

# Rockefeller, Brown Put Bite On Working Man

By Carl Goodman

The difference between Democrats and Republicans was not readily apparent last week, as the leading Republican governor—Rockefeller of New York—and the leading Democratic governor—

Brown of California—both dug into the pockets of the working people for new taxes. In New York, Rockefeller has already succeeded in passing a gasoline tax-increase bill. It raises the levy from four cents a gallon to six cents. In addition he is proposing to up cigarette taxes from three cents to five cents a pack. However, he aims to make his biggest haul from changes in the state income tax.

Rockefeller's proposals call for an average increase of 23 per cent; for 400,000 low-wage earners to pay taxes for the first time and for the tax to be withheld by the employers. Exemptions will be lowered. Instead of the present deductions of \$1,000 a year for a single person, \$2,500 for married couples and \$400 for each dependent, the governor proposes a flat \$600 deduction per person. There are compensating features. But when the juggling is all over, a married couple (no children) earning \$3,500 will pay \$28 more a year, or \$39 instead of the present \$13. A married couple (two children) earning \$5,000 a year will pay \$17 more per year, or \$43. On the other hand, on an income of \$25,000, the tax will go up only \$230 for a married couple with two children.

Three brackets will be added above the present maximum of 7% on income over \$9,000. This will bring the new maximum tax to 10% on income over \$15,000. As can be seen the tax rates themselves favor the rich. But that isn't the only break they get. Because the amount paid for state tax is deductible in calculating federal income tax, the 10% rate would really add only 1% to the amount of federal and state taxes combined on an income of \$100,000.

## Congressmen Consider Three Anti-Labor Bills

In a Congress dominated by the biggest Democratic majority since 1936, three stiff anti-labor bills are vying for passage. Senator Kennedy's "mild" version is given

anti-labor measures in a pre-election year. But they are counting on the support of the top AFL-CIO officialdom. Meany and Reuther have gone along with McClellan's union-smearing "rackets" probe—even after loss of a whole series of NLRB elections due to the slanted committee revelations. The McClellan committee helped establish the current atmosphere favoring the introduction of new laws giving the government further power to intervene in internal union affairs and to curb their organizing capacity.

When a Republican-dominated Congress passed the Taft-Hartley act, the top union brass vowed to seek every means to repeal this "slave labor" law. Instead they gave up the fight. As late as last November they demanded the repeal of the provisions favoring "right to work" laws. But this too was dropped when the Democrats made their sweeping 1958 victory with the support of the labor bureaucracy.

Backing the Democratic machine instead of building an independent labor party pays off. It is clear, in a tighter and tighter strait jacket for the unions.

The Goldwater-McClellan proposals will probably spur the top brass of the AFL-CIO to lobby for quick passage of the Kennedy measure. The argument is that this will block passage of an even worse measure.

The measure they are backing calls for public reports of union finances, with criminal penalties for "false" reports; policing by the Secretary of Labor of unions that use government agencies, and provisions for government supervision of union elections. To make these provisions more palatable, the Taft-Hartley law would be altered to eliminate the "non-Communist" affidavits and to restore the vote in representation elections to strikers replaced by scabs.

However, in its final form, Washington correspondents say, the bill may contain some of the worst features of the Goldwater version, including more onerous penalties for unions that refuse to handle "hot cargo" from struck companies.

It might be thought that the Democrats would be cautious about pushing such unpopular

The labor leaders opposed Rockefeller last fall (although after Nov. 4, AFL-CIO President Meany said that "nobody feels too sorry he got elected.") However, they did back Governor Brown of California. Brown wants a five-cent increase in the tax on a gallon of beer and a three-cent increase in the tax on a pack of cigarettes. He also calls for a hike in the income tax.

(So now here's a riddle: How do you tell the difference between labor's foe and labor's "friend"? Give up? The foe taxes your gasoline and the friend taxes your beer.)

Brown's tax proposals were called "shocking" by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor. This is not the only complaint the unions have against the governor since he took office a month ago. The labor leaders are described as "skeptical" of Brown's program for labor "reform," which the Republican Assembly leader said was the same as William F. Knowland's. (In the last elections the union tops all got behind Brown to stop Knowland.)

According to the Jan. 24 People's World, so alarmed are Haggerty and his fellow labor officials that the CFL is calling a statewide conference on Feb. 11. PW quotes Haggerty as stating that the purpose of the parley is to discuss "the provisions of the Brown measure, and to analyze its effect upon the functions of our trade union movement in California."

All in all, says People's World, "An alarmed California labor movement is preparing to take a long second look" at Brown's program. Why the labor leaders (and People's World too) did not take their long second look at him before the elections is not explained.

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The new Negro pupils in both cities were reported treated courteously by nearly all of their fellow pupils. In Norfolk the Negro students passed through an anticipated "delicate moment" when they ate in the school cafeteria. But four of the Negro girls joined white girls at a dining table without any special notice.

One of the white students quizzed by reporters, Stephen Thorne, said he sat next to one of the Negro pupils all day. Asked what they talked about, he replied: "I don't remember. He just talked like a kid." In the South this was considered news.

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Argentina's President Arthur Frondizi just completed a "good-will" visit to U.S. seeking credits and expanded investment of American capital in Argentina. As he crated about the similarity of the "democratic" system in the two countries, U.S. guns and tanks were being used to smash a general strike in Argentina.



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# No Hope of Jobs for All, Experts Tell Congress

## Start Token Integration in Virginia

FEB. 3—Token integration of Virginia public schools began yesterday without incident. For the first time in the state's history, Negro students sat in previously all-white schools—17 Negroes in Norfolk, 4 in Arlington.

White pupils, deprived of education since last September by Governor Almond's "massive resistance" school shutdown, appeared far more relieved to be back in school than concerned about the attendance of the few Negro children.

Meanwhile Virginia's Democratic machine continued working on plans to hold integration to the barest minimum. Having switched from all-out resistance to a tactic of subterfuge and delay, they were given a fresh assist Jan. 29 by a federal appeals court decision to postpone until next September the entry of 12 Negro children into two public schools in Charlottesville.

Last week an emergency session of the state legislature enacted proposals by Governor Almond to evade genuine integration. A compulsory school attendance statute was repealed, leaving white children free to stay home from integrated schools. Funds were appropriated for \$250 yearly grants for those wishing to attend private segregated schools.

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## Hope They'll Soon Be Home



Mrs. Evelyn Thompson (left rear) and Mrs. Simpson put reassuring arms over their children. Hanover, 10, and David, 8, during visit to N. Carolina reformatory where boys are confined because one was kissed by a white playmate. At left is Dr. A. E. Perry, Vice President of Union County NAACP and a leader in fight to win freedom for boys.

## Call for UN Picket Line To Aid Carolina Victims

NEW YORK, Feb. 3—A picket-line demonstration will be held at the United Nations Friday, Feb. 20, opening day of the current session. The UN will be urged to consider the violation of human rights involved in the case of James Hanover Thompson, 10, and David Simpson, 8, the two Negro children of Monroe, N.C., incarcerated by state authorities because one of them had been kissed by a white playmate. The march will continue from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

The action is sponsored by the Youth Committee to Free Thompson and Simpson—youth section of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice. Announcement of the demonstration was made Sunday by James Lambert, chairman of the youth committee, at a reception for Robert F. Williams, president of the NAACP in Monroe, and Dr. A. E. Perry, its vice president. Williams is chairman of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice. Dr. Perry, also the victim of a racist frameup, is a member of the committee.

The two rights fighters are here to help build the protest movement against imprisonment of the two boys. Last night they addressed a spirited

rally of 750 in New Rochelle. Sponsored by the Interdenominational Negro Ministerial Alliance, the meeting also heard Conrad Lynn, general counsel to the CCRI. The Mayor of New Rochelle and a member of the city council took the platform to express their indignation at the treatment of the boys.

Williams will be featured speaker at another rally here Friday evening, Feb. 20, sponsored by the Labor Committee of the Brooklyn NAACP. Rev. Milton Galamison, president of the Brooklyn NAACP, will also speak. Warren Bunn, an organizer for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, will chair the rally to be held at Silom Presbyterian Church, Marcy St. and Jefferson Ave.

Almost 100 young people attended the Sunday reception and many of them offered to join in the activity of the committee. Every one present was deeply moved by the speeches of Williams and Dr. Perry. Speaking in an easy, humorous way that belied the sternness of the struggle in Monroe, Dr. Perry explained how his participation in the local fight for equal rights led to the frameup charge against him of committing an abortion on a white woman. Previous to the abortion indictment, which is still in the courts, Dr. Perry's home was the scene of a Ku Klux Klan attack that was effectively beaten off by an armed Negro community.

"I know I'm innocent," Dr. Perry said. "They did this to try to stop me from fighting for my people and for my convictions."

The fight against run-away shops, which he termed "Dixieism," was described by Williams as a central reason for Northern labor supporting the North Carolina rights fight. Besides the unemployment and depressed wages bred by automation, he said, the problem of shops moving to the unorganized South is acute for the unions.

Last year almost 200 industries moved to North Carolina. "They say they've boosted production 18 per cent since they came down there," Williams said. "What they mean is that there aren't any unions and they can speed up the workers to their maximum capacity."

"We can't do much about automation," he added, "but 'Dixieism' can be stamped out if we act together."

