# My Life In Stalin's **Prison Camps** By Brigitte Gerland

in Stalin's concentration camps, six of them in the Arctic Circle. The series has been translated from the French text published by La Verite, official newspaper of the Internationalist Communist Party, French section of The Fourth International. - Ed.)

Among the many widely spread and accepted legends about the Stalinist system is the legend, offered as beyond challenge, that forced labor is indispensable for the existence of the Soviet order. Repentant admirers, ex-enthusiastic friends of the USSR and ex-fellow travellers of all shadings continue to pretend that Soviet economic suc-cesses couldn't have been achieved without resorting to cesses couldn't have been achieved without resorting to labor at "bargain rates," in short, forced labor. From these false premises, an equally false conclusion is then drawn. **Figures** The defenders of this notion, that forced labor is an alleged necessity, claim in effect that the mass arrests in the Soviet Union arise as a response to economic considera-Soviet Union arise as a response to economic considerations; and that the MVD (secret police) is nothing more than an executive organ for the direction of the plan.

In the course of many discussions with "free world" politicals, I have been able to gather that they view the Commerce and Labor Departmatter approximately as follows: There is a project to build ment in their latest joint report, a new canal, say in Turkestan; thereupon the Ministry in charge issues a directive to the MVD to supply forthwith,

(Continued on page 3)

# (The author of the following series is a German writer who joined the Communist Party in the Soviet zone of East Germany, became disillusioned with Stalinism, and was sentenced by Moscow's secret political police to 15 years imprisonment on a trumped up charge of being a "British spy." She was released in Malenkov's general amnesty in December 1953 after spending some eight years in Statistical context of the relation of the r With "New Deal" Demagogy

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Something weird in employment and unemployment figures has again been cooked up by the covering the period from the second week in Nov. to the second week in Dec., 1954.

On Jan. 7, the two departments ssued the "estimate" that civilian employment had dropped 1. 043,000 within a month to bring the Dec. total to 60,688,000. This means there were 1,043,000 less people holding jobs than a month reviously.

At the same time, the report laims that the number of unemoloyed also declined - that there were less people out of work alisted at 2,838,000 in Dec. compared to 2,893,000 for the same ime in Nov. Back in June there was a total

ivilian labor force, according to he government figures, of 65,-

445,000, including 3,347,000 un employed. Six months later the otal of the labor force is reported as 63.726.000. or a shrinkage of 1,719,000 in half a year. In that same brief period the to commute his sentence.

country's population grew from 162,187,000 to 163,465,000. what it's supposed to be. stration was claiming a decline Jim Crow justice in America.

in the number of unemployed, it WHITE MOB VIOLENCE simultaneously admitted an in-



UN Chief in China

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold (left), accompanied by his personal aide William Ranallo, of New York, is shown in Peking to negotiate for the release of 11 American prisoners held by the Chinese. Ranallo was the only U.S. citizen in the mission. (See editorial on Page 3.)

though there were less people work are working. The unemployed were WIRE FLORIDA GOVERNOR TO SAVE IRVIN'S LIFE!

> The United States Supreme Court on Jan. 10 dismissed DEMOCRATS' DILEMMA the appeal of Walter Lee Irvin, framed-up Florida Negro. The death sentence which followed Irvin's conviction by a prejudiced, lily-white jury will

now be carried out unless Flori- sentenced to death and a third da's Governor can be persuaded defendent, because of his extreme youth, was sentenced to The sentencing of Irvin, climax, life imprisonment. Appeals to of the Groveland or "Little" die U.S. Surverce Court brought Confusing? You bet. And that's Scottsboro" case, is one of the an order for a new trial. Sheriff actionary who has to be voted while the Fischer of the best barbarous episodes in the Willis J. McCall, a notorious ra-

While the Eisenhower admin-long and barbarous history of cist, undertook to overrule the out of office. And it is this con-

crease in both unemployment It began in 1949 when the to escape. Shepherd died. By a miracle Irvin recovered from his November 1956.

DEMOS IN TUG OF WAR On Answer to speech

By George Lavan No sooner had the Democratic Senators and Congress-men finished telling reporters that Eisenhower's State of **Technique** the Union message "wasn't bad," was in fact rather "New Dealish," than the Democratic

National Committee feverishly got out a "confidential" analysis of the message criticizing it from all angles save those of the laor movement and the Negro people.

These contradictory reactions o the presidential program relect the division in the Democratic Party between the Southerners, who now control Congress and who dictated the first reactions to the message, and the Democratic National Committee which is controlled by the Stevenson forces. The National Committee wants the Democrats in Congress to open up on the Eisnhower administration now so that by 1956 the voters will be in the right mood and the Democratic Party will have sufficient campaign issues.

The kind of statements that the Democrats on Capitol Hill issued at first - that Eisenimum wage, social'security, houshower was merely repeating things Truman had proposed might convince people that Eisenhower isn't very original. But all, their highly-touted Fair Deal by the Democratic program must only consisted of similar token social legislation plus z/ lot of liberal talk. Hence their first statements that "Eisenhower has

stolen our thunder." Supreme Court with his revolver. He shot his two handcuffed pris-ty must inculcate if it hopes to set out a massive working-class viction that the Democratic Paroners, claiming they were trying to escape. Shepherd died, By a and lower middle-class vote in

EISENHOWER

Republican strategists ers. They have different interest

# Follows Truman's

**PRICE: 10 Cents** 

By Joseph Keller

Eisenhower's "State of Union" message to Congress on Jan. 6 caused leading Democrats to insist that he was stealing their thunder. "On domestic matters, most of it might well be termed New Dealish," opined Rep. John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, Democratic floor leader in the House. Senate Democratic whip Earl C. Clements of Kentucky said: "I am glad to see him (the President) embracing so many things that the Democrats have so long stood for ...."

These leading Democrats in Congress were very likely unaware that what they intended as a grudging compliment to Eisenhower's proposals was a devastating commentary on their own program. If professional militarist Eisenhower, the handpicked top political executive of America's most powerful finan-

cial circles, can advance a "New ing, health, etc. This puts the Dealish" program, we can con-Democrats in a dilemma. After clude that the benefits offered indeed be paltry.

HEEDS POLITICAL SIGNS The observations of Rep. Mc-Cormack and Sen. Clements are correct, of course. Eisenhower's message, in its general tone, the It fsn't that the National Com- direction of its appeal and the mittee Democrats are more far- type of its proposals, bore a sighted than the Southern lead- rather startling resemblance to

of the I



## **Western Powers Fear Asian-African Parley**

By Art Preis

Although the U.S. State Department has been keeping mum about the momentous Asia-Africa Conference scheduled for the end of April in Indonesia, Wall Street's government is undoubtedly great-

ly perturbed about the forthcom- thing that would suit Peking just ing gathering called by the Prime fine."

Ministers of India, Pakistan, In-The fear of the big capitalists donesia, Burma and Ceylon. We powers is that this conference part of the human body. The can expect Washington will make will strengthen normal, peaceful Post Office banned the cards as PRISONERS SHOT every effort to torpedo this un- relations among the people of "filthy and indecent." The sender At the first trial Walter Lee ida, demanding that Irving be precedented conference, to which (Continued on page 3).

30 non-Western nations have been invited, including the governments of China and North Vietnam.

the American imperialists toward the Asia-Africa Conference is

given in the Jan. 8 Business Week's "International Outlook" column, which reveals: "Despite official silence, Washington and London are in a flurry about the Afro-Asian Conference that the Colombo powers (India, Patitular head of the Republican kistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indo-Party. Since the days of McKinnesia) have called. Except for nesia) have called. Except for South Korea, Formosa and South of the fetishes of the GOP. To Africa, all the self-governing this day the right-wing considers governments of Asia, Africa and a stiff duty on imports one of the Middle East have been in- the elixirs of business. vited.'

#### WHAT WALL ST. FEARS

It is conceded that at least 22 it will eventually include the Soof the invited countries will par- viet bloc. How is that to be ticipate. These countries contain | squared with the economic blockwell over half the world's pop- ade that was a major feature of Truman's cold war and Dulles' ulation.

What do the imperialists fear? even more belicose doctrine of "There is no danger that India's "massive retaliation"? Nehru and Burma's U Nu will Eisenhower himself indicated toin in any military arrange- the reasons for his unorthodox if it does not find fresh areas ment with Peking," admits Busi- position in the message he sent to dump them abroad. Eisen-

ness Week. "It looks as though to Congress: "The whole free hower is asking for the power they plan to use the conference world needs capital; America is to act, and all indications are to force the Western powers to its largest source. In that light, that he will get that power, accept Red China as a member the flow of capital abroad from of the United Nations. And they our country must be stimulated NO RETREAT

may back this up with a threat and in such a manner that it The turn toward the doctrine ed free trade. There could be no a number of restrictions on trade the most spectacular the world trade which Eisenhower is cau-

tial claims for benefits. On Dec. Florida, decided the time had wounds. 25, the number of those receiv-l come to teach the Negroes a les-A second trial of Irvin prompting benefits was 1,684,000 com- son. The local paper mill workpared with 1,389,600 on Nov. 6. ers — mostly Negro — had be- tence. Then a committee of Flor-Initial claims rose from 266,400 gun to grumble about wages and ida liberals and clergymen reachon Nov, 6 to 303,500 on Dec. 25 working conditions. The pretext ed a "gentleman's agreement" came on July 16, 1949. A white with both candidates for goverand 388.800 on Jan. 1. In the old Indian rope trick, woman claimed to have been nor. They agreed that if agitathe fakir or magician is supposed raped by Negroes. Students of tion and publicity about the into make a boy climb a standing the case have come to the belief justice of the case ceased, whichrope and disappear when he that no rape even took place. ever candidates was elected would reaches the top. The government In subsequent trials the doctor commute Irvin's sentence to life in Washington can do a lot big- who examined the woman soon imprisonment. No sooner had elger trick than that. It can make after the alleged rape was never ection day passed than Acting millions of unemployed disappear called to the stand by the state Governor Charley Johns set the just by writing out a set of fig-although the defense repeatedly nearest possible date for Irvin's ures and issuing them as an "es- requested that he testify. timate." It can make a couple of As soon as the alleged rape electrocution.

million vanish from the labor was reported, white mobs raided YOU MUST ACT force faster than you can say the Negro district of town, beat The recent appeal to the Su-Negroes, burned and looted Nepreme Court caused the postpon-

gro homes. A deputized mob shot ing of the execution. Now the An Oklahoman sent postcards to death one of the young Ne- Supreme Court has turned Irvin inviting people who had voted groes accused of the crime. When down. He will die unless his senfor Eisenhower to a convention the National Guard finally came tence is commuted. Send telewhere a "public kicking" would to restore order its first act was grams and letters personally, and be administered to an animal to deport all Negroes out of which has the same name as a town.

