

# THE MILITANT

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## Steel Leaders Drop Work Week Demand

By William Bundy

Under the influence of the Kennedy administration, the leadership of the United Steelworkers of America has failed to raise the demand for a "shorter work week at no reduction in pay" in the negotiations which opened Feb. 14 for a new contract in the basic steel industry.

For the first time in the history of the union, a federal administration has intervened directly in determining what the union's contract demands should be. The purpose of the intervention, spearheaded by Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg, is to make sure that the steel union does not set a pattern of significant gains for the workers and most particularly that the union does not make a fight for the shorter work week.

The steel negotiations are the most important labor contract talks of the year. They directly concern 430,000 union members in eleven major steel companies and will probably set a pattern for later negotiations covering an additional 500,000 workers in metal fabricating, aluminum and other industries.

Technological unemployment has hit workers in steel as hard as any in the country. In the last three years the membership of the Steelworkers Union has fallen from 1.2 million to about 930,000.

## Students Flood D.C. To Picket for Peace

By Audrey Kalin

Thousands of youthful pickets poured into Washington, D.C., on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17. They went there seeking disarmament, a halt to the civil-defense program and an immediate end to nuclear testing. The demonstration was sponsored by the Turn Toward Peace Student Council whose co-operating groups included student SANE and the Student Peace Union.

It was the largest demonstration of its kind in years. Two University of Indiana students were amazed "just to see so many students getting out for anything like this." Demonstrators had come from as far away as Seattle. As busloads of singing students and college undergraduates arrived, they could not help but applaud themselves for the overwhelming and unexpected turnout.

### Surprise Turnout

Leaders reported that 1,500 participated in the demonstration on Saturday. They had expected 3,000 by Sunday afternoon but were overwhelmed by an actual turnout of 8,000.

Pickets marched before the White House carrying signs saying "Peace — the cause that refreshes," "Ban the bomb," and "Peace is the only defense." One of the spokesmen for the organizing group, David Ottaway from Harvard, said "We are the right wing of the disarmament groups. We are not pacifists. We're not for selling out to the Russians." Intended to show the "respectability" of the demonstration, these views were not what brought the

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Arthur J. Goldberg

In basic steel it has shrunk from 500,000 to 430,000. During those years, the union, and the labor movement generally, publicized the "shorter work week at no reduction in pay" as labor's primary answer to unemployment caused by automation.

This was reflected in speeches of Steelworkers President David J. McDonald as recently as last October, and in an AFL-CIO convention resolution last December. But the Steelworkers Wage Policy Committee approved a negotiating program Feb. 7 that buries the issue of a shorter work week.

On Jan. 23, five months before the present basic steel contract is scheduled to expire on June 30, McDonald had a private meeting in the White House with Goldberg, President Kennedy and U.S. Steel's R. Conrad Cooper. Immediately thereafter, officials of the Steelworkers Union stopped mentioning the shorter work week as a necessary device for alleviating automation unemployment.

Goldberg — who was chief lawyer for the Steelworkers union before Kennedy appointed him Sec-

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## Lies Fed to American People About U.S. War in Vietnam

By Harry Ring

When Attorney General Robert Kennedy made a fast appearance and take-off at the Saigon airport in South Vietnam Feb. 18, a British newsman bluntly asked him:

"American boys are dying out here. Do the American people understand and approve of what is going on?"

The president's brother brazenly replied: "I think the American people understand and fully support this struggle."

How does he know? The American people have not been consulted about the illegal commitment of U.S. forces in support of the Diem dictatorship in the South Vietnamese civil war. And the president himself has approved the clamping down of a censorship on news of U.S. activities in that war — a censorship directed not at keeping information from the "enemy" but designed to keep the American people in the dark about what is really going on there.

U.S. correspondents have not

been barred from battle areas in order to keep the Viet Cong, as the South Vietnamese guerrillas are known, from learning that they are facing American troops. They know that already. But such censorship does keep news from getting back here about the fact that GI's are dying in a war not against a "foreign aggressor," but against a native force that enjoys the support of the bulk of the popula-

**NEXT WEEK:** An eight-page issue featuring the text of the 2nd Declaration of Havana, an historic manifesto from revolutionary Cuba. Quantities of ten copies or more may be ordered at six cents each.

## Monroe Trial Is Postponed; N. Y. Rally Hits Frame-Up

FEB. 20 — Upon motion of the prosecution the opening of the framed-up "kidnap" trial in Monroe, North Carolina, has been postponed till May 7. The prosecutor stated that by then he expected to have Mrs. Mae Mallory, now fighting extradition from Ohio, in the dock along with the three young men defendants, whose trial was supposed to start yesterday.

Recently Governor Michael V. DiSalle of Ohio turned down Mrs. Mallory's request that he refuse to extradite her. A last-ditch court action in Ohio, instituted by Mrs. Mallory's attorney, Bernard A. Berkman, should be ruled on within the week.

Details of the frame-up were exposed to a New York audience at the Riverside Plaza Hotel last Thursday by the three young men defendants.

Defendant Harold Reape, a 17-year-old Negro youth of Monroe, described the aspirations for equality, which had led him and others in the graduating class at the Jim-Crow high school, to participate in the anti-segregation picketing that preceded the white-supremacist rioting and the "kidnap" frame-up.

### Mob Attack

Defendant Richard Crowder, 19-year-old Negro youth, president of the Monroe Non-Violent Action Committee, told how that group had been organized and trained in collaboration with the Freedom Riders. He recounted the Aug. 27 mob attack on the pickets and the events in the Negro community when it momentarily expected a Ku Klux Klan invasion.

Defendant John Lowry, 20-year-old white youth from New York, said, "I went on the Freedom Rides because it is my responsibility... While in the army in Germany I was told when I went off the base always to look and act good because I represented the



Norman Mailer

U.S. Well, the converse is also true. People will judge me by what they know about the U.S."

