











## OPA IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY

We are in favor of price control as it has been administered only on the proposition that it probably is better than no controls at all and that the immediate effect of a return to unrestricted profit-making will be an inflationary rise in prices.

However, from time to time we have found ourselves becoming impatient with the advocates of OPA as a result of their extravagant claims in defense of that badly-run bureau.

The fact is that OPA is not a panacea for the evils that have developed within the capitalist economy. Neither is any other one thing.

What the people of America need is an entirely new purpose for human activity, a different system. Unless and until the profit motive is replaced by the service motive, all that any government regulation can do would intend to effect would be a stabilization of a bad social arrangement.

OPA like all other devices set up by the Franklin Roosevelt paternalism, is intended merely to make the profit system work, to keep it from shaking itself apart as it threatened to do when the late president took office back in 1933. It was to restrain and regulate, not to abolish, an evil that OPA was inaugurated.

The best that OPA proposes to do is decide that workers shall get so much and pay so much while employers shall charge so much and make so much profit. From an economic viewpoint such an arrangement, properly administered and policed, might work out. But from a moral point of view it would be no more honest than to agree that a pickpocket could take your purse but must keep his hands off your watch and chain.

The profits handed to stockholders who do nothing to produce goods are immoral gains any way one looks at them. They should be outlawed, not systematized.—Reading Labor Advocate.

## The Oil Trust Backing "States Rights?"

Much political oratory about the "constitutionally sacred" rights of the states has been poured out in the long battle over this nation's under-seas oil resources. The bottom of the sea along the coast lines belongs to the coastal states, and the federal government has no right to claim jurisdiction over it. That has been the argument flung at the Dept. of Interior, and the Congress, by California, Louisiana, Texas, and a few other states. That has been the issue in a battle that forced, among other things, the resignation of Harold Ickes from the Interior secretaryship.

At first glance it sounds like a good, sound, solid argument—yes, it sounds that way, unless one stops to analyze the reasons. Upon closer examination it falls apart, morally, as thoroughly as an argument by one of the Big Four that the United Nations has no right to be critical over the conduct of internal affairs of any of the little nations she dominates.

In this modern industrial age, petroleum is just as much a national necessity as is rainfall. Would any state have the right, for instance, to change the course of a major river, to suit its own dominant industries, at the expense of the rest of the Nation?

When examined closely, as the co-ops have been doing lately, the solid-sounding "states rights" argument, in this case, is motivated by the monopoly-desires of the big oil firms. The rich companies can, with their economic power, control an individual state easier than they can control the federal government. In an oil-producing state, the oil trust is usually the dominant economic factor—in the federal setup, it is forced to vie with other big business groups for the control of the government.

It follows, logically, that the oil trust would rather have the state control the under-seas oil reserves along their coastlines. State control would give them the right-of-way to monopolistic control and development.

It remains to be seen whether the national consumer interest, as represented by co-ops and other public-spirited groups, will win out in the current Congressional skirmish over the issue. The people can, of course, win any issue, if they remember to let their Senators and Representatives know how they feel about it.—The Co-operative Builder.

## The Des Moines Register Assails: An American Version of 'Thought Police'

The attitude and methods of the Rankin Committee on Un-American Activities were challenged sharply in the House; but the committee got its \$75,000 appropriation for continued activity just the same, without any strings attached. To vote in favor of this was very decisive. Many congressmen voted yes on the simple ground that we need some agency to keep watch on subversive activities and to expose them; though this was not at all the issue.

Of course, without any congressional committee we would still have agencies with responsibility for combating subversive forces—the Federal Department of Justice with its F.B.I., all the federal and state and local police forces and courts, and various other agencies too numerous to list. And we have a prevailing public attitude, a climate of opinion, that is suspicious of and hostile toward radicalism.

But, if it be assumed that all these are not enough, and that Congress itself should supplement them with a committee of its own members to keep investigating and reporting, the real issue involved in the debate over appropriations for the Rankin committee remains.

