

Shall Lynch Murder Be Made Illegal?

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French A-Test Angers World

African Nations Strongly Denounce Nuclear Explosion in Sahara Desert

By Carl Goodman

The world did not exactly gaze in awe at the "grandeur of France" when De Gaulle's government exploded its first atom bomb Feb. 13 in the Sahara Desert. Though De Gaulle exulted, "Hurrah for France!" Since this morning she is stronger and prouder, the reaction throughout the globe was far less reverential.

"The government which acted as a butcher in Algeria is now trying to act as a but-

cher for all Africa," declared officials of the United Arab Republic in Cairo.

In Ghana, the government of Kwame Nkrumah froze all assets of French firms "until such time as the effects on the population of Ghana of the present atomic explosion and the future experiments referred to by the French Prime Minister become known."

783 'Model-T' Bombs Ignited

A batch of 783 "obsolete" incendiary fire bombs were detonated in one afternoon last month at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver. An arsenal official told the Rocky Mountain News that the same bomb load dumped from a plane would have the incendiary power to set 29,754 separate fires. This was termed the "Model-T way to wage war."

The jellied gasoline bombs were exploded a few hundred yards away from an outside storage area containing thousands of barrels of nerve gas so deadly that a single drop in the eye can prove fatal.

People in the area have complained about the casual way of covering a poison sufficient to "overkill" the entire population of the world.

"Gesture of folly," is how Morocco's leading party, Istiqlal, described the test. On Feb. 15, Morocco announced the abrogation of its agreement with France whereby Moroccan affairs in a number of countries. Rabat also summoned home its ambassador to Paris, and labor in key cities waged a four-hour protest strike against the French action.

The Tunisian government expressed itself "shocked and hurt." On the morning of the explosion the nationalist press announced: "French crime to be perpetrated today."

In West Berlin, students at the Free University held a protest demonstration in front of the French government building. In Munich, members of the Committee Against Atomic

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Too Many Babies?

The Peril Mounts To Our Way of Life

By Joseph Hansen

Third in a series of articles.

The efforts to arouse the public to do something about preventing the human race from multiplying too fast have not been favored with much success. Even the prediction of a planet so crowded that standing room will be at a premium does not seem to have struck home. Somehow it seems unrealistic to worry about having to elbow the camel and dromedary aside in the Sahara a thousand years from now, about vying with eagles for perches in the Himalayas and competing with the penguins for living space on the Ross ice shelf. It even seems implausible that the swarm of babies will become so great that like a plague of locusts they will devour all available food.

A number of authorities seem to recognize this weakness in our psychological defenses against the human baby and have therefore sought to shore them up by showing how the new foe threatens all we hold dear. The Hugh Moore Fund, for instance, in a free pamphlet, "The Population Bomb," considers human fecundity in relation to war, peace and communism:

"Hundreds of millions of people in the world are hungry. In their desperation they are increasingly susceptible to Communist propaganda. . . .

"U. S. taxpayers cannot feed the world. And much as we would wish to help the earth's hungry millions we cannot even dent the problem with dollars. . . .

"Today the population bomb threatens to create an explosion as dangerous as the explosion of the H bomb, and with as much influence on prospects for progress or disaster, war or peace. . . .

"But while the H bomb is only being stockpiled, the fuse of the population bomb is already lighted and burning. Every day adds 135,000 people to the population of this planet. . . .

"No time is to be lost. The peril mounts daily. Our way of life, if not the actual existence of ourselves and our children, is at stake."

Margaret Sanger, the noted advocate of planned parenthood, who has fought for decades for the public's right to free access to birth-control information and birth-control devices, wrote in a letter to the editor of the New York Times:

"Birth control, family planning and population limitation are most important in any effort to bring real peace in the world. Less population will bring less war. Fewer people means more peace."

We cite this not to discredit the good work Margaret Sanger has done in fighting against reactionary views and reactionary laws on birth control, but to show how the "population explosion" question is being brought into current economic and political issues. The late Dr. Antoinette Konikow of Boston, who pioneered in America in the fight for a progressive attitude toward birth control, would have taken issue with Margaret Sanger's belief that fewer people necessarily means more peace. Dr. Konikow, one of the founders of the Socialist Workers party, held to the Marxist position that the causes of war are economic. She also subscribed to the Marxist view on the population question. We will consider this view later.

Lawrence Fertig, a Scripps-Howard columnist voiced

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On Tour

How Wilson Was Licked In Thirties

New York, N. Y.

Editor:

I find that Wilson & Company's savage attack on the Packinghouse Workers comes as something of a shock to unionists without experience in a stand-up fight against the bosses.

None of the devices of labor statesmanship seem to work. Every sign of weakness in the union leadership is met by a toughening of company policy.

A company ultimatum on wages and conditions is arrogantly hurled at the union. Preferential job status is demanded for scabs who have replaced strikers. These strikers are offered nothing more than a place in line at the company's employment office.

Scab herding is helped along by the connivance of both Democrats and Republicans in public office. Whether they are judges, mayors or governors; whether they act openly or through sly maneuvers — they all wind up in a strikebreaking role.

A danger has arisen that the federal government will intervene through the National Labor Relations Board to decertify the AFL-CIO at Wilson's and hold a new representation election. The object will be to mobilize the scab vote in a move to certify a company union as the sole bargaining agent in the Wilson plants.

These consequences of today's inept union leadership stand in poor contrast to the outcome of past labor struggles in the packing industry. A case in point concerns the Wilson plant at Albert Lea, Minnesota, where the current battle has been the fiercest.

In The Thirties

When the CIO packinghouse union was being organized in the thirties the same plant was struck and a similar fight developed. Police and special deputies seized the union hall, broke the picket lines and began to herd scabs into the plant.

The strikers sent out an appeal for help. In big time flying squadrons of packinghouse workers from the Hormel plant at nearby Austin and truck drivers from Minneapolis

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N. Y. Pickets To Hit A-Test

The Sane Nuclear Policy Committee has scheduled a picket-line demonstration in front of the French Consulate General in New York to protest the French government's recent explosion of an A-bomb in the Sahara.

The picketing is planned for Saturday, Feb. 20 and will begin at 2 p.m. The French Consulate is located at 934 Fifth Avenue between Seventy-fourth and Seventy-fifth Streets.

Several student organizations have already agreed to join the demonstration, a SANE spokesman said.

Rarick Planning New Bid For Top Steel Union Post

The Dues Protest Movement in the United Steel Workers, which challenged the machine of President David McDonald in the 1958 union elections, is planning to run a full slate against him and other international officers next year, according to the Feb. 4 Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph. Donald Rarick will probably again run against McDonald.

The announcement was made by Nicholas Mamula, president of Aliquippa Local 1211 and one of the leaders of the Rarick opposition. A principal target of the dissident group's present attack appears to be the terms of the settlement of the steel strike. The newspaper of Local 1211 charged that the claimed 39-cent hourly increase actually comes to only 20 cents.

The Rarick group had pledged before the strike that they would not criticize the union officialdom until a settlement was reached. When the new contract was signed, Rarick declared: "After 116 days of

How About Some Lunch?



Negro students seek counter service at F. W. Woolworth Co. in Rock Hill, S. C., Feb. 12. Management refused service at the "whites only" bar and closed the counter. White racist youths jeered and heckled and threw an egg at the Negro demonstrators.

"You CAN Have Us Racists Ponder And Eastland Too!" Profit Aspect of Desegregation

By Tom Kerry

It seems a-law of labor coalition politics that the more remote the election the more militant, demanding and critical are the labor statesmen. And conversely, the closer the election date the more meek, mild and submissive do they become.

The ringing ultimatums of a Walter Reuther — "You can't have us and Eastland too!" — are quietly pigeonholed as election time draws near.

Last summer the enactment by Congress of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin "killer" bill induced roars of indignation and threats of political reprisal by the union tops. It's high time, said AFL-CIO President George Meany in September, to scotch the idea that "electing Democrats means electing friends of labor." With the betrayal of labor by the Democratic "friends" fresh in mind, Meany added:

"We soon found out that, if we got any more victories like we had in 1958, that victory might ruin us."

That was in September. In October the process of rehabilitating the tattered "friends" was begun. The Reuther machine at the Atlantic City UAW convention — in preparation for a personal visit from friend Kennedy — put over a resolution whitewashing the "friends" in Congress who had voted for the "killer" law.

Sit It Out?

But the betrayal still rankled. A number of top union leaders refused to go along with the whitewash.

On the basis of information provided by prominent labor

spokesmen, the Jan. 18 Wall Street Journal reported: "The AFL-CIO high command is now preparing to sit out the 1960 presidential campaign" to teach the Democrats a lesson — not to take the support of labor for granted.

The WSJ article created quite a stir among the top labor brass. Although such threats of political reprisal against the Democrats had been repeatedly voiced last summer, the labor statesmen never intended that they be taken seriously. Especially now that the campaign is well under way. So . . . to allay any fears on the part of the "friends" the recent Florida meeting of the top AFL-CIO Executive Council adopted a resolution of reassurance.

The resolution disavows "political neutrality," and affirms that "the AFL-CIO will actively support candidates favorable to the principles and ideals supported by the American labor movement." However, AFL-CIO bodies are specifically instructed to refrain from partici-

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LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 12 — Some southern business interests are undergoing an inner struggle involving their racist "principles" and their appetite for profits.

