

# THE MILITANT

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## Bolivian Leader Defends Revolt In Interview

The following interview with Guillermo Lora, leader of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bolivia, is reprinted from La Verite, French Trotskyist paper, and took place during his recent stay in Paris.

Lora was elected to the Bolivian Parliament in 1947 as a representative of the tin miners. In the course of the anti-working class repression instituted shortly after by the ultra-reactionary pro-imperialist dictatorship which struck down innumerable workers, Lora was arrested and spent time in all the concentration camps of his country. He finally succeeded in escaping and made his way to Europe. In addition to his intimate knowledge of the situation in Bolivia, he has been in daily contact with his country since the outbreak of the revolution.

Question: The news in the capitalist press on the Bolivian revolution is very confusing. Tell us first, what was the origin of the recent events?

Answer: The new government headed by Paz Estenssoro grew out of the coup d'etat carried out by General Seleme and Torres Ortiz, government minister and head of the general staff of the Junta which had just fallen, and which on April 8 ordered the occupation of the city of La Paz by the national and urban police. In addition they appealed to the right wing leaders of the MNR to join them in the conspiracy, insisting that this was the sole method of preventing General Sanchez, Minister of Labor, and other political elements from seizing the presidency.

Question: Before proceeding tell us about the MNR, which has been characterized by the press and not only the capitalist press as a fascist or neo-fascist party.

Answer: Yes, the pro-imperialist press has simultaneously stated that the MNR was a fascist party and that the Trotskyists supported this movement in the belief that the MNR would achieve the democratic revolution. These American lackeys are accustomed to falsifying facts and to slander. In reality, the MNR is a petty bourgeois party which bases itself on the organizations of the masses. We do not believe at all that it can fulfill the fundamental tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution (destruction of large landed property and national liberation) and our program states that these tasks are the tasks of the proletarian revolution in the present stage. The daily struggle now allows us to forge a common

front with all the exploited of all political tendencies, among them the MNR. Our aim is to liberate the workers from their petty bourgeois leadership. We don't believe this can be done by slander and falsification.

Question: What was the nature of the Junta whose break-up became the starting point for the revolution?

Answer: The government Junta arose out of a palace maneuver of the notorious agent of imperialism and butcher of the workers, Uriolagoitia, who is now in Paris. In this way, he was able to trample on working class sentiment which defeated the reaction in the electoral struggle of last year, and he instituted a regime in the unconditional service of imperialism and the feudal bourgeoisie.

The government Junta was seriously disintegrating before April 8. Internal struggle was having fatal effects. At the same time in recent months the poverty of the people was growing worse as the result of the Yankee policy of incorporating the country into its war plans.

The interminable debate between the government and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation on the price of tin was practically bankrupting the national budget. Imperialist oppression was further aggravated by the execution of what is called the technical agreement with the UN, which gives the North Americans the political and administrative direction of the country.

Set into motion by growing discontent, the masses took the first steps of the revolutionary period, which today is an indisputable reality.

Question: What is the attitude and the role of our party in this situation?

Answer: The Revolutionary Workers Party (RWP), Bolivian section of the Fourth International, which is firmly rooted in the most important sectors of the proletariat, has in the course of recent months undertaken a broad political campaign aimed at the political polarization of broad sections of the exploited. Despite illegality, our program was publicly issued and at the same time an appeal was made to all mass parties, among them the MNR, to organize a common front in the struggle against

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## Fights Purge



JAMES KUTCHER

## The Status of My Fight Against the 'Loyalty' Purge

By James Kutcher

The Militant asked me if I had any comment to make about the appeal against my purge that was heard before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington last month, and if I would care to write something about where my case stands now.

I gladly accepted the invitation for two reasons. First because I consider it an honor to be asked to write something for the best socialist paper in this country, and maybe in the world. The second reason is a little harder to explain.

### Nobody Asked Me

Nobody asked me to say anything at the court hearing in Washington on April 10 — all the talking was confined to lawyers and judges. My case has now become a legal and constitutional issue, in which no part seems to be played by me or by the Veterans Administrator who fired me from my clerical job with the Newark VA or by the Attorney General who drew up the "subversive" blacklist that was used against me or by the President who told the Attorney General to draw up the blacklist.

I am not objecting to discussion of my case as a constitutional issue; in fact, that is what I want and have worked for ever since I was fired. But sometimes, when I read the cold briefs or listen to the impersonal argument of abstract law and fine constitutional points, I get the strange feeling that I am only an observer rather than a participant in this fight, and I get an impulse to cry out, "You're forgetting something — remember that there is a human being involved in this," and then tell them in plain language what I think about the whole business.

Of course I cannot do such a

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# Labor Party in '52 Can Turn Tide of Reaction

## Steel Union Convention Faces Gravest Crisis in Many Years

By Joseph Keller

The CIO steel workers meeting in national convention in Philadelphia on May 13 face the gravest crisis since they founded their international union in 1942. The issue before them is this: Will they preserve the independence of the union and enable it to battle freely for their conditions and rights? Or will they continue to be bound to and restrained by the government and its agencies?

For the past six months of the latest contract struggle, this issue has been decided in favor of dependence upon government agencies — with the exception of the brief three-day period, from April 30 to May 3, when the steel workers demonstrated on the picket lines an organized power that momentarily set the corporations back on their heels.

### EVIL CONSEQUENCES

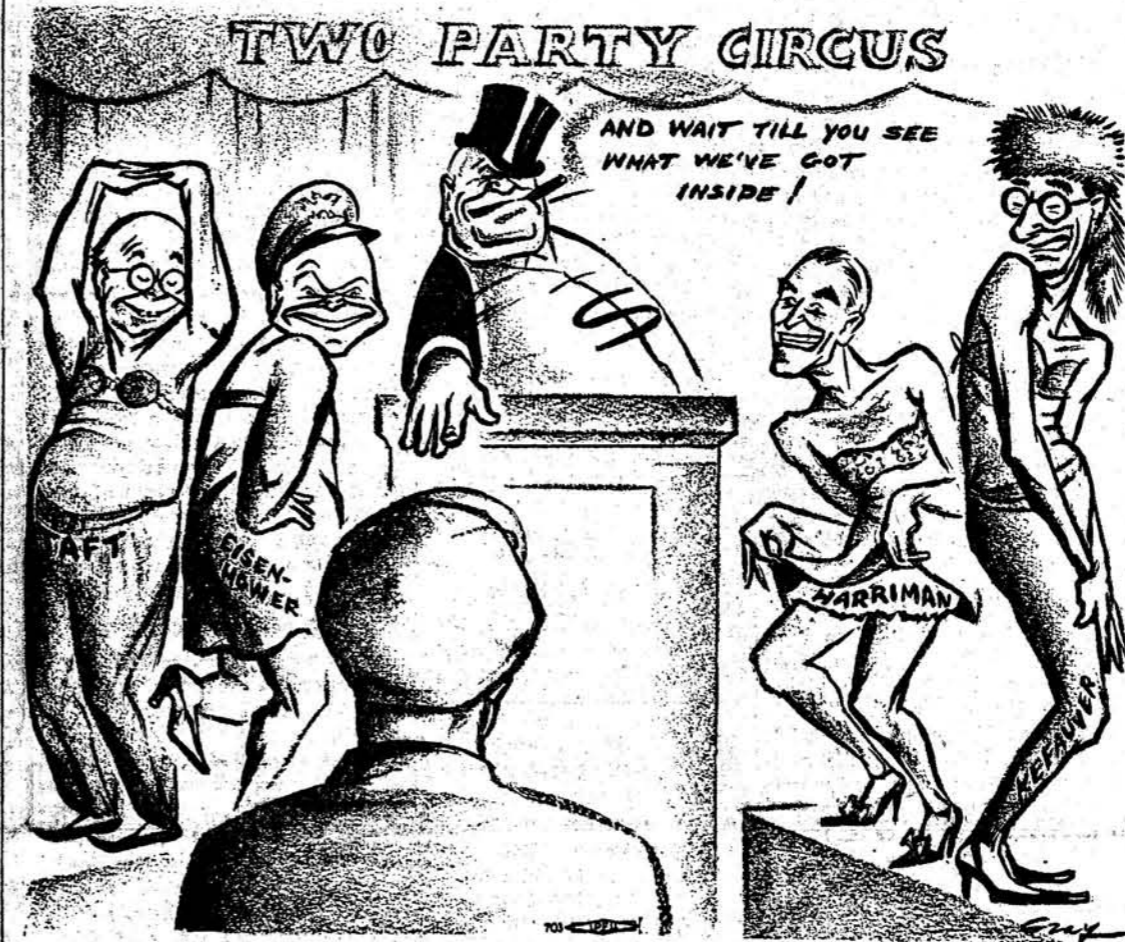
The consequences of the policy of dependence on government favors are a matter of indisputable fact: 1. the government has whittled down the steel workers' original and just demands; 2. government intervention has gained the steel workers not one cent more in wages, but has prevented them from using fully and effectively their most telling weapon, the strike; 3. the steel workers have been working without a contract for five months while the steel owners have been getting the benefit of their labor to maintain and even increase profits.

The net result of all the government actions — wage board hearings and delays, presidential seizures and court injunctions to halt wage boosts — has been to delay and deny wage gains to the steel workers for six months. It cannot be said this is a wholly unforeseeable outcome. CIO Steelworkers President Philip Murray certainly has not been in total ignorance of the likely results.

Testifying before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, April 23, in Washington, Murray reminded the senators that his union has had some painful experiences with government agencies. "We did not want to go to Washington in December, 1951," he said. "This union has had enough of panels and boards and tribunals. The process of going to a Board has, in the experience of this union, been a method of forcing the union to accept a compromise of its position before a strike has even begun. We did not want to go through that process again."

Murray added: "On each of the previous occasions when we went

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## RIEVE PURGES BALDANZI OPPOSITION AT TEXTILE WORKERS CONVENTION

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 3 — The CIO Textile Workers Union yesterday concluded its seventh biennial convention, ending five days of the bitterest struggle for union control since the national CIO convention, also held here, purged a number of international unions several years ago.

The sole achievement at the convention was the re-election of Emil Rieve as president of the 400,000-member union, and the elimination of the George Baldanzi opposition from all top posts in the organization.

