

Chippewa Seek \$5,000,000 Soviet Aid Loan

By Tom Leonard

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 8—Last Tuesday Albert LaFontaine, a Chippewa Indian and executive director of the Indian Trades Council (ITC) made world news when he announced his intention to request a loan of \$5,000,000 from the Soviet Union.

In an interview for the Militant, LaFontaine declared that he was leading a delegation of Indians to Washington, D.C., to present a claim for 9,000,000 acres of oil-rich land in north central North Dakota.

Box Score On School Integration

The Supreme Court ruled public school segregation illegal in 1954. Here is the current box score of compliance in the South, as tabulated in the Feb. 13 U.S. News & World Report.

In Arkansas, there are 316,441 white and 103,530 Negro pupils. Only 78 Negroes are in previously all-white schools.

Belgium Begins Raids in Congo

The white imperialist masters of the Belgian Congo have answered the demand of 13,000,000 Africans for independence. Raids on the African community in Leopoldville are netting Belgian police 1,000 prisoners a day.

Leopoldville, capital of the Congo, has seen repeated demonstrations for independence of the colony since Jan. 4 following the return of Congolese nationalist leaders from the first continental conference of Africans at Accra, Ghana, in December.

Milton Bracker, N.Y. Times correspondent, reported Jan. 5 that the Belgian government blames the demonstrations on the unemployed, transients (ir-reguliers), delinquent teenagers and vagrants.

on his request for aid from the Soviet Union.

He said he has already been in touch with the Russian Embassy and received a "favorable response."

LaFontaine's life indicates the hardships that continue to plague the vast majority of American Indians.

He was born in a log hut on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota in 1920. Near-starvation, bitter cold, and sickness was his lot in childhood.

After leaving the reservation 20 years ago he became a machinist in Grand Forks, N.D., and is currently working at this trade in Minneapolis.

LaFontaine's answers to the following questions reveal that he is a militant fighter for his ideas.

Q. As executive director of the Indian Trades Council, will you explain its purpose?

A. The ITC is a non-profit organization to promote the educational and employment opportunities for the Indian people.

Q. Can anyone join the ITC?

A. Yes, absolutely!

Q. How long have you been active in the struggle to advance the interests of the Indian people?

A. I have been active in this work for 20 years. About three years ago I helped organize the ITC which has supporters across the country.

Q. Do you support the struggle of other minorities for full equality?

A. Yes, absolutely!

Q. Will you explain why you have run as an independent candidate for mayor and as a candidate for the state house of representatives last year?

A. To publicize the problems of the Indian people. One way to get things right is to get rid of the Democrats and the Republicans. You know there is a law saying you can't advocate the overthrow of the government by force and violence.

(Continued on Page 2)

UAW Calls on Congress For Shorter Work Week

"Suffer Little Children"



Work on Plans to Free North Carolina Victims

Attorneys for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are now completing plans for a new legal

step to free James Hanover Thompson, ten, and David Simpson, eight, from the reform school for Negro boys to which they were sent because of a kiss by a seven-year-old white girl in Monroe, North Carolina.

State officials were forced to bring the children into court last month when Robert F. Williams, chairman of the CCRI and president of the Union County NAACP, applied for a writ of habeas corpus.

The official court transcript of the proceedings at that hearing was only recently completed.

ACCURACY QUESTIONED

The trustworthiness of the transcript is called into question. Thus, everyone in the courtroom distinctly heard Juvenile Court Judge J. Hampton Price, who originally committed the boys to reform school on the kissing charge, use racial epithets in his testimony.

TEACHERS' PAY

More than 75% of men teachers in the U.S. hold down an extra job.

TRIED SMEAR TACTICS

Although the legal question to be determined at the hearing was the legality or illegality of the arrest, jailing, trial and commitment of the two boys to reform school, Seawell, upheld by the judges, tried to divert the hearing to a smear "investi-

Cuba Strikes Seek Speed On Reforms

By Lillian Kiezel

Cuban workers and poor peasants are attempting to cash in on Castro's promises of reforms. They want them now; while Castro seeks delay.

Nineteen sugar mills are shut down by strikes despite a decree of the Urrutia government freezing labor conditions in the mills until the present crop has been harvested.

A strike at Shell Oil Co. was settled this week after the workers received a wage increase of up to 100% and a promise that the company would contribute \$250,000 toward a fund to build workers' homes.

The workers at the Cuban Electric Co. (subsidiary of American and Foreign Power Co. of N.Y.) have been on a slow-down strike for a couple of weeks.

Last week a group of these workers camped outside the Presidential Palace and declared a hunger strike.

At Moa Bay Mining Co. (subsidiary of Freeport Sulphur Co.) 3,200 construction workers walked out over a week ago for higher wages.

The government has promised land reform to the peasants. Under the land-reform act, passed Oct. 10, 1958, before the Batista regime was overthrown, distribution of 67-acre plots to landless peasants on millions of acres of government lands will take place.

Meanwhile, Governor Almond and the Virginia legislature are hammering out a program to keep all but a handful of Negro children in inferior Jim Crow schools for long years to come.

As a result of current Virginia

"Stop H-Bomb Tests"



Demonstrating against British nuclear-arms build up, pacifists staged a London prison-to-prison parade Jan. 27. They marched from the prison where male members of the group are being held on charges of "disturbing peace" to prison where female members are jailed on the same charge.

South's School Racists Given New Legal Boost

By Harry Ring

FEB. 9 — The federal government has given a fresh assist to Southern racists in their continuing resistance to genuine school integration.

"desegregation," a grand total of 21 Negro pupils have been assigned to previously lily-white schools. (Another nine are scheduled.) They have been "mixed" with some 11,000 white students.

The original Eisenhower proposal included a clause empowering the Attorney General to file integration suits in behalf of Negroes unable to go to court themselves for fear of reprisals or other reasons.

Now being erected will "allow for some flexibility, which 'massive resistance' did not, but it is expected to be more durable, more effective," reported a Feb. 5 dispatch in the Christian Science Monitor.

DON'T MENTION COLOR

A 40-member committee of the legislature, including some of the state's most rabid segregationists, is now working on a Virginia version of the Alabama school "placement" law which was approved by the U.S. Supreme Court last November.

McNamara Puts Bill In Hopper

By Alex Harte

FEB. 10 — The United Auto Workers has called on Congress to aid the growing army of permanently jobless by enacting legislation for a shorter work week.

Announcement of the shorter-hours stand taken by the UAW International Executive Board was made by Walter Reuther, the union's president.

Reuther also said that the program being worked out calls for creation of union machinery at local, state and national levels to deal with the unemployment problem.

Such union bodies, he said, would deal "with both the problems of finding immediate need and assistance for unemployed workers and their families and for long-range legislative action to get the American economy back in high gear at levels of full employment and full production."

In his Feb. 7 statement, Reuther associated himself with this stand, declaring that the union considers it "morally wrong and socially indefensible" for the auto plants to schedule overtime while large numbers of auto workers are out.

In work week, Reuther said that the union will urge immediate use of federal surplus foods to ease the plight of the jobless in

(Continued on Page 4)

"Rugged Individualism" on Capitol Hill

By Herman Chauka

It's a long wait in line at the unemployment compensation office these days so I like to take along something to read.

It's comforting to know that even if four or five million or more jobless people are having a tough time getting by, at least their congressmen are managing pretty well.

The Democrats and Republicans in Congress get \$22,500 a year. That's \$432.69 a week. Members of their families can be on the federal payroll too as personal "assistants" and secretaries.

SKIP EXAMINATION

A group life insurance plan pays \$20,000 on a premium of only \$10.83 a month.

individualism. But naturally they make an exception for themselves.

For a premium of only 7 1/2% of their salaries they can become eligible for retirement after 20 years. And only five of these years actually have to be served in Congress.

private reading and lounging rooms where congressmen "can read or chat or take a nap."

