

WORKERS WORLD

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DECEMBER 21, 1962

10 CENTS

The Face Of Terror

**Vietnamese woman
Being questioned by
Pro-U.S. officers, who
Suspect her husband
Of fighting for the
Freedom and
Independence
Of his country**



Christmas in Carmichaels, Pa.

By Theodore Kovalsky

It's the Christmas season, but thirty-seven wreathes on thirty-seven doors weren't made of green holly and red berries. And behind those doors it wasn't the holiday season either.

Things happen quickly. A man kisses his wife and kids. He picks up his lunch pail and goes out the front door. It starts out like any work-day—the effort of getting out of bed, the mental arithmetic (how many more days to the weekend), breakfast, goodbye to the family, and a hello to the fellows at the mine. But all of a sudden when it's only half over, it ends.

And the end is forever.

That day it was thirty-seven forevers. One for each man that walked down the Frosty Run shaft of Robena Number Three.

Now it's not that a man's going to live forever. No man does that, and no man asks to. But every man has a right not to die for the sake of enriching another. He has a right to earn his living without putting his life on the line to do it.

Maybe what happened could not have been prevented, but that's not likely. There were men in the Frosty Run shaft, and there was gas. Both should not have been there together.

Why were they? Couldn't U.S. Steel, which owns Robena Number Three, afford gas detection equipment? Couldn't they afford adequate ventilators? Or couldn't they afford to stop work while the mine was cleared? Whatever it was that happened, U.S. Steel hasn't accepted the blame for it.

Maybe they weren't at fault. But mining history is full of disasters caused by companies too greedy to install and service even the safety equipment demanded by law, and many have been the miners who have punched in their time cards in the morning but never punched them out that night.

For five days the families waited at the mine just as miners' families always wait. The papers told about it, but it really wasn't news. It has happened too many times before. They wait and they hope, those families. And then they stop hoping, because they know—even if nobody tells them. But they still wait.

So after five days they brought up the last of the bodies. And the last of the families went home to pack away the pipes and tobacco, the hunting boots,

the shaving cream, the clothing that was no longer of any use there.

But life goes on. Children's meals have to be cooked. Children's clothes have to be washed and ironed and mended. And it's the holiday season, or at least it's supposed to be . . . at least for the kids.

Sometimes it can be a problem when it comes time to tell children there's no Santa Clause. But then again there are some kids . . . it seems they've always known.

A lot of them are miner's kids.

In Hazard, Ky., They Ask: "Which Side Are You On?"

In Hazard, Kentucky, there are two sides, two camps, two classes in mortal conflict. If you're not on one side, you're on the other.

Homes and automobiles have been bombed, mine tipples have been dynamited, a church has been bombed, a railroad bridge dislodged.

For nearly three months, the miners of Hazard have been on strike against a brutal reversion to the bad old days of heartless company rule and miserable conditions for the workers.

In particular, they are protesting the closing of the Hazard Memorial Hospital which (by virtue of the miners' welfare fund) brought the first really modern medical practices within the reach of all the citizens of Hazard.

The union's pension and welfare fund has been so cut back by the mine-owners that four hospitals out of ten similar ones in the area (at Hazard, Whitesburg, Middleboro and McDowell) are slated to close.

Last year, the miners' pensions were cut. This year, the companies are chiseling still further on the union contract, while some are simply ignoring the contract altogether.

*"Which side are you on,
Oh, which side are you on?"*

The high and mighty of the town are split down the middle over the question of the strike. The sheriff—Charles E. Combs—is dead against the strike. (He owns one of the smaller mines, himself.) The judge of the circuit court is squarely opposed to the sheriff. He refused to issue an injunction against the strike. (The mine owners tried to

NY Ban on Minimum Wage Hits 200,000 in City

Puerto Ricans, Afro-Americans and Out-of-School Youths Are the Ones Who Are Hit the Hardest

New York City—Last week, this city's \$1.25 per hour minimum wage law was declared unconstitutional (hardly two weeks after it went into effect) by the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, a notoriously reactionary body.

The issue was brought into court by the Wholesale Laundry Board of Trade. But it is well known that this association, although with plenty of reason to be against the minimum wage on its own, was backed by a combination of big

corporations in the area.

The New York laundry companies employ over 15,000 workers, most of them Afro-American and Puerto Rican. The \$1.25, needless to say, is considerably higher than the minimum they now receive.

New York City is the haven for two-bit employers and it is known throughout the world for its many small-scale factories. It abounds with sweatshops.

