

# WORKERS WORLD

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TEN CENTS

## Soviet Science Hits The Moon; Soviet System Proved Superior!

### Little Rock Comes to N.Y. — NAACP Turns Other Cheek!

Dorothy Ballan

School opened in New York City last Monday, and even before the sessions began, some very important lessons were learned.

The New York NAACP leaders deserted their militant followers in Harlem and capitulated in the fight for better schools.

And in Glendale, Queens, on the same day, the equivalent of White Citizens Councils picketed against Negro children, and forced their own little ones to boycott the schools!

The facilities for Negro school children in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn—just across from Glendale—are so terrible that the Board of Education was forced by the pressure of the people to make a token move to alleviate the overcrowded, understaffed schools there.

The Board authorized the transfer of about 400 students from Bedford-Stuyvesant to five "white" schools in Glendale, where the facilities are excellent, and not used to full capacity. And then Little Rock reared its ugly head in Glendale.

In Harlem, conditions of the schools are even worse than in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Under pressure of a mass movement, the local NAACP threatened a boycott unless some Harlem children were permitted to transfer to some Riv-

erdale schools in the Bronx. There, a junior high school with excellent facilities (now attended by white children) is equipped to handle many more students than are now registered.

However, after a conference with the Board of Education, the NAACP leaders didn't even make the attempt to register the children in Riverdale. They accepted a miserable pie-in-the-sky promise of better conditions in Harlem. They deserted the large, militant movement for better schools. They completely chickened out of the boycott—thereby letting the white supremacists carry the day.

What a bitter pill for progress! A justified boycott called off in Harlem; an unjustified, reactionary, segregationist boycott right on schedule in Queens!

The conservative leadership of the NAACP betrayed the struggle and reinforced the arrogance of the white supremacists.

More to blame than the NAACP are the bureaucratic leaders of the million-fold New York labor movement. They simply sat on their hands during this crisis. They could have neutralized many of the misled whites in Glendale, and their unions could long ago have forced the city to provide better schools in Harlem.

### Russian Revolution Gloriously Vindicated As Soviet Wins Technology Race to the Moon

Forty-two years after Lenin and Trotsky led the Russian workers to power, Soviet science has hit the moon.

Forty years ago, the Soviet Government had difficulty sending trains a few hundred miles outside of Moscow. Eastbound trains sometimes arrived a whole day late. But on September 13, 1959, the Soviet Government sent a huge projectile 237,000 miles through space to arrive at its destiny on the moon, just 84 seconds off schedule.

This is a great victory for the human race. But first of all, it is a victory for the Soviet working class. It is a victory for Marxism and for the working class of the world. It is a victory for socialism and a defeat for capitalism.

Let the reactionaries try to explain this by their lies about "slave labor"! Neither the lash of the pharaohs nor the whip of the white overseer in the Old South could drive the slaves to such achievement as this. Not all the forced labor of the centuries, piling all of its prisons on top of its pyramids, could reach the moon. Only a revolutionary leap in technology could do it.

In 1917 Soviet technology hardly existed. Russia was a nation of wooden huts, mud roads, and vast desert wastes. No more than 10 per cent could read or write. Today, the Soviet Union turns out more scientists, doctors and teachers than any country in the world. And it is going forward at a much faster rate than the capitalist United States.

Marx always said that technology—the forces of production—were the main-

spring of human development, the criterion of human progress. The bourgeoisie have *accepted* this proposition. But they always pointed to the *low* technology of the Soviet Union to prove capitalism was so much better. Until a short time ago, it *was* better, because the first proletarian revolution occurred in such a backward country as feudal Russia.

But the 1917 revolution has proved stronger than its most heroic and optimistic originators ever dreamed. Socialist planning has outdistanced capitalism in the vital sphere of rocketry and space travel. It is behind the United States in many other things. But this achievement shows dramatically what socialist planning can do.

The Russian Revolution, like one of the better sputniks, is still hurtling onward, in spite of all its set-backs. Many set-backs are still to come. But the world proletarian revolution that started in 1917 will prove invincible.

The victory in the race to the moon proves it.

## Class Truth and Class Deception About the Khrushchev Visit

What has induced the U.S. government to invite Khrushchev to the U.S.? According to the Sunday Worker of September 13, the reason is that "Man does not want to go up in nuclear smoke. Man wishes, on the contrary, to master nuclear energy to work for him, to build the green Eden which is possible. Basically that is the reason the exchange of visits came about."

This is the worst sort of pacifist nonsense. No class-conscious, socialist-minded worker should give the above statement the slightest credence.

The basic reason for the exchange of visits lies, of course, elsewhere than in Man's wish to build the "green Eden." He's been hoping to do that for thousands of years.