To keep the boys in top shape for such strenuous activities as filibustering against civil-rights legislation, "Both House and Senate have gymnasiums, where any lawmaker can get a workout on a handball court or a punching bag, take a steam bath and finish up with a rubdown by one of the staff of attendants."

A private prayer room is available to keep in top spiritual condition.

When construction is completed there will be space for free underground parking for 2,000 cars used by members of Congress and their staffs.

Congressmen also get free telephone service to any part of the country for "official" business. They get credit cards to

Congress is against socialized medicine for the people, of course, but recognizes that it does have virtues for certain groups. Congress keeps a staff of free doctors for its members; supplies some medicines free and makes others available at cost.

Congressmen are all members of committees. As such they make frequent "inspection" tours to interesting and sometimes romantic lands abroad — all for free, naturally.

Much thought has gone into lightening the drudgery of their work. Special private dining rooms are provided. "Flowers galore" can be ordered free from the botanical garden for luncheons, receptions and parties.

Senators get free haircuts; Representatives pay 75 cents, half the going Washington price. Low-cost beauty parlors are available for the women.

According to U.S. News & World Report, "Operating costs average about \$166,000 per member of Congress."

The magazine also notes: "The House of Representatives maintains a bank for convenience of its members."

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(Continued on Page 2)

That's Why I'm a Socialist, Too

By Martha Curti

Socialist journalism has changed significantly in recent years. The eloquence, the stirring appeals to the emotions, the long strings of adjectives, which characterized the writings of Debs and the fiery proclamations of the Western Federation of Miners and the IWW, are now considered to be "passe."

In this society where human beings and their needs are subordinated to the Almighty Dollar, the distortion and perversion of human ideals — such as truth, brotherhood, equality, justice, love — have engendered a cynicism and a hypocrisy which have spread out like a fog over everything, and have even penetrated into the socialist movement. Socialists shy away from talk about socialism itself, and how it will make these ideals a reality, for fear of provoking a scornful reaction among cynics.

Those of us who are relatively new to the socialist movement, who have become socialists during the Cold War period and whose memory even of World War II is pale, therefore miss a whole important aspect of socialist propaganda. It is this void which James P. Cannon's book, "Notebook of an Agitator," will help fill.

Respect for Others

It is strange that the years of greatest reaction in this country, in which a whole series of major defeats throughout the world isolated the radical movement, were precisely the years when Cannon wrote some of his most moving expressions of the human side of socialism. I am sure that some of these articles, when they appeared, must have put fresh hope and renewed courage into many a weary socialist fighter.

Every subject treated, whether it be the nature of capitalist "justice," the bureaucratic mentality, the propaganda machinery of the ruling class, the labor movement, religion, reflects a profound love and respect for people, people who get a real deal, people who are struggling for something better, people who don't have half a chance to realize their potentialities as human beings. That includes the vast majority of people in the world.

The underlying philosophy which permeates each article is so simple it should be obvious to everyone, but it is a revolutionary idea: only the people, the exploited people, can emancipate themselves. No one can do it for them. As in the song: "You've gotta go down and join the union, you've gotta go down and join the union, you've gotta go down and join the union for yourself."

To agree with this concept, one has to realize that ordinary, average people are really pretty decent, pretty intelligent, and if they took things into their own hands they could run the world a lot better than it has been run up to now. Even in this cutthroat system, where everyone is out for himself, examples of human solidarity occur often enough to illustrate this; and some of these are in the pages of Cannon's book: the story of how white prisoners gave blood to save a Negro convict's life; of the aid given to the Minne-

apolis strikers by the farmers in 1934; of how fellow workers donated hunks of their own skin to save another's life in a skin-grafting operation; of the courage and nobility of Sacco and Vanzetti as they met their death; of how Italian prisoners of war in Greece, captured while unwillingly doing Mussolini's dirty work, sang "Bandiera Rossa," the revolutionary song. These things give one an indication of what is to come. They give one hope.

But there is another side to Cannon's love of humanity. That is his implacable hatred of the oppressors, of those who make a buck (or millions of them) at the expense of others, by deceit, treachery, prostitution, and outright murder. These people are a necessary, built-in part of the profit system.

Cannon, with all his tolerance, does not pussyfoot around when it comes to the capitalist class and all its hangers-on, all its agents within the labor and radical movement. His great love and appreciation of people has nothing in common with the "humanism" of the Social Democrats, who sometimes mouth a few phrases from Marx about "alienation" but conveniently forget about the class struggle whenever it might embarrass them.

If Cannon believed in prayer, he would not pray for those who hit him and the rest of the working people over the head. Whoever tries to impose on workers anything against their will, whoever tries to limit their democratic rights and abilities to make their own decisions and run their own affairs — and that includes the Stalinist bureaucrats and the American labor bureaucracy — gets no mercy from Cannon.

The twofold nature of socialist humanism is reflected in Cannon's attitude toward the intellectuals, expressed in various articles. He does not write off the intellectuals and artists. He knows that they can give and have given valuable help to the working class. At the same time, however, he is highly critical of the large-scale flight of American intellectuals from the radical movement the minute that social protest began to be unfashionable and even dangerous.

"I Believe in People"

It is very seldom, even in socialist writings, that one comes across a statement which expresses what one really feels, but rarely says out loud, even to one's close friends. When you find such a statement, it makes the day worth while; it compensates for a lot of unpleasant things. Such a passage I found in Cannon's "Sixtieth Birthday Speech." "I believe in people and in their unlimited capacity for improvement and progress through co-operation and solidarity. I believe in freedom, equality and the brotherhood of man. That is what we really mean when we say socialism."

That says in the most direct way what I consider the core of my own beliefs. That is why I am a socialist; and it is that idea which keeps me and, I hope, others like me, going, though we have never known anything in our lives but war, the witch-hunt, and the relative quiescence of the working class.

How Roosevelt Fostered Political Police

By Henry Gitano

(This is the sixth of a series.)

Following the French Revolution, Prince Metternich, Chancellor of the Hapsburg Empire, who organized an international coalition of princes in defense of feudal privileges, declared his political faith: "One of the most active and at the same time most dangerous instruments used by the revolutionists of all countries, with a success which is no longer doubtful [is] the secret societies . . . undermining all parts of the social body . . . Suppress Secret Societies, that gangrene of society. In short let the monarchs strengthen their union . . . menacing only the disturbers of public tranquility."

The "anti-revolutionary legislation" based upon Metternich's Carlsbad Resolutions of 1819, decreed: "The object of the Commission shall be a joint investigation, as thorough and extensive as possible relating to the origin and manifold ramifications of the revolutionary plots . . . In cases of unavoidable necessity such persons are to be arrested."

One hundred and forty years later, J. Edgar Hoover echoes Metternich: "The Communist leopard frequently changes his spots, but the same blood — bad blood — continuously flows through his veins."

The feudal aristocracy aimed the Carlsbad decrees against bourgeois democratic revolutions, they attempted — unsuccessfully, to place a road block in history's path.

During the 1930's with widespread unemployment, mass demonstrations and increased class consciousness among workers threatening American capitalism, Roosevelt saw the necessity for a strong political police to aid the ruling class. Allen Churchill in reviewing "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead (Saturday Review of Literature, Dec. 29, 1956) notes: "Next to Hoover the hero of The FBI Story would seem to be FDR . . . It was FDR who took the ball that was the FBI and really ran with it."

PUT FBI IN POLITICS

The greatest period of FBI growth occurred under the Roosevelt administration. Professor John W. Caughey in his recent book "In Clear and Present Danger" concludes that "after about 1939 . . . dossier compiling came to be its main function . . . The accumulated dossiers run into the millions, and they reflect the transformation of what originally was a Federal Bureau of (Criminal) Investigation into a Federal Bureau of (Political) Investigation."

In 1924, 16 years after its birth, when Hoover was appointed Director of a reorganized Bureau, the FBI had 600 employees and a \$2,000,000 yearly budget. It cost less than \$50,000,000 to run the FBI during the entire 15-year period 1924-1939.

