

Recession Gains; Economic Squeeze Hits Young Worker

by Bert Deck

Young workers, from all indications, will be facing "operation money squeeze" in the coming year.

The ominous trends appearing in the American economy have stimulated a considerable amount of speculation, post-mortems and forecasts, second guesses and wishful analyses by the professional business dopesters and economists.

Out of the confusion, however, one incontrovertible fact emerges: The American economy has headed into a decisive downturn in employment, personal incomes, and production.

Unemployment in November was the highest since the recession year of 1949 reaching 3,188,000, according to official Departments of Commerce and Labor figures. This is an increase of 680,000 from October. The factory work week shrank 18 minutes in November to 39 hours 12 minutes reflecting industry's program of cutting the work week.

GLIB ASSURANCES

The glib assurances by the high salaried experts that it is unlikely that unemployment will exceed 5 million in 1958 will be of little comfort to the working class. While five million unemployed may be tolerable for the business community, a minor "readjustment" for the economy, it expresses a drastic reduction in living standards for many more than five million.

YOUNG WORKERS HIT

A "mild" recession hits the younger section of the working class with the impact of a full-scale depression.

These workers not only suffer the disadvantage of low seniority, which means they are the first to be laid off, but have less unemployment benefit protection under existing government regulations and union contracts.

In this context the demand raised at the last United Automobile Workers union convention for a shorter work week with an increase in wages will be of special importance to young workers and students first entering the labor force.

WHO WILL PAY?

The big question is, who is going to foot the bill for the coming recession? The policy of the not-so-free enterprises is indicated by what is going on in Detroit, Buffalo, and other areas first feeling the brunt of the shakeout. In order to chisel on the unemployment benefits, many of the companies are reducing the work week with no increase in hourly wages. It boils down to a

"share the poverty" program.

Congress, on the other hand, is busy whipping up sentiment for anti-labor legislation with its phony labor probes. The latter have already achieved a split in the AFL-CIO.

The business-government plan is clear: to unload the cost of the recession on those least able to afford it, labor.

THE MYTH

If the predictions of the experts are verified, we can expect a serious economic decline in 1958. The myth of our classless society is going to receive some rough treatment. It will be difficult even for the most sophisticated to reconcile the needs of capital and labor.

The long post-war boom dulled many into the belief that socialism had been confounded by the reality of American capitalism with our built-in stabilizers and oh-so-clever credit system. The nursery tales about our social system conforming to human nature and being the best of all possible worlds were swallowed by learned folk who should have known better. If anyone doubted the wisdom of these maxims, they could always be invited to return to their home in Novgorod or Vladivostok.

It can be predicted with certainty: The American economy which in the past decade provided the most effective anti-socialist arguments, will in the long run turn out to be the prime evidence in the case for a socialist reconstruction of society.

Teenagers Are Wiser Than You Think

The N.Y. Post, in a series on New York's teenagers, asks different teenagers their attitude towards politics. It gives the following as typical answers: "We have no say. And we won't have no more to say when we get the vote. It's supposed to be the voice of the people, but it isn't." "You say to a cop you got freedom of speech, Jack, and he beats your head in."

THE YOUNG SOCIALIST

Ten Cents

Voice of America's Future

JANUARY, 1958

TEN CENTS



Surrounded by bags, banjos and curious Chinese, the 42 young Americans who toured China raise the Stars and Stripes in a Peking railroad station. Ten of the 42 who have so far returned to this country have had their passports seized by the State Department. The 24 still abroad have had their passports revoked by the State Department recently. Jake Rosen, one of the recent returnees, told the YOUNG SOCIALIST, "As far as I know all of us who have had our passports taken away are fighting to get them back."

Young Socialist Tours Deep South; Reports on Montgomery, Koinonia

by Ann-Mari Buitrago

One night this fall in the deep South, as we were cooking supper together, a courageous and active progressive white Southern woman said to me: "I don't understand you young radicals. When we became radicals during the 30's and 40's things were very different. We had a sense of being on the right side of history at the right time. We were not only fighting against the enemies of freedom and progress but we were going to win; we not only had effective, even spectacular leaders, but leaders to whom we were perfectly devoted. But how do you continue to stay in the struggle when you have no leaders who compel your utter devotion, no winning cause that offers you the joy of helping in the birth? I admire your grim determination, but I feel you are being terribly cheated."

I don't think most American radicals hate their country; but we don't like it very well. In a society so thoroughly corrupted in its values, its institutions, its mores, what is there to attract your affections? Nothing. To what all-pervading quality, to what habitual social relations, to what values, to what leaders, to what institutions can young radicals give their whole love with a

good heart? None.

REPORT FROM MONTGOMERY

It is superfluous to state that the struggle of the Negroes of Montgomery, Alabama, to integrate the buses was a marvelous fight well fought. Nothing can detract from the glory that is theirs. I went to Montgomery partly to pay homage and partly to discover, if I could, what was

the state of the struggle and the organization now that the first big battle had been won. What was their timetable for the integrated future? What was their current assessment of the forces of opposition? What were their plans for political action, if any?

After the boycott, the Montgomery Improvement Association decided to employ a full-time executive secretary, Rev. Mose Pleasure, to administer the MIA program. I talked for four hours with him. His answers to some of my questions were curious indeed:

Q. Many people in Alabama have told me they expect the schools to be the last thing integrated in Montgomery. Is that about the way your timetable at MIA has it scheduled?