Irvin and Samuel Shepherd were saved. I charges political censorship.

aware of this problem facing the ly brought another death sen- is why Eisenhower's program ocratic top circles over whose lated. called for token legislation on a policy shall prevail. number of social issues - min-

## **Methodist Women** Score UMT Plan

Universal Military Training 'in any form," including Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson's latest scheme, was opposed on Jan. 8 by the Women's Division of Christian Science of the Methodist Church, representing nearly 2,000,000 women of the faith in all parts of the U.S. Meeting in annual session in

message is detailed but it doesn't Cincinnati, the Women's Division voted approval of a recommendation that it "again affirm its opposition to UMT in any form, including the contemplated plan which will be presented to the Eighty-fourth Congress."

and so have different policies. message Truman used to deliver. Democratic high command. That and so have unretent ponetes. This was deliberate and calcu-

he sort of "

Eisenhower's Republican ad-The National Committee went visers have not failed to heed over the Southern leadership's the political weather signs. They head by sending its criticism of have correctly observed that the the Eisenhower message to each political wind, as indicated by Democratic member of Congress. last November's election, is blow-Had it been just a matter of ing in a more liberal direction. "correcting" short-sighted state- The more astute Republicans ments, the National Committee realize they can ride with that could have done this by confer- wind as well as the Democrats. ring with Rayburn of Texas, Cheap social demagogy really Democratic chief in the House, costs them nothing and may win and Johnson of Texas, Democratthem control of the White House ic chief in the Senate. again in 1956.

#### IMITATES TRUMAN The Democratic National Com-

It is illuminating to examine mittee's criticism of Eisenhower's the points of resemblance between Eisenhower's new message stand up from a labor point of and Truman's last "peacetime" message in Jan., 1950.

Point 1 is a criticism from Truman then boasted that the right-wing, militaristic position. country had "met and reversed It attacks Eisenhower "for cutthe first significant downturn in ting back U.S. armed strength." economic activity since the war" Then Point 6 attacks Eisenhower and promised that by the year for keeping the military budget 2000 A.D., through his program, (Continued on page 2)

the average American family would enjoy an annual income of \$12,000. Eisenhower likewise boasts that the "economic outlook is good"

and that "the transition to a peacetime economy" which had "brought unemployment and other

the dollar empire. However, if or 'know-how,' Is not this a mat- Republican President also offers American capitalism long ago British concern is to be permit-a West German or French or ter of real significance at the "pie in the sky" — not 50 years but 10 years hence — in his of the twentieth century? I am prediction of a rise in the annual successful effort towards indus- from its present level of about trialization of China, in the face 360 billion to 500 billion, measof Western hostility, will have ured in dollars of stable buying

In the meantime, however, like Truman, Eisenhower puts his ton was the enthusiasm for the "capitalist managers of so-called ance of our military strength." How, in any earthly way, does the "dominant factor in our fiston and London?

portions which would preclude

ord." And this "rehabilitation are powerful. These can be sum- dealt in a friendly and condes-(Continued on page 2)

A hint of the real feelings of the real feelings of the American imperialists toward Eisenhower Chips Away at McKinley's Ramparts By Joseph Hansen

rather than by government, . . | policy so far as Wall Street is | longer meet international compe-| true that up to now the easing | goes by the Western world Eisenhower's request to Congress Jan. 10 for new power to ital moves abroad, it properly ormous predominance of Amerthat when American private cap- in the world market of the en- tection. fected the capitalist satellites of ish, American, or German capital is now "largely behind us." The

**"FORIGN POLICY"** 

strangely out of keeping with expects to bring home its fair ican capitalism.

the traditional position of the reward . . . This authority would England, too, was a high tariff permit negotiations for reduc- country during the ascendancy

throughout the world."

Moreover, the implication of a turn toward free trade is that whole.

"statistics."

American imperialism will suited to her industrial developume."

utive committee of the capitalist the defeat of Napoleon, a shift dangerous obstacle. How can of American capitalism to en-

tannica puts it. "The system was still stand?

limit the markets for our goods 18th centuries. When England ing its development. They have loyal American concern be deemerged as the world's most in effect retarded it. Now they nied the same privilege? Even That is the voice of the exec- powerful capitalist country with are an embarrassing and even more, isn't it in the interests

have your unions and organiza-

tions send telegrams to Governor

Leroy Collins, Tallahassee, Flor-

class, demanding that the par- began toward free trade. By 1860 Wall Street consistently demand gage the enemy directly on the ticular interests of this or that the last barriers were gone and that other countries lower their trade front? manufacturer or section of the for more than a half century she trade barriers to admit Amer-

drown in its own capital if it ment during the period," says Times declared Jan. 10 in com- ment who recently visited China. does not succeed in opening up the same source, "enabling her menting on the need for Repub- says "it may be that we have the economic blockade of China new fields for foreign invest- manufacturers to develop at an licans and Democrats to rise 'missed the boat'" by the whole serve to draw these elements ment. It will be buried in the extraordinary rate, while foot above partisanship on this issue: course of forcing the Mao re- back into the orbit of Washinggoods it is capable of producing stuffs and raw materials were "Tariff reform ... is actually part gime into Moscow's arms.

imported in ever increasing vol- of our foreign policy. The time He reports that 75% of China's In view of Wall Street's decihas passed when our trade sys- foreign trade today is with the sion to postpone a military ef- ed arms spending of similar pro-After World War I when it tem could safely be left to hag- Soviet Union and the Iron Cur- fort to smash the Mao regime, became clear to British capital- gling among groups of special tain countries. Production "has it would seem that the motives any cut in taxes. ists that they had definitively interests. Now trade is one of easily reached an all-time rec- for a different form of attack lost world supremacy to their the factors of survival." American cousins, they abandon- In relation to the Soviet bloc, and expansion, perhaps one of med up under the banner of free cending fashion with the mild

to set up an exclusively Asian results in investment largely by of free trade should not be in- clearer admission that Britain's imposed by the State Department has seen, has been achieved un- tiously lifting over the State De- by Truman. A Scripps-Howard counterpart of the U.N. - some- individual or private enterprises terpreted as a retreat in foreign productive capacity could no have already been lifted. It is der conditions of trade embar- partment.

tions in those barriers that now of capitalism in the 17th and could play any role in accelerat- Soviet bloc why should a good, left with the thought that this national output "within a decade,

passed the stage where tariffs | ted to profit from trade with the

greater political repercussions on power." the rest of Asia than any Com- STRESS ON MILITARISM

CRITICISM FALLS

Particularly alarming to Thorn-

cal policy" was war spending to the tune of 70 cents out of every

federal tax dollar. Eisenhower devoted the first third of his message to the need for sustain-

The Republican press in 1950

class be subordinated to the gen- was "the "stronghold of free ican goods on a competitive BOAT MISSED? eral interest of the class as a trade," as the Encyclopedia Bri- basis while McKinley's ramparts In the Dec. 30 Manchester Mao regime he noted among the chief emphasis on "the mainten-Guardian Weekly, Ernest Thorn-As the authoritative N. Y. ton, a member of British parlia- joint private-State factories." Truman in 1950 admitted that

### THE MILITANT

Monday, January 17, 1955



Page Two —

## **Five Days in Jail**

Catholic Worker and author of the "Autobiography of a Party to prison. The sentences Catholic Anarchist," was sentenced to five days in a New took effect after the Supreme York City jail. Hennacy has been 9

waging a freedom-of-the-press sandwich to my patriotic friend. fight on East 43rd St. in Man- After a time I was lodged in hattan where police have been Lower D 12 with Dan who had ers convicted two year ago of trying to prevent his selling the bought a bottle of liquor when "conspiring to advocate the over-Catholic Worker. Although the he cashed his \$55 Lackawanna throw of the government by force law requires no license to sell check and had been rolled. Now and violence." A thirteenth denewspapers, he was convicted of he was picking up butts. I of- fendant in the trial, Louis Weinselling without a license. The fered to buy him a package of stock, is currently undergoing American Civil Liberties Union cigarets from the trusty but he the ordeal of yet another trial in backed his case. Hennacy could said they charged 50 cents after Washington, D. C. on a trumpedhave paid a \$10 fine but refused lockup and it was better to buy up perjury charge. on principle to do so. He is no Bull Durham when the regular amateur about jails, having serv- wagon came around the next conscientious objector during was called 'For Rikers.' As we World War I. From the Decem- | lined up in the outside corridor ber Catholic Worker we have a screw with a cigar in his mouth taken the following excerpts of yelled out our names, but his Hennacy's account of his five articulation was thus impeded, few could understand what he

- - line.

"In this dormitory there were

proposes.

days in jail: "'Don't go away mad. Just go was saying. It seems he was an educated man for he used sevenaway.' This is the sign as you enter and leave the cell block at lettered words instead of fourlettered ones as he shouted: Rikers Island, home of 3,500 "Get in the - - - - prisoners of the Department of Correction, New York City. By you ----- bums." "Again we were packed in the the most visionary use of the wagon and jostled to 134th St. word no one would ever suggest that anyone is ever 'corrected' where we were not permitted to

leave our smoke-filled vehicle there. For from the time you are told not to smoke by a guard for the breezes on the ferry. About 150 of us sat on benches who takes a cigaret out of his mouth to tell you to get in the in the big receiving room at Rikers Island and were counted - line until your fingerprint is taken the second time there is and recounted and finger printnothing but the assembly line of ed . . . We all stood naked and the 'count' and the changing of all body openings were examined guards and prisoners as differ- supposedly for dope which we might smuggle in . . . ent details are formed . . .