Norman Mailer, the famous novelist, praised the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, which was sponsoring the meeting. Referring to the chairman and three of the speakers, who were Freedom Riders, he said: "I know it takes courage to be a Freedom Rider. I think perhaps it takes even more courage for a man like Robert F. Williams to take the kind of stand he did."

Mailer declared "The Blacks," a play by the Frenchman Genet, which is currently running in New York, to be one of the great dramas about the Negro people. This play, which has an all-Negro cast, some of whom impersonate whites, is unsparing in its criticism of white racism and colonialism. Southerners, Mailer said, "have accused New York artists of hiding behind the Maginot Line of the Mason-Dixon Line. Why don't a hundred of us get together

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tion in a national uprising against terrible oppression.

In Washington, President Kennedy couldn't speak as freely as his brother did, 7,000 miles away, about Americans being informed. At a Feb. 14 press conference he merely said that "We are being as frank as the — as we can be."

The president did disclose that while the American people have not been informed about the hard facts of our new Korea, the leaders of both major parties have. And — no surprise — both fully support U.S. involvement in the "struggle" there. (Lawyer Robert Kennedy explained that the dif-

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## Dominican Crisis Keeps Simmering

SANTO DOMINGO, Feb. 18 — This is a brief round-up of the events here in the past few months and their significance. The masses really began to stir as the protest against Balaguer — the president whom Trujillo had left in power — mounted. "The Resignation of Balaguer" was the slogan which became more and more the people's cry of hope.

On Nov. 28 the inevitable occurred, a general strike demanding Balaguer's resignation shook the entire country. The Honorable Mr. Hill, the U.S. Consul, got busy. He is the co-ordinator of the activities of the U.S. State Department and the Dominican oligarchy. The State Department each time has revealed itself as being more intent on restraining any movement of a popular nature.

These forces, hidden behind the curtain of a "non-political" organization, the National Civic Union, took hold of the situation, taking advantage of and exploiting the anti-Trujillo reputation of NCU leader, Dr. Viriato Fiallo.

The strike lasted 12 days. Twelve days of general strike in a country where the working class was and is suffering under the lowest living conditions! This was sufficient to prove the social consciousness of the proletarian class of this country.

The strike ended and a Council of State (Made in USA) was introduced, including Balaguer and presided over by the "liberal" Rafael Bonnelly, an ex-minister of the interior and of the police under Trujillo. This was done without respecting at all the popular demand for "A Government of National Unity."

On Jan. 17, General Rodriguez Echavarria, under the eyes of the U.S. Consul, decided to create an ultrareactionary government and ventured a coup d'etat. This was defeated by the people in 48 hours and the previous Council of State, without Balaguer, was restored.

This ruling group has relaxed the political climate. It concedes that the torturers and "calies"

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### An Interview

## Trying to Vote in the Delta Takes Nerve

By Fred Halstead

Last month Rev. Martin Luther King announced a campaign to register Negro voters in the South. The campaign will include speaking tours of Southern states, including Mississippi, by Rev. King, urging Negroes to register.

Our readers can get an idea of the importance and the difficulties of such a campaign from the following interview with Travis Britt, who participated last summer in a voter-registration drive in the area around McComb in the Delta area of Mississippi. The drive was organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, for which Britt was a field representative while he was in McComb.

A native of North Carolina and a veteran of the Jackson Freedom Ride and Jail-In, Britt is now living in New York City, where he is chairman of the local chapter of the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, and where I interviewed him last week.

He is 28 years old, tall, with a calm, engaging manner. To my first question of how he got involved in the drive in McComb, he replied:

"I spent over a month in the Mississippi state prison with other Freedom Riders and there was a lot of discussion there about how the struggle should be carried on when we got out. We also got to know one another under pressure. Then, in the middle of August

1961, after most of us had been released on bail, about 180 of us had to return to Jackson at one time for arraignment in court. Mississippi was trying to make it very expensive, which it did, but it also gave us the opportunity to meet each other and talk things over, face to face, instead of through ventilators and around walls.

"While in Jackson for the arraignment I was asked to go to McComb on the SNCC voters-registration drive. Five of us Freedom Riders went down there about the same time. Altogether SNCC had eight or nine people there. Gwendolyn Greene, who already had about six arrests to her credit in

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## Jagan Regime in Br. Guiana Suffers Disastrous Setback

By George Lavan

A regime in a British colony which only six months ago won a great election victory on the basis of being for independence, the working people and socialism eventually, has been dealt a staggering blow by a general strike in the colony's principal city — a strike which, turning into rioting and incendiarism, was finally quelled by hastily called British troops.

This is the situation in which the government of Prime Minister Cheddi B. Jagan of British Guiana in South America now finds itself. How could such a thing have happened?

### Bosses Start Strike

The strike was instigated — and in its initial stages brought about partly by bribes — by the colony's native capitalists and absentee imperialists. They want to prevent independence and to smash Jagan's Peoples Progressive Party. But they were able to bring about the general strike only because Jagan's government, anxious to avoid charges of "extremism" in Washington and London as well as at home, tried to follow a middle-of-the-road policy. This led to the proposal of a national budget drawn up by an expert considered "safe" by U.S. and British government circles, which imposed sacrifices on capitalists and workers alike.

The "austerity" budget for the impoverished colony would have closed tax loopholes and increased taxes on the capitalists. Not unexpectedly, these provisions enraged the owning classes — but since they already hated the Jagan regime this in itself caused no change in the relation of forces within the colony.

The "austerity" budget, however, would have imposed sacri-

fices on the workers — particularly urban workers — such as withholding a portion of wages as forced savings, which could not be drawn upon till much later, a freeze on vacations and compulsory arbitration of wage increases.

