

# Seek Legal Writ To Release Two N. Carolina Boys

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Conrad Lynn, general counsel for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, will leave for North Carolina tomorrow to file court application for a writ of habeas corpus to win release of James Hanover Thompson and David "Fuzzy" Simpson, the ten- and eight-year-old Negro boys committed to a state reformatory because one of them had been kissed by a seven-year-old white girl in Monroe, N.C.

Mr. Lynn will be accompanied by Robert F. Williams, chairman of the Union County NAACP and chairman of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice which is handling the cases of the children and other victims of racist persecution in Monroe. Williams has been in New York seeking support for the committee's work.

Meanwhile, the national office of the NAACP announced, Dec. 31, that it had "thrown its full weight into the drive" to free the two children. The statement was issued by Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, after a conference with Lynn and Williams. As counsel in the case, Lynn will now have the collaboration of Robert L. Car-

ter, NAACP General Counsel. Under growing pressure of public protest, North Carolina officials are continuing their efforts to justify the incarceration of the two young boys. On Jan. 3, Blaine M. Madison, Commissioner of the North Carolina State Board of Correction issued a statement asserting that the board had no desire to keep the boys in the reformatory "beyond the very minimum time which can be justified" in their own interest. Madison frankly conceded he was making the statement because his board "presumably would be the defendant in the threatened legal action" to win the boys' release.

His statement was scored in a Jan. 3 letter to him by Robert F. Williams, who branded it a further attempt "to whitewash the racist reason for the imprisonment of these two boys and to obscure and distort the facts." Williams marshalled a detailed list of facts demonstrating that concern for the boys' welfare or proper home care was in no way involved in their commitment to the reformatory. They were held incommunicado for six days, hit by the policeman who arrested them, terrorized while in prison, rushed through a "trial" without counsel, committed to a reformatory in violation of North Carolina practice not to place children under 12 in such institutions, and sentenced not for lack of "proper home atmosphere" but for "assault on a white female."

Replying to the contention that the boys lacked proper home care, Williams wrote: "Like most Negro children in North Carolina, they live in an atmosphere of poverty and discrimination. But it is an atmosphere of love and family life and a thousand times better than that of a reform school."

Williams pointed to the plight (Continued on Page 2)

## Chicagoans Say 'Free Sobell'

One hundred prominent Chicagoans have petitioned President Eisenhower for commutation of sentence and immediate release for Morton Sobell, now serving the ninth year of a 30-year sentence on a "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge.

Signers of the petition, which points out that the Supreme Court has refused to review the case, include: Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn; Noble Prize physicist Harold Urey; Sidney Lens, writer and trade unionist; Rev. William T. Baird; Professor Kermit Eby; Bradford Lytelle, a Quaker; Rabbi Joseph Buchler and former Judge Norval K. Harris.

## Mikoyan's Visit Seen As Feeler for 'Summit'

By Daniel Roberts

The unofficial visit of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan to this country has had the press speculating as to its true intent. No informed observer credited the reason given by the Soviet government when it sought a U.S. visa for Mikoyan — namely, that he was on vacation and wanted to study the United States at first hand. Speculation held that the object of Mikoyan's visit was diplomatic. It was a means whereby he could discuss Soviet proposals with American policy makers without putting the Eisenhower administration in the position of formally engaging in "summit" talks.

According to N. S. (Neal Stanford) in the Dec. 31 Christian Science Monitor, the real aim of Mikoyan's visit is held to be sounding out the U.S. government for a summit meeting between Khrushchev and Eisenhower. "Mr. Khrushchev not only wants another summit meeting . . . but wants such a summit for a very special purpose. That purpose is to set the stage for bilateral deals with the United States—where Moscow will be talking for the Communist world and Washington for the West.

"This Soviet dream of the two big powers making the basic decisions and then having the rest of the world accept them dates back to Stalin's day. He tried to carve up the world with Hitler. Now his successor would like to carve up the world with Washington."

Again, on Nov. 6, reporting official reactions in Washington, Neal Stanford wrote, "The Soviets unquestionably want such a two-power decision-making meeting. That was Stalin's goal . . . with President Roosevelt. Moscow to put it bluntly wants the Kremlin and the White House to run the world between them."

In point of fact, Stalin did carve up the world together with Roosevelt and Churchill at the Teheran and Yalta Conferences (1943 and 1945) and finished the job at the Potsdam Conference (1945), with Truman and Atillee as his carving-knife partners. The cold war, originating in the drive of U.S. big business to reimpose capitalism in the Soviet Union, broke the agreement. The Kremlin, under Stalin, Malenkov and Khrushchev, has sought to return to a "coexistence" agreement on the order of Teheran, Yalta and

Potsdam. For some time now, serious analysts in the capitalist world have acknowledged that pursuit of a deal between the Kremlin and Washington is the real guiding line of Soviet foreign policy. Last Sept. 21, for example, Thomas Hamilton, New York Times editorial writer on the United Nations, said, "Despite his harsh denunciation of American policy . . . Mr. Gromyko again made it clear that the Soviet Union wants a separate agreement with the United States under which the two powers would, in effect, divide up the world."

This appraisal of the Kremlin's foreign policy may not flatter Stalin and Khrushchev. But it exposes as a hoax the American government's propaganda that the heads of the Soviet state are intent on conquering the world for "Communism" and that this is the source of the war danger.

That Mikoyan's visit is primarily diplomatic is confirmed by the account of his talk with Secretary of State Dulles on Jan. 5. According to the New York Times, Mikoyan proposed "a top-level conference of Soviet and United States leaders to work out major problems that divide the countries."

"The Russians are obviously hopeful that the Mikoyan visit will pave the way for serious negotiations and agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States," adds the Times. Further discussions between Mikoyan and Dulles are planned for when Mikoyan returns to the capital after a ten-day tour in the Midwest.

What do Soviet leaders believe an agreement should include? First, disarmament, an end to nuclear testing, and Soviet-American trade based on American grants of credits to the Soviet Union. These measures if agreed to would undoubtedly benefit both the Soviet and American working people. They are some of the measures that revolutionary socialists in this country have demanded of the U.S. government as part of their campaign against the cold war.

But the core of the Soviet proposal is reactionary. It calls (Continued on Page 4)

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# Soviet 'Planet' Tribute To Nationalized Economy

## Cubans Oust Batista Dictatorship

By Lillian Kiezel

Cuba's hated Batista dictatorship was overthrown last week, Fidel Castro, leader of the 26th of July movement that waged the two-year guerrilla war against Batista, led his ragged forces in a dramatic triumphal march to Havana. Washington recognized the new liberal reform government headed by Manuel Urrutia on January 7.

Batista and other top government officials fled to the Dominican Republic and the United States. Their escape touched off protest demonstrations in Havana. Batista claims that Castro had superior arms. But Castro had between 5,000 and 10,000 troops when the civil war ended and this was the largest force he ever had. Batista had the government army of 50,000 troops. His troops were armed with tanks, planes and heavy artillery obtained from the U.S. and England. Castro's guerrillas were armed with revolvers, rifles and even more primitive weapons.

100 TO 1 The ousted dictator told a Dominican newspaper editor that Castro's guerrilla tactics were impossible to lick: "An army would need 100 men for each guerrilla it fought. That was the case of Tito in Yugoslavia and the Chinese government."

Bertram B. Johansson of the Christian Science Monitor said that Batista was right. Castro used the same tactics as were used by Communist forces in Indo-China, Yugoslavia and China "and 182 years ago by colonial farmers in Concord and Lexington against the British in the American Revolution."

Johansson reports how "local populations, especially in rural areas, aided rebels enormously with their friendliness. They hid them from Batista soldiers, gave rebels correct directions down obscure roads and passes, provided wrong directions, flavored with sardonic humor, to government troops."

