

A New Battle For Free Speech

An Editorial

For the last ten years a horde of government agencies have been at work in America seeking to impose a police state on the country.

By means of "investigations," screenings, deportations, jailings — and even executions as in the Rosenberg case — the agencies of Big Business have sought to totalitarianize America.

For ten years, every setback the political police has suffered has been due to resistance of courageous individuals and groups, determined at all costs to uphold this country's democratic traditions.

Their free-speech struggles will pave the way for the mass intervention of the American working class in the struggle against the police-states that will end the depredations of the political police.

The battle over the right of the American Forum — For Socialist Education to organize and conduct untrammelled discussions among various currents in the Socialist movement is now in the forefront of the battle for free speech. The American Forum is defending its right to organize discussions against an attempt by Sen. Eastland to suppress these activities by means of an "investigation."

A. J. Muste, National Chairman of the American Forum, challenged the political cops in the best traditions of the socialist and free-speech movements.

He told the racist and witch-hunting senator that he was not intimidated by the attempted smear and would not cooperate one nickel's worth in the senatorial "investigation."

The right-wing leaders of the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation, however, responded in a different way. They lined up on Eastland's side and joined in the hue and cry against the American Forum. Then they served an ultimatum on all members of the SP-SDF who had joined the National Committee of the Forum to get off or suffer expulsion from the party-federation.

This was a disgraceful betrayal of democratic and socialist principles by people who proclaim themselves to be "democratic socialists."

But neither witch-hunt clamor, nor SP-SDF treachery will keep genuine defenders of civil liberties from rallying behind Muste's resistance to the American political police. Nor will it keep them from upholding the American Forum's democratic right to conduct its socialist discussion program.

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THE MILITANT

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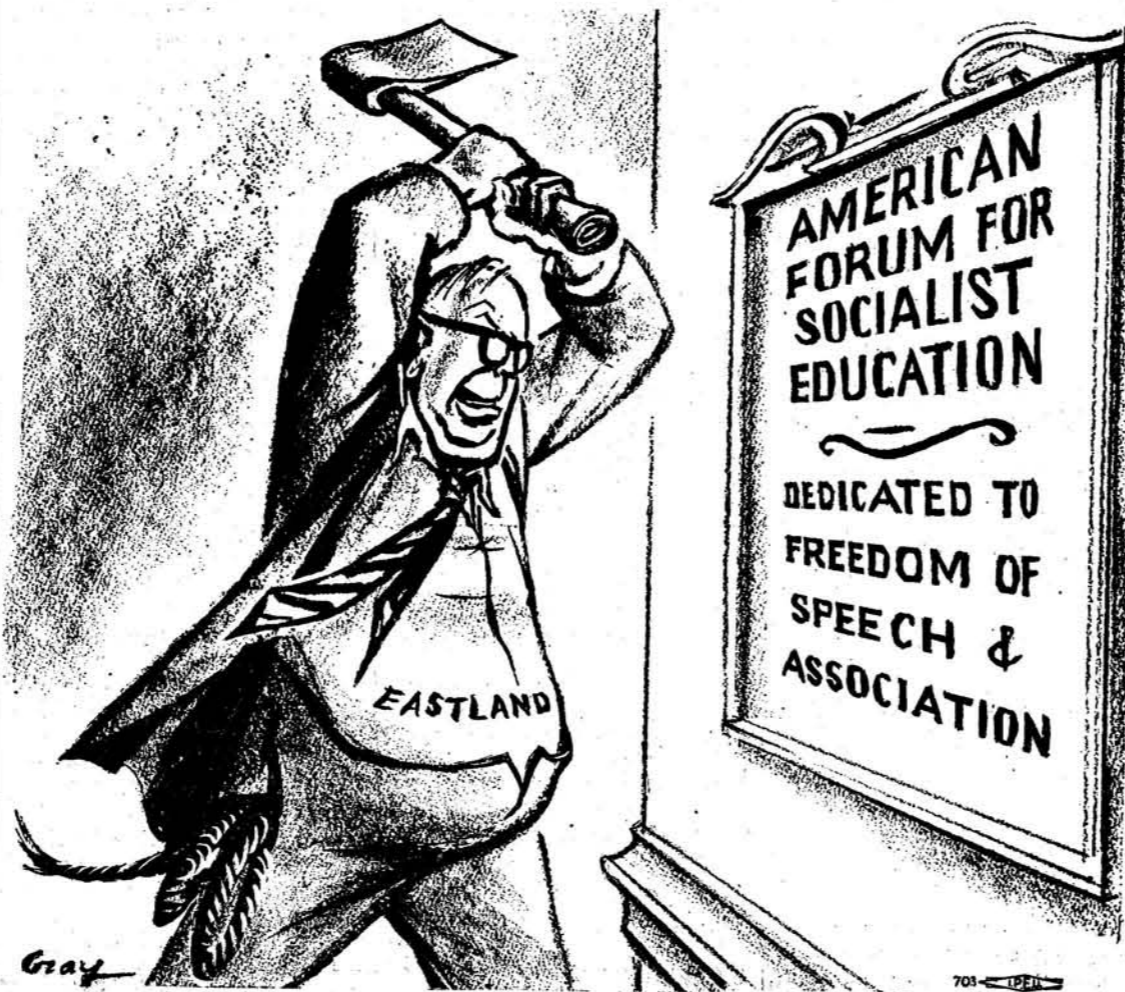
Vol. XXI - No. 22

