

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XVIII No. 4

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1954

PRICE: 10 CENTS

IS THIS THE YEAR OF THE CONSUMER?

(See Page 2)

'Stop McCarthy' Plan in Congress Ends in Fiasco

By Murry Weiss

All the advertised plans to "stop McCarthy" at this session of Congress, by action of Democratic and Republican Congressmen are going down the drain one by one along with such items as election promises, and other idle jests.

The same fate has befallen the hopeful rumors (most of them deliberately planted by Democratic and Republican chiefs) that McCarthy is developing new interests, and will dismount his red-hunting hobby horse.

We are witnessing a dismal farce in Congress, with the McCarthyite fascist bloc entrenching its positions, riding roughshod over even the hint of opposition, and the braggadocio of the anti-McCarthyite politicians ringing hollow echoes against the solid wall of congressional reaction.

Here are some of the outstanding developments in the "stop McCarthy" fiasco: (1) We have already reported that McCarthy was placed on the powerful Senate Rules Committee, as one of the first measures of "putting him in his place." The Rules committee has jurisdiction over financing Senate Investigating activities. Now it is reported that the Democrats have dropped their plan to cut off McCarthy's committee finances, and he will retain the same \$200,000 allocation of last year . . . for a start.

(2) In line with his tactic of harassing the Republican high command with flank attacks, McCarthy struck at Arthur H. Dean, Eisenhower's special envoy to Korea, through Sen. Welker (R. Idaho) one of McCarthy's stooges. Dean was given the red smear treatment by Welker because of his former association with the Institute of Pacific Relations of Latimore fame. Dean was also a former partner in a law firm with Secretary of State Dulles. McCarthy has been stalking Dulles for some time and has him marked

for the "full treatment" any time he wants to put extraordinary heat on Eisenhower.

(3) Far from turning away from his central demagogic theme, the "red menace," McCarthy has intensified it. His hearings on the Harvard professors, with its shrill hysteria against "Fifth Amendment Communists," was up to McCarthy's best rabble-raising performances.

And now he has moved back to Boston to deepen his attack on the trade unions. In between violently throwing out critics and unfriendly witnesses from the hearing chambers, "the Senator" several times praised the General Electric management for its new employment policy under which persons who invoked the Fifth Amendment before Congressional committees would be deprived of their jobs. He said the names of the witnesses who did so today would be referred to General Electric so they may be stricken from the employment rolls'.

(4) The climax to the whole series of wretched fiascos was the "fight" over the appointment of McCarthy's man, Robert E. Lee, to the Federal Communications Commission. Lee is responsible for the free \$300,000 radio-TV time McCarthy got on Nov. 24. Lee's wife was matron of honor at the fascist Senator's wedding. The Democrats created a great storm about the Lee-FCC scandal. Everything was set for a big battle on this issue.

Now hear the liberal Democratic N. Y. Post on what happened: "Democratic Senate leaders have decided to look the other way while the McCarthy wing (Continued on page 4)

Five Million May Lose Jobs By End of Year, CIO Warns

Ford Local 600 Warns Labor On Velde's Invasion of Detroit

By Manuel Rodriguez

A major test of strength between labor and McCarthyism is looming in Detroit. Velde's House Un-American Committee has issued subpoenas in the auto center for

hearing opening—Jan. 25. The Un-American Committee took a beating from the San Francisco Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union when they organized a 24-hour protest strike and mass demonstration Dec. 3 against the Committee's anti-union witch hunting.

Humiliated and enraged by the San Francisco episode, Velde is returning to the scene of the Un-American Committee's triumphs in February-March 1952. The labor-hating Committee hopes to refurbish its shattered reputation as an unbeatable witch-hunting machine, try once more to split the Detroit unions, stir up a fresh wave of witch-hunting hysteria, and set the stage for a union-busting campaign against the UAW-CIO.

The General Council of Ford Local 600, the largest local of the UAW-CIO, unanimously passed a resolution on Jan. 11, warning that the Velde hearings "will be used to attack organized labor."

