Workers of the World, Unite!

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OUR CANDIDATES -- THEIR RECORD

(See Page 2)

FARRELL DOBBS, MYRA T. WEISS HEAD SOCIALIST WORKERS ANTI-WAR TICKET

STOP THE KOREA WAR NOW, DEMAND SWP DELEGATES

NEW YORK, July 19, 1952 — The nominating convention of the Socialist Workers Party today unanimously demanded that "all American troops be immediately withdrawn from Korea."

"This war has taken a toll of over a million and a half victims, including over 120,000 American youth," the convention resolution on Korea stated. "This intervention is part of the program of Washington and the Pentagon to dominate and exploit all Asia, and to destroy the colonial struggles for independence," the resolution declared.

The Socialist Workers Party convention expressed its "sympathy for the cause of the revolutionary Korean people," and demanded that the Korean nation be indemnified for its losses in the war.

"We further demand," states the resolution, "that all Korean prisoners of war be released without qualification or intimidation."

Minnesota Branch Gives $500 Boost To Election Fund

By Reba Aubrey, Fund Campaign Manager

The Minneapolis delegation to the 15th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party gave a $500 boost to the campaign fund for the presidential election, lifting the total pledged thus far from $17,500 to $18,000.

Not to be outdone, the Buffalo delegation announced that prospects look bright around the windy end of Lake Erie for another $500 there, but definite details about this ante are not yet ready for release.

The new Minneapolis contribution came at the conclusion of Morris Stein's report on the status of the Socialist Workers Party and the need for the utmost sacrifice to get the anti-war message of socialism out to the greatest possible number of people during the 1952 election campaign. He also stressed the importance of the civil rights struggle in Michigan against the Trucks "Witch Hunt" Law and the need for funds to keep on top of this fight and to give it the widest publicity.

The St. Paul delegate took the mike to report about the work of this branch of the SWP and concluded with the announcement that the Minnesota delegation had voted unanimously to increase its pledge by $500 "and this amount will be paid before we leave the Convention." He got a big hand from the convention.

At the next session Morris Stein again took the floor: "It seems as though many problems are being tackled here by the delegates in a spontaneous manner. The Minnesota delegates handed in that $500 right after they made their announcement. And that started a chain reaction. Or at least the beginning, I hope, of a chain reaction.

"This morning the Buffalo delegates said they have been scouting around and it looks like another $500 from them is a sure thing. This represents a great sacrifice for them as many of them have been out on the picket lines now for about two months."

This week, a total of $858 brought the score up to $6,860 through July 21. That's 38% of the new $18,000 goal.

Connecticut, in first place with 78% of its $125 pledge, sent in $17 of which "Nick Lyons gave $12 to help in the presidential election."

In addition to Connecticut, five other branches are on schedule in the campaign with 54% of their pledges or better: Minneapolis-St. Paul, Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago.

O. C., a delegate from St. Louis, brought $25 to help put a socialist in the White House, pulling this branch out of the zero level way up to the 50% category.

San Francisco chalked up a $90 gain and now has 25% of its $900 pledge.

A $25 check lifted Youngstown out of the zero column and up to 6% of their goal.

The Boston delegation delivered $68, doubling the branch score.

Our friends in the South sent in $20, stating: "We want to raise our pledge from $140 to $150. A $10 increase to help clean out the war-profiteers."

A Socialist Workers supporter in Toledo contributed $5 to help

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Three More TV Broadcasts Slated For Dobbs-Weiss

NEW YORK, July 23 — Three more national television broadcasts by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the Socialist Workers Party were announced today.

Presidential candidate Farrell Dobbs and vice-presidential candidate Myra Tanner Weiss will be heard over NBC-TV on Sunday, July 27, 4:30 to 4:50 P.M. (New York time). Their talks will discuss the need for the formation of an independent Labor Party, the fight against Jim Crow and the common interests of labor, poor farmers and the Negro people.

Farrell Dobbs will be interviewed by the editors of the "Chronoscope" program over CBS-TV Friday evening Aug. 1, from 11 to 11:15 P.M. (New York time).

Both Dobbs and Mrs. Weiss will be seen and heard again on the Dumont-TV network on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 5:30 to 5:45 P.M. (New York time). The New York station of this network is WABD, channel 5.

In addition, Dobbs is scheduled to make a television broadcast in Detroit on Tuesday, July 29, from 9:30 to 9:45 P.M. (Detroit time). The station is WXYZ-TV, Detroit outlet of ABC-TV. Most of this talk will be devoted to an analysis of the Michigan Trucks Law, a witch hunt measure designed to bar minority parties from the ballot.

George Clarke, national campaign manager of the Socialist Workers Party, said today: "The response of people who listened to the Dobbs-Weiss talks during our national convention last week has been highly encouraging. Hundreds of letters received indicate that broad sections of the people are glad of the chance to hear and vote for a fighting socialist ticket."

Extracts from some of the letters received appear on Page 2 of this issue.

Full Text of CBS-TV Speeches By National Nominees of SWP

"Injury to One Is Injury to All" Must Be Civil Rights Slogan -- Dobbs

For President

FARRELL DOBBS

Our country was founded on the great tradition of human liberty set forth in the Declaration of Independence. We, the people, were guaranteed protection from tyranny by the Bill of Rights

These principles are today being destroyed by power-drunk politicians and military brass who are pushing us straight toward war on a world scale.

Americans once had the unrestricted right to think for themselves and freely speak their minds in the public forum. Now we have thought-control imposed upon us, by unconstitutional laws and presidential orders, by politicians who slander people under the cloak of Congressional immunity. Today speakers who oppose the war are banned from public halls and driven from the streets by the police.

There was a time when we could associate with anyone we pleased, regardless of their ideas, and be free from the snooping government stool pigeon. These days we are branded subversive if we associate with people holding unpopular ideas, and any stool pigeon's word will be taken against us.

In the past we could go to other countries whenever we pleased, be friendly with anyone we chose. This is no longer true. You can't get a passport if the State Department doesn't like the way you think. Association with opponents of capitalism abroad makes you an immediate target of the political police here at home.

People from other lands were once welcomed to our shores without discrimination. Today our government closes the door to immigrants who have the wrong political ideas or the wrong nationality.

Our tradition has been that a man's home is his castle. But this tradition no longer prevents the American Gestapo, commonly known as the FBI, from invading our privacy. They pry into our personal affairs to see if we are criticizing the war program. These political cops consider every criticism a plot to advocate overthrow of the government by force and violence.

The constitution guarantees that accused persons shall have the right to trial by jury, a lawyer to represent them, and the right to cross-examine their accusers.

Today the witch-hunters bring people before loyalty boards, legislative committees and other Kangaroo hearings; they accuse them of political crimes — a practice that is common in totalitarian countries, but has no place in a democracy; and in the farce that passes for a judicial investigation, they violate every rule of trial procedure required by the constitution.

The accused is not told the nature of the alleged evidence against him. He seldom knows who his accusers are and is denied the right to cross-examine them. He is often denied even the right to have a lawyer.

Entire organizations have been convicted without any hearing whatever under the Federal subversive list and notorious laws like the Michigan Trucks Act.

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"Let People Vote on War or Peace" Is Way of Real Democracy -- Weiss

For Vice-Pres.

MYRA TANNER WEISS

A terrible fear fills the homes of the American people.

Over all of us — every mother and father, every young man and woman — hangs the ominous threat of war.

How long will it be before your son will be taken away from you?

Will the next day — or even the next hour — bring the dread summons that will snatch your husband from you?

These are some of the questions that prey on all of our minds.

And worst of all, is the question that grips so many mothers and wives — "Will the next minute bring that heartbreaking telegram from the War Department about your loved one in Korea?"

I understand how you feel.

You feel trapped and helpless.

You feel as though some great, ruthless, evil force — a monstrous, impersonal, bureaucratic power — has you in its grip. And you feel helpless to escape.

Yes, it's true that all the government officials, all the politicians, tell us they want only peace.

But you know and I know they are scheming and plotting and driving day and night toward war on a world scale.

It is to you people who hate and fear war — who oppose it in your hearts — that I want to speak.

You are not helpless.

You can do something.

You can stop the war in Korea.

You can bring your young men home.

You can halt the mad drive toward another world war.

I want to make it clear right now that I am against

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FULL EQUALITY DEMANDED FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE

NEW YORK, July 18 — The Socialist Workers Party at its nominating convention here, today demanded full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people.

"The Republican and Democratic Parties are both White Supremacy parties," the resolution adopted by the delegates stated. "They have united to make second-class citizens of Negroes, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans."

The Socialist Workers Party stated in its resolution: "We stand for the abolition of the poll-tax, for a strong anti-lynch law; we demand an FEPC law that empowers the government to enforce genuine equality; we demand the outlawing of restrictive covenants in housing and for the complete abolition of Jim Crow."

The statement further declared: "The Truman administration has done nothing to stop the victimization of Negroes by home burnings and bombings, legal lynchings and police brutality."

Presidential Candidates Pledged to Fight for Worker-Farmer Govt.

By Joseph Keller

NEW YORK, July 20 — Farrell Dobbs, National Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, was named as the party's candidate for President of the United States at its four-day 15th National Convention, which concluded its sessions here late this afternoon.

The convention also nominated Mrs. Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles party organizer, as the SWP candidate for U.S. Vice-President.

A series of national television and radio broadcasts of their acceptance speeches and other talks by the candidates highlighted the convention events. Texts of the acceptance speeches are printed in adjacent columns.

The candidates both pledged a vigorous fighting campaign to bring the emancipating program of socialism to the American people, who are hounded by fear of war, insecurity and destruction of civil rights.

The two SWP banner-bearers called on the working people, racial minorities and all exploited layers of the population to join with the Socialist Workers Party in its militant struggle to break the grip of the capitalist political monopoly and to place a party of the American workers and farmers in office in Washington.

The convention delegates and visitors, who packed the Cornish Arms Hotel ball-room throughout the convention sessions, responded to the fighting appeals of their candidates with tremendous ovations. In the face of the terrible witch-hunt and repressions which have been growing in this country over the past years of capitalist war preparations, the convention gave a remarkable demonstration of high party morale, enthusiasm and revolutionary optimism.