In this melting-pot colony, the majority are descendants of East Indians brought to the sugar plantations as indentured labor. They form the bulk of Jagan's support. The urban workers are mostly Negroes, who mainly support Forbes Burnham's Peoples National Congress, a party guilty of racist appeals and red-baiting against Jagan's party.

Seizing the opportunity, local capitalists called for a general strike in Georgetown, the colony's capital. Many firms paid their workers in advance for two weeks of strike. The PNC and affiliated labor leaders accepted the capitalists' invitation. In opposing the budget they even denounced the taxes on the bosses and independence.

Prime lesson is that the road to socialism in Latin America is the road of Fidel Castro, not the middle-way of Cheddi Jagan.

## Pickets in S. F. Win Jobs for Negroes

By Joyce Cowley

SAN FRANCISCO — "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work," "We Want Jobs Now," "Don't Accept Tokenism" — with these slogans about 25 pickets fell in line this Saturday morning at the Super Save market, shopping center for the Negro community at Hunter's Point.

At noon, usually the high point of Saturday buying, there were only three cars in the parking lot in front of the market. Dismayed at seeing his store almost empty, the owner, Mr. Wong, started to negotiate with the pickets, claiming that he had already hired one Negro clerk and would hire another "soon." The pickets stuck to their demand for the immediate hiring of two clerks.

On Jan. 3, a similar picket line at Siri's market was successful and two Negro clerks were hired. Since that time the Bank of America and several stores in the area have hired Negro clerks.

### Labor Backs Pickets

This campaign for more jobs for Negroes is being organized by the Bay View Citizens' Committee and the Negro American Labor Council, with help from Local 6 of the ILWU. It started in the Hunter's Point district where unemployment in the Negro community is estimated at 20 per cent. Here youth gangs and rumbles recently made big headlines and the parents of so-called delinquents were threatened with eviction from the city housing project. The citizens of Hunter's Point feel that jobs for Negro youth, not sanctions against their families, are the answer to delinquent gangs, which breed in an environment of poverty, discrimination and widespread unemployment.

This Saturday, owners of all the big markets along Third Street were anxiously watching the picket line — and the empty parking lot — in front of Super Save. It is a safe assumption that many went back to their offices to work on a statement of policy, and that more Negroes will soon be hired. Their initial success is so encouraging that the NALC plans to spread the campaign to other sections of San Francisco and eventually conduct it on a city-wide basis.

The Bay View Citizens' Committee and NALC have called off picketing at Super Save following the hiring of a second clerk.

## Negro Bus Boycott Solid in Macon, Ga.

MACON, Ga. — A 95 per cent effective boycott of city buses here is under way. The boycott was instituted following refusal of the Macon transit company to negotiate with officials of the local branch of the NAACP for desegregation of the buses.

Branch president, Walter E. Davis, and Rev. E. B. Paschal, chairman of the legal redress committee, had succeeded in negotiating for elimination of Jim Crow at lunch counters, on the golf course and the public library.

ATLANTA, Feb. 14 — The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights have asked President John F. Kennedy to "immediately investigate mass arrests of Atlanta students." Thirty-four persons have been arrested here recently in desegregation demonstrations.

SNCC and COAHR members have been protesting segregation at Grady Memorial Hospital and in the legislative galleries at the State Capitol here. Although 85 per cent of Grady's patients are Negroes, the hospital does not let Negro physicians join its professional staff. Negroes are barred from the hospital's two technical schools, and Negro patients often have to wait many hours for treatment in the segregated clinic even though the white clinic is almost empty.

## Liberties Group to Seek Repeal of McCarran Act

NEW YORK — "There is no greater threat to our constitutional rights than the McCarran Act," said Corliss Lamont in announcing that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has decided to undertake a major campaign for the law's repeal.

"We intend to challenge the constitutionality of those provisions of the act not yet upheld by the Supreme Court," Dr. Lamont said. "Specifically, we have agreed to take the case of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade which has been called a 'Communist-front' organization by the Subversive Activities Control Board. The finding of the SACB is not binding until upheld by the Supreme Court, which has not yet upheld those provisions dealing with 'Communist front' or 'Communist infiltrated' groups."

## ... Dominican Crisis

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(Trujillista informers) must be brought to trial, but these creatures continue to walk the streets of the towns and many have been helped to flee the country, always with the same destination: the United States.

The government has reduced the prices of some basic necessities — including rice, oil and beans — in an attempt to satisfy demands advanced by the people. It has promised general elections for next year, 1963.

While the Council of State proceeds with its demagogic methods, the cry of the popular masses for "A Government of National Unity" still mounts. The economic picture of the country is simply disastrous. The Trujillos, protected by Balaguer, carted off (and it is said they are still carting) what little liquid wealth the country had. Considering the 500,000 unemployed in a population of 3.5 million, a revolution is inevitable even though it is against the wishes of the U.S. State Department.

Why not pass this copy of *The Militant* on to a friend or shopmate and suggest an introductory subscription?

## Reuther's "Hockshop" System

By Art Preis

Walter Reuther, United Automobile Workers president and head of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department, has become a chief practitioner of the "hockshop" method of union negotiations. It works on much the same principle as the man who tries to live by pawning his family's accumulated possessions, first jewelry, then silverware, then pieces of furniture, finally home, clothes and everything. In the end, there is nothing left to hock and the man winds up a pauper on relief.

This is the method Reuther employed most recently in the settlement of the bitter six-week strike of 6,700 members of UAW Local 5 at the Studebaker-Packard plants in South Bend, Indiana. We are informed by an official news release from the UAW's international office on Feb. 12 that the Studebaker workers "emerged from a six-week strike with most of their union-won gains intact."

This "double-speak," translated into plain American, means: "It was a great victory, boys. We didn't lose hardly anything."

