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THE MILITANT

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The Secret Space Bomb-Tests

The New York Times, America's most influential newspaper, carries the proud slogan: "All the News That's Fit to Print."

Why didn't the Times report the projected tests of nuclear weapons 100 to 300 miles in space? Because "scientists associated with the Government said they feared that prior announcement of the experiment might lead to protests that would force its cancellation."

"Prior announcement of the experiment might lead to protests that would force its cancellation!" The American people are opposed to tests of nuclear weapons. The government refused to abide by the will of the majority on this question.

Why didn't the Times print the news immediately after the tests were completed? Again, because the Washington censors wanted to suppress the news.

Where the French CP Stands

The swing of the French voters away from de Gaulle and back to the Communist and Socialist parties is certainly an encouraging manifestation.

Yet the leaders of the powerful French Communist Party remain far more interested in a possible Franco-Soviet deal than in leading a struggle for the establishment of a workers republic.

The statement attributes the French crisis of the past decade not to the organic decay of imperialism but rather "to the fact that the bourgeoisie, unable to think any longer of the grandeur of the nation, has seen its future only within the framework of an outdated colonialism."

What "Rights"?

In his March 17 TV and radio address to the nation, President Eisenhower told us why we should be prepared to go to war over Berlin.

What gives the U.S. government "rights" in Germany? We know that a new state is about to be added to the Union, but we thought its name was Hawaii not Germany.

The U.S. acquired "rights by conquest," say State Department propagandists. In other words, might makes right.

weapons wherever it damn well pleases on this earth did not disturb the publishers of the Times.

Why did the Times continue to suppress the news "for more than half a year?" Because after September, the failure to make public the full data constituted a violation of rules of the International Geophysical Year instituted by the U.S. delegation over Soviet objections.

What caused the Times to finally release the news? Pangs of conscience? Did it decide, in the free-press tradition, to buck the censors? No.

After some three months of importuning, the censors changed their minds. The Times says so. Government scientists at Livermore, Calif., voted on it.

And that was how the Times got its "scoop" on the space bomb-tests. If credit is due, it goes to America's government censors.



"I hope the TV comes in clear so we can watch them blow up outer space!"

How Business Unionism Injured Union Militancy

By Cyrus Thomas The American labor movement is today entering its most critical period since the early thirties.

The Monthly Labor Review published a collection of articles in its February 1957 issue on "Changes in the American Labor Movement."

... Jobless Meet (Continued from Page 1) put the heat on. Yesterday's issue of the eastern edition of UAW Solidarity reports, "Plans were being made ... to invite Congressional leaders of both parties and other key government figures to address the conference."

The day after the jobless go back home, the problem of a legislative program will be discussed by a conference of officers and representatives of various unions, according to Meany's directives to the locals.

PRESSURE FOR ACTION

These moves to stymie a militant mass demonstration of the unemployed runs counter to the sentiment of jobless unionists in the heavily hit mass production industries who are looking for effective action.

The trouble with that kind of "right" is that it has no bounds except the limits of the government's military strength at any given time.

The Washington rally, with its demand for a shorter work week without reduction in pay, is the first organized national action ever taken by the American union movement on behalf of the unemployed.

ion — the regular flow of new members and dues — could be underwritten by the employer with considerably more reliability than was possible under earlier arrangements.

"Unions were in many cases relieved, almost suddenly, of work that used to occupy 90 per cent of their energies.

In exchange for the check-off of union dues and the maintenance of membership clause, the union leadership imposed the wage freeze and no-strike pledge and enforced labor discipline on the job.

As the top leaders freed themselves more and more from control by the ranks the national union began to usurp the functions previously performed by the local unions; a development which led to increasing conflicts.

"Centralization of the negotiations has been accompanied by centralization of the administration of the contract," says Brooks, who then adds: "Even the routines of the local union — wage adjustment, grievance handling, and the like — are being transferred to an increasing degree to functionaries outside the local union."

"STATESMANSHIP"

"The role of the union negotiator himself has undergone subtle but fundamental changes," Brooks continues; "He enjoys the confidence of management, more often than not. He finds that management has been surprisingly willing (especially during the past 15 years) to grant significant concessions on wages, hours and working conditions."

In essence, the role of the "labor statesmen" during the past period of boom was to palm off, with a great display of showmanship, the crumbs

garnered from the groaning banquet tables of Big Business, as evidence of their right to enjoy the power and privilege of office.

But the halcyon days of the slick negotiator bringing home the bacon through the sheer magic of his arguments are just about gone.

And for that, the first prerequisite is the forging of a new leadership, developed in struggle and dedicated to the proposition that the labor movement can win only if it fights and that it must fight to win!

Polish Communist Party Congress Adopts 5-Year Plan

The Polish Workers (Communist) Party began a ten-day congress on March 10, with 3,100 delegates.