In contrast, this year alone,



Carefully cultivated legend presents the late Franklin D. Roosevelt as a champion of civil liberties. But the FBI enjoyed its greatest period of expansion under his administration.

the FBI's budget amounts to \$102,500,000. There are now 14,000 FBI employees; 6,000 agents and 8,000 clerks distributed through 53 field offices, with an operating fleet of 3,104 passenger cars. Each field division is equipped with a radio-telephone system for communication with their vehicles.

In addition, an international radiotelegraph network is maintained. An electronics section designs and builds snoper equipment which is so unique that it is unavailable through commercial channels. There are over 150,000,000 fingerprints on file, and Kenneth Robb in McCull's stated that the FBI has information on 75,000,000 persons ranging "from a few sheets to a thickness of several feet."

Hoover's testimony indicates the FBI's role: "Our requirements for the fiscal year 1959 have been based in large measure upon the continuing critical need . . . in the field of security and counterintelligence operations. The more important of these programs involve those directed against activities concerned with communism, espionage, subversion and Communist-infiltrated front groups."

BUSY SNOOPERS

During the year 1957, the FBI "received 87,098 investigative matters in the internal security classification." Hoover added that "our present commitments represent an average assignment of 17 investigative matters per special agent." That would indicate 5,123 FBI gunshoes sleuthing on people's political views.

What the gunshoes are after is well illustrated by the following item in the Reading Labor Advocate (Nov. 21, 1958): "Local Berks Socialists were shocked and angered this week to learn that two local members of the Independent Socialist League . . . had been ques-

tioned by an agent of the FBI on their contact with the Socialist Party."

The FBI's development into a political police was highlighted by a meeting on Aug. 24, 1936. Hoover was called to the White House by Roosevelt and asked to make a thorough confidential survey of "Communist and other subversive groups."

Hoover told the head of the Democratic Party, according to Whitehead, "Mr. President, there is no governmental agency compiling such a general intelligence. Of course, it is not a violation of the law to be a member of the Communist Party and we have had no specific authority to make such general investigations."

Roosevelt persisted: "There must be some way this could be done, Edgar."

Hoover volunteered that to make it legal, the Secretary of State should make the request. The next day, Roosevelt, Hoover and Cordell Hull met. Hull "turned to Hoover and said, 'Go ahead and investigate the —!' The President threw back his head and laughed."

Roosevelt had issued his secret directive empowering the FBI to gnaw away at the traditional freedom to think, speak and associate as one pleases.

EXPANSION OF POWER

On Sept. 6, 1939 Roosevelt issued a statement giving the FBI jurisdiction over "matters relating to" espionage and sabotage. He also instructed other agencies to give the FBI all information relating to "subversive activities." This directive tremendously expanded the FBI's power and changed its focus.

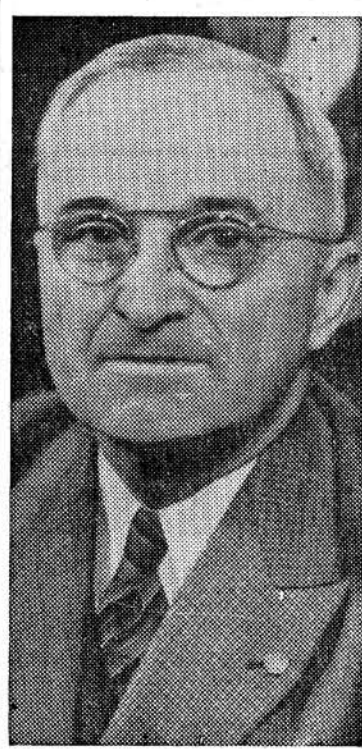
The following year FDR signed the Smith "Gag" Act of 1940, initiated the first prosecution under the Act — the frameup of the 18 Trotskyists in the Minneapolis Labor Trial — and illegally permitted the FBI to resume wiretapping in May 1940.

Hoover's annual report on Jan. 5, 1940 revealed how well he had carried out his orders: "We have also initiated special investigations of persons reported as being active in any subversive activity . . . we have a general index, arranged alphabetically and geographically, available at the Bureau, so that . . . we will be able to locate immediately these various persons who may need to be the subject of further investigation."

RAIDS LIKE GESTAPO

In February, 1940, the FBI translated its euphemistic "further investigation" into action by arresting residents of Detroit and Milwaukee who supported the Loyalists during the Spanish Civil War.

The Detroit press reported that 40 FBI men made simultaneous raids on 11 homes in Detroit at five a.m. when the victims were asleep; broke doors wherever necessary and refused to let a lawyer see the political prisoners. The Mil-



The Smith "Gag" Act signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the basis for the witch-hunting "loyalty" oath and "subversive" listing procedures introduced by his Democratic successor, Harry Truman.

waukee Journal said editorially: "Why arrest a man at 4 a.m. who can be found anytime during the day? And why handcuff him . . ."

In a 1938 listing of cases within its jurisdiction, the FBI included "strikes" in the same category as "treason." A Senate committee under Burton K. Wheeler in March 1940 catalogued violations of "the most fundamental civil rights."

Whitehead tells about Roosevelt's reaction to criticism of the FBI in Washington in 1940. "Edgar," he said, "what are they trying to do to you on the Hill?" Hoover shook his head and replied: "I don't know, Mr. President." Roosevelt grinned

and turned his thumbs down on the table. "That's for them," he said. The word soon spread around Washington that Roosevelt had turned thumbs down on the attackers of Hoover and the FBI."

The support was not one-sided. In 1944, an FBI agent investigated a 17-year-old high school boy in Michigan for saying in his classroom that FDR lied.

Truman carried on in the Roosevelt tradition. In 1944, he gave the FBI full responsibility for investigations under the Federal Employee Loyalty Program.

Allan Barth, editorial writer for the Washington Post, observes in his book "The Loyalty of Free Men" that "the investigation of subversive activities and of disloyalty is not a police operation at all — save in those countries where political police are countenanced."

Metternich, the symbol of a decaying order, was smashed by the Revolution of 1848 which abolished serfdom. He made an amazing confession to the Russian diplomat Nesselrode: "I am always considered the rock of order, the obstacle to revolution . . . but I confess to you that my innermost and secret thought is that Old Europe and its form of government are doomed."

He understood long ago what Crankshaw notes in his study "Gestapo": "The wider the popular support for the government, the more insignificant the political police and vice versa."

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... Racists Get Assist

(Continued from Page 1)

for a long variety of reasons, without the real one — color — being mentioned.

In several articles last month, Arthur Krock, well-informed Washington correspondent of the New York Times, reported that a growing number of Southern politicians were coming around to the view that the high court's blessing of the "placement" dodge provided an effective alternative to "massive resistance." Krock urged the more slow-witted racist politicians to grab hold of the major concession that has been offered them on a silver platter. On Feb. 6, Krock made clear that he had the straight score

right from the horse's mouth. His interpretation of the Supreme Court placement ruling, he wrote, "is not a lay opinion of this correspondent. It comes with authority and full legal competence to make the construction."

The "placement" laws do permit a few Negroes to break through the Jim Crow school barrier each year. But it takes an awful lot of doing. Here is how it works. Each pupil desiring to transfer out of a segregated school is put to the test of the rigged "placement" requirements. Included are scholastic standards, mental and emotional "stability," moral conduct, health, effect on the psychological outlook of the white pupils, possibility that transfer will cause a breach of the peace, etc., etc.

After applicants are rejected on one or more of these grounds, they must then file court suit and prove according to the legal rules of evidence that the real reason for the rejection is racist prejudice.

The case of the 21 Virginia Negro students now attending integrated schools indicates what an uphill battle this is. They were selected for transfer by a federal judge out of 154 applicants who went to court after

they were rejected by school boards. How many others were rejected but unable to take court action is not known.