### "Statesmanship"

It seems negotiations were shifted to Washington, far from the picket lines, where Reuther personally took over the union side of the talks. When the negotiators emerged, he had given away five minutes of the workers' customary 15-minute wash-up time while the company abandoned — for the time being — its other demands for cuts in vacation pay, shift premiums and overtime provisions. The strike had been precipitated when the company instituted these cuts last Jan. 1.

Studebaker Local 5 is one of the two or three oldest chartered locals in the UAW, going all the way back to 1935, before Reuther was even in the UAW. In the course of 20 years of struggle up to 1954, Local 5 had accumulated a lot of treasured conditions, in-

cluding the highest wages in the auto industry. In 1954, the Reuther machine pressured Local 5 into accepting wage cuts to bring its wages down to the lower level of the General Motors, Ford and Chrysler workers instead of fighting to raise the Big Three wages to the Studebaker level.

### Now S.O.P.

Reuther's "hockshop" method of pawning old cherished gains for enough immediate cash just to stay alive for a little while longer appears to be standard operating procedure now in the affiliates of his Industrial Union Department. The February IUD Bulletin reports that under the terms of the settlement of the Yale & Towne strike in Philadelphia, AFL-CIO Machinists Lodge 1717 "was able to retain the majority of its past working conditions practices."

Like UAW Local 5, Lodge 1717, with a militant tradition, had enjoyed conditions relatively superior to those of similar locals of Albert J. Hayes' International Association of Machinists. Lodge 1717 was a thorn in the side of the IAM top leadership. The settlement that was forced down the throats of the Lodge 1717 strikers included a formula permitting the retention of 400 strikebreakers who had been brought in to replace union men.

### "Give-Away"

These were not "lost" strikes in the usual sense of the term. The workers were not beaten by the bosses. In both strikes, the workers gave a militant and honorable account of themselves. These were "give-away" settlements attained by "hockshop" methods used by the top union leaders in collaboration with outside government agencies of the Kennedy administration. Reuther has become the most systematic exponent of these methods and he has worked out the "double-speak" formulas to present these betrayals in a favorable light.

## ... U.S. War in Vietnam

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ference between a "struggle" and a "war" is a "legal" one.)

The claim of bipartisan support for the reactionary and dangerous Vietnam policy was quickly confirmed. On Feb. 15 Richard Nixon declared: "I support President Kennedy to the hilt and I only hope he will not stop the build-up..."

Senate Democratic majority leader Mike Mansfield chimed in, adding that, if anything, too much had already been disclosed about the anti-guerrilla war.

Those facts which have slipped through about the Vietnam situation give vote-conscious Mansfield grounds for irritation.

### Long "Struggle"

Pentagon officials now speak of a long involvement in Vietnam. And to indicate what they mean by "long" they point to the ten-year battle of the British against guerrilla forces in Malaya.

Particularly damning are the admissions that the remarkable military strength of the Viet Cong derives from its popular support. In the Feb. 12 *Newsweek*, for example, correspondent François Scully described accompanying an anti-guerrilla night patrol (before the ban on such reporting) composed of Vietnamese and U.S. "advisers." He reports: "As we advanced the Vietnamese kept as quiet as they could, but their boots made a dry, crunching sound in the rice fields... From farmhouse to farmhouse, the peasants signalled with lamps, reporting our advance. Shortly before dawn we met another Ranger company. Nobody had found any guerrillas."

Scully also rebuts the claim that the Viet Cong builds its strength by "terrorizing" the peasants. He quotes an American in Saigon: "The guerrilla force has won the allegiance of the people because it identifies with the people."

### Blend In

One U.S. "non-combatant" anti-guerrilla back from a patrol explains: "The guerrillas blend in with the people. They live with them, share the same poverty, tell them they are for the people's future happiness. And what about our side? You don't see the slightest evidence of government propaganda except on a few main roads where the farmers don't go. If the Vietnamese want to keep themselves a country, they'll have to convince the peasant they can help him. Americans can't do it. Our white faces are a handicap."

Small wonder President Kennedy says "We are being as frank as the — as we can."

## Hallinan Will Address Lincoln Brigade Rally

NEW YORK — The approximately 1,000 survivors of the 3,200 American volunteers who fought on the side of Republican Spain against the fascist rebellion of Franco, are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Lincoln Brigade.

Vincent Hallinan, 1952 Progressive Party presidential candidate, will fly here from San Francisco to participate. The commemoration will be held at Palm Gardens 306 West 52nd St., Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

## Weekly Calendar

### NEW YORK

Freud and Marx, Their Theories of Knowledge. Speaker, Lynn Marcus. Fri., March 2, 8:30 p.m., 116 University Place. Contrib. 50c. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

MEET WALDO FRANK! Famous author presents his latest book, *Cuba: Prophetic Island*. Sat., Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m., 225 W. 86th St. (Between Bdw'y and Amsterdam), Apt. 11-12, Hall 5. Music, entertainment, Cuban food, refreshments. Contrib. 99c. Ausp. Fair Play for Cuba Committee.



# THE MILITANT

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Monday, February 26, 1962

## Rally Against the Ultra-Right

New York's Madison Square Garden will be the scene of a hate-fest on the evening of March 7. The Garden has been rented by the so-called "Young Americans for Freedom," an arm of the ultra-reactionary Barry Goldwater movement.

Some of the most reactionary and fascist figures in the country will adorn the platform at the rally which is apparently intended to give new juice to the ultra-right drive for the resumption of nuclear tests, the smear campaign against civil liberties, organized labor and the Negro people.

Clearly, it is also hoped that the rally will help to intimidate all those who take their stand on the side of social progress.

Such a rally should not go by unnoticed, particularly since it is this gang's first effort at a major show of force in the city that has traditionally been the center of the country's liberal and radical movement.

Consequently, we are gratified that those who represent the real sentiments of the great majority of New York's young people — for peace, civil liberties, civil rights and the rights of labor — are organizing their forces to demonstrate that they will not be intimidated by these embryonic storm troopers.