"My number was 419237 and "In court groups of four or Emil had the number next to five came in and the clerk in a mine. He had done 30 days for singsong manner asked them if drinking and had only been out they pled guilty to loitering, a few days and by some miracle drinking, panhandling, or whatof police inefficiency only drew ever the excuse might be for the five days this time for being cops to fill up their wagon. They caught in a doorway drinking all nodded and were given ten from a bottle. The law in its days, 30 days, etc. Several betmajesty also does not allow milter dressed men said they had lionaires to stop in Bowery doora job to go to and their senways and drink from bottles . . tences were suspended. Meanwhile the traffic cops who sold tickets single and double cots. I had a for \$10 which exempted the buytop cot. and as is the custom in er from a prosecution flourish these modern jails there were and the police and the bookies no mattresses, only springs and are hand in hand. several blankets and sheets. The

"There were 17 of us in one man on the bottom bunk told of cell. The one vacant place when bits he had done and of some of I entered was next to two Cath- the inside corruption of the poolic Irishmen who had been roll- lice and the payoff that is made ed and robbed of enough to keep to the police generally ... Guards them, for several weeks, they and trusties hovered over us in said. When they discovered that the dining hall ready to grab our I had been selling a radical paper utensils and make way for the they sang 'Don't bite the hand next line of men. Doing time in that's feeding you,' and wonder- this workhouse there was never ed why I did not go back to a sign of a clock, but I surmise

# The American Way of Life Way of Life Way of Life Will Fast Pace Muters have their way, that will gress shall make no laws ... ed down by Chief Justice Vinson, if the "evil" is "probable" it be-

By Daniel Roberts The dictatorial procedure of hunters have their way, that will gress shall make no laws . . . | ed down by Chief Justice Vinson, abridging the freedom of speech." | if the "evil" is "probable" it bezation. ailing people in the U.S. merely

For instance, Irving Potash, on outlawing the expression of an invasion of free speech. for the political ideas they ex- immediately after completing his political ideas, was seriously in- Dissenting from the majority press was reenforced Jan. 12 prison term under the Smith Act fringed upon a few decades ago opinion, Judge Black favored when the government shipped 12 conviction in 1949, was rearrest- by the liberal justice Oliver Wen- scrapping even the milder "clear

Recently Ammon Hennacy, an associate editor of the more leaders of the Communist ed and indicted under another dell Holmes, who declared that and present danger" infringe-Smith Act count of "conspiring" neither Congress nor the states ment as an unwarranted interto "overthrow the government," could curb political expression ference with the right of free Similar rearrest and new perseexcept in the case of a "clear speech. Justice Black had the that large-scale output will con-Court refused 7 to 1 even to recution faces all other Smith Act and present danger" to the gov- right idea, but the witch-hunt- tinue steadily through the year the three months immediately view their cases.

victims, although under the U.S. ernment. The 12 are the second-line leadconstitution this would be double jeopardy.

but to free a political prisoner During the trial of the 13, as at the time, nevertheless placed in all other Smith Act trials, a limitation on free thought. At the government based its case the same time, Holmes sought on the testimony of perjured to place restraints on governwitnesses and doctored excerpts ment thought control. In uphold-Contesting the convictions in the 11 top CP leaders, the Su- the Socialist Workers Party-

the courts, civil liberties attor- preme Court in 1951 did away the first to be convicted — who The 12 Stalinist leaders will neys showed that the Smith Act, with the "clear and present danwere sent to prison by the Roosehave to serve sentences ranging and the convictions obtained un-| ger" restraints on the govern-| velt administration for their soed a sentence in Atlanta as a day ... In the morning my name from one to three years and der it violated the First Amend- ment by the simple expedient of cialist opposition to World War pay fines ranging from \$2,000 ment of the Constitution. This reinterpreting its meaning. to \$6,000, However, if the witch- amendment declares that "Con- According to the ruling handndictment.

**Democrat Tug of War** 

(Continued from page 1) well above what it was at the National Committee is at logger- of the party to the South. All height of the Korean fighting." Point 17 criticizes Eisenhower's proposal for 35,000 public housng units in each of the next championing the legislative de- 84th Congress.

mands of organized labor. two years as hopelessly inadequate "since the 1950 census The cowardice of the Demoshowed 15 million homes were crats on the minimum wage isclassified 'substandard.'" The sue is most revealing. Both AFL Democrats neglected to state that and CIO have been demanding it was precisely in 1950 that a \$1.25 minimum wage law. Up President Truman, by executive to the opening of Congress a order, slashed the public housing number of liberal Democrats, elected with labor backing, had program down to the same peny-ante bracket that Eisenhower endorsed this demand. When Eis-

enhower proposed a 90-cent min-While the Democratic National imum wage, Senator Murray (D-Committee's 20-point criticism Mont.) timidly suggested it dealt with many points such as should be upped to \$1. Senator Russell of Georgia, the real powfarm policy, public power, taxes, postal increases and statehood er in the Senate Southern bloc, for Hawaii, it was deafeningly quickly called Murray to order silent on all Eisenhower's proposby telling reporters that any proposals for increasing the minals concerning labor. Eisenhower's proposal for a imum wage would have to be 90-cent minimum wage was not very carefully studied to see if even mentioned, let alone criti they would increase farm costs. cized, as inadequate. Similarly Since then the Democratic lewith the piddling proposals for gislators and the Democratic Na-Taft-Hartley Law changes, social tional Committee have been quiet

security extension and national as clams about the minimum wage. To make the Democratic health. Equally significant was the silence more resounding, reacfact that the analysis was ab- tionary Republican Senator Potsolutely silent on the lack of any | ter of Michigan has now core civil rights or FEPC proposals out for the \$1 minimum wage.

in Eisenhower's program. The silence of the Democratic The absence of any mention National Committee on the civil of minimum wage standards and rights and FEPC issues under-Taft-Hartley revision or repeal lines the abject surrender made



throw of the government, the gram, Dec. 18.) shows that while the Democratic by the northern and liberal wing Eisenhower administration is now heads with the party's Dixie the newspapers predict that there ship in the Communist Party a wing over strategy for the next will be no attempt to pass any crime. Previously, the Justice ever, is running at a rate of 42% two years, it is by no means anti-Jim Crow legislation in th

This dictum, used not to jail



Walter F. George (D-Ga.), head of Senate Foreign Relations Comm., said he had no substantial differences with Eisenhower on foreign policy.

.ast the Year? This clear constitutional ban comes "grave" enough to permit A peak rate of production in the automobile industry

is being heralded as the beginning of a big boom. But the swift pace set by the auto manufacturers does not mean

The industry is piling up cars, ahead." Their excuse for slow ing majority would not hear of it. Instead they wrote a deci- for one thing, in the event of a auto sales is that buyers are unsion that places no bars whatstrike following contract negoable to make up their minds over ever on railroading individuals tiations with the CIO United the innumerable color combinato prison for "dangerous" ideas. Automobile Workers in the tions. All told there have been 79

spring. Lewis L. Schellback of In order to make 1954 car individuals convicted under the Standard and Poors recently pre- sales figures appear more im-Smith Act since its passage in dicted that "inventories are like- pressive, reveals the Jan. 8 Busifrom the literature of Marxism. | ing the Smith Act convictions of 1940. This includes 18 leaders of | ly to be built in anticipation of ness Week, dealers cut some possible midyear strikes and cost sharp corners by registering unsold cars. Sales volume of cars increases . . .

> He foresaw that total produc- is customarily determined through tion for the year would not aver- registrations of new cars. But age higher than 4% over 1954, the competition between Chev-II. 49 others are currently under but the current big production rolet and Ford "led to a pracbuild-up will "allow for serious tice called packing, or padding," Where in all previous Smith labor troubles or, if they are reports Business Week. Act trials involving the Stalin- avoided, for a later slackening

> The dealer "takes some of the ists. the leaders alone were due to modification of inventory cars that he does not expect to charged with having "conspired policy with the passing of the sell within the year and registers to advocate" the forcible over- strike threat." (N.Y. World-Telethem in his own name, or in those of his salesmen or friends . . In Boston, dealers are alleged to

have registered armadas of cars in the names of fictitious fleet owners."

Department had maintained that above the 1954 average. The Jan. One morose St. Louis dealer is members did not necessarily be- 10 Wall Street Journal reported reported to have said of a comthat 149,968 cars were produced petitor: "We know that we out-But in the trial of Claude in the previous week. This is at sold them, but we may have been ightfoot, executive secretary of an annual rate of 7.8 million outregistered.

VIEW WITH CAUTION

All these facts should serve as nent seeks to establish that will say that the industry will every member of the Communist find a market for 42% more an alert to the auto workers and to the labor movement generally A Dec. 22 Associated Press to view with great caution the ndicted under another section of dispatch from Detroit says: current high volume of auto outthe Smith Act which makes it a "... the factories are rolling put and not to see in it any crime "to become a member or out more (auto) units than the guarantee of economic stability affiliate with" any group that dealers are selling . . . this trend and high employment for an exallegedly teaches the violent will continue through much of tended period.



Automobile production, how-

### By James O'Hara

hunters will be able to victimize The recent attempted assassination of Paul Hall, head opponents of thought control in of the Seafarers International Union, AFL, climaxes a This use of the Smith Act can two-year guerrilla war inside this second largest seamen's become a major weapon in the union in the country. witch hunt. It would give legal

Like his rival, Joseph Curran co-leader with Dave Beck to take enactment to the McCarthyite of the CIO National Maritime over the New York longshoremen. smear method of branding even Union, Hall has led a small group But this was a fight far different New Deal liberals as "commuto absolute control of his union from his sorties against the Stanists" and sending them to jail. And like Curran's group, this inists on the waterfront. Here small official family that seemhe confronted men who had powed to have a life-time hold on er and were not afraid to use it. the union's apparatus has begun The AFL made a bad mistake. to break up. The appointment of Hall, as

Russia . . . One aged Jew got that we ate our meals in six ten days for selling pretzels on minutes flat. We marched out Wall St. without a license. A and at the door each one deposfellow prisoner told me he ought ited his spoon in a box where a to have had sense enough to pay screw looked gloomily at us ... off a cop and be free. About 75 of us left on the ferry

"We jostled in the prison wag- Tuesday morning with the usual on up to the Tombs which is near seven-lettered word thrown at the City Hall. I gave my meat us by the screw . . ."



For years now I've been coming up against the argument that socialism may sound good but it's not feasible because some people are born evil and human nature can't be changed. I started to feel that •

way once myself when I was in they were right - there's really the Army. It was because of the some personalities born evil, the way we got bawled out for eat- kind that no society could make D. Dempsey, youth leader, for human. ing up the sardines.

In North Africa the company The scene when Jesse first arhad been getting cases of sar- rived at Aunt Dora's in a little lawyer and alleged Republican dines for a long time but we box came vividly to my mind. didn't get any for chow. We got He was only a couple of weeks and Judge Myles Paige for vicetired of unloading those cans old and he was christened right president. only to load them up again all off by my cousins. It was the across North Africa. A habit christening that was the making grew among us of ambling over of the dog. They named him out which he is a member. The to the kitchen and taking a can of respect for Jesse James, a of sardines to go with what we hero known to be tough. called our dog biscuits. They Jesse started out as affectionate as any pup, but my cousins were tasty.

been lately noted for their con-The day the first sergeant dis- would not stand for that. It wasn't covered the sardines had disap- in keeping with the character of Party candidates in local elecpeared he called the company to- his namesake. So every time he tions. gether and gave us a sermon. came up wagging his tail they I'll never forget it. We had vio- cuffed him to teach him to be- tions of 1952, Pioneer petitions lated his moral code and to him have like Jesse James. And he favoring Republicans running for supporters will ever be seen at lic work program, including an we were the lowest of the low. did. Even when he wasn't hungry office in the Bedford-Stuyvesant membership meetings - where expanded roads project to cost His face showed his contempt for he was capable of taking a bite out of anyone around.