### Hard Facts of Life

The reason lies in the fact that the balance of world power has shifted in a military and political sense to the side of the Soviet Union, China, the colonial people and the entire camp of the working class. That is why Eisenhower invited Khrushchev. That is why Ike talks Peace. That and that alone explains why the entire capitalist press, from the Wall St. Journal down, see the talks as "useful."

If the Soviet Union had not achieved its dramatic launching of Sputniks and Luniks—if Red China had not shown such stupendous energy and revolutionary will to nationalize its industries and collectivize its million-fold individual peasant holdings into giant communes—if the colonial masses in Africa, in the Middle East and in Latin America

had not delivered hammer blows to imperialism, would Wall St. have invited Khrushchev to the U.S.A.? Merely to ask the question is to answer it.

Imagine a state of world affairs where the U.S.A. still had a monopoly over the atomic bomb, where the revolutionary tide in China had been set back and Chiang was back on the mainland, and where the colonial rebellions from Cairo to the Cape had been crushed, would Khrushchev have been invited to the U.S.A.?

This new power balance which now favors the world working-class, is not irreversible. It depends on the living struggle of class forces on a global scale. The definitive defeat of the working class in a key imperialist country, such as in France, in a series of important colonial countries could revise the tide in favor of imperialism. There can never be a definitive victory for the world working class until imperialism has been completely crushed.

### What is the Cold War?

But it is said by the capitalists and echoed by all types of socialists and communists, that the lessening of tensions in the cold war will bring peace. A revolutionary Marxist, however, who approaches reality from a class point of view, first asks himself what exactly is the cold war?

The cold war is a *class* war. A war between two social systems, diametrically opposed to each other—one progressive and the other reactionary. The tensions arising out of the cold war arise from the

basic class antagonisms. The tensions are merely a symptom—the class antagonisms are the disease itself. You cannot abolish the symptom unless you get rid of the disease which is its cause. You cannot lessen the tensions without lessening the class antagonisms that cause the tensions.

### But the Class War Never Stops!

The ruling class never ceases in its relentless war on the working class. Soft-headed union leaders believe the class war does not exist. Bureaucratic leaders of a workers state like Khrushchev, believe the class war can be reconciled or liquidated. But the capitalist class, accustomed for centuries to rule the world, is infinitely more class conscious, and a great deal more determined to hold on to its privileges than any of the present workers' leaders are determined to take them away.

It is false to call it a "peace." It will only be a truce!

Are we in favor of a diplomatic truce between the USSR and U.S. imperialism? Of course we are! But only to the extent that the world working class may gain something thereby. We are not for a truce for its own sake. And we are against lying about the truce—calling it a peace, when the capitalists are determined that there shall be no peace.

We are for the truce. But we are not for cessation of the class struggle, which is something else! We are for its relentless prosecution until the final victory of the World Socialist Revolution!



TROTSKY

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LENIN

## The Anti-Labor Law

The big bosses scored a major victory when they recently passed the vicious legislation modeled on the Landrum-Griffin bill. This major victory by the capitalist class was gained at a time when the steelworkers are conducting a mass struggle for a new contract. It was won when the whole labor movement seemed to be against this legislation. So how can we explain the passage of this law?

The enactment of this law is the end result of the false method of struggle and the false policies of the union leadership.

What did the union leadership do wrong? First, it gave the McClellan committee support and helped to convince workers that the findings of this anti-labor committee were correct. The leadership in this way helped to smear the labor movement as a whole, which was the real aim of the committee in the first place.

By giving support to the McClellan committee, the leadership collaborated with a violently anti-labor, anti-Negro body. It prepared the road for the passage of vicious legislation aimed not so much against "racketeering" as against bona fide trade unionism.

Secondly, when Meany, Reuther, and the rest of the bureaucratic leaders of

the labor movement agreed in principle that some form of "reform" legislation was necessary and good, they agreed to their own defeat. The only matter to be decided was how bad the defeat would be.

The degree of attack on labor was determined by "friends" of labor, such as Senator Kennedy. He was the main aide who paved the way for labor's defeat. He hypocritically stated "this is the best law we could get under the circumstances," but we had to have a law, he said.

Thirdly, the policy of supporting capitalist politicians revealed its bankruptcy very clearly in this latest political legislative battle. Both the capitalist parties were for anti-labor legislation. And the labor bureaucrats, by supporting these parties, also prepared the workers' defeat.

The way to victory for labor is not through supporting the enemies of labor. Workers can win only if they support workers' representatives who will be answerable to the working class, not to the boss class. There must be a complete break with the two old parties of Big Business.

Only working class politics will win working class victories in Congress.

## Fighting Nigerians

A militant, chanting, shouting crowd of Nigerian students and their friends picketed the U.N., Saturday, September 5.

They and their friends (about 100 altogether) were protesting the French imperialists' plan to explode the H bomb in the Sahara.

The great majority turned out in native Nigerian dress and made a color-

ful, as well as aggressive, demonstration. Extremely nationalist, and very angry, they hurled their defiance at the U.N., the police and the more upper-class passers-by. At the same time, they called for additions to their line. Several joined in on the spot.