### DELEGATES DISAPPOINTED

Rank and file delegates who came to Cleveland hoping to discuss proposals for dealing with life and death problems facing the union returned home completely disappointed. While resolutions were passed noting that "more than 150,000 textile workers are unemployed and hundreds of thousands more are working on curtailed schedules" and that "the depression in the

industry has caused widespread suffering in textile communities throughout the country," the chief preoccupation of the union leadership was with its factional fight for power.

Issues in the fight were limited to organizational questions, with the Rieve administration defending its record and policies as responsible for the "gains" of the union, and the Baldanzi opposition attacking the administration as "dictatorial," bureaucratic and politically corrupt.

Rank and file delegates attending meetings of the Rieve caucus heard testimony of members from various locals as to the "arrogance," "demagoguery" and goon-squad methods of Baldanzi. The opposition caucus heard similar charges about Rieve.

While the Baldanzi caucus benefited from a genuine discontent with the ineffectiveness of the policies of the union leadership in coping with the problems of unemployment and competition with unorganized southern mills, any tendencies toward a

real upsurge in the ranks capable of ousting the administration were dissipated by Baldanzi's failure to raise any fundamental differences with Rieve.

### BANKRUPT POLICIES

Rieve's keynote address was as classic a confession of bankruptcy as one could hear from the official labor leadership today, but neither Baldanzi nor any of the host of other Social Democrats-turned-Democrats had a word of criticism of his policies.

Rieve recognized that we have been going through a "cockeyed economy" — that the military expenditures have stimulated heavy goods industries and resulted in a slump in consumers goods industries, such as textiles. But instead of placing the blame where it belongs, on the capitalist war economy, he arrived at this dilemma:

"As long as there is no realistic attempt to curb the price inflation caused by defense expenditures, I see very little hope of

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## New Laws Are Threat Against Labor

By Joseph Hansen

In response to the clamor of the steel barons, Congress now threatens to pass new anti-labor laws aimed at breaking the backbone of unionism in America. The threat gives fresh urgency to the question, long at the top of the agenda in the mind of every politically-conscious union man, what can the labor movement do about the 1952 elections?

The proposed laws include a ban on industry-wide bargaining, compulsory Taft-Hartley Act injunctions, and even a "plan" pushed by Representative Howard Smith of Virginia, a Democrat, to put both company and union in the "receivership" of a federal court in case of strike, the costs to be imposed "equally" on company and union.

### ANTI-LABOR OFFENSIVE

These anti-labor legislative proposals are not aberrations that can be expected to be forgotten a few weeks after settlement of issues in the steel dispute. They are a logical continuation of the whole drive against democratic rights mounted by Big Business since the end of World War II, a drive that has chalked up such successes for the capitalist class as passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, Truman's "loyalty" purge, and the nationwide witch hunt. The final objective of this drive, as The Militant has pointed out repeatedly, is the crushing of organized labor as a potential source of resistance to the plans for another world war.

Any way you look at it, the 1952 legislative brew looks poisonous for labor. But there are even more ominous political developments. General Eisenhower stands a strong chance of hanging his brass hat on the capitol dome. As an alternative, Senator Taft, the main author of the Taft-Hartley Act, threatens to take over the executive arm of government. And the Democrats? In the final analysis, what they have to offer does not differ in any essential respect from the Republican choice of evils. That was why Truman did his best to induce General Eisenhower to run under the label of the donkey instead of the elephant.

All the candidates of both major parties are committed to preparations for another war. That means the heavy burden of a guns-not-butter program, redoubled pressure on the unions, the militarization and regimentation of America, the development of a police state, possibly other enterprises like Korea, eventually the nightmare perspective of a plunge into the full-scale war of atomic destruction.

### ROUGH YEAR AHEAD

Thus the facts would seem to bear out the pessimistic conclusion of one of Philip Murray's fair-haired boys, Joseph Curran, President of the National Maritime Union. In the May 1 Pilot, he begins his column: "This year promises to be a rough political year."

Rough indeed. Just where can labor turn in this crucial year? What can be done to safeguard labor's vital interests?

Curran's answers to these questions merit attention since they indicate prevailing opinion among the top leaders of the CIO. First, he considers the Republicans. "No worker with any common sense can support the present potential candidates of the Republican party," he declares. So far so good.

### DEMOCRATS NO BETTER

Now what about the Democrats? Curran dismisses Senator Kefauver as "weak on the question of civil rights, and many other domestic questions of great importance." He doubts the

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## Michigan Police-State Law Faces Federal Court Tests

DETROIT, May 5 — Michigan state officials, acting through Attorney General Millard, are still trying to utilize the Trucks Act to get a grand jury witch hunt under way, despite a federal judge's order restraining enforcement of the police-state measure.

Millard appeared before circuit court judges last week and tried to convince them that Judge Arthur F. Lederle's restraining order does not prevent state police from presenting evidence to get a grand jury investigation of alleged "subversives" started.

The circuit court judges, fearing legal difficulties arising out of the restraining order, again delayed decision on Millard's petition for a one-man grand jury investigation to prepare indictments against "violators" of the Trucks Act. The judges told Millard that he would have to present more facts.

### OFFICIALS RESTRAINED

Judge Lederle restrained state officials from enforcing the new law until May 20, when three federal judges will begin hearings on a suit brought by the Communist Party which seeks to invalidate the law.

This means that in all probability the courts will hear the CP suit before taking action on the court fight prepared by lawyers for the Socialist Workers Party. The SWP is seeking a declaratory judgment holding the Trucks Act unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment, an injunction restraining officials from arresting or prosecuting anyone for failure to register

under the Trucks Act, and an order directing the Secretary of State to certify the SWP for the Michigan ballot.

Meanwhile, the Rev. A. J. Muste national secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, sent a letter to FOR group leaders in Michigan urging them to protest the new law and help protect those who come within the scope of its provisions.

"A number of the provisions of the Act, such as that 'Communist' or 'subversive' parties can be kept off or thrown off the ballot by the simple say-so of the attorney general; the requirement of wholesale registration which requires people to give information about persons who have attended classes with them in the past, etc., are, as I am sure you agree, shocking," Muste wrote.

### ASKS SWP SUPPORT

His letter also noted that the first victim of the law was the Socialist Workers Party, which was barred from the state ballot after filing 12,000 signatures on a petition to get a place on the November ballot for its candidates, Farrell Dobbs for President and Grace Carlson for Vice President.

"We hope, therefore, that, in spite of disagreements with the Socialist Workers Party, everything possible will be done to help them in defending their civil liberties in the present situation," Muste declared.

Besides barring "subversives" from the ballot and requiring them to register with the state police, the Trucks Act includes a catch-all "sabotage" clause which is obviously designed to cripple legitimate union and strike activity.

### Ceylon Election

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### May Day in Bolivia

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# Millions Demonstrate in Japan on May Day

By Art Preis

"Never in history will people have regained their sovereignty with so little show of joy as is to be noted in Japan now," said the Tokyo Nippon Times about Japan's return to "independence" on April 28. The chief Far Eastern correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, Henry S. Hayward, reported from Tokyo that "the Japanese man in the street was apathetic." Hayward added a note of uneasiness:

"Somehow there was an almost ominous under current of silence, and lack of gaiety. Perhaps he suggested, the Japanese masses were 'saving their rejoicing for happier days' such as Emperor Hirohito's birthday on April 29 'for more boisterous days such as May Day when 700,000 demonstrators are expected to march.'"

### WORKERS DEMONSTRATE

Japan has seen few quieter days in the past two decades than

the occasion of the Emperor's fifty-first natal day. But 48 hours later — May Day — the Japanese workers demonstrated that they were far from apathetic toward the treaty of so-called "peace" and "sovereignty" imposed on Japan while under the domination of U.S. arms.

And "boisterous" is hardly an appropriate word for the gigantic militant and bitter demonstrations that swept the country in protest against continued American occupation of Japan under the guise of a "security" treaty against "Communism." Throughout the country some three million people turned out for more than 400 May Day rallies, reported Oland D. Russell, Scripps-Howard staff writer in Tokyo.

The climax of these demonstrations took place in the capital city Tokyo, seat of the Emperor and headquarters city for the American military command in the Far East. There, according to Japanese press and police

estimates cited by Russell, between 250,000 and 350,000 demonstrators, many of them armed with clubs, stones and pointed bamboo spears, marched for hours, shouting "Go home Damn Yankee!" whenever they saw an American, in uniform or civilian dress.

The demonstrators divided their attention between the Emperor, symbol of their hated native ruling class of monopoly capitalists, landlords and warlords, and the U.S. military, who have been strutting it over the Japanese workers and peasants for seven years and who have kept the old Japanese rulers in power.

### DEMAND YANKS LEAVE

One column of thousands marched on Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's residence, "where it milled about shouting 'puppet' and demanding that U.S. troops be sent home," reported Russell. This column continued on to the Imperial Palace of the

"sacred" Emperor. They three times charged a cordon of three thousand police, according to George Barrett, N. Y. Times correspondent in Tokyo, and almost broke through to the inner palace. In this battle, the Scripps-Howard report said, the demonstrators "clubbed 213 officers to the ground, injuring 51 seriously."

The real sentiments of the Japanese masses towards the United States occupation forces and the new "independence" was shown by the fact that the marchers drove American soldiers and civilians off the streets. According to one report, 10 uniformed Americans reported for treatment of minor injuries. "Most Americans had to duck inside buildings," reported Barrett, while American personnel were kept long after closing hours behind the huge bronze doors of the Dai Ichi building where the Far East Command headquarters are maintained. Some 50 U.S.

cars were reported burned or damaged near Gen. Ridgway's downtown headquarters.

While "many occupation cars were stoned," reported Russell of Scripps-Howard, one American girl actually "drew a few cheers as she made her way unmolested in an open car through one threatening group." She was "wearing a red sweater."

The angry demonstration resulted in possibly seven deaths, and the injury of 1,800, including 1,028 police, according to the May 2 N. Y. World-Telegram. It started as a labor rally of nearly 400,000 at Meiji Shrine Park, where two Americans, Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas and A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, were to speak. Both were forced to flee the platform. The Japanese workers are in no mood for apologies for U.S. imperialism even when it is dish-

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# Workers Control Asked in Bolivia

## The American Way of Life

### Their New God!

Humanity from its infancy has knelt in worship before the mysterious forces of nature which determined life and death, but could not be explained.

We have had sun-gods and rain-gods; men have prayed to inanimate pieces of clay molded by their own hands and endowed with supernatural power.

