

Your World And Mine

By Norman Thomas

Pius XI was a Pope of courage and ability who served his church as well as it could be served in difficult times. His opposition to anti-Semitism and to Hitler's state worship was a service to mankind. It is important that his successor should be at least as zealous in opposition to secular totalitarianism.

It is, however, worthwhile to say a word of warning against too great stress on the virtues of Pius and too great hope of what any new pontiff will do. Any Pope not a renegade to both his church and his religion would have to oppose Nazi extremism as Pius did. Nevertheless, the plain facts are that this same Pius as Franco's ally and strong supporter which to that extent put him in Hitler's camp. He made a pure power politics deal with Mussolini and supported the invasion of Ethiopia. His successor is not likely to change this line for the better. Conceivably he might change it for the worse and to prevent that that would be something!



Stalinist Hypocrisy

Optimists who still talk about "collective security for democracy" between non-Fascist nations are invited to contemplate these facts: (1) the climax of the Spanish tragedy in which England and France have so sorry a role; and (2) Stalin's deal with Mussolini to supply him with all the oil he wants, a deal which the usually accurate financial columns of the New York Times assert will be followed by a similar deal with Germany. The long and ancient history of hypocrisy affords few if any parallels in double standards and double dealings to the two-faced attitude of Communism in and out of Russia.

Socialists in Auto

It is not the business of the Socialist party to try to play a power-politics game in the terribly unfortunate controversy which is now splitting the UAW. It is the business of Socialists and of all workers and friends of the workers to use their influence to save one united union, democratically governed. That kind of a union will not be served simply by swapping charges on the one side against Martin, and on the other against Frankenstein, Elper and the Communists. There is no need to be said, but it is the union that counts and the union that must be saved. The union will not be saved by the tactics that some men on both sides have followed in the last few years. Hope lies, so far as I can see, in one genuinely representative convention or, if it can be arranged, in one honest referendum.

Washington Feud

Roosevelt's feud with a Democratic congress is an outstanding political act of great potential significance. No wonder that it fills many of the newspaper spaces. In part that feud follows the traditional lines of conflict between congress and the president in the latter half of a president's second term—it is one of the weaknesses of our government that it encourages that sort of thing. In part the feud arises from the president's rather impish pleasure in thumbing his nose at congress. Basically, however, it is a consequence of the growth of definitely reactionary tendencies in the country and in Mr. Roosevelt's own party. To this all newspaper polls testify.

For Tom Amle

Now, insofar as the president's fighting reaction, of course, we Socialists are with him; i.e. in asking more money for WPA and in his excellent nomination of Tom Amle to the interstate commerce commission.

But it is apparent to us, and we hope it will soon be apparent to labor and to progressives generally, (1) that the president has failed to make his own party a trustworthy instrument even of "progressivism," and (2) that his reforms are failures insofar as the conquest of poverty and insecurity are concerned. Some of that failure, for example on the social security law, is specific; most of it is due to the fact that the president is trying to do the impossible when he tries to make reformed capitalism conquer the unemployment and crisis inherent in it.

Dangers of Apathy

What concerns me is the apathy of the workers. Logically they should be pressing for an aggressive political realignment. They should at least be planning for a labor party with the maximum possible support from farmers and white collar workers. They aren't doing it and this year's crop of laws will make it still harder for minority groups to get on state ballots. They aren't even making a real fight for Tom Amle or for a proper sort of public ownership of railroads. That's a tragedy. Behind us are many causes of which the well-nigh fatal war between the AEL, the CIO and now between the two factions of the UAW is the greatest. All of this adds up to a new challenge to Socialists to get on their job of persuasion and organization.

Public Ownership of Railroads

One bright spot in the labor outlook is the bold and intelligent action of Lodge No. 234 of the machinists in Milwaukee in demanding a new campaign for the right kind of public ownership and operation of our bankrupt and generally unsatisfactory railway system. Sooner or later, after a lot more money has been wasted on subsidies to the roads and a lot of energy has been spent on palliatives, we'll come to government ownership—probably at excessive price in money and on terms not satisfactory to the workers. Why not back Lodge No. 234 now in its immediate drive? Let readers get in touch with our own labor secretary, Arthur G. McDowell, at the party office on this matter.

Shades of 1914

The fact that where the struggle is between Roosevelt and the reactionaries in domestic politics labor should back Roosevelt—and where it is no reason for not fighting the president's increasing tendency to drift toward a war in which consciously or unconsciously he can see an escape from his failure to win prosperity at home and a restoration of his Messianic role on a world stage.

His desire for uncontrolled power in foreign affairs is enormously dangerous. According to rumors he has been trying to frighten congress and others with tales of German attack on the midwest via Africa, Venezuela and Yucatan!

Meanwhile, reports from Europe tell of the restiveness of new German peoples in Central Europe and of the growing intention of the British and French to fight if necessary not for democracy but for their own empires.

We are certainly in more immediate danger from militarism and armaments economies and irresponsible foreign policies at home than from attack by Hitler. Maybe, as the president says, the dictators have plans for all sorts of conquests. Maybe our own navy department has plans for bombing Berlin. Militarists have to occupy themselves with that sort of thing! But there is such a thing as a manufactured hysteria in which the president's present tactics of secrecy and uncertainty and rumor mongering contribute.

I remember the last war—the rumors of German invasion, the optimism of an easy war and certain triumph of democracy. We have them all with us in exaggerated form. Here also is a challenge to Socialists.

A Disguised Sales Tax

Governor Lehman of New York has joined the many who want to tax gross incomes. That is a disguised sales tax. An expert tells me that in New York state in some cases raw material goes through 25 processes and 25 different corporate hands before it reaches the consumer. In each case it will be taxed through the tax on the gross income. Not only will costs be pyramided but vertical monopoly will be encouraged by such taxation.

Jim Maurer's Life Story

Let me urge my readers to buy and read Jim Maurer's "It Can Be Done" (Rand School Press). It's the absorbing life story of a great labor leader, a devoted Socialist, and a lovable human being. One of the sorrows of my own political life was the party split which separated me from Jim. One of the hopes which I took away from our last NEC meeting was that we could win a Socialist reunion—not at any price, for that would mean impotence on war and other questions of another split—but at a price which would bring Jim and me back into the fight where at best our forces are weak and are further weakened by unnecessary division.

The National Office

Within our own ranks the favored movement which we want and which the times demand can be hastened by frank facing of financial and organizational problems for which the NEC has set up a sub-committee. But it will be greatly retarded by lack of appreciation of what we owe the gallant comrades in the CALL and the National Office who have kept the flag flying.

SOCIALIST CALL

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States

Vol. V—No. 5

Saturday, February 25, 1939

"The Railroad Bandits"
—By Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, Page 4.

Price Five Cents

Hold Rites For Brave Labor Boy

Omaha Drivers, Jersey, Illinois Book Workers, ILG Chalk Up Gains

CHICAGO—The week just past was a first class week for striking workers. From four states came rolling in the good news of settlement of garment workers, teamsters—and paper workers strikes with victory for the workers.

First on the list was the break of the ranks of the Omaha trucking firms which had locked out and compelled their drivers, the members of local 554 to wage one of the longest strikes in midwest history. Four major operators broke ranks of the Omaha Business Men's association which has been the inspiration of the oph shoppers of all Nebraska for years, and signed the over-the-road agreement demanded all these long weeks by local 554.

Closed shop, seniority and increased wages and improved conditions all were won. This put about 70 per cent of the workers back on the job with a victory and the multitude of smaller firms are due not only to local 554 but to the workers throughout the midwest who supported them.