## National Survey Shows Growing Jobless Army In Key Industrial Areas

By Harry Ring

Even if 1959 production reaches the pre-recession peak, as many economists hope it will, there is no prospect of a return to full employment. This hard fact was admitted by government and private experts at a hearing Jan. 29 before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The problem of what to do with the growing army of permanently jobless will be further "complicated" by the anticipated addition of one million more workers to the labor force this year, one expert added.

And things won't be too good for the employed, according to their findings. They expect some wage rises but predict that these will be offset by new price hikes.

More than four million are now officially classified as jobless. This is over a million and a half more than were out of work during the prosperity month of December 1956. Only 30 per cent of the non-farm workers who were jobless at the bottom of the recession last April are now back at work.

The long duration of unemployment is already bringing severe hardship. Last year 2,600,000 people exhausted state unemployment insurance benefits and another 655,000 used up the temporary additional benefits made available by the federal government.

But big business is boasting about pulling out of the slump. Record profits are again rolling into bank accounts. So Washington has decided that no further anti-recession measures are necessary. In fact the White House has requested Congress to let the temporary program of supplementary federal unemployment compensation expire on schedule on April Fool's Day.

RELIEF ROLLS GROW

This contemptuous disregard for the needs of the unemployed coincided with an announcement that in Pittsburgh 3,000 new applications were filed for home relief last December—the greatest number since World War II. Most of these were people who had used up their unemployment compensation and exhausted all personal savings, thus meeting qualifications for city relief.

Michigan now has 322,000 idle, yet 1959 car models are already at peak production. The most optimistic prediction is that no more than 22,000 of these will be called back to work this year. Almost 200,000 of these jobless are concentrated in Detroit and one-third of them have

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## Let's Accept the Challenge of Soviet Competition

By Daniel Roberts

Unlike editorial writers in the big-business press, I am not a bit dismayed that the Soviet Union is catching up with the United States economically. And I am glad Khrushchev has challenged this country to a race. He proposes that the Soviet Union and the U.S. compete to determine who will grow swifter economically and whose living standards will improve faster. We should accept the challenge and get our side going right away. For the Soviet Union is already off to a fast start—their plans are all made.

At the 21st Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, Khrushchev presented the master plan. Called "Control Figures for the Economic Development of the USSR, 1959-1965," his figures project an 8.6% average yearly growth of industry and agriculture for the next seven years. (Increase of the U.S. gross national product in the past seven years is estimated at 1.6% yearly after ad-

justing for rising prices.) Khrushchev also presented control figures for raising real wages, lowering working hours, building homes and hospitals and improving the position of women workers.

WE CAN STAND THE GAINS

Of course, present American living standards are far ahead of those in the Soviet Union. They are the highest in the world. Because of that, some might argue, what's the sense of racing? Let the Soviets catch up first. But I don't hold with that view. After all, what we have in this country isn't yet heaven on earth. The working people can stand plenty of new gains—what with unemployment, inflation, taxes, and one-third of the nation ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-fed. Furthermore, the way we have been going lately, we are sure to fall back from our present standards. We need to make new gains regardless of what the Soviet workers get. Compet-

ition with them should spur us in our own domestic struggles for better conditions.

Since we're already ahead of the Soviet workers in living standards, let's make it a handicap-race. Here's how it would be run. In his seven-year plan, Khrushchev proposed that the work-week in the Soviet Union be cut from the present 46 hours to 40 hours by 1962 and to 35 hours by 1968. Now we already have the 40-hour week, so let's make it tough on ourselves. Let's move at a faster pace than the Soviet Union. Through the union movement, let's aim at getting the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay by no later, say, than 1962. (We can set other goals later.)

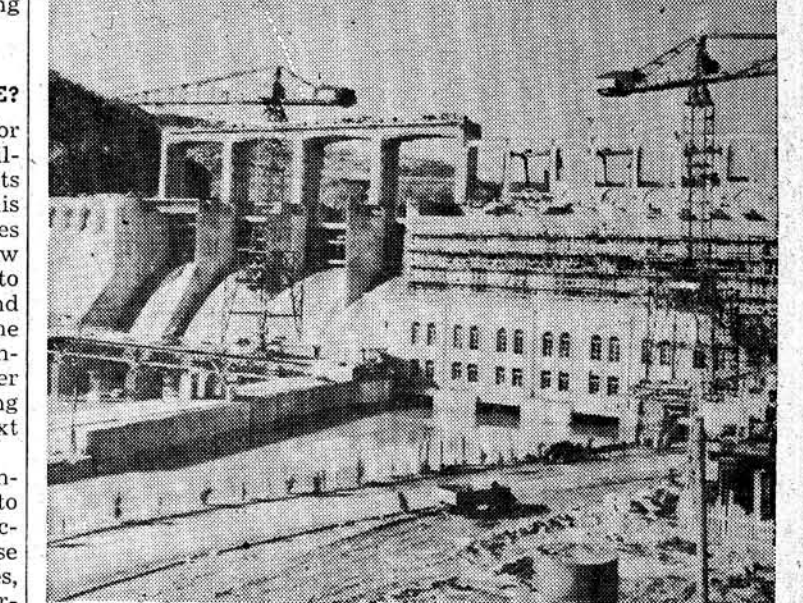
Again, Khrushchev has promised to nearly double the minimum wage in the Soviet Union in the next seven years. (It now varies from \$67.50 to \$85 a month at the official rate of monetary exchange.) How about the labor movement here setting \$2.50 an hour by 1968 as the nation-wide minimum wage

rate in the U.S.—in terms of, of course, of the same purchasing power as today.

WHO HAS "CONTROL FIGURES" HERE?

The Soviet plan calls for building a minimum of 22 million one-family housing units in the next seven years. In this country, the AFL-CIO estimates that at least two million new homes must be built yearly to match population growth and overcome slum blight. Only one million units at best are constructed yearly. Who will offer a "control figure" for housing construction here in the next seven years?

In the Soviet plan, the number of beds in hospitals is to double by 1965; "the production of anti-biotics will increase by 3.7 times, vitamins—6 times, medical instruments and apparatus—2.5 times." In this country, medical care is a scandal. The number of medical-school graduates is at the level it was at the turn of the century. The



A huge new hydro-electric station in USSR's province of Georgia will soon be providing power for industrial complex in area. Soviet economy continues to expand, with unemployment unknown, while American capitalism continues to expand army of permanent jobless.

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# James P. Cannon's "Notebook"

By Murry Weiss

In a letter to James Kutcher, Jan. 11, 1954, congratulating him on publication of his book, "The Case of the Legless Veteran," James P. Cannon remarks, "Of all the different kinds of work I have done in my time in the movement, that which I have enjoyed most, which gave me the most complete personal satisfaction, was the writing of propaganda pieces in my 'Notebook of an Agitator.' I would have been content to stay in a corner of the party, doing that kind of work, and let others take care of other tasks."

The fact that Cannon managed to find time, at least occasionally, to do the thing he liked best is attested by the collection of these "propaganda pieces" in a 362-page book. The selection, spanning 30 years of socialist activity, offers beautiful examples of that two-way communication with the American worker which the socialist movement must maintain if it is not to dry up and decay.

The reader will find that this is not one of those "simple" propaganda tracts that only too often substitute a supercilious, stylized talking-down to workers for clarity and directness of thought. As a matter of fact one of Cannon's sharpest barbs is aimed at such writing.

Describing a special publication of the Communist Party that sought to convince the maritime strikers in 1936 to work "perishable" cargo so as not to antagonize the "public," Cannon said: "They are supposed to be deucedly clever, using the intimate, you-and-me, hello pall style of approach which every confidence man has adopted since the first gold brick was sold to the first farmer."

Cannon's personality shines through the pages of this book. He is a unique combination of the pre-first World War socialist, the militant Wobblie, the communist of the heroic early period that founded the American Communist Party, and the revolutionary socialist who kept faith with his youthful ideals in the dark era of Stalinism. The combination is profoundly impressive.

The new generation of revolutionary socialists will form its own personality patterns; but part of the ingredients, we may be sure, will be drawn from such inspiring sources as this.

## Some of the Heroes

Cannon, of course has his heroes and he introduces us to them as the men who helped shape him into a revolutionary socialist.

In a farewell to his father, John Cannon, who died in Rosedale, Kansas, at the age of 89, Cannon recalls that "Ben Hanford, the great socialist agitator of an earlier day, once wrote an encomium of a collective comrade whom he called Jimmy Higgins — the man in the ranks who busies himself without ostentation, recognition or reward to do all the innumerable little and unnoticed things which have to be done to keep the 'movement' going and the torch burning."

"Such was the old man," Cannon says. "He was no leader, but a simple rank-and-file man who talked socialism to all who would listen; hustled the subscriptions for the papers; arranged the meetings, rented the hall and drummed up the crowd for the speaker; and always had his hand in his pocket for a contribution he couldn't afford, to help make up the deficit."

The modern movement, in which the Jimmy Higgins of today live, is more advanced, far more sophisticated in its politics and theory. Still, in "my opinion, the modern movement, with its more precise analysis and its necessary concentration on the struggle, would do well to infuse its propaganda with more of the old emphasis on the ultimate meaning of the struggle: speak out, as the old pioneers did, for human rights and human dignity, for freedom and equality and abundance for all. That is what we are really fighting for when we fight for socialism."

