

## Kennedy Course Chills AFL-CIO

Displays No Sign of Concern  
Over Continued Job Decline

By Tom Kerry

It has been estimated that there will be some six million workers totally unemployed when the Kennedy administration takes office next month. In addition, several

## Hear Wilkinson And Braden at New York Rally

By William A. Price

"Like wildfire," Dr. Otto Nathan told 600 New Yorkers last week, "the fight to abolish the Un-American committee has spread throughout the country." "For the first time we are in a political fight against this committee," Dr. Nathan continued. "We have appealed to the Supreme Court in the past in the hope that that court would abolish the committee, but this hope has not materialized. That is why we must fight on a political level, and our young people especially are ready for this fight."

Dr. Nathan spoke at a Dec. 27 rally in New York City organized as a send-off for delegations scheduled to go to Washington on Jan. 2 to demand the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Busloads of students and adults are being organized jointly by the New York Council to Abolish the Un-American Committee and the Youth Committee to Abolish Un-American Committees (106 East 208 St., phone OL 5-0252).

Addressing the same group, Carl Braden, Louisville, Ky., integrationist facing a year's imprisonment if the Supreme Court upholds his contempt of Congress conviction for challenging the House committee in Atlanta, Ga., in 1958, accused the committee of fighting the integration movement and of violating First Amendment rights "without which we in the South have no right to fight for integration."

"What right has this committee to try to crack open my head like a coconut to see what's in it?" he asked. "They came to Atlanta to threaten the integration movement and it's no accident that Dixiecrats dominate this committee."

Frank Wilkinson, Los Angeles civil liberties leader now acting as field representative for the National Committee to Abolish the Un-American Committee, also spoke at the New York rally. Wilkinson faces a similar year's imprisonment for challenging the House committee's authority.

"It is only through political action that the Supreme Court is going to come to the point where it will no longer violate the First Amendment in five to four decisions," Wilkinson said. Wilkinson reported on the growing campaign for abolition and charged that FBI head J. Edgar Hoover and a motion picture "Operation Abolition" unofficially sponsored by the House committee itself had completely distorted the nature of the student demonstrations against the committee in San Francisco

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FRANK WILKINSON

million will be on short work weeks at sharply reduced income. Union leaders who supported his election are disturbed that there has been no sign from President-elect Kennedy that the new administration intends to take energetic measures to counter these immediate effects of a deepening recession.

The AFL-CIO heads have been pressing for quick antirecession action in line with the Democratic party campaign platform which "reaffirms its support of full employment as a paramount objective of national policy."

To make its pressure felt, the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 22, reports that the AFL-CIO "is preparing to summon its top command to an emergency meeting," in Washington on January 5.

The WSJ considers this a "surprise development." "Jubilant over the Kennedy victory," it adds, "the union leaders canceled their usual November meeting, saying there was no need to meet until their regular February sessions in Miami Beach. The new Administration, it was felt, would be well aware of labor's wishes."

Now the labor statesmen are not so sure. Some of Kennedy's recent cabinet appointments and his lack of response to appeals for emergency antirecession action, have planted the seeds of doubt. While some of the union strategists feel that a special session is needed to put pressure on Kennedy others have some qualms about taking an action, which, as the WSJ puts it, might be "taken to mean there is at least a germ of doubt that Mr. Kennedy intends to move against the recession as fast as unionists hoped after he takes office on January 20."

It is this conflict among the union tops that may lead to postponing the meeting until the regular session in February. "Union sources," comments the WSJ, "said AFL-CIO President George Meany has not yet issued the call to the Executive Council, and that 'a last minute decision to cancel the session was not ruled out.'"

Spokesmen for the union tops have been advocating a number of immediate steps to stimulate the economy and provide more adequate protection for the unemployed. Among them are:

(1) A temporary suspension of federal withholding tax on all wage earners.

(2) Extension of unemployment compensation to 39 weeks under uniform federal regulation.

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## Cost of Living Rockets Deeper Into Outer Space

The cost of living continued to mount as the consumers price index rose in November for the sixteenth time in the last twenty months to set another record high.

The November index was 127.4 which was one-tenth of one percent higher than in October. Several of the principal factors behind the November increase were the usual price advances in services and an unusual increase in the price of food. It was the first time that food prices had risen in November since 1951.

It is estimated that approximately 225,000 workers, mostly in meat packing, aircraft and missiles, will receive from 1 to 3 cents per hour increase under cost-of-living "escalator" clauses in their union contracts.

Will the cost of living continue to rise despite the deepening recession? Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, interviewed in the U.S. News and World Report, predicts, that by the end of next year it "might be between 1 and 2 per cent higher than it is at the present time."

## On Strike in Brussels



As demonstrations continued to widen and grow more militant throughout Belgium, strikers assembled in front of Socialist party headquarters in Brussels for a meeting Dec. 27 halt a streetcar. White-helmeted police try to clear way for blocked trolley. In Mons strikers chopped down trees to block roads, tore up cobblestones to build barricades and littered streets with broken bottles. The strike began as a protest against government plan to increase taxes and slash old-age pensions and unemployment benefits to make up for drop in income from the Congo. A spokesman for the Belgian Industries Federation, a bosses' grouping, admitted that the steel industry in the southern part of the country was at "a standstill."

## Cuba Registers Gains In New Trade Pacts

By Harry Ring

Revolutionary Cuba enters the new year with good prospects that the U.S. trade embargo will not accomplish its intended aim of crippling the island's economy.

Trade agreements with the Soviet Union, China, other Soviet bloc countries and Canada should provide Cuba with a good part of its necessary imports and, provide a sufficient market for its sugar and other exports.

Immediately after Eisenhower's latest vindictive order cutting off all U.S. purchases of Cuban sugar came the announcements that the Soviet bloc countries and China would buy four million tons of Cuban sugar in 1961 instead of the two million tons previously agreed on.

The price will be four cents a pound, three quarters of a cent over the world market price. The added revenue should compensate for the three million tons that normally would have been sold here at about 5.2 cents a pound.

Meanwhile, the Canadian government reiterated its intention of developing a tenfold expansion of its trade with Cuba in 1961.

Commenting on the projected \$150-million trade agreement, the Financial Post of Ottawa, an authoritative voice of Canadian business, observed that while U.S.-Canadian military and foreign policy coincided, "It's pushing this doctrine too far to say that Ottawa must tag along with Washington in every political-financial dispute."

The paper noted that Canada does business with China despite the U.S. embargo against that country and expressed the view that the Cuban revolution is irreversible and "we must learn to live with it."

A good token of Canadian trade intentions toward Cuba came with the report that in October 1960, the month the U.S. embargo was imposed, Canada's exports to Cuba totaled \$1.6 million, just double the amount for October 1959.

The Soviet-Cuban trade pacts reportedly will provide Cuba with help in building an iron and steel mill, an oil refinery, electric power stations and other industrial plants.

The recently announced \$168-million trade agreement between the two countries is also said to include the shipment of 3,500,000 tons of Soviet crude oil to Cuba. The USSR also announced it would aid Cuba in the exploration and development of its own iron ore and oil resources.

From Warsaw came an announcement Dec. 23 that Poland and Cuba have extended for a four-year period a trade agreement negotiated earlier last year. An exchange of \$22,000,000 worth of goods is projected for 1961.

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## Rule 22 Test On Civil Rights Draws Near

Any hopes of favorable civil rights legislation by the coming session of Congress has gone a glimmering because of President-elect Kennedy's "super-cautious" attitude. This was the gist of the remarks made Dec. 28 in Washington by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, to a one-day conference of liberal, labor and civil rights groups sponsored by the Americans for Democratic Action.

The meeting was called to rally support for the move to modify Senate Rule 22, under which the Dixiecrats have been able to filibuster civil-rights measures to an early grave. The rule would have to be changed on the opening day of the new Congress or not at all. If it remained unchanged it would doom any real civil-rights legislation for the entire two-year session.

"If," said Wilkins, "the Kennedy Administration is to achieve any legislative goals, as outlined in the [Democratic party] program, that have deadline dates attached to them, then January 1961, is the time to do it."

"Because," comments the New York Times on the Wilkins statement, "it is virtually impossible to change Senate rules except at the opening of a session, Mr. Kennedy would not have another chance to break down the rule XXII barrier until January, 1961, the date set for establishing full compliance," with the Supreme Court school-desegregation decision.