**Reckless Technique of Committee**  
The issue was not and is not whether Congress should have such a committee. The issue was purely whether a committee of Congress set up and financed for the purpose (to defend democracy) should conduct its work in the spirit of democracy.

The deplorable fact is that this committee, under both the notorious Dies and his successor, Rankin, has not only repeatedly but consistently made the prejudices of a few the sole test of "Americanism," and has applied the reckless technique of "smearing" to everybody who associated himself with any vigorous advocacy except that of the status quo.

One of the recent illustrations was the committee's "investiga-

tion" of a full page advertisement published in the New York Times over the signatures of a group of Americans who used this perfectly proper method to debate an issue. Not only individual signers of this "petition for redress of grievances" but the eminently respectable newspaper itself, and also the eminent respectable advertising agency which as a mere matter of ordinary business handled the advertisement, were subjected to the imputation of "un-Americanism."

That is in essence a form of "thought police" in action right here in America.

### Balance and Fairness Needed

Congress as a whole certainly has a responsibility for helping to preserve Americanism, which certainly must mean to preserve our authentic democratic ideal. That responsibility is not discharged by voting money to a committee dominated by men whose ideas are the ideas of a mere faction.

The responsibility of Congress is to make sure that any committee of its own which operates in this delicate and dangerous field shall exhibit balance and fairness as well as zeal.

Congress has failed to do this. All that can therefore be hoped for through another year is that the protest in Congress itself against committee's past methods, a protest participated in by a significant number though far short of a majority, will have a restraining effect in the direction of what the committee is supposed to defend—to wit: Americanism.

### LOSE SHIRTS!

"Many veterans seem destined to lose their shirts in the home-appliance business," ominously warns the "Wall Street Journal."

Veterans from coast to coast, it says, have been opening stores with limited capital. Unable to obtain supplies, they now find themselves with bare shelves and vanishing bank accounts.

## THE MARCH OF LABOR

**17,500 AMERICAN WAR WORKERS WERE KILLED ON THE JOB IN 1944.**

**THERE WERE IN 1944—10,000,000 AMERICAN WORKERS WHOSE HOURLY WAGE WAS LESS THAN 65¢.**

**UNION LABELS ARE YOUR GUIDE TO PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED UNDER FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS. LOOK FOR THIS LABEL IN THE NEXT HAT YOU BUY.**

## What Is Happiness?

By TAISSO HAYRINEN

The lunchroom gang was trying the other day to figure out what "happiness" consists of. Some said it was physical pleasure, others said it was mental pleasure, while still other claimed it was a combination of the two. A sample of the conversation:

"I say it's freedom from mental strain and worry."  
"Well, supposing you had a bellyache and were worrying about some overdue bills—you'd be pretty miserable, wouldn't you?"  
"I suppose so."

All right. Supposing then you got an unexpected gift of money, enough to pay your bills and have some left over to spend as you please. Your mental burden would be lifted, but you would still have your bellyache. Would you be happy?"

No reply. Right there, the conversation was in a blind alley. If you look around you, you'll find that there are very poor people who appear happy. You'll see people who have many things who are happy, others who are not. You'll find the people who have the most material wealth are generally dissatisfied, not happy. There'll be people who appear happy, yet are not happy. Others will look glum, yet they are happy. Many people will look back at bygone years and realize they were happy then and didn't know it. You'll find people who are rushing this way and that, looking for happiness. Others will say happiness comes to you, finds you wherever you may be without you searching for it.

Some people will call momentary pleasures happiness, whilst many stoutly insist that happiness is found only in high forms of cultured living, in the deepest forms of art, literature and music.

My boss claims that only inanimate objects are happy, because they are devoid of all feeling. My banker (I owe him) says financial security is happiness. My doctor says health is happiness. My butcher says a nice juicy steak will make a steak-lover happy.