### LIVED IN TERROR

Since Batista seized power in 1952, Cuba's population had lived in terror. The regime was notorious for its jailings, torture and murder of political opponents. Abysmal pay, unemployment were the lot of most of Cuba's 5,000,000 inhabitants.

The victory demonstrators have been depicted as "mobs of looters and gangsters." However, Johansson reports (Jan. 3): "Generally, the New Year's day mob rioters were selective in their targets as they ransacked gambling establishments, looted homes of Cuban millionaires who obviously had become rich on political corruption. The parking meters which the mobs battered with sledge hammers

Dancing in the Streets of Havana



Waving a rebel banner, a Cuban girl dances in the streets of Havana to the cheers of throngs celebrating downfall of the hated Batista dictatorship. Throughout

the capital city and across Cuba, mass demonstrations voiced popular demand for social and economic reforms.

and emptied of their small coins had been installed by Batista relatives, who were suspected of reaping huge profits from them."

The Batista government was propped up all these years by American big business interests and the U.S. State Department. The resentment against American domination of Cuban life is tremendous.

### BIG INVESTMENTS

American investments amount to \$1 billion. This includes \$285 million in agriculture, largely sugar; \$316 million in public utilities; and \$51 million in petroleum. The gambling syndicates, one of the main sources of corruption, were particularly galling to the Cuban people.

The financiers have worried over Castro's attitude toward their interests in Cuba. The semi-feudal owners of the large sugar plantations have been even more worried. In 1955 Castro's program called for: Nationalization of U.S.-operated and financed utilities in Cuba; division of American-owned sugar estates among Cuban peasants; confiscation of all properties acquired through "corruption" in government; distribution of 30% of all industrial and utility enterprises to Cuban workers; ownership of land to be granted tenant farmers occupying less than 170 acres. The program has suffered

considerable alteration. For the past year Castro has sought in various ways to convince the State Department and plantation owners that he has repudiated the aims announced in 1955 and has no intention of nationalizing industry.

### DON'T WANT DEEP CHANGE

Castro's movement is largely middle class. He is a plantation owner himself. By and large the leadership of this movement, as personified by Provisional President Urrutia, seeks a democratic reform government. It doesn't want a fundamental social and economic change.

However, the State Department and the plantation owners have only recently begun to understand Castro's real intentions. At the same time they recognized that he had the power to carry out his threat of destroying or preventing the harvesting of the crop of sugar cane. As a result many plantation owners shifted from Batista to support of Castro as did a section of the State Department.

They are still cautious. Ed Cony of the Wall Street Journal (Jan. 5) reports: ". . . State Department officials were understood to be watching for moves on taxes and other potential obstacles to business operation . . . They figured that currently the chance was slight the new government might

swing toward nationalization of industry."

In this connection Castro told U.P. reporter, Charles Schuman, a few months ago: "Let me make this clear. Ours is a special kind of revolution. It is political, not social. It is not a revolution of class against class, but of all social classes against the government — against a small army group."

He told Schuman last March: "With us, Cuba will have a stable government, without civil war. Industry will not have to pay us off as it [did] to the Batista government."

### FEAR FURTHER REVOLT

Despite this the State Department is watching the revolution with reservations. What they fear is that Castro will not be able to control the forces set loose. The youth (which has constituted the most revolutionary wing of the movement, the peasantry and the workers, who were willing to fight for Castro's 1955 program, want more than just the ouster of Batista.

They want a social revolution to oust not only American financiers but the home-grown oppressors as well — all those who make possible the power of dictators like Batista.

Freedom-loving people can rejoice that another dictator has been kicked out. The Cuban people now have a chance to choose the kind of government they want.

## Space Age Triumph Underscores Need for World Socialist Order

By Harry Ring

The Soviet Union's triumph in launching the first rocket to clear the earth's gravitational field has stirred the entire world. As "Mechta" (Dream) streaked through space to fall into orbit around the sun, the achievement was acclaimed everywhere as an awesome new step in man's long struggle to conquer nature.

Scientists assure us that the extensively instrumented rocket will provide invaluable new information about our solar system and the universe.

At the same time "Mechta" underscored a development of a much more immediate consequence. Any lingering doubt has now been dispelled about the capacity of the USSR to accurately launch missiles and hit targets—whether as far away as the moon or over the back fence to another continent.

This brings the Soviet Union closer to military equality with the U.S., at least so far as defense is concerned. Knowledge that the Soviet Union possesses a high-powered rocket fuel superior to anything in the U.S. arsenal should help serve to further slow down Washington's timetable for war.

### Power of Planned Economy

In addition to the stunning new cold-war setback dealt Wall Street, "Mechta" has delivered another heavy blow to the myth of the superiority of the "free enterprise" system in the realm of science. Recognition was universal that the first man-made planet testifies to the power inherent in planned economy. The ability of the Soviet Union to outstrip the world's richest and most advanced capitalist power in the satellite race can only be ascribed to the rational utilization of economic, technical and scientific resources on a nationwide scale.

President Eisenhower acted with exemplary dispatch in congratulating the Soviet Union on this latest scientific triumph. He was joined in this by other capitalist politicians and statesmen who were probably as dismayed as he by the news.

The hypocrisy of these plaudits is indicated by Eisenhower's expression of regret that the names of the individual scientists responsible for the feat were not made public. To understand how cheap such "regret" is, it is sufficient to recall how Washington snubbed the man instrumental in developing the U.S. atomic submarine, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover—who happens to be Jewish. But the real point of Eisenhower's "dig" was to imply that the Soviet advance was due to individual scientists, not to the collective effort.

### "They Stole Our Secret"

As the counterpart in idiocy to this official reaction, the House un-American Activities Committee asserted that "espionage" played a vital role in giving the Soviet Union "the opportunity to outstrip us in some areas, once it has acquired our basic secrets." Why the Pentagon has failed to use the "basic secrets" in building American rockets, the Committee failed to explain.

One U.S. reaction to the Soviet rocket, reported Jan. 5, spoke volumes about the real reason why the USSR is winning the space race. Three aircraft companies engaged in missile work for the government, Grumman, (Continued on Page 2)

## Liberal Democrats Fold on Eve of Congress

By Carl Goodman

JAN. 5 — Last November, the Democrats scored their biggest electoral sweep since the New Deal days. The results are very much in evidence in Washington on the eve of Congress's opening — "The town is choking on Democrats," says today's New York Times. "Each arriving train and plane disgorges a fresh load of men to take up jobs in or on the fringes of the . . . Democratic Congress."

However, a new scramble for spoils of office isn't exactly what the working people sought on Nov. 4. They wanted legislation of benefit to themselves — for jobs, peace and civil rights.

Labor-endorsed Democrats hold big majorities in their party's caucus in both wings of Congress. But there is very little sign that the 86th Congress will pass the kind of legislation working people seek. In the House of Representatives, liberals are throwing in the towel. In the Senate they are hoisting a flag of distress. And the 86th

Congress hasn't even opened yet!

### RULES FIGHT

In the House, a crucial fight is for rule changes that are prerequisite to getting even mild social welfare legislation past Dixiecrats entrenched in the Rules Committee. (Howard Smith of Virginia, author of the Smith Act, is chairman of the committee.) As I. F. Stone says in his Weekly (Jan. 5), "If the liberals lose this opening day fight, the stage is set for their frustration all through the session."

Several weeks ago, the liberal bloc talked cockily of carrying through rules changes by pressuring House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas to agree. They believed the strength of their numbers would force Rayburn — who balances between them and the Dixiecrats — to lean their way. On Jan. 2, Rayburn returned to Washington. He met with Chet Holifield, a leader of the liberal bloc, and told him that he opposed any weakening of the Rules Committee's

powers. He assured Holifield that he would use his influence to prevent important legislation from getting bottled up.

