

Fallout Made It A Death Ship

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SOVIET TEST HALT JOLTS WASHINGTON

More Jobless, But Congress Is Still Stalling

The recession deepens. The lines at the unemployment compensation offices lengthen, despite the dropping out each week of thousands whose benefits have expired. Almost half of the country's 149 major industrial centers are now classified as distress or "labor surplus" areas.

The much-heralded "spring upturn," on expectation of which the Republican administration and Democratic Congress base their do-nothing policies, has been a fizzle. The seasonal increase in jobs, resulting from resumption of construction operations and the Easter shopping, proved too weak to turn the economic tide. The ominous unemployment figures have resumed their climb. Compensation claims for the week ending March 21 increased in such key centers as Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Los Angeles.

In New York City — till now less hard hit because of the commercial and diversified character of its economy — that same week showed a jump in unemployment claims of nearly 10,000. The situation will get even worse in the next few weeks with the post-Easter layoffs.

EASTER EGG

"It's laid an egg," is the way retail businessmen are describing this year's Easter season. Department store sales nationally are running below the same week last year though normally they should be 6% higher because Easter is earlier this year.

The desperate situation of the unemployed is reported from all over the U.S. In Biddeford, Maine (pop. 20,000), for example, one-third of the labor

force is unemployed; many of the jobless textile workers have exhausted unemployment benefits; 500 families daily apply to the Overseers of the Poor for free food. Around Houston, Texas, authorities have to distribute surplus food to jobless including those still drawing unemployment compensation but unable to feed their families on the small amounts. In Levittown, Pa., the "model" town built to house workers from U.S. Steel's huge, new Fairless Works, home foreclosures and evictions are becoming commonplace.

In the face of all this, Congress continues the bi-partisan stall on adequate emergency legislation. Back on March 8 Eisenhower conceded the need to extend jobless benefits for another 13 weeks. The Kennedy-McCarthy bill, authorizing this extension and an increase in benefits from the present average of \$28 weekly to about \$38, has been bogged down in the House for almost a month now. It is this bill which the AFL-CIO leadership calls for.

FOR DURATION
The first demand from an important union leader for more than the inadequate Kennedy-McCarthy bill came from Thomas Kennedy, Vice-President of the United Mine Workers. He told an audience of 5,000 West Virginia soft-coal miners on April 1 that compensation "should be paid for the duration of unemployment, not for 25 or 30 weeks as it is now."

Senate Quiz Of Reuther Shows Bias

The Senate labor-probe committee concluded five weeks of hearings on the Kohler strike March 29 and promptly began hearings on the 1955 Perfect Circle dispute. Both strikes involved locals of the United Auto Workers. This phase of the committee's activities has featured attempts to smear the UAW with responsibility for strike violence. It is also a propaganda assist to the big three auto corporations with which the UAW has just begun contract negotiations.

MEANY'S BLAST

As the Kohler hearings concluded, the committee's latest anti-labor activities were denounced by George Meany and Walter Reuther — who had previously given support to the committee — in the sharpest terms yet used by top AFL-CIO officials. In addition, Senator Pat V. McNamara (D-Mich.) resigned from the committee March 31 declaring that the hearings were "rigged against labor."

AFL-CIO president George Meany denounced the committee's report on its first year of probing. He said it was a "disgraceful example of the use of sensationalism" and "raises grave doubts as to the impartiality and objectivity and integrity of its future operations." The committee report, published March 24, recommended legislation similar to that previously proposed by Eisenhower — virtually requiring government licensing of union activity. It was supported by the "liberal" Democrat, Kennedy of Massachusetts, and all other members of the committee except McNamara. Until McNamara quit, the Committee had four Democrats and four Republicans.

DESIGNED AGAINST UAW

Reuther centered his attack on three of the Republican senators, Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska and Karl Mundt of South Dakota. He said their handling of the Kohler hearings was "part of a design" to destroy Reuther and the UAW.

Actually, the Democrats are responsible for allowing Mundt, Goldwater and Curtis to have their way in the committee. In the first place, the Democratic Senate majority did not have to give the Republicans half

Khrushchev Takes Top Post In Soviet Govt.

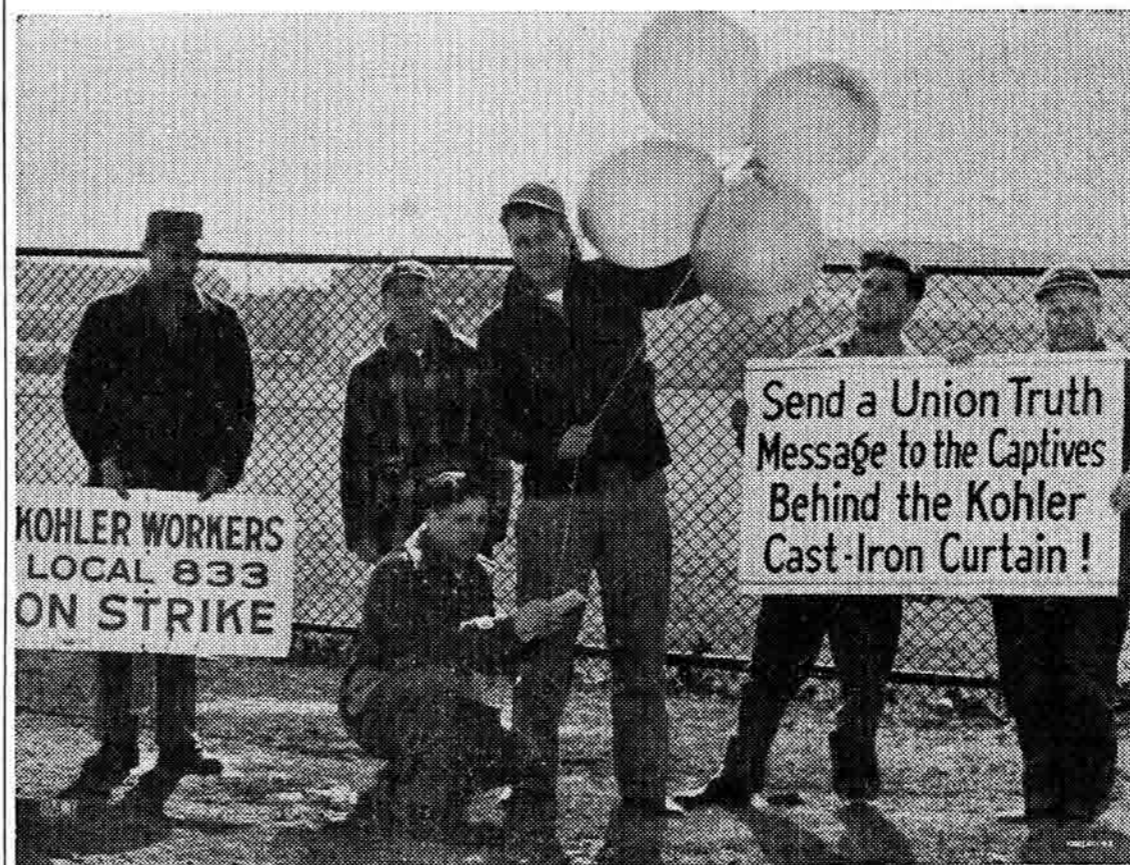
By George Lavan
Khrushchev's assumption of the premiership on March 27, thus becoming holder of the two top posts in the USSR — head of the Communist Party and head of the government — merely formalizes what had been the power actuality since last October.