Sacco and Vanzetti were especially dear to Cannon; and he was influential in guiding the International Labor Defense in its handling of the case so that the names of these class-war prisoners became household words to the masses on every continent. "The Notebook of an Agitator" begins with the struggle to save the lives of these two victims and the need for class solidarity and militant struggle as the only hope for success.

## Socialist Leaders

Cannon's appreciation of America's socialist leaders is objective and highly political. "Debs was no colorless saint standing above the battle," he writes. "He was a warm and passionate partisan, and his whole life's activity is a record of unceasing devotion to the cause of the workers' class struggle. . . . The World War and the Russian Revolution had changed the face of the world in which Debs had formed his conceptions and done his work. In drawing the conclusions from these world-shaking events, many of us parted company

politically with the Socialist Party. Debs did not go with us in this. In many respects we found ourselves in serious disagreement with him, but at the same time we always drew a sharp distinction between Debs and those who, while wearing the cloak of socialism, actually forsook the cause to which Debs sincerely and honestly devoted all his life."

In April, 1927, when American capitalism was riding high in its greatest boom, Cannon paid tribute to C. E. Ruthenberg, a founder of the American Communist Party, who died unexpectedly.

"Let the corrupt and decaying capitalist society have those heroes who typify it — the dollar-chasing exploiters, the blood-smearing generals, the lying, treacherous statesmen. Our movement, which is the herald of the new social order, claims proudly for its own the men of a different and immeasurably better type — the type of Ruthenberg."

Haywood was another friend. When he died in 1928, Cannon appraised his life in the Daily Worker and wrote this graphic description: "I remember especially his arrival at Akron during the great rubber-workers' strikes of 1913, when 10,000 strikers met him at the station and marched him to the Hall. His speech that morning has always stood out in my mind as a model of working-class oratory. With his commanding presence and his great mellow voice he held the vast crowd in his power from the moment that he rose to speak. He had that gift, all too rare, of using only the necessary words and of compressing his thoughts into short, epigrammatic sentences. He clarified his points with homely illustrations and pungent witticisms which rocked the audience with understanding laughter. He poured out sarcasm, ridicule and denunciation upon the employers and their pretensions, and made the workers feel with him that they, the workers, were the important and necessary people."

Perhaps the American who came closest to Cannon's concept of the model revolutionary was Vincent St. John, the most influential leader of the I.W.W. In an article aimed at the young, left-wing socialists of California in 1936, Cannon said:

"I've been around and seen a lot since I first joined the I.W.W. in 1911 and, soon afterward became one of the 'voluntary organizers' who got their training in Vincent St. John's school of learning by doing. . . . The 'Saint,' of affectionate memory, was a wonderful man to learn from. He was short on palaver and had some gaps in his theory, but he was long on action and he was firmly convinced that the water is the only place where a man can learn to swim. His way of testing, and also developing the young militants who grew up under his tutelage was to give them responsibility and shove them into action and see what happened. Those who acquired self confidence and the capacity to make decisions under fire on the spot, which are about 90 percent of the distinctive quality of leaders and organizers, eventually received credentials as voluntary organizers."

## Some of the Villains

In contrast to these giant figures of the American radical movement, Cannon presents the modern labor bureaucrats. He uses irony like a razor. In "Union Boy Gets Raise" he reflects on the whys and wherefores of the salaries the labor bureaucrats pay themselves. "Green and Meany," he comments, "are still trailing behind John L. Lewis who is sacrificing his life for \$25,000 per year from the coal miners. Lewis swears by the Bible, especially that page where it says: 'The laborer is worthy of his hire.' And he is also strong for the other scriptural injunction: 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.' Lewis treads heavily, has a big muzzle and needs a lot of corn."

Two sizeable sections of selections were written in the thick of some of the sharpest class battles of the thirties: the Minneapolis strike of 1934 and the San Francisco maritime strike of 1936-37. These are of extraordinary interest for their insight into the birth struggles of the modern labor movement, correct strike strategy, and the relation of the union movement to socialism.

For the rest, there is a rich and varied assortment: Greetings to a telephone striker about to get married. The irrepressible nature of human solidarity. Movie reviews. (One opens: "About a year ago I made a firm resolution to boycott all movies unless the picture has a horse for a hero.") The Madison Avenue hucksters. Letters to the President on American atrocities in Korea. Prizefighting. The Church. Fourth of July. Crime and informers. The Stalin cult. (Some time before Khrushchev made it respectable to criticize the dictator.)

American socialists should, I hope, find this sufficient to recognize the value of the book. I also hope it is sufficient to induce workers not yet convinced of the truth of socialist ideas to read "Notebook of an Agitator" for themselves.

# Negro Press Backs Castro in Cuban Trials

## Notes Need To End Jim Crow

By Lillian Kiesel

The Negro press has been following the revolutionary upheaval in Cuba with close attention, giving it big headlines. The newspapers of America's colored people have noted with particular interest how the Castro government has answered the charges of "blood purge" leveled by such senators as Sparkman of Alabama and Fulbright of Arkansas; and also what the new regime proposes to do about discriminatory practices inherited from Cuba's past.

For instance, C. W. Mackay, editor of Afro-American, reported an answer by one official to Sparkman that did not appear in such papers as the New York Times: "Why is he so broken up over the just punishment of murderers here when he remained so silent while White Citizens Councils and Klan bombers were blowing up the homes and churches and castrating innocent colored people of Montgomery and Birmingham?"

He also reported the reaction of another Castro spokesman to Fulbright: "When he has something to say about the gross injustices committed by Governor Faubus, perhaps we can give him more respectful attention. If he can approve Faubus using armed soldiers to keep little children out of school, he certainly should have no complaints about military trials in Cuba where confessed assassins are being dealt with justly."

The Kansas City Call, editorializing on the hysteria around the Cuban trials, pointed to the contrast in the North Carolina case involving James Simpson, eight, and David Hanover Thompson, ten. It is un-American, they declare, to hold two children and deny them the right of counsel. "Americans are incensed over the executions of Batista followers in Cuba, but sit by unconcerned when the constitutional rights of two innocent children are violated in our land."

John Young III, correspondent of the Amsterdam News, who along with Mackay was among 350 newspaper men who went to Havana at Castro's in-



Cubans of all colors danced in the streets together celebrating the victory they had won through united effort over the hated Batista dictatorship. On taking power, Castro promised to do away with discriminatory practices. The American Negro press is asking him to deliver on that promise without delay through Fair Employment Practices legislation.

vitiation, declared "Even persecuted Negro Americans will find it difficult to comprehend this suffering. The tortures, wanton killings, humiliations and deprivation of liberties inflicted on Cubans by Batista, add up to one of history's great crimes of man's inhumanity to man."

Young believes that "The Revolutionary Army and the whole population of Cuba, without speaking a word to each other, have decided that Batista and his leaders must never again rise to power. They believe that death — and only death — of the leaders can make this certain, certain, at least, in their time."

## BLAMES U.S.

Placing responsibility for the persecutions suffered by the Cubans squarely on the United States, Young said: "We Americans, including the people of Harlem, must bear some of Castro's responsibility. Until a short time ago — we allowed our Government to aid Batista by selling him arms with which to murder and bomb innocent people fighting for their freedom." "But the U.S. Government has no excuse. Equipped with vast intelligence and information facilities, it could have stopped these atrocities years ago."

However, Young hopes that the executions will not go too far: "Castro and the people of Cuba have prescribed a violent remedy for a sick Cuba. They are certain to cure the ailment. But those of us who love freedom can only hope that in so doing, they do not kill the patient."

## CUBAN JIM CROW

Unemployment and discrimination are two main problems confronting the new Cuban government, the editor of Afro-American noted. Both Mackay and Rep. Adam Clayton Powell have commented on the need for a Fair Employment Practices law in Cuba.

When Cuba's Minister of Labor, Fernandez, indicated that unemployment remains one of Cuba's major problems, with about 600,000, or one-tenth of the population, unemployed in normal times, Mackay observed that "the bigger proportion of these jobless are colored Cubans."

After three days on the scene, he said, "I am convinced Cuba needs an FEPC. From what I have seen the better paying jobs, at least in Havana, are held by Cubans of lighter hue. . . . I have yet to see one of the darker brothers in one of the

better-paying posts, as a teller in a bank or clerking in a department store."

In response to Castro's declaration — "We will see in Cuba our revolutionary movement eliminate all forms of discrimination." — Mackay urged speed in delivering on the promise to end the hangovers of Cuban Jim Crow.

Dark-skinned Cubans marching by the thousands along with white-skinned Cubans in the 26th of July movement. Mackay said of this: "They paid with their blood and courage for Cuba's new freedom from torture and tyranny. Will they now be given equal shares in its economic life? That remains to be seen."

## ... Purge Call

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the "philosophy of Marxism-Leninism" of "extremely great importance." That is how Khrushchev described one of his chief's remarks at the 21st Congress.

The dual process of flattery for Khrushchev and mud-slinging denunciation of his former rivals marks the further tightening of the bureaucratic caste around Khrushchev as the new supreme ruler — the new Stalin. The difference between now and Stalin's heyday is that the bureaucracy confronts a resurgent working class to whom the Kremlin must continually make concessions including promises to observe "legality."

