WORLD LABOUR NEWS
ENGLISH PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION
Vol 3 No 5 (17) September-October, 1963
Fourpence

Nicky and Neddy—the crosstalk comedy act

WANTED—People to stand the 3-card trick. Able to swallow anything.
QUALIFICATIONS—Keen desire to do nothing.
APPLY: Nicky or Neddy, Houses of Hot Air, Westminster.

* * *

The Government are in a bit of a state about wages, expansion and profits. The former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Selwyn Lloyd, tried the big-slick policy, but the only workers he could beat were the nurses, who have both hands tied behind their backs anyway.

Now new boy Maudling is to have a go with the proposed National Incomes Commission (Nicky). This Commission, so far as one can gather, will be in educing the public to the fact that their interest is involved in every wage claim. It will then be easier for the Government to blame workers for the rising cost of living—an "independent commission" couldn’t be biased, especially if a couple of TUC leaders could be blackmailed on to it.

What a load of old toffs! We’ve heard this line before—remember the wicked busmen, railwaymen and miners, whose wage demands forced up the cost of travel and coal? The tragedy is that some people believe this drivel, and the Commission’s job is to get more people to swallow it.

The Commission will also investigate important claims, before they come up. The idea is to set the low-paid worker at the throats of the higher-paid, because the former is encouraged to believe that the latter, by making a wage demand, is pinching a portion of his slice of the cake. Clever tactics—if you fall for them.

The Commission will also consider awards retrospectively, thus attempting to prevent increases by “comparison”, i.e. railways and comparable jobs outside the industry. Of course the Commission will investigate profits and restrictive practices! If the employers’ price fixing and restrictive practices were exposed in all their glory, it would make better reading than Lady Chatterley’s Lover.

George Woodcock, Gen. Sec. TUC was right to tell the Government to stuff Nicky, but when the TUC was asked for an alternative they were knuckled. As upholders of the capitalist system, they should have dreamed up some new classic.

FORD BOSSES ISSUE A CHALLENGE

The latest dispute at Fords, Dagenham, was caused by the management transferring 45 men from one department to another. The men agreed to the transfer of 27, but the management made the issue one of principle and stood firm on 45.

Fords’ management claim the right to transfer men as and when required, without having to consult the shop stewards. The failure of the strike action endorses and strengthens the management’s claim. This was and still is an issue of prime importance. The management posed the question, “Who is in charge?” And, by the failure of the strike, were still able to answer—“We are.”

Workers at Fords are to be congratulated on accepting this challenge, their weakness lay in looking round for official backing and finding “there it was, gone!” One union official quoted the earnings of workers in the “prepare for sale” department, compared it with the average in the rest of the factory, then made the constructive statement that the striking workers’ attitudes was “silly”.

First point: Fords do not pay their workers unless they earn it, unlike some unions and their full-time officials.

Second point: men in the “prepare for sale” department conceded that the workers should be paid, but Fords had to establish the “principle”, “We say 45, and 45 it will be.”

Let’s get straight who makes cars at Fords. The workers—without even the Ford management is nothing. Therefore, without appearing to be biased in any way, it is they, the workers, who must exercise the offer, promising to chat later in the year. The unions were not satisfied and the claim went to an independent arbitrator, who awarded 1d an hour post-dated August 20.

The building industry is one of the biggest racketers under the sun, one big jungle, survival of the fittest—at the workers’ expense.

ETU TRAGEDY

Electrical workers have been in a bitter, long dispute with Associated Electrical Industries on the site of one of Scotland’s largest power stations. In May, 40 contracting electricians went on strike for an extra 2s an hour, to bring their pay in line with some other craftsmen on the site. On July 20 they returned to work to let negotiations continue and the employers then offered 7d an hour.

From then the issue is confused. According to the union, the men refused the offer and handed in their notices, asking the ETU to declare the site “black”. The ETU maintained that, as the men were not technically on strike, they had no option but to declare the site “black”. The workers then looked at 7d an hour.

