



Vojnih grozot, ki so se dogodile na vzhodni fronti od pričetka nemške invazije pa do sedaj, se jih v primeri s temi, ki se dogajajo na drugih naših frontah, človek pravilno sploh predstavlja ne more, razen ako ni bil sam v vojni, pa ima lastne skušnje. Gornje je slika z vzhodne fronte. Ubili vojak je nacist, ki so mu pokončali življenje sovjetski strelec pred Stalingradom.

Sovjetska unija o ureditvi mej v vzhodni Evropi

“BALTIŠKE DEŽELE IN BESARABIJA SO NASA ZADEVANJA,” PRAVI “PRAVDA”. — “MI NE BOMO DOPUSTILI UMEŠAVANJA V IMPERIALNI USTROJ VELIKE BRITANIJE”, JE IZJAVIL MINISTER BRENDAN BRACKEN

Po zalogi svetovni vojni so zavorniki ustanovili v vzhodni Evropi pet samostojnih držav. Med teh so bile pred vojno Estonija, Latvija in Litvinska ruska posest, in pa velik del Poljske, drugi del Poljske pa je imela prej Avstro-Ogrska in Nemčija. Rusko Besarabijo je dobila Rumunija. Finski, ki je bila prej pod Rusijo, pa je sovjetska vlada sama priznala neodvisnost. Čehoslovaška ni dobila na ruske stroške nič teritorija.

bivalstvu rusinski (ukrajinski). Poljski premier Sikorski je bil že parkrat v Moskvi v zvezi sporazuma o tej sporni točki, toda kolikor je znano, takega zagotovila ni dobil.

Namen razdelitve
Namen zaveznikov, ki so zarisali meje tem deželam, ni bil samo, da jim dajo samostojnost, temveč, da se na vzhodu Evrope zgradi nekako obzidje med Nemčijo in Sovjetsko unijo. Slednja je hotela ta načrt saj deloma preprečiti z invazijo v Pilsudski Poljsko in dospela že blizu Varšave, kjer je bitko izgubila. Šla je v njo zopet po nemškem vpadu na Poljsko in si pridržala zase precejšen del.

Besarabijo in baltiške dežele si je podvrgla pozneje, ni pa imela strde s Finsko, ki je sedaj z njo drugič v vojni.

Namig zaveznikom
Mnogi v Angliji in Ameriki pravijo, da Sovjetska unija nima nobene pravice do teh dežel, češ, mar se ne borimo za svobodo vseh narodov?
Tem v odgovor je imel dnevnik “Pravda” v Moskvi uvodnik, v katerem izjavlja, da za Rusijo baltiške dežele in Besarabija niso vprašanje, ker spadajo v sovjetsko zvezo. Članek je potem priobčil iz “Pravde” (v angleškem prevodu) informacijski bulletin sovjetskega poslanstva v Washingtonu, kar je bilo ameriški vladi in ameriški javnosti znamenje, da je članek v Pravdi ob enem uradno stališče sovjetske vlade.

Kaj glede Poljske?
Nedvomno v Moskvi žele, da bi tudi Poljska postala članica sovjetske zveze. Uradno so ji obljubili neodvisnost, ni pa še točno znano, da li jo Moskva res priznava ves prejšnji teritorij, ki je po prvi svetovni vojni prišel pod poljsko oblast. Poljski ministri se boje, da bo bodoča Poljska precej manjša, ker bo Rusija zahtevala zase tisti del, ki je po pre-

Antanas Smetona o Litvinski

Tudi v prej omenjenih baltiških deželah delujejo posebno begunski krogi, da se jih ne prizna Sovjetski uniji.
Zadnji pondeljek je na nekem shodu v Chicagu predsednik bivše litvinske republike Antanas Smetona izjavil, da njegova dežela noče ne nemške, ne ruske dominacije, pač pa zahteva neodvisnost. “Litvinci smatramo Nemčijo in Rusijo za svoji sovražnici,” je dejal pobegli predsednik, “ker ta naš cbe napadli. Najprvo Rusija, potem Nemčija.”
Za zavezniške diplomate take razlike niso enostavna stvar, z izjemo sovjetske vlade, ki je skozi “Pravdo” razložila svoje stališče.

Anglija hoče ostati imperij

Ne samo v sovjetske, tudi v angleške zadeve se mnogi umešavajo; večino kritik proti Angliji prihaja iz Amerike, največ zaradi Indije.
Vrh tega je v Zed. državah mnogo takih ljudi, ki Anglijo instinktivno sovražijo.
Ko se je pričela ta kampanja proti angleški politiki v Indiji, je premier Churchill izjavil, da ni načelnik kraljeve vlade zato, da bi prisostvoval (Nadaljevanje na 5. strani.)