A. Well, the schools are certainly going to be very difficult. It will take a long time. My job, however, is not to bring integration. My job is to raise the standards of the Negro race.

Q. Oh?

A. Yes. As you may not know, the MIA has a new ten-point program which we have been formulating for some months. When it is finalized it will be my job to administer it. The first thing we want to do is to build a \$750,000 community center for Negroes to stand as a monument to the great sacrifice of Montgomery Negroes. The building will serve as a headquarters for carrying out the ten-point program. This program includes many services. We want to professionalize domestic service. We will work on Negro relief cases, on Negro home ownership and beautification, on counseling for individuals and families, on activities for youth, etc.

(Continued on Page 2)

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NYC Schools Spearhead Witchhunt of Teachers

By Martha Wells

Every day at noon a voice over New York's municipal radio station informs its listeners that New York is a "city of opportunity, where nearly eight million people live in peace and harmony, and enjoy the benefits of democracy."

We would not know it if we were not told, for this picture of New York as a bastion of democracy is in sharp contrast with what we have observed. In at least one vital area, academic freedom, New York City has been the champion not of democracy, but of its opposite. This city was the first to institute an extensive witchhunt in its educational system, which includes five municipal colleges. It has pioneered in

devising new techniques for "guarding the freedom of its children," techniques which are quickly adopted in other cities. The McCarran Investigating Committee, back in 1953, held up the New York witchhunt as a model for other boards of education to follow.

The recent trial of Prof. Warren B. Austin of City College by a committee of the Board of Higher Education is an example of this witchhunting process. Prof. Austin was charged with falsely denying that he was ever a member of the Communist Party. The evidence? The testimony of an informer, a confessed perjurer, that Prof. Austin was a member of the CP twenty years ago; a photograph of Prof. Austin

and several communists at a picnic; membership in the Teachers Union; attendance at the Jefferson School for a course in Russian; possession of a copy of Stalin's "Foundations of Leninism." The committee has recommended that Prof. Austin be dismissed from the college.

The extent of his witchhunt can be judged partly by the fact that 12 school employees have resigned or retired during the past year rather than answer questions about their political beliefs and associations. This brings the total since 1951 to 247. In addition, 33 were dismissed after departmental trials, and five staff members are now under suspension and awaiting trials. The pre-1951 figures are not

known. But all these figures cannot measure the untold suffering caused by the witchhunt. The first teacher to be hauled up for questioning, a teacher of first grade children, committed suicide on Christmas Eve, 1948. Most of the torment endured by individuals, however, we can only imagine.

More tangible a result is the loss of scores of highly qualified teachers. The trial examiners of the purged teachers all admitted the outstanding professional competence of the teachers involved. The crowded city schools are in dire need of experienced teachers, yet the Board of Education continues to oust many of its best teachers on flimsy ex-

YOUTH SPEAKS OUT!

Two Views: China and the Rightists

Dear Editors:

Congratulations for printing the interview in which Nina Landau discusses her "forbidden" trip to China. Allow me to congratulate Mrs. Landau and her fellow students in their defiance of the reactionary threats of the State Department. A commendation is also in order for the YOUNG SOCIALIST which has consistently been outspoken in its defense of the civil liberties of all persons and organizations throughout the world.

One of the great values of an interview like the Landau one is that it cuts right through all the propaganda issued by the State Department against the Chinese Government and people. There is no doubt that the Chinese Revolution was one of the most progressive and inspiring events of our times and a great tribute to the Chinese people who carried it out in opposition to the imperialists.

However I would like to disagree with the Chinese Government's attitude towards its critics, which Mrs. Landau seems to support. The regime, according to the interview, "would consider any view which attacked the leadership of the Party as a rightist view." I submit that by no means all of those who are imprisoned or executed for political criticisms of the regime "were using this atmosphere of criticism in order to attack socialism itself."

One concrete example of Marxist criticism of the Communist regime which has been suppressed and slandered as "rightist" can be found in a report which came out of Hong Kong, appearing in the Oct. 7, 1957 *Militant*. According to the article, after the "bloom and contend" policy was initiated by Mao, the universities blossomed into great centers of political discussion and activity. Innumerable student organizations arose, and members of the Young Communist League played what appears to be the most active role in these clubs. One of those clubs grouped itself around a 21-year-old girl, a YCL member who at the age of 13 had joined the Communist Liberation Army in the struggle against Chiang-Kai Chek and Western Imperialism.

She believed that the problem of bureaucracy which was to be rectified by the regime, was a product of the existing regime itself. She recognized that the "upper strata of Chinese society does

not coincide with the socially owned economic base." This is because the "party and state have become a bureaucratic apparatus which governs the people without democracy." She continues: "since the socially owned economic base of our country is progressive, it is the superstructure that must be fundamentally changed."

The students' criticisms led to demonstrations and the hundred flowers of Mao began to wither. "Counter-revolutionary" elements among the student leaders, i.e. those who appeared to be the most active and outspoken in the movement for democratic rights, were executed or imprisoned, including the above-mentioned young girl. Within one month from the inauguration of the new policy, all critics, whether mild or forceful, were attacked as "rightist" including these revolutionary students.

