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## WALTER REUTHER'S POLICY IN THE FORD STRIKE

By Bert Cochran  
— See Page 2 —

## Lewis's Charge Of Betrayal--And Murray's Reply

An Editorial

In his June 6 telegram to the Senate, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis charged that reports are "current" that CIO President Philip Murray and AFL President William Green have "secretly agreed" to "at least four oppressive amendments" to the Truman administration's proposed labor relations bill. If this is true, said Lewis, it "constitutes a foul betrayal of American labor" and a "pusillanimous compromise."

Murray wired the Senate a heated denial of Lewis' charge. He accused Lewis of spreading "false and malicious libels" and referred to a resolution by the CIO Executive Board favoring passage of the original administration bill "without crippling amendments." We don't want to enter the controversy about a secret agreement. We have no direct evidence one way or another. But we do support Lewis 100% in his warning that Murray and Green are preparing "a foul betrayal of American labor" through a "pusillanimous compromise" on labor legislation.

### Why Is He Silent on "Compromises"?

Murray says he is against "crippling" amendments. Are the five "compromise" amendments prepared by the Truman Democrats last week "crippling," in Murray's opinion? Where does he stand, for instance, on the proposal to amend the Wagner Act to grant the President power to break "national emergency" strikes through plant "seizures"? With all his indignant denials, Murray was careful in his answer to Lewis not to state where he stands on these specific amendments.

We have searched the current CIO News and the daily papers in vain for any statement by Murray in opposition to the five anti-labor amendments which the Truman Democrats have been discussing for several weeks and which were endorsed by the leading Truman Democrats in the Senate last week. We can only assume that Murray's failure to speak out against this "compromise" is nothing but a silent endorsement of it.

There is all the more reason to suspect a betrayal by Murray in view of the conduct of the CIO representatives last month during the House debate on Taft-Hartley repeal. Let Murray deny — if he dare — that representatives of his own steel union, Reuther's auto union and of the national CIO button-holed congressmen and urged them to vote for the "compromise" Sims bill, including its provisions for INJUNCTIONS.



JOHN L. LEWIS

Sure, Murray opposed the Sims bill "for the record." But his lieutenants were plugging for it in the House corridors. Murray's righteous indignation about Lewis' charges are wholly unconvincing. All he had to do to disprove Lewis was to denounce the plant "seizure" and other amendments proposed by the Truman Democrats and to call on Lewis, Green and the other union leaders to join with the CIO leaders in summoning all labor to militant joint action against these amendments.

Murray does not do this because his program, in reality, consists in covering up for the Truman administration. Leading "pro-labor" and "liberal" Trumanites — Senators Douglas, Thomas, Hill and Luce — drafted the "compromise" amendments. And Truman himself, despite his previous bluff about "no compromise," is ready to go along. Senate Majority Leader Lucas reported last week. Truman is responsible, in the final analysis, for the treacherous "compromise" in preparation. But Murray and the other union leaders of his stripe are RESPONSIBLE FOR TRUMAN.

### They Bear Responsibility for Truman

They put him back in office. They have helped to conceal his dirty maneuvers on the Taft-Hartley repeal issue. They — and Murray, above all — are trying to protect Truman even as he greases the way for a Taft-Hartleyized "compromise" bill without the Taft-Hartley label.

It is unfortunate that Lewis, who has so boldly exposed this rotten, treacherous deal, offers no effective program to stop it. But it can be stopped — if the ranks of the CIO and AFL force the fight for Taft-Hartley repeal out of the field of back-room deals and corridor maneuvers and onto the arena of mass labor action. The Detroit and Minneapolis CIO Councils have pointed the way by their proposals for a 24-Hour National Work Stoppage.

## The Price of Bread in Ohio



## Minneapolis CIO Urges National 24-Hour Stoppage

The CIO workers of Minneapolis have joined those of the Detroit CIO and a growing number of union locals throughout the country in urging a 24-hour national work stoppage as the best means to secure repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and back up labor's demands for civil rights, housing and other progressive legislation.