This was reflected in an editorial in yesterday's Courier-Journal commenting on an ordinance introduced by Alderman William W. Beckett, a Negro, to compel Louisville's theaters, hotels and restaurants to admit Negro patrons on the same basis as whites.

The editorial notes that a local "art" theater has been enjoying increased profits since it began admitting Negroes on a non-segregated basis. It also suggests that the city could attract the lucrative business of conventions of interracial church and welfare groups if they were assured that delegates would not suffer discrimination.

The editor suggests that businessmen desegregate voluntarily.

Opponents of Trujillo Sentenced to 30 Years

Dictator Trujillo has admitted that widespread opposition exists against his regime. On Feb. 12 he stated that a January "conspiracy" against his thirty-year rule had been "smashed" and that 127 persons had been jailed. One hundred and twenty have been convicted and received sentences of thirty years, according to Feb. 12 AP dispatch from Ciudad Trujillo.

Dominican refugees have placed the toll of those arrested at several thousand. Many of these, they report, have been tortured, killed or allowed to die in Trujillo's dungeons. On Jan. 31 the six Roman Catholic bishops in the country issued a pastoral letter read in all churches denouncing the unspeakable cruelties of the regime. The letter had to be smuggled out of the country to get past Trujillo's tight censorship.

Revolution, paper of Castro's July 26 Movement, reports how the trials of Trujillo's opponents have been conducted: ". . . counsel for the defense had only one minute to acknowledge the guilt of their clients."

Continue Activity

Basing itself on Dominican sources, Revolution says that Trujillo is preparing new arrests, but that the revolutionaries are continuing vigorous activity.

Meanwhile, Sen. George A. Smathers, Florida Democrat and head of a Senate unit on Latin-American trade, has visited Trujillo. At a press conference Feb. 9 in Ciudad Trujillo, he announced that the dictator had pledged to hold free multi-party

municipal elections within a year.

The pledge followed a discussion in which Smathers said he sought to persuade Trujillo to begin a peaceful transition to a representative government. Smathers said he was "optimistic" about what Trujillo will do.

They Say, "No Thanks"

According to Edward C. Burks, writing in the Feb. 10 New York Times, Trujillo actually sent letters to eighty-one persons a few weeks ago urging them to form parties if they wanted. All eighty-one, evidently sensing a trap, answered by pledging their loyalty to him. That the dictator is sorely pressed was indicated by the fact that his foreign minister has been seeking to reach an agreement with the Pope. Trujillo also has announced a new program of giving land to 50,000 peasants and constructing furnished homes for them free of charge.

Sidney Hook Joins In Plea for Sobell

Sidney Hook, Nathan Glazer, Irving Kristol and Dwight Macdonald, in a letter published in the Feb. 16 New York Times, called for clemency for Morton Sobell, convicted in 1950, along with the Rosenbergs, as an "atom spy." They believe Sobell "guilty . . . beyond a reasonable doubt" but consider the 30-year sentence "excessive." They also asked clemency for Harry Gold and David Greenglass, government witnesses in the witch-hunt trials.

Negro Students Spread Battle Through South

Sit-Downs Against Jim Crow Force Lunch Bars to Close

By George Lavan

A tide of youthful militancy in the struggle against Jim Crow is flooding the South. Already it has swept into cities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida. Begun by Negro college students in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Feb. 1, it has been surging on Southern campuses for three weeks and is now involving large numbers of Negro high-school students.

The Greensboro action was planned by four freshmen at the Agricultural and Technical College, a state-supported Negro institution in that city. These four pioneers — Ezell Blair, David Richmond, Franklin McLain and Joseph MacNeil — had formed a Student Executive Committee for Justice. They chose a nearby five-and-ten-cent store (F. W. Woolworth), heavily patronized by the 3,000-member student body, as the first place to bring some justice.

The four student leaders entered the store Monday afternoon (Feb. 1) and sat down at the lunch counter, which is "for whites only."

When they were refused service, they continued to sit quietly at the counter till the store closed at 5:30 p.m. Next day they returned and were joined by 27 more students from A. and T. and from Bennett, a college for Negro women.

On Wednesday, the sit-down group increased to 45 including a few courageous students from several white colleges.

Attempts to negotiate a settlement with the store failed when management refused to talk with student representatives. The local manager had wired F. W. Woolworth headquarters in New York and had been given orders to deal with the situation as a local problem.

By Friday, scores of Negro townspeople, some of them displaying American flags, had joined the demonstration.

On Saturday, Woolworth management, claiming it had received a bomb threat, had the police clear the store and then closed.

The Negro students considered the closing of lily-white facilities the next best thing to their desegregation. They jubilantly proceeded to the S. H. Kress lunch counter. This store quickly shut down.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Woolworth and Kress stores in Greensboro reopened but with their lunch counters closed.

At 10 a.m. that morning, 22 Negro students from North Carolina College and four white students from Duke University took seats at Woolworth's lunch counter in Durham.

They were refused service and

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Seattle Student Punished For Scorning Swastika

A sharp controversy erupted at the University of Washington campus in Seattle after a Jewish student was officially punished for replying to insults hurled at him in an anti-Semitic demonstration.

Bruce Osterman, 18, president-elect of the freshman class was suspended from his office for the rest of the academic year by the Student Judiciary Committee. The charge was conduct "unbecoming to a candidate." He had made an "indelicate" gesture with his arm to a crowd hurling obscene epithets at him.

During a campus election parade Jan. 20, a car bearing a swastika flag pulled into line ahead of Osterman's truck. As the truck approached a fraternity house, someone in the crowd shouted, "Eat it, Jew!"

Osterman replied with the "indelicate" gesture which he described later as a "pure reflex."

Farther down the parade route, firecrackers were thrown

Caravan Hauls Food, Cash to Wilson Strikers

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 14 — "Solidarity Forever" was the theme both in song and action yesterday as 6,000 trade unionists joined in a caravan to the strike-bound plant of Wilson & Co. in Albert Lea.

The "Solidarity Caravan," organized by the Minnesota State AFL-CIO gave the strikers \$17,000 in cash and 180 tons of food.

Hundreds of cars and trucks, lining the highway for miles, carried local union names and numbers and slogans of encouragement to the Wilson strikers.

As the cars stopped at the union headquarters to drop off the food and cash, they were handed the first issue of a newspaper, News from Albert Lea, being published by the strikers. Buttons and car stickers carrying the slogans "Don't Buy Wilson" and "The Wilson Label is a Disgrace to Your Table" were passed out to the caravan.

A mass meeting of 2,800 jammed the Armory to hear speeches by local and district officials of the United Packinghouse Workers and top leaders of the state AFL-CIO.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk by a Wilson striker who said, "I started working for Wilson thirty years ago for nine cents an hour. It was only through the union that we were able to better our wages and working conditions. I walked out of the plant when the strike was called four months ago with my head high in the air; and

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Oath Attacked At Ohio State

A petition urging Ohio congressional representatives to vote for repeal of the student loan "loyalty" oath proviso has been signed by 115 faculty members at Ohio State University in Columbus.

George Hochfield, English department instructor who scored the oath requirement as a "political intrusion into the conduct of academic affairs," said it took him just a week to get the signatures.

at his truck, with the cry, "Catch this, Jew!"

Osterman won the election as an independent running against fraternity-supported candidates. In a statement to the press on Osterman's suspension, Tony Chase, Inter-Fraternity Council president, said: "The issue is purely a moral one. This Osterman has led everybody to believe that he was discriminated against because he's a Jew and independent."

An editorial by Mary Richardson in the University Daily declared: "How can they smear a young man for being human and completely ignore the narrow-minded street-screamers who yelled from out of the gutter . . ."

University President Charles Odegaard said he is looking into the affair but hasn't yet made a careful study of it.

In past weeks, swastikas have been scrawled on the university buildings and elsewhere on the campus.

Dread Foot-in-Mouth Disease Troubles Head of AFL-CIO

By John Thayer

Observers of the labor movement are speculating about AFL-CIO President George Meany's seemingly sudden in-epitome on issues concerning Negroes. They cite his outburst at A. Philip Randolph at the last AFL-CIO convention and his recent attack on Congressman Powell as examples of "foot-in-mouth disease" and ask how Meany has contracted this ailment. The answer is simple enough.

These are but surface manifestations of the AFL-CIO top bureaucracy's irritation, now turning to alarm, over the movement of Negro unionists to organize and speak for themselves and their interests within the unions. Dissatisfaction with the lip service given to civil rights by the labor bureaucrats while they maintain or condone varying degrees of discrimination within their own unions is widespread

among Negroes in organized labor. This mood is reflected in the growing restiveness of lower echelon Negro union officials. Sharpening this mood into consciousness and giving it a program and organizational form is the new Negro American Labor Council. Proposed by A. Philip Randolph, dean of Negro union leaders, given temporary form at a conference last November in Cleveland and regional conferences since, the NALC will be formally founded at a convention to be held in Detroit on May 28.

Randolph reports the movement is "spreading like a prairie fire" and present indications are that over 1,000 delegates will attend the founding conference.

As the NALC stokes its furnaces for the founding convention, the temper of the AFL-CIO bureaucrats, and their top man, Meany, gets hotter.

But the organization of the NALC evokes more than irritability from the top labor leadership. To try to "prove" that the NALC is "unnecessary" the AFL-CIO tops are themselves forced to take certain actions against Jim Crow within the labor movement.