The ETU executive members told the men they had sacked themselves and were therefore to blame for the situation. The management support the ETU against the “political extremists”. If employers support the union, then brother, something is seriously wrong. Obviously the ETU execs have pulled a “stroke”; they wanted to kill the strike and rank-and-file agitation on the site, so they interpreted the “withdrawal notices” in the same way as a kid leaving school: any fool knows that “asking for orders” is a strike tactic.

Since the war electricians have raised their status beyond all recognition, but if some direct action is not taken these gains will be in danger.

The split between the Communist Party hacks and the reactionary hacks must be killed and the only people able to do this are the rank-and-file workers in a virile rank-and-file organisation. King Street, Transport House, or the Vatican are not invited. In fact they will be enemies of such an organisation.

TURKEY—What may be the first recorded strike in the history of Kemal Ataturk’s “Modern” Turkey began on July 25, when over 600 Ankara daymen defied the ban on strikes in support of demands for an increase in wages from 7 Turkish liras (about 5s 3d) a day to 10 Turkish liras and a reduction in working hours from 16 to 8 a day. Although the right to strike was granted by the new constitution, this provision has not yet been implemented, and 18% of the strikers were reported to have been sacked by the municipal authorities for breaking the law. On August 12 some 6,000 workers employed on building Turkey’s new steel industry at the Black Sea port of Eregli demonstrated against their wages and working conditions. Hali Tunc, general secretary of the federation of Turkish trade unions, declared: “We have decided to open the struggle against the small groups and opportunist firms who assure their own comfort at the cost of the poverty and misery of the Turkish worker.”

ENGLAND EXPORTS UNEMPLOYMENT

In exchange for whisky, England’s export to Scotland is unemployment. Certain Scotch pits are to be closed earlier than expected. In Fife closures are in areas which have no other industry, about 5,000 jobs are involved.

No one wants coal mining to continue longer than necessary, men are not mules. I visited a so-called model pit in Yorkshire and brother, they can keep that job for £500 a week. But in this chaotic society, where wads can earn £500 a week for plucking a
Resistance grows in Castro's Cuba

Summary of a report from the Libertarian Underground Movement in Cuba

The Cuban Marxists fashion new laws, without making them known to the people. These are put into force gradually and when the law is in almost complete application, it is announced to the people. Some time ago the underground movement denounced a new law, whereby all rights of parents over their children were taken away, with the State to be in control of everything, right from the cradle. There was an outcry against this law, that Government officials had to deny its existence and finally a modified form was put into application.

Now, the underground movement denounces another monstrosity. We quote below extracts from a new law, part of which is already being enforced, intensifying the growing struggle for liberation of the Cuban people.

LAW OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM—LIQUIDATION OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM

Private property is prohibited—specifically, private ownership of the following is abolished: land, transport, cattle, farms, commercial enterprises, industries, banks, and trusts. The legality of collective ownership through the State is recognised.

The State has the sole rights of directly administering the exploitation of agricultural land, cattle raising and the finances of commercial and industrial transport. The State will own all natural resources of the country and develop them for its own benefit. It has the power to control the profits of any Municipal property and reserves for its own use all rates and taxes throughout the country. The citizen will own his clothes, shoes and objects of personal and domestic use.

Inside the country certificates of consumption will circulate. These will be issued by the State for distribution to citizens for services rendered as producers and will satisfy their needs. All legal currency and the official currency will be used exclusively for international trade, to facilitate the execution of the State. The Certificate of Consumption will represent legal currency.

In order to develop collectivisation of property, the State takes upon itself the power to encourage the increase of population and to settle in the country groups of inhabitants from Socialist countries. With these ends in view, motherhood is considered obligatory and legal, for the purposes of the State, in whatever form.

All citizens between the ages of 14 and 60 must take part in production, irrespective of sex or race, except those physically or mentally incapacitated. In the order of collectivisation, everyone must belong to the National Revolutionary Militia.

No one is allowed to leave the country, unless with the express permission of the Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government.

This law authorises the entrance into the country of 500,000 citizens of the Chinese People's Republic.

The authorities have not yet dared to publish this law officially. Its contents have been obtained by the underground movement's espionage service.