These sweatshops employ about 200,000 workers, mostly unorganized, who generally get paid less than \$1.25 per hour.

New York City leads all the other cities in the number of violations of the present minimum wage and hour law. And most of the violations, according to the Wage and Hour Division, are mostly involving workers who get less than \$1.00 per hour!

These workers range all the way from 16-year-old garment workers to 70-year-old dishwashers.

A large segment of the sweatshops seems utterly inaccessible to organization precisely because of the smallness of the establishments and the multitude and variety of industries.

Only a powerful drive by the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York, representing all the unions, can put these places within the scope of union organization.

A minimum wage law is necessary. But the only law that will really bring the sweatshops out of the gaslight era is the law of the union contract—enforced by the whole working class.

Printers Gird For Long Struggle

New York, Dec. 16—Striking and locked out New York newspaper workers voted unanimously today to stick with their union's demands and present a unified front to the splitting tactics of the New York Publishers Association.

The union originally struck only four of the big New York dailies. But four others (including the Long Island Star Journal) shut down anyway and locked the workers out. The union is picketing all eight in its drive for the 35-hour week and a raise in pay.

The printers are among the highest paid members of U.S. labor unions. But their drive for a shorter week concerns all the rest of labor—and so does the highhanded attitude of the publishers.

make him vacate the bench for the hearing on their petition.)

*"My daddy was a miner
And I'm a miner's son—
I'll stick with the union
Till every battle's won."*

The people of Hazard are miners and the children of miners. They are the descendants of some of the earliest pioneers. Until a generation ago (before TV and radio were so common), they spoke an old-fashioned English dialect understood with difficulty outside their

own area.

"Till the day I die."

Mine after mine has been pulled out on strike. Facing semi-starvation and a cold winter, the people are not only grim, they are intense with determination and even—after 11 weeks—enthusiasm. The spirit of battle rides high in their songs and cheers at the strike meetings, which both men and women attend.

The preachers, like the city officials,
(Continued on Page 3)



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Peoples China Makes an Offer

The border dispute between India and China may be very complicated in some respects and it has a long history which the capitalist West is busy concealing. But one thing about it is quite simple and clear and easy to understand.

The Chinese Govt. offered last month to retreat behind the line of actual control of November 7, 1959.

The Indian ruling class—through Nehru—insisted that the line of control of September 8, 1962 (before the recent hostilities began) be the accepted line now.

The Indian rulers are condemning the Chinese for invading Indian territory, but in the same breath, they are refusing to accept the line of actual control three years ago!

Is this not crystal clear proof that India has been the creeping aggressor for three years, and the Chinese action of this October-November was only meant to rectify and reverse the incursions into Chinese territory made by the Indian ruling class during that time?

"Freedom of the Mind"

The trouble with capitalism goes deep. Its evils affect millions. Starvation, disease, early death stalk the globe and cast their shadow over everything.

But capitalism is sick in other ways, too. Some of its more honest and sensitive supporters in high places are worried about this sickness and speak out about it in the hope of curing it.

One such person is Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court. He declared last week in a just-published pamphlet, "Freedom of the Mind," that the freedom of Americans is threatened by the intrigues of the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency. (These are two of the most important props of the capitalist state and the capitalist system.)

Douglas reveals that the CIA uses its "moneybags" to influence foreign elections, that the Pentagon is virtually preparing a military dictatorship under a phony cloud of secrecy. He is most concerned about the freedom to

think and the freedom to dissent. He shows that the "new centers of power" are in the hands of those who "control science" — "and one who traces the controls back . . . often finds the Pentagon in the central position."

He shows how the war machine in the Pentagon is even moving in to influence the great universities of this country to the point that "their autonomy is threatened." He sees the freedom of dissent being taken away from parts of the ruling class itself, as well as from others.

"Are we on the threshold of re-entering the world of feudalism which Europe left in the 15th and 16th centuries and which is fastened on much of the Middle East today?" he asks.

This is polite language to describe the galloping strides being made toward fascism. Douglas believes that a police state dictatorship is about to arrive in the United States.

35-Minute Justice

As if to make Justice Douglas' pamphlet (quoted above) more prophetic, a federal court jury last week found the Communist Party guilty on 12 counts of failing to register under the McCarran Act, in the most precedent-shattering abrogation of civil rights since the Civil War.

