

NOW IS THE TIME...

The proposal of President John Marchiano for a meeting of heads of all international unions in America to chart the future of organized labor is one worthy of the highest consideration. Lack of this unity has been distinctly demonstrated in recent weeks through presidential approval of the crippling Hobbs bill and through the death of the OPA. Approval of the Hobbs bill by President Truman, and death of OPA may be laid right at the door of labor. Had every man and woman in the nation who is a member of a union demanded that his congressman vote for extension of OPA, not one congressman would have cast his vote against. Congressmen exist by virtue of the ballot box, and once that support is removed, they lapse back into the drudgery of their regularly ordained clerkship existence. Labor must unite to fight for its rights. Labor must unite against every congressman who helps to destroy what labor needs. Marchiano's proposal is sensible, logical and commendable. It should be followed quickly else labor will be the loser and when labor loses, the nation loses.—The Progressive Miner.

RUSSIA-BAITING IN JAPAN

One of the most obvious things wrong in Gen. MacArthur's rule of Japan is the aggressive intolerance of George Atcheson Jr., in the Allied Council for Japan. The latest example was his display of sheer boorishness and anti-Soviet venom last Wednesday when, after the Russian member offered a set of proposals for labor legislation along lines that accord with American principles, Mr. Atcheson read him a lecture against "Communist propaganda." The blast met a cool reception all around. Britain's member, W. McMahon Ball, having studied the Russian proposals, declared he just couldn't find any signs of propaganda in them, and that they were "quite conservative" as compared with the Beveridge report. He spoke for rational people everywhere when he added: "It is unfortunate if, when a council member makes a proposal, he automatically will be stigmatized as spreading Communist propaganda." Atcheson, in fact, went even farther. The Soviet platform included such planks as the 48-hour week, vacations with pay and unemployment allowances. Besides declaring that the Soviet proposals bore "familiar signposts of Communist propaganda," Atcheson baited the Russian member, Gen. Derevyanko, about conditions of labor and unions inside Russia, and asked why, in view of conditions there, he made proposals on labor in Tokyo. Although some of the Russian suggestions already are in effect in Japan, Atcheson's attack could only increase Japanese opinion that America is less than lukewarm to progressive reform. That is no way to "stop Communism" in Japan. It is the way to turn more and more desperate people to Communism. Such attacks by Atcheson on Russia have been frequent. Perhaps he is merely following instructions from Gen. MacArthur, whose personal representative on the council he is. But he is also a State Department officer. The department should see to it that a man with such prejudice and hostility to an ally is removed from a position of responsibility in Japan. And it should see to it that no other American representative follows similar tactics.—The Chicago Sun

THE SASKATCHEWAN STORY

On June 15, 1944 the Canadian Cooperative Commonwealth Federation swept into power in the Province of Saskatchewan with 47 of the 55 seats in the Legislature. Despite notices by capitalist papers predicting doom, and within the limitations of provincial powers, two years of CCF activity have been outstanding. Recently the Toronto Daily Star sent a reporter to Saskatchewan to check on the changes that had taken place since the CCF had come to power. Published here are excerpts from one of these articles. Future issues of the CALL will publish excerpts from other articles. In its first two years, the CCF has been the first province to enact a comprehensive Farm Security Act; to back labor by a Trade Union Act guaranteeing union recognition, effective prevention of unfair labor practices and union security; to extend workmen's compensation to 75% of wages, the highest rate of benefit in the world; to provide free dental, medical, surgical and hospital care for all old age and blind pensioners; to enter into collective bargaining with its employees, assuring union security; to establish an air ambulance service; to sponsor industrial development to create new employment opportunities.—The Call

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND

The Swiss cooperative organizations have announced that their combined journals now reach almost 500,000 regular readers. The German-language editions have a circulation of 359,000 copies; the French editions 105,540; and the Italian editions 16,330.

Confronted by an increased production in aluminum and a poor market for it overseas, Norwegian reconstruction authorities in the northern part of the country are experimenting in the use of aluminum shingles. If successful, economic advantages are expected to be substantial, with important changes in housing also.

The cost of living in Mexico City, based on a 1939 norm of 100, has risen to 385.18, according to reports of the Federal District.

Typical of past-war political problems in many parts of Europe is the situation in the Saar, where M. Gilbert, French commissioner, has prohibited publication by the Saar Communist Party of a manifesto requesting that the Saar remain an integral part of Germany.

Seminole Indians from Oklahoma, thru delegation to Mexico, have informed President Manuel Avila Camacho that 21 families including 150 persons, want to settle on Mexican farms, in accordance with a 1938 pledge by former President Cardenas that land would be granted the prospective settlers in due time.