During the past few weeks the ordinary people in Cuba, hungry and in despair, have been demonstrating in the streets against the brutality of the Castro-Communist dictatorship. The pretext for these protests was the scarcity of the basic necessities of life, but at the heart of the matter it was not only hunger, but also the abysmal treatment of the Cuban people for all tyrannical regimes, whether run by Batista or Castro.

The two biggest demonstrations were at Cardenas and El Cano. In Cardenas the demonstration became so violent that the Government sent tanks, planes and contingents of troops, led by President of the Republic, Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado, to quell the demonstrators.

Although strict censorship makes it impossible to have immediate or exact information, indiscretions of the official radio and newspapers show that the demonstrations are spreading rapidly. In one place, organised industry elements called the people together several days running, without even trying to hide their actions from the authorities. In other places, in order to prevent demonstrations, the authorities would have had to shoot the entire local population.

As a consequence of these demonstrations, the Government has taken extraordinary measures against the underground opposition. Previously they were shot secretly; now the executions are announced with a great fanfare, to terrify the people and stop protests against the brutality of the regime.

On July 11, for instance, the following notice appeared in the Cuban Press: "On July 10, 1962, the following citizens were executed by firing squad, having been accused of different insurrectionary activities: Eugenio Medina Díaz, Osmin Gorrín Vega, Ramón Fonseca Sanchez and Roberto Hernandez."

In another way too, the regime of oppression has been accentuated, until it has become a threat to every man, woman and child in the country. Anyone, for no specific reason, is likely to become a victim of the so-called Committees for the Defence of the Revolution.

Now, as a final blow, the Castro-Communist dictators have solved their followers to go about armed with clubs, to attack anyone who dares to express publicly the least criticism of the Government or any of its measures. With this in mind, elements which support the dictatorship attend all union meetings, social gatherings, in fact anywhere that people go for any reason, even butchers and other shops. Already there have been cases where people have been assassinated in broad daylight in this way.

translated by M.S.

I ENCLOSE A SUB for the next year of "World Labour News"—the last issue was great, especially the article on the torturing fascist regime in Spain.

As I'm working temporarily as an assistant nurse in a psychiatric scene, I work for a union. At a recent hospital meeting and MEB's article "An unhealthy service" interesting. At a time when war-mongering dignitaries receive headline news with their flea bites, it is instructive to witness the physical and mental misery of those who seldom get a mention, whether in any part of the world on the railways, left to slowly flake his life away, or a demoted working class youngster faced with a lifetime of institutionalised imprisonment for the "crime" of his mental disease.

It is of concern to me that between sympathy for patients and nurses, it is possible to see fault and even more surprising, yet if one were to "feel" the difficulties of every patient, life would be intolerable, yet one develops a certain hardness that can be mistaken for indifference or even callousness. Many patients are very difficult, but others could be helped outside the hospital. Yet it is very encouraging to see the amount of unofficial nursing that takes place outside the hospital—if only there was enough sympathy in the community to make mental hospitals unnecessary. Yet this is a revolutionary desire, for only where men are treated as men and not as things, will sympathy and love develop. And love is sabotage to the State.

Hull, Yorks.

J.W.
CND AT THE CROSSROADS

The very fact that the motion was passed in the first place, advocating that CND should set up these Sub-committees to promote Industrial Action was something of a victory. The formation of such a committee would convert CND into a revolutionary organisation, yet here one has a Campaign with a nominal membership of 12 million, able to get 150,000 people at a time to demonstrate, passing a motion which in effect turns it into a revolutionary movement!

Since when were revolutions born of resolutions at Conference? If there were so many supporters of revolutionary industrial organisation in this country that they can swing such a Campaign, why is this not the result of a secret bank and Field Marshall-small? Why is it that some people who supported the motion advocating Industrial Sub-committees, opposed the formation of the NRFM and have recently left the Committee of 100 Industrial Sub-committee?

Can it be that our radicals, advocating as they do a society totally different from both East and West, and recognising the injustice of both Social Democracy and Bolshevism, are yet not radical enough? Too true! Recently some of these radicals, rightly saying that we shall never get rid from the Labour or Communist Parties, bargained away what they knew from the start, and now they want to do what they did before. To form yet another parliamentary organisation, INDEC. This is not of course, as bad at those who remain in the Labour Party, some of whose alleged radicals went so far as to welcome the attempt by leading Labour Leftists (both the socialist and Multi-national) to set up the new organisation on the horror of a nuclear-armed World Government.

