

# WORKERS WORLD

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TEN CENTS

## Steelworkers: — Don't Retreat; Bold Counter-Offensive Can Win!

### WHY A STEEL ISSUE?

In the modern industrial world the steel industry is king. The muscle, nerves, sinew, and fat of the human social system are draped upon and supported by the skeleton of steel in all its countless forms and uses.

The depths of depressions and the height of booms are measured first of all by the statistics of the tonnage of steel. Similarly, the ruling class measures the economic challenge of the Workers States by the constantly rising output of the nationalized steel mills within their borders.

The United Steelworkers of America is a powerful union in the nation's most powerful industry. The 1959 contract could provide a goal and pattern for all American trade unions.

Every active steel unionist should try to make his fellow workers conscious of their power and importance, and direct this power to the task of writing into the 1959 contract the new and sweeping changes that are so urgent to defend the steelworkers and the entire industrial working class.

But we are now faced with a corporation drive to rip the guts out of the old contract, and set labor back to the conditions of a decade ago. In the firm belief that this drive must not and will not succeed, we dedicate this issue of our paper to the active rank-and-file steel unionist, and to his tireless efforts to make his fellow workers conscious of their power and importance.

May he direct this power to the task of writing into the 1959 contract the new and sweeping changes that are so urgent for the steelworkers and the entire working class!

### Tallahassee Whitewash

The "mercy" verdict of the Tallahassee rape case jury is a whitewash. It is not a "step forward" or "a sign of progress" as the gradualists foolishly believe. It is a whitewash, pure and simple.

Worse than that, it is an open invitation to the white supremacists to continue their rape and torture of the Negro people.

From the beginning of the case, we advocated the DEATH PENALTY for the Tallahassee four. This was not because we favor the death penalty in and of itself. It was because of what this penalty would signify in American Jim Crow society.

We advocated the death penalty as a means of lessening the Terror against the Negro people. We advocated the death penalty as a means of mobilizing the masses in a general cry for justice. We advocated the death penalty as a means of telling the reactionaries to STOP LYNCHING THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

It is pathetic to hear well-intentioned

Negro leaders and white radicals greet the prison sentence of the Florida rapists with approval. They express the hope that now perhaps Negroes accused of rape may get mere prison sentences instead of torture and death.

They are much mistaken. Negro persecution is part of a System. It is part of the apparatus for maintaining the whole capitalist class in power. No amount of "education" can educate the ruling class out of their profits and the power to maintain those profits. Negroes will continue to be killed and raped until much sterner measures are taken.

Naturally we advocate the immediate commutation of the death sentences hanging over the five Negro youths now awaiting execution for rape in Florida. And considering the public outrage over the Tallahassee verdict the chances of our succeeding in saving these particular youths are very good.

But let us not be the victims of liberal illusions. The Tallahassee verdict was a whitewash. Let us tell the world so.

### A Fight for 30 Hour Week at 40 Hours Pay Will Give Steelworkers Heart for Great Battle And Rally Enthusiastic Support of All Labor

J. Wilson

The steel corporations, supported by the NAM and the rest of big business, have declared war on the American working class, by making impossible demands on the Steelworkers Union.

These steel bosses, in the midst of the most profitable period in history, have demanded that the workers submit to a set of proposals that would virtually wreck the union or make it into a company union. Even David J. McDonald, the staunch advocate of mutual trusteeship, was infuriated at this provocation and labeled the proposals "attempts to break the union."

What must be the answer of the workers to this union-smashing offensive by the bosses? What must be the response of the workers to the set of proposals which would do away with all the "past practices" that are beneficial to the workers?

These proposals made by the steel bosses want the union to give more rights to the bosses on such matters as seniority, incentives, schedules, crew sizes, vacations, hospitalization, pensions, SUB. In a word, "capitulate" to the bosses.

Why are the bosses so arrogant? Why have they thrown down the gauntlet and why are they forcing a strike?

They feel that the leadership of the union is fearful of a strike. They feel that by using Dulles' "brink of war" technique they will make the union leaders retreat. They feel strong with steel stockpiled all over the place. They feel they can't lose much by a strike; no unemployment or SUB is paid; but they can win a lot since they think the Mc-

(continued on page 3)

### Look at the Facts!

LESS workers are producing MORE steel for HIGHER profits. Here are U.S. Steel's own figures for 1954 and 1958:

1954.....	268,000 workers.....	\$385 million profit
1958.....	223,000 workers.....	\$586 million profit

### Atlanta Report on Racist Violence Proves "Gradualist" Approach All Wrong

Dorothy Ballan

Violence against the Negro people in the form of rape, bombings and killings, rages to a new high in the South. This is according to an objective report just published in Atlanta by the American Friends Service Committee, the department of racial and cultural relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group working toward better race relations.