According to James Reston's account in today's N.Y. Times the Rayburn-Holifield talk concluded as follows: "What'll I tell the others who want the rules changed?" Representative Holifield asked. "Tell 'em everything I've told you," replied the Speaker. "Will you see them and tell them yourself?"

"I'll see them if you insist," Mr. Rayburn told him, "but I'll just repeat what I've told you, and if we have a meeting, the reporters will be all over us, and that won't be any good. My first job is to avoid a big fuss."

Because of Rayburn's opposition, it is expected that the movement for rule changes will now collapse.

The prospects are also that Dale Alford will be seated in the House of Representatives with the backing of the Democratic caucus. Alford, a rabid

white supremacist from Little Rock, defeated Brooks Hays, a "moderate," by a write-in vote on Nov. 4. Hays was the "regular" Democratic candidate. A House committee is investigating Alford's election. It was thought suspicious and possibly indicative of fraud that in one district Alford was credited with a vote reported to be greater than the total number of people who had balloted there. Other irregularities have been alleged.

As a test of strength against the Dixiecrats, Northern and Western Democrats had talked of challenging Alford's right to be seated. However, Rayburn is eliminating this "fuss" too in his drive for party unity, and most liberals are now reported to be going along.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson (Texas) is also mounting a drive to keep liberals and Dixiecrats united. As a result, Sen. Douglas (Ill.), main advocate of changing Rule 22, the Senate rule that makes it impossible to stop filibusters,

admitted on Jan. 4 that the issue was "somewhat in doubt."

Under Rule 22, senators may

speaking for unlimited time, with a two-thirds vote required to shut off debate. For years Southern Democrats have used the threat of filibuster to prevent passage of civil rights legislation of any consequence.

WHOSE RIGHTS? In defending Rule 22, racist senators have raised a hue and cry about democracy in the Senate. But as I. F. Stone says, "The real issue is not minority rights in the Senate but minor-

ity rights in the South." The Negro people and their allies have made "cloture" — the possibility of cutting off debate so as to force a vote — a main civil rights objective. In session after session, liberal senators have vowed to change Rule 22, gone through the motions of trying to change it, then allowed themselves to be "out-manuevered."

This year, the possibilities would seem particularly good to end the filibuster. Northern and Western Democrats outnumber Dixiecrats almost two to one in the Senate. There is an additional group of liberal — or "modern" — Republicans, who also promised to vote for rule changes. Yet the actual outlook is that, at best, an almost meaningless change will be passed.

On the same Jan. 4 "Meet the Press" TV broadcast in which Douglas declared that the cloture issue was "in doubt," assistant majority leader Mansfield (Continued on Page 2)



# MESA Answers "Toledo Blade" On Labor's Need for Own Party

The January issue of the MESA Educator, monthly publication of the Mechanics Educational Society of America, carried a telling reply to an editorial in the Toledo Blade advising American workers to steer away from any attempt to form a labor party. The text of the MESA Educator article is as follows:

The Toledo Blade devoted the main editorial in its December 12 issue to AFL-CIO President Meany's recent statement at the New York State AFL-CIO merger convention that labor might have to form its own party.

We are not concerned for the moment with the Blade's speculation as to differences between President Meany and Vice President Reuther. But we do want to take issue with the editorial's reasons why "a labor party would probably prove unworkable."

1. The American working man, says the Blade, "has shown repeatedly that on many issues and candidates he will vote his own mind, that his political opinions do not necessarily jibe with those of union leaders."

This is true, but not an argument against building a labor party, through which the American working man can make the decisions on issues and candidates, decisions which the union leaders would have to carry out . . . or they would not remain in positions of political leadership very long.

2. "Even if labor formed its own party," the Blade editorializes, "it would have to name a slate of candidates capable of winning wide support outside union ranks . . . it would have to seek the same allies it now finds by working within the traditional two-party system — with less likelihood of being successful because it had set up a separate shop."

### "SEPARATE SHOP" A GOOD THING

A labor party will win wide support outside union ranks not on the basis of the candidates so much as on the basis of its program, the issues on which the candidates campaign. By setting up a "separate shop" it will give its allies a genuine alternative to the present "Tweedle-dum, Tweedle-dee" coalition which runs the country in the interest of Big Business.

3. "Party management would impose tremendous difficulties; there would be internal rivalry between union chiefs in the choice of candidates. The time, cost and pressure of trying to run both a union organization and a political party would impose their strain."

This argument really grasps at straws. There is a simple, obvious answer to it: The British Labor Party has managed to overcome all these secondary problems. Why should anyone low-rate the American workers so much as to think they are less capable than the British?

This argument also implies a concept of the American Labor Party as a monolithic organization run from the top, like the Democratic and Republican parties, in which the ranks never discuss and vote on policies and program. That's not the kind of labor party we're going to build.

### MUST BE MORE DEMOCRATIC

The American Labor Party will have to be a more democratic structure than the existing two parties, and provide better representation for working people and their allies, or it could not even get off the ground.

One thing is sure — it could not be any less democratic than the two parties whose candidates jump every time a corporation executive issues a command.

Finally, we agree with the Blade that the returns in the last election, notably labor's victories against right-to-work laws, caused increasing interest in "The Labor Party Idea." But while the Blade argues that the victories were won "only with the support of many non-union voters who, while agreeing with labor on that issue, were not handing the unions a political mandate," we take the opposite view.

We say that the election showed that when labor takes the lead politically, stands on its own millions of feet instead of depending on the "traditional two-party system," and goes to the electorate with clear-cut issues, it can win the support of millions of non-union voters as well as its own members.

# Castro's Guerrilla Headquarters



Fidel Castro (bearded) standing, center, at his mountain headquarters in Oriente province from which he organized the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship. His brother, Capt. Raul Castro, commander of one of the rebel columns, is kneeling in the foreground.

# ... Carolina Case

(Continued from Page 1)

of Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Simpson, who have been compelled to support five and four dependent children respectively on domestics' wages of \$15 a week, and he reminded Blaine that both mothers had been denied welfare aid by Union County officials.

"If most Negro children in North Carolina grow up in an atmosphere of deprivation," he said, "it is not the fault of the parents but of the system of discrimination which keeps Negroes from fair employment opportunities and forces widowed mothers out of the home to work long hours for \$15 a week. It is a notorious fact that the welfare system which should aid in such cases as those of Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Thompson, does not do so."

"Welfare in Union County," Williams continued, "is permeated with bias. Negroes entitled to such welfare assistance ordinarily get it only in those cases where they have an influential white person to intercede for them and very recently in those few cases where the NAACP has been able to bring enough pressure."

Explanations that the boys were "committed for their own welfare," Williams concluded, "or because they are delinquents with long criminal records (at the ages of eight and nine) with improper home environments, reflect no credit on the State of North Carolina. I beg to differ with such explanations. These boys were sent to reform school because of their color."

# ... Soviet Planet

(Continued from Page 1)

Republic and Fairchild jointly announced that from now on they will join forces on missile and space projects "whenever advisable." The ambiguously worded statement did not allude to what will certainly be the criterion for "advisability" — whether such cooperation will mean more or less profits.

In the main, of course, all the private companies involved in the U.S. missile effort will continue on their merry individual way, duplicating each other's efforts, trying to steal skilled engineers from each other, sharing mistakes, and kowtowing to Army and Navy brass hats far more concerned with getting a missile off the ground in one piece.

"Mechta" gives eloquent proof of the superiority of nationalized property forms over the anarchistic capitalist system of private production for profit. But it also sounds another stern warning of the imperative need to abolish capitalism and establish socialism across the globe. Future historians may possibly record that "Mechta" was the first step toward inter-planetary exploration. But it may also mark a step toward the end of history itself.

Mankind stands at the threshold of the space age, but it stands in the chains of medieval national boundaries and of an outmoded economic system that can drag us into an atomic holocaust.