Kongresniki za večje plače, toda ne za delavce!

Roosevelt se ni bogatašem z ničemer bolj zameril kot z odredbo, da ne sme nihče imeti toliko plačo, da bi znašala več kot 25 tisoč dolarjev čistega dohodka na leto. Dovoljuje pa jim vse druge dohodke, kot profite, dividende, obresti itd.
Kongresni odsek, ki se peča z davki in proračuni, je dne 13. februarja sklenil s 15. proti 10. glasovi, da se ta Rooseveltov odlok razveljavi.
Končno besedo ima seveda kongres, a že sklep v odseku prikazuje, kakšen veter piha. Delavcem naj se odvzame plača za nadure, da ne bo, “infla-

O usodi Nemčije in nacizma se odločuje na vzhodni fronti

Ko so v Nemčiji nedavno praznovali prvo desetletnico nacistične vlade, je maršal Herman Goering v svojem govoru dejal med drugim, da tretji rajt ne bo sklenil z Rusijo nobenega sporazuma, kajti Nemčija lahko občuje le z gentilemani, ne z boljševiki!
Kolonar K. M. Landis II. tolmači, da je bil to nemški namig Zed. državam in Angliji, češ, z vami da, ker vas smatramo za gentilemane, a z ruskimi barbari pa hočemo obračunati do konca.
To je velika bahavost, kakor je bila leto prej Hitlerjeva, ki je izjavil vsemu svetu, da je ruska armada razbita in se nikdar več ne obnovi.
Firer in njegov pomočnik Goering imata sedaj o nji brez dvoma drugačno mnenje.
Hitler je hotel triumfalno v Leningrad; potem v Moskvo, nato v Stalingrad.

Skrozi vso to zimo se od teh mest oddaljuje, toda ne prostovoljno. Premagan je bil lani pred Moskvo, sedaj je bil odgnan izpred Leningrada, kjer je padlo od 22. junija 1941 pa do konca januarja t. l. okrog 400.000 Nemcev, in pred Stalingradom znašajo nemške izgube od zadnje jeseni sem nad 300.000 mož.

In tudi Rostov je prišel nazaj v sovjetsko posest.
Ni čudno, če nacistični glavarji apelirajo na kapitalistični svet, kako se oni bore za obvarovanje Evrope pred “komunizmom”, pa naj vendar to v Angliji in Ameriki razumejo sebi v korist tako, da ne bodo podrli na tla države, “ki je glavni stebel evropske civilizacije”. Umevno, ta država je Nemčija. A evropska ljudstva njene “civilizacije” nočejo in se radujejo vsake sovjetske zmage in vsake zavezniške zmage kjerkoli, ker jim to krepi vero v odrešitev iz terorja.

Italija poražena, čeprav ni še zasedena

Ruska fronta glavno bojišče, na katerem je bilo pokončanih nad 600.000 nemških vojakov
V depeši iz Londona priobčuje JIC dne 25. jan. sledeče: V svoji oddaji za Jugoslavijo poroča londonski radio, da je bilo na ruski fronti dozdej ujetih, ranjenih ali ubitih 600 tisoč vojakov različnih narodnosti, nabranih v deželah, ki so sprejele gramotno vlogo, da pomagajo Hitlerju. Le Rusi vedo, koliko jih je padlo in koliko jih je ujetih. Toda znano je, da so se začeli udajati v velikem številu.
Londonski Daily Telegraph je mnenja, da so se ti narodi pridružili Nemčiji v pričranju, da bo Nemčija njim v prid zmagovala. Sedanje kapitulative pomožnih vojska na vzhodni fronti niso le izraz vojaške slabosti osi, temveč tudi izliv političnega razočaranja.
To veija prav posebno za Italijane, ki so izgubili toliko močva na ruski fronti, a zdaj zaigrali tudi svoje kolonialno čezarstvo. Kljub strašni bedi, v kateri žive, so Jugoslovani,

Grki in Albanci doživeli sren trenotek, ko so poslušali poročilo o padcu Tripolisa in o porazu črnih duš v črni srcah. Francozka Revijera in oni del Balkana, ki ga še drže, Italijanom ne bo veliko pomagal. Revijera je mrtva, na Balkanu pa je ostala le gola, prazna zemlja, pomanjkanje in beda.
Italija se maje na svojih temeljih, kmalu se bo zrušila. Italijansko vojaštvo je tako nervozno, da se je močan odelek laških vojakov nedavno razpršil v silah strahu pred bradati poštnim uradnikom. Italijani mislijo, da je vsak mož z brado gerilec.
Italijanski list “La Nazione” piše, da se vojna ne more zaključiti v kolonijah in da bodo morali zavezniki zasesti državo samo (Italijo), ako hočejo zmagati.