"The leaders in the students' movement and the lower cadre in the Communist Party and its Youth league insisted that they were the genuine leftists and that the Mao regime was resorting to frame-up methods against them," the article said.

After the 20th Party Congress, the Polish and Hungarian events, I think that all socialists should be extremely cautious in accepting the charges of the regimes of the Communist led countries, that the internal opposition to their regimes comes solely from "counter-revolutionaries," "rightists," etc.

Fraternally,
Daniel Freeman

Dear Editors:

I would like to clarify certain misimpressions caused by the briefness of my statements in the December issue of YOUNG SOCIALIST.

On the issue of the "rightists," they are given every opportunity to express their views without fear of punishment. The Ministers of Food and Forestry have been termed "rightists" and still continue to hold their posts. The campaign against "rightists" is in the form of discussions, newspaper articles, and cartoons. The execution I mentioned involved three counter-revolutionaries who first lied to students about the college quota and then used the students' protests for their own anti-government purposes. No students were punished. The three responsible were the principal and two teachers. The sentence was

no doubt a warning to other counter-revolutionaries and not an attempt to suppress criticism and protest. Criticism is encouraged.

A rightist is usually a person who rejects the revolution, clings to feudal ideology, and is against socialism. It is part of the Chinese Constitution that China must work towards socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party. All other parties in China accept this leadership although they represent the interest of their membership, i.e., industrialists, intellectuals, etc.

It is a great mistake to assume that China is an Asian version of the Soviet Union. The Chinese are approaching socialism in their own way and in keeping with Chinese tradition. They try to learn from the mistakes of the Soviet Union and carry on an effective campaign against bureaucracy. All elements of the population are represented in the government and the new government has overwhelming support.

I found China unbelievably poor. Over 85 per cent of the people are peasants. Almost every task in construction and agriculture is done by hand, shovel and hoe. An ox or mule is the most visual form of mechanization and there aren't enough of them.

In eight years the new regime has brought factories and tractors to China. Last year, the first time in centuries, no one died from starvation. We saw no one naked, in rags or begging and often people would boast of the meat and vegetables in their diet since liberation.

There is tremendous enthusiasm in China: the students, serious and eager about their studies and their future contributions to a new China. The farmers, studying and learning about farm techniques and cooperation. The workers, seeing machines for the first time and acquiring the skills necessary to run them. The women, free at last from bondage to father and husband, citizens and participants in building China. The children, who will be taller, stronger, more politically and socially conscious and more educated than any other generation in China before.

Sincerely,
Nina Landau

(Edit. note: We welcome these further comments on China from Nina Landau. We urge all our readers to utilize our letters column to discuss this and other issues.)

New York Teacher Witchhunt . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Most serious of all the effects of the witchhunt is that it has become virtually impossible to discuss controversial ideas in the classroom: teachers and students alike are intimidated, for fear of their present or their future careers, from even discussing "dangerous" ideas, from speaking out in favor of, to say nothing of organizing and fighting for, unpopular causes.

THE METHODS OF MADNESS

What are the main techniques of this witchhunt? 1.) **Vague charges.** The Feinberg Law, which prohibits the employment of Communists in the public schools and colleges of the state, was passed in 1949. But in all this time, not one of the ousted public school teachers has been suspended or tried under the terms of that law. This is because the law provides certain legal safeguards to the accused: the right to definite charges; the right to reinstatement during the period of

suspension while awaiting trial; the necessity for the Board of Education to present definite evidence against the teacher. A Board spokesman admitted that it would be "a burdensome legal problem to sustain the dismissal . . . of any teacher" under the charges of subversive activities or membership in the Communist Party covered by the Feinberg Law. Instead, the teachers are brought up on charges of "insubordination" and "conduct unbecoming to a teacher."

2.) **Assault on privacy.** Teachers have been asked such questions as, "Do you know so-and-so?" "Were you ever at the home of so-and-so?" "Did you ever say that the United States was imperialistic?" "How long have you worn your hair this way?" Yet the Board claims it is not interested in a teacher's thoughts or personal life. More: the refusal to inform on fellow teachers has become a ground for dismissal, by a Board of Education resolution passed in 1955. The criticism for

"conduct becoming a teacher" is willingness to be stoolpigeon.

3.) **Collaboration with Congressional Investigations.** The McCarran, Jenner, Velde, and McCarthy Committees have investigated New York teachers. Teachers who have invoked the Fifth

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January, 1958

The Power of the Witchhunt

January marks the fourth issue of our paper and the beginning of a new year—a year which we hope will see the birth of a new organization to bring the ideas of socialism to America's youth.

These past four months have not been quiet ones for the YOUNG SOCIALIST and its supporters. They have been marked by turmoil and struggle as the paper is introduced to students on campus after campus across the nation. The witchhunters, noting a sign of life on the Left and fearing a regrouped and revitalized radical youth movement, did their best to smash us at the start.

At UCLA, the *Daily Bruin* conducted a full-scale redbaiting campaign, dragging out all the tried and true McCarthyite techniques of guilt by association and the like. Hundreds of students protested this attack and supported our civil liberties.

At the University of Colorado, following extensive publicity of our distribution there, the University president barred sales or distributions on the campus. The student paper, the American Civil Liberties Union and many students protested this and forced the president to retreat slightly in his stand. (see story page 4.)