But it remains for the American imperialists to sanctify by their own hands and endowed with supernatural power.

The macabre new religion of the Pentagon was expressed in a liturgical ode to the atom by N. Y. Times correspondent William L. Laurence, who sang the following psalm to the new savior after the April 22 atom-bomb explosion at Yucca Flat:

"The mushroom in today's blast, which rose in five minutes to an altitude of 35,000 feet, was, from the point of view of symmetry and proportion, the most perfect of all five this correspondent has seen."

"It was a sculptor's dream, a gigantic hemisphere of white marble streaked with many colors of delicate hue, suspended in space like a giant dome that kept changing in form at a breathless pace. It was like watching a planet in the act of being born in space, being molded by invisible hands."

"Slowly, imperceptibly, in a sort of dream sequence, the hemisphere has changed into a flower-like face of many petals that grow out of the mass."

Here we have the New Lord of the atomic era, with a halo of petals, an idol carved by the hands of an invisible sculptor. This beautiful god proved his power to be even more terrifying than that of all the gods who came before him, by the "miracles" at Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Like all gods, this one serves a special purpose. The American warlords, whose plans for World

War III have aroused the hatred and fear of the world's peoples, turn to the new mysticism to justify their course. Confronted with the increasing power of the rising revolutionary forces of Asia, Europe, Africa and South America, the atom-priests stage their atomic spectacles in an effort to instill confidence among the American people in U.S. prospects. They call upon the new Messiah to help them cheat the inexorable historical process of revolution.

"What today's test meant, at least to this observer," wrote Laurence, "was that in fashioning these new atomic weapons, (we) made the equivalent of great armies of men to offset the numerical superiority possessed by the Communist nations."

What the atom-worshippers neglect to tell the American people, as they prostrate themselves before the "flower-faced" atom-god, is that each demonstrative display of atomic power staged by the Big Brass, repels the world's peoples, and multiplies the armies of the anti-imperialist forces on every continent. Yucca Flat was another lesson, telling the people of Asia, the workers of Europe, the oppressed in Africa, to prepare to defend themselves against the power-drunk madmen of Wall Street.

### GOD OF DOOM

And the atom-worshippers also forget, in their transports of worship of the new supernatural force they hope will save their doomed system, that this "flower" grows in other lands.

It will be a two-way atomic war. And prayers will not change the deadly impartiality of the new demon of destruction.

—Joseph Andrews

By George Breitman

May Day in Bolivia, three weeks after the revolution that overthrew the pro-Washington military dictatorship in that country, provided additional proof of the continuing conflict between the workers, whose militancy made the revolution successful, and the new government, which is dominated by the conservative leaders of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

As last week's Militant showed in detail, the MNR leaders (President Victor Paz Estenssoro and Vice President Hernan Siles Zuazo) are fundamentally pro-capitalist in outlook and reluctant to nationalize the foreign-owned tin mines. However, they are under powerful pressure to carry out this and other measures of social transformation from the anti-imperialist masses, still armed with 10,000 rifles and machine guns and a resurgent labor movement (Central Organization of Bolivian Workers), led by Juan Lechin, Minister of Mines

and Petroleum in the MNR cabinet.

### STRONG OPPOSITION

The May Day events brought to the surface more of the differences between the Paz government and the labor movement and led Edward A. Morrow, N. Y. Times correspondent in La Paz, to conclude that Paz appeared to be "facing a strong and constantly increasing opposition to his comparatively mild political and economic objectives." (All quotations in this article are from the Times May 2, 3 and 4 dispatches by Morrow, whose reports on Bolivia are the fullest and most revealing of any printed in the U.S.)

Morrow mentions three manifestos issued on May Day. One, published by the MNR paper, *En Marcha*, "strongly attacked the position of Communists in this country." A second was issued by the Stalinist Left Revolutionary Party (LPR). But it was the third, printed in *Rebellion*,

the new paper of the Central Organization of Bolivian Workers, that most "disturbed" diplomatic observers because it was "more Communist" than the Stalinist manifesto.

### FOR WORKERS' CONTROL

"The Communists called for nationalization of the mines and railroads, without indemnity, in the shortest possible time. The labor unions' official paper used these demands only as a jumping off point. The program outlined by Senor Lechin's organization called for workers' control over production, general wage and salary increases, expulsion of the Yankee mission, a state monopoly over foreign and domestic commerce and an agrarian revolution."

Discussing nationalization, *Rebellion* declared: "Iran has given us an example that, when the workers mass in defense of their proper interests, there is no power, human or divine, that can resist them. . . . We do not have to pay any more silver to those imperialist enterprises who have robbed us." It advocated that "the tin mines should pass to the state for administration by the people who work them."

### WORLD SOLIDARITY

In other articles *Rebellion* denounced U.S. imperialism and expressed solidarity with the anti-imperialist "Korean, Indo-Chinese, Egyptian and Moroccan 'warriors for independence' and with the satellite states who are fighting for 'true democracy.'" It charged that the Bolivian reactionaries "had cooperation in all their crimes from the American Military Mission, a band of FBI spies which functions under the direction of the American Embassy."

Speaking to the May Day marchers, Lechin said "it was foolish to think the revolution was ended by the taking of the Presidential Palace. It has only begun," he asserted.

This, of course, is not the view of the Paz-Siles wing of the MNR, and Siles hastened to state that clearly in an interview granted to Morrow. Making a clear bid for conciliation with Washington, Siles said the Paz

regime is "the last bulwark against Communism in this country," promised the MNR would not "toy with orthodox Marxist doctrines" and in other ways showed what Morrow terms "the government's intentions to keep the groups of the extreme Left under close control."

### REJECTS LABOR'S VIEWS

Paz has not dared to come out against nationalization, and has announced that a commission will be set up to study it and to make recommendations — maybe in six months. Lechin on the other hand insisted that no more than one month was needed. In the interview, Siles repeated the Paz formula for delaying action, adding that the commission "will not only study internal conditions but foreign views on the matter," no matter what Lechin wanted.

He also rejected *Rebellion's* demand for nationalization without indemnity: "Nationalization is not the same as confiscation." Of the demand for workers' control of production, he haughtily commented: "They can ask for many things but the government will decide what is good for the country."

Siles also admitted that there had been differences with Lechin on some questions in the cabinet, but "could not confirm a report that the mine leader had offered his resignation."

He said it was "foolish and silly" for Lechin to threaten that the government had to fulfill its program immediately if it wanted to stay in power. "Should the Government fall, Senor Lechin would go with it, he declared."

On the surface, this remark seems to be a friendly warning to Lechin and the labor movement that they had better stick with the MNR, or they will "fall" too. It might also be a veiled threat that the Paz wing of the MNR will join with the mineowners and other Bolivian forces of reaction to crush the masses if they should attempt to replace the Paz regime with a workers and peasant government.

### THE RABY INCIDENT

Another incident of the week showed that "the government's

intentions to keep the groups of the extreme Left under close control" are not being carried out with complete success.

Bertram W. Raby, British personnel director of the Antofagasta Bolivian Railway, was an object of hatred "because he had attacked Bolivian workers and questioned their worth" (according to Morrow) — that is, because he was a symbol of foreign exploitation of the industries the Bolivian workers want to be nationalized.

On the Sunday before May Day, his home was stoned, and he moved into the British Embassy. A delegation of workers visited the administrator of the railway on May 2, demanding Raby's immediate departure from the country. The administrator "offered to refer the case to the government. The workers refused to hear of such action. They demanded that Mr. Raby issue his resignation."

### FORCE GOVT. TO ACT

Apparently these workers had greater confidence in their own direct action than in the government. Morrow reports that they

## BOLIVIAN LEADER DEFENDS REVOLUTION IN INTERVIEW

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imperialism. Our party didn't have any illusions about petty bourgeois anti-imperialism but it was keenly interested in assisting the workers and exploited sections of the middle classes on to the revolutionary road.

The central slogans put forward by our party were: 1. Restoration of the constitution of the country through the formation of an MNR government, which obtained a majority in the 1951 election. 2. Struggle for the improvement of wages and working conditions. 3. Struggle for democratic rights. 4. Mobilization of the masses against imperialism, for the nationalization

of the mines, and for the abrogation of the UN agreement.

The reaction unleashed an offensive against the POR whose influence was growing daily in the left wing of the MNR. The big mineowners sought to involve the reactionary elements of this petty bourgeois party in a struggle against the "communist" parties. The bulk of the attack was directed against the Pulacayo Resolution which is the program of the 'Miners' Federation.

The subversive movement of the ninth of April was no surprise for our party and occurred as we had foreseen in our theoretical analysis.

(To Be Concluded Next Week)

## STEEL WORKERS FACE WORST CRISIS IN YEARS

(Continued from page 1)

before government tribunals, those tribunals recommended what they regarded to be a reasonable compromise of the issues. . . . When we accepted those recommendations and the industry refused to accept them, as it uniformly did, we were placed in the unfortunate and difficult position of being asked to compromise away the recommended compromises."

What has it cost the steel workers for a policy over the years that has put them in a position of having to compromise on their already whittled-down demands? Murray told the Senators that too. "At this moment, despite the seizure, the Steelworkers of America are still receiving 1950 wages and paying 1952 prices."

"In rubber, auto, meat packing, and almost every other major industry the workers have long since received wage increases in excess of those recommended by the Board for the Steelworkers. . . . they and their families, almost alone in America, still today have received nothing, absolutely nothing."

### IMPORTANT EXAMPLE

Murray omitted one important example of a union which has won benefits that the steel workers should have gained long ago, but haven't. He forgot the coal miners. They have given the most impressive demonstrations of how to win union demands by independent struggle, with no reliance upon the government.

When, following Federal Judge Pine's ruling that Truman could not "seize" the steel plants and raise wages, the steel workers at long last went on strike, the relationship of forces changed in 24 hours. The workers felt, and correctly, that the issue lay in their own strong hands where it should have been from the start. The companies were almost immediately backed against the wall — with no government between to stave off the pressure

and fighting power of the workers.

How quickly then a federal appeals court reversed Judge Pine's order restraining the government from putting wage increases into effect. But then Murray responded to Truman's demand that he call off the strike; he sent the men back, not even fixing a new strike deadline. Once more the pressure was relieved from the corporations and government. Within hours of Truman's hint that he might put some pay award into effect, his own hand-picked and packed Supreme Court ruled he could not raise wages while the seizure issue was under review, with a decision possibly weeks off.