The demonstration impressed everyone who saw it with the gutsy spirit of a rising rebellious Africa.

## Police Violence And Defense Guards

When the police in Harlem brutally assaulted a Puerto Rican woman, dragging her by the hair to their squad car, sadistically beating her up on the way, hundreds of people gathered around, and one man grabbed a cop's gun away from him.

When the police in the Bronx beat up several Negro people while supposedly hunting for "moonshine," a great crowd gathered around and threatened to beat up the police.

But when a drunken cop told the famous drummer, Miles Davis in midtown Manhattan to "move on, boy," and then beat him over the head when he didn't move fast enough, the passers-by gathered, but did not act.

What are the rights and wrongs of all this? The instinct of every honest worker is to sympathize with the underdog, champion the oppressed, stand up for the down-trodden. But nobody wants to "get in trouble."

The truth is that in New York State, any citizen has a perfect legal right to disarm a policeman who uses excessive violence in making an arrest.

The question is how to exercise that right with a minimum chance of getting killed by some drunken, prejudiced hooligan-in-uniform. The answer is mass action.

And not just mass action. But organized mass action. This means the creation of Civil Rights Defense Guards.

It is true that there would have been no time to call out such a Guard when

Miles Davis was beaten up. But the general organization of such Guards begins to put a fighting spirit in the air.

The emphasis on mass self-defense begins to create a more aggressive and confident feeling in the hearts of the oppressed. Courage comes with the confidence that you are in the right. And more courage comes with the confidence that you have many fighting allies.

The first step against police violence therefore, is not the addition of more police, but the creation of Civil Rights Defense Guards.

In the South, the liberals and well-wishing "moderate" friends of the Negro say that this would be suicidal, that it would lead to self-slaughter, etc., etc.

This argument has already been proved false. Our brothers in the South have already begun to take the field. And tactical victories have already been won.

In the North the task is a hundred times easier. In the North, where the laws pretend to be for equality;—in the North where the surface of society proclaims equal justice;—in the North, the Civil Rights Defense Guard is simply a means to maintain what is already supposed to exist;—democracy.

Negro people will be the heart and core of this Defense Guard. But thousands of white workers will be inspired by such an effort, and honored to join it.

The time to start organizing it is NOW.

## MAIL BAG

### Hurricanes Color-Blind

I saw an article in the New Orleans Transit Riders' Digest about the Red Cross. The Red Cross is setting up hurricane shelters here.

But some shelters are for "white persons" and some are for Negroes."

What happens if a Negro is walking along in the white part of town when a hurricane comes?—or if a white person is in the colored part of town? I don't think a hurricane will notice the color of your skin.

E. M., New Orleans

### Traveler to Soviet

I recently had occasion to visit the USSR, Paris, and Holland on the same trip.

In the Soviet Union, I went from Moscow to Sochi (on the Black Sea) and to Leningrad. Much of my travelling was by jet plane. Jet is the way to travel in the Soviet Union. It costs only 130 rubles (\$13 by tourist exchange) to fly from Leningrad to Moscow, a distance of about 380 miles. Time: about 45 minutes.

The people of Russia move about in a slow and leisurely fashion. There are crowds in their beautiful subways in Moscow and Leningrad. But the staircases are wide, the escalators more than ample. They are spotlessly clean and cool.

The cities are cleaned early in the morning and late evening. Cars are numerous. The ones I rode in were in excellent mechanical shape.

Harrison Salisbury of the New York Times has written in a current series about the high cost of Soviet cars — the small Volga being 40,000 rubles. What he does not say is that a four room insulated concrete house costs only 27,000 rubles (considerably less than a small auto). Nor does he tell his readers that the modern four room apartments by law cannot rent for more than three and a half per cent of one's salary.

The average rent is 32 rubles a month for a furnished apartment in Moscow. A bottle of champagne also costs 32 rubles. Salisbury thinks the latter price is high, even while he bewails the growth of alcoholism in the Soviet Union. Both prices are pegged by the government. Let Salisbury tell us which should be easier to get: a roof over your head, or your head stupified by champagne.

Finally, according to Salisbury, Russia is plagued by social ills such as prostitution. This is a fantastic misrepresentation. I walked around Moscow late in the evening in the neighborhoods he mentions, and I caught not a single glimpse of the prostitutes he describes.

In capitalist Paris, however, even a young girl selling magazines in broad daylight on a main thoroughfare openly solicited me.

There were a group of "freedom" loving Canadians aboard my plane leaving the Soviet Union. When we crossed the border, they sang out vulgarly for "freedom." The first sign of freedom was the 300 francs we had to pay for transportation from the airfield to the terminal at Paris. (There is no such charge in Russia.)

The second sign was the sight of these "freedom" lovers taking out \$50 notes, waving them in the air while they yelled "Bring on the girls!" (The Soviet Union did not provide them with sufficient "freedom" for this.)