A Youth Organizing Committee Against the Ultra-Right Rally has issued a call to all young people, labor, civil-liberties and civil-rights organizations in the area to turn out for a protest picket line in front of Madison Square Garden the night of the "YAF" show. We hope there will be a big turnout that will make clear that there's no market for ultra-right poison among the young people of New York.

## An Invite to Robert Kennedy

Last week when he was touring Japan, Attorney General Robert Kennedy was "stood up" by seven communist students. They said they didn't want to appear for talks with an "imperialist." Kennedy expressed regret at this broken date.

Now Kennedy has a chance to talk to a Communist. James E. Jackson, editor of the *Worker*, cabled an invitation to appear with him before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to discuss freedom of the press.

Throughout his trip Kennedy has been extolling the "value of free and open societies." All along his route he has been lavish with remarks about the American Way of Life, free press and Americans' right to dissent without fear of persecution.

Jackson's cablegram questioned the veracity of Kennedy's statements. He cited the fact that newspapermen, staff members of the *Worker*, had just been subpoenaed by the Department of Justice which Kennedy heads. "I myself am being forced to appear in secret, star-chamber proceedings..." wired Jackson. As to any chances he might have had to meet Kennedy abroad, Jackson reminded the Attorney General that if he merely applied for a passport, "... you would order me arrested and prosecuted under the McCarran law."

Kennedy's Department of Justice was further accused by the *Worker* editor of attempting to "destroy the *Worker* through the 'labeling' provision of the McCarran Act."

You want to debate publicly with dissenters, Mr. Kennedy? Here's your chance in the climate of your own "free and open society." And may we "fully express ourselves" and second Jackson's invitation.

## ... Steel Leaders Drop Demand

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retary of Labor — has been pushing the proposition that unions should not demand increases greater than three per cent a year. There is every indication that McDonald is ready to settle for a wage and fringe "package" well within that figure, which in steel would mean about 10 or 12 cents an hour.

According to government figures, wages in basic steel now average \$3.28 an hour but many basic steelworkers get only \$2.28 and often work short work weeks without a full week's pay.

McDonald has been holding detailed discussions in private with Goldberg and officials of the corporations for some time, but for the ranks, the union's demands are kept vague. They center around "job security," which includes: improved seniority for long-term employees, more supplementary unemployment bene-

fits, preferential hiring rights at new plants for workers laid off at old ones, and limitations on the contracting out of jobs.

Important as these demands are for high seniority workers, they do not provide an increase in jobs. Younger workers will continue to be laid off and no provision is made for youth coming into the labor force.

The average number of workers in the iron and steel industry dropped by 48,000 during 1961, according to a Feb. 7 report of the American Iron and Steel Institute. As a result, the total payroll for the industry dropped despite a slight increase in the average wage. The total payroll was \$3.7 billion in 1961 and \$3.8 billion in 1960. Average wages in the basic steel industry are the highest of all basic industries. Wages in steel, however, have increased less per year during the past three years than in the previous 17 years.

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the sit-ins and Freedom Rides, was the youngest at 18. I was the oldest.

"Most were Southerners and all except Bob Zelnick, a white Southerner, were Negroes. Bob Moses was a leader, and so was Charles McDew. He was very quick and an intellectual. He couldn't seem to pass by an act of injustice without doing something about it.

"Bob Moses had already been arrested when I arrived. He had taken three local Negroes to the registrar's office in Liberty, in the adjoining county, and was stopped on the road by police. They asked him if he was 'the nigger that came down from New York to stir up a lot of trouble.' He answered, 'I'm the Negro who came down from New York to instruct people in voter registration.' So they took him in and fined him \$50 for 'interfering with an officer' or some such thing. He stayed in jail rather than pay the fine."

**What was the reception from the local Negroes?**

"They had not expected us, except the ones who had been in contact before. And yet, they did expect us. They were sort of waiting for the inevitable. They knew the freedom struggles were breaking out all around, and they knew it would come to McComb some day, but when they saw this group of well-dressed Negroes, a lot of them were scared.

"It went slow at first. Our instruction classes had been set up in the Masonic temple in McComb, and we went knocking on doors asking people to attend. We had the door slammed in our faces sometimes, and we talked to people who were very frightened.

"The whites tried everything they could think of to get us out of there as quickly as possible, but nothing worked."

**Did you have any help from the local Negroes?**

"Yes, a lot of them helped on the quiet. A very few openly at first. One was a small businessman. He was making money and really coming up fast in the world of Mississippi. One day he came in and told us police officers had caught him on a dirt road one night and told him they wanted to kill him anyway, and if he didn't stop assisting SNCC they would close up everything he owned, burn his house and kill him.

"He had to stop coming around then because he knew they weren't kidding.

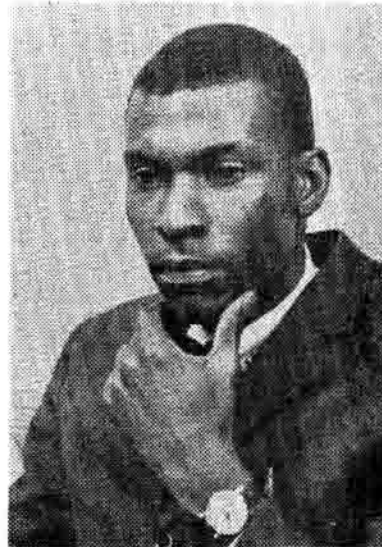
"Another one who helped openly was Herbert Lee. He was a farmer, about 50 years old, and very militant. He owned his farm and a truck and equipment and a car. He had been talking about Negroes voting long before we got there. He pointed out people for us to invite to the classes, and took us around to where they lived and furnished us gas and let us use his car. The white people put him on a list called 'the eradication' list and cut off his credit. But Mr. Herbert Lee wouldn't scare."