### DISASTROUS POLICY

Murray has said that so long as Truman's fake seizure is in effect he will not call a strike "against the government." This means that if the court upholds the seizure, but denies the government's power to change wages and working conditions, Murray will accept it. The consequence would be disastrous for the union. On the other hand, a ruling giving the administration power to raise wages will not mean that the steel workers will get the WSB's full recommendations.

All the pressure, all the weight is now on the union to compromise down the WSB terms. The profits-fat corporations can just sit tight, rake in their profits as usual and fly the U.S. flag over their plants.

### THE DOLLAR PATRIOTS

For all their hubbaloos about the so-called seizure, the steel companies do not consider seizure the vital issue, except as newspaper and radio propaganda. They have their eye on the ball — the dollars-and-cents issue, wages, prices and profits. U.S. Steel, in its initial petition to the courts, asked only for a restraining order on any wage increases. Judge Pine had to prod the U.S. Steel lawyers to request a restraining order on seizure also.

Bethlehem Steel's attorney Bruce Bromley, explaining the anxiety of the companies to seek a high court review, said they "decided not to wait for the Government to appeal . . . because delay might afford an opening for action to be taken changing employment conditions."

It is generally believed, however, that if Truman had wanted to put the WSB wage recommendations into effect, and make them stick, he would have done so right at the start. Whatever his intentions, the steel corporations had little to fear from him. If he did not immediately agree to their demands they had other agencies of government at their disposal, the courts and Congress. The latter is already working on special legislation to prevent the government from raising steel wages regardless of any Supreme Court ruling.

The steel workers have before them a choice of going the road of the coal miners or the railroad workers. They can conduct an independent fighting struggle like the miners or they can sink deeper into the bog of government restraints like the railmen.

## Labor Party Can Stem Reaction

(Continued from page 1)

capacity of the Wall Street figure, Averill Harriman, to "rise above" the Democratic party machine politicians. With that he comes to the end of the list. "There are no other candidates on the scene at the present time with any possibility of getting the Democratic party nomination, and it appears now that President Truman cannot be drafted."

On the basis of these premises, the conclusion seems obvious: We can no longer postpone organizing a labor party and putting genuine labor candidates in office.

But Curran finds at hand a host of reasons for not shaking loose from the dead hand of the capitalist political machines. "If there was one labor movement and labor unity on the political front, plus the independent farmers and small business people, it would be possible to think in terms of a third party. But this unity does not exist, and any effort to talk third party this year would, without doubt, split the progressive forces and throw the election to the reactionary Republicans. . . . There, without doubt, is political imagination boldly arousing independent farmers, small business people and the labor movement to united action!"

### LOST IN FOG

Caught without a candidate, lost in a political fog, our pilot nevertheless keeps the ship steady as she goes. "Our part is clear. Our union, as in the past, must raise its share of PAC DOLLARS and help during the Election period to get out the vote." Vote for what? "Whatever candidate is nominated by the Democrats," concludes Curran. "Whatever candidate" unsight and unseen.

A more optimistic attitude than that of Curran is taken by the pundits of the AFL bureaucracy. Looking over the grave political situation, the editors of the *AFL News-Reporter* (April 23) come up with the cheerful pronouncement, "1952 can be another 1948."

By this they mean that the labor vote can be decisive in 1952 as it was in 1948. That is, with some "ifs." "If" all the members of the AFL "and their families and their friends and their friends' families carry the word to more people, if they all register and vote this year, 1952 will be another 1948."

Carry what "word"? Vote for who and what? Is Truman going to run again? On another platform to safeguard civil liberties

and enact FEPC legislation with teeth in it? And another promise to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act?

And will this Truman or a reasonable facsimile thereof give us bigger and bloodier Korea's? More taxes? More corruption in office? And end up four years from now trying to persuade an anti-labor general to take over?

The AFL bureaucrat-politicians deserve a big hand for bestirring themselves in such exemplary fashion and coming up with such an ingenious solution to the ominous political crisis facing labor: namely, to turn the clock back to 1948 and go through the past four years all over again. There is humor no doubt in the farce staged by the heads of the AFL and CIO, but the consequences of such politics are grim. What they are juggling is not simply a political hot potato but the whole question of government power in the age of the atom bomb and the death agony of the capitalist system.

## THE PRESENT STATUS OF MY CASE

(Continued from page 1)

thing in a courtroom — the judges would think it highly improper and maybe even contemptuous. Anyhow, that is the second reason why I am glad to accept The Militant's invitation.

As I sat in the Washington courtroom, I thought to myself: One thing you need when you go to court is patience. I was fired in August, 1948, almost four years ago. I began the fight to clear my name and the name of my party of the "disloyal" stigma they planned on us the day after I got the letter notifying me that I was on the purge list. I had finally reached the stage where the Circuit Court of Appeals was considering my case. And yet the end was not in sight.

The lawyers told me that the Circuit Court might take anywhere from six weeks to six months to hand down their decision. Assuming that there is no further hitch, the case will then go to the U.S. Supreme Court. What will that take — another year? That might mean five or more years before the case is finally decided. (When I talk about a hitch, I am referring to the possibility that the Circuit Court or the Supreme Court might decide to send the case back to a lower body, and then we would have to go through the whole long process all over again.)

Yes, I thought last month, a man must have cast-iron patience when he goes to court.

Since then, however, I have modified this opinion. A lot seems to depend on who you are. It took me almost four years to bring my case to its present stage. But it seemed to take the steel corporations only about four days to take its case much further, right up to the Supreme Court.

Why is there such a difference? It is not because the steel corporations have better lawyers than mine, who are not only men of ability, but of devotion to principle so strong that they are ready to champion unpopular causes. Is it because the steel barons have a lot of money? That is not supposed to carry weight with the judges. Is it because they have great political power? The judges are supposed to be politically impartial. Or is it, as socialists have long contended, because under capitalism, property rights (the issue in the steel case) are regarded as more important than democratic rights and the political rights of working class parties (the issue in my case)?

At any rate, one fact is sure: When the Truman administration usurped the power to start a "loyalty" purge, the courts let things proceed at a slow and leisurely pace, altogether different from their behavior when the corporations and the press

Republicans. Second, organization of a Labor Party. A start can be made right now by getting ready to put union representatives on the ballot this fall.

Such a course will assure union political victories in 1952. The victories may be modest because of the inexcusable stalling and delay up to now, but even modest victories could change the whole political atmosphere over night. Everyone, for instance, would interpret the appearance of the first union representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives as the announcement of a pending nationwide landslide for labor.

They would interpret it that way because such a political landslide is already long overdue in America. It has only been the blind, stupid and cowardly politics of the top union bureaucrats that has prevented American labor from coming into its own on the political field long before now.

The West Coast competition for Militant subscriptions is well under way this week with Oakland way out ahead of the other six competing branches.

The West Coast's leading subgetter and best contender so far for the prize of one week's vacation at Mountain Spring Camp, is Frank K., who will be remembered by Militant readers as one of the outstanding salesmen in last spring's national competition. Frank is responsible for 482 points of Oakland's score. One of the reasons for this, he writes, is that he is on vacation now, and is going out every day for subs.

The scoreboard for the second week of the West Coast campaign reads as follows:

Oakland	514 points
San Francisco	292 points
Westside Los Angeles	286 points
Eastside Los Angeles	276 points
Southside Los Angeles	262 points
Seattle	197 points
San Pedro	134 points

High scorers are Frank K., Oakland Branch, 482 points; Myra, Westside Los Angeles Branch, 137; and Tom, Seattle Branch, 52.

Literature Agent Helen S. sends in a report on Minneapolis' local sub campaign. She writes, "Under the slogan 'Make More Minnesota Militants in May: Sell Socialism — Sell Subs!' the Minneapolis Branch is off in high gear on our sub campaign. Today, May Day, the opening day of our campaign the seven enclosed subs were brought in. This is only a token of things to come!"

"Here is a list of the five teams and their stewards: Campaigners led by Doris; Debs Banner Bearers, Larry; North Side Tornados, Pauline; Lavender Hill Mob, Wally; and the Portland Promoters, Ralph. Larry is the high scorer at the present time and his team is also ahead. The winning team will be honored at a social on June 7, a Militant Cabaret. All of the plans for this haven't been worked out, but there will be speeches, and badges for the winners. Members of the winning team will be admitted free, entertained royally, and — excused from all work that evening! The individual high scorer will be given his choice of five dollars of Pioneer Publishers literature."

Buffalo has 12 subs to their credit so far in their subscription campaign. Charles C. writes that

they expect to keep the subs rolling in at a steady pace.

B. W. of New Haven writes to tell us that "the Yale Students for Democratic Action Chapter voted to subscribe to *The Militant* because of its excellent coverage on civil rights, although it expressed its disagreement with the political views of the paper. Moreover it found the first few issues of its subscription so informative on civil rights cases that it voted to suggest to other SDA chapters that they subscribe for that reason and to send the suggestion to B. T. of Schenectady, New York, and to J. K. of San Francisco for \$1 donations sent in with their Militant renewals."

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## THE MILITANT

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### Make America Civilized

The outburst of anti-American sentiment in May Day demonstrations throughout the world found its obverse expression inside America — complaints of the capitalist press about the "hate America" slogans carried by the millions of demonstrators.

The most superficial explanation offered by the capitalist editorial hacks for this world-wide opposition to America is that it was all "Communist inspired." Some, realizing that this "explanation" actually explains nothing since there must be real grounds for such an explosion of feeling, talk about "xenophobia" (hatred of foreigners) or the continued existence in the post-war world of pressing economic and social problems which beset the masses.

Not one of these hirelings, however, is willing to ask if the fault might not lie in America itself.

Not so long ago it was the Nazis who were the object of world hatred. And in the not too distant past America was regarded as the great hope of the world, as the friend of the oppressed and the haven of the persecuted.

How did America happen to lose this enviable position and fall heir to the role of the Nazis as the world's most hated force.

We need not search far for the answer. In the minds of the teeming masses abroad, America took up the Nazi objective — conquest of the world. And the evidence supporting this conclusion is only too plain.

The Truman Administration has done everything in its power to maintain every reactionary dictatorship from the bloodthirsty Chiang Kai-shek of China and Syngman Rhee of Korea to the unspeakable fascist butcher Franco of Spain. Throughout the colonial world Washington has armed and financed all the old colonial despots from the Dutch in Indonesia to the French in Indo-China and the British in Malaya. In Japan it maintained the Mikado and in Germany restored the backers of the Nazis.