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1957

PRICE 10c

Eastland Committee Steps Up Assault on Socialist Forum

Anti-"Subversive" at Work



A. J. Muste Tells Witch-Hunter That He Will Defy Inquisition

By George Lavan

NEW YORK, May 28 — "I must on grounds of conscience, and in line with my conception of my duty as a citizen in a democratic society, decline to answer the questions in your letter, written by you as Chairman and on behalf of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. . . Should I be subpoenaed to appear before the Internal Security Subcommittee, it would be impossible for me to do more than appear

and state my reasons for declining to answer questions of the nature set forth in your letter." This was the firm stand taken by Rev. A. J. Muste, chairman of the recently formed American Forum — For Socialist Education against the latest attack of the witch hunters.

The demand that Muste submit to an inquisition about the American Forum was made by the notorious racist, James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate witch-hunt committee. It followed the issuing of subpoenas for four members of the National Committee of the American Forum and the halting of one of the four, Dr. Albert Blumberg, before Senator John M. Butler, sitting as a one-man board of inquisition on May 21. Blumberg, one of the two Communist Party members on the 40-man National Committee of the American Forum, refused to answer the questions put to him because of their subject matter and because of the nature of the proceedings. He declared that such questions could not conceivably serve any legislative purpose and that they violated his political rights under the First and Fifth Amendments.

The concerted attack of the Eastland Committee against the American Forum is but the latest phase of the campaign that Big Business interests launched against it on May 13. On that date a press release sent out by Chairman A. J. Muste announced the formation of the Forum, its purpose (to afford a vehicle for free and untrammelled discussion for all socialist-minded tendencies and individuals), its officers and its National Committee of 40 prominent individuals representing every shade of the socialist spectrum in the U.S.

HOWL IN THE PRESS

Speaking for the gutter press the next day, New York's Daily News demanded that "the Senate Internal Security Committee look into this mob without delay." The more moderate New York Times culminated three days of biased reporting about the Amer-



A. J. MUSTE

Muste and Eastland Letters

The following are texts of a letter from Senator Eastland (D. Miss.) to A. J. Muste, National Chairman of the American Forum — For Socialist Education, and of a reply by Muste to Eastland.

May 17, 1957

Dear Mr. Muste:

The Internal Security Subcommittee has scheduled a hearing next Tuesday on the nature of the American Forum for Socialist Education. This is in connection with the Subcommittee's inquiry into the nature of Communist activities in the United States.

You are listed as Chairman of the Forum, and therefore I would appreciate your answering just a few questions about the organization. It would be most helpful if I had your reply by Tuesday, in which event it will be put into the record on that day. In any event I ask you these questions for the record. The Subcommittee would like to know from you to what extent Mr. Albert E. Blumberg was a moving factor in the formation of the American Forum for Socialist Education. Would you tell us the extent of your dealing with Mr. Blumberg in this and all related matters during the last eighteen months? Did you present a memo to Mr. Blumberg outlining an exchange of opinion on the whole subject of a union by the Communist and Socialist-minded groups? If you did present such a memorandum, would you supply the Subcommittee with a copy thereof?

Will you tell us also of your dealings with other representatives of the Communist Party, U.S.A., with relation to the Forum?

The Subcommittee would like to have a full account of the following matters pertaining to the formation of the American Forum for Socialist Education:

- (1) When and by whom was the formation of this organization first suggested to you?
- (2) Who handled contacts with prospective members of the AFFSE national committee? To what extent were these contacts personal, and to what extent by mail?
- (3) What meetings have been held, when, and where, attended by persons now members of the AFFSE national committee, at which formation of the AFFSE and related matters were discussed?
- (4) Has each of the 40 members of the AFFSE national committee personally assented to serving as such? To whom, and in what form, were such assents given? Does each of these 40 members have an equal vote in management of the affairs of the AFFSE?
- (5) Is there any group of body other than the AFFSE national committee which is or will be concerned with AFFSE policy or administration? Who are the members of the administrative and executive staff of the AFFSE?

I ask you also to inform the (Continued on page 3)

Morton Sobell to Appeal To U.S. Supreme Court

By Myra Tanner Weiss

May 27—The case of Morton Sobell, serving a 30-year term in Alcatraz prison, will now be taken to the United States Supreme Court. Under appeal will be the May 14 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals which refused to grant Sobell either his freedom or a new trial despite conclusive new evidence that an injustice was done to this scientist.

The decision of the U.S. Appeals Court, written by Judge Harold Medina and concurred in by Judges Sterry Waterman and Clarence Galston, is a document filled with almost unbelievable legal sophistries that show not the slightest concern for either truth or justice. For example, Medina writes that the proof submitted by Sobell's lawyers that Sobell was kidnapped illegally from Mexico, "merely supplemented the proof of appellant's consciousness of guilt by explaining his presence at the trial, which appellant appears to concede was not voluntary."