Great Britain has re-established direct radio-telephone communication, at a rate half of prewar

charges, with Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile and Peru.

Sweden will concede to Allies 50% of estimated \$100 million German assets. In return U. S. will release \$400 million frozen Swedish assets, dissolve black list of Swedish firms suspected of Nazi ties.

Australian war casualties were 95,923 of whom 31,123 killed, 39,909 wounded, 2,475 missing. Slightly less than million men and women were inducted in three armed services.

French discovered hoard of 440 lbs. (\$300,000 worth) Nazi gold and jewelry at Landeck, Tyrol, removed from cremated Jews.

Swedes considering \$250 million trade credit to Russia, to be used over 5-year period. The credit would be abnormally large for Sweden to give any country.

Norway bought from Britain 3 destroyers, 4 minesweepers, 2 submarines, 10 motor torpedo boats, bombing and fighter planes.

DOWN DRAIN!
Uncle Sam has written off more than \$25,000,000,000 in lease-lend aid to six countries whose accounts have been settled, it is revealed by the Treasury Department. The nations are Great Britain, France, Turkey, India, Australia and Belgium.

In return for \$33,307,760,000 in materials and equipment, the United States received \$900,000,000 in cash payments or promises and \$7,002,886,000 in reverse lease-lend

THE MARCH OF LABOR

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CARDINAL HLOND'S LEADERSHIP

A week has passed since Cardinal Hlond, primate of Poland, made statements which blamed the Kielce pogrom on the presence of Jews in Poland's leftist government rather than on the bigotry of anti-Semitism. Many throughout the world have hoped that he would promptly issue a further statement reversing the shocking impression left by his remarks of July 11. Cardinal Hlond has not done so. It must therefore be understood that he meant what he said: that the pogrom, though "tragic" and highly regrettable, resulted from political rather than racial reasons; and that the tensions involved were to a great degree due to Jews who occupy leading government positions and seek to introduce a government structure which, Cardinal Hlond declared, most Poles dislike. It is to be hoped that political freedom rather than Communist one-party rule, or a reversion to Fascism, will grow in Poland. It is to be hoped that religious freedom will flourish there. But Cardinal Hlond's words concerning the anti-Semitic savagery at Kielce—in which 41 Jews were murdered—have served neither political tolerance nor religious freedom. To question the right of any Jew to hold high office, in line with his individual political convictions, is anti-Semitism in any country. Cardinal Hlond, to be sure denounced murder. But his views as expressed on the pogrom are incompatible with principles of human brotherhood, Christianity and Catholicism. Pope Pius has repeatedly denounced anti-Semitism as un-Christian. Such Catholic leaders as Jacques Maritan and Chicago's own Bishop Sheil are among the world's outstanding fighters against racial injustice in all forms. But the Polish primate's remarks do square all too well with a phase of rightist Polish nationalism against which great Christian leadership is desperately needed.—The Chicago Sun.

HOW LOW, MISSISSIPPI?

The voters of the state if Mississippi have returned to the Senate for six years, its notorious senator, Theodore Bilbo, and for two years more, they have returned their equally notorious John Rankin to the house of representatives. Both were expected, for anyone who has ever read anything about Mississippi knows that the state ranks 48th in literacy, 48th in common sense, and 48th in justice for all men. Some day the people of Mississippi may learn to read and write and think. It is questionable if that is ever accomplished during our time.—The Progressive Miner.

JIMMY DUNN TO ROME

Our new ambassador to the infant Italian republic has now been nominated by Mr. Truman. He is James C. Dunn, veteran appeaser of Fascism and Franco, and one of the most reactionary men in the State Department. We don't know just why he was appointed. One motive doubtless was to ease him out of his post as assistant secretary of state. Yet, for months, he has been Secretary Brynes' representative in the parleys of the foreign ministers' deputies on peace treaties. That was no place to send a man in order to demote him. Neither is the embassy in Italy such a place. When the struggling Italian democracy looks for great American leadership and counsel, we send her a man whose face is turned to privilege and a defunct past. Mr. Dunn, of course, was all for giving Trieste to Italy. But that doesn't alter the case. With some exceptions, our top diplomatic representation abroad already was weak and undistinguished. Mr. Dunn's appointment is another symptom of the confused blindness in Washington which so gravely undermines America's world leadership.—The Chicago Sun

Chicago Pioneers Hold Annual Picnic

Pilsen Park at 26th Street and Albany will be the scene of the annual picnic of Pioneer Lodge 559 of the Slovene National Benefit Society on Saturday, August 3. This year it is being presented in honor of the war veterans of the lodge, and a special souvenir book has been issued.

