

# The April 8 Conference

An Editorial

The labor-exploiting class that owns the banks, factories, mines and mills of this country claims the "right" to deprive workers of the only means they have to provide food and shelter for their families — by working for wages. This "right" to cut off the means of livelihood of workers is accepted as a matter of course by the present government of the United States.

This is the real meaning of the callous disregard of cries for help from the unemployed by the White House and Congress. And this is why they act as if five million jobless are a normal part of a "healthy" economic "shake-out."

The labor movement is properly angry and indignant at the refusal of Congress to heed its demands for action. Even the Chairman of Americans for Democratic Action — certainly no socialist — publicly denounced the Democratic Party's Congressional leadership for "capitulating to President Eisenhower's stand against a one-year extension of temporary jobless benefits." He said that this shows "a crass disregard for human values."

Against this background, the decision of the AFL-CIO Executive Board to call a Conference of Labor in Washington April 8 to demand immediate action on unemployment, is a direct challenge to this capitalistic disregard for human values.

The labor movement is beginning to champion a different concept, the concept that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to a decent standard of living — regardless of the ups and downs of the capitalist business cycle.

The right to a job, which means the right to eat, is the least we can demand in a country that is bursting with wealth produced by labor.

The April 8 Conference is faced with the need of impressing on the government in the strongest possible way that every unemployed worker must receive compensation for the entire period of unemployment at full trade union wages.

But doesn't full compensation mean a permanent load of non-productive, government-supported people? Of course not. If the principle of the right to live were established, a job would be found for every single worker. When production declined, hours would be scaled down to the point necessary to absorb all the workers, with no reduction in pay. If this didn't turn out profits for the present owners, and they threatened to shut down plants, the government would immediately take over such plants and operate them on a non-profit basis.

The McNamara bill now in the Senate proposes a 35-hour maximum week without reduction in pay. Labor should campaign for passage of this bill while recognizing its inadequacy. The 30-hour week should be labor's present demand. And the 30-hour week should be reduced still further when unemployment rolls increase.

The labor movement must not go before Congress with meek pleas for a pittance as it did at last year's conference on unemployment. Labor must map a bold program to banish poverty and put the vast productive capacity of this country to work — not for the profit of a few, not for building a military machine capable of destroying the human race, but for providing a full and abundant life to all.

## Strontium-90 Now In Everyone's Bones

Nuclear tests thus far carried out "have produced strontium-90 in the bones of every human being in the world," stated Dr. Linus Pauling, 1954 Nobel Prize winner

in science, in an interview at the California Institute of Technology reported in the March 29 N.Y. Herald-Tribune.

Recent government reports have tended to confirm the earlier warnings of Dr. Pauling and other outstanding scientists that atomic bomb tests have already contaminated the world's atmosphere with deadly amounts of radioactive particles. Dr. Pauling in 1957 initiated a petition, signed by 9,000 scientists, calling for a halt to nuclear tests.

Commenting on the report that in November 1958 an extra-heavy atomic fallout of 200 per cent of the maximum permissible amount fell on Los Angeles, Dr. Pauling stated: "John McCone, chairman of the AEC said the fallout would be a result of that single twenty-four-hour period I estimate that forty seriously defective children will be born and forty local people will die of bone cancer."

Strontium-90 is a radioactive by-product of nuclear explosions. It has an affinity for calcium, an important element of

the bones. It has been found recently in wheat, rice and other grain crops and milk, which appear to absorb the deadly matter very readily. These are basic foods.

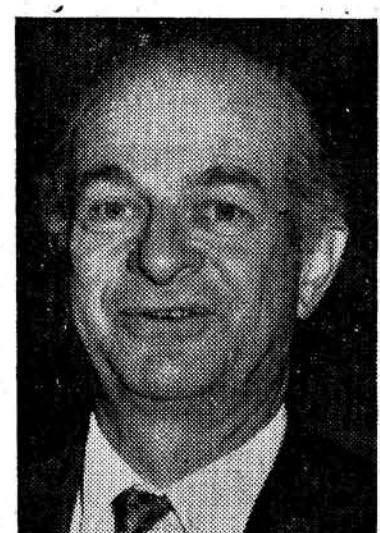
Dr. Pauling said in his interview that he has been compelled by recent government admissions to revise upward his original estimates of damage to humans by atomic fallout. "If fallout of strontium-90 is five times as fast as I and others anticipate, that means five times the anticipated damage being done."

Several years ago Dr. Pauling estimated that radioactive fission material of a single medium-sized hydrogen bomb [20 megatons or explosive power of 20 million tons of TNT] caused 15,000 seriously defective children among the new-born and 15,000 new cases of blood and bone cancer in the world.

Again new information about Soviet tests and the revelation of the production in U.S. tests of a radioactive form of carbon "leads me to multiply my original estimate [of radioactive damage by tests] by five," said Dr. Pauling.

Pauling charged the U.S. government "has attempted to allay the fears of the people by withholding information and by misleading statements . . ."

He estimated that "300 bombs dropped uniformly over the United States would kill everybody here" and 4,000 bombs "dropped anywhere in the world would kill everyone by radiation sickness." The U.S. stockpile of atomic bombs is reported "to be something like 75,000 or twenty-five times the amount necessary to kill everybody on earth," said Dr. Pauling. The Soviet Union was estimated two years ago to have 10,000 nuclear weapons, "two-and-a-half times more than necessary to wipe out the people of the earth."



DR. LINUS PAULING

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## "Organize the Jobless," New York Unions Urge

### Automation Breeds Worst U.S. 'Disease'

"The recession enabled the steel companies to eliminate . . . unneeded workers . . . those who had been made expendable by the gradual increased mechanization during the years since the war." So reports Godfrey Spierling, Jr. in the March 28 Christian Science Monitor. Automation in heavy industry, he concludes, "totals up to an obvious trend . . ."

Spierling's story tells of the blight of no work: "A new mill in South Chicago will replace two old mills . . . 1,000 workers will lose their jobs . . . One company has a new strip mill, where a punch card is put in and the machine automatically makes the changes the card calls for."

Take a deep breath at this example of automation in coal cited by Spierling:

"Approximately 90 per cent of this giant [Climchfield, Va.] plant is controlled by one man. He and four others use 600 push buttons in five control centers to perform the following operations:

"Bumping the railroad cars that bring the raw coal to the plant at the rate of about 22 to 24 70-ton cars an hour; guiding the coal through the labyrinth of conveyors, screens, huge wash boxes, centrifuges, and scores of other processing steps; operating the largest battery of heat dryers ever erected; loading the processed coal into empty railroad gondola cars on five different tracks at the rate of from 15 to 18 cars per hour, and finally dumping the shales into a deep valley half a mile away."

### MEN WALK STREETS

But in Virginia where this sorcery operates, "men still walk the streets for work," says Spierling.

The Feb. 24 Wall Street Journal reports an industrial relations director's words: "We're getting more work from fewer men and we're going to get even more work from even fewer men." And the March 7 Business Week calls these effects of automation "the most frightening disease of a free society: unemployment."

The 30-hour work week at 40 hours pay is an immediate necessity for the American working people. It is the way to full employment and to converting automation from a curse to a blessing.

### Is Prosperity Just Around the Corner?



Change the automobile models and this picture of lines of unemployed, taken in the thirties, could pass for a scene from America's depressed areas today. In expectation that "prosperity is just around the corner," Pres. Hoover did nothing for the jobless. In 1959 Eisenhower and a Democratic Congress have tapered off unemployment benefits on the gamble that a "rising prosperity curve" for the big corporations will eventually mean jobs for the millions now reading notices of "No Help Wanted."

## Big Rallies in Detroit Prepare For Conference on Unemployed

DETROIT, March 29 — Two big UAW meetings were held here last week in preparation for the April 8 AFL-CIO conference on unemployment in Washington.

Meanwhile the locals are proceeding with collection of money to send their unemployed delegations to Washington (at around \$25 per delegate).

In Flint, UAW members sold apples on the street for the project, raising \$450.

Here neighborhood merchants are being asked to contribute by some locals. But most of the money is being raised by contributions from employed members collected by their stewards.

The two UAW meetings last week were like the plans for the Washington conference in at least two ways:

(1) They were well attended by unemployed. (2) And no unemployed worker was given a chance to say anything.

Top UAW officials did all the talking. As usual, they concentrated their heaviest fire at the Republicans, although Congress is controlled by the Democrats.

However they couldn't keep completely silent about the Democrats.

At the west side meeting in Local 600's hall, secretary-treasurer Emil Mazey said the UAW is dissatisfied with some Democrats, particularly Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson and House speaker Sam Rayburn, who have the power to block legislation benefiting the jobless, and who use this power.

### MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS

But, Mazey quickly added, his criticism does not include the Michigan Democrats in Congress.

It was lucky for Mazey no jobless worker could get the floor. One of them might have asked:

"If Michigan Democrats are so blameless, then why did each and every one of them vote to give either Johnson or Rayburn the dictatorial power they use against the unemployed?"

At the east side meeting in Local 212's hall, vice-president Leonard Woodcock said, "It was Byrd, of Virginia, who blocked

higher unemployment compensation benefits. He carries a Democratic label."

But who elected Byrd to head the committee he used to block the benefits? Where was the rest of the Democratic Party while Byrd was doing his dirty work? Why didn't they stop him? There's only one answer — they didn't want to.

The UAW can be silent about the Democrats, or they can select a few "bad" Democrats for censure, but neither method changes the fact — that the Democratic Party controls Congress (thanks to labor support) and when progressive bills are killed, it's at least as much the Democratic Party's fault as the GOP's.

At the east side meeting Mazey also finally got around to discussing Mayor Miriani.

Miriani is the "non-partisan" Republican elected to office with AFL-CIO support less than two years ago. Under his regime, relief allowances have been cut drastically. Thousands of single people are scheduled to be thrown off welfare next month.

Last year the budget for welfare was \$8.2 million, and it was used up several months before the year ended. Last week

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## Propose that AFL-CIO Sponsor a Nationwide Council of Unemployed

By Tom Kerry

"Organize the unorganized!" This has been the slogan of the trade union movement since its inception. With unemployment again a permanent feature of American life, another demand, vital to its very existence, literally imposes itself on the unions: "Organize the unemployed!"

A proposal for union organization of the unemployed was approved last month by the executive board of the New York AFL-CIO Central Labor Council for consideration by the national AFL-CIO. The March 20 New York Times reports that Harry Van Arsdale, president of the N.Y. Council, announced that the central labor body which he heads, is calling for "the establishment of a national council of the unemployed . . . recruited from union and non-union workers."

The unemployed council, according to the report, "would remain an autonomous group, electing officers and exploring the problems of unemployment independent of other labor organizations." All unemployed workers "would be eligible for membership," and "would be recruited when they registered for unemployment benefits."

By making this program its own, the April 8 national AFL-CIO Washington unemployment conference can take a giant step toward uniting the employed and unemployed in defense of their mutual interests — and by the same token, scuttle whatever schemes the laboring corporations may be cooking up to use the unemployed as a battering ram to break down union wages and working conditions.

The late Samuel Insull, mid-west public utilities tycoon, used to boast: "The best insurance I have against union organization is a gang of unemployed workers at the gate begging for a job. This winged aphorism well expresses the warped mentality of Big Business—that cabal of stockjobbers and money-changers who rule this country today and who see in the growing army of unemployed only an opportunity to settle accounts with organized labor."

By seizing the initiative and acting in line with the proposal of the New York AFL-CIO Council suggestion, the organized labor movement can win the allegiance of the unemployed. Such a bond of unity between employed and unemployed, union and non-union workers alike, could easily rout the corporation union-busters.

### Michigan Jobless Total Rises Again

DETROIT, March 27 — Unemployment rose again in Michigan in the month ending Feb. 15, according to figures released last night. Statewide, the jobless total went up by 28,000 to 380,000. In Detroit the total rose by 22,000 to 239,000, or 16.2% of the labor force.

Less than one third of the state's jobless were still drawing compensation last week — or 117,000 out of 380,000 (in Detroit, 62,000 out of 239,000). As a result, the Michigan Employment Security Commission is going to lay off a lot of its staff employes next week.

### N.J. Assembly Votes Jobless Pay Increase

NEWARK, March 24 — The New Jersey Assembly yesterday passed a bill to increase the duration of unemployment compensation payments permanently from 26 to 39 weeks and to increase weekly payments from the present maximum of \$35 a week to about \$45 by next January and \$54 by 1961. The increase would apply also to temporary disability payments which now have a \$45 weekly maximum.

Modest and delayed though these proposed increases are in view of the growing misery of New Jersey's 208,000 unemployed, it is dubious that even they will be put into effect unless the labor movement and the jobless exert mass pressure.

For the bill, facing a hostile Republican state Senate and an unfriendly Democratic Governor, is certain either to be whittled down, defeated or vetoed. While the overwhelmingly Democratic Assembly was passing the bill, Republican legislators taunted them with Gov. Meyner's known objections to the bill. Meyner holds that it would put New Jersey in-

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## Why You Can't Read All About It in Your Paper

By Harry Ring

There is no official building in Washington where newsmen go to have a story stamped "Approved for Publication." But their stories get censored just the same. Exactly who the U.S. censors are and how they enforce their rules is not widely known — the government officials in charge work quietly in offices well-screened from public view. But enough information has filtered through to prove that the U.S. government censors the press. One of its objectives is to keep the American people in the dark about the Atomic Energy Commission's activities and the menace these constitute to public health and safety.

The public spotlight was focused on this growing censorship problem when the New York Times on March 19 "broke" the story of Project Argus. The Times revealed that it was informed of government plans for the nuclear space blast well in advance of the event but was requested to remain silent

about it for six months after the test. Finally, the Times implied, it broke through the censorship to which it had submitted until then. But even this is not the full truth, according to Senator Clinton P. Anderson, chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

### DELIBERATE LEAK

The New Mexico Democrat stated that the March 19 Argus story was "deliberately leaked" to the Times with the knowledge of the White House. Anderson made the charge in an interview with Robert Spivack, Washington correspondent of the New York Post, who did an expose on "Secrecy and the AEC" in the March 25-27 issues of that paper.

"This story was broken with the administration's connivance," the Senator told Spivack. "The fact is they had a special cabinet committee that was studying Argus and how to break it."

Describing the mechanics of the "leak," Anderson said a

White House official phoned interested government agencies the night before the Times story broke and told them what to say when they were asked about it. He refused to divulge the name of the official who did the phoning, but said he might do so at a later date.

Anderson showed reluctance to name names despite the fact that the censorship has been felt not only by the press but by members of Congress as well. The day after the Times published the Argus story, the Associated Press reported the angry reaction of Senator Gore (D-Tenn.) who knew about Argus but had been told that all information pertaining to it was "classified." This had prevented him from effectively elaborating his views in the Senate on the Geneva nuclear test-ban talks between the U.S. and USSR.

On the same day, a New York Post editorial declared: "Even the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee was silenced by the fetish of security. As Sen. Anderson . . . revealed yesterday, he and his

colleagues were told about the test in January, four months after it took place, and they, too, were gagged.

"And they are still being gagged," he charges, "on an unclassified but most important bit of information on fallout — information that might throw devastating light on the gruesome game now being played."

### THINKING POISONED

Two days later the Post declared: ". . . more than the milk we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe is in danger of pollution; the thoughts we think are also being affected."

Other newspapers are beginning to voice fears of growing government control of the press. But they carefully skirt the heart of the issue. A March 23 editorial in the New York World Telegram, for example, declared: "All but cranks concede the need for governmental secrecy on many aspects of atomic energy . . . The question of radioactive fallout, however, is not one of them."

The same thought was expressed March 20 by New York Post columnist Max Lerner. "My own view," he wrote, "is that a newspaper owes a responsibility to the government to keep the secret as long as it is a genuine one with good reasons for secrecy — but not any longer than that." The New York Times used precisely this "yardstick" to justify its cover-up for what it later admitted was a "political" not a "military" secret.

The Post series by Spivack makes clear that the AEC wants press control in order to keep information from the American people — not the Russians. Today, says Spivack, the censorship "applies primarily to prying reporters and inquisitive Congressmen — on non-military as well as military matters."

He recounts how the AEC tried to suppress the fact that radioactive debris is falling to earth far more rapidly than it had announced; and how it tried to conceal the fact that fallout is more concentrated in the United States than anywhere

else in the world. Spivack also recalls the AEC's propaganda hoax of a "clean" bomb and its falsifications last year about "detecting underground nuclear shots, when the AEC reported that its underground blast in Nevada had been detected no further than 250 miles away. I. F. Stone's Weekly exposed this as a lie, citing other government reports to prove that the shot had been recorded as far as 2,300 miles away. Thanks to this independent journalist, the American people learned the truth about this important matter. The growing censorship trend is designed to prevent such truths from leaking out too often.

### SHE'LL LAUGH THEN

The boss was telling one of his interminable jokes. As he finished the whole staff burst into laughter — all except one girl. "What's the matter? Ain't you got no sense of humor?" he belittled at her. "Oh, I am leaving Friday," she replied.