There is no question, however, under Khrushchev — as there was none under Stalin — of granting the Soviet population genuine democratic rights. That is why the elimination of a rival grouping must take place through purge. A debate between contending bureaucratic groups before the Soviet working class would allow the workers to settle the dispute — and in the process remove the entire bureaucratic caste from power.

Parallel with the purge method is the elevation by the bureaucracy of the winner in the inner power-struggle to the position of supreme arbiter of all further disputes. That was Stalin's role, and it is now Khrushchev's.

One of the crimes laid at the door of Molotov et al when they were removed from power in June 1957 was that they "came out against measures . . . to improve relations with Yugoslavia." Since then, however, Khrushchev has launched a new attack on the Yugoslav Communist Party. The 21st Congress heard further denunciations of Tito. Simultaneously, the Soviet government reduced the volume of its trade with Yugoslavia.

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- Thaddeus Stevens. A Being Greatly Wise and Rudely Darkly.** By Ralph Korngold. Portrait of the tough, far-seeing political leader who ran Congress in behalf of the struggle against slavery in the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. Was \$6. Now \$1.65.
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**The Strange Career of Jim Crow.** By C. Vann Woodward. How Jim Crow really began in the Twentieth Century. History written with an

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# ... Accept the Challenge

(Continued from Page 1)

amounts allocated by federal and state governments to hospital construction are piddling, and few private hospitals are being built. The production of anti-biotics is restricted by the drug monopolists. As a modest starter, let's adopt the projected Soviet rates of growth in the field of medical care.

Now, somebody is sure to argue that Khrushchev's promises are just campaign oratory, that he won't keep them, and that it's no race because we'll win no matter how little we do. Don't be so sure about that. The control figures dealing with improved living standards were put in the Soviet seven-year plan by the pressure of the working people on the ruling bureaucracy. Khrushchev made those promises to decrease the danger of workers' uprisings to his regime. For the same reason he will have to deliver on a good part of the promises—the pressure of the working class is getting stronger not weaker in the Soviet Union. If he doesn't, out he'll go, and the workers will take over.

In the U.S., the labor movement hasn't been able to exact even a promise from the powers-that-be about 30-for-40, minimum wages or medical care. The union officials have no "control figures," and the workers lack an independent labor party to make any goals they set come true. In the field of civil rights, the NAACP's "control figure"—"Free by Sixty-three"—faces dim prospects of realization at present, because the labor movement hasn't swung its weight behind the fight.

Where competition over respective rates of economic growth are concerned, I just don't think that the capitalist class can make the grade—except by using one device, which I will mention shortly. Why even in the field of water resources development, the capitalist class won't extend itself to meet the Soviet challenge. The other day, Senator O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) contrasted the Soviet plans in this field with the Eisenhower administration's determination to oppose any

new projects in the federal budget.

It isn't that the big-business policy makers have no plans for national economic growth. The trouble is that they have too many plans—and each cancels the other out.

Just listen to this Tower of Babel "planning"—which reflects the apathy of capitalist production—as reported by Edwin L. Dale in the Jan. 29 New York Times.

"Some say far greater Federal spending is essential to speed up the rate of growth. Others say the exact opposite: that the best prescription for growth is lower spending and hence lower taxes, which would supply more investment capital. "Some think the present situation calls for budget deficits; others believe large surpluses are the right medicine. "Some say high interest rates and 'tight' money greatly deter growth. . . . Others say high interest rates . . . help growth. "Some say a little inflation . . . Others say that [there can't be] toleration of even a 'creeping' inflation. . . . "Some say that growth can best be stimulated by tax relief. . . . Others say the reverse. . . . Some say higher wages are essential to spur the rate of growth. Others, with equal conviction, say that greater profits are the key."

In the end, the only sure-fire remedy the capitalist class knows is to boost war spending to lunar heights and impose the cost on the working people in the form of higher taxes, higher prices and a wage freeze. Guns not butter; and tighten your belt—that's their plan.

To keep the country moving ahead industrially—and to provide peace, abundance and freedom at the same time — the working people will have to do what the Soviet working class did in 1917. They will have to end the capitalist mode of production and replace it with public ownership of industry, transportation and the banks. Then the country will be able to plan its economic growth. That's the true secret of the Soviet Union's swift economic development.

## New York Debate

Murry Weiss, national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, and David McReynolds, 1958 Congressional candidate of the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation, will debate socialist electoral policy Friday evening, Feb. 27 at the Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, New York City.

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Vol. XXIII—No. 6

Monday, February 9, 1959

**O'Hara and the Page Boy**

There's not much the Dixiecrats can do about making the House of Representatives a club for whites only. Some Congressional districts in the North insist on electing Negroes; and the Southern Bourbons have not yet discovered a way of barring them on grounds of skin color.

It's a different matter so far as the pages are concerned. The Southern racists—with the acquiescence of their Northern colleagues—insist that the boys hired at public expense to run errands for Congressmen can have nothing cream, yellow, red, brown or black about them except for the hair on their heads.

This evidence of the bigotry of the majority of Democratic and Republican Congressmen got national attention last week when Rep. Barrett O'Hara, a labor-endorsed Democrat, thought it a shrewd political gesture in view of the heavy Negro vote in Chicago's Second District where he comes from, to nominate James A. Johnson, Jr., for one of the page-boy jobs.

The nomination was a good one, for 14-year-old James is an honor student who has already settled on medicine as his choice for the future. The \$1,800 a year would help pay expenses in college and if he did well in the school that pages attend he might win a scholarship.

His mother helped make up the expense for the trip and went with him to

Washington to take the job in accordance with O'Hara's invitation.

But O'Hara suddenly became evasive and very vague. An unidentified member of Rep. Walter's House Patronage Committee spoke for him — an unfortunate case of "mistaken identity." The job, it seems, had been awarded to another boy from Chicago—one with a white skin.

James Johnson drew the obvious conclusion: "The Southern Congressmen don't want me." His mother added calmly: "Disappointments are a part of education and of life. Jimmy's education is still going on."

When the shabby treatment of the 14-year-old honor student made front pages in the nation's press, O'Hara reacted like a typical liberal Democrat. He did not denounce the Southern Congressmen. He said it was all a "misunderstanding." He did not introduce a measure on Fair Employment Practices in the hiring of pages. Instead he proposed a compromise bill to increase the number of page boys by one.

Whether this token integration among the House's page boys will be acceptable to the Southerners remains to be seen. Washington experts think that the bill will most likely encounter "massive resistance."

Let's hope that the public clamor is sufficient to win passage of the measure. It's time Congress made history by accepting the first Negro among its page boys.

**Where to Get the Money**

The New York Post has become an advocate of Rockefeller's tax gouge. The editor maintains that the taxes will be returned to the workers in the form of public services. Since this generally Democratic paper sees no other solution, the workers must foot the bill. "... liberal, humane government cannot be bought at bargain prices."

Low-income workers will be caught in a four-way bind: Federal income tax, state income tax, additional cigarette and gasoline taxes, and very likely a four-cent New York City sales tax.

In return will they receive adequate housing, schools, hospitals, day nurseries, medical care? The past performances of the Republicans and Democrats are not reassuring. In fact, workers who have few illusions about the two-party system can be heard all over New York: "Let Rockefeller, the billionaire, dig in his own

pockets."

The Post "concedes," for argument's sake, that the tax program will affect the lower-income brackets. But it cries: "Who has an alternative plan? Do the political mourners favor a steep rise in corporate taxes? What other sources of revenue do they urge? So far the answer is silence."

It is true that big business politicians, Republican, Democrat, or Liberal, offer no different solution — even if they yell about the tax gouge. At bottom they favor socking the worker.

But why stick with them? Socialists have a solution. First, tax all the profits from armaments production. Second, impose a 100% tax on all incomes over \$25,000. Third, nationalize the holdings of billionaires like Rockefeller. This ought to be enough to balance the budget and begin to provide some of the social services we're entitled to.

**Why Not Here?**

Washington politicians like to talk about how America is reeducating the West German people to the "democratic way of life." Meanwhile, of course, they help strengthen the German capitalists who installed fascism in power. Despite the American occupation forces, however, the West German workers have won some gains that American labor can afford to study.

For example, a group of West German trade unionists on a tour of this country recently were appalled by the plight of the jobless. "Everywhere we go we talk to unemployed workers in unions," one of the visitors told a Christian Science Monitor correspondent Jan. 27. "They complain that those who are without jobs through no fault of their own get help, but not enough. In Germany a jobless worker gets about 65 per cent of his weekly wage for as long as he is unemployed — not just for a limited time."

**"The Slump Was a Godsend"**

"Higher wages are inflationary; they are responsible for higher prices." This argument, as old as capitalism itself, is shouted in the press, over the radio and TV, and from the White House and Congress every time workers request another nickel an hour.

Back in 1865 Karl Marx demolished the argument in a speech later published as his classic pamphlet "Value, Price and Profit." But if you'd like some 1959 testimony from the horse's mouth itself that wage increases are not responsible for price hikes, don't miss the Jan. 30 issue of the Wall Street Journal.

"The slump was a godsend," was the response of one appliance dealer to a Journal query on his present price and sales situation.

This conclusion was based on the fact that a lot of competitors went to the wall during the slump; while consumers now appear to be able to absorb stiffer prices; and costs, especially labor costs, have either been held to the line or have gone down.

Whirlpool automatic clothes washers, for instance, went up \$11 wholesale last year, "but we're getting \$20 more for them," reported a Pennsylvania dealer.

