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THE MILITANT

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Monday, Sept. 30, 1957

The National Guardian's Stand

In the Sept. 23 issue of the National Guardian there is an editorial which deserves the careful attention of all radical workers...

This same tragic lack exists in the fight for restoration and preservation of civil liberties, for the defense of labor and for bringing atom-bomb tests to an end...

As a local example, the editorial notes: "Currently there is a bill before New York's City Council which would outlaw discrimination in private housing..."

"The jobs are legion for independent political task forces in all the big cities of the North, where integration has been given lip service..."

We are in complete agreement that independent political task forces must be assembled to wage the fight against Jim Crow, for labor and civil rights...

Democracy in the CP?

Has the Communist Party of the U.S. changed its spots or is all the talk about a new birth of democracy within that organization a deception?"

These were fine words, and they corresponded to the demands of the party rank and file. The fine words are still being heard...

... Issue in Teamsters

"strictly a rank-and-file move to reclaim for members a little of the industrial democracy they've lost along the way."

An editorial in the Sept. 9 New York Post discusses the recent Gallup poll which claimed that rank-and-file Teamster sentiment across the country is 3-to-1 against Hoffa...

BECK GETS IN ACT

In the new atmosphere even Dave Beck talks about democracy. "Democracy must reign in the labor movement to make it effective," he says in the Septem-

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By Leon Trotsky 256 pages \$3.75

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first, a struggle in the unions for a Labor Party in the course of which the rank and file will win back control of their unions...

It also means that the radical movement must run its own, socialist, candidates who will campaign for the principle of independent working-class political action...

It is the stress on the need for independent politics in the Guardian editorial that we find so welcome. With the editorial's point of departure — that the need arises out of the demise of the Progressive Party...

But the fact that from the PP experience many workers, students, Negroes and others learned so well the reactionary futility of supporting either the Democrats or Republicans is a positive gain...

July 23, declared: "We must especially shy away from impugning the loyalty, the integrity of comrades because we disagree with one or another of their views..."

But words alone are not enough! They must square with deeds! The letter from five suspended CP members in Los Angeles, printed in last week's Militant, shows that these people, accused of guilt by association...

Not flowery speeches nor democratic resolutions, but what happens in this Los Angeles case and similar cases will prove whether or not the CP has established party democracy.

Two Wisc. Witch-Hunt Victims Sue U.S. Defense Department

By James E. Boulton

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 18 — "It would be a mistake to assume that McCarthyism died with the passing of the junior Senator from Wisconsin..."

The main illustration for their argument is the case of Stephen Kreznar, former President of Milwaukee Local 5501, CWA. Kreznar and Local 5501's Secretary-Treasurer John Dressler were dismissed from their jobs with Wisconsin Bell Telephone in February 1956...

The most striking feature in these victimizations was the immediate transfer by management of all responsibility for the fir-

ings to Defense Secretary Wilson. In public speeches Wilson has made the telephone cases an integral part of his "security program"...

GUILT BY ASSOCIATION "The issue of guilt by association still remains very much of a problem under IPSP covering (now) 3 million workers in industry; because close to one-third of the criteria used to judge a man's security status deal with his social, organizational, and family associations..."

Under IPSP eight of 22 criteria deal with a worker's past associations in "establishing or continuing a sympathetic association with a spy, saboteur, traitor, seditionist, anarchist or revolutionist..."

Segal and Kornbluh continue to warn the labor movement of the dangers of the Butler Bill (\$ 1140) still in legislative committee. This is the plan to extend the present security program to all employees in any plant that MAY be important to defense in a "national emergency..."

Despite recent Supreme Court decisions that curb witch-hunting laws and executive orders,

Labor "Statesmen"



George Meany and Walter Reuther shown at the merger convention of the AFL-CIO in December, 1955. Today both are cooperating with the anti-labor McClellan Committee, supposedly combatting corruption in the labor movement. Meany has threatened the Teamsters' union with expulsion.

Labor-Baiter McClellan Backs Racist Pals in Ark.

By William Bundy

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), the man who is leading the drive to get legislation through Congress that would place new government shackles on unions, doesn't believe that the government has—or should have—the power to stop racist mobs from keeping Negro children out of Southern schools...

rights fighter during his entire Senate career. Last year he was one of the Dixiecrat Congressmen who signed the "Southern Manifesto," designed to foist open defiance of the Supreme Court school-integration decision...

All the recent talk about union democracy has the Wall Street Journal worried. "The Steelworkers upheaval," says the Sept. 17 issue, "raises this question: Once the move toward more democracy is begun, will the members let it stop?"

His anti-labor voting record in Congress is surpassed by few and he is—by all accounts—one of the three most reactionary Senators on the Senate labor-probe committee five of whose eight members are arch-reactionary Republicans and Dixiecrats...

Even the liberals, who generally support his probe, criticize his conduct of the hearings, says Toffler, for "undermining the Bill of Rights by asking witnesses countless questions in the full knowledge that to answer would be to waive their privilege to the Fifth Amendment."

McClellan is closely identified, according to Al Toffler in the Sept. 14 Nation, "with the most right-wing of right-wing Dixiecrats, Thurmond, Eastland, Robertson and Harry Byrd."

He has been an anti-civil

the police-state gang in Washington continue to push their measures to blanket the nation with police controls.

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Segal and Kornbluh continue to warn the labor movement of the dangers of the Butler Bill (\$ 1140) still in legislative committee. This is the plan to extend the present security program to all employees in any plant that MAY be important to defense in a "national emergency..."