SHOCKING

Some army official was responsible for sending to sea in unsanitary condition a ship bringing war brides from Europe. In consequence, an epidemic of dysentery broke out among babies and nine have died.

On arrival at New York, passengers said the vessel was overcrowded and filthy, and that 100 women and 100 babies were forced into one cabin. One of the army nurses was accused of drunkenness and the crew with failure to give help to mothers whose babies had been stricken.—Labor.

Some Odds and Ends

Now that Vinson has been made top man on the Supreme Court, folks are remembering a remark made by Kentucky's Senator Barkley in reply to a complaint that the Blue Grass State was not getting enough Federal patronage. "That's not true," said Barkley. "A Kentuckian was named to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington. A Kentuckian became chief judge of the OPA's emergency court of appeals. A Kentuckian was appointed Federal Loan Administrator. A Kentuckian became Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion. A Kentuckian was named Secretary of the Treasurer. Kentucky got all those jobs. They all, of course, happened to go to one man... Fred Vinson!"—The Army Times.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS: "Remind me to have those brakes checked—tomorrow."

That's an obliging bunch of boys at the Marine Commission. With summer vacation at hand, they announce surplus war goods for sale and thoughtfully include: More than 36,000 anchors weighing from 30 to 150 pounds—dandy for drifting Congressmen who seem utterly at sea.—The Cincinnati Post.

Informed of plans for a nationwide buyers strike, President Robert Wason of the National Association of Manufacturers said he approved of "tempered" buying. With the tempers of America's housewives rising daily, we would advise Mr. Wason and the other NAM members to seek more temperate climates before too many women learn who got them into this fix—John Paine for Federated Press.

What interests us in the current wave of price increases is what's going to happen to the price of chinchilla fur coats, last advertised at \$35,000.

DEATH TO FRANCO!

Excerpts from text of resolution unanimously adopted by Executive Committee of World Federation of Trade Unions, on Franco Spain: "The Executive Committee... reaffirms the unshakable opposition of the trade union organizations of the free countries to General Franco's regime in Spain. This regime, which came into being as the result of a coup d'etat, is regarded by the world trade union movement as unconstitutional and illegal. "Believing that it is essential to put a speedy end to this survival of fascist dictatorship after the military defeat of Nazism and Fascism, the WFTU declares that it desires: "To recommend to each national trade union center again to demand of their governments to come out in favor of liquidating the Franco dictatorship and of breaking off all relations with the Franco government; "To invite the national trade union centers to organize in their respective countries, beginning July 18—the anniversary of Franco's aggression against the Spanish Republics—until August 15, anti-fascist demonstrations... "To request all national centers to send to the General Assembly of the United Nations... resolutions demanding that the UN adopt decisions favoring the restoration of democracy in Spain; "To address a message to the Security Council demanding that it approve the report of the Subcommittee of the Security Council recommending the rupture of relations with the Franco regime. "The WFTU addresses to the UN, the demand to declare Franco and his regime outlawed and calls upon member nations to recognize the democratic Republican Government as the legal and constitutional government of Spain and invite that government to the forthcoming meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations."

VETERANS

About 16,000,000 Americans are war veterans, the Veteran's Administration reported recently. Many of these veterans head families. Others will as they grow older. Figuring the low average of three persons to a family, the veterans will represent nearly 50,000,000 people, or more than one-third the population of the United States. That fact will have important political and economic results in the future. No one can question that.

DID CONGRESSMAN MAY "GO ILLEGAL"?

Congressman Andrew J. May has been one of our pet anathemas ever since he stepped to the front as one of the nation's foremost congressional militarists. Now it appears that he may be convicted of playing the World War II game in a manner that illegally brought profit to himself. Since the papers are full of the story, we'll not recite the charges now being aimed at the "Gentleman from Kentucky." What we do want to suggest is that if A. J. May didn't get something for himself out of the war perps he should have. We would apply that suggestion to all lawmakers who were satisfied to run the war economy under the rules of the private-profit system. For, after all, what difference would it make to the average taxpayer whether our lawmakers took some of the graft for themselves or whether they merely permitted other people to do that dirty and unsocial job? It is conceivable that a man who holds another in his grasp so that footpads may rob him is still respectable if he does not profit personally from the job. But we don't think so. What Andrew J. May did during the war was to give his approval to a system that enabled a few people to mulct the nation and impose a debt upon future generations during a great crisis. And whether he and others got a rake-off for themselves is of small consequence to the victims of that system. To us the chief crime still is the profit system. It is a crime in time of peace and a greater crime when ordinary people are drafted to die in defense of the nation. The point for rank and file Americans to understand is that the economy under which they are living is basically immoral. If somebody breaks the gangsters' law of capitalism that shouldn't be of too much concern to those who robbed by the system even when it is administered according to code.—Reading Labor Advocate.