"I'm an old soldier and as any Having seen Jesse's developold soldier knows there is noth- ment I found it easier to undering wrong with stealing from stand why my first sergeant actsomebody else's company. But ed the way he did. He wasn't any man who is so low that he born that way. He was simply vigorously supported Johnson lot) precisely because our people minimum wage because the wage steals from his own company!!! trained by the Army. If I ever catch the man I'll put There's a new generation of him before a firing squad and young men going into the serhave him shot 16 times and then vice who will undoubtedly come in support of Bunn, Johnson's have him put in the guard house up against some first sergeants supporters were able to squeeze mer president) may control the to a level, in purchasing power, for 16 years."

strong and everything looked a clusion that some people are just most of the Executive Board every first and third Thursday labor back in 1936. Even at 90 little hazy and I kept wondering born rotten and with people like seats. - who did he remind me of? that on earth you'll never be able Who was it that barked that way to make socialism work. It is to these young men about with his right ear looking like it had been chewed up? Then it to get drafted that I wish to fore the election date, and be- bers from the ranks of organized a mere 1,300,000 wage-earners. came to me. It was my Aunt offer as an antidote against cause many of the old members, labor and pro-labor organizacynicism the memory of the sad disgusted with the tactics and tions." Dora's dog Jesse.

It's lucky I thought of Jesse. upbringing of my Aunt Dora's policies of the old leadership, for a moment I had thought dog Jesse. simply did not come out to vote. For a moment I had thought dog Jesse.

Take the Floor

(The vote was Warren Bunn, 55;

and Norman Johnson, 81.)

**Brooklyn NAACP Elects Officers** 

Editor: dent of the branch, a position On Jan. 6 the first election in nine years for officers of the in the area. Up to the last day, features of the Taft-Hartley Brooklyn NAACP was held at Holy Rosary School Auditorium. It was more than just an electo get their "new" members out. public education and health ser-

tion, however, because it repre-Almost a dozen lawyers, Assis- vices, etc. sented the climax of a year-long tant DA's and detectives, some struggle for control of the branch

between liberal pro-labor eleof the branch in 10 years, hustled made similar ones before him, ments on the one hand, and conservative, less liberal forces on their membership cards. Mem- forces in Congress, both Demothe other.

bers of Johnson's family, includ- cratic and Republican, could The liberals supported Warren ing in-laws, were pressed into block them. Truman and Roose-Bunn, CIO organizer of the Gas, service to assure the "people's velt were adept in making so-Coke and Chemical Workers Unchoice" his majority.

ion, for president, and Rev. O. That Bunn had the solid sup- would give them the reputation port of the proletarian elements for being "liberals" and "friends vice-president. Conservative in-

of the branch was indisputable. of labor" while well aware that terests backed Norman Johnson, The only trouble was that they Congress would throw these were outnumbered by Johnson's promises into the waste basket. Party errand boy, for president, new members.

sistent support of Republican

Party ward heelers were encour-

aged to meet there. The retiring

active member of the Pioneers,

and his slate.

president, James Powers, also an

Adults and older liberal members bers,

In spite of their election de- ident Walter Reuther's recent Johnson also had the support of the Pioneer Civic Assn. of branch. Their attitude was sum- passed since 1938. Eisenhower med up by a spokesman for the has adopted a bit of the New 'Pioneers" have insinuated themliberal wing: selves into Brooklyn politics dur-

"After all, these people (who agogy. ing the last five years and have

supported Johnson) came out The most outstanding "New only because they had a personal 'Dealish" proposals made by Eisinterest in seeing him elected. enhower were for an increase in

They have no principled interest the minimum wage standards in advancing the program of the from the present 75 cents an During the presidential elecbranch, and less than 50% of his hour to 90 cents and for a pubarea were conspicuously display- organizational policy and pro- the federal government about ed at the branch, and Republican gram are made and voted upon. \$2.6 billion annually for the next

We controlled the Nominating ten years. Eisenhower can make the ex Committee (which selected Bunn to run) and the Elections Com- pansive gesture of a "generous" mittee (which drew up the bal- increase of 20% over the present

attended membership meetings fixed by the previous Democratic Despite an alliance of Young consistently and in large numadministrations and Congress is so low. A 20% increase would "Johnson and Powers (the for- bring the minimum wage merely given to sermonizing like the one through a majority of 26 votes Executive Board, but if they don't of the WPA work-relief wage The African sun was shining I had. They might reach the con- to take all elective offices and bring those 26 votes to meetings scale of 50 cents for common

> in the month, we'll run them cents, the minimum would be They were successful only be- right back across the street to less than half the average wage cause they managed to corral 45 the Pioneer club. What we have actually being paid in this counnew members just five weeks be- to do now is recruit more mem- try and would benefit, at best, Almost half the American wageearners are not even included

R. S. under the minimum wage law. Eisenhower played up strong-

ly his public works program, (Continued from page 1) commentator said he had "stuck which he said would mean an to his guns on the Fair Deal expenditure of \$12 billion a year. Compared to Roosevelt's muchprogram - but they weren't very blazing guns." The liberal vaunted public works spending Democrats might, with equal cor- of about \$6 billion in the first rectness, say that Eisenhower has four years of the New Deal,

wholesale lots

done the same thing. He larded when unemployment averaged be-Johnson was more than anxious his message with promises of letween 10 and 11 million, Eisento secure the position of presi- gislation to raise the minimum hower might almost seem to be wage, sugar-coat a couple of the incredibly lavish. But Eisenhowthat carries considerable prestige more conspicuously anti-labor er's proposed public works program — much of it military in almost, he and his supporters Act, expand public works to take nature — is only a third of what scurried feverishly around town up the slack in employment, aid he proposes to spend for direct war preparations — in the neighborhood of \$35 billion a year.

Eisenhower could make all Nothing in Eisenhower's prothe slightest the interests of the themselves inside the hall with knowing that the conservative big money groups. He repeated his intentions to favor the private SIU a great push. power moguls in the matter of exploitation of water-power sites ward to take advantage of the and atomic energy. His amputat- new opportunities. An ex-cheese cial demagogic promises that ed public low-cost housing pro-

Street

City ....

gram (35,000 units a year) cor- had made a few trips to sea, came responds directly to the demands to New York to start a career of the building contractors and that was nearly ended by a saw

seeking to make mere member- OUTPUT VS. SALES

real estate corporations. ed-off shotgun the other day. Nevertheless, Eisenhower's pro-In the first part of his career This was the basis of CIO Presgram is couched in terms intend- as an aggressive champion feat, Bunn's supporters were op- complaint that not a single piece ed to outflank the Democrats against the Stalinist-controlled timistic about the future of the of new social legislation has been from the left and to invite sup- NMU, Hall had wide support port of workers and liberals for both inside and outside his unhis re-election in 1956. Thus, ion. Under his leadership the un-John O'Donnell, ultra-reactionary ion made significant gains in Deal-Fair Deal technique of dem-Washington commentator of the membership and influence. As

and fakers.

N.Y. Daily News. has advised the leader of a young apparatus, Democrats to "keep to the left" his future seemed assured. f they want to defeat Eisen-When the Stalinists lost the hower next time. We do not ven- NMU and the Curran gang took ture to speculate on the effective- over with a program differing ness of Eisenhower's tactics; but little from that of Paul Hall they tend to further confirm the the latter lost his biggest selling shift in popular sentiment away point.

from the openly anti-labor, witch- From then on his aggressivehunt, giveaway policies of the ness and initiative on the water-Republican administration. Eis- front brought suspicion and hosenhower has noted the signs and tility. The climax to his career is adapting his tactics accord- seemed to come when the AFL General Council appointed him ingly.

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... State .....

the internal stress is a result of AFL the confidence of the New personal friction, it is actually a York dockers. And for Hall it reflection of deep-going changes meant that he earned the hatred that have taken place inside both of some very determined men on the AFL and CIO seamen's the New York waterfront. This movement. hostility found sympathy inside

The maritime organizations the SIU among the membership built up a strong position dur- and also in Hall's own official ing the Thirties due to the tre- family.

mendous surge of rank and file For the first time in Hall's action that physically swept from career, he has been seriously opthe waterfront the old leaders posed in an election of the SIU. One of his close supporters for

much as anything else. lost the

The new seamen's unions were years, Ray White, SIU Tampa democratic outfits that corresagent, challenged him for the ponded to the wishes and feelhighest post of the union. In the ings of the rank and file seamen. midst of this election contest the The SIU was a small rival of assassination attempt was made. of whom hadn't seen the inside these proposals, just as Truman gram, of course, would touch in until the war. Then the influx confessed being paid by Ray the NMU with dim prospects of thousands of new seamen to White with money secured from man the war-time fleet gave the the IDA leadership. But the entire story is yet to be told. The

And a new leader elbowed forcoming trial of those accused of attempting murder will surely reveal an interesting picture of salesman out of Florida, who life inside the official apparatus of the SIU.



• Lenin: The Man And His Work Fri., Jan. 21, at 8 P.M.

Negroes and The Labor Movement Fri., Jan. 28, at 8 P.M.

Socialism - What It Is And What It Isn't Fri., Feb. 4, at 8 P.M.

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complished.

## Pensions When You're Dead

The suggestion is being put forward by socalled public health authorities that the retiremen't age, now fixed by law at 65 years, be changed to 70. This opinion was voiced by Leonard W. Mayo, chairman of the Commission on Chronic Illness founded six years ago by a group of hospital and medical organizations, including the ultra-conservative American Medical Association.

According to Mr. Mayo, retirement should be made on a "selective basis" so that those "who are able, competent and in good health could spend a few more years in a productive capacity." He claims this must be done "in the face of rapidly increasing populations in the Communist nations."

What this proposal would mean is that so long as the employers could grind profits out of elderly workers they would not be permitted to retire on adequate pensions. When they got too feeble they would be weeded out on a "selective basis" and retired on a hunger-level basis.

Mayo claims that "it would seem sensible, if not essential, to review and revise our retirement policies which were established in large part during the depression and in a shrinking rather than an expanding economy."

This argument is fallse on the face of it. There is no labor shortage in America. On the contrary, since the end of the Korean war there has been what the bosses call a "labor surplus" - unemployment to you and us. Much of this unemployment is in the age range of 45 to 65 - too young for pensions.

The problem is not that the pension age is too low, but that it is too high. Moreover, pensions are generally inadequate to take care of even elementary needs of the retired aged. The treatment of many of the needy aged in America smells of the Dark Ages.

Thus, Paul Phelan reported in the Jan. 11 New York World-Telegram, that "thousands of sane aged persons in this city have been or will be sent to mental hospitals because there aren't proper facilities or well-trained personnel anywhere else to take care of them. That's the sad, bad, unbelievable situation in the world's richest city. . ."

