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THE MILITANT

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Our Answer to Studebaker Pattern

A letter from B. D. of Chicago (page 4) raises an important question concerning our answer to the Studebaker wage-cutting plan. B. D. asks: "Do you think it correct, especially in those industries that are getting squeezed out by monopoly competition, to demand that the government finance the operation of the plant under union management?"

stomach for such an answer because it means a return to the militant policy of the Thirties—and they've grown too old, fat, complacent and corrupt for that. In another article in the same Militant, Carl Goodman discussed the spread of the Studebaker plan, together with a roundup of information on "runaway plans" "pleading hardship" plans, etc.

The Bankruptcy of Stalinism

All year long the leaders of the Communist Party have been calling for the election of the Democrats in 1954 and 1956 on the ground that this was the way to — stop McCarthyism. Almost every issue of the Daily Worker praised the liberal Democrats and beat the drums for labor to get out and elect them.

In the same issue of the Daily Worker, just across the page, George Morris says, "The important immediate fact is to see that every one of labor's friends — stalwart 'pro-labor' men like Humphrey, Lehman, Murray, Morse et al, voted for that bill."

Hunger in the Midst of Plenty

A stark picture of hungry Americans in the midst of plenty — and of federal and local politicians brutally indifferent to the needs of the unemployed — is presented in the July 15 issue of the United Mine Workers Journal. Reporting on the distribution of federal surplus commodities to the unemployed, the Journal says, "Unlimited supplies of surplus foods in warehouses scattered throughout the land, and thousands of unemployed persons unable to properly feed their families on the meager part-time earnings and relief available to them, is the spectacle that confronts a bewildered nation in this period of drift and delay."

"The actual distribution in the local communities," the Journal reports, "is burdened with governmental red tape, costly overhead expenses, and a plague of federal gum shoe agents. Only minute quantities are made available to consumers. . . In county after county, the distribution is handicapped by reluctance of local officials to accept the expenses of handling and distribution, the complicated procedure for certifying those eligible, and the tough policy of the Agricultural Department in demanding safeguards against any possible waste of the foodstuffs."

Why Did They Kill?

By Art Preis

Four seemingly normal Brooklyn boys, aged from 15 to 18, last week confessed a series of revolting crimes of violence. Their victims were usually poorly-dressed jobless men—the boys called them "bums"—who were caught alone at night in the park. The youths admitted two murders. They kicked and stomped one middle-aged man to death. They beat, burned and drowned in the river a 35-year-old Negro worker. Other victims they used as punching bags. They wrapped the leg of one elderly man with gasoline-soaked rags and set them afire. They said they also seized and horse-whipped two girls. No criminal case in years has so stirred New Yorkers and aroused so much speculation in the papers. It recalled several similarly atrocious crimes by young people recently. It climaxes a wave of teen-age violence that has been growing, not only in New York City, but all over the country.

stories of mass murder of civilians—including women and children, the aged and sick—by that most terrible of weapons, the napalm bomb of jellied gasoline that spreads a searing mass of flame for hundreds of feet in all directions when it bursts. We were told openly how human beings by the hundreds of thousands and millions were "fried" alive, of "strategic" bombings that had as their sole objective the terrorization of the civilian populace of Korea. Daily, the U.S. generals in Korea issued propaganda communiques bragging of their "Operation Killer" and "Operation Meat-Grinder," boasting how they "mowed down" like so much grass under a scythe the "hordes of the enemy."

murder unlimited But American capitalism has set before the world the perspective of murder unlimited, with the development of the A-bomb and the H-bomb. Nine years ago this month Truman ordered the first of two A-bombs dropped on the crowded cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In just two lightning flashes, a half million people were killed and wounded. And the men who committed, on orders, these greatest single atrocities in history were adjudged heroes, normal in every respect except for their special qualifications and aptitude in carrying out the delivery of the A-bombs without upsetting qualms. We live, indeed, in the Age of Supreme Violence. It is the age of the H-bomb. Men in the past talked of acts of nature, like earthquake, flood and drought, as possible threats to a large part, if not the entirety of the human race. They worried over the vengeance of God and Judgment Day. But never before has the prospect of world murder seemed so real and imminent; it is a matter of common concern today that man himself may soon exterminate the human species with weapons of his own making.