That Khrushchev waited five months to oust Bulganin and take the premiership himself simply shows how secure his predominance was in those months and his new found taste, which he can now afford, for doing things with due legal formality.

DAYS NUMBERED

That Premier Bulganin's days in the top leadership were numbered has been no secret ever since he guessed wrong last summer when Molotov, Malenkov and Kaganovitch mustered a majority in the party praesidium to oust Khrushchev. Bulganin, who knew the rules of the game, forgot his "loyalty" to Khrushchev and climbed onto the majority bandwagon. But Khrushchev broke the rules by refusing to accept the praesidium's vote and carrying the issue to what had theretofore been the praesidium's subordinate body, the 125-man central committee,

Attacked by Anti-Labor Senators



Kohler strikers such as these were attacked by anti-labor Senators during recent hearings of the Senate labor-probe committee. This picture was taken in 1955 at a plant gate in Kohler, Wisc., when the strike was one year old. It entered its fifth year April 5.

Who Prevents Peace — Let The Record Speak

AN EDITORIAL

"The banner of peace now flies over the Kremlin" complained the editors of the N.Y. Post, April 1, after the Soviet Union announced its decision to abandon nuclear tests. The effect of the U.S. State Department's reply, they continue, "will be infinitesimal compared to the explosive psychological impact of the Russian action."

The Post is wrong. U.S. insistence on continuation of nuclear tests will have a great, but "undesired," effect on the war-weary people of the world. Washington's obstinate position will make itself felt with increasing impact — a radioactive impact — with every H-bomb it explodes in the coming spring series. Each test in the Pacific, as it adds to the radioactive poison in the atmosphere, will remind everyone that the Soviet Union agreed to a ban on tests and the United States did not. The anger already felt by humanity at U.S. refusal to end the race toward annihilation will mount.

A "Bluff"? Call It!

The banner of peace flies over the Kremlin and the Big Business rulers of America are increasingly exposed as the real source of the war danger to the world. No amount of squirming, diplomatic confusion or legalistic verbiage will obscure the source of the threat to peace.

The apologists for Wall Street argue that the Soviet statement is only propaganda; that nuclear tests can be conducted secretly, without the world's knowledge. This is a lie. The United States, for example, has complete data on the last nuclear tests of the Soviet Union. "So effective is the system of detection," writes syndicated columnist Marquis Childs (April 1), "that we know exactly where the tests were conducted. We know the yield of radioactive fallout they sent into the atmosphere. We know the chemical makeup of the weapons tested and the exact number."

But all this information is top-secret. Hardly to the Soviet Union. But to the American people. The U.S. government has gone to fantastic lengths to conceal information about the tests. Only last year the Atomic Energy Commission falsely reported results of its own underground test in Nevada. It claimed the explosion was detectable for only a few hundred miles, whereas in truth it was easily detectable at least as far away as Alaska.

The U.S. imperialists claim the Soviet Union is bluffing and will probably resume tests after the U.S. and Britain have completed theirs. In that case, anyone who isn't hell-bent for war might reasonably ask, "Why not call the bluff of the Soviet Union — if bluff you think it is?" If the U.S. and the British give up their test plans this spring, would it not be a devastating exposure of the Soviet Union if it resumed testing?

Lack the Desire

The U.S. could capture the peace banner that flies on top of the Kremlin. If the U.S. not only agreed to abandon nuclear tests, but also announced it would immediately end all production of nuclear bombs, scrap all its existing nuclear weapons and foreign bases, who then would accuse the U.S. of plans for war?

But it is not that the U.S. State Department lacks "idea men" and clever propagandists, it lacks a desire for peace. The record speaks clearly enough.

The United States was the first and only nation to drop atom bombs on people — after Japan had already sued for peace. It was the United States, not the Soviet Union, that devastated Korea with napalm bombs, threatened to use the A-bomb on Asians again, and ventured to the brink of war with China.

It was the United States that subsidized French imperialism's war in Indo-China and ventured again to the brink of war when the French forces proved unable to conquer the Vietnamese people. It is the United States that today subsidizes French imperialism's war against the people of Algeria. And finally it is the U.S. that has surrounded the Soviet Union with bomber bases, which are now being converted for rockets.

Labor Should Act

The Big Business rulers of this country cherish the capitalist system and its profits far more than peace. But the American people earnestly want peace. The trouble is that they have no say in foreign policy. If peace is to be won, the American people through their own organizations — primarily the labor movement — must intervene in the sphere of foreign policy which for all too long they have allowed to be a monopoly of the Big Business interests.

American Ruling Class Views Peace Move by Soviet as a "Tragedy"

By Harry Ring

APRIL 1 — World-wide opposition to nuclear testing registered a major advance with yesterday's announcement of the USSR's decision to halt its test explosions of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The Soviet action dealt a stunning new setback to the pro-war diplomacy of the U.S. government and its allies.

For two years Washington has defied global public opinion by refusing to accept Soviet offers of an agreement for a monitored ban on such tests. The present Soviet action puts Washington squarely on the spot — if the deadly tests continue, the entire world will know beyond doubt who is responsible.

MERCILESS PRESSURE

While the administration's initial reaction to the Moscow declaration appeared to be one of stiffened determination to keep the tests going, it actually is under merciless pressure now to consent to some kind of agreement to halt the tests. Several of the State Department's favored correspondents are knowingly predicting that following the scheduled April blasts in the Pacific, the U.S. may agree to a test suspension.

Meanwhile, the Capital is steeped in gloom over what it sees as a spectacular propaganda victory for the Soviet Union. "Propaganda A-Bomb," laments the headline in today's New York World-Telegram, "Russia undoubtedly will win world praise for her 'peace' gesture, while America appears stubborn and addicted to horror-bomb testing," the article continues.

