

Hoax Put U. S. at Brink of War

By M. L. Stafford

Hotting up the cold war in all parts of the globe has been the favorite pastime of the cloak-and-dagger diplomats of Allen Dulles' Central Intelligence Agency. With all their practice, they have developed some apt pupils. The liberal capitalist press was "horrified" last week when the pro-U.S. puppet government of Laos confessed that its frenetic cries for help to stave off a "communist" invasion were a deliberate hoax.

In an indignant editorial, the

Jan. 29 *New York Post* condemned the hoax as "an incendiary act that could have had fateful consequences for the world. That such pyromaniacs have the special blessing of the U.S. makes us shudder."

According to the pro-Western Minister of Education Nhouy Abhay the deception was perpetrated to fool the Laotian people into believing they had friends abroad. The appeal for military intervention to stave off the alleged invasion by North Vietnam and Chinese troops was made to

the South East Asian Treaty Organization one of the U.S. regional military blocs.

Asked to clarify his statement, Abhay declared: "If SEATO really came in there would be international war and this country would be the battleground. Nobody," he added, "really wants that."

This exercise in brinkmanship by the puppet Laos regime set off a widespread propaganda campaign in this country for intervention.

The U.S. Seventh Fleet was sent

steaming toward the Laotian frontiers. Military aid was stepped up. Eisenhower called an emergency session of his top advisers on Jan. 2 and ordered a military alert affecting all armed forces. The fuse for hot war had been lit and everyone waited for the explosion.

Fortunately the fuse sputtered when no evidence could be found to substantiate the charge of a "communist" invasion. The incident impelled the *Post* to pose some pertinent editorial questions:

"Were the American diplomats

on the scene unaware that their protégé, Premier Boun Oum, was telling a bedtime story? Was the Central Intelligence Agency so unintelligent that it couldn't distinguish between fact and fiction? Was the alarm signal to Washington sent in good faith or were our men in Laos in on the scheme and even co-authors of it? If they were, how much did Washington know?"

"President Kennedy," the editorial added, "has just spent a couple of hours at the CIA's new refuge of super-secrecy in Virginia to 'familiarize' himself with its facilities. We trust that he also familiarized himself with the CIA's shadowy role in Laos as a stand-in for the Pentagon."

One of the journals shouting the loudest for a "hard line" in Laos now sheepishly concedes that all there was from the beginning was a "little civil war." About the military crisis this sheet now jokingly remarks:

"There is hardly more of a crisis in Laos than in Lichtenstein, and today's little carnival of confession in Vientiane, as ridiculous as it may at first appear, may very well be the most sensible development of the current civil war." (*New York World-Telegram and Sun*, Jan. 27)

But the fact that the U.S. was ready to jump into a war in Laos is no laughing matter. The authoritative correspondent of the *Wall Street Journal*, writing from Laos, reports that the Laotians have no desire to fight and when forced to do so generally manage to fire over one another's head.

Like Syngman Rhee in Formosa, and Chiang Kai-shek in Formosa, the Laotian puppet, Boun Oum, looks to American troops to do his fighting.

And the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency, the whole kit and caboodle of cold warriors in America are only too happy to avail themselves of the opportunities provided by their puppets to hot things up.

After all, is the propaganda war whipped up over Laos very much different from the murderous campaign carried on today by press, radio and television against Cuba?

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Vol. 25 - No. 6 New York, February 6, 1961 Price 10c

Time Running Out, Kennedy Admits

JAN 31 — The American capitalist system is in a bad way. That was the essence of President Kennedy's "State of the Union" message to Congress yesterday. Bets set internally by the worst economic crisis of the postwar period and externally by a growing challenge to its power and prestige, the U.S. faces bleak prospects.

On the domestic scene, "the American economy is in trouble," Kennedy said. "The most resourceful industrialized economy on earth ranks among the last in economic growth. Since last spring our economic growth rate has actually receded."

"Business investment is in a decline," he went on. "Profits have fallen below predicted levels. Construction is off. A million unsold automobiles are in inventory. Fewer people are working — and the average work week has shrunk well below 40 hours. Yet prices have continued to rise — so that now too many Americans have less to spend for items that cost them more to buy."

The message that Kennedy read had little to offer in the way of a

solution. The facts he cited are symptoms of a grave economic disease. Since Kennedy proceeds from the premise that all economic questions must be resolved on the basis of the private ownership of the means of production and distribution, he can do little but tamper with the most superficial aspects of the problem.

Aside from several emergency measures suggested to provide relief for those who have been unemployed a long time, and additional food for needy families, the message promised to submit specific proposals to Congress "within the next 14 days."

Sore Spots

Even worse troubles beset American imperialism on the world arena. Kennedy pinpointed the main immediate sore spots in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Here again, the advance of the colonial revolution and the strengthening of the economic and political power of the Soviet bloc, have confronted the American capitalist ruling class with a dilemma.

How to win the allegiance of the uncommitted nations and reverse the anticapitalist currents sweeping the newly independent and hitherto subjugated peoples out of the control of Western imperialism?

American capitalism stands as the bulwark of world imperialism. Its major capitalist allies are identified as the sole remaining imperialist exploiters and mortal enemies of the colonial struggle for political independence and economic liberation.

With rare exceptions the U.S. government has been found on the side of the imperialist exploiters. At the present time American prestige abroad is at an all-time low. Although Kennedy made it plain that he has no intention of retreating from the cold-war posture of previous administrations, the unfavorable relationship of forces does dictate the need for a tactical modification.

At the moment Kennedy needs time. In his message he complained that in each of the principal areas of crisis — "the tide of events has been running out and time has not been our friend." This explains the softening of tone toward the Soviet government. Kennedy is trying to buy time.