So on and so forth. My book of quotations gives a hundred different definitions. Perhaps you can tell me. Or perhaps I'll be happier not knowing what happiness consists of.

### DID JERICHO'S WALL FALL DOWN?

The other day an interesting character died in Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare's old home. Charles Marston made a fortune out of bicycles and motorcycles. He married two American ladies who had promising bankrolls.

About 20 years ago he disposed of his business and turned to archeology. He wished to prove the truth of many statements made in the Old Testament.

For example, did Jericho's walls fall down when Joshua's men blew their trumpets?

Marston's researches reported that there was a lot of evidence to sustain the claim. At least, they were sure Jericho's walls suddenly collapsed. They dug up a lot of other information, too. Through the years this material was woven into books. Some were widely read.

Of course, these activities drew a lot of attention to Marston. He made liberal contributions to the Conservative party, and the Conservative party asked the king to knight him, and the king complied. Last week, at 79, Sir Charles Marston died in his bed within a stone's throw of the spot where "Will" Shakespeare wrote some of his immortal dramas.—Labor.

### A FRIENDLY TIP FOR STALIN

Earl Browder, "former secretary-general of the Communist party of the United States," is occupying a "comfortable apartment" in Moscow. Browder is an American citizen, but he has gone to Russia to get his orders as to how he should conduct himself in his native country.

Some time ago he was ousted as "secretary-general," and William

Z. Foster and his group took over. They said Browder had been "collaborating with capitalism." Browder appealed to Moscow and presumably Moscow is listening to his side of the story.

We have no disposition to impose advice on Marshal Stalin. Nevertheless, we take the liberty of suggesting that if he wishes to make a big hit with Americans of all classes he will issue a ukase—if that is the proper term—directing that Browder must remain in Russia for the rest of his life.

Better still, he might condemn Browder to hard work in some out-of-the-way place. That wouldn't do Browder any harm, but it would put out of circulation a very punk American.—Labor, Washington, D. C.

### A MESSAGE TO YOUTH

By Covington Ami Hall

The Future's yours, O Youth!  
Arise and Take  
The world which you for ages  
toiled to make;  
By every law of Nature, God and  
Man,  
'Tis yours to Have and Hold, to  
Rule and Plan.

Let it go forth Defiant once again,  
Far-ringing over mountain, sea and  
plain:  
No Rights unless 'to Equal Duties  
bound,  
No Duties where no Equal Rights  
are found!

It is in vain a man is born fortunate,  
if he be unfortunate in his marriage.—Dacier.

### CONSISTENT

"Does your husband lie awake at night?"  
"Yes, and he lies in his sleep, as well."

## IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

A GENTLEMAN IN ENGLAND who is totally deaf has invented an alarm clock which, it seems to us, is exactly what this gummy-eyed world needs—much more suited to our perilous times than a new American product which gently coaxes the sleeper into his new day with a soft climbing note. This Englishman's clock is connected to a motor in the bedsprings, and when it's time to wake up, the mechanism turns on the light and shakes the hell out of you.

THE CAMPAIGN LITERATURE of one Walter A. Kelley, Congressional candidate in Ohio's Democratic primaries, pledges him to an unequivocal domestic and international platform: "To Keep Beer Flowing—Stop Appeasing Russia."

A FOOD-COLLECTION PROGRAM in Orlando, Florida, to aid an "adopted city" in Greece received its biggest boost when, without any advance publicity, the 800 Negro students of Jones High School last month turned in more than 5,000 cans of food—an average of almost 7 cans apiece and all collected in less than a week. A member in the city-wide campaign committee, interviewed by the Orlando "Sentinel," called it "the finest civic gesture I have ever seen, and that takes in gestures and projects by any and all groups," adding that if everyone in the city contributed on the same scale, the drive would be far over the top.