The evidence of more than 530 killings, beatings and bombings in a period

of only four years, and the increase of rape and lynch-murder, prove that there is no justice for the Negro people under our present government. (And this appalling record is only that of the reported crimes, and does not take into account the daily and hourly persecutions and humiliations of the whole Negro people.)

In 1954, the Supreme Court — under the fierce pressure of the militant Negro struggle at home, and the colonial revolutions abroad — rendered its now famous desegregation ruling. We submit that now — a full five years later — desegregation is still a dead letter in the deep South.

An infringement of a minor traffic regulation brings a quick penalty, but the lynching of a human being, because his skin is black, brings no penalty whatever to the lynchers, in this "free," and "democratic" country.

Now comes the horrible news that yet another young Negro girl has been brutally beaten and raped by white racist degenerates in Little Rock.

We firmly believe that all the evidence makes clear that ARMED CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE GUARDS must be organized by the Negro people and their white allies now.

This will put the fear of immediate punishment into the hearts of the despicable white supremacists. Armed Civil Rights Defense Guards will establish genuine law and order.

### Recognition, Dignity, Won by Hospital Strikers

Pedro Sanchez

New York — Nearly seven weeks of heroic strike action by 4,000 grossly underpaid hospital workers ended last Monday (June 22) when they accepted a compromise agreement with the Voluntary Hospitals of New York.

An overflow crowd of shouting, determined workers, their militancy still unquenched after long weeks of privation and picketing, after newspaper slanders, after police violence, voted unanimously to return to work under conditions approaching union recognition.

Actually, the union (Local 1199 of the Wholesale-Retail Workers AFL-CIO) is not formally recognized in the agreement. But the right of workers to choose their own representatives in

grievance disputes is assured. Considering the militancy and strong union-consciousness of the ranks, this will have the effect of union recognition. The leaders recommended the acceptance.

The union has thus won a partial victory — not front-door recognition, but back-door recognition. The workers won this with their own strength and in spite of the "assistance" of Van Arsdale and other labor "leaders" who were so quick to call in the capitalist politicians and demand "fact-finding" boards composed of big-business stooges, showing their slavish dependence on capitalist "public opinion."

The greatest thing about the hospital strike has been the strong surge of racial and national equality that came with it. The overwhelming majority of the non-professional workers in these New York hospitals are Negro and Puerto Rican, the most oppressed groups in this city.

Their picket-line action was like a great fresh wind blowing over the whole question of minority rights and race relations. It has raised the fight for equality to a new level.

The struggling hospital workers have a long way to go to get equal pay standards with other American workers. But they have already won, by heroic battle, their recognition as union men and women with equal rights.



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LENIN

## Something to Strike for

United Steelworkers President McDonald's ads in the press and on TV all stress the fact that steelworkers don't want a strike. That is only partially true. The workers are more than willing to strike to get a shorter work week at no reduction in pay. They are raring to strike to prevent the companies from getting *their* type of contract. The steelworkers are unwilling to strike only if they feel they have nothing to strike for.

## Steel Showdown

The continued arrogance of the steel barons in negotiations, and the massive anti-union propaganda campaign being waged by the steel companies are making it evident to the steelworkers that '59 will be a strike year."

The companies not only want to extend the present contract with no gains whatsoever for the workers, they also want to do away with the cost-of-living clause which would mean a 17¢ wage cut for all steelworkers.

The capitalist class as a whole intends fully to support the steel barons in the coming strike. This can be seen in the statement made by Ralph J. Cordiner, board chairman of General Electric, that "a nation-wide steel strike is inevitable because industry will not capitulate to wage demands of the United Steelworkers."

The steel corporations have announced that they have a mutual assistance plan to share the profits. This means that if only one or two companies are struck by the union, the rest of the industry will come to their aid.

The main purpose of the companies' propaganda campaign has been to convince the public that wage increases

are the reason for inflation. This lie has been exposed by the union economists. Since 1946, there have been ten pay increases and 21 price hikes in steel. The monopoly in steel by a few large companies has enabled the steel barons to make super profits. As an example, Bethlehem Steel's profits for the first quarter of 1959 reached the fifty million mark — double last year's figure.

A strike in '59 will pose many problems for the steelworkers as a result of the '57-'58 depression. Many men are just getting back to work; others have been on short work weeks, and there are many who have been laid off as a result of automation in the plants. Many of these problems could be resolved by the introduction of a shorter work week. Many steelworkers realize this. More and more of them are pushing for the idea of a 30-hour week for 40 hours pay.

The union leadership has done practically nothing to educate the membership on the issues involved in the coming conflict.

Nevertheless, when the call to action comes at the end of June, the steelworkers will move as one to defend their hard-won gains, — and move on to new victories.