I was in the Soviet Union only two weeks. And Salisbury is an old Russian traveler. He undoubtedly knows more about Russia than I. But he is prejudiced in favor of capitalism. And he makes capital out of the Big Lie.

Smithtown, Long Island

### Eloquent Figures

(Dear Editor—Enclosed are some figures that you may, or should, be interested in. I think you will see there is some difference between some of these hourly rates and mine—11 cents per hour per day—in the land of the freeze and the home of the knave—sinking in the quick-sand of bankruptcy.)

At the top of the list of the highest paid officers of 22 major steel companies stands Charles M. White of the Republic Steel Corporation. He draws \$379,000 for his year's labor, and can look forward to a pension of \$87,583 per year, plus some generous fringes when he retires.

Salaries for other top Republic executives: Thomas F. Patton, \$233,333 per year, \$75,000 anticipated pension; Norman F. Foy, \$157,000 a year and \$51,818 pension; W. W. Hancock, \$126,000 and \$41,883 pension.

A TRACTOR DRIVER at Republic Steel draws \$4,773 for 52 weeks' labor, and can expect to "enjoy" a pension of \$60 a month after 25 years' work.

At the U.S. Steel Corporation, Roger Blough, the company's leading light gets \$265,600 a year plus fringes and will collect an estimated pension of \$79,880 a year.

A SHEAR OPERATOR working for Mr. Blough makes less than \$5,000 per year and can expect a princely \$60 a month when he retires.

At Jones and Laughlin, Admiral Ben Moreel chisels out \$148,125 a year and expects a neat \$35,000 pension.

A CRANE OPERATOR in the Admiral's employ luxuriates on the same wages as the tractor driver and the shear operator, and he can expect the same \$60 a month pension.

These are some of the reasons the strike continues.

Respectfully yours,

A. F. Coulter, Pa.

### African Revolution In 1959, Not 1776!

Looks like Dr. Hastings Banda is soon to be released from his African prison by the British. Wonderful news.

But we hear that he has been spending his time in prison studying the lives of Washington and Jefferson. Is this supposed to be good?

Washington and Jefferson did all right in 1776. But they were slave-holders—just as opposed to Negro liberation as the British are today.

Dr. Banda would do better to study Karl Marx, who called upon all the slaves of the world to cast off their chains and unite against their oppressors.

## Conrad Lynn and Rob Williams To Debate Pacifists in New York

Two militant advocates of strong, resolute self-defense for Negro people will debate two advocates of pacifist non-violence on October 1, 8:15 P.M. at Community Church, 40 E. 35th St., New York City.

Rob Williams and Conrad Lynn will oppose the ineffective pacifist philosophy of Ghandi and Martin Luther King. Bayard Rustin and Dave Dellinger will defend it.

Williams made national headlines last spring when he said that Negroes must defend themselves against violence with every means possible. Williams had already demonstrated in action that the Ku Klux Klan could be effectively stopped by determined

armed men. (But pacifist prayers have never even dented the Klan's sheets!)

Conrad Lynn, Williams' attorney, has distinguished himself as a great civil rights fighter — not the least of his fights being his resolute defense of the pacifists against the reactionaries in court.

Bayard Rustin, a member of the Fellowship for Reconciliation, was Coordinator of the Youth March for Integration in April. Dave Dellinger, an officer of the F.O.R., is an editor of the pacifist "Liberation" magazine.

In this debate, all militant workers, black and white, stand squarely on the side of Williams and Lynn.



# To the Rulers of Florida

## Yield Up Your Three Black Victims!

(Ralph R. Williams, 25; Willie G. City, and John E. Paul, 23, are now awaiting electrocution in Florida. Each is accused of raping a white woman.)

Your death penalty for rape is a fraud! You do not intend it seriously — except against Negroes. You have never enforced it — except against Negroes. You do not intend to enforce it in the future — except against Negroes.

You do not even regard rape as a serious crime at all — if the rape is against Negroes. Your death penalty is simply a means of dividing the masses, terrorizing one half with the electric chair and the other half with the horror story of black sex-maniacs attacking white virgins.

On Friday, August 28, you electrocuted Sam Wiley Odom, age 18, for the supposed rape of a 63 year old white woman —

But when four white men brutally assaulted a young Negro college girl and committed multiple rape with gun, knife, and gag; when a university demonstrated en masse, and a whole nation was aroused you gave the rapists their lives.

The armed people did not seize your race-poisoned white rapists. They did not deal with them as thousands of racist mobs have dealt

for centuries with Negroes, innocent as well as guilty. They did not invade the prison as hundreds of your mobs have done.

But do not misunderstand. This was not because they are more merciful than you are. It was not because they are more saintly than you are. It was not because they love you.