CHALLENGE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

The delegates drafted, discussed and adopted a platform that challenges all down the line the pro-war, anti-labor, Jim-Crow programs of the Democratic and Republican twin-parties of Big Business.

Plank Number One of the SWP platform pledges unyielding opposition to the war plot of U.S. imperialism. Big Business is seeking to avert an economic and social crisis of capitalism here at home and to put down working-class revolutions and colonial uprisings abroad with world-wide military conquest.

The platform demands that the Korean War be stopped now and that all U.S. troops be withdrawn at once. It calls for taking the war-making powers away from

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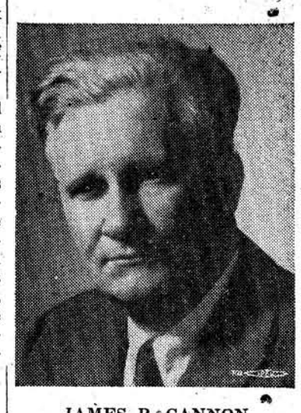
SWP Leader



JAMES P. CANNON

National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party who delivered the main report on the political situation at the SWP 15th National Convention.

Democrats Yield to Race-Haters

By Harry Frankel

With all wings of the Democratic Party fully committed to an aggressive war policy, little attention was paid at the Democratic National Convention to international affairs. Instead, the politicians busied themselves with the Southern Bourbon wing of the party. The so-called New Dealers and Fair Dealers had promised to fight for a plank promising federal fair employment legislation with teeth in it; but, at the convention, the keynote was compromise.

Compromises were in the air on every side: compromise on the candidate, on the platform and on the "party regularity" pledge. Indeed compromise with the reactionary race-haters of the South was so much the vogue that it reminded one of the days before the Civil War when the Democratic Party was known as the party of slaveholders and "doughfaces," the latter being defined as "Northern men with Southern principles."

For its candidate, the Democratic Party appeared to be on the verge of choosing Adlai Stevenson, Illinois governor, who the N.Y. Times says, "has managed to retain the admiration of the Northern liberals without alienating the Southern conservatives."

On the issue of "party regularity," that is to say, a Dixiecrat revolt and the measures it would be met with, the convention again worked out a compromise that is really a capitulation. The Fair Deal Humphrey-Lehman wing started out threatening that every delegation would have to swear to a "loyalty" pledge, binding it to work for the candidate nominated in the convention. By the time the compromises had been worked out, all delegations from states which have laws that can be interpreted to bar such pledges were exempted, and delegations that had been pledged in advance against such a course had also been exempted.

In the end, three Southern state delegations refused to take the pledge, but at this writing they remain in their convention seats and attempts are being made to work out a further "compromise" that would leave them there.

"LIBERALS" LOSE "FIGHT"

The civil rights plank of the Democratic platform is another such "compromise." The key conflict on this plank was over the words "enforceable" versus "effective." While this may seem an unimportant distinction, it symbolized the issue under dispute, and the rejection by the platform committee and later by the convention of the fight for "enforceable" legislation against racial discrimination has been universally taken to mean that the Democratic Party "liberals" lost their fight.

Of course, the platform is of very little importance anyhow. They had a so-called "strong" civil rights plank in their 1948 platform, and what is more, had a candidate who said he favored that plank in no uncertain terms. However, after the election these campaign promises were filed in the waste basket. What can the Negro people and other minorities expect of a far worse platform and a "compromise" candidate?

SHABBY FORMULA

Stevenson, the probable candidate, has said on the issue of civil rights: "I feel very strongly that this is the first responsibility of the states themselves." This is the shabby formula that has been used to avoid any action on civil rights for three-quarters of a century, ever since the compromise of 1876 when the capitalists of the North turned the rule of the South back to the Southern Bourbons. No wonder Stevenson is called by the N. Y. Times "a man who is not likely to incite the Southerners to further riot."

The labor leaders, scurrying around the convention with their label pinned on their chests: "Support some capitalist politician at all costs," secured the adoption of a platform plank advocating repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. This is a repeat of the 1948 Democratic plank. However, Stevenson has said: "Some features of the law seem to me to advance the cause of good labor relations," and other features, in my opinion, do not. I think the Democratic platform should recommend modifications."

This raises the following question: If the Democrats, with a President who said he stood for "immediate repeal" failed to scratch the Taft-Hartley law in five years, and moreover used that law to break many strikes, what would they do with a President who only wants "modifications?

BI-PARTISAN POLICY

In the field of foreign policy, the Democrats pledge to continue their course towards World War III. This war drive has also been endorsed by the Republican Party at its recent convention. This means that Wall Street can now lean back and feel satisfied with both parties. **It has what it wants no matter which party takes office to administer the war drive.**

Wall Street places first stress on foreign policy for two reasons: the war drive fills its needs abroad, and it determines the course of domestic policy as well. Any party which drives towards war will also have to destroy civil liberties, gag the people, put the race-haters in power, repress labor, cut living standards and abandon most of the social reforms won in the past. This will be the course of both war parties no matter what their platforms pledge.

Our Candidates -- Their Records

Farrell Dobbs -- Fighter for Labor

The force of a great idea and a cause bigger than self can transform a seemingly ordinary man, a worker, and lift him to a stature immeasurably higher than the stunted role assigned to him by capitalist society.

Such a cause is the socialist emantipation of labor. Such a man, transformed and lifted up by this cause, is Farrell Dobbs, our candidate for U.S. President.

He was born in Queen City, Missouri, in 1907. From the age of six, he lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he got his schooling. After graduation from high school, he got a job as a wire man for Western Electric. Through self-education he qualified as a planning engineer. He was on the way "up."

The crash of '29 ended all that. By 1933, Farrell was trying to beat off debt and insecurity and feed his wife and three children as a coal yard worker.

He joined the union of coal yard drivers and workers then being organized by labor fighters like Vincent R. Dunne, Grant Dunne and Carl Skoglund. Farrell was in the thick of the battles of the great truck drivers strikes of February, May and July 1934 which brought unionism to open-shop Minneapolis.

He was a member of the negotiations committee where he displayed his exceptional abilities — cool judgment, attentiveness to details, uncompromising firmness, an analytical mind that cut through all the deceptions of the bosses and arbitrators.

He was elected repeatedly as secretary-treasurer of famous Truckdrivers Local 544 and served as an officer until 1939. In 1937, he was elected secretary of the newly-formed North Central District Drivers' Council out of which grew the Eleven State Area Committee, of which he was secretary. He was chief spokesman in negotiations that won a 12-state uniform contract for more than 250,000 over-the-road drivers. In 1939 he became a general organizer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

In March 1934 he had joined the movement that later founded the Socialist Workers Party. In 1940, at the call of the party, he turned his back on a well-paid union post to begin full-time work as SWP National Labor Secretary.

When Local 544, in June 1941, broke from the bureaucratic strangle hold of Teamsters Czar D. J. Tobin, Farrell Dobbs was on hand to aid the fight of the rank and file. Tobin appealed to President Roosevelt, who responded by directing the Department of Justice to initiate the Minneapolis Labor Trial.

With 17 other Minneapolis CIO and SWP leaders, Dobbs was tried under the Smith "Gag" Act in 1941, convicted of the "crime" of advocating socialism and opposing imperialist war and sentenced to federal prison for sixteen months. He was imprisoned for his principles in 1944, returning to his duties as **Militant** editor in 1945.

In 1948, he was his party's choice for U.S. President in the SWP's first national election campaign. Since then he has been party organizer in Chicago.

Myra Weiss -- Champion of Oppressed

Myra Tanner Weiss, our candidate for Vice President of the United States, started out to become a chemist. Instead she became a full-time socialist fighter for the American working class and an outstanding woman champion of the rights of oppressed minorities.

"I was a chemistry major in college in 1935 when I became convinced that a second World War was in the making," she relates. "I figured if I continued with chemistry I might end up by making bombs. I decided it was better to spend my time helping to remove the causes of war."

That same year she joined the Workers Party, then the name of the present Socialist Workers Party, and has fought courageously for its program ever since.

She is a descendant of the earliest founders of this country. Her first ancestor in America arrived in 1632. Her forbears fought in the American Revolution — on the side of the revolutionists. Later ones fought in the Civil War — against the slaveholders. Still later ones broke trails across the plains and mountains to pioneer the West. She has kept faith with her revolutionary heritage.

Myra was born in 1917 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She completed her education at the University of Utah and the University of California, Los Angeles branch.

In 1936, she started work as a waitress for the Union Pacific in Utah, getting $1 a day, plus room and board, for an 18-hour day. She worked seven days a week. By putting up a scrap she got a 13-hour day every third day.

She helped to organize the terribly oppressed agricultural workers in southern California. She got a job as a migratory worker picking walnuts and lived in the migrant camps. She helped lead many strikes of the low-paid farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley and was made an honorary member of the Mexican Agricultural Workers Union (CUOM) because of her courageous defense of Mexican immigrant workers.

In 1940 she was a delegate to the Central Labor Union of San Pedro. In 1941 she helped negotiate wage increases for the Fish Cannery Workers Union, AFL, and served as committeeman.

Once, in Oakland while marching in an anti-fascist picket line, she was arrested for alleged assault and battery against five cops. She says the number was exaggerated. Mass labor protest secured her release.

Since 1942, she has been organizer of the SWP branch in Los Angeles. She ran for mayor in 1945 on an anti-war platform, and has run for Congress. Two years ago she won 18,000 votes for Board of Education member.

Myra won national recognition in 1946 for her exposure of the Fontana (Cal.) case, when a Negro family of four was burned to death after white supremacists threatened their home. She organized a West Coast protest and forced an official investigation, then wrote a pamphlet on the case, "Vigilante Terror in Fontana."

Reuther Boosts Harriman

President Walter P. Reuther, President of the CIO United Auto Workers, (r), chummily chats with W. Averell Harriman, railroad tycoon and investment banker who sought the Democratic Presidential nomination. Reuther praised the multi-millionaire politician for his claimed progressive stand on civil rights. Union leaders wanted a Democrat candidate they can again palm off as a "friend of labor" instead of building labor's own party.

24-HOUR HOLIDAY TO AID STEEL STRIKE PROPOSED

NEW YORK, July 17 — The Socialist Workers Party nominating convention today called for a 24-hour national holiday to show that American labor will not allow the steel corporations to have their way.

