

WHAT GOES ON

By REGINA B.

A promise I made months ago to the editor of this paper has been troubling me. He had asked me to write here occasionally, and I said I would. Of course, I was flattered at the time, but later I thought what could I write that anyone would want to read? But he has seemed to expect that I would try, and so I shall.

Writing for a newspaper is different than writing to a newspaper. You do the latter when something has made you very angry, or very pleased. Some people become chronic writers to newspapers, and sometimes they are very good.

Writing for a publication is another matter, however. Although some people do not understand the difference. But the editor has to know, and that is where he has difficulties sometimes. That is, if he wants to do his job as editor.

Then there is writing about something that has been written or said. That is where the columnists come in, and it must be easy because there are so many of them. Of course, there is no rule against getting something original into your column. You're bound to do that if you're any good, and there's always the thought that what you write may be new to some of your readers. If you have any. That, after all, is the point of the whole thing.

I read an editorial recently that I want you to know about. Its heading was "The Russian Lady," and it told about some ladies discussing the shortage of commodities and what they were doing about it, such as laying in supplies, or buying only as needed, etc. The Russian lady present had lived through war and revolution and had been a refugee. This is what she said:

"For myself, I shall do nothing—nothing at all. If there is not enough, then there is not enough. What happens to one will happen to everybody. To go without what everyone is going without—that is nothing. What is really hard is to have to go without something everybody else has."

She is a very wise woman, wiser than the editor knew, I think. Because the editorial was in the Chicago Daily News.

HOW NEWS ARE MURDERED

By HAROLD PUTNAM

Kaltenborn Edits the News used to be the innocuous title of a journalist's book. But with his assault on labor standards through the courtesy of Town Hall of the Air, he's joined the ranks of those who don't "edit" so much as they "murder" the news.

When H. V. took a broadcaster's holiday and spent it maligning labor, he accomplished two bits of mayhem that may or may not have been premeditated. He launched the most savage crusade of the war against labor. And he made Harold Ickes sound like a chump.

Kaltenborn picked up a few paragraphs written by an obscure auto worker and brandished them as typical monkey-wrenching by organized labor. He failed to report that the same paragraphs had already been repudiated by responsible CIO officials.

He thought it evil that a Wichita union leaflet showed a typical "union worker" as prosperous and a typical "unorganized worker" as a bedraggled individual.

He found something wrong in the reluctance of 2,000 unemployed auto workers in Flint to break up their homes and leave their families for jobs in Chicago. He didn't mention that the UAW had argued against a new plant in Chicago when they'd soon be unemployed in Flint.

Following The G. M. Line

He denies that this anti-labor material was supplied him by the General Motors Corporation, but it follows the G. M. line. And it's pertinent that Kaltenborn was one of the influential moulders of public opinion who were recently conveyed through the G. M. plant of company officials, out to convince the country that all this talk about corporate obstructionism was just more labor propaganda.

Kaltenborn's carefully-articulated but less carefully-considered words have gone screaming around the country, picked up in the Tory press of Oklahoma, echoed through the pages of the Congressional Record, mimicked by the peanut politicians who'd rather crush labor than Hitler.

Gen. P. M. Fleming, former Wage-Hour Administrator and a military man who wants all-out production, wrote in the American Federationist: It must be borne in mind that the act (Fair Labor Standards Act) does not forbid work beyond 40 hours a week... It has seemed to me that the requirements of maximum production for defense, and latterly for war itself, could best be met by the addition of more shifts to the work force... He concluded that employers could afford the time-and-a-half for overtime above 40 hours.

Ickes Fumbles The Ball

That hasn't been news to many papers. And neither have many of the statements of high production officials, who've testified to labor's faithful support of the war program. Defense labor is working more than 46 hours a week on the average. And every responsible official has declared flatly that strikes are not a production problem:

THE MARCH OF LABOR



ARISTOTLE
384-322 B.C.
GREEK PHILOSOPHER
WHOSE FAME STILL LIVES.



ANCHOR TACKY-PULLER
DOES NOT WORK IN A SHIP YARD. HE IS A SHOE WORKER WHO REMOVES TACKS USED IN BUILDING SHOES.

IF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY ARE CHIEFLY TO BE FOUND IN DEMOCRACY, THEY WILL BE BEST ATTAINED WHEN ALL PERSONS ALIKE SHARE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO THE UTMOST.



THE JOURNEYMAN BAKERS OF NEW YORK CITY ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE STRUCK IN 1791. DETAILS OF THE STRIKE ARE STILL UNDISCOVERED.



WE WILL BUY A STEEL HELMET FOR A MAN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF DEMOCRACY.



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TELL THAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED A GOOD VALUE IN A HAT? WHEN YOU SEE THIS UNION LABEL UNDER THE SWEAT-BAND.



FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

Let's Not Kid Ourselves

ELLIS E. JENSEN

White man try to justify their exploitation of other races by "proving" that the white race is superior. For instance, most of us cling to the notion that the brain of the Negro is inferior to that of the white. Some years ago a professor at a prominent American University made a comparative study of white and Negro brains. He "demonstrated" that the front portion of the Negro brain is less well developed. But a university official decided to repeat the experiment. This time he took care that no one should know in advance which were the white brains and which were Negro. Under these conditions no differences whatever appeared.

This goes to show that we can prove anything we want to prove. All the formerly great German universities are now staffed with pseudo-scientists who are prepared to "demonstrate" anything the Nazi government wants. They "prove" the superiority of the German over the Pole, the Russian, or the Frenchman. Should world politics change, they will be capable of "proving" the German's superiority over the Italian or the Japanese on a half hour's notice.

We Americans have been kidding ourselves, too. We "proved" to our satisfaction that the Japanese were inferior fighting men, and that they would commit hari-kari if they attacked us. But on the proving ground of battle, one pet theory about our own superiority have been rudely jolted. We sorely need more of the scientific mind, in which we relentlessly search out the facts, instead of building up magnificent delusions which do not stand up under test.

OUR WAR AGAINST HATRED

ELIJS E. JENSEN

Fear and hatred are twin emotions. A man who is afraid of his job in the midst of a depression easily falls victim to a clever propagandist who tells him his troubles are due to democracy or to his fellowmen. His fear is transformed into hatred.

When the depression began in 1929, Goebbels announced that his job was "to arouse outbursts of fury; to get masses of men on the march; to organize hatred and suspicion—all with ice-cold calculation." His record shows how well he has succeeded. Never has any man taught so many millions how to hate as he. He will go down in history with the dubious distinction of being the world's champion hate-monger.

Part of the war we are waging is to uproot the hatred and ill-will which has been sown among human beings. Hate is a poison which prevents men from enjoying healthy and satisfactory relations one with another. It causes one breakdown after another in our economic, social and political life, and makes every problem even more difficult of solution. Hate is the evil stuff of which wars are made. Respect and good will, on the other hand, make wars silly and unnecessary.

We fight not merely to square accounts with those who attacked us, but to liberate men's minds of their fears and hatred. We are at war with a system which deliberately teaches young children in the schools to hate and despise their fellowmen, and which even tries to force the churches to preach hatred from their pulpits. We fight for a way of life in which good will and co-operation between peoples and nations may be cemented in a thousand ways. When we overcome fear and hate among men, then and only then will we have a peace that will last.

LABOR

Labor Secretary Perkins reported hourly earnings of wage earners in manufacturing industries rose 1.5 percent to a new high of 78.1 percent—15 percent above the same time last year. Average hours worked per week (40.3 hours) were 4 percent above last year and weekly earnings (\$32.81), 2 percent higher.

FAREWELL—I HOPE NOT FOR EVER

Our Slovene Labor Center is the one institution that I do not like to leave behind upon going into the United States Army. Slovene Labor Center is a true Slovene community gathering place which really serves our people and their friends. It is for this reason I am happy to have been able to work with the people who had Center at heart. It is something to be able to say that the building is free of debt. Proletarec and Prosvetna matica really have a roof over their heads. When traveling around the United States I shall be looking for that kind of a Center because I know that it will be there that I shall receive the best treatment, and the needs of myself will be best served. It is and will be our second home. Of course there is no place like home. Boys who have the opportunity to serve their country should visit the Slovene Dom in the town where they happen to be for they will not be sorry. I have experienced and I know. The parents should call their attention to this point when writing to their sons in camp.

May I restate the jest of the letter written to the president of the Slovene Labor Center? It was a pleasure to work with the members of the board of directors, and I want to thank you for all past favors, I certainly do appreciate them.

Yours for Victory,
Oscar B. Godina.

MANPOWER MOBILIZATION

Of course most Americans will deny the charge of "regimentation" when that word is used to describe Federal Securities Administrator McNutt's plan for labor mobilization. But pin down for a definition of their own and they'll hedge.

What McNutt proposes has all the earmarks of the same brand of totalitarian control about which we read so much when it was adopted by Hitler's Germany. Insist upon the similarity and loyal Americans will find an "out." They'll tell you that—

Regimentation of workers in Germany means slavery. In America it will mean a temporary sacrifice that must and should be made for the preservation of freedom.

We assert that here is a good answer. If it is necessary for us to surrender our liberties for a period of years in order that democracy may be the way of life for evermore, that's a good bargain.

But is that what the war is going to mean to us? Even if we win in the end and establish "our way of life" throughout the world, will our way be the way of freedom?

It is easy for us to ask the question. But the answer must be supplied by the people of this generation. And, thus far, we see no trend that bids us be hopeful and confident.

Together with the story of McNutt's proposal — which war may force this nation to adopt—we read of how the private owners of industry, who have always profited by exploiting human labor, are still permitted to play their individualistic game. And that's bad.

If we are to sacrifice together, then none should profit from our sacrifices. If we are to forego our freedoms to live and work where we desire, then the private profit system should be ended forthwith.