This bustling "second line of defense" is being buttressed in Virginia by organization of a "private" segregated school system financed by state funds, including those of Negro taxpayers. The state's compulsory school attendance statute has been repealed so that white students may stay out of those schools where a few Negroes are accepted. Those attending the "private" schools will get an annual \$250 tuition grant.

Since 1954, Virginia racists have shaped the strategy of the last-ditch opponents of any semblance of integration. The six remaining solidly segregated Southern states are expected to watch closely as Virginia prepares for what Governor Almond called "a transition to other methods as effective or better" than those used previously.

ANOTHER FIRST

The People's Republic of China has announced completion of the country's first oil pipeline. It runs from oil fields in Sinkiang province to a refinery 91 miles away.

... Chippewa Seek Aid

(Continued from Page 1)

Q. What kind of political party are you for?

A. The little people do the suffering. The big people sit on the side lines and laugh. Whatever party you have must serve the little people. Now when you vote for a Democratic or Republican for mayor or governor you're voting for the same thing. If they weren't little pipsqueak yes-boys they wouldn't be up there.

During the interview LaFontaine referred to his correspondence with leaders of the colonial peoples.

In a letter to Nehru of India he said, "Being members of the dark-skinned races of the world it is very encouraging to follow leaders of your calibre who recognize the futility of listening to imperialists as meaningless as their superficial handshake."

The letter continued: "We of the American Indian population have long been in need of economic aid and recognition as human beings, but because of our dark skin, we have been imprisoned in concentration camps called reservations for well over a hundred years with no training facilities to help us take our place in the industrial world."

Writing to Nasser of Egypt, he said, "Don't ever get under the influence of Britain, France, and America. They were instrumental in doing us out of our property."

Nasser replied, "This is to acknowledge the receipt of your message and to commend the noble feeling expressed therein. I really esteem your attitude towards our 'right cause'."

Albert LaFontaine has had

repeated visits from the FBI. He quotes one of them as saying, "Some of the stuff you advocate sounds like high treason."

He rejects these charges of un-Americanism by comparing his attackers to the early colonists as follows:

"I used to hear the Indians talk about how they used to feed these people, most of them outcasts from their own countries. After we got them fattened up they turned around and attacked the Indians."

These and other forms of underhanded pressures have not altered LaFontaine's determination to continue the struggle to establish the legitimate rights of the Indian people. He said, "One person who can stand up to this kind of attacks is worth 5,000,000 who stand around and do nothing."

In conclusion he pointed out that his request for a loan from

the Soviet Union is not a "gimmick" or publicity stunt. If he does not receive satisfaction from the U.S. government he is going to visit the Russian Embassy.

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The Compromise of 1958

The battle for Southern school integration, it appears to us, has entered a new stage. Leading sections of the Southern ruling class seem to have accepted a compromise in which they end their flagrant defiance of the Constitution, grant token integration, yet maintain the pattern of segregation virtually intact. The compromise was put into the works by the Supreme Court last November when it approved the Alabama school "placement" law.

In that decision, the Court indicated that if the South's rulers would permit a handful of Negro students to transfer to previously all-white schools, thus adhering to the letter of the Court's integration decisions, then the most authoritative judicial body in the land would in return put the burden of legal proof on every individual Negro who contends that he has been barred from equal educational opportunities because of the color of his skin.

In accepting this formula, the leaders of the Democratic machine in Virginia and elsewhere have interpreted the compromise as a retreat to "second line trenches." But they are dug deep in those trenches and they have powerful reinforcements, since the Supreme Court, the White House, the Justice Department and Congress have joined them there.

White House approval of the odorous compromise was publicly indicated when Attorney General Rogers deleted a clause from the President's proposed civil-rights bill that would have authorized suits by the Justice Department to enforce inte-

gration. The Justice Department registered its position when the same Rogers issued an unsolicited press statement Jan. 23 expressing the opinion that Supreme Court validation of the Alabama "placement" law eliminated the need for such federal intervention in the school fight as took place in Little Rock when Faubus provoked the use of federal troops.

The compromise is obviously agreeable to all wings of Congress. Dixiecrats control key committees and the pork barrel! The great "compromiser," Lyndon Johnson, did little more than crook his finger at the liberals to get agreement on killing a proposed anti-filibuster measure. Congressional approval of the infamous "placement" formula is underscored by the three civil-rights bills now in committee. The "strongest" of them, proposed by Senator Douglas, avoids the crucial "placement" decision.

This decision, upon which the compromise of 1958 has been shaped, is a formidable barrier to integration. But a breakthrough can be made. The first requisite is to appreciate that taking the first-line trenches, forcing such a racist as Gov. Almond to grant token integration, was a victory despite the compromise. The second requisite is to realize that this victory came primarily through the mass pressure of the Negro people and their allies; it was not a gift from the Supreme Court.

The conclusion to be drawn is that a mighty effort of the same kind can overcome even these bristling defense lines of the racists of America.

A Worthwhile Reform

In his novel and movie, "The Grapes of Wrath," John Steinbeck painted an unforgettable picture of dispossessed Midwestern dirt farmers beating their way across the country in search of jobs in California. Federal and state authorities took the plight of these starving families with brutal lack of concern.

True, that was during the great depression of the thirties when no work was in sight in whole areas like the Oklahoma dust bowl. But there are blighted areas today, too; areas suffering from "sick" industries, permanent shutdowns, runaway plants. Workers there face a bleak future unless they can get out. But where can they get help?

It doesn't have to be that way, even under capitalism; and certainly not in the richest country in the world. Last year in Sweden — which is a lot poorer than we are — the government relocated more than 50,000 workers in jobs.

McElroy Speaks

When Truman dropped the first two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, a cartoonist depicted a cave man demonstrating the newly invented bow and arrow. The caption read, "This means the end of wars as we've known them."

Today some people cling to the illusion that nuclear weapons finally did make a qualitative difference — that the prospect of atomic warfare is so fearful that no major power will dare to use the newly invented nuclear weapons. Let them listen to Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy.

Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee Feb. 4, this top Washington official — no one less, in fact, than the cabinet member in charge of the armed forces — declared that if the United States engages in another war like the one in Korea it will use atomic weapons. His statement came in direct response to

Let's End the Arms Race

Despite the higher rate of Soviet gains, America still produces a much greater mass of goods. The big-business policy makers use this advantage to hamper Soviet planning and the aspiration of the Soviet people for swift improvements in their living standards. The device is the arms budget.

In November 1957, Harry Schwartz, Soviet expert of the New York Times, wrote: "... greater United States military spending ... undoubtedly will exert pressure on Moscow to keep up its own large effort in the arms race, thus diverting resources otherwise usable for capital investment."

Every hike in the bipartisan war budget forces an increase in Soviet armaments; but because of higher U.S. productivity, the Soviet Union is forced to spend proportionately more for an equal amount of arms.

Should this country, however, reduce arms production, then the trend that Schwartz noted would work in reverse.

The Swedish plan is nothing extravagant. If a jobless worker turns up a possibility in another city, the unemployment service gives him train fare to get there. It gives him expense money for meals along the way too.

Moreover, it is considerate of the plight of his family. His wife receives a monthly compensation check based on the number of children.

If the worker lands a job in the new area, he gets a check of \$60 to help tide him over the difficult period until he draws his first pay.

When he finds a home, his family and furniture are moved there at government expense.

This sounds like a worthwhile reform to us. Why can't the powerful American labor movement start demanding something just as good if not better for the unemployed in the USA?

demands for assurance by the committee that the U.S. is still prepared to wage "limited war."

McElroy said that while the Defense Department is continuing to build up "conventional" weapons, a conflict like the one in Korea will no longer be considered a "limited war."

It would be "against our national interest," he asserted, "if any inference were given the Chinese Communists that we would fight the Chinese Communists without general war weapons."

McElroy was not simply rattling a hydrogen bomb. He was stating a fact, something that the top councils of the bipartisan Democrats and Republicans have agreed upon.