Wherever you see an oppressed people desperately struggling for freedom there you see American arms and American dollars rushed to the aid of the oppressors.

Above all, the colonial people are aware of the whole gigantic effort of the Truman Administration to build the most terrible military force in world history. They are not stupid. They look at the desolate waste of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and understand that a power capable of such deeds will not hesitate to use the atom bomb on them too.

These are the main reasons why the masses of the world reject America, abhor its aims and demand that it withdraw its occupation troops, get out of their lands and leave them in peace to work out their own problems.

For our part, we believe that right and justice are on the side of the demonstrators who have voiced their opinion of America's current foreign policy. It is high time to heed this opinion, to take the power of government out of the hands of conquest-minded Big Business and make America civilized.

## Ceylon Govt. Tries to Rig Election

By John G. Wright

Fearful of being kicked out of power in the general elections scheduled for May 22, the United National Party (UNP), the ruling party of the Ceylonese capitalists, is striving with might and main to rig and steal these elections. The latest move is to disfranchise almost a quarter of a million voters of Indian origin, the great bulk of whom are tea and rubber plantation workers.

The main threat to the UNP and capitalist rule in Ceylon comes from the largest mass opposition party, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP), Ceylonese revolutionary socialists who are affiliated with the Fourth International.

As far back as Jan. 31 of this year, the Samasamajist, English

weekly of the LSSP, warned: "Ruse and subterfuge, interference and intimidation, bribery and corruption are being used and will increasingly be used to reduce the exercise of the vote to a gigantic farce."

The Samasamajist charged at the time that the UNP government had "revised" election lists. "The names of thousands of citizens have been removed from the electoral lists, while phantom names have appeared on them to feed the machines of impersonation."

Furthermore, the discredited and bankrupt UNP government resolved last January to steal the elections by "amending" the Ceylon electoral law which requires that each year's registration must be certified that very same year. Instead of this the

1950 election lists have now been "certified" as the basis for the May 1952 elections.

By this "regulation" almost a quarter of a million voters of Indian origin who had been listed on the 1949 rolls have been deprived of their vote along with thousands of others who now find it impossible to get their names on the election registers.

### INDIANS DISFRANCHISED

The disfranchisement of the Indian voters was accomplished in 1950 by the simple device of demanding that "they" furnish evidence of ancestry and certificates of birth and Ceylonese residence," explained the N. Y. Times correspondent from New Delhi on April 23. The same Times cable then goes on to add

that such documents could be supplied by "few of the illiterate (Indian) laborers on the tea and rubber plantations." In addition, the Times correspondent admits cynically, "Ceylonese officials were slow in processing Indian applications." As a consequence the 1950 election lists contain the names of less than 8,000 voters of Indian origin. Out of a total Indian population in Ceylon of 800,000, these 8,000 are the only ones who will be permitted to cast a ballot in the May elections.

As the LSSP correctly charged months ago the game of the UNP was especially "to have 1950 registers in the so-called Indian constituencies," thereby preventing even those who may now get citizenship from exercising the vote."

This electoral fraud was too raw for Nehru's government to swallow and New Delhi lodged an official protest against this disfranchisement of "people of Indian origin" many of whom had settled in Ceylon "for generations." New Delhi's protest was rejected by the UNP.

### USING "RED" SCARE

Among the alibis cited by the Ceylonese capitalists (and approvingly reported by the Times' correspondent) is that the UNP "is not eager to have the Indians vote because Communist trade unionism has been strong among this depressed community." This "Communist scare" is being assiduously promoted by the UNP whose Home Minister announced on May 3 that Indian Communists "from Travancore" were trying "infiltrate" Ceylon in order to "campaign among the disfranchised Indian voters."

The truth of the matter is that the predominant influence among the mass of the Ceylonese workers, Sinhalese and Indian alike, is wielded not by the Stalinists but by the LSSP whose main election slogan calls for the establishment of a Workers' and Peasants' Government.

To kick the capitalists out of power, the LSSP has consistently offered the Ceylon CP a united front on the basis of the 14-point program (see The Militant, March 31). In a by-election in March the LSSP supported the CP candidate against the UNP. Such a united front, however, has failed to materialize to date, despite protracted negotiations, because the Stalinists continue to maneuver for a coalition with "progressive" capitalist politicians, in other words, to replace the UNP by another capitalist government whose foreign policy would be "friendly" to the Kremlin.

## BOOK VIEWS MID-EAST AS NEXT WAR 'PRIZE'

By Tom Conlan

**BLOOD, OIL & SAND** by Ray Brock. World Publishing Co., 1952, 256 pp., \$3.50.

The author of this book, Ray Brock, for 15 years a roving correspondent in the Middle East, remarks correctly that scores of millions inhabiting this "two million square land mass" are "going the way of the Far East with terrifying velocity." But this linking of the titanic liberationist movement of Arab and Asian peoples is not the main theme Brock develops. He fears it, hates it and denigrates it. In his eyes "nearly 50 million peoples in one of the most dangerous areas on earth are within a touch of mass hysteria and murder."

After reducing the beginnings of the greatest social revolutionary upheaval in the Middle East to "mass hysteria and murder," Brock is naturally unable to see in Arab and Moslem nationalism anything more than "a glaring weakness and a grave danger." He denounces nationalism as "erosive," "disruptive," "fanatical," "Frankenstein monster," and the like. And he tops all this off by pretending to see in it primarily the handiwork of the Kremlin and its agents who are "injecting" the Middle East "with the deadly virus of wild, hopeless nationalism." Communist penetration, he assures, is "deeper, deadlier and extensively more tenacious" than even "accurately reported." Brock pleads "past guilt on this score" himself.

### FRANK ABOUT WAR

Brock's approach to the Middle East, every country in it, and to the Balkans (which he deems strategically decisive in this connection) is predicated on the outlook that "war with Russia is the ineluctable fate of the West." This war which is "a settled affair" and which "we are heading into, straight as a die," will be fought, among other things, in and over the Middle East which "is vital to the West; economically it is the greatest prize in the world." It is a relief to meet in a book this frank statement of imperialist aims and "economic prizes" instead of the usual chatter about "democracy," "halting aggression," etc.

The best sections of this otherwise superficial and reactionary book consist of Brock's comments on the "failure" of the West, of the U.S. and the utter bankruptcy of the native ruling circles. "Disillusionment with the West is abysmally profound in nearly all of the Middle East." And even more pointedly: "Moslem and

Arab leaders and their inflammable masses millions of followers have become convinced that America, not Britain and not Communist Russia, is the implacable enemy of their aspirations for independence, freedom from hunger, privations and pestilence and an opportunity to solve their grinding economic woes and the scourge of almost unending war."

Apart from Turkey and the Serbs (Brock views the late Mihailovich as a great hero and a betrayed "Serbian martyr"), he finds little for the West to rely upon. And worst of all, the "engulfing" and "all-to-solid menace" of Communism is something which is not "even a spectre or hobgoblin to the unhappy (Egyptian) fellahin," or, it might be added, to any other poor peasant in the Middle East.

### CARROT-CLUB POLICY

Brock is especially critical of Acheson, Jessup and the U.S. diplomatic personnel in the Middle East. He offers a policy of his own, that of a carrot (Point Four program) in combination with the club (support of existing regimes "rotten as they are"). "For the West must now stand and fight in the Middle East as if its very life depended on it, which it does."

The West, especially the Americans, are not taking the Middle East seriously enough, Brock assures. That is why he wrote this book or as he puts it "laid it on the line." It is not the line of truth but of imperialism.

**LAUGHING TO KEEP FROM CRYING** by Langston Hughes. Holt, 1952, 206 pp., \$2.75.

This collection of short stories by Langston Hughes, poet, novelist and columnist, is not as uniformly enjoyable as his *Simple Speaks His Mind*. Some of the stories are really nothing but sketches, minor attempts that could have been omitted without any harm. But some of them rank with the best that Hughes has written in the past about the impact of race prejudice on human relations.

The best story in the book, *Big Meeting*, is only 15 pages long, but its gripping account of a tent revival meeting and a sermon on the crucifixion of Christ gives a better insight into the role that religion has played in American Negro life than most sociologists could in a dozen thick volumes.

— Albert Parker

## MILLIONS DEMONSTRATE IN JAPAN AGAINST U.S. OCCUPATION FORCES

(Continued from page 1)  
 ed out as a "socialist" and "labor" program.

Two days after this gigantic anti-occupation demonstration, Emperor Hirohito, Premier Yoshida and other Japanese dignitaries celebrated Constitution Day — anniversary of the constitution that Gen. MacArthur wrote and stuffed down the Japanese people's throats. The Imperial Plaza, where hundreds of thousands had demonstrated two days before, now "bristled with more than five thousand police plus 500 members of the national police reserve . . . Japan's embryo Army," reported the Christian Science Monitor, while "an orderly crowd of about

fifteen thousand carefully screened persons listened silently to speeches."

Japanese officials, apologizing obsequiously to their U.S. masters, sought to put the blame for the anti-occupation demonstrations on a "few thousand Communists." Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway called the May First demonstration "clearly of alien inspiration."

It was indeed of "alien inspiration" — but not the "aliens" Ridgway would imply. The Japanese people, especially the workers, have been inspired to resistance by the alien, foreign U.S. conquerors who have been in control of their country and are preparing to turn it into a war base against China and the Soviet Union.

Within the past few weeks there have been two general strikes in Japan against an anti-subversive bill, patterned on U.S. models, which would give the government power to disband any organization it held to be "subversive." Under this bill, the Japanese capitalists plan to suppress and destroy the labor unions, which are largely non-Stalinist.

### U.S. WAR BASE

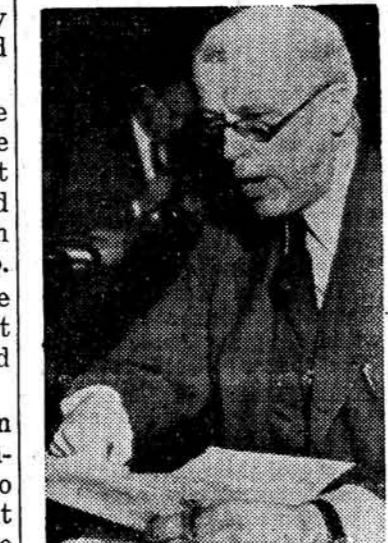
Hanson W. Baldwin, N. Y. Times military analyst, commenting April 29 on the Japanese peace treaty, reminds us that Japan is still being retained by the U.S. as its "privileged sanctuary" for mounting the war in Korea, including "extensive use of Japanese facilities — ports,



YOSHIDA

airfields, railroads." The treaty provision for "continued use of bases" in Japan by American forces after the peace treaty will cause "much irritation," says Baldwin. He also points to "the virtually extraterritorial rights that the treaty bestows upon United States forces."