## Buffalo Women Beat Grant's On Jim Crow Hiring Policy

Buffalo — A dramatic and very effective picket line conducted by a group of militant, determined women, members of an organization called the "Mothers Alliance," broke through the Jim-Crow hiring policy of Grant's Department Stores in this industrial city.

In record-breaking time, that is, after the women threw picket lines around the Jefferson and Main Street stores, the management of W. T. Grant and Co. capitulated to the demands of the mothers.

After a series of job interviews had proven the obvious bias in the hiring policy of Grant's, the officers of the

Mothers Alliance asked for an audience with the manager of the stores to pre-

### Sit-down Strike!

Miami — A group of 30 colored and white people tried a sit-down action in a large department store here last week. They were attempting to get equal service for both races.

They were unsuccessful for the moment, but the action is sure to bear fruit in the future.

sent him with their evidence of job bias. When this request was denied, the group resorted to the picket line.

Today, as a result of these efforts, W. T. Grant, the multi-million dollar chain department store will hire Negro women for their sales staff in Buffalo.

The victory stands as a monument to what a bold, militant and imaginative group can do if they have the courage to stand by and fight for their convictions. In Buffalo, they say there is much unfinished business. We might add, in every one of the large urban centers, Jim-Crow must go.

### Greetings!

To the Editor:

I have been hoping for a leftward split in the Cannon group for many years.

Your declaration is much better than I hoped for. Of course, you realize the transitional program for mass work is a matter of first rate importance.

C. A.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

## "We Need the Colored Guys!"

Lackawanna, N. Y. — At the edge of the sprawling Bethlehem Steel Co. outside Buffalo lies an automated high speed mill that turns slabs into hot and cold rolled sheet steel. This is the Bethlehem strip mill. Over 2,000 men pour over the bridge into the mill during the 3-shift schedule. Only two or three of these 2,000 men are Negro workers, and they work neither in production or in maintenance but are attached to the Welfare Building in cleaning jobs. Contrary to all union principles (and New York State law) Bethlehem has openly practiced this Jim Crow policy for many years.

The United Steelworkers District 4 leadership fears to do anything about it. They claim this is what the white workers want. But the truth is that the International never wanted to change this policy. They are content to go along, for to oppose the discriminatory practices of the company would mean a struggle with the company and they don't relish a fight on an issue they themselves are backward on.

Although race prejudice exists among the white strip mill workers, it is not as deep as the company and the International would have us believe. Race prejudice, like any attitude, can change with conditions, experiences and education. The current drive by the company to introduce further speed-up, job elimination, and incentive abuses has generated comments like this from some of

the more backward workers: "What we need to stop the company is some of them colored guys from across the street." These workers, who are under pressure from the company, are identifying Negro workers with militancy and seeing them as allies in a common struggle. It's a step in the right direction.

## Workers Should Run Idle Steel Plants

The Sharon Steel Corporation's plant in Youngstown has not been affected by the revival of steel production. It has been kept idle even though steel production in the Youngstown area rose to 95 per cent of capacity in the recent stock-piling boom. It is not alone, though. One Bessemer converter at Youngstown Sheet and Tube has been dismantled, and another one at the Ohio Works of the United States Steel Corporation has been closed for over a year. The workers have had to seek other jobs at lower pay and some have lost work altogether. Undoubtedly, plants in all areas, especially old mill areas, have suffered similar fates.

But the important thing is: What happens to the workers? It is time for all unions to raise the demand: "Place idle plants under workers' control. Produce for use, not for profit."

## A Link in the Chain (The 1919 Steel Strike)

By Frederick Matteger

Half of them worked a 12 hour shift. The rest worked ten or eleven. Many worked 7 days a week with a 24 hour shift every two weeks. The pay was low during a period of rising prices. Their families had tuberculosis. Their babies died for lack of proper food and medical care. Their hovel-like homes were overcrowded. The speed-up was so bad that only the strongest could stand it. Safety measures were neglected or non-existent. A man could be fired at any time, for any reason. There was no union.

This was the life of the steelworkers in 1919, just 40 years ago.

The 1917-1918 war for "democracy" had been hell for these workers at home, as it was for the soldiers abroad. But it was very profitable for the steel companies. For the U. S. Steel Company, that war provided a net profit of \$421,170,480.

Had this been divided up among the 200,000 U. S. Steel Co. workers involved in the strike to come, each would have received a \$2,000 bonus.

All the unions in steel had been broken. For thirty years all union activity had been suffering defeats until nothing was left. It was said that steelworkers couldn't be organized.

But they had to be. And they were.

William Z. Foster was the brains and much of the spirit behind the drive to organize them. At this time, before going down the road of CP support for Stalin, Khrushchev, and the Democratic Party, Foster was a brilliant union organizer.

The 1919 drive to organize the steelworkers was an epic achievement. The steel companies controlled whole towns, barred union meetings, arrested organ-

izers, and fired union members. But on September 22, 1919, over 300,000 steelworkers walked out together all over the country, under union leadership.