At its May 25 meeting, the Hennepin County (Minneapolis) CIO Council unanimously adopted a motion recommending to the national CIO that a 24-hour "protest holiday" be called "in order to show labor's position against the Taft-Hartley law." This followed the action of the Greater Detroit and Wayne County CIO Council in proposing a one-day "labor holiday."

### SPECIAL SESSION URGED

The Detroit CIO resolution also urged the holding of a special session of Congress to enact all the social measures so far neglected or buried by the Democratic-controlled national legislature. To reinforce labor's demands for passage of this legislation, the Detroit CIO resolution also called for a mass conference of all labor unions in Washington simultaneous with the proposed special session of Congress.

This growing demand for effective mass labor action in the form of a 24-hour national work stoppage has been spurred by the clear evidence that Congress is bent on scrapping social legislation and that the Truman Democrats have no intention of putting up an effective fight for their promised "Fair Deal" program.

## PARIS CONCLAVE USES MASSES AS MERE PAWNS

By Ruth Johnson

Columns of propaganda for public consumption are streaming from both sides in the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting at Paris. Meanwhile the real business of the conference goes on in secret.

Washington and Moscow are quietly testing out the ground on which concessions of some sort may be made, although the stalemate of open sessions indicates they may be long delayed. The agenda is limited to Germany and the Austrian peace treaties. But political and economic factors in Europe and the Far East, are used as so many weights by Wall Street and the Kremlin. Each adds them to the scales to enhance the price each demands.

The Soviet Union, plagued by economic troubles in Eastern Europe and at home, is dicker for a resumption of trade between Eastern Germany, the Soviet satellites and Western Europe. Stalin fears that the stagnation of industry in the "New Democracies" may drive them out of his iron control, and on to the "Tito-ist" road.

### Unemployment Rises, But So Do Profits

Unemployment, on the rise since last July, was estimated at a new post-war high of 3,289,000 persons without jobs on May 14, according to the June 7 report of the Bureau of the Census. These figures are conservative and cover mainly workers getting unemployment compensation. But the monopoly profiteers aren't doing badly. A June 5 N. Y. Times summary of published reports of 300 leading companies discloses that their average profits for the first three months of 1949 rose 9% above their record take in the first quarter of 1948.

WALL ST. ALSO INTERESTED For its own reasons, Wall Street is also concerned with restoration of East-West trade. But it can afford to "sit tight and wait" until Stalin yields enough concessions. Irked by the delay, Moscow's newspaper Pravda pointed to the analysis of columnist

(Continued on page 2)

# 3 CIO Unions Back Defense Of Legless Vet

## Special Session On Civil Rights Urged By NAACP

NEW YORK — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has asked the Truman administration to call a special session of Congress this summer for the purpose of acting upon civil rights legislation.

The demand was made by Roy Wilkins, NAACP assistant secretary, in a wire to Senator Scott Lucas, majority leader, after Lucas announced the administration had abandoned efforts to pass civil rights bills in this session of Congress. Both Lucas and Truman backtracked on this announcement soon afterward, but there is still little likelihood of action on civil rights during the present session.

Wilkins' wire asking for the special session blasted the "faint-heartedness and outright defection of some liberal Democrats" and condemned the administration leaders for their failure to support anti-segregation amendments to housing and education bills.

The proposal for a special summer session was first made by the New York Branch of the NAACP in April. The New York resolution also advocated the calling of "a united Negro and labor conference, representing Negro and labor organizations in all parts of the country, to meet in Washington simultaneously with the special session of Congress and to press for the passage of the civil rights bills." This proposal is scheduled for discussion by the coming 40th annual conference of the NAACP, to be held in Los Angeles next month.