# 30-Hour Work-Week Bill Passed by Senate, April 6

By Alex Harte

WASHINGTON, April 6 — After three days of debate, the U.S. Senate, by a vote of 53 to 30, today adopted a bill limiting the work week to 30 hours and the work day to six hours.

You didn't read about it? That's because it didn't happen April 6, 1959, but April 6, 1933. The bill was introduced by Senator Hugo L. Black, now a Supreme Court Justice, then Democratic Senator from Alabama. The Roosevelt Administration blocked the bill in the House, and it didn't become law.

In his book, "Mr. Justice Black," John P. Frank describes the Alabamian's fight for the reduced work week: "In February 1933 Black made his first formal speech in the Senate in behalf of his bill. He made . . . this argument for his bill at the beginning: unemployment resulted from improved technology and long hours of work for those employed. The efficiency of machine production made it unnecessary to work as long as in earlier generations . . . and industry could pay the difference required by the 30-hour bill without cutting the weekly wage for labor."

With the steady rise of both productivity and profits in the past decade, isn't that argument ten times more valid today?

Backing by the AFL and the pressure of 20 million jobless carried the bill through the Senate in 1933. But Roosevelt opposed the measure. As a substitute for the 30-hour bill he presented the National Recovery Act which called for "voluntary" regulation of labor relations.

Two years later, NRA was struck down by the Supreme Court. Black promptly reintroduced the 30-hour proposal as a means of coping with the problem of 12 million people still unemployed.

"A work week of 30 hours and a work day of six hours, without a decrease in wages, would put millions of people back to work," Black declared over an NBC coast-to-coast broadcast, Feb. 5, 1935. "I believe that it would put 4,000,000 back to work within a very short time."

"It has been found," Black said, "that since 1929 improvements have been effected to the extent that a man's productive capacity has been increased 25 per cent. This

means that he can now produce practically the same in 6 hours that he could produce in 1929 in 8 hours."

Recently, Senator Kennedy, a leading Democratic presidential aspirant, argued against the current AFL-CIO demand for a shorter work week, on the grounds that it would cut down production at a time of a "race with the Soviet Union." Although they didn't use the same pretext, spokesmen for the employers in the 1930's also howled that a shorter work week would curb production.

Here is how Black answered them in 1935: ". . . in view of the fact that many millions of workers have stood by in enforced idleness, as they watched many hundreds of factories and mines wholly and completely idle, it borders on the ridiculous to assert that a 30-hour week will curtail production. The very manufacturers and producers who are combining together to alarm the public with the idea that a 30-hour week will reduce production have been for a long time and are now failing to run their mills, mines and factories to capacity. A 30-hour week will not reduce the output of our great productive machine, but it has been reduced in the past and will continue to be reduced in the future by lack of purchasing power on the part of those upon whom we must depend to consume our goods."

By 1935 the Roosevelt administration had the Senate well in hand and this time the Black bill never reached the floor. In 1937 Black introduced a new "compromise" wages and hours bill that specified neither minimum hours or pay. This bill finally emerged as the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, incorporating the 40-hour week.

Labor was cheated in the 1930's when the original Black measure was sidetracked. The working people had to settle for the 40-hour week. At present Sen. McNamara (D-Mich.) has a bill in the hopper to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to establish a 35-hour week with no reduction in pay. The AFL-CIO should press for immediate passage of the McNamara bill. By mobilizing labor's full power, they can succeed not only in this but in securing an amendment to make it a 30-hour week.

# "We Have to End Political Unemployment"

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK — Dr. Annette Rubinstein is back in town after a two-month lecture tour. Sixty meetings and a half dozen radio and TV programs seem only to have added to the bounce and vigor of this author, lecturer and 1958 Independent-Socialist candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of New York.

Over morning coffee, she told me about her experiences in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver and points in between.

The big thing about the trip, she says, is that she's more convinced than ever of the need for a united socialist Presidential ticket in 1960. "We have to end political unemployment in the radical movement," she said.

Dr. Rubinstein is a specialist in American and English literature and about fifty of her lectures were on literary themes while another dozen were political. But the two topics seemed to run together. She noticed that a number of the people who heard her on literature would later turn up at the political meetings.

### WITCH HUNT EASES

She found concrete evidence of the easing of the witch hunt. On a similar lecture tour last year she spoke at five colleges. This time she appeared at 15 campus meetings and had another half dozen invitations that her itinerary prevented her from accepting.

"I found a great deal more interest and curiosity about socialism among the students," she said. "While many of them aren't ready to commit themselves politically, they ask thoughtful questions about what socialism is and what the possibilities are of realizing it in America."

"The greatest single concern of all of them is the possibility of war and the constant war preparations. There wasn't as much interest in the problem of nuclear weapons — that was discussed more in the church groups — but in the whole general problem of war, the general problem of conscription and so on."

The political meetings were very good. "They were all well attended, and with one exception, there was an encouraging number of young people present. There was a real political mixture at almost all of the meetings. I met the full spectrum of the radical movement this time."

### BIG INTEREST IN '60

"Everywhere I found tremendous interest in 1960 and when



Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein

ther there would be a socialist campaign. Everyone wanted to know what the thinking on this was in the other cities I had been to.

"It made me feel a socialist campaign in '60 is a must," Dr. Rubinstein said, "no matter how small it might be. Even if we can run only in eight or nine states it will be worth it. In Ohio they can't get on the ballot, but they told me they can run a full campaign on the basis of a sticker write-in. We don't expect to get elected this time anyway and such a campaign would have the same educational value as if we were on the ballot."

"But the main thing," she stressed, "is to end the political unemployment in the radical movement. I found the former Progressive Party members particularly anxious for some kind of a campaign. People are tired of being inactive. They're ready to do something, if someone would just tell them what to do, please."

"Everyone is looking to New York to take the lead. If New York mounts a campaign at least eight or nine states will be ready to follow. There wasn't a city where they didn't ask if New York was going to run a campaign. Incidentally, all across the country, with the exception of one person in L.A., everyone was very pleased with our vote."

"There was also unusual interest in last fall's Cleveland socialist conference. I had all kinds of questions about the proceedings there. A lot of people are hopeful that the conference next fall will help shape up a Presidential ticket."

### ABOUT THE 'LESSER EVIL'

"The lesser evil argument? I heard some of that in Los Angeles and Portland, but very

little elsewhere. Most of the discussion was on the practical problems — the number of states we could get on the ballot — whether or not we could get a national ticket together in time.

"Interestingly, not a single student raised the lesser evil argument. A year ago that wasn't the case. But I was surprised at the number who are aware of Senator Humphrey's endorsement of the administration on Quemoy and Matsu. They feel that the Democrats support the worst features of Eisenhower's foreign policy."

"Many who were doubtful before, feel the Democrats have discredited themselves on unemployment. In California there was particularly strong resentment against the Democratic opposition to trade with China."

"I met more unionists than on any previous tour — railroad workers in Minneapolis; meat cutters and members of the Mechanics Educational Society in Cleveland; auto workers, of course, in Detroit; and there were longshoremen at my meetings in San Francisco and Vancouver."

Unemployment is a big factor shaping sentiment for a socialist ticket, Dr. Rubinstein said. She found "tremendous uneasiness" in Seattle where Boeing Aircraft, a major source of employment in the area, has announced it will cut its payroll in half by next year. In San Diego, shipyard and air-

craft workers have been hard hit.

"There was a great deal of talk at the meetings," she said, "about the Democratic Congress not doing anything about the unemployed. In Cleveland there was also a great deal of bitterness on this score about Governor DiSalle. He had labor backing and they say now he's introducing a bill that in many ways is worse than Taft-Hartley."

### 30-FOR-40

"There's a lot of interest in the 30-hour week — 30-for-40. A number of unionists asked if it would be in our platform if there's a socialist campaign."

"Negroes are particularly incensed about the Democratic record on integration and the failure to kill the filibuster. There's a general feeling that the Dixiecrats have taken over the Democratic party and that the liberals' main concern is to appease their Southern allies."

"I spoke at Reverend King's Washington Park Forum. He was the united socialist candidate for Congress there last year. I was speaking on Negro and American Literature, but in introducing me he made very clear that he's really enthusiastic for a 1960 socialist campaign. He spoke very sharply against the idea of Negroes working with the party of the Dixiecrats. In Chicago, where they have this reactionary Democratic administration, the Ne-

### N.Y. Reception

#### For Dr. Rubinstein

Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein, will be honored at a reception sponsored by the United Independent-Socialist Committee on Sunday evening, April 19 at the conclusion of her current national tour. John T. McManus, General Manager of the National Guardian will preside at the reception which will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the ballroom of the Hotel Manhattan Towers, Broadway at 76th St.