Insanity? No doubt. But such insanity happens to be a built in feature of the decaying world capitalist order.

Such a move would take the pressure off Moscow to "keep up its own large effort in the arms race" and allow the Soviet planning commissions to put more resources into capital investments. A good share would flow immediately into the consumer goods industry. The Soviet workers would get this concession because the Kremlin is fearful of political revolution even though it does not recognize the will of the masses in the conduct of government.

The American people have no interest in slowing down Soviet economic growth or in keeping down Soviet living standards. Furthermore, the arms race, while enriching the monopolies, imposes inflation and a grievous tax load on the working people. It impoverishes the country. The money that goes into armaments is taken from schools, hospitals, flood-control projects, highways and the like.

Thus the American and Soviet working people have a mutual interest in ending the arms race and turning to production for peace.

Demand Punishment for Batista Henchmen



More than half a million Cubans massed in Havana Jan. 26 demonstrating approval of trials of Batista gunmen. One man held rifle aloft as symbol of the penalty earned by torturers and assassins. Fidel Castro told rally that protests in Washington against executions were "infamous."

New Concessions Won By Workers in USSR

By Daniel Roberts
The 21st Congress of the Soviet Communist Party was preceded by a series of measures and proposals which taken together constitute a new round of concessions to the Soviet working people. Again, Khrushchev's opening speech to the Congress had primarily the working class in mind and aimed at winning their support for his regime.

This indicates that coping with the pressure of the Soviet working people for freedom from bureaucratic tyranny continues to be the main preoccupation of the Kremlin. By combining repressions with reforms, the Soviet ruling group has so far prevented the workers from appearing on the political arena as an independent force. However, the price Khrushchev must pay to keep the workers from breaking up the totalitarian structure he heads is to continue granting reforms.

Thus, on Dec. 9, Khrushchev removed Gen. Ivan Serov as head of the State Security Committee, the political police. (Serov had replaced Beria in 1954 as chief of the secret police.) The new head of "security," is Alexander Shelepin, a former secretary of the Communist Youth League and, until his latest appointment, chief of section for mass organizations in the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The replacement of a professional cop by a "mass worker" was designed to give a new face to the activities of hated secret police.

At about the same time as the change of police chiefs, the Soviet government announced the formation of "armed workers' militias" that would be en-

... Cuba Strikes

(Continued from Page 1)

The process is too slow for some. Groups of peasants have gone ahead and seized lands belonging to coffee planters and have divided them up without government sanction.

Castro has made many promises to various sections of the population always couched in fine-sounding phrases: "We do not intend to leave things as they were. We will change everything," or "We want to be economically free." But he is bidding for time. He claims that "disunity" now will open the way for a Batista counter-revolution.

He insists on the one hand that "we will not sacrifice liberty." On the other hand he says that the "strike is a weapon that should be used at an appropriate moment—when it could produce best results. We did not carry out the revolution to defend the interests of the powerful, but of the humble." And in the same breath: "It is correct strategy now to avoid major conflicts, even if sacrifices must be made, because a sacrifice now will be compensated with greater return at another time."

Through such double talk Castro seeks to restrain the Cuban revolution. To Castro more time offers more opportunities for holding back the revolutionary aspirations of the workers and poor peasants to free themselves from the stranglehold of U.S. financial interests. To the workers, time is of the essence if they are to push the revolution through to complete victory.

trusted with certain police functions. Their task is to suppress manifestations of "hooliganism" by young people in the streets and to protect factory property, etc. Formation of these militias is in line with Khrushchev's announcement at the 21st Congress that more government functions would be turned over to "people's organizations."

Also in December the Supreme Soviet adopted new measures liberalizing the penal code and the code of penal procedure. In his report to the 21st Congress, Shelepin outlined a series of proposals for rehabilitating delinquent youth which would keep them out of the toils of the regular courts.

OTHER PROMISES

The Militant has already reported on the many broad economic gains promised to the Soviet working people in the Seven-Year plan. These envisage cutting the work-week to 40 hours by 1962; an average increase in real incomes of 40%, with a near-doubling of wages in the lowest categories of pay; a huge housing program, etc. The proposals take account of the indignation of the Soviet workers over the big inequality of incomes in the Soviet Union. The Seven-Year plan pledges a progressive reduction of differences in salaries.

The December issue of Party Life, national CP publication, puts forward a series of proposals to bring the party closer to the working class. Party Life proposes that each applicant for party membership be screened by co-workers in his shop, collective farm or office, even though most of his co-workers might not be party members. A vote would be taken to be binding on the party organization. By means of this procedure, says Party Life, "the working class as a whole will feel itself ever more closely linked to the Communist Party."

The same issue of Party Life also prints a letter on the subject of party democracy which criticizes the hierarchical manner of discussing decisions of the Central Committee. The present procedure is for the regional committee, then the district committee, then finally the party cells to "discuss" the decisions, whereupon they are "explained" to assemblies of party and non-party people.

FOR WIDER DISCUSSION

The letter proposes that the decisions first be discussed in the cells and workers' assemblies and that only then should plenary meetings of district and regional committees be called. At these plenary meetings, "Not only problems that flow from decisions of the party will have to be discussed, but also those conclusions that flow from the comments and proposals of the Communists and workers in their assemblies."

(Jacques Michel, who cites the proposals in Party Life, comments in the Jan. 13 issue of France Observateur that the letter seems to contrast problems flowing from party decisions with problems flowing from proposals by "Communists and workers," and that its tone seems bitter.)

Finally, Mikoyan's visit in the United States, capping a one-year "peace offensive" by the

Kremlin, should also be included among the measures designed to conciliate the Soviet working class.

(That was not the sole motivation for the trip, however, since the bureaucracy, for reasons of its own caste interests pursues a two-power status-quo deal with U.S. imperialism.)

It isn't that the Soviet workers have accused the Kremlin, even under Stalin, of seeking war. But in Stalin's time, the threat of imperialist attack was continuously played up as the reason why the Soviet workers would have to endure deprivations and accept police terror.

Khrushchev's peace offensive is designed to reassure the Soviet working people that he is doing his utmost to guarantee international conditions under which the economic and political reforms he granted would be permanent.

Eisenhower's Photo Cheers Franco

Virtual bankruptcy of the economy and signs of increasing unrest among the populace, including workers' strikes, do not seem to be disturbing Generalissimo Franco unduly, for he still has powerful friends.

The autographed portraits of Hitler and Mussolini, conspicuous on his desk in World War II days, were replaced in 1945 by an autographed likeness of Pope Pius XII. Today he keeps before him a photograph of Eisenhower adorned with a cordial handwritten testimonial. As the sincerest form of appreciation for his friend, Franco has even tried to act like Eisenhower, taking up amateur painting and golf.

The caudillo has hinted that for a suitable cash consideration he is ready to go further, letting the Pentagon expand its military bases in Spain to include ramps for nuclear missiles capable of landing on targets in the Soviet Union.

"One must adapt one's self to new circumstances and be ready for new systems," the butcher of the Spanish revolution observed recently.

The U.S. Treasury, it should be noted, has already helped keep the fascist dictator in power with contributions amounting to \$1,500,000,000.

German Workers Score Missile Base

A ten-minute strike shut down forges and industrial plants in the Ruhr city of Dortmund Feb. 4. The action protested the schedule setting up of a British, guided-missile regiment at a nearby air field.

After the shutdown, workers staged a three-mile motorcade of more than 200 cars carrying banners opposing nuclear weapons.

Why They Struck In Argentina

Although troops using U.S. Sherman tanks succeeded in breaking a general strike in Argentina, only a fraction of the 40,000 members of the Meat Packers Union were back on the job at the end of January. They were in the forefront

The American Way of Life

"Little Americas"

The police regime of Syngman Rhee in South Korea is often referred to by its chief architect, the U.S. State Department, as a "showcase" of American-style democracy.