The stumbling block to removing from "the lives of our helpless aged the specter of being committed to a mental hospital with the searing blight and stigma attached to such surroundings" is "lack of money," according to the New York City authorities whom Phelian interviewed.

Mayo's proposal would permit the employers to squeeze the last ounce of profitable labor out of the aged and reduce to a minimum the number of years during which those in the old-age group can retire on a pension.

Capitalism would deny elderly workers even a few years of rest and retirement at enjoyed leisure. If the aged can be made to produce profits, then work them straight through to the grave; if they become too feeble to work but still persist in clinging to life, send them to the insane asylums.

By eliminating private profit and producing for the benefit of the entire society, the planned economy of socialism will end the barbarous treatment of the aged and make the latter years of life a 'time for rewarding leisure to pursue the interesting avocations most of us dream of following "some day," but are cheated of under capitalism.

truth.

now has carried only propaganda

An example of this appeared

n the Jan. 9 N.Y. Times mag-

azine section. James Cameron,

from China a cynical article, fill-

ed with nostalgia for the good

Joan Dieter of Whittier.

Calif., shouted "slanderous" at

claims she was "allowed to

resign" as a civilian employe in

U.S. Army's psychological war-

fare branch in Tokyo for

alleged Communist sympathies.

Col. K. K. Hansen, chief of the

branch. said Miss Dieter and an

unnamed corporal "appeared to

be taken in by the communist

line" of a lecture by a visiting

British official in Tokyo who

advocated recognition of new

"Slanderous"

an English journalist, writes full-scale Ministerial blocks had people are forever scuttering quarter and the Gate of Heaven- jugation. been laid out, started, completed about the streets picking up odds and inhabited during the time and ends, dusting things off, it took them to divide Vietnam." tidying things away . . . Similar-POSITION OF WOMEN

ly, and as part of the same mystique, the flies have disappeared; The new position of women this was a by-product of the

Cameron relates how in a re-

Another manifestation of the

strikes the eye of an old China germ-warfare story . . ." hand: "The great red Hungarian street-car is driven by a pig- mote little town he came across against western exploitation, distailed tomboy who a generation a "startling sight," a market crimination and domination. ago would have been sold into place swarming with flies as in night . . . The girls were acand Educational Academy and which they were inordinately proud."

Cameron describes how the is "the cult of honesty." "It ap-Marriage Reform Law and the pears," says the N.Y. Times ar-itary strength in Southeast Asia, emancipation of Chinese women ticle, "to be impossible to get something that was left in the ples who want to sweep away has meant that "love" is now your pocket picked; a hotel roomofficially encouraged and an at- boy who lifted a cigaret would September." mosphere of "puritanism" refind himself in the People's Court.

garding extra-marital sexual re- in half an hour." lations reigns. If the official en-**RELAXED ATMOSPHERE** couragement of love and marriage seems odd to westerners

Cameron is surprised that the t must be remembered that be- total effect of the new "puritanfore the Revolution, Chinese ism" does not give life a somber, young people had no choice of inhibited tone. Rather he finds marriage partners and that the that "the prevailing atmosphere vile colonial slavery are admit- adds the admission: "So far as women were usually in the posi- in the streets of Peiping is of tedly preparing a peace confer- we are concerned, Formosa is the tion of serfs. Moreover, prosti-relaxation and amusement." tution and the selling of girl Moreover the Chinese, far from children as concubines was wide- being hostile to foreigners, are extremely friendly. He attributes spread.

The dirtiness of Chinese cities this to the assumption by the -as of all the insanitary cities Chinese that any foreigners vis-

. Life in Stalin's Prison Camps

kind are, naturally, issued on the many, the youth especially, would number of forced laborers. Es-, adjust themselves to ten months timates cited to me, over and of Arctic winter in order to raise stages raids, and within a few over in the course of hundreds their living standards. But in of conversations by my Russian that case where would they put figures so fantastic that I would whom represents a threat to the rather not cite them here. I shall security of the state?

confine myself instead to statements made to me by a top MVD litical considerations; or to ap-functionary. Prior to his own arrest it was his job to divide order to obtain so-called cheap, the political prisoners among the or "bargain-rate," labor. At all events, it is the security of the state which is always the main of the calmly said that 15 state which is always the main million political prisoners did not worry, that is to say, the secur- seem to him an excessive numity of the high officials, the gen- ber for a country as big as the

In the final reckoning, by putting such masses to work, certain results are naturally obtained,

Commenting on the decline of Thus out of the mouths of peo-

civic pride and co-operation of high social life Cameron states: ple, who, if not enemies of the Describing the amount of new the whole population, this has "Outside this, there is legation Chinese Revolution, are certainly stories about how terrible things building in the capital, Cameron all been changed. Cameron ob- life. The old Legation Quarter is are there, is reluctantly begin-says, "The pace of building is, serves: "And the stark facts of not what it was (and a good job picture of the new China where not its friends, is emerging a unless you have watched it your- the case are that this is indeed too, it is generally agreed, when 500 million people are pulling self, unbelievable. The Chinese so; the place is clean — in a che recalls the bizarre conditions themselves up by their bootstraps delegates who went to Geneva scrupulous and self-conscious and of the past, with guns and gar-from the mire and backwardness returned to find that four new almost unreal way; the place is risons on the walls, and a comhospitals, six factories and eleven swept and brushed and dusted, pulsory open space before the of feudalism and imperialist sub-

## ... Fear Asian Parley

(Continued from page 1) lond criterion is not to be of Asian stock, as the Soviet Un-Asia and Africa and unite them ion, Australia and New Zealand are not . . . What this is, to put it plainly, is the most formidable On the other hand, the U.S., concubinage . . ." "There is the the old days, "I marked that Britain and France, world's ma- and ambitious move yet made in cult of sexual virtue; prostitu- down." he says, "as the last out- jor imperialist powers, have call- this generation to apply the printion was abolished, almost over- post of the persecuted flies of ed their own conference of the ciple of Asia for the Asians."

China, the refugee center, head- eight Manila Pact governments Well, why shouldn't Asia be for commodated in a special Reform quarters of the Free Flies Com- aligned in the so-called South the Asians? Isn't that better than and Educational Academy and mittee — a sort of biological East Asia Treaty Organization. Asia for the Western imperial-provided with a special badge of Formosa." This conference will be held in February. What is its main pur- aside one important aspect of the "puritanism" of the new China pose? Business Week reports: conference — it is an African "How to coordinate Western mil- conference, too. It is, in short, a gathering of the colored peoair at the Manila conference last rule and exploitation by the white imperialist racists.

The contrast of objectives of **U.S. IS VULNERABLE** the two conferences is glaring.

Since the U.S. and its allies Western imperialism, which has no right in Asia or Africa to are "on the defensive," Lippman begin with, is conducting an om- warns, "they had better not lose inous war conference. It is com- much time seeing to it that the plaining, however, because its positions they are going to devictims of over two centuries of fend are, in fact, defensible." He place of greatest vulnerability. ence. This is viewed as a It is vulnerable not perhaps because there is danger of war but because of the danger of our Walter Lippman, who frequentfinding ourselves isolated from y reflects the thinking going on and at odds with the massive

in the highest U.S. ruling cirsentiment of all of Asia. cles, calls the Asia-Africa Con-"Indeed, it appears that it is being done by the dubious device ference announcement one of the three big stories at the year's of secret clauses attached to open treaties."

The imperialist apologists may keep repeating that "old-style colonialism" and "imperialism" are a thing of the past, but what lieve it is safe from re-enslavement so long as the U.S. protects

out, "There appear to have been the counter-revolutionary regime two main criteria of non-admisof Chiang Kai-shek in Formosa? What do Washington's protestasion" to the April conference. "One is to be now a satellite or tions of philanthropic intent colony of the West. Formosa and mean in the face of such "secret Korea are not treated as 'inde- clauses attached to open treapendent governments.' The sec- ties"?

end and "probably the biggest of all." In his Jan. 3 syndicate column, Lippman says: "Let us have no illusions about the fact that the United States and its leading allies in Western Asian country, newly freed by Europe are going to be the judg- its own revolutionary struggle the millions of prisoners, each of ed and not the judges at this from Western control, can be-April conference. Furthermore, Lippman points

"threat."

WILL MEET AS JUDGES

World Events

## Hammarskjold's Mission to Peking

What did Dag Hammarskjolld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, take up with Chou En-lai in the four discussions that added up to a solid 13 hours?

When the head of the UN was sent to Peking, he announced that he was empowered only to negotiate for the release of 11 American airmen condemned by the Chinese government as "spies." But the big diplomatic stir his mission created throughout the world indicated that more than that was involved.

A dispatch from Hong Kong, where Hammarskiold stopped on the way back, reports that he was given a set of conditions under which Peking would agree to reconsider the case of the imprisoned airmen. The dispatch also indicated that Chou took up the possibility of admitting China to the United Nations, of helping to ease world tensions and discussed

taken by Harsch as a further favorable indication that Hammarskjold was not sent back empty-handed.

Whatever the immediate results of the UN's diplomatic move, which was obviously taken on decision of the leading powers that stand behind the UN, the mere fact that Hammarskjold had to fly to Peking constitutes a construction of the canal are on companions in captivity came to big victory for the Chinese government. It constitutes de facto recognition of the Mao

regime. In fact it never occurred to anyone to wonder why Hammarskjold did not stop off at Formosa to pay his respects to Chiang Kaishek who is supposed to be the official government of China - according to State Department legend - and who has a seat in the UN itself.

While Chou graciously received the envo

(Continued from page 1) by way of arrests. 5,000 fit workers. Next, the political police weeks, the battalions for the their way.

China.

The reality is by no means so simple. Arrests are made for poprehend criminals. But never in or "bargain-rate," labor. At all

erals, and other privileged per- USSR.

relaxation of the trade restrictions imposed at present on the world's most populous country.

The well-informed Joseph C. Harsch, Washington correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, indicated that as an "exploratory adventure" the mission was 'a success. In his opinion it would be no supprise at all if Hammarskjold did not secure the promise of "immediate" release of the airmen. But what was "interesting" and "really surprising" was the series of "long, quiet talks" that turned out to 'be "useful," to quote the UN's envoy.

The joint declaration of Hammarskjold and Chou that they "hope to be able to continue the contact established in these meetings," was

In the choruses of praise to Stalin that appeared in the Soviet press on the 75th anniversary of the hated dictator's birth, an ominous chord was sounded. For the first time since the generalissimo died and Malenkov-Benia-Molotov vowed to carry on in his "footsteps," the press recalled the "blood purges" of the late Thirties.

The sinister reference, which appeared on a wide scale, was associated with the methods by which Stalin maintained the "steel unity" of the Communist Party; that is, periodically decimated its ranks by dragging actual opponents, alleged opponents and potential opponents of the police dictatorship before the firing squads.