The resolution referred to the "small but influential and vociferous group in this country advocating and fomenting a form of reactionary dictatorship."

It scored red-baiting as "the principal propaganda weapon of these reactionaries." It cited Arthur B. Eisenhower, a brother of the President, who characterized McCarthy as "the most dangerous menace to America" and said, "When I think of McCarthy, I automatically think of Hitler."

Most important of all, the resolution called upon the International Executive Board to "hold meetings and use all other means of publicity available to acquaint the community with the evils of these investigating committees."

WHAT WILL LABOR DO? What course will the Detroit unions take in the face of this new invasion of the anti-labor witch-hunting Committee? Will it run as it did in March 1952, suffering defeat, or will it fight and rout the would-be union busters as the San Francisco Longshoremen did in Dec. 1953? A great deal depends on what answer the Detroit unions give to this question. McCarthyism can be dealt a powerful blow or it can gain a crucial victory, depending on what the unions do in Jan. 1954 in Detroit.

Detroit is a key center of the labor movement. It has one of the most dynamic working class forces in the U.S., a working class that paved the whole CIO movement in the Thirties and in the 1945-46 strike wave. For that reason, anti-labor forces have long tried to foster a strong

Phila. Workers Reject Red-baiting To Vote for UE

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15

In a resounding answer to red-baiting, a great majority of the workers at the key Westinghouse plant here gave a sweeping five-to-one victory to independent United Electrical Workers Local 107 over the CIO International Union of Electrical Workers in an NLRB election yesterday. IUE-CIO leaders had tried to discredit the UE with red-baiting attacks.

McCarthy's smear of unionists in the General Electric plant at Lynn, Mass., which resulted in the firing of these workers, raised considerable comment here and played a role in the outcome of the elections. The workers carefully observed each union's attitude toward McCarthyism.

While the UE took a vigorous stand against McCarthy, the IUE officials generally remained silent. It was especially noted that the IUE, which represents the Lynn workers, took no steps to defend McCarthy's victims. In its campaign, the IUE-CIO used the government witch hunt as a pretext for claiming that the workers' jobs were endangered as long as their union was led by "Communist-dominated" officials.

MILITANT RECORD

UE Local 107, on the other hand, could point to model conditions in the plant for this area, won during its long history of militant struggle. Conditions in IUE shops in the area, however, have suffered deterioration in the past few years.

Local 107 faces the problem of consolidating its forces to confront the company with a solid membership front. The company has been trying to nibble away conditions. The fight to protect conditions is more difficult because of threatening layoffs. The slogan of the 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay now takes on real meaning.

Fascist Union-Busters



Senator McCarthy (left) and Rep. Velde, America's chief witch-hunters, are turning their attacks on the unions. McCarthy has held smear hearings of workers in General Electric. GE is firing workers who stand on their constitutional rights at McCarthy's inquisitions. Velde is invading Detroit, CIO auto union stronghold.

RAILROAD BROTHERHOOD PAPER SCORES WIRE-TAP PROPOSAL

The witch-hunting drive of the Eisenhower Administration to legalize wire tapping was condemned in the Jan. 16 issue of Labor, newspaper of the powerful Railroad Brotherhoods, as a potential "strike breaking instrument" and a new step towards the creation of a "police state" in America.

"No 'free people submit to a 'police state' all at once," says Labor in its lead editorial. "It creeps up on them step by step, until it becomes powerful enough to crush protests. The time to stop it is when it first shows its ugly head."

Pointing out that wire tapping is all ready widely used by the government, in flagrant violation of the Federal Communications Act, and dismissing the contention that the legalization of wire tapping is necessary for spy-hunting, Labor points out that "Once wire tapping is legalized for one purpose, it will be used for another purpose."

PAST EXPERIENCE

Labor recalls bitter past experience to show that in the end such things as wire tapping are turned against the unions. "Railroad workers remember how Attorney General Harry Daugherty, who held the same job under Harding as Brownell does under Eisenhower, used his power to smash the rail shopmen's strike and to help the corrupt 'Ohio Gang' take over the government."