This stands in sharp contrast to the United States where jobless compensation averages between 30 and 35 per cent of the weekly wage and where 26 weeks is the longest that any state pays benefits. (Last year Congress added benefits for a maximum of 13 extra weeks. That was on the eve of the elections. After the election the White House proposed to end this pampering of the unemployed by April 1.)

Congressmen, quite comfortable on \$22,500 a year, explain they don't want to "encourage idleness" by extending compensation to cover the full period of unemployment.

Equally well-paid union bureaucrats like Meany and Reuther see eye to eye on this with the Democrats they endorsed for Congress. They, too, favor teaching the "American way" to the German workers, but not the German way to the American workers.

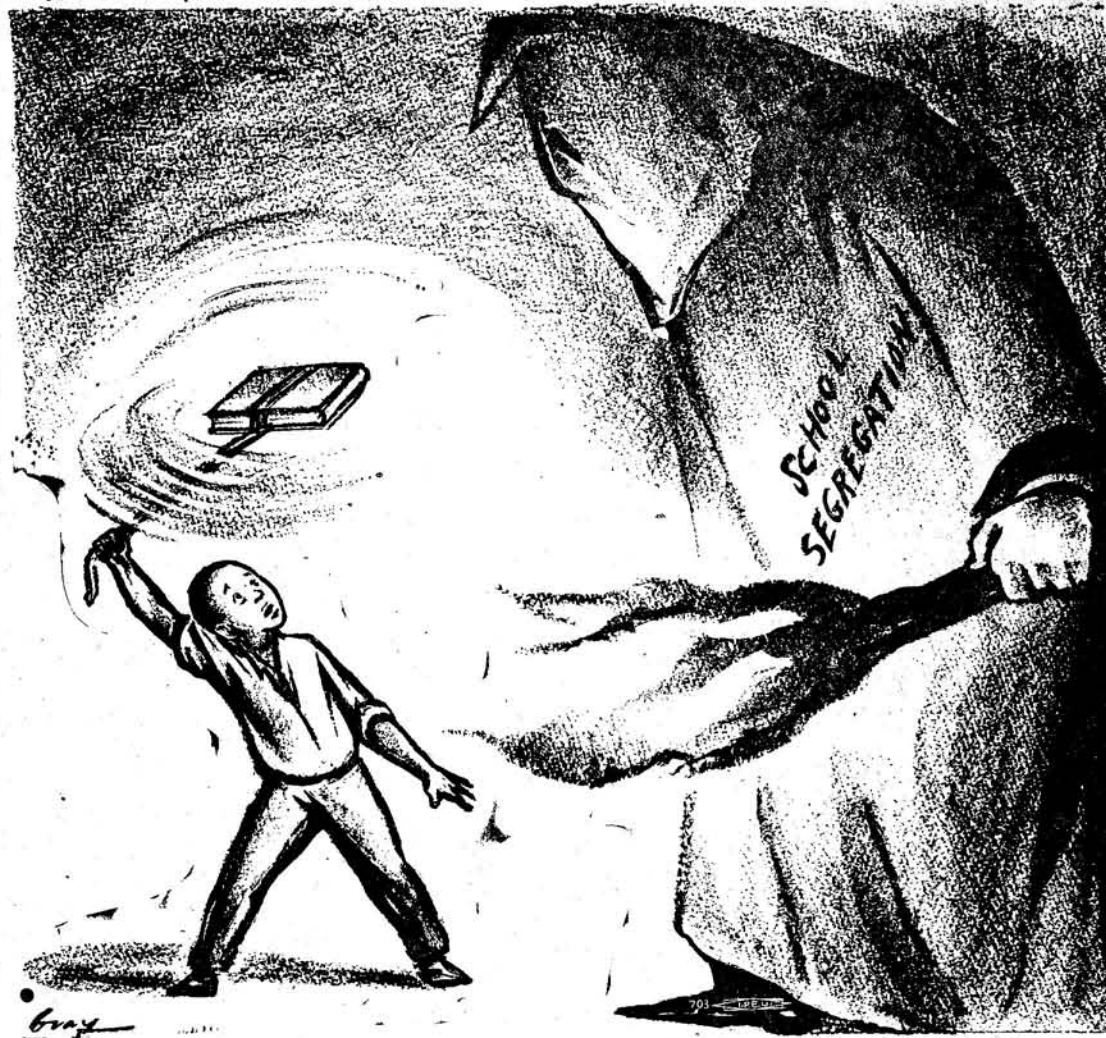
The wholesale price of a 21-inch Philco TV was increased a dollar an inch last year, but a Houston dealer is getting an extra \$30 for them.

"We're charging three to five per cent more for major appliances, but our costs have gone up only two to three per cent," said a buyer for a big Chicago discount house. A competitor added, "We're charging about \$10 more — and getting it — for some new television sets that are costing us only three to five dollars more at wholesale."

The Norfolk dealer who saw the recession as a "godsend" explained, "We had become fat, sassy and stupid." He may still be fat and sassy, but he is no longer stupid.

He fired 26 of his 191 employees during the slump and hasn't rehired a single one despite the fact that his sales for the last half of 1958 topped the same period the year before by 15 per cent.

It's a time-tested formula. Use a slump to cut down the payroll and speed up the remaining workers; take over your competitors' markets; boost prices; and then holler like hell about the "inflationary" consequences of wage increases.



DAVID AND GOLIATH. Laura Gray's commentary on the struggle for integration of the schools in the South, published in the Militant Oct. 11, 1954.

**Negro History Week**

**How the Colored People Brought Schools to South**

By Alex Harte

The South owes its public-school system to the Negro people. "Public education for all at public expense, was, in the South, a Negro idea," says Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, the great Negro scholar, in his monumental history, *Black Reconstruction, 1860-1880*.

The Negroes created their own community-supported schools in many areas following emancipation. Their demands led the Union Army in the Civil War and later the Freedman's Bureau (a federal government agency) to establish a school system for them. The Southern reconstruction governments then took over. Beginning in 1868, they established the free, compulsory, public-school system in the South. These governments included a high proportion of Negro legislators, who pushed vigorously for free public education.

That's the record. And it ought to be trumpeted North, South, East and West during Negro History Week (Feb. 8-14) this year, as Negro communities down South continue their heroic battle for school integration — a fight they wage both for their own advancement and the advancement of the South.

**PLANTERS' RECORD**

The other half of the record shows that the Southern white ruling class denied education for all before the Civil War, fought it during the reconstruction period, and crippled and stunted it when they regained power after 1876. The pall of Jim Crow they threw upon the public-school system helped debilitate education for the white working people as well as for the Negroes (although it injured the Negroes most).

In pre-Civil War days, the slave-holders had made it a penal offense to teach Negroes. "The laws on this point were explicit and severe," says Du Bois. They covered free Negroes as well as slaves. Despite the law, the Negroes conducted clandestine schools. A core of Negro teachers emerged. When integrated public schools were opened in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1865, 25 of the 42 teachers were colored.

The state of education among whites prior to the Civil War is revealed in the following figures. Among poor whites in Virginia, less than half of the children attended school in 1851 and they had only 11 weeks schooling during the year. In Georgia, in 1865, the whole state fund for schools was \$23,335. A number of states carried free public-school legislation on the books, but they were but feebly implemented.

Here is how a report published shortly after the Civil War sums up the situation: "Prior to the abolition of slavery, there was no general public educational system, properly speaking, in the Southern states, except perhaps, in North Carolina. ... Emerging from their bondage, the Negroes in the very beginning manifested the utmost eagerness for instruction, and their hunger was met by a corresponding readiness on the part of the people of the North to make provisions for it." (Quoted by Du Bois.)

The first mass educational endeavors in the South were due to the freedmen. From 1865 to 1870, the Freedman's Bureau spent \$5.3 million on education of Negroes in the South, and Negroes contributed \$785,000 between 1866-70. These figures reveal the transformation in schooling that the freedmen wrought in the South.

But their sabotage of learning will be defeated. They can't block progress forever. And progress in education in the South lies with the victory of the Negro people in their fight for integration.

In Little Rock, where the first free schools of any kind were created by the Negro community in 1865, they keep the high schools shut.

**NEW FUNCTION FOR SLAVE MART**

Their passion for learning knew no obstacle of place or circumstance. In Savannah, Georgia, the ex-slaves, for want of other space, converted an old slave mart into a school. "The bars which marked the slave stalls were knocked down to make more space for seating. To this and other places flocked the freed people of every age and shade, eager for that book learning which really seemed to them the key to their advance."

The former rulers incited mob actions against the Negro schools. "Nigger teacher" became the most opprobrious epithet in their vocabulary. They vowed that the Negro "shall not own an acre of land or have any schools."

Despite white opposition, the Negro schools grew, and their success paved the way for reconstruction legislatures and constitutional conventions to create full-fledged modern public-school systems. (These are the legislatures and conventions that racist historians say brought ruin to the South.)

F. J. Moses, governor of South Carolina, commented that whereas once "it was a statutory offense . . . to impart even the rudiments of a common school education to a South Carolinian, because, forsooth, he was black. . . . the reconstructed government has made it a statutory offense to hinder or prevent any child in the State, of whatever color, from obtaining a common school education. Nay, we have even gone further, and demanded, by our Constitution, that their attendance at school shall be compulsory."