Ameriške zgube v Tuniziji

Ameriške izgube v Tuniziji so znašale do 28. januarja 1.258 mož, v številni ubite, ranjene, vjete in pogrešane. Tako je poročal omenjenega dne vojni tajnik Stimson.
Kupujte vojne bonde in znamke.

Kongresniki za večje plače, toda ne za delavce!

vsled vojnih naročil kujejo ogromne dobičke, plače zvišale — seveda ne delavcem, nego direktorjem, in jim ob enem tudi za lani povrnile razliko, ki je nastala vsled Rooseveltove odredbe.
Interesi korporacij in bogataškega sloja sploh so torej v kongresu dobro zastopani, v skrbeh pa so delavske unije, o katerih smo na tem mestu nedavno poročali da so se združile v namenu za čiščenje svojih koristi v zbornici poslancev in v senatu.
Predsednik je v tem mesecu izdal naredbo, ki podaljšuje

Kje in kako dobiti dovolj delavcev za na farme?

Farmarji so se že lani pritoževali, da jim manjka delavcev. Letos je še slabše. Veliko sinov so jim vzeli v armado, in stotisoče farmerskih družin in pa je šlo v vojno industrijo.
Iz statističnih podatkov agrikulturnega oddelka zvezne vlade je razvidno, da je delalo na kmetijah 6.638.000 članov farmerskih družin in pa 1.731.000 najetih delavcev.
Namen vlade je letos zvišati pridelke do največje močve inere in v ta namen pomagati farmarjem s stroji, subvencijami in z dobivanjem delavcev.
Ze lani so bili storjeni poskusi, da bi v času isolskih počitnic dijaki pomagali na farmah, pa se niso kaj prida obnesli. Mogoče bo letos boljše.
V Californiji, kjer so s farm za pridelovanje sočivja Japonci izgnali, si pomagajo z doivanjem delavcev iz Mehike, ki pa niso tako produktivni kot Japonci in to pomeni manj pridelkov sedaj, ko jih bi čimveč potrebovali.
Kar se tiče gasolina, ga farmarji dče kolikor ga potrebujejo, težje pa je dobiti poljedelske stroje, ker so tovarne, katere so jih izdelovale, razselene sedaj z vojnimi naročili.

18.000 Slovencev interniranih vSardiniji
 (“Bazovica” št. 5. z dne 20. dec. 1942.) — Poročila iz Ljubljane naglašajo, da je bilo iz ljubljanske pokrajine odpeljanih v notranjost Italije nad 30 tisoč Slovencev. Nekaj časa so jih držali po nekaj tisoč v Furlaniji in Juljski Krajini, zlasti na Tolminkem in Bovškem. V zadnjem času pa so vsa ta taborišča izpraznila in Slovence odpeljali največ v Sardinijo. Tu so naši ljudje internirani ro najbolj primitivnih taboriških, kjer stradajo in smrzujejo. Večina mora na prisilno delo. Tudi po drugih krajih Italije je vse polno Slovencev. Do oktobra meseca letošnjega leta niso smeli ničesar pisati domov in tudi z doma niso dobivali nikake pošte. Sedaj prejemajo po kako dopisnico.

Kitajska se osvobodila privilegijev tujih dežel...
Kitajska, ki je v sedanji vojni dalj kot katerakoli druga dežela, izvzemši Japonske, je dobila zagotovilo Anglije, Združenih držav, in tudi Italije, da se odpovedo privilegijem, ki so jih imele v nji. Nemčija je bila iz njih izrinjena že v prvi svetovni vojni. To je zelo dobro, toda dejansko stanje je, da ima sedaj vse tiste privilegije in še veliko več Japonska, kar pomeni, da je Kitajska prišla z dežja pod kap.

Namajo vsi slabih namenov
Mnogi, ki v tej propagandi delujejo, smatrajo, da vrše svojo patriotsko dolžnost, ako kažejo na sebičnost unij in unijskega delavstva. To mnenje pa imajo zato, ker so zavedeni ali pa ne poznajo razmer, oziroma oboje.