The Congress will adopt a five-year plan for 1959-1965. The plan calls for raising industrial production 10% annually, which is described as a modest increase.

agrarian policy calls for no attempt to force the peasants into collective farms. At the time of the Polish October in 1956, the peasants abandoned the collectives, and about 90% of Poland's farms are now privately owned.

In a speech to the congress, Minister of Agriculture Edward Ochab made it clear that collectivization remained the party's theoretical goal and that the development of cooperatives was an essential for socialist construction.

It is expected that the Congress will give Premier Gomulka a sizeable majority on the new Central Committee to replace the present majority of "Natalinists" — the faction of old-line Stalinists whom the Polish workers forced out of power in their revolutionary demonstrations in October 1956.

A delegation from the Soviet Union is in attendance at the Polish Workers Party conference. It is headed by Nicolai Ignatov, a prominent associate of Khrushchev's.

Congressmen At Work

The U.S. Senate is often described in the capitalist press as an "exclusive club."

Robert Samuel Kerr in the current issue of the \$1.25-a-copy Fortune magazine. Kerr, Democrat of Oklahoma, is "one of the most powerful men" in that august body of legislators.

He's a pusher all right. Born in a log cabin, too poor to get through college, he nevertheless managed to pass the bar examination in 1922 and later get into politics.

He has even more than this suggests. In eastern Oklahoma he owns 42,000 acres. On the property are 100 million tons of good coal, 15,000 acres of timberland and 3,000 Black Angus cattle.

That might seem sufficient to keep even the "most successful and wealthiest businessman" in the Senate in reasonable comfort. But Kerr set out early in life to become a millionaire and at the age of 62 his thirst for dollars is "as insatiable as ever."

Even this is not all. "Boron and beryllium are among their major interests now..." And there's a "sizeable, and intriguing, investment in potash" from which the Senator expects his company will net "\$100 million over a twenty-five-year period."

How much Kerr's holdings in oil are worth is not divulged by Fortune. That was where he made his first millions. In a "daring speculation" in 1932, Kerr brought in six oil wells within the limits of Oklahoma City and these gave him the start that brought his talents to

the attention of the giant oil corporations.

In politics, Fortune says frankly, Kerr "became well known in the late 1930's as a spokesman for the gas and oil industries."

When these interests asked him in 1941 to serve another term as "director" of "public relations," Kerr informed them he was going to run for governor of the state.

Kerr proved a satisfactory governor. His next step up the political ladder was the U.S. Senate. Here is how Fortune discreetly describes his activities there:

"The strands of business and politics have been interwoven in Bob Kerr's career in a way that some observers—including some U.S. Senators—consider to be improper. Kerr's business interests, after all, are vast and varied, and his fortunes can be seriously affected by the way issues are decided in Congress."

Let it be thought that this capitalist is all evil, it should be added that he does not smoke or drink, that he has a "passion for sweets," including frozen-custard, and that he teaches a Sunday-school class.

Headlines in Other Lands

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Canadian Loggers Fight Strikebreaking Government Decree

An emergency meeting of the Canadian Labor Congress, AFL-CIO affiliate, was called March 14 to consider measures to meet the all-out war on unionism now raging in Newfoundland.

The bitter strike of 12,000 loggers there entered its 73 day as the Congress met. The strike is under heavy attack from the economic and political agencies of Canadian capital.

Premier J. R. Smallwood of Newfoundland rushed a measure through the legislature outlawing the International Woodworkers Union, AFL-CIO, which has its headquarters in the U.S.

The Anglo-Newfoundland Paper company promptly signed a contract with the Premier's "union" accepting terms delicately described by the N. Y. Times as "more modest than those demanded by the striking international union."

Mass herding of scabs, stepped up police violence, concentration of Canadian Mounties, mobilization of vigilantes, are all aimed at smashing the militant picket lines of the loggers — the human barrier to the transport of pulpwood to the paper mills.

The International Woodworkers Union went on strike against the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company Dec. 31 for a 5-cent-an-hour increase over two years and reduction of the work-week with no loss in take-home pay.

Paris Suburbs Vote Against De Gaulle's Austerity Program

Opposition to de Gaulle expressed in municipal elections March 8 continued in the March 15 run-off elections.

The French Communist Party won 30 of the 60 seats at stake in the Seine Department General Council, an expression of continued support from the working class in the suburbs of Paris.

The new French Constitution, designed to reduce Communist parliamentary strength, ironically will produce a national Senate even more anti-Gaullist than the old National Assembly.

De Gaulle's unpopular austerity program which included increased taxes and reduced benefits is considered responsible for this new expression of opposition to the government.

Ceylon Parliament Adopts Ban on Political Strikes

By 15-14, Ceylon's Senate passed a police-state "security" law March 12 empowering Prime Minister Bandaranaike to outlaw political strikes and put down "civil disorders."

Voting against the proposed law were the United National Party and the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, a socialist organization. (See story, page two.) However, one UNP senator lined up with Premier Bandaranaike, enabling the bill to pass.