The words "extraterritorial rights" alone suggest the role Japan is intended to play — a role like the one western imperialists tried to impose on China. Thus, says Baldwin, the Japanese people face "a period when Japan is free, yet not free; a period during which American troops must remain in Japan, despite the frictions their presence is certain to inspire." The Japanese have shown they won't accept such freedom — to remain in their prison of foreign military occupation.



NORMAN THOMAS

## Oil Workers Turn Down WSB Back-To-Work Order

MAY 8 — O. A. Knight, Oil Workers International Union President, yesterday flatly rejected a back-to-work order by WSB Chairman Nathan P. Feinsinger, as the oil strike went into its eighth day.

Knight, speaking for 22 locals of the CIO AFL and independent unions collaborating in the fight, said, "We have no alternative but to continue our strike." He pointed out that Feinsinger's order had resulted in a breakdown of negotiations with the companies, some of which had begun to weaken prior to the WSB order.

"Things that looked promising . . . before the WSB order do not look so good," Knight said. The Oil Workers Union in its official newspaper stated May 6, "The strikers are fighting against a stacked deck, but that makes it all the more important that they win. If corporation executives are permitted coldly to ignore the needs of the wage earners, then to manipulate the government so that the government denies the right to strike, collective bargaining will be destroyed."

"One obvious fact should be held in mind," the union statement continued, "all the Congressmen and WSB members in Washington cannot produce or refine one barrel of oil."

The union had previously postponed its strike deadline for a total of two months, on successive

requests of the Federal Mediation Service, Truman, and the WSB. Negotiations have been stalled for eight months.

Union demands include a 25-cent an hour wage increase, increased night shift differential, and area wage adjustments to bring low pay plants up to the national average. The companies have refused to meet any of the demands.

There is no question about the complete justice of the union's demands. Like most workers, the oil workers wages have failed to keep abreast of rising prices.

### PROFITS SKYROCKET

While productivity of oil workers has increased 20 percent since 1947, and total sales of the corporations have risen 60 percent since that time, the total wage payments of the corporations have risen only 25 percent — an increase due not entirely to wage increases, but to growth of the labor force.

Meanwhile, profits of the oil industry have skyrocketed by 250 percent above 1939, on the basis of 1939 dollars. But wages have increased only about 6 percent in terms of 1939 dollars.

Although the oil barons have formed a national front against the union, they have refused to bargain on an industry basis, insisting the union bargain on a plant-by-plant basis.

Since the 90,000 striking workers have turned down the WSB demand that they call off their strike, the issues in the dispute will no doubt go before Truman, who will have to determine whether or not to invoke the Taft-Hartley injunction provisions against the workers.

The strike has thus far been very effective, and the union has maintained solid ranks in the major fields.

## Rieve Purges TWU Opposition

(Continued from page 1)  
 a lasting recovery. And unless there is a recovery, our economy will get weaker — endangering the defense effort and the struggle against communist aggression."

**PROBLEM OF SOUTH**  
 Similarly, the "opposition" went along with no objections to resolutions endorsing the Truman administration's foreign policy and its domestic "economic mobilization." Nor was there any criticism of the Rieve administration for tying the union to greater and greater reliance on government boards and agencies.

The Baldanzi caucus correctly emphasized the importance of organizing the unorganized two-thirds of the textile industry in the south, and of fully utilizing the resources of the union toward that end.

The more conservative Rieve took the business man's approach: "The southern strike lasted about five weeks, and it involved about 40,000 workers. The cost to the international union was approximately one million and a quarter dollars."

"On the other hand, the woolen and worsted strike lasted four weeks and involved 70,000 workers. The cost to the international union was nil."

The failure of the CIO Textile Workers Union to make any serious dent in the southern industrial pattern was reflected in

the composition of the convention delegations. Less than 50 of the 2000 members in attendance were Negroes.

Beneath the factional maneuvers and procedural fights, which almost ended in fist fights, the banner-waving, whirling of noise-makers, applauding and booing, the real concern of the rank and file delegates was the growing unemployment.

One member from Attawapugan, Conn., told the Militant reporter: "We sure can make damn fools of ourselves, can't we? I've worked in the mills for 45 years. Our town has been closed down with unemployment for seven or eight months and we don't know when it will end. And here we are yelling our lungs out over Baldanzi and Rieve. George is a nice guy, but Rieve is all right, too."

Two younger men from Cumberland, Md., also unemployed, said they are planning to come to Cleveland to look for work in some other industry, after having worked in textile over ten years. Their employer closed down the Maryland factory to operate only his unorganized Virginia mill.

Asked what they thought the issues in the convention fight

were, since they were Rieve buttons, they replied: "Power! Union jobs, that's all."

But they, like many other delegates, expressed the opinion that while there were no basic differences between the two factions, now that the Rieve slate has won the complete executive board, it will have to take full responsibility for the administration; it will no longer be possible to blame the Baldanzi group for "disrupting" the administration's work.

### THREAT OF SPLIT

The threat of a split by the Baldanzi group hung over the entire convention, but that course was rejected by the caucus, with the exception of Jack Robinson, business manager of the Hamilton, Ontario, joint board. He said he would recommend secession to his members when he returned home.

The relative strength of the two groups as seen in the vote was as follows: For union president, Rieve 1223, Baldanzi 720; executive vice president, Mariano S. Bishop (Baldanzi) 1243, Joseph L. Heuter (Baldanzi) 698; secretary treasurer, William Pollock (re-elected with 1253, Lewis M. Conn 682.

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## U.S. ARMY TRUCK RUNS DOWN AND KILLS FRENCH STRIKER

By Charles Hanley

A few weeks ago the American press reported the news that a U.S. Army truck had run down and killed a French worker by the name of Alfred Gadois. What rated

as a small inside page news item in the press here was the cause of a violent protest movement by important sections of the French labor movement. Alfred Gadois was a victim of the American army of "occupation" in France.

Undoubtedly our readers will ask: "Who was Alfred Gadois?" Gadois was a construction worker in Melun, a small French city. He was part of a group of workers on strike for higher wages and better working conditions. He was 35 years of age and the father of a little girl. On March 18, Gadois and his fellow workers marched through the streets of Melun in a demonstration for their demands.

From La Verite, organ of the French Trotskyists, we learn that the fatal injury that cost Gadois his life could have been avoided if the army truck driver had

simply waited for the line of marching workers to pass. Instead, army corporal Zeraffos, driver of the truck, charged through the line with callous disregard of the marching strikers.

Before he died, Gadois asked to be buried by his fellow workers. But a few hours after his death, the body was secretly removed by the French authorities and transported to a city hundreds of miles from Melun. When Gadois' fellow workers tried to reach that city by bus or rail, they were stopped by the police at the railway stations and along the road. French and American authorities have refused to arrest corporal Zeraffos. In their eyes the killing of a striking French worker by an American army corporal is no crime.

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# Death of a Little Boy

By Theodore Kovalesky

"Calvin Smith, who escaped with his mother, brothers and sisters from their burning Lackawanna home early Sunday morning, died later that day in a drowning accident near the slip of the Canadiana." . . . From an item in the Buffalo Evening News of Monday, April 21.

This is not news. It is not news because it is something that happened a week or two ago. It is also not news because it is something that is not basically unusual. It is another story of what happens to people who can't find a decent place to live, and today there are many such stories.

It was a cold spring night that had lapsed back almost into winter. I parked my car in front of 31 State Street and got out into the almost total darkness. 31 State Street was the address of little nine-year-old Calvin Smith's uncle, the place where Calvin had been sent to stay after the fire.

In the newspapers it was just an address. It was the thing you read every day, and you think of a house or an apartment building. Maybe you think of a little yard where some grass is green, a tree or two, or a little garden. You think of a living place, a place where human beings stay and leave their mark.

But 31 State Street wasn't anything like that. There was nothing about it, at first glance anyway, that indicated life. At some time, a long, long time ago, State Street must have been a slum. And then as time passed it became something less than a slum; for at least a slum has life, too much life, I suppose, life that is piled up and compressed and jammed in and packed together, too much life for the little air and the little space, and that is what makes a slum. But this had no life.

On the corner, dark with its after-hours emptiness, was a plating factory, the best-looking building in the area. Across from it the desolation of a rubble-strewn lot, gouged with cellars of forgotten buildings, and next to the lot a crusted ruin where people stay.

Along the curbstones, lying thick in the street and clotted heavily at the corners, mud had gathered, the black mud of such districts. It was, at first sight, a surprise to see that mud, for in this area of concrete there was so little earth in view, at least on the side of the street where the plating works stood. But as I looked I understood that this mud had oozed like pus through the gashed and broken pavement, like running sores in a cankered, disease-ridden body.

I walked through the darkness. The city had seen no need to light this street, and it may be that they were quite right, for who would deliberately light his own shame when the night would cover it? My footsteps sounded loud in the silence that was otherwise broken only by the lonely calls of the boats in the nearby harbor.

At the ruin next to the vacant lot I stopped. Between the boarded-up store-fronts on the ground floor a dim light seeped through an open door at the level of the sidewalk. I went in the door and up the stairs.

Calvin's uncle, it turned out, wasn't home. But he didn't have to be. A young mother of four children told me about the accident. And the house and the street filled in the details.

The Hamburg Turnpike runs along the lake shore out through Lackawanna, past the smoke and glare of the steel plant. I drove through the murky darkness toward the rusty glow that beamed up out of the open hearth sheds and blast furnace ladles. The chilled clearness of the air thickened with the fumes of the coke ovens.

I was looking for another address, 25 Fox St. In front of Bethlehem's Number Three Open Hearth I turned off the turnpike into Fox. It

was a black little street, dusted with the grit of the steel plant.

The corner ginmill was dark and empty with broken windows. It adjoined what used to be number 25. Fox itself was a broken framework of embers and twisted plumbing. Here on that morning, out of what had been a doorway, little Calvin and his mother and sisters and brothers had fled before the flames. There was nobody here to tell me about the Smiths. But what would there be to tell that this house and this street could not tell?