In its election campaign platform, the Democratic party committed itself to ending discrimination in all areas of public life. "To accomplish these goals," says the platform, "will require executive orders, legal actions brought by the Attorney General, legislation, and improved Congressional procedures to safeguard majority rule."

The latter clause refers specifically to the filibuster Rule 22 used so often by the Dixiecrat minority in the Senate.

## Home of Frank Wilkinson Bombed in Los Angeles

On the night of Dec. 27, while Frank Wilkinson was addressing a New York City rally calling for the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, a home-made fire bomb was thrown at the door of his Los Angeles home. The bomb blew the door down and started a flash fire which was extinguished by six fire companies as dozens of residents scurried from the apartment house. On Sept. 14 a similar device was hurled at the door of the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms of which Wilkinson is executive secretary.

After last week's bombing, Wilkinson said:

"I charge that these bombings have been incited by the tactics of the Un-American Activities Committee. Those of us who are engaged in a political campaign to abolish the committee are being harassed to the point where our families' lives are in danger and our legitimate political activities are hampered by extralegal means. Democracy is weakened when its exercise is met with this kind of violence."

## Belgium in Crisis As Strike Wave Sweeps Country

### China Wins Big Gains In Science

NEW YORK CITY — The tremendous achievements in the field of science recorded by the People's Republic of China since its formation a decade ago, provided the subject of several symposium sessions of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science gathering, which began its five-day conference here Dec. 25.

The initial symposium was informed that "in the last ten years, Communist China had jumped from twentieth place, in extent of weather observations, to rival Canada for third place." The United States and Soviet Union lead the field.

It was also reported that mainland China had made important advances in nuclear physics. "They now have four known nuclear reactors, all apparently designed for research rather than for making fuel for atomic bombs," said one authoritative source.

Many important geological discoveries have been made in China recently disclosing large deposits of coal, iron and other minerals, sufficient to lay the base for a gigantic industrial complex. "Among the deposits found during the exploration of the hinterland," said Dr. Chao of the U.S. Geological Survey, "was an unsuspected reserve of 7-billion tons of iron ore in the Shansi area of Central China."

Dr. Kung-ping Wang of the U.S. Department of the Interior reported that "China had plentiful coal deposits, including coking coal."

Dr. Chao reported that after World War II there were less than 200 active geologists in China. "Now," he added, "as a result of an intensive campaign during the last eight years, there are at least 21,000 geological workers."

Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson of the University of Toronto, who travelled through China and Taiwan a few years ago, described recent developments on the mainland as a "scientific renaissance." In contrast, he said, he "had found morale low among the scientists on Taiwan. They received little support from the Nationalist government and were still using antiquated equipment."

In comparison, he added, "the Communist regime on the mainland is pouring money into science. Participants in the effort," he said, "are fired by a passionate release of nationalistic energy, even though many are probably not sympathetic with communism."

### Workers Resist Plan to Stick Them with Bill for the Congo

DEC. 28 — The eighth day of the protest strike movement in Belgium swept more workers into the movement against the government's "austerity" program. UPI reports from Brussels today state that "More than a half million workers were still out and the strike was still spreading." Thousands of Catholic trade unionists have joined the walkout despite the fact that leaders of the Confederation of Catholic Social Christian Unions had volunteered to help the government smash the strike by calling upon its members to remain at work.

The government has been stepping up its campaign of intimidation and violence against the Socialist-led strikers. The UPI reports that "tough paratroopers in full battle kit" have been "rushed back from North Atlantic Treaty Organization duty in West Germany."

Armed with machineguns they have joined the special units of "riot" police who cruised through the streets in radio jeeps while truckloads of armed cops and gendarmes raced about harassing the strike pickets.

Today, for the first time since the strike began on Dec. 20, a combined cable dispatch reports that police used tear-gas bombs on striking workers.

"The crowd hurled some of the bombs back," said the CCD, "and they exploded among the police."

Then, "the police turned fire hoses on the demonstrators in the near-freezing weather." Such police provocations are intended to incite measures of self-defense which can be used by the government as a pretext for smashing the strike through bloody terror.

From the beginning, the government, comprising a coalition of Social Christian and Liberal capitalist parties, has sought to stigmatize the protest demonstration as a revolutionary assault against the state. The Dec. 26 New York Times reports "Premier Eyskens' radio and television address in which he termed the national strikes an 'insurrectional movement aimed at overthrowing the Government by force.'"

To bolster this contention raids have been conducted on opposition newspapers and several issues of the Liege Socialist paper, La Wallonie, have been confiscated.

The police charge that the paper incited workers not to obey the army and that leaflets seized in the raid "urged soldiers to disobey their officers if called upon to act against workers in the strike."

The Socialist opposition indignantly deny that they are leading an insurrection and insist upon their right to lead a peaceful demonstration. They say they want parliament, which

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## Express Fear Of Korea-Type War in Laos

The charge that a Russian transport plane opened fire on an American aircraft over Laos was featured in scare headlines in the capitalist press this week. The hysteria accompanying the heavily slanted U.S. State Department news handouts on the fighting in Laos point to another Korea-type crisis.

A careful reading of the dispatches discloses gaping holes in the factual reporting of the incident. A UPI dispatch from Laos refers to a "Russian-made Ilyushin-14" transport plane. "It was not determined immediately whether the Ilyushin was flown by a Russian," said the dispatch.

Yet the impression is created that the Russians are giving all-out aid to the "leftist Laotian soldiers" who recently retreated from Vientiane, the capital. "The danger is very obvious," says the well-informed Singapore correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 21, "that the situation in Laos could become a miniature Korea if American military aid for the present government provokes any attempt by the Communists outside Laos to give antigovernment forces similar assistance."

The American government conspired to overthrow the legally constituted "neutralist" government of Laos by financing, equipping and promoting a "rightist" military expedition which captured Vientiane.

These "rightists" are cut out of the same cloth as Syngman Rhee, Chiang Kai-shek, and other such State Department puppets.

"And," says the Hong Kong correspondent of the Monitor, "if the Soviet Union is to be charged with armed intervention in Laos, the United States must be prepared to accept similar impeachment for Washington, it is felt. For under strong pressure from Thailand and South Viet Nam it openly supported Gen. Phoumi Nosavan's right-wing rebels at the expense of Prince Souvanna Phouma's legal government."

## UAW Skilled Trades Discuss Need for Shorter Work Week

CHICAGO, Dec. 12 — Unemployment and the shorter work week were the foremost issues in the minds of the delegates attending the AFL-CIO United Automobile Workers Eighth Annual Skilled Trades Conference in this city on Dec. 8, 9 and 10.

UAW president Walter Reuther made one of his typical "labor statesmen" speeches, cautioning the delegates to formulate "realistic" demands for the coming negotiations. His only reference to the shorter work week demand was the ambiguous assertion that he "favored jobs versus leisure." Pressed later by newspaper reporters Reuther refused to answer their query on whether he was for the shorter work week demand.

Reuther's speech and the handling of the conference by the union officials left the definite impression that the top brass intends to do what it can to muffle the growing concern of the membership on unemployment and the shorter work week. This was most crassly

revealed by the official "Resolution on Moonlighting," submitted to the conference.

The first three "whereases" of the "Moonlighting" resolution condemn the holding of two jobs but the slick trickery comes through in the final "whereas" which states that:

"The membership will be reluctant to accept a shorter work week unless they are guaranteed it will not be used by some members to hold down more than one job."

The floor discussion on the resolution completely exposed this piece of fakery. The insulting language of the resolution was condemned as reactionary phrasology which tended to reduce the great need of millions of workers for the shorter work week to the level of a few "greedy" moonlighters.

The delegates decisively rejected that section of the resolution and had UAW vice-president Richard Gosser whining: "You don't have to approve it if you don't want to." (Richard

Gosser himself has been more than once accused of doing a little plain and fancy "moonlighting.")

Another official resolution was introduced calling for amendments to the union-busting Taft-Hartley Act. Delegates at the conference demanded that the resolution call for outright repeal. Furthermore, they wanted to know why the union was not demanding repeal of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin "killer" law. Gosser, who was in the chair, had no ready answer and filibustered onto the next agenda point as quickly as possible.