Senators Raise Axe on "Equal" Radio-TV Time

An attempt to repeal the democratic provision of "equal time" on radio and TV for all candidates for public office appears to be under way in Washington. The aim is to give a monopoly of such time to the Republicans and Democrats.

A two-day hearing began Jan. 31 before the Senate Communications Subcommittee on proposals to eliminate Section 315 of the Federal Communications Act.

Last year Congress "temporarily" suspended Section 315 during the presidential election, leaving it up to the broadcasting corporations to decide "fairly" which candidates would get time and which wouldn't.

The effect was to drastically reduce or eliminate the small amount of time previously conceded to minority candidates.

Now Senator John O. Pastore (D-R.I.), who heads the subcommittee, says he favors scrapping Section 315 entirely.

Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), chairman of the parent Commerce Committee, has introduced legislation making permanent the temporary suspension applied during the 1960 campaign.

Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the Socialist Workers party, wired the subcommittee demanding an opportunity for a party spokesman to testify. The wire was not answered.

The hearings will be limited to a report by the Federal Communications Commission and testimony by heads of the broadcasting corporations.

Another subcommittee, set up last year to study the "fairness" of the broadcasters under the temporary suspension, plans to hold hearings later.

Kennedy's appointee to chairmanship of the FCC, Newton N. Minow, also favors eliminating Section 315 in presidential campaigns.

Negroes Win Suit In New Rochelle

A school desegregation decision in New Rochelle, N. Y., Jan. 24 was won on the basis of a stiff fight put up by the Negro families involved.

Lincoln school was established 30 years ago as a virtually all-Negro school by deliberate gerrymandering of school districts. The Board of Education has insisted ever since that New Rochelle has "neighborhood" schools, not segregated ones.

Eleven years of court action over the issue was brought to a head last year when Negro parents ignored a court order and were arrested while seeking to register their children at one of the other schools.

Now, a federal court decision requires the desegregation of Lincoln no later than the 1961-1962 school year. Eleven Negro families filed the winning suit.

Who Counts?

A recheck of Texas presidential ballots revealed that more than 100,000 votes were not counted.



Prince Boun Oum, described as a "clown" and a "plump sybarite," admits playing fast and loose with the truth about a "communist invasion" of Laos.

Auto Union Asks AFL-CIO To Call Job-Crisis Parleys

By C. Thomas

The International Executive Board of the United Automobile Workers has called upon national AFL-CIO officers to convene regional conferences on unemployment preparatory to a national gathering in Washington later in the year.

Mounting unemployment in the auto industry is engendering considerable pressure on the UAW leadership for action. The proposal for a national conference on unemployment has been one of the demands of the opposition in the UAW organized in the National Committee for Democratic Action.

Fears have been expressed that the projected conferences—if held—may suffer the same fate as that of the national conference on unemployment in Washington in March 1958. The 1958 conference was so rigged that the rank and file spent all day listening to speeches of assorted windbags instead of hammering out a program of action. The result was nil.

If the Reuther leadership has its way the union rank and file will get a repetition of the 1958 fiasco. The Reuther proposal is that the conferences should include representatives of welfare agencies, churches, business groups, state and local government officials, state legislators and U.S. senators and representatives.

This would guarantee in advance that the conferences would be talkathons for various and sundry blowhards who wouldn't give an unemployed auto worker a

chance to get a word in edgewise. One such conference was enough!

A Good Idea

The idea of regional conferences on unemployment is a good one. The proposal that they be used to prepare for a national gathering in Washington is also good. But, to be effective, the conferences should be working bodies not talking shops. Organization of the conferences should begin at the shop level. Each shop should elect its representative to the regional conference after discussing a workers program to end unemployment.

When such delegates assembled at a regional conference they would be well equipped to discuss and act on the basis of the first-hand knowledge of the problems in their plants and industries. From the regional conferences delegates can be elected to attend a national gathering in Washington to hammer out a program of action. The top brass of the AFL-CIO could designate a spokesman to appear at the conference to present the views of the union leadership.

If there were differences among the tops, the conference could make room for two speakers—one for each side—and that's all! No visiting firemen. No long-winded, fork-tongued, addlebrained congressmen. But plenty of time for every elected rank and file delegate to discuss and then time to adopt a program of action. Those are the kind of conferences the situation requires.

Fair Play Slates New York Rally

NEW YORK — A public rally to demand reversal of Washington's policy toward Cuba will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The rally will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the New York Trade Show Building, Eighth Avenue and 35th Street.

Speakers will be James Higgins, editor of the York, Pa., *Gazette & Daily*; Robert F. Williams, president of the Union County, N.C., NAACP; and Richard B. Tussey, chairman, Local 72, Mechanics Educational Society, AFL-CIO, Cleveland. Richard Gibson, acting national executive secretary of the Fair Play committee, will preside.

In announcing the rally, Gibson said: "An ever increasing number of Americans are demanding a new beginning in our relations with Cuba. Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has announced that he is ready and willing to make such a new start, so the next move is up to President Kennedy."

The committee is urging restoration of diplomatic and trade relations and an end to the ban on travel to Cuba.

A Growing Leisure Class - - Jobless Workers

By Tom Kerry

The American working class is being hard hit by the modern plague of chronic unemployment—what the British refer to as “redundancy.” That is, an increasing number of workers are being squeezed out of the economy as advancing technology makes possible the production of greater quantities of commodities with less and less labor.

In his economic report to President-elect Kennedy, Dr. Paul Samuelson diagnosed the disease as “chronic slackness.” A recent study of the steel industry makes more concrete the process by which more is produced with fewer workers at a greater profit to the corporations.

Initial Stages

Automation is merely at its initial stages in the steel industry. Yet, in the automated plants, labor costs are drastically cut as crews are reduced and productivity increased.

“Each ton of finished steel,” according to a study in the Jan. 24, *Wall Street Journal*, “now takes 12 man-hours to produce, 7 fewer than in 1940.”