(The civil and human rights of Afro-Americans are violated every day and every hour. But the crimes against the Black masses are committed "illegally" — "unconstitutionally" — and without benefit of open U.S. government sanction.)

The very fact that four out of nine Justices of the Supreme Court virtually said the McCarran Act was unconstitutional in their 1961 decision, should give pause even to the flagrantly anti-working class Administration which now prosecutes the CP. And it should also have given pause to the well-heeled ladies and gentlemen of the jury who convicted the party.

But it didn't.

In fact, "pause" is hardly the word for it. The jury was able to discuss the complicated case that the government

took twelve years to prepare—in the short and efficient space of thirty-five minutes!

Judge Alexander Holtzoff did not deliberate two, three or four weeks before passing sentence as judges often do with Wall Street swindlers, millionaire pimps and the like. He immediately fined the CP \$120,000—which is the maximum punishment provided in the McCarran Act for the party itself.

"Little Brother Bobby" Kennedy did not take more than 24 hours to announce (through Thomas K. Hall, an executive assistant) that the so-called "Justice" Department was "encouraged by the speedy conviction" and now was going to proceed with the prosecution of Gus Hall and Benjamin Davis for failing to register as officers of the CP.

(The penalty for individuals and leaders is much stiffer than for the party itself. It includes a murderous jail sentence of five years for each day of failure to register!)

Justice Douglas will have to add a new chapter to his pamphlet. It should be called: "Thirty-Five Minute Justice, Or Freedom of the Mind Guaranteed—In Prison."



News item: "Adenauer calls on U.S. to get tough on Reds."

Puerto Rican Leader Framed

Luis Munoz Sullivan, the well-known Puerto Rican liberation fighter, was framed and convicted on December 3 following a farcical trial in Caguet, Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rican liberation groups were astonished at the verdict and the sentence. Luis Munoz was arraigned on the trumped up, ridiculously false charge of burglary.

It had seemed in the last couple of days of the trial that the prosecution's case had completely collapsed, since its evidence was based entirely on signed confessions which were obtained by duress and intimidation. Moreover, the prosecution claimed that it had "lost" the signed confessions. The case seemed to be lost for the prosecution because of lack of evidence.

However, on the last day of the trial, the prosecution produced a "surprise witness" who gave totally false and spurious evidence which is known to have been obtained by duress and intimidation. It is on the testimony of this single surprise witness in the last stages of the trial that the prosecution railroaded through the conviction.

The trial was in effect an effort by the Yankee-controlled authorities of the so-called "Commonwealth" to cripple the Puerto Rican liberation struggle and to implicate the Cuban government by the charge that Munoz Sullivan was acting as an agent for Castro.

Luis Munoz Sullivan did indeed, according to spectators at the trial, declare his solidarity with the Cuban revolution. More than that, he expressed his determination to see Puerto Rico a free country and voiced his intention to fight



Luis Muñoz Sullivan

to the end of his life for liberation from Yankee imperialism.

This was translated in the kept Puerto Rican press of New York as his revelation of "the development of a Machiavellian Fidelista plan to indoctrinate Puerto Rican youth." And according to this lurid account in El Diario he used "Communist propaganda and material prepared by Dr. Albizu Campos . . . which was . . . supplied to him by Mrs. Albizu Campos." (Mrs. Albizu Campos is part of the Cuban delegation at the UN in New York.)

It can be imagined what kind of hysteria is being manufactured in Puerto Rico if the papers there are equally vicious—and they are. After a few days of this kind of build-up, it was hardly surprising that the judge sentenced his victim to a maximum of five years.

It is obvious that the Puerto Rican authorities are using a typical Hitler-tactic in their effort to wipe out all revolutionary resistance to the Wall Street-controlled government of Munoz Martin.

Hitler did not bother to accuse his revolutionary opponents of their real "crime"—of defending the working class. He accused them of rape, thievery, murder — thus confusing the workers and disorganizing the opposition.

They dare not try Munoz Sullivan as a liberation fighter, so they attempt to frame him as a common criminal.

The FBI and the Yankee occupation authorities had obviously been planning to imprison this young fighter for some time.

The case is currently being appealed. And the friends of civil liberties and justice as well as all friends of Puerto Rican freedom will surely rally to the defense and see that this infamous conviction is reversed.

He Was Ready — Were You?

"As part of the invasion plan, President Kennedy, his Cabinet and top military and civilian leaders would repair to secret, atom-proof shelters in the mountains of Virginia and Maryland. . . ."