Thus the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen last month struck the lily-white membership requirement out of its constitution. This long overdue but welcome act is the result of pressure brought by Meany and other top AFL-CIO leaders on the BRT officials.

It now enables Meany to claim that events have proved him correct in opposing Randolph's demand at San Francisco that the two rail brotherhoods be given an ultimatum to excise the lily-white clauses. But in order to refute Randolph and prove himself "correct," Meany has had to do precisely what Randolph demanded — force the BRT officials to revise their constitution.

Problem in CIO, Too If Negro unionists keep up the pressure the one remaining "white-only" union in the AFL-CIO, the Brotherhood of Firemen and Locomotive Engineers, will be forced to similar action on its constitution.

It is not only in the old AFL-CIO unions that the NALC is up against bitter opposition from the entrenched bureaucrats who want no stirrings among the rank and file. The sharpest struggle at present is in the former CIO unions whose "liberal" bureaucracies are just as desirous of a dormant membership.

The extent of opposition may be gleaned from a New York Herald Tribune interview (Feb. 14) with A. Philip Randolph. Correspondent Joel Seldin wrote: "Mr. Randolph would not give the names of other [NALC] leaders because, he said, many have already been warned by their labor-leader employers that their jobs in unions will be in jeopardy if they become active in the NALC. But, he said, they are in the unions with large Negro memberships and mentioned the steel and auto unions, the building trades and the hotel and restaurant unions."

Coal Miners Hit Meany; Defend Powell's Record

The lead editorial in the current United Mine Workers Journal, official organ of the coal miners' union, blasts AFL-CIO President George Meany for "sheer stupidity" in saying that Congressman Adam Clayton Powell would make a "terrible" chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

The UMW Journal declares that Rep. Powell "is well qualified in every way to become chairman" and that he has "a fine voting record on matters of interest to working people." The editorial further points out that most attacks on Powell emanate from Dixiecrats "simply because he is a Negro."

Though reporters, trying to get reactions in labor circles, have been able to cite some labor officials as "deploring" Meany's attack on Powell, these deplorers ask that their names not be given.

So far none of the big-shot liberal labor bureaucrats, such as Walter Reuther, Emil Mazey, etc., have stated publicly where they stand on the issue.

The only important labor leader to take issue with Meany remains A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and an AFL-CIO Vice-President. Randolph, the only Negro attending the AFL-CIO Executive

Shall Lynch Murder Be Made Illegal?

The Parker Case Haunts Congress

By George Lavan

Drafting the civil-rights bill in Congress is proceeding as if the lynching of Mack Charles Parker had never taken place. Neither Democratic nor Republican leaders display the least intention of incorporating any antilynch provisions in the bill now under consideration. They are limiting its few meaningful sections solely to "plugging loopholes" in the voting "guarantees" of the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

Fighters against Jim Crow want the strongest possible guarantees of Negro voting rights in the pending legislation, but at the same time they should raise a great outcry demanding that other civil-rights guarantees—especially an antilynch provision—be included. Otherwise they are falling into the very trap set for them by the capitalist politicians who passed the toothless 1957 law.

That law, it will be recalled, passed without a filibuster. The deal fixed up by Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson between the Southern wing and the Northern liberals was that the bill would be so feeble and so restricted in scope that the Southern racists could afford to let it pass. Thus the Negro people "got" a civil-rights law containing little, and the Dixiecrats lost as little.

Little Bits at a Time But there was more to the deal than solving the immediate political situation in the Democratic party. The 1957 law set the perspective that for years to come the fight for civil-rights legislation could be confined to "improving" the 1957 law.

Thus last year and now the only seriously considered moves in Congress are those restricted to amending the 1957 Act. And, unless an absolutely airtight voting provision is passed by this Congress, the politicians figure that in 1961 and 1962 any civil-rights pressure on Congress can be diverted into the narrow channels of still further improvements of the 1957 act.

If this strategy were to prevail, the achievement of a rounded civil-rights program, including legislative enforcement of school desegregation, Fair Employment Practices, etc., could be stretched out for 50 or 100 years of "liberal" Congressional sessions. That is why a great public demand for an antilynch provision in the current bill is so important.

The administration's current pose—adopted to further Nixon's bid for Negro votes—is that it tried its best to bring Parker's lynchers to trial but couldn't get an indictment under existing laws.

This very excuse should be the basis for demanding that Congress pass an adequate antilynch law. Instead, the White House sees no need for such legislation and neither Nixon nor his ally, Attorney General Rogers, raises the subject.

An Eloquent Record Here is the actual record of the federal government in the Parker case:

When the story of the brutal and unopposed mob murder burst on the front pages, there

Millions Shared Her Grief



Mrs. Mamie R. Bradley wept bitterly as the body of her son Emmett Till, 14, was returned to Chicago from Mississippi where he had been brutally lynched in September, 1955. The men who murdered him boasted publicly of their foul deed but went unpunished. The case sparked mass protests in the North and renewed demands for an effective federal antilynch law.

was a great welling up of indignation here and abroad. To placate it and to forestall its pressing for drastic action, two men spoke out: Mississippi's Governor J. P. Coleman and President Eisenhower. Both deplored the lynching. Gov. Coleman requested that the FBI help Mississippi State Police investigate the crime. Eisenhower commended Coleman's attitude and announced FBI entry into the case.

This persuaded many people that for once Mississippi lynch-ers would be brought to justice. For now the "always-get-them-man" FBI, which had long been notorious for its reluctance to investigate crimes against Southern Negroes, was being ordered into the case.

Public pressure was great enough to draw out of their pigeonholes in Congress two dormant antilynch bills. Southern Congressmen took alarm and began issuing statements that no federal law was needed because state laws were perfectly adequate to punish lynchers. Alabama's Attorney General appeared before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee to testify that the bills were superfluous because his and other Southern states had even sterner penalties for lynching.

At his April 5 news conference, Eisenhower declared no federal antilynch law was needed because the FBI and Mississippi police were doing such a good job. By the time the FBI pulled out of the case a month later, the unorganized pressure for action against lynching had dissipated. Congress quietly dropped the antilynch bills back into limbo.

Sat on Report

The FBI statement that no violation of federal law was involved in the Parker case was a lie and was so proven seven months later when U. S. Attorney General Rogers found it expedient to ask for federal indictments in the case. But at the time it suited Mississippi's Gov. Coleman perfectly. He took the secret FBI report and simply sat on it for six months.

L. E. Burnham Nat'l Guardian Writer, Dies

Louis E. Burnham, an associate editor of the National Guardian, died on Friday night, Feb. 12, apparently of a heart attack. He was 44 years old.

"His death is an almost irreparable loss to this newspaper, to the struggle of the Negro people for equality and to the progressive movement in America," wrote James Aronson for the Guardian staff in the Feb. 22 issue.

Burnham was taken ill during a lecture he was giving for Negro History Week before the Intercultural Society in New York. He died within an hour after he was taken to the emergency room of the Polyclinic Hospital.

For twenty-five years Burnham participated actively in the struggle for Negro equality. A graduate of City College of New York, he became Southern organizer of the American Student Union in 1936. In 1941, he took the job of organizational secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Conference. In 1948, he became Southern organizer of the Progressive party, during the campaign of Henry Wallace for the presidency.

For seven years he edited the monthly magazine Freedom, published by Paul Robeson. He joined the staff of the National Guardian in 1958. A memorial meeting is being planned.

This was a further "cooling-off" period to disperse and dissipate the national and international sentiment for punishment of Parker's lynchers. When finally the Pearl River County grand jury met it did not even bother to hear the report.

To absolve itself, and with an eye on the 1960 Presidential campaign, the administration at this point made another gesture — Attorney General Rogers' move for federal indictments under two old and mild civil-rights laws.

Even here the punches were pulled. One law applied to conspiracies participated in by a local law-enforcement officer, the other applied to conspiracies by any and all persons.

The Department of Justice claims the second law may not be constitutional and to save the U. S. Supreme Court the bother of deciding, it voluntarily restricted its scope to the limits of the first law, that is, to a conspiracy involving a local official.

This made the whole case hang on proving the Poplarville deputy sheriff's complicity with the mob. The federal prosecutors' failure to do this made it all the easier for the Biloxi grand jury to adjourn without any indictments.

Though the FBI report still remains "secret," there have been enough official and unofficial leaks to perceive that the investigation was deliberately confined within the narrowest limits

... Negro Students Spread Fight

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the counter was shut down by management. The group then proceeded to Kress's and then to Walgreen's Drug Store, both of which promptly closed their counters as soon as the students entered.

At noon in Winston-Salem, a lone Negro sat down at the Kress lunch counter and, when refused service, continued sitting. The item was broadcast on the radio and within a few hours he was joined by scores of students from the Negro Teachers' College in that city. By the end of the next day they had caused the closing of five lunch counters in the downtown area.

Tuesday morning, some 200 students from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte embarked upon a campaign which resulted in closing eight downtown lunch counters by nightfall. The same day Negro students of Fayetteville State College caused the closing of Woolworth's and McCrory's lunch counters in that city.

On Wednesday morning, some 300 students from Shaw University and St. Augustine's College staged sit-downs at six lunch counters in the heart of Raleigh, the state capital. Similar actions took place in Elizabeth City, N. C., and High Point, N. C.