Just one innovation, the use of oxygen converters, has speeded up production and boosted profits. “The oxygen converters,” the study reports, “will turn out a ‘heat’ or batch, of steel in less than an hour. Open hearth furnaces use ordinary air, only about a fifth of which is oxygen, to burn off the impuri-

ties and take about ten hours to produce a heat of steel.”

Improvements in the steelmaking process, permitting the use of higher temperatures and greater pressure, “are expected to increase the output of the furnace by 40 percent within five years with almost no change in the size of the furnace crew.”

The net result of increased automation and mechanization in the steel mills has drastically reduced the size of the work force while maintaining higher production levels.

“The United Steelworkers of America,” the study points out, “figures its membership within the basic steel industry hit a peak of 571,000 in 1953 and has declined fairly steady since. In the first quarter last year, with production at a high level, Steelworker membership numbered only 532,000, a drop of 40,000 in seven years.” A total of 40,000 steel workers became “redundant” in seven years — and that is only the beginning.

Never Recalled

“About 125,000 union members are on furlough now,” says the study, “and as many as 10,000 probably will never be recalled, even should output rebound to record levels. About 9,000 members were never recalled after the 1959 strike.”

To the figure of 125,000 laid off from their jobs as of December, the January issue of *Steel Labor* reports: “And those remaining at work averaged only 34.1 hours per

week with a loss of income equivalent to almost a full day’s pay.”

But Profits Stay Up

Meanwhile profits remain high. “Steelmakers,” says the study, “have made new iron and steel facilities pay off in profits during the current sag in steel demand which began last spring. Where it hasn’t interfered with the mix of products produced and other factors, mills have cut back older facilities first and let newer, more efficient units run close to capacity.”

What this has meant in terms of actual figures is disclosed by the study: “In the 1960’s third quarter, the industry was able to net about \$100 million, a 4% return on investment, although production averaged only 52.4% of capacity. Steel men say profits held up well in last year’s final quarter although output slipped even lower to 50.4% of capacity.”

There you have almost the whole story of the current problem. What is true for the steel industry is true to one degree or another for auto, rubber, transportation, etc. Fewer workers turning out the same or higher production at greater profits.

The advance of technology under our so-called “free enterprise” system has resulted not in lower prices to consumers and shorter hours with no reduction in pay for the workers but in higher profits for the owners of industry.

For many of those fortunate

enough to still have a job it has meant shorter hours, it is true — but at reduced income. For those “furloughed,” (what a delicate way to put it) it has meant the humiliation of unemployment compensation at only a fraction of their employed income, if that, and the prospect of joining the growing army of “redundants.”

What happens to those “redundants” who had acquired a certain level of efficiency and skill in any given industry or trade?

Writing on the effects of automation in this month’s issue of the *American Federationist*, Dr. Charles C. Killingsworth, Michigan State University professor, says:

“We have a very limited basis as yet for judging the extent to which upgrading or downgrading of the labor force will result from automation. We are getting some ideas as to what is happening to particular jobs when operations are automated. We know next to nothing about what happens to the people who are displaced.”

While he admits that little is known of the fate of those made redundant by automation, Professor Killingsworth does make an educated guess.

Obsolete Skills

“The man who loses a semi-skilled factory job,” he says, “may end up in a low-skilled service job. Engineers have been scarce in recent years, but computers are rapidly developing the ability to perform certain kinds of their work. Numerical control may rapidly render obsolete the skills of many of today’s highly-paid craftsmen.

“Many of the thousands of junior executives that our collegiate schools of business are grinding out these days may in a few years find their jobs being taken over by decision-making machines. Indeed, one of the students of automation is willing to assume that in 10 years we will have the technical capability of building machines to perform any productive function that is performed by men today.

“Economic feasibility,” he concludes, “will retard the realization of this technical capability. But it would be a mistake to think that it is only the low-skilled jobs that can be mechanized.”

It is this technological revolution that is largely responsible for the growth of chronic unemployment today. As in the steel industry, investment in new plant and equipment is for the purpose of cutting labor costs and is not intended to increase productive capacity. This can only exacerbate the problem.

The most striking fact of the 1958 recession, says Dr. Samuelson in his economic report, is that un-

employment in the recovery years, 1959-60, “remained above 5 percent of the labor force.”

“Ever since the 1954 recession,” says an editorial entitled: “Economic Forecasts,” in the Dec. *New Republic*, “the residue of joblessness which has lasted as the economy recovered has been greater with each cycle. And while the present labor force is partly unused, new entrants into the labor market will rise rapidly with war babies finishing their schooling. An additional 1.2 million job seekers are expected over the next 12 months.”

Chronic disemployment is today aggravated by conjunctural unemployment due to the economic downturn. While advancing the demands required to meet the immediate needs of the unemployed, the labor movement cannot afford to neglect those longer range demands designed to cope with chronic disemployment. The first among these is the demand of 30 for 40 — the shorter work week with no reduction in take-home pay.

Cost of Living Hits An All-Time High-

The cost of living climbed to a new record high in December, according to the U.S. Department of Labor which reported that the fourth monthly increase in a row brought its index to 127.5. This is 1.6 per cent higher than a year ago.

The biggest bite in living standards, the report said, was due to new increases in the cost of food and housing.

With unemployment spreading, and unemployment compensation and other forms of public assistance pegged to yesterday’s prices, each new jump in living costs means added hardships for the jobless.

Weekly Calendar

LOS ANGELES

Negro History Week. Dramatic presentation. Speaker, Eleanor Letha Cary. Fri., Feb. 10, 8:15 p.m. 1702 E. 4th St. Contrib. 75 cents. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

Two Seminars. (1) Cuba, Theodore Edwards, Sundays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. through March 5. (2) Rise and Decline of the Communist Party. Arne Swaback, Communist party founder, and Max Goldman. Sundays, 12:30-2 p.m., Through March 5. Contrib. 35 cents. International School of Socialism, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238.