TWISTED LOGIC

How could proof that Sobell was not allowed to return to this country voluntarily be proof of a "consciousness of guilt"? And what kind of twisted mind could write the phrase—Sobell "appears to concede" that his presence at the trial "was not voluntary"? How could Sobell "appear to concede" what he was stoutly maintaining?

Sobell's lawyers pointed out that the prosecution knowingly used perjured evidence. At the trial in 1951 the jury was told that Sobell had been "deported" from Mexico. In any jury's mind there can be no question that "deportation" implied some kind of legal procedure by the Government of Mexico. But Medina wasn't interested in the evidence submitted that proved Sobell was not deported or evicted from Mexico in any other legal fashion. Medina is satisfied that Sobell was "deported" because "he did not return to the United States voluntarily; and the expression 'kicked out,' while perhaps offensive to a refined ear, described precisely what happened to him on Aug. 18, 1950."

Judges are supposed to protect the legal rights of American citizens from arbitrary action of their government. Sobell

charges that the FBI arranged with Mexican cops, to have him kidnapped and returned to the U.S. where he was immediately arrested. There was no extradition or deportation hearing of any kind. Thus, Sobell charges, he was neither allowed to return voluntarily nor was he legally deported. He was the victim of a high-handed act on the part of the government. And the judges instead of scoring this high-handed act uphold it by means of word jugglery.

Sobell's lawyers charged that the prosecution concealed evidence that would have been an aid to the defense. In particular, the prosecution had in its possession a vaccination certificate obtained by Sobell in preparation for his return to the United States. Medina wrote, Sobell "might well have claimed that his possession demonstrated an intention to return to the United

States, but the prosecution would just as likely have argued to the contrary."

How could the prosecution use such evidence to argue that Sobell did not intend to return voluntarily? The evidence was in the hands of the FBI and it was not used to argue "to the contrary," as anyone can well imagine.

If the logic of these three men, wielders of "impartial and unprejudiced logic," is a sample of the reasoning of U.S. justices in general then this profession is the most misnamed profession in the country. Now it is up to the Supreme Court to show the quality of its judgment. If this bench is not to turn its back on Sobell's just plea as it has in the past, popular ignorance of the facts in this case must be overcome. Indignation will then take the place of apathy and fear.

Eastland Attack on Forum Hit by McAvoy and Zaslow

MAY 27 — Two of the four members of the National Committee of the American Forum for Socialist Education who were subpoenaed by Senator Eastland's Internal

Security Subcommittee made the following statements to the Militant. Clifford T. McAvoy said: "There has never been an organization less like a Communist front than the American Forum for Socialist Education. Made up of people holding highly divergent views, it is a true cross-section of the American radical movement. More important it has no program whatsoever, but was set up solely for purposes of education.

"These considerations make the attack of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee all the more reprehensible. The attack is a brazen attempt to stifle freedom of speech and to prevent freedom of association. "Too much praise cannot be given to the Rev. A. J. Muste for

his militant assertion of the right of freedom of speech. Certainly all of those who believe in the Constitution can do no less than to join with him in refusing to concede that the Congress has any right to investigate in the area of political belief.

"The all-important facts about the Forum are its two principles: non-exclusion and complete freedom of discussion. There is great hope for a renaissance of the American radical movement if enough Americans are willing to stand up and fight for these elementary principles of genuine Americanism."

Milton Zaslow said: "All information concerning the Amer-

(Continued on page 4)

Gov't Hits Unions With Police-State Screenings

By Harry Ring

Back in 1955 a CIO spokesman warned that if the pending Butler Bill was passed, "We will have taken a long step toward requiring that every worker carry a police card attesting to his loyalty in order to get work. And if that ever happens we have exchanged the freedom of American democracy for the tyranny of a police state."

Although the Butler Bill has not yet been enacted into law, its central aim—the blacklisting of union militants under the guise of combatting "saboteurs" and "espionage agents"—has been pushed steadily ahead by U.S. Big Business and its government. This alarming fact is documented in the May 2 issue of The Reporter. The magazine reveals how the Industrial Personnel Security Program, set up by President Truman in 1949, is being used to realize the anti-labor objectives of the Butler Bill.

KREZNAR CASE

To underscore the "serious implications for the labor movement and the American public" of the Industrial Personnel Security Program, The Reporter describes the case of one of those

victimized by the screening program. He is Stephan L. Krezmar, a Milwaukee telephone worker. Krezmar was fired by the Wisconsin Telephone Company after 15 years of satisfactory service for failing to win clearance from the government in a company-initiated security check. Krezmar, who has taken his case into federal court, was screened on grounds of alleged membership in the Socialist Workers Party which is included on the Atty General's "subversive" list. Krezmar denies such membership but freely concedes having attended SWP meetings.

KEY FACT

A key fact in the case, The Reporter points out, is that "Krezmar was investigated by the government at the request of the phone company itself, although the company had no defense contracts in the area where Krezmar was employed. The company in effect took advantage of a vague security regulation in order to have Krezmar screened." The company's case, which was upheld by the government, rested largely on the contention that it anticipated a government contract some time in the future.