—Look Magazine, Dec. 18

Now you know why Kennedy and his pals had that "iron will" during the Cuban crisis, and why Kennedy "never flinched nor weakened."

MAIL BAG

"Of Men and Dogs"

I hasten to commend you for the brilliant and militant issue of WW for November 23.

The article, "Of Men and Dogs," by Mae Mallory, is a classic and a timely expose of the entire capitalist system. It should be printed in leaflet form and circulated among the workers and other people who are champions of civil liberties.

Keep up the good work. More power to your pen!!!

R.F., Brooklyn, N.Y.

P.S. Enclosed find \$1.00 for ten copies.

Christmas Charities

Why don't you have an article on Christmas charities?

I hear them advertised constantly on the radio. To me, the most interesting thing about them is that for once, the bourgeoisie freely announces just how bad off many people are in the good old USA, without job, food, clothing or medicine.

But there is also the monstrous hypocrisy of asking for pity and a few pennies to throw to the "lucky" ones among the poor people—on one day. You also might try to find out what per cent of

the collections the collectors rake off for their own "expense."

G.F., Boston, Mass.

From Maryland

I have received several copies of the WW which I have enjoyed reading. As a dedicated, though self-styled socialist, I have long had the insight to recognize many of the truths which have been contained in the WW's I have received.

I have encouraged several of my friends in this area to expose themselves to news and views other than those printed in the daily metropolitan press by reading the WW.

C.D.H., Salisbury, Md.

Next Issue

There will be a three-week lapse between this issue of Workers World and the next.

Workers World is a twice-monthly, published on alternate Fridays. Four times a year, it is necessary to skip a week so as to keep to the above schedule.

The next issue will be dated Jan. 11, 1963.

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NAME

STREET

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....

— Hazard, Ky.

(Continued from Page 1)

have taken sides, too. One gaunt old one—"Preacher White"—said at a union meeting:

"We aren't a lot of people to be kicked ed about, to be made to work for nothing. Let anybody say what they want—I'm a union man."

Another preacher said:

"I've been a union man all my life and I hope to die that way." (Cries of "amen.")

"Who's a Communist?"

Berman Gibson, the rank-and-file leader of the strike, was accused by an out-of-town newspaper of being a Communist.

"This paper is a liar," Gibson shouted at a meeting. "I ain't no Communist."

"No, we ain't no Communists," the men shouted after him.

"We gotta have clothes," Gibson said. "We gotta have shoes for our families. Who's getting rich? Look at their \$65,000 homes, their Cadillacs, their oil paintings. Meanwhile, our children go hungry."

She Didn't Get it All

Do you remember that private secretary who inherited a million dollars and a mansion by being loyal to her boss?

It was on the front pages of papers all over the country as an object lesson for young girls to work long hours and stick on the same job all their lives—as this one did.

The news hit the papers on November 17, and you couldn't miss it. But ten days later, you would have had to read the fine print on page 43 of the New York Times to discover that the boss, who was chairman of the board of the Aluminum Corporation of America, left an additional \$399 million.

We thought we'd pass on this information which you may have missed.

—Just in case you were worried about his relatives.

"The Right of the Government to Lie to the People"

For the first time in American history, a new amendment to the Bill of Rights was added, and without the cumbersome, long drawn out constitutional procedures, and scarcely any dissent at all.

The new amendment is properly called, "The Right of the Government to Lie

to the People." Its author is Assistant Defense Secretary Arthur Sylvester, who unceremoniously proclaimed this right on December 7, in a speech before the Deadline Club in New York City.

No member of the Kennedy administration saw fit to disassociate himself from Sylvester's extraordinary remarks;

least of all President Kennedy himself. No Southern Senator saw fit to filibuster, and liberal congressmen were conspicuous by their silence.

Of course, for many centuries, the peoples of the world have long assumed that "their" governments lied to them habitually. But the Kennedy administration has the distinction of literally being the first government (with the exception of Hitler's) to elevate the art of prevarication into a fundamental "right."

The most absolute monarchies of ancient times did not feel it necessary to proclaim "The Right to Lie" in their messages from the throne. Even Louis XIV, who said, "I am the State," never went as far as the Kennedy administration.

The fact that the government of the "New Frontier" felt it necessary to do so, is one of the most ominous signs of the growing reaction which is once again enveloping the country. It indicates that the ruling summits of the U.S. capitalist class live in deadly, paranoiac fear of the people. It no longer suffices for them to lie.