MINNEAPOLIS

Fred W. Stover, president U.S. Farmers Ass’n, on “The U.S. Farm Crisis and the Lessons of the Cuban Land Reform.” Fri., Feb. 10, 8:15 p.m. Twin Cities Labor Forum, 704 Hennepin Ave.

NEW YORK

Tom Kerry, org. sec’y. SWP, on “America’s Capitalist Crisis and the Kennedy Administration.” Fri., Feb. 10, 8:30 p.m. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Pl. (Off Union Sq.) Contrib. 50 cents.

Interviews taped in Cuba. Sat., Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m. Dancing. \$1 contrib. includes buffet. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Pl.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Socialist news commentary. Theodore Edwards, chairman. Southern Calif., SWP. Fri., Feb. 10, 6:45 p.m. FM station KPFK, 70.9 on your dial.

School Fight Gains In New Orleans

In stubborn defiance of racist pressure, John N. Thompson, 33, entered his second child at New Orleans’ McDonogh No. 19 school last week. Whites have been boycotting the school since three Negro children were enrolled ten weeks ago.

When Thompson entered his first son at the school he was fired from his Walgren Drug fountain job. But the national chain then transferred him to another store. The store is being picketed by racists and the Thompson family has been ordered to move from their apartment.

On another rights front, ten Negro college students at Rock Hill, N. C., were jailed on “trespass” charges Jan. 31 after resuming sit-ins at a Jim Crow McCrory lunch counter.

Seattle Leaflet Case

SEATTLE — Mrs. Florestine Ware was arrested while distributing leaflets Jan. 20 urging people not to ride in Farwest cabs until the company stops racial discrimination in hiring. She was booked under an ordinance prohibiting street distribution of commercial advertising material and bail was set at \$100.

Mrs. Ware is secretary of the Seattle Negro Independent Association.



Carl Braden Faces New Racist Attack

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Carl Braden was served with a summons from the Florida Legislative Investigating Committee as he addressed a meeting of the Volusia County NAACP here Jan. 25. He was ordered to appear before the committee in Tallahassee on Feb. 9.

The committee has been harassing Negro ministers in the state because they refuse to reveal membership lists of the NAACP.

The summons was served on Braden, a field secretary and editor for the Southern Conference Educational Fund, as he discussed the jail sentence of Rev. Theodore R. Gibson, Miami, and the threat to jail the Rev. A. Leon Lowry, Tampa, for their defiance of the committee.

Braden is now under a one-year “contempt” sentence for defying the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The U.S. Supreme Court has heard argument on that conviction and a decision is awaited.

Braden said he will refuse to answer any questions put to him by the Florida committee. “They are merely using their powers to hamper work for integration in the South,” he declared.

Local Directory

- BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.
CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-0544.
CLEVELAND. Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euclid Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.
DENVER. Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California. Main 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227 1/2 California. Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.
DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. TE 6-1135.
LOS ANGELES. Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily, Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.
MINNEAPOLIS. Socialist Workers Party and Labor Book Store, 104 Hennepin Ave., Hall 240. FEderal 2-7781.
NEWARK. Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, New Jersey.
NEW YORK CITY. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place. AL 5-7852.
OAKLAND-BERKELEY. P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. Phone OL 5-1764.
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 3-5320.
SEATTLE. 1412 18th Ave. EA 5-0191. Library, bookstore. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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C. Wright Mills

"He Defies the Men in Power"

Beginning with that estimate of America's leading sociologist, William F. Warde discusses C. Wright Mills' book, *The Sociological Imagination*, in the winter issue of *International Socialist Review*.

Warde views Mills' methodology as more progressive than that of the currently dominant schools of sociology, which Mills demonstrates to be completely barren. But, argues Warde, the Marxist method — which Mills finds only partially valid — is a more effective sociological tool than the theory of Max Weber, who is viewed by Mills as the foremost sociologist of this century.

Listen, Yankee, is favorably reviewed by Joseph Hansen. The editor of the *Militant* draws on Dr. Mills' material in demonstrating the sweeping character of the Cuban Revolution.

Send 35 cents for a copy.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

THE MILITANT

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Published weekly, except from July 11 to Sept. 5 when published biweekly, by the Militant Publishing Ass'n., 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y. Phone H 3-2140. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Vol. 25 - No. 6



Monday, February 6, 1961

Cuba Stirs Canadian Unions

Sections of the Canadian union movement are putting up a fight against bureaucratic efforts of the top brass of the Canadian Labor Congress to prevent them from learning the truth about Cuba first hand.

Last fall the convention of the British Columbia AFL-CIO, whose member unions are also affiliated to the CLC, voted to send its top officers for a first-hand look at the Cuban revolution. The convention also urged local unions to elect representatives to accompany federation officers and make it a mass delegation.

But so far the British Columbia unions have been blocked from sending their delegation to Cuba by the national officers of the CLC who, like their counterparts in the AFL-CIO here, fear any move that would be looked upon unfavorably by the big-business opponents of the Cuban revolution.

To counteract rank-and-file dissatisfaction with their stand, the CLC tops have circulated to all local unions two scurrilous statements about the "enslavement" of Cuban unions. These were issued by the red-baiting International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and "ARIT," the inter-American affiliate of the ICTFU.

A covering letter from CLC Secretary-Treasurer Donald McDonald asserts that while the CLC favors continuance of diplomatic and trade ties with Cuba it "cannot become a party to any expression of sympathy or active fraternization with the organizations and institutions which follow a policy of suppressing the free trade union movement."

This stand was scored in an open letter to CLC President

Claude Jodoin by Angus Macphee, secretary of the Prince Rupert, B.C., Labor Council.