Chicago Strike Ends
In Chicago 600 members of the Loose Leaf and Blank Book Workers of the CIO marched back to work in the fine and amazingly disciplined fashion in which they walked out five weeks ago when the Wilson-Jones company refused to reinstate two union members who had been fired in the sister plant at Elizabeth, N. J.

Garment Victory
Finally the Chicago headquarters of the International Ladies Garment Workers union chalked up a victory over Hirsch and Sons, Inc., and 400 garment workers in Chicago and La Porte, Ind., went back to work with the assurance that the Crawfordville, Ill. plant of the company would be all unionized by June 1.

The company had secretly bought up the Crawfordville plant previously belonging to a contractor for the firm and when the union saw the danger of production being shifted they struck quickly and forcibly and brought the new plant of the company into the union before further mischief could be brewed, according to Meyer Barkan, Chicago business agent and organizer for the I. L. G. W. U.

This is another score for the policy of the ILGWU of following the industry wherever it goes and staying right in town wherever a shop settles and protecting the workers there. Under this policy the ILG is rapidly becoming one of the most widely established unions in the United States.

In Memoriam
The Socialist party extends its deepest sympathy to Comrade John Mill, feature writer for the Socialist Call and founder member of the Polish Bund, on the loss of his wife and companion, Felice, Feb. 12, in Chicago.

The party extends its condolences to Tillie and John Battuello, executive board member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, Wilsonville, Ill., on the loss of their son, Johnny, Jr., age 15, who succumbed at the Billings hospital, Chicago, Feb. 16.

Workers Win New York State S. P. Confab Supports Unity, Labor Party

Asks Lifting of Spanish Embargo; American Labor Party Leader Speaks

NEW YORK—New York Socialists, represented in state and city conventions held over the Lincoln's birthday weekend in New York City, spent three days discussing new problems confronting the party and making careful plans for their solution.

Among important items on the agenda before the delegates were the questions of activity in the American Labor party and unity in the Socialist movement of the United States. Resolutions adopted by the state convention called for Socialist participation inside the American Labor party as loyal members of that organization while maintaining and strengthening Socialist party locals, branches and committees as an integral part of the Socialist Party of the United States.

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Backer Addresses Convention
Significant in the proceedings was an address of greeting delivered to the state convention by George Backer, American Labor party leader, who was recently designated to the post of councilman in place of the late R. Charney Vladeck.

"I am glad that you have come into the American Labor party," Mr. Backer said. "I am glad of it not merely for reasons of expediency—because you will add to the labor party's numbers—but because you have the power of your idealism and judgment to contribute."

"The Labor party has a vitality which to a certain extent is largely potential. It must fashion its character as it matures; it must be welded together by the power of a fundamental common program. You have much to contribute in that direction."

"We cannot use the techniques of fascism, as some suppose, in order to combat fascism. Nor do we have to offer the defense of the status quo as our answer to fascism."

"I hope that as a result of the technique that you have developed in your years of experience, you will bring to us the talents and abilities which are essential for the successful march to the great goal of labor."

Don't Tell Mussolini

ROME—One of the numerous underground tales recounted here is that of a raid on a meeting of anti-fascists, many of whom were sent to prison, and one sentenced to the firing squad.

This victim was asked if he wanted anything before he died. To the intense surprise of all, he said, "I would like to join the Blackshirts."

The story of his repentance was broadcast throughout the land. It was a wonderful opportunity to slap the whole anti-fascist movement.

Finally, the execution was due. Before the condemned man was shot, the officer in charge had to satisfy his curiosity. "Why," he inquired of the doomed man, "did you finally come to take up such a fine position?"

"I just thought it would be pleasant to realize in my last moments," the rebellious victim replied, "that when they have shot me, there will be one fascist less!"

Veteran Labor Organizer to Be Honored

CHICAGO, Ill.—Sunday evening March 19 has been set aside by friends of Comrade Hyman Scheid for the celebration of his fiftieth birthday and the thirty-ninth anniversary of his entrance into the labor movement. The occasion will include a banquet and a printed memorial of recollections of friends and acquaintances of those years.

The arrangements committee is composed of Arthur G. McDowell, chairman; Ina M. White, secretary, and Sam Kramen, treasurer. Included among the sponsors are Roy Burt, national secretary of the Socialist party, Morris Bialls, vice president and manager of the Chicago joint board of the ILGWU, Sam Levin, manager of Chicago joint board of the ACWA, Frank Rosenblum, Chicago regional director of the CIO, Joseph Schlossberg, general secretary-treasurer of the ACWA, and Gerry Allard, editor of the Socialist Call.

Young Socialist Officer Faces Jail!

Comrades, Friends Asked to Protest By Contributing to Defense Fund
Last March four young Socialists were arrested while picketing the Austrian embassy in Washington. They carried signs proclaiming "Red Vienna Shall Rise Again" and "German and Austrian Workers Unite Against Fascism." Among them was comrade Robin Myers, national student director of the Young People's Socialist League.

Peace Climate Better, AFL Council Hears

No Steps Are Taken for Unity However; Seek Changes in Wagner Act

WASHINGTON—Despite other attractions in Miami, Fla., the American Federation of Labor's executive council put in a busy two weeks in its regular quarterly session there, according to official AFL accounts here.

Of major concern was the federation's attitude towards the national relations act and the legislative strategy to be followed by the federation in its quest to amend it. Provisions of the bill introduced by Senator Walsh (D, Massachusetts), at the behest of the federation, were approved, with minor modifications.

In addition, it was announced the federation will sponsor a move to increase the present board's membership of three to five in an effort to overcome what the federation charges is "partiality" to the CIO by the present members.

Burke Proposals Are Attacked
Proposals introduced by Senator Burke (D, Nebraska), to amend the labor relations act were sharply criticized by President William Green of the federation. He objected particularly to provisions making a closed shop illegal, prohibiting coercion "from any source," removal of hearings to federal district courts, and appointment of representatives of industry, labor and the public to the board.

Gorman Gets a Charter
In the field of CIO-AFL relations, Green reiterated his assertion, made at the opening of the council meeting, that the climate for peace was better.

At the same time the federation announced the granting of a charter to Francis J. Gorman, formerly president of the United Textile Workers, and declared that it was "watching closely" the situation created in the United Auto Workers (CIO) by the attempt of its former president, Homer Martin, to oust 15 members of the 24-man executive board.

From other sources it was reported that the federation would grant an AFL charter to Martin should he be able to hold a successful convention in Cleveland on March 4.

Tell Teachers to Clean House
Other action taken by the council in its two weeks in Miami included:
1. Postponement of an application for a national charter by the National Council of Cement Workers.
2. Warning the American Federation of Teachers to clean out Communist influences.
3. Mapping plans to organize outdoor amusement workers.
4. Announcement of a joint meeting in Washington in May with the executive council of the International Federation of Trade Unions.
5. Considered sending a commission to Latin America to provide the basis for a Pan-American labor conference to fight fascism.
6. Directed Joseph Padway, counsel, to attack restrictive labor laws in some California counties and on the West coast in general.
7. Voted support of a bill by Sen. Wagner (D), New York, to permit the U. S. Housing authority to double its present authorization for loans to local housing authorities.
8. Ordered investigation of charges of graft and racketeering made against the St. Louis Stage Employees' union.