The radical wing of the Campaign has not, and large, seen that a split was inevitable from the start, and, generally speaking, would avoid it if possible. Syndicalism also has its illusions. From the start the CND leadership did not mean to go to the end of the road—and could not, even if it wished. We knew the Campaign to be a temporary expedient—and even with the radical wing are those who will still need a lot of pushing!

LAURENS OTTER

ZENSI MUEHSAM dies—a victim of three dictators

ZENSI, MUEHSAM has died in the Russian Zone of Germany. Her companion, the German Anarchist Erich Muehsam, was murdered in a Nazi camp 28 years ago. The Committee of the Unified Socialist Party (Communist) devoted an obituary notice to his widow, without knowing that she has passed many years in Soviet concentration camps and prisons.

In 1935 Zensi was invited to Russia, on the pretext that the works of her companion would be published in Moscow. All the original manuscripts, notes and letters were sent to Moscow, and two years later a short book was published. But up to now no complete edition of his works has been published. Only some selected poems, some pages of prose and his "Apollinaire Memoirs", that were well known in Germany, before the Nazi seizure of power, have been translated into Russian together with some unnumbered unpublished matter has seen the light of day.

Zensi disappeared into the Russian camps in 1936. She was arrested when seeking the means to leave Russia. Persecution started on a demurral made by Walter Ulbricht to the press. East German dictator. In 1939, after the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, Zensi was to have been hanged over to the Nazis, with Margaret Müller and other women, but the war prevented the transfer being carried out and she remained in Russian camps and prisons.

After the war she was freed in 1945. She was sent to East Germany, but she was seriously ill and intellectually exhausted. She was forced to remain in the Eastern Zone and all contact with her old friends in West Germany and elsewhere was forbidden. Some letters written by her in the camp have never been seen. The formation of the Camps and prisons has not been completed. Symptoms of mental illness were already noticeable when she was in Russia. Some letters, however, were clearly forged.

Later she was decorated with several medals. The State granted her the pension of an Old Age Invalid, and she was forced to attend a series of hate meetings against Federal Germany and other Communist propaganda declarations. Liberrarians in West Berlin could not establish any contact with her and she apparently took no steps to redress the injustice.

Zensi Muehsam was the victim of persecution by Hitler, Stalin and Ulbricht. After passing long years in Russian concentration camps and prisons, she was further humiliated, systematically especialing her to the end of her life. The name of our comrade Erich Muehsam has been used by a system against which he always fought and his posthumous works have been stolen.

H.R.
Peaceful co-existence

Sohi is not the only place where co-existence works. We have just experienced one of those unintended social experiments, which are often more significant than the planned sort, an experience which does not surprise the men who come together as persons, not as political animals, it is possible, despite temperament, race or colour, to adapt themselves to one another's company.

About two years ago, the Express Dairy Co. of London, bought out a smaller milk bottling company, the I.M.S. This firm, while employing British and Irish labour, also, because of low wages, had many immigrant workers, all unorganised. Coming under the new firm, the I.M.S. workers soon discovered that Express paid higher wages and granted the same fringe benefits enjoyed by unusual and effective methods followed and the I.S.M. workers obtained the same wages as the Express employees and joined their branch of the T&GWU.

The parent company then shut down the I.M.S. depot, transferring its workers to Express depots, many of them going on night work at Crickewood in N.W. London. There the labour was almost entirely British and Irish and no one knew what would happen when the new men arrived. Already there was much racial prejudice, especially among men who lived in Notting Hill and North Paddington.

Now, on night shift especially, there was quite an international crowd—West Indians, West Africans, two Poles, two Indians, Czechs, Cypriots, Turks, Maltese, a few from British Honduras and one Algerian colon. The union attitude was very correct, the new workers were received as full members, paid their dues and received full wages and work rights.