Do not try your luck too far! Do not stretch the patience of the masses beyond the fear of your bullets! You are goading them. You are turning their hearts to iron. You are asking for retribution! Your Jim Crow capitalist rule is approaching its end. And you will not make it last longer by multiplying your murders.

We ask you to commute the sentences of three youths unjustly condemned to die.

Not in the name of mercy, do we ask it, because there is no mercy in you. Not in the name of justice do we ask it, because there is no justice under your system. We ask it in the name of the whole black people and the coming socialist revolution of black and white workers.

# Road to Socialism

V. Grey

"This plant and all the machinery in it, wouldn't do the owners one bit of good if they didn't have us to work it for them," said Slim. "We're their slaves when you stop to think of it. And the only way we can stop being their slaves is to kick them out and work the plant for ourselves."

"Listen!" Scissorbill Sam shouted belligerently, "Don't you know that widows and orphans own stock in this company? What do you want to do? Kick them out in the streets to starve?"

"Say, that's a real good argument Scissorbill has got there" said Pop as he set his thermos bottle down and opened up his locker.

Scissorbill Sam was pleased.

"Slim here says that if you take the factories away from the rich, you take their slaves away at the same time. But as Scissorbill points out, you also take the slave away from some poor widow woman that never done you any harm."

Pop lit his pipe while he let that thought sink in.

"Now just look at that widow. All her money is wrapped up in that slave. Maybe ten to twenty thousand dollars in stock. It's all she has in the world. It's a big problem."

"Now suppose I'm a slave for John D. Rockefeller, and Slim is a slave for J. P. Morgan and Shorty is a slave for the Duponts. But poor Scissorbill there, he's a slave of this nice old widow woman."

"And just to show you how hard a problem it is, remember that Morgan and them have millions and millions of slaves, and the poor old widow woman only has one — just Scissorbill Sam. And Slim wants to come along and rob that poor widow woman of her only slave."

"You see," Pop was sighting along the side of his thermos bottle as though he got inspiration from it — "This here is what you might call a problem in ethics. It might be all right for the rest of us slaves to kick our owners out because they were all whopping it up on twenty dollar champagne in gold bathtubs (which ain't the half of it, according to what I read.)"

## Too Much Corn!

You read a lot in the papers these days about how wealthy American farmers are, and how they are going to show Khrushchev the right way to raise corn. Maybe so.

But according to the conservative Reporter magazine, "The less successful farmers (i.e. the poor ones—ed.) amount to 56 per cent of our farm population, but account for only 7.1 per cent of total farm sales."

## Difference Between Poor Negro and Rich White

# Crime and Punishment

The Crusader (edited by Rob Williams) informs us that one Alonzo Craig received a 40 to 50 year sentence for "first degree burglary" in Monroe, North Carolina.

Craig burgled nothing at all. But he had been drinking, and had entered the bedroom of a white woman (who knew him well), intending to offer her money. He left the bedroom at her request, and she stated in court that she was not molested. But Craig got a sentence of 40 to 50 years.

—Remember Mickey Jelke, the son of the oleo-margarine multi-millionaire? He didn't burgle anything either. However, he seduced a girl with money — successfully. Then he made a prostitute out of her and arranged \$100-a-night assignments for her in expensive hotels. And he did the same to quite a number of young girls. Jelke served two years in jail for this.

Of course, Jelke is a rich, cultured white man, and Craig is a poor Negro.

Moreover, Craig threatened the Southern "way of life" when he walked into the cabin of a poor white woman who had often told him she needed money. And Jelke did not threaten the modern "way of life" either North or South. In fact he supported it well.

His beautiful young white prostitutes were supplied to respectable white capitalists for their after-hours entertainment. There were no misunderstandings between the buyers and the sellers. There was no cheap whiskey, no fallen-down cabins, no racist hysteria. All was silk, perfume, clean sheets and orchids.

Two years for Jelke in the North. Forty to fifty for Alonzo Craig in the South.

Nothing to be surprised about. Nothing to be puzzled about. It sums up capitalist society rather neatly, in fact.

# Defy the Injunction!

Defy the Taft-Hartley injunction! That should be the slogan of the Steelworkers Union. That should be the answer to the propagandists who are building up pressure on McDonald to settle cheaply to escape the injunction.

McDonald has stated many times that the Taft-Hartley injunction would not settle the contract negotiations. But he has implied that he would favor com-

In Youngstown, Ohio, one of the leading locals in the Steel Union, Local 1330, went on record against the use of the Taft-Hartley Law. And the strike committee of that local is also urging McDonald and the leadership to defy the Taft-Hartley injunction if it is invoked.

If the whole International adopted this kind of fighting policy, the bosses would think twice and perhaps not even use the injunction against the strikers. But if the policies of capitulation are followed, the workers will get a weak settlement and will be driven back to

## Featherbedding

The steel corporations insist that they have to have a large crew of bosses in the plants to maintain them during the strike.