Du Bois quotes Colonel Richard P. Halliwell: "The whites had always regarded the public school system of the North with contempt. The freedman introduced and established it, and it stands today a living testimony."

**NEGROES BETRAYED**

Then came the betrayal in 1876 of the freedman by Northern Big Business to the former slave-owners. Reconstruction came to an end, as federal troops were pulled out of the South. The Democrats took over again. Their governments tried to reverse the process of education to conditions prevailing ante-bellum and they partially succeeded. To this day, as a result, Southern schools are far inferior to those in the North.

Today, the racists threaten to destroy the public-school system altogether rather than permit integration. That is in line with their conduct over the last 175 years. They have already a bolted compulsory school attendance in Virginia in order to incite further re-

sistance to integration. In Little Rock, where the first free schools of any kind were created by the Negro community in 1865, they keep the high schools shut.

But their sabotage of learning will be defeated. They can't block progress forever. And progress in education in the South lies with the victory of the Negro people in their fight for integration.

**New Party Says It Opposes Franco**

A new party of liberals and former Falangists, the Union Espanola (Spanish Union), announced its formation Feb. 1 in defiance of the law banning all parties (in Spain) except Franco's Falange.

The announcement was made at a dinner held publicly in the heart of Madrid. It was attended by nearly 100 bankers, lawyers, university professors, members of the officer caste and others. The party includes Roman Catholic monarchists such as Jose Maria Gil Robles.

Socialists, Anarchists, Social Democrats and Left-Wing Christian Democrats did not participate.

The success of the Cuban revolution has alarmed ruling circles in Spain, particularly in view of the growing popular restiveness noted in recent months. The new party may be insurance aimed at keeping the explosive sentiments from finding revolutionary socialist expression.

**Calls Haitian Dictator's Hand**

Former President Daniel Fignole of Haiti said Feb. 1 that he had twice asked President Francois Duvalier for permission to return to Haiti from exile in New York after the dictator — impressed by what happened to Batista — promised to end his dictatorial practices and restore democracy.

The Haitian dictator did not reply, so Fignole sent him a telegram denouncing his "retrograde dictatorship."

Fignole lives with his wife and eight children in New York. Although he is a mathematics teacher, he has been unable to get a job.

The State Department recently admitted that it had sent a Marine Corps mission to help dictator Duvalier rebuild his army.

**Women Engineers Find Best Chances In Soviet Union**

Although women find prejudice and obstacles in their way in the engineering profession, the field is beginning to open up for them, a survey conducted by the United Nations reveals.

**The American Way of Life**

**San Francisco Incident**

This is a story about an incident in San Francisco. But it could have happened in any American city. The facts were reported by Gloria S. Napier to the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California which published her letter of protest to Mayor George Christopher in the January issue of its News.

Around nine o'clock in the evening of Dec. 20, Samuel E. Napier, brother of Gloria and a member of the United States Navy, was walking along Mission street in civilian clothes. His arm bore a small needle puncture, for he had just undergone a Navy physical examination, which included a blood test, in preparation for his discharge three days later after 14 years of service.

The police came along at that moment and ordered everyone on the sidewalk to line up, face the building, put their feet apart, keep their hands up and their heads down. An officer searched the group.

**HAUL THEM TO JAIL**

Then without the least explanation, the cops called the wagon and hauled their victims off to jail.

There they were questioned under bright lights and some were released. But Samuel E. Napier was not turned loose. He had a needle mark on his arm. And he was a Negro.

The police forced him to strip naked so that they could study his skin for other needle marks. They grilled him, trying to make him "confess" his "guilt" as a narcotics addict.

They paid no attention to his protests. They did not even bother to look over his identification papers. They told him to give them his fingerprints and when he refused, as was his legal right, they talked about giving him a working over with a hose.

Naturally they refused to let him call his family, who were

waiting for him to come home to celebrate his thirty-second birthday.

Napier's identification and explanation were readily accepted by the Shore Patrol when they showed up, but the police still refused to let the Negro sailor go unless he would agree to be fingerprinted. It was one a.m. before he was finally released.

"This kind of humiliation and inconvenience to an innocent person walking along the street is entirely uncalled for," Miss Napier wrote. "If the police are going to function in this manner, it would appear unsafe for any person to walk along the street. I realize there are certain police procedures that are carried out for the protection of the public, but in so doing it seems to me the public is entitled to a certain amount of respect."

"This time wasted on putting my brother through the 'third degree' so to speak, was a waste of the San Francisco taxpayers' money. The humiliation to my brother and the possibility of having a police record is immeasurable in terms of the harm done to him."

"All of this could have been avoided with a single telephone call to Naval Authorities to verify his statement, or if the officers had been intelligent enough to read his identification card."

"How would you like to have this happen to a member of your family? It is unlikely that it could happen to you, but I certainly would not like to have it happen to me."

"As mayor of this city you should be aware of this behavior on the part of police officers, which is the real purpose of this letter. I hope you will do something about it."

**Headlines in Other Lands**

**New Party Says It Opposes Franco**

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**Women Engineers Find Best Chances In Soviet Union**

Although women find prejudice and obstacles in their way in the engineering profession, the field is beginning to open up for them, a survey conducted by the United Nations reveals.

Greatest opportunity is in the Soviet Union which leads the world in employment of women engineers. Of the country's total force, 233,000 or about 29%, are women.

**Swiss Women Still Denied Vote**

Switzerland has the reputation of being one of the most democratic countries in the world, but it remains the only nation in Europe that still denies women their right to vote.

In a nationwide referendum on the issue Feb. 1 male voters turned down the advocates of suffrage for women 654,924 to 323,307. But the women did succeed in winning in three cantons for the first time.

Since 1919 there had been 25 negative votes on women's suffrage in various cantons. This was the first national referendum.

Reactionary arguments heard in America before women won the vote at the end of World War I were used in the Swiss referendum, particularly in Roman Catholic areas. A typical anti-feminist poster read: "If a woman is happy, what does politics mean to her? If she is unhappy, will politics make any difference?"

In the USA and Britain, such gems aroused the answer they deserved, militant tactics that finally brought victory in the struggle for electoral equality.

**Soviet Union Ahead In ICBM Race**

Government space experts have told Congress that the Soviet Union is ahead of the United States by 12 to 20 months in rocket and space technology. They believe that the Soviet armed forces could now pinpoint an American city with a ballistic missile fired more than 5,000 miles away.

All present defenses against such a missile have been outmoded, for it would arrive on target with its atomic head within 15 minutes from firing time.

It would require about five years to catch up with Soviet developments in this field and then only if present plans and schedules were radically revised and the Soviet Union did not step up its side of the race.

Rocket expert Dr. von Braun told Sen. Symington (D-Mo.) that the U.S. position would be militarily "hopeless" within "the next decade."

**Labor Unrest Noted in France**

The Wall Street Journal, which is sensitive to such things, reported Feb. 2 that signs of "growing labor unrest emerged in France over the weekend." The unrest is due to the slash in the standard of living recently ordered by De Gaulle. Among the signs:

"The heavy machinery maker, Fives-Lille-Vail, fired 867 workers Friday and cut the work week for the rest of its force."

When news spread, 4,000 workers occupied the plants at Fives, a Lille suburb, and held the plant management and 1,600 white-collar employees in custody. When a company of tough security guards broke up the strike, 3,000 workers in another Fives-Lille-Vail plant at neighboring Denain struck in protest.

Government labor inspectors Saturday cooled workers off by getting the company to agree to two months' severance pay, efforts to find new places for the fired men, and to let the workers remain in company-owned apartments for as long as two years.

"What's most significant about this particular flareup," continues the Journal, "is that members of non-Communist unions acted in solidarity with the Communists. Some labor specialists report that the non-Communist union leadership is rapidly losing its hold over members. 'In many plants,' says a labor expert, 'there's a swift underground movement toward unity with the Communists.'"

In the USA and Britain, such gems aroused the answer they deserved, militant tactics that finally brought victory in the struggle for electoral equality.

**De Gaulle Readies Nuclear Bomb**

Informed Paris sources report that the De Gaulle government may be able to deliver by next year on its announced intention of exploding a test nuclear bomb.

France should have sufficient plutonium for this by summer. The technical problems of readying it for explosion should be solved by the following year. Why De Gaulle wants to join those polluting the earth's atmosphere with radioactive fallout was not revealed. U.S. planes are at present "protecting" France as well as other NATO nations by flying live nuclear weapons within striking distance of the Soviet Union.

**GROWTH OF MONOPOLY**  
In 1947, the 30 leading manufacturing corporations in the U.S. collected 17.5% of all manufacturing profits before taxes. In 1957 they took 31.1%.



Labor Is Real Target, Not Hoffa

Editor: Washington today is a nest of political police and paid stool pigeons helping us along the road to a police state in America.

The press and politicians attack labor, making Jimmy Hoffa the scapegoat. Yet he stands unconvicted in any court of law.

Can't the public see that all this is aimed at organized labor and that until there is a labor party, with its own daily press, that the predatory interests can get away with murder?

Unfortunately down here in the "bible belt" of Texas there is little labor activity and the big blustering four-flushing Texan, with his ten-gallon hat and nothing under it in the way of brains, is so absorbed in racial hatreds that it is easy to arouse him to still another hatred.

I always pass the Militant on after reading it.