They now must openly and cynically promulgate that the deception of the people is a fundamental pillar of their class rule.

Mr. Sylvester's full statement deserves to be emblazoned in the memory of all progressives. It reads:

"I think the inherent right of the government to lie to save itself when faced with nuclear disaster, is basic."

But—Mr. Sylvester—a government which is actually faced with nuclear disaster, need not lie to the people! It need only tell them the truth—if that be the truth.

But the truth of the matter is that only a government which seeks to visit nuclear disaster upon another country needs to lie!

Unemployment, Racism and All

"I think we ought to be rather pleased with ourselves this Christmas."

—John F. Kennedy

He Took Babies Away From Their Mothers — And He Chiseled \$20,000 on the Side

The city manager of Newburgh, N.Y., is being accused of taking a \$20,000 bribe. Newburgh is the place where they deny relief to poor people and the city manager, Joseph M. Mitchell, is the character who started it all and



Pickets protest Mitchell's infamous Newburgh plan to starve out unemployed.

gained national publicity for his hard-boiled relief program.

New York District Attorney Frank Hogan is accusing Mitchell of taking a \$20,000 bribe from a building contractor. It seems that the contractor wanted to erect multiple dwellings in an area where the Newburgh City Council just happened to make an ordinance against multiple dwellings about the same time the contractor wanted to build them.

And Mr. Hogan says that Mr. Mitchell took the \$20,000 in return for getting the area re-zoned back to multiple dwellings.

Mitchell advocates that men on relief be compelled to work 40 hours a week (for substandard relief wages, thus undercutting union members). But the same Mitchell is not averse to picking up \$20,000 for himself with no work at all—or rather, for a little bit of dirty work!

Mitchell denied all relief to unwed mothers and put their children into foster homes. This virtuous man who created agony for hundreds and went up and down the country selling the same program to affect hundreds of thousands more, doesn't really oppose "chiseling."

On the contrary, he is all for chiseling—\$20,000 at a time. He's just against poor people eating if they can't find work.

It figures.

Christmas in a Cleveland Prison

By Mae Mallory

The following is from an information bulletin issued by the Monroe Defense Committee. It was written by Mae Mallory from her cell in County Jail, Cleveland, Ohio. The title of the bulletin is "An Open letter to my friends in Foreign Lands." It has been shortened slightly because of space limitations.

* * *

As the holiday season grows nigh and newspapers are heavily laden with their gaudy displays for Christmas, I take this moment to write and express my gratitude for the work, thoughts and prayers you have extended.

Perhaps you are interested in how I have fared these many months in Cuyahoga County Jail. I will try to give you a clear picture of what life is like here—not out of self-pity, but so that you will be fully informed:

Benefit Dance Helps Committee With Legal Expenses

November 26—A benefit dance for Mae Mallory was held in Youngstown, Ohio, Saturday night. A great time was had by the more than 400 people who turned out for this affair, held at Local 1330 Union Hall.

The committee which was organized to run the dance was besieged with requests to run another one. In addition to publicizing the dance, and selling the tickets, the committee did a magnificent job in publicizing the case, and bringing it to the attention of a wide strata of people in Youngstown.

The net proceeds of the dance will go toward the legal expenses in Mae Mallory's fight against extradition to North Carolina.

The women are housed on the 7th floor of the building. The seventh floor is divided into three main sections—Cell-Blocks 7A, B and C. Cell-Blocks 7A and B are large rectangular rooms with two toilets, one shower, four face bowls and one utility sink. The capacity is 13; but often there are as many as 27 women there.

Cell-Block C is a row of cells with bunks on the walls. Because of the overcrowded conditions, this particular Cell-Block houses part of the overflow of male prisoners.

My room is Cell-Block 7A. It is a tiny room approximately six feet by nine. There is a metal bed with a thin mattress. We are allowed one sheet, one limp, flat pillow, one pillow-case and one unsanitary reprocessed wool blanket. We are given one bath towel once a week—a whole one if we are lucky.

The librarian comes once a week with a very limited selection of books, mostly whodunnits and westerns; however, I did find John Hersey's book entitled *The Wall*. Besides these books, Cuyahoga County Jail furnishes no other form of recreation.

The inmates are allowed to receive packages each day provided there is someone interested and able to bring the few things which are allowed. Since the jail furnishes no clothing, the inmates must provide their own. The meals are served in metal dog bowls. A metal cup is given each inmate on entry. A typical menu is the following:

Breakfast—Soggy cornflakes (no sugar), a cup of the poorest coffee and chickory combination, sometimes complete with floating cockroaches and white bread.