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N. Y. Youth Plan Essay Contest

NEW YORK CITY—Young Socialists here are excited over the prospect of a new "know your Socialism" drive being started by their educational department. Two features have aroused particular interest. The first are the round table discussion groups and the second is an essay contest.

Both the old timers and the newcomers are being challenged by the round table discussion groups now being organized by each circle to study Socialist fundamentals. The question raised to all is "How much Socialism do you know?"

In conjunction with the discussions, an essay contest is being run on a variety of topics. The contest is open to all members who have joined since the last national convention. No "ringers" allowed. Prizes will be awarded to the winners on May Day night at an affair in New York.

The drive is especially timely for our new recruits. The last Typist NEC meeting reported that the league has tripled its membership in a little over a year. New members have been waiting for an opportunity for concentrated Socialist study.

Blackwell Returns To United States

NEW YORK—Russell (Nagrette) Blackwell, who spent nine months in Spanish jails, a victim of Communist persecution, returned to the United States Feb. 10 after narrowly escaping death because of his extreme revolutionary convictions.

Norman Thomas, Gerry Allard and other Socialists had joined liberals and radicals nationally in making representations to the U. S. state department asking for Blackwell's freedom in Spain. The state department's efforts succeeded in having him released.

Local 155 ILGW Shows 25% Gain

NEW YORK—Despite depressed conditions in the needle trades, Local 155 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has increased its per capita payment to the international union by 25 per cent, David Dubinsky, president of the union, announced in answer to an inquiry prompted by an attack on the administration of the local union.

Labor Foe Appointed Federal Judge by FDR

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Bitterly opposed by organized labor, but championed by Sen. Alben W. Barkley, Roosevelt's no. 1 yes-man in the U. S. senate, Shackelford Miller of this city felt the blessings last week of the gentle wind of New Deal patronage, as President Roosevelt appointed him to the federal judgeship in Kentucky's western district.

Miller is a corporation lawyer who has let slip few opportunities to knife labor in the courts. He is also chairman of the Louisville and Jefferson County Democratic committee, and was Barkley's campaign manager in the last election.

The Kentucky State Federation of Labor, which carried on a vigorous campaign to prevent the appointment, has a long list of grievances against Miller. Other groups joining in the unsuccessful drive to defeat him were the AFL nationally, the Louisville Central Labor union, and the Louisville local of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

For Child Labor
Miller is probably more responsible than any other one person for the fact that Kentucky has never ratified the child labor amendment. His lobbying against the amendment was largely responsible for its rejection by the legislature.

As attorney for the Town Talk C&P company here, he was to blame for a weak open shop agreement forced on the workers there in 1937, after a strike which was only partially a success. Under his guiding hand, the company has since been able to smash the union almost completely.

Worker's Summary of the News

WASHINGTON Foreign Relations

The senate and the White house continued to be at loggerheads, which largely explains why the upper branch of congress hadn't been in session five hours in the past two weeks.

Opening wedge of the growing schism was over foreign policy. The president branded as "a deliberate lie" that he had moved America's frontier or first line of defense on the Rhine. He also described as "a boob" any one who gave credence to such a statement.

Masses Distrustful

Senators Nye and Clark, staunch isolationists, continued their drive to smoke out the high executive on the possibilities that he had made commitments to France and Great Britain. Although constitutional powers for the shaping of the United States' foreign policy is vested in the executive, it was evident that throughout the country there was a widely prevalent distrust of the administration's present course.

United States business men continue to ship war materials to Japan, Franco Spain, Italy and Germany. Loyalist Spain was being more firmly strangled as the administration continued to tail behind Chamberlain's policy of assuring a fascist victory in that war-torn country.

Fortification of Guam

Guam, a Pacific island, situated 5,500 miles from California shores and within striking distance of Tokyo (1,440 miles), is to be fortified, despite previous reports that this had been denied. Reason advanced for the arming of Guam is that it is needed to protect the Philippines and that the president would have a bargaining point with Japan.

The Keep America Out of War Congress issued a broadside attacking plans for the fortification of Guam. It was quick to point out the United States is committed by treaty to give the Philippines their independence in 1946 and do not need to fortify Guam to protect her interests; nor should we build a base in an attempt to force Japan to conform more closely with our wishes in the Far East. The K.A.O.W.C. asked its supporters to bombard congressmen and senators with letters and messages in opposition to the proposed military budget, the president's foreign policy and to the fortification of Guam.

Tom Amle

Tories were still wrangling about the "Communism" of the liberal, genial Tom Amle, former Wisconsin congressman, who was appointed to the interstate commerce commission by the president. Conservative Democrats were pressuring Roosevelt into reconsidering and expressed the belief that Amle's nomination was bad politics. It will be some weeks before it is settled one way or another but growing odds are that Amle will get committee approval, will be defeated in the senate.

The reactionary offensive against Amle failed to budge the liberal, friend of all Tom Amle, who presented documentary evidence to prove that among his bitterest critics were Communists who had often characterized him as a fascist.

The Tories don't want Amle; the Communists dislike him; the great masses of workers and farmers, particularly in the northwest, seemed to be enthusiastic with his unconfirmed appointment.

Brandeis Resigns

Irving Dillard, editorial writer of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, wrote a significant article in Harper's magazine two years ago showing how it was very probable that President Roosevelt would as a matter of course overhaul the personnel of the supreme court during his term of office. The writer's clairvoyance in using mathematics to make his conclusions.

Last week Dillard's predictions were no longer prophetic. The resignation of 82-year-old Justice Louis Dembitz Brandeis gave the president the opportunity to name his fourth candidate to the supreme court. Brandeis, a liberal, had served 23 years on the bench.

The list of persons most prominently named as candidates for his seat were westerners, among them Harold Stephens of Utah; Sen. Lewis B. Schwellenbach of Washington; Dean Wiley B. Rutledge of Iowa; Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson of New York.

Ham, Dies & Lasser

While the house of representatives debated the Dies committee's appropriation of \$100,000 for another year of red-hunting, Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York leaped to his feet waving a telegram. It was a message from the Workers Alliance of America protesting against the additional funds for purposes which had flared labor and liberals.

Fish charged that the alliance was a Communist front organization and said that if the Dies committee spent its entire appropriation on the proving that the leaders of the Communist party he would consider the money well spent.

As if to make matters worse for themselves the national officers of the alliance, Herbert Benjamin, secretary, long known as a dyed-in-the-wool Stalinist; and David Lasser, president, who of late seems to have been captured by the C. P. crowd, moved against the Illinois Workers Alliance—an organization which is drastically independent and superbly militant.

War on Militants

Singleed out for particular attacks in the Stalinists' latest "purge" of labor militants were Frank McCulloch, Chicago, secretary of the I.W.A.; William Hackelman, Du-

Fascist Madness

Premier Bela Imredy of Hungary proposed a sweeping program aimed at depriving Jews of participation in the cultural and political affairs of that country. Parliamentary opposition was so strong to his authoritarian desires that he was compelled to resign.

Shortly after he resigned he discovered that he himself was past Jewish, few-biting Imredy still clung to his program against the Jews and asserted that "it would be a good thing for Hungary."

C. I. O.

Auto Workers

The CIO's infant terrible, the no longer United Automobile Workers of America, continued to fucus and fume last week. From different parts of the Detroit came reports that brother union members had begun picking other brother union members in the factional war which is to determine who is to rule the union—CIO or the unstable but stormy Homer Martin.

A ray of hope flashed from the war-ridden skies of the auto city when Homer Martin radioed to the world that he favored an autonomous union within the CIO. "I am in favor of an autonomous international union associated with all other international unions under the CIO," he was reported to have said. "The question for the workers to determine is whether they favor the leadership of myself or Thomas."