"What then, if the Brownell bill passes, is to stop agents of some future Daugherty listening in on the telephones of railroad unionists — or of any unionists involved in a strike? It's not a far step for wire tapping to become a strikebreaking instrument."

INVESTIGATION NEEDED

In our opinion it is of urgent importance that a truly scientific and objective investigation be made. Perhaps Einstein can be enlisted to head the project together with a competent medical

Labor Must Mobilize To Repel Offensive on Its Living Standards

By Joseph Keller

The CIO warns that unemployment "might increase to more than 4 or 5 million by the end of 1954." This forecast is made in the CIO Economic Outlook. In a Jan. 13 letter to Eisenhower, CIO President Walter Reuther said that by early December the number of unemployed had already reached 3,250,000. We estimate the jobless now at more than 4 million.

Even the Jan. 18 Wall Street Journal concedes that "unemployment will rise considerably above 3 million persons this year" in the opinion of most economists. How much above this figure the Journal itself does not venture to guess.

One thing is certain. The capitalist economy is on the way down and no "self-corrective" has come into sight to halt the decline.

OUTPUT ON DOWNGRADE

Production has been steadily on the downgrade since last July. Output should expand four to five per cent a year merely to allow for the normal growth of the population and labor force.

The Federal Reserve Board's index of factory and mine output dropped 7 points between July 1953 and November — from 137 to 130. On Jan. 14, Eisenhower's own Council of Economic advisers informed him "preliminary indications are that there was a further small contraction" of production in December. December's figures "probably took the index two or three percentage points lower, or perhaps even more," reports Ralph Hendershot, financial editor of the N. Y. World-Telegram. The first half of January has seen a still further drop.

This means that industrial output has declined 7% or more from the July peak. This already exceeds the percentage of decline predicted last month by the majority of capitalist economists.

But the worst is yet to come. If the economic forecasters find it hard to agree on how high unemployment figures will climb, "they have no such trouble in pinpointing the industries and the areas most likely to be affected by future cuts in orders — and jobs," states the Wall Street Journal. "They mention specifically the durable goods manufacturers — makers of autos, military hardware, steel, heavy industrial machinery, machine tools, railroads and farm equipment. . . . The road is down for the basic industries on which the economic system most depends. The situation of the weakest (Continued on page 3)



WALTER REUTHER

Propaganda Network Plugs McCarthy's Line

By Harry Ring

A gigantic propaganda network is operating for Senator Joseph McCarthy, the would-be American Hitler. The center of this network is Facts Forum, which conducts programs carried by over 500 radio and 80 TV stations. McCarthy was the first guest star to appear on Facts Forum.

Facts Forum is the special baby of H. L. Hunt, fabulously rich Texas oil man and drum beater for McCarthy. According to the Providence Journal-Bulletin's recent slashing expose, Hunt uses Facts Forum as a megaphone for his contention that "the Democratic Party, except for the Dixiecrat movement, is the instrument of socialism and Communism in this country, and that the Republican Party, as presently constituted, displays dangerously radical tendencies." As a self-styled "non-political educational" project and "public service," Facts Forum receives more than a million dollars worth of free time from TV and radio networks.

Facts Forum also sponsors local forum organizations, with a claimed participation of 125,000. In Manhattan, the first meeting of such a forum was addressed by Allen Zoll, leader of the fascist organization, American Patriots, Inc. He declared that the "UN" is a device to permit the colored races to rule the white races."

To further spread its propaganda, Facts Forum pays people who succeed in getting letters "to the editor" published in the local press. The Journal-Bulletin found that Facts Forum had paid out \$3,630 for "isolationist, or anti-UN or pro-McCarthy" letters planted in newspapers. Facts Forum also operates a "circulating library." One of the original library books, withdrawn after protests, was one by Joseph Kamp, who says, "I pull no punches in exposing the Jewish Gestapo or any Jew who happens to be a Jew." Hunt denies any direct connection between Facts Forum and McCarthy, but, according to the

Rising Hazard of Atom-Bomb Poisoning

On January 8 the Atomic Energy Commission announced plans for "a further phase of a continuing series of weapons tests of all categories" in the Pacific. The press reports that "probably hydrogen weapons" will be used and that the "greatest hydrogen explosion may be produced."