It was cold to see how both old hands and newcomers were shy of each other. But the new arrivals were shown how to use the new machinery by the British and Irish workers. Gradually the thaw set in and now all work well together, without that dreadful sense of suspicion.

A white and a coloured worker may be together on one job.

A West Indian may be relieved for his tea break by an Irishman. In the canteen, at tables for four, may sit the representatives of four different races, or a coloured worker may play cards with an Englishman and a couple of Irishmen. Maternity has even reached the ultimate confidence of women, of labour and of social security. Such are the places where the 160 years in Britain and the US, immigrants have collected. There the locals have watched the new people grow in number and their fears of unemployment, loss of their insecure dwellings and loss of living space have, rightly or wrongly, disappeared.

This is a social problem, one which society can solve, but the personal, human problem of "getting to know you" easily melts into place when people make human contact on equal terms. Man is always better as a human being than as a political animal.

PRESS FUND, Ju 14—August 14, 1962
Stenbenville, Ohio, A.G., $1 6s; Edmonton, Alberta, W.G., 7s; Proceeds SWF party, 55 15s; Hove, A.R., 1s; Tuscon, Ariz., 7 17s; Hartford, Conn., The Nation, 7 2s; London, W. B.H., 6s; London, N.W., A.V., 1s 6d; London S.W., R.H., 6s; Rochdale, J.M. & B.B., 10s; London, N.W., K.H., $1. Total $10 17s 2d. 1962 total carried forward £25 8s 11d.

THE SWF is now again publishing its original paper, DIRECT ACTION, which has incorporated "Workers' Voice." This appears fortnightly, edited by Bill Christopher in duplicated form, and gives first-hand information on all aspects of the workers' struggle against capitalism and State oppression. Specimen copy 3d. (plus 2d. postage) from SWF, 25A Amberley Road, London, W.9., or 8s, for 12 issues.
Fascism—a philosophy for devils

FOR THE PAST two months British Fascism has received far more attention and free publicity than at any time since the 1930’s. The names of Colin Jordan and Sir Oswald Mosley have become household words and the psychopathic antics of their roent followers have given them an unexpected degree of public discussion.

By something more than coincidence, the focus on fascism was accompanied by a serious outburst of racial rioting in the Worcestershire town of Dudley. Whether these riots were directly instigated by followers of Jordan, Mosley or one of the other crackpot floggers we do not know, but the fascists are everywhere finding their best to stir up racial hatred. Mosley’s protests that his penchant for racialist should be taken with a large pinch of salt. Two printed stickers that have recently appeared on the walls of streets in London seem to indicate that the laborers, working-class workers live, give the lie to his claim. One reads: “Union Movement says House Britons FIRST”, the other, “Britain for the Britons—Send the coloured migrants home.”

It is not to be wondered at that the case of Jordan and Mosley should have thrown the ranks of liberal democracy into disarray, for the concept of freedom on which representative democracy is supposedly founded is more talked about and less understood than any other idea forming part of the mental currency of our society.

Colin Jordan, according to all account, has been leading two disconnected lives. During his working day he taught mathematics and civics at the Stoke Secondary Modern Boys’ School in Coventry, or so he implies, much the same way as any other teacher. However, he also runs a publishing firm, and above, he has thrown his hie jockeys and assumed the role of embryos-Fisch. It is, however, what we mean by free speech? Nobody who cares about freedom would want to see a McCarthy-style witch hunt in England’s green and pleasant land. But would you let your children be taught by Colin Jordan?—DOV

Round the world

SPAIN—Surface workers in the pyrite mines of Huelva and Seville have won an increase of 30 pesetas (about 3s 9d) a day, and underground workers one of 45 pesetas, it was reported on August 12.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA—Following the postponement of a threatened strike, it was announced that the miners and suppliers will receive a rise of 2s 6d a week starting on September 1.

AFRICA—A 24-hour strike of miners (part of a campaign of lighting strikes) left 120,000 miners jobless, it was reported on August 5. A one-day strike of 300,000 metal workers in private industries took place on July 30, following a two-day strike of 40,000 bakers.

ADEN—In a complaint to the International Labour Organisation on August 1, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions proposed the adoption of an International Convention for Aden’s anti-strike laws and the imprisonment of trade unionists.