They were of many nationalities. Many could not speak English, knew little or nothing about unions, and had been imported from backward, rural areas in Europe by companies who thought they could never be unionized. Though the strike was finally lost, they held out bravely against beatings, arrests, and killings. At least twenty were killed. Police, company-hired thugs, and mounted "cossacks" beat up men, women, and children on the streets, invaded houses, and threatened strikers with jail if they did not go back to work.

The papers screamed "red" and daily lied that the strike was failing. The strikers in many areas were prevented from holding meetings and in many cases could not be reached by truthful strike news.

Yet the strike lasted through three and a half long winter months. Strikers in Lackawanna and Pueblo, Colorado, voted to continue the strike alone. Though this was hopeless, it showed that the struggle had created a fighting union spirit which could not be completely broken even though the strike was lost.

It was not until the thirties that the steelworkers finally achieved large scale unionization. But this would have been impossible without the steel strike of 1919. That strike was a link in the chain of battles steelworkers have fought for their rights to a decent life. Ever greater battles remain to be fought before the workers win a workers' world.

## You'd Never Think So, But— Wage Increases Come Out of Profits!

British steel prices have been *reduced* because steel production dropped to 70%. Experts believe the price reduction will increase production to over 90%. This follows the laws of supply and demand.

Why don't steel prices in America go down if steel producers are losing customers and there is a surplus of steel? The truth is that the steel bosses have been charging as high prices as possible, making the greatest possible profits. But they fear that if the workers get a raise, they may not be able to raise prices this time but *will have to pay the wage increases out of profits. This is the real reason for resistance to wage increases.*

## Backward West Advanced East

American construction experts in charge of erecting the U.S. Fair buildings in Moscow concede that Soviet construction crews are "right up to United States standards or beyond them," according to the New York Times, May 17.

"They were able to place concrete foundations even in the coldest weather," . . . They preshaped the forms and put them in position. Then they made seams utilizing reinforcing rods as electrodes and heating electrically to cure the seams.

"The Russians worked through sub-zero weather, frost, blizzards, rain and sleet, regardless of working conditions.

"We cannot work under such conditions at home," Mr. Parris (an American engineer in charge of Fair construction) said. "Costs go too high. Here nothing stops them."

Another example of the backward West and the advanced East!

# Steelworkers: Don't Retreat! Companies Build Stockpiles; Workers Gird for Battle

(continued from page 1)

Donald leadership will not take to the offensive against them with bold demands for the workers, but will retreat and forget about the workers' needs after a prolonged strike.

The workers can do but one thing—accept the challenge! Take to the counter-offensive with a set of demands that will rally the workers and throw fear into the steel bosses and the whole Wall Street crew!

We must demand the thirty-hour week at forty-hours pay, the only demand that will meet the number one problem of tomorrow: unemployment. (The McDonald leadership has virtually scuttled this demand because it fears the battle that is necessary for its attainment.) We must fight a tight strike where no one goes in or out of the plants. The leadership has always capitulated to the Taft-Hartley law and permitted bosses to go in and out of mills.

We must fight against all the proposals of the corporations, using the power

before the boss-controlled NLRB or Ike. This only amuses the steel barons while it disarms the workers.

We should start the campaign in every state for unemployment compensation and SUB and surplus food for all strikers. This will bring us into conflict with the so-called friends of labor, but it is necessary for the workers' welfare. Again the McDonald leadership will not care to engage in this fight as it will expose the bankruptcy of its political line of supporting capitalist politicians.

We should reject the McDonald notion of "one at a time" strategy. No worker wants one plant running while others are down. The whole class, in steel, should act in unison. The workers are stronger then, and they feel stronger.

Above all the workers know that we are in a general depression crisis and fear that strike or no strike, a depression will again hit us. The leadership hesitates to discuss this issue and avoids facing up to it. We must expose the false notions that there is no class struggle and that the Marxist theory is dead. In the midst of a gigantic class battle, the McDonalds and Meanys deny the existence of classes and class antagonisms. Every serious worker knows better.

It appears now that come July 1, 1959, the steel plants will all be down. We may start out with a defensive fight, but we have also often learned that "the best defense is a good offense."

We must demonstrate that we have the strength to defeat all the steel corporations and their supporters. We can rely only on the workers for assistance. We must not depend on the false promises of company stooges who pretend to be "impartial." With a program to fight for and the class army to fight for it we cannot lose. Victory must be ours.

## Kiss the Jobs Goodbye!

Republic steel has developed a process for making strip steel that eliminates coke oven, blast furnace, and open hearth.