The real interests of the skilled trades members were most clearly represented in documents circulated by the National Committee for Democratic Action in the UAW and in three resolutions submitted by Unit No. 23 Fisher Body Local 157. Its resolutions called upon the conference to "ask the AFL-CIO Executive Board to immediately convene a national

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## ... Kennedy Course

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tion and the extension of compensation coverage to those not now qualified under state eligibility rules.

(3) An emergency increase of 10 per cent in old-age and disability payments under the Federal Social Security Act.

These proposals are designed for immediate effect on the economy by putting more purchasing power into the hands of consumers. They are in addition to the longer term measures for combating the recession which have been advanced by labor economists. Also, they are in line with the campaign platform promise of the Democratic party, which affirmed that "if recessionary trends appear, we will act promptly with counter-measures, such as public works or temporary tax cuts."

The labor leaders are now convinced that there is little or no chance for their proposals being adopted by the Kennedy administration. Yet, their commitment to Kennedy tends to paralyze their ability to act.

Since his election Kennedy has come forward as champion of "fiscal stability," the "sound dollar," etc., etc.

His appointment of the conservative Republican Wall Street banker, Douglas Dillon, to the key job of Secretary of the Treasury, was a concession to the "hard money" boys of the Wall Street financial community. Dillon, together with "tight money" conservative Democrat William McCleskey Martin, Federal Reserve Board chairman, will exercise real power over the money policies of the administration.

The "appointment of a well-known investment banker," like Dillon, says the Dec. 19, Wall Street Journal, "is intended to assure American business that the Kennedy regime is not bent on fiscal irresponsibility, and to notify flinty-eyed central bankers in Geneva, Bonn, Paris and London that the President-elect aims to restore the dollar's tarnished international prestige."

Kennedy is very much concerned, says the WSJ, about the dollar's "prestige" and is aware that the recession will lower tax returns; so, adds the WSJ, "he's planning to hold back on some of the New Dealish spending schemes. Indeed," they conclude, "this is why he picked a man of Mr. Dillon's conservative coloration, complete with Wall Street background, for the Treasury job."

This, by the way, is how Kennedy fulfills one of the Demo-

cratic party platform promises which proclaims that "as the first step in speeding economic growth, a Democrat president will put an end to the present high interest, tight money policy." All of the AFL-CIO proposals for quick action to aid the unemployed come under the heading of "New Dealish spending schemes," according to the bankers, brokers and stockjobbers who will determine administration policy. There is little wonder, then, that some labor leaders who plumped for Kennedy are being assailed by "at least a germ of doubt."

The Wall Street Journal which reports from Washington the rumor of a special AFL-CIO Executive Council session in January, sums up its views:

"In the past, unions have applied heavy pressure on the White House to combat recessions. By comparison, a special meeting of the Executive Council is a mild step, even though no pressure at all was expected to be needed."

"In April, 1959, the AFL-CIO amassed 10,000 unionists in the National Guard Armory here to protest against what the unions called President Eisenhower's refusal to act against high unemployment. At that time, union demonstrators were clamoring about unemployment that totaled 4,362,000. By the latest Government figures, 4,031,000 are out of work and the total is expected to reach 5,300,000 within weeks after Mr. Kennedy takes office."

Failure of the union leaders to mobilize the ranks in action to demand relief, immediate and adequate, for the unemployed, the partially employed and those facing unemployment, can only be construed as political chicanery at best; and, at worst, as rank and outright betrayal of the basic needs of all union members.

## ... Wilkinson

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earlier this year. He charged that violence there had been instigated by the committee and the San Francisco police.

"The students maintained the most strict discipline of nonviolence fashioned after the lessons of the youth in the Southern sit-ins," Wilkinson reported.

Points Out Agent  
Then for the audience dominated by students, Wilkinson pointed to the rear of the ballroom where the meeting was held and identified an agent of the House committee.

"You and your Mr. Walter and your Mr. Arens no longer scare us," Wilkinson said.

A lonely figure rose and left the hall and Wilkinson identified him as Fulton Lewis III, whose father, radio commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr., has carried almost daily blasts against the abolition campaign.

As Wilkinson began to read off a list of prominent Americans who supported the abolition move, three men lounging against the wall began shouting, "How many Hungarians are on that list?" "NKVD." Then, drowned out by the audience which had already heard an announcement that a question and answer period would follow the speakers, the men began to chorus "Freedom of Speech!"

As the three men were escorted out by police, one of them swung with his fist at a spectator holding the door and a scuffle ensued.

"This is the kind of violence the committee wants," Wilkinson then told the audience, "and we want no part of it."

Calling for the strongest possible demonstration in Washington Jan. 2, the day before the new Congress convenes and will have before it the question of continuing the committee's mandate, Wilkinson concluded:

"We must let it be known that the people of America are sick and tired of this Un-American committee. With the strength we now have, it is within our power to be able to say this committee CAN be abolished and January, 1961, is the time for abolition."

# The Truth About the Cuban Electrical Workers

By Joseph Hansen

James N. Wallace, reporting from Havana in the Dec. 23 Wall Street Journal, hopefully lists signs of "public disenchantment" that may lead to a counter-revolutionary overturn of the Castro government. High in his list are "rebellious union bosses." As prime evidence he gives the following account of events involving the electrical workers union:

"Late last week, Castro's hand-picked national labor bosses battered a rebellious electrical workers union into submission, driving a dozen 'traitorous' leaders into asylum in foreign embassies and several more into hiding in friends' homes. . . ."

"For weeks, the union members had been unhappy over government-backed efforts to reorganize their union. There was ample evidence that the reorganization would put Communist-liners into key offices and oust the men the members themselves had voted into office. The dispute broke into the open a fortnight ago, with several hundred electrical workers marching on the Presidential Palace, shouting, 'Cuba yes, Russia no,' and demanding an audience with Premier Castro and President DORTICOS."

"The regime's response was swift and completely predictable. The Communist-dominated Cuban Confederation of Workers, which has become the government's arm in ruling Cuban labor, demanded the ouster of the dissident union officials. Five days later a heavily guarded union meeting shouted approval of the purge, although outside many electrical workers milled about, claiming they had been barred from their own meeting and that the session was packed with government stooges."

The correspondent of the Wall Street Journal considers "particularly significant" the "public support that was displayed for the recalcitrant unionists." The head of the union, Amaury Fraguas, was "grabbed by military intelligence agents during the palace demonstration and hustled into a police car." But a "mob of shrieking women" rushed the car, "tore off the tires, shattered the windows and freed Fraguas."

Two somewhat unusual items should be noted in this account. One is the strength of Cuban women. When they want to save a union official from the police, they simply reach over and tear the tires off the automobile. The other is the sympathy and concern which the Wall Street Journal displays for internal union democracy and the rights of the rank and file. This is as surprising, perhaps even more surprising, than the brute strength of Cuban women.

Before accepting this version of what happened, it might be advisable to check the account given by the other side, which—no doubt due to lack of space—the Wall Street Journal did not print.

## Castro Appears at Meeting

The Dec. 15 issue of El Mundo, published in Havana, reports a meeting that day of the electrical workers convoked by the Cuban Confederation of Workers (CTC) to consider the union's internal problem. Several thousand electrical workers were present and the proceedings were carried on all television channels and all radio stations so that the entire country could see and hear what went on.

Without previous announcement, Fidel Castro appeared during the proceedings. After the applause and shouting of revolutionary slogans had been brought to a halt by playing the national anthem, he was given the mike. For two and a half hours he discussed the key issues facing the electrical workers and the entire Cuban working class.

He began by saying that he was going to speak frankly and even rudely, as must be done openly before both friends and enemies, nationally and internationally, in analyzing a problem in a revolution like the one in Cuba.

Yes, there has been a problem in the electrical plants. Moreover, it is possible that the enemies of the revolution see "with great jubilation" the appearance of this problem because it involves a section of the working class on which the power of the revolution is based along with that of the peasantry and "that part of the working class that is peasant. . . ."

"Imagine the feeling of the top directors of the electrical trust, whose properties were nationalized, imagine, in midst of the preoccupation of these gentlemen, in midst of an empire crumbling about them, in midst of the worry which keeps them awake nights, what gratitude they must feel toward those capable of offering them something to rejoice over. The idea that the revolution should have problems in the electrical sector."