The Dec. 21 Pravda carried a six-column editorial that twice lauded Stalin's "service" in ridding the party of heretics.

Twice the word "Trotskyists" was mentioned. This word, the most fearsome a Stalinist bulreaucrat can utter, has only too often

## **Their Morals and Ours** By LEON TROTSKY

All the "moralistic" arguments of anti-Marxists - from the hoary charge that Lenin and the Bolsheviks were "amoral" to the current accusation that the guiding Marxist maxim is that "the end justifies the means" - are answered in this classic work.

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sons, who always feel themselves of Western imperialism and calmly presented threatened. Because they happen to him China's position on the questions at to know only too well how much issue, Dulles, the diplomatic chieftain of the dissatisfaction and discontent mighty Allied coalition was apparently quietly Soviet population. biting his nails in Washington. To queries from

reporters, the State Department issued brusk "no comment" statements. That was undertrend that annually takes its toll. standable because Dulles is standing in the Hundreds of thousands are sac- (beyond the polar circle). rificed without a scruple, but shambles of the whole post-war policy of the not in response to economic needs. U.S. toward the revolutionary people of China. Once again we ask, if on no other grounds that forced labor does play a role

than the dignity of America, isn't it about time to recognize the fact that China's 500,000,000 viet economy; this role, however, people have dumped Chiang Kai-shek and put is not a big one. a new government in power?

## In Stalin's Footsteps

signalized a new purge when it appeared in the press in contexts similar to the current one. Besides belaboring "Trotskyists," the ediopportunists," "bourgeois' nationalists," and similar "enemies of the people."

The last time such references were made on a big scale in the Russian Stalinist press was after the "doctors' plot" of January, 1953, when prominent Jewish doctors were accused of conspiring to assassinate a selected list of many fertile regions of the Sogovernment figures. The denunciations of viet Union. "Trotskyists" as on previous occasions, con-

stituted the preparatory build-up for another purge. That particular purge was by-passed, for

Stalinist history. Thus Malenkov carried on in cumbers and other fine things portant. Stalin's manner.

party that could restore workers' democracy ed polar regions. cracy itself.

The Malenkov regime, when it took over, sought to ease the fear of new purges; and its sycophants, partisans and dupes publicized the change as a big departure from the notorious methods of Stalin.

The character of the praise for Stalin that filled the press on his birthday indicates that were somewhat premature to say the least.

Of these 15 millions, five million at most are occupied in truly productive work. They are the miners of metal ores in Far East there is among the mass of the Siberia (Kolima, Chukotka, the North-East regions of Siberia, It is this hysterical fear of the frontier of Mongolia) or

all criticism or of an oppositional those who work in the coal mines of Vorkuta and Nova Zemlya Five million prisoners waste efforts in clearing and colonizing I do not thereby mean to deny forest land, the steppes and the tundras, labors which, owing to in the over-all operation of So- extremely primitive tools they

use, couldn't possibly give any real results. Five million pristhings. oners, because of their age or

15 MILLION PRISONERS their physical condition or on POLITICAL MOTIVES The millions of forced laborers, account of illness, are unfit for PARAMOUNT with but few exceptions, are conwork, or able to do so little that centrated in areas of secondary their upkeep costs money, witheconomic importance. This is done out any revenues in return. to make any acts of sabotage

or attempts at escape futile. The A VERY LOW OUTPUT biggest camp area is thus located Personally I came to know 20 ence from the Nazi exterminaat Karaganda, where out of 1,- different camps in the space of tion camps. In a Soviet forced torial included "right capitulationists," "right 500,000 prisoners, half a million six years. Twenty camps out of labor camp, the prisoners are work in the coal pits, the output several thousands do not repre- not sent to die there, but to work of which is virtually zero; while sent anything really big but, in as much as possible; likewise

a million people kill time trying the long run, this small segment they are not permitted to perish to wrest crops from the arid soil does permit a modest survey of from hunger and cold. Again of the steppes, the same kind of questions involving forced labor. in drastic contrast to the German For two years I was busy, as concentration camps - the ill, crops raised in abundance and virtually without difficulty in the already indicated above, cultivat- the aged, the feeble receive all ing cabbage plants doomed to the care that is possible under perish from frost. I spent four the primitive living conditions.

years in the Vorkuta mining reber camps of Siberia where mil- gions. The city of Vorkuta is cost of maintenance, this tends This also holds true of the lumlions of prisoners chop down among the more recent creations to increase the expenses enorforest trees that most often lie of the Stalinist bureaucracy. The mously.

there largely to rot away be- camps here sprouted during the the time being at least, because of the sudden cause too many are felled and years of the great purge, 1935 death of Stalin. The new regime even admitted only a tiny portion of the timber to 1937. Today this sprawling the frame-up and, with Beria in charge of the can be transported. In the Artic city of wooden barracks, with zone, where most prisoners are about five hundred thousand action, purged at least some of the alleged kept for security reasons, enter- prisoners, undoubtedly does not of cheap labor, then the ill, the authors of the frame-up. Later Beria himself prises, even less profitable, are rank among the biggest camps, aged and the feeble, who actualwas purged and his name ripped out of official clung to. Potatoes, cabbages, cu- but it is one of the most im- ly comprise one-third of each

are grown here only to have the first frosts put an end to their ply coal to the industrial region Those who fall ill during their As in Stalin's time, the Soviet oligarchy brief and weary existence. On of Leningrad. A hundred thou- imprisonment would be eliminatlives in constant fear of the masses they op- this point I can speak from first- sand prisoners at least are propress. They fear any oppositional trends that hand experience, since I spent ductively employed here. (This that there is nothing of the sort might give birth to a revolutionary socialist several years in these state-own- is the number working in the goes to prove, once more, the mines.) But even then the coal priority of the political consider-Here the prisoners spend their dug costs a great deal more ation. to the Soviet Union. In the fashion of all days watering cabbage plants, than would be the case under The primary aim is to isolate dictatorial regimes, their answer is terror and fertilizing them, transplanting normal conditions, with a free the oppositional elements, to deto plant them in the Arctic soil, engineers, technicians and fore-for carrying on activities. It is

which unfreezes only to a depth men with whom I talked repeat- not the desire to obtain slaves of a meter and a half and where, edly said that 10 skilled miners that impels the Stalinist bureauafter such good care, the plants working for wages could do the cracy to fill its camps with milperish before one's eyes. The work of 200 prisoners working lions of prisoners. What does same thing takes place in the unwillingly and constantly resist- impel it is fear of being swept endless expanses of the Central ing more or less openly.

Asian steppes, with this differ- Skilled miners are not hard to discontented, deceived and deence that instead of an icy cli- find provided they are well paid frauded of the conquests of the mate, it is the heat and the and given proper equipment and their assurances that Stalinism died with Stalin drouth that nullify all efforts. lodgings. Wages are so low in No official statistics of any the Soviet Union that a great

this connection let me cite a small example. We, that is, a brigade of 30, were ordered to transport 150 rails over a newly raised embankment. Since none of us desired to become excessively tired, each rail was draglong cables, while the others War III does break out, the first ject to criminal prosecution berested. In this way it took us 20 to 30 hours would be "deci- cause they granted interviews to three weeks to transport 150 rails. The foreman in charge of this construction thanked us pro- her population under an H-bomb Yugoslav-Communist Party and fusely at the termination of our attack. remarkable labors. He was obviously accostumed to worse

Their liberation or even a limit

set upon their number would

shake the foundations of the

Stalinist system. Nothing there-

fore remains except to keep them

busy and make them work -

poorly and expensively.

NO WAR BEFORE 1960. Lead-| said on Jan. 3 that the charges ers of Britain's armed forces against Milovan Djillas and Vlaconsider a major war before 1960 dimir Dedijer were made "with-"unlikely," according to a Jan. out consultation" with President ged by 20 people by means of 10 London dispatch. But if World Tito. Djilas and Dedijer are sub-

sive" for the British isles. In foreign correspondents criticizing that time Britain might lose half the lack of democracy in the calling for the right to form an opposition.

FRENCH ANTI-COLONIAL MEETING BANNED. A meeting

planned Dec. 21 to protest the role of French imperialism in Algeria was banned by the Men-Considering the low output. the prisoners are comparatively generously fed, clothed and kept the hall in Paris, they were inup. Herein lies the main differ-Internationalist Communist Party (Trotskyists). The well-known French repressive measures in Algeria was sent by Messali Hadj, revolutionary Algerian leader.

Taking into account the high TUNISIAN REPRESENTA-TIVES met with French Premier Mendes-France to negotiate the

If the Soviet bureaucracy had no real interest in the prisoners other than as objects of exploi tation to be gathered into huge concentration cities for the sake camp, would never have been Vorkuta's 40 mining pits sup- made prisoners in the first place. ed, one way or another. The fact

away one day by the masses,

(1917) Revolution. (Watch for the second

WEST GERMAN SHIPYARDS ARE BOOMING AGAIN nine years after the end of World War II. The Korean War is des-France government. As crowds of workers appeared at of German shipyards — the only formed by police that they could In 1953 West German yards not enter. The protest rally was turned out 240 vessels for a total organized by the Libertarian of 724,354 gross tons; employed Communist Federation and the 70,000 persons and had a turnover of about \$310 million. Estimates for 1954 indicate a recwriter Daniel Guerin was to be ord 920,000 gross tons. Foreign chairman. A declaration hailing customers, mostly Panamanian, the gathering and protesting will buy one third of the tonnage, but it is assumed that the real buyers are the United States. Norway and Greece.

\* \* \* **GUATEMALA RECEIVED ITS** FIRST "AID" from the U.S. on question of who should control Dec. 15. This was in the form of police and other internal agen- an armament shipment to modcies in Tunisia. The Tunisian na- ernize the army.

tionalist demand has been for ITALIAN STALINISTS SNUB turning complete control over to Tunisia, while Mendes-France TOGLIATTI. Differences among wants to maintain French con- the leaders of the Italian Comtrol. In the midst of the nego- munist Party became apparent tiations, Saleh ben Youssef, ex- at the fourth conference of the iled secretary of the nationalist organization Jan. 9 when Pietro Neo-Destour Party, threw con- Secchia and Luigi Longo publicly sternation into French imperial- indicated their utter boredom at ist circles by demanding a na- a three-hour speech by the tittional army for Tunisia. Speak- ular leader Palmiro Togliatti, acing from Geneva, Jan. 3, he in- cording to the N.Y. Times. Secsisted on the immediate and un- chia and Longo have long been conditional transfer of the po- known as leaders of the more ice, schools and the courts to militant sections of the party

the control of Tunisians, A N.Y. and are said to be critical over Times dispatch from Tunis, Jan. recent losses of membership due that includes repeated punges of the bureau- them with care, in order finally and skilled labor force. All the prive them of any opportunity 4, said Saleh ben Youssef "Ac- to the abandonment of a policy cused the French of using wea- of class-struggle, Secchia twidsel-words and all kinds of pres- dled his thumbs during Togliatsure to deprive Tunisian home ti's speech and Longo wrote letrule of all its substance." The ters. They brought their hands Times reported that "In French together exactly twice in listless circles the reaction to Mr. ben and inaudible applause at the end Youssef's statement was one of of the oration. Togliatti indicated his awareness of opposition curexasperation."

rents in the party by declaring YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MIN- in his speech that there was no ISTER Koca Popovic, now in truth in reports that he was beinstallment) Calcutta with Marshal Tito, coming addle-brained.