Steelworkers better hurry and get the thirty hour week at forty hours pay!

of the workers. No reliance on the NLRB, President Eisenhower, or other agents of the steel monopolists. McDonald attempts to frighten the steel corporation leaders by threatening action

## "SAFETY PAYS," Say Bosses; (But Speed-up Pays Better!)

Marian Sherman

The first thing you spot when you go through Gate 3, main entrance of the Ohio Works of the U. S. Steel Corporation, is a huge sign in bold yellow letters, several storeys high. This sign informs the mill workers that: SAFETY PAYS.

Of course, the minute the highly-touted safety programs come into conflict with the needs of speeded-up production, the accident reports start coming in thick and fast. The foremen dump the protective regulations in their haste to fulfill the production quotas.

At the Ohio Works, during the month of April, when production was up to around 92 per cent, a petty foreman openly violated one of the most elementary rules of safety. He removed a lock which had been placed by a millwright on a conveyor in the Sintering Plant. Such a safety lock is an indication that a worker is busily repairing the equipment and is somewhere around, even if he can't be seen.

It's an unwritten and a written law that only the person who has placed the lock on the machine is allowed to take it off. But the foreman (and the company) was in a hurry. — So the lock was removed, the machinery went into motion, and the hapless millwright, lying on his back on the floor fixing the iron monster, was caught up between the thrashing belts and swept along, heading straight for the pit, ready to become part of the powdered sinter.

Fortunately, his body passed over a hole in the flooring and he fell five feet, thereby escaping certain death, and "luckily" incurring only a badly injured back.

Probably the most expensive (to the company) accident lately, happened at the height of the rush season, a perfect example of poetic justice.

In the frenzy to push production higher and higher, so that profits would soar correspondingly, management forgot that machines cannot be driven as mercilessly as human beings: they require a certain minimal amount of care to stay in working order. The jacket lining of a blast furnace must be flushed regularly to ensure that the terrific heat won't sear right through.

Well, the bosses decided that they would reduce the flushing by half, as the usual maintenance procedure was wasting too much time.

And that's the reason that a spanking new blast furnace at the Ohio Works, put into operation a scant eight months before, exploded millions of dollars worth of equipment sky-high. It was only due to the care of an inspector-worker that the coming explosion was discovered in time to evacuate some thirty workmen from the furnace just seconds before it blew up.

Nor is the fifty-year old steam-powered Ohio Works the only site of speed-up accidents. The electrified Campbell plant of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company probably holds the record in the steel industry this year for fatalities. S & T chalked up FOUR FATAL ACCIDENTS IN SIX WEEKS this past spring.

The first one occurred on February 5 when a diesel crane and three hopper cars were dumped into the blast furnaces yard as a section of a handling trestle collapsed between the No. 1 and No. 2 blast furnaces. A young man, only twenty years of age, was buried under hundreds of tons of debris and twisted steel. He had worked for the company about two years, since graduation from high school, and had just returned to work as a member of the labor gang only two months before, following a long layoff.

It took special crews seventy hours to clear away the pile of steel, brick, and rubble to get to his crushed and fractured body. The local union's safety committee was not even permitted to go near the scene of the accident for thirty-six hours after it had taken place. (Numerous suggestions had been filed with the company urging the repair of the faulty trestle.)

The February 6 headline in the "Youngstown Vindicator" (one day after the accident): MILL OUTPUT TO HIT 75 PERCENT NEXT WEEK.

Twenty weeks and a few deaths later, output is now up to 96 per cent. Sure boss, SAFETY PAYS. But putting the steel out, no holds barred, PAYS EVEN MORE, huh?

J. Sullivan

Buffalo — Although steel production on the Niagara Frontier is increasing daily, steelworkers here are bracing themselves against a stepped-up company offensive and the threat of a strike when the national steel contracts expire on June 30.

To the guys in the plant, this sudden jump in production has brought many changes. Open hearths and blast furnaces which were cold and silent for the last two years are now running continuously. Many men who had been laid off for over a year are now back on the job, and overtime work which had been practically non-existent for a couple of years is back again as the companies press for more and more production.

An outsider might think that "happy days are here again," but in the plant we know different. Most steelworkers agree that this sudden upsurge in steel production is not the beginning of a long, full employment period in steel, but has come about mainly because of the threat of a steel strike this summer. Companies using steel have built up huge inventories sensing that a steel strike in '59 will be a long struggle.

Conditions in the plant have changed as a result of the last two depression years. With many workers being replaced by automation, with the unem-

ployment lists growing larger, the bosses have taken the offensive. A result of automation can be seen in the huge Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna where the work force has fallen from 20,000 to 19,000 men. Yet this plant's production continues to rise.

Superintendents and foremen are more aggressive. Thinking only of more production, they have instituted speed-ups; warning slips are given out more freely for minor infractions; safety is ignored and gains that we have fought for over a period of years are under daily attack. Many workers are linking up this attack on working conditions with the present contract negotiations.