The consequences of these test explosions on the health of this and future generations has been a matter of grave concern to a section of the medical profession — the doctors and scientists who are not totally muzzled by military censorship. Periodic reports have leaked into the papers and radio newscasts of alarming radioactive phenomena resulting from atomic bomb explosions. Frank Edwards, AFL radio news commentator has conducted a vigorous campaign against irresponsible and ambiguous replies of government sources to these alarming evidences of dangerous

waves of apprehension induced by authentic reports of unusual radioactive phenomena, said: "The highest levels of radioactivity released (by bombs) are well below the very conservative standards fixing the amounts of radiation that can be received internally or externally by the human body without harming the present or later generations."

However, on the same day (Jan. 8) that the AEC released its announcement of the plans for the H-Bomb test explosions (timed incidentally to coincide with the Dulles-Soviet talks on peaceful use of atomic energy) the London office of the N. Y. Times reported: "A radioactive particle may have traveled from an atomic bomb exploded by the Soviet Union or the United States to a photographic plate in Britain after having passed through the inside of an animal in India." The current issue of the British scientific

JOBLESS TOTAL NEARS '49 RECESSION PEAK

By Art Preis

Last week I wrote that "there are now not less than four million jobless and the total is mounting rapidly." I stand by that statement. New evidence is piling up that the government is systematically falsifying unemployment figures.

In order to arrive at a figure of only 1,850,000 unemployed as of Dec. 12, 1953, the government had to "lose" 2,120,000 workers from the total labor force in a period of five months. This was during a year when the population grew by 2,700,000.

Washington is expected to admit more than two million unemployed in its forthcoming figures for the early part of January. That means a million increase within the past three months. But the real total of jobless is easily double the official statistics.

AN IMPORTANT CLUE

We get a clue to the true state of affairs from the figures on unemployment compensation payments. In past years these payments have run in the neighborhood of less than half of those actually out of work and desiring jobs.

The number of unemployment compensation payments in the first 11 days of January totalled 1,815,000. This compares with 1,027,000 for the same period in 1953. The present total is close to the post-World War II high of 1,848,000 in the spring of 1950, just before the Korean war began. But when the latter figure on unemployment insurance payments was reached in June 1950, there were 3,354,000 unemployed

REUTHER'S REPORT

Walter Reuther, President of both the CIO and United Automobile Workers, in his recent letter to Eisenhower warning of a "full blown depression if vigorous action is not taken quickly," gave the CIO economists' estimate of "actual unemployment" in early December — before the post-Christmas big layoffs — at about 3,250,000. The CIO leader noted that in addition to the 1,850,000 workers "officially reported unemployed" last month, there were another (Continued on page 3)

THE MILITANT
Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Phone: AL 6-7469
Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN
Business Manager: JOSEPH HANSEN
Vol. XVIII - No. 4 Monday, January 25, 1954

The Medical Trust Vs. People's Health Needs

World Events

By Paul Abbott

Baby Boy Frozen in His Crib

At 10:30 A.M. Jan. 18, an eight-month-old baby boy was found frozen to death in his crib in an unheated two-room flat in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn.

GM "Bets" a Billion Dollars

"GM Bets Billion Against Recession" is the headline over a story in the Dec. 19 N. Y. World-Telegram reciting the claim of Harlow H. Curtice, president of General Motors Corp.

Deutscher -- Apologist for Stalinism

The foul frame-up system used by the Kremlin bureaucracy to help maintain its hated rule has been so thoroughly exposed and discredited that open and crass apologists are simply met with ridicule and disdain by every section of the public except dyed-in-the-wool Stalinists.