Despite recent Supreme Court decisions that curb witch-hunting laws and executive orders,

... Reuther and Hoffa

... scheming to cover up his giveaway of billions in potential wage gains with phony, "pie-in-the-sky" propositions that disappear into the blue once the wage contracts are negotiated.

COMPANY HE KEEPS Raskin's Times article on Reuther vs. Hoffa contains a special item relating how Reuther and Hoffa accidentally crossed paths at an air terminal...

Reuther, it is claimed, deliberately snubbed Hoffa and refused even to say hello to him. This story was designed to show how uncompromising Reuther is toward corrupt elements.

But this same Reuther, who disdains even to nod at a Hoffa, is elated to shake the hand of the U.S. president who dropped the first atomic bombs, killing 200,000 men, women and children at Hiroshima and Nagasaki...

He sits in the AFL-CIO executive council and collaborates with union leaders whose sellouts of workers have been notorious. He poses as the right-hand man of AFL-CIO President George Meany whose public boast it is that he has never been associated with or participated in a strike during his long union career...

This same George Meany, when recently interviewed by a

The Lamont Case

THE LAMONT CASE, by Philip Wittenberg. New York. Horizon Press. 1957. \$5.00.

This book is written as a documentary case history of a crucial moment in the opposition to McCarthyism. It revolves about the effort of Corliss Lamont, author and past chairman of the Committee for Soviet-American Friendship, to free himself of a contempt of Congress indictment.

Lamont's effort was unique at the time (1952) in that he challenged the very constitutionality of the McCarthy Committee procedures, by using the First, Free Speech amendment, instead of the Fifth.

Lamont contended that the McCarthy committee's questions must be shown to be relevant to some legislative purpose and that questions must not impinge upon the rights of free speech.

A MOVING DRAMA

Wittenberg presents the history of the Lamont case in a form which must appear to a lawyer to be the most lucid and concise presentation. It consists of the most important excerpts from courtroom and congressional hearings and debates, as well as the legal brief of prosecution and defense. The documents are linked and placed in context by brief expository passages.

The surprising thing is that, dry and forbidding as such a format might appear, the record of the three years of Congressional hearings and of court litigation

actually emerges as a cogent and moving drama. But if this legalistic technique of exposition is successful it also provides some powerful insights into the picaresque, quibbling nature of the legal mind...

On the strength of that legal victory, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, of which Corliss Lamont is vice-chairman, has launched a drive to abolish the Congressional witch-hunting bodies altogether. This book about the Lamont case will help explain why the drive should be supported by all partisans of the Bill of Rights.

—David Miller

Sobell Freedom Plea Backed at Seattle Forum

SEATTLE — The fall series of the Socialist Forum in Seattle was opened on Sept. 21 with a benefit meeting and social to raise funds and support for the Morton Sobell case.

An overflow audience crowded the Socialist Workers Party Hall here to see the film strip "Was Justice Done?" issued by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, and to hear two different interpretations of the Sobell case; one by Jay Sykes, prominent Seattle civil liberties attorney, and the other by Jody Collins, a young socialist representing the S. W. P.

The lively discussion at the meeting revealed that differences in political positions and interpretations of the reasons for the continued persecution of Morton Sobell are no detriment to winning support for the Sobell case.

Jay Sykes disagreed with the conception that Sobell's conviction was a conscious frame-up, though he clearly pointed out that the evidence against Morton Sobell was not sufficient to warrant a conviction. He contended that this conviction resulted from the climate of hysteria that prevailed during the Rosenberg-Sobell case which affected both the jury and judge and the inclination of some prosecution attorneys to seek a conviction even where evidence did not warrant it.

Jody Collins presented the position that the Sobell conviction was a frame-up and that it flowed from the attempt of the government to silence opposition to the Korean War and to lay the groundwork for World War III.

Both speakers agreed that the present more liberal atmosphere in the country where civil liberties are concerned made it possible to extend the campaign to win Sobell's freedom. They urged the audience to publicize the case and give financial support to the efforts of the Sobell Committee to win a rehearing in the case.

Audience and speakers probed the questions of labor support for Sobell, socialism and democracy, the character of the courts, etc., in a discussion period that followed the presentation by the speakers. The collection and the social after the meeting netted over \$50 to help support Sobell's present appeal for a rehearing. Signatures were also gathered for a petition supporting the Amicus Curiae Brief in support of Sobell's case.

The fall series of the Socialist Forum will feature a meeting and social every Saturday night throughout October and the first part of November at 655 Main Street.

4-Day Nationwide Phone Strike

Striking telephone installers returned to work Sept. 20 after a four-day nationwide strike by the Communications Workers of America, whose picket lines were respected by 200,000 to 300,000 other Bell system employees. Most of the 23,800 Western Electric Company installers returned — but the return was marked by discontent.

In New York, John Flanagan, president of Local 1190 said the men "will go back to work and express their dissatisfaction by rejecting the

agreement." In Indianapolis, Kenneth A. Silvers, president of Local 5790, covering Indiana and sections of Ohio expressed the same sentiment. In Atlanta, Southern Bell suspended 600 workers for failing to cross picket lines.

The strike was called after negotiations broke down. The new two-year contract provides wage increases from six to twelve cents an hour. A union spokesman estimated the total package at 13 1/2 cents an hour. Wages under the old contract ranged from \$1.39 to \$2.80 an hour.

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by JAMES P. CANNON

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