## Down the Drain

About 11 percent of your tax money goes to pay the bankers the interest on the national debt. About seventy percent more goes for war expenditures.

\* \* \*

## Kenya's Fighters

A new Kikuyu secret society is arising, in Kenya. It is called Kiama Kia Muingi (Assembly of People). Naturally it has to be "secret" considering what is happening to those patriotic members of Mau Mau who fought for their country's freedom.

## "Foreign Competition" is a Phony!

In its propaganda against the Steelworkers Union, the steel bosses are constantly harping on the idea that competition is keen and that foreign steel is coming into the United States faster and faster. They tell us that since December, 1958, imports have exceeded exports. That is very likely true. The plants have been running at near top capacity filling domestic orders and stockpiling for the strike. In fact the reason that foreign steel has been com-

ing so fast is that the souped-up market here has made it possible.

We are very sure that if the imports would have hurt the steel corporations' profits, the corporations would have been squealing like stuck pigs for tariffs against steel shipments.

Probably the truth is that the American Steel companies are making a profit on the shipped-in steel by acting as the broker for their so-called competitors.

## Diary of a Steelworker

By Theodore Kovalesky

The floor shuddered. There was a sort of muffled WHOOM that was indistinct and yet all around us, filling the air, tearing our attention away from the things we had been talking about as we sat waiting for the iron ladles to come.

The stove man leaped to his feet and raced to the wheel. With a rush and a roar we heard the blast as he pulled it down, sending the pressure howling out into the atmosphere. The engine house signal rang out. Intently, the stove man watched the pressure gauge before him. Then, satisfied that the furnace had finished "shipping," he swung his weight around the wheel once more. The roar died down and squeaked off.

"Damn furnace been slipping all day long," he grunted. "Coming all day long," he said, coming back and sitting down on the bench. "Rolling and heaving to beat hell."

"Bad furnace," Jimmy said. "Never know what'll happen when she gets like this."

The Old Man put down his coffee bottle and reached for his pipe. It was a terrible pipe, black, half burned away, half chewed up, and strong as a team of mules. It was said that that the Old Man locked his pipe up when he wasn't using it so it wouldn't get up and walk away.

The Old Man packed some Five Brothers into the poisonous bowl of his pipe and said reflectively, "I seen one of them blow up once."

We looked at him. "Where, Old Man?"

"Down Alabama. They had a pig-bed there; didn't cast into ladles like up here. Fifty-sixty men working on the pig-bed. Killed 'em all."

Young Benny's eyes were wide. How'd it happen, Old Man?" he asked.

The Old Man was filling the room with pungent smoke. Jim made a face of disgust, held his nose, and moved

away from him. The Old Man looked coldly and levelly at Jimmy for a moment and then turned back to us.

"Don't know, son," he said to Benny. "Can't say what goes on inside one of them big furnaces. All I know, she was bad. Sloppy. Rolling and heaving all day. Trying to come back in the tuyeres. Bad furnace. BAD!"

He paused, but nobody interrupted the Old Man. We waited for him to speak. He had the floor.

"I was going home that night. I didn't work on THAT furnace," he added modestly to show that he was not the hero of a hairbreadth escape, "but I worked a little down the line. And all of a sudden I heard a big rumbling and roaring, and I looked around, and it looked like the whole world was lighted up! I started running, and I guess everybody else did. But then I come back."

A pause. More bitter smoke from that terrible pipe.

"Killed every single one of 'em," the Old Man murmured. "Looked like some of em ran HALF A MILE and fell over dead! I swore I'd never go up another furnace as long as I lived."

There was another silence.

"Never know what's going to happen when a furnace's running bad," the Old Man said, and he added, "... like this."

Blast furnaces are safer than they were when the Old Man was young. But they're still bad.

I looked at the Old Man. I saw him, driven by the whip of economic needs, hounded and driven back to that very place of horror that he had fled from. And I thought of the rest of us, chained to our jobs by the needs of our families. And I thought of the profits of the steel companies.

I started to speak, but then once again the floor shuddered. There was a muffled WHOOM, and the stove man leaped to his feet and raced to the wheel.

# Steel Area Survey Shows Men 100% for Strike & Shorter Week

The New York Times of Sunday, June 14, reported the results of a survey it made in the several steel districts. Their survey showed that in all steel areas except one in the east, the steelworkers were against a strike this year. In this way, the Times created the impression ("impartially" of course!) that the workers are against their union.

The Workers World has since made a similar survey and obtained almost diametrically opposite results. Our correspondents interviewed 55 steelworkers in the Buffalo-Lackawanna-Tonawanda area, the Mahoning Valley (Youngstown-Sharon-Campbell, Ohio), and Pittsburgh.

They approached some militant workers and some "average" men who had never been especially active in the union. The Times survey approached twice as many men, but over a wider area.