Delavci, ki čitajo samo kapitalistične liste in poslušajo po radiu razne Kaltenbornere ter jim potrjujejo, ne vedo, da so se pustili nahujskati zoper samega sebe.
Dijački, ki niso še nikoli očitavili trdega fabriškega in rudarskega dela, se ob takih govoricah zgražajo nad delavci, ker se ne zavedajo, da so tudi njihovi roditelji med njimi, in ne zapopadejo, da morajo stariši garati, zato da oni lahko hodijo v šolo in imajo vse udobje, ki ga jim moreta dati s svojim garanjem oče in mati.

Utlivanje strupa med mladino
Propaganda, ki vodi v toke, po kakršnih se je razvil fašizem v Evropi, je dobro preračunana, da se dosežejo z njo čimboljši učinki. Najhujša je sedaj proti unijam, ki so bile povsod poleg delavskega političnega gibanja prva tarča fašističnih napadov in z delavskim političnim gibanjem vred prve uničene čim je nastala fašistična diktatura.
Sovražniki socialnega napredka v Ameriki sicer ne trdijo, da so fašisti, nego nasprotno, oni se oglašajo za varuhe demokracije in tudi svobodo tiska in govora poudarjajo. Tako so delali na primer pred desetimi leti tudi v Nemčiji. Mao so pridobili z obetanjem “židovskih bogastev” in z “narodnim socializmom”. Ker te vrste kampanja najbolj uspeva med mladino in pa “boljšimi sloji”, se tudi v Zed. državah največ nanje opira.

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Dne 14. feb. je znova pou-

Zvijajna gonja proti delavcem v plašču "naporov za zmago v vojni"

ZASTRUPLJANJE NEUKE MASE S HUJSKANIJEM PROTI UNIJAM, KI VODI V FAŠIZEM.— ZLORABLJANJE SLOVESA ZA ZLE NAMENE.— RICKENBOCKER ZA “DVOJNO MERO”

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Čemu ni v Proletarcu več dopisov?

Jos. Durn pravi v tej številki, da bi moral imeti Proletarec več dopisov kot jih ima ter vprašuje o vzrokih.

Teh je mnogo. Največ dopisov povzročajo polemike, in ljudje pišejo najraje v razširjene liste.

Za polemike, kar se naših sodrugov tiče, v Proletarcu ni vzroka, ker soglašajo z listovim stališčem glede svetovnih in domačih vprašani. Glede razmer pravijo, da nimajo kaj več poročati, ker so ljudje brezbržni, o vojni pa itak drugi dovolj pišejo. Glede partizanov večinoma tudi nimajo vzroka, da se bi prerekli z urednikom, ali s tistimi, ki drže z Mihajlovičem, ker v Proletarcu objektivno razlagamo resnice pomen te borbe.

Vendar pa soglašamo z Durnom, da bi se naši dopisniki lahko vzlic temu pogostejše oglašali, na primer naši stari znanci Puncer, Martin Judnič, Anton Šular, s. Ovca v Springfieldu, Zornik in drugi v Penni, dalje Clevelandčani itd.

Gradiya je dovolj, zato je dobro, da drug drugemu povemo svoje misli.

Naš stalen sotrudnik sedaj je Joško Oven, a drugi se oglašajo le od časa do časa. Vabimo jih v interesu našega gibanja, da naj v Proletarcu bolj pogosto dopisujejo.

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Why does labor keep harping on the theme of more representation on all war agencies? In the first place, because it hasn't received real representation. In the second place, because without such representation the great army of American soldiers of production cannot give their best for victory.

That exception is the National Labor Board, which is composed of an equal number of management, public and labor representatives. On this important board labor has a voice in shaping policies and in making decisions.

Common sense dictates that labor should be given a similar opportunity to participate in the operation of the War Production Board, the Office of Price Administration, the Office of Civilian Defense and other war agencies whose decisions affect the lives and welfare of the workers.

These agencies claim they have accorded labor some form of representation. The claims are false. At the most, some labor official has been given a post where he has no authority and serves merely as window dressing.

It seems to us that America can learn a great deal from the experience of Great Britain in the matter of labor representation. Here, our Government officials feel that real labor representation is necessary only on bodies dealing with labor disputes. There, labor is welcomed into the high councils of the Government, is acquainted fully with the facts about every major war problem, is given a voice in determining the solution of these problems and is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the policies arrived at among British workers.

That system has worked effectively in Great Britain. It has eliminated doubts and confusion. It has inspired confidence among the workers, who realize that their representatives have helped to make the decisions.