YUGOSLAVIA—In July, 184 people crossed the border into Austria and asked for political asylum.

U.S.A.—A 24-hour strike on August 1, won leave and pension concessions for 16,000 aluminium workers, as well as greater job security at a time when automation techniques are being widely adopted in the industry. In the past three years 5,000 members of the Aluminium Workers Union have lost their jobs through automation.

SAN FRANCISCO—Three pacifists—Harold Stuhlling (30), Evan Yohe (30) and Edward Lazar (27)—were jailed for 30 days for contempt of court on June 9, when they refused to give an undertaking not to sail to the scene of American nuclear tests in the Pacific.

THE COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL COURT, in the Waterside Workers’ Federation £1,000 ($200) in Melbourne on August 6. At the same time 40 dockers walked off 34 ships in Sydney harbour in a dispute over the overloading of ships to handle wool. For this strike and an earlier Sydney stoppage on July 26, the Waterside Workers’ Federation was fined £600 ($120) on August 14.

CHAOS IN TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT WORKERS’ CONFERENCE

(Sponsored by the National Rank and File Movement)

WHITE SWAN, FARRINGDON RD, LONDON EC

Sunday, October 21, 10-5 p.m.

Details from: Soc’y, NFRM, 34 Cumberland Rd, London E17
Saskatchewan doctors 'strike' is a flop

O n July 23, an agreement was signed between the government of Saskatchewan and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which represents the doctors. This agreement, which has been called the Saskatchewan doctors' strike, began on July 1 when the Medical Care Act became law and about 600 of the 700 or so doctors in the province refused to practice under its terms.

Briefly, the Act provides compulsory medical insurance for all residents of Saskatchewan and is to be financed by (a) an annual premium of $12 for a single person and $24 for a family, (b) a provincial sales tax and increased income tax. The part of the Act which annoyed the doctors dealt with methods of payment. Doctors were prohibited from negotiating their own fees. A flat rate per case had to be sent to all their bills to a Medical Care Commission set up by the Act and receives payments from this Commission.

Claiming that this made them all civil servants and took away their freedom, doctors closed their offices on July 1 and put into practice an emergency medical care plan, under which doctors centered in district hospitals provided emergency services free to anyone who managed to get to the hospital. This plan, together with the 100 or so doctors who decided to practice under the terms of the Act and those doctors, only in the smaller towns, who closed their offices but when on treating patients on the side, without accepting payment, seemed to provide a fairly adequate medical coverage for the people of Saskatchewan, though no doubt causing them a certain amount of anxiety.

Apart from the doctors, there was a vocal group opposed to the Act. This group was instrumental in circulating petitions calling on the government to repeal the Act.

For all the noise and spending, they never aroused any popular support for the simple reason that workers make up the bulk of the population of the province want to be freed from financial worry. when they need to call a doctor. The doctors must have realized they were losing too much of the good will of their patients, for they signed an agreement which, though in theory it gives them the right to practice outside the Act, in fact ensures that most of them are paid by the Medical Care Commission, which was the original intention of the government.

The net result is still compulsory medical insurance for the people of Saskatchewan. The incidence of tuberculosis, however, is better than facing financial ruin in the event of a serious illness.

If the doctors really cared about freedom from government control, they should long ago have instituted a scheme of their own to ensure everyone had adequate medical care without the possibility of financial ruin. They had to do this, preferring to surrender every penny they could out of the pocket. Despite the fact that Saskatchewan doctors in 1938 were $17,494, average gross wage of unskilled workers in Saskatchewan, assuming that they manage to work a full year, was about $3,200.

The most significant part of this whole affair was not the noise and bluster of the wealthy few who opposed the Act, but the apathy and indifference of the great majority who did not oppose it and who stood to benefit from it. True, they stayed away in droves from demonstrations organized by the opponents of the Act, but there were no enthusiastic displays in its favor. It was not through the ordinary people realized the Act made no significant change to their way of life and that all they were doing was chasing the esser of two evils.