All but three of our cross section agreed that a strike was the only answer to the company's union-busting demands. And the three skeptics assured us that they would vigorously support any strike that the union called.

Positions on the strike ranged from this company-minded answer: "If I had my way, we should sign an agreement for one year with no cost-of-living provision" (only one like this!) to "I'm all for a strike" and "We've got to go out!"

Here are the questions we asked, and here are the answers:

1. How many years seniority do you have?

Range: four years to thirty-three years.

2. Do you want a strike to prevent the company from getting its eight proposals?

55 For—0 Against

3. Are you for unemployment compensation for strikers?

55 For—0 Against

4. Are you for surplus food for strikers?

55 For—0 Against

5. Are you for SUB for strikers?

51 For—4 Against

6. Do you want to depend on Government agencies for solutions?

7 For—48 Against

7. Do you want a wage increase, in the light of the companies' huge profits and productivity increases?

Ans: Fifty-two yes; three for fringe benefits rather than direct wage increase.

8. Do you favor a shorter work week

without a reduction in pay?

55 For—0 Against

9. What do you think will happen to your job if there is no strike?

Twelve said they would be laid off. All forty three of the rest think they will go on a four day week.

One of the most interesting things that the interviews revealed was that the youngest, as well as the oldest, want

## How Unemployment Disappears . . . !

"There are liars, there are damned liars — and then there are statisticians."

Employment in the Cleveland area went up 10,000. Unemployment went down 16,000. What happened to the other 6,000? Donald P. Smith, Cleveland area manager of the Ohio State Employment Service, said, "Likelihood is that they are not seeking work any longer. . . . Chances are they'd take jobs if they could get them." He explained that in the Cleveland area, "22,000 have used up their 39 weeks of unemployment compensation" and are no longer considered unemployed.

If unemployment drops in this way, all over the country, we could have five million really unemployed and none officially out of work. But those unofficially unemployed get just as hungry as those unemployed otherwise, even though the bosses want to hide the facts.

to strike to have a good contract. Many of these (particularly in the Ohio-Pittsburgh area) were unemployed as long as two years in 1957-58.

In the Buffalo interview, the additional question was asked: "Do you think the decisions handed down by government boards like the NLRB are more often favorable to management or labor?"

Two workers had no opinion at all on this; two were not sure; one thought it was even Steven; 50 were convinced that the government labor board was stacked in favor of management.

A furnace man at the Crucible Steel Co. in Pittsburgh was convinced that "the company must give, or else the workers must strike. If not, the union will be crippled because the companies want to take back a lot of gains in working conditions." This answer was typical in all areas.

To question No. 9, one Lackawanna

## U.S. and Chinese Steelworkers In Same Boat

Last year thousands of American steelworkers lost their homes because steel mills went on lower production. This year hundreds of thousands of Chinese people lost their homes because they did not have enough steel. Real reason: there was not enough steel to build all the dams necessary to prevent floods.

Neither of these tragedies had to happen. True, one was caused by economic factors (the Recession); the other was caused by natural factors (a record thirty inches of rainfall in Kwangtung Province).

But if American Big Business had been willing to trade with China, it could have sent millions of tons of steel to China, and millions more in the form of tractors, plows and tools that China desperately needs. This would have given work to all the unemployed American steelworkers, saved thousands of American homes, and even more thousands of Chinese homes.

But American Big Business is NOT willing to trade with China. Nor are the steel barons. They care no more for the welfare of the American workers than for the Chinese.

billet yard man of 15 years seniority said: "We'd be slaves, kicked around. Quite a few old people would be kicked out (of their jobs). If it weren't for the unions, I don't know what would happen."

The survey convinced us that the steelworkers' union has lost none of its power, and none of its support for great actions. What the ranks are trying to say is this:

"We are one hundred percent for a strike rather than for submitting to the companies' wage-cutting, condition-cutting demands. But we need a bold, courageous leadership. We want a social struggle for social gains — like the 30 hour week at 40 hours pay. We would like to get something new. We would like to take the offensive. But for this we need a PROGRAM."

## Some REAL "Foreign Competition"!

Mose Peterson

The American steel companies are trying to frighten us with talk of "foreign competition."

But the steelworkers should certainly give some thought to the "foreign competition" of the European labor unions. Some of them are way ahead of us.

Take DOUBLE TIME, for example: Double time for Sunday work is paid in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and most other countries. This makes our time-and-a-quarter look pretty sick.

Take PAID VACATIONS: Steelworkers in EVERY European country get two to three weeks vacation after ONE year of work.

Take HOLIDAYS: There are an average of eleven paid holidays in the European countries. We get only seven.

Take BONUSES: Christmas bonuses run as high as 200 hours pay. Contributions are made toward building your home and special allowances for children are as high as 65 per cent of your pay.