The U.S. "has come into the propaganda arena with one eye, and like Carmen Basilio, it has taken a terrible beating," wrote James Reston in the New York Times. "This was the tragedy of Washington tonight as it tried to deal with the announcement . . ."

U.S. imperialism's difficulty in dealing with the Soviet announcement is not exaggerated. Around the globe, millions of people now recognize with

Halt This!



Filling the atmosphere with more radioactivity, the mushroom cloud from a U.S. test explosion billows toward the stratosphere.

alarm that radioactive fallout is a terrible menace to the health of humanity. And all of the bitter words about superior Soviet propaganda techniques cannot erase the fact that this particular piece of "propaganda" is not composed of mere words. The USSR has informed the world that it is giving up the atmosphere-poisoning tests. Nothing less than similar action by the U.S. and Great Britain can counteract that.

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Friends Respond to Appeal Of Socialist Expansion Fund

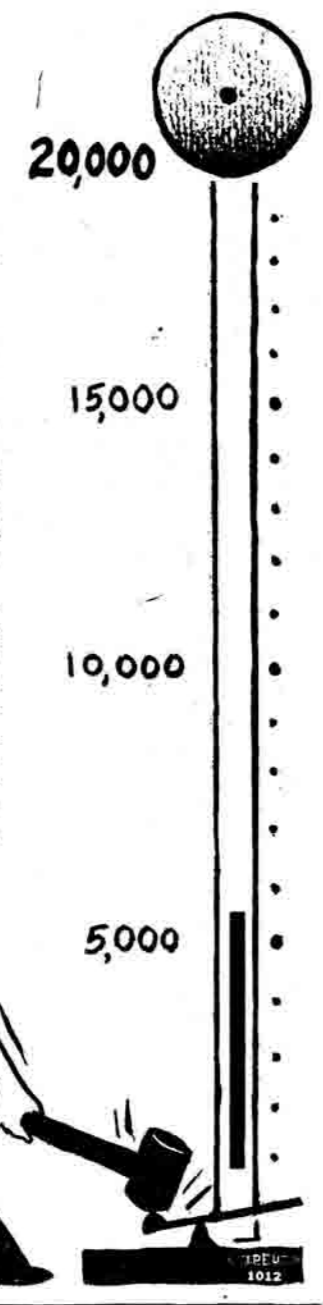
By Murry Weiss
National Fund Drive Director

APRIL 2 — The Socialist Workers Party is appealing to all its friends and sympathizers to pitch in and help raise a \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund this spring. At the one-third mark in the campaign, SWP branches have fulfilled 27% of their quotas. Despite the continued 8% lag, numerous assurances are coming in that the full quota will be raised by the May 31 deadline. A good part of these assurances are based on the conviction that friends of the party, including workers just becoming interested in socialism, will respond to this appeal. The experience of the first month of the drive seems to justify this expectation.

For example, Twin Cities Fund Director Fannie Curran writes: "We are circularizing our friends and sympathizers for funds in this campaign. We have already had very good success as we have collected \$142 from friends so far." This means that more than one-third the amount sent in thus far by the Twin Cities branch has come from these friends.

Many of the branches are planning Fund affairs to help raise money from circles beyond their membership. In our opinion such affairs provide the means for making the Fund Drive an important political activity where socialist-minded workers can gather together in a united and fraternal effort to expand the socialist movement in 1958.

The Buffalo branch is still leading the drive with 49% quota fulfillment. And the Detroit branch took a jump from seventh place to second during the last week. These are the two branches which are the hardest hit by unemployment and short work weeks! The Youngstown branch, which has suffered from



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Minneapolis Labor Holds Jobless Meet

By Tom Leonard

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24—The union movement has taken a positive step toward providing organized leadership for the unemployed in this city. Last Wednesday

over a thousand workers attended a public rally at F.D.R. Memorial Hall to deal with the growing unemployment in this area. The meeting was sponsored by the Hennepin County CIO Council, and, according to its chairman, St. Clair Beeman, it was endorsed by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and the local Teamsters.

Beginning March 10, leaflets announcing the meeting were distributed at the unemployment office in this city. Some 25,000 leaflets were distributed in the days preceding the rally. According to the Minneapolis Morning Tribune an estimated 135,000 workers are unemployed in Minnesota — about one-tenth of the state's labor force.

ITS PROGRAM

The program raised by the CIO Council to combat unemployment includes the demand that "unemployment compensation should be increased to a minimum of 39 weeks and payments increased to 50% of the individual's regular wage with a maximum of two-thirds of the state average wage." It called for an immediate surplus-food program, increase of the minimum wage, a two-month moratorium on federal withholding tax, increased Social Security benefits, and a liberalization of relief board policies.

Featured speaker at the meeting was Governor Orville Freeman (Democrat-Farmer Labor) who blamed everything on the Republican national administration.

CARDS SIGNED

Beeman informed the meeting that a temporary committee had been formed and that unemployed workers could get information locally regarding their personal problems by telephoning Beatrice Kirstin, CIO Representative on the Community Services Committee (FEDeral 2-5275). Prior to the meeting, cards were distributed asking for names and addresses and comments on what to do about unemployment. Beeman informed the signers of these cards that they would be notified of any meetings held in the future.

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Neutral on Batista's Side

The U.S. Information Agency spends millions of dollars trying to convince the world that Washington, above all else, favors freedom. One small act beyond the three-mile limit off the coast of Texas gives the lie to this claim.

The arrest of 35 young men in the Gulf of Mexico on charges of violating the Neutrality Act for embarking on a voyage to Cuba to aid the struggle against dictator Batista speaks louder than all the propaganda issued from Washington. These men are now on a hunger strike in protest against U.S. aid to the Cuban tyrant. They want freedom more than they want food. Their fight for freedom encountered the opposition, not the help, of the U.S. government.

The Neutrality Act, under which 35 freedom fighters were arrested, has little to do with keeping the U.S. neutral in the Cuban revolt. For the U.S. is not neutral — it supplies economic, financial and military aid to Batista. The Neutrality Act is taken out of the files and dusted off for use only against the revolutionists. It will be recalled that this Neutrality Act was passed just prior to World War II. One might say that it helped prepare the way for that war. It was applied first to prevent American workers from send-

ing aid to the embattled Spanish workers fighting to prevent the fascists from seizing power.

The Big Business government was then "neutral" in favor of Franco. Today Washington, while showering him with money and arms, keeps his regime afloat as a bulwark of the "free world."