In New York City, YOUNG SOCIALIST salesmen have become a familiar sight in front of the city's many colleges and high schools and wherever young people congregate. The police department threatened to disrupt our sales when it issued a summons to two of our salesmen in front of Hunter College under a "littering" ordinance. After receiving several hearings the case was dismissed and this plus several other incidents forced the police department to issue a letter to all policemen telling them not to interfere with distribution of non-commercial literature.

The witchhunters in every case have been unable to prevent our reaching the young people of this nation. In fact, in the heat of the struggle for civil liberties new people are introduced to the ideas of socialism and new clubs are formed. For instance, we learn from Los Angeles that a new campus club, the Eugene V. Debs Club, is now functioning at UCLA. Boulder, Colorado, reports the first meeting of a new club, the Inquirers, designed to bring dissenting speakers to the Colorado University campus. The Young Socialist Alliance in New York City has been growing and reaching more and more new people.

Of course the witchhunt is still with us. In this and in future issues we will document the extent of its existence and the story of those who are struggling against it. But it can no longer prevent the formation of new viable socialist youth groups.

It also will be unable to prevent these groups from coming together in a united, broad and independent youth movement which will fight militantly for the civil liberties and rights of all. The witchhunters fear the formation of such a movement for it will change qualitatively the atmosphere on campuses across the nation and among young workers.

We note that the Socialist Youth Committee in Chicago is initiating a midwest conference to discuss perspectives for socialist youth. (see page 3.) We are sure that a meeting such as this one attended by young people from a wide geographical area and representing diverse points of view, will bring us one precious step closer to our goal of unifying America's radical and progressive youth.

Amendment before these committees have been dismissed without a hearing or trial. Furthermore, although the great majority of educators in the country have disapproved of these investigations, William Jansen, Superintendent of New York's schools, praised these committees as defenders of academic freedom, and declared that such committees should extend their work to other states.

4.) **Informers.** The notorious informer Harvey Matusow provided some frightening insights into the ways of the witchhunt. Since he is a known liar, one can only believe what he says if it is verified from other sources. Various letters and sworn affidavits have revealed the following: In 1952 Supt. Jansen wrote Matusow asking him for information "concerning New York City teachers who are members of the Communist Party." In the same year Dr. John Jacob Theobald, the president of Queens College, paid Matusow a visit in which they discussed the three members of the Queens faculty whom Matusow had accused of being Communists.

Matusow was employed by the Board of Education to furnish the names of teachers he suspected of Communist activities, and

to try to locate other informers. The price for this filthy job was \$25.00 a day. Matusow falsely accused "about 13 or 14" teachers of CP membership.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Can even the worst features of the witchhunt on teachers be eradicated, without a drastic change in the entire social system? It is possible; but the only people who can do it are the teachers themselves.

Several teachers already belong to unions, but these are disunited and have varying aims. Some are little more than "company unions." The most militant teachers unions are independent groups in the cities where the witchhunt has hit hardest—New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

How many more beatings will the teachers have to take in the form of witchhunts, low pay, poor facilities, inadequate retirement systems, etc., before the majority of them realize that they all have common interests—interests which can best be furthered by one nation-wide union, which acts like a union instead of professional association, which fights militantly for its demands, taking strike action if necessary? Not too many, we hope.

Youth Notes

BERKELEY, Calif.—Patterning itself after the Mark Twain Club in San Francisco, radical youth in and around Berkeley have gathered to form the Jack London Club. At the organizing meeting, members of the former Labor Youth League, the Left-Wing Caucus of the Young Socialist League, the Socialist Workers Party, and supporters of such publications as the *Monthly Review*, *National Guardian*, and *American Socialist* came together to launch the new club. From the beginning it has been an independent, unaffiliated group, open to any political tendency or anyone interested in socialism. For further information write: Duran Bell, 2017 Parker, Berkeley, California. . . . Socialist caucuses together with the traditional Republican, Democratic and Independent ones have been formed at both San Francisco State College and Stanford University (Palo Alto) as part of the Political Unions of the respective schools. . . . The American Friends Service Committee will sponsor a high school conference on civil liberties at Asilomar, Calif., Feb. 21-23.

RALEIGH, North Carolina—From the heart of the South comes encouraging news of the attitudes of white students towards civil rights. When North Carolina's student legislators met here they passed a resolution urging the repeal of a state law which forbids inter-racial marriages. George Cochran, president of the North Carolina State College student body stated, in answering an attack from Governor Hodges: "We resolved only that the sacred right to marry whomever one chooses should not be restricted by law because of race no more than because of creed or religion." . . . A report at the National Inter-fraternity Conference discovered agitation to remove the restrictive racial and religious clauses from fraternity membership requirements at more than 50 colleges across the nation. The fraternities resolved to wage what seems to be a losing battle to protect the "racial purity" of their groups.