He invited Thomas, who is the president of the regular union recognized by the CIO, to help set up joint machinery for a referendum vote on the membership's choice of a manager. "This was the most frequent reply to this appeal from Martin's opponents, which in workers' language means that Homer didn't mean what he said."

Rule Or Wreck

Indication this week was that the Illinois boys would lick the Stalinists although the organization itself was in great need of being destroyed which might be exactly what the Stalinists want under the stubborn policy of "if you can't rule 'em, wreck 'em."

Backing the Illinois Workers Alliance was the Illinois C.I.O. and the miners of both camps—United Mine Workers and Progressives—who years ago learned that many workers are now learning about the totalitarian character of the Communist movement, and its stooges.

Dave Lasser, a former Socialist who was compelled to resign from the Socialist party because of his flirtations with the Communists and who increasingly acts more and more like an outright Communist, was asked an extremely bad time to wage war on the I.W.A. If nothing else, Hamilton Fish's warning should have sufficed.

A. F. of L.

Hard Coal Miners

By EDWARD PINKOWSKI A Special Correspondent of The Socialist Call

SHAMOKIN, Pa.—Still posing as the international president of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, Joe Ozanic entered this hard coal belt, filled with unrest and unemployment, to criticize the centralized authority of John L. Lewis. He spoke to 500 mine workers, only half of whom were members of the Progressive miners, at a public mass meeting in Coal Township high school auditorium on Lincoln's birthday.

The Socialist-led Dave Reed reported the fact that Dave Reed was elected and installed as the president of the P. M. W. A., and that Joe Ozanic "was flirting with the idea of retaining his post as international president through his influence with the executive council of the AFL."

Well, Ozanic came here and told the miners that Lewis took Van A. Bittner, Frank Hefferly and William Mitch out of Pennsylvania and made them presidents in West Virginia, Colorado and Alabama respectively, without the advice of the rank and file in those districts. To rank and file of the international union, the P. M. W. A., Bill Green's appointment, Ozanic would be guilty of the same thing with which he charges John L. Lewis.

Attack Allard While he derided the chief of the United Mine Workers, another speaker, Fred V. Blase, opened an attack on Communists and alien committeemen in the unions. His charge of Communists included Socialists and progressives, among whom he named Gerry Allard when he was editor of the Progressive Miner.

Fred Blase, who at one time opposed Martin F. Brennan for the presidency of District 9 and who was later ruled off the ballot, is trying to get a foothold in the Progressive miners so that he can use the organization for his own political reasons, and in order to get the money he draws the red-herring across the fire. He is aided by O. G. Donohue, Lester Koble, Arthur O'Carra, and John Hollister—all of whom are organizers for the Progressives in this region.

An Indecent Fight

As a witness to the miner's movement for the past decade and as a reporter of some of the activities, I would like to point out that their opposition to John L. Lewis and his official family, whom I deplore for other reasons, is resulting in as filthy and as indecent a fight as any union man can make it. The fight is not even clean on principles.

Those who are carrying on the Progressive cause in this section are disgruntled and will use any weapon within reach, without regard to its effect on the cause of labor, just to turn the tables on John L. Lewis.

One of the one chartered local unions of the P. M. W. A. in this district, which is known as the Cameron local. This local has a case before the civil courts in which they want to know whether the U. M. W. A. has the right to check off dues of miners belong-

Angel With Dirty Face

Should the Progressives win this case, they will contest the membership of 15 other local unions in which they claim majority number of persons ready and willing to join the Progressive Miners.

In those local unions which they have named I have found hardly any sentiment for a new union whose leadership, by the way, is as bad or worse than that of Martin F. Brennan's. This action should be watched carefully, for upon it I think depends the negotiation of a new agreement and the success or failure of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in the anthracite region.

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Martin's Leg Pulled

Meanwhile one of the chief characters in the factional scrap was absent from Detroit and the United States. He is Harry Bennett, Henry Ford's personnel manager and director of the Ford service department (read strong arm squad), who was sojourning in the southern tropical climes of South America. No man, observed the liberal Nation, ever deserved a vacation more than Harry Bennett. Mr. Bennett is attributed with having pulled Martin's leg in a deal which hasn't materialized and used the former president's ego to provoke the current split.

On Feb. 11, the Detroit News reported that Martin had lost two large locals—Hudson's with 10,000 members and Dodge's with 25,000 members. Moreover, the News reported, the Dodge local turned over a check for \$13,000 as payment for per capita tax, and another \$11,200 checks was forthcoming.

Martin Wins Packard In the Packard local the CIO forces did not fare so well. Martin gained the support of 200 members of the members when his candidates won the three plant committeeman posts in a referendum.

Martin began a raid on the West Side local when he chartered the O'and S bearing division, the second division within the local to be chartered. The Walter Reuther forces charged, however, that the majority of the members of both divisions were loyal to the CIO.

Bill Mazzy, president of the Briggs local, was reelected by a vote of two to one and the entire executive board elected is opposed to Martin.

Levinson's Report

Edward Levinson, author of "Labor on the March," now handling publicity for CIO forces in the auto situation, reports in the CIO news service:

1. UAWA local unions with a total membership of 277,585 have voted to stay by the union and the CIO and to send delegates to the Cleveland convention, March 27.

2. Locals on record for the CIO are—General Motors, California, 2,200 members; General Motors, Atlanta, Ga., 1,500 members; Studebaker, Indiana, 6,200 members; Briggs, Detroit, 23,000 members; West Side, Detroit, 80,000 members; Chrysler, Detroit, 18,000 members; Plymouth, Detroit, 8,000 members; Dodge, Detroit, 22,000; Budd, Wheel, Detroit, 2,200 members; Buick, Flint, 18,000 members; Seaman, Body, Milwaukee, 4,000 members; General Motors, Cleveland, 6,000 members; White-Motors, Cleveland, 3,600 members.

3. All locals in Canada were sticking with the CIO.

Leo Krzycki Wheelhorse in the present campaign to preserve the auto union is the veteran labor leader from Milwaukee, Leo Krzycki, who has been meeting Homer Martin in debates before large membership meetings of various auto locals.

A statement issued by CIO officials Sidney Hillman and Phillip Murray assuring the American labor movement that the Stalinist Communists would not be allowed to take control of the UAWA stiffened opposition to Martin last week.

LABOR UNITY

Typos for Unity

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle typographical union whose loyal observance of the newspaper picket line in the famous Hearst strike in this city set such a stirring example of labor solidarity some time ago, has launched its own independent agitation to stir up the rank and file on both sides of the organized labor fence to a renewed demand for the negotiation of peace and unity between AFL and CIO.

The Seattle typos put two strings to their bow by including a de-

THE PRESS

Editorial Candor

Grandma Smith is very low as we go to press. If she dies she will be buried Sunday.—Philo (Illinois) Budget.

What It Takes

Qualities which promise an author success: Interest in the magic of words, capacity for hard work, observant mind, unclouded spirit, and a philosophy of life.—Prof. Arthur W. Peach.

Oh Yeah?

Wasn't it Bismarck who said something to the effect that a young man who was not more of a Socialist before he was 30 had no heart, but who was one after that had no head?—Pillar of Fire.

Rattler

Because he sleeps better when soothed by the continuous rattle of train wheels, Sir Robert Horn, president of the Canadian Pacific railways, has had a special bed constructed that rattles and vibrates like a Pullman berth.—L. Stevenson in Detroit News.

Man Bites Dog

Widow Robs Bank—Headline in Chicago Times as quoted in the New Republic.

Chamberlain's American Offensive?

Some months ago M. M. S. Reynolds, a resident of Vancouver, wrote a letter to Neville Chamberlain criticizing British foreign policy. Shortly afterward—on Nov. 23—Mr. Reynolds was visited by two plain clothes members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Mounted Police. Producing a copy of the letter he had sent to Chamberlain and of another he had sent to Lord Lloyd, they warned him not to write such letters again. Mr. Reynolds reported these facts to the editors of the London Tribune, and added that he had told his inquisitors he would keep on writing "just so long as postage stamps are available."—The Nation.

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Co-op Education

Recognizing the growing place of the cooperative movement in Canadian life, Laval university, Quebec, has established a chair of cooperation in its school of social, political and economic sciences.

Year Books

If you want to know how many co-ops there are in Poland, Portugal, Switzerland or New Zealand; if you are anxious to find out the number of members of cooperative burial associations, grocery stores, credit unions or gas stations in the United States; if you want to know the membership, gross income, assets or patronage refunds paid in the co-op in Ensign, Kan., or Cloquet, Minn.—the 1939 year books have the answer.

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FRANCE

France Under the Threat of War

BY NADOR SCHNEEBaum Special Correspondent of the Socialist Call

PARIS, Jan. 23—Though we approach spring, we live in the midst of last autumn's crisis. Europe is again rushing upon feverish days. War or peace? Chamberlain took his umbrella to Rome, to bring back in its stead a dagger, now well implanted in the heart of Spain. There was much haggling on the Roman market. The results are well known—negative. Thus, Mussolini and Hitler continue their former policy in Spain: to laugh at culture and humanitarianism, to devastate cities and populations toward the attainment of their ultimate goal, the conquest of Spain and then of Europe.

All these facts have created tremendous nervousness in France, particularly since Mussolini's demands for Tunisia, Djibouti, and Corsica have intensely enraged French public opinion. In the Latin Quarter of Paris, the university students, who are largely of right wing sympathies, for several days on end staged such great anti-fascist demonstrations around the Sorbonne that the police had their hands full.

The students ridiculed Mussolini by ordering a strike against the Boulevard St. Michel as "Annex Italy to Corsica!" and "Annex Italy to Abyssinia!" Your correspondent mentions this only to indicate that in France the universal opinion from right to left is to the effect that not one inch of the colonies be given to Italy. Daldier's visit to French colonial territory, escorted by battalions, evoked such sharp anti-Rome demonstrations by the colonial people themselves that the Italians were compelled to lodge vigorous protests with the French.

French Nervous

Moreover, the French have every cause for nervousness. Franco, the spearhead of the Italian and German offensive against the Spanish republic, threatens to take control of the Pyrenees, whereby Hitler and Mussolini will surround France from the south. Therefore, the French must act. Throughout the country the demand is being voiced: Open the Spanish frontier! At every public meeting, whether Socialist, Communist, or liberal, people are demanding that normal frontier be resumed. This movement has gained momentum especially since the recent return of a French parliamentary delegation from a visit to Barcelona with the report to the French government that French interest demands that the Spanish government be helped.

French Socialists Differ

More and more the French people are beginning to realize the serious consequences of the Munich pact, and everywhere there are feverish attempts to amend that mistake. The French Socialist party just completed its national congress wherein the party's two opposing factions, led by Leon Blum and Paul Faure, came to grips. Blum condemned the Munich pact, declared democracy worthy of being defended by the sword, came out in favor of rearmament, and attacked non-intervention in Spain. While the Paul Faure pacifists

Angel With Dirty Face

ganzation not mechanically dominated by the Communist party elements, who were mistakenly admitted to the alliance in 1936. With resolutions in their hands pledging support to the state organization from a majority of the locals in the entire state, the executive board announced that by Feb. 25 "the breach... not of our making or choosing" which separates the national bureaucracy of the alliance from the Illinois mother organization will be complete. Having failed to capture the state convention of the alliance last November, Stalinists acting through their agents, stodge David Lasser and their commissar Herbert Benjamin, the national officers had without a shadow even of legality or constitutional procedure (1) treated as suspended the majority of the state board elected at the recent convention (2) arbitrarily attempted the removal of the duly elected state secretary Frank McCulloch at the same time purging him from the national executive board and (3) under cover of the illegal suspension of the majority of state board members attempted to purge or reorganize all locals in the state.

Stalinists Removed

The state board removed after trial, the former state chairman Fred Rohrbacher and three other members who are participating in the attempted disruption of the Illinois alliance at Communist party "rule or ruin" behest.

William Hackelman of Du Quoin was elected state chairman in his place and Mrs. Katie De Rorre of Collinsville, and Chris Borgens and Munroe Parker of Chicago were elected to the board vacancies.

Ask for More Funds

The committee unanimously adopted a demand for an additional \$852,000,000 appropriation by congress to prevent WPA layoffs and laid out a vigorous campaign to lack direct relief cuts as intended by the present mixed Republican - Democratic legislature and administration.

The Cook county section of the alliance had its county charter revoked by the state board for illegal use of its powers, expulsion of members and removal of officials without trial, etc. Cook county (Chicago) locals will conduct their business direct with the state office which is now located in room 801, 180 W. Washington st.

One of the last acts of the Cook county office before the revocation of its charter was to announce in its official bulletin the expulsion of a whole list of members and officials in political disagreement with the Stalinist officialdom and then appealed to all locals to raise funds for the fund drive of the "Daily Record," Chicago Communist papers' front newspaper.

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CO-OPS

Life Insurance

The Cooperative Life Insurance Company of America wrote policies totaling \$6,725,746 to register an increase of 34.9 per cent over its volume the previous year. The increase in co-op life insurance business was in sharp contrast to the drop of 20 per cent in life insurance production for all life insurance companies in the United States as reported by the Association of Life Insurance Presidents.

Testing Kitchens

The board of directors of the Central Cooperative Wholesale of Superior, Wis., in a three-day meeting Feb. 2-4, approved a plan to set up a model kitchen to test all incoming goods, hired a new fieldman-organizer, voted to re-

1938 Bound Volumes

Of the Socialist Call Will Soon Be Available!

Members of the Call Association are hereby notified that the 1938 copies of the SOCIALIST CALL are being bound and as soon as the binding is completed they will be mailed to each member of the association.

Non-members of the association may secure a bound volume of the 1938 CALLS by joining the Call Association. Membership fee is \$5.

A limited supply of the bound volumes will be available. Those who want to take advantage of this opportunity to help the CALL and to secure for themselves a bound volume should immediately send their orders to

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How I Became A Socialist

By REV. HOS

Holding an A.B. degree conferred cum laude, and a B.D. degree conferred standing near the head of my seminary class, I naturally thought I was pretty well educated. Very early in 1931 when a friend asked me if I would read a book, I told him yes, and promised to read it through. It was a cheap 25 cent book called "The Book," by "Coin" Harvey, and dealt with money and banking.

I had read less than a dozen pages when I threw the book down and said: "The government ought to suppress that book. The idea of any man telling such lies about our banks." Cooling off a little, I asked myself just how the banks actually did operate, and although I had majored in history and economics in college I suddenly realized that my knowledge of money and banking was based on faith more than on knowledge. I finished the book, and then secured additional information and learned that banks actually could and did loan \$10 of bank credit for every dollar of actual money in their possession.

Rent, Interest, Profit

I embraced the program of the Liberty party of 1932. I accepted that usury was contrary to the Bible. It finally percolated into my mind that the reason the Bible condemns usury was because usury was based on covetousness—the desire to get something the other fellow had without giving full value in exchange therefor. But what about other forms of unearned income? Further study convinced me that usury was but a type of which rent, interest and profit are modern forms.

I contacted some Socialists. I found that they did not believe in dividing up as I had been taught to believe. I think the main reason why people think Socialism means dividing up is because they always think in terms of present economic organization, and dividing up is the only way they can conceive of it being done. That Socialism calls for an entirely new economic set-up is something that is hard for them to grasp.

Becomes a Socialist

Continuing my study I became convinced that the Liberty party with its government banks and money, and with public utilities nationalized, would not give work to everybody. At first I thought public utilities should secure extra money for putting the unemployed to work by making a good profit for the government. But what would the government have the men do in exchange for their wages? Who would own the results of their labor? When I answered, these questions by admitting that the government (the people) would own the things made, I saw that ultimately the government would own all the productive machinery as a result of that program, so I admitted that I was a Socialist.

Then I realized that many of the forms of capitalism would be retained under a Socialist regime. The man who invented the corporation, for example, showed how to achieve Socialism. The corporation is a bastard child of father selfishness and mother Socialism. The form of Socialism (collective ownership) was used for capitalistic profit (personal selfishness). The A T and T had over 700,000 stockholders. Increase that number to include the adult population of the United States, give every stockholder one vote, and the telephone system would be completely nationalized. Only a moron would expect a few million stockholders would wreck a corporation that could live through the menace of 700,000 stockholders!

Christian Economics

As a preacher I had always insisted men should act like Christians. But it was not until I mastered economics that I became convinced that big business (and little business as well) just could not act in a Christ-like way as capitalism was organized. Without changing my "ideals" at all, my economic studies changed my "method" of applying the ethics of Jesus to business. While admitting an element of truth in dialectic materialism, I can point out leaders (including Marx himself) to refute that all men follow that path.

Technology shows that capitalism has grown through youth and maturity and has reached senescence. Capitalism will work (unjustly, yes, but it will work after a fashion) in a growing and expanding economic system.

But it has now reached the point of saturation where profits can no longer be safely invested, to say nothing of securing additional profits. Also we know from scientific investigation that we can produce abundance for all if we use all available resources of men, material and machinery. But it is also true that capitalism cannot work except in a scarcity economy. We must subsidize scarcity in order to keep capitalism, or we must adopt a new economy. I am for abundance for all.

Abundance for All

Engineers produced the automobile. It can travel 60 miles an hour even in the hands of punk drivers. But in order to drive an auto 60 miles an hour we had to remake our entire road system. If you doubt this just strike out across any field at 60 miles-an-hour and see how long you can keep it up. In other words, in order to take advantage of the 60 mile-an-hour auto we had to rebuild our roads.

Similarly the technological advances have made abundance for all possible. But as the auto cannot travel 60 miles an hour without a road, neither can the new abundance for all be used unless we build a roadway—a new economic system—which will make it possible. Production for use, technocracy, Socialism, or whatever else you may choose to call it, is necessary before abundance for all can be achieved.

Another reason I am a Socialist is because our economic system has broken down with one-sixth of our people cast out to starve. Government is feeding them. This cannot go on forever. Ultimately (within 10 years) the burden will break the government, and then such a crisis will occur that dictatorial methods MUST be resorted to.

Only two alternatives present themselves: (1) Dictatorship of the proletariat, and (2) Dictatorship of the money interests. In this country there is no question in my mind but that it will be the latter, fascism.

Not that fascism will be voted in; to the contrary, fascism will come because of a breakdown of democratic processes and will be instituted to replace chaos and rioting which will follow. As a believer in democracy I want to maintain political democracy. To maintain political democracy we must also have industrial democracy. Therefore I am a Socialist.

FDR on the Rhine

When President Roosevelt announced he will defend the non-fascist countries by every method short of war, even to arming them from here, he resorted to a euphemism. For there are methods short of war which nevertheless lead toward war; and with uncanny precision he has chosen these.

He ignored the reality act by breaking a pledge given to the house committee on foreign relations that an undeclared war, like that in China, would not be exempt.

After aiding Japan for a year, he put pressure on the aircraft firms not to sell to Japan. At the same time, he refused to lift the embargo on Republican Spain, and when critics said our 1921 treaty with Germany should prevent arms shipments to Hitler, his administration took the view that while Germany was not permitted to buy munitions here, we were permitted to sell them there.

Though we largely built the German air fleet, he arranged secretly to let France buy \$60,000,000 in aircraft here, the deal becoming known only through the crash of a test flight. And then, while Chamberlain and Daladier were throwing Spanish democracy to the wolves and collaborating with fascism, the president fixed our defense line in western Europe!

The Railroad Bandits

BY DANIEL W. HOAN Mayor of Milwaukee, Wis.

The following article is a statement drafted by Mayor Hoan and adopted by the state board of the Wisconsin Farmer-Labor Progressive federation. It has been circulated among members of congress and municipal officials who should be facing the twin issues of public ownership, democratic scientific administration of the American railroad system and the costly if not disastrous duplicating of the railroad right of ways by freight highways. The issue is before congress, and above all it is a matter of deep concern to the railway unions who hold at stake the welfare of their mass membership.

With respect to the report of the committee appointed by the president of the United States to submit recommendations on the general transportation situation, it is a most extraordinary document. It unaveringly recommends to the president and congress not only a continuation of our policy of loaning money to the railroads made bankrupt by the group of bankers who dominate them, but brazenly recommends that the present mild restrictions on making these loans when they cannot be obtained from private sources be seriously weakened.

If any small business had been made so completely bankrupt by mismanagement, if not corruption, to the extent that it was in debt 100 per cent, had no credit as a result of borrowing money from any private source, and had the effrontery to ask the American people through congress to continue to loan this business the people's money, the owner thereof would be promptly incarcerated in some insane asylum. Because the railroads have been dominated, controlled, and bankrupted by our big bankers they have the audacity, with the approval now of this committee, to request that just that policy be pursued by this nation. This is like the small boy who pours water into a flower pot.

Bankruptcy

The corruption, exploitation and downright thievery that has been pursued by the management of railroads from the very beginning of their construction constitutes one of the blackest pages of American history.

At the very outset, after the public had donated the lands, bought the bonds to furnish the money for their construction, it was almost universal custom for the promoters to form construction companies to bleed the parent company until they were forced into bankruptcy. When the bankruptcy sale occurred these exploiters naturally had possession of the funds to step in and bid to take away these valuable properties from the people and communities of this nation who had put up the money for their construction.

This policy was so notoriously carried out in the state of Wisconsin, for example, that every railroad in this state went through the bankruptcy wringer, except a few miles of railroad near Horicon. Following this, they pursued a policy of extracting dividends while at the same time issuing bonds, bonds, bonds, for new construction work and demanded expansions until it is generally understood the railroads have for years been approximately 100 per cent in debt.

Audacity of R. R. Companies

It has been common knowledge that the management have had no policy of never retiring for the smallest part of this debt until they have blasted their own credit entirely. Now they have the monumental nerve to expect the public to start all over again to supply them with cash to continue the maintenance and operation. The regulatory bodies, both state and federal, which have been set up one after the other since the '70s, have never been able either by persuasion or orders to induce the controllers of the railroads to pay off even a small fraction of their debt.