Lunch—Same dog bowl, a facsimile of baked beans, actually government surplus pea beans with blobs of tomato sauce thrown over them, and small minute chunks of fat sowbelly, a cup of

the same brew, called coffee, and bread.

Dinner—Bologna, bread, same brew, and rolls. If there is anything Cuyahoga County serves plenty of, it's bread. After a month of this diet one is almost willing to admit guilt to any crime, since I am told that better food is served in the penitentiary. . . .

The jailers appear to be hell-bent on making the inmates as miserable as possible. "After all," the chief exclaimed, "we are not interested in rehabilitation. This is not a prison, it is a jail. The prisoners are only here for a short time." . . .

Last month I read Felixx Greene's book on China, which a friend sent to me. I was particularly interested in what he had to say about the jails in the People's Republic. Mr. Greene claims that one jail that he visited had only one guard with a rifle. The windows had no bars and when he asked for the Warden, he was shown a young man with his sleeves rolled up helping an inmate fix a machine. According to Mr. Greene, "If this had been an American prison, the inmates would have gone in three minutes."

I agree with Mr. Greene wholeheartedly. From what I have read and from personal experience here, only Devil's Island and Nazi Concentration Camps can compare with America's penal system.

I have faith in my friends here in America and throughout the world. For this reason I can bear the barred windows, the stark bare walls and the hard concrete floors; I can bear the snide innuendoes about kidnappers. I can bear the conditions here that are worse than a zoo and I can even live with the prospect of having to spend Christmas and New Years in jail.

For if my suffering in jail has contributed toward the liberation of my people, peace on earth and goodwill to

all men, then any sacrifice I have been forced to make has not been in vain.

* * *

The Monroe Defense Committee of Cleveland at 10517 Superior Avenue is actively leading the Mae Mallory fight against extradition. For further information you may contact the Committee by writing, by visiting the office, or by telephoning: the number is 791-6593. Contributions are greatly needed!

Labor Council Votes Full Support To Mae Mallory Case

Cleveland, December 3—Today, the Monroe Defense Committee was informed in a letter from Mr. Al Shipka, president of the Greater Youngstown AFL-CIO Council, that the following resolution in support of Freedom Fighter Mae Mallory was recently adopted by the council:

RESOLUTION

Approved by the Executive Board
Greater Youngstown AFL-CIO Council
Re: Mae Mallory Case

Whereas, Albany Georgia is now portraying to the entire nation how the laws of the land can be circumvented in an anti-civil rights community, and
Whereas, Monroe, North Carolina was noted for its anti-civil rights attitude, and

Whereas, We sincerely believe that under the climate that exists in Monroe, North Carolina, there cannot be any possibility of justice in the courts for a Negro accused of a crime against whites,

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Greater Youngstown AFL-CIO council go on record as giving full support to the position of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP's filing of a Friend of the Court brief against Mae Mallory's extradition to North Carolina.

But Factories Are Better for the Workers!

Hospitals Are Like Factories

By Nina Siloy

The 7,000 hospitals in the U.S. comprise the fourth largest industry of the country—and what an industry!

A hospital that puts people back together when they are sick is very much like a Chevrolet plant that puts parts together to build a car or machine. And that's true in more ways than one.

Hospital workers are workers just like auto workers and steelworkers. But the wages they get are very, very different. Workers in an organized plant get paid about twice as much as those who work in hospitals, where the welfare of human beings is at stake.

Workers in a plant usually get such benefits as hospitalization, workers compensation and unemployment insurance. Since many hospitals come under the heading of non-profit institutions (which they are not), they do not have to pay even the usual legal benefits. The hospitals seldom give hospitalization to their own employees!

Hospitals are interested in making money. So they are lax in caring for the safety and welfare of their workers.

Nurses' aides and orderlies are required to have a number of classes of instruction so they will be able to care for the patients adequately. But these workers get thrown into a ward which is understaffed and when it is time to go to class, they are "too busy" and are not allowed to attend the classes.

In a New York hospital, the following incident actually happened to a nurse's aide because she was not trained in the proper technique and because there was no one around to help her:

While she was lifting a patient out of bed, the patient fell to the floor and the nurse's aide suffered a back injury.

A doctor attended to the patient, but the nurse's aide had to wait until she was finished with her work before getting medical attention. Then, when it was discovered that she had a permanent back injury, she was fired.