In a resolution giving full support to the steel strikers, the Socialist Workers Party delegates stated: "The steel workers' strike is every American worker's fight." The delegates condemned the stubborn attitude of the steel magnates, and protested government stalling of workers' demands.

"The arrogant and power-drunk steel corporations are refusing to grant a decent contract to the steel workers, and are insisting on exorbitant price hikes on steel tonnage to increase their already record-breaking profits," the resolution stated.

"The Socialist Workers Party calls upon the American labor movement to join together in a great demonstration of solidarity with the steel strikers to break the log-jam and force the corporations to sign a contract," the statement declared.

Viewers Praise Dobbs-Weiss TV Broadcasts

In the first mail after the national convention of the Socialist Workers Party, at which presidential candidate Farrell Dobbs and vice-presidential candidate Myra Tanner Weiss made radio and TV speeches on national hook-ups, 81 letters and postcards were received. Of these, 77 asked for copies of the speech and SWP literature; most expressed agreement and interest with the views expressed in the telecasts and broadcasts. There were four enclosures of money. The TV-Radio stations received phone calls asking for "more programs like this." Four of the mail responses were hostile. Typical comments follow:

I would like literature explaining further. Am a voting citizen, but so fed up with lies and fake promises from both Democratic and Republican parties had almost decided not to vote.

Mrs. E. A.
Swansea, Mass.

I enjoyed the speeches of your presidential nominees and thoroughly agree with all your sentiments. Please send me any literature available. Listening to the broadcast of your speeches by chance has probably opened a new era in my life.

M. S.
Brookline, Mass.

I listened with a great deal of interest to the acceptance speeches of your candidates and would appreciate it if you would send me two copies of those speeches together with two copies of your platform.

D. S.
Baltimore, Md.

Last night I heard the speeches. They were wonderful. Please send me platform, etc.

A. F.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

I feel impelled to write for your brochure not for its political-sociological-educational value but as a gesture of commendation. Myra Weiss is not only intellectually fascinating; she's physiologically lovely. And has quite captured my vote. I am a registered voter in the state of Maryland. Please accept the enclosed $10; regretably I cannot afford more at the time. Throw it into the campaign fund. I respect your courage.

J. K.
Purple Heart Infantryman
Washington, D. C.

Could you please send me 50 copies of your candidates acceptance speeches? The reason I request 50 copies, if possible, is for use in teaching my social studies class.

J. M.
New York

Perhaps you could send me some more information as I might be able to give you some help.

J. K.
Salt Lake City, Utah

I have been an independent left-wing-socialist for the past few years, am a factory worker in the mid 20's and having my share of difficulties under the current surge of Prussianism. While I am fully aware of the immoral and contradictory nature of this robber-baron system, I am quite uninformed as to the principles of the Socialist Workers Party. Therefore to make my knowledge more complete and because your standard bearers struck me as being earnest workers, with experience and ability, I should like to know more about your organization.

M. O.
Berwyn, Ill.

Farrell Dobbs:: Congratulations on your inspiring acceptance speech as seen and heard on TV and radio.

J. I.
Buffalo, N. Y.

I am interested very much in your party. I also think that you could and should become a strong political organization. I would like to obtain the literature you offered. I am only 14, but the youth of today will be the men (and voters) of tomorrow.

J. B.
West Newton, Mass.

On a recent television broadcast I was fortunate enough to have heard a speech by your candidate. I was favorably impressed by what Mr. Dobbs said and would appreciate it very much if you would send literature and information regarding your party's platform.

E. B.
Virginia Beach, Va.

I just saw your television show and was very interested in what you had to say.

D. P.
Philipsburg, Pa.

I was interested in your talk Sunday noon. Only wish more people were interested in a movement that would benefit them, but too much propaganda against your efforts. Am in hopes that you will be recognized in November election.

Mrs. M. K.
Johnstown, N. Y.

It was refreshing to hear those two bring a few pertinent truths to TV America. Many of the premises they convincingly established are well established this week by the article appearing in the current issue of the **Atlantic Monthly** written by Senator Douglas of Illinois titled "What it Costs to Run." In that piece the Senator definitely shows who will reap the rewards if and when either a Republican or Democrat is elected; the same old faction, the "fat cats" of Wall Street.

W. S.
Belmont, Mass.

I heard your very fine and forceful talk over the radio today and was very favorably impressed. Your views have been identical with mine for many years. I have been an independent voter for nearly 32 years and I've been a pacifist since 1914; was threatened by a U.S. Secret Service Agent in 1918, and reported to the FBI in 1949, but they had nothing on me. Have had many liberal articles published, but many more rejected as too radical. I belong to the War Resisters League and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Yours for world peace.

G. N.
Concord, Mass.

I listened with increasing joy to the speeches of your presidential nominees. Will you please send me copies? I am interested in becoming a working member. Three cheers for your fighting spirit.

W. T.
Quincy, Mass.

I was most pleasantly surprised today when I casually turned on the TV and got the acceptance speeches of your candidates for president and vice-president — that there were still in the United States at least two people not afraid to express their honest opinions and belief, and to openly disagree with the powers who are bringing us totalitarianism and fascism. I am an old Socialist of the earlier years of the century, a contemporary and personal friend of Gene Debs and other old war horses of the workers struggles to whom the workers owe so much. It has been a constant source of amazement and disillusionment to see what the American workers have allowed themselves to be dragged into, and what they have accepted in the way of trends so foreign to the traditions and precepts laid down so plainly by the revolutionaries who founded their nation — and I mean the real revolutionaries like Jefferson and Paine. Send me a few copies of those acceptance speeches and anything else I can use profitably among my old pensioner friends.

W. T.
Columbus, O.

Main Reports to SWP Convention

The political resolution before the Fifteenth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party dealt with the class struggle in the U.S. within the framework of the critical economic, political and military position of the U.S. in the existing world setting.

Reporting on this solution, James P. Cannon, SWP National Secretary, summed up the position of U.S. imperialism as "a complex of irreconcilable conflicts on the international field and of unsolvable economic contradictions at home."

He then devoted himself to the "political heart" of the resolution, that is, all those issues that "do require examination and discussion, and unambiguous answers" by revolutionary socialists.

These fall under four headings:

"1. — The present attitude of the American working class, in general, and its organized section in particular." A condition of "muffled class struggle" has existed in the post-war period.

"2. — "The causes of labor conservatism," arising primarily from the record 11-year boom of U.S. capitalism, and "the premises for a new radicalization," inherent in the economic consequences of the stepped-up arms program and the war drive, leading to the assaults, already started, on living and working conditions of the mass of the people.

"3. — The perspectives of a new radicalization; the forms it may be expected to take and the political tendencies which will contend for leadership."

"4. — The role and perspectives of the SWP in the whole process."

PERIOD OF ISOLATION

Comrade Cannon pointed out that the party, along with the country as a whole, found itself "for the past six years" in a situation "radically different from the situation in the earlier period of the (rise of) the CIO," as well as the pre-CIO era. The post-war period marked for the SWP a period of "organized isolation," because of the bureaucratization of the unions, the functioning of the labor officialdom as the agents of imperialism inside labor's ranks, the spread of the witch-hunt, etc.

The SWP suffered, as did every other grouping in the labor movement, from the offensive of reaction and the blows of isolation. But the SWP stood up better than did any other working class party or group.

Coming social convulsions will "radically change the situation," as past convulsions have done. And this will "once again open up great opportunities for the party."

The new social crisis, "with the profoundest revolutionary potentialities," is "in the making, and will not fail to arrive." Its inexorable coming will pose the questions: "Will we be ready for it? And prepared to make the most of it, when it comes?"

The conclusive answer, naturally, would have to wait the test of events. "But one thing can be said for sure. The final answer will be largely, and very probably decisively affected by the role and perspective we set for ourselves beforehand. That is the way the resolution puts this all-important question . . . That is not a mere ceremonial expression of future hopes. It is the calm assertion of Marxist truth.

"It is the realistic appraisal of our perspectives. If we stand firmly by our principles, and keep working; and make no serious mistakes of policy, our time and our great opportunity will come."

In conclusion Comrade Cannon said: "That faith in the future — based on the ideas of Marxism — is the source of our optimistic fighting morale, as we proceed to name our candidates for the presidential election of 1952 — another battle in the long campaign leading to the goal of Socialist America."

The Fight for Civil Liberties

The struggle AGAINST the witch-hunt and FOR the preservation of civil rights came up as one of the pivotal issues before the SWP Convention. The reporter was Farrell Dobbs, SWP Presidential candidate.

In broad outline, the party's standard-bearer sketched out the background of "the current assault on civil liberties in this country," its deep roots in the present war drive, and extending back to the drive toward World War II under Roosevelt.

That's where the witch-hunt has "its origin." "The witch-hunters got off to a strong start thanks to the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact in 1939," Dobbs correctly said.

It was because of the Kremlin's support of Hitler that "popular opinion was scandalized in America and made it easy at the time to use the Stalinists, just as they are being used today, as the chief target for anti-democratic laws intended in the end to suppress the rights of all." The Hatch Act of 1939 "initiated the concept of the loyalty oath, so widely applied today." There came, too, the Smith "Gag" Law "father of all thought-control measures and among the most vicious of witch-hunt devices."

The war-time alliance with the Kremlin brought with it "a change in the form of these anti-democratic acts, repressive wartime laws and decress," but no change in their substances. The would-be destroyers of civil rights benefitted by the wartime support of "the Stalinists to every one of these steps which laid the foundation "for what is happening today" in preparation for war against the anti-capitalist forces on the world arena," Dobbs said.

TRYING TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK

To really understand the witch hunt, its scope and power, it must above all be borne in mind that "American capitalism is trying desperately to turn back the clock, here at home as throughout the world." Otherwise, it cannot carry on its projected war.

Hence "the old blacklist of the open shop days has reappeared as a political subversive list." Hence the FBI "as political cops" duplicating the role of "the old-time coal and iron police." Hence the glorification of stoolpigeons and hired informers as "national heroes." Hence a situation where not only are "the victims held guilty unless they can prove their innocence," but "even if they clear themselves they are marked 'suspicious' and will probably have to go through this ordeal again and again," and so on.