Other speakers at the reception will be Eve Merriam, Dr. Howard Selsam, Howard da Silva, and Dr. Rubinstein. Refreshments and coffee will be served at the reception. Tickets, priced at \$1.50 can be purchased from the U.I.-S.C., Rm. 238, 799 Broadway, Phone: GR 5-9738.

groes, if anything, view the Republicans as the lesser evil.

"Many students in the various socialist clubs also feel a socialist campaign is a must," she added. "They find a lot of students can be influenced by socialists running in elections. It helps combat the notion that socialism is 'un-American' and 'subversive.'"

"Any amusing incidents on the trip? Of course. But I'm saving those for the April 19 meeting."

# Buffalo Area Stranded In Depths of Recession

"I'm not proud, I'll take any job," says a laid-off Bell aircraft worker in Buffalo who used to earn \$7,000 a year. "With six kids and a \$9,000 mortgage, it's impossible to meet expenses with my unemployment insurance payments." The trouble is there are no jobs.

Some 64,000 people — 12% of the work force — are unemployed in the Buffalo area. "This compares with less than 7% for the nation as a whole and equals Detroit's jobless," reports Joseph M. Guilfoyle in the March 27 Wall Street Journal. He tells of 19,000 people now forced to rely on government handouts of surplus butter, corn meal, dried milk and flour. "to augment their meager food supplies."

### BENEFITS RUN OUT

Each week 500 more people are added to home relief rolls, because their unemployment insurance runs out. Paul F. Burke, Erie County Welfare Commissioner, estimates that the number of relief recipients (15,034 at present) doubled in the last year and is the largest since 1942.

Unemployment in Buffalo is caused by several factors: Heavy goods manufacturing accounts for 65% of all industry in Buffalo, and most firms in this line have not increased their operations significantly over the recession low.

On the other hand, the steel

industry has regained its pre-recession peak. At Bethlehem's Lackawanna works 33 out of 35 open-hearth furnaces are now in operation. But whereas in 1957, 20,000 workers manned that many furnaces, 18,000 are on the job today.

"There are many, many idle steel workers who won't go back to work in the mills because of the introduction of new methods, new machines and the combining of jobs during the recession," said Joseph P. Molony, New York State regional director of the United Steel Workers of America (AFL-CIO). "You just don't need the same amount of people to produce more. I wouldn't be surprised if 10% to 20% of those now out of work become permanent technological unemployed," he concludes.

George F. Rand Jr., vice-president of Marine Trust Co., agrees: "Industry is continuing to improve its efficiency with the result that not all furloughed workers are rehired when business picks up."

### RUNAWAY PLANTS

Again, 4,000 to 5,000 jobs have been lost in Buffalo during the past year because of factories moving to other areas. A Ford assembly plant moved to Lorain, Ohio, Result, says Guilfoyle: "Some 1,200 workers joined the ranks of the unemployed."

Finally, the aircraft industry

has also been hard hit by lack of orders. "The biggest casualty in this group is Bell Aircraft's Buffalo facility, where employment has dropped from 15,900 in January 1957 to 4,500 at present."

More diversified industry is the solution offered by the employers. They charge this is prevented by union conditions prevailing in Buffalo.

"Buffalo's labor reputation is not good," declares one prominent industrialist. "There are too many quickie strikes, too much featherbedding, too many coffee breaks and the work tempo is unfavorable. All this is hurting us now. It's pretty hard to recommend this section to new manufacturers under these conditions. Before any company comes here, it will want to be sure that it gets its money's worth."

Employers want Buffalo workers to labor under conditions like those in the non-union South.

Thus a spokesman for a small furniture company in Buffalo, that pays its workers prevailing hourly wages of \$2.56 plus 20 cents in fringe benefits, observes: "Similar workers in Mississippi get \$1.25 to \$1.30 an hour, with negligible fringe benefits. Under these conditions we figure we could ship our product into the Buffalo market and sell it for less than we do now, even after allowing for the added transportation costs."

# ...Hold Detroit Rallies

(Continued from Page 1) Miriani announced his new budget, in which the welfare allotment is cut to \$5½ million — at a time when thousands are just about to exhaust their jobless compensation benefits.

### REALLY TOLD MIRIANI OFF?

So Mazy had to say something. And what he said was, "Mayor Miriani made a colossal blunder."

Mighty strong language, that. Miriani must be losing a lot of sleep worrying about the next thing the UAW leaders may say.

Unemployed workers could use much more fitting language to describe Miriani and the

other "friends of labor" whose friendliness seems to dry up and vanish after election time.

They can use better language because, unlike the UAW leaders, they have no stake in covering up for capitalist politicians of one stripe or another. It's time for the voice of the unemployed to be heard at some of these meetings called to discuss unemployment.

### ...N.J. Jobless

(Continued from Page 1)

dustries into a bad competitive position and that the unemployed would be tempted to remain on compensation for the maximum time. Passing the buck, Meyner is calling for federal action exclusively.

It is obvious that the Democrats in the Assembly have passed the bill with the expectation that neither upper house nor governor will permit it to go into effect. That way they "make the record" as friends of the jobless at no cost. However, mass actions, such as a March on Trenton by the unions and jobless, could force passage of this bill and more besides.

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## Notebook of an Agitator

Is it important to love Stalin? Few people would say so today. Back in 1951, however, it was still the First Commandment in the Decalogue of the Communist Party: In writing a pamphlet at the time, "The Road to Peace — According to Stalin and According to Lenin," James P. Cannon forced himself to read the latest admonitions about paying homage to the dictator. It took five articles to record his reaction. These are included in the 362-page compilation, "Notebook of an Agitator." Here are the titles: "Back in the Packing House;" "The Art of Lying;" "The Importance of Loving Stalin;" "The Bureaucratic Mentality;" and "The Revolutionist and the Bureaucrat." You'll enjoy these stinging observations on the Stalin cult by a founder of the American Communist Party who learned the real score about Stalinism in 1928. Send \$4 for a clothbound copy of "Notebook of an Agitator." Paperback, \$2.50.

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Monday, April 6, 1959

**New Threat to Labor in Ohio**

We reprint below the full text of an article which appeared March 26 in The Machinist, official weekly of the International Association of Machinists:

Ohio labor is fighting for its life again. The new threat, a bill just introduced in the Ohio legislature, if enacted could "put every trade union in the state out of operation," Matt DeMore, legislative director of the Ohio State Council of Machinists charged last week.

Amazingly enough, the bill was proposed by the man Ohio union members worked so hard to help elect as Governor last year, Michael DiSalle.

According to DeMore, the DiSalle bill is supposedly designed to eliminate unethical practices in labor-management relations. Instead, it would among other things:

Require anyone working in a plant to resign as union officer steward or committeeman (the bill would prohibit any union officer from accepting anything of value from a company whether earned or not).

Prohibit the check-off of union dues.

Subject union officers and stewards to greater penalties than bank presidents or corporation officials who commit the same crimes.

Impose a fantastic penalty of no less than five years and no more than 20 years imprisonment when two or more union mem-

bers conspire to violate the most minor provision of the act. Arson and rape draw such penalties.

Require union officials to violate Federal laws in order to comply with this state law.

DeMore described the DiSalle bill as "illogical, ill-conceived and clearly unconstitutional."

"The bill is particularly outrageous," he declared, "in light of the fact that Ohio has no law to protect the right to organize and bargain collectively. Nor does this bill provide such protection."

DeMore, who is president of IAM District 54, Cleveland, told The Machinist: "Less than five months ago, Ohio voters rejected a so-called 'Right-to-Work' measure by the biggest margin ever recorded on any issue in this state. Governor DiSalle opposed 'Right-to-Work' while he was campaigning for our votes. Now he comes forth with a proposal that is even more outrageous. Fortunately, the members of the Ohio General Assembly are better informed about labor. There is no need for each state to enact a different labor bill when there is every likelihood that Congress will pass the Kennedy-Ervin bill covering every state."

DiSalle's action we believe calls for a complete reexamination of labor's political policy. Our thoughts on the question are submitted in the editorial below.

**The Case for a Labor Party**

What is happening in Ohio is noteworthy not because it is an exception but rather because it is a striking example of the rule. The Machinist says "amazingly enough" this bill "was proposed by the man Ohio union members worked so hard to help elect as Governor last year, Michael DiSalle."

Why is this amazing? Because it is unusual? No, it is not unusual, either in Ohio or in the rest of the country. In Ohio it is only a repetition of the experience labor had with Senator Lausche, who rose from Mayor of Cleveland to State Governor with the money, support and votes given him by organized labor, and then demonstrated his gratitude by becoming one of the foremost anti-labor representatives of banking and industrial interests.