Furthermore, because they are fully informed and have become convinced of the necessity of certain forms of action, the leaders of labor in Great Britain are better able to persuade their members to make the sacrifices required of them from time to time.

Important decisions are approaching. America has reached the stage in this war where, more and more, we will be forced to depart from our normal way of doing things and resort to stringest war regulation by the Government.

No one wants this to happen. Everyone will be inconvenienced. A great many people will feel that they are being unnecessarily oppressed while others get off comparatively lightly.

Full labor representation of all war agencies can help to smooth out the enforcement of these new regulations, to obtain better compliance, to avoid bitterness and to maintain production and morale on the highest plane.

No one is going to like being told by the Government that he must stay on his present job at his present pay when better opportunities offer. No one is going to like being told by the Government how to spend his earnings. No one is going to wish various aspects of rationing, manpower controls, wage controls, and taxes, more taxes and more taxes.

But these things are almost certain to come. The form in which the regulations are issued, the flexibility with which they are drafted, the fairness with which they are administered and the hardships which they will create all constitute serious dangers unless those responsible have some practical knowledge of the dynamite which they are handling.

These people who will now have their wages tapped for a quarter and eventually more of their earnings just wouldn't listen to the Socialists in years gone by. Now that the full fruits of mass error and indifference are being harvested, there is no good reason for Socialists to give sympathetic attention to the bellyachers.

Short-sighted people found it easy to parrot the words of the master class. They thought they were smart when they repeated the cry that "Socialism is in the future; we want something NOW!"

Well, this is "NOW" and we're getting something. Socialists can stand it with the rest—and the rest ought to like it.—Reading Labor Advocate.

LABOR hopes the House will bury the Hobbs bill, which the newspapers are gleefully declaring is aimed at "labor rackets." LABOR'S principal objection to the Hobbs bill is that it is not honest. Its object is not to remedy an evil, but to "smear" the American labor movement.

American labor has done nothing to merit such infamous treatment. Trade unions are as honestly conducted as chambers of commerce, bar associations or fraternal organizations. Labor leaders are as honest as members of Congress or any other group.

But Mr. Hobbs will say members of some trade unions are interfering with interstate commerce. We do not know of any union which is doing anything like that, but if Mr. Hobbs has information to sustain his charges, we would respectfully suggest that he submit it to the prosecuting officials in the state affected. He will find there are a score of laws to deal with such criminal acts.

If Mr. Hobbs is going on the theory that state officials are dishonest or refuse to enforce the law, he should have the courage to say so. For our part, we refuse to believe state officials have fallen to such low estate.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

Illustration with text: THE SURGEON-GENERAL OF THE U.S. ARMY RECENTLY SAID CASUALTIES AT PEARL HARBOR WERE GREATLY REDUCED BY THE EMERGENCY AID OF MILK WAGON AND LAUNDRY DRIVERS. IN ATHENS IN 308 B.C., 400,000 OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF 450,000 WERE SLAVES! MUCH OF THE PIONEERING IN PENNSYLVANIA WAS DONE BY THE REDEMPTORS GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WHO PAID FOR THEIR PASSAGE TO AMERICA BY GIVING FOUR YEARS LABOR TO EMPLOYERS WHO FINANCED THE TRIPS. WHEN YOU BUY A UNION-MADE HAT YOU NOT ONLY BUY A GOOD HAT - YOU ENDORSE THE GREATEST ORGANIZATION FOR FREEDOM - ORGANIZED LABOR! THIS IS THE LABEL IDENTIFYING A UNION-MADE HAT.

Don't Bellyache Now

One thing we hope Socialists won't tolerate is the bellyaching of people who voted for capitalism as the burden of war presses with increased weight upon the American people. What we are getting now, and what we are going to get in the months to come is exactly what the majority of people have been voting for. Moreover, it is just what we Socialists warned would come if capitalism were permitted to run its sorry course to the inevitable end.

We hear the groans already. Strangely enough, it is not the fact that the American people are being strait-jacketed into the pattern of total war just as tightly as were the German people that is evoking the bleats of pain.

What hurts the average pro-capitalist is that he must now pay the bill for blowing the private enterprise system off the face of the earth. He will tolerate the loss of his liberties, he will accept an order of "war-work or fight." He will even say "goodbye forever" to his sons without complaining too loudly. But when he is told that 24 per cent of his earnings are to be taken away from him before he ever sees the money he grows bitter.

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Well, this is "NOW" and we're getting something. Socialists can stand it with the rest—and the rest ought to like it.—Reading Labor Advocate.

WORLD WIDE PLAN NEEDED TO AVERT CHAOS AