

'Won't Go Back To Chain Gang'

Willie Reid Tells His Friends Why He Decided to Jump Bail

By George Lavan

Willie Reid is now a double fugitive. He is a fugitive from a Florida chain gang, and since Jan. 5 he has become a fugitive from New York.

That was the date on which the persecuted Negro agricultural worker was supposed to surrender himself to the General Sessions Court in New York. After two years in New York jails, while his lawyers appealed his case, Reid had been allowed out on \$2,000 bail which was posted by the national office of the NAACP. Then on Nov. 23, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller in a sanctimonious statement about upholding the U.S. Constitution ordered Reid sent back to the Florida chain gang.

In the Jan. 6 New York Post, Ted Poston reveals Reid's reasons for jumping bail despite his fear that his action might not be understood by those who supported his fight against extradition.

Poston reports an interview with Reid two months ago, right after the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that the fugitive could appeal only from Florida not from New York. This ruling meant that the only remaining legal recourse was Gov. Rockefeller's executive clemency. Reid apparently pinned little hope on this.

"A lot of people will be disappointed," Reid said. "They'll feel I let them down. But even they can't expect me to get myself killed just to prove I'm grateful. That's what I hope you can make them understand."

"Look, I was there [on the chain gang] for two long years. And I saw it happen there with my own eyes. Six of them got away before me. And all six was brought back. And not one of them was living when I hauled out of there. Aw, they don't kill you right away every time. It would be better if they did. But they let you know you're already dead. They play cat-and-mouse with you every minute. It's their fun.

"Three or four times a day, they'll say: 'Nigger, go bring me that shovel I stuck in the ground.' And they laugh as you brace your shoulders. But they know and you know that when they finally get tired of playing, you're going to get it — right between the shoulder blades. And then you're just another nigger who was crazy enough to try to escape (Continued on Page 2)

That \$5 Billion 'Loss' in Steel

When the steel strike ended, Associated Press estimated that "lost steel production totaled nearly \$5,000,000,000, based on pre-strike operations."

The fact is that commitments for steel use went down in 1959. Consequently the steel companies would normally have cut back production. Instead, to build a mountainous pre-strike stockpile, they stepped it up to as high as 171% of the 1947-49 rate.

Had the strike not been called, would the steel barons have added \$5,000,000,000 worth of fresh metal to the stockpile?

The companies forced the strike, used up the stockpile, and blamed the strike for lost production. The real blame for lost production belongs to the capitalists who bar the workers from producing the way they could under a planned economy.

Why Chandler Davis Took the Risk of Jail

By Harry Ring

Many experts in the field consider Dr. Chandler Davis a thoroughly competent mathematician.

I am not qualified to judge that appraisal. But after an evening with him I was sure that as a mathematics instructor he is the kind of teacher that serious students always hope for and rarely get.

By the time these lines appear, Dr. Davis may be on his way to prison. He was sentenced to a six-month term for contempt of Congress because he defied the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1954 while he was an instructor at the University of Michigan.

Yesterday he was in New York for two radio interviews on his case, plus an interview with the campus newspaper, the Columbia Spectator. William Price, co-ordinator of the Committee of First Amendment Defendants, arranged for the Militant to interview him as well.

The interview was a double one, and that's how I got my impression that Dr. Davis must

be a fine teacher. Participating for her own journal was Nora Roberts, associate editor of the Young Socialist. Nora had a special interest in the assignment because she is a college freshman and a mathematics major.

Nora and Dr. Davis talked about problems of mass and momentum, about the logic of modern mathematics, and about how two different theories give the same answers when mass approaches the speed of light.

I couldn't follow their discussion. But one thing was apparent to me. Nora was completely at ease in discussing these questions with Dr. Davis.

He followed what she said with serious interest. When she asked questions, I got the impression he sought to formulate the answers as simply and clearly as possible, but there was no trace of condescension. On several points he suggested reading matter encompassing differing views of the particular problem, some of which he said he disagreed with. He was clearly intent on stimulating deeper study of the kind that examines all serious opinions of a scientific question.

Later, Nora spoke with deep indignation that so stimulating a teacher should have to go to jail because he fought for free speech.

Dr. Davis was angry about going to prison for somewhat different reasons. Commenting on the state of the country and the world, he said, "The big thing is to get people involved in political controversy again. We have to start advocating ideas again. What I regret about this business I have been involved in is that I've had to spend more than five years defending the right to controversy and I have not been able to do much in the way of actually engaging in controversy."

Controversy is something that the 33-year-old scientist seems to thrive on. He was singled out by the House Un-American Activities Committee because (Continued on Page 2)

Berlin Youth March Against Nazis



"Nazis Raus" — "Nazis Get Out" — was the reply of 40,000 West Berlin youth to the vandals who smeared swastikas "Jude Raus" ("Jews Get Out") on synagogues and other Jewish buildings. The young people marched in a giant demonstration Jan. 8 called by the Socialist Falcons, Socialist Democratic youth organization.

On Tour

Denver Socialists Plan Early 1960 Campaign

Denver, Colo.

Editor: Three days of intensive probing in this mile-high city have convinced me that socialists can look ahead to a year of progress in the Rockies.

The youth are stirring to a new degree; and they bring out the political arena that precious ability of the youth to challenge the old and boldly examine the new.

Events are in fact arousing political curiosity to a greater extent generally among workers, students, minority peoples, and in the professions.

Too much is happening in the great, wide world for inquisitive minds to be satisfied with political clichés from Washington, trick slogans from Madison Avenue and hymns to free enterprise from Wall Street. Socialist answers to the big questions of the day begin to receive a more open-minded hearing.

I found this to be true when I addressed a local socialist-sponsored meeting held at the AFL-CIO Labor Center. My presentation was listened to attentively and a lively discussion followed. As has occurred elsewhere on my trip, gratification was voiced from the floor for a stimulating political evening.

Several of those present expressed interest in helping to provide a local forum for Socialist Workers party candidates during the presidential campaign. Conversations with some after the meeting indicated efforts toward this end will be made in the unions and minority organizations, also among student youth and in intellectual circles.

Spearheading the SWP cam-

paign in this area will be young revolutionary socialists, fired with enthusiasm and capable of vigorous activity on a par with their strong political convictions. In discussing campaign plans with them I found they have set their sights considerably beyond the confines of Denver.

They are taking a page from the book of the young socialists (Continued on Page 3)

Scabs Provoke New Violence At Albert Lea

Violence flared again at the strike-bound Wilson meat-packing plant at Albert Lea, Minn.

Two scabs complained to the police that they were beaten while having breakfast at a local cafe. Other scabs also claimed they were hit, and four said their cars had been damaged. On Jan. 9 a strikebreaker told police that his home had been damaged by a gasoline bomb.

Over 1,100 members of the AFL-CIO's United Packinghouse Workers of America struck Wilson in Albert Lea on Oct. 31. Since then the company has brought in about 600 strikebreakers from outlying farm areas.

Last month, the strikers established mass picket lines around the plant. The governor declared martial law and closed the plant briefly. Then the plant reopened under National Guard protection. Last week local police and special deputies replaced the militia.

Japanese Socialists Call Antiwar Demonstration

TOKYO, Jan. 7 — On the eve of the departure of Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi for Washington to sign the new U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, socialists and communists are planning a protest demonstration. Kishi is one of Japan's war criminals, a political figure thoroughly hated by the workers in both this country and China.

The Socialist party in particular hopes that enough demonstrators will assemble at Haneda airport to give the prime minister some embarrassment in reaching his plane. Mass picket lines are projected at entrance roads.

Whether the demonstration can be organized on sufficient scale remains to be seen. Communist party leaders are raising doubts about the project and some of the unions have not yet made a decision. The important student federation, Zengakuren,

is also still discussing the question.

The initiative in proposing the demonstration was taken by the Communist League, which was recently organized by former members of the Communist party. The Antiwar Action Committee, a group of revolutionary-minded members of the Socialist party, joined in pressing for the airport demonstration. The SP Youth League is also actively giving its support.

After the prime minister signs the treaty in Washington, it is scheduled for discussion in parliament. Whether it will be approved there is not certain. It will in any case receive sharp criticism.

The Japanese people do not want another war and they are opposed to any steps, such as this treaty represents, toward an attack on China and the Soviet Union.

The Foul Symbols On Our Buildings

An Editorial

The anti-Semitic vandalism that began in Cologne on Christmas and then swept around the world now appears to be subsiding, although in the United States reports are still coming in about the daubing of Nazi symbols and slogans on public buildings like foul words on latrine walls.

Public opinion will greet the passing of this outbreak with gratitude. The problem remains, however, of accounting for it and of drawing what lessons we can.

One explanation that has been offered deserves severe condemnation, in our opinion. This is the contention that what we saw was "the resurgence of an obstinate and innate anti-Jewishness which seems to plague the German character like an ethnic cancer..." (Rabbi William Rosenblum of Temple Israel in New York.) This is nothing but an inversion of the Nazi view which holds the Germans to be a "master race." The logical conclusion is that the Germans must be exterminated. It would seem self-evident that the truth must be sought not in such mystical notions but in the field of economics, sociology and politics.

Part of the explanation is undoubtedly that the Adenauer regime has "not done enough" to eradicate the traces of Nazism. Part of the proof offered for this is that the government is honeycombed with former Nazis and that the history textbooks have not educated the youth against Nazism.

If you are to blame the Adenauer regime, then it is only consistent to take a look at the power which put it in office and which has kept it there since the end of World War II. That power is American imperialism. How guilty it is can be judged from a simple fact like this: On Jan. 12 the U.S. authorities in Berlin banned all information to the press about former Nazis. The U.S. Document Center in Berlin has complete records of the 10,000,000 membership cards in the Nazi party. The reason given for the censorship was that it might be embarrassing to the West German government to give out such information.

The big fact is that U.S. policy in Germany has been to put former Nazis in office and, even more important, to refurbish and restore to domination the capitalist backers of the Nazis such as Alfred Krupp.

Even this is obviously far from the whole explanation. The anti-Semitic outrages were not confined to Germany. They were virulent in America and in other countries which fought Germany in World War II.

A group of psychologists have attempted to account for this. They said that although it goes deeper, the outbreak was like the hoop craze, rock 'n' roll, and the scribbled saying "Kilroy was here." There is something to what the psychologists say, for the burst of anti-Semitism did spread like a passing fad.

But the anti-Semitic filth is qualitatively different. It is more like a wave of suicides, or murder, or cannibalism — a horror deep in our society that suddenly manifests itself at the surface in a way to shake every thinking person.

Anti-Semitism is endemic in capitalist society like a smoldering plague of the days before modern drugs. It feeds on the frustrations, the insecurities, the fear of the future which capitalism imposes on people. It is actively fostered by the hatred for everything but the sacred dollar that pours down from the top levels of society in a thousand forms.

If the anti-Semitic snailpox should jog us about anything, it is to get on with the job of putting capitalism on the scrap heap before social conditions ripen for another Hitler.

Analysis of Steel Pact Shows Only Few Gains

By Tom Kerry

Having won on the main issue — the defense of their union against the attempt of the steel corporations to smash it — the steel workers are now studying what was gained or lost on other issues in the longest steel strike on record.

The successful resistance against the union-busting assault raised the self-confidence and morale of the workers. But new material gains were negligible. And gains won previously were surrendered. The new gains were in no way commensurate to the time and energy expended or the sacrifices made by the steel workers; nor did they approximate what could have been won under a more militant and aggressive leadership.

Commenting on the new steel contract, New York Times correspondent, Joseph Loftus, observed: "The total package's percentage increase is smaller than any in steel since the war." The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 12, quoted Labor Secretary Mitchell: "The steel companies and the steel union, in the present settlement, have cut the postwar trend by half." And, Mitchell added, the basic steel wage increase of 7 cents is less than the average wage boosts in recent months.

In his recent television broadcast, Roger Blough, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, boasted that the new contract reduced by more than one-half the aver-

age rise in "hourly employment costs" over the past twenty years. That would make it the worst contract since the union was organized. At any rate, about the fact that it is McDonald's "worst" there can be no doubt.

If the facts belie the legend of McDonald's peerless leadership — so much the worse for the facts. Addressing a meeting of steel workers in Buffalo on the day the new agreement was announced, McDonald declared, "We emerge from these negotiations with the greatest contract, the best conditions the steel workers have ever enjoyed." What did McDonald give for what he got?

The issues of greatest concern to the workers are: wages, hours and working conditions. The basic function of a union, any union, is to fight for a more adequate share of the wealth produced by labor; to reduce hours of work as labor productivity rises; to improve working conditions. Fringe benefits, as the word clearly implies, are peripheral to the main goals.

The new steel contract runs for 30 months, expiring June 30, 1962. On the matter of wages: The rise in basic minimum wage rates will be 7 cents an hour. However, there will be no increase in basic wages until December 1960. Further, as the new contract was not made retroactive none of the benefits will be applied to the period since the expiration of the old contract on June 30, 1959.

Enemy of Labor



John F. Kennedy, heir to the Kennedy millions and scion of a family of professional capitalist politicians, made it official Jan. 2 — he's reaching for the White House. One of the architects of the anti-labor Landrum-Griffin bill, the Massachusetts senator said he would turn down any offer for the second spot on the Democratic presidential slate.

Labor Papers Score Kennedy And Johnson

Union papers have strongly denounced two Democratic party candidates for president this month. The United Mine-Workers Journal and the Union News, publication of the AFL-CIO Oil and Chemical Workers Union, attacked Sen. Lyndon Johnson (Texas) as anti-labor; while the MESA Educator, monthly journal of the Mechanics Educational Society of America, scored both Johnson and Sen. John Kennedy (Mass.)

All three union papers printed the text of a letter Johnson sent to some 22,000 constituents last year prior to the passage of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin Act.

In the letter the Senate Majority Leader said: "Throughout my public life I have favored strong, effective regulatory legislation... having voted for the Vinson Bill, the Smith-Connally (Continued on Page 4)

Congress Jockeys on Civil Rights

Stage Annual Run Around

By Lillian Kiesel

JAN. 13 — When the eighty-sixth Congress reconvened for its second session Jan. 6, the bell sounded for the first round in the election-year bout between the Democrats and Republicans.

Both parties seek to win the Negro people's vote and recognize that for this they must champion civil-rights legislation. Accordingly, House Speaker Sam Rayburn and Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, both Texas Democrats, decided to call up the token civil-rights measure authored by Johnson last year. The two Texas Democrats decided to bury the bill in committee during last year's session.

Last week, Rayburn advised House Democrats to adopt the "extraordinary" procedure of circulating a "discharge" petition that would bypass the House Rules Committee, headed by Howard W. Smith (D-Va.) in order to get the bill onto the House floor. One objective of this move was to claim the initiative in civil-rights legislation for the Democrats.

Of the 151 congressmen who have signed the petition (219 names are required) less than a dozen are Republicans. Emmanuel Celler, liberal Democrat from New York, charged: "This apparently is the political payoff for Southern support for... the labor bill last year."

"The Democrats have an 8-4 majority on the Rules Committee... With the big majority they have on the committee and in the House, can't they run Congress?" House Republican Leader Halleck countered. In the Senate meanwhile, Sen. Javits sought to put Democrats further on the defensive by introducing a bill containing a provision for federal voting registrars.

Last year, the Civil Rights Commission recommended that federal officials be empowered to register Negroes disfranchised in the South. The Commission said that the 1957 civil-rights law rendered the government helpless to defend Negro voting rights.

However, Pres. Eisenhower said "I don't know — as a matter of fact, I don't even know whether it is constitutional," when asked at his press conference today if he favored the Civil Rights Commission's recommendation.

Southern Democrats have served notice that they "will use every parliamentary trick" to block "extreme" legislation — including a provision for federal registrars. As in 1957, Johnson and Rayburn evidently plan to enact a law that will not incur all-out opposition from the Southerners.

As for the Northern liberal Democrats, judging by past performance, most of them will be lined up with Johnson and Rayburn at roll-call time.

The Negro people can hope to win meaningful civil-rights legislation only when a labor party wins control of Congress from both Democrats and Republicans.

Racists Again Victimize Dr. Perry of N. Carolina

Ku Klux Klan elements in Monroe, North Carolina, are celebrating another blow dealt by state officials to the militant Negroes of Union County. This is the announcement by the State Board of Medical Examiners that it has revoked the medical license of Dr. Albert E. Perry.

Dr. Perry, former vice-president of the NAACP branch, has been a target of racists since 1957, when, along with local president Robert F. Williams, he spearheaded a fight to desegregate the municipally owned swimming pool. When KKK motorcades attacked Perry's home in Oct. 1957 they found a Negro defense guard entrenched there, which exchanged shot for shot and drove them off.

The white-supremacists then concluded that a legal frame-up of Perry would be less dangerous to themselves. Petitions were

circulated at the courthouse to order Williams and Perry out of the country. Then on the unsupported evidence of a white woman Perry was accused of performing an abortion.

The state Supreme Court threw out the first conviction, but conviction by a lily-white jury in a second trial was allowed to stand though it was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Perry is now serving a two- to three-year sentence at North Carolina's Caledonia prison farm. From all over the country, Gov. Hodges has received letters urging that Perry be released.

Petitions on Perry's behalf by 4,480 residents in and around Union County were presented to the medical board hearing in vain. Racists are jubilant in the belief that even when Perry gets out of jail he will be unable to earn a living in Union County.

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Cuba at the Crossroads

The Cuban revolution has reached the crossroads. In one direction lies nationalization of industry and still more sweeping measures of progressive character. In the other, counter-revolution.

This is our estimate. It is also the estimate of other forces. Here is a report that appeared in the Wall Street Journal: "Businessmen, many of them already convinced that almost complete nationalization of Cuba's basic industry is in the offing, now have a new worry: The possibility of counter-revolution."

According to the same source, "opposition groups are busy collecting funds to buy arms and . . . the wealthy and middle-class Cubans, who have suffered the most under Castro, are ripe for revolt."

An American businessman in Havana told the Wall Street Journal, "Now I have reason to hope Castro will be overthrown. . ."

The Lesson of Guatemala

It is the hope for a successful counter-revolution that has inspired the screaming in our native American capitalist press against the Castro regime. America's capitalist rulers recall how they succeeded in 1954 in overthrowing the Arbenz government of Guatemala to which the Castro government bears some resemblance.

A crew of adventurers was put together under a Lt. Col. Armas. They were a miserable lot, but they enjoyed powerful support; behind them stood the banana kings of United Fruit and — the State Department. The American embassy was directly involved in the conspiracy that succeeded in overthrowing the Guatemalan government by force and violence.

Can an overturn like the one in Guatemala now be engineered in Cuba? Our imperialist masters seem to hope so. While the Cuban counter-revolutionaries collect funds in the skyscrapers of Manhattan to buy arms, the State Department is utilizing its world-wide influence to cut off sources of modern arms to the Cuban government. In one scandalous instance that came to light, British spokesmen acknowledged that their government had bowed to Washington's wishes.

True enough, the Wall Street plotters may decide to keep their Cuban Armas under wraps for a time. Tad Szulc, in an informative series of articles in the New York Times, explained that those who determine State Department policy are afraid that any "drastic United States action" today would arouse all of Latin America. So they are taking it on the slow bell. "They feel it is necessary to let the winds of extremism blow themselves out."

Behind the Plotters

To take such diplomatic delay as signifying an indefinite extension of time would be about the worst mistake the Castro forces could make. Evil as it is, the baleful gaze which the press has turned on Cuba gives little indication of the true fury and malevolent intent with which the world center of imperialist capital is measuring the revolution that broke out on its Latin-American doorstep.

Yankee investments in Cuba are estimated by banking circles as worth somewhere between \$800 million and \$1 billion. That's not a philanthropic fund set up for the benefit of the Cuban people. It represents an intricate network of economic control threading the rich Caribbean island like the gray mycelium of a monstrous parasite.

How powerful the forces are to which the counter-revolutionaries look for support can be judged from the following partial list of companies holding property in Cuba: Abbott Laboratories, American & Foreign Power, Atlantic Refining, Bethlehem Steel, Chase Manhattan Bank, Chrysler, Esso, First National Bank of Boston, First National City Bank of New York, Freeport Sulphur, Gulf Oil, International Harvester, International Telephone & Telegraph, Lykes Bros. Steamship, Pan American World Airways, Shell Oil, Standard Oil of California, Texaco, United Fruit.

Besides that the Catholic Church has begun to organize "action groups" in each of Cuba's 66 parishes.

The Revolutionary Forces

The Cuban revolution, however, cannot easily be "contained," no matter how intense the wish in the countinghouses of New York.

The power of the Cuban landlords and capitalists, who acted under Batista as vernal agents for the foreign masters, lies shattered.

The class forces pressing the Cuban revolution forward are of great scope and depth. The peasantry wants a clean sweep of the feudal-like estates. The workers, elated by the victory over Batista, have already begun to reorganize, foreshadowing their entrance in the arena as the

socialist force needed to assure the final success of the revolution.

Despite a rightward swing in many countries, the international setting favors the Cuban revolution. It is part of the world-wide upheaval which began at the close of World War II and which is now shaking the Mideast and Africa. From China to Cuba the revolutions tend to strengthen each other as they weaken capitalism.

The Castro Leadership

The main danger to the Cuban revolution is in its own leadership. The class background of the Castro forces is petty bourgeois. From university circles these revolutionaries moved into rural areas where they gathered strength as guerrilla fighters dedicated to agrarian reform. Their aims were nationalist and equalitarian — independence from foreign domination, an end to government corruption, reduction of special privileges, improvements for the poor.

These aims coincided with those of small business and therefore attracted support from sections of the Cuban bourgeoisie smarting under the Batista dictatorship.

When Castro's peasant forces swept into the cities, the bourgeois wing of the leadership sought strategic government posts where they could best influence economic and financial policies. Wall Street viewed these figures favorably.

The more revolutionary-minded elements projected far-reaching reforms, especially against the big landholders. But they procrastinated. And they failed to consider such fundamental measures as nationalization of industry, government monopoly of foreign trade, and the expropriation of the capitalists.

Turn to the Left

The result was a relative decline in Castro's strength and popularity. Emboldened by this, the bourgeois wing of the leadership began to differentiate a rightward position. The counter-revolutionaries plotted bombing expeditions. The weakening of the revolution culminated in the October crisis.

In this Castro turned leftward. He ousted the most suspicious figures from their strategic posts, staged great mass rallies and opened a campaign against the counter-revolutionaries and their American backers.

The agrarian reforms were speeded up. Along with division of the land, the formation of co-operatives received fresh impetus. The National Institute of Agrarian Reform was given greater weight among the government institutions.

Steps were also taken against the capitalist owners of industry. One of these is a transitional measure called "intervention." Ownership, with its tapping of profits, still remains as before, but the owners' control is "intervened." Control is shifted to representatives of the government.

A transitional step that cuts still deeper is a "request" to businessmen to begin training army men in the operation of their business; in other words, to prepare a substitute management.

In addition, the government was authorized to take over temporarily any business which has a serious labor dispute or which discharges workers. The squeeze was increased from another direction by levying higher taxes on mineral concessions and imposing stiff regulations on exploitation of petroleum resources.

Which Will It Be?

These transitional measures are in the right direction. But they were taken in response to immediate pressures. They were not foreseen, still less included in the program of the Castro leadership which spoke only vaguely of nationalizing the electric and telephone companies. This gives the revolution the appearance of headlessness. How long can this petty-bourgeois government get by in such fashion? At what point will it prove incapable of transcending its petty-bourgeois character?

To consolidate the revolution, no choice is open but to take the road of nationalizing the key industries, instituting socialist property forms, constructing a planned economy and undertaking an active policy for a similar course throughout Latin America. The aim of Cuba's foreign policy should be the formation of a United States of Latin America that could unite all countries below the Rio Grande in an interlocking socialist economy of enormous productive capacity.

The alternative to that grandiose perspective is stagnation, demoralization and decline of the Cuban revolution, an eventual counter-revolutionary victory and the restoration of a dictatorial regime even worse than that of Batista.

Which will it be?

Don't Want Another War



Some ten thousand Japanese workers and students stormed through police lines in Tokyo Nov. 27 to demonstrate before parliament their opposition to the new Japan-U.S. "Security" Pact to be signed in Washington this month. According to story printed below, a group of students expelled from the Communist party for "Trotskyism" led the demonstration.

Socialists Tell About Struggle Over Automation in Japan

Revolutionary socialists in Japan have issued a bulletin in English to inform socialists in other countries about Japanese class-struggle developments. The bulletin, called "Struggles in Japan," is issued by the Revolutionary Communist League, which "was established . . . after the Twentieth Congress of the Russian Communist party and the Hungarian tragedy, but has progressed rapidly to exert some influence in the mass movement, especially during the last year."

"It is a pleasure for us to publish our new organ," says the first issue of "Struggles in Japan," dated Dec. 21, "when mass upsurges are seen in the tenacious struggle of the coal miners against rationalization [and] in the nationwide united struggles against the Japan-U.S. 'Security' pact. . ."

The Japanese capitalists are rationalizing and automating Japanese industry, says the bulletin, and have decided to overcome the resistance of the Coal Miners' Union first. This union is the strongest in Japan. The miners are demanding that their industry be nationalized. None of the political parties, except the Revolutionary Communist League, has supported this demand, however. The Socialist party, which supposedly stands for nationalizing all industries, has remained silent about the miners' demand. The Communist party criticized the slogan of the Coal Miners' Union, arguing that it is more important to fight against layoffs than for nationalization. However, the struggle the miners have waged so far against the effects of labor-saving devices shows that nationalization of industry is necessary to prevent mass layoffs.

Ousted for "Trotskyism"

"Struggles in Japan" reports that the demonstration in Tokyo Nov. 27 of some 10,000 students and workers against revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security" Pact was led by a group of students who were recently expelled from the Communist party allegedly for "Trotskyism." They accepted the help of the Revolutionary Communist League in their struggle against the party's ma-

... On Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

who did some pioneering in new campaign methods in the East last fall. This winter they plan a trailblazing trip through Colorado and into adjacent Rocky Mountain states. Like the Eastern trailblazing pioneers, their object is to mobilize support for the SWP presidential campaign on a regional scale.

How can socialism fail to make headway when it is backed by young supporters who think nothing of facing treacherous mountain weather to do some winter campaigning for the cause?

Fraternally,
Farrell Dobbs

Earn \$130 a Year

Average per capita income for one billion people in economically underdeveloped areas of the "free world" amounts to no more than \$130 per year, according to a recent United Nations report.

national leadership. However, they don't consider themselves Trotskyists "but remain neutral between the Stalinists and us," says "Struggles in Japan."

These dissident CP students have formed their own Communist League. They hold leadership in the National Federation of Students' Self-Government Associations (Zengakuren).

Following the Nov. 27 demonstration, the police arrested a number of the student leaders. Then the Communist League group in Zengakuren called for a new demonstration against parliament but abandoned any attempt to involve the working-class movement. Furthermore, even the students in Tokyo did not seem ready to engage in a new demonstration. And the Socialist and Communist parties have denounced Zengakuren.

[A Dec. 2 Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo reports that the CP expelled 30 of its student members and restricted activities of 39 others after warning about anti-party acts. They were termed "Trotskyists."]

The Revolutionary Communist League, of course, did not join the SP and CP in denouncing Zengakuren. But "our league pointed out that the Nov. 27 demonstration was an expression of the anger of the masses," says "Struggles in Japan," and that preparations for further actions "must be united with struggles of the workers in the shops."

"Struggles in Japan" also reprints an article from the Revolutionary Communist League's organ, "World Revolution," advocating that the Japanese working class forestall the next employer offensive through a well-planned offensive of its own.

Japan is now in a boom. Though the operation of factories is changing continuously to automation, labor power is in short supply. However, recession signs are appearing, and this means that the workers must anticipate a capitalist offensive to reduce wages and undermine working conditions when the boom breaks.

In the past, the labor movement has been caught unawares whenever the employing class launched an offensive. But if the unions press their demands now against the employers, including demands that will meet the workers' needs when layoffs mount, then the working class will be able to keep the initiative under recession conditions.

SOHYO's Plan

The leaders of SOHYO, the Japanese labor federation, have adopted a plan for union battles, says "Struggles in Japan." But it is schematic. According to this plan, workers were supposed to campaign for union recognition last fall and are supposed to campaign for wage increases and a minimum wage standard next spring.

Meanwhile, major battles involving the coal miners and the railway workers have broken out. Workers in many smaller enterprises have engaged in a series of strikes. Finally, the demonstrations against the revision of the Japan-U.S. "Security" treaty indicate a readiness on the part of the workers to struggle at this time.

The Revolutionary Communist League believes that a working-class offensive can be developed successfully by build-

ing on these struggles. On the other hand, to stick to the SOHYO schedule might very well result in dissipating the current wave of militancy before spring arrives.

The reason the trade-union leaders abide by their schedule, "Struggles in Japan" believes, is that they envisage the spring campaign as an adjunct to moves by the Socialist party deputies to introduce minimum-wage legislation in parliament. This makes parliamentary action primary, however, says "Struggles in Japan," and avoids a basic test of strength with the employers.

Disease of Poverty

Tuberculosis was almost four times as prevalent in central Harlem as in the rest of New York City, a report entitled "Tuberculosis in NYC 1958" revealed.

In Other Lands

Egypt Starts Building Aswan Dam

USSR Supplies Loan, Engineers

Construction of the Aswan High Dam on the Nile began Jan. 9 when Egyptian President Nasser pressed a button exploding ten tons of dynamite. Guests of honor at the celebration were Soviet Minister of Electric Power Station Construction, I. T. Novikov, and King Mohammed V of Morocco.

The first stage of construction is being carried on under supervision of Soviet engineers and with Soviet-made equipment furnished by a \$93 million Soviet loan.

The high dam has long been a major ambition of the Egyptian people. In 1956 the U.S. State Department abruptly canceled a promised loan of \$56 million toward construction of the dam. This was to force Egypt to change its foreign policy under which a trade and arms purchase agreement had just been signed with the Soviet bloc.

Instead of being coerced into submission, Nasser retaliated by nationalizing the Suez Canal.

The high dam at Aswan will increase Egypt's arable soil by one-third and its electric power ten times. The dam will be the world's highest and its reservoir — nearly 2,000 square miles — the world's largest. Completion of the first stage of construction is scheduled for 1964.

Algerian Leaders Said to Be Holding 'Decisive' Parley

The Christian Science Monitor (Jan. 12) in a front-page story by Mario Rossi, its UN correspondent, reports that a "decisive" conference of the leaders of the Algerian independence struggle is taking place in the Libyan city of Tripoli.

Giving as his source an unnamed "high-ranking North African" just arrived from Libya, Rossi says that assembled at the conference are all the military and political leaders operating inside and outside Algeria, in particular all the ministers of the Algerian Provisional Government, the 54 members of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution, and representatives of the underground, especially

The American Way of Life

Free and Easy — That's Us

As every editor of the American capitalist press reminds us about once a week in one way or another, our way of life is unique. In other countries you're watched; you never know when the police are going to swoop down on you for doing something perfectly normal. So life in other countries is grim and not much fun, especially behind the Iron Curtain, while our way is free and easy and full of good humor.

Of course you can carry things too far. We take things free and easy but there are times when it is best to exercise restraint. Sam Thompson was given a lesson in this which all of us might study with profit.

Sam Thompson is an elderly Negro who lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Right now he is in jail.

It happened like this. On Jan. 24, 1959, he was standing in a beer hall waiting for a bus. It's not quite clear whether or not someone had put a dime in the juke box, but the old man began to tap his foot, even, according to one version, to shuffle both feet.

The law let him have it. He was arrested at once, hauled into court, found guilty and fined twice: \$10 for loitering and another \$10 for disorderly conduct.

That was when Sam Thompson made his second mistake. He hired Louis Lusky, a lawyer, to make an appeal. Lusky discovered that Kentucky law apparently makes no provision to appeal cases like that; naturally he took it to the Supreme Court. And so, last week America's highest justices, all nine of them, sat in their black robes to weigh a case that might have puzzled Solomon himself.

Justice Whitaker asked: "Was it a violation of an ordinance when an old colored man goes into a beer hall, and is he guilty of loitering and disorderly conduct simply because he taps his foot to music as he waits for a bus on a cold winter night?"

Attorney Herman E. Frick, representing the city of Louisville, put the judge right on that one: "That's very dramatic, but it doesn't take into account he was doing a shuffle dance."

"What is shuffle dancing?"

"Well, it's some form of dancing which uses a system of shuffling."

"Is shuffling illegal in Louisville?" asked Justice Frankfurter.

Unlicensed Dancing

"No, sir," responded Louisville's legal representative, "but the tavern owner's license did not permit dancing."

The chief justice, Warren himself, broke in with a request for information: "If a person went into a department store, shuffled his feet, and made no purchase, would he be guilty of loitering?"

Frick had the answer ready: "Under certain circumstances." "Well," said the chief justice, "there certainly would be a lot of women in jail then."

The \$10 fine for "disorderly conduct" was levied on Thompson for arguing with the cops after they hustled him out of the tavern. Warren wanted to know about that. "Do you put a man in jail for arguing with cops?"

"If there is sufficient evidence," the lawyer assured the judge.

The highest court in the land did not give its decision then and there. Law and order is not something to consider hastily. They took the case under advisement.

Why is Thompson in jail now? He contends that ever since he hired that lawyer, the police have been irked. They arrest him about every time they catch sight of him, he claims. Since the tavern incident, they've arrested him 12 times.

The moral is, live it up in the American way, free and easy; but don't let the cops catch you at it.

— Paul Abbott

Mine Deaths

Coal-mine accidents took a toll of 245 lives in the first ten months of 1959.

in the cities. These latter did not attend the 1956 and 1957 conferences.

The conference has set as alternatives: (1) negotiated guarantees from France of the right of self determination promised by De Gaulle, or (2) intensification of the independence war.

Militarily, the conference has apparently granted commanders in the field greater operational authority. Politically, the conference is discussing how to transform the FLN into an action party "that will compensate for the total lack of a party machine inside Algeria."

The Monitor's source of information stated that the FLN acts "as a municipal authority but not a political party" in the parts of Algeria under its control.

U.S. Oil Companies Obtain Concessions In Spanish Sahara

A group of U.S. oil corporations have been granted long-sought concessions to explore for oil in Spain's African colonies, according to the Jan. 11 New York Times. The Spanish Sahara is believed to be a great potential source of the black gold.

The rejoicing U.S. companies include Standard Oil of Ohio, Gulf, Caltex, Tidewater Richfield, Cities Service, Union and others. The liberal New York Post asked editorially Jan. 12: "Could this be the real fruit of President Eisenhower's dubious mission to Madrid?"

Chinese Dissidents Put on Purge List At March Meeting

In an article in the Jan. 7 People's Daily, An Tzu-ven, former confidential secretary to Mao Tse-tung, revealed that a purge of numerous military and government officials in the Chinese People's Republic was planned at a central committee meeting last March. Several prominent ones were ousted in September, including Defense Minister Peng Teh-huai.

An Tzu-ven said that in some branches of the Communist party political leadership had fallen into "the hands of land-

lords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and undesirable characters." This may be true, but the terms are typically applied by Stalinists to any kind of opposition.

Further alterations are being made in the communes. An Tzu-ven indicated. "At the moment a penetrating Communist education campaign is in progress in the rural areas and communes, and party organizations are being further streamlined."

A copy of the Kiangsi Daily News which arrived in Hong Kong carried a lengthy staff article on a tendency in the communes to veer back to private enterprise.

Leaders of the rural communes were warned against making individual households the units of production with specific plots of land assigned to them.

Political Parties Legalized in Iraq

Political parties have been allowed to resume activity in Iraq. Under the pro-imperialist regime of deposed Premier Nuri as Sa'id, political parties had not been allowed to function for five years. After the July 4, 1958, revolution which overthrew Sa'id and established a republic, Premier Kassim retained the ban on political parties for a "transitional" period which lasted 18 months. That has now expired and parties may apply to the Minister of Interior for licenses to operate.

Three parties have already been granted such permission. They are the Communist party, which has the support of the bulk of the workers and peasants of the country, the Kurdish Democrats representing the Kurds, a minority people in the Arab nation, and the National Democrats, a middle-class liberal party.

A split in the leadership of the Communist party appeared when former party chief, Daoud Sayegh, refused to accompany the other leaders to file for legal party status. In his paper, Al Mabda, he accuses them of "left-wing deviationism." The official CP line, however, calls for a national front or coalition of all the parties under Premier Kassim's leadership. The National Democrats oppose this proposal.