THE POGROMS IN POLAND

Survivors of the Kielce pogrom will be little relieved to learn, through Cardinal Hlond, that "The Catholic Church always and everywhere condemns murders of all kinds." When the Church is really out to do a job of condemnation, as against communism, it is capable of doing a thoroughgoing, unequivocal, wholehearted piece of work. Poor-spirited indeed would be the Prince of the Church who condemned communism with one breath and in the next explained that one should recognize, all the same, that this doctrine was an understandable political reaction of honest people to the evils of capitalism. Yet it was in precisely this vein that Cardinal Hlond condemned the massacre of forty-one innocent Jews in Kielce. He is filled "with sadness and regret" that these people were stoned, clubbed, and tramped to death, but "to a great degree" the tragedy is "due to the Jews" themselves. Why? Because "they occupy leading positions in Poland's government and endeavor to introduce a government structure which the majority of the people do not desire." The truth is that while there are a handful of Jews in office, they are insignificant in the pattern of change that so distresses the Church. The lines in Poland, tragically enough, are drawn between communism and Catholic feudalism; and the Jews, wanting nothing more than to shake the dust of Poland from their feet, are caught between the two totalitarian machines. The government uses their massacre as a stick to beat all its opponents—the Church, General Anders, and Mikolajczyk; the Church uses the same nightmare to undermine the government and damn the Communists. And the Jews, seeking only an exit from hell, find the way blocked by the British, who can't see why they don't stay where they are instead of conspiring to save the remnant of their lives.—The Nation.

A MYTH EXPLODED

Big Business, through the National Association of Manufacturers and a subservient press, has sought to foster the notion that OPA must be killed and prices allowed to rise in order to compensate for the "exorbitant" wage increases won by organized labor. A recent issue of Moody's "Stock Survey," a publication for financiers and industrialists, analyzed business prospects, the impact of wage increases on profits, and production possibilities, and came up with this conclusion: "It looks as if, by and large, the average profit margins had been impaired much less by wage increases than was feared a few months ago." Moody's highly qualified market analysts made it clear that they look forward to "extraordinary peacetime levels of production which for the most part will be very profitable." The significant angle on the Moody forecasts is that they were made before OPA was allowed to die and without expectation that price controls would be abolished.—The Progressive Miner.

Relation of Savings to Spiraling Prices

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, at the request of the Federal Reserve Board, made a "sampling" of the different economic groups to find out where the huge accumulated savings of the war period are located. The report indicates that the great bulk of accumulated savings is in the hands of people who are in the higher income brackets. It indicates that the mass of families in the low income brackets have very little accumulated savings. The "liquid assets," theoretically available for spending, among the top 10 per cent figures out at \$10,500 per family. The "liquid assets," theoretically available for spending, of the lowest 40 per cent figures out at \$40 per family. Not For a Buying Spree What the Federal Reserve Board was interested in, of course, was getting some real facts instead of mere guesses about "potential inflationary pressures." Assuming that the figures produced by BAE through its survey are approximately correct, which is a reasonable assumption, they are very significant. For one thing, savings by people in the "comfortable" income brackets are not likely to be poured into the market completely in any grand buying spurge. A considerable part of such savings will be poured in for houses and automobiles and refrigerators and other relatively costly "durable goods." But certainly not all. The net effect of this kind of concentration of spendable savings is to reduce substantially the estimate of one phase of inflationary pressure. Wage Earners Will Be Hit But the lack of any accumulated savings worth mentioning in the vast lower income group ought to make a lot of us think very hard. It means that even a relatively small price inflation that affects the necessities of life will put a real pinch on at least half our total population. A real pinch on that large part of our population, which includes most wage earners, is bound to produce immediate demands for relief in the form of wage increases. In any new wave of demand for wage increases, the highly skilled and highly organized and better-paid segments of labor certainly would participate. No sensible person could expect them not to. There is a warning sign in this report on the distribution of savings, painted in tall letters across the horizon. Congressmen who are hell-bent on reducing price controls as nearly as possible to zero, especially as to the necessities of life, would do well to read. And those others who talk glibly of prices going up quickly by, say, 20 per cent, and then rising more slowly after that, as if that were inconsequential, should perhaps take another think. —From Des Moines Register.

No company is far preferable to bad.—Colton.