

Federal Aspect of Jobless Insurance

We have repeatedly urged that unemployment insurance to be on a satisfactory basis must be nationwide. Probably this will require a constitutional amendment. Such an amendment should be so drawn that it will give Congress the right to pass not only unemployment insurance bills but whatever legislation is necessary to further the interests of workers in a country where industrial and labor problems are nationwide and state's rights are a convenient stronghold of predatory capital which has proved itself stronger than most of the states.

Pending the passage of this amendment we must go ahead with state legislation. There is much to be said for federal aid to state old age and unemployment pensions plans. Such aid would come out of income taxes, and to this extent those who advocate unemployment insurance based on contributions from the workers and industry or solely from industry, supplemented by federal aid, can reply that they are not letting the income receivers go wholly unscathed. We want, however, to see the responsibility of income receivers recognized in the state laws. The Conference for Progressive Labor Action, to which we owe thanks for stimulating discussion by getting out a concrete bill, is now swinging to the principle of state contributions.

Repression in India

If we Socialists are going to take the position—as I think we should—that we have a right and duty to protest against terrorism and ruthless repression wherever they are found, we cannot consistently say: "everywhere except India". There has been ruthless repression in India even if the Labor government has tried to use a restraint in India that the English Tories would not have used. Perhaps good will come out of the Round Table Conference in which the India delegates have shown a surprising and encouraging unanimity. Unquestionably the Labor government wants a solution. Unquestionably it has not a free hand in getting a solution. It does not, however, have to stay in office in order to enforce an Indian policy in which it does not believe.

The very greatness of the difficulties the Labor government faces will make its success in overcoming them the more remarkable contribution to world friendship and world peace.

Norman Thomas.

WORTHLESS MEDALS

"For sale. Fine old large medals. United States and foreign, all real medals, no junk, fine, rare. Ten different for \$1.75."

Less than a week before coming upon this advertisement in the catalog of a curio dealer, I spent half an hour examining a window in the City of Brotherly Love. The window contained relics of wars and wars and wars guns, swords, and not least, medals. There they were, priced from many dollars apiece for the hard-to-get ones, going back many years, to cheap ones, salable in dozen lots at almost anything, from the World war and other not remote conflicts.

Long have I doubted whether plays which exhibit the horror of war will do a great deal to frighten people from battle.

But I am certain that were some shrewd pacifist to invest in a few thousand of these rewards for valor—these supposedly coveted marks of distinction in the game of slaughter—and take them around selling them for almost nothing on street corners and in workshops, he would do a great deal to acquaint the rising generation with the futility, stupidity and bosh of warfare.—The World Tomorrow.

TO HIM THAT HATH SHALL BE GIVEN

According to a table placed in The Congressional Record of June 24 by Congressman Garner, nearly \$3,000,000,000 of tax refunds will have been allowed by the treasury department under Secretary Mellon, in the nine years from 1922 to the close of this year. The amount reported to June 21 this year is \$2,861,852,286. The largest amount for any one year was \$452,582,000 in 1924, but over \$440,000,000 was refunded in 1923, and over \$424,000,000 in 1926, and in 1929, nearly \$340,000,000.—The People's Lobby.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Get On The Band Wagon

At the New Jersey meeting of the national executive committee of the Socialist party it was reported that the membership of the party is growing fast. And now it is found that the membership of the young People's Socialist League is in a similar flourishing condition, having doubled since last year.

A growing organization is a good one to join. Adult Socialists should connect up with the Socialist party organization, and young Socialists with the Young People's Socialist League.

Anna P. Krasna Speaks in Cleveland

For Sunday December 28, the Educational Bureau of JSF of Cleveland has arranged to get comrade Anna P. Krasna of Johnstown, Pa., to speak in English at the Slovene National Home, St. Clair Ave. The lecture will begin at 3 A. M. sharp. Several speakers of the Young Peoples Socialist League are also on the program.

The purpose of this lecture is to enlighten the labor youth on Socialism, its principles and ideals and why they should become interested and active in this movement which demands social justice for the masses. Comrade Krasna is a very capable speaker in both the English and Slovene languages, also very active in the Socialist movement. On Saturday

December 27, she will speak in Barberton, Ohio.

All comrades and friends in Cleveland are invited to attend this lecture and especially the Youth, since the entire program will be in the English language. The committee appeals to the older comrades and Slovenes to call attention of the younger generation to this program, to attend themselves and bring their friends along.

One-Sided

While in 1930 the income of nearly every American worker has been sharply reduced, either through direct wage cuts, short time or unemployment, for the owners of American industry 1930 is actually a banner year for dividends and interest payments.

The total dividends and interest for the first nine months of 1930 are higher than for 1929 and constitute a record for all time, according to Federal Press.

The aggregate wages paid to American workers this year are likely to show a decline of \$8,853,000,000, or about 20 per cent under 1929 figures, according to the Standard Statistics Co.

But corporation stockholders drew \$2,944,800,000 for the first three quarters of 1930, against \$2,501,000,000 in the same period of 1929. The bondholders drew of their share of the income from American industry \$3,200,471,000, against \$3,000,000,000 last year.—Max Hayes.