Now South Korea will become a showcase for the American Way of Life as it is lived by some of our very best Americans. "Little Americas" are about to blossom in Seoul and three other South Korean cities.

At the time of the Korean war the families of American government and military personnel were evacuated from the country. Now \$26 million is being invested in four housing developments to provide for the return of the wives and children of commissioned army officers and top economic aid officials.

To limit the American influx, wives and children of enlisted men of the two army divisions stationed there are not included.

The housing developments will be in keeping with the well-known American desire to avoid ostentatious display. Up to now, unfortunately, the opposite has been the case for the few families of economic and officials already living in Seoul. Their homes have not tended "to blend in with the local scene." But this was "not of their own choosing," Robert Trumbull reports from Korea.

"These Western-style houses, commanding a high rental, were built by the Korean government especially for foreigners on a towering hill overlooking some of the worst slums in the city."

Embassy officials, however, have managed delicately to avoid being seen by the Korean slum-dwellers. They now reside "inside a walled compound." Such discretion and good taste will apply in the construction of the "Little Americas." They will be built "on more or less secluded military reservations behind barbed wire."

Further steps will be taken to assure the absence of vulgar display. "Since no unauthorized visitors will be admitted by the guards without a special pass, relatively few ordinary Koreans besides servants are likely to see how the Americans live in these centrally heated, fully electrified duplexes."

As a further expression of respect for the privacy of the Korean people, the new setups will be completely self-sufficient. "They will have their own stores, commissaries, dispensaries, clubs and other recreational facilities. There will be a central hospital and high school at Seoul."

And there need be no fear that the influx of some 3,000 Americans will signify crowded Korean market places. "... the service enclaves will make little impact on the Korean economy. Everything the Americans need will be obtained from Army outlets at prices generally cheaper than in the United States."

But don't get the idea that these considerate steps will be appreciated by all the Koreans. Foreigners tend to be envious of their American neighbors. Trumbull reports:

"Some Koreans, like their racial kin in Japan, the Philippines and elsewhere, do resent the coming of protected, more or less segregated American enclaves with a far higher standard of living than most of the people just outside the barbed wire around them can ever hope to enjoy."

Rhee Extends Hand to U.S.

In a touching new demonstration of friendship for the U.S. Treasury, South Korean dictator Rhee informed Washington Feb. 10 that he needs new planes, ships and guns for "when hostility is resumed."

Four hundred million dollars are already being sunk in Rhee's armory every year by the U.S. Economic aid runs to \$210,000,000 a year. A U.S. mission has just recommended that this item be hiked to a quarter of a billion dollars per annum.

In addition, it said, \$7 million will be needed just to "expedite" the aid.

Headlines in Other Lands

Political Appointee Ousted by Students In Guatemala

Guatemalan students scored a victory over Pres. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes last week.

The head of the banana republic appointed a distant relative, Julia Quinonez Ydigoras, as Minister of Education, a job which she had no qualifications except the vigor with which she campaigned for Fuentes in the recent election.

The students took strike action Feb. 2. Some 800 protested at Central Normal Institute and by night more than 3,000 were out.

On Feb. 5 Mrs. Ydigoras resigned.

Soviet Steel Rate Tops "Free" World

Since 1955 the Soviet bloc has increased its steelmaking capacity by about 30%. The additional 19,800,000 tons brings the total figure to 86,751,000 tons a year.

In an effort to discount this impressive rate of growth, the American Iron and Steel Institute claimed Feb. 5 that total steelmaking capacity in the "free" world during this same period has risen 53,800,000 tons, half of it in the United States, bringing the total to 285,727,000 tons, an increase of some 23%.

However, the Institute conveniently left out the fact that the "free" world does not operate its plants at full capacity ordinarily unless the government loads them with armament orders; and the prospect now is that even at full capacity tens of thousands of steelworkers face permanent layoffs.

Jobless Lobby in British Columbia

Five hundred Canadian workers called the attention of the British Columbia legislature in Victoria Feb. 3 to the fact that they need either work or relief. Chanting and singing, "We want work," the mass lobby pressed for relief funds and a moratorium to prevent repossession of homes of the unemployed.

Swiss Teachers Stage Protest

Fifty women teachers at the girls high school in Basel staged a one-day strike Feb. 3 to protest the defeat of the Swiss referendum to grant women their right to vote.

School officials gave students the day off for fear they would join their teachers in the demonstrations if male faculty members tried to scab.

The strike is said to be the first such militant action in the 40-year campaign for women's suffrage.

The municipal council announced that it was "astounded" by the action and threatened disciplinary measures.

Venezuelan Troops Answer Jobless With Tear Gas

Using tear gas, Venezuelan troops broke up a demonstration Jan. 31 of 15,000 unemployed who had assembled before the presidential palace in Caracas to shout for jobs. Five days later the government issued a decree forbidding unauthorized gatherings.

The decree empowers police to arrest participants in such meetings or suspected "agitators." The police can likewise halt any group suspected of moving toward the center of the city to stage a meeting.

Entrance to Venezuela is barred to anyone suspected of planning to push such meetings.

Special zones were set up in Caracas to better coordinate action between the police, army and national guard; and intensive police patrols were authorized.

The Larrazabal government said that the decree was intended to forestall demonstrations when the new Romulo Betancourt government takes office Feb. 14.

Thanks Supporters For Help in Case

Editor: I am informed that the Veterans Administration after meeting reverses in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia as well as the District Court, finally dropped its determination to withdraw my disability pension.

I need hardly say that this is not just a matter for personal gratification, but that it is an important victory for civil liberties.

I feel certain that the forthright position taken by your publication and the response of many of your readers is largely responsible for the success of the principle involved — that our country must fulfill its just obligations to its veterans regardless of their politics.

This victory should spur efforts to win back veterans disability benefits for Robert Thompson and others who were also arbitrarily denied them. This step forward should also contribute in a small way to

the struggle to end the remaining aspects of the McCarthyite witch-hunt in all phases of our national life. Not least of all, it should be a spur to all who seek, once and for all, the complete nullification of the Smith Act and the release of its two remaining imprisoned victims, Gil Green and Henry Winston.

My family and I are extremely grateful for your help. Sincerely, Saul L. Wellman Detroit

Enjoys Hearing Annette Rubinstein

Editor: I had a very enjoyable experience last night, listening to a talk by Dr. Annette Rubinstein, speaking on perspectives for socialist action today at Debs Hall, under the auspices of the Friday Night Socialist Forum of Detroit.

Dr. Rubinstein is a fine speaker, full of that old-time socialist spirit and fire, and at the same time very keenly aware of today's problems and tactics. I mention this because she is on a national speaking tour, and I know people in other cities will enjoy and benefit from listening to her, whatever she speaks on.

And for your Detroit readers, I would like to call your attention to the Friday Night So-

cialist Forum. It offers stimulating talks on a wide variety of subjects; the discussion is always free and unfettered; and the atmosphere is friendly. There is also a very fine oil painting of Eugene V. Debs. These talks are a good adjunct to the educational material printed in the Militant. The address is 3737 Woodward.

Subscriber Detroit, Mich.

Ran for Congress Not State Senate

Editor: In your response to David McReynolds in the Feb. 2 Militant, I noted that you listed him as a candidate for "State Senator from the 19th District." In an adjoining column, however, you list him as a "Congressional candidate."

The latter reference is correct. You must have been thinking of Benjamin Davis who was a write-in candidate for the State Senate from the 21st District.

See you at the debate between Murry Weiss and David McReynolds on Feb. 27 where these candidacies will be discussed along with the general question of socialist electoral activity.

Paul Montauk New York City

Monroe Facts Shock Foreign Reporters

By Harry Ring NEW YORK, Feb. 4 — This afternoon I attended a press conference that was unlike any other I've seen. Called by the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, its aim was to give foreign correspondents at the UN the straight facts about the case of Hanover Thompson and David Simpson, the two Negro children now in a North Carolina reformatory. The United States Information Service has been telling people in other countries that racial discrimination was not involved in the case.