Macphee's letter was published in the January issue of the *Western Pulp and Paper Worker*, voice of the Western Canada Council of Pulp and Paper Mill Unions in British Columbia.

The letter declares: "I have been instructed by this Council to write you in protest of Congress' actions in dissuading the B.C. Federation of Labor from organizing a trade union delegation to Cuba. This action is taken for two reasons.

"First, we consider the Congress action one of political immaturity. Perhaps never since the American Revolution has the western hemisphere been the setting of such an event of political and economic importance as the struggle for freedom in Cuba that successfully routed the Batista regime.

"Whether we like it or not," the Prince Rupert Labor Council letter continued, "the workers and peasants of Cuba, led by Castro's movement, has demonstrably changed the course of colonial struggle on this earth and to a great degree has influenced world cold-war tactics. The full impact has not yet been felt.

"There may be room for debate on the subject of Castro's politics. There certainly wasn't in Batista's case. It would be difficult to find a worse regime from a trade union point of view which, incidentally, gives us to question the report that an ex-Batista Labor henchman has some capacity with the AFL-CIO.

"The Congress officers and those of the ICTFU are entitled to their opinions," the letter states. "However, the trade unionists are en-

titled to, and must know, the truth. Contradictions in reports received so far make this impossible from a distance."

The letter concludes with its second point, which it declares is not "debatable" — namely, that since there was no decision by a CLC convention barring union delegations to Cuba, the CLC officers have no right to deny the decision of the B.C. Federation. It advises the B.C. unions to ignore the CLC stand and send the Cuba delegation as voted.

Also, in the first part of January, the Hamilton, Ontario, Labor Council adopted a motion urging the CLC itself to send at least one delegate to Cuba "in order that we might obtain impartial reports."

The motion was made by Sandy Murdoch of the United Rubber Workers, who declared that labor could not afford to accept the information about Cuba in the big business press because "the takeover of business has infuriated capitalist interests."

Another report from Canada says that several locals in the Vancouver area are planning to send delegations to Cuba this spring.

Seeks China Trade

In a major policy address to Parliament, Prime Minister Ikeda declared Jan. 30 that "Japan welcomes any improvement of relations, particularly expansion of trade, with mainland China."

As the center of industrial power in the Far East, Japan finds China a natural market, but the State Department has forced it to suspend this trade since Chiang Kai-shek was overthrown.

Kennedy's Policy Toward Cuba

In his State of the Union message to Congress, Kennedy repeated promises to Latin America that have been made by every tenant of the White House since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Free and prosperous" countries, "economic and social progress," a "new hemisphere attack on illiteracy and inadequate educational opportunities," and similar high-sounding phrases.

He proposed two specific items. A fund of \$500,000,000 "as a first step in the sound development of the Americas" and a "food-for-peace mission" to "explore ways in which our vast food abundance can be used to help end hunger and malnutrition in certain areas of suffering in our own hemisphere."

These are much too little and much too late to stem the deep bitterness that prevails throughout Latin America against the rich and arrogant imperialist power to the north. And if they do represent the beginning of somewhat bigger handouts, we may be sure that everywhere south of the Rio Grande the White House will win no credit for a change of heart. The calculation is too crude and too apparent — a bit more charity may prevent the Cuban Revolution from spreading.

The real feelings of the capitalists who stand behind the White House were in those parts of Kennedy's message where he smeared the revolutionary government as tyrannical and praised the "exile from Cuba."

The unforgivable crime of the Cuban people in the eyes of Kennedy and the millionaire circles he belongs to was that they finally rebelled against capitalist property rights.

They refused to wait any longer for delivery on those generous promises of help from Big Brother. They ousted Wall Street's puppet dictator. They cut rents in half. They began building schools and homes. They took the land and started cultivating it. Cuba's poor people began to live better. When the White House responded with savage economic reprisals, the Cubans nationalized industry and set up a planned economy.

In short, the progressive aims which are customary themes in the speeches of American presidents were converted by the Cubans into do-it-yourself projects. They proved to all of Latin America that there is no other way to win them.

Kennedy's rejection of the Cuban government's overtures for a new beginning in diplomatic relations will certainly not help restore America's abysmally low prestige in Latin America. Kennedy's projected course differs but little from that followed by Eisenhower which brought the name of the United States to a level not far from that of Nazi Germany.

The most virulent counterrevolutionary circles, encouraged by Kennedy, are now talking about setting up a "government in exile" — in Miami, Florida. And the slanderous sheets they publish, which reek of dollars flowing through Central Intelligence channels, scream about haste in smashing the Cuban Revolution before it gets any stronger.

The Cuban counterrevolutionaries do not propose to do their own fighting. "What exile leaders are counting on is all kinds of help from the U.S. . . ." explains the Jan. 30 *U.S. News & World Report*. "They want more than arms and money and training bases. They want experienced military men to help them plan their civil war . . . And they want a guarantee that once they start fighting, the flow of arms from outside will be steady and big."

Genuine friends of the Latin American people must regard Kennedy's policy toward Cuba with the utmost concern. The new president must be made to hear the voice of reason and justice: "Hands off Cuba!"

In the Atomic Age—Remember?

How long can we continue to drift into the atomic age without a major disaster?

A small reminder of the hazards humanity now faces appeared on the press wires last week. Here it is in its entirety:

WHITESBORO, N. Y., Jan. 24 (UPI).—With the permission of the Atomic Energy Commission, John A. Byrnes, twenty-seven, will be buried tomorrow at Mount Olive Cemetery.

The burial will be unusual in several respects. The body will be in a standard coffin. However, the coffin will be surrounded by a sealed steel box, a lead-lined vault and one foot of concrete. At least three feet of soil must rest atop the concrete.