(These figures are from the Vienna Conference of the International Metal

## I DON'T Want a Raise (The Other Side of the Story)

By Scissorbill Sam, the Bosses' Man

I'm a steelworker, and I don't want a raise because that would cause inflation.

The steel companies have explained that our average wage is \$3.08 per hour. I get a lot less than \$3.08. But that's all right, because you couldn't have an average if some people didn't get below the average, could you?

Now my boss, Arthur B. Homer (President of Bethlehem Steel), he gets above the average. His salary and bonus comes to \$510,000 a year. That's all right too. Some people have to get above the average, don't they?

Mr. Homer got a raise of several thousand dollars over last year. But that's all right too. Because his raise didn't cause inflation.

If all the steelworkers got a raise, why that would raise the price of all things we eat and wear. But you don't suppose that Mr. HOMER eats and wears the same things we do, do you?—He just goes out and buys some more champagne or an extra yacht or two. That ain't going to raise the cost of living. And think of all the work it gives to the yacht builders . . . and all them barefoot people in France that stamp out the grapes for champagne. . . .

Some crazy agitators say that the company should pay us more money just because it pays Mr. Homer so much. They don't understand economics. Five hundred and ten thousand a year ain't so much—

Of course, it's four times what the President of the United States gets. And it's forty times what the best steel en-

## Ike's Friend No Friend of Ours!

George Humphrey, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, is chairman of the Board of the National Steel Corporation, (head of violently anti-union Weirton Steel), head of the powerful Hanna interests in Ohio. He is also chief of the world's largest coal company, the Consolidated Company of Pittsburgh.

Humphrey is one of the close pals of Eisenhower. These two buddies visited with each other on Humphrey's estate and Humphrey taught Ike whom to listen to. They are class brothers and Humphrey is the big brother. When Ike sticks his nose into the negotiations in steel, he does it as an agent of the steel industry, not as an impartial observer.

Workers Federation, March 1959.)

The United Steelworkers better get a move on to keep up with THIS competition!

## Some New Inventions Useless Under Socialism

Bullets embedded in plastic carriers to reach velocities of 5,000 feet per second (Patent #2,820,412)

Infrared sensing devices designed for guiding bombs or missiles to a target (Patent #2,825,021)

Rapid-fire cannon designed for supersonic jet aircraft (Patent #2,849,921)

Long-range projector to place advertisements on clouds, smog and mountains (Patent #2,827,831)

Counterfeit bill detector for use in vending machines (Patent #2,827,822)

A watch tower with one-way glass, to deter shop-lifting in supermarkets, makes the watchman invisible and may contain no one at all (Patent #2,823,424)

gineers get. But he's just forty times as smart, that's all.

Look at it this way: Mr. Homer only gets about the same pay that 90 ordinary steelworkers get. And what's that? Who the hell are 90 steelworkers? Why Mr. Homer can lay off 90 steelworkers just by raising his little finger!

Suppose he was on a two-month vacation in Europe (He has to give his brain a rest don't he?). And suppose he died suddenly in some Paris night club. Do you suppose the engineers, factory managers, department heads, and foremen would know what to do? Do you suppose us ordinary steelworkers could go right on making steel?

We need Mr. Homer. And five hundred and ten thousand is little enough to pay for a man like him. Mr. Homer lets us work in his plant, and he pays us well for it. He wants to give us a raise too. But he knows it would cause inflation.

He doesn't want to have to raise the price of steel, even though that would be extra money in his pocket. He's not selfish like you and me. Mr. Homer is patriotic. He thinks about the country's good, and our good too. He knows we shouldn't have a raise. In fact, he even wants to take away some of our old raises. I hope he does, too. More power to him, I say!

I don't want a raise. I don't even want as much as I'm getting now. It causes inflation. I hope I get a wage cut. Then prices will come down. God bless Mr. Homer!

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## Must Help Cement Negro-White Unity

Youngstown—During the period from 1950 to 1954, when production was at a high in steel, the local union at the U. S. Steel plant here conducted a successful fighting campaign to assist Negroes to get jobs in previously lily-white departments. The majority of white workers either actively or passively supported this integration process.

In the 1957-58 depression, however, some white workers were laid off while some of the Negro workers remained on the payroll (having greater departmental seniority). Some backward whites, under this sharp economic pressure, became more racist-minded. This feeling was nourished by the increased racism of the South. It grew and became a factor in the local union elections in 1958. And the pro-integration slate was defeated.

This was a serious blow to union solidarity as well as to our Negro brothers. It will hurt the white workers themselves, in the long run. (How U. S. Steel would love to use colored against white, and vice versa, to break a strike!) Later on, our white brothers will understand their mistake and correct it.

It is important, however, that we understand the mistake right now, and start building a left wing leadership that will weld the Negro and white workers into unbreakable unity against the companies.