When the strikers inspected one of the plants in Youngstown, these hard working "foremen" were found sleeping, playing cards and absorbing more company and anti-union propaganda. They were even sending letters to all congressmen and senators for the Landrum-Griffin bill!

plying in case the injunction were employed. The workers are *against* the use of the injunction altogether. They feel that it is a weapon of the bosses, and they are right.

In past strikes the steelworkers expressed themselves by adopting the slogans: "Taft-Hartley Cannot Make Steel" and "No Contract, No Work." In this strike they feel the same way. Even more so, because they feel the bosses are out to weaken the union and this makes them sore. They want to fight back. And as the strike goes along for so many weeks, the workers are demanding more, too. They think that they should get tougher as the strike progresses. They want more effective methods in order to win the strike.

## More Featherbedding!

Roger Blough, chairman of the Board of US Steel made \$250,000 profit in three months because of the stock option racket he is in. And he didn't lift a hammer, chisel, or a shovel. Neither did he have to do any kind of work whatsoever.

And yet Blough talks about the big cost of steel because the workers take a coffee break!

work defeated.

The ranks of the workers are firm, firmer than the leadership. Let the sentiments of the ranks prevail. Let's fight as workers should fight and we cannot help but win.

## Discreet Warrior!

Rev. Martin Luther King last month refused to sponsor a petition to integrate the schools in Montgomery. He says the white folks aren't ready yet.

He should change the title of his book *Stride Toward Freedom*. The word "stride" should be written as "crawl."

# Puerto Rico — Plundered by Wall St. Since 1898

Frederick Matteger

Md.), Fajardo (Registrar — 1st National City Bank of New York, 55 Wall Street), and South Puerto Rico Sugar (Registrar — Chemical Corn Exchange Bank, 30 Broad st.) (Transfer Agent — Chase Manhattan Bank).

These companies came to own vast areas of land, sugar mills, railroads, warehouses, hotels, hospitals, stores, workers' huts, and, in effect, Puerto Rico itself.

They were the ruling force, extracting huge profits and paying wages that were next to nothing. (A 1938 booklet published by the Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce of Puerto Rico lists the average earnings of women planting cane as 86 cents a WEEK. Boys in sugar company factories got \$1.00 for a 56 hour week or a little less than two cents an hour.

The final political power lay in the hands of the governor. He was appointed by the U.S. president to satisfy the sugar companies. He could veto anything.

In the 1920's and 30's, it was starva-

This is the story of capitalist exploitation of Puerto Rico.

On the one side is the wealth, luxury, and arrogance of the capitalists enjoying themselves at play and politics in Laurance Rockefeller's \$9,000,000 Dorado Beach Hotel. On the other side is the barren life of the "short wage" or jobless Puerto Rican worker and his family in their scrap wood and tar paper shack living on a diet of rice and beans.

In 1898, 61 years ago, young U.S. capitalism easily defeated the decaying power of old Spain (which had exploited Puerto Rico up until that time). The eastern banks of the United States promoted the Spanish-American war. After the war, they picked up the easy loot, part of which was Puerto Rico.

These banking centers with their offices mainly in the elegant dark canyon of Wall Street, invested in the production of sugar. Four large sugar companies dominated: Central Aguirre (Registrar — Chase Manhattan Bank, 40 Wall Street), Eastern Puerto Rico Sugar (Registrar — Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Company, Baltimore,

tion for Puerto Rico. In some cases people ate garbage and begged for pig slop. Out of this came the Nationalist Party, led by Albizu Campos, calling for independence. The Nationalists were met with police repression. A series of bloody incidents culminated in a police massacre of unarmed, parading Nationalists on Palm Sunday, 1937.

The Nationalists had asked for and received permission to parade in Ponce, Puerto Rico's second largest city. As they assembled with their wives and girl friends, the U.S. trained police who surrounded them gave orders calling off the parade. The aroused Nationalists were celebrating De Diego Day in honor of a national hero who had advocated independence. They began to march in spite of the police order.

The police opened fire. They kept on firing with maniacal fury for up to half an hour. They killed fifteen Nationalists and one bystander. Fifty-five people were wounded. In their blind rage the wildly firing police also killed two of their own members.

(Next issue — the Puerto Rican "New Deal.")



# One-Day General Strike Is Right Idea, Say Readers

J. Wilson

The Workers World call for a one-day general strike of all workers in this country struck a favorable response wherever it was heard. It indicated to the steelworkers that more active and live support would come to them in this way. It gave them the feeling that they were not alone in their struggle against Big Business.

When the AFL-CIO leadership announced that Labor Day would be a "Support the Steelworkers" day, all the steelworkers felt good; they realized that the whole labor movement was starting to understand that this was everyone's fight. When the same leadership set aside September 18 as the day to discuss the steelworkers' battle as the battle of all labor, again the striking workers knew they were not alone. All this gave encouragement to the workers to fight on.