Small, but encouraging, signs that people in Saskatchewan are not content with State-controlled medicine, any more than its practice for private profit, are the formation of Community Health Service Cooperatives in five centers, including the cities of Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. There are also plans being made to set up clinics and interest in the idea is spreading. An estimated 3,000 Saskatchewan families have already taken out membership in these non-profit medical clinics, which will have the hospital bills paid for them.

An example is the clinic set up at Biggar, a small town of 2,800 inhabitants. A meeting was called just four days after the dispute started, a Wednesday evening, and attended by 65 people. It was decided to set up a medical co-op and a target of $400,000 was set for funds. Only two and a half days later, Saturday noon, $35,000 had been raised. The following Monday, 250 members of the Citizens Medical Health Association met and decided to "take all necessary steps to restore normal services to the district in both clinic and hospital." This clinic, grown from nothing in less than a week, was the result of "talk at street corners, in railway yards and on the farms in the district" according to its chairman. If it, and their counterparts elsewhere, to continue to grow and prosper, it will be due to the good sense of the working people, who have hit upon the best kind of health service—run by the workers themselves.

In Sudbury, Ontario, 14,333 employees of the International Nickel Company of Canada are still waiting for the Government to tell them which union they may belong to. United Steelworkers of America challenged the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelterworkers, to which the miners had previously belonged. Following an election campaign, in which both unions spent huge sums on radio and TV, the miners voted in a government-run election to decide which union should become certified bargaining agent for all the miners.

According to Ontario law, bargaining rights cannot be taken away unless the union challenging it receives votes totalling 50 per cent plus one of the total eligible to vote. In this case Steel needed 7,167 votes to oust Mine, Mill and Smelterworkers, but the results were close. Following the voting, but before the votes could be counted, Mine, Mill started a series of legal maneuvers to try and have the vote annulled. After several months these maneuvers were rejected and the resolution count gave Steel 7,182, Mine, Mill 6,951, with 288 abstentions. This meant that Steel had outvoted Mine, Mill by a total of 171 votes. By requiring it to vote on its own, immediately challenged the vote on the grounds that 32 of the ballot slips did not have the official stamp of the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Until this final challenge has been dealt with, Steel is not officially the bargaining agent, but whatever the outcome, half the miners will be represented by the union of their choice. The bitterness and spirit generated by this jurisdictional battle will weaken the strength of the miners and benefit only the International Nickel Company of Canada.

When are the workers of this country going to dig in their feet and fight the government and the union bosses for the right to join and have represent them the union of their choice?

An ironical footnote to this sorry affair is that the defeated Tory candidate for the Sudbury constituency in the recent federal election was John Gillis, who also happened to be the chairman of supporters in control of the Mine, Mill local before the certification vote.

BILL GREENWOOD

IWMA WORLD CALL

THE TENTH CONGRESS of the International Working Men's Association (Toulouse, September, 1958) agreed to support the formation of "Groups of Friends of the IWMA" in all countries where sections have not yet been set up, with the aim of gaining sympathy for our International and of spreading its principles and propaganda as widely as possible.

We address ourselves especially to comrades and sympathizers in Africa, Asia and Australia and the Americas, Uruguay and Argentina excepted.

If desirable that "Groups of Friends of the IWMA" should keep close contact between themselves in each country and they will receive our Press, propaganda and news of other countries through the international secretariat.

A group can be formed by five, ten or more members. It will give you the chance to maintain regular contact with the IWMA and to keep in touch with the movement's developments.

All interested in this proposal should write to the IWMA Secretariat (A.I.T.-C.N.T.), 4 rue Belfort, Toulouse (H.G.), France.

BULGARIA—Evidence of open opposition to the Communist dictatorship, countered by mass deportations and forced labour, has been confirmed by the regime itself. Early in August Soika Radio reported the passing of death sentences on a number of Bulgarians who opposed the seizure of power by the People's Republic.

ARGENTINA—Mass clashes outside meat packing plants between workers and police were reported on August 13. Frontier guards took over all plants to keep out over 10,000 locked-out workers. The lockout began on August 11 as the employers, reply to demands, which had been backed by daily strikes of several hours' duration for higher wages to meet the soaring cost of living. The General Confederation of Labour called a 48-hour general strike from August 1-2.