## The Negro Struggle By Daniel Roberts

## The Triumph of Marian Anderson

Last week the great contralto singer, Marian Anderson, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera. All the capialist newspapers hailed it as a great triumph for the Negro people and a sign that American society is solving the Negro question in yet another field. It was a triumph, but a modest one - one which the Negro people should look at critically, gratified though they rightfully feel at breaking down the absolute barrier that so long excluded their artists from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. For when Marian Anderson, whom Arturo Toscanini called the greatest voice of the century, was signed as the first Negro artist at the Met, she was given just one minor part for the entire season. She was automatically restricted to a role that portrays a Negro. That is why she only drew the one minor part and was excluded from all the magnificent contralto parts that she could have sung.

There are very few roles in opera that portray Negroes. The only major part I know of is that of Othello for bass voice. So that if the rule is going to be maintained that Ne-

The schools are crowded now. Almost a

million school kids are on part-time shifts.

Others are sitting two at a desk in classes so.

large that the teacher spends half her time

just taking attendance. The shortage of schools

and teachers has been getting more acute year

after year and it's going to be a lot worse.

In the next five years, approximately seven

the school population.

TWO

groes can only portray Negroes, there will be very few colored singers - no matter how talented — breaking into top flight opera.

When Marian Anderson was signed for the Metropolitan a few months ago, several commentators likened it to the Brooklyn Dodgers signing up Jackie Robinson in 1948. The difference is that neither the Dodgers nor any other ball club ever decreed that Negroes could only play a certain position. Otherwise there , would be even fewer Negroes in major league baseball than there are today.

It is pure prejudice and discrimination to confine colored singers to Negro parts.

In Seattle a small'opera company was formed a few years ago on a completely integrated basis. Parts were awarded on the basis of the quality of the voice and musical and dramatic ability without regard to skin color. This resulted in highly satisfactory performances.

Music and opera lovers have only one desire — to hear and see the best performance possible. For my money, I'll take Marian Anderson any day in any role suited to her voice, not the color of her skin.

at a Desk

By Joyce Cowley

Notes from the News



VOLUME XIX



Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) smirks as he conducts his final hearing in Washington as head of the Senate investigating subcommittee. McCarthy, aided by Democratic Senator Mc-Clellan, interrogated a number of industrial workers on their political views and threatened to have them fired. Lawrence Parrish (right) of Quincy, Mass., who was fired from Bethlehem Steel Corp. after a previous appearance, again balked at Mc-Carthy's tricky questions.

# Fight Opened in Detroit To Save Right to Ballot

DETROIT, Jan. 10. — At-| state, a similar mutilation of the | igan electorate cannot form contempts to bar minority parties franchise and the ballot is tak-clusions and arrive at proper defrom the ballot in Michigan will ing place.

THE MILITANT

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1955

be renewed this week when the "There is now a measure un-portant questions are heard and Republican-controlled State Le- der study by a legislative comrislature meets in Lansing. The mittee in Lansing which would Legislature's Elections Commit- definitely abridge the rights of ee, headed by State Senator the voter. This measure, if enact-Clyde Geerlings, has announced ed, would make it impossible for that it will introduce a bill to a minority party to obtain a change requirements for minor- place on the Michigan ballot. will be virtually impossible for CAN NOT BE JUSTIFIED

"The absence of minority parthem to comply.

The drive against minority parties began in 1952 when the justified by any of the reasons State Legislature passed, and given by advocates of the meas-Democratic Governor Williams ure. The usual argument is that system, igned, the notorious Trucks Law. the expense of including minor-One of the provisions of this ity parties on the ballot is not witch-hunt measure gave the justified in view of the small authorities the power to ban following. minority parties through the de-

vice of designating them as "subversive." The Socialist Workers Party was the first organization singled out for victimization after the Trucks Law went into effect. But the SWP went to the courts

and was able to preserve its ballot rights thanks to widespread protest against the Trucks Law Hard Coal Miners by the CIO, AFL and the nonpartisan Citizens Committee

Feel Unemployment The courts are still considering Skidding coal production, esthe constitutionality of the pecially in the anthracite areas, Trucks Law. But without waithas upset the "normal" pattern ing for a final court decision the Republican leaders have decided of family life. Wives and daughto try to bar the minority par- ters of jobless miners are now charged that Kohler Co. mainties by changing the election the main source of family in- tains an "industrial munitions laws.

STIFF REQUIREMENT Under the present law, which been able to find some employis already one of the more severe ment in the needle trades and

in this country, the Socialist textile mills which have moved Committee, of which he is a Workers Party was required in into mining areas seeking cheap 1954 to file 14,463 valid signa-tures to a petition requesting a labor. The jobless miner has litplace on the state ballot. This tle chance of finding other emany concrete program to prevent amounted to one per cent of the ployment and is reduced to seekvote received by the winning ing odd jobs after his unemploy-

candidate for Secretary of State ment benefits run out. in the previous election.

Anthracite production has been The Geerlings committee -bill, to be introduced in Lansing this on the skids since 1944 when week, would raise the require- production reached a peak of 62.1 ment from one per cent of the millions tons. In 1950 it had Housatonic, Mass. Last June the Secretary of State's vote to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  dropped to 43 million tons and per cent. In 1954 this would have since then has slumped to 29.7 meant 108,473 signatures — a million tons in 1953 and an es- time in the mill's 104-year hisnumber practically impossible for timated 20 to 22 million tons in minority parties to gather. 1954 Even before the bill was intro-

duced, a strong public protest was Supreme Court made by Charles G. Lockwood,

once begun, like restrictions of speech and the press, do not stop ties from the ballot can not be with one act. If enacted, this measure could be another deliberate step toward a one party "Thus is the course from po-

cisions unless all sides of im-

"The suppression of minorities

at the ballot box means the sup-

pression of principles and infor-

mation that may be vital to the

welfare of the American people.

"Restrictions of the ballot,

NUMBER 3

litical democracy to political autocracy. As much as you oppose abridgement of the press and

considered.

"No party or movement ever speech, you should oppose started large. Every major party abridgement of political rights started as a minority. The Mich-1 of our citizens."



## **To Investigate** Kohler Company

The strike-bound Kohler Co. of Kohler, Wis., has agreed to a Senate Labor Committee investigation. Local 833 UAW-CIO, on strike since last April 5, has come, according to the Jan. 8 arsenal," including tear gas, and Business Week, The women have that the company is using tax rebates to cover losses during the strike. Sen. James E. Murray (D.-Mont.) said the Labor member, "will most certainly want to investigate the situation at Kohler" if the union charges are substantiated.

### Gain Recognition

Local 1370 of the Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, won union recognition for 300 workers' at Monument Mills, Inc., company imposed an 8-cent-anhour pay cut. This is the first tory that workers have had union protection. Included in the settlement were grievance and seniority procedures and, most important, the restoration of the

That's a substantial figure and President Eisenhower apparently feels it's time for some action. After two years of delay, his Committee on Improvement in Education has called an emergency conference. The date of this conference is November 1955! An impartial chairman has been chosen to head the presidential commission, Neil H. Mc-Elroy, a leading soap company executive. Mc-

Elroy is not waiting until next November to give his opinion on what the federal government should do for schools. His program can be summed up briefly - do nothing. Education, he says, is a problem that the states and cities ought to solve.

An emergency conference to discuss federal aid for schools, to be held in ten months, un-

der the leadership of a man resolutely committed to the idea that federal aid for schools is bad! Thats a pretty good example of the ment officials who consider the walfare of our children a fifth-rate issue.

President Eisenhower calls juvenile delinquency a proof of parental failure. He blames and a half million children will be added to parents for not living up to their responsibilities but has nothing to say about the failure of our society to provide the schools, housing and health facilities which children need for normal physical growth.

It's not realistic to expect aid for education year. from Eisenhower or any phony conference that he may call. Working people, whose children are most severely deprived by the shameful

neglect of our schools, are the only ones who far-secret organization to proreally want to do something about it. We can do something about it if we make

\*ourselves heard. Over a hundred years ago the labor movement led the struggle for free employment.' public education in America. Today only united action by the unions, the PTA and other parent organizations, can save our schools and force city, state and federal governments to outlaw all forms of union

take real emergency action.

security arrangements worked out in collective bargaining by labor and management. In states with these laws any agreement between workers and their employers under which any worker s required to join a union is illegal."

ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO EMPLOYERS In the first four years of the **Ceremony Held** CIL, which covers 12 midwest states and the violates federal laws covering child labor, Taft-Hartley law, workers voted Tulsa, Okla., and Louisville, Ky., area, won a minimum wages or overtime according to an infor the union shop in 46.146 elec-Tresca Memorial Committee tions covering 5,548,982 men and held its annual flower-laying women. "Over 91 percent of the ceremony on the N. Y. streetvetes favored the union shop and corner where the beloved the negotiation of a union shop editor of the anarchist newsclause was authorized in over 97 paper, Il Martello, was murpercent of the cases," says the pamphlet. Those provisions of dered in 1943. The ceremony is held not the Taft-Hartley law providing only to honor Tresca's memory for union shop elections were but to remind public and repealed in 1951. Under' the "right - to - work" police that the case remains unsolved. It also included two aws, all form of union security short speeches and the read-- the union shop, maintenance A FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OR- of membership, etc. - are ing of a letter by Norman said: Thomas to the District Atprohibited. "Even though the torney urging a re-opening of workers want it . . . Even though the investigation. Numerous the employer is willing to grant leads in the case were never it . . . Even though the workers adequately followed up by the are already union members." The most Reverend Francis police.

Worker reprints major excerpts vanguard workers.