"The problem did not arise in any other sector of the country; above all, the problem did not arise in any other sector of the working class; the problem did not occur in a more humble sector of the working class; the problem arose in one of the privileged sectors of the working class."

Castro dwelt again on the need to speak frankly and expressed his confidence that the electrical workers would respond to an honest presentation of the problem.

We knew, he said, that a large number of the electrical workers were confused.

"And it is possible that a considerable part of the workers ranks are confused; just as we also know that these ranks day by day, are opening their hearts to genuine revolutionary impulses and opening their eyes to reality."

Castro held that the trouble basically was not with the rank and file but with the leadership. The bank workers, another privileged sector of the working class, he noted, had cooperated extraordinarily well.

## A Dish of Lentils

Then he turned to the example of the lowest paid workers, those in construction and the sugar industry. What demands they might not have made with full justification upon the triumph of the revolution! Yet for the sake of greater goals they were willing to postpone immediate gains.

This was an exemplary attitude, for the revolution ran enormous risk at the very moment of its victory due to its inability at that stage to meet such demands.

"Because this was a working class which had lived for seven years under oppression, under 'mujalismo' [union bureaucrats who worked hand in glove with the Batista dictatorship], a working class whom no one had shown the correct road, a working class that was not taught that it was the victim of ex-



FIDEL CASTRO. "The working class is the one that produces whatever wealth exists in a country."

ploration by these interests, a working class which they wished to become resigned to power remaining forever in the hands of the enemies of this class, of the enemies of the working class, of the exploiters of the working class, that power should remain in the hands of the foreign monopolies, of the military camarilla, of the corrupt political groups, of the big industrial interests, of the big landlords and big merchants. That is, that the political power of the nation should remain indefinitely and for 'secula seculorum' in the hands of the enemies of the workers. And they wanted the workers to resign themselves, resign themselves to a perennial and interminable struggle for a crumb more in wages, another gain."

Such limited struggles became a vice, "Because the workers

did not think as a class, the workers thought as a sector, as a union; and the battles toward which they oriented were not battles for the class, still less for the people. They came to struggle for a little crumb more."

"For the sector, the other working class sectors did not matter, the rest of the nation did not matter, the unemployed did not matter, the future did not matter. And everything was given up, as in the Bible story, for a miserable dish of lentils. They gave up the primogeniture of the working class, the right of the working class to govern and rule the country, they gave that up for a miserable dish of lentils!"

"The future did not matter, and we lived in this vicious circle; always living for the miserable present and always

## Workers Should Seek to Rule

"The working class was kept impotent, it was kept divided," Castro continued; "not struggling for the true aims for which the working class must struggle. And do you know what is the first aim for which the working class must struggle, the only aim fundamentally for which a working class in a modern country must struggle? For the conquest of political power!"

"Because the working class is the class of the absolute majority, the working class is the fertile and creative one that produces whatever material wealth exists in a country."

"And so long as the power is not in its hands, so long as the working class permits power to be in the hands of bosses who exploit them, power to be in the hands of speculators who exploit them, of landlords who exploit them, of monopolies that exploit them, of foreign or national interests that exploit them; while the arms are in the hands of the camarilla in the service of these interests and not in their own hands, the working class will be condemned to a miserable existence, no matter how many crumbs from the banquet table the big interests and privileged ones bestow on them."

"And the state, this state which they sought to present as a phantom, was not a phantom yesterday when the state and all its organs of power, from the military to the judicial power, on through the corrupt legislative power, was in the service of the exploiting bosses and of the big interests. And what happened, simply, is that this instrument, which is called the state and all its organs of power—although it may be that this or that authority still remains in

the service of the privileged—this state is today an instrument of power in the service of the oppressed and the exploited of our country!"

After his opening remarks, Castro pointed out how easy it was to be a trade-union leader in such monopolies as the electrical trust in contrast to the sugar companies. Enjoying probably the most exorbitant rates in the world, the electrical trust could easily afford a relatively high rate of pay.

Under the brutal domination of the sugar outfits, where wages were pegged to the price of sugar, it was far more difficult to win decent wages for the hundreds of thousands of partially employed workers.

And if it was easy for the bureaucrats of the electrical union to bargain for wage increases before the revolution, how much easier was it in the first days after the revolution when the electrical trust feared nationalization?

But did these bureaucratic union leaders ever think "of the conquest of power for the working class?" Did they think of doing away with the monopolies? Of recuperating the national wealth? Of indicating to the working class the bright and promising road to the future? All they thought of was crumbs from the table, a dish of lentils.

Castro recognized that some of the demands raised by various trade-union leaders are undeniable and indisputably just, but other demands seem to have been made as if the old state of affairs still existed, in a kind of competition for office in trade-union elections. This seems to have been the case especially among the electrical workers.

As an example of the status of the electrical workers, Castro cited the pay record of William Le Sainte Nasser. He got \$375 a month. But an "immoral" custom had grown up among some employees to go after overtime whether justified or not. In a two-week period, Nasser's overtime amounted to 37 hours, 168

hours, one time 230 hours. In the first two weeks in August, for example, he got \$185 in wages. But by chalking up 230 hours overtime, he jacked his pay up to \$415.27—not bad in view of the fact that the wages of the General Administrator for the company was only \$225 for the same period.

With the nationalization of the company, such practices were eliminated. Overtime was cut down to what was actually required and actually worked. Thus in the last two weeks of October, Nasser got \$4 in overtime; the first two weeks in November, nothing; the last two, \$41. In the 14 weeks following nationalization, Nasser suffered eight weeks without overtime. However, like the rest of the electrical workers, he enjoyed all the other gains that had been won by the union.

## Those Explosions in Havana

At this point Castro interrupted his analysis of the Cuban working class and the relative position of the electrical workers to read a lengthy report of the results of a police investigation into the series of bombings of electrical plants in Havana in November which were hailed in the American press at the time as a sign of a rising counter-revolutionary tide in Cuba.

The explosions, it was quickly determined, could only have been committed by electrical workers, since in every case the high-powered bombs, loaded with a special explosive used by the U.S. armed forces, had been placed in strategic spots to which special keys were required.

The damage would have been far more extensive, perhaps crippling Havana for two weeks, had not some of the time bombs failed to explode due to becoming water-logged.

The police had a lucky break in their investigation. Some of the saboteurs, after planting the bombs, had fled in a boat for Miami. They ran into high seas, the boat could not make it and they were saved by a passing craft which brought them back to Havana where they were turned over to the authorities.

As a result of the investiga-

forgetting a better future. And this was the mentality of leaders without revolutionary consciousness, leaders at bargaining, leaders who sold out, leaders in the service of the big interests, which sought to create them in every sector of the working class."

City workers, due to their concentration, were able to win more crumbs than the dispersed agricultural workers. And the poor in the country had to pay high prices for city products while the cities got agricultural products at a low price. Thus the agricultural workers had the lowest standard of living.

"And it was only after the triumph of the revolution that the city workers began to awaken to the feeling of solidarity, fraternity and brotherhood with the workers of the fields."

The big press services reported Castro's speech as a typical bit of angry raving and ranting. The actions taken by the meeting were described as a "purge" of independent unionists. The Communists were said to have taken over.

If anyone still finds it difficult to determine which is the correct version; that given by Castro or that given by the newsgathering agencies of the capitalist press, further evidence is available.

## Counter-revolutionary Testimony

I have at hand an obscure paper which is able to speak authoritatively. When I say "obscure" I do not mean to imply small or poor. It is a lush, eight-column, 12-page job, filled with expensive photographs and cartoons although it has scarcely any advertising. It is the fake "El Mundo" published by Cuban counter-revolutionaries in Wilmington, Delaware.

The Dec. 17 issue of this rabidly pro-State Department sheet carries a story about the electrical workers, giving the straight, unvarnished inside dope, as told to the counter-revolutionary editor by "an old militant" of the union.

According to this source, "the employees and workers of the Compania Cubana de Electricidad have not accepted government intervention of the enterprise and are combatting it by all means at their disposal."

"The movement of civic resistance is very strong," continues the article. "Neither compulsion nor threats have availed and the Communists who dominate the CTC have encountered a union which they have not been able to penetrate."

"It is certain, our visitor told us, that militants of the electrical plants cooperated in the sabotage that was recently carried out. Within the enterprise they continue united, and working in common accord are members of various anti-Communist organizations, among them being the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria and the SAC (Salvar a Cuba). Also cooperating

with the counter-revolutionary forces to start civil war in Cuba."

Part of the thin layer of labor aristocrats in Cuba responded to these efforts. Castro correctly read the significance of this development and came down to the union himself to explain the real situation in its wider political context.

We have faith in the workers, he told the assembly. "We did not vacillate in coming; we did not ask how many might be assembled before we arrived; we did not telephone. Such practices are not our custom; in addition, we would have come here if only twenty workers had showed up."

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executive committee of the union, suspending the union elections, conceding to the CTC the right to call new elections, and designating a provisional committee from the meeting to take charge of the union until new elections could be held.

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## Help Us Spread Truth About Cuba

To our knowledge the facts presented on this page about the struggle in the Cuban electrical workers union have not appeared in any other U.S. publication.

We hope that you will agree on the vital need to make such information available. If you do, perhaps you will want to send a contribution to the Militant.

Send checks and money orders to: The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

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Monday, January 2, 1961

## McDonald's "Democracy"

David J. McDonald and his timeservers in the AFL-CIO United Steel Workers union are chortling over the failure of opposition candidate, Donald C. Rarick, to receive enough local union endorsements to appear on the ballot as candidate for president in the February union elections. The union constitution provides that a candidate for president must be nominated by a minimum of 40 Locals. The press reports that Rarick, president of Steelworkers Local 2227 at McKeesport, Pa., received only half the required number.

McDonald will now run unopposed. He will be assured another four-year term as USW president. This must be a source of great relief to the pompous popinjay who heads the steel union. He was scared witless when Rarick, practically unknown in the union, ran against him in 1957 and polled 223,516 votes, more than one-third of the total cast.

The McDonald machine was determined to prevent another such recording through secret ballot of the numerical strength of the opposition in the union. For four years they mounted a savage and unrelenting campaign of intimidation, abuse, vilification and terror against the opposition — organized first as the Dues Protesters and more recently as the Organization for Membership Rights.

The union newspaper, Steel Labor, has been used as a factional organ of the McDonald machine against the opposition. When a request was submitted that the columns of the paper be thrown open for the use of all candidates during the election campaign the appeal was summarily denied. With the most nauseating hypocrisy an editorial in the December issue of Steel Labor explains that the paper "has always followed a policy of strict impartiality in the organization's internal elections and we are determined to continue that policy."

For the editorial "we" read: David J. McDonald, that peerless paragon of free-

dom, equality and democracy. From one year's end to the next, Steel Labor is full of articles by and about David J. McDonald, replete with photographs of the man in every conceivable pose. The paper has flayed the opposition in the most violent terms: "finks" and "strikebreakers," "dual unionists" and "union wreckers" are some of the more endearing epithets hurled. Yet, when a request is made that some space be made available, if not before or after, at least during a union election, the answer is that "we" are going to continue the traditional policy of "strict impartiality."

That isn't all! To make sure that Rarick would not be nominated, a horde of McDonald appointed porkchoppers descended on the local unions to line up the vote for their boss.

The conduct of the McDonald machine is only one side of the matter. An opposition can always expect an entrenched union bureaucracy to use any means and all methods to preserve its power and privileges. The other side of the matter was the weakness of the Rarick opposition movement. The opposition rode the popular issue of a movement in protest against a dues increase to death. When recently they dropped the "Dues Protest" designation for the OMR they tried to straddle some important issues and duck others.

On the decisive question of political action, in a situation which cries aloud for the advocacy of an independent labor party position, the OMR had nothing to offer but the demand for "100% registration." Their inclusion of McDonald machine men on their slate, which invited a repudiation, put the stamp of "opportunist" on the OMR leaders.

To rally an effective opposition in the ranks requires the application of class-struggle concepts in program, policy and organization as opposed to the class collaborationist preaching and practice of the opportunist McDonald clique. Unless the OMR learns this lesson it will not survive.

## MacArthur Ends Truman's Alibi

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has entered a heated denial to the charge that he had wanted to atom-bomb "China and Eastern Russia and everything else," at the time he was removed as Commander-in-Chief of the "United Nations" armed forces in Korea in 1951. The charge was made by former President Harry S. Truman in an interview Dec. 17 over Chicago television station WBBM-TV.

As a matter of fact, MacArthur declared: "We did not need the atom bomb here any more than we did in the war against Japan." This statement came as a body blow to the carefully cultivated myth that the barbarous atom-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was justified because it ended the war and thus "saved" many thousands of lives.

Yet, the Dec. 23 New York Post reports that the former president is still attempting to brazen it out. Truman, "who made the historic decision to drop the bomb on Hiroshima," was quoted as saying:

"The use of the atomic bomb in Japan ended the war. Any man can win a football game on Monday morning."

But Gen. Douglas MacArthur is not just "any man." Nor can he be lightly brushed off as a "Monday morning" quarterback.

As supreme commander of the U.S. armed forces in the Pacific MacArthur was in a position to know what was going on. He was head man on Truman's military team in that theater. It was MacArthur who presided over the surrender of the Japanese militarists aboard the U.S.S. Mis-

souri. He later became head of the American occupation forces in Japan and was intimately informed of the military situation immediately before, during and after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By adding his testimony to that of numerous historians, commentators and participants, Truman's wartime military commander effectively destroys the last shred of alibi for the most heinous crime in all history. While vehemently denying the Truman charge, MacArthur explains there was no need of the atom bomb in the Korean war, because:

"Our conventional weapons were enough to destroy the bridges across the Yalu river and their supply bases if Washington had not unprecedentedly and astonishingly proclaimed them a 'privileged sanctuary' for the enemy."

There is, by their own admissions, little to choose between the two men. While indignantly rejecting the Truman charge, MacArthur admits that he favored carrying the war onto Chinese territory. This would have unleashed a general nuclear war, as the Soviet treaty with China would have inevitably brought Russia into the war.

It is frightening to think that people like Truman and MacArthur have the power to make decisions involving the very existence of life on this planet. The war-making power must be taken out of the hands of the "commander-in-chief" and his military chieftains in the Pentagon lest some present-day Truman or MacArthur blow the world apart.

## The Plot Against Cuba

Washington's plotting of aggression against Cuba follows a technique favored by Hitler — accuse the intended victim of the very crime you are planning against him.

U.S. warships were sent to the Caribbean in November under the pretext of preventing the landing of Cuban forces in Guatemala and Nicaragua. This hoax was so transparent that such journals as the New York Times and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch finally conceded that the claims of Cuban involvement in the Guatemalan army revolt were not true.

But while the Pentagon spreads lying propaganda about the need to block Cuba from exporting armed revolution to Latin America it is itself busily engaged in laying the ground for armed counter-revolutionary invasions of Cuba.

The Nation on Nov. 19 publicized the report that the Central Intelligence Agency had acquired a large tract of land in Guatemala at an outlay in excess of

\$1,000,000 and that the area was being used as a training ground for Cuban counter-revolutionaries and as a springboard for an eventual attack on Cuba. That information came from Dr. Ronald Hilton, Director of the Institute of Hispanic-American Studies at Stanford University.

Dr. Hilton's report was confirmed by St. Louis Post-Dispatch correspondent Richard Dudman who saw barracks for 500 men and a secret 1200-foot airstrip cut into the Guatemalan jungle which he described as "a remarkable engineering job."

In Florida, the Miami Herald reported Dec. 25 that some 200 Cubans and 23 young Americans were mapping final plans for an invasion of Cuba under the command of Rolando Masferrer, a notorious butcher in the Batista dictatorship.

"The members of the planned invasion force were said to have met at a barracks in Miami yesterday," a report said.

Why aren't Navy gunboats patrolling the Miami coast to preserve "tranquility"?

By Virginia Kaye

OAKLAND, Dec. 15 — The American labor movement is entering its most critical period, said Teamsters' Union president, James R. Hoffa, last night to an audience of 4,200 attending a joint rally of teamsters' and longshoremen at the Oakland Civic Auditorium. "I ask you to look forward," said Hoffa, "to realize that in the coming year, 1961, we're in for the fight of our life."