At the same time, "Mechta" tells us something about contemporary Soviet society to which every socialist must give heed. The Khrushchev who took credit for the rocket is also the Khrushchev who stands at the head of a totalitarian bureaucracy which helps thwart the development of socialism in Europe and wherever else it can.

### SEEK PRESTIGE

This bureaucracy seeks to utilize Soviet achievements such as "Mechta" to refurbish its prestige both at home and abroad. It is badly in need of fresh gilt.

In the USSR, since the end of World War II, the working people have manifested increasing discontent over the bureaucracy and its enormous special privileges. With the death of Stalin, the people hoped for a "thaw."

Stalin's heirs recognized this and made a number of concessions including putting an end to the cult of Stalin. But they had no intention of giving up their rule.

more repressive measures of rule. To divert attention from this harsh reality, Khrushchev requires spectacular shows. The rocket displays fill this need to perfection.

Abroad, the Kremlin hopes to secure its position by trying to secure a deal with U.S. imperialism based on agreement to maintain the capitalist status quo. The working class defeats suffered as a result of this policy of class collaboration also demand diversionary measures.

In answer to the need of the European workers for a socialist policy to guide them to power, Khrushchev offers them a dramatic "socialist success" — a rocket that took off from the Soviet Union. Meanwhile in De Gaulle's France, for example, the Communist Party leadership, out of ideological subservience to the Kremlin, declares that a popular front with "progressive" capitalists — not the socialist revolution — is on the order of the day!

And in the United States the same policy is expressed when the Communist Party leadership seeks to block socialist electoral activity and independent political action in order to help mobilize support for the Democratic machine.

While Khrushchev and the other top bureaucrats seek to exploit Soviet scientific achievements, the development of Soviet science and technology, along with the growing weight, skill and understanding of the Soviet working class undermines the bureaucracy's position in Soviet society. A working class capable of so mighty an achievement as "Mechta" will not endure indefinitely the yoke of a parasitical bureaucracy that stands in the way of any substantial measure of economic equality and political freedom.

Thus the message from the new "planet" is not that the Kremlin bureaucracy has justified its rule. It is, instead, that the space age has no room for either capitalism or Stalinist bureaucratism.

# What the FBI Shows the Public On Guided Tours in Washington

By Henry Gitano (Fifth of a series)

The FBI is a political police. But it does not admit this. America's long democratic tradition makes it difficult for the ruling sixty wealthiest families to put correct labels on such repressive institutions as the FBI. And so the FBI carefully maintains a public image in the legend of Dick Tracy. It is the nemesis of the criminal.

This is well illustrated by the guided tours it offers the public. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., I joined one.

At 8:30 in the morning I went to Azar's Hi-Boy Restaurant, the political gumshoe hangout on 9th and Pennsylvania Avenue across from the FBI entrance. I ordered a cup of coffee and took a good hard look at the FBI agents around.

Dick Tracy could well be proud of them. Like mass-produced Rossum's Universal Robots in the play RUR, they were mold-cast: a modified GI haircut, a narrow tie with a Windsor knot, ostentatious cufflinks, collegiate clothes and a carefully nurtured clean-cut-all-American-perpetual-boy 100 k, talking football and Bureau "projects."

I crossed the street and entered the FBI portals for the guided tour. The first step was a counter which read 150,965-472. This was the total fingerprint cards on file.

### ARE PICKETS CRIMINALS?

The guide explained this represented about 74,000,000 people (there being duplicate prints), including 12,000,000 criminals. I asked how they computed 12,000,000. "Suppose somebody is picketing, would he join the criminal army?"

The guide said that it would depend on whether he was arrested and charged. I said that he might not be convicted, and that offenses vary in different states.

The FBI guide agreed, but said that 12,000,000 was a huge criminal army. (There has been such powerful criticism of FBI figure-juggling that the FBI's own Uniform Crime Reports, at the tail end of charts, graphs and analyses, notes [April 23, 1958]: "In publishing this data . . . the FBI does not vouch for their accuracy.")

Next on the ground floor we were shown a white plaster cast made from John Dillinger's death mask. Along with the cast were souvenirs of the night when he was cornered and shot in Chicago. These include his cigar.

The guide rattled off an impressive list of crimes committed by the gangster, regarding whom Attorney General Cummings said: "Shoot to kill — and then count ten."

(To get Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson, the FBI paid heavily; seven cops, one civilian killed. Twice Dillinger humiliated the FBI at gunplay. He was caught when the "woman in red" with whom he went to a movie, turned informer. After the show, 15 agents closed in on the lone victim.)

(Howard McClellan in Harpers [Jan. 1936] shows how after a man is killed, unsolved crimes are marked off the list and credited to the dead man. Upon Dillinger's death, bank robberies in several states, including some committed simultaneously, were crossed off the books as solved; a good case was built up at leisure.)

The guide recounted the FBI's heroic gang-busting work. He dwelt on the Lindbergh kidnapping. "We passed an exhibit titled, 'Nazi saboteurs captured.' Our FBI mouthpiece stopped before a visual dramatization of the Weinberger kidnapping case; 'Total records examined 1,974-544.'"

Most of the tour was spent in the FBI laboratories. There were rooms for the examination of firearms. A spectrography section analyzes compounds through study of colors. A serology unit examines blood stains. Toxicology studies evidence of poisoning; petrography, mineral clues.

The labs were impressive, but outside the group of tourists there was nothing going on. The guide said that 200 people work in the labs.

I noted that this left 13,800 FBI employees unaccounted for. Were the bulk of them out gathering evidence on the political beliefs of American citizens?

Next I took the tour of the Identification Division. This is a six-story building plus a basement and an underground garage, covering an entire square block near the Capitol. It is surrounded by a cyclone fence.

This depository contains the FBI's hoard of eight-inch-square fingerprint cards. Newly arrived cards are marked with a red label to identify criminals; yellow for others. A counter proclaimed that in the criminal file were the fingerprints of 12,694,406 people.

(Hoover prefers to call these people "scum from the boiling pot of the underworld," "craven beasts, public rats, vermin, vultures," a "horde larger than any of the barbarian hosts that overrun Europe and Asia in ancient times.")

### THREE DRUNKS

The guide picked out three cards at random. He turned them over and read the offense listed on the back. Each of the three cards was marked "drunk." Hundreds of clerks were at work among the millions of cards. They were all white. The only Negroes I saw on the tour were two cleaning women.

(The American Civil Liberties Union in 1938 denounced the FBI's swollen fingerprint file as "an early — and effective — move in the direction of general regimentation of the people." Prints of aliens, of members of the armed forces, of industrial workers increased the collection ten times during World War II — from 10,000,000 to 100,000,000. The N.Y. Times [Jan. 12, 1958] reported that currently "the FBI receives on Tuesdays and Wednesdays large supplies of fingerprints of

'Saturday night drunks,' submitted by conscientious sheriffs.")

I thumbed through the free copy of the pamphlet given us at the beginning of the tour, The Story of the FBI. Some 573,000 people had received free copies before I got mine. I read at random, ". . . mortally wounded in a gun battle with a notorious criminal . . . the Agent regained consciousness on the operating table. . . Told that the criminal had been killed on the spot, the Agent murmured with his dying breath, 'May God have mercy on his soul.'"

I decided to ask our guide about the FBI record in the South where crime against Negroes is rampant. "How come the FBI can't catch kidnapers, arsonists and bombers in the South?"

The guide seemed prepared for questions like that. "Maybe they're not federal cases."

I argued with him. A man's constitutional freedoms, which are federal, are seriously infringed, aren't they, when he is murdered for voting or defending his human dignity?

This flustered the FBI spokesman. Maybe, he answered, the FBI is working on it but is not giving away its hand.

(The truth is, of course, in view of the years of terror in Dixie, that the FBI is either completely incompetent. Or else it doesn't give a damn. Or else its real job, as more and more people are beginning to understand, is to serve American big business as a political police.)

# ... Liberals Fold

(Continued from Page 1)

field (Mont.) said he thought the Senate would "at least advance as far" as to adopt Johnson's proposal. This is a plan to allow debate to be cut off by a vote of two-thirds of all senators present. Debate would end three weeks after the vote.

When Johnson put forward his "compromise" several weeks ago, Douglas and a few other senators opposed it. They argued that since a vote to shut off debate on a civil rights measure would be sure to bring almost every senator onto the floor, it would require nearly as many votes to end a filibuster under Johnson's plan as at present. For all intents and purposes, Rule 22 would remain in effect.

Thus the prospects are, despite the sweeping Northern and Western Democratic triumph last November, that the power of the Dixiecrats will not be smashed either in the House or the Senate. Rayburn and Johnson are there to prevent it. And the liberals won't buck the Texas "twins."

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## After Cleveland

The Cleveland conference of socialists marked an important turning point in the difficult process of rebuilding the socialist movement in America. What comes next?

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For a Trotskyist contribution to this important discussion read "After the Cleveland Conference," an expression of editorial opinion in the winter issue of International Socialist Review. Send 35 cents for a copy.

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Monday, January 12, 1959

Let's Abolish It!

As Congress convenes, a wide range of opponents of the witch-hunt, including civil liberties groups, liberals and radicals are pressing for abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Socialists can also make a special contribution by striving to broaden the scope of the battle for democracy, of which the abolition campaign is a part.

Since the crisis of the 1930's, witch-hunting congressional committees have become an outstanding feature of the rule of capitalism in this country.

Most a quarter of a century of experience demonstrates that these bodies are not simple aberrations "serving no useful purpose" as some liberals would believe.

Top Dog Again

On Dec. 28, 1949, the U.S.-led Western powers established an International Authority for the Ruhr in Germany.

Commenting on the Militant of Jan. 10, 1949, said: "... the real aims are different from the public pronouncements ... the Ruhr industries will inevitably be geared into the war machine now under construction."

When those lines were written, Alfred Krupp, the powerful German industrialist who had helped finance Hitler to power, had just been sentenced to a 12-year prison term as a war criminal.

"Political Scab"?

One of our readers who also follows the Worker has asked if Arnold Johnson was accurate in his article on the Cleveland Conference of American Socialists when he wrote the following in the Dec. 21 Worker: "The Trotskyite condemnation of every worker who voted in the Democratic party as a 'political scab' did not sit well with trade unionists who had won victories in the past election."

The answer is, no. Johnson's mind appears to be still riveted to the frame-up methods of the Moscow Trial days.

It is an obvious fact that millions of workers, including a good many union militants, voted for the Democratic party. They did so for a variety of reasons.

Socialists have the obligation to do everything they can to convince workers that they are acting against their own interests when they vote for either capitalist party.

lar discontent, sometimes in far from mild ways. Among the repressive instruments are congressional committees of the Un-American type.

In the period of the decay of capitalism, such as we are living in, the overall tendency is for the democratic side of this form of rule to diminish and for the repressive side to grow more dominant.

The elimination of the democratic side is a risky and expensive step, but one that big business will not shirk from if its rule is seriously threatened.

The present erosion of democratic rights underscores the need to defend what democracy we still have; even more important, it underscores the need to fight for democracy with full economic and social content.

Properly understanding the interconnection between these various stages of the development of democracy gives better perspective in the struggle against those, such as the House Un-American Committee, who seek to destroy our heritage of democratic rights.

laborers as his plants poured out arms for the Nazi war machine. Most newspapers pictured Washington as really going after the men responsible for Hitler.

Less than three years later the U.S. occupation authorities ordered Krupp released and returned his industries to him.

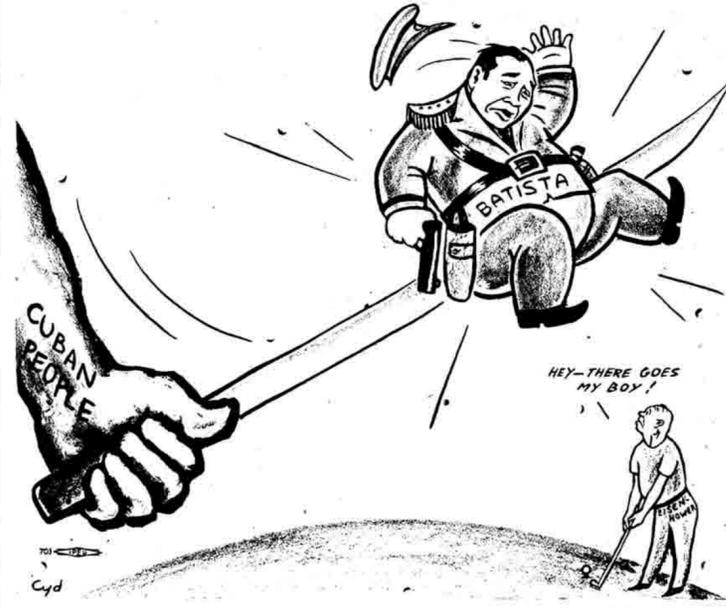
Now, two months before that deadline, Krupp announced to the world Jan. 6 that he has just received authorization from the Allied powers to buy Bochumer Verein, a large producer of specialized steel products.

"Of all the dogs, top dog was he," runs a line in the Three Penny Opera of the German artist, Berthold Brecht.

at the Cleveland conference. Spokesmen for and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, along with many independent socialists, urged the extension of united socialist political action as a means of helping to convince the workers of the need to break with the capitalist parties.

But Trotskyists and others at the Cleveland conference did sharply condemn the pro-Democratic party line of the CP and SP-SDF tops as a betrayal of the principles of socialism to which they profess adherence.

We doubt that Arnold Johnson believed what he was saying when he made his accusation. We think also that this doubt is shared by all those who attended the Cleveland conference.



Cite New Evidence of Court Shift on Schools

"Some Northern Senators who are most deeply involved in campaigning for federal laws to enforce civil rights are saying that the Supreme Court now will settle for 'token integration' in schools of the South," states the Jan. 9 U.S. News and World Report.

This item indicates that leading Northern politicians are taking the same view of a Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision—upholding the Alabama Pupil Placement Law—as do their Southern colleagues.

Throughout the post-war period the Negro people in the South asserted their demands for equality ever more forcefully. This served to expose American racism throughout the world.

Alabama's school-placement-law allows school authorities to assign pupils to definite schools on the basis of 17 criteria, none of which mention race.

OUTLOOK FOR LEGISLATION

The U.S. News item about how Northern liberal senators view the school-placement decision is ominous because it helps confirm the view that the Supreme Court, in effect, has made a deal with the Dixiecrats.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Florida has spelled out more fully the meaning of the Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision. He ruled, in effect, that Florida's school assignment law (similar to Alabama's placement law) was a proper means for carrying out desegregation.

In its 1955 implementing decision, the Supreme Court had ruled enforcement of its 1954 ruling in the hands of local school boards and federal district judges.

If his decision is upheld, Southern officials are confident that judges will intervene only if they find "an enduring and deliberate pattern of exclusion."

As of this writing, we have not yet seen the Negro press published after Krock's Dec. 30 column. Comment on the Nov. 24 Supreme Court decision was scanty.

crossed our desk, "sounded the alarm."

FAITH IN COURTS

The NAACP press releases carried no mention of the decision. However, on Dec. 12, Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's chief counsel, in a speech in Kansas City again voiced the illusions prevalent in the Association's top leadership.

In outlawing school Jim Crow in 1954—90 years after the Civil War!—the court did not act out of devotion to principles.