The U.S. labor movement should immediately protest the arrests in Brownsville, Texas, and other parts of the U.S., of Cubans and Americans opposed to Batista. Cuban unions have already appealed to the powerful labor movement of the United States for solidarity in this struggle.

The International Labor Organization, in which the AFL-CIO is represented, has intervened in the Cuban struggle to the extent of demanding from the Cuban government "as a matter of extreme urgency" precise information concerning the deaths of certain labor leaders. The ILO also noted that police and military intervention in union meetings "is contrary to freedom of association."

But this is not enough. The AFL-CIO should take the lead in demanding that Washington immediately end its policy of propping up Batista and imprisoning his opponents.

The Crime Against Labor's Daily

The AFL-CIO numbers more than 13 million members. Treasuries of its larger international unions contain millions of dollars. Yet after five and a half years of precarious existence, Labor's Daily, the lone daily voice of organized American labor, died March 29 for lack of funds.

The responsibility for this shameful fact was placed right where it belongs by one letter writer to the final issue of the paper. He declared that the death of Labor's Daily constitutes "an indictment of the leadership of the American labor movement."

Death did not come suddenly to Labor's Daily. Union officials had ample warning of its financial plight and the fact that they did not come to its aid can only mean that they did not want to.

More than a year ago the International Typographical Union, which founded Labor's Daily, warned the union movement that it could not continue to carry the full financial burden of its publication and that if assistance were not forthcoming the paper would have to cease publication.

Last December the AFL-CIO General Board set up a subcommittee which was supposed to enlist union support for the paper. But with the honorable exception of a handful of the smaller international unions, no pledges of support were made. Seven unions pledged to invest capital in the paper. They were the International Union of Electric Workers; United Packinghouse Workers; Upholsterers; State, County and Municipal Employees; Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers; United Papermakers and Paper Workers and the Hosiery Workers. Four even smaller unions pledged subscriptions to the paper.

Why did such large and wealthy unions as the United Auto Workers, for example, fail to come to the aid of Labor's Daily? We cite the example of this particular international union because its president, Walter Reuther, has over the years been among the most talkative about the need for expanding workers education and the need to counterattack the anti-union propaganda of the daily press.

Another letter of farewell to Labor's Daily suggested the answer. It said: "The evidence would indicate that Labor's Daily was too good for union leaders who prefer adulatory house organs to a free militant newspaper."

To this another letter writer bitterly added: "I hope that as long as I live that I shall never hear another labor leader make the pious ritual that he is not getting a fair deal in the commercial press and that what 'we need is our own daily labor publication'. . . The obvious alternative to this, of course, is to get labor's side before the public . . . namely, through its daily newspaper — and I don't mean house organ — I mean a militant and honest daily newspaper that could report the news straight and also serve as a valuable weapon in strike situations."

There can be no argument that Labor's Daily did its best to fill this prescription. Operating within the framework of AFL-CIO policy it tried to cover all of the news of importance and interest to labor. Unlike the AFL-CIO officialdom, it refused to take a narrow, factional approach to labor developments and covered the news about independent unions as fairly as it did that of AFL-CIO unions.

Also, unlike the top union bureaucrats, it took an unequivocal stand in support of civil liberties and civil rights. And, unlike the weekly or monthly publications of most international unions, it was not an "adulatory house organ." It was for these reasons that union bureaucrats, concerned above all else with privileges and prestige, permitted such a necessary instrument of the working class as Labor's Daily to die.

In its final editorial, Labor's Daily stated: "We are firmly convinced that future labor historians will be better able to assay its accomplishments and analyze its potentialities than today's labor leaders."

To this can be added the certainty that the assessment will include a condemnation of those responsible for the death of Labor's Daily and a warm tribute to the pioneer efforts that went into the paper's all too brief history.

Program to Fight Unemployment

- (1) Organization of the unemployed by the labor movement. For union unemployed committees to fight their jobless members' grievances on rehiring, unemployment compensation, rent, mortgage and installment payments, relief, etc. (2) Unemployment compensation to all jobless for the entire period of unemployment at trade-union wages. (3) A 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay to be the number one demand of all unions in contract negotiations. Amend federal and state wage-and-hours laws to include 30-for-40. (4) A giant public works program at trade-union wages to build all the schools, hospitals, low-cost housing, highways and other useful and peaceful construction needed in this country today. (5) Union action and FEP laws to prevent discrimination in layoffs, rehiring, unemployment compensation, public-works hiring, relief, etc. (6) A debt moratorium for the unemployed. No evictions or foreclosures on homes, autos or appliances. (7) No taxes on yearly incomes of \$7,500 or less. End withholding and sales taxes to restore workers' purchasing power. Tax the rich and the corporations. (8) Build a Labor Party based on the unions in alliance with minority peoples and working farmers.

24-Hr. Strike in West Germany Biggest in Country Since 1920

By Hans Jochen

The biggest walkout since the General Strike of 1920 took place in Adenauer's West Germany and in West Berlin on Wednesday, March 19. The union, representing

a quarter of a million municipal-transport and public-service workers, called a 24-hour warning-strike to strengthen its hand in deadlocked negotiations with the cities over a meager five to seven cents-an-hour wage increase. The strike call met with the solid support of the workers.

Many additional workers were idle on that Wednesday because the supply of gas, water and electricity was kept down by the strikers to the level normal on Sundays and thus quite inadequate for the operation of large industrial concerns. The Continental Tire Company with 10,000 employees in Hanover was forced to close for the day and the Howaldt Shipyards in Kiel with some 13,000 workers was shut down. With municipal bus drivers and

trolley car operators on strike, thousands of workers throughout the country failed to reach work. Company attempts in the Ruhr steel city of Oberhausen to operate privately chartered busses met with the determined action of striking workers. Several were injured in ensuing struggles.

The strike is to be renewed for an indefinite period if the demand for higher wages is not met. The steep increase in the cost of living, especially in food and fuel prices, makes a wage increase for the notoriously underpaid city employees urgent. The negotiations will now continue against the background of the workers' demonstrated readiness to struggle for their demands. Additional storm warnings

for the West German capitalist class were the messages of solidarity sent to the strikers by a number of unions. Among these was a greeting and pledge of support from the million-strong, white collar, civil-service workers' organization. Even more ominous for the employers was the support promised by I. G. Metal, the union covering all metal workers in West Germany. This union, with close to two million members, is the largest in the country and has a reputation for militancy. Its negotiations on behalf of 125,000 steel workers in the Ruhr are coming to a head and there is a good chance that a strike will be required. Thus there is a possibility that a repetition of the municipal workers' walkout and a strike of the steel workers may hit at the same time.