Paul Dennis Texas

Place for Salvation Is Here on Earth

Editor: Pope John XXIII is pleading for the unity of Christians in the world.

The Pope's plea will not be a success. That's because of the advance of secularism everywhere on earth. Secularists promote intelligence and the welfare of the people. In poor

and illiterate Christian countries, the secularists make a better appeal than the Pope.

Ever more humans want a better life on this earth and less of the promise of something better after death.

Joseph Manlet Cleveland

A Little Chinese Helps Socialist Talk

Editor: I like to talk socialism at every opportunity. Sometimes it happens naturally and sometimes you can bring up the subject from any starting point without half trying.

The other day I tried out my Chinese on a Chinese worker. He politely asked me if I spoke the language and I admitted that I knew only a few words from Chinese songs.

"Not my kind of songs," he responded. I asked him what his kind was and he said scoldingly that all Americans like Chiang Kai-shek.

Those were not my sentiments, I told him. Whereupon he opened up on American big business and their real reasons for supporting Chiang. "They don't want to save people from Communism. That's a lot of lies. They just want to protect their power."

I told him that there were other Americans that agreed and took out my ever present copy of the Militant. He took it willingly but turned me down on a sub, telling me that China-

town is a jungle of FBI investigators and informers, that mail is opened before it is delivered, that homes are searched and that he has to be careful.

But he invited the socialists to pay him a visit and he gave me his name and address.

Talking Socialist New York

One of Brecht's Last Poems

Editor: When the noted communist poet Berthold Brecht died in East Berlin, it was evident that he had turned increasingly away from the Stalinist bureaucrats. For he left instructions that he did not want them to take over the funeral services.

Now we have additional evidence of Brecht's disgust with the Ulbricht regime — a poem, rather a kind of rhythmic prose, which he wrote after the East German revolt of 1953. Here is a translation:

The Solution

After the 17th of June revolt the Secretary of the Writers Association had leaflets distributed on Stalin Alley which said the people had forfeited the government's trust and could reconquer it only through doubling their amount of work.

Would it not be easier if the government dissolved the people and elected another one?

Trent Hutter New York City

1,500 Chicago Mothers Press School Case

By Carol Wayne CHICAGO, Feb. 3 — A PTA delegation representing 1,500 mothers asked Mayor Daley last Wed. to set up a temporary prefabricated structure to replace Arnold Elementary School which was destroyed by a fire believed set by vandals.

The Board of Education had decided to scatter the displaced students. The mothers told the Mayor they objected to placing grade-school children in high schools, forcing them to cross dangerous intersections and making it difficult to pick up children from the same family.

Mrs. Olga Joseph, a PTA leader, charged that the mayor had taken no action on complaints of fire violations.

Mrs. Mildred Minerly, another PTA leader, said that "If school officials had made the building vandal-proof it wouldn't have burned down."

Next day 300 mothers were told that the Board intends to put 400 displaced students in Waller High, and the remainder in five different grade schools and a youth center.

Some of the parents are threatening to keep their children home if the Mayor's plan is carried out.

Teachers Seek Wage Hike in N.Y.

New York's 800 evening high school teachers voted last week to "resign" until they receive an immediate substantial salary increase. They are also demanding another increase to bring their wages up to \$26.94 per night by September.

The teachers, who are members of the High School Teachers Association of New York City, now earn \$12.25. This amounts to only \$2.25 more than evening high school teachers earned 27 years ago in 1932.

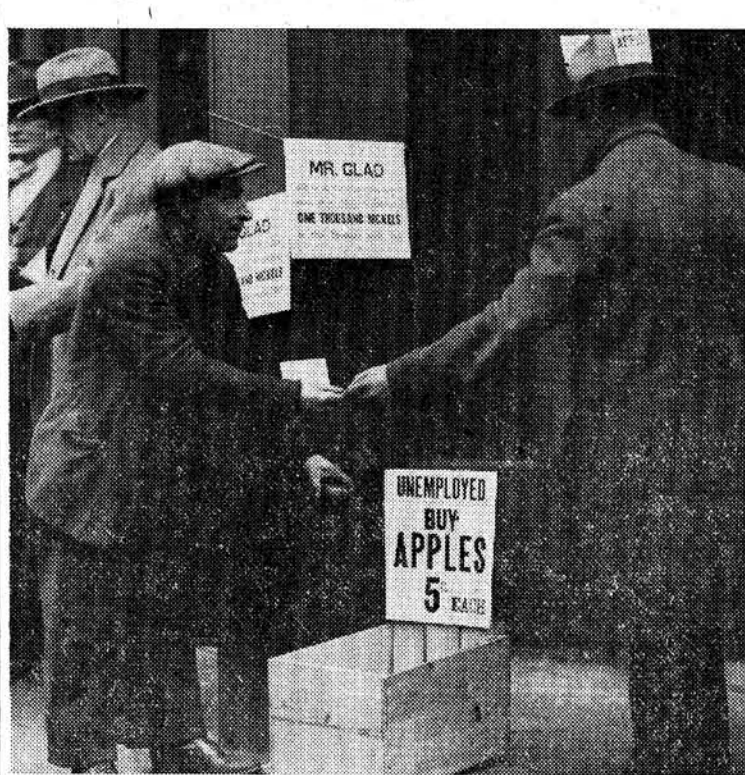
Despite this astounding fact, John J. Theobald, school superintendent, said that the teachers could not expect a raise until the new fiscal year begins in July: "I can't get money in February. I don't make it. The sooner they find that out, the better."

But the teachers apparently aren't interested in any more excuses. On Friday night, Jan. 30, 800 of them voted (with only six dissenting) to turn down the proposal of the Board of Education of a wage increase to \$18 per night beginning in September. Their motion declared: "The evening high school teachers reject the offer of the Board of Education as totally inadequate. We hereby resign our positions in the evening high schools effective Feb. 2, 1959 (the day the spring term begins)."

Emil H. Tron, president of the Association announced: "We must plan to stay out all term if necessary — this is not a one-night stand." He explained that the teachers would be "placard-bearers" outside each of the high schools to explain their case.

Most of the teachers work full time in day school which is not affected by their decision. However, their resignation will affect 30,000 night students.

Buddy, Can You Spare a Quarter?



With union officials doing nothing to win compensation for the full period of unemployment, jobless Pittsburgh steel workers are thinking about setting up apple stands like this one from the 1930's. But with today's prices it will take a lot more capital to get started.

... No Jobs for All

(Continued from Page 1) exhausted all unemployment benefits.

In New York, the week of Jan. 9 saw record compensation claims of over half a million. Another 85,000 were stricken from the rolls, having used up both state and federal benefits.

Across the river in New Jersey, jobless figures for last December climbed to 188,000, the highest December figure since the big 1945 plant shutdowns. And in Bridgeport, Conn., nine per cent of the work force is on the streets.

In Chicago the layoffs have hit young workers with low seniority the hardest. Unemployment figures are double those of a year ago and one-third of those registered at state employment offices are in the 25- to 34-year age bracket.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR SOME

But there's no need to get glum about the situation. The Jan. 31 Business Week has a cheering report on the handsome benefits resulting from last year's recessions.

"The recession gave us the occasion to trim some fat that would have been hard to get rid of in more prosperous times," explained the vice

president of one industrial concern.

A Birmingham manufacturer found "with mixed surprise and delight" that "we could get as much production in 32 hours as we had in 40 previously."

"Permanent cuts in work force took various forms," the magazine found. "A Pittsburgh metal company — which prides itself on not having compulsory retirement — got plant managers and union officials to pressure over-65s into 'voluntary' retirement."

With a line of applicants outside plant gates, the companies have been doing better in union negotiations too. A Hartford plant manager reports: "We tried for seven years to get the union to accept an incentive pay plan, and failed. But it's in the contract this year."

However, the situation isn't all beer and skittles for management either. The head of a major Western appliance outfit explained: "Riding herd all the time to get efficiency takes a lot out of the top man."

MOONLIGHTING

Last year 3.7 million workers were moonlighting. What's moonlighting? It's holding down two jobs at the same time.

Top Steel Output Will Leave 30,000 Idle

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 2 — Local steel barons are looking toward a new boom in production and profits this spring. But the steel workers are faced with the depressing prospect of continued mass unemployment even if production measures up to company predictions.

Fifty thousand workers — over 11 per cent of the available labor force in this area — are now jobless. Steel production is at slightly more than 71 per cent of capacity as compared with 76 per cent nationally. Company officials anticipate that production will rise to 90 per cent of capacity during the months of April, May and June. But researchers for the United Steel Workers of America estimate that no more than 30,000 of the 50,000 now idle will be called back to work.

Speedup and improved technology now make it possible to turn out 11 million tons of steel a month while operating at 90 per cent of capacity. In 1957 the mills were running at 96 per cent of capacity to reach that figure. During that period about 530,000 men were working. If production hits capacity this spring the figure is expected to be around 500,000.

Even this figure may be too optimistic. Many of those now in the plants are on a short work week.

"You can bring these men up to 40 hours a week and get a lot more production without adding a single man," one union spokesman said last week.

Rounding out the dim prospects is the fact that most of the anticipated new orders will be for plain auto sheet steel which takes less man hours to produce than stainless steel.