The entire government machinery is at the service of the witch-hunters — from Capitol Hill, where McCarthyism and McCarranism are rampant through the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, which has upheld the Smith Act and thus "legalized thought control," down to the state and local legislatures, which are pouring out supplementary, and, in many cases, even more rabid anti-democratic laws.

THE TRUCKS ACT

As "the latest and worst example," Farrell Dobbs singled out the infamous TRUCKS ACT in Michigan. The SWP has been directly attacked under this act. "The Truck law fight," pointed out the reporter, "presents latest proof of our ability to win support among broad layers of labor, liberals and the population generally."

The SWP has the best and most consistent record in this country as the fighter for the civil rights of ALL. Comrade Dobbs called for the broadest possible extension of the struggle against the witch-hunt in general, and in particular against the Trucks Act and the recent McCarran immigration law under which "naturalized citizens" have been reduced, in effect, to the status of second class citizens whose citizenship may be revoked, on any informer's say so.

The Crisis of World Capitalism

Reporting on the world situation, George Clarke, Campaign Manager for Farrell Dobbs and Myra Tanner Weiss, singled out as the dominant factor "the unrelenting drive to war" by the capitalist rulers of USA.

Imparting added impetus to the war drive are: "the pressure of overproduction," which has already found expression in the 16-month-old, world-wide consumer goods slump; there is "the weight (in U.S. economy) of the war economy" coupled with "the coming end of plant expansion." To this must be added "the power of the military caste, whose growth remains unchecked in the face of popular anti-war sentiment."

This war drive takes place under conditions highly unfavorable to capitalism. The colonial revolution has extended and deepened. This confirms the forecasts made by the Third World Congress of the Fourth International last year.

Among the new developments Comrade Clarke listed the explosion in Egypt; the upsurge in Tunisia and Algeria, the rising clashes in South Africa and the unfolding Bolivian revolution.

Things are not going too well for capitalism in Europe, either. France, gripped by economic crisis, is seething. In Holland there has been the victory of the Labor Party; in Britain the Left Wing of the Labor Party has grown "more powerful, more militant and could win the new election, and oust Churchill, if not for the cowardice of Bevan and Co."

As for Germany, it "is divided along class lines in the struggle between the U.S.A. and the USSR. The arming of East and West Germany tends to impart to the projected war the nature of civil war from the start."

The reporter noted that paralleling the crisis of imperialism was the crisis of Stalinism. He cited the conflicts inside the satellite bureaucracies in Eastern Europe and between them and the Kremlin bureaucracy (the recent purges in Czechoslovakia and Romania).

"The power of U.S. capitalism can only be understood in relation to the world," concluded Clarke. The plunge into war will precipitate a world-wide social crisis, capitalism will be unable to survive. "The fortitude to resist the terrible ordeal which we shall face can come only from the consciousness that we are part of the swift moving stream of history, which despite distortions, is that of the revolutionary transformation of the world."

New Opportunities for SWP

"The greater the blows American capitalism suffers abroad, the more intense grows the pressure upon all the anti-capitalist elements at home," said Morris Stein in his organizational report to the 15th SWP Convention. "This is the reality we face in our struggle to build the revolutionary socialist party in the citadel of capitalist reaction."

Despite the difficulties of the last period, the basic framework of the party has remained largely intact. The over-all experience has demonstrated that the avenues of growth and recruitment, while reduced by the pressure of the witch-hunt, were by no means cut off.

In fact, in the period since the 1950 Convention, new opportunities for disseminating the SWP press and ideas were afforded by participation in state and local election campaigns, by the SWP's role in the fight for civil rights and minority rights, in the first instance, in the field of the Negro struggle.

This year's presidential campaign will afford broad opportunities, especially in the field of propagating socialist ideas. "We can and should lay ever greater stress on this," said Comrade Stein, calling attention to the gains scored in the circulation of the SWP press and in the sales of James P. Cannon's pamphlet **The Road to Peace** and George Breitman's pamphlet on the Harry T. Moore case.

Since the 1950 Convention, the party had distinguished itself not only by its activities in the various election campaigns but by its foremost role in the struggle against the witch-hunt and the defense of the civil liberties of all its victims, including the Stalinists.

The party's record in this field is indeed an impressive one. There is the determined campaign and struggle waged around the case of James Kutcher, the legless veteran who was fired from his clerk's job in the Veterans Administration because he believed in socialism. There is the fight against the Kimball Act in the State of Washington. There is the unfolding campaign against the notorious Trucks Act in Michigan.

The presidential campaign will afford the party with the best opportunities since 1948 to disseminate its ideas and spread the message of socialism on a nation-wide scale.

Hail Struggle of Bolivian People

The Socialist Workers Party, assembled in its 15th annual convention, sends its revolutionary greetings to the Partida Revolucionaria of Bolivia.

We hail the inspiring struggle of the Bolivian workers and farmers for the nationalization of the mines and industrialization of their country, and their operation under workers control. We support the demand of the organized workers and farmers for the expropriation of the landlords.

The Bolivian revolution, now in process, is struggling to expel all foreign exploiters and to turn the country's wealth over to the oppressed masses to be used for their benefit.

This struggle will inspire the workers of all Latin America, who, like the Bolivian workers, must fight against imperialist domination and above all the domination of Wall Street and the Pentagon.

The Socialist Workers Party demands that all interference by the U.S. government in Bolivia cease at once. Hands off the Bolivian revolution!

Next Week

The platform of the Socialist Workers Party

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BUFFALO—Militant Forum, 629 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. Phone MAdison 3960.

CHICAGO—734 S. Wabash Ave. Open daily except Sunday, 12-6:00 PM. Phone HArrison 7-0403.

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The Socialist Workers Party

Among the letters we received in response to the TV broadcasts of Farrell Dobbs and Myra Tanner Weiss, was one from "an old Socialist of the earlier years of the century, a contemporary and personal friend of Gene Debs and other old war horses of the workers' struggles to whom the workers owe so much."

This pioneer Socialist, who happened to turn on his TV set at the right moment, immediately recognized a familiar ring to the speeches of the Socialist Workers candidates. He was reminded of Eugene Victor Debs, outstanding Socialist leader who was jailed in the World War I period for opposing imperialist war and advocating socialism.

EUGENE V. DEBS

This was not the only Socialist of Debs' time who recognized the authentic voice of American socialism. We received letters from other old Socialist fighters hailing the speeches.

These seasoned warriors in the struggle for a better world than the present sorry mess were correct in their judgment. The Socialist Workers Party does stand in the fighting tradition of Debs.

Our roots go back in America to 1776, to the militant colonials around Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson and that whole galaxy of patriots who dared to stand up against a government grown tyrannical and fight for a new government molded according to the democratic will of the American people.

Our heritage likewise includes the spirit of the Abolitionists, the American militants of a century ago gathered around Wendell Phillips, Frederick Douglass and John Brown who refused to condone the slave system, and did not rest, no matter what the vilification and persecution, until that foul and tyrannical threat to a free America was torn up root and branch.

Our ideas go back to the beginning of socialism in America, especially to the heroic pioneers around Albert Parsons and August Spies who built the first real party of socialism in the teeth of savage reaction that demanded and took the lives of these leaders in the famous Haymarket labor case of 1886.

The Socialist Workers Party is completely American, but not narrowly American. We recognize that the great cradle of modern civilization has been Europe and we are proud to include in our heritage the scientific thought of its profoundest minds, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V. I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

First to Oppose Stalinism

We stand in irreconcilable opposition to Stalinism, that deadly disease carried into the international labor movement by the Kremlin police regime. We were the first in this country to call attention as far back as 1928, to the menace of Stalinism. We exposed its bloody purges, lying propaganda, frame-up trials and murderous political police even when many of its present-day foes sought to cover up or explain away the crimes of Stalinism.

At the same time, we have defended the remaining social conquests of the October 1917 Russian revolution — against the Stalinist usurpers of power and against the imperialist powers who plotted conquest of the Soviet Union.

We are firmly convinced that the great social and economic evils of today are in the final analysis symptoms of the decay of the capitalist system. World war, depression, fascism, race hatred, witch hunts, disintegration of living standards, wars of colonial conquest, national rivalries, preparations for atomic slaughter — all these and other great social ills are consequences of an economic system that has become outmoded.

We believe that a new economic order is about to appear on a world scale and that nothing can stop it. This new order is socialism — the producton and distribution of the basic necessities of life through rational, integrated, nation-wide and world-wide planning.

This new system means the end of private profit at the expense of public welfare. It means the end of war and depression. It means enduring peace. It means the birth of that genuine brotherhood of man for which every decent person yearns.

The election campaign of the Socialist Workers Party aims to hasten the end of the chaotic, hate-breeding, profit-mad, destructive, blood-thirsty system of dying capitalism. Through this campaign we hope to help speed the day we can open up the dazzling perspectives that Socialist America holds in store for us.

Our appeal is especially to the pioneer spirit that once made America the hope of the world, the spirit of initiative, courage, self-sacrifice and decency. We believe that the American working class, aroused to the evils and dangers that beset us as capitalism moves toward another world war — and awakened to the infinite possibilities for well-being under socialism — will move with invincible power to put a Workers and Farmers government in office and reconstruct our economy according to scientific plan.

We ask you to do everything you can to help achieve this great and inspiring goal. Tell your friends about the Socialist Workers Party. Help widen the circulation of **The Militant.** Help us financially. The Socialist Workers Party needs funds urgently to get its message to the widest possible audience in the 1952 presidential elections.

Five Years of Civil War -- The Prelude in Korea

By Art Preis

(Continued from last week)

From the start of the Korean war and U.S. intervention, the spokesmen of the western powers have misrepresented the war's origin as an "unprovoked aggression" by North Korea against South Korea. They have vehemently and falsely denied that the war originated in an internal struggle between Korean classes and regimes.

For the imperialists to admit the existence of civil war would be to confess that their intervention violates their own United Nations charter which forbids the UN "to interfere in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state."

The attempt to reduce the origin and nature of the Korean War to the simple question of who fired the first shot or who provoked whom on June 25, 1950, is a fruitless endeavor. That is something we can never know. Because the first shot in the Korean conflict was not fired on June 25, 1950. It is lost in those FIVE YEARS of sharp, bloody civil and class war that preceded and led up to the events of June 25, 1950.