What is amazing, therefore, is not that DiSalle is running true to form, but that the labor officials, after repeated experience with these "friends of labor," still propose that the unions continue to support the Democratic Party and capitalist politicians in one election after another.

There is an old English saying: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." What are we to say of people who have been "fooled" dozens of times and who continue to trust the very political machine which "fools" them and betrays the working people?

Ohio is not an exception. The AFL-CIO News March 28 reports: "The heavily Democratic 86th Congress began its Easter recess on Mar. 26 without having enacted major meaningful legislation to help the nation's 4.7 million unemployed and with any head-on clashes with the Republican Administration still to come."

**The Box Score**

This is the mildest possible way of stating a fact that was put a little more bluntly by United Auto Workers Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey. He declared, "We have the right to expect right-to-act legislation," and commented bitterly, "We won an election last November but until now we have not received a single thing from this victory."

The March 28 AFL-CIO News published a "Box Score of the 86th Congress" summarizing the first three months of its "accomplishments." Out of 24 legislative measures of "major interest to labor" the Box Score reports one action allegedly favorable to labor's interests: "Senate adopted modest rule change providing limited improvement." This refers to the fight over the Filibuster Rule. The Senate passed Majority Leader Johnson's gimmick that sold out the fight against the Dixiecrats. Johnson's measure was properly denounced by even the staunchest supporters of the Democratic Party in labor, Negro and liberal circles as a sham and a fraud.

Thus on two major issues of deep concern to American working people—unemployment and civil rights—the overwhelmingly Democratic Congress, elected by a landslide vote of workers fed up with recession and insecurity, has refused to grant a single concession to the labor and civil rights movement.

Let us remember that the AFL-CIO Box Score compares Congressional accomplishments with the extremely modest demands of the labor officials. These demands don't include the repeal of the

Taft-Hartley Act, for example, or even a drastic amendment of this anti-union law.

Let us also remember that the Box Score regards as progress the prospect for an early passage of the Kennedy-Ervin bill on Labor-Management reform. This bill is supposed to eliminate racketeering in the unions. Actually, it will provide union-busters with another weapon against labor, since it adds to the Big-Business government's power to control the unions.

In the light of what is happening in Ohio and in Congress, we submit that it is high time to consider a fundamental change in the political policy of the American labor movement. By any fair test the policy of subordinating labor's political independence to one of the Big Business parties has failed disastrously. The organization of a Labor Party which will advance candidates from the ranks of labor, responsible to labor alone, is long overdue. What is holding it back?

**Conflict of Interests**

The answer is: the union officialdom, which has become a bureaucratic clique promoting its own special economic and political interests even when these run counter to the needs of the rank and file.

The self-serving labor officials have tied their fortunes to the Democratic Party machines (except in the few instances where they are huckstering for Republican machines). Thus, while labor's overall interests demand a break with capitalist politics, their own special interests as labor bureaucrats compel the officials to oppose such a move.

In their day-to-day relations with the employers, the labor officials have substituted hat-in-hand "statesmanship" for class-struggle militancy. They are just as "statesman"-like in their dealings with the Big-Business parties. They play the game of capitalist politics as a way of gaining a few crumbs for the unions and of improving their own status in the political set-up. They stubbornly resist a policy based on the needs of the working class, which call for a return to class-struggle methods on the political as well as the economic field.

This has happened before in the history of the labor movement. The labor officialdom used to have a stake in craft unionism and in perpetuating the disorganized state of mass production workers. When the great upsurge of the thirties came along the craft union policy of the officials was shattered; sections of the old craft union leadership split away from the rest and headed up the industrial union movement. The needs of labor progress were served through a revolution within the unions.

**An Overriding Need**

Now another revolution in labor policy and leadership is called for: a revolution in its political program and organization. This need will assert itself. It will give rise to a strong labor-party drive. Even the present die-hard opponents of a labor party will jump on the bandwagon once the pressure for a new political course is sufficiently powerful and organized.

Meanwhile, it is the task of the militants in the unions to step up propaganda and education for a labor party and draw the lessons from the multitude of daily experiences which point imperatively to the need for a break with capitalist politics.

**Which Shall It Be?**



**How to Keep Machines From Killing Our Jobs**

The nation is coming out of a depression, but the jobless army keeps growing. Production is within 5% of its pre-recession peak yet 62% of those laid off in 1957-58 haven't been called back and many never will be. Meanwhile the country's total available labor force grows each year.

Since 1953, new machinery has displaced every fifth worker in the auto industry. A "hard core" of 200,000 Detroit jobless will never be rehired, says a Michigan state compensation commission officer. It's the same kind of story in steel, coal mining and other key industries. Labor confronts a crucial problem — "productivity unemployment."

The way to meet it is to shorten the work week without reduction in take-home pay — and keep on shortening it whenever unemployment appears or increases.

The McNamara 35-hour amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act, endorsed by the AFL-CIO, is a step in that direction. It suffers, however, from several defects.

**MANY ALREADY COVERED**

First, the 35-hour week already prevails in many trades and industries (construction, ladies' garment). In several other lines of employment 37½ or 36 hours are standard, while the 30-hour week is in force in rubber and West Coast longshoring. This cuts down the effectiveness of the McNamara amendment as a re-employment measure. However, since most

jobs in the country are still on the 40-hour week, the McNamara bill would definitely shorten the national work week and thus alleviate unemployment.

The second objection to the McNamara bill is that the most militant sections of the labor movement have been campaigning for adoption of the 30-hour rather than the 35-hour week as the new national standard. They have done so in order to anticipate the further spread of automation and also because the huge gain in productivity since the 40-hour week was won in 1938 dictates that labor now win the 30-hour week if it is to get any substantial benefit from the nation's technological advances.

Furthermore, many unions had already won the 30-hour week prior to the Second World War. The Roosevelt Administration forced them to sacrifice it when the war began. The drive to establish the 30-hour week, which had acquired strong momentum up to then, was brought to a stop. The shorter work-week objective of the labor movement should resume where it left off in 1942, whereas the McNamara bill only goes half way.

Thirty-four — 30 hours work at 40 hours pay — should be the immediate target of the labor movement. However, as automation increases, or as the economy goes into a new depression, the 30-hour week too will prove inadequate to absorb unemployment.

Beyond 30-for-40 the unions

should protect their members' right to a job through a contract clause calling for automatic reduction in the work week — but without cut in the workers' weekly pay — whenever unemployment registers an increase. Conversely, when joblessness diminishes, the employers could lengthen hours again, but not above the 30-hour standard. On a nationwide scale, the Fair Labor Standards Act should carry a similar "sliding-scale" provision to govern its administration.

**MORE TEETH**

A bill which would increase the penalty for violating New York State's civil-rights law from \$500 to \$1,000 has been introduced into the state legislature by Assemblyman Lloyd E. Dicens.

**April Selection Book-A-Month Plan**

**MIND: A SOCIAL PHENOMENON.** By F. S. A. Doran. New York, 1953. 182 pp. (Originally \$3) Special April price: \$1.25 postage paid. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

How often have you wondered or heard arguments about the mind? Just what is it? Is it the same as the anatomical brain or is it something spiritual? This question has interested philosophers, scientists and ordinary thinking people since antiquity. It is the question which the author of the present work, a British surgeon and anatomist, raises and answers in this exceptional book.

He begins with the most prevalent belief — the religious or idealistic viewpoint that the mind "is of a non-material, spiritual, or even semi-divine and mystical character, akin to the 'soul' which inhabits the human material body without becoming part of it." Though the author disagrees with this viewpoint, he traces its history from ancient times with complete fairness.

He then makes a similar survey of materialist views on the subject, showing how the developments in modern physi-

ology and physics have borne out their basic points.

Most important, however, is the author's description of the force which overwhelmingly shapes, if indeed it does not create, the human mind — human society. This is a factor which early materialists and empiricists, who attributed all human thought to sense perceptions, overlooked. Man's environment is more than physical — it is social. "A large part of civilized Man's environment is made up of other men, whose fears, hopes, beliefs, prejudices and values exert a great effect in determining the content of his mind. This effect is not confined to contemporaries but stretches back through countless generations." How this operates and how it often influences the mind even more strongly than the senses is described in detail by Doran.

Because of its clear, simple style this book is easily understood by the average reader. In addition to a fascinating scientific chapter on the brain — for mind is a function of the brain — the book is enlivened and illumined by examples from history, philosophy and anthropology. It is an engrossing and instructive work.

G. L.

**And It Isn't Science Fiction**

By Paul Abbott

Could an accident set off World War III? The possibility has been suggested many times in the press. Suppose one of the H-bombs in the patrols flown by the Pentagon were accidentally touched off?