—Reason? Because she would not be able to do heavy lifting!

The hospitals claim that their biggest problem is the lack of trained nurses. But this lack of nurses is nobody's fault but the hospitals' themselves.

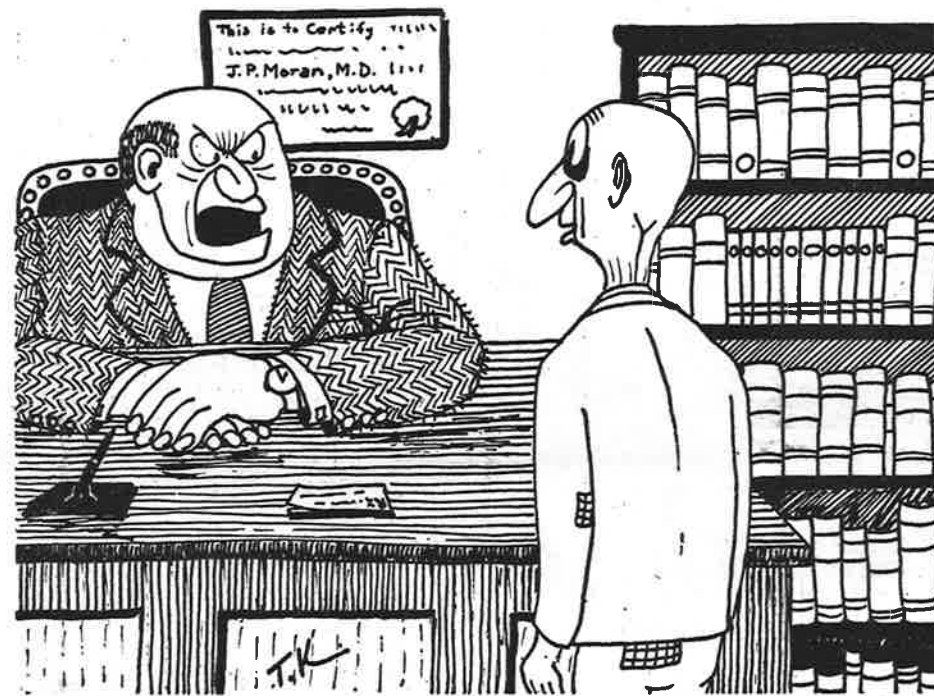
Nurses are very much overworked and underpaid—especially considering the training they undergo during sev-

eral years of specialization. They are required to work long hours, rotate shifts and often to work 12 days in a row for straight time—all at a rate of pay generally lower than that of an inexperienced mechanic's helper in a steel plant.

A nurse's job may consist of being a technician, secretary, mechanic or dietitian, spending many hours on piles of paper work. She has little time left to give care to the sick.

The hospital authorities could change this situation. They could relieve the severe "shortage" of nurses overnight, if they really wanted to. They could use more part-time nurses to cover evening and night duty. (But this would compel them to pay a higher hourly rate!) They could also get many more nurses with families to come back to work if the hospital would provide for the care of their children. (Most hospitals have facilities for this—but use them only where they can make a profit.)

Thus both workers and the patients are at the mercy of the hospital bosses.



"You'll get no further treatment until you pay your bill. Do you think I'm in this business for your health?"

We Pay Twice as Much as Chinese Do!

Why the High Cost of Medicine?

By Eleanor Stephens

Why do the American people have to pay twice as much for aureomycin as the people of China?

China's economy is still undeveloped compared to America's. As a rule, an undeveloped economy means higher prices for manufactured articles — especially new ones. Then how is it possible for China to make antibiotics to sell for half the price they sell for in the U.S.?

The astronomical profits U.S. drug companies gouge out of U.S. workers (and workers all over the world, as a matter of fact) is the first and most obvious answer.

Three years ago, when the "ethical pharmaceutical industry" was on trial for excessive profit-grabbing, a Congressional committee showed that drug manufacturers were getting away with 7,000 to 10,000 per cent profits on some of the most indispensable medicines and that the public was being overcharged \$750 million a year for drugs!

The drug company executives placated the enquiring Congressmen with pleas of "high overhead."

They evoked a noble image of an army of dedicated scientists devoting long

years and billions of dollars in the humanitarian task of developing modern wonder-drugs. They said the price of such selfless scientific research was high, and had to be added to the price of the new drugs!