Bitter class conflict among the Koreans has been recognized and reported since the end of the second World War by the ablest journalists and authorities on the Far East. From the first, they have described the struggle that has been waged between the poor and the rich, the workers and peasants on the one side and the capitalists and land-owners on the other. The American authorities who maintained a four-year military occupation of South Korea consciously aided the rich.

SWING TOWARD RIGHT

Gordon Walker, Far Eastern correspondent of the **Christian Science Monitor,** wrote from Seoul on Nov. 12, 1945, that "dominant under American Military Govt. tutelage . . . is a swing toward the conservative right wing, with big landowners and financial interests forming a solid political power bloc . . . dominated by Korea's four big families — Kim, Yunchi, Pak and Han — which compare roughly with Japan's Zaibatzu of eight families in exercising hegemony over the country's land and industry."

These four families, Walker explained, are the nucleus of Korea's Yangpan "or century-old upper class (which) suffered very little under Japanese occupation" and were bent upon recouping control of the 80 per cent of Korea's land and property which the Japanese had taken over. These few rich families, wrote Walker, "are working strenously to prevent the growth of anything which smacks of communism, socialism or even economic liberalism. Some of its leading members now constitute the bulk of the advisory council for A.M.G."

LIBERALS AND PATRIOTS

The chief political opponent of the capitalist-landlord group was the group which called itself the "People's Republic" and "is composed of young liberals, including many of Korea's most ardent patriots who played leading roles in the anti-Japanese underground movement." This group, Walker said, "have strong popular backing" and urged among other progressive reforms the "government ownership of major industries." Its appeal was to "the Korean masses, most of whom are awakening to their century-old exploitation by the rich land-owners, who demand two-thirds for land rentals."

The late George M. McCune, an outstanding American authority on Korea, described the "Right versus Left struggle" as the "dominating feature of South Korean politics," in the Oct. 15, 1947 **Foreign Policy Reports** of the Foreign Policy Association.

The Right was in a "more powerful position" because of its "wealth, political control and demagogic appeal" while the Left "had a strong popular following because of its revolutionary agrarian and industrial platform. The rank and file following of the Leftists was drawn chiefly from the farmer class which was dismayed by the lack of a land-distribution plan and bitterly opposed the rice-collection program. **Factory workers and miners were discontented because the management of industry had been turned over to alleged Korean "profiteers" instead of the factory workers.**

McCune then wrote that it was "the considered opinion of many observers that . . . the Koreans are being driven toward communism as a consequence of the non-democratic and often reactionary activities of military Govt. and its Korean officials."

GREAT STRIKE STRUGGLES

There were repeated reports of great strike struggles and labor demonstrations in South Korea from the first days of the U.S. military occupation. **The Militant** of May 18, 1946, contains an appeal from the Korean Federation of Trade Unions to the American CIO to help the hundreds of thousands of Korean unionists rid themselves of a regime conducting an anti-labor campaign under decrees **"worse than the cruel laws of Japanese imperialism."**

Conditions in South Korea under the AMG and its Korean collaborators, like Syngman Rhee, were graphically described by our own eye-witness correspondent, Bill Morgan, in the March 15, 1947, **Militant.** He tells of the hundreds of thousands of dispossessed workers and peasants crowded into terrible slums "plagued by disease and hunger" in Pusan. "Thousands of Koreans live in cardboard shacks, in caves dug into hillsides, in abandoned warehouses, in doorways, in the narrow spaces between houses . . . Every morning many dead people are found — frozen, starved or shot by the police. **Gangs of children roam the city and search for food or work."**

POLICE BRUTALITY

The brutalities of the police beggared description. "We had never seen such cold-blooded brutality. We saw them beating workers — men and women and children — every day." These police had learned their "trade" under the Japanese imperialists and were eager to practice it under an even richer, more powerful master, U.S. imperialism. Thus, Morgan wrote, "hatred for American imperialism is everywhere."

And with it, "Evidence of a powerful class struggle is everywhere. The American brass hats and the Korean police have not been able to prevent strikes. Trade union leaders are arrested and tortured, but the struggle goes on day and night. Many workers are armed and fight to maintain the independence of their towns and villages. Free elections are banned because the vote for radical candidates would wipe out the present puppet government set up by Lt. Gen. Hodge."

Here is the rumbling thunder presaging the storm of civil war.

(To be continued)

RECOGNIZE NEW CHINA, SAYS SWP TO U.S. GOV'T

July 20 — The Socialist Workers Party, at its nominating convention in New York, in a resolution unanimously adopted by the delegates, today demanded that the United States Government immediately recognize the New Government of China.

"The Socialist Workers Party hails the Chinese revolution," the resolution stated, "giving unqualified support to the Chinese masses in their struggle against imperialist domination and for their own independence."

The delegates also called for the withdrawal of all American troops from Asia, an end to the blockade of China, and the vacating of U.S. military bases in Japan, Formosa and Korea.

The resolution demanded an end to "interference in the internal affairs of China," and that "friendly relations and normal commerce be resumed between the Chinese and American people."

$17,500 FUND SCOREBOARD

Branch	Pledge	Paid	Percent
Connecticut	$ 125	$ 98	78
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,500	960	64
Buffalo	1,000	608	61
Detroit	2,113	1,194	57
Cleveland	300	164	55
Chicago	1,500	804	54
Allentown	40	20	50
St. Louis	50	25	50
Akron	150	60	40
New York	4,500	1,780	40
Flint	300	100	33
Boston	500	155	31
Newark	1,000	314	31
San Francisco	900	227	25
Seattle	400	91	23
Philadelphia	350	70	20
Milwaukee	275	45	16
Pittsburgh	40	5	13
Youngstown	400	25	6
Los Angeles	2,200	0	0
Oakland	300	0	0
General	150	115	76
Total through July 21	$18,000	$6,860	38

"Let the People Vote on War"

(Continued from page 1)

the Stalin police regime in Russia. But I think that is the affair of the Soviet people. And I think they will overthrow this hated dictatorship if they are left in peace.

The politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties — all of them — tell us over and over and over again that war is being thrust upon us by others who want to attack us.

They say we must answer this alleged threat by a tremendous show of overwhelming military force.

Build up armies and navies and air forces of millions.

Turn the labor and productive means of the country to making the biggest and most destructive weapons ever devised by the mind of man.

That's what **they** say is the cause for war and how we can stop it.

It's a lie from beginning to end.

Ask yourself:

Is the Russian army within 200 miles of the American border? Or is an American force of half a million men within 200 miles of the Manchurian and Siberian borders?

Do the Russians or Chinese have troops and air bases in 55 foreign countries scattered around the globe? Or does the United States?

Are the air forces and armies of any other nation or combination of nations encircling us? Or is an iron ring being forged completely around the borders of the Soviet Union?

A look at the world map tells us the truth.

No one is threatening us.

We are doing all the threatening.

The war danger is not from without.

The war danger is from within.

No doubt you've heard the expression about the first World War and the second World War and now about the Korean War that "this is a rich man's war and a poor man's fight!"

The late President Woodrow Wilson — who led us into the war in 1917 — confessed afterward in a speech in St. Louis that it was not a war to "make the world safe for democracy."

He said it was a "commercial war."

It was a war fought for **business** reasons.

And — in a manner of speaking — every war that we have been thrust into or that we will be thrust into under the system of capitalism and private monopolies will be a war for **business.**

It will be a war for profits.

It will be a war to stave off a depression.

It will be a war to open up new fields for profitable investment.

It will be a war to prevent the peoples all over the world, who are now fighting to be free of foreign exploitation, from gaining their independence.

It will be a war to keep this profit system going at the expense of the people who do the useful, honest work of our society.

It will not be **our** war.

It will be the war of those who stand to profit from it — the big bankers, the industrialists, the grafting government officials and military brass who give out the war contracts.

But they don't and won't do the sacrificing and the fighting and the dying.

That will be done by the common people — the ones who have nothing to gain and everything to lose by war — the ones who have been denied even the chance to voice their opposition to it.

They didn't ask you or me what we thought about it when they dragged us into the Korean "police action" that's been running for over two years now.

The Trumans and the Eisenhowers and the Tafts — they all talk about fighting for democracy — but they are against letting the people decide for themselves whether or not we should take the awful plunge into war.

Everybody knows that Truman did not even consult Congress when he plunged America into the civil war in Korea.

We woke up one morning to find that we were committed to war in Korea.

While we were asleep, in the middle of the night, we were involved in this murderous enterprise which has already cost us over 120,000 admitted battle casualties and reduced the whole of Korea to rubble.

Everything they have told us about this war we never wanted and never approved, is a lie.

Take the matter of casualties.

I just spoke of 120,000 battle casualties.

But how about the thousands of frost-bite cases?

Aren't they casualties of the war?

Or take the claim that we went all the way over into Korea to defend democracy there.

Now we are told that this government of Syngman Rhee in South Korea is nothing but a one-man dictatorship.

I could go on citing fact after fact after fact that would prove conclusively that our intervention in Korea has been bolstered by a mass of lies.

The war-makers have lied to us because we did not have the power to wrest the truth from them.

We could not halt their war scheme in advance.

We had no say-so.

We women take pride in the fact that we won the right to vote in 1919 after a century of struggle for our civil rights.

Yet on this most crucial question — this question of life and death — this question of war or peace — we have been gagged.

Not only do we have no vote on the most vital question affecting us as wives and mothers — we get a witch-hunt intended to intimidate and silence us altogether.

What are they afraid of?

Why don't they want the people to decide this question on which the fate of all mankind rests?

If the people had the power to decide, they would ask questions first, they would investigate, they would demand the facts.

The Big Business press, the bought-and-paid-for politicians, the generals and admirals, the profiteering war corporations wouldn't be able to pull a Korea on us any more. That's why they don't want to let us vote on war or peace.

The Socialist Workers Party is the only party that fights for a genuinely democratic program to give the people the power to decide the war question.

We are not afraid to let the people choose.

We want the voice of the people to prevail.

We say — Let the people vote on the question of war and peace.

Let the people decide by referendum whether we are to enter the deadly peril of atomic war.