Or suppose an accident in a nuclear plant or atomic weapon stockpile set up a chain reaction wiping out part of the U.S.? Might this be interpreted as an "attack" calling for "massive retaliation"?

The possibility has been scouted by spokesmen of the Pentagon. The generals and scientists in charge of nuclear production know exactly what they're doing, we're told. They have taken all the precautions. Such an accident is impossible.

But here is the story of an "impossible" accident in an atomic plant—only a minor accident, it is true, but one that raises the suspicion that the dependability of the Pentagon's assurances may not be equal to their glibness.

"At 4:35 p.m. on Dec. 30, 1958," says a recent UPI dispatch, "Cecil W. Kelley pushed a button."

"The button was on a switch at the top of a 225-gallon steel tank, 38 inches in diameter, in Room 218 at the Atomic Energy Commission's Los Alamos scientific laboratory in New Mexico."

"Kelley, 38, had pushed the button many times before. All it ever did was start a mechanical agitator, a bladed stirring device in the bottom of the tank."

"That's all it did this time. But, this time, there was an accompanying 'blue flash' and a muffled report. Mr. Kelley ran from the room crying that he was 'burning up.'"

"At 3:15 a.m., Jan. 1, just 35 hours and 25 minutes after he pushed the button, Kelley was dead. By starting the stirring device he had performed the final act in a series of acts which, in sum, created the atomic chain reaction whose radiations killed him."

Kelley had worked in the plutonium recovery plant for 7½ years with complete safety. The Atomic Energy Commission said, as they buried him, that he had finally committed "errors." But the accident also was attributable to a chain of fateful circumstances. "It involved safety margins measurable in fractions of an ounce and fractions of an inch. It is literally true that a plus of two-fifths of an inch killed Kelley."

Materials ordinarily handled separately happened to get combined in the stainless steel

tank. "At the bottom was a water solution containing a small amount of plutonium. Floating on top of it was a lighter solution of organic material containing a bit more than seven pounds of plutonium... It could have floated there forever without hurting anybody if nothing was added to its plutonium content and if its shape remained unchanged."

But pushing the button started the agitator which forced water from the underlying solution up the wall of the tank, creating a bulge in the floating layer. If you bring enough plutonium together in the right geometrical shape, it becomes "critical"—capable of fission reaction.

"The layer's thickness was increased an average of two-fifths of an inch. It was enough to change its shape into a 'super-critical configuration.'"

"When things happen in the infinitesimal world of the atomic nucleus, they happen fast. As far as Kelley's senses could tell him, all the things that happened when he pushed the button happened at once. In a tiny fraction of a second, 150 million billion plutonium atoms were fissioned."

Kelley saw a blue flash. He heard a muffled report. He was knocked off his stool. He got up feeling on fire and ran to the door as a radiation indicator in a building 175 feet away triggered an alarm. The entire plant was hastily evacuated; but, thanks to the small amount of plutonium involved, the tank was not ruptured.

Killing amounts of radiation—400 to 600 roentgens—can be painless. "But Kelley, it was established later, had received 12,000. Two colleagues who ran to help him got sizable doses but not enough to sicken them. They felt nothing."

In 15 minutes Kelley went into deep shock. About six hours later he came to and was able to tell what had happened. "He remained rational and comfortable until nearly the time of his death, 3:15 a.m. on Jan. 1."

The accident, of course, is nothing to get alarmed about. It was merely one of those that can't happen. We can relax—Pentagon experts knowing what they do about the nuclear weapons they produce, stockpile and rattle in the face of Russia to protect us from war.

**Headlines in Other Lands**

**Rule U.S. Bases Violate Japanese Constitution**

A three-judge court in Tokyo ruled on March 30 that the presence of U.S. military bases and troops in Japan violated the country's constitution. The case involved seven Japanese who had been arrested in 1957 at a U.S. air base outside Tokyo. They were part of a demonstration protesting the announced expansion of the base.

The Japanese court freed the defendants and ruled that Article 9, of the Japanese Constitution made the base an illegal installation. Article 9 forbids Japan from going to war or preparing for war. It was imposed on the conquered nation after the surrender in World War II. Only a few years later U.S. imperialists were cursing themselves for having put it into the Japanese Constitution, because it interfered with the militarization of Japan for a war against the USSR and China. The recent court decision will be appealed and it may be several years before a final verdict is rendered.

**Big London Rally Climaxes 53-Mile March for A-Ban**

The biggest mass demonstration for the banning of atomic weapons and closing of U.S. military bases in Great Britain took place on March 30. Some 15,000 people jammed Trafalgar Square in the heart of London to welcome the four-mile long column of marchers from Aldermaston, the site of Britain's atomic weapon research and manufacturing center. The demonstration, called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, involved some 10,000 marchers in the four-day trek. Pacifist, religious, trade union, cooperative, left and labor groups were associated with the demonstration. Noteworthy among the

**Right-Wing Leaders Of Labor Party Ban Militant Group**

The national executive committee of the British Labor Party officially proscribed the Socialist Labor League and the publication, the Newsletter. Both the organization and the paper carry on an agitation for the adoption of a socialist policy by the Labor Party. Stating that it was undeterred by the executive committee action, the Socialist Labor League announced that it would continue to do its utmost to bring the Labor Party to office in the next elections and would at the same time continue its efforts to build a fighting left wing within the Labor Party and the unions.

Similar proscriptions have in the past been attempted or carried out against Socialist Outlook, Tribune, and at present in some Labor constituencies members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are being denied membership rights by the bureaucracy. That the right-wing witch-hunt of the Socialist Labor League is meeting opposition in the ranks of the Labor Party is evidenced by the passage, 65 to 26, of a resolution in the Leeds Trades Council on March 25 declaring: "This Trades Council protests at the proscription by the NEC of the Labor Party of the Socialist Labor League and the Newsletter, and calls upon the entire Labor movement to urge the NEC to withdraw this decision."

**Mass Arrests Fail To Break Railroad Strike in Mexico**

The Mexican government's attempt to smash the week-old strike of railroad workers by police-state methods has failed to get the trains running again. Top union leaders have been thrown into prison, an estimated 3,000 militants have been arrested, protest demonstrations have been brutally broken up by police using tear gas. Nonetheless the overwhelming majority of the rail workers are still out. This bodes ill for the government's plan to "negotiate" a settlement with a committee of four which it selected to replace the arrested leadership of the union.

slogan, "End the bans and proscriptions," by speaking out against this latest ban.

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**Protests Voiced Against Tortures In Paraguay**

Open criticism of the Stroessner dictatorship is appearing in Paraguay. At least 85 opposition spokesmen in jail are known to have been subjected to brutal tortures. Various groups, including liberals and student clubs, are distributing manifestos. Even a section of the parish priests has defied the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the country by issuing a joint letter asking their bishops to speak out against the torturing of political oppositionists held by the police. The Stroessner regime appears to be shaken not only by internal developments but by the overthrow of the dictatorships in Venezuela and Cuba. These demonstrate that U.S. imperialism's effectiveness in maintaining Latin American dictators in power can no longer be depended on. Consequently a section of the Stroessner regime is urging a "liberalization" or self-reform to forestall revolution.



Statistics

Editor: Radio here said this morning unemployment and employment both rose slightly. Isn't this nonsense? No jobs here.

J. C. Texas

Vanishing Savings, Delinquent Debts, Scorching Duns

Editor: Michigan is in the red. So is every other state and so is every citizen provided he does not own bank stock. All a citizen can do is watch his savings disappear, let his debts go delinquent and read the scorching duns. A state administration can solve its problem by levying another huge tax on those of us who have any money to pay it with. A privately owned utility can balance its budget by cracking the whip to the Public Service Commission for authority to increase its rates. With most of us insolvent where is the money coming from? Michigan's Sen. Elmer Porter states: "There are no more rich to soak." Even the relief rolls of 1932 were loaded with professional and business

citizens, although their relief was called "projects" or "surveys." President Hoover's philosophy of "save the rich, soak the poor," brought us very near the end of the trail. Those days are still fresh in the memory of our people of social security age.

Since relief and social security clients are not yet deprived of their vote our Congress members are shouting into one mike for tax cuts and into another with demands for huge government spending sprees. Persons on relief and social security should remember 1938 when Dr. George Gallup reported that 19% of persons he contacted supported a move to cancel all reliefers' voting privileges under various state paupers statutes.

Are those 19% the people who profit by this slump? Will they be an oligarchy like that which ruled Russia in Czarist days? Will the end of our trail be such a government and will reliefers and social security clients become serfs?