They didn't mention at that time another, probably more expensive part of their "overhead," that was brought to light in a series of articles in the New York World Telegram last month—a series detailing the high cost of industrial "spying," and giving an inkling of how much U.S. manufacturers spend trying to prevent it.

Take the case of Lederle Laboratories, the gigantic pharmaceutical company at Pearl River, N.Y.

"Lederle," says the World Telegram, "has a security system that meets the same standards established by the government for defense projects."

"The 600 acres of Lederle are ringed by seven-foot-high fences. A 50-man police force maintains a round-the-clock patrol."

"In October, a federal grand jury indicted an international drug pirate ring (of scientists, formerly in Lederle's employ) for allegedly conspiring to filch Lederle secrets behind the development of a drug to treat arthritis and 3 new antibiotics . . .

"According to the indictment, the scientists sold the secrets to an Italian pharmaceutical manufacturer. (Imagine—letting the Italians get medicines without paying U.S. monopoly prices!)

"Similar cases have plagued other United States drug firms, an industry among the hardest hit by espionage."

No wonder the "overhead" is high! The cost of a 7-foot fence around 600 acres ain't hay, let alone bed and board for 50 cops "around-the-clock" 365 days every year!

The Chinese don't spend a single cent to keep the "secret" of making aureomycin or any other wonder drug. Indeed, they hope these drugs can be made cheaper by more and more factories in more and more countries. And they have utterly no reason to hope otherwise.

It's easy to see why American workers pay twice as much for an antibiotic as Chinese workers do.

Labor Campaign for Shorter Week?—It's About Time!

As unemployment zoomed up again last month, to an official 5.8 per cent of the labor force, even the most conservative armchair generals of the labor movement were planning a campaign for the 35-hour week (at 40 hours pay) on a national scale.

A quarter of a century ago, the most popular slogan among the militant CIO rank-and-file was that of the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay. It is an eloquent commentary on the age we live in that labor's "leaders" are now considered by some to be tough and dictatorial because they are seeking five more hours

of work for their members—at the same pay—than their fathers did a generation ago.

The accompanying graph shows the progress of the American worker in shortening his working hours over a 110 year period. From 1850 to 1910, he reduced his work week by six hours every 20 years. From 1910 to 1940, he improved on this record and reduced it by 14 hours in 30 years.

But from 1940 to 1960, that is, precisely in the period when American society was supposed to have turned into a perpetual bonanza of "Peoples Capitalism" and Utopia was supposed to

have arrived along with mutual funds and the stockbrokers' Monthly Investment Plan, there has been exactly zero improvement in the length of the work week.

Can it be that an All-Wise, All-Providing God has so arranged it that the ideal work week is just 40 hours, and it is going to stay that way from now on until the final trumpet? If so, he has inconsistently provided the union printers with a 36¼-hour week, the majority of office workers in New York City with a 35-hour week, many unions with a 37½ hour week, and the New York electricians with a 25-hour week!

The real truth is that the great bulk of the United States labor movement has been witch-hunted, red-baited, demoralized and legislated out of its birthright. The labor movement won every decrease in hours as it won every increase in wages, through organized struggle led by loyal, self-sacrificing, courageous leaders—and inspired by the socialists and communists at a time when the capitalists were powerless to destroy them, even by frame-up and murder.

Labor has paid a price in speed-up and stretch-out for the relative "peace" the bosses have imposed upon it by hounding out the militants from its ranks.

But time has a way of rolling around to its starting point again. The sleeping giant is already stirring in his sleep. And when even George Meany ("I-

never-walked-a-picket-line" Meany) is making noises about breaking with Kennedy over the 35-hour week, you may be sure that the workers themselves are thinking deeply about the lessons contained in this little graph.

No Sweatshop Here

Vermont Royster, editor of the Wall Street Journal, said before a Congressional Committee on December 10:

"Every factory I saw in the Soviet Union—even the ones with good equipment — was overloaded with people (he means workers) . . . the result is a kind of featherbedding that makes American union rules look amateurish . . ." (showing how inefficient he thinks Soviet production is.)

Really, Mr. Royster! What about the rifles and whips that supposedly drive the Soviet workers. You forgot to mention how it is possible for the Soviet workers to loaf so much under the "undemocratic" system you are so much opposed to.

Featherbedding? Worse than American unions? That is indeed a horrendous crime!

You might tell all this to the American working people instead of their mis-Representatives in Congress.

You might—but you won't.

American Work Week

1850 - 1960