The Workers World proposal was readily accepted because the steelworkers feel that the time has come to put on even more pressure to get the bosses to give in. In Gary, Indiana, one steelworker who received the paper called the distributor back and said, "Give me six more of those, I want to show them to other steelworkers who work with me. That is what we need now."

Another worker in Pittsburgh, after reading the paper a bit, crossed the street and asked the comrade handing out the paper for more copies. He said, "There are nine families in the house where I live, I want to make sure they all get copies of this paper."

All this sentiment emphasizes that the workers are really in opposition to McDonald's policies of containing the strike: policies that do not call for stopping scab steel from flowing through the economy; policies that do not stop warehouses from delivering steel during the strike; policies that do not call for an extension of the strike, but allow others to continue operating.

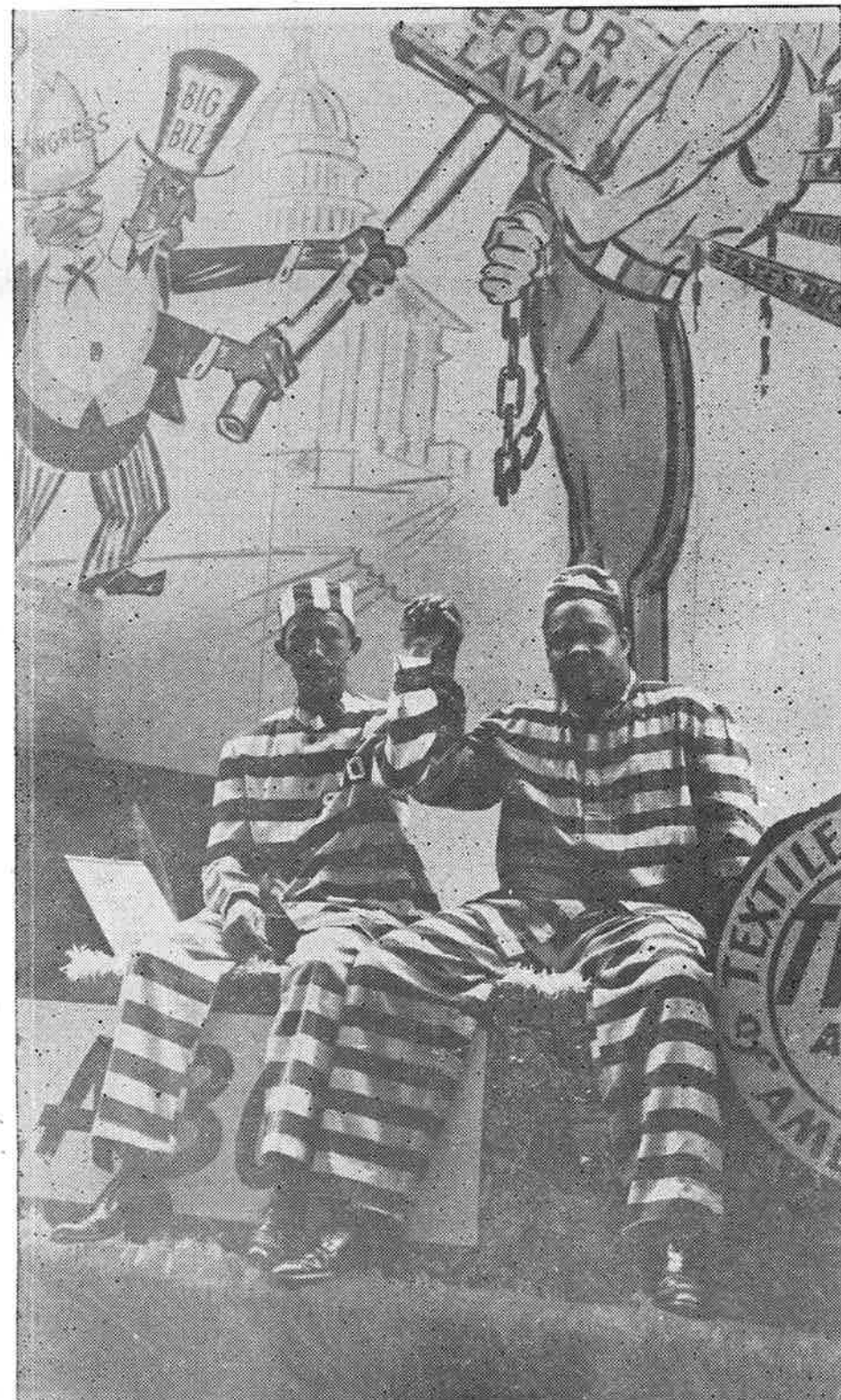
Yes, the call for spreading the strike grows louder as the struggle continues. And if the struggle continues long enough, the call will surely be answered.

## Workers' Medical Care

On January 1, 1959 all private medical practice was banned in Czechoslovakia.