While company lawyers didn't bother saying so, the real issue

is that Krezmar had been a long-time militant in Local 5501 of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, and was president of the local when he was fired. According to The Reporter, one union official described Krezmar as "conscientious," "issue-oriented," a "hard fighter in collective bargaining."

CIO NEWS STAND

The May 3 issue of the Wisconsin CIO News spelled out the meaning of the Krezmar case when it declared "Krezmar is being hounded because he was a strong union man and the company used this as a pretext for ridding the company of a union militant." The statement by the CIO News is a sign that sections of the labor officialdom are becoming alarmed over the activities of the political police in America.

SCOPE

The Reporter underscores the broad scope of the anti-labor, witch-hunting pattern which the Krezmar case symbolizes. Three million workers in 21,000 plants with government defense contracts or subcontracts came under the purview of the government "screening" program. The companies are granted the right to do their own security screen-

ing on another two million workers classified as less "sensitive."

PRIVATE SCREENING

In addition, The Reporter points out, "Systematic loyalty-security programs have cropped up in a number of industries not connected with defense work. . . . In most cases, such industries employ detective agencies to do the 'screening.'"

The real aim of the "screening"—both governmental and private—was stated in a 1952 Report on Industrial Security by the National Industrial Conference Board. It said:

"Even if you don't have a trained saboteur in hire, Industrial Security can pay you off in peacetime. It can help you rid your plant of agitators who create labor unrest, who promote labor grievances, slowdowns and strikes, and encourage worker antipathy to management."

'SUBVERSIVE LIST'

The Reporter makes clear that the key weapon in this anti-labor attack is the Attorney General's list of 303 "subversive" organizations. It says: "Only one organization on the list has been given a hearing, yet industrial or security regulations hold that membership in or association

with members of the branded organizations are factors to be considered in measuring a man's security standing."

That the "subversive" list was designed as a weapon not only against radicals but against the labor movement as a whole is becoming more apparent daily. Literally thousands of union militants like Krezmar have been blacklisted out of industry by use of the list. Such reactionary gangs as the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, alarmed with the list, are becoming increasingly bold in their moves to smear militant local unions. This is illustrated by the current attacks on the Ford and Dodge locals of the UAW reported elsewhere in this issue. (See page four)

SCAB ROLE

In addition to the operations of the "screening" program, the Subversive Activities Control Board is currently engaged, under provisions of the Communist Control Act, in trying to strip unions of their legal rights. Already before the board are the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and the United Electrical Workers (Independent).

Organized labor must mobilize

1,500 Turn Out for Sobell Boat Ride

Approximately 1,500 New Yorkers took the boat ride up the Hudson River under the auspices of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell on May 26. Hundreds of others who were unable to spend the day on the excursion helped to assure the financial success of the event with their contributions. The trip to Bear Mountain was made with a great deal of spirit. Hundreds of young people sang songs. Special games were organized for the children. The struggle to free Sobell from prison won many new friends.

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THE MILITANT

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Vol. XXI - No. 22

Monday, June 3, 1957

The State of the Witch Hunt

We have always held the highest regard for I. F. Stone's vigorous and consistently principled participation...

These and several other victories indicate the fact that the easing of the cold-war against the Soviet Union has slowed down the witch hunt in some directions...

No Occupiers Wanted

In commenting on the May 24 demonstrations against the U.S. in Taiwan (Formosa) precipitated by the release of a U.S. soldier who had killed a Chinese...

launched. These are thankless, confusing, degrading tasks, which in themselves tend to brutalize the men who are forced to carry them out.

Natalia Trotsky Visit Ended For Refusal to Aid Witch Hunt

Natalia Sedoff Trotsky, widow of the great Bolshevik leader, left the U.S. by plane for Mexico on May 24. She thus put an end to the campaign of officially-inspired newspaper stories that she had come to this country to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee...

adamant in refusal. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on Mrs. Trotsky to testify in Washington. She was, however, adamant in her refusal. Thereupon she was informed that the time allowed for her visit had elapsed and that she must leave at once.