LESS TAKE-HOME

I. G. Metal points out that productivity per worker increased through 1957 in spite of the fact that the work week was reduced to 45 hours. This meant a wage cut for the workers and higher profits for the companies. Negotiations for a 10% increase in take-home pay and further reduction of the work week to 44 hours have dragged out since the end of last year.

At that time steel workers in many parts of West Germany staged big demonstrations during working hours. In Stuttgart, for example, last November 15 about 40,000 metal workers gathered in the center of town to demand concessions from the companies. Nothing has come of it so far and feeling is running high.

West German workers are showing that they have new confidence in their union organizations and in their own strength.

CLASSROOM SHORTAGE

Because of the classroom shortage many American children are being taught in corridors, cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, rented store buildings, etc.



West German steel workers are reported preparing to declare a strike to win their wage demands. Above is a scene at a metal plant in Munich during a 1954 strike on wages that embraced 220,000 Bavarian workers. Nine persons were injured as cops tried to run in scabs.

A Witch-Hunt Victim Tells His Story

By Myra Tanner Weiss

Patrick Hehir wouldn't be a "carey" (this, I learned, is an old Irish term for stoolpigeon) and so he lost his job in the New York City subway. He was fired just a short time before he would have been eligible for a pension.

The witch hunt has victimized many people throughout the land. It has punished people for their ideas — not for crimes committed. It has punished people for their associations. And it has punished them simply because they wouldn't point an accusing finger, name names and involve others in the inquisition.

\$\$\$ PATRIOTS

There once was a time in America when stoolpigeons were looked upon as a scummy lot. A man who would point his finger to save his own miserable skin was regarded with contempt. But today the witch hunters call their stool-pigeons "cooperative witnesses," hail them as "patriots" entitled to rich rewards. Faced with a man of honor, who doesn't place his own skin or comfort first, the witch hunters try to crush him into the dust.

America's reactionary inquisition has carried in its wake grief and misery to many thousands. Fortunately many of those who were hit were young and healthy. They could move to a new town or find a new job and start all over again.

But not so for Patrick Hehir. He is no longer a young man. He is a grandfather. Moreover, he no longer has his health. Long ago he was stricken with tuberculosis. And since, there have been other complications, making it difficult for him to breathe. When he was fired—without trial or witnesses or evidence, he was left with no income, with nothing, save his great dignity, his integrity and his honor.

Patrick Hehir is an old Sinn Feiner, a rebel among the Irish against the English masters. He told me how his father, a locomotive engineer in the old country, had been fired from his job for refusing to work a train carrying armed British troops. Others followed his father's example, but his father, Daniel Hehir, was the first to strike.

"I arrived in America in 1925," Patrick Hehir told me, "and started to look for a job in New York. When I applied for work in a structural iron shop, I showed the foreman my Irish union card. I got my first lesson in the conditions in which

the American workers labored. The foreman turned red in the face, pushed me and hollered at the top of his voice, 'Get the hell out of here. This is an open shop.'

BEGAN JOB IN 1926

"I worked for the subways for 29 years. I was in the hospital for about a year in 1939 but I was reinstated on my job and later qualified for civil service when the city took over the system. If I hadn't been fired I should now be getting at least the civil service disability pension amounting to about \$118.88 a week."

Hehir was fired under the New York Security Risk Law. The actual charge was insubordination, which, as he recounts, came about as follows. "In 1954 my wife and I went back to the old country for a visit. We always planned that trip. And we finally managed to go. As it turned out, it was a sad affair for my mother was dying. She died without regaining consciousness so there were no goodbyes."

"When we returned to New York the FBI was at my door. I was hauled before Peter Brown, Mayor Wagner's appointed Commissioner of Investigation, three investigators and a stenographer. They gave me a spiel about how I should cooperate and so forth. Then they asked me if I was a member of the Communist Party. I told them I wasn't. 'Were you ever a Communist?' That was the second question. But the law allows them to investigate only present affiliations. So I answered, 'No, I am not a member of the Communist Party.'"

"A union lawyer by the name of Schwartz at this point asked for a postponement of the record. So the stenographer stopped taking notes. It was suggested that I have a little conference with the union lawyer and I was reminded that I had a wife and children. I just told them I didn't want any conference with Schwartz. Then I was told to go back to work and return in a week or two.

"Toward the end of February I was called up again by the Transit Authority. Edward T. McNally conducted the interrogation. The set-up was about the same as the first time—but

POISON GAS

Morocco's Army of Liberation charged on Feb. 25, that French and Spanish forces had used poison gas and killed 600 civilians in the desolate Sahara.

Road to Democracy In USSR Discussed By Socialist Review

In the spring issue of International Socialist Review, just off the press and on the newsstands, Joseph Hansen discusses "Proposed Roads to Soviet Democracy." Dis-

agreement in the radical movement has been most pronounced on this question as well as on how to secure lasting peace. The ISR editors, acting in the belief that regroupment of socialist forces requires fraternal discussion of differences as well as united action on points of agreement, have applied themselves to careful, objective examination of the most disputed questions, and to a rounded presentation of their own revolutionary socialist viewpoint.

The current essay on proposed roads to Soviet democracy was preceded by a treatment in the winter issue of ISR of proposed roads to peace.

FOUR VIEWS

In the article on Soviet Democracy, Hansen deals with four positions current in the radical movement today. First, he takes up the social-democratic outlook, which refuses "to see anything progressive whatsoever within the Soviet Union that is worth defending against capitalist aggression." Then, he cites the Stalinist diehards, who call "for complete confidence in Stalin's heirs as genuine representatives of socialism" and who denounce as counter-revolutionary any encouragement to the Soviet people in their struggle for democracy.

A third position is that of the many radicals who, while pro-Soviet, believe that the present regime is an obstacle to further socialist progress and believe that a process of reforms is required to dismantle the tyranny. Finally, Hansen cites the school of thought to which the Socialist Workers Party belongs. It, too, is pro-Soviet and up to 1935 held open the possibility of a return to Soviet democracy by means of reforms, but concluded at that time that "a political revolu-

tion, in which supreme power is transferred from its present possessors to the people is the only realistic way of democratizing the Soviet Union."

The main burden of the article is an examination of the reform and political revolution arguments. The reform course would undoubtedly be the smoothest, most economical and safest road for the Soviet Union to travel, Hansen says.

Furthermore, in the course of applying pressure on the bureaucracy, the masses can win important reforms. But Hansen points to the social and economic roots of the bureaucracy, which he believes, lead it to resist fundamental change thus forcing the masses to eventually adopt a revolutionary course.