As a result of this disastrous policy, the interest charges on the railroads is not only enormous, enough to wreck any business, but constitutes a monstrous load on the backs of the American people that they are unable to afford.

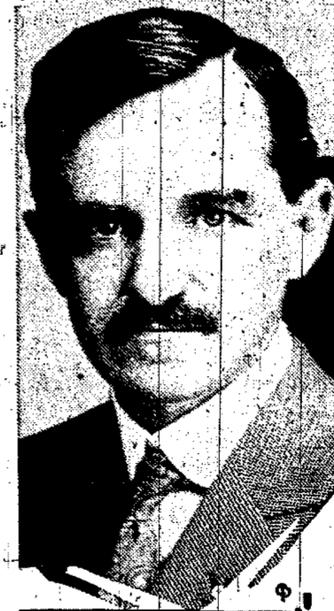
The railroads constitute the very arteries of the nation and the plan adopted must have as its essence a gradual reduction of the debt and a consequent increasing credit for these important arteries. Such an accomplishment has not been achieved anywhere in the world under private ownership.

A Monstrous Fraud

So far as discernible, the committee's report, instead of pointing to a way in which its debt charge might gradually be reduced, brazenly recommends the weakening of the companies by which the borrowing will become greater through the people's money by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. It goes so far as even to authorize the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to guarantee obligations issued by receivers and trustees of railroads that are actually in a state of bankruptcy. Such a recommendation, if accepted, would constitute a monstrous fraud upon the American people.

Railroad Competition

The report, echoing the complaint of the railroads, remarks about the unfair competition through interstate trucks. May I say that the back-breaking load



Mayor Daniel W. Hoan

placed upon the taxpayers by the various strata of government is in large degree caused by the highway building policy of this nation.

Automobile taxation may pay a large part of federal and state costs but it covers no more than 10 per cent of town, village, and city expenditures. As a result of this many municipal leagues have attempted to induce their legislatures to cut down the heavy loads of trucks on the highways.

If this were accomplished, roads could be built with a little over half the money that would last many times longer and lighten the burden not only of the finances of the state and federal governments, but afford some promise of relief to municipal governments. At several sessions of the legislature of Wisconsin the State League of Municipalities has presented such a bill to cause the carrying of freight by heavy trucks to be eliminated from our state highways at the expiration of a period of five years.

At these hearings has anybody representing the railroad ownership or management expressed one iota of interest or assisted in the slightest in the enactment? On the contrary. To the amazement of all concerned there has been utter neglect in supporting such necessary and desirable improvement.

Banker Exploitation

There can be no explanation for this neglect except that the same group of bankers that are exploiting the railroads are at the same time interested in promoting the carriage of freight on heavily loaded trucks, necessitating the building of expensive highways and right-of-ways at the taxpayers' expense. There never has been a justifiable excuse for the building of heavy concrete highways in the state except to provide a second right-of-way for the carriage of heavy freight.

The lighter vehicles and trucks are interested solely in a smooth surface. A pavement consisting of two feet of rock with an adequate smooth covering can be constructed for a trifle over one-half the cost of a concrete road, which approximates \$35,000 a mile. The public put up the money for the breaking its back to try to right-of-ways and is now being forced to pay the necessary taxes to build competing highway, roadbed for heavy freight. The whole policy is utterly uneconomic and unsound. The frightful cost of the construction of the heavy pavements required in our towns, villages, cities, counties and states has brought on a crisis in their financial affairs.

Proposed Amendment

There should be an amendment to the federal highway legislation and appropriations adopted forthwith that will compel the states to put reasonable restriction upon the carrying of heavy loads on their state trucks. It is not to be expected that the states will take effect no later than within a period of five years. If this is not done we may expect the weight of trucks and loads to constantly increase in the future as in the past, with its accompanying greater destructive effect on pavements.

In the third place, the railroads have been and are the victims of colossal graft as revealed before the Wheeler senate committee. The story of the bankruptcy of many of the railroads in the past reveals the story of positive graft that is shocking to every sense of decency and honest practice. This graft continues day by day and it is a pity that the appropriation permitting the continuation of the investigation of the railroads by the Wheeler senate committee was cut off just at the time that this story of present graft and hoodling was about to be generally exposed.

If the lid could be torn off and the facts exposed on the policies of the graft prevailing and told to the American people, this alone would put an end to the present private ownership and dominion of railroads through big banker control.

Public Protection

In conclusion, the experience of every nation on the earth, except China and the United States, has driven these nations, however conservative, to one and for all take possession of these railroads for the purpose of public protection. We are, therefore, on a level with China in solving our rail problems.

In no other way can service be made the chief objective, can its debts be gradually wiped out, and an end put to all this bleeding the public treasury by continuing the carrying of heavy loads that the saving in interest alone, if financed by federal bonds, would write off the entire cost of the railroads within a comparatively short number of years.

We believe that under any system of government ownership the management should be placed in a board of directors that, except for fundamental policy, is free from political control a board upon which the railroad workers themselves have some representation, and a policy instituted that would require the highest type of merit system to prevail in the selection, promotion and continuance of the employees.

For Public Ownership

Now that congress seems to be beset with an idea that we must have enormous preparedness, it will be of little or no avail if the railroads remain in the hands of the present owners. Are we to forget that in the World War ship supplies in the harbors in the east, waiting to carry supplies to the armies in Europe, while grain and food lay rotting in the west because the railroads' exploiters had so emasculated the railroads they were unable to carry the freight?

Are we to forget that Uncle Sam out of the necessity to prevent a debacle on the battlefield had to take over the railroads to get some semblance of management in them and to rehabilitate the rolling stock and equipment? After being turned back the private owners were permitted to raise freight rates about \$1,000,000,000 a year. Even with this bonus their condition, as well as their rolling stock, grows worse and worse.

If we are to have alleged preparedness with railroads handed by this group of exploiters with a possibility open for a repetition of such a disaster it would be monstrous, the tragic joke. The time has come for Uncle Sam to promptly take possession of these railroads, put them on an honest financial basis, render service to this nation at the lowest possible cost consistent with the prevailing rate of wages to the men who do the work.

We Wish This Were True

"Scientists and educators are in a strategic position to help combat racial and religious discrimination and the American people look to them for aid and guidance in this respect."—President Lewis Alan Berne of the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (CIO).

Why Not UNITED Auto Workers?

BY PAUL PORTER

The split now reaching down into local of the United Automobile Workers is one of the most tragic events in the history of American labor movement.

No longer is it merely a squabble between members of the executive board. Rank and file members who worked side by side in the great union are now being pitted against each other in a bitter struggle that threatens to destroy the union more quickly than it built.

Even the Wisconsin district, the oldest and most stable section of the union, is now divided. Old friends denounced each other at the district council meeting in Rockford Sunday.

We read of fist fights and rioting in Detroit and Flint, with the employer-controlled police rushing in to whack parties of both sides. The seven-year-old civil war among the Illinois coal miners has cost scores lives. Will gunplay and death be the next stage in the auto union turmoil?

Not alone the auto workers will suffer from this folly. If this powerful and progressive union is destroyed, all of labor, AFL as well as CIO, will encounter harder times.

In an effort to avert this disaster, Kenosha Labor ventures to suggest a peace plan to the auto workers. The basis in the plan is offered by Ardath Riggs, a member of local 180 (J. I. Case company), in Rockford. To it we have added a few trimmings. This is the plan:

1. Two rival conventions have been called—one of the pro-Martin forces at Detroit, beginning March 4, and one of the anti-Martin forces, with CIO backing, at Cleveland, beginning March 27. Locals are already electing delegates to one or the other.