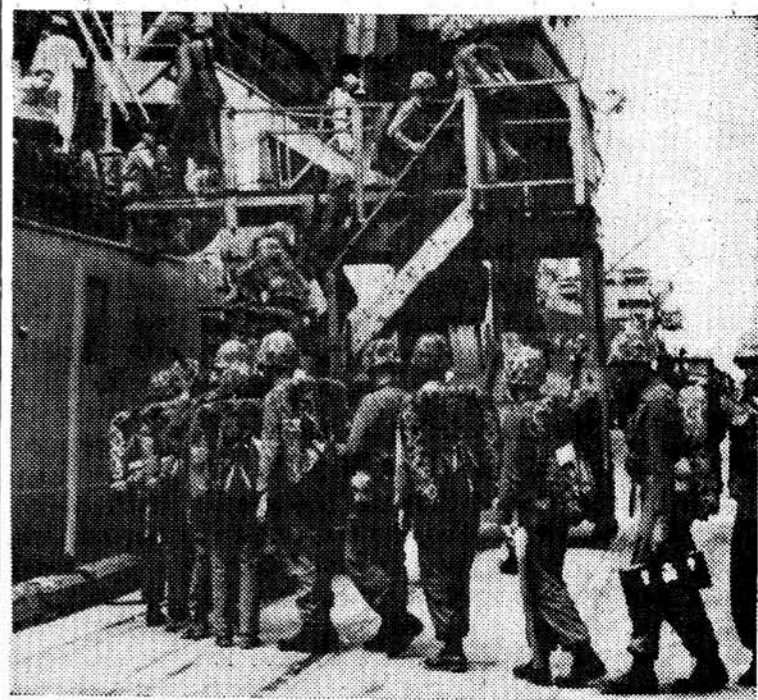
any committee, and requesting that Allen correct his misstatements in that regard. After several days delay the New York Post printed a shortened version of her letter in the "Dear Editor" column. No article or comment was made elsewhere in the paper.

Morton and Helen Sobell



The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell announces that the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals written by Judge Harold Medina which denied the Alcatraz prisoner a new trial will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. (See story, page one.)

Unwelcome Departure



U.S. Marines boarding a transport last month for the Mideast where they joined the U.S. Sixth Fleet under orders to defend feudal despots against the rising Arab masses.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Rock Chiang Dictatorship

The burning resentment of the people of Taiwan (Formosa) against U.S. imperialism and its brutal puppet regime of Chiang Kai-shek erupted, May 24, into mass demonstrations in the island's capital city of Taipei. About 30,000 persons besieged the Nationalist police headquarters in Taipei for six hours before being dispersed by the arrival of troops and the declaration of martial law in the city.

The Muste-Eastland Correspondence

(Continued from page 1) Smith Act, a petition in which over forty well known citizens such as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Norman Thomas and Dr. John C. Bennett, the dean of Union Theological Seminary, New York, joined.

like to take part in its work will be forced to shun it or be subjected to persecution. There seemed for a time to be a tendency among Congressional investigating committees such as yours to exercise some care in a matter of this kind, to investigate first without advance publicity and not to expose loyal citizens to public inquisition and persecution before there was some slight ground for supposing that questionable activities had taken place.

to memoranda. Any that I have had anything to do with in American Forum as a body have been freely sent around to any who might be interested and are in no way secret. In view of the pervasive espionage activities which unfortunately characterize our country in this period, I surmise your Subcommittee already has these materials.

also believe that because of its effect on hundreds of millions of people in all parts of the world, your stand and activities relative to these matters constitute an immense threat to the security and good name of the United States and certainly give a major assist to Communist propaganda.

Letter from Farrell Dobbs Corrects Daily Worker

(The following letter was sent by Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, to the Daily Worker on May 22.—Ed.)

nationalized property and of the planned economy. He held that the working class should defend the workers' state against all attempts at capitalist restoration. At the same time he held to the necessity of a political revolution to restore workers' democracy.

Opposition in U.S. To Nuclear Tests Keeps Mounting

Mounting dread over the peril resulting from the testing of nuclear weapons is reflected in the public hearings by a Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. Opening the hearings, May 27, Rep. Holifield (D-Calif.) said that he has received hundreds of letters expressing grave concern as to the poisonous effect of nuclear tests.

A. J. Muste Replies

Dear Mr. Eastland: I am in receipt of your letter of May 17, 1957, addressing to me a long series of questions relating to American Forum - For Socialist Education.

Dear Mr. Eastland: I am in receipt of your letter of May 17, 1957, addressing to me a long series of questions relating to American Forum - For Socialist Education.

Philadelphia Public Meeting "JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL" Hear: HELEN SOBELL, Wife of Morton Sobell, MYRA TANNER WEISS, Staff Writer, the Militant, JEAN FRANTJIS, Phila. Chair., Comm. to Secure Justice for Sobell

By John Thayer

Liberals Took a Powder

Conspicuous by their absence from the prayer-pilgrimage to Washington were the liberals. Usually in the limelight at civil rights conferences, etc., are Northern Democratic politicians posing as "friends of the Negro people," and spokesmen for the many organizations which claim to speak in the name of that amorphous section of the population described as liberal. But they failed to show up at the Lincoln Memorial on May 17.

It is an open secret that the big-wheel liberals, like their buddies, the trade-union bureaucrats, opposed the march on Washington and tried to prevent its being called. When, despite their efforts, it was called they passed word down to give it no support.

For example, the New York Post, the liberal paper which ordinarily gives more coverage to news of the anti-Jim Crow struggle than any other capitalist daily in the country (and has thereby considerably boosted its circulation and political influence), played down the story so that only the sharpest-eyed reader would know that the Pilgrimage was being planned. Even stories reporting the meeting itself were shamefully played down.

The speakers' list for the Pilgrimage included but two professional liberals — a great change from the usually disproportionate prominence given to them. These two were Democratic Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois and Republican Senator Jacob Javits of New York. But neither

of these "friends of the Negro people" even bothered to show up.