Won't you call on some Congress member to kill the power of the bankers' union to throw slumps? A bill to create an elective Federal Reserve Administrator is all we need.

George P. Kingston Ferndale, Michigan

Greatest Obstacle

Is Labor Faker

Editor: "Business Unionism" by C. Thomas in your issue of March 23 is great. The capitalists like faker-led unions, and they reward the fakers with check-off of union dues and other gifts.

War production required a labor-herding agency, but the AFL had become so rotten that too many ex-members refused to go into it again. So the CIO was invented by the very same crew of fakers who had soiled the AFL. Who else but fakers like Lewis, McDonald, etc. gave us the CIO?

At this time "organizers" were admitted to any shop to organize. I worked in a shop where the employer had no objection to organization. Workers could have got much higher wages in wartime, but we were herded back to work when the faker cried "wild cat."

Labor needs a political party like the SWP, but there are too many who will not unite in one party at election time. The greatest obstacle is the labor faker in unions, so we need new leadership in unions, or a new IWW.

E. H. New Jersey

End A-Tests Say Chicago Marchers

CHICAGO, March 29 — A peace rally at the Midland Hotel here yesterday was followed by a Walk for Peace through the crowded downtown Loop. From 250 to 300 people participated.

The rally and march were part of an international "Week for World Peace" program. Here the activities were sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The peace rally was addressed by Congressman William Meyer of Vermont, atomic scientist William Davidson and Dr. Mulford Sibley, University of Minnesota professor. All three speakers urged an end to nuclear tests.

'ALL ATOMS FOR PEACE'

During the peace march, the "Walkers" wore blue arm bands and carried green forsythia branches as a symbol of life. They distributed leaflets to the onlookers and carried posters with such slogans as "All atoms for peace."

The marchers received a sympathetic response in the Loop, with but a small percentage of unfavorable remarks.

One woman commented to the Peace Walkers, "You should do this in Washington where the big shots can see you." Other people wondered if the march really did any good and were pleased to hear that similar Peace Walks were being held in other parts of the country and of the world. One man commented, "It's about time."

Groups in N.Y. Plan May Day Celebration

The historic working class struggle for peace, economic security and workers' democracy through the socialist transformation of society will be the theme of a joint May Day meeting to be held in New York by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

Martha Curti, representing the YSA, will speak on: Youth in a Changing World. Tom Kerry, chairman SWP, Local New York, will have as his topic: May Day 1959: The Struggle for a Socialist America. Tim Wohlforth, editor of the Young Socialist, will be chairman of the meeting.

The meeting will be held on Friday, May 1, 8:00 p.m., at the Militant Labor Forum Hall, 116 University Place. Proceeds will go to the Young Socialist.

British Score H-Tests



British pacifists shown above demonstrated last January against H-bomb explosions. They were joined by many other Britishers on March 30, when 15,000 people packed London's Trafalgar Square to demand nuclear disarmament.

8,000 Municipal Workers Give Wagner Hot Reception

By Lillian Kiesel

NEW YORK, April 1 — Thousands of city employees held a one-day strike and picketed City Hall here yesterday as Mayor Wagner returned from a Bermuda vacation.

They are members of District Council 37 of the State, County and Municipal Employees Union which represents members in 41 city agencies. The demonstration successfully dramatized their opposition to Mayor Wagner's "austerity" budget which penalizes the city workers.

Despite the fact that Wagner warned that all workers who did not report for work would lose a day's pay—1,500 workers had appeared at City Hall Park by 8:20 A.M. and by 9 A.M. the number had swelled to several thousand. The union estimates that, throughout the day 8,000 workers participated in the demonstration.

Wagner's "austerity" program will reduce the previously promised wage increase by more than one-third in some cases. Eighty thousand city employees who are Career and Salary workers will receive a pay increment totaling \$10 million. However, District Council 37, representing 22,000 of these workers, has been demanding additional increases for them because the present allocation is totally inadequate.

Jerry Wurf, Regional Director of the union, charges that Wagner has not bargained in good faith — in fact that he has not bargained at all. Wagner was greeted by the FIREMEN PICKET WAGNER. Today, 2,000 off-duty firemen picketed City Hall demanding "Skilled wages for skilled work." The pay increase of \$300 they expected has been reduced by the "austerity" budget to \$200 annually.

Hooray for Progress — If You Can Call It That

(The following article is by Charles D. Adams, president of Local 216 UAW-CIO, Los Angeles. It is reprinted from The Assembler, March 19, published by the local. Its original title is "Hooray for Progress.")

In a recent conversation with a Labor Relations Representative concerning what might be done to improve the lot of today's workers I stated, "the first thing I would do would be to, scrap the entire National Agreement and abolish the grievance procedure."

"Now, now," he soothed, "you know you don't mean that, you are a Technician." In my book I told him, that is a dirty name, because my next suggestion would be to swap all of our so-called Labor Technicians and Labor Statesmen for a handful of crude by resolute Labor Leaders. The sole duties of these leaders would be to bend every effort to see that the man in the shop earned enough to keep body and soul together without having to kill himself while doing it. The problem of maintaining the company's profits would be left to the stockholders and the corporation's executives.

Supervision of the Union Leader's personal department and morals would be returned to his wife and his clergymen releasing the Ethical Practices Committee and the high salaried law-makers who have presently assumed this obligation back to their golf and the business of extracting a few more tax dollars from the \$4,000-a-year-and-under bracket.

How could we possibly operate without the Agreement and

had a Plan B which they put into effect when these necessary shut downs became too frequent. The mine manager or an unreasonable Face Boss would be suspended head first down the mine shaft which is some seven hundred feet deep, by his ankles. As the miner's demands were slowly repeated to him the grip on his ankles was gradually loosened. In a surprisingly short time all differences were usually resolved. However, Management did object strenuously to this type of negotiations, complaining bitterly that it tended to create a shortage of trained Supervision.

Today the Agreements are so complicated no one understands them. The polished Labor Statesman of today lives in a world far removed from the strife and grime of the shops. He is equally at home in the White House, the Senate Chambers or the drawing room of International Celebrities. He speaks to you with an eloquence comparable to a Roosevelt or a Churchill, justifying the necessity for you to endure your miserable existence for the duration of another long term contract, while he devotes full time to the election of governors and congressmen whose avowed purpose is to enact restrictive labor laws as soon as they take office. I just don't get it.

SERVE NOTICE Some 4,000,000 workers in Japan opened their annual wage-hike campaign Feb. 25 with either a 24-hour stoppage or on-the-job rallies to call attention to their demands.

"Build Schools Not H-Bombs," Socialists Urge

DETROIT, March 28 — "If ability to hold the spotlight in a political rally is any indication of the election's outcome, the new WSU board should have two members

of the Socialist Workers Party," said the Detroit News in a report of a March 26 symposium that heard ten candidates for Wayne State University's board of governors. The two Socialist Workers candidates, Rita Shaw and Harriet Talan, were the center of the discussion with their stand that federal funds for war preparations be diverted into urgently needed subsidies for the public school system.

The Detroit Times report of the meeting, held at Wayne University, added, "Representatives of the Republican and Democratic parties suggested less stringent methods of raising necessary finances — such as raising tuitions."

Today, Evelyn Sell, Socialist Workers nominee for Regent of the University of Michigan, spoke to members of the Ford UAW Local 600 Iron and Foundry unit. Across the back of the platform from which she spoke was a banner outlining the local's program for "Getting America Back to Work." It was left over from the westside UAW rally to prepare for the Washington Conference. It included such demands as the 30 hour week at 40 hours pay, jobless compensation for the duration of unemployment, federal works projects and a national health program.

Pointing to the sign, Mrs. Sell said, "That's a fine program. But it should feature Local 600's stand for the formation of a labor party. A labor party is essential to bring this program about."

Other SWP candidates are: Robert Himmel for superintendent of public instruction and Larry Dolinski for the Highland Park Board of Education.

Curran Calls For End to Nuclear Tests

When voters in Minneapolis go to the polls this week to elect a mayor, they will have an alternative to casting their votes for the hack politicians of the Big Business political machines. That alternative is William M. Curran, a veteran trade unionist and delegate to the Central Labor Union, who has the endorsement of the Socialist Workers Party.

"The policies of this city administration," Curran charges, "are derived from the anti-labor attitudes of the National Association of Manufacturers. The Mayor and his administration have maintained a do-nothing attitude towards the needs of Minneapolis workers. They ignore the problems of unemployed, aged and minority peoples."

In addition to local issues, Curran has brought into the campaign those national issues which affect the lives of all. A dramatic example of this is his demand for an immediate cessation of nuclear-weapons testing. He points out: "This senseless testing has made our city and state one of the 'hot' radioactive regions in the world. Minnesota scientists have warned us that our milk, wheat and water are highly contaminated with Strontium 90."