The state provides far more doctors and hospitals than under capitalism. All medical care is now free, including care for the common cold.

## Nothing to Lose But Their Chains!



Our roving photographer snapped these two workers at the New York Labor Day Parade. They dressed the part of prisoners to dramatize the new slave labor law that was passed in Congress. The display behind them is part of the Textile Union's float for the 120,000 strong parade.

# This Ought to Answer The "Gradualist" Malarky!

Ana Kezman

One of the worst segregationists in the South has just won the governorship of Mississippi. He is so bad that he thinks the present governor, J. P. Coleman is a dangerous radical because he allowed government agents to come into the state pretending to hunt the Mack Parker lynchers!

Ross Robert Barnett just won the Democratic primaries by a vote of 230,000 to 195,000. (There are about two and a half million people in Mississippi.) Winning the primaries is the same as being elected, since the white supremacist Democrats have a long-standing agreement with the Republicans to let them rule the South alone.

Barnett comes in on a wave of reaction, determined to play the role of savior of the Southern "way of life."

With the religious fervor of a Baptist deacon (which he is), he declaimed: "The Negro is different because God made him different to punish him."

But Barnett does not intend to wait for God to punish the black man for daring to ask for his rights.

"I am going to put forth every effort," he blathered, "to organize Southern

Governors to create and crystallize public opinion throughout the nation with reference to our traditions and the Southern way of life."

The Mississippi "way of life" is already the worst in the country, from any point of view we can think of. Both white and colored have the lowest per capita income in the country. Educational facilities are the worst for both races too.

The Godly Mr. Barnett is out to make things still worse.

The gradualists and the moderates are just as wrong as the Uncle Toms. Their propaganda about taking things easy and depending on the lily-white Supreme Court is a deceitful trap!

The new governor of Mississippi is hand and glove with the lynchers and the rapists. He has given notice that the white supremacists will not give up without a vicious, brutal fight.

## March on Mississippi

It's the middle of September, and still no action on the September March on Mississippi. Congressman Diggs' father proposed it a few weeks ago. It seemed like a very good idea. Why did it fall through?

One thing that would put it over big — joint action by the United Auto Workers Union, which has its strongest base in Diggs' home city of Detroit.

Ten thousand brawny pickets, colored and white together, would be a pretty good educational committee for the folks in Mississippi!

## Wall St. Woos Africa

Jet Magazine reports: "With the sudden birth of numerous 'We're With Africa' groups, not a single Negro group is in the forefront. The ones stealing the thunder are all white financed (by industrialists) and use a few Negroes as window dressing."

Jet is absolutely right on the story. But what is the story behind the story?

The truth is that U.S. Big Business is trying to take the place of the British and French exploiters of Africa. U.S. capitalists already have huge investments there, and are increasing their investments daily. They are all for "freedom" in Africa, just so long as they can get some of that "free" African labor at fifty cents a day!

## No Wages—BUT!

If higher wages will cause prices to rise, why did the cost of living index rise at the same time the steelworkers' wages dropped to zero while on strike?

## Dictator, Home-Grown!

They say Khrushchev is a dictator.

But Dwight D. Eisenhower has blocked the whole United States Congress from passing the laws it wanted to, by successfully using his veto 145 times in the last seven years.

## Correction

A headline in our last issue stated that the NAACP had launched a national Negro Labor Committee.

This committee is a part of the AFL-CIO. It was given special publicity at the NAACP Convention by A. Philip Randolph, but has no other connection with the NAACP.

# Migrant Workers Lured to Ohio — Then Paid \$8 to \$32 a Week!

"A good man starts at 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning and gets home at night about 6. Some of those youngsters 14 and 15 years old are pretty good workers."

That is not a quote from a Scrooge-like employer of the early 1900's. It's a quote from a sugar beet field supervisor in Putnam county in May, 1959!

Right now, in the sugar beet and tomato field counties of Ohio, thousands of imported farm laborers from Texas are working and living like animals.

As described in a series of articles by Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter Robert J. Drake, the migrant farm laborers are "stabled" in "shacks reeking of their own filth."

Families are jammed in one-room sheds in an Ottawa county camp, for example, that measure 18 x 12 feet.

Health facilities are sub-standard in

the camps which are provided by packing or processing companies. Pit toilets shared by several families are standard. Some camps have showers. Otherwise, Drake found, "no bathing facilities are offered."

Why do the workers come to Ohio? Drake was told by a priest who is a member of the Governor's Committee on Migrant Labor that the laborers are "lured to Ohio by promises of good earnings" but when they get there "they work for meager pay."

The pay of the migrant runs from \$8 to \$32 a week. The average is around \$19 or \$20 a week. Asparagus pickers receive 4¢ to 4½¢ a pound. A national survey three years ago found the average annual wage of migrant workers to be \$550.

—From News and Views, organ of Ohio AFL-CIO.

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