Clement Atlee (left), right wing leader of the British Labor Party, is shown with Aneurin Bevan, another member of the delegation making a tour of China. Just before leaving England, Atlee joined with other right wing Laborites in imposing a ban on the left wing paper, Socialist Outlook, discussed below.

Bevanite Editor Protests Ban on Socialist Outlook

By Michael Foot

For the first time in history, so far as I am aware, the leaders of the Labor Party have taken steps to suppress a newspaper. That is the only meaning which can be attached to the latest decree circulated by Mr. Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the Labor Party.

Last week we printed a dispatch from London reporting the attempt of the right wing leadership of the British Labor Party to suppress the left wing newspaper, Socialist Outlook. This attempt to McCarthyize the Labor Party has aroused wide and angry opposition in the British labor movement. One of the strongest protests was written by Michael Foot, member of the editorial board of the Bevanite weekly, Tribune, as the leading article in the Aug. 13 issue of that paper.

democratic right of getting the official policy changed? In short, the first charge against Socialist Outlook could be accepted as a good reason for proscription only by those who have abandoned any pretense to believe in free controversy. The formula could be used to destroy all democratic debate within the party.

The good name of the Labor Party requires that this stupid, cowardly and totalitarian edict should be rescinded at the coming Labor Party Conference and that the National Executive should be instructed not to tamper further with the elementary principles of freedom.

What are the crimes committed by those who run Socialist Outlook? They are accused, first, of having published "propaganda hostile to the declared policy of the party, and conferences and meetings have been organized in support of its editorial policy."

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more deadly than either the official Communist Party or the capitalist press? And what is the meaning of the phrase "associated with or supporting"? Are the composers who print Socialist Outlook, all good trade unionists, to be taken by the scruff of the neck and put out of the Party?

Now consider the second crime committed by Socialist Outlook, "A number of its contributors," we are told, "are known for their previous association with the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Party. The Revolutionary Communist Party dissolved in 1949 and advised its members to join the Labor Party and to fight for their policy within its ranks."

It makes a nice change, of course, for Mr. Morgan Phillips and those who instruct him to be discovering somebody other than Soviet Communists under their beds. Indeed, this sentence might win loud applause at a Soviet purge trial.

On the other hand, the proscription of a newspaper because of the past association of some of its contributors smacks of McCarthyism.

Nothing in fact in the National Executive's statement even attempts to justify this unprecedented attack on a newspaper. There is a case for proscribing certain organizations, although many people believe the National Executive have carried it to fantastic lengths; such action may be justified as an "unavoidable measure for dealing with Communist methods of infiltration. But it is a long and dangerous step from this to the action which the National Executive has now approved to try to kill a newspaper.

How novel and how sinister this new step is can be proved by one fact. No similar action has been taken against either, shall we say, the Daily Worker or the Daily Mail. No one has yet dared to proscribe persons associated with or supporting either of these journals.

So we are to conclude that the National Executive regards these alleged ex-members of the Trotskyist Revolutionary Party as

recruited a body of snoopers to ensure that no one who pays his threepence slips through the mesh? And why stop at the Socialist Outlook? Why not draw up an index of proscribed reading and prepare bonfires for those who dare to defy the new tinpot Torquemadas?

Well, I for one read Socialist Outlook and I propose to go on doing so. Neither Mr. Herbert Morrison nor Mr. Morgan Phillips nor anyone else is going to stop me. It so happens I don't agree with its views. But unlike the National Executive I don't fear its arguments. Bad arguments can be answered by better arguments. How long must it be before Morrison and Company understand that first principle of freedom?

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San Francisco James Kutcher Speaks on My Case - The Case of the Legless Veteran Sat., Sept. 11, 8 P. M. California Hall Corner Turk and Polk Sts. Aspicies Kutcher Civil Rights Committee Donation 50 cents