Crosses State Lines

On Thursday, Feb. 11, the sit-down movement crossed the state line into Virginia where students at Hampton Institute hit the Woolworth and Kress stores.

The following day it spread to Rock Hill, South Carolina, when students from two Negro junior colleges took seats at the Woolworth and McCrory lunch counters. When these were closed, the demonstrators proceeded to two large drug stores with similar results.

Here the first violence occurred. A white youth struck a Negro knocking him off a counter stool, and a bottle of ammonia and an egg were thrown at the Negro students. Police made no arrests.

The same day, 41 Negro students in Raleigh, N. C., were arrested on charges of trespassing at the Cameron Village Shopping Center and held in \$50 bail each. Though standing on the sidewalk when arrested, the manager asserted that the shopping center sidewalk is private property.

By the end of the second week, anti-segregation sit-downs had taken place in Nashville, Tenn., and Deland, Fla. The opening of the third week with further demonstrations in High Point, N. C. and Portsmouth, Va.—mainly by Negro high school students—indicates that the movement is far from spent.

Caught originally by surprise, the white supremacist state and

local authorities have now formulated their strategy. It is twofold: (1) to prosecute the Negro students for "trespassing" and (2) to break up these obviously peaceful demonstrations on the pretext of maintaining public order—the disorder being supplied by white racists and teen-agers who are easily encouraged by the police to insult, provoke and attack the peaceful demonstrators.

Thus North Carolina Attorney General Malcolm Seawell, advised store owners that although there is no law requiring lunch counter segregation, Negroes can be prosecuted for trespass.

The American Civil Liberties Union immediately wired a protest to Seawell. "The statement attributed to you may be taken as a threat to persecute students for their legitimate assertion that under the 14th Amendment, as American citizens, they are entitled to equal treatment."

The police pattern is equally obvious. Under orders not to beat up the students because of the glare of national and international publicity, the police in Greensboro and every other city have permitted known fascist and white teen-age gangs to congregate around the students waiting for service and to jeer and insult them.

Typical are the accounts from High Point on Feb. 15. Police allowed a crowd of whites to congregate in front of the Woolworth's where Negroes were conducting a sit-down. When the Negroes emerged they were attacked by the whites. Police arrested one white and two Negroes.

Earlier 30 Negro demonstrators leaving a suburban shopping center were attacked at the bus stop by 50 to 75 whites who pelted them with snowballs and insults. The police, who were present in force, made no effort to stop the attack. Rev. Elton Cox, head of the High Point NAACP branch, who led the

only the composition and actions of the mob.

There was no probe of Judge Sebe Dale's convenient decision to transfer Parker from the strong jail in the state capital to the unguarded Poplarville jail. There was no investigation of the frame-up of Parker by the Poplarville sheriff.

(The witnesses against him were three Negro friends and relatives who said they had heard him declare his intent to rape the white woman. Two of these escaped to Chicago after the lynching and told how their "testimony" had been fabricated by the sheriff who then coerced them into repeating it. The FBI report relates that the white woman's husband refused to join the lynch mob because his wife wasn't sure Parker was the attacker.)

It should be further noted that the FBI has displayed no interest in the intimidation of the witnesses who appeared before the federal grand jury in Biloxi. Yet it is common knowledge that they had been warned they would be run out of Poplarville if they gave any damaging testimony.

Finally, Congress, and particularly the White House, have other means of bringing great pressure on state officials and local communities—by the refusal to pass or expend appropriations benefiting them, by the transfer of federal installations, by cutting off all political patronage. Of course, none of these sanctions were taken against Mississippi.

The record shows that despite the crocodile tears neither the Democratic nor Republican politicians in Washington really care about Mack Charles Parker or future lynch victims. All the more reason to launch a powerful campaign now demanding an antilynch law.

demonstrators, later told reporters that Negroes would not again undergo such treatment without fighting back.

In solidarity with the Negro students, CORE (Committee on Racial Equality) and other groups in the North have begun picketing dime-store chains involved. Students at City College of New York are pressing for formal action by the student government in support of the Southern anti-segregationists. (See editorial, page three.)

The student movement in the South is giving new inspiration, as well as providing valuable lessons in direct mass action, to the Negro people and their white allies throughout the country. It is the most important thing now happening in the United States.

Wait Till You See This

A new advertising device called, "Skyjactor" uses mountains or the sky as giant billboards. Throwing as much light as 92 million candles, it was given a trial run in New York where color pictures of a Pepsi-Cola bottle, Richard Nixon and Brigitte Bardot were flashed on the wall of a tall building. Labor, voice of the railroad brotherhoods, suggests that with a pie-making sponsor we'll really have "pie in the sky."

Advertisement

If Negro History Week reminds you to fill in some of those gaps in your knowledge, here's a good list of books to start studying.

Start with These

- Negroes on the March — A Frenchman's Report on the American Negro, by Daniel Guerin. Cloth \$1.50, paper \$1.
- Black Reconstruction in America — 1860-1880, by W. E. B. DuBois. \$3.95.
- Caste, Class & Race — A Study in Social Dynamics, by Oliver Cromwell Cox. \$3.75.
- Thaddeus Stevens, by Ralph Korngold. A biography of one of the toughest political fighters in the history of the struggle for Negro equality. \$1.69.
- The Strange Career of Jim Crow, by C. Vann Woodward. A brief account of segregation. \$1.19.
- Tender Warriors, by Dorothy Sterling. Story and pictures of the Little Rock struggle for school integration. \$5.97.
- The Class Struggle Road to Negro Equality. A resolution of the Socialist Workers party. 25 cents.
- The Struggle for Negro Equality, by John Saunders and Albert Parker. 10 cents.
- Pioneer Publishers 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

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Monday, February 22, 1960

Cuban-Soviet Trade Agreement

Wall Street is making a glum face at the current diplomatic initiative of the Soviet Union in Cuba. The Manhattan bankers take a sour view of the \$100,000,000 credit granted to the Castro government. And the news was not cheerfully received among Wall Street's political representatives in Congress that the revolutionary government succeeded in getting an order from Moscow for 5,000,000 tons of sugar in the next five years at the current world market price, one-fifth to be paid in dollars, four-fifths in Soviet machinery.

Actually the Kremlin drove a hard bargain. It buys Cuban sugar for around three cents a pound. The retail price in the Soviet Union is ten rubles a kilogram. At the official rate of exchange this would amount to \$1.12 a pound, at the tourist rate, 45 cents. The \$100,000,000 credit is likewise advantageous to the USSR, for it will be expended on Soviet products and it draws a respectable 2½% interest until it becomes due in 12 years.

In face of the virulent campaign which Wall Street and its servile spokesmen have mounted against the Castro government, the Cuban people hailed the trade agreement as a very favorable development.

The Cubans appear to be keenly interested in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Exhibition is attracting heavy crowds in Havana as it did in New York. Mikoyan, Khachatryan and the other visitors are getting cheers and ovations as they tour the hospitable island.

As part of the celebration, *Revolucion*, newspaper of Castro's July 26 movement, utilized its entire Monday supplement Feb. 8 to eulogize achievements of the USSR. The topics covered science, agriculture and the co-operatives, heavy industry, culture, motion pictures, the theater, music, architecture, literature, education, styles, sports, and the youth.

Conspicuously absent was anything about Soviet politics, sociology, or history.

Pass By Woolworth and Kress!

The inspiring fight being made by Negro students in the South to end discrimination at public lunch counters warrants vigorous supporting action from opponents of the Jim Crow system throughout the country.

We are glad to report that steps toward such action are already being taken in New York and we hope that similar moves are under way in other cities.

In a Feb. 14 sermon, Rev. Donald Harrington of the Community Church "frankly urged" his parish to boycott Woolworth and Kress stores. These two national chains are offering stiff resistance to the demand of the Negro students for equal treatment at their lunch counters in the South.

Particularly heartening is the stand taken in the Feb. 17 issue of *Observation* Post, undergraduate newspaper at City College of New York.

A Partial Ban Is No Ban

The "partial" ban of nuclear tests proposed by the United States at the Big Three Geneva Conference on Feb. 11, with Eisenhower's approval, is another calculated move toward resumption of atomic tests.

The proposal would allow "small" underground nuclear blasts, no larger than the one used Aug. 6, 1945, to destroy Hiroshima, under the excuse that such tests cannot be monitored. Soviet scientists maintain that all blasts greater than 1.7 kilotons are detectable. The White House argues that tests of bombs under 20 kilotons can be hidden.

A White House declaration, overwhelmingly supported by Democratic and Republican congressmen, held that until adequate detection methods are found, the U.S. "plan," limiting total bans to atmospheric and oceanic tests, proves American "good faith."

However, Eisenhower has admitted publicly that he does not know how large a bomb could be muffled. Asked at his press conference Feb. 11 if he thought Dr. Edward Teller was correct in maintaining that tests of big bombs could be kept secret by exploding them in deep underground holes, Eisenhower replied, "the very large ones, I don't think could be concealed . . . certainly not periodically." He hedged when asked if the "plan" would end the "voluntary" test moratorium which has been in effect since October 1958. Last week's *Militant* observed that the Atomic Energy Commission and the War Department awaited only the signal from the White House to resume tests.

The American diplomats, of course, pictured the U.S. proposal as a means of

Castro, of course, maintains that his movement represents "humanism," something different from either communism or capitalism.

The Cuban revolution, nevertheless, is showing the influence of what happened in Russia in 1917. Considerable inroads have already been made on the holdings of the big landowners and capitalists, especially foreign imperialists, and deeper inroads appear in sight.

On Feb. 4 Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, head of Cuba's National Bank, affirmed the government's intention to impose controls on from 51 to 100 per cent of Cuba's basic industries. This would, for the time being at least, take metallurgy, fuels, agriculture and heavy industry out of private hands.

Virtually every issue of *Revolucion* reports fresh "interventions" bringing more enterprises under government control.

The Cuban leaders have likewise demonstrated their awareness of Soviet experience with co-operatives. By the beginning of this month a total of 385 agricultural and cattle, and 19 fishing, co-operatives had been established.

And, of course, the Cuban people have been enjoying for a year now such immediate benefits as the reduction of electric bills by a third and rents by a half.

The Cuban revolution still has a long way to go before it can be said to have become firmly consolidated, but the social and economic upheaval is proving to be of great depth and power. Where the revolution is weakest is in program and political leadership.

In turning toward the Soviet Union with friendly interest, the Cuban people are taking a direction that corresponds with the deepest needs of their revolution. Every revolutionary socialist will greet this with satisfaction and add only the wish that they study more intently the early pages of the political history of the Russian revolution.

The paper reports that a petition designed to stimulate "immediate action" by the college Student Council in support of the Southern sit-downs is being circulated among campus leaders by Fred Mazelis, a sophomore student.

The petition asks the Council to organize student support "in the form of rallies, petitions, picket lines, or any other appropriate action." (The Congress of Racial Equality has already picketed Woolworth stores in New York.)

In addition to reporting the circulation of the campus petition, *Observation* Post offers vigorous editorial support. The student paper declares: "We ask Council to endorse this petition and fulfill its demands. Bigotry, discrimination and Jim Crow cannot and must not be tolerated anywhere."

ending tests of nuclear weapons. This was a transparent fraud since it makes an exception of so-called "small-size" underground tests.

Semyon K. Tsarapkin, Soviet delegate to the Geneva talks, rejected the "plan" as a "step backward, since under the existing situation there have been no nuclear explosions for more than a year."

The *New York Times* commented Feb. 12 that an upset in the nuclear talks would lead to a resumption of all tests and if the Soviets pursue a policy of "all or nothing the world will know where to place the responsibility . . ."

However, Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the same paper, reporting from Geneva Feb. 14, took another view. The United States and British negotiators, he said, are "convinced the Russians mean business" about ending nuclear testing. Moreover, they are "backed by the support of world public opinion for the cessation of nuclear tests and for arms limitation."

Eisenhower's promise that "safer" underground tests will "allay world-wide concern over possible increases in levels of radioactivity" holds no more weight than his soothing assurances two years ago that the U.S. had "discovered" a "clean" bomb.

The American people are strongly opposed to any more tests. This is not simply out of humanitarian considerations. It's due to the simple fact that no one can escape cancer-producing and gene-damaging fallout. The rest of mankind is, if anything, even more opposed to further nuclear pollution of the earth's atmosphere.

It's about time our rulers paid a bit more respect to this sentiment.



"Did you know the State Department is honeycombed with French fellow-travelers? That's how De Gaulle stole our atom-bomb secret . . ."

French Fascists Show Hand In Demonstration of Farmers

By Daniel Roberts

A riot of farmers in Amiens on Feb. 11 constituted another warning to the French workers that their political inactivity opens the door to fascist gains. "Long live Massu" and "Algeria is French" were the slogans shouted by many farmers among the 1,500 or 2,000 that battled De Gaulle's cops.

These were the slogans of the fascists in Algeria during their recent eight-day rebellion against De Gaulle. Gen Massu, head of the paratroopers, expert in torturing and killing Arabs, and hero of the colonies and the army officer corps, was disciplined by De Gaulle last month. This touched off the Jan. 24 Algiers insurrection. Three weeks later, farmers in Amiens, in the far north of France, proclaimed him their hero, too.

Yet the farmers had not come to Amiens to demonstrate their support for the Algerian colon or their hateful cause of keeping the Arabs enslaved forever. About 30,000 farmers from seven departments rallied at the call of the National Federation of Agricultural Producers to protest the fall in agricultural prices and to blame De Gaulle for their plight.

The speakers were militant. One of the farm leaders declared: "We are organizing our demonstrations calmly, but if we do not get satisfaction, we might think of staging tougher demonstrations." Undoubtedly whipped up by fascist organizers, who have been active among the farmers with varying degrees of success since the 1930's, the most rebellious persons then carried out the threat on the spot.

But why did the fascists gain the chance of organizing a militant action of farmers? Why didn't the labor movement gain this opportunity? After all, the French workers and farmers have far more in common than do the French farmers and the Algerian colon.

Farmers' Grievances

Consider the grievances of the farmers as they were voiced at the mass protest meeting in Amiens. The speakers stressed that farm earnings had decreased nine per cent, because of De Gaulle's "austerity" program. But the purchasing power of wages, too, has sunk about ten per cent during the twenty months of De Gaulle's regime.

The principal beneficiaries of De Gaulle's economic policies have been the huge corporations and the banks who foisted De Gaulle on the country in the first place. The workers and the farmers are joint sufferers of big business rule. This should have led to an alliance between them against De Gaulle's regime. Instead the most militant farmers are following a fascist lead—that is, the lead of the workers' worst enemies. Why?

Army Blocks Arrest Of 2 Algiers Rebels

According to reports in Algiers, the French army is obstructing the arrest of two leading figures in last month's fascist insurrection.

Paris ordered the two arrested ten days ago, but they surrendered to the army under an agreement, never sanctioned by De Gaulle, to fight the Arab nationalists for six months. Army officers are unwilling to go back on the word of the colonel who made the pact with the rebels.

When monopoly capitalism pushes them to the wall, the small farmers and storekeepers do not remain wedded to the status quo. The big business squeeze drives them to revolt, and they seek out the most dynamic and aggressive appearing force in the country that also seems to be in opposition to the capitalist class and its ruling politicians.

They want new leaders and a new perspective.

On crucial occasions in the past the great mass of the farmers and shopkeepers have rallied behind the working-class movement. This was notably the case in France in 1944 and 1945, when the working class, led by the Communist party, seemed headed for the socialist overturn in the wake of the resistance against the Nazi occupation and against the Petain-Laval quisling regime.

Helped Restore Capitalism

But the French CP leaders did not lead the masses to the creation of a socialist government. They betrayed the revolutionary aspirations of the French working people. They entered into a "national union" government that restored the power of big business.

In subsequent years, the CP and Socialist party leaders repeatedly choked off the militancy of the working class and helped to prop the capitalist order. The CP leaders did this even after 1947, when they were driven out of the government under cold-war pressure from Washington.

In the last two years, the labor leaders have kept the working class in a state of virtual paralysis. They capitulated without struggle when De Gaulle came to power. Last month, when the fascists staged their second attempted coup, the SP, CP and trade-union leaders took shelter behind De Gaulle instead of utilizing the crisis to mobilize the workers independently against the "men of Algiers."

To the French farmers the only dynamic-appearing force in France in recent times has been the fascists, who dared to take up arms against a government which the farmers also opposed. Hence the cry raised in Amiens of "Long Live Massu." Had the Communist party leaders demonstrated one quarter of the determination shown by the fascist elements, the farmers might have been shouting "Long Live the CP" instead.

Where Will They Turn?

Despite important transformations during the seven-year boom, France remains a country of small farmers and shopkeepers. An economic downturn will multiply the discontent and rebelliousness in their ranks. Who will they turn to for leadership?

If the labor movement does not come out of its present coma, the answer is unmistakable. The middle classes will turn to the fascists. The fascists will seize the initiative in a social crisis. That is the grave warning raised by the Amiens events. The workers cannot permit themselves the slightest complacency on this score.

They are already paying through the nose in the form of De Gaulle's "austerity" program and decree rule for the bankruptcy of the labor leadership. The fascists, if they win the middle classes, threaten the workers with infinitely worse punishment.

The threat of the fascists gaining the initiative can be eliminated by timely action. The working people must find a way to break the paralysis imposed by their top leadership and find the avenues of struggle against De Gaulle's regime. They must also find a way to demonstrate their readiness to tackle the fascists should the latter again attempt such actions as in May 1958 and last month.

Finally, they must open a campaign to replace De Gaulle's regime with a government of workers and farmers. If the workers demonstrate that they mean business, the rebellious sections of the middle classes will undoubtedly find their program far more attractive than anything the fascist demagogues can offer. Many valuable fighters for socialism will be added in this way.

The workers can win hands down once they get going. But they must begin to prepare for action without further delay.

In Other Lands

Nehru Invites Chou for Talks

Move Follows Khrushchev Visit

Reversing an earlier stand, India's Prime Minister Nehru has asked Premier Chou En-lai of China to discuss the border dispute between the two countries. In a personal letter to Chou dated Feb. 5, Nehru suggested the two meet in New Delhi during the latter part of March.

Last December Chou proposed a meeting of the two premiers, but Nehru turned him down.

It is believed that Nehru's latest proposal stems from two considerations. One, China and Burma resolved their long-standing frontier conflict through a treaty signed Jan. 28. Two, Khrushchev on his visit to India last week undoubtedly urged Nehru strongly to negotiate with the Chinese.