**What did you teach at the classes?**

"We taught the Constitution of Mississippi and how to pass the test they gave when Negroes went to become voters. White people could pass it easily. But they always asked Negroes much more difficult questions so they practically had to be lawyers before going to the registrar's office.

"Then there were the high-school kids. We weren't too much interested in them at the beginning, since they weren't old enough to vote. But it was summer vacation and they came around every day, wanting to help and learn all about the struggle and find out what role they could

## ... Interview With Travis Britt



Travis Britt

play. So they were taught non-violent direct action. And they helped us beat the bushes, finding older people who would register, and showed us around.

"The young people had no fear whatsoever. The ones who did not participate were kept away by their parents. They would come in and say: 'My mother was threatened yesterday to be fired from her job, so I can't do anything openly, but anything else I can do, let me know.' Some would defy their parents' orders. Some were even beaten by their parents.

"Having those kids around led to direct action. On August 26, I believe, two of them — Elmer Hayes and Hollis Watkins — tried to desegregate the Woolworth store in McComb. They were sentenced to 30 days in jail.

"A few days later, three more sat in at the lunch counter at the Greyhound Bus station. They were also jailed. One of them was Brenda Travis, who was only 15 or 16 years old. The local whites were so angry they tried to lie about it being local students involved. But those were the first sit-ins in the Mississippi Delta region and local Negroes did it.

"So the voters-registration project and the classes had become a combination — the Mississippi Constitution for the adults and direct-action techniques for the kids. Personally, I was wary about the direct action, because we weren't equipped to take care of all the trouble the kids could get into, but there was no holding them back. And the voters registration was very frustrating."

**How successful were you in getting Negroes registered to vote?**

"In Pike county, where McComb is located, we got a few registered. In Walthall county, quite a few people went down but the registrar wouldn't pass any of them. In Liberty, in Amite county, we weren't able to get many people to try, because of the violence.

"On August 29 Bob Moses was accompanying some people to the registrar's office when he was beaten on the head with a piece of metal by the sheriff's cousin, Billy Jack Caston, in Liberty.

"Moses pressed charges against Caston and I can truthfully say this was the first time any Negro had ever pressed charges against any white person in this county for anything.

"Of course, at the trial Caston was acquitted. But they still feared Moses for this. They couldn't understand how any Negro could have so much nerve.

"The next one to get hit was me, on Sept. 5 in Liberty. Then John Hardy took some people to the registrar's office in Walthall county Sept. 7. The registrar told him he wouldn't take any more Negroes because there was already a federal court case against him for not passing them before. When Hardy objected, the registrar pulled a gun and ordered him

out. Hardy turned to leave and the registrar hit him on the head with the pistol. The people who had come to register — a couple in their 50s and very militant for that age — helped him to the sidewalk.

"Then the police arrested Hardy right there. He had to pay for medical treatment in the jail himself. Later the federal Attorney General's office got us an injunction but the registrar was never arrested."

**How were you attacked?**

"I was at the office in Liberty with Bob Moses and some people who wanted to register. I got separated from the others and behind the building I was surrounded by a ring of white people. I lit a cigarette. One of them came up to me and said: 'Boy, what's your business?' I said, 'I don't have a business.' And he hit me in the eye.

"I stood there counting the blows. I got woozy but I think he hit me 18 times. Bob Moses called to me to cover up, and I did. One of the crowd yelled out 'Why don't you hit him back, nigger?' But I didn't. The man tried to throw me, but I kept on my feet. If I'd gone down, they'd have been on me with kicks in the face. And for God's sake, don't try to run in a situation like that because then they all try to get you.

"But just by me standing there, the man felt a little ashamed of himself. They have the idea that we are only there because we were 'paid agitators' but I am sure they saw I was sincere about wanting to help my people down in Mississippi.

"Finally, he stopped and I got into a friend's car and we drove back to McComb where I got medical care."

**Why didn't you hit back?**

"If I had, I am sure I could have licked the fellow who was beating me but I would have been lynched by the others. They were waiting for me to do something like that. I'm not opposed to people protecting themselves but we have to use good judgment. Now in Robert William's case, I certainly don't object to his firing into the air to scare off some Klansmen. But the situation was different there in Mississippi."

**What about the argument that you shouldn't put yourself into a position where you can't defend yourself?**

"Well, I didn't know this situation was going to come up just that way. If I had, I'd have done something — called the Justice Department and insisted on having witnesses there, or something. But if you are going to avoid trouble until you absolutely know you are ready to handle it, you aren't going to get started.

"And something had gotten started down there, believe me. It came to a head after the farmer who helped us — Mr. Herbert Lee — was murdered."

(Continued next week)

## Special Offer To New Readers

A four-month trial subscription to *The Militant* for only 50 cents. Send this coupon with payment to: *The Militant*, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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## A PAMPHLET REVIEW

## Is Your Brain Outmoded?

**CYBERNATION: THE SILENT CONQUEST.** By Donald N. Michael. 46 pp. A Report to the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Box 4068, Santa Barbara, Calif. Published by The Fund for the Republic.

Perhaps second only to the Bomb, the single thing most feared by millions is the threat of job loss through automation. And if this wasn't bad enough, a new development is revolutionizing automation and is a hundred times more frightening — if that's possible. The scientific term given this new development is cybernation, which is the vast improvement of automation and even the automation of automation. The main difference between automation and cybernation is the extension of automation to the utilization of (and even improvement on) the human brain in the form of computers or "thinking machines."

This little booklet is packed with atomic-age dynamite. A glance at the source-material headings indicates some of the frightening implications of cybernation: "Calling All Jobs," "When Machines Have Jobs — And Workers Do Not," "The Automation Jobless," "Not Fired, Just Not Hired," "Less Work — Less Leisure," and, ironically enough, "Data Retriever to Help the CIA Find One Page in Millions in Only a Few Seconds." (On Cuba, no doubt.)

