



Report from Europe

# New Party Arising in Germany

By Ernest Germain

Two important events marked the end of the summer in Western Germany. For the first time since the monetary reform — and in fact for the first time since 1933! — a well organized and successful strike movement swept through several branches of industry, forcing the employers to grant important concessions even to categories not directly involved in the strike. The weekly paper, Freie Tribune, has started publication, and several thousand vanguard workers have already regrouped themselves around this organ of the future Independent Workers Party of Germany.

Workers Party of Germany. These two events are intimately interrelated. They are two clear indications that the years of prostration of the German labor movement are nearing their close. They are the first signs of a new upsurge of the German working class movement, on which revolutionaries all over Europe have pinned so many hopes. It is true that since 1945 there have been several important strike movements in Germany. The workers struck often for 24 hours in important industrial towns and even in provinces (Laender) against the return of former Nazis to high government or industrial posts. But these movements were purely demonstrative in character; they were led from the top and there was not a very strong participation of the masses, who followed rather passively the directives of their leaders.

A series of stronger actions also took place during the first postwar years — actions against hunger, against starvation rations, against dismantlings. These actions again were of a special character and while allowing the young generation to collect first experiences of class solidarity and class consciousness they fall under the sign of desperation rather than of growing militancy of the workers.

**BUILDING STRIKE** It is only since the "normalization" of economy, i.e. since the monetary reform, that the workers have had occasion to recover — physically through the re-establishment of a normal labor demand, and socially through the normalization of the process of production — their potential of struggle and militancy which has now found its first expressions.

Participation of rank-and-file workers in the strike action was very marked and did not decrease after ten days of strike. Strike committees and picket lines were set up. Rank and file sharply criticized the conduct of the leadership who accepted the arbitration board's verdict, and wanted to continue the strike action in order to get a bigger increase. The bourgeoisie has clearly understood this lesson. On Sept. 18 it granted the metal workers a 15% wage increase — a much bigger concession than was given

the building workers — in order to prevent a strike. The day before, delegates of the miners union from all over Western Germany met at Bochum and discussed the launching of their struggle for higher wages. Here too, the employers came forward with an offer of a 15% wage increase. Although one cannot speak about a snowball development, it is clear that the German workers for the first time in many years can really exploit a favorable economic situation in order to wrest important concessions from the employers. These initial successes of organized action will contribute a lot to raise the confidence of the workers in their own forces.

**MIDDLE CADRES** During the years of passivity of the great mass of the working class, the few attempts at united action were invariably initiated by the middle cadres of the working class organizations (local and provincial leaders of the trade unions, the Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party, etc.). Whereas the national leaderships of these organizations did everything possible to extend even more the passivity of the workers, these middle cadres, mostly with a fine record of pre-Hitler and later of underground militancy, constituted in a certain sense the nuclei where all the remainders of socialist consciousness were concentrated.

These same middle cadres have assimilated more or less instinctively the lessons of pre-Hitler class struggle in Germany. They are full of distrust toward reformism and Stalinism. They have been even more disgusted by the policy of betrayal followed by these two organizations since 1945. They are ready for a new revolutionary working class party in Germany, and they can build up a party which, whatever its political weaknesses might be, can right from the start wield an important influence among the masses themselves.

AMAZING PROGRESS Of course, the Freie Tribune could not from scratch work out a rounded program providing all the correct answers to the burning questions of German and International politics. The paper reflects in a certain sense all the hesitations, illusions, hopes and confusions of the German vanguard, isolated and defeated for so many years. But its political progress has really been amazing. It has in a few weeks done more for the international education of the German vanguard than was done during all the years since 1945. It has taken a correct and courageous stand against remilitarization, around the correct slogan: "Let the people vote on rearmament." It has attacked violently the measures of the bourgeoisie, the occupation forces and the red-baiting Social Democratic bureaucrats against members of the CP. It has denounced the resurgence of fascism and of the power of the big industrialists. It has taken up all the past threads of Marxist traditions in Germany, and above all, it has entered a frank and public discussion with its readers on fundamental programmatic questions, which will serve to clarify the minds of the advanced workers and to hammer out the program for socialist revolution of the German proletariat.