NEW YORK CITY—Student leaders, clubs, and student papers at CCNY have rejected a "compromise" membership list plan devised by the General Faculty. After President Gallagher had reversed his previous stand in favor of compulsory membership lists (as reported in our last issue) the General Faculty, to the surprise of everyone, refused to abolish the lists. The current compromise allows a club which refuses to hand in a membership list to function but bars such a club from using the College's name or getting any funds that go to student clubs. Mirriam Hartman, chairman of the Marxist Discussion Club, called the compromise "the establishment of a second-class citizenship for certain clubs and in ways worse than the previous regulations." . . . The Young Socialist Alliance has put itself down on the record as a firm supporter of the American Forum—for Socialist Education. In addition, it is offering its active support to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee's campaign to abolish the Un-American Activities Committee. It is preparing a resolution in defense of Morton Sobell who sits in his cell in Alcatraz as a symbol of all the victims of the witchhunt. For further information, write to the YSA at rm 3, 218 7th Ave., New York City.

JAPAN—Over 250,000 students have been engaged in demonstrations all over the country calling for the banning of H-Bombs and nuclear tests. The current provocation was Britain's decision to continue tests in the Pacific. . . . Ninety per cent of the students at the University of Caracas (Venezuela) went out on strike in protest of President Jimenez's rigged national plebiscite. Over 500 students clashed with police in the streets. . . . Tens of thousands of students in China are being recruited to work on the collective farms by the government. The government hopes to help a growing farm crisis and at the same time stem student unrest by this move.

CHICAGO—Lively discussions among young socialists of different persuasions are being fostered by the Socialist Youth Committee of Chicago. For further information, write J. Maxim, 1457 E. 54th Place, Chicago. . . . The Young Socialist Club of Philadelphia has been sponsoring meetings on integration and juvenile delinquency. Meetings of interest to all socialists are planned. Call EV 2-5035. . . . A report from a student who visited China is one of the coming events planned by the Wayne Young Socialist Club of Detroit (3737 Woodward). . . . A discussion bulletin containing information on clubs throughout the country is available for 15c from rm. 3, 218 7th Ave., New York City.

A Weekend Of Discussion

on

PERSPECTIVES FOR SOCIALIST YOUTH

at the

MIDWEST CONFERENCE

in Chicago

Sponsored by The Socialist Youth Committee of Chicago

February 1 and 2, 1958

For Information Contact:

J. Maxim

1457 E. 54th Place

Gather all ye young socialists from the far corners of the Mid-West to discuss the problems facing young people and the basis on which we can all get together. (Festivities and folk music too.)

U.S. Student Talks to Young People During Youth Festival in Moscow

by John Link

(The writer is chairman of the Socialist Discussion Club of Antioch College).

My first impression, as one of the delegates riding to Moscow in the special festival trains, was provided by the crowds of people waiting to greet us at each train stop. They waved, smiled, threw flowers, and chanted peace and friendship (in Russian of course). It made me a bit sad to realize that here was an unmistakable expression of the deepest will and hope of the Russian people; but that politically it was not effective in preventing the destruction of the Hungarian revolution.

HUNGRY FOR FRIENDS

Moscow is a very imposing city with great wide streets, historic buildings and churches, and immense crowds of people. It was a new experience for most of us to be the center of a pushing, cheering, crowd of people trying to trade coins, pins, and photographs, get autographs, or merely touch us. This immense hunger of the Russian people for friendship and contact with people of other countries shows that the "Iron Curtain" was certainly no choice of theirs.

For the person who sought them there were many opportunities during our visit for valuable contact with all sorts of people, especially the Russians.

For example, on the way to an Israeli concert I met two Jews who later invited me to visit them in their home. It was only gradually that they grew confident enough to feel they could "open up" to me. This indicates why visitors from the West who wish to find only good things cannot enter the confidence of people who are severely unhappy with the regime; there is still a general atmosphere of fear and unwillingness to speak openly about the realities of Soviet life.

These Jews were students; they had no sympathy with their life in Moscow, but of course had no chance to immigrate to Israel, and because life in Moscow is far better than in other parts of Russia they had to stay there. They hated the lack of freedom, the fear, and the control of all sources of information by the state. Their mother had been in a labor camp for a long time, and this of course contributed to their feelings of bitterness toward the regime. They had had quite a hard time during the period 1952-54 because they were Jews, but they admitted that things are somewhat better today.

They resented the poor living conditions also because they consider them a direct result of the fact that much of the product of the Soviet economy goes into armaments instead of improvements in the standard of living. They are also very bitter about the structure of a society which offers them only the opportunity to fit into some narrowly defined job as specialists with no chance for individual expression. Although their life is better than average, and they have access to many books, still I got a sense of hopelessness and resignation to circumstances which they had no choice but to accept. "We live for nothing," one said to me in a way which left me groping for something appropriate to answer, but there is no answer.

SOVIET ARTIST

I met an artist who was very eager to sketch my portrait, and as we became friends he took me to his cluttered, dirty little flat, crammed with his best work which he couldn't possibly ex-

hibit as it expresses things which are considered "dangerous." He produces illustrations for a living, but his real creative efforts are destined to gather dust stacked against the wall of his little flat. He too was very bitter against the whole system. "The old aristocracy under the Tsar had a certain justification for existence because of its perpetuation of culture, but the bureaucracy has no culture," he told me. His dream is somehow to get to the West to study the developments there which he can only dream about now, as all communication is cut off.

I met another student (of course my experience was limited to people who could speak English, which meant students) who was also extremely bitter. His mother too had been in a labor camp, but he was not Jewish. I tried to ask him about possibilities for the liberalization of the system along lines which seem to have already begun. "It's like a change of Tsars, that's all," he replied.