Cybernation will affect not just the workers, but every class in society. Hardest hit will be white-collar workers, managers, foremen, small businessmen, skilled workers and even professional men. These "thinking machines," the pamphlet reports, supply "directions for everything from finding the cube root of a number to designing a bridge — and much of the work of doctors and lawyers (and teachers) could be done by computers."

Here are other examples of the extent to which cybernation may affect white-collar workers:

"The R.H. Macy Co. is trying out its first electronic sales girl. This machine is smart enough to dispense 36 different items in ten separate styles and sizes. It accepts one and five dollar bills in addition to coins and returns change, plus rejecting counterfeit currency."

"The U.S. Census Bureau was able to use 50 statisticians in 1960 to do the tabulations that required 4,100 in 1950."

Countless other examples add up to the same result — tremendously increased production with the use of far fewer workers.

What solutions does the author propose for the problem of the replacement of men by machines? For one, retraining and education by private industry and government. But, he notes, "management has not always been willing to institute retraining programs. People are either fired outright in some cases or, more often, simply not rehired after a layoff."

As for government, "The California Smith-Collier Act Retraining Program drew only 100 applicants in six months."

He then asks: "Is there a job waiting for them when they have been retrained?" And the answer implied in the very question is — No.

Other proposed solutions are cited: earlier retirement, birth control, huge public-works programs and (believe it or not) "export blue- and white-collar workers and their families to nations needing their talents." (A piece-work corps, perhaps?)

This booklet devotes most of its

attention to the effect of the new automation on the white-collar workers and the middle class generally. But the implications are also obvious for industrial workers, farmers and those who are the hardest hit by automation — Negroes and older workers.

According to the author, "The dependabilities and potentialities of these devices are unlimited. They certainly contain extraordinary implications for the emancipation and enslavement of mankind."

To me the alternatives are clear enough. The past record of capitalism demonstrates that in an economy based on production for profit, where human needs come last, cybernation can mean the threat the booklet indicates. But in a planned socialist society based upon production for use, where human needs come first, the march of science can mean economic security, freedom from drudgery, giant leaps in the standard of living, and a cultural level undreamed of under capitalism. In short — the emancipation of mankind.

Ed Beecher

## ... Students Picket for Peace in D.C.

(Continued from Page 1)

8,000 students to Washington. They were brought there by their deep and genuine support of that part of the Turn Toward Peace policy statement which asked the administration not to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere and to admit openly the uselessness of civil defense as protection against nuclear war. They were there to protest the war policies of the Administration.

A leaflet of the Young Socialist Alliance hailed the demonstration "as a real step forward." It suggested that the co-ordinating groups and others interested in peace adopt as part of their program the idea of letting the people decide all questions of war through a referendum vote. It called for removing the war-making power from the hands of the government "that is marching that country down the road of World War III in secrecy and without consulting the people." The statement was carefully read by many of the students and there was an encouraging amount of agreement with it.

During the two-day demonstration the marchers picketed the White House, marched in a mile-

long line to Arlington Cemetery and massed at a rally to hear Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation leader Norman Thomas, Emil Mazey, United Auto Workers official, and several students. One speaker, a Howard University student, urged that the fight against war be united with the fight against racism.

While the thousands of students picketed for peace in front of the White House, 76 of Barry Goldwater's "Young Americans for Freedom" picketed at the Treasury. They had such signs as "A Test a Day Keeps the Russians Away." One YAF picketer said "The cops like us much better."

Two young New Yorkers were arrested and convicted for disorderly conduct. They were arrested when they photographed a uniformed soldier who lay prostrate on the pavement. The soldier had refused to yield to police who dragged him off the picket line.

Cold and sleepy, the demonstrators returned home, heartened by the knowledge that they had made a meaningful contribution to the beginning of a vast mobilization of the young people of America in the fight for a peaceful world.

craze "for the benefit of the many isolated Soviet citizens who are bored or depressed over their isolated, regimented existence."

**No Socialist Cab Drivers** — Baltimore City Judge Dulaney Foster upheld a 1960 city ruling denying a taxicab operator's permit to A. Robert Kaufman of the Young Socialist Alliance. The judge cited Kaufman's record as a "controversial" figure and his arrests in connection with efforts to distribute socialist literature. Noting that cab drivers come in contact with many people and recalling Kaufman's "propensity" for imparting his beliefs to others, the judge said the city could properly take such factors into account in weighing the application.

**Progress Report** — "The latest improvement for life in a family fallout shelter is a simulated, or fake, window for the shelter wall which glows to give the illusion of out-of-doors sunlight." — The Feb. 13 Baltimore Sun.

**Might Give Us a Majority** — In a Feb. 16 New York Times interview, advertising executive

David Ogilvy said that ad men "are doing themselves and their business grave harm by calling all critics of advertising socialists and enemies of free enterprise."

**Oops!** — A fuel-oil delivery truck pulled up at a home in Winston-Salem, N.C., to make a delivery. The driver put the nozzle of the hose into a pipe protruding from the ground alongside the house. Finally noticing the absence of the customary gurgling as the oil gushed into the tank he checked and discovered the pipe was an air exhaust from the family fallout shelter.

**Southern Law Enforcement** — According to a survey on "Police Restrictions in the South" by Prof. Elliot M. Rudwick of Southern Illinois University there are only 82 cities and towns in the South that include Negroes on their police forces. There are but three such municipalities in Alabama and none in Louisiana or Mississippi. Of the 82 places where there are Negro cops, only 19 permit them to arrest whites on any charge and in five more they can arrest a white only on a felony charge.

## Letters From Our Readers

## Monkey Life

Pittsburgh, Pa.