Regimentation of labor for a common purpose is one thing. Profits to parasites is another. And the two can't be mixed into a potion called freedom. Our democracy is being risked when labor is conscripted. Unless, together with such a program, the principles of democratic Socialism are put into practice, the future will not be free.—R. L. A.

HELP WANTED

Sambo, in Heaven, had just got Rastus, far below, on the asbestos oja board. "Hello, Rastus. How you getting along?"

"Oh, I's havin' a fine time. Don't haf to work much, jest shovel in some coal now and then. How you-all?"

"I'se workin' purty hard. We haf to sweep up de clouds, pull in de stahs, switch on the light, an' give de ole sun a shove every mornin'."

"How come you'all have so much work to do?"

"Well, sah, to tell de truth, we're kinda short o' help up heah."

Labor's 40-hour Victory

American workers were not the only victors when the United States Senate, by a voice vote, rejected an attempt to repeal the national 40-hour work week law.

Civilization itself gained with that action. For by it a principle of human relations was bolstered more firmly than before.

Vastly more important than the rate of pay is the number of hours of service which a worker shall be required to give. Wages, in themselves, may mean very little. Gains in the pay envelope may be lost quickly by a rise in prices. But an hour of leisure is an hour of life. Once established as a basic right of labor, the short work week is a permanent gain to the present and future generations.

We are not trying to leave the impression that 40 hours' work per week answers all questions. Indeed, right now is a time when workers must and do work longer hours. Moreover, at some future time, as in the past there may be millions of workers who find themselves denied the right to work at all. But the very fact that a standard has been established is a foundation from which labor may fight for still further advantages.

Socialists and other students of economics have pointed out the woeful waste of human effort which the private profit system entails. When, perhaps sooner than many people imagine, the waste of "free" competition is replaced by the planned economy which already is being forced upon us by the pressure of war needs, Labor can demand that unemployment cease. Then, with every able person assisting in the useful work of the world, hours can be reduced far below the 40 that reactionaries now find so distasteful.

And the future demands of Labor for more leisure can be made more logically because the Senate refused to vote the 40-hour week principle out of the American way of life.

—Reading Labor Advocate.

WHO FINANCES COUGHLIN?

The maintenance of a large paper, with a large press run, requires large sums of money. In the light of the seditious nature of the Coughlin propaganda, it is appropriate to ask: Who Finances Coughlin? Social Justice operates through a number of organizations, one for the paper, one for the former radio programs, etc. An investigation several weeks ago by the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Board revealed that one such Coughlin front, the Radio League of the Little Flower, had paid over to his parish more than \$1,548,658. What are the financial sources of the Social Justice newspaper, of the National Union for Social Justice and the Christian Front?

Recent legislation gives the Federal Government the power to unearth such information. This should be used soon.

—The New Leader.

LET'S BE FAIR

A man whose wages are a dollar an hour gets \$40 for a 40-hour week. If he works 50 hours and receives pay and a half for the overtime, his week's wages amount to \$55.

Vast numbers of workers do not get as much as a dollar an hour basic pay, and if they work 10 hours overtime their week's pay would not be as much as \$55. It might not be as much as \$50.

Supposing it were \$50. If they work steadily throughout the year, with not very much deduction for illness or other absence, nor for temporary layoffs on account of shifting jobs, delay of necessary materials, etc., their yearly pay would be approximately \$2,500.

Again suppose that congress would fix \$2,500 a year as a ceiling on wages.

If it were to do so, the only fair thing would be to limit all other incomes in the same manner.

That is, each industrial bigshot, each corporation official, each coupon clipper, each financier, each banker, each lawyer, doctor, merchant, senator, representative, judge, governor, mayor, etc., would, to be fair, have to be limited to an income of \$2,500 a year.

It might be a good idea, but we are at the moment arguing only for what appears to us to be an obvious truth—that if workingmen are limited to \$2,500 a year or any other sum, everyone else should be limited to the same sum.

If not, why not?

Who can conjure up any slightest reason why there should be discrimination against workingmen?

Are the other folks made of finer clay?

More Looking Ahead

Groups of liberals and democratic Socialists and social democrats are not the only ones who are concerned about what is to come after the war. From time to time church organizations of all kinds have given out pronouncements on the subject.

The latest is a program for social justice and economic reconstruction adopted by all the Protestant denominations in England. They say that very big social changes are inevitable and rightly so. They chide some of their own members: "Christian people... have been too ready to resent the application of a Christian critique to their social standards and practices."

They come out for decent houses, healthy childhood, proper and equal education, job security, generous wages, long-range planning, and social justice generally. They do not go into details as to methods. They say that if private enterprise can do these things, well and good, otherwise the nation will do them, leaving it to be inferred that they think private enterprise cannot or will not do them. —Milwaukee Post.

BUT THEY'RE GOING

The class composition was about "Kings."

"The most powerful king on earth is Wor-king; the laziest, Shir-king; the wittiest, Jo-king; the quietest, Thin-king; the thirstiest, Drink-king; the slyest, Win-king; and the noisiest, Tal-king."