STATE'S BRICKS

I asked this student about the general spirit that motivates the Soviet worker, and he replied by



a story. "There was a state building project and the plan called for a certain number of truck loads of bricks to be delivered each hour. There weren't enough men to unload the bricks properly so they merely threw them off the trucks and about half were broken, but it didn't matter because the plan was being fulfilled and anyway they were the States' bricks."

From many different people with whom I spoke, I got an interesting picture of Soviet education. When it comes to producing specialists or technicians in fields like math, physics or languages, where ideology doesn't affect the subject matter, the system seems to be doing quite well. But in areas like economics, "humanitarian sciences," etc., where the official line plays a very important role in determining what is taught, the classes become nothing more than a dull repetition of dogma. "We have become lax," one social science student told me. "The good interesting professors were removed as being 'cosmopolitan' several years ago, and the new men are no more than political hacks who are willing to

repeat faithfully the official line."

In sharp contrast to the impressions that I got talking with people privately, away from the crowds or fear of secret police agents, was the picture given by the official interpreters who were assigned to each delegation. They stayed away from controversial subjects, and when you did get them on the spot, they refused to face the issue, became very vague, or mumbled something about their thoughts being in Russian and hard to express.

There are many Americans who went to the festival hoping to see how nice life in Russia was, and so they listened with great interest to all that the interpreters had to say, and left Moscow with the impression that things were, if not rosy, at least improving every day.

Nevertheless, the festival was a great deal more than either the Communists or Mr. Dulles had bargained for. The understanding and friendship developed there runs deeper than the crude propaganda that either side puts out.

Youth Says Russians Want Peace, Friendship

by Evelyn Sell

DETROIT—The Young Socialist Club of Detroit held a forum on the Moscow Youth Festival recently at which David Wellman, a 17-year-old high school student, gave an eyewitness account.

He asked several questions and then proceeded to answer them. "Why did I go? I went because I was curious to see for myself what the Soviet Union and its people were really like." The festival proved to him that the Russian people are very friendly towards us. Never once did he hear the cry, "Yankee, go home!" In his opinion the theme of the festival, Peace and Friendship, was fulfilled in the spirit and exuberance of the Russian people. Every delegation at the festival was sponsored by its government, except the American.

"What will I get out of it and what will I put into it? I will get a better understanding of the world and not be disrespectful of other peoples and nations. They don't want to fight us." He added that he wanted to teach the Russian youth that the young people of our country don't want to fight them. And he wants to convey their feelings to the young people of the United States.

Why does Wellman talk against war and present this as the biggest issue? Because this is the question on every young person's mind throughout the world.

Mrs. Bates Thanks Young Supporters

by Jean Carter

MINNEAPOLIS — At its first public meeting, the Independent Political Youth sent a strong resolution of support to the students struggling for integration of the schools in Little Rock.

The Twin Cities youth said, "We would like to extend to you a warm and sincere thank you for the courage you have displayed and are continuing to display in your fight for integration in Little Rock, Arkansas."

In response, Mrs. L. C. Gates, president, Arkansas NAACP, wrote: "When this Little Rock school problem has been resolved and the city is permitted to return to its former peace and

tranquility, I doubt that those of us who have been close to this problem will recall too much the words and deeds of the bigots and the misguided. Rather, I believe that we will remember most those fine persons like yourself, who spoke or wrote words of praise and encouragement."

The Independent Political Youth is comprised of individuals representing or sympathetic to the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, pacifists, anarchist, and a good many independent socialists. It includes both student and working youth. For further information write: Independent Political Youth, P.O. Box 5232, Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis; or call: TA 2-0930.

LONDON LETTER:

Report on British Youth Scene

by Janet Downs

LONDON—The young people of Britain are in for a tough time over the next few months. The country's economic position is shaky and the Tory Government has prescribed a dose of unemployment and a reduction in consumption to solve the crisis.

This means opposition to all wage increases, raising the bank rate, worsening housing conditions, and smashing trade union organization. To the young people this has thus far meant less money, higher rents, and industrial struggle. The Tories mean business!

YOUNG WORKERS FIGHT

In the major political and industrial events of the last few months, young people have participated alongside older workers in showing their opposition to the ruling and employing class of this country. In the demonstrations that took place during the "Suez adventure" in opposition to Eden's troops entering Egypt, young people played a prominent part, especially young students from the Universities. In the strikes that took place in the car industry last year over sackings and in the engineering industry this year for a wage increase, young workers have shown no reluctance to come out on the picket lines.

NO YOUTH MOVEMENT

What Socialist youth organization is there in Britain to lead these young people who are just being driven to think about politics and the society we live in? It may surprise American readers, but there is no strong national Socialist youth movement in Britain. There are two organizations to which a young trade unionist or socialist can belong—the Young Communist League, or the local Youth Section of the Labor Party.

The Young Communist League (attached to the Communist Party) has a national organization and its own paper, but it is very weak and nearly packing up. The obvious reason for its inability to attract young people is its policies, which merely reflect those of the adult Communist Party. For example, on conscription it favors a cut from two years to one; whereas even the Conservative Party says it intends to abolish the call-up!