**Further hindering a slave-catcher, or assisting an escaped slave or harboring or concealing a runaway was punishable by fine, imprisonment and payment of indemnity to the slaveowner.** Should commissioners or assistant commissioners or assistants fear an attempted rescue they could command bystanders to help them. This legally obligated every citizen of the free states to be a slavecatcher.

Every Negro in the North was in danger. Not only those who had found freedom through the Underground Railway but thousands of legally free Negroes as well. Kidnaping free Negroes as alleged fugitives and selling them South was a flourishing business. The new law greatly facilitated this. As soon as the law was passed Negroes began arming themselves or fleeing to Canada. White Abolitionists joined the Negroes in forming self defense guards and vigilance committees to watch known kidnappers. "SEE YOU DAMNED FIRST" Comparé the public statements of the fighters for freedom then and the "loyally obey" whimpers of the Fair Deal liberals of today. At the 1852 Free Soil Party convention Frederick Douglass described the law as "too bad to be repealed, a law fit only to be trampled underfoot. The only way to make the Fugitive Slave Law a dead letter is to make half a dozen, or more dead kidnappers."

# Hansen Exposes ALP Record in TV Debate

(Continued from Page 1) eralities of the ALP program. When Hansen tried to get the floor back again, Guinier shouted, "Do you want me to answer your question, or don't you? All right, go ahead and make your speech." "In that same month of February 1946, O'Dwyer broke the tugboat strike. Why didn't Ross resign then?" "I've already explained —" "Why instead of resigning, did Ross accept an appointment on the Emergency Fuel Commission that was set up as part of the strikebreaking apparatus?" "That's a lie! A lie! Paul Ross never did that. O'Dwyer was never breaking any strikes then."

Hansen got in one last question that seemed to hit Guinier harder than any: "I've been trying to get an answer out of your Senatorial candidate for weeks on an important question of foreign policy without success. Maybe you can answer it. Yugoslavia has set out on the road to socialism. It now faces famine from a drought. Do you favor the Kremlin line of using any means including starvation to break the Yugoslav people and force them into submission?" "Why, Dr. DuBois favors sending food to anybody that's starving. Dr. DuBois is the distinguished Negro educator and sociologist running on the ALP ticket —" "But does the ALP favor sending food to Yugoslavia?" "I said Dr. DuBois favors sending food to anybody —"

The moderator, Lowell Lipmus, brought his gavel down. Time up. Guinier was saved by the bell from giving an unambiguous reply. "You would defend civil rights for Trotskyists?" "The American Labor Party believes in civil rights for everybody —" "Including Trotskyists?" "Do you want an answer or not? All right, go ahead and give your little speech."

**Election Rallies**  
New York  
Election Rally and 33rd Russian Revolution Anniversary  
Arthur Preis  
SWP Candidate for Atty. Gen.  
Michael Bartell  
SWP Candidate for Gov.  
Special Attractions  
Fri., Nov. 3, 8 PM  
HOTEL CAPITOL  
8th Ave. and 51st Street

# Truman's Order Puts Coast Guard In Position to Wreck Hiring Halls

Truman didn't tell the American people what he and MacArthur decided about the fate of the Korean and other Asiatic peoples, but his first official act on returning from Wake Island gave a pretty clear idea of what he has in mind for American labor. He issued an executive order placing authority over employment on U. S. ships and all waterfronts in the hands of the Coast Guard. This order, in effect, makes waterfront union security and the maritime hiring hall a dead letter.

Under the order, the Coast Guard is instructed to "screen" all persons employed on or having business that requires them to enter docks and waterfront facilities or man ships in U. S. territorial waters. Thus, the Coast Guard authorities will have power to deny employment to anyone on waterfronts and ships.

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**A Socialist Answer to Norman Thomas**  
By George R. Stryker  
(Member, Local Nassau-Suffolk, Socialist Party)  
In the Oct. 13 Socialist Call Norman Thomas gives his blessings to Senator Herbert H. Lehman, Wall Street banker candidate for re-election. Mr. Thomas further declares that any Socialist who disputes such support is "living in a dream world."

is anything but a Socialist one. Lehman has been a consistent supporter of the militarization of America, is co-author of the Killgore police-state legislation, a declared opponent of genuine socialized medicine. He is one of many fakers who preach liberalism at election time only to stick the knife of betrayal in the back of the working class at the first wish of his Wall Street masters.