The grave may not be moved or opened without A.E.C. permission. Mr. Byrnes, an army specialist, was one of three men killed in a nuclear mishap at the National Radiation Testing Center at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Spokesmen of the Pentagon have cheerfully assured us in the past year that we need not take such a gloomy view of a nuclear war. At least half of the population, they assert, will most likely survive the first salvo of H-bombs.

They forgot to mention, however, what provisions are being made to bury the half that fall victim to the radioactive blasts.

In view of the precautions that had to be taken in putting away the body of John A. Byrnes, we should like to inquire of the Pentagon experts, "In the event of nuclear war, who buries the dead and what with?"

UAW Group Adopts Fighting Program

DETROIT, Jan. 29 — Some 200 workers from about 25 locals of the United Automobile Workers union met here today in a state-wide conference called by the National Committee for Democratic Action, an anti-Reuther grouping in the auto union.

The purpose of the conference was to formulate basic demands for the 1961 contract negotiations and to adopt a legislative program which the UAW should demand from Congress.

The contractual demands included a 30-hour week at 40-hours pay; setting of production standards by the unions; a 20 per cent rollback in production standards; uniform industry-wide wages; lowering the retirement age to 60, or 25 years of service; a model fair employment practices clause in every contract; no contract to be signed for longer than one year.

The legislative program included amending the wage-hour law to provide a 30-hour work week at 40-hours pay; increased unemployment compensation for the unemployed during the entire period of layoff; repeal of all antilabor laws, including Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin; a federal civil-rights law.

In Michigan 11½ per cent of the work force is unemployed; i.e.,

Boom in Australia Starts Slacking Off

Economists have noted a "bottoming out" in the economic boom in Australia. The balance of payments in overseas trade has turned adverse and foreign reserves have dropped \$337,500,000 since last June.

Unemployment is rising. In December the number of jobless increased by 10,250 to 53,563.

Premier Henry E. Bolte of Victoria insists, however, that there is nothing to worry about. "There is little or no fear of nationalization."

He pictured Australia as an investor's paradise.

320,000. Of these, 170,000 are in Detroit. The NCFDA program therefore places the task of getting workers back into the shops as its number one point.

Besides those thrown out of jobs, it has in mind young workers who will soon be entering the labor market.

The NCFDA plans a vigorous campaign to recruit more members and to build branches. Its members will ask locals to pass resolutions calling for 30-40 as the number one demand in the 1961 contracts. It will seek to elect local and shop committees pledged to fight for the NCFDA program.

The campaign will include efforts to get local unions to call meetings of the unemployed and to elect committees representing them.

At the end of the conference an NCFDA committee on unemployment was established. Art Fox, chairman of the committee, said that they intend to carry the program to Solidarity House, to the city officials and to the state Capitol at Lansing.

Cross Misheff, leader of the NCFDA, pointed out that the program had to be carried out by the efforts of the rank and file since the "labor statesmen" promise everything, especially before an election, but deliver nothing.

He noted that Reuther is now asking the AFL-CIO to convene conferences to deal with the problem of unemployment. But the UAW president is not fighting for 30-40. In the past he has violated convention decisions which set 30-40 as the prime goal and thus he allowed the manufacturers to steal jobs from the workers.

"The union does not belong to Reuther and Meany. It is your union," Misheff told the conference.

Andy Kranson, president of Chrysler 7, addressed the session. "We want to get the union back to where it belongs, back to the people in the shops like it was in '37."

Eugene Hoffman, chairman of

the NCFDA, said that in the past many resolutions drawn up by the rank and file never got to see the light of day on the convention floor.

Leo Shaffer, chairman of West-side Region 1A, said that this year delegates to the April UAW convention must be gotten to adopt the NCFDA principal demand for 30-40.

In the future, steps will be taken to win more democracy in the UAW so that the will of the ranks can find expression.

800 to 1

A record total of 800 men requested application forms for a solitary opening on the East Cleveland police force. A city spokesman felt this indicated an unemployment problem.

NEW YORK

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by Robert Cohen

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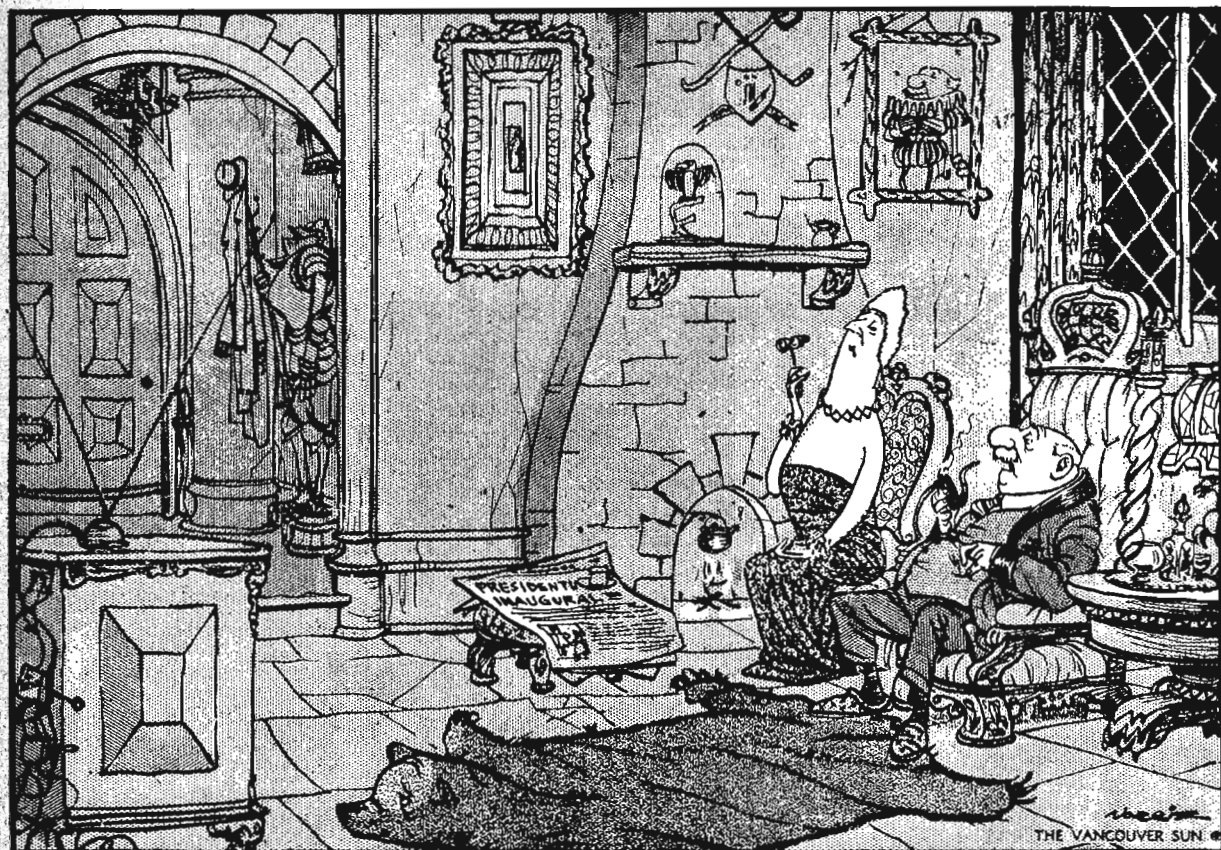
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— The Vancouver Sun

