

Labor Party. University professor Robinson James claims that he has been swept up in an "unresistable draft" as the write-in candidate for "Labor," sponsored by the Teamsters, the Communications Workers of America, and the Tobacco Workers.

In a press conference in Richmond this week, James stated that he does not really want to run, will not vote for himself, and has no pretensions of winning. His candidacy, therefore, is clearly a move by the CIA and its labor leader flunkies to stop workers from voting for Alan Ogden, U.S. Labor Party candidate in the 5th Congressional District. Ogden has been campaigning heavily for several months and has frightened the union bureaucracy into coming up with a last-minute candidate who can take the "embarrassment" of running as a "dark horse."

MIDEAST SITUATION MAY BE BUILDING TO U.S.-USSR CONFRONTATION

NEW YORK, N.Y., Oct. 31 (IPS)--An official of the CIA-connected Institute for American Strategy (IAS) in Virginia yesterday confirmed to IPS that U.S. policy-making bodies are evaluating the situation in the Middle East from the standpoint of escalation into threatened nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

The IAS official told IPS: "Kissinger's strategy is not expected to work. It's purely psychological....The situation is a lot stickier than [we] could imagine." He continued by remarking that the U.S. is no longer on top of the situation and that the Soviets are "conflict-oriented....[Their] involvement in the Mideast is exacerbating" the situation. He concluded with, "if there is a 'red scare,' it is only the consequence of what the 'Reds' are doing."

Knowledgeable observers in recent weeks have raised the possibility of U.S./NATO military intervention to stop a Mideast war, as the crisis has been heated up.

IG METALL CONTRACT SETS STAGE FOR AUSTERITY IN WEST GERMANY

WIESBADEN, BRD, Oct. 31 (IPS)--The 330,000 member German steelworker section of the German Metalworkers union, IG Metall, accepted a contract last week calling for a nine per cent wage increase. The steelworkers had demanded a 14 per cent increase.

The wage settlement has been rammed down the steelworkers' throats on the heels of a crushing electoral defeat of the working class based Social Democratic Party (SPD) in the recent state elections in Hesse and Bavaria. In these elections, the fascist Franz

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Josef Strauss and his Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) won significant victories in SPD strongholds.

Rockefeller agents in the SPD's "sewer faction," led by German Chancellor Schmidt and IG Metall head and Trilateral Commission member Eugen Loderer, will be using the steel settlement to enforce austerity on the demoralized working class. At last weekend's Postal Workers Union convention in Hamburg, the call was made by leadership for "sobriety" about wage demands from the membership.

Steel wage contracts historically set the upper limits for wage settlements for the whole German working class. In the major negotiations to take place over the next several months, no German workers can expect to get even nine per cent. With official inflation rates hovering around eight per cent and the actual rate much higher, German workers soon will be taking a cut in real wages.

Unlike their comrades in the auto section of IG Metall, the steelworkers were not demoralized, at least until last week. While unemployment has been hitting other German industrial sectors, the steel industry has been booming.

STRIKE WAVE IN FRANCE SLATED FOR DEFEAT

Oct. 31 (IPS)--The postal strike which began last week in Paris has spread rapidly throughout the country, catalyzing the rage of workers in the public sector as well as in the coal mining districts. French railroad workers, employees of the nationalized gas and electricity companies, and 23,000 miners from the Lorraine coal mines have announced their intention to join the postal workers. Unfortunately, given its present leadership, the strike wave is one that French President Giscard d'Estaing knows he can win.

Director of the French postal and communications system (PTT) Minister LeLong stated this week that he would allow a new round of negotiations to open with the unions "if they renounce immediately their demand for an increase in the minimum wage to 1,700 Francs [roughly \$350 a month]."

The largest union in France, the CGT, which is controlled by the French Communist Party, agreed to meet with LeLong the day after his categorical statement. The French daily Le Figaro noted in an Oct. 30 editorial that there was nothing to fear from the spreading strike situation and that "If it is only a question of the CGT manifesting its presence, it won't go very far."

Deprived of any leadership, the miners will also be defeated. Minister of Industry D'Ornano stated in an Oct. 27 interview in Le Figaro that France would increase its imports from the Soviet Union to meet basic coal requirements, thus slating for destruction the low-yield mines in Lorraine. Ultimately, the striking miners will