Across the street there was a dismal hooting. I looked and saw a row of dull red ingots move slowly past the open hearth behind a sparking little narrow gauge engine. And as I looked the cars and trucks sped past, raising the brown-red dust of the turnpike.

It was here that Calvin had grown and played, here in the arid dust of the steel plant. It was here that he had known home in a ramshackle wooden firetrap. It was here in the lonely night-sounds of the narrow gauge whistles and the furtive rustle and clatter of the rats in the trash cans that this child had slept and dreamed his childish dreams. I looked for a while and listened. I breathed the smoky air in front of the burned-out ruin, across from the open hearth. Then I drove home to look on the sleeping face of my own child.

I haven't consulted Webster or Funk & Wagnall's. I don't know exactly what words they use to define the meaning of "accident."

But can you call it an accident when a sagging, sprawling firetrap burns to the ground? And can you call it an accident when a curious, inquisitive, prowling little boy scampers from a grim and ancient building to drown in the nearby harbor?

And if the little boy has been born with dark brown skin, born into a land of Jim Crow, where Negroes must live in crushed hordes near the steel plants and the harbors, where addresses are numbers of tenements and shacks and condemned wrecks — then can you call it an accident when the little boy dies in a place where no child should have been? Is it accident . . . or is it murder?

The city of Buffalo has wide avenues, covered entirely with lofty green arches of trees. It has parkways where there are signs, "Drive slowly. Children at play." It has neatly blocked out residential sections with bright little homes on soft, green lawns.

But these places of clean air and fresh greenery are not for children like Calvin Smith. For the Negroes there is the treeless cement of William Street, the steel plant, the railroad yards and the harbor.

The young mother on State Street said, "We've all been upset about it, all of us in the house. If my little boy hadn't been to the show, maybe it would have been him."

"It's no place for children to play," she said. "Little kids'll go to the water. It could have been any one of them."

"I've looked for a place," the young woman said, "but where can you look these days?"

And she said, "It's an awful feeling, to think that nobody wants you!"

What more is there to say?

Walk the dark streets. Breathe in the cinders and soot of industry and the railroads. Look down into the black and greasy water of the harbors.

And hope. Hope that not too many other little victims of capitalist greed will have to die before socialism can make a world that is fit for them to live in.

## Sleight-of-Hand on FEPC

By Fred Hart

Democratic Party leaders are already busy trying to work out a formula for their convention platform plank on the explosive FEPC issue "that will satisfy the North and at the same time not offend the South," Washington correspondent Robert S. Allen reported on May 2.

"In effect, that means performing some kind of sleight-of-hand trick on a compulsory FEPC," Allen writes. "The demand of the North for a compulsory FEPC is the crux of the whole controversy. By-passing this thorny dilemma is the big, and so far unsolved, job."

The plan now receiving the attention of the Democratic bosses, says Allen, is one advanced by Rep. Brooks Hays (D, Ark.). It calls for "creating, as part of the Labor Department, an advisory civil rights agency which would take the lead in assisting state officials to eliminate racial and other discriminations." It would be "without enforcement provisions. It would be wholly voluntary."

In other words, it would be worthless as a means of combatting discrimination where it is most strongly entrenched. That is why Senator Russell of Georgia is friendly to the Hays plan.

But that is also why the labor and Negro movements will have to oppose it. The Democratic dilemma — how to keep the party united — is certainly far from solved.

Meanwhile, a Senate Labor subcommittee has been holding hearings on FEPC legislation.

Everybody knows that the present Congress will never pass any such laws, but the subcommittee is going through the motions anyhow, partly because it enables the backers of FEPC to blow off steam and partly because the Northern Democrats figure it is good propaganda for them.

Among the more interesting statements made to the subcommittee was the one by Boris Shishkin, economist for the American Federation of Labor.

"Shishkin quoted the Bureau of the Census figures for March which showed unemployment among whites was 2.6 per cent, and among non-whites twice as much, 5.7 per cent."

"The situation was even more severe among non-white women. Their unemployment was 6.5 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent among white women."

"The 1950 census reported that non-white families earned \$1,569 on an average a year, compared with twice as much, \$3,135 for white families. That's \$30 a week compared with \$63." (AFL News-Reporter, April 30.)

"These are the economic conditions that stand in the way of the 'sleight-of-hand' maneuvers of the top Democrats. As long as such discrimination exists and is obvious to all, the Negro people are not going to be satisfied with any FEPC plank that promises less than the one adopted by the Democratic Party in 1948."

## Notes from the News

BORN, to Genera and Sol Dollinger of Flint, a five pound, one ounce son on April 25. Both the child (born prematurely and placed in an incubator) and the mother (Socialist Workers Party candidate, for U.S. Senator in Michigan) are reported to be coming along fine.

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, noted Florida educator and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, was barred from making an address at the Englewood, N. J., Junior High School Auditorium by the local Board of Education because of alleged Communist sympathies. Mrs. Bethune is an ardent Trumanite.

THE WAGE STABILIZATION BOARD is cracking down on 13 ship-repair companies in the New York area for having raised wages "illegally." If found guilty by the board's enforcement panel, the companies would be prevented from including their payrolls as expenses in computing taxes. The companies claim they negotiated the wage increases prior to the freeze ordered on Jan. 25, 1951, but the WSB wants to use them as an example to discourage "unauthorized" wage raises.

HOW MANY BUBBLES in a bar of soap? What is due process of law? "If you can't answer these questions, you can't vote in Hattiesburg, Miss. That is, if you are a Negro," the NAACP charges on the basis of affidavits made by several Negroes who got the runaround when they tried to register.

THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY convention in New York nominated Eric Hass for President and Stephen Emery for Vice President.

THE CIO STEELWORKERS convention will begin in Philadelphia on May 13. The NAACP convention will begin in Oklahoma City on June 24th.

"A RASH of racketeer-infested unions has cropped up in the metropolitan area in recent months, causing intense concern to the bona fide labor movement, employers and government law-enforcement agencies," the N. Y. Times reports. It is supposed to be the biggest influx of gangsters into the labor movement since the repeal of prohibition.

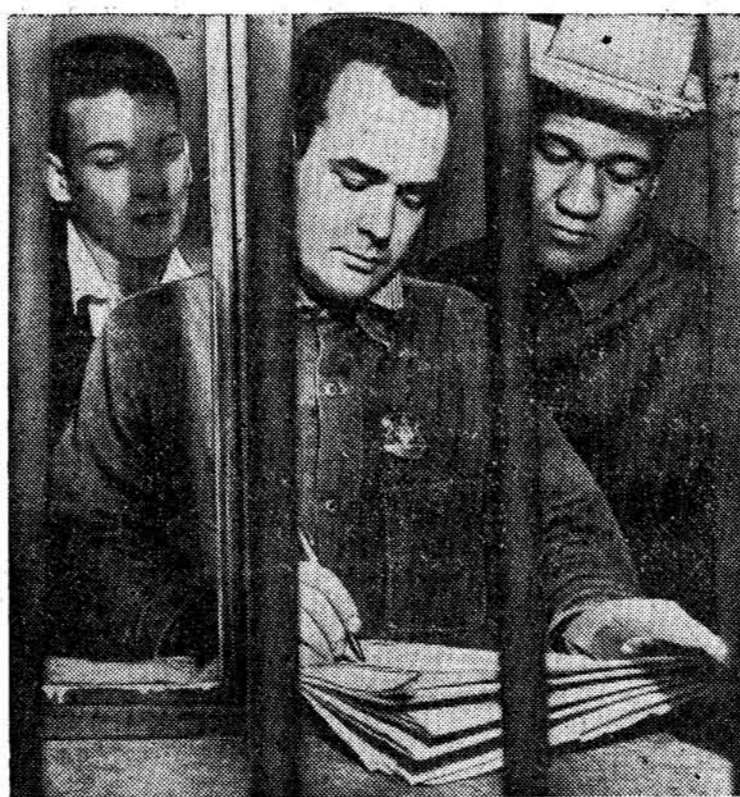
VOLUME XVI

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# THE MILITANT

## Prisoners Double-Crossed



Earl Ward, leader of rebel prisoners at southern Michigan prison in Jackson, shown signing a peace treaty, also signed by Warden Julian Friess, to end revolt after Gov. G. Mennen Williams agreed to accept 11 reform demands. The treaty, which promised no reprisals, was promptly broken by the authorities. When Ward and another leader of the revolt, Jack Hyatt, gave themselves up, they were locked in solitary confinement and Warden Friess said: "They had their day, now we will have ours." State Attorney General Frank Millard threatened new prosecutions of prisoners for "any unlawful acts committed during the riots."

## Robeson Barred from Hall That Gerald Smith Speaks In

By Lillian Russell

OAKLAND, May 1 — Paul Robeson, Negro singer, was banned last week from singing in the Oakland Auditorium and the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House because of his outspokenness because of the Communist Party. Meanwhile, Gerald L. K. Smith, the fascist, was allowed to speak in the Oakland Auditorium.

William Chester, regional vice president of the National Negro Labor Council, had requested the use of the two buildings for a concert in behalf of United Freedom Associates. He said there would be no politics discussed at the concerts.

### THE RUN-AROUND

Tentative approval for use of the Opera House was given by the head of the committee in charge, but was withdrawn by the committee under pressure from reactionary groups and Mayor Robinson of San Francisco. Oakland's City Manager Hassler also gave tentative approval but then suddenly "discovered" the auditorium was booked for a Civil Defense meeting. Civil Defense authorities said they knew nothing about such a meeting.

Mayor Robinson whipped up the hysteria by charging Robeson's appearance at the Opera House "would be a desecration and an intolerable insult to the memory of Americans who died fighting for their nation since Robeson has seen fit to vilify the United States of America at Communist-sponsored gatherings."

The San Francisco Sun Reporter reflected the opinion of

## Grace Carlson at U. of Minn. Forum

MINNEAPOLIS, May 1 — Action, not political uncertainty, is essential in the current world crisis — especially as the failure of the present war economy provides the basis for the third American revolution. This was the May Day message by Grace Carlson, S.W.P. 1952 vice-presidential candidate, to university students attending the University of Minnesota Socialist Club series, "U.S. and the World Crisis."