We call on all you mothers and fathers, all you wives and sisters and brothers of the boys over there in Korea tonight, to demand a referendum on war or peace.

We ask you to demand the withdrawal of all armed forces at once from Korea.

We ask you to vote for a party and a program that would give you — the people — the power to decide whether we are to live or die.

I am proud indeed to accept the nomination of such a party — the Socialist Workers Party — for the vice-presidency of the United States. I am doubly proud to be chosen as the running mate of Farrell Dobbs, our presidential candidate, who suffered imprisonment in World War II for his unflinching opposition to capitalist war.

"Where 8 Million Enjoy Benefits --"

By Harry Ring

"About 3 a.m. I was awakened by a struggle on Manhattan Ave. and 104th St.," a "Shaken Citizen" writes in today's **N. Y. Post** (July 23), "I saw two men brutally kicking and beating a man lying in the street. I was about to call the police when I saw that the attackers were policemen. They never accused the man of anything and finally left. The dazed victim hailed a cab driver who helped him away. I'm sure the Negro cab driver could be found to corroborate this story."

After this, I turned to the N. Y. **Compass** and read that Mrs. Julia Lifschultz and her seven children were evicted Monday from their home at 62 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn. They spent the day on the streets, huddled in a doorway during the driving rain. After a flood of phone calls from indignant neighbors, city officials carted the furniture to a warehouse and moved the family into a municipal flophouse, where they are presently residing. They were dispossessed on court order because their landlord is planning on "renovating" their six-room, $57.50-a-month apartment into two $67-a-month apartments.

After reading the above items I decided to listen to some music before turning in. I caught our Municipal station WNYC just as they were signing off with their nightly, "This is New York, the city of opportunity, where eight million people live in peace and harmony, and enjoy the benefits of democracy."

"Injury to One Is Injury to All"

(Continued from Page 1)

Our legal tradition provides that the accused be considered innocent until proved guilty. The witch-hunters stand this on its head. They hold intended victims guilty until proved innocent. Even then they are made to bear the mark of suspicion that is so well-known to every ex-convict.

This attack on freedom of thought and expression in this country has gone so far that the conservative leaders of the CIO steel union warned against it at the union's recent convention.

In a resolution unanimously adopted the Steelworkers convention spoke to the people of America in the following words:

"The danger from domestic communist activities has been dwarfed in recent months by the subversive activities of reactionary forces who attempt . . . to whip up hysterical fear and suspicion of all liberal, forward-looking ideas and persons."

Perhaps some of you who are listening may think that the steel workers are unduly alarmed. Perhaps you believe that I have exaggerated in my description of the mounting threat to our civil liberties. You may feel this way because the witch hunt hasn't yet hit you directly; at least not in a manner that has made you aware of it. Let's pose a few questions for you to think about. Maybe your answers will show that you've already been affected more than you realize.

Do you feel free to state publicly your actual opinion about the war in Korea? Or are you careful to express your real thoughts about it only to your friends?

Do you feel free to complain about the big tax bite that is taken out of your wages to finance the war program? Or do you find it safer to merely complain that taxes are too high in general?

Do you fell free to speak your real thoughts about a foreign policy that is putting millions of our youth in uniform? Or do you find it safer merely to express regret that or young men must be taken from their homes to risk death on foreign battlefields?

When you think about it for awhile, you begin to realize that it's not as easy as it used to be to express your real thoughts publicly, especially if you don't like the war.

The Republican and Democratic co-authors of the present war policy know it isn't popular. They know the people will become even more dissatisfied as the war is extended against other countries. They intend to curb this dissatisfaction by making it unsafe to criticize the war policy.

They begin by attacking people who hold the least popular ideas; then they go deeper into the population, step by step, figuring that if a million or two are victimized for talking, the rest of the people will be afraid to open their mouths. Concentration camps are already being built for this purpose.

The warmakers and their political police fear the real voice of the people because they are acting against the interests of the people. Like all tyrants who act against the public interest they must first gag those whom they would betray.

As Al Capp, creator of Li'l Abner, put it we are even suffering gradual loss of our freedom to laugh at each other. Mr. Capp merely tries in his cartoon strip to give us a good chuckle Yet he told in a recent **Life** magazine article of receiving indignant letters accusing him of kidding Big Business, of creating pacifism and non-resistance to communism.

This witch hunt can be fought only by the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all. If we stand aside, while somebody else's rights are being suppressed, we have helped bring the thought-control police a step closer to our own door.

The Stalinists, who have themselves been heavily victimized, violate this principle by refusing to defend the rights of their political opponents. Their conduct helps the reactionary clique that is trying to push our country toward police-state rule.

Union officials and Negro leaders usually make the same fundamental error by refusing to defend the democratic rights of the Stalinists. This policy helps pave the way for use of the subversive list and anti-democratic laws against unions and Negro organizations.

The Socialist Workers Party — which has honored me with the nomination as its presidential candidate has an unblemished record of principled conduct in defense of democratic rights for all.

We are firmly opposed to the policies of the Stalinized Communist Party. Yet we defend all Stalinist victims of the witch hunt.

We sharply disagree with many policies of the union officials and Negro leaders. Yet we defend them when they are attacked by the thought-control police.

We stand squarely on the principle that if defense of civil liberties means anything, it means we must defend the rights of those with whom we disagree. It means we must oppose all laws and presidential orders that impair freedom of thought and expression.

To completely stop this assault on democratic rights, we must strike at the source. We will find the source in the domination of government by Republicans and Democrats. So long as these political agents of the wealthy class remain in control, the witch hunt will be with us.

The attack on democratic rights can be completely stopped only by removing all Republicans and Democrats from office and replacing them with a Workers and Farmers government. Such a government, genuinely representative of the working people, would act to promote peace, instead of war.

It would encourage free expression of public opinion and be guided by it, instead of trying to regiment people's minds through thought-control.

The establishment of a Workers and Farmers government is the main plank in the platform of the Socialist Workers Party. We ask you to support us in working to attain this goal.

Minnesota Gives Fund $500 Boost

(Continued from page 1)

against the Trucks "Witch Hunt" Law.

H. C. of Cincinnati emphasized his "Greetings and best wishes for your convention" with a $5 bill to help put socialism on the ballot.

J. K. of Washington D. C. sent $10 after televiewing the acceptance speeches, saying, "I respect your courage."

(See scoreboard above)

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THE MILITANT

VOLUME XVI — MONDAY, JULY 28, 1952 — NUMBER 30

Iranian People Crush Move To Install Pro-British Govt.

By John G. Wright

The Iranian people, who 15 months ago touched off the revolutionary wave throughout the Middle East by kicking the British oil monopolists out of their country, demonstrated last week that their fervor has not slackened, that their determination to remain free and decide their own fate is stronger than ever.

The events that demonstrated this to the hilt took place in the course of four days, July 18 to July 22, when the forces of Iranian reaction headed by the Shah and backed by London and Washington, sought to depose the anti-British Premier Mossadegh and to replace him with a notorious pro-British puppet Ahmed Ghavam, a wealthy landowner.

It is quite clear that Ghavam and his British and American backers acted under the illusion that the time was ripe for reaction in Iran to beat back the mass of the people and get back firmly in the saddle again.

Ghavam talked and acted "tough." He called out the army and the police. He promptly announced he would come to agreement with the British on the oil issue. He denounced Mossadegh's activities as "anti-British and unrelated to the oil question."

American Ambassador Loy Henderson demonstratively visited Ghavam at his residence, and pledged him U.S. backing. The British and American dailies openly expressed their glee at "Mossadegh's exit." "The sands have run out on Mossadegh," chortled the N. Y. Times on Sunday July 20. They were all in for a shock.

PEOPLE TAKE ACTION

Ghavam and his capitalist backers in London and Washington had expected to put down with ease a few sporadic demonstrations. Instead, the whole of Iran flamed up. The army and police had orders to fire point-blank into the crowds. The N. Y. Times applauded this "stern treatment" meted out to the demonstrators. "They deserved it," said the Times' editors on July 20 when reports came of Iranian civilians shot down and wounded on Ghavam's orders.

But as matters turned out, these attempts at brutal repression only fed popular indignation and opposition. From one end of the country to the other, the masses rose against Ghavam, "Britain's flunkey" as they called him.

Cities were paralyzed by a general strike. The transportation system, from trains to taxi-service, was shut down tight. The merchants closed their stores. The entire economic and commercial activity of the country came to a standstill.

At the great refinery of Abadan, the striking workers were reported disarming the troops, aking away weapons and armored cars. In many cities, as in Hamadan, revolutionary bodies completely took over the administrative and policing functions.

The army itself was proving "unreliable." Many soldiers refused to fire on the demonstrators. Patrolling tanks in many areas, including the capital city of Tehran, were reported "as not firing." By the third day of these revolutionary demonstrations, orders were issued for the army to withdraw from the streets.

By Monday July 21, Ghavam was issuing frantic assurances that "he stood for nationalizations." Within 24 hours, his residence was in flames and he was fleeing for his life, after "resigning" as Premier. To save his own throne, the Shah hastily reappointed Mossadegh.

FOR REPUBLIC

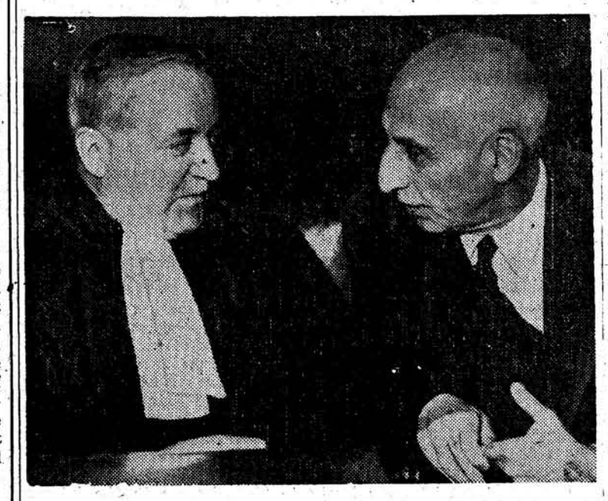
Even from the highly garbled reports in the capitalist press, it is evident that the revolutionary ferment in Iran has reached a new stage. The mass demonstrators, particularly in Tehran, raised for the first time the slogans of "Down with the Shah! For the Republic!"

