

the wall in filling out forms for the government." But he leaked what the key flaw is when he explained, "Even with cooperation of city agencies, communities are having difficulty in the democratic process."

One example of what Hart referred to as "difficulties with the democratic process" occurred at a meeting of church ministers and Chrysler consultants in Detroit two weeks ago. The ministers convened the meeting to discuss their role in involving parishioners in selling CETA slave-labor as a solution to the unemployment crisis. According to one of its organizers, Episcopalian Bishop McGhee, the meeting was a miserable failure. The crisis was discussed, but nothing solid was agreed to. The meeting's high point came, McGhee said, when one clergyman proposed a debt moratorium as an alternative to unemployment and slave labor. The proposal, one of the Labor Party's main agitational thrusts, was heatedly discussed.

Statements made by other CETA officials directly contradict the government's claim that CETA workers will neither take jobs away from unionized or Civil Service public employees, nor be paid less than regular public employees doing the same job. Scott Kaplan, assistant manpower coordinator for Mercer County, New Jersey boasted: "The less we pay, the more people we can hire" with CETA funds. After all, "this year is called the year of austerity."

In New York City, where more than 8,800 city workers are slated to be laid off with many more to come, the Department of Employment commissioner Lucille Rose hysterically insisted that laid-off municipal workers were not being replaced by CETA slaves although she blurted out that many people assigned to CETA jobs in the lower-paid special "assistant" category were actually doing the work of a regular, full-time employee.

OGDEN ACQUITTED OF RIOT CHARGES IN VIRGINIA

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Jan. 7 (IPS)--Alan Ogden, U.S. Labor Party Congressional candidate who polled 11 per cent of the vote in Richmond last November, was acquitted in Newport News District Court on charges of incitement to riot and disorderly conduct. The charges stemmed from a Labor Party rally at a factory gate in this shipbuilding town, where a police officer alleged that Ogden used foul language.

Last fall, Ogden was convicted and given a one-year suspended sentence on a trespassing charge for holding an election rally in front of a Richmond high school. If convicted this time, Ogden faced up to one year in jail on the previous sentence.

During today's trial, the prosecution called three witnesses: two denied any "riot atmosphere" was present during the factory gate rally; the third, the arresting officer, could not pronounce the "foul language" he claimed Ogden had used. Although the Commonwealth Attorney Robert Aster insisted that Virginia does not allow free speech "just any time," Labor Party lawyer Richard Huggins' First Amendment arguments convinced Judge Robert Phelps, who threw the case out of court. Despite today's courtroom victory, it is evident that Virginia authorities have labeled Ogden a target for police harassment and frequent arrest.

UAW AND REUSS PROPOSE PHONY RECONVERSION

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 7 (IPS)--To counteract support among workers for the Labor Party's call for the conversion of auto plants to tractor production, the United Autoworkers (UAW) and Rep. Henry Reuss (D.-Wisc.) have stepped up their organizing for a phony re-conversion program.

Speaking on a popular radio talk show here, UAW General Motors Vice President Irving Bluestone proposed that part of the auto industry be reconverted to the production of buses and other transit equipment.

Two weeks earlier, Reuss had made similar proposals in the report of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. Reuss makes quite clear the meaning of such proposals when he states: "The situation is too grave for us to be finicky at this point. Like the Germans, who, oil starved during World War II, liquidified their coal at vast expense--not because the solution was ideal but because the crisis demanded it--we must find alternative jobs right now in mass transportation for workers who can't find jobs in the depressed auto industry."

The vast expense Reuss refers to was the Nazi's extermination of millions of European workers in order to keep their economy running.

Workers already briefed on the Labor Party proposal for tractor and agricultural equipment reconversion realize that Reuss and the UAW have no intention of converting auto plants for useful production and see their plan for the sop that it is. One Labor Party member called the talk show here and demanded to know why Bluestone would not support reconversion for tractor and agricultural equipment production when such production is urgently needed to prevent mass starvation. Bluestone was left speechless.

When reached for comment today, Reuss' office said that the Congressman was not even considering reconversion for agricultural equipment production.