MORIBUND PARTIES

Beneath all the issues in the recent election was the repetition of a trend that has happened a number of times in American politics. The two leading parties are owned by the same interests and represent the same interests.

The Jeffersonians averted an oligarchy of control by defeating the Federalists in 1800. The Federalists survived, though a shadow of what they had been, to 1820 when they joined with the Jeffersonians in giving an almost unanimous vote to Monroe for President. There were no marked party divisions in Congress, no more than there are today.

The Federalists became the National Republican and the Jeffersonians continued as Republicans. After the election of 1824 the Jacksonians emerged as the Democratic Party and as a farmer-labor party destroyed the alliance of the upper class parties in 1828. Some of Jackson's messages were radical denunciations of the capitalist and banking aristocracy of the East and appeals to farmers and mechanics to act in unison against the ruling classes.

National Republicans became Whigs, heirs of the old aristocratic propertied interests and were fought as such by Jacksonian Democrats. By the early fifties both Whigs and Democrats became tools of slave property. They repeated the history of the first two parties and a new alignment was necessary.

The new party was the Republican, pledged against the further expansion of slave property. The Whigs were destroyed and the Democrats fought for slave interests. The latter were then destroyed and capitalism had a free field for conquering the republic.

The Republican Party carried the banner of big capital and the Democratic Party the standard of little capital to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1904 the Democrats raised the white flag and marched into the camp of big capital but continued to mouth middle class phrases for a decade or more. In 1928 Raabok and Company moved the Democratic Party into the General Motors Building and since then the two parties have engaged in friendly rivalry for the job of serving the capitalist and banking plutocracy that rules the United States.

This is the fourth time in American politics that two major parties have become allies of the same ruling property interests. They have become fat and moronic, servile and lithy, fit agencies for the grafters and racketeers in city politics for the corporate capitalism of state politics, and for the greater capitalist and financial organizations of the United States.

Let the reader make his own text. Endeavor to ascertain any difference between the two parties on unemployment, the tariff, injunctions, corporation and merger dominion, agriculture, war, militarism, foreign policy and any other problem of interest to the dispossessed urban and rural workers. The two parties, their leaders and candidates, are ranged in solid support of capitalist interests on these problems.

It is because issues and differences are died that the two-party politics of upper class rule has given us the gangster and the racketeer, the grafter and the scoundrel, in city administrations. It is because of their oneness that intellect has died and that their candidates have become ratters, demagogues, and bootlickers of vulgar millionaires. It is because brains are superfluous baggage in these parties that their leaders are aghast at the collapse of capitalism and that they cannot do what slave owners at least did—provide for their victims in a period of national emergency.

This is the reason why a second party to oppose the capitalistic allies is so essential and the Socialist Party fills the need. Resting its claims upon the unrepresented workers who suffer from diseased capitalism, its immediate measures and ultimate aims square with the requirements of the hour.—The New Leader.

SEARCHLIGHT

By Donald J. Lotrich

It is certainly peculiar to note what difference of opinion exist between the various judges of Chicago and the State of Illinois. In the campaign to free Chicago from the grip and rule of graft and gangs many of the judges even go to the extent of helping the gangsters secure freedom. One judge insists on high bail. Another lowers the bail. One gangster known for his activities as a gunman is sentenced for totting concealed weapons by one court only to be freed by a higher court because the gangster was not presented with an arrest warrant. But these big gunners have plenty money. They can reach the higher court. Take the average individual on the other hand. It would be advisable for courts to insist on arrest warrants of respectable citizens. But no, you and I have no show in that. How many workers on strike have been beaten and arrested for mere picketing without an arrest warrant? How many respectable individuals have been arrested for possession of liquor without a warrant? Thousands of them.

Our laws and some of our lawyers are only out to "beat the game", and they are making a big job of it. No doubt somebody is cleaning up regularly on the job. Where the law should be severe it is lenient and where it should be lenient it is just the reverse. — Another instance of misconception is the decision of Federal District Judge Clark. After eleven years of prohibition, he discovered that the prohibition law was not properly accepted. When you know that the judges are allied with their political bosses to whom they no doubt owe a lot it is not hard to understand all of these irregular decisions. But it would seem to me that the jurists should know right from wrong.

Everywhere, the world over, people are celebrating Xmas. It is an old tradition which has grown into a mighty big business. Years ago, many years ago, presents were unheard of but from a little missive the fad has grown to become the greatest seasonal business affair of the world. We are not in harmony with the code but it is here and Santa Claus has made such an impression upon the minds of the people that we just naturally go along with it. To all of our readers we extend the best of wishes for a Happy Prosperous Year.

If our Chicago residents want to spend an enjoyable evening for New Year's we invite them to attend our New Year Eve dance to be held at

the Lawndale Masonic Temple (lower hall). We will have a lot of pleasure because the old gang promised faithfully to be there. Johnny Kochevar's boys will be there with all the pep. Get your tickets in advance at 50 cents. The hall is situated at 23rd St. and Millard Ave.