WHICH PROVIDES a nice backdrop for the recent action of the Miami, Florida, City Commission in rejection a planning-board recommendation for a Negro housing project in the city's St. Albans section—this despite the fact that the recommendation generously offered "suitable protection" for adjacent white residential areas. The refusal was quite consistent because an identical recommendation was turned down two years ago, and that one even included a wall and "seventy-five-foot buffer strip" between white and Negro areas.

WELL FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE DEPT.: "In yesterday's Daily Express Mr. Gallagher, Communist M.P. for West Fife, was wrongly reported as saying that the British Empire got nearer to our dream of a perfect world than anything else which existed."—Correction note in the London Daily Express.

### KANSAS AND THE DEMON RUM

The beer truck that knocked over a statue of Carry Nation in Wichita, Kan., is a symbol to those hopeful of repealing the State prohibition law after 66 years. Without further information on the subject, however, it is safe to guess that the truck carried 3.2 beer, which is within the Kansas law, along with coffee and tea. And there is more than reasonable doubt that Kansas will change that law.

Certainly, Wichita, Kansas City and Topeka, where to legislators insist on something better than red-eye, all leak alcohol at the seams. Wichita is surrounded by spots such as the Rock Castle, where seekers of individual liberty have to pass a gantlet of barbed wire and whispering guards.

But out in the hinterlands, it's different. Away from major towns, a Kansas man can smell a beery breath at 200 feet. The only way to escape the devil and prohibition, too, is to use alcohol only for medicine purposes, which accounts for more coughing spells than Kansas dust. And it is out there on the horizon, next to a little frame church, where the Sunflower State gets its morals, and not in a big-city rectory.

So maybe hypocrisy is the law in Kansas, but it will take a prairie tornado to blow the W. C. T. U. away. And the point is that the thirsty can get at it if they want to. They can drive into one of the cities and imbibe in peace and comfort, at about \$7 a quart. The busy bootlegger leads the Jayhawker to alcohol, but doesn't have to make him drink. And he seems to like it that way.—From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Steel workers in the year 1932 averaged \$187 for the entire year's pay!

Believe it or not, the average income per worker in 1942 in these United States was only \$967 for men and \$540 for women.

## Help Yourself By Helping The Starving

Were you ever desperately hungry and could not get food? Were you ever surrounded by the gaunt faces of underfed and starving men, women, and children? Well, that is the condition of millions in Europe right now, after the war has been won. That is the condition that is losing the peace. But we who are well fed can help win this peace without having to fight or even risk our lives. Out of our abundance we can spare something for these needy human beings. They are people like ourselves—with our hunger for life.

The Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE) is a non-profit cooperative relief program which sends packages to individuals and groups in the famine stricken countries.

You can send food packages to people of your family or to friends, or to those whom you do not know. From the merciful in America these packages are now going to France, Holland, Finland, Poland, Norway, Czechoslovakia, and Italy.

Get an application blank from your local cooperative, fill it in, and send \$15 to the address on the blank. CARE packages have a net content of thirty pounds of food. This includes canned meats, cereals, vegetables, fruit jams, sugar, candy, coffee, beverage powder, evaporated milk, butter, and cheese. The packages also contain chewing gum, matches, paper towels, and soap. The total weight is 49 pounds. Large scale shipments are now on their way to France, Italy, and Holland. Ex-Mayor LaGuardia has urged his radio audience to buy CARE food packages. The Cooperative League of the U. S. A. is promoting this relief thru its Freedom Fund. It offers an opportunity to those who want to enjoy the warm inward glow that is kindled by helping others in distress.—Dr. James P. Warbasse in The Cooperative Builder.

## Bank Assets Up \$25 Billions

The Comptroller of the Currency reports that the assets of the nation's banks, at the end of 1945, showed an increase of \$25,000,000,000 over December 31, 1944. Clearly, our banker friends are not on the road to the poor house—despite the fact that labor unions have, here and there, secured wage increases for their members.

Included in the banks' assets are government bonds totalling \$101,000,000,000. That might cause some people to feel that the bankers were more patriotic than the rest of us. However, that is not the case.

