

LIVING COSTS MUST NOT GO UP

The great increase in prices came after World War One when in the first 1 1/2 years food rose 26 per cent, clothing 45 per cent, building material 65 per cent. In the war just ended prices were kept in line much better than during the other conflict. Now that it is over there appears to be a tendency to let the lid off. Prices already are climbing. It was a serious mistake for the Administration to permit the building industry to get out from under ceiling for that gives validity to any other claims of other industries as well. Everybody ought to be treated the same and it is obviously unfair to police prices of a grocer or clothier and permit a building contractor to increase costs as he pleases.

Failure of the nation to maintain the price structure is responsible for the epidemic of strikes. If a worker loses a good sized fraction of his "take-home" pay, while prices of food, clothing, hardware, etc., anything he buys, are permitted to remain high, or to go higher, it is obvious such a worker is not likely to be happy about it.

This is not the only trouble. If the workers' purchasing power decreases he will be unable to buy the products of industry—and that goes for agriculture. What farmer is so unwise as to think his market is safe for his products if the "take-home" wages of the armies of working people are reduced?

At the same time it is plain that it will be necessary to cut workers' hours if we are to spread employment among the returning service people and war-industry workers. At first glance this seems difficult as it means maintaining wage structure while not permitting living costs to increase. A check of net incomes of corporations in the United States, however, discloses that such concerns can—if they will—absorb the increased wages necessitated by our desire to spread employment, out of swollen profits. Last year our corporations made three times as much net profits—after taxes—as in the pre-war base period.

We must decide whether we want unemployment to become rampant. We must decide if we wish to maintain a high standard of living with a profitable nation of workers and farmers. If we do wish such a system it is up to the American people to look beneath the headlines of the Big Business Kept Press, gaze through the propaganda of subsidized radio twaddlers, and get tough with irresponsible representatives in the Congress who are representing Big Business instead of the People.

If we don't keep living costs down and wages up we are in for a siege of unemployment and depression that will make the last economic collapse like a picnic.—The Montana Labor News.

WHY NOT A REAL TRIAL?

The war criminals facing trial in Nürnberg have already been condemned by the opinion of the world. Their crimes were public, and the results are evident in a continent laid waste, in the still uncounted millions of dead, and in the profound corruption of the political life of the peoples. No court procedure was needed to convict these men, no new proof required to convince the world that Göring, Streicher, and their accomplices deserve punishment. For this reason the trial, even in advance, has taken on a curious air of unreality. It is a political act, justified and overdue, wrapped up in an elaboration of judicial procedure that seems to a lay observer somewhat farcical. The Nazi leaders could have been disposed of, it would seem, by the joint decision of all Allied powers without all these expensive and legally questionable formalities. The banishment of Napoleon offered precedent if any were needed. But the trials are under way, and one can hope that they will serve to dramatize and recall to the flagging memories of people who already are beginning to forget, the details of the organized terror under which Hitler and his party attempted to bring the civilized world. We hope the procedure will be rapid, decisive, and free from the sort of pettifogging detail that in other political trials—notably the sedition cases in Washington during the war—has so completely obscured the issue and prevented a clear judgment. The Nürnberg court is a political court with a political job to perform. If it allows the trial to degenerate into legalistic maneuvering and quibbling, its only value will have been thrown away.—The Nation.

The Choice—Between two Forms of Socialism

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

For a number of years, now, I favors the program advocated but have been warning those people who took the trouble to read that the choice before them was between two forms of socialization.

1. There was the possibility of socializing THINGS—the natural resources and industries of the nation—by and for the use of the people.

2. There was the alternative of socializing things and PEOPLE—by and for the benefit of a super class.

I did not believe it was possible to avoid making a choice between these two courses, and I don't believe it now. The general pattern of humanity's institutions is determined by economic development. The details are etched into the pattern by the intelligent action—or lack of it—of the people themselves.

So it was that I never lost confidence that free enterprise would be replaced by social controls. And so, too, I was satisfied that such controls would be authoritarian in character unless the people themselves organized and acted to make them democratic.

Moreover, I never entertained the belief that social change would wait until the people were "ready" for it. And so it was that I insisted that NOW is the time for decision.

Well, the people haven't made the choice, but President Harry S. Truman and the economic group whose advice he takes and whose interests he serves are taking the next step.

ARMY RELEASES BIG HOARD A BUTTER

The War Department announces that it has released as surplus 80,000,000 pounds of butter, about 10 pounds for every man, woman and child in the nation.

Whether the butter is fit to eat remains to be determined. The Department of Agriculture said it has to be inspected, and that this will require about a month. Butter fit to use will reach consumers about Christmas.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE MUST BE BY THE PEOPLE. IT MUST REST UPON THE FREE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED AND ALL OF THE GOVERNED.

WILLIAM MCKELVEY
THIRTY-FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

FROM 1897 TO 1904 UNION MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S. QUADRUPLUED - FROM HALF A MILLION TO OVER TWO MILLION.