With the worsening of industrial relations and increases in the cost of living, the YCL has in fact shown a decline. It has an official national membership of 2,000 but it is well known that members are resigning every month over the Communist Party Leadership's inability to provide a Marxist answer to the Khrushchev revelations, the Hungarian uprising, the attacks of the British Government on full employment, etc.

The Labor Party Youth Sections have no national organization but are merely attached to a Labor Party in a particular district. All branches of the national Labor Party (known as Constituency Labor Parties) are encouraged by the Party leadership to develop a Youth Section to do the donkey work at election times! In fact there are under 200 Youth Sections in the whole country.

The youth of the Party has a tradition of always being to the left of the official Party line and the present form of organization—isolated Sections—is the result of the leadership becoming frightened of the left-wing tendencies of the national youth organization, known as the League of Youth, and disbanding it in 1955. The present Youth Sections show exactly the same political inclinations as did the old League of

Youth. Over the last year, under the pressure of Tory politics, these Sections have shown an increase in membership and political activity. It is to these Sections that young working class people are turning.

LABOR'S POLICY

What policy does the Labor Party offer to young people? Well, quite frankly, the official leadership has little to offer. The Labor Party Annual Conference, held in Brighton in October, voted for buying up shares in various firms rather than the "nationalization of the means of production, distribution and exchange" as in its constitution.

However, a large section of the Party—mainly members of the Constituency Labor Parties—feel that the present leadership is incapable of fighting the Tories as it doesn't want to get rid of capitalism and introduce a socialist society.

This left wing learned a lesson at Brighton. Aneurin Bevan, who has been regarded as the idol of the left, deserted and on behalf of the leadership opposed a motion from the floor urging a campaign to rally all sections of the working class in opposition to the H-bomb and pledging the next Labor Government not to test, manufacture or use nuclear weapons. This action by Bevan has

not demoralized the left wing. A significant minority voted against the platform on the H-bomb. The desertion of Bevan from the left has served to show that a leader is no substitute for a policy, and great discussion now goes on in "Tribune" (the paper of the left) on policy.

The left wing and the Youth Sections have a great deal in common: they are both hostile to the right-wing leadership of the Party! Today the Sections are growing along political lines despite the right wing. The youth coming into the Party, the majority of whom are in their teens, want to discuss political questions and won't be satisfied with a party which accepts unemployment, rent increases, and a large expenditure on arms with just a Parliamentary murmur. Members of Youth Sections are in fact running their own monthly paper in which they discuss these questions and exchange news of activities.

I said at the beginning that the youth of Britain are in for a tough time. If there is going to be any real fight put up—both inside and outside Parliament—against the Tories' attacks on our living standards, it will come from the left wing of the Labor Party and Trade Unions with the support of the Youth Sections.

Young Socialist Report from the South...

(Continued from Page 1)

Q. How do you anticipate financing this venture?

A. I think once we got this program in final definite form, we will be able to get financial support from national organizations.

Q. Supposing you are able to get the money, what do you think will be the effect on the MIA of having a \$750,000 investment in a segregated organization?

A. Well, we'll be able to raise the standards of domestic help which is a major occupation for Montgomery Negroes. We'll be able to take over Negro relief cases which the public agencies won't handle since the boycott.

A NATIONAL PROBLEM

Q. Rev. Pleasure, whose job is to bring integration?

A. Oh well, that's a national problem.

Q. Yes, of course. But you are in Montgomery, Alabama. Whose job is it in Montgomery, Alabama, to bring integration?

A. Well, of course we're still working on that and will continue to.

I talked briefly with Mr. Lewis, who is chairman of the committee working on increasing Negro registration and voting. Mr. Lewis told me that in order to register in Alabama one must be able to fill out, unaided, in the presence of the Board of Registrars, a form of four legal size pages. Lewis' committee is laying plans to establish voter clinics to aid Negroes in learning to fill out the registration forms correctly.

I observed that many of the now famous city buses in Montgomery show definite patterns of segregation. Some young people, who consciously continue to sit in the front, told me of continuing threats by white people to "take care of you when you get off the bus." Most Negroes sit in the back nowadays, they said. I inquired and found that the MIA has no on-going program to keep the buses desegregated.

It is easy to get a lot of indefinite impressions on such a short semi-vacation trip. It is also inevitable that after a threeday bus ride away from town, these im-

pressions begin to take shape. For instance:

TRICKY DICK

1.) In both Tuskegee and Montgomery I heard a great deal of sentiment in favor of Richard Nixon. I was repeatedly told that if Nixon became President civil rights for Negroes would get some real support from the White House.

2.) Rev. Pleasure's statement that "Integration is a national problem" was a fairly common view among among the lead- and seemed to be offered as an "explanation" of why so little in the nature of local direct action for integration was being done or planned or sought after.

Along about New Mexico I began to wonder if these two sentiments weren't closely related. Could both be results of a let-down, perhaps inevitable, after a successful but difficult struggle?

MY PEOPLE

The first morning I arrived in Montgomery I was asked to speak to two classes at Alabama's university for Negroes. These students wanted to know how it felt to a white person who is straight on the race question to travel by bus in the South. I told them it was like living and traveling everywhere else in this country, only more so. Most everything you see or hear makes you sick, but there are individuals here and there—a Human Relations Council in Virginia, a fighting newspaper in North Carolina, a church congregation in Georgia—who show the kind of morality or stubbornness or lack of corruption which reassures you that there is some good stuff in Americans. When you get to one of these individuals or groups you think, "These are my people. They too are trying to make this a decent country to live in."