The childrens Xmas Party held under the auspices of the Chicago District S. N. P. J. Federation last Sunday was well attended. A short program with gifts was quickly dispensed with and in the evening many young folks came to dance. Johnny's boys played well.

Our folks are asked to patronize the dance of Jan. 10, 1931 at the S. N. P. J. Hall. It is sponsored by the Chicago District S. N. P. J. Federation and the net proceeds are intended for the unemployed fund. Johnny Kochevar's Melody Pilots will donate their services. Admission is 50 cents.

Our New Years wishes would embody the return to good times. Employment for all workers; the furtherance of our cause thru new members for our clubs, federation and paper; further success for the Illinois Mine Workers; greater interest of workers in the political field; the release of Mooney and Billings; further success for Russia's Five Year Plan; hope that the English Labor Party will cast their challenge to the other two parties on some strictly labor and socialist issue; that the Socialist movement increases steadily; the election of many socialists to municipal posts; that every good turn for the workers receives support from the workers; that Congress would adopt an employment insurance, old age pension and acts to help the poor mothers and children and repeal the 18th amendment; that the Chicago Socialists make a good bid in the coming municipal elections and that all of our comrades and friends are healthy.

We will have our annual club meeting Friday Dec. 26. Let us have a good attendance and make plans to regain first place for our club in the Federation ranking. Election of officers will take place.

Last Saturday evening the Yugoslav Building and Loan Ass'n held its regular annual meeting and elected three new directors. A promising outlook is forecast. The reports were very favorable in spite of a year of unemployment. Several good decisions were reached.

A TRIP TO DANVILLE

By NORMAN THOMAS

Saturday afternoon in Danville, Va. A day of almost steady rain, sometimes hard, sometimes a drizzle. Lines of strikers outside an inside the two stores in different parts town where equitably and efficiently the committees give out food to patient and good natured men and women. This is a good day. There is food. Slabs of salt "fat back", bags of flour, some canned soup and some incidentals. "If only every day was as good," one of the leaders said.

Not far away the great mills with young, unhappy looking militia men patrolling the gates in the rain. And then the rows and rows of mill houses, a few of them show places, most of them four walls and a floor painted and perched on brick columns. Only a few have conveniences, all rents are relatively high. And from such homes some of the leading strikers are to be evicted. The legal time limit is up on Christmas Eve. (The boss is a great Christian who teaches Bible Class.)

Sunday afternoon at Danville, Va. A bare hall up a flight of stairs packed as New York subways are seldom packed. What if there should be a fire or the floor should give way? Best not think of that, but listen to them sing! Hymns (the strikers are sincerely religious) and union songs, mixed up with a modern version of the rebel yell. A fine, determined crowd to speak to, good local leadership, good general leadership when Frank Gorman of the U. T. W. is around. The Executive Council of the Virginia State Federation crowds in at a back door. It is meeting in Danville to pledge support.

For this is a strike which must win at least a partial victory if the organizing campaign in the South is to have real significance or success. To lose means to fasten more firmly the chains of low wages and yellow dog contracts on the South. The strike is not yet lost. It will be lost by the bravest men unless relief comes more rapidly and amply. The A. F. of L. unions are giving now. But not enough. The U. T. W. wrestles with debt as well as with the bosses. Never did I feel so keenly the blind folly of the great A. F. of L. which started an organizing campaign with no provision for a strike which the leaders should have known the employers might force on them. If men are going back it is largely because of the lag of the middle weeks when the commissary was low, debts high, and energies of U. T. W. leaders absorbed in getting food. Nevertheless what I saw gave me new confidence in Southern mill workers and some of the leaders they are developing. Don't forget, the Emergency Committee for Strikers Relief will be glad to forward your gifts.

A PICTURE OF THE SOUTH

The end of another Southern trip leaves me with mixed impressions. Dreadful unemployment in an industrial city like Birmingham but little evidence of the Communism which so excited Congressman Fish, a terribly poor countryside (especially in parts of Georgia and Alabama); bad prices for cotton and tobacco, discouraged farmers too numerous to make a living on soil mined of its fertility and scarred by the rains. This poor rural population, white and black, is a reservoir of cheap labor. The plantation psychology still rules, complicated by race prejudice and hallowed by an overdose of emotional revivalistic, fundamentalist religion which is a dead weight on straight thinking. And yet: fine, keen forums in cities and colleges both white and colored. A genuine and increasing interest in Socialism, and a far greater interest in bringing public utilities to account. Much personal kindness to the Northern visitor. Some evidence of genuine concern for civil liberties in the better papers and a slow improvement in race relations. A definite defeat of the Black Shirts and other forces seemed likely to disgrace Atlanta by a race riot. Apparently the authorities want to forget their outrageous sedition cases against six Communists, guilty of no covert act. Put the puzzle together and make your own picture of the South whose industrialization means so much to us all.

The Socialist Vote

The national office is flooded with requests for definite information regarding the Socialist vote at the recent election. It will be impossible for the office to compile statistics on the vote until the official counts in all states have been completed and reports secured from the secretaries of state. All reports to date show a very large and encouraging increase in the vote. As soon as the figures are available a report will be issued by the national office.

CHEERING THE UNEMPLOYED