Los Angeles Candidate Hits Witch-Hunting

By T. Edwards

LOS ANGELES, March 25 — In the final two weeks of his campaign for School Board, Peter Buch, Socialist Workers Party-endorsed candidate for Office No. 3, is calling on the federal government to take funds from the federal armaments budget to build the schools the country needs. He also is campaigning for academic freedom. Buch is a graduate student at University of California at Los Angeles.

Among the many meetings that Buch has addressed to date are those of nine Democratic Clubs. Though opposed to the Democratic Party, he received a warm response at each for his denunciation of the recent witch-hunt conducted by the House Un-American Activities Committee against Los Angeles teachers.

SCORES LIBERAL SLATE

In a recent statement, Buch scored the liberal slate's record on the House Committee's probe. The candidates for school board in this group — Hardy, Craig, Baca, and Carvey — either remained silent or announced support for the witch-hunting "investigation."

The People's World, a West Coast weekly that expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party, supports the liberal slate. It accused Buch of spreading "confusion" in the Office No. 3 race by running against Mrs. Baca, who is of Mexican descent. Buch pointed out, however, that Mrs. Baca can hardly be considered a spokesman for the Mexican community since she remained silent while the House Un-American Activities Committee tried to smear the community with the charge that it was "red-infiltrated."

Mrs. Baca, moreover, supports "loyalty oaths" and the Dilworth Act — both measures to compel conformity from students and teachers in the schools.

IMMUNE?

No businessman outside the "racketeer" class has ever been sent to jail under the Sherman Antitrust Act, although suspended prison sentences have been given on rare occasions, notes a Twentieth Century Fund study.

Calendar Of Events

CHICAGO

Spring Folk Festival, musical games, petite bazaar, folk dancing, food and refreshments. Sat., April 11, 8:30 p.m. at 777 West Adams St. Donation 50 cents each or 50 cents per couple. Auspices: Militant Labor Forum.

Local Directory

- BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. Every Sunday night, round table discussion, 8 P.M. 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, 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 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open noon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND-BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. Lectures and discussions every Saturday, 8 P.M., followed by open house. Call PO 3-5820. 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 1412-18th Avenue, EA 2-5554. Library, bookstore. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194.

Negro Fight on Layoffs

By George Lavan

The Jim Crow pattern woven into the whole fabric of American life has brought it about that Negro workers are unemployed at a rate more than double that of white.

The "natural" (Jim Crow) tendency of the U.S. economy is not even to keep that two-to-one ratio stable but to increase it. If not sharply counteracted by the efforts of the workers themselves, this lopsided rate of Negro unemployment will increase.

Thus the statistics for unemployment in the month of February released by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Commerce show that while there was but a slight increase in total unemployment, 18,000 more colored workers were jobless. Total unemployment for that month was listed as 4,749,000, or, at the seasonally adjusted rate, 6.1%, whereas Negro jobless were listed at 989,000 or 13.9%.

Since the total figure includes all unemployment — Negro and white — the percentage figures for Negro as compared to white unemployment would show an even greater contrast.

Thus in the economic field, as in all other fields of American life, the Negro is going to have to fight twice as hard as others.

Unemployed Negroes are going to have to fight twice as hard for the organization of the jobless and for jobless benefits out of sheer self-preservation. For the ugly fact is that unless they do there is grave danger that those economic gains made in the past two decades can be wiped out and Negroes pushed even further down the economic ladder.

Those who remember the great depression of the 1930's well know how ruthlessly racial the process of firings and lay-offs became.

Fortunately Negro workers are in a better position now than then because in the interim the mass production industries were unionized by the CIO. These unions are far from perfect. In all too many cases they have not fought sincerely enough or aggressively enough against the industry's built-in Jim Crow: in hiring, in upgrading, in apprenticeship train-

ing, etc. Though some gains have been registered, the distribution of Negro workers in the various job classifications testifies to discrimination. When there was full employment Negro workers did not have their fair share of the better-paid, skilled jobs. With recession the bulk of Negro workers being in the unskilled and semi-skilled jobs, are hardest hit by lay offs.

Nevertheless, within this framework, Negro union members are protected by their unions — and this is an important advance over the open-shop 1930's when Negroes were at the mercy of any biased foreman whose eye roved the shop looking for colored faces when he was about to lay people off, and conversely sought out white faces when rehiring took place.

All militant unionists must be zealous in their unions to prevent any chipping away of job rights of Negroes, to scotch the first signs of any tendency to make the fight for jobs a fight between union brothers on Jim Crow lines.

Negroes should welcome every step by the union movement to organize the unemployed. If these steps are followed through, an effective mass movement to protect all unemployed and their families from economic suffering with equal rights for all members can be built. Organization of this country's unemployed would encompass several millions who do not belong to unions.

The education and experience of these unemployed — Negro and white — that would result from being in the same organization and fighting for common aims would be an important step towards the interracial solidarity of the American working class.

Thus harsh economic necessity and the struggle against Jim Crow impose upon Negroes the task of working doubly hard for the building of a militant mass unemployed movement under the auspices of organized labor.

Notes in the News

GIVES FBI THE NEEDLE—Objecting to FBI use of the Journal of the American Medical Association "as a vehicle for catching criminals," Dr. Manfred S. Guttmacher of Baltimore said that "if the present policy in this country is continued, the physician's examining room will resemble a rural post office, with its wall plastered with photographs of wanted criminals." The doctor said that physicians "have a high sense of social responsibility but this does not call for them to act as special agents for the police."

MEANY SCORES AGAINST BANK — AFL-CIO President George Meany has challenged the right of the First National City Bank of New York to use bank funds to back anti-union "right-to-work" laws. The bank's August bulletin ran an article attacking the union shop. Some New York unions then talked of conducting an "economic strike" against the bank by withdrawing tens of millions of dollars in union pension funds. The threat resulted in a peace formula whereby First National agreed to publish a reply by Meany to the attack on the union shop.

SLUM PROFITEERING — A West Side Manhattan area which housed 25,000 people in 1925 packed in nearly 40,000 in 1956, although there was virtually no new construction. Such is the report of the New York City Planning Commission. Where do the 15,000 additional people live? In converted one-family brownstones. These new "dwelling units are little more than single rooms with a lock on the door and a hot plate for cooking facilities, and most without private bathrooms," says the report. Absentee landlords earn up to 42% of their cash investments in these slum rooming houses.

INDIANS CHARGE DISCRIMINATION — The Sioux Tribal Council of Rosebud, South Dakota, lodged complaints of discrimination before the House subcommittee on Indian affairs. Systematic exclusion of Indians from juries in state courts, imposition of heavier sentences on Indians than on whites and discrimination in schools were revealed by the tribal council. The Sioux oppose a federal bill which "would encourage states to extend their law and order over Indian reservations without the Indians' consent."

WIVES FAVOR BIRTH CONTROL — Nineteen out of every 20 American wives favor some form of birth control. The findings of a survey by the University of Michigan, in which more than 2,700 wives aged 18 to 38 were interviewed are reported in the April "Scientific American." Sixty-two per cent of the wives gave unqualified approval to some sort of birth control; 12% gave qualified approval; 4% were undecided; 16% gave qualified disapproval; 5% gave unqualified disapproval and one per cent did not answer. One third of the Catholic wives queried approved birth control without any qualification and a large majority approved it under certain conditions.

PRINTERS WANT STRIKE VOTE — New York union printers have asked the International Typographical Union executive council for permission to take a strike vote against ten newspapers who have deadlocked contract negotiations. The publishers want to eliminate the traditional resetting of advertisements by each newspaper thus eliminating more workers. The union which now has the 36-hour week is demanding the 30-hour week to combat unemployment.

JUDGE WASN'T NAIVE — New York Correction Commissioner Anna M. Kross accused Chief Magistrate John M. Murtagh on a radio program March 29 of plagiarism. She said that the judge took a report on prostitution which she had prepared for Mayor La Guardia and converted it into a book "Cast the First Stone," which gained considerable popularity. "He stole my stuff," the Commissioner charged. The Judge denied the accusation. He admitted having read the report but said that Mrs. Kross's ideas on prostitution were different from his. "She is well-intentioned but rather naive."

OLDER AND WISER — Cotttnam Smith, a 97-year-old magistrate in the town of Chester, Nova Scotia, is getting ready to retire. He became a justice of the peace in the early 1920's and was appointed a magistrate in 1935. Apparently he is giving up the job of dispensing justice without fond memories. "I was a farmer and a blacksmith," he said, "and that's what I should have stuck with."