To the bitter anti-Brtish sentiment has been added strongly anti-American feelings. Public resentment has reached such a pitch that Mossadegh's "National Front" movement, hitherto considered as "pro-American," is reported to have "reoriented its policy," and National Front spokesmen are preparing to "attack United States policy during the next session of (Iranian) Parliament" (N. Y. Herald-Tribune, July 24).

Dispatches from Washington tell of "deepening concern" over Iranian developments in the U.S. State Department. The N. Y. Times, the most authoritative daily of Big Money, has been shedding tears over "a grave turn for the worse" in Iran. London is even gloomier.

What they especially fear, both in Washington and London, is that the Iranian events will, as they have in the past, exercise a profound influence on the Entire Middle East, deepening the crisis there.

Iran Wins at the Hague



Iranian Premier Mossadegh (r) conferring with defense counsel at the Hague, Holland. The Hague court threw out, on a technicality, Britain's demand that it rule as "illegal" the Iranian nationalization of oil. The U.S. representative voted with the British on this issue. Anti-American sentiment in Iran was fed by this action of the representative of the American capitalists in behalf of the British colonial despots.

Mine Union Ends Soft Coal Pact

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, has notified the owners of the soft coal mines that the UMW is terminating its wage contract on Sept. 20. No information has yet been released on what wage and contract improvements the union will demand.

Either the union or the mine owners could have terminated the contract within 60 days at any time after Feb. 1, 1952. It is believed that the union held off the termination of the contract until now because of the steel dispute. At the present time about 40,000 of the 400,000 soft coal miners are out of work because of the steel strike.

Coal production in the U.S. has been declining since 1947, when 630,000,000 tons were mined. Last year the figure was 535,000,000 and this year it was estimated at 500,000,000 if there is no strike. At the same time productivity has been rising steadily. These conditions, plus the steady rise in the cost of living, point the need for a sizeable wage increase. The present contract was signed Jan. 18, 1951, when the miners received a wage increase of $1.60 a day.

YALU BOMBING BLEW UP CHINESE TRUCE OFFER

The recent bombings of the Yalu River power plants in North Korea, long banned as military targets because of the possibility that such attacks might spread the Korean war had more behind them than at first appeared. It has now been reported that the Chinese, just a few days before the bombings had advanced tentative compromise proposals for a truce settlement.

A New Delhi dispatch to the July 19 N. Y. Times reports: "The Communist Chinese Government, using India as a sounding board, had broached a new basis for a Korean truce at Panmunjom a few days before United Nations planes bombed the Yalu River power plants, according to informed sources here. After the Yalu incident and the subsequent uproar, the Chinese dropped their tentative proposals, at least for the time being. This is given as the reason for Indian and British dismay over the bombings . . ."

This is another example of how the Truman administration has fanned the flames of war in Korea in order to push for general war measures throughout the world, such as European arming, the German war pact, and U.S. armaments. It is very unlikely that any government sincerely seeking a cease-fire would launch one of the most provocative actions of the war at the very moment that the other side makes new conciliatory moves.

This "coincidence" is another in a long list since the start of the truce talks. At one point in the truce talks when agreement seemed near, the U.S. Far East Command ordered the bombing of Rashin, only 17 miles from the Soviet border and a previously "banned" target.

Last August, in another case where the Chinese-Korean truce team had made a big concession to the U.S. thus making truce appear imminent, the Ridgway headquarters concealed news of the concession and launched the biggest ground offensive of the war to that date.

Farrell Dobbs, Myra Weiss Head Anti-War Ticket

(Continued from page 1)

the White House and Congress and giving the people the right to vote on the question of war or peace.

DEMAND FULL EQUALITY

Full economic, social and political equality for the Negro people and all other racial minorities is another basic plank. Such equality is to be enforced by federal legislation making all forms of racial discrimination punishable by severe penalties.

The convention called for an independent united fight of the labor movement to smash the Taft-Hartley Act and to oppose any form of the wage-freeze. It urged united labor support to the CIO Steelworkers in their bitter eight-week-old national strike for living wages and union security.

Pointing to the broken promises, treachery and corruption of the two old major parties, the SWP platform urges the workers, poor farmers, oppressed Negroes to join forces to build an independent labor party and to break now with all capitalist parties and politicians.

The objective of such a party of the American toilers and producers would be the establishment of a Workers and Farmers Government. This government would lay the foundation for lasting peace and plenty through measures to create socialism, first of all by nationalizing the basic industries under workers' control.

DEFENSE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

Special emphasis is placed in the platform on the immediate need to mobilize the labor and liberal forces in a determined battle to defend the civil liberties of the American people and to halt the witch-hunters. The SWP and its candidates pledge defense of all victims of the witch-hunt, even of bitter political opponents like the Stalinists. In the matter of civil rights, said Farrell Dobbs, who delivered the report on the fight against the witch-hunt, we urge the old slogan: **"An injury to one is an injury to all."**

The first major business of the convention was the adoption, after extensive discussion from the floor, of a political resolution which defines the political situation in the U.S. and the world, the perspectives for the growth of the party and its tasks in the coming period. James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the SWP and its founder as reporter on the resolution described the pre-conditions for the next great advance of the revolutionary socialist movement and predicted that if the party holds firm to its principles: **"Our day will come."**

Details of this and other reports made by party leaders to the convention appear on Page 2.

The Negro Struggle

GOP on Civil Rights

By Albert Parker

The general public doesn't take the election platforms of the capitalist parties very seriously. And why should they? Experience has proved that the old party politicians don't write down what they actually stand for in those platforms, but only what they think will bring them the votes necessary for election. The cost of almost everything else has gone up in recent years, but campaign promises are still as cheap as dirt and only half as valuable.

When promises are so plentiful, and so meaningless, you can learn a lot more by what the capitalist party platforms DON'T promise than by what they do. A good example is the Republican plank on civil rights.

In 1948, the Republicans promised to enact "such federal legislation as may be necessary" to guarantee the "right of equal opportunity." This general formula was accepted and interpreted as a pledge to enact a federal Fair Employment Practices Commission to combat discrimination in hiring. Of course the Republicans did nothing to pass such a law in Congress (neither did the Democrats) but at least it was part of their platform.

The few Negroes at the Republican convention tried to get the same civil rights plank inserted into the 1952 platform. But they were turned down flat. This year's plank says that each state has the right to "order and control its own domestic institutions." That's what the Dixiecrats say too. This year's plank also promises to enact federal legislation "to further just and equitable treatment in the area of discriminatory employment practices" if it won't "duplicate state efforts to end such practices." The Dixiecrats don't say that, but they don't mind it either because it is nice and vague and because it does not say anything about a compulsory FEPC. The Republican delegates from the South, who are as Jim Crow as the Dixiecrats, accepted this plank.

That's not surprising because this plank was especially written to satisfy the Jim Crow South. The Republicans think they have a chance to carry a number of the normally Democratic states in the South this year, and they made the necessary adjustments in their campaign promises to win the support of Southern white supremacists. There's a lesson in this. The white supremacists are well organized and aggressive fighters for what they want, and they get concessions for that reason.

The Negro delegates, headed by Harold C. Burton of New York's 22nd District (Harlem), behaved differently and were treated differently. They came to the convention as supporters of Eisenhower, although they know that he is opposed to a compulsory FEPC and favors "states' rights." Then they switched to Taft. Then Governor Dewey put pressure on them and they switched back to Eisenhower. They condemned the civil rights plank as "watered down" and "weak" and promised to fight it on the convention floor.

Then Governor Driscoll of New Jersey and Senator Ives of New York put pressure on them not to fight against the plank on the ground that such a fight would help Taft, and they folded up again. When the platform came to the floor, Uncle Tom Burton got up and said he now interpreted the civil rights plank as favoring a compulsory FEPC law — the other delegates mouths dropped open in amazement when they heard this "interpretation" — and he seconded the motion to adopt the platform.

It's no wonder that the Republicans feel they don't have to offer their Negro members any concessions. Why should they when the Negro Republicans don't even fight for them?

Of course capitalist party platforms don't mean much in the first place; the real platform is not what the convention adopts but what the party leaders stand for. And in this case, as Walter White said at last month's convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, General Eisenhower's views on FEPC and segregation put him "to the right" of Taft and Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, the Dixiecrat choice for President.

But in spite of that, the fact that the Republicans promise the Negroes less this year than in 1948 is something worth thinking about. It means that Negroes have reached just about the limit of even verbal concessions that they will get as long as they continue to move inside the framework of capitalist party politics. Whatever the Democratic convention does on civil rights, the Democrats too are not going to promise more or do more than they promised or did in the last four years. If Negroes want to get concessions from the ruling class, they are going to have to get as tough as the Dixiecrats, who didn't hesitate to walk out of the Democratic convention in 1948 when they didn't get their way. Loyalty to capitalist parties and loyalty to the Negro struggle for equality never mix, and they clash violently in a year when Dixiecrats are being appeased.

(Next week: The Democratic plank)

The Worst Atrocity

By Thomas Raymond

On July 10, a sentence of 20 years in the Alleghany County workhouse was handed down against Steve Nelson, Pennsylvania Communist Party leader. This shocking punishment, supplemented by fines totalling about $20,000, was inflicted solely on the grounds of Nelson's political opinions. No illegal action of any kind, overt or covert, was even alleged against Nelson, much less proved.

The Socialist Workers Party is not in agreement with the Communist Party of which Mr. Nelson is an official. We are opposed to its reactionary policies, and consider it a barrier on the road to socialism. This does not prevent us, in common with many other Americans, from feeling the greatest sense of outrage at this injustice: the worst atrocity of the witch hunt to date.

Nelson was charged under a Pennsylvania statute left over from the witch hunt of the early Twenties which makes criminal any "writing" or "utterance" which may bring the government of the United States or of the State of Pennsylvania into "hatred or contempt."

Michael A. Musmanno, now a judge of the State Supreme Court, initiated the prosecution with a raid on the Pittsburgh headquarters of the CP in July, 1950. Musmanno is an official of "Americans Battling Communism," a fanatic witch hunt group in Pennsylvania.