There were correspondents present from Holland, Sweden, Brazil, Switzerland, Canada and from the Soviet news agency, TASS. For almost two hours they questioned the committee spokesmen, Robert F. Williams and Dr. A. E. Perry of Monroe, N.C., and George L. Weissman of New York.

Their questions were courteous and sympathetic. Unlike their American counterparts, who tend to accept a case like this as an ordinary part of American life, the reporters from abroad find it difficult to really comprehend or accept the full brutal meaning of the treatment of Negroes in America.

The Dutch correspondent came with a copy of a statement about the case issued in Holland Jan. 22 by the United States Information Service in response to wide protests in that country.

Translating excerpts, he asked if it was really true that neither the parents nor the NAACP had protested against the boys being held incommunicado for six days. Had no one offered to act as counsel for the

"You Can Come Out Now!"



boys? Did one of the mothers actually say it would be good for her boy to go to the reformatory?

Even as he asked the questions, his disbelief in the Information Service statement was apparent. His attitude toward these scandalous assertions was also indicated by the precise way he made the main facts about the statement available to the other newsmen.

A SOUTHERN SCHOOL?

Could the reformatory be called a school in any possible sense of the word? asked one reporter. Probing for a missing link in the case, another asked if the parents of the white girl

City Hall Orders Slum Tenants Out by Midnight

NEW YORK—Landlords may be able to get away for years with violation after violation of Health Department regulations and the building code. But let the tenants dare to think of violating an order to get out at once, she said: "Oh, Lord — oh, no — where can you go so fast?"

Several families, who thought of defying an "immediate" order Feb. 6 to get out of their slum tenement at 106 W. 134th St., found this out to their sorrow. The order came early Friday afternoon. The tenants wanted at least until Monday or Tuesday to find a place. The police said, no. At least until the next day? No; the order was "immediate." By midnight the cops had all the tenants out.

One woman and her child were forced to spend the night on the subway when they could find no other place to stay. "What can I do?" Mrs. Elizabeth Milton, mother of three small children, asked a reporter. "Where can you go with children so quick and so fast?"

"This has been a bad place for so long. We complained, complained, complained. But no one listened. We went up to the courts and they sent us home. We told the Housing Authority, the Buildings Dept., and the Welfare Dept. . . . everyone, but no one cared, no one listened and nothing happened.

"Now, to get us out, they move very quickly."

GRACIOUS LIVING IN NEW YORK

The building has not had heat or hot water for two years. Kerosene stoves have been made illegal in New York because of the fire hazard. "I use the gas stove to heat the place now," Mrs. Milton said. "I leave it on all night."

A reporter visited the slum building earlier in the week, and found "a deep pool of stagnant water in the basement, pipes spouting water like fountains, a torrent of water cascading through the building, weakening ceilings, broken doors, windows, floor and missing steps, fire-gutted apartments, no heat and little water for apartment use."

For some unexplained reason, City Hall seems unable to locate the owners of the building. Perhaps it has no sleuth in the police department with sufficient training, know-how and imagination to track down such criminals.

The rent collector, however, has managed faithfully to keep his appointed rounds.

At 4 p.m. Friday when Mrs. Emily McCoy, married, with

Berkeley Socialists Petition Against Jim Crow Housing

BERKELEY, Calif. — The United Socialist Action group filed an initiative petition Feb. 5 aimed at ending segregation in housing. The petition, signed by 2,846 voters, makes it possible to place the measure on the ballot in the coming city election, should it be turned down by the City Council.

The proposed law would establish a three-man commission on equality in housing empowered to hold open hearings to initiate court action on complaints.

United Socialist Action, whose chairman is Vincent Hallinan, invites all those interested in getting this bill passed to help. The address is 2915-A Wheeler St.

four children, was told she had to get out at once, she said: "Oh, Lord — oh, no — where can you go so fast?"

"We've tried for months to get a place and couldn't. How can we move in a few hours?"

"If we had money, of course, we could find a place to stay. Everyone wants something under the table."

N.Y. Board Seeks to Hire Scab Teachers

"If the city doesn't use its taxes for useful purposes like building schools and giving teachers a decent living, why should we pay them?" This is a question that New York taxpayers, now being asked for still more, might well ask as they see night school teachers bearing placards in the streets.

These teachers get only \$12.25 a night. In 1932 they got \$10. A raise of \$2.25 in 27 years is not much.

The 800 members of the High School Teachers Association of N.Y. resigned Feb. 2 and began picketing. They are demanding an immediate wage increase and a guarantee of \$26.94 a night by September. The Board of Education has offered only \$18 by September and no immediate increase.

The Board is trying to hire teachers to act as scabs so that five of the 16 evening schools can continue functioning. The Board says it must see to it that the seniors get to graduate. The Teachers Association is seeing to it that their "placard bearers" are in front of each of these high schools. Some 30,000 students are affected.

Roger Parents, teacher at Roosevelt High School, expressed the general sentiment: "I feel sorry that the students have to be deprived of their education but I feel gratified that we teachers, who have been taking abuse for many years from the Board of Education and the City Administrations, have finally stood up and declared that we will no longer take that abuse."

Most of the teachers have day school classes but are forced to work evenings in order to make ends meet.

Advertisement

Recessions AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

By Harry Kelber Written in an easy, everyday-talk style, this pamphlet is for socialists and non-socialists. Have it with you when you discuss it with your friends and shopmates. Send 25 cents with your order.

PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Place New York 3, N.Y.

"Dead on Arrival"

By Evelyn Sell

DETROIT — The headlines in the capitalist press blared: "Steel Plant Shut by Death Protest" and "Call Police as 200 Picket Over Safety." Policemen equipped with tear gas and riot guns had been called out. McClellan Steel Corporation workers were demonstrating at the plant gates over inadequate safety precautions which had resulted in three deaths the past 21 days.

The union newspaper took a different slant. "Steelworker Killed," said the stark headline. Brother Pranger was cleaning off some grates with an air hose when an engine, busy filling bins for the blast furnace, crushed him.

The union had asked for a minimum crew of two to operate the engine — one to drive, the other to guide him, for visibility from the cab was poor. The company refused. They discounted the repeated accidents in which the engine had been involved.

The accident was not noticed when it occurred, but when someone finally saw the injured man every attempt was made to rush him to a hospital. No stretchers were at hand. When one was finally located in a distant part of the plant and the bleeding worker was lifted on to it, the door proved too narrow for two stretcher bearers.

After Brother Pranger's death, the company conceded the union demand for an additional worker on the engine and another man to help clean the grates.

But they did nothing about a plant-wide safety program. One week later another worker was killed when oil from a severed hose came into contact with a floor heater and exploded.

The men decided that the company's price — a man's life — for each improvement in safety was too high. They stopped work, endorsed strike action, and said they would not return until something was done about safety measures.

At the plant gates they stopped several trucks from leaving. That was when the company called the cops. The police dispersed the pickets so that the company could get on with its profit-making but they could not disperse the sentiment expressed by one of the workers in the union newspaper:

"... no matter what your wages are or how good other things may be at the plant where you work, it won't mean one thing, not one blessed thing, if you go to work and then later in the day are DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT SOME HOSPITAL."

Notes in the News

CALLING DR. FREUD — New York Republican legislators sat in glum silence when Gov. Rockefeller read his "sock 'em with taxes" message. "Only once . . . did his audience respond audibly, with a muffled titter." That was when he "misspoke and called the poor the rich." Rockefeller retained the same speech writer used by his Democratic predecessor Harriman. The slip can scarcely be ascribed to overwork of either the ghost writer or the speech reader as the budget message was only one-fifth as long as Harriman's.

BACKWARD FOREIGNERS? — In this country eligibility for old-age pensions is determined by the amount paid in social-security taxes while employed. In Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Finland and Norway everyone above a certain age is entitled to a pension regardless of past employment or payments into the social-security fund.