He holds that the differences are over strategic estimates, which socialists should continue to discuss in the light of unfolding events. At the same time, because they pursue the common goal of Soviet democracy, those who belong to the reform and to the political-revolution schools of thought can and should work together in promoting concrete democratization measures.

Another fine piece of analysis in the spring issue of ISR is contained in Arne Swaback's "The 'Recession' Deepens." Why Eisenhower's prediction of a March upturn fell flat on its face is explained in context of a review of the basic causes of the economic slump.

The issue is rounded out in stimulating fashion with an editorial on united socialist electoral action, Harry Ring's study of the struggle in the last two years, M. Bern's "The Politics of Soviet Music" and reviews of five new books about revolutionary China.

—Daniel Roberts

Indian Socialist Urges Book of Gray Cartoons

A project is underway to publish a selection of the cartoons of Laura Gray in book form. This proposal was raised at the Jan. 16 memorial meeting held in New York City shortly after Laura Gray's death. Over \$350 was pledged for the project at that time and some contributions have been received since.

It is estimated that a minimum of \$2,000 will be required to publish a suitable memorial edition of Laura Gray's cartoons. Each person donating \$5.00 or more will be entitled to receive a copy of the book. Donations should be sent to: Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

The Militant continues to receive messages of condolence over Laura's death. The following letter, dated March 24, is from Calcutta, India: "The latest mail of the Mil-

tant gave us the rudest shock in years. It is really difficult to imagine that Comrade Laura Gray is no more and that we would no longer find her inspiring and entertaining cartoons in the pages of the Militant. Although separated by a long distance, we felt we knew her intimately through our long acquaintance with her cartoons, some of which were also reproduced in our organs here. All our comrades grieve this loss as that of one of their dearest ones.

"We dip our banner in memory of this all-sacrificing revolutionary artist. We also heartily congratulate you on your decision to bring out a compilation of her cartoons, which will be a unique guide to political education for the younger generation."

(signed) K. Bhattacharyya

Local Directory

- BOSTON: Workers Educational Center, Gainsborough Bldg., 295 Huntington Ave. Meetings: Tues. nights. BUFFALO: Militant Forum, 831 Main St. CHICAGO: Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND: Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9. DETROIT: Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. LOS ANGELES: Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M. MILWAUKEE: 150 East Junese Ave. MINNEAPOLIS: Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK: Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY: Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND-BERKELEY: P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA: Militant Labor Forum and Campaign Hqtrs. Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. SAN FRANCISCO: The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Open Wed. 4-6 P.M.; Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. SEATTLE: 655 Main St., MUTUAL 7139. ST. LOUIS: For information phone MO 4-7194.

The Negro Struggle

By John Thayer

Are Jobs and Civil Rights in Conflict?

The March 29 Philadelphia Tribune prints an article of widely-syndicated columnist Dean Gordon B. Hancock, under the heading "Dilemma: Vote Jim Crow Out, or Depression In?"

The gist of Dean Hancock's argument is stated thus: "So when Negroes vote the Republican ticket they indirectly vote in depressions. Come when they will, depressions work a harder handicap on the poor masses, among whom the greater number of Negroes is to be found. On the other hand when the Negroes vote the Democratic ticket, they vote into power Southern rule of the nation."

The article makes a number of acute observations — "under the Republican administration efforts are obviously being made to throw labor for a loss" and "every Negro vote given the Democratic party is a vote for the perpetuation of Southern rule in Congress." Nevertheless the dilemma that it sets up — whether to vote against Jim Crow and for depression (Republican) or against depression and for Jim Crow (Democratic) — is invalid.

Things are hard enough as is. It would truly be a hopeless situation if the Negro people were limited to the either-or stated above. Then the decision would be whether to go hungry while voting for equal rights or to vote against civil rights in order to feed oneself and one's children. It would set up in each Negro a war between the needs of the flesh and the needs of the spirit.

But that isn't the situation at all. The Republican Party, first of all, is not against Jim Crow. When Republican majorities controlled Congress they made anti-civil rights deals with the Southern Democrats. Republican efforts to build a lily-white party in the South, the conduct

of those few Republicans who have got elected in North Carolina and Florida, as well as the metamorphosis of Dixiecrats into Democrats — for — Eisenhower, show where Republicanism really stands on racism.

As for the Democrats being the Party to restore prosperity, this legend nurtured by the Democratic politicians and their allies among the labor bureaucrats, is also false. The memory of depressions which began under Democratic presidents, for instance Grover Cleveland, has faded. For this generation's great depression experience is identified with the Hoover administration. But it was only a matter of luck for the Democrats that Al Smith wasn't elected in 1928 to preside over that great capitalist crash.

As a matter of fact, the economy which Roosevelt pronounced cured early in 1937 collapsed a few months later into the "recession" from which time dates popular use of that word. Only the war orders which began in 1939 brought "prosperity" back to the capitalist system. In 1949-50 under Truman we saw a recession in which unemployment reached five million, almost what it is officially said to be today. Truman's "police action" in Korea restored the capitalist boom.

Actually when Negroes vote either Democratic or Republican they are voting for Jim Crow and inevitable depressions — for they are voting for the parties of capitalism. And American capitalism bears within itself the causes of color discrimination and of economic suffering for the masses.

Is it possible to vote against Jim Crow and against depression at the same time? Sure, but that means voting Socialist — and it's a good idea.

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Fallout Made It a Death Ship

THE VOYAGE OF THE LUCKY DRAGON. By Ralph E. Lapp. 200 pp. New York: Harper & Bros., 1958. \$3.50. Reviewed by David Dreiser

On March 2, 1954 the Atomic Energy Commission announced that the day before an atomic device had been detonated in the Marshall Islands, as the first in a series of tests. Actually this "device" was the most devastating explosion ever created by man, equal to 15 million tons of TNT and thousands of times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

A boiling cloud rose seventeen miles in the sky and by weather prediction was supposed to blow north, but instead blew east and south dumping fallout material on inhabitants of the Marshall Islands and on American personnel. Although measures were taken to decontaminate and protect these known victims, apparently no effort was made to warn vessels in the area by radio or air search. Obviously, if any ships were in the fallout area their crews were in great danger unless warned and advised in decontamination procedure.

The curt announcement by the AEC made no mention of an accident. Evidently, officials of the AEC, accustomed to clam-like security in all matters, hoped that somehow the "secret" of their error would be undiscovered.