Hoffa spoke by telephone from Washington, D.C. He was scheduled to appear before the labor-baiting McClellan committee and was not informed, until too late, that the inquisition had been postponed. Substituting for him at the Oakland rally was Teamsters' vice-president Harold J. Gibbons who, along with Harry Bridges, head of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, were the main speakers.

The joint rally was a historic occasion. The two unions had fought a number of pitched battles in the years following the great 1934 maritime strike over control of the West Coast waterfront. It was this history of fratricidal conflict that led Cy Stulting, the president of the sponsoring union, Teamsters Local 70, to remark:

"I never thought the longshoremen, warehousemen and teamsters would be under one roof, with international officers talking from the same platform. It seems a lot of brotherly love now. We used to fight like hell. Now we're holding hands. I hope the brotherly love keeps on for a long time to come."

The two unions have a great deal in common. For one thing, the teamsters and longshoremen have the power to shut down the waterfront tighter than a drum. Both unions have jurisdiction over the inland warehousemen. In the ports of the Pacific Coast the two unions can paralyze all economic life in the event of a joint strike.

### Read Out

Both unions have been read out of the AFL-CIO. The ILWU was expelled from the CIO in 1949 for being "communist controlled," and the Teamsters from the AFL-CIO after being smeared by the McClellan Committee as "racketeer controlled."

The heads of both unions, Bridges and Hoffa, have been singled out by the Kennedy clan for special purge treatment. President-elect John Kennedy in a campaign speech at Salt Lake City is reported to have affirmed that:

"An effective attorney general under present federal law could remove James Hoffa as . . . UAW Skilled

### ... UAW Skilled

(Continued from Page 1)  
conference to establish a united strike fund in order to back up the collective bargaining demand for the 30 hour week with 40 hours pay," and

"To utilize the full resources of the entire labor movement to press the incoming Congress to enact legislation establishing the 30-hour week with 40-hours pay, to reduce the retirement age, to provide full hospitalization to all retirees, to enact unemployment compensation for all unemployed workers until such time as they can be reemployed at their customary jobs, and to pass, finally, an effective program to provide jobs for all unemployed workers."

Further resolutions from Local 157 called for restoration of the Skilled Trade Councils, "arbitrarily abolished by the International Executive Board in early 1959," now that the "new methods-bargaining" councils established by the IEB have made united action of the "UAW skilled trades against the corporations difficult — if not impossible."

In its "Draft Resolution on 1961 GM Skilled Trades Demands," Local 157 notes that in the 1958 contract negotiations the union failed to get General Motors to accept the demands of the skilled trades workers. These 1958 demands had been fully supported in the procedures of the 1957 UAW National Convention and Sub Councils No. 8 and No. 9.

These same old problems — "dilution of the trades, upgrading, trainee programs, etc." — still remain unresolved. They are, furthermore, today compounded by new problems due to the extension of automation (Elox, plastic dies, tape-fed machines, etc.) with the threat of the loss of jobs for thousands more skilled workers.

To advance the united action of unemployed and employed the resolution of Local 157 calls upon the AFL-CIO to organize the unemployed, both skilled and unskilled, in conferences to rally around a minimum program that meets the needs of all.

head of the Teamsters' Union and depose Harry Bridges as boss of the Longshoremen." In his first TV debate with Nixon, Kennedy asserted he was not satisfied, "when I see men like Jimmy Hoffa in charge of the largest union in the United States, still free."

Under threatened attack on all sides, both unions recently cemented an agreement to end jurisdictional conflicts and work together jointly in matters of common concern. What inflamed the employers and their government stooges even more, however, was the idea thrown out by Hoffa that it would be in the interest of all transport workers in the country to enter a pact of mutual cooperation and defense against corporation-government attack.

This theme was dominant in the press treatment of the Oakland rally, which was billed under the title: "Where is the Labor Movement Going?" The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette of Dec. 14 carried the story of the meeting under the inflammatory head: "Hoffa, Bridges Team Together for War."

A column written on the eve of the meeting by a Richard Spong in the Birmingham News, predicted that discussion of the Hoffa plan at the Oakland rally "may create nationwide repercussions."

"Sources within the labor movement," says Spong, "now report that Hoffa is reviving an idea that has lain more or less dormant in recent months. This would be his dream of a vast 'conference' or confederation of all transport unions, sea, land and air. Robert F. Kennedy, when he was chief counsel of the Senate rackets committee, described this scheme as threatening an 'unholy alliance' that could dominate the United States within three to five years."

### The Real Gang Up

Why it is considered an "unholy alliance" for the transport workers to band together for their own protection against the union wrecking employer-government combine, is beyond understanding. The real "unholy alliance" is between the misleaders of labor who have ganged up with the whole Kennedy-McClellan-Goldwater crew out to do a hatchet job on the unions.

Harold Gibbons, speaking for Hoffa at the rally, ridiculed the chicken-hearted labor skates for trying to achieve "respectability" in the eyes of the bosses. Only if they betray the interests of their own rank and file, will they be left alone, he asserted. If they think they can gain immunity from attack by big business and its political stooges by joining the pack in braying for the scalp of Hoffa, they are sadly mistaken.

No labor leader who really fights for his members is ever considered "respectable" by the business community which includes the press, he said, which is "antiunion because they are big business." "One of the great things about Hoffa," said Gibbons, "is that he will never be a respectable member of the community as long as he is an effective trade unionist."

Gibbons noted that the Teamsters union had "spent in three years under Hoffa more money supporting strikes of our membership than our international spent in the last 20 years." Increased activity in the field of organization, he said, has resulted in a paid up Teamster membership as of last month of 1,700,992. "This," he concluded, "is made possible by a guy who's got some guts."

### Bridges' Proposals

Bridges also joined in flaying the labor leaders in their quest for "respectability." "First," he said, "it was I that was the target, now Hoffa, tomorrow it will be the labor leaders who are in such a hurry to gang up against us." Bridges proposed a four-point program for the consideration of the national labor leaders:

(1) Reestablish the spirit of union solidarity and the methods of struggle that went along with it; (2) organize an all-out campaign against Taft-Hartley, Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin, and all other anti-labor laws; (3) lead a fight for the shorter work week; (4) international solidarity of all union workers. The call for a shorter work week campaign got the loudest burst of applause.

One of the most pertinent points made by Hoffa in his telephone talk to the meeting was his warning: "There is a danger within the labor movement today of failing to recognize that what we have gained by blood, sweat and toil on the picket line, we are losing on the political scene."

### No Positive Alternative

The leadership of both unions had come out against Kennedy in the election campaign. While

they conducted an effective exposure of the phoney liberal front of the Democratic candidate their failure to advance a positive alternative seriously weakened their political position. If it could be understood at all it was a policy of boycott so far as the presidential candidates were concerned and advocacy of voting for "labor friends" for Congress and lesser offices.

The policy of keeping the unions tied to the two-party system has led the labor movement into a deadly political swamp. This is most evident in the case of the two unions that met in joint meeting to discuss the question: "Where is the Labor Movement Going?" So far as the decisive question of political action is concerned there was no serious attempt by the leaders on the platform to answer this crucial problem.

Consider the situation of both the unions involved. As president of the U.S. there is a man committed to utilizing his great power to "get" Bridges and Hoffa — which means to use Bridges and Hoffa as a pretext to emasculate the Teamsters and Longshoremen's unions. As attorney general is the man who led the McClellan pack against Hoffa and considers it his life's goal to spearhead the attack on union militancy. As secretary of labor is the man who did the job on Hoffa and the Teamsters union in the AFL-CIO. The team of Kennedy, Kennedy, and Gold-berg will now ride herd on their selected targets.

As all of the speakers at the meeting emphasized and as the history of Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin confirmed, the government attack on Hoffa and Bridges will again prove a screen from behind which the

labor haters will take aim to blast the entire union movement. How many more blows will labor have to absorb before it comes to the inevitable conclusion that the policy of clinging to the two-party system means defeat and disaster for the unions?

One would think that the first recognition of the necessity of breaking decisively with the policy of supporting "labor friends" for public office and coming out for the organization of an independent labor party would come from those who have literally nothing to gain and everything to lose by remaining captive to the political policy of the "respectable" labor spokesmen. While they skirted all around the issue the union leaders at the Oakland rally never did come to grips with this basic policy question.