This amounts to is not clear. One newspaper reports \$4.15 a week. The police claim she has been getting \$18.88 a week. The magistrate at the initial hearing ordered the 19-year-old girl held without bail.

Hands Off Asia!

Carrying banners reading "Hands Off Asia!" thousands parade in New Delhi, India, in protest against reports that U.S. imperialism is proposing a military alliance with Pakistan.

By Myra Tanner

DOCTORS, PEOPLE, AND GOVERNMENT. By James Howard Means, M.D. 206 pp. Boston: Atlantic, Little and Brown & Co., \$3.50.

Eisenhower's program "to improve the health of the American people," in his Jan. 18 message to Congress, raises anew the question of government-financed health insurance.

Five Million May Lose Their Jobs, CIO Warns

The average old-age payment to single persons is now about \$49 a month — nothing but a semi-starvation handout. The plan of Eisenhower, based on a formula determined by Welfare Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby, would hike this average monthly payment for the six million persons now on the rolls by an average of only \$6 to \$7 a month.

but in promoting it. In many states they have secured the passage through legislatures of bills restricting in various ways the operation of practice groups, prepayment plans, etc.

STRANGE ARGUMENT

The argument offered by organized medicine that these efforts are socialistic and will lead to government domination of medical practice is particularly strange in this period when there is more government-sponsored medical work in the United States than ever before in its history.

HOW AMA OPERATES

Dr. Means tells us that "at the national level, organized medicine has worked to block bills in Congress which aim to bring the government into medicine by one jot more than it traditionally has been."

Association in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the Group Health Association was to provide prepaid medical care and hospitalization to some 2,600 employees of the federal government.

Dr. Means offers moderate proposals for meeting the health needs of the people short of socialized medicine. As a doctor he is able to indicate the direction which planning should take.

"ALONG WITH CHRISTMAS TOYS" and much else imported from the U.S. such as "the cigarettes we smoke and the polio that strikes us down," writes the Dec. Mexican Trotskyist magazine Que Hacer, Mexico is also importing something more sinister from north of the Rio Grande.

A number of workers have been fired lately in various plants on charge of being communists, reports the magazine. "Suppose the discharged workers were communists, this is scarcely a justified reason for depriving them of work."

The Mexican Trotskyists urge the workers to call a halt to the import of McCarthyism. "Support the discharged workers. Vote to strike. Don't abandon your class brothers persecuted for their ideas."

JAPANESE CROPS have suffered their worst failure in 19 years, reports the Jan. 8 Crossroads, Los Angeles Nisei weekly.

REPORTS TRICKLING OUT OF FASCIST SPAIN

That a week-long strike of 5,000 shipyard workers in Bilbao has greatly heartened the underground anti-Franco movement. The strike broke out Nov. 30 over cancellation of overtime and refusal by management to pay the usual Christmas bonus.

Unemployment Nears '49 Recession Peak

(Continued from page 1) 1,400,000, at least, "who would have been working or looking for work had there been greater possibilities of finding jobs."

"RECESSION" IS HERE What the government's statistics do not show at all is what a prominent labor official in New Jersey, quoted by the Jan. 17 N. Y. Times, called the "creeping unemployment" that "has hit thousands [in New Jersey] whose overtime work has been cut and others who have been reduced to working part time."

It is absolutely false to consider the Detroit and Michigan unemployment situation as exceptional. In New Jersey, for instance, the State Division of Employment Security disclosed that the number of new claims for unemployment insurance filed in December 1953 was the largest number in any month since August 1945 and the second largest since claims were first received in January, 1939.

Another favorite device for covering up unemployment is laying off workers with a promise of recalling them within 30 days. Government statisticians count all such laid-off workers among the "employed."

The United States, richest country in the world, ranks sixth among nations of the world in what it actually spends per capita on social security. In terms of the proportion of national income, the U.S. record is even worse. Nineteen other countries allocate a higher percentage of their national income on social welfare than the U.S. does.