"Choose a constructive program which we can discuss and criticize," she urged, "rather than endure these vague dissatisfactions." This was a direct attack at university professors who are subtly teaching permanent political agnosticism as a virtue. She continued criticizing American education saying "it is directed toward preserving the status quo — a system of indoctrination designed to give the students the idea that the best and safest goal is working for the capitalist system."

Colonial peoples — workers of the world — will no longer permit just fine words and promises without action, she said. Nor will they accept Point Four, which is the development of their raw materials for U.S. use. This is the same imperialist policy Great Britain offered us in 1776.

the Negro community and of many whites when it said editorially: "It is a sad commentary when any kind of talent has to be measured on the political yardstick but Robeson will sing at Macedonia Church Concert Hall and those people who have long enjoyed his resonant baritone voice will be accorded this opportunity on May 22." The NNLC is still looking for an Oakland hall for Robeson.

Support for Robeson's right to sing came from Ernest Besig of the American Civil Liberties Union, Elmer Delany, San Francisco chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, the International Longshoremen's Union, and others.

SMITH SLIPS IN

Meanwhile, Smith slipped into the area and spoke to select groups here and in San Francisco. No fuss was made and no hysteria was generated by the politicians who grabbed the headlines in the Robeson case.

The Smith tour was carried out so swiftly and with such little advance publicity that the unions and civic organizations did not have a chance to set up a strong picket line of protest.

## Clarke Speaks at Brown University

In an address at Brown University in Providence, R. I., George Clarke, editor of Fourth International, theoretical magazine of American Trotskyism, scored the witch hunt which has been conducted by the Truman administration. The witch hunt, he explained, is one of the consequences of the decay of capitalism.

He told about the widespread spirit of revolution which is sweeping the colonial world and said that no one could escape its consequences.

America faces depression or war he said, and Big Business has decided on war. But this will not save capitalism. In Europe for instance, "all the gold of the United States — and it is being plunged into Europe in tremendous amounts — cannot put the Humpty-Dumpty of European capitalism together again."

Clarke attacked the Stalinist regime but said that it could be displaced only by socialism. Stalin tries to justify his police rule by pointing to the capitalist powers threatening the Soviet Union. "When Stalin can no longer justify his reasons for existence, the Russian people will remove him from power." Thus the appearance of socialist governments in Western Europe, for example, would seal Stalin's doom.

Some 60 people attended the lecture which was sponsored by the World Community Commission.

Deadline for Militant

The deadline for articles and ads for The Militant is the Tuesday before the date of publication.

# N.Y.U. Student Groups Defend Smith Act Victims

NEW YORK, May 8 — While 16 leaders of the Communist Party continued on trial at Foley Square under the reactionary Smith "Gag" Act, in another part of the city at Washington Square, students of New York University, ranging in political opinion from Democrats to Trotskyists joined together to organize a protest meeting tomorrow that will demand repeal of the Smith Act and defense of all victims of its provisions.

Speakers at the protest rally include I. F. Stone, columnist of The Daily Compass and author of the recently published book, "The Hidden History of the Korean War"; Rev. A. J. Muste, National Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who has long been prominently identified with civil liberties cases; Conrad Lynn, attorney and Chairman of the Ruth Reynolds Defense Committee; and Dr. Grace Carlson, Vice-Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party and one of the first labor figures to be imprisoned under the Smith Act.

### HEALTHY SIGN

The protest meeting marks a healthy departure from the attitude of fear and submission that has swept the American campus under the impact of the nationwide witch hunt. If this spirit catches on among students of other campuses, the struggle for free thought in American schools can gain new vigor.

As reported in last week's Militant, the meeting is sponsored by a number of campus organizations and student leaders who have joined together to speak out against the witch hunt. These include the Young Democrats, Students for Democratic Action, the Spartacus Club, Bernhard Braunnut, Chairman (Fall 1952) of the Social Work Club, Frank Touchet, Chairman of the National Students Association and Alex Foster, Chairman of the N.Y.U. chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

None of the sponsors are Stalinist but they are agreed that the defense of civil liberties must include defense of the civil liberties of the Stalinists now on trial for their political beliefs.

The sponsors are aroused over the fear "that if you speak out in favor of the concepts embodied in the Bill of Rights, you will be branded and pilloried as a Communist."

"This fear," they state, "is being studiously nurtured by demagogues like McCarthy and McCarran. It is necessary to break through this fear and fight back."

Credit for initiating this courageous protest action and united front of students and student clubs in defense of civil liberties goes to the Spartacus Club. This group, interested in study of the ideas of international socialism, issued a call for action which was distributed as a mimeographed leaflet on the campus. The en-

couraging response it met with led to formation of the joint grouping which then organized the protest meeting.

It is hoped that the united grouping will continue functioning after the rally and that others will join in the effort to rally support to America's beleaguered civil liberties.

## SWP OFFER REJECTED BY ANTI-SMITH ACT GROUP

NEW YORK, May 6 — Michael Bartell, organizer of the New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party, today made public the copy of a letter he had sent to the Citizens Emergency Defense Committee.

"The question is how we can break down the prevailing attitude of union leaders and liberals that the civil liberties of Communist Party members is not their concern?"

"It is difficult if not impossible for the Communist Party itself to do this. Its record on the civil liberties front remains an easy target for people looking for excuses. It is my opinion that we of the Socialist Workers Party who have a consistent record in the struggle for civil liberties can be helpful to your committee in grappling with this problem of broadening the united front in behalf of the Smith Act victims. For this reason I should like to offer my name in nomination as a member of the Executive Committee of the Citizens Emergency Defense Committee."

### BARTELL LETTER

"Even though most of the trade unions in this country are on record against the Smith Act, as are the liberal forces organized in the ADA, the conference attendance reflected it little or not at all. While there is a growing realization that the Smith Act is rapidly establishing thought-control in this country, all these forces are as yet reluctant to enter the fight against it in the only effective way, that is, by defending the present victims of the Smith Act, the convicted members of the Communist Party as well as those on trial or under indictment."

"The favorite excuse is that the Communist Party does not deserve such defense because it does not believe in the defense of the civil liberties of its opponents. Many point to the failure of the Communist Party to defend the 18 Trotskyists and union leaders in the Minneapolis Smith Act Trial in 1941. We are, of course, against this line of reasoning and we have repeatedly argued against it on every occasion in our press and on the public platform."

### WILL SUPPORT FIGHT

"If this proposal is accepted by your committee, it would demonstrate that you welcome our active participation in the work and thereby prove conclusively that your committee is attempting to build a truly non-partisan representative movement. Placing a representative of my party on the Executive Committee would thus facilitate our approach to the many unions and individuals who supported the Minneapolis case, urging them to support the present victims of the Smith Act as well. Whether on the Executive Committee or off it, I assure you the Socialist Workers Party is enlisted for the duration of the fight against the Smith Act and in defense of its victims."

Bartell stated today that his letter had been tabled at the same time that an executive committee was chosen, indicating that a majority of the CEDC leadership was opposed to giving representation to the SWP.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY HAILED AT SWP BRANCH MAY DAY RALLIES

NEW YORK, May 1 — An overflow audience celebrated May Day here at Malin Hall tonight under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party. The keynote of all the speeches was internationalism and optimism over the prospects of world socialism.

Reviewing the colonial revolts, the May Day demonstration in Japan, the revolution in Bolivia, the anti-capitalist sentiments in Europe and the strike of 650,000 American steel workers, Joseph Andrews noted that the common denominator of May Day in all parts of the world was the struggle against U.S. imperialism, and he pledged the solidarity of the SWP with this struggle.

Other speakers included Gladys Barker, speaking on the need for white-Negro unity against reaction, and Anne Mann, speaking against the war preparations for the Youth Branch of the SWP.

The meeting adopted resolutions calling for united action in defense of civil liberties; opposition to the U.S.-Franco alliance; recognition of China and withdrawal of troops from Korea; and greetings of solidarity to the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bolivia.

CHICAGO, May 2 — Unionists, NAACP members and students packed the Socialist Workers Party Hall tonight in one of the most impressive May Day rallies held here in several years.

Dorothy Schultz, St. Paul organizer, was the main speaker, replacing Farrell Dobbs, who was called to Michigan to help fight the Trucks Act. She noted that more than 100,000 workers in Chicago alone had their own May

Day — the strikes in steel and oil.

Arne Swaback, veteran Marxist fighter and chairman of the meeting, discussed the international significance of May Day and the role of the SWP. Frank Roberts, campaign director, described the mounting opposition to the Illinois political gag act, Law 1030, and called for support to the SWP election campaign.

A buffet supper, dancing and sale of literature followed the speeches.

LOS ANGELES, May 1 — The Socialist Workers Party May Day meeting heard stirring speeches by Myra Tanner Weiss, SWP congressional candidate here, and Frank Barbaria of San Francisco.

Comrade Weiss pointed to the crisis of world capitalism as verification of the teachings of Marx and to the steel crisis as one of the developments in the class struggle that will lead the American workers to break with capitalist politics.

Barbaria stressed the growth of the witch hunt and the SWP's role in fighting for united labor action in defense of the civil liberties of all.

Recitations from the speeches of the Haymarket martyrs, Rosa Luxemburg and Sacco and Vanzetti followed the speeches.

MINNEAPOLIS, May 1 — The task of the American working class today is to declare its independence in the political field — to end company unionism in politics and set up a Labor Party.

That was the conclusion drawn by Dorothy Schultz, St. Paul SWP organizer, when she spoke

tonight at a Twin Cities May Day meeting in SWP headquarters.

The trade unions are faced with this choice, she said: "They must become the complete tools of the State Department or become revolutionary trade unions." Like the masses in the rest of the world, American workers must strike out in an anti-capitalist direction if they want to protect their conditions and ward off a devastating world war.

NEWARK, May 3 — Tonight's May Day celebration was the most successful and best-attended affair held by the Socialist Workers Party here in several years.

Joseph Andrews, associate editor of The Militant, gave a comprehensive picture of the world-wide struggle against U.S. imperialism and of the economic and social conditions preparing the way for a socialist transformation of this country.

James Kutcher, the legless veteran victimized by the "loyalty" purge, acted as chairman. A social affair followed the speeches.

## Newark Fri. Night Socialist Forum

presents a talk on  
The Steel Crisis  
and the Trend to  
Government-by-Decree

Speaker:  
Joseph Hansen  
Friday, May 16, at 8:30  
at 423 Springfield Ave.