## For Health's Sake

## Can We Afford the AMA?

By Marvel Scholl

In the medical industry, word is out that the American Medical Association expects a renewed push in the United States for "socialized medicine." The AMA strategists drew this conclusion from two facts. The first one is the pressure on Kennedy from millions of people who want him to deliver on his campaign promise of medical insurance for pensioners, financed out of social-security funds. The other is the widening disparity between America's medical needs and the facilities to meet them.

There is an acute shortage of doctors right now, and it promises to become worse. Enrollment in medical colleges is dropping every year. In 1959, for instance, 14,951 enrolled as against 15,791 in 1957.

In addition nearly half the present enrollment can be expected to drop out before graduation. Medical courses come high, while the intellectual level of American students of medicine tends to be low.

A four-year medical course costs on the average \$11,624, of which 80 per cent is footed by the student or his parents. This explains why 40 per cent of the graduates come from families in the top 8 per cent income bracket.

Teaching facilities are sagging badly. According to a re-

cent report, 600 vacancies exist in the faculties of 85 medical colleges. At the present rate of growth, the country needs 11,000 medical graduates a year. It's getting 9,000.

Even this acute scarcity in the medical industry does not satisfy the reactionary AMA. It recently concluded a campaign to rid the profession of almost 2,000 foreign exchange internes and resident doctors!

In a test so tricky that some authorities claim few American-educated doctors could pass, 1,900 foreign students failed. Now, unless they are willing to work as orderlies and study for six additional months for new tests next June, these badly needed hospital staff members must return to their home countries.

The AMA denies the test was rigged to assure a high percentage of failures. The machinery was set up, it claims, "to safeguard the health of patients."

Another phase of the problem regarding the present medical college program is an outmoded curriculum — in the face of rapid advancement in knowledge both about disease and drugs.

A recent issue of the Johns Hopkins Magazine reports: "We need more doctors. To train them we need more medical schools. But we don't have

qualified teachers to staff new medical schools, and the quality and quantity of medical applicants is declining. One reason for the decline in quantity is the time and expense required for a medical education. Efforts to reduce the time by trimming the curriculum are hampered by the fantastic rate we are accumulating new knowledge and the necessity for keeping the scientific emphasis on medical education."

Meanwhile, the health of the American people suffers. Deaths from cancer, heart disease, kidney and liver ailments are on the rise.

According to the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 77 per cent of all people over 65 suffer from one or more chronic diseases today. Twelve million of our 18 million oldersters have to meet medical expenses out of their pitifully small social-security pensions — an average of \$77 a month for a single person, \$125 for a couple.

It would seem that if we go by need, socialized medicine is long overdue in America. But the AMA is against even easing the burden for the old-age group. These economic witch-doctors believe in a medical monopoly that would confine adequate health care only to those whose pocketbooks, when X-rayed, show sufficient green stuff.

## In Other Lands

## USSR Offers Aid to Bolivia

### Counter Move Made by U.S.

Soviet aid in the form of loans to underdeveloped countries has been giving Wall Street banking circles a bad case of nerves. They are especially agitated over Soviet aid in the Latin-American area, which they have long considered to be their private preserve.

A recent example was the announcement of a Soviet offer to loan Bolivia \$150,000,000 to develop its mining and petroleum industries.

The loan would be used by Comibol, the state mining organization, for equipment including a tin smelter, and by Yacimientos Petroliferos Bolivianos, the Bolivian state petroleum unit.

It was reported that the loan offer, the biggest ever received by Bolivia, had not been announced in that country.

With a Soviet official en route to Bolivia to discuss terms of the loan it was suddenly announced from La Paz that a counter offer was being planned by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, West Germany and the Inter-American Development Bank.

When questioned about the meaning of the Western offer a high Bolivian official conceded it was "to counteract the big Soviet offer to be announced, perhaps tonight, when Soviet officials arrive in La Paz for a 10-day visit."

### Mollet Socialists

### Back de Gaulle Plan

The French Socialist party, meeting last week in extraordinary congress session, voted to support Gen. de Gaulle's Algerian policy. The vote was 2,191 votes in favor to 316 opposed with 836 abstentions. The party secretary and former premier, Guy Mollet, led the move to back General de Gaulle in a call for a "Yes" vote in the referendum to be taken in France on Jan. 8 and in Algeria on Jan. 6, 7 and 8.

The de Gaulle referendum proposal calls for granting "provisional autonomy and ultimate

self-determination to the Algerian people."

Leaders of the Algerian nationalist movement, which has carried on a bitter struggle for independence from French rule, is calling for a boycott of the referendum.

Guy Mollet justified his treacherous position by blaming the war in Algeria for the "badly functioning French democratic institutions."

"There will be no normal functioning of democratic institutions so long as that conflict continues," he said. "And," he added, "even its prolongation will aggravate the danger of dictatorship. On the other hand, if we come out of it the country would quickly demand better functioning of the democratic regime."

The Dec. 23 New York Times points out that: "With the support of the Socialists, the Roman Catholic Popular Republican party and the Gaullist Union for the New Republic, President de Gaulle was assured of a referendum majority in favor of his policy."

### OAS Postpones

### Action on Trujillo

The Organization of American States, meeting on Dec. 21 to consider a recommendation of a special committee that economic sanctions be imposed on the Dominican Republic in reprisal against the attempt by the Trujillo government to engineer the assassination of Romulo Betancourt, president of Venezuela, postponed any action until Jan. 4.

The Conference of American Foreign Ministers in San Jose, Costa Rica, last August condemned the Trujillo regime and authorized the imposition of economic sanctions if the Dominican Republic "did not alter its course."

The special committee recommended that other American states ban the export of petroleum, petroleum products, trucks and truck parts to the Dominican Republic. The committee is composed of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and the United States.

Venezuela, which originally proposed the sanctions has been seeking a stringent boycott against Trujillo similar to that imposed on Cuba by the United States last October.

However, when the OAS Council discussed the Trujillo boycott proposal, the representatives of El Salvador, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay pleaded that their governments needed more time to consider such a "delicate" and "far-reaching" move. They asked that the vote be postponed to January.

The Brazilian representative, Dr. Fernando Lobo, chairman of the Council, submitted a dissent on behalf of his government. He claimed no further unfriendly acts had been proved against the Dominican government. "Moreover," he said, "the proposed sanctions would constitute intervention in domestic affairs and thus endanger inter-American solidarity." Finally, he argued, "the sanctions would hurt the Dominican people as well as the government."

While Dr. Lobo did not specifically apply this logic to Cuba the inference could not help being drawn.

The revolutionary government in Cuba — although it stands at the opposite pole to the bestial Trujillo dictatorship — has consistently opposed any intervention in the internal affairs of the Dominican Republic. If Wall Street and Wall Street's government would stop supporting Trujillo, the Cubans maintain, the Dominican people would soon put in a new government of their own choice.