"Right-to-Wreck" Laws is bad! Thats a pretty good example of the kind of action you can expect from govern-ment officials who consider the walfare of

### By Walt Newsome

The American Federation of Labor has issued a Against the Trucks Law. pamphlet on the misnamed "right-to-work" laws that correctly characterizes them as "right-to-wreck" laws. Seventeen states now have such D

union-busting laws on the books leans, protesting the proposed and there is a concerted drive passage of such a law in Lousiana last year, said in a June 1 teleon by employers to push through similar ones in more states this gram to the state legislature: "It

s insincere because, while it pretends to guarantee the right The Jan. 4 Wall Street Journal to work, it actually frustrates reports that "Businessmen backhat right, in effect exposing la-

ing the laws are forming a sobor to lose security, a decent standard of living and humane mote the laws' passage in the 31 working conditions." states that still allow 'union se-

The main thing lacking in the curity' contracts that make un-AFL's exposure of these laws is ion membership a condition of their passage; but wide distri-

The AFL pamphlet says bution of the pamphlet can help "These laws are short, simple, alert workers to the danger facand to the point. They contain ing them from this kind of antione basic ingredient . . . they labor legislation. The pamphlet can be obtained

from the American Federation of Labor, AFL Building, Washington 1, D. C. No price is listed.

**Tresca Memorial** 

26-cent-an-hour wage increase. The new rates will be paid in three installments: 10 cents on Feb. 1, 8 cents on Feb, 1, 1956, and 8 cents on Feb. 1, 1957. The new wage scales go to 54,000 long-distance truck drivers.

\* \* \*

THE CENTRAL STATES DRIVERS COUN-

"ARE YOU PREGNANT LADY?" That question will be asked of all women seeking jobless pay in Washington, D. C., after Jan. 1, 1955. Labor's Daily reported Dec. 29 that one unemployment compensation official cited the 1954 law which "forbids the payment of unemployment benefits six weeks prior to and six weeks after the expected date of childbirth, and how are we to know unless we ask?"

BUSINESS FAILURES again increased for the third straight year. According to Dun and Bradstreet, 1954 business casualties amounted to 11,-220 compared with 9,058 in 1953 and 7,638 in 1952.

\* \* \*

ALFRED HASSLER reports in a letter to the Jan. 8 Nation that the Fellowship of Reconciliation has launched a campaign to induce President Eisenhower to make available surplus food for the victims of last summer's record - breaking floods in China. The Fellowship is urging that local Food For China Committees be organized and that no political conditions be attached to the offer.

THE NAACP SENT A TELEGRAM to Presi-. dent Eisenhower Dec. 20 demanding that he investigate and take action to prevent the "undisguised economic intimidation" of Negro businessmen, farmers, and homeowners in Mississippi.

\* \* \*

"DON'T TAKE THE BAIT" was the warning sounded by Rowland Jones Jr., president of the American Retail Federation. He spoke before the annual convention of the American Retail Association Executives in New York's Statler Hotel Jan. 10. The "bait" he was talking about was an administration offer of a lower minimum wage for retail stores than the national standard. Retail stores are not now covered by minimum wage laws. Another piece of "bait" that Jones advised his colleagues to reject was the exemption from the requirement to pay time-and a-half for overtime. He said that retail associations stand in unqualified opposition to any elimination of retailing's exemptions.

THE UNITED STATES WILL PAY JAPAN \$2,000,000 compensation for damages caused by the radioactive fallout from the hydrogen bomb tests conducted at Bikini last March 1.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER has asked Congress to raise postal employes pay rates by 5%. Last year he vetoed a bill that granted this same inadequate raise to postal workers on the grounds that the post office was losing money. He is now seeking to get a boost in letter mail rates to cover the "deficit" that he claims the post office would suffer if pay boosts were granted without hikes in mail rates.

vestigation made by the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hours Division, in the New York-New Jersey area.

ONLY 1.3 MILLION WORKERS would get any benefit from Eisenhower's proposal to increase the minimum wage to 90 cents. When the first law was passed in 1938 the minimum wage was pegged at 25 cents. It was increased to 40 cents in 1945 and 75 cents in 1949. Both the AFL and

the CIO are demanding \$1.25 an hour. \* \* \*

DINANCE was passed in Hamtranick, Mich., last month. Dodge Local 3 of the UAW-CIO sparked the campaign which finally pushed the law through. Hamtramck is the fourth Michigan city and the 34th city in the country to outlaw discriminatory employment practices.

\* \* \*

SURPLUS FARM PRODUCTS continued to move into government storage at record-breaking rates, according to the Jan. 12 Wall Street Journal. The commodity Credit Corporation now holds \$6.9 billion in surplus products compared to \$5.2 billion on Nov. 30, 1953. The surpluses are moving into storage faster than they can be sold abroad, given away (under present policies), or bartered for strategic material. In an editorial Jan. 12, the Wall Street Journal said: "The disposers would have to run very much faster to stand still." Disposals totaled \$800 million last year but only \$150 million has been distributed free to welfare agencies here and abroad. While food was rotting in the warehouses nearly 1.5 million workers used up all their unemployment benefits.

NEARLY 6.6 MILLION WORKERS collected one or more unemployment compensation benefit checks during 1954 according to Jan. 5 Labor's Daily. An average of 1.6 million workers received payments each week.

\* \* \*

IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, A NEGRO MINIS-TER, the Rev. William Holmes, delivered the eulogy at the last rites for William H. Crawford, a white CIO leader. It was Crawford's request that Rev. Holmes speak at his funeral.

\* \* \*

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT reported on Dec. 29 that 1954 was "one of the most tranquil years in post World War II labor-management relations." A survey showed an estimated 3,450 reject his view that America is advanced workers. strikes started in 1954 compared to 5,117 in 1952. The strikes involved 1,500,000 workers for an estimated 22,000,000 man days, the smallest number since the end of the War. 1946 was the post-war high when 4,600,000 workers were on strike and 116,000,000 man days were lost. "1954 saw fewer big strikes than did 1953 and 1952," the report said.

A LICENSE TO SELL PIANOS was denied a young music teacher in Washington, D. C. because he had pleaded the Fifth Amendment before the House Un-American Activities Committee, (reported in IF Stone's Weekly.)

Rummel, Archbishop of New Or-

By Carl Goodman

from speeches on the question

orth the Stalinist position.

noted civil liberties lawyer and lakes T-H Case attorney for the Greater Detroit Consumers Council. Lockwood The U.S. Supreme Court agreed was counsel for Milo Radulovich, to rule on whether the Taft-

Carrol McIntyre and Ethel Mc- Hartley Law allows employes to Intyre, local victims of the witch strike without giving 60 days nohunt who were able to win their tice when protesting against appeals against "loyalty" | their employers' unfair practices. charges. He is also an officer of The ruling involves Mastro Plasthe Citizens Committee Against tics Corp. and French-American the Trucks Law. Writing in the Jan. 6 East Side for refusing to transfer from the and Camden and Atlantic City, Shopper, Lockwood appealed for Carpenters Union to Paper Work- N. J. Nearly 20,000 members will defeat of the proposed bill. He ers. The other employees walked

out in protest. Both the NLRB "From week to week and month and the Appeals Court ruled that to month, editors and broadcast- the 60-day "waiting period" did ers are having to speak out more not apply in this case. They also frequently against the way in held that a "no-strike" clause in which freedom of the press and the agreement didn't prohibit the freedom of speech are being walkout to protest unfair pracwhittled away. In state after tices on the part of the employer.

8 cents which the company cut from the workers' pay last June.

## Win Pay Boost

Pay raises of 35 to 66 cents n hour were gained by seven locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, in Philadelphia, Morristown and Reeds Mfg. Co,, who fired a man Chester, Pa., Wilmington, Del., get the pay boosts.

NEW YORK Socialist Forum Will "Coexistence" Bring Lasting Peace? Speaker: **Daniel Roberts** Why Stalinists Published Those Speeches

State Chairman Socialist Workers Party, New Jersey Fri., Jan. 21, 8 P.M. 116 University Place (Near Union Square) Contribution 25c. Free to unemployed Refreshments

Socialist Forum

"Automation -

The New Industrial

**Revolution**"

Speaker:

ciple that Big Business and the there is not enough basic sup-

of the labor party delivered at ris says further, "that there is in common?

Speeches," George Morris, labor that does not preclude education allies as long as it is politically people and the struggle for soeditor of the Daily Worker, sets and work towards a labor party subservient to Big Business? "As far as we are concerned ties in certain states as Quill there is much in each of the three proposes, or we will never reach speeches we agree with and much the point when conditions for a we don't agree with," Morris de- labor party would be mature." clares, "We agree with Reuther Here again Morris balances

that in the next immediate per- support for the labor bureauiod the stress should be on coali- cracy's policy of staying with tion with other forces within the the Democratic Party with a

a classless country and will never have a base for a labor party." WHAT WILL THEY SAY?

Although the Stalinists endorse Support for the Democrats Reuther's conclusions, they can- "does not preclude education and Democrats are the enemies of of Big Business under any prenot defend Reuther's idea that work towards a labor party," there are no rigid class lines in says Morris in effect. Doesn't it? the U.S. They don't want to run What kind of arguments are the the risk of cutting themselves Stalinists then going to advance that party - or the Republican off from those workers who are in educating for a labor party?

becoming radicalized or are al- Are they going to tell the of the working people. ready socialist minded working people that the Demo-These workers know, either cratic Party is controlled lock. from their own experience or stock and barrel by the same from study of Marxist ideas, that Wall Street plunder gang that tween support for Reuther-Ma-

italist country there are two they going to expose the liberals the Democrats or advancing con-The Communist Party leaders main classes opposing each other: as reform demagogues who man- vincing arguments for a labor in the U.S. have taken on the un-enviable task of defending the workers and the capitalists. They know that the capitalists of entrenched wealth when the string with the labor bureaucrats. enviable task of defending the labor bureaucracy's line of sup-port for the Democratic Party before the more politically ad-vanced workers.

"We agree with Mazey," Mor-

the recent CIO convention by not enough basic support in ev-Quill, Mazey and Reuther. In an idence for a labor party to make labor can not win and hold its realizes today that independent article, "Why We Publish These its launching now an issue, but Negro, farmer and middle class political action by the working

> possibly even formation of par- That labor needs to act indepen- the madhouse of capitalist rule. dently in politics if it is to rally

Party or even win major in-fluence within it?

old parties. But we emphatically stand designed to appeal to more

party — is a traitor to the cause

WINDOW DRESSING

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working people have no interests port . . . for a labor party to Newark Fri. Night make its launching now an is Are they going to teach that sue." Only a small vanguard cialism is the only way out of The majority of the workers these allies? Are they going to in the U.S. will probably defer Harold Robins explain that it is utopian to ex- until after the presidential elecpect the working people to take tions of 1956 any definitive judg-



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These are indispensible argu-| must prepare the way for labor's ments - basic principled ones - independent political action. The in demonstrating the need for vanguard workers who will edundependent political action by cate the rest of labor must belabor. These arguments lead gin by staking out the principle: straight to one conclusion: The no political support to any agency labor and labor should be the text whatever! Then, patiently enemy of the Democratic Party. explain the independent road that Any labor leader who endorses the working class must take.



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