## Clothing, Maritime, Packing Workers Aid James Kutcher

As James Kutcher started on his Western speaking tour, spokesmen for three big CIO International unions went on record in support of the courageous

fight he is conducting against the government loyalty purge. These latest additions to the ranks of Kutcher's defenders are the national officers of the CIO Na-

tional Maritime Union, the International Executive Board of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, and the Advance, official newspaper of the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

The NMU national officers took their stand in behalf of Kutcher's fight for reinstatement at their May 10 meeting. According to the minutes published in the May 27 issue of the NMU Pilot, this favorable action was taken on the basis of a "resolution passed by the crew of the SS. HEREDIA urging the National Office to support the fight of James Kutcher, legless veteran who was dismissed from his position with the Veterans Administration by virtue of his affiliation with the Socialist Workers Party."

PAC SUPPORT URGED The resolution also urged the NMU National Office to try to get support for the case from the CIO Political Action Committee.

At the national convention of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers held May 31 to June 2 at Estes Park, Colorado, the International Executive Board and Resolutions Committee unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning Executive Order 9835 under which Truman's loyalty purge has been set up.

It points out that the loyalty investigation "has been the basis for a widespread witch-hunt and campaign of terror among federal employees, has undermined the effectiveness and morale of the civil service, has been used as the basis for attacking and depriving of employment many loyal federal employees solely because of liberal political beliefs, has in practical enforcement been applied discriminatorily against various racial and religious minorities."

The Packinghouse Workers' resolution singles out Kutcher's dismissal as one of the outstanding instances of injustice and "calls upon President Truman to specifically reinstate to federal employment and clear the name of James Kutcher."

The June 1 issue of the Advance carries an article urging all-out aid for the legless veteran. "The injustice committed against James Kutcher is not purely an individual (though that would be enough) . . . It is an injustice against every man," says the organ of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

The campaign for Kutcher "must be fought by everyone because it is every man's battle to secure the rights of his fellow man," the article concludes. "Kutcher's freedom is everybody's job!" (See Page 3 for full text of the Advance article.)

KUTCHER'S TOUR Kutcher himself is in Minnesota this week on the first stop of his current tour, which will also take him to the states of Washington and California for public meetings and other activities to raise funds for his Federal Court appeal.

Details of the program planned in Seattle will be found in a story on Page 4 of this issue. He is scheduled to leave Seattle for San Francisco June 24, and to cover the Bay Area until July 7. Then he will go to Los Angeles, where he will spend the rest of the month.



JAMES KUTCHER

## CP Trial Shows Pattern Developing in Witch-Hunt

By Farrell Dobbs

FEDERAL COURTROOM, NEW YORK, June 8 — "Be a stoopidgen or go to jail" — with an ultimatum to that effect Judge Medina jailed John Gates, editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker and a defendant in the

present thought-control trial of the 11 Stalinists, while Gates was under cross-examination as the first witness for the defense.

The chief prosecutor, John McGohey, opened the cross-examination by questioning Gates about party posts held by other defendants. At first Gates refused to answer, but he later gave the information after the other defendants had offered to stipulate what posts they occupied.

McGohey next began probing for the names of Stalinists not on trial. Gates managed to sidestep direct answers until McGohey came to a Communist Party pamphlet on the veteran question, entitled "Who Ruptured Our Duck?" Gates said he had prepared the pamphlet with the help of three others. Then the storm broke.

### VICIOUS CRACKDOWN

"Who were they?" McGohey asked.

"These people are engaged in private industry," Gates replied. "I will not disclose their names because they would lose their jobs."

"I ask the court to direct the witness to answer," McGohey demanded, turning toward the bench.

"Answer the question," commanded the judge. Gates refused to answer, invoking his rights under the first and fifth amendments to the constitution. The judge sent the jury out

# Swear 'Loyalty' or Starve, Ohio Decrees

Starting in August, Ohio's unemployed workers will be denied unemployment insurance unless they sign a "loyalty" oath swearing they do not "advocate" the overthrow of the government nor belong to any organization that does.