YOUR MARK OF QUALITY AND UNION LABOR - THE NATIONAL LABEL!

WITH SLOVENE D. P.'S IN GERMANY

By FRANK GROSER

One of the things I was always interested in during my stay in the ETO was to meet up with any Slovenes if they were around. While I was in the Infantry those opportunities were few as we never stayed in anyone place very long and by the time I found out where these fellows were, we would move out. The latter part of April I was transferred to the Transportation Corps. (rear echelon) and had the opportunity to stay in one place for awhile. I was stationed at Aalen for awhile, but by the time I got there the Slovenes were moved out as they were always fighting with the Serbs. It seems that the Military Government always put some officer in charge of D. P. (Displaced Persons) and the only Yugoslav officers over here seemed to be the Serbs who were captured by the Allies while fighting with the Germans. And since the Slovenes finally had some freedom they bitterly protested having to take orders from the Serbs who fought with the Germans and now were bossing the Slovenes who were brought here as slave labor. So the best thing the M. G. could do was to separate them.

I never came in contact with any Slovenes until I was stationed in Bruchsal. Then, thru some Russian D. P. I learned that some Slovenes were in a small town 7 miles away so I visited them. There were two brothers and sisters living together, named Pirc. They were brought there with their aged mother, father, another brother and sister and all the Slovenes of their community and placed to work on the farms, factories and homes. The brothers and sisters were placed in this small town to work in a noodle factory. They were given three rooms and because their boss was a little lenient, they fared lot better than most of their friends. He gave them things not allowed in their rations. Of course they had to pay for it, but money didn't mean anything to them, as they had lost everything else.

Not long after they were brought here the aged father became ill and missed work quite frequently so he was taken to the hospital for observation. The next day the family was called in to take his dead body for burial. In Germany if you didn't work you didn't eat. At least he didn't suffer a long period of starvation.

A brother and sister of the Pirc family were sent to another town about 100 miles away, and they hadn't seen each other in three years. Although up to a year ago they were allowed to write to one another. The reason I write so much about this family is because in the six weeks that I was in Bruchsal I became very close friend with them and the two fellows, Paul and Stanley they were always with me, so I heard a lot of their experiences.

The four worked in the noodle factory for \$10 a month and out of each ones salary came \$1.50 for

MILLIONS TO BENEFIT RICH, SLUM CLEARING IGNORED

Washington, the Nation's Capital, has some of the worst slums in the country. Instead of remedying that shameful situation, the Federal government plans to spend millions of dollars for the benefit of wealthy yachtsmen and to build a mammoth sports stadium.

The War Department announced that it will spend \$2,000,000 to construct three pleasure boat piers and "beautify the Washington yachting harbor."

Many times \$2,000,000 will be spent on the proposed stadium.

The final responsibility for choosing between slum clearance, the yacht harbor and the stadium rests on Congress, which appropriates the money.

By choosing slum clearance and low-cost housing, Congress would have helped thousands of miserably poor and overcrowded people, but would have offended powerful real estate interests. They profit by the present housing situation and want the yacht harbor and stadium.

SOME ODDS AND ENDS

The present labor unrest is based on the inclination of the workers to get the same take-home pay as they had during the war. They point out that they have to pay as much as ever for take-home groceries.—Howard Brubaker in The New Yorker.

Utopia: A land where nobody tries to reform his neighbors until his own section is free of faults.

Compositions of Brahms, Beethoven and Schubert rank ahead of boogie-woogie jive tunes, which GIs in the Southwest Pacific requested a USO-Camp Shows unit to play during a recent tour, says the National War Fund which finances USO.

I had no shoes and complained—until I met a man who had no feet.—Arabian proverb.

The important Admiral and the General who was in love with himself were stranded on a jungle island. But they found a rowboat. "I have a confession to make," said the Admiral. "I don't know how to row a boat." "That's all right," said the General who loved himself. "I won't tell anyone, if you won't tell anyone my secret: 'I can't walk on water.'—John Paine.

TRUMAN THINKS WE'VE LOST

We have it from Drew Pearson, the "Merry-Go-Round," that President Harry S. Truman has given up—for the next thousand years or so—any hope of a World Government.

Mr. Truman thinks the people of the world aren't ready for it—especially those people of other nations who have been exploited and kept in ignorance. And so, according to Pearson—

Mr. Truman has accepted the idea that America must participate in an international armament race.

When we remember that this war, like World War I, was fought to make the world a safe place by freeing it from a number of "fears" including the fear of war—

It seems that Mr. Truman thinks we've lost the war!

And so we have—if winning means anything more than giving this season's enemies a good trimming.

As we view the President's surrender of all the hopes with which the American people gave of their time, labor and blood, we wonder what ordinary men and women think about their recent victory.

Since an armament race invariably ends in another war, we raise a number of questions.