Last fall, Khrushchev publicly deplored the boundary conflict and hoped the two countries would come to an agreement.

Report Strikes In East Germany

According to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, East German workers have conducted a number of strikes since last June.

The ICFTU report, summarized in the Feb. 9 *Christian Science Monitor*, says that last September, for example, the last-night shift at the Elmo engineering works, near Dessau, went on strike because of "impossible working conditions caused by fumes from a dump of brown coal which had caught fire."

Again, in November, sixty workers in the Rostock shipyards struck against a 50% wage cut. One-third of the strikers were SED (Communist party) members.

The biggest strike is said to have occurred last June in the Sachsenwerk, the largest electrical plant in East Germany. The police were called and the factory militia was alerted.

The strike began when workers in the repair shop struck over a wage cut of about 40 marks. The next day all workers reported to the factory and began a sit-down strike. At a plant meeting that lasted five hours, Communist party officials admitted that similar strikes

The American Way of Life

Herbert Hoover and the Karl Marx Virus

During the depression, burlesque comedians had a routine that rolled the patrons in the aisles. The comedian would rush up to a cop and whisper urgently in his ear.

"It's just around the corner," the cop would respond. "Don't give me that Hoover line," the comedian would roar. "I gotta go!"

The butt of this un-American humor was Herbert Hoover, who happened to be president when the stock market crashed in 1929 and 10 to 15 million jobs vanished for a decade.

There was quite a bit of foreign-type agitation at the time and even suggestions that the government offer some form of economic aid to the millions of idlers.

Such proposals were rejected by President Hoover. He patiently explained that the economic dip was highly temporary and that "prosperity is just around the corner."

Even more important, he stressed, were the moral issues involved. Federally sponsored social welfare would pay laziness a premium and spell the beginning of the end of our divinely conceived free-enterprise system.

Well, that prosperity finally came, just like he promised, although it took a world war to do it. And now Hoover is recognized as a prophet. Still as brisk and clear-thinking at 85 as he was at 55, the former president reported on our current critical situation at a Presbyterian luncheon in New York last week.

He disclosed that America has become "plagued with the infection of Karl Marx in both the thinking of our people and the affairs of our government."

Undoubtedly carriers of the infection were at that gathering. One skeptic wanted to know if the virus had hit all levels of government.

"Yes, sir," Mr. Hoover replied, "Federal, state and local."

Another doubter wanted to know if even the Eisenhower administration was infected.

The ex-head of state nodded sadly and said: "It got frozen in."

"This infection creeps through our nation by deluded and misguided men and by disguised or-

ganizations, fronts and cults," he explained. "These agents of infection are like hermit crabs which crawl into such terms as 'liberal,' 'progressive,' 'public electric power,' 'managed economy,' 'the welfare state' and a half-dozen others."

Some people, infected by the "Karl Marx virus" which Mr. Hoover finds is "haunting" us, may think the picture is too stark. They should have been present.

Is Hoover a 'Red'?

Another speaker was one J. Howard Pew, former president of the Sun Oil Company. He said that a number of business men in the United Presbyterian Church could not support the denomination that was sponsoring Hoover because its pronouncements "frequently coincide with Communist objectives."

Finally, the bone-crushing proof of the spread of the Marxist plague—even to those who valiantly combat it—was found right in Hoover's speech.

One of the effects of the disease, Hoover said, is the breakdown of law and order. "Something is terrifyingly wrong with our law enforcement system when in 1958 there were 2,340,000 arrests for major crimes, and only 88,780 of them landed in state and federal prisons."

Could more damning evidence be presented of the inefficiency to be seen in government enterprise? Yet Hoover failed to draw the obvious lesson. A victim of the Karl Marx virus himself, he failed to point out the crying need for a network of efficient, privately owned prisons.

— Harry Ring

Racist Test in St. Louis

The St. Louis Board of Aldermen, controlled 25 to 4 by the Democratic party, defeated a bill to end racial discrimination in restaurants, theaters and hotels by a vote of 17 to 11. An alderman who supported the bill described it as one of the mildest ever presented.

were taking place in other factories in the Dresden area. They agreed that the old wage scale would be restored.

Subsequently the plant management and trade union and party units were reorganized. Four workers were dismissed and their papers marked "unsuitable for employment in state-owned factories."

CP officials blamed the strike on men in the repair shop "working on the instructions of Western agents." They charged: "It was the same on June 17, 1953," when over two million workers conducted a nationwide general strike.

Chinese Caution Soviets on U.S. 'Peace' Intentions

In a message printed in Pravda on the tenth anniversary of the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship Feb. 14, Soong Ching-ling, widow of Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Chinese nationalist movement, warned of U. S. attempts to drive a wedge between the two countries.

She also declared that President Eisenhower "might make a big noise and travel halfway around the world wearing the mask of an envoy of peace, but he and Vice-President Nixon and certain leaders of the Democratic party and generals and admirals of the United States are rattling their sabers."

"They show us by their actions that they are only trying after all to preserve their policy of dealing from a position of strength."

Madame Soong's letter thus voiced the view of the "thaw" that has been put forward by the Chinese CP leaders. Unlike the Soviet leaders, the Chinese do not credit the U. S. government with genuinely seeking peace.

Kenyans Accept British Proposals

The major delegations at the Kenya constitutional conference in London have accepted "with reservations" the British proposal for enlarging the African vote and the African representation in the Kenya legislative council.

The African delegation, headed by Tom Mboya, though

objecting that the franchise had not been widened enough, accepted the British plan "as the next stage in Kenya's constitutional development." The proposals will affect elections scheduled for 1961.

"Drop Socialist Aim," Gaitskell Tells Labor Party

British Labor party leader Hugh Gaitskell has again called for revision of Clause 4 of the party constitution which lays down the objective of securing "the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange."

Gaitskell declared Feb. 13 that he favored a "mixed economy" in which private enterprise would operate side-by-side with public ownership. He first called for a retreat from Clause 4 at the party's conference last November.

His proposal has created a sharp dispute in the Labor party with Michael Foot, editor of *Tribune*, leading the Victory for Socialism group in a fight to uphold socialism as the party's stated objective.

Harold Wilson, Chancellor of Exchequer in the Labor government several years ago, is also opposed to changing Clause 4, according to the Feb. 15 *Christian Science Monitor*.

Communist Party Gets 42 Per Cent Of Vote in Kerala

The final tally on the vote in the elections held Feb. 2 in the Indian state of Kerala shows that, despite a heavy loss of seats, the Communist party substantially increased its share of the popular vote. In 1957, the CP polled about 35% of the popular vote. In the recent elections they obtained 42.5%.

As the *Militant* reported earlier, the CP lost its majority in the Kerala parliament because its three main electoral opponents—the Congress, Moslem and Praja Socialist parties—formed a coalition designed to oust the CP from power. As a result the coalition won about 75% of the seats with about 55% of the vote. In 1957 the CP's opponents also ran against each other.

Holds It's 'Terrible' That George Meany Heads the AFL-CIO

Editor: George Meany says that it would be "terrible" if Adam Clayton Powell became chairman of the House Labor Committee. I think it would be terrible if the first Negro in line for the chairmanship of a major congressional committee under the seniority rules was denied the post.

As to the charge of absenteeism — it is common knowledge that all congressmen absent themselves regularly and attend only when their narrow provincial interests are on the agenda, or if they are mustering to strike a blow at the workers.

John Hudson New York

Ready to Distribute Material Devoted to Labor Party Issue

Editor: For the past 15 years I have worked in the union movement to build support for establishing a labor party. In looking back I see little if any literature to help the rank and file to think out a program that really meets their needs and requirements.

their present defensive system to the offensive by drafting their own program, sending their own union members into every important office — instructed and pledged. Under such conditions, how could antilabor bills remain alive, or any more be passed?

There are other questions to be answered. Workers want to know if a labor party wouldn't be corrupted, even by the present "leadership." How could it be kept in control by the rank and file? What would be the demands promoting full employment, social security, benefits to minorities, women, youth, farmers, etc.?

I think a column in the Militant of labor-party questions and answers would be helpful. Also a five-cent pamphlet for those who don't see the Militant. I would distribute (and pay for) 100 or 500 of such a pamphlet and save myself years of explanations.

Here in Santa Cruz, labor is already on record for a labor party. But my contention is that the rank and file have to understand more in order to pressure the leadership who like their present "friends" in the two major parties. I am sure that the benefits, if understood, would add tremendous impetus toward a new life in the unions.

H.C.B. Santa Cruz, Calif.

You Can

(Continued from Page 1)

pating in primary elections. And, after the two major parties have nominated their candidates, the AFL-CIO General Board will meet to determine its "position and its recommendation to its members."