Why did the liberals boycott the Prayer Pilgrimage? The answer is that they are interested in the Negro struggle only as far as they can use it. Those few who are connected with the Republican Party couldn't use the Pilgrimage because the very holding of it was a sharp rebuke to Eisenhower for his refusal to utter even one mumbling platitude against the white-supremacist violence in the South. That's why liberal Senator Ives (R-N.Y.) publicly opposed the march on Washington and why Sen. Javits didn't show up.

But most of the liberals are in the Democratic Party and they equally opposed the demonstration. If it had been directed only against the Republican administration they would have jumped on the bandwagon and tried to grab the drivers' reins. But the whole march was as damaging to the Democratic Party as to the Republicans and so they turned thumbs down. Their attitude is: the struggle against Jim Crow is all right but it must be kept in its place.

The Negro people did absolutely right in holding the first national anti-segregation demonstration in the nation's capital despite the refusal of their fair-weather liberal friends to go along with it. The demonstration was a success to the tune of 27,000 and an inspiration for further principled struggle. Furthermore, the Negro people have the satisfaction of knowing that they did it all themselves.

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NUMBER 22

The Washington Pilgrimage

Turnout Not Pushed in Youngstown

The Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington on May 17 drew very few people from this steel city. Not that the workers were not interested and would not have participated in the March on Washington, but there was a cloak of silence thrown over the event by the capitalist press, by the labor leadership and by the NAACP leaders.

The NAACP locally did not solicit any aid from the labor movement and made no effort to get people to go to Washington. And when the workers feel that their organizations do not consider the project worth supporting, they feel that they cannot spend money to help in a movement that seems to be the action of some far-off group of individuals.

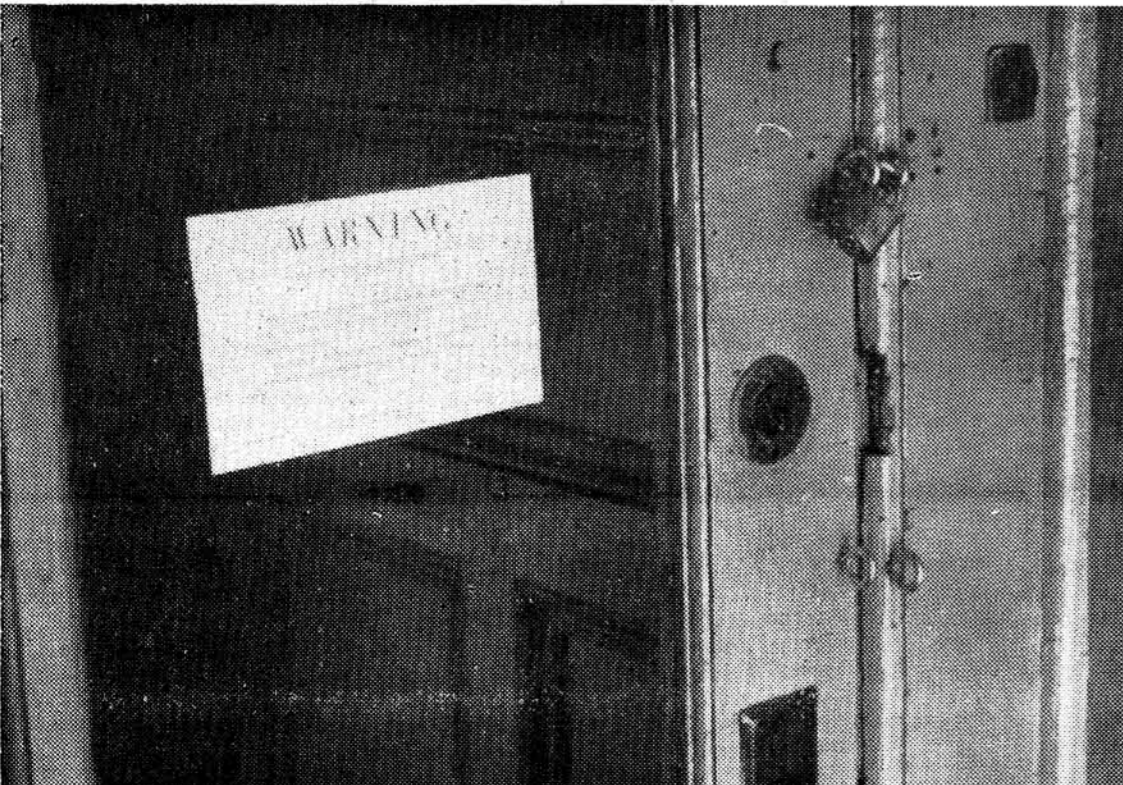
In truth, the workers were presented with very little news about the projected march. Even the ministers who, one would think had some feeling of kinship for the ministers of the South — the original organizers of the Pilgrimage — did not publicize the project. This was the story in all the industrial communities of Eastern Ohio. The same pattern seemed to have been followed throughout.

CARLOADS

But in spite of the inaction by the official organizations with their great resources and prestige, several carloads did make the trip from Youngstown to Washington. These carloads were the result of a lot of work by those who really understood the importance of the demonstration.