I see by the papers that the government gave a grant of \$1,201,000 to study monkeys' love for their mothers.

These guys have surely flipped their lids. Maybe they figure they have made monkeys out of the people so long that now they want to find out what makes them tick.

Also, according to another report, Secretary of Labor Goldberg wants to stay in the act so he made a speech about raising the tax deduction limit so the millionaires will contribute more for "culture." You and I know where the money for this culture would come from — the workers' pay envelope.

The Steelworkers' negotiating committee is meeting here today on the new contract. Now would be the time for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay to become a reality, but McDonald is not pushing for it. Oh yes, he talks about it, but in the future.

McDonald is Goldberg's monkey and Goldberg is pulling the strings.

Watch, you will see the steelworkers tossed a few crumbs while Davey Boy and Goldberg eat the cake.

B.M.

## About Max Lerner

New York, N. Y.

Max Lerner wrote a column in the Feb. 19 New York Post about the French Communist demonstration against OAS terror in which eight people were killed by De Gaulle's police. Lerner described the demonstration as "futile riots" and said in effect that De Gaulle had the situation well in hand until the CP rocked the boat and that the OAS now has an excuse for more bombings and a target — the Communists.

But far worse, according to Lerner, is that students, journalists, unionists, backers of Mendes-France and government clerks supported these demonstrations. "What blindness has struck them," Lerner wails. "How stupid can the non-Communists get?" he asks.

Lerner had high praise for Guy Mollet and his Socialist Party for refusing to enter into a "popular front" with the Communists. But the next day, Guy Mollet (a French Max Lerner) became "stupid," albeit under the pressure of the Socialist workers, and joined in a demonstration with the Communists and others.

Since that giant demonstration the whole world knows how "futile" such actions are and how "stupid" the French non-Communists got.

For me the question is, how stupid can our liberals get and still get away with it?

E.B.

## Why Marx Was Right

Baldwin Park, Calif.

A friend of mine who is a socialist of the reformist type asked me why, in view of the Russian experience, I thought we would attain socialism under the theories of Marx.

I pointed out to him that since the time of Stalin the Soviet leaders had not adhered to the theories of Marxism and that as far as I can understand they have a deformed workers' state with bureaucratic centralism. They also have not adhered to a Marxist revolutionary policy abroad.

Historical developments, from the Paris Commune of 1871 to the

Cuban Revolution, have proven the theories of Marx were correct. The basic theory is the need to abolish the capitalist state and replace it with a workers' state which, according to Marx, finally withers away. This cannot be accomplished unless a majority of the workers are for it.

The Cuban Revolution did abolish the old state machinery, set up workers' militias and nationalized industry. I hope it will also soon set up workers' councils.

I believe the 26th of July movement had many intellectual and middle-class people. Without them the Cuban Revolution wouldn't be where it is today. And without the workers it wouldn't be where it is either. If the workers and peasants hadn't gotten behind the revolution Castro would still be in the mountains. Today it is the workers and peasants who are extending the revolution — the permanent revolution, as Trotsky called it.

I recommended the study of *State and Revolution*, by Lenin.

G.W.V.

## Change Our Name?

Akron, Ohio

It seems to me that one of the objects of the paper, besides information, is to see that as many people as possible see it and buy it.

Outside of the radical elements who are already familiar with the name, "Militant," how many people know what *The Militant* is? It's a good name, but it's not a selling point. Why not change the name to (for instance) "The Socialist Press"? — a name that would be self-identifying to the stranger on the street, to the student looking for socialist literature — or to the many thousands who consider themselves socialists, but know of no paper that represents their ideas?

Let's face it, it is harder to sell socialism to the potential buyer, when you hide behind a name like *The Militant* regardless of how good a name it is, or the tradition behind it.

The days of McCarthy are gone and even if there may have been advantage to a name like *The Militant* it's not so today. For thousands who are looking for socialism, let's make it easier for them to find us. Let's take advantage of the name Socialist — and spread it across the front page where it belongs.

Remember once Lenin changed the name of the party from Socialist to Communist when he felt it was to the advantage.

One more thing to think about — check your records of sales at newsstands. Ever wonder why the *International Socialist Review* outsells *The Militant*? and at a higher price? Could it be that the word Socialist on the cover is a selling point?

Why not take a poll? Here is one vote for "The Socialist Press."

J.K.

## Letters We Love Dep't

New York, N. Y.

Enclosed please find \$3 for a year's subscription plus \$2 which I hope will be useful in your publication efforts. *The Militant* has kept me aware of events which are not as a rule published in the New York dailies. I appreciate the introductory subscription of the last four months at the reduced rate.

F.P.

## Thought for the Week

"The labels 'Republican' and 'Democrat' have become virtually meaningless. The differences between President Kennedy and Mr. Nixon, for example, are far smaller than between the President and members of his own party . . . We have in America today what amounts to a one-party system." — From a Jan. 6 statement of policy by the editor of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

## It Was Reported in the Press

**Nothing Scares Him** — Speaking at a hastily summoned press conference at the Saigon airport in Vietnam Feb. 18, Attorney General Robert Kennedy declared: "We are going to win in Vietnam. We will remain here until we do." A New York Times dispatch added: "Mr. Kennedy did not leave the heavily guarded field during a two-hour stop . . . He said he wished he could have stayed longer."

**"Free World" Report** — The South Korean military dictatorship, which enjoys Washington's warm support, has sentenced 20 members of the Socialist Party to prison terms ranging up to 15 years for "pro-Communist" activity. They were convicted of helping the Communists by advocating an exchange of visits between the two Koreas and for opposing the government's brutal crackdown on "communist" activities.

**Deadly New Secret Weapon** — "Radio Liberty," which beams cold-war propaganda into the USSR, is planning to rock the Soviet people with a devious new assault. The station has slated a program devoted to the "twist"