The bankers and their friends have been making large profits on Uncle Sam's securities. The average citizen had to deprive himself of something in order to buy a bond, and he did it gladly. The banker and those fortunate individuals who had "bank credit," were able to manipulate things so that "financing the war" was a very profitable enterprise.

Some day we will write a long editorial telling how it was done.—Labor.

## Speaking of Profiteering

When the big dailies decide to increase their wages, they don't take the trouble to consult those who are expected to pay the bill. For example, just the other day two of the Chicago dailies increased their price from 4 cents to 5 cents. That was a 25 per cent boost, but the "Times" did a little better. It went up from 3 cents to 5 cents. The "Quiz Kids" would figure that out at about 70 per cent.

Hearst "Herald-American" got the biggest boost at all. Its Sunday edition went from 5 cents to 10 cents. That was 100 per cent.

Probably every one of them, while checking up its financial gains, indulged in an editorial on "The Rapacity of Labor."—From Labor, Washington, D. C.

## MORE ILLINOIS COAL

Recent predictions that Chicago will replace Pittsburgh as the steel city of America is good news for Illinois coal producers. Steel is one of the largest users of coal in the nation, and with the center of that industry in Chicago, the use of Illinois coal for steel production should rise.

It may take a few more years for this to come to pass—but Illinois can wait!—The Progressive Miner.

## HOW COULD YOU BE FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND FREE UNIONS?

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

NOW THERE IS the Union movement and there is also the Socialist movement—and never the twain shall meet so long as the capitalist private-profit economy endures. For when unions "go Socialist" that will be the end of capitalism.

Philip Murray, president of the CIO, knows that; that's why he is so determined that Socialists shall not infiltrate the organization he heads. Socialism would not end the need for an organization of unions to protect and advance the interest of individual workers; to be able to function in a democratic manner economic organization would be an indispensable necessity. But the class interest of workers within their organization would be so real and the functions of such organization so different that Mr. Murray's power and influence probably would die along with the economy under which they developed.

IT SEEMS THAT President Murray knows the score. It also seems to be in order that Socialists should take account of stock and give a look at the score.

I don't blame Mr. Murray for deciding that no outside group shall maneuver within his organization. On the contrary, I do blame and disagree with Socialists who want their party to function like that.

I think that Socialists should use the Socialist Party to do the things that a Socialist must want to do. They should use the unions to do what unions are organized to do. And there is a difference.

One joins a union to benefit himself and, to lesser degree, his group—just as one joins a beneficial association. One pays union dues in the same spirit as premiums are paid on insurance policies: for protection. There's nothing wrong about that. It's smart. It's what people must do, the capitalist economy being what it is.

THOSE LAST SEVEN words are important to an understanding of the difference between the philosophies and objectives of unionism and socialism. For, basically, the leaders of unions are satisfied to have the capitalist economy by what it is, while Socialists don't want the capitalist economy to be at all.

Mr. Murray, for example, will tell you that he is in favor of a "free enterprise" private-profit economy. He wants his members to object only to their status within that economy. He thinks that unionist should use their union to press for better conditions... for themselves... under capitalism.

Socialists want something quite different—if they ARE Socialists. They want the private-profit economy abolished. That would give unionists something quite different to fight about. It might even make Mr. Murray's job unnecessary. But Socialists want capitalism to make way for a planned economy just the same.

No wonder Mr. Murray doesn't want Socialist infiltration in his union. What would the union do—and what would Mr. Murray do—if abundance were produced for use instead of for sale and profit, if there were no labor exploiters to bring to time, if workers couldn't strike for higher wages because workers as a class get the whole of what workers produce?

No wonder Mr. Green and Mr. Lewis, in spite of all the rivalries for leadership and control of workers, are agreed on one point that they don't want Socialists to infiltrate unions!

Until 1941, coal diggers were lucky to put in as much as 125 days of work a year.

Do we need medical support? In 1942, more than 200,000 babies were born without medical help.