Let these conventions be held, but each frankly recognize that it does not represent all of the organized auto workers. Each, therefore, in the manner of political parties nominate a slate of candidates for offices in the international union to be submitted to a referendum vote of the membership as of Jan. 1, 1939.

2. Proposed amendments to the constitution and resolutions could be offered in the same manner by one or both of the conventions.

3. Balloting on candidates, resolutions and proposed amendments should be conducted under the auspices of some outside group. We suggest that some union, independent of the CIO and AFL, like the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen or the International League of Garment Workers' union, be invited to supervise the referendum elections.

Or a committee of labor's proven friends might be invited—a committee composed, for example, of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. P. of Catholic university and the Rev. James Myers of the Federal Council of Churches.

4. The leaders of both factions claim confident of victory, and so may not be inclined to compromise, but if this plan, similar to it, were presented to them simultaneously by an important section of the union—say by the Wisconsin-Illinois-Minnesota district council—they could not afford to ignore it.

Other sections of the union would doubtless rally to support the proposal, and if sufficient pressure were brought to bear on the leaders the split might be avoided. Even local (if it has been comparatively neutral) locals 72 and 173 in this city might well fully start such action.

In support of the above proposal we point out that a referendum is the constant practice in many unions, both AFL and CIO, for electing officers or for amending the union's constitution. Among such unions are the United Mine Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the International Brotherhood of Shipyard Workers, the International Typographical union, the Carpenters, and the chinchins.

The Typographical union even has its own national political parties, the progressives, the independents, each of which picks a slate of candidates and issues campaign literature in their behalf.

Why shouldn't Martin and his supporters accept the successful practices of well established unions? Why shouldn't Hillman, Murray, the special CIO mediators, come to a plan which has traditionally been in their own unions?

This is a time to avoid a split, not to determine which side has made the most mistakes (each side has made plenty). When house is burning is not the time to score. Let us play with matches. That is until the fire is put out.

If More People Only Would

"Take a walk around the block in the morning. Imagine you haven't an office or home to return to. You'll understand the refugee problem in Germany and elsewhere a lot better."—Paul J. editor of Survey Graphic.

We Wonder?

"Injunctions in labor disputes, except to physical violence, are now pretty well outlawed. More progressive states. Labor disputes are fought out by an appeal to popular opinion."—G. Rice, Jr., of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Socialist Vienna Still Lives!

Five years ago this last week a great Socialist movement was crushed in Vienna by the clerico-fascist government of Dolfuss and Schussnigg. Today, after five years of persecution, after a Hitlerian Anschluss which provided a second blood bath, after the death last summer of its leader, Otto Bauer, this militant Socialist movement is still carrying on its fight for the emancipation of Austrian workers. Socialists are proud of the fact that their Austrian comrades offered the first serious resistance to the onslaught of fascism, a resistance which inspired the heroic struggles of the Spanish workers.

In memory of those of the Austrian movement who fell in the days of February, 1934, and for the aid of those many thousands remaining who are today carrying on underground, how many readers of this editorial will contribute as much as a dollar? All contributions sent to the Committee for International Labor Solidarity (348 Third Ave., New York City) will be forwarded without delay and without overhead to the Austrian Socialist movement.

This movement, by the way, is now being coordinated with the German movement under the brilliant leadership of the new generation of revolutionary Marxists. The aim is a free and united Germany, rather than the "independent" Austria which the Communists have taken as their purpose and slogan. Some months ago the Communists in Paris organized an innocent "popular front" committee for an independent Austria. The first activity of the organization was a memorial meeting... for Dolfuss! Shades of 1934!

American Socialists, particularly New Yorkers, will vividly recall the shameful attack of Communist hoodlums upon an impressive commemoration meeting held in Madison Square garden in 1934 under the auspices of the Socialist party to honor the brave Austrian workers. Communist spokesmen tried to cover up their cowardly deed by charging Socialists both in Austria and in America with being "agents of fascism."

In 1938 the same Communist movement, true to its totalitarian character, honors Dolfuss, the hangman of the Vienna's defenders, without as much as blushing. We don't doubt that perhaps some naive liberal soul can still be dug up by the Stalinists to rationalize even this sordid piece of treachery and double dealing.

Scissorbill Talk

I don't want public ownership. I don't want the government regulating my business. I don't want the government interfering with my job. I want to run my own farm. I don't want government ownership and the government in business because that's too much like Socialism.

BUT—

I want a civil service job with the government. I want a government code to protect me against price chisellers. I want the government to regulate my competitor. I want the government to protect me against Wall Street. I want the government to protect my stocks and bonds and life insurance and bank account. I want the government to pass laws favorable to my farm, my business, my union, my bank.

I want the government to see that the railroads, the utilities, and the bog boys don't hold me up.

I want the government to take care of my poor relations. I want the government to provide relief, old age pensions, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, free hospitalization, veteran's relief, farm aid, and business subsidies.

NO SIR! I don't want government ownership, or the government in business. It's plain, downright Socialism, but—

I want the government to protect my money and my health and my job; to subsidize my business and buy my products; to build highways and develop new recreation; to build sewers and to collect my ashes; to deliver my mail for two cents; and to keep the country from going to ruin.

YESIRREE, I am agin' this here Socialism, but I want the government into everything and doing everything!

The Forum

Needlessly Offensive

To the Editor of the Call: I think it was a mistake to use the word "blackguard" in the editorial on page 4 of the Socialist Call of Feb. 4. A good friend of mine, who is an admirer of Father Coughlin, resented that word. Economically, perhaps she is no more of a conservative than we Socialists. We Socialists wish to conserve what is good and get rid of what is bad. Our criticisms should be sharp and to the point but not couched in language which is needlessly offensive. As matter stands Father Coughlin would have done better not to have called President Roosevelt a liar and we would have done better to have omitted the word "blackguard."—E. J. Hillard, South View, Conn.

Little Essays In Socialism

BY JOHN M. WORK

Just as there cannot be human brotherhood so long as the profit system exists, so also there cannot be human brotherhood so long as race prejudice exists.

It is true that economic barriers cause much of the race prejudice, but it is also true that much of it is caused by false impressions received in childhood. If a child is given the impression, by his elders, that certain kinds of people are inferior, or that they are to be shunned, he carries that impression into adulthood as a set, unreasoning prejudice.

In Nazi and Fascist countries race prejudice is created by wicked and deliberate propaganda. To some extent this is also true in our own country.

Like all other prejudices, race prejudice is hard to eradicate. It can only be done by patient and persistent effort.

Any person who comes to realize that he harbors race prejudice should try to rid himself of it.

And he should aid in ridding others of it, by precept and example. He should quietly take the side of abused races when the question arises. He should set a good example by treating victims of taboo as equals; also by refraining from the inconsiderate use of such expressions as "nigger," "wop," "dago," "sheeny," etc., as these offensive expressions increase race prejudice, whereas expressions which imply respect have a tendency to wear down prejudice in others.

In a state of human brotherhood all men will look upon one another as brothers, and no one will look down upon anyone else. Race prejudice is the negation of human brotherhood. It is a base emotion. It is something to be ashamed of.

Men afflicted with race prejudice consider themselves superior, but they are utterly mistaken. It would be impossible for a genuinely superior person to entertain race prejudice. The mere fact of entertaining race prejudice proves one to be inferior.