I met many such groups and individuals on this trip, some of whom I cannot write about because their local situations are so tense. This restraint applies especially to predominantly white groups who, it seems to me, suffer greater economic, social and psychological pressure than anyone else in the South. When a white Southerner is outspoken

ACLU, Colorado Daily Protest Ban On YS Distribution at Colorado U.

by Leonard Hodgett

DENVER—The recent banning of the YOUNG SOCIALIST from the University of Colorado campus by its administration has led to a stream of protests to the president's office from the American Civil Liberties Union, Colorado Daily student newspaper, faculty members and the Associated Students.

With distribution of the YOUNG SOCIALIST at C. U. on September 25th came a welcoming response from students that reached beyond our highest expectations.

Following up a factual Colorado Daily article on this distribution, Scripps-Howard's morning tabloid, The Rocky Mountain News in Denver, reported erroneously that this newspaper's representatives were "chased off" campus by C. U. police officers. However, in truth, by the time police were dispatched, this paper's representatives had completed their distribution so that they were never met by police.

Fortunately, the Colorado Daily aided us in our fight for freedom of speech and assembly with some outstanding editorials and objective news stories. The editors' action is in sharp contrast to the sentiments expressed by the UCLA's Daily Bruin. You will recall the Bruin did its utmost to

conduct a McCarthy-like campaign against the YOUNG SOCIALIST.

Then, in rapid succession, our representative was invited to speak on an International Relations Club panel; the university president, by official letter to our representative, banned the YOUNG SOCIALIST from the campus, and, finally, the Boulder ACLU issued a public statement deploring his action and recommended to the state chapter that an investigation be undertaken.

After continual front-page coverage by the Daily, President Newton declared his acceptance of an Associated Students resolution calling for a joint distribution center to be created on campus where students can obtain available literature. This resolution does not allow for literature to be personally distributed, sold, or passed out from a public sidewalk. The ACLU has made it clear that their interest in this aspect of the case continues.

Distribution or sales of literature is illegal on many campuses across the country. It is essential to a free exchange of ideas that students have access to all points of view—and distribution of literature is one of the few avenues of expression still open to radicals who are barred from the means of mass communications.

American Forum Panel Attracts Many Youth

by George Fennel

NEW YORK—Close to 500 persons attended the American Forum—for Socialist Education's all-day conference on "America's Future in the Age of Automation and Atomic Energy," recently.

Maximum attendance, taxing the facilities available, was reported for all panels proving the appeal of the American Forum's principle of non-exclusion in discussion.

The youth panel, attracting over 100 persons, was sparked by a lively debate on the question of the American Forum itself and youth regroupment. Dave McReynolds of the Socialist Party (participating as an individual) and Mike Harrington, national chairman of the Young Socialist League, did not support the American Forum because it did not take a position "for democracy everywhere." Harrington stated, "You can't talk to an American student for five seconds without making clear your position on Communism." McReynolds opposed any united action with either "Communists or Trotskyites."

Tim Wohlforth, managing editor of the YOUNG SOCIALIST, supported the American Forum wholeheartedly. He felt that "the only kind of socialist youth movement that can attract the American youth is one that isn't afraid to stick out its neck, isn't afraid of promoting discussion with communists as well as anyone else." He also came out for "united action among all young socialists, regardless of their important differences on many issues, in order to advance in common the needs of the American student and young worker."

Other panelists included Nina Landau, who recently visited China; Earl Durham, youth secretary, Communist Party; and Tony Ramirez, member F.O.R. youth group. Sheldon Weeks of the American Friends Service Committee was the moderator.

and active on behalf of integration he is isolated for having broken the tribal rules, especially when the number of white people taking such a stand is small in a community.

As a consequence of this threat of ostracism and worse there are many silent, inactive white sympathizers to the cause of equal rights. Every Negro community knows of these silent potential partners. They understand their silence completely. Beulah Johnson, assistant to Dean Gomillion in the Tuskegee Civic Association, expressed this sentiment very well: "I really feel sorry for my white friends. I tell them I'm free. You're not. I can blab my head off morning to night and I can fight all I want to and there isn't anything anyone can do about it. But you can't."

AT KOINONIA

At Koinonia, the integrated Christian communal farm near Americus, Georgia, exists not only in ostracism but in the presence of boycotting and the possibility of renewed violence. While I was there the situation was rather quiet. But recently I received a letter from Koinonia informing me that the human landscape has been darkened by a new incidence of violence. During the first week in November the initial orders of pecans were ready for shipment. Conrad Brown, driving the load to the express company in Americus, was pulled out of the car and beaten up by a local citizen.

So perhaps there is an answer to the question we started with. Is it not proper to love with a good heart the American Negroes who walked in Montgomery, American whites who organize and act knowing that they make a terrible sacrifice? I think we can take welcome, but sporadic and limited, solace in these scattered individuals and groups. But that's all. It's the best there is for us at the moment.

Do we need more to make us willing to work without a great leader, without great success, without a great movement, without great social support, so that someday this country can be made a decent place to live in?