The reaction of those who participated in the Pilgrimage was unanimous that the demonstration was a success. And these "pilgrims" believed that the mass protest rally as a whole exhibited a determination to go ahead with the struggle for equality. They held no pessimism for the future, but on the contrary, they left with the feeling that the battle has just begun.

A Padlock on the Right to Learn



The California Labor School in San Francisco is shown above with its front door padlocked. The School which is well known on the West Coast as a working-class educational institution was first attacked as a "communist front" and then closed by tax agents of the Treasury Department in a fraudulent and retroactive tax decision. Holland Roberts, Director of the School, May 24, wrote the following letter of protest to Ernest Gomez of the Internal Revenue Service in California:

"Dear Sir:
"On behalf of the students, Board of Directors and supporters of the California Labor School, I protest against the seizure and sale of the books, school supplies and equipment of our school. You are depriving us of our American right to teach and our citizens of their democratic right to learn in a school of their own choosing.
"This is an unjust act. It is a flagrant violation of our Bill of Rights and of the Constitution of the United States. It

is a denial of the fundamental right and duty of all men to think.

"As an American citizen I protest against justice by padlock. To padlock a school and to seize and sell its teaching equipment is an act of tyranny and is destructive of the very basis of our democratic system of government.

"As a representative of Americans I ask you to halt this sale and return the assets of the California Labor School to their rightful owners."

A New Park Publication The 20th Congress (G.P.S.U.) and World Trotskyism

Contains Khrushchev's 20th Congress secret-session speech; two speeches by James P. Cannon; texts of previously suppressed articles and letters by Lenin.

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(Review in Spring Issue of International Socialist Review)

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Special price \$1.65
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Calendar Of Events

New York
American Youth for Socialism holds open meetings every Tuesday night at 8:00 P.M., at 116 University Place. A short business meeting is followed by an interesting educational discussion. Tues., June 4: Earl Owens will review Rosa Luxemburg's Reform or Revolution?

Marxist Labor School. A series of classes from 8 to 10 P.M. every Monday night until June 10 on "The History of American Socialism" led by Joyce Cowley, SWP candidate for Mayor of New York. To register phone ALgonquin 5-7852. 116 University Place.

The Chinese Communist Party and the Hungarian Revolution

By Michael Banda
Pioneer Pocket Library No. 6
22 pages 25 cents
Order from:
Pioneer Publishers
116 University Place
New York 3, N.Y.



A group of "Pilgrims" standing in the Park near the Lincoln Memorial on May 17 in Washington, D. C. An estimated 25,000 persons from all over the United States attended the "Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom" at the Memorial to protest Jim Crow.

The Mood Was 'We're Riding for Freedom'

By Sylvia West

B'KLYN—The signs on the buses expressed our mood. "On to Washington," "Washington Here We Come," "We're Riding For Freedom." As the bus moved out from the curb, everyone started to talk. "I wouldn't have missed this for a million," said one woman. "I've always wanted to go a few rounds with Ike so I brought my golf clubs," a man joked. "Do you think Mamie will have tea ready for us?" An old man said, "Thank the Lord, I have lived to see this day."

After we hit the Turnpike we looked out the back window and saw a long ribbon of busses in back of us. My friend nudged my arm, "Look back there, look at that." As another bus would pass us we would all wave and yell.

IT'S FOR SURE

The feeling of impatience was powerful. "If I missed Rev. King's speech I'd die," a woman said. Everyone was estimating the exact time we would arrive in D. C. "I've been waiting since 1941 for this trip so I guess we can wait a little longer," said an old woman. "Well it's for sure this time. It's too late to turn back now." (She was referring to the 1941 projected March on Washington, which A. Philip Randolph and Walter White, its organizers, called off at the last minute.)

As we drove through the Negro section of Baltimore the

people on the streets would smile and wave at us. We waved back. From one school building the children were all waving out the window. As we passed through this crowded, run-down section, the feelings of the people on the bus came to the fore. "You can sure tell this is the colored section"; or "Why do Negro people have to live like dogs." There was a feeling of bitterness and solidarity. Bitterness because most of the bus riders had come from sections of New York that looked like this and solidarity because they, more than anyone else, knew how it felt to live under these conditions.

About eleven o'clock the bus pulled into the station for food and rest. Here were forty or fifty buses from all parts of the East, from churches, labor unions, NAACP, and colleges. Everyone was smiling at each other, asking where they had come from, how long they had been traveling. There was no pushing to get food or use the rest rooms. Politeness and fellowship was the order of the day. The pay clerk smiled wearily and said, "It's been like this since 6:00 this morning."

Moving into Washington everyone was getting things together. Coats were put on, lunch baskets and thermos bottles collected, and one man made us all laugh when his big voice boomed out, "Let's don't stop here. Let's go straight to Georgia."

Brooklynites Welcomed Attack on Both Parties

By Nat West

Four buses, loaded with 200 enthusiastic Negro and white "pilgrims," left from the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP at 6:20 A.M., Friday morning. More people showed up the last minute than could be accommodated. These people departed later in car pools arranged for this purpose.