What this indicates, of course, is that the Negro people and their principal ally, the labor movement, can reverse the school placement decision not by "faith in the courts," but by organizing for renewed militant struggle to abolish Jim Crow.

SWINDLERS ACTIVE

Business men embezzled more money during the 1957-58 recession than at any time since the 1930's says a top insurance company spokesman.

The American Way of Life

We've Got to Pay Attention to Education

"If ever this nation had the opportunity to improve, expand and intensify its educational efforts, it was during 1958," declared Terry Ferrer, education editor of the New York Herald Tribune (Jan. 4).

And what happened? The Pentagon got some bigger rockets and satellites up into the air and the furor about education died down.

But there was one section of the public that did not lose interest in improving American education. In fact they dug deep into their pockets to demonstrate that our schools should be the concern of every civic-minded citizen.

"An increasing number of companies are discovering that it pays to furnish schools with teaching aids.

These "assistance" materials include booklets, charts, films and even "handsome, expensive handbooks and texts."

Another return on the investment in education is that "The aids also help build a favorable corporate image for the sponsoring companies in the community."

"This is especially important in cities where they have their plants." And where, it should be added, they have their workers and are most directly affected by union activities.

Hammer estimates that one out of five major corporations supplies "teaching aids." A typical example is the Ralston Purina Co., manufacturer of animal and poultry feeds and breakfast cereals.

Top prize last year was a trip around the world. Thirty-one other "winning teachers went on safaris in Africa, trips up the Nile and other equally glamorous voyages."

Teaching aids, as well as prizes and awards, are prepared by publicity departments, by public relations counsels, or advertising agencies. The field has become so lucrative that specialists are now appearing.

The head of this agency, Ira Glick, "predicts that more and more companies will provide schools with teaching aids because of the increased size and immediate purchasing power of the youth market and its buying potential."

So the Soviet Union can put a dog in orbit in outer space because of the kind of educational system they've got; has it paid off in increased sales of dog biscuits among student youth? But you should see Ralston's sales charts! After all, it takes interest like ours in cultural values to get the results that really count.

— Paul Abbott

Advertisement for 'The Wall Between' by Anne Braden, published by Pioneer Publishers. Includes a 'Special Offer' and contact information.

Laura Gray Cartoon Calendar



A quarterly calendar, with four cartoons by Laura Gray, two of which are pictured here. Each cartoon is 7" x 8 1/2" and is printed on a vellum suitable for framing. Get them as gifts for your friends. Be sure to get a Laura Gray calendar for yourself before they run out.

Michigan Senator May Offer 30-Hour Bill

Will Act for Jobless If Reuther Gives OK

DETROIT, Jan. 5 — U.S. Senator Patrick McNamara (D. Mich.) says he will introduce a 30-hour bill in Congress — IF the United Auto Workers leadership will endorse the bill.

McNamara announced his decision, and the condition attached to it, at a Detroit luncheon Saturday, one day after meeting in his local office with an 11-member delegation of the UAW Production and Skilled Workers Unemployed Committee. The committee is made up of representatives from several local UAW unemployed groups.

According to reports made at some union meetings yesterday, this is what happened:

Committee members told McNamara they had come to him for help because he is a union member himself, and was elected, like other liberal Democrats, with the support of the labor movement.

What they want, they said, is a bill in Congress to amend the federal Fair Labor Standards Act to reduce the work week from 40 to 30 hours. If he would introduce such a bill, they would do everything they could to publicize it and win the support of the American people for its enactment by Congress.

McNamara did not try to deny that a 30-hour week is needed by the unemployed, who still number 200,000 in the Detroit area, despite overtime production in the auto plants.

But, he said, "you people" (meaning the union movement) "ought to get together and make up your minds what you want." He said he would not introduce such a bill because the UAW leadership had not asked him to. He implied that the UAW leaders, who had dropped a shorter work week demand from 1958 contract negotiations, would not favor such a bill.

The committee members were not reluctant about expressing their resentment and disappointment at his refusal. One told McNamara indignantly that if his attitude was an example, then it was obvious that labor could not expect much from the new Democratic Congress.

Another reminded McNamara of AFL-CIO President George Meany's recent statement that labor would form its own party if it had to. He added that if workers can't get Democrats they helped elect to even introduce a bill they need, maybe the time has already come

for them to start working to elect their own representatives to Congress.

A third told McNamara that he was supposed to represent his constituents in Congress, and that jobless workers are his constituents as much as Walter Reuther.

PUTS REUTHER ON SPOT Taken aback by their response, McNamara finally assured them that he personally favors a 30-hour week, and would be only too glad to introduce the bill if they would get Reuther to send him a letter endorsing it.

The delegates agreed they would report his conditional promise back to their committee and perhaps try to arrange a meeting with Reuther to discuss it. The next day McNamara himself publicized the conference and his position.

From all appearances McNamara, by trying to take himself off the spot, has put Reuther on it.

Will Reuther try to ignore what McNamara said? Or will he dare to speak out and say he doesn't favor a 30-hour bill?

In either case he would incur the anger of unemployed auto workers and the many employed workers who feel he bungled the 1958 negotiations by getting the UAW to withdraw its demand for a shorter work week.

CALL DEMONSTRATION Meanwhile the UAW Production and Skilled Workers Unemployed Committee was proceeding on another front, mobilizing the unemployed for a demonstration at the Detroit Common Council on Monday, Jan. 12. A leaflet, calling for a mass turnout, says:

"Common Council must take action to pressure state and federal governments to:

"Increase aid to unemployed — extend compensation for entire period of unemployment; increase welfare aid.

"Ban overtime — share the work.

"Declare moratorium on debts — no evictions, no foreclosures.

"Endorse 30-hour week fight to meet the challenge of automation.

"Public works — build fireproof schools, build homes and hospitals."

It should be interesting to see how the members of the Detroit Common Council, most of whom were elected with labor support like McNamara, will respond to the request that they support these proposals.

Picket Radio Station Owned by Bing Crosby

By Della Rossa LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 — Valuable free television time was rejected without hesitation here tonight by the Socialist Workers Party when it was learned that the station offering the invitation was being picketed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 45. The IBEW charged the station, KCOP-TV, with unfair labor practices.

The invitation was for an appearance on the half-hour Dan Lundberg show in a debate with capitalist representatives on the question of what to expect economically in 1959.

KCOP is owned by Bing Crosby and it is reported that his sons have also refused to cross the picket line.

An interview with Andrew J. Draghi, Local 45 business agent, revealed that the strike was the result of a long period of tension and friction between workers and management at the station. Draghi says this tension has been built up by Al Browdy, management's Chief Engineer at the station. Browdy was once a union steward at the station who later deserted the union movement for the side of the employers.

Draghi illustrated the psychological effect of the constant "snooping, intimidations and threats of firing" with the incident of the worker who received a letter from KCOP Christmas morning telling him he was fired. The man had a nervous breakdown, hit a telephone pole while driving, and is now in the psychiatric ward at the Los Angeles General Hospital.

FOREIGN TRADE According to a Federal Reserve System report, the drop in sales of U.S. products overseas from mid-1957 to early 1958 "exceeded \$4 billion at an annual rate and was one of the major factors in the eight-month decline in U.S. economic activity."

Calendar Of Events

"Youth and Socialism" — a debate between Tim Wohlforth and Michael Harrington. Friday, Jan. 16; 8:30 p.m. Auspices Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place (near Union Square). Contribution 50 cents.

De Gaulle Cuts Buying Power



People stand in front of a closed stock exchange office in Paris, discussing De Gaulle's decree pegging the franc at 493.7 to the dollar instead of the previous 420. The effect of the devaluation move was to lower the ability of the French workers to buy foreign goods.

Union Bias Scored by NAACP

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today charged that unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO are continuing racial discrimination practices in violation of the declared policy of that body. The charge is made in a document released today by NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins. Prepared by the Association's labor secretary, Herbert Hill, the document was addressed to Boris Shishkin, director of the AFL-CIO civil rights department.

Wilkins wrote to George Meany, AFL-CIO president, Dec. 19, calling attention to the memorandum and declaring, "discrimination can be eliminated only through a systematic program on the part of the leadership of the AFL-CIO to enforce its basic policy of non-discrimination throughout the organized labor movement." As of Dec. 31, no reply had been received from Meany.

The document charges that "In addition to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen which exclude Negroes by constitutional provision, many international unions affiliated to the AFL-CIO continue to exclude Negroes by tacit consent and other AFL-CIO unions limit Negro membership in most instances to segregated or 'auxiliary' locals."

The memorandum cites affidavits of Negro workers charging discrimination by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; United Papermakers and Paperworkers Union; Hodcarriers

Building and Common Laborers Union of America; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association; and Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union.

In a report prepared for delivery to today's meeting of the NAACP board, Hill further amplified these charges, according to the N.Y. Times, particularly in regard to the South. "The leaders of some international unions operating in the South," Hill said, "in seeking to avoid conflict over racial issues, are permitting racist elements to gain control of local union operations."

... in many instances," he continued, "union shop stewards and business agents openly solicit funds and support for the White Citizens Council, and in Front Royal, Va., a local affiliate to the Textile Workers Union of America has provided space in the union's building for a class to be conducted by the private school corporation."

In his letter to Meany, Wilkins pointed to the NAACP's record of supporting the work of the AFL-CIO's civil rights department and added that representatives of the NAACP national office were active in the campaign against "right-to-work" bills in Ohio, California and elsewhere.

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Appeal from India

Editor: I am giving you news that our comrade Kranti Chandra Jain is being victimized by the management of the Amalgamated Electric Company, Ltd., Ajmer (India). Comrade Kranti Chandra is the well-known member of the Ajmer State Electric Employees Union. He was asked by the management of the company to transfer to Chalisgaom (Bombay State), an illegal request. The management's intention was to victimize comrade Chandra and to discourage the union members from taking part in trade union activities in accordance with our fundamental right as granted by the constitution of the country.

So I appeal to you to pass resolutions on this case condemning the victimization of this trade unionist. The resolution should be addressed to:

(1) N. C. Javeri, Managing Director, A. E. Co. Ltd., 17 B Horniman Circle, Fort Bombay, Bombay.

(2) The Manager, A. E. Co. Ltd., Ajmer Branch, Ajmer, India.

(3) Collector, Ajmer.

(4) Ajmer State Electric Employees Union, Mundri Moholla, Ajmer.

Also I request you to publish this in your organ the Militant.

Yours Comradely, Kishori Lal Sharma, Mundri Moholla, Ajmer.

The French Events

Editor: The setback to the French labor movement with De Gaulle's "cold" coming to power, and its harmful effect on the world labor movement demands study by working-class forces everywhere. It is only by discovering the causes of this defeat to the labor movement that class-conscious workers can turn this tragedy to some account.

How was it possible that in France, where two mass parties of the working-class, the Socialist and Communist parties, who represented a majority, that a Bonapartist regime serving the interests of French and world imperialism and opening the road to fascism could take power without a serious struggle against it by the French masses?

French SP leader Guy Mollet, who helped ease De Gaulle's path, is openly serving in the cabinet of De Gaulle.

French CP leaders remained in the parliamentary trap of "New Peaceful Paths to Socialism." The alternatives confronting France, revolution or counter-revolution, was according to French CP leaders, not that but democracy or fascism. The democracy they referred to, capitalist democracy, was clearly not the answer. The French events demonstrate once again that when the capitalist class is in a blind alley it overthrows bourgeois parliamentary forms. Hence, the struggle for democracy is bound up with the struggle against capitalism for a democratic socialist society. The fight for a workers

government with socialist goals was a solution not advanced by the CP leadership.

One might hear the argument that such a course would mean civil war and that the French CP leadership was afraid to take that responsibility because the working class might lose the fight.

I believe it is better to struggle and lose than to suffer the hangman's noose without resistance.

The Paris Commune failed, but it inspired generations of Marxists and workers in their struggles including the Bolshevik October Revolution.

Isadore Warwak Chicago

On Howard Fast

Editor: I read with great interest the articles commenting on Howard Fast's book The Naked God. The conclusion of the article by Joseph Hansen: Meyer's real basic thesis is that you can't be a socialist unless you are a loyal follower of the cult of Stalin, or Khrushchev, or whoever happens to head the Soviet bureaucracy. And if you aren't a socialist according to that definition then you have no choice but to be anti-Soviet.

This seems to be true all over the world, for the followers of Soso [Stalin] or Nikita here in this part of the globe profess the same opinion. Yours truly, A. M. Reeves, Antwerp, Belgium

The first article referred to was a review of Fast's exposures of Stalinist practices which appeared in our Jan. 27, 1958, issue. The second article was an

analysis in our Sept. 8, 1958, issue of Hershel D. Meyer's condemnation of both Fast and his revelations. — Editor.

More Democracy in China

"I firmly believe there is more democracy in Communist China than in the United States."

These words were not said by an official of the People's Republic of China. They were among the remarks made to newsmen by Richard G. Corden, an American soldier captured by Chinese troops in the Korean war, when he reached Hongkong Dec. 19 on his way home from China to the United States.

Seeking grist for the capitalist propaganda mills, the reporters asked Corden whether he was disillusioned with Communism.

"I'm very impressed by Communism," Corden was quoted as replying.

Corden was the leader of a group of 21 American GI's who at the end of the Korean war preferred to stay in China rather than return to the United States.

Corden had a special reason for making this choice. He was interested in ancient Chinese literature. But he had other reasons, "lots of reasons — all of them started in prisoner-of-war camps. I had three more years to do in the army and I was pretty sick of the Korean war."

Similarly on his decision to return to the United States, Corden had a special reason—he was homesick.

On top of that he was unable to finish his studies in ancient Chinese literature. Corden did not go into this, but it seems that he, like most students in China, was not permitted to concentrate on school work. He volunteered with the others to supplement his studies with factory or field work.

He found himself carrying baskets of earth on a dike project near Wuhan, but "it was tough work and I could not keep it up."

Letters from China indicate that even doctors and medical specialists, who are relatively few and therefore heavily burdened with patients, are expected to volunteer "after hours" for heavy work in construction, planting or harvesting.

Corden's home is in East Providence, Rhode Island. Now 31 years old, the former GI said that he had nothing to be ashamed of. He said that he had learned "a lot" during his five-year stay in China.

As for "talk that China is a backward, stupid country, [that's] just a laugh."

Notes in the News

WISCONSIN SOCIALIST VOTE — The Socialist Workers Party vote in Wisconsin last November was 1,485 for Wayne Leverenz for governor and 1,226 for James E. Boulton for U.S. senator. Georgia Cozzini, Socialist Labor candidate for senator polled 537. SWP campaigners are pleased with the vote because it was higher than that of 1952. At the same time they point to a number of instances that indicate their full vote had not been counted.

For instance, in Sheboygan County, seat of the bitter Kohler strike, the count was six for Boulton and zero for Leverenz. In 1952, the SWP was credited with 100 votes. In Dane County, Boulton polled 140, while Leverenz was credited with only six.

DIGEST OF CLEVELAND CONFERENCE — Richard B. Tussey, Eric J. Reinthaler and Jerry Gordon, the resident Steering Committee named by the National Conference of American Socialists, which was held in Cleveland Nov. 28-30, have announced that a summary and digest of the proceedings is in preparation. Advance orders for the 50-page report are requested. The estimated cost is \$1.50. Contributions are also asked to help defray the deficit left by the conference. Those who send \$3 or more will receive a copy of the digest free of additional cost. The address is Committee of Correspondence, P.O. Box 5407, Cleveland 1, Ohio.

ASK CLEMENCY — A New Year's plea for clemency for Gilbert Green and Henry Winston was made to Eisenhower by a group of liberals and socialists who published their letter in a quarter-page advertisement in the Jan. 5 New York Times. Green and Winston are the last members of the Communist Party still in prison on charges of violating the Smith Act. Among the signers were A. J. Muste, Culbert L. Olson, Norman Thomas and Howard Fast.

PROTEST TWENTY-YEAR SENTENCE — Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade have sent telegrams to John Foster Dulles, Spanish Ambassador De Azeizhar and U.S. Ambassador Lodge protesting a 20-year sentence by the Franco regime of Leoncio Pena, a veteran of the U.S. Army. "This sentence is tantamount to death," the telegrams pointed out. The group scored the persecution of political opponents by the Franco regime and expressed its concern over the jailing of edu-

cators, scientists, lawyers, students, trade-union leaders and factory workers in Spain.

STRONTIUM INCREASE IN MILK — The United States Public Health Service reported Jan. 4 that levels of radioactive strontium 90 increased during September in eight out of ten sampling stations across the country. The increase was due to recent tests of nuclear weapons. Besides causing bone cancer and leukemia, the radioactive poison induces damaging genetic changes that can affect generations for centuries to come.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN — With the ouster of Batista and the assurance that Cuba's sugar crop would be harvested a sharp drop occurred in sugar futures in New York. Said the Christian Science Monitor (Jan. 2): "Dealers reported general selling, predominantly by commission houses, in the belief the end of the war will increase Cuba's exports and hike global supplies, but they doubted the decline in futures would affect the price of sugar to consumers."

WHOOPING IT UP IN FOREIGN PLACES — After a night of revelry in Pisa on New Year's, some American tourists tied a steel cable around the famous Leaning Tower and fastened it to the rear bumper of an automobile. The car roared forward; but the tower did not straighten up. Instead, the bumper came ripping off the car.

In Havana on the same night another American tourist had a different experience. Harry Pratt of New York went to sleep after a big party and was awakened by "what I thought was a terribly noisy celebration."

"I went down to find out what was going on and found the revolution."

MARCH AGAINST SEGREGATION — Some 1,000 Negroes and a few whites marched 17 blocks in pelting rain in Richmond Jan. 2 to protest the shutdown of schools in Virginia. The demonstration was labeled by its leaders a "pilgrimage of prayer for public schools."

At the steps of the state capitol a rally was held, where the demonstrators shouted their approval of a resolution calling for a change of policy. Gov. Almond had been invited to be present but he did not choose to accept and he kept his whereabouts a secret. Sponsors of the demonstration said that they were surprised at the size of the turnout. They had not expected more than 500.

... Mikoyan Visits U.S.

(Continued from Page 1) for collaboration between the Kremlin and Washington to police the world against revolutionary change. It is in that sense that Moscow seeks to "carve up" the world with U.S. imperialism. By mutual agreement, the world — already divided into two antagonistic social systems, one based on nationalized property and planning and the other on capitalist property relations — would remain divided indefinitely the same way. In the Kremlin's schema, trade, some disarmament, nuclear-test cessation, etc., would be obtained as concessions from imperialism in exchange for a status-quo deal.

Defending the type of agreement the Kremlin is seeking, two American Communist Party leaders explained that it is

based "on the idea that it is possible to achieve lasting peace in the present world with imperialism." (Benjamin Davis and George Charney in the Nov. 3, 1957 Worker.)

However, more than a utopian idea of how to achieve peace lies at the root of the Soviet proposal. It stems from the needs of a social strata in the Soviet Union, whose interests the Kremlin represents. This is the caste of privileged and privilege-seeking bureaucrats, who hold the commanding positions in Soviet society. They fear U.S. imperialism's drive against the Soviet property forms, because these property forms are what they feed on like leeches.

They also fear working class revolutions in the capitalist world, because such revolutions would spur the Soviet workers in their struggle to abolish bureaucratic tyranny on the road to constructing socialism.

The "solution" the Soviet bureaucracy seeks is a coalition between the Kremlin and Washington, which, while supposedly guaranteeing the Soviet property relations, would hold the line against world revolution.

The Soviet proposal would seem like a good one for imperialism — and Washington keeps an option on it. That is why American officials will listen carefully to Mikoyan while he is here.

American big business policy makers face a contradiction. They continue preparing for

World War III because the workings of the capitalist system push them in that direction. This requires them to maintain U.S. military bases abroad, prop up discredited dictators such as Franco and Chiang Kai-shek, and in general maintain all cold-war tensions.

On the other hand, a series of factors force them to give serious consideration to some kind of modus vivendi with the Soviet rulers. These are the ever-growing surge of the masses in Asia, Africa and Latin America to get rid of imperialist rule; popular discontent in Western Europe and Japan over U.S. alliances, missile bases and nuclear testing; and growing dissatisfaction in the U.S. with brink-of-war policies. The dissatisfaction at home determined in part the outcome of the Nov. 4 elections.

These factors have been operating for several years. Added to Soviet technological developments and the profound effects of the Chinese revolution, they have repeatedly disrupted Wall Street's timetable for war. It is the working people of all continents who have prevented the outbreak of World War III up to now. The status-quo deal proposed by the Kremlin would betray their struggle. This weakening of the anti-imperialist struggle would in turn bring Wall Street's concessions to the Soviet bureaucracy quickly to an end. The big business rulers of America would again intensify the war drive.

Strike Closes Supermarkets In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 — Grocery clerks who handle 75% of the city's food in 1,000 supermarkets have been off their jobs for the fourth day in a strike-ockout.

Trained, experienced clerks now get only \$2.30 an hour. They are asking for an 82.4-cent hourly package over a five-year period. The employers have offered a 50-cent package over the same period.

Only the huge "We Never Close" Hollywood Ranch Market was shut down by pickets at the beginning of the strike. The pickets were withdrawn the following day but the 1,000 markets remain locked tight and Joseph De Silva of the Retail Clerks maintains they are being kept out by a lockout by the Food Employers Council. Negotiations are continuing.

The FEC proclaims in expensive full-page ads that the clerks are "striking against the housewife." These ads forget that the concern of most housewives, unlike the dummy "housewife" whose name appears in the ad, is how much of the family income can be allowed for food. She knows too that wage increases won through union struggles make budgeting a lot easier; and this applies to the wives of food clerks like anyone else.

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Local Directory

- BOSTON Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200. Every Sunday night, round table discussion, 8 P.M., Room 200. BUFFALO Militant Forum, 831 Main St. CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party, 777 W. Adams, DE 2-9736. CLEVELAND Socialist Workers Party 10609 Superior Ave., Room 301, SW 1-818. Open Friday nights 7 to 9. DETROIT Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. LOS ANGELES Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, 1702 E. 4th St. AN 9-4953 or AN 3-1533. Book Shop open Mon. 7-9 P.M.; Wed. 8-10 P.M.; Sat. 12-5 P.M. MILWAUKEE 150 East Juneau Ave. MINNEAPOLIS Socialist Workers Party, 322 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor. Open soon to 6 P.M. daily except Sundays. NEWARK Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, N.J. NEW YORK CITY Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place, AL 5-7852. OAKLAND-BERKELEY P.O. Box 341, Berkeley 1, Calif. PHILADELPHIA Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, 1303 W. Girard Ave. SAN FRANCISCO The Militant, 1145 Polk St., Rm. 4. Sat. 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Phone PR 6-7296; if no answer, VA 4-2321. SEATTLE 655 Main St., MU 2-7139. Library, bookstore. Classes every Friday evening at 8 P.M. Open House following at 10:30 P.M. ST. LOUIS For information phone MO 4-7194