CONCERN FOR N.J. JOBLESS — The New Jersey State Employment Council has recommended to Gov. Meyner that maximum benefits to the unemployed be increased from \$35 to \$50 a week. To qualify for the maximum an applicant would have to earn \$95 a week for 17 weeks before he lost his job. They also thought that the benefit period should be extended from 26 weeks to 30. They balanced this recommendation, however, by advocating that an employee must earn at least \$30 a week instead of the present \$15 before becoming eligible for the benefits.

KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES — The Wyoming House of Representatives has approved a bill to give inmates of prison \$35 in cash upon release instead of the customary \$10. Let this be thought to represent a concession to the view that greater help should be given prisoners in getting adjusted to the outside world, one representative made clear that the bill simply recognized "the higher cost of living."

PRISONERS WIN — New Jersey's state prison strike ended Feb. 2 when the 300 inmates involved decided to accept an offer of five cents a day increase. They had been paid 13 to 35 cents a day in manufacturing 3,500,000 license plates. Prison officials made the concession after other shops joined in sympathy demonstrations.

TAX SLASH — The U.S. Internal Revenue ruled Feb. 6 that if your boss gave you a turkey or a ham for Christmas you don't have to pay income tax on it.

ROBESON WINS TAX SUIT — The Internal Revenue Service announced Feb. 4 that it was abandoning a five-year battle to force singer Paul Robeson to pay "income taxes" of \$9,655 on the \$25,000 Stalin Peace Prize he won in 1953. The government decided that the Prize was in the same tax-exempt category as the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes. Robeson is ill

in a Moscow hospital. He went to the Soviet Union after winning a long struggle to obtain a passport.

OLD FILTH IN NEW COVER — Fascist-minded Gerald L. K. Smith is pushing the notorious anti-Semitic articles that Henry Ford published in the Dearborn Independent in the twenties. On issuing a public apology for the racist literature, Ford said that it had been printed without his knowledge and that he was "shocked" and "mortified." Smith now claims that the auto baron told him confidentially, when he was visiting the Fords once, that he had never "affixed" his signature to the apology (it was done by an employee) and that he "hoped some day to republish" the articles. Smith is offering the reprint for \$3 each booklet or "100 copies — \$200." A typical heading in Ford's anticipation of Nazi propaganda is "Jewish Jazz Becomes Our National Music."

MAN BITES DOG — A holdup man walked out of a New York Branch of the Household Finance Corp. with \$300 Feb. 4.

SUSPECT DDT — The New Jersey Audubon Society is undertaking a year-long study to determine the reason for the infertility of bald eagles. The bird — America's national symbol — is reported to be dying out in all sections of the country. It is suspected that DDT, used indiscriminately in enormous amounts on American farms, is washing into streams where it accumulates in the bodies of fish. Many of these are killed by the DDT and then picked up by the scavenger bird. There the poison, evidence seems to show, reacts on the reproductive organs.

BORING FROM WITHIN — America is headed for communism on roller skates and it may already be too late to do anything about it, a battery of alarmed speakers told the annual gathering of the Coalition of American Patriotic Societies in Washington Feb. 3. To help save capitalism, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce urged creation of "capitalist cells." These should not waste time on the masses, who wouldn't understand their message, he said, but should operate among editors and educators.

REST ROOMS NEXT? — A National Association of Manufacturers pamphlet includes a checklist of fringe-benefit "costs" which employers should be sure to note before going into negotiations. These include employee discounts; library, magazine and reading rack facilities; lunch period movies and entertainment; vitamins, salt tablets and other temperature or exertion medications; music during working hours; old timers dinners and entertainment; length of service awards; flowers for sick or deceased employees and dependents. Commented the editor of the Machinist: "Next thing they'll be charging us for 'fringe' benefits like rest room facilities."

... Urge Shorter Work Week

(Continued from Page 1) hard-hit areas and a broad public-works program to provide such sorely needed additional community facilities as housing, hospitals and schools.

The UAW leadership has been under growing pressure to act on behalf of the unemployed. Main base of the union is in Michigan where 15% of the auto workers are still on the streets with 1959 car models at the peak of production.

An officially estimated 327,000 persons are out of work in Michigan, with 194,000 of them in Detroit. A quarter of a million workers in the state have already exhausted their unemployment benefits.

The extent to which the auto workers are being permanently displaced as a result of steadily rising productivity and increased use of automation is indicated by these figures: A year ago General Motors employed 387,000 hourly workers. It now has 320,000. During the same period Ford employed 143,000 hourly workers. It now has 122,000. Yet today both companies are turning out cars at a higher rate than 1957.

The UAW dues-paying membership is 200,000 less today than it was a year and a half ago.

Concern of the top union leadership about the unemployment problem was reflected in the announcement that the drop in dues payments has made it necessary to eliminate 87 union jobs. Officers and employees of the union are taking a five per cent pay cut for the next four months.

The urgent need for a shorter

work week without any reduction in take-home pay is not confined to the auto workers. A Federal Reserve staff study finally conceded Feb. 7 that while production and profits are back to their pre-recession peak, only one-third of those laid off last year are back on the job.

The study showed almost no pick up in jobs since last September and it is anticipated that the official jobless figure will go back above the five million mark before the year's end.

The problem is not a temporary one. It has been building up steadily and ominously throughout the entire postwar period. Statistics in the Feb. 6 U.S. News & World Report reveal that factory production has increased 32% in the past decade, while factory employment has increased only one per cent in the same period. "Don't raise your boy to be a factory worker," the magazine advises.

Reuther came up with a sound idea for action in a Feb. 7 speech to the Michigan AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in Lansing. He suggested a "mass march" on Washington by the jobless. "We should get from every big center 25 to 30 bus loads," he said. "The workers could sleep in the buses — and let the people in Washington know there are still hungry and desperate" unemployed.

However, he later said that the union had no specific plans for such a march at the present time.

Yesterday Reuther testified before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. He said the government should act to help create more factory jobs,

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 2-9736. 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, TE Temple 1-6135. 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 Minnepin 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 7-2168. 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.

FDR SIDETRACKED IT

Back in 1933 the U.S. Senate passed a bill 53-30 providing for a 30-hour week for firms engaged in interstate commerce. The bill, introduced by Hugo Black (now a Supreme Court justice), was sidetracked by Roosevelt in favor of NRA.

Does Marxism Retain Validity For America?

NEW YORK — An unusual political confrontation will take place here when Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, debates Earl Browder, who was deposed as General Secretary of the Communist Party at the close of World War II. The subject of the debate will be: "Does Marxist Theory Retain Full Validity for the USA?" Dobbs will uphold the affirmative and Browder the negative.

Muriel McAvoy, a member of the state administrative committee of the United Independent-Socialist Committee, will act as chairman.

The debate will be held Friday, Feb. 20, 8 P.M., at Central Plaza at Second Ave. and Sixth Street in Manhattan.

Harlem Group Plans March On City Hall

NEW YORK — A march on City Hall to protest the Board of Education's appeal of a ruling that Harlem parents have the right to keep their children out of segregated schools has been tentatively set for Feb. 20.

In the ruling involved, Judge Justice Polier held that the parents were justified in their action, since the constitutional right of the children to an education was being violated.

A number of ministers headed by Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, the one dissenting member of the Board of Education, had served notice on Mayor Wagner two weeks ago that they would organize the march if the Board did not withdraw its appeal.

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.

NEW YORK

The Laura Gray Memorial Committee announces a recital by a distinguished violin and piano duo. Works by Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart and Debussy. Sunday, Feb. 15, 3:30 p.m. 46 West 21st St. Contribution \$1.

Dobbs vs. Browder

"Does Marxist theory retain full validity for the USA?" In a public debate Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will uphold the affirmative. The negative will be taken by Earl Browder, former General Secretary of the Communist Party.

Remember the date; Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Central Plaza (6th St. Room), 2nd Ave. and 6th St. Contribution \$1.