In the bus we rode, the trip to Washington was marked by a running discussion, with many participating, on the significance and the prospects of the demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. Of particular interest was the report that Adam Clayton Powell planned to propose a "third party," that afternoon. All who expressed themselves on this matter indicated their approval of Powell's proposal.

We arrived at the Lincoln Memorial at 1:00 P. M., and were able to hear all the important speakers.

On the return trip the discussion was continued, this time evaluating the results and per-

spective of the demonstration. There was general agreement that (1) the effect of the Pilgrimage was dampened by the appeal to forego applause because of the "religious nature of the meeting"; (2) that while Powell raised the most serious proposals, the Negro people had little confidence in his sticking to his guns; and (3) that Rev. Martin Luther King was the most trustworthy and authoritative spokesman of the Negro people.

In further discussion with a smaller group, the general conclusion was that the leadership, in their efforts to guarantee that the demonstration would be kept within limits, had stifled many of the positive results that the leadership itself wanted to achieve. But that the raising for discussion by Powell of the proposal for a third force in politics was a giant step forward in the movement for independent Labor-Negro political action.

... Assault on Socialist Forum

(Continued from page 1)

Singer followed this up by pushing through the SP-SDF's National Action Committee a resolution ordering six SP-SDF members on the American Forum National Committee to resign from it or be expelled from the SP-SDF.

This action was upheld by the National Executive Committee. (The NEC also voted to forbid joint activity with the Independent Socialist League.)

It is reported that a majority of the six SP-SDF members on the American Forum are standing firm for their democratic right to belong to the forum despite the ruling of SP-SDF bureaucrats.

Earlier, Malcolm Q. Sibley, professor at the University of Minnesota and an alternate member of the SP-SDF National Executive Committee, in a letter to the Minneapolis Morning Tribune (May 25), defended the American Forum against press misrepresentations in that city. Sibley is one of the six who have been ordered to resign from the Forum.

ECLC in Support Of Forum Rights

Dr. Clark Foreman, Director of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, issued the following statement today:

"The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee supports wholeheartedly the defiance by Dr. A. J. Muste of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee's attempt to interfere with the formation of the American Forum—For Socialist Education. Free discussion is elemental in our society, guaranteed by the Constitution and no one should surrender that right.

"If court action should result from the defiance to submit to Congressional inquisition, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee will be glad to help in the defence of Dr. Muste or any of the other five subpoenaed in this connection."

purpose of the AFFSE. It is to be noted that as a discussion group the newly-founded organization adopted no political plank whatsoever, but confined itself to one purpose—the organization of free and open discussions among all tendencies and individuals believing in socialism.

The staunchness of those American Forum members already threatened by the Eastland Committee should serve as an example to all opponents of the witch hunt. If the American Forum perseveres in example already set by its chairman then it can well withstand the attack upon it by the political police. It will rally the support not only of all genuine socialist people but of all defenders of civil liberties.

... McAvoy, Zaslow

(Continued from page 1)

ican Forum has been made available to the public as the Forum has nothing to conceal. However, as Senator Eastland does not read the newspapers, I would not enlighten him by answering his questions since I do not recognize the authority of any committee to interfere with the right of people to assemble for the purpose of exchanging ideas, be they socialist or any other. I predict that the attempt of the Eastland committee to strangle the American Forum at birth by intimidation, harassment and sneers will fail. I am confident that this attack will arouse interest, sympathy and support for the right of the American Forum to exist and will strengthen the growing sentiment for the abolition of both Congressional committees of inquiry."

Shachtman gives as his main reason the absence of a denunciation of totalitarianism in the Soviet bloc in the declaration of

movement itself. It is precisely in the UAW — and above all, in locals like 600, 3, and 227 where the democratic tradition of caucus rivalry is strongest and most vital — that the anti-labor forces are concentrating their fire.

Carl Stellato, president of Ford local 600, pointed out the significance of the anti-labor maneuvers in Washington in the May 18 Ford Facts. He said, "If the membership does not fully realize the daily increase in the activities of the anti-union forces in the country, then it is my thinking that we had better get hold of ourselves and take a good hard look at the situation."

COMMITTEE AIDS
"In my way of thinking," Stellato said, the McClellan committee "is concerned more with the passage of legislation comparable to the present 'right to work' laws now enacted in 18 states than to help the unions in winning the new goals set in the 16th UAW Constitutional Convention necessary for a better life for all the people of the country."

"The counterpart of the McClellan Committee active today," Stellato pointed out, "is the Eastland Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security of the Senate Judiciary Committee... Yes, the concentration is on militant trade unions and unionists. Shouldn't the Eastland Committee on Internal Security spend some time investigating and curbing the activities of organizations that pose an equal security risk to the U.S.A., such as the KKK, White Citizens Councils, etc.?"

Stellato also upheld the right of Walter Dorosh to use the Fifth Amendment in refusing to answer the Eastland Committee's questions. "To frown upon one who exercises his right under our Constitution is, in my opinion, to frown upon democracy," he declared.

Finally, Stellato called for the unity of the labor movement in the face of the attacks by the employers and the Washington committees and for the achievement of labor's goals in the 1958 negotiations.

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