, however, the chief of detectives had to deny the police had any basis for such a statement.

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## Longshore Union Votes Down Lay-off Plan for 2nd Time

By E. Harris

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9 — At a stormy meeting in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium last Wednesday, 5,000 members of Local 10 of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Ware-

housemen's Union rejected by a four-to-one vote a proposal to lay off 1,000 men from the industry in order to provide more work for those remaining.

According to ILWU statistics, work is off approximately 30% compared to 1948.

The latest lay-off proposal, advanced by James Kearney, right-wing president of Local 10, duplicated almost word for word the proposal by Harry Bridges, ILWU International President, last Feb. 9. However, despite a falling off of work since February, the Kearney plan was defeated even more decisively than the Bridges' plan. This time Bridges stood aside, declaring the employment problem is "a local question."

As on Feb. 9, the meeting was dominated by young rank and file militants. The Bridges-Kearney plan was tagged as "union splitting" which could only play into the hands of the ship-owners by furnishing them with a large body of trained men which could be used against the union in event of strikes.

One speaker declared that the leadership was using the question as a political football and called upon them to "advance plans which will hold the union together — not split us into two camps, employed and unemployed, with the employed fearing the unemployed and the unemployed hating the union. Let us all fight together for a program that will aim to get a decent standard of living for all of us." He concluded, "If the local and international officials cannot provide such a program they are bankrupt." He was roundly applauded by the meeting.

### A UNION DUTY

Another speaker asked, "Why is it that Kearney is advocating a lay-off when it has always been considered a union duty to oppose lay-offs?"

The reason why the longshore union is faced so sharply with the unemployment question is precisely because it is one of the most advanced unions in the United States in the degree of control over jobs.

In other industries where the employer does the hiring and firing, it is easier for the union bureaucrat to turn his back on the problem. However, the West Coast longshore union has a union-controlled hiring hall through which all available work is rotated among all available men. The employers have nothing to say about hiring. Therefore the question of less work and what to do about it is thrown on to the union floor and the leadership is faced concretely with a major social problem under capitalism, unemployment; and is forced to grapple with it.

Thus far, neither the right-wing Murrayite local leadership nor the Bridges-Stalinist international leadership have come forth with any proposal except to lay men off.

### A STOP-GAP MEASURE

The only plan which even begins to tackle the question was advanced at the Feb. 9 meeting by several rank and file longshoremen. This called for a rotation of all work on a four week basis, with each union member working three weeks at 40 hours per week and being laid off the fourth week, during which he would collect \$25 unemployment insurance, thus adding \$25 to his income for the four-week period.

At the present time longshoremen collect no unemployment benefits, because they always earn at least \$25 per week. Four-week rotation of work, instead of weekly rotation, would make them eligible for this money, which year after year has been returned to the shipowners, with the State of California keeping only one quarter of one percent for administration costs.

Even this stop-gap measure has not been pushed by the present leadership although it was approved in principle by the membership. Union militants who, backed by an aroused membership, helped fight down both Bridges' and Kearney's plans are beginning to talk on the job and in union meetings of the necessity to develop a new and more far-reaching program to combat the menace of unemployment.