Was it, after all, a good thing to sacrifice treasure and lives to defeat Hitler and Co.?

Was it worth while to work long hours and pile up a \$300 billion debt which our children are told they will have to pay?

Was it worth while to stand for wage and labor freezing, to surrender the right to strike and to follow wherever Leader Roosevelt choose to take us?

Judging the action by the result, it must be admitted that we have been doing the wrong thing all the time!

Well, so we have. We made the basic error of fighting for peace AND keeping the system that breeds wars. We shouldn't have done that. And the only way we can correct our error now is to abolish the capitalist economy.

We should make that correction as soon as possible—and certainly before that armament race again drags us into another and a vastly more costly war.

Mr. Truman is to be commended—upon his hindsight.

But we Socialists knew all the time what Truman and many other people know now:

That the high hopes and promises which readied simple people for sacrifice and slaughter were all a lot of "blah" unless the causes that make for international rivalry and war were removed.

Well, we Socialists wanted to remove those causes. But, as President Truman says, the people "weren't ready" for industrial democracy and democratic cooperation.

Once we knew a man who "wasn't ready" to change his position when a freight train came down the track on which he was standing. He was a nice fellow. We went to his funeral. — Reading Labor Advocate.

Public's Rights in Airwaves at Stake

The Federal Communications Commission announces it will begin granting licenses for "frequency modulation," an improved method of broadcasting, on Nov. 7.

A great majority of the applicants who will receive consideration are those who now control standard broadcasting, including the nation's largest newspapers and newspaper chains.

If the commission runs true to form, the licenses will be parcelled out with little regard for the public interest. Since its inception, back in the Coolidge administration, a majority of the members of the commission have shown more concern for those who control the air than for the millions who are compelled to listen to the dreary bludge that comes out of their receiving sets.

When Congress passed the Communications Act of 1934 it specifically provided that the air waves belong to the people and that radio stations should be operated only for "the public interest, convenience and necessity."

The commission is the guardian of the people's property, and it will fail to measure up to its obligation and its responsibility if it continues radio in hands which are interested only in the profits they can wring from commercialism of the ether.—Labor.

"WELL DONE!"

Operations of the Office of War Information came to an end at midnight of September 15th. The departure of this once vast organization for disseminating news touching on both the war and the home fronts drew little attention, either in the press or on the part of the public. This was not surprising in view of the many changes which have taken place since V-J Day; with so many war agencies merged or abolished, or reorganized and put under new leadership, the quiet passing of the OWI was probably not an event to attract the attention it deserved.

The OWI, its director, Elmer Davis, and the men under him, did a good job during the war and to them are due the gratitude of the press, including the labor press and the American people. They worked under trying conditions at all times and never more so than when the OWI was made a political football by the obstructionists and destructionists in Congress and elsewhere.

Host of the men who aided in the direction and operation of O. W. I. did so at great personal sacrifice. This was particularly true of Elmer Davis, who was drafted from his well-paid radio job by President Roosevelt to organize and direct the OWI and who distinguished himself throughout his many months in that post by his efficiency and high type of leadership.—The Brewery Worker.

"ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED"

"Planning for safety may be a job for the Safety Committee, and the design and installation of safety equipment are definitely the work of our engineers. However, the responsibility for safe operation always has and always will rest primarily on the shoulders of the foreman in direct charge of the job. He makes the plans for carrying out the work and must so plan that his men can carry it out without subjecting themselves to unnecessary risk. There is something wrong with a department where men are continually getting hurt. Whatever is wrong can be corrected if we are all sincerely co-operative and are willing to make Accident Prevention an important part of our day's work.—Carl W. Haffenreffer.

BLESSING!

Stomach ulcers, the bane of millions of Americans, is about to be mastered, if reliance can be placed in an announcement by the New York University College of Medicine.

It declared that Dr. Co Tui, Chinese scientist, has discovered that feeding with a predigested protein made the severest ulcers disappear in a week or two.

The discovery was made, it was said, when patients were being prepared for operations for stomach ulcers.

A mother is a person who sees there are only four pieces of pie for five people and says she doesn't care for pie.—Anon.

THE LITTLE WOMAN

A woman when launching her first ship was a little nervous. She turned to the shipyard manager standing beside her, and asked: "How hard do I have to hit it to knock it into the water?"

THE NEWES

"Ha, ha!" laughed the recruit. "You can't fool me. I know they've got potato-peeling machines in this army."

"Yes, smart chap," replied the sergeant, "and you're the latest model."

Better be three hours too soon than one minute too late.—Shakespeare.

NO WAR BILLIONAIRES?

The number of billion-dollar corporations has jumped from 32 to 43 in the course of the war, a 35 per cent increase, according to a United Press survey made public August 26.

The total assets of these 43 corporations have jumped 10 percent in the year 1944 alone—from \$91,186,780,417 to \$100,959,882,262.