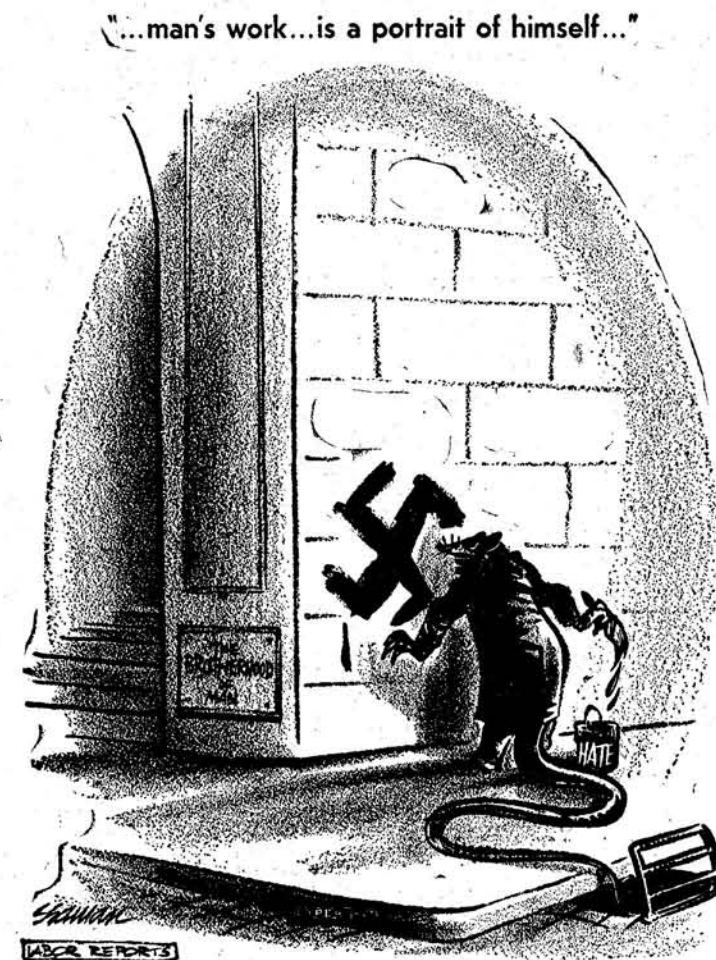
One Slate That's Clean

Wiped clean off the slate are the lessons of the 1958 election. The designation of candidates is turned over to the wardheelers with the assurance there will be no "interference" from the unions. The list of candidates will then be subjected to clinical diagnosis by the labor statesmen. A political thermometer will be thrust into the aspiring candidates to register the degree of their "friendship" for labor.

And what if the thermometers registered no discernible degree of difference? Meany too is aware of this possibility. The Feb. 13 AFL-CIO News reports: "Meany pointed out that if the General Board were confronted with a choice between 'tweedledum and tweedledee,' there possibly [possibly!] could be no endorsement."

As a matter of fact, the pretense that the question of an endorsement is still open is a calculated deception. If "political neutrality" is ruled out what are the alternatives? The endorsement by labor of a Republican candidate for president is excluded. The most likely Republican candidate, Nixon, has already become the major target of the labor statesmen. Abstention from the Democratic primaries can only be construed as a sign that the labor skates have no real preference and will take anyone nominated by the convention.

That is why Meany is so careful to qualify his position on an endorsement even if confronted with a choice which he considers one between tweedledum and tweedledee. Under such circumstances, he says, there may "possibly" be no endorsement. Meany doesn't fool any of the political heeleders with his twisting—that is not his aim. What he does succeed in doing, unfortunately, is to deceive and



mislead the workers he is paid to lead.

Necessary Ingredient

Such deception is an indispensable ingredient of the politics of the labor bureaucracy. They know full well that the ranks have become increasingly disenchanted with the policy of keeping labor strait-jacketed in coalition with the Demo-Dixiecrat party. The AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department Digest, for example, devotes an entire article in its fall 1959 issue to establishing the lack of any real difference between the two major parties. (The article, of course, was written last fall.)

Citing a survey made by the University of Michigan in Reuther's bailiwick, Wayne county, the Digest discloses: "More than 50 per cent of the county's adult population could see no difference between Republicans and Democrats and more than 33 per cent of the precinct leaders saw no difference."

After casting about for some recognizable distinction between the two major parties, the Digest comes up with the fol-

lowing: "As long as liberal Democrats determine the candidates for executive office—in contrast to the conservative Democrats controlling the legislative branch—there is a distinction between the two parties."

A distinction without a difference. For, as the article goes on to explain, "the last seven Congresses have been marked by a coalition of Dixiecrats and Republicans that has managed to control legislative action regardless of which party won a majority in the election."

All of this is no secret to George Meany. He pointed out —last September—"that the seniority system pushes Southern Democrats up into the chairmanship of all key Congressional committees. And 75 per cent of the Southern Democrats are more reactionary than any Republican you can find in Congress or the State Legislatures."

Yet, like actors in a Greek tragedy whom fate has marked for extinction, the labor bureaucrats continue to strive for "more victories like we had in 1958" while proclaiming that another such "victory might ruin us."

Protest French Explosion

(Continued from Page 1)

Armament held a "warning march" in a downtown square.

In Toronto, students picketed the French Consulate on the eve of the explosion. The signs they carried demanded "Not Bombs — Freedom for Algeria" and "Break Canada-NATO Alliance with De Gaulle."

The Italian government began checking for radioactive fallout from the Sahara. Strong winds frequently blow across the Mediterranean from the huge African desert to the south.

The Japanese government filed a formal protest with France and called the Sahara test "regrettable" because it was held while the U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union were discussing a test-ban agreement.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, called the French test "deplorable" and pointed to the Soviet initiative in stopping its own explosions.

The People's Republic of China denounced De Gaulle's regime for carrying out the test "in defiance of the strong condemnation of the local people and world public opinion."

In France itself, a great number of people undoubtedly agreed with the Paris taxi driver who declared: "Think how many homes could have been built with the same money."

"The United States gave France a frosty hello when it joined the exclusive 'nuclear club' by setting off an atomic device in the Sahara," reports Warren Rogers Jr. in the Feb. 14 New York Herald Tribune.

Though the Washington officials were not necessarily horrified by the injury that more atomic testing and hence more fallout will cause to mankind—the U.S. holds the record for nuclear blasts—they were displeased because the explosion was a mark of French independence and a breach of the current diplomatic and military policy the State Department wants all NATO countries to pursue in common.

All in all, reports Benjamin Welles in the Feb. 16 New York Times, French officials concede that the only truly favorable reaction to the Sahara explosion other than their own has come from Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany—a staunch De Gaulle backer. Even this "has

been in sharp contrast with the coolness shown by the West German press as a whole."

Despite the world outcry against further pollution of the atmosphere, the French government has announced it will go ahead with more explosions.

French officials have claimed that the atomic proving ground they have chosen is the safest in the world. More population centers are located within a 300-mile radius of the Nevada proving grounds, they say, than of the one they have established in the Sahara.

Claude Bourdet, writing in the Jan. 21 France Observateur, leading socialist weekly, exposes this claim. First, he says, the Sahara is not all desert but is penetrated by a long oasis called "Datetree Avenue." About 200,000 Arabs, Berbers, Jews and Negroes live on the "Avenue," engaging in varied agriculture and handicrafts. The govern-

How Wilson Was Licked

(Continued from Page 1)

is speeding toward Albert Lea.

Austin being closer than Minneapolis, the reinforcements from Hormel's got there first. Together with the Wilson strikers they took back the union hall, swept the cops and deputies off the streets, ran the scabs out of the plant and restored the picket lines.

Not much remained to be done by the time the Minneapolis truck drivers hit town; but their hurried arrival helped to put the main point across.

The bosses and their political stooges in government were given to understand that they would have to crush the whole union power before they could hope to break a strike anywhere in the region.

Union-busting on such a scale was easier said than done; so Wilson had to sign a contract with the CIO.

Fighting leaders of the kind that beat Wilson in the thirties are rare specimens in the modern union officialdom. Many old timers grew soft during the relative class peace of later years; they were drawn into the growing union bureaucracy and degenerated into labor statesmen. Today they have little to offer young worker militants facing

ment itself acknowledged their presence by moving 20,000 inhabitants of Datetree Avenue who lived closest to the explosion point.

Second, says Bourdet, the proving grounds are not where the French government declared in the United Nations they were — namely 125 miles inside the vast desert area of Tanezrouft. They are located 13 miles from the edge of Datetree Avenue. Poisonous dust from the blast thus menaces the entire oasis.

"It would have been easy," Bourdet concludes, "to find a place, where within a 125-mile radius, there is no oasis and where no nomad has reason to go. Only... this would have demanded more costly installations, a much more disagreeable mode of life, an effort of the kind that one puts up in other parts of the Sahara to extract oil and make money. Here, all that was involved was the life of the Saharan peoples."

Mine-Mill Wins Phelps Dodge 171-Day Strike

DENVER, Feb. 1 — Nearly 5,000 Mine-Mill members at Phelps Dodge copper plants in Arizona and Texas started back to work today following local ratification of a new agreement to end their 171-day strike, President John Clark of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers announced here today.

Only one company of the copper industry's "Big Five" producers struck by Mine-Mill last August still remains to settle with the union, Clark said. The holdout is Anaconda Copper, whose properties in Montana and Utah remain shut down. Talks are continuing in efforts to settle this strike which has idled some 6,000 miners and smelters.

The Phelps Dodge settlement runs until June 30, 1962, and provides a total package of 33.4 cents an hour in wage and fringe benefits over the three-year period, including cash boosts ranging from 8 1/2 cents to 11 1/4 cents an hour each year. Other gains include an additional paid holiday, making a total of seven; vacation-plan

improvements; wider medical and accident coverage, increased pension benefits and an improved seniority clause.

The company also agreed that all time lost during the strike would be considered as time worked in computing vacation benefits.