"Good script . . . better actors, perhaps . . . but the Coronation was miles ahead on sets and costumes..."

A Remedy for Recessions

By Joyce Cowley

I have just finished reading an *Economic Letter* from Dr. Lawrence C. Locksley of the School of Business, University of Santa Clara. The heading "What We Can Guess About Business in 1961" looks routine, but it turned out to be remarkably interesting. This is a frank report directed to executives — I borrowed it from the boss's mail.

It starts out with the double talk that has become our everyday language. A depression, which for many of us has grim associations, seemed less threatening when it was called a "recession."

Then a recession, too, sounded ominous and it was variously transformed into a "rolling readjustment," a "dip," an "inventory adjustment" and a "bottoming out."

Dr. Locksley refers to a "definite softening" of business and discusses the possible duration of "periods of softness." (I always thought that business should be a little softer but I don't think the

professor and I have the same thing in mind.)

Some people think that the way to solve this problem is to give consumers more money to spend through increased unemployment insurance and public-works programs; but Dr. Locksley knows better. He does not consider consumer spending necessarily beneficial, and he does not believe that wasting government funds on roads, schools and other frills is the way out of "periods of softness." He points out that such measures do not get to the basic problem.

What we need, he says, is steady economic growth and this can only come from greater capital formation through private investment. But private capital formation grows less attractive each year because "corporate profits have been a decreasing proportion of our gross national product."

In other words, increasing profits, not wages or spending, is the only road to economic recovery.

The professor attacks the idea that large expenditures for schools and other educational facilities

offer a solution. In fact, for a man who makes his living at teaching, he is surprisingly skeptical about the value of education.

Revolutionary Students

"For many years," he says, "university students in other countries have been pivotal in the fall of governments . . . Such students were important to Lenin in his push for power. They were important to Castro when he conquered Cuba. They were critically important in Turkey in 1961."

And this stuff is contagious. It seems to be catching on in the U.S. . . . hundreds of students . . . picketed the House Committee on Un-American Activities, held in San Francisco . . . in the south during the current trouble concerning segregation, I have come across news items which seemed to indicate that university students were being used."

I have always advocated spending money for schools although I never believed that it was a remedy for economic depression. But on the basis of Dr. Locksley's report, I feel more optimistic.

It Was Reported in the Press

"Fat and Blind" — Blasting the anti-Cuba campaign, Charles A. Wells, editor of a Washington newsletter, told 2,000 cheering pastors at a Columbus, Ohio, conference Jan. 24 that "America is the product of a revolution gotten so fat and blind that it cannot see a kindred situation right on its doorstep."

The Harlem Story — Dr. Thomas H. Walters, chief of dental services at New York City's Harlem Hospital, charged Jan. 26 that two women patients had died within the past 30 days for lack of proper medical treatment. In a plea for additional funds for the hospital, he said conditions there were "chaotic" and "costing lives." He termed Harlem "a neglected portion of our city."

The War on Delinquency — Four young men, 17 and 18, were freed of "malicious mischief" charges Jan. 25 after they erased the words, "Sanity? Reality? Morality?" which they had painted on a model fallout shelter in Cedarhurst, N. Y.

Rights Victory — Rev. Ashton Jones, a white Southern crusader

against Jim Crow, who was arrested in Shreveport, La., for eating in a Negro cafeteria, was acquitted Jan. 25 of charges of "vagrancy" and "disturbing the peace."

The Georgia Way — Seven Negroes were held in jail in Savannah, Ga., Jan. 24 in lieu of \$1,000 bond for playing basketball in a "white-only" municipal park. They were charged with "unlawful assembly."

Not Yet — Three crew members died when an Air Force jet bomber carrying two nuclear bombs crashed in Goldsboro, N.C., Jan. 24. Several of the bomb-carrying planes have crashed recently. So far none of the bombs have exploded.

Cradle of the Grave — Eleven pacifists, now on a transcontinental peace walk, held a 24-hour "vigil of mourning" at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico Jan. 30 in memory of the Japanese A-bomb victims. The range was the site of the first atomic bomb explosion in 1945.