This "latest, drastic extension of the loyalty-oath idea," as the June 4 Business Week described it, was shoved through the Ohio legislature as a surprise rider to an unemployment insurance bill and became law the last week in May when it was signed by Democratic Governor Frank Lausche.

### SWEAR FIRST!

If this witch-hunt trend is not halted, it won't be long before nobody will be able to work, eat or live in this country unless they publicly swear "loyalty" to the capitalist powers-that-be and renounce the right to advocate opposition in any form to the existing economic, social or political order.

The Ohio law is particularly vicious because it uses the direct threat of starvation to impose thought-control. In effect, the unemployed are being forced to

sign an oath of allegiance to the capitalist system, the very system that breeds unemployment.

With unemployment rapidly growing throughout the country, the employers and their political agents in other states will seize on the Ohio law as a model for discriminatory legislation against the unemployed. Under such laws, unemployed who join organizations to fight for higher benefits or a program against unemployment might be branded as "subversive" and deprived of unemployment relief.

First, we had two million federal workers forced to take "loyalty" oaths, subject to dismissal without charges or hearing. The outstanding victim of this procedure is the legless veteran James Kutcher.

The Taft-Hartley Act adapted Truman's "loyalty" program to the unions by requiring union leaders to sign "loyalty" oaths in order to qualify for NLRB recognition.

Since then there has been a flood of bills introduced or passed in state legislatures requiring "loyalty" oaths not only of state employees, but of public school teachers, college professors, law-

yers and even workers in private industry engaged on "government contracts."

Perhaps the most extensive use of "loyalty" oaths is in education. There is a tremendous nationwide drive to put teachers and professors in a thought-control mold. Dozens of states have passed or are debating teachers oath laws.

### NO REASON GIVEN

The hunt for "heretics," spearheaded by reactionary business-controlled boards of trustees, is sweeping the colleges and universities. Last week, for instance, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska incorporated into its governing policy a resolution not only barring from teaching positions all who "openly or surreptitiously" endorse "subversive doctrines" but banning from use in the classrooms even books adjudged to contain such doctrines. This resolution, incidentally, was modeled on one adopted at the last annual session of the Association of Governing Boards of State Universities and Allied Institutions.

The drive to keep any but the most reactionary ideas from

students has reached the point where even The Nation, oldest and most respected liberal journal in the country, has just been barred from the schools of New York City for another year. It was banned last year because of the pressure of the Catholic hierarchy on the grounds of its articles by Paul Blanshard on the economic, social and political role of the Catholic hierarchy.

The ban was renewed last week by the New York City Board of Education, which upheld the previous decision of the Board of Superintendents. No reason for renewing the ban was given. Even the N. Y. Times, which supported the ban last year, was constrained to object in its May 28 editorial that "continuation of the ban can only be explained as punishment of the magazine for its temerity in having printed the Blanshard series in the first place. . . It is, in fact, censorship in advance of publication."

### ASSAULT ON FOREIGN-BORN

The assault on freedom of thought and civil rights is moving relentlessly forward on every front. On June 5, Senator Scott

W. Lucas, Democratic majority leader, proposed a brutal law for the indefinite imprisonment without trial of non-citizens. He announced a bill to empower the Attorney General to seize and hold in custody for as long as he sees fit any alien, and to negotiate with any country that might be willing to accept such aliens. This is part of the attempt to victimize union leaders like Karl Skoglund, former head of the militant Minneapolis truck-drivers union, and Harry Bridges, president of the CIO longshoremen's union.

Some liberals believe the Paris conference means a subsiding of the cold war and therefore an end to the "cold war" on democratic rights. That some temporary deal may be patched up between Washington and the Kremlin is possible. But the facts cited above show that the reactionary rulers of this country are proceeding ruthlessly with their drive to crush free thought as a necessary preliminary to the eventual third world war they are planning. The defense of civil rights must be pressed more vigorously than ever.