The agreement is in line with the average annual increase provided by the two-year settlements already reached by Mine-Mill elsewhere in the industry.

The victory is particularly significant in view of the drawn-out, costly legal fight which the union had to wage against federal intervention during the strike battles. Seventeen present and former officers of the union were convicted on charges of "conspiring" to file false Taft-Hartley "non-Communist" affidavits. The witch-hunting, however, failed to shake the rank and file.

San Francisco Lithographers Score Victory

SAN FRANCISCO—The ten-week-old strike of the lithographers came to an end with the signing of a two-year agreement with the employers. The new contract provides for a four per cent wage increase this year and next, a cost-of-living bonus, and greater protection against lay-offs. A system of sharing the work is now mandatory, and the bosses can no longer pit one worker against another in slow seasons.

The union's traditional ban on working with material from nonunion sources and struck work are written into the new contract. However, these clauses will remain inoperative until they have been declared legal by the courts. Since a federal district court has ruled that such clauses violate the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin law, a long series of legal appeals will make these paragraphs a dead letter for months to come.

The workers are concerned over the court's decision and do not share their officials' optimism that it will soon be overturned.

They are disappointed also that the economic package finally agreed upon was only a little better than the one turned down four weeks ago. However, union members feel that wrestling even a few additional concessions from the bosses demonstrated the power and solidarity of the union.

It also demonstrated to the international officers that Local No. 17 would not accept dictation. After their hastily reached agreement was rejected by the membership, the international officers demonstratively stood aside (while continuing to give financial support to the strike), and permitted the local itself to negotiate the final settlement.

The San Francisco lithographic workers are returning to their jobs with the feeling they won a partial victory. They are determined to use the economic power of their union to maintain conditions on the job, and to win back the job security clauses that the government has taken away.

Why not pass this copy of the Militant on to a friend?

Caravan

(Continued from Page 1)

with your help, I'll go back the same way." Despite the pleas of union officials not to parade or demonstrate, 500 members of the caravan marched down the main street of the town. They stopped in front of the only grocery store that still sells Wilson products and jeered and hooted at the grocer, who had decided it was advisable to close down for the day.

Wilson & Co. attempted to set off a witch-hunt scare by going to the governor and FBI with the tale that they had information a plot had been organized by certain "radical elements" to blow up the plant during the Solidarity Caravan.

One Wilson striker expressed the prevailing attitude toward these charges when he said, "The company's nuts. We intend to win this strike, and we'd be foolish to blow up the plant and eliminate our jobs."

The morale and spirits of the strikers, after almost four months on the picket line, are amazingly high. Out of 1,100 who went out on strike originally, only eight have broken ranks and gone back in. After an all-day session with the courageous Wilson strikers, the caravaners ended their demonstration with the theme song, "Solidarity Forever."

Payola Phone?

The New York Telephone Co. now charges unlisted subscribers 50 cents a month for not having their names published in the telephone directory.

Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK

A rare opportunity. SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. Rose Karsner and James P. Cannon. Join the New York Local of the Socialist Workers party in toasting these veteran revolutionary socialists at a banquet, Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., 116 University Place. Admission by advance reservation only. Call ALgonquin 5-7852. Contribution \$3.50 a plate.

Local Directory

BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-1818. Open Thursday nights 8 to 10. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Temple 1-6135. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-1953 or WE 5-9238. 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.

Our Hygienic Air Force

By Herman Chauka

"Join the Air Force and collect out-of-print instructors' manuals." Now there's a suggestion for a snappy new recruiting slogan.

First, there was the "Big Brother" episode at Forbes Air Base in Kansas where the airmen were urged to "spy on each other's personal lives." Officers were to wash behind enlisted men's ears and incidentally check on what they were listening to. Public attention was focused on this unusual set of instructions, with some murmuring that they indicated a fascist-type mentality. The instructions were announced withdrawn.

Then there was the manual for Air Force stewards on how to wash an officer's dog and clean his toilet. Another hue and cry and another manual became a collector's item.

Now we have a third out-of-print Air Force manual. This one is on how to wash an enlisted man's brains.

It was issued as part of the continuing battle against those alien forces that would undermine our democratic freedoms and destroy our love for honesty and fair play. Obviously it was intended to meet such below-the-belt elements on their own ground and even teach them a few tricks.

The manual was designed for a reserve non-commissioned officers study course on how to cope with "communist espionage" and "subversion."

It informed the students of such facts of life as these: "Communists and Communist fellow-travelers have successfully infiltrated our churches."

"It is well known that even the pastors of certain of our churches are card-carrying Communists."

It also pointed to some of the silly foibles that officers would have to knock out of the heads of raw recruits.

For example, it explained, "Another foolish remark often heard is that Americans have a right to know what's going on."

However, to bolster officers' morale in the face of such outrageous notions, the manual quickly assures: "Most people realize the foolishness of such a suggestion."

One reason the manual has caused a rather large rumpus on Capitol Hill may be the fact that it indiscreetly blurted out what is normally considered a classified bit of information: "Keep in mind that public news media presents only as much information as the government wants it to release."

The biggest outcry came quite understandably from the Protestant National Council of Churches. It seems the manual advised: "The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. officially sponsored the revised standard version of the Bible. Of the 95 persons who served on this project, 30 have been affiliated with pro-Communist fronts, projects and publications."

The Council sent off a blistering letter of protest, everyone in Washington began demanding an investigation and the Air Force promptly announced the manual had been withdrawn Feb. 11 — the day after the Council sent the protest.

Notes in the News

OPTIMIST — Secretary of Labor Mitchell reports that a study by his department shows that by 1970 America's production will increase by 50%, there will be a high level of employment, and living standards will have increased by 25%. He said these are not only realistic, but conservative targets. He did add a small qualification — the study assumes there will be high-level prosperity, no depression and no war.

AMBULANCE PAYOLA? — Robert Watson, a former deputy sheriff in the Chicago area, was fined \$350 Jan. 26 for refusing to allow the first two ambulances at an accident scene to remove three injured motorists. He denied receiving money from the company whose ambulance finally arrived and hauled off the victims.

A FISHY STORY — Homeless goldfish will enjoy the full protection of the law under a new bill before the British Parliament. The bill makes it a crime to abandon pet animals. Under sharp questioning by C. J. Mapp, a Laborite, the Conservatives conceded that according to legal definition, any fish is considered to be an animal under the bill.

'CAMP DAVID SPIRIT' FLOUTED — Peaceful coexistence doesn't come easy. The point was illustrated anew in Chicago during preparations for the visit of touring Soviet officials. An itinerary for the visit, mapped by the Institute of International Education, which is managing the tour, showed a two-hour open spot. Mandel Terman, chairman of the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, said the group would go to an ice-cream plant during the open time to sample a special borscht and Dutch apple ice-cream dish. The tour manager replied, "Definitely, no ice-cream." Ice-cream manufacturer Harry Bressler complained that he had "scoured the city" for small Soviet flags. He had planned to have two Soviet flags, two U. S. flags and a UN flag in each dish of the apple-borscht concoction. "A sort of co-existence desert," he explained.

DEFIES POPE FROM GRAVE — A recent English translation of a scientific work expounding the thesis that the evolutionary process is still continuing in man has created a stir in the Catholic hierarchy. The work, "Le Phenomene Humain," was written by the Rev. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest who died five years ago. Father Teilhard was a noted geologist and paleontologist who had made significant contributions to the study of extinct forms of life. Thirty years before his death, his ecclesiastical superiors, disturbed by the conflict between his scientific theories and their dogma,

forbade him to teach and banned publication of any of his major works. His book on the evolution of man's mind was completed in 1938 and he left it with friends to be published after his death.

CAMPUS BIAS ASSAILED — Editors of Varsity, undergraduate paper at the University of Toronto, have blasted the discriminatory practices and stupidly snobbish attitude of fraternities on the campus. The criticism was sparked by the action of one of the eight sororities on the campus which rejected the membership application of a Negro co-ed. One of the paper's editors also hit at the school administration which dodged taking any meaningful action on the issue by issuing a ruling formally dissociating fraternities from the university.

WAITING TO CATCH BOMB — Senator Stephen M. Young, the Ohio Democrat who recently made headlines by telling the American Legion to mind its own business, has opened an attack on the waste of taxpayers' money involved in the operation of the Cleveland Civil Defense organization. He singled out for attack the assignment of a police lieutenant and five patrolmen to the "useless CD organization." He said, "They draw full salaries apparently sitting around waiting for a nuclear bomb to drop." Police Chief Story defended the CD as useful in helping to handle parades and "emergencies."

UAW DEMANDS EQUAL TIME WITH NAM — The United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO, made public Feb. 4 that it was placing a demand with television stations to be given "equal opportunity" to present its views on films provided the stations by the National Association of Manufacturers. The films offered an edited version of the McClellan Committee hearings on the UAW and the Kohler strike. Station WTTG-TV, Washington, furnished the kinescopes free to 27 stations without informing them that they were paid for by the NAM, according to the UAW which described the films as "biased and contrived."

NOTE TO AMBULANCE CHASERS — Liberia's President William V. S. Tubman has ordered prosecution and disbarment proceedings against lawyers who demand excessive fees from clients.

MODEST ROBES AND HOODS PREFERRED — Texas authorities have refused a state charter to the Naturalist Association, a nudist organization. The secretary of state said such an organization violated laws against lewdness, indecent exposure and like practices.