A significant side effect of the cutbacks in steel employment was announced yesterday by James A. Harvey, assistant to USW secretary-treasurer I. W. Abel. He reported that the 1958 increase in union membership was the smallest in six years.

As a result of the recession last year the union chartered only 125 new locals and organized 12,517 new members. In the postwar peak year of 1956 178 new locals were chartered and 23,791 new workers brought into the union.

With contract expirations coming up June 30, maybe the drop in dues payments will stir the union officialdom to put the question of the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay on the negotiating agenda.

Calendar Of Events

CHICAGO

Two Negro children, eight and ten years old, jailed by No. Carolina authorities for being kissed by a white playmate. Hear Robert F. Williams, president of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice and president of the Monroe, N.C., NAACP, on this shocking case. Wed., Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Room 420, Roosevelt University, 430 So. Michigan.

Sergi Eisenstein's "Ten Days That Shook the World." Also Don Bas coal miners in "Russian Ballet and Folk Dances." Social affair following. 8:30 p.m., Sat., Feb. 14. Donation 90c. Militant Labor Forum, 777 W. Adams.

LOS ANGELES

Celebrate Negro History Week with us! Walter Farrar, veteran trade unionist, will speak on "A Socialist Looks at Negro Integration." Also Peter Buch, candidate for Los Angeles Board of Education, Office No. 3, will speak on his campaign. Fri., Feb. 13, 8:30 p.m. 1702 E. 4th St. Auspices Socialist Workers Party.

NEW YORK

Negro History Week Meeting — Arthur Loebman on "John Brown at Harper's Ferry — A Centennial Tribute." Robert Verney on the latest developments in the No. Carolina children's case. Fri., Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Pl. (near Union Square). Contribution 50 cents.

Laura Gray Fund Recital in New York

NEW YORK — A distinguished American violin and piano duo will present a recital here Sunday, Feb. 15, for the Laura Gray Memorial Fund. Their program will include works by Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi and Debussy. The concert will be held at 3:30 P.M. at 46 West 21st Street in Manhattan.

Laura Gray, who died Jan. 11, 1958, was staff cartoonist for the Militant for almost 14 years. The memorial committee is raising funds for publication of a book of her cartoons; a project that will provide a vivid pictorial commentary on the major events of the 14-year period of her work and a permanent selection of a body of art work that has won acclaim in every major country of the world.

Contribution to the recital is \$1, with all proceeds earmarked for publication of the book.

Advertisement

Doobs vs. Browder

Farrell Doobs, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will debate Earl Browder, former General Secretary of the Communist Party, on the issue of Marxism in America. The debate will be held Friday, Feb. 20, 8 P.M. at Central Plaza, Second Avenue and Sixth Street, New York City.

Made in Mexico

A rare chance to see Sergei Eisenstein's "Time in the Sun," a film on the Mexican revolution. Two showings Fri., Feb. 6; 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Three showings each day Sat., Feb. 7 and Sun., Feb. 8; 2 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Plus—an eyewitness report of last summer's civil struggles in Mexico City by Earl Owens, an American student.

Militant Labor Forum hall, 116 University Place, New York. Auspices Young Socialist Alliance. Contribution \$1.

Book-A-Month Choice

Book-A-Month's current selection is "Democracy and Empire in the Caribbean" by Paul Blanshard, who gained fame for his "American Freedom and Catholic Power."

The book is somewhat sketchy because of the number of colonies under discussion — some 31. Nevertheless the study is a useful one for those interested in the Caribbean and its revolutionary struggles. The account of workers' and farm laborers' attempts to organize into unions and political parties is good, as is the account of mass struggles for independence.

American workers will appreciate much of the description of the role of the United States in the area, particularly Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Blanshard indicates the effect of one-crop economies on the Caribbean area — the virtually exclusive production of sugar, bananas, rum, bauxite or whatever the imperialist interests think a given country can produce most profitably.

The consequences for the people are unemployment, poverty, dictatorial oppression. It becomes clear why American big business is so concerned about keeping in power figures who will not hesitate to shoot down people seeking unions or democratic rights; or, if it

cannot find such figures why it will even send the Marines in to do the job.

Blanshard's liberalism puts him on the side of the underdog; but it also saddles him with illusions about America's role. He recognizes that it is imperialist; yet he thinks the imperialism is superficial and could be sloughed off without difficulty. He even finds it different from British policy in this respect.

For instance: "American rule, like British rule, has been essentially a dual form of absentee control exercised through political representatives of the Federal government and agents of great American corporations, but this dual control has not prevented the rapid expansion of genuine local democracy and the guarantee of complete civil liberties. The most important single distinction between British and American policy is that American plans have been based on the assumption of rapid dissolution of the American empire, while British policy has assumed the permanence of the British Empire, with modifications."

Despite this defect, the book is well worth adding to your library. Its original price was \$5. As a Book-A-Month selection you can get it for \$1. The address is Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Pl., New York 3.

— John Taber

Notes in the News

STALIN SAFE UP THERE — The Dean of Canterbury revealed last week that "Stalin was a rough and stern man because he had a dirty job to do. But God sees all, so I think that Stalin is safe."

LITTLE ROCK BUSINESS — Out of 85 Little Rock business men, 44 admitted that their businesses had been hurt by Gov. Faubus's closure of schools; 35 said they had noticed no effect; six said business had improved. Among those noting an improvement were moving van owners. Said one: "We are moving families away from Little Rock faster than ever before. Incoming moves are predominantly government personnel rather than large corporations."

JERSEY PRISONERS STRIKE — Three hundred inmates of the New Jersey state prison in Trenton, engaged in manufacturing 3,500,000 license plates, went on strike Jan. 30. Paid 13 to 35 cents a day, they want 75 cents to \$1. In 1952 guards brutally suppressed protests against conditions in the overcrowded, 100-year-old prison.

MAY WIN BACK PAY RISE — Twenty-one present and former New York City judges are suing to recover pay cuts taken during the depression. From Jan. 1, 1933, to Dec. 31, 1938, Municipal Court justices were forced to live on \$10,840 instead of their accustomed \$12,000. For another year or so they were reduced to \$9,750. Not until 1946 were the \$12,000 salaries restored. In 1955 the legislature passed a law entitling the victims to apply for the accumulated cuts. The Board of Estimate argues that it has a right to set salaries each year and that the law is unconstitutional.

TO PROTECT FOREIGN BORN — The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born is pressing for revision of the Walter-McCarran Law on two points: (1) No person legally admitted to the United States for permanent residence shall be deportable after five years residence. (2) No naturalized citizen shall, after five years of citizenship, be denaturalized for any reason whatsoever. A letter to Congress urging these reforms was signed by 76 prominent figures.

SUBWAY OF THE FUTURE — New York's 725 miles of subways may be crewless in the not distant future. The Transit Authority is exploring automation to eliminate 90% of its motormen and 75% of its conductors and platform men. The subways may also be passengerless. Because of a decline in income due to a decline in passengers due to boosting the fare from a nickel to a dime

and then 15 cents, city officials are now exploring raising fares to 20 cents and possibly 25 cents.

CONVENIENCE FOR RICH — Although American Motors, which makes the Rambler, chalked up a profit of \$26,000,000 for 1958, the automobile company need pay no income taxes on this amount. The law provides that in filling out income-tax forms, deficits of previous years can be offset against current profits.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARD — The 1959 Florida Lasker Civil Liberties Award will go to five Negro high school students from Little Rock. Of the nine Negro students, who first entered Central High School, one graduated and three accepted scholarships in other states. The other five remained so as to return to school when it reopens. The five are Elizabeth Eckford, Thelma Mothershead, Melba Pattillo, Carlotta Walls and Jefferson Thomas.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT — John D. Rockefeller Jr., scion of the dime-tipping billionaire who amassed the world's largest empire in oil, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday last week. The New York Times offered "tribute to one who asked nothing of the world except to be helpful."

PURITY REGAINED — The Dec. 27 Weekly People carried an interesting review, apparently written by editor Eric Hass, of Leslie A. White's book "The Science of Culture." By "suitable quotations the reviewer sought to show that the book was of better scientific value because of the impact of Marx's views on White's thinking."

In its Jan. 31 issue, in some 2,800 words, the Weekly People printed a public apology. Three top leaders of the Socialist Labor Party, A. M. Orange, A. J. Taylor and E. Teichert, had proved alert to the reviewer's blindness in regard to "sins of omission" in the book.

One of the points scored by Teichert was that White had been "associated with the SLP for many years as a sympathizer" but now must be listed among those "who, despite their better knowledge, continue their dastardly business of ravishing the brains of our youth simply because it is profitable for them to do so." Also that in one paragraph of his "unclear, turgid and confusing" book, White was as "completely at variance with Socialist science as the Ultramontanes' philosophy" that man's "destiny" is scrupulously outlined for him by the finger of God.

The editor agreed that "it was a mistake to review Dr. White's book favorably," that the anthropologist had placed himself "in the camp of the enemy" by his omissions and that the book "should have been exposed."

Local Directory

- BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. Every Sunday night, round table discussion, 8 P.M. Room 200.
BUFFALO Militant Forum, 831 Main St.
CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9738.
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 Juneau 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 Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday, 8 p.m., followed by open house. Call SA.7-2166.
SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321.
SEATTLE 655 Main St., MU 2-7139. Library, bookstore, classes every Friday evening at 8 P.M. Open House following at 10:30 P.M.
ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194