The trial that followed may be sufficiently characterized by the following few facts: Musmanno, by this time a judge, was also the chief prosecuting witness. Another witness, Matthew Cvetic, a professional FBI informer, was on the payroll of "Americans Battling Communism." The case was brought to trial under Judge Harry M. Montgomery, himself a director of the same organization. Yet the judge refused to disqualify himself on grounds of prejudice!

One of the prosecutors in the case turned out to be Musmanno's nephew. The other was elected a County Judge while the case was on trial. Nelson found himself facing three judges, one of whom sat on the bench, another serving as prosecutor, and a third as chief prosecution witness and initiator of the action. Yet Nelson himself was unable to secure an attorney, although 700 lawyers were canvassed in an effort to get one who would take the case. He had to serve as his own attorney.

Thus Nelson, without an attorney, was compelled to face three judges, trying him for his political opinions. Moreover, all three judges had declared themselves in advance to be mortally hostile to those opinions. The vindictive sentence that closed the trial was capped by a denial of bail pending appeal, despite the fact that Nelson must now prepare his defense against a Federal Smith Act charge also hanging over him!

American law does not recognize the existence of "political" trials or prisoners. In theory, Nelson and all those convicted like him of "political" offenses are nothing but common criminals. Yet it is becoming increasingly difficult for government authorities to conceal the fact that ever-larger numbers of Americans are being tried solely for their opinions and not for any actions. And when trials for opinion alone wind up with twenty-year sentences, America has gone a long way down the road to the police state.

Americans must fight this; they must fight it, not with pious words or generalities about "freedom," but by giving every possible support to Nelson and to all victims of the witch hunt.

Notes from the News

THE PSYCHOPATHIC VETERAN who killed a stenographer at Columbia University because her employers wouldn't read his book was discharged from the Army with the notation: **"Symptoms of long-term insanity. May go off at any time."** Sounds like a diagnosis of the capitalist system.

* * *

HELPING THE STEEL STRIKE in a way that counts, Local 738 of the CIO United Auto Workers at the Glenn L. Martin plant in Baltimore voted to contribute $1,000 to the CIO steel union and pledge $200 a week for the rest of the strike.

* * *

RELATIVES OF VICTIMS of the fire that took seven lives in Brooklyn last month have filed a $1,000,000 damages suit charging three New York City agencies with negligence. The Department of Housing and Buildings, the Fire Department and the Welfare Department were accused of knowing about and failing to correct firetrap conditions in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area.

* * *

A NEW YORK JUROR was ruled guilty of contempt and sentenced to ten days in jail because he held out against conviction of three persons charged with defrauding the city. The judge accused him of deliberately violating orders to keep his mind open and to refrain from deciding on the guilt or innocence of the defendants until after the evidence was presented. The juror's "crime" consisted of "pretending to read a newspaper" while his fellow-jury members argued, and of telling one of them: "Why don't we go after the (James J.) Moran type instead of going after these little fry at the bottom of the list?"

* * *

CHARLES CHAPLIN is suing columnist Hy Gardner and the National Broadcasting Company for $3,000,000 for spreading the innuendo that Chaplin was "sympathetic to the Communist Party in France; that he favored communistic motion pictures; that he was in favor of the violent overthrow of the government of the U.S. and that he was unworthy of belief and had lied when he denied giving an interview to a French Communist newspaper."

DR. LINUS PAULING, world-famous head of the chemistry department at the California Institute of Technology and member of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, has finally been granted a "limited passport" by the State Department. His passport applications had been rejected three times. The State Department claimed it had "new evidence" this time.

* * *

ANOTHER WAGE CUT for textile workers has gone into effect in New England. The arbitrator, Prof. Walter Gellhorn of Columbia University, ordered a wage cut of 8½ cents an hour for 15,000 workers employed by members of the New Bedford-Fall River Cotton Manufacturers Association. The employers demanded a 15c hourly cut so they could meet Southern competition.

* * *

A JAPANESE VERSION of the Smith "Gag" Act and the McCarran "Registration-Concentration-Camp" Law went into effect last week. The Japanese labor movement fought the new "Subversive Activities Prevention Law" with a series of nationwide strikes because the law authorizes the government to reestablish thought control, one of the evils that World War II was supposedly fought to abolish.

* * *

THREE U.S. OIL COMPANIES — Socony-Vacuum, Esso Erport Corporation and affiliates of the California-Texas Corporation — are accused by the Mutual Security Agency of "overcharging" on their sale of Middle East crude oil to Western Europe to the tune of $50,000,000 between 1949 and 1951. That's above and beyond the lush profits approved by the MSA.

* * *

"AN ECONOMIC RECESSION" is likely in 1953 or 1954 when arms spending is supposed to level off, the **CIO Economic Outlook** warns.

* * *

PRESIDENT TRUMAN signed the so-called "fair trade" bill to legalize price-fixing in 45 states. Under this measure when a manufacturer signs a price-fixing contract with one retailer in a state, the contract automatically becomes binding on all retailers in that state even without their agreement or signature. These are the people who tell the workers about the benefits to be gained from "free enterprise."

Washington PP Loses Oath Case

By Daniel Roberts

SEATTLE, July 20 — The Washington State Supreme Court moved into first place among the ranks of the local witch hunters last Monday, with a unanimous decision upholding the state loyalty oath provision for candidates for public office.

The nine judges ruled in a case challenging the validity of the oath brought by the Progressive Party. The Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party and the American Civil Liberties Union filed briefs in the case supporting the PP.

"Such an oath," declared the judges, "would not infringe upon . . . stoutly claimed constitutional rights which, in any event, we believe have been meticulously observed, guarded and protected by our decision in this case."

That statement is a brazen lie. For the very purpose of the Kimball Act, which institutes the loyalty oath, is to attack the constitutional rights of free speech and free elections. By upholding the oath the judges gave sanction to these attacks.

JUGGLE WITH WORDS

The oath means, the judges said, "no more nor less than that the individual is not presently engaged by one means or another to overthrow the government by force and violence and does not knowingly belong to an organization so engaged." By thus interpreting the oath, the judges claim to have "meticulously observed, guarded and protected" civil liberties. The interpretation is a mere juggling with words and changes nothing in the intent and scope of the Kimball Law.

The drive towards the police state is being conducted behind the smokescreen of the fraudulent claim that the government must be protected from plots to overthrow it by violent means. These "plots" exist only in the propaganda of the witch-hunters who designate any form of opposition to Wall Street's rule of the country as "subversive" and a "conspiracy to overthrow the government." It is the aim and purpose of the witch hunters — the Republican and Democratic politicians — to suppress all dissidence in the name of suppressing "treason" and "subversion." It is the formula for terrorizing the American people that the state Supreme Court judges specifically upheld in their ruling. And then they speak of protecting civil liberties!

STRIKE AT BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS

The judges go so far as to intimate that the very challenge brought to the constitutionality of the loyalty oath is a form of subversiveness. The judges declare: "It is extremely difficult, if not downright impossible for us to understand or see any reason why any citizen aspiring to public office should object to the kind of oath or affidavit of allegiance we think is required." That is tantamount to a warning from the bench: "Submit in silence."

The Supreme Court in its decision rode roughshod over the legal technicality which the Stalinists advanced and upon which they pinned their hopes for victory. Gripped by the witch hunting frenzy the judges insisted on going straight to the core of the matter — the basic civil rights of the citizen, which they were determined to uproot.

The Stalinists confined this free speech fight to argument on one narrow point of law. They contended that the legislature does not have the power to add further qualifications for state office holders whose qualifications are provided for in the state constitution. To grant the legislature such powers, they held, would strike at the right of the people to set qualifications for officials and thereby strike at their right to choose their officials.

This legal contention was correct. But it was not enough.

The Stalinists had made a great deal of their technicality. Last January, they treacherously intervened in the Supreme Court case of Daniel Roberts, SWP candidate for mayor of Seattle, when he challenged the loyalty oath provision in the state courts.

The Stalinists asked that the Roberts case be thrown out of court so that the judges might review the loyalty oath around their own case. The Stalinist press justified this misdeed on the ground that the SWP was pleading the wrong issues when it pleaded the basic right of free speech and free elections. They accused the SWP of "faking a fight" and conducting the case in order to lose it.

The Stalinists held up their legal gimmick as a talisman — a sure-fire instrument for victory. The reward for their treachery is bitter defeat with nothing to compensate for it.

WITHOUT HONOR OR CREDIT

Setbacks in the battle for free speech are to be expected these days, even in the case of the best-conducted struggles; for reaction is riding high and the labor movement is slow in coming to the defense of civil liberties. But even the worst of judicial decisions can be offset where a civil rights case has aroused considerable public interest and involved a number of organizations in a united effort.

Judged by this criterion, the Seattle branch of the SWP stands out as a champion in the fight against the loyalty oath, while the Stalinists emerge from the fight without honor or credit.

During the course of its legal battle against the oath, the SWP knocked at the door of every labor and liberal organization in Seattle, urging it to get into the fight. It rallied behind its case the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Democratic Action, two major AFL locals, and a number of prominent pacifist and liberal individuals. If the SWP did not succeed in winning more widespread support, it was not for lack of trying, but because of the criminal indifference and opposition to the fight exhibited by most of the labor leadership.

The SWP gave wholehearted support in the courtroom, in its press, in its leaflets, over the radio and in the public appearances of Daniel Roberts to the parallel case of the Progressive Party, stressing at all times the necessity for united action, despite political disagreement. The SWP capped its show of solidarity by filing a supporting brief in the case of the Progressive Party and successfully urging the American Civil Liberties Union to do likewise.

STAB IN THE BACK

The Stalinists, on the other hand, did not even try to mobilize public support. And their "contribution" to solidarity in the free speech fight was a stab in the back to the SWP's case, followed by a torrent of slander to cover up this betrayal.

While the Stalinist line of conduct, if persisted in, can only pave the way for further defeats, the principled line of conduct of the SWP points out the road to future victories in the battle to preserve civil liberties. **The SWP policy deserves the confidence of genuine opponents of the witch hunt.**

The Progressive Party has announced that it will appeal the decision of the state court to the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite the foul record of the Stalinist leaders in the earlier phases of the case, all defenders of free speech must support this appeal.