However, 85 miles to the east of Bikini and well outside the restricted area lay a Japanese fishing boat and its 23-

man crew peacefully fishing. Early on the morning of March 1 the sky was suddenly lit up as if by the sun rising in the west. Soon the decks were dusted with a whitish ash that fell from the sky. The men generally concluded that they had witnessed an atomic explosion but were certain that they were too far away to be harmed. They did not connect the ash with the explosion in any way.

2 WEEKS EXPOSURE

They did not report their experience by radio to their home port of Yaizu out of fear they might be apprehended by U.S. authorities for spying. So for two weeks they were in daily contact with what turned out to be highly radioactive ash. It was in their hair and under their nails and imbedded in the ropes with which they worked. Only as their skin turned black and their hair began to fall out, and as they became listless and ill, did they begin to comprehend that somehow, mysteriously they had been affected by the explosion.

Their return was followed by 14 months of hospitalization and complete sterility for a longer period for the survivors. The ship's radio operator, Kuboyama, died after seven months. The knowledge that once again countrymen of theirs had become atomic victims sent a wave of revulsion



Japanese workers marching last May Day carried a float depicting the Lucky Dragon, the fishing boat that was showered with radioactive ash from the United States hydrogen bomb exploded in the Pacific in 1954. The horrifying incident swelled Japanese opposition to the tests.

through the whole Japanese population.

There began what has since become a world-wide campaign to force cessation of atomic bomb testing. A request to the U.S. by the Japanese government at least to give more specific warning of test dates and to halt the testing during the fishing season was ignored, although tuna is a basic source of protein in Japan and 457 tons from 683 boats had to be dumped or buried as radioactive during 1954.

Even the requests by Japanese scientists for information

about the composition of the fallout ash, which was necessary for proper treatment of the victims, were ignored by U.S. officials.

Public spokesmen in the U.S. minimized the Japanese tragedy in every possible way. Some anonymous medical authority claimed that Kuboyama did not die from exposure to radioactivity, but from too many blood transfusions! Of course, had there been no bomb test he would not have needed any transfusions.

In the meantime Japanese scientists proceeded over a pe-

riod of weeks to analyze the traces of ash culled from the ship and not only determined its exact composition, but reconstructed the principle of the bomb. Previously, only the rare uranium-235 had been used in bombs as fission had never been produced in the immensely more abundant uranium-238. The fission by-product of uranium-238 is uranium-237 which had originally been discovered in Japan by the very nuclear scientist who worked on the ash analysis and who found uranium-237 as one of the principal elements in the ash. Further work established that the bomb had apparently used a conventional fission core merely as a trigger which set off a hydrogen fusion reaction, which in turn developed the tremendous neutron speed necessary to cause fission in natural uranium. The estimate was made that approximately one-half ton of uranium was exploded. This meant that bombs of virtually any power could be made relatively cheaply.

Thus the shroud of secrecy which the AEC threw around the bomb and its effect were to no avail, except to cause the death of a poor fisherman and the prolonged and painful illness of 22 others. The test secrets were exposed, the main one being that the AEC had proceeded with a test of an explosion of hitherto unknown power, gambling on what its effects might be. And when the gamble went awry it tried every means to cover up.

Certainly no one, after reading Ralph E. Lapp's compelling story of these events, could place any faith in the official AEC claim today that continued bomb tests are necessary and safe.

UAW Skilled Trades Debate 'Profit-Sharing'

By Joe Davis

CHICAGO — The Skilled Trades Conference of the United Auto Workers held its sixth annual meeting here over the weekend of March 1. Limited to advisory powers, the Conference can only make recommendations to the UAW Executive Board.

Heated discussion on the resolution on wage demands lasted for two-and-a-half hours. The resolution plugged UAW President Reuther's "profit-sharing" plan plus "an across-the-board wage increase based on a realistic assessment of productivity rises under full employment conditions." Many delegates rose in opposition to this latter clause. They proposed that the union demand a specific figure or a minimum hourly figure for skilled trades. It was also argued that "full employment conditions" do not exist today thus weakening the already vague demand.

Despite the gavel-pounding of Richard Gosser, Director of the Skilled Trades Department, and his half-hour vehement speech for the Reuther profit-sharing plan and productivity gimmick, only 60% of the vote could be mustered for it.

A lengthy resolution on political action boiled down to "keep on doing what we're doing." One delegate expressed the desire that labor would give political "leadership" by running its own independent candidates.

Letters from Readers

Some Observations About the South

Editor:

A few comments about the South:

On a newscast on March 11, there was a report about prison riot in Tennessee. The same appeared in the next day's papers. The prisoners had a chance to air their grievances to the proper authorities and won all their demands except a five-day week in the mines (probably coal) and to abolish the strap (that is, the whip). Texas abolished whipping prisoners some years ago. Probably the South has the worst prison system in the world. Ever read Scottsboro Boy or Rock Bottom? Both are in pocket-book editions.

Another thing, the juvenile courts in many cities deal in a high-handed way with a family's life. Especially with the poor and uneducated. If you ask your readers to write about the cases they know of or experienced, you'd get replies by the score.

Among the poor, people marry young in the South — 15 or 16-year-old parents are common. There are also many illiterates or people hardly able to read or write. More people make an "X" for their signature than is spoken of or advertised.

The radical religious sects flourish among the poor, and as drab and bleak as their lives are, self-imposed restrictions are added like no movies or lipstick. Big wheel religion-

ists are lionized and have made millions by writing books or handing out advice. Faith healers especially hit the jack pot.

Mrs. T. L. Dallas, Texas

Expressing His Views in Verse

Life's Battles

The years have come and gone In the battles of our class Added to the score one by one Have made the history of our past

Years of poverty, years of toil Triumph of hard-won victory The bitterness of defeat The handclasp of a shopmate And the poor tiller of the soil Now advancing in common struggle

Now forced grudgingly to retreat But have added knowledge to our store One day we will win the final battle

Poverty and ignorance will be no more Black and white united in all lands

We hold mankind's freedom in our hands.

Jack Wright Seattle

WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY

In the past five years hourly wages of factory workers went up about 20% but the rise in the workers' productivity increased so in the same period that the labor cost for each production unit went up only 2% according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

Appalling Child Suicide Rate in New York City

By Morris Zuckoff

A 16-year-old boy, brooding over a family argument, attempts to commit suicide. A 13-year-old child, depressed because both parents were ill, attempts suicide. Another boy of 13 tries to take his life because he is unhappy — both parents work till 5 P.M. and are rarely around the house.

These are but three instances in 23, of children between the ages of 12 and 17 who attempted to commit suicide between March 1955 and January 1956 in New York City. In 1956 the Department of Health listed 10 suicides.