Advertisement

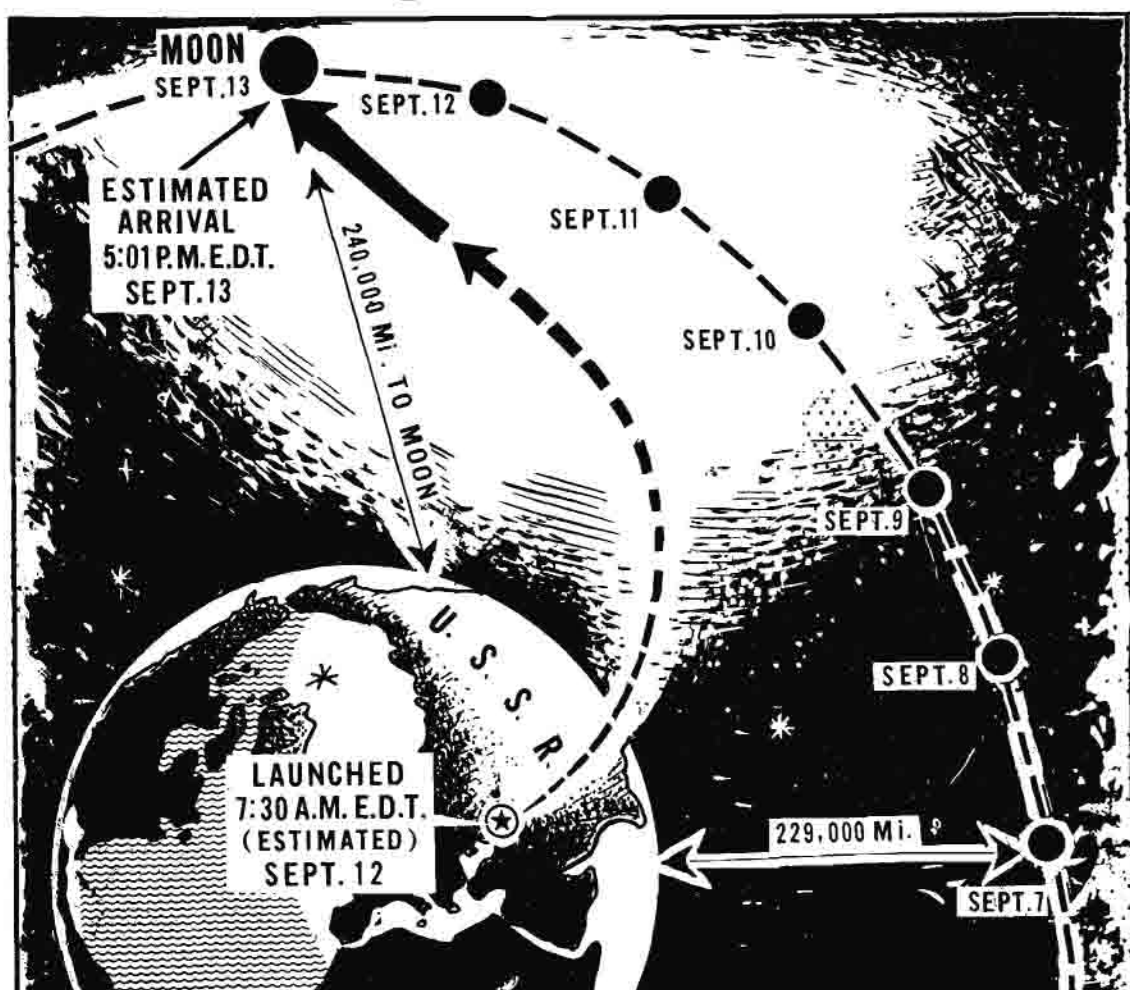
### "Listen, Yankee"

Reviewers in the capitalist press did a savage hatchet job on "Listen, Yankee," C. Wright Mills' powerful exposition of the views of the Cuban revolutionaries. But they haven't been able to kill the book. It's now in its second printing.

If you haven't read it yet, order it now. Only 50 cents. PIONEER PUBLISHERS 115 University Place New York 3, N.Y.



## Bung's Beer Enters Race



Path of the Soviet rocket that hit the moon Sept. 13, 1959. Tass, official Soviet news agency, said of the event, "For the first time in history, a space flight has been achieved from the earth to another celestial body." American businessmen say the achievement was vastly overrated; believe they now have something far more practical in the works.

## The Light, Stratospheric Brew

By Herman Chauka

It's downright silly to talk about the Russians being ahead of us in the race for space.

Maybe they have launched more and bigger satellites than we have and pulled off a few stunts like hitting the moon and photographing the back of it. But they haven't figured out any practical purpose for their space gimmicks.

Even while our rockets are exploding on the pad down at Cape Canaveral, the men behind the missiles are working out sweeping ideas for the space age that will indelibly stamp it as the American Age.

One of the best of such ideas comes from a modestly unidentified official of the Aerojet-General Corp. of California, one of the outfits sparking our space program.

After a discussion with this

anonymous official, a UPI correspondent reported: "Someday, perhaps, a rocket might go up with a nose cone full of fluorescent powder that will be ejected in the shape of words, like 'Bung's Beer Satisfies.'"

"The message would glint in the stratosphere indefinitely because there is no wind to erase it."

It's true, Aerojet's man conceded, that this new leap into space is still only on the drawing boards. But who are the Russians to sneer?

Furthermore, the Aerojet people have been tipped off that some Madison Avenue men are getting their heads together with a leading car manufacturer right now, probing the possibility of hurling a satellite into orbit to plug the firm's 1961 models.

They are reportedly considering a satellite in the shape of a car, but are stalemated on whether it should be the

standard model or one of the new compacts.

The rocket-writing project has met with some skepticism. A top Aerojet scientist argues that it might prove a bit expensive since the current list price of an Atlas missile is about \$3,000,000.

He did concede, however, that American know-how could lick this problem. For example, the government could decide at any time that the Atlas line is obsolete and make a few available to Madison Avenue at bargain-basement prices.

Meanwhile, Aerojet has another crack idea snapping in the breeze at the top of the flagpole — put a time capsule into orbit containing information for future generations of the type customarily buried in the cornerstones of new buildings.

"It would obviously be much safer up there," sagely commented an Aerojet spokesman.

She ate out for lunch, at an estimated cost of 57 cents; 55 cents for a sandwich and coffee, two cents for the State of California Sales Tax, which helps pay the commissioners' salaries.

\$44 was set aside so that she could take a seven-day vacation, an average of a little more than \$6 a day.

\$94.97 was allowed for carfare. On a six-day basis, this would take her to the job. But how did she get home?

The Minnie Budget is described as "somewhat above the subsistence level" which means that so far no one has starved to death on it.

The commission is now revising its standards on a girl's necessities. Exactly what does she require "to hold the respect of her friends and fellow workers at minimum cost?"

## California Betrayed

A table-model TV is contending for a place in the new budget. Assuming that she shares a furnished apartment with two other girls, they may be able to swing it if all three of them cut out the movie going that was permitted in the 1950 budget.

A startling betrayal by a California commission of one of the state's major industries! When they have reached definite conclusions about what she needs, the commission will go shopping to find out if these things really cost more than they did in 1950.

Chief Maurice J. Gershenson of the Division of Labor Statistics will fan men through the state, pricing the two girdles, one summer hat, two pairs of shoes and various other items on Minnie's list. (Checking the U.S. government cost-of-living index

anybody like to buy a virtually new Christmas tree? —Paul Abbott

Thought for the Week

"Whatever the appearances, from the appointment of the new Attorney General and the designation of a successor in the Senate for the President-elect, a man obviously does not have to be a brother, brother-in-law or old Harvard roommate of Senator Kennedy to get ahead in politics. But it doesn't hurt." —Editorial in the Dec. 22 Wall Street Journal.

fine to print any of those four-letter Anglo-Saxon words. The bill would eliminate evasion by also prohibiting use of the first letter of such words followed by the customary dashes.

Labor Health Plan—The New Jersey CIO Council plans to establish a medical surgical insurance plan in opposition to the state's Blue Shield plan which it said was too costly and provided inadequate coverage. Spokesmen said the new setup would be similar to the Group Health Insurance Plan used in New York.

It Figures — A federal judge excused Roland Levesque from jury duty in Providence, R.I., after Levesque said he believed a defendant must prove himself innocent. "I was in the service," he said, "and you were guilty until proven innocent."

Progress Reports — The State Department disclosed Dec. 20 that it will now permit government-employed scientists to attend international meetings which include scientists from

the People's Republic of China and "other unrecognized regimes" on the condition that they do not represent or speak for the U.S. government.

Busy Line — A very generous New York City law requires landlords to maintain a minimum temperature of 65 degrees during the day, with no heat required after 10 p.m. For a lot of rent gougers, even that's too much heat. During the recent cold snap, the City Health Department had to install a special trunk line (WO 4-3414) to handle more than one thousand no-heat complaints a day. Even with the new line you may still get a busy signal, says a department spokesman, but don't get discouraged.

True Charity — Fifty children from the slums of West Dallas, Texas, were guests of honor at a Christmas charity party sponsored by suburban high-school students. As presents for the children, they collected toys, used clothing and bottles of cough syrup.

Post-Xmas Hint — It's too late for this year, but you can file this thought from the New York Times away for next season: "Nothing is more jovial for a Christmas breakfast than a glass or two of champagne."

Equality for All — The U.S. ban on hoarding gold has been extended by President Eisenhower to include Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Canal Zone. Press secretary Hagerty said the move was intended solely to put all Americans on an equal basis.

Salvation for the D—d — A bill has been introduced in the British Parliament to make it an offense punishable by heavy

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