Think You Have Problems? — "While militarily strong, we must

grow stronger. We must keep excelling in space; must outmaneuver the Communists at numerous points from Cuba to Laos, must halt the rise of unemployment, check the dollar outflow, grapple with our civil rights stresses and meet the crises of rapid urbanization — to mention a few."—From a Jan. 13 *Dallas Times Herald* editorial.

Flying Straphangers—A spokesman for British aircraft operators points out that revenues could be increased by selling "standing room" on short flights. Why not do it right? On clear days, that wasted wing space could be used too.

Esthete — New York State Park Commissioner Robert Moses concedes that some of the new housing in New York city may be "ugly, regimented, institutional, identical, conformed, faceless." But, he suggests, such housing could be surrounded with parks.

New York Child Care — New York City Health Commissioner Leona Baumgartner reports that in 1960 there were 356,997 dentally neglected children in the city — 35 per cent of the school population.

Book Review

Vultures of the AMA

It's CHEAPER TO DIE, by William Michelfelder. George Braziller, Inc. New York, N. Y. 1960. 192 pp. \$3.50.

This is an excellent résumé of the role of the American Medical Association in increasing the nation's doctor bill to a fantastic \$16 billion a year while at the same time maintaining a crisis in the hospitals, a growing shortage of physicians, deteriorating medical service and utterly inadequate health insurance.

The author, a well-known newspaperman, has spent the last ten years investigating and writing about medical costs. For his work in this field he was given an AFL-CIO Award for Public Service.

Two Forces

American medicine is dominated by two forces. One is a handful of giant drug corporations which view human suffering as a lucrative field for profits. In a recent Senate investigation, for example, mark ups on drugs were found to range as high as 7,000 per cent.

The other force is the private buccaneer who approaches illness the way many undertakers approach death — how much can the family be clipped?

Some of these doctors are skilled enough but they are little concerned about utilizing their know-how in the service of humanity. They are strictly in business like the corner grocer or the corner butcher and their first concern is the \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year which is within the range of most American practitioners.

The field of public health is thus occupied by a most reactionary combination of antiquated small enterprise, centuries behind in its

economic and social outlook, and big corporations whose basic political tendency is in the fascist direction.

The common ground where these two forces meet is profit-making. The organization that looks out for their common economic and political interests is the reactionary AMA.

Sinister Figure

Small wonder then that the American people feel more and more that the good family doctor whom they once revered as a healer has become a rather sinister figure, from whom little consideration can be expected unless you have a completely healthy pocketbook.

Some examples: Odds are 2 to 1 that a patient will not be operated on if he has no surgical insurance. Specialists are often called in simply to split fees. A patient, typically, was charged \$27.50 for use of a wheelchair. Blood transfusions go at \$30 to \$40 a pint. Malpractice is rising. One group of hospitals in California reported 18 operation sponges left inside patients in a single year.

Michelfelder explains the inadequacies of such insurance plans as Blue Shield and Blue Cross. He favors the Health Insurance Plan (HIP) and Group Health Insurance (GHI). He also favors the trend among unions to set up medical facilities.

But he seems so frightened of the label "socialized medicine" that he avoids discussing a comprehensive government-financed health plan and does not even consider what has been done in other countries along these lines.

— Paul Abbott

Letters from Our Readers

The Rail Tug Strike

Minneapolis, Minn.
I read with appreciation your Jan. 23 article on the tugboat strike and the resulting rail tie-up.

While stuck in New York by the weather, I talked with a couple of the pickets. One was an old-timer from the Master, Mates and Pilots. He gave me a real pep talk on the necessity for solidarity — the railroad companies are not only trying to throw a lot of old tugboat workers out of jobs, but also firemen, some of the brakemen, etc.

The deal worked out on the Canadian Pacific for the gradual elimination of the firemen may serve as something of a pattern here. It left the carrier free to eliminate the firemen on switch engines and freight engines as fast as natural attrition took hold.

The cut in rail jobs from 2,000,000 to 800,000 seems to have whetted the thirst of the American Association of Railroads. The mechanical forces on the railroads have suffered the deepest cuts up to now — and the increased number of wrecks tend to indicate that it's penny-wise economy. Now the railroads are out to chop away the operating men as well.

C.S.

Mozart Obscene?

New York, N. Y.
The Supreme Court on Jan. 23 upheld as constitutional a Chicago board of censor's ban on the showing of a film billed as *Don Juan*. The film in question turned out to be a movie of a performance of

Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* (Italian for Don Juan.)

This eighteenth-century work is part of the standard repertory of every first-rate opera company, including the Metropolitan Opera of New York. Last year the Met staged 11 special performances of *Don Giovanni* for high school students. Several leading musicologists consider *Don Giovanni* the greatest opera ever composed.

Carl Goodman

Forand Bill

Denver, Colo.
I have traveled miles working for the Forand bill because I think it is an immediate need. But in the long run the bill simply adds up to dividing the money, since the poor keep the poor on Social Security.

The *Militant* is the only paper of any interest to men. I wonder if any of your readers remember the *American Guardian* put out by Oscar Ameringer in the early thirties? Oscar used to say, work for those who can work, help for those who can't, and Hell for those who won't.

Everett Dobson

Stop Interfering

Jacksonville, Mo.
The way to avoid war is to remain peaceful and stay out of the internal affairs and civil wars of other countries. Let us stop interfering in the affairs of Cuba, China and Laos and propose in the UN and elsewhere that we return to the disarmament talks with a sincere and genuine desire to seek peace and coexistence with all other nations.

John L. Widner

Thought for the Week

"The man who led the atomic bomb raids on Japan has been declared insane . . . It is interesting to note that the psychiatrists label Eatherly's perturbation 'a nagging guilt complex.' They avoid the word conscience. Today it is unfashionable, and in this case slightly treasonous, to have a conscience. To brood about the consequences of our acts is not a sign of sensitivity to right and wrong but a symptom of mental illness." — Vancouver Press columnist Eric Nicol.