The lines penned by the English poet A. E. Housman, "I, a stranger and afraid in a world I never made," find tragic expression in the growing rate of youthful suicide attempts and emotional disorders. Studies now being conducted by the N.Y. Department of Health under the supervision of Dr. Harold Jacobziner reveal at least 100 suicide attempts a year among young people under 18 years of age in the city. But these figures are limited to suicide attempts with poison. Not listed in any official figures are countless other attempts by drowning, jumping, hanging and the use of weapons.

THE CAUSES An official at the Health Department's Poison Control Center pointed out that those children attempting suicide were troubled by insecurity, deprivation and fear. After a nurse

treats them for poisoning and a staff psychiatrist gives them a cursory examination, they are returned to the very life that impelled them to self-destruction to begin with. A staff psychiatrist, connected with the Department of Health, observed that suicide becomes "a last desperate effort to remain free and independent."

According to a study, published by the city's Mental Community Health Board, entitled "Mental Health Resources in NYC," 18,758 persons under 18 were patients of various mental clinics in New York City between January and August, 1956. Their treatment varied from a single interview to long-range treatment. Half of them were seen and treated in public school clinics. But they are only a fraction of the 72,154 children who were merely interviewed, in the same period, for the purpose of determining the need for any kind of treatment.

These figures give no indication of the many children who never even got as far as the first or diagnostic interview because of 1) the limited facilities of the Bureau of Child Guidance, 2) the long waiting lists in municipal hospitals or because 3) parents, not understanding or ashamed, hushed up their child's emotional or mental disorder.

1 FOR 5,372

The Bureau of Child Guidance, established in 1931 to provide clinical services to school

children, is hopelessly understaffed. At present it has 175 full-time and part-time professional workers. For a school enrollment of approximately 940,000 children there is only one guidance worker for every 5,372 children.

The recent tragedy of Louis Diamant, a seven-year-old boy who was lured to the Hudson River and allegedly pushed in by an 11-year-old friend focuses attention on the imperative need for greater psychiatric facilities. The Bureau of Child Guidance in the school which both boys attended is staffed by a school psychologist in attendance one day a week and by a social worker in attendance one and a half days a week. The school has an enrollment of 1,100.

"Of the New York City young people (14 to 21 years of age) hospitalized for various causes, 21% were suffering from mental disorders; about one-third with schizophrenic manifestations and another one-third with psychoneurotic and other non-psychotic disorders" (Mental Health Resources in NYC). Schizophrenia is a mental disorder in which the individual, unable to cope with the harsh demands of the world withdraws into a world of fantasy.

According to a Public Affairs pamphlet on Mental Health, 21% of the people admitted to mental hospitals nationally are schizophrenic. It is among youth that this disease is most common. They are the least capable of absorbing and dealing

with the shocks and brutalities of the world. "At least 150,000 children are seen in psychiatric clinics each year," the pamphlet points out.

KIDS FIRST VICTIMS

Experts agree that suicide, mental disorders, delinquency, and drug addiction are acts of desperation arising from inability to cope with a brutal and horror-laden world. All four categories increased among young people between 1939 and 1945, decreased between 1945 and 1948 and rose again between 1948 and the present. The first victims of the cold-war tensions are children. Then too, discrimination, the spectre of joblessness, talk of wars of annihilation — all these have a disastrous effect on children's sensibilities.

Despite the dire need of funds for more psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, social workers and mental clinics, New York's capitalist politicians on March 6 cut \$3,000,000 for child day-care centers out of the state budget. At the same time they restored \$283,000 to the State Naval Militia. That is a sum ten times the amount spent by the NYC Mental Health Community Board in 1956-57 to help maintain the only psychiatric clinic serving adolescents in the whole city. It also represents two-and-a-half times more money than the annual city appropriation for The Juvenile Delinquency Evaluation Project.

Strike Wave Hits Franco Dictatorship

By C. R. Hubbard

MARCH 31 — A new wave of strikes has hit Spanish fascist dictator Franco. In response to a general strike called in Barcelona approximately 30,000 workers left their jobs due either to strikes or to government lockouts. In the province of Catalonia thousands more protested government repressions by slow-downs and folded-arms strikes. Other parts of Spain were quickly affected. In the north four paper mills at Tolosa were shut down as well as a metal factory in Andoain.

News of the beginning of this new militant upsurge of the oppressed Spanish workers was

practically buried in the U.S. daily press. Early this month a March 11 N.Y. Times dispatch reported, "Labor's disputes in northern Spain's Oviedo coalfields today all but paralyzed production. Three mines shut down." This story, quoted above in full, was the first mention of the miners' strike that began March 4 and quickly spread to other mine areas, sparking a wave of strikes throughout the country.

The strike movement spread despite savage repressions unleashed to stop it. On March 15 Franco announced suspension of three articles in the constitution. The suspension sanctioned

forcible removal of strikers and their families from their homes and the areas in which they live. It allowed authorities to invade private homes without warrants at any time of the day or night. And Franco's cops were empowered to jail strikers and keep them jailed without any legal formalities.

The regime's attempt to terrorize the strikers evidently failed. On March 27 the N.Y. Times reported that the miners returned to work "only after the government had agreed to restore" the suspended articles in the constitution.

Another partial victory was scored on March 29 when Gen.

Felipe Acedo, Civil Governor of Barcelona, announced that "all workers would be paid whatever money was owing to them." Clashes had been expected to break out between strikers trying to collect deferred pay and cops at the closed plants.

ECONOMIC PICTURE

The mounting inflation in Spain is one of the immediate causes of the workers' new upsurge. "A serious flight of Spanish capital to Switzerland" is reported taking place in semi-secrecy. Franco has appealed to his friendly ally, the U.S. State Department, for a 30-40% boost in economic aid to prop

up his shaky dictatorship. Past U.S. contributions to help Franco keep the Spanish workers in chains have totaled \$811,800,000. In addition \$200,000,000 in military equipment has been given to Franco's armed forces. Another \$200,000,000 is scheduled for delivery within the next year. Total cost of U.S. air bases in Spain, nearly completed, will amount to another \$350 million.

CAMPAIGN COFFERS

The contributions of eight of America's richest families to candidates in the 1956 campaign totaled more than all contributions by labor unions.

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Proposed Roads To Soviet Democracy

One of the most disagreed-upon subjects in the radical movement. Ranging from right to left, positions are: 1) democracy and the Soviet system are incompatible; 2) the status quo is eminently satisfactory; 3) a process of reforms will bring democracy; 4) a political revolution of the Soviet masses is the only realistic road to democratization. The thoughtful examination of these four views makes this article essential reading.

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