# FLINT TRIAL COMMITTEE CONDEMNS WITCH-HUNT

(Continued from Page 1) man's veto and receives the well earned condemnation of CIO President Murray, UAW President Walter Reuther, AFL President Green, as well as all enlightened labor.

**THE MILITANT ARMY**  
Chicago Shows How Consistent Work Builds Circulation  
The reorganization of the Chicago literature committee with Frank R. as Literature Agent has led to increased sales of The Militant. Frank has raised the bundle order twice this past month so Chicago now gets 100 copies each week. Here is how this was done.

**Local Addresses of Socialist Workers Party**  
AKRON — For information, write P. O. Box 1842.  
BOSTON — Workers Educational Center, 30 Stuart St. Open Tues., 5:30-9 P.M. Social last Sat. every month.  
BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. 12-5 P.M. Madison 3929.  
CHICAGO — 166 W. Washington St., Rm 312-314. Phone Dearborn 2-4767.  
CLEVELAND — Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.), every Sun., 9 P.M.  
DETROIT — 6108 Linwood Ave. Open Mon. through Sat., 12-5 P.M. Phone TY 7-9275.  
ELMT — SWP Hall, 215 E. 9th St. Open house every Sat. evening. Phone 2-2496.  
LOS ANGELES — Militant Pub. Ass'n. Rm 325, 124 W. 9th St. Phone Vandyke 8081.  
MILWAUKEE — 817 N. 3rd St., 3rd fl. Open Sun. through Fri., 7:30-9:30 P.M. Phone Honkiss 2-5337.  
MINNEAPOLIS — 10 South 4th St. Open daily except Sun., 9 A.M.-6 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 7781.  
NEW HAVEN — For information, write P.O. Box 1019.  
NEWARK — 423 Springfield Avenue.  
NEW YORK CITY — H.I. 116 University Place. Phone AL 5-7822.  
BROOKLYN — De Luxe Palace, 558 Howard Ave., near Loew's Pitkin. Meeting every Thurs., 8 P.M.  
HARLEM — 103 W. 110th St. Rm 23. Open discussion, every Thurs., 8 P.M.  
OAKLAND (Cal.) — For information write P.O. Box 1933, or call Templebar 2-3728.  
PHILADELPHIA — 1203-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd fl. Open every Fri. evening. Phone Stevenson 4-5820.  
PITTSBURGH — For information, write P. O. Box 282.  
ST. LOUIS — For information, Phone 367 7284.  
SAN FRANCISCO — 1729 Fillmore Avenue, 4th fl. Open daily except Sun., 12-4:30 P.M. Phone FT 6-918.  
SEATTLE — Maynard Bldg., 1st Ave., So. and Washington, Rm 201. Open Mon. through Sat. 12-5 P.M. Branch meeting every Thurs., 7:30 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 9278.  
TOLEDO — For information, write P.O. Box 1502.  
YOUNGSTOWN — 284 E. Federal St. Open Wed., Fri., Sat., 1:50-4 P.M. Phone 8-1355.

Through the agency of the Coast Guard, the waterfront and shipping employers will now be able to pick off any union man they want to fire. And what's to stop Truman from invoking similar "security" measures in other industries?

**R. R. Union Bureaucrats Endorse Sen. McCarran**  
To the everlasting discredit of their leaders, five railroad brotherhoods — Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, Locomotive Engineers, Trainmen, Conductors and Engineers — have endorsed Sen. Pat McCarran (D, Nev.) for re-election. Railway Labor's Political League, representing 18 railroad brotherhoods, including two of the above five, announced it was not supporting the sponsor of the new police-state law.

**Who's That Man Across the Table?**  
The McCarran law "may well lead us to become afraid with whom we walk, talk or have lunch," John M. Eklund, president of the AFL American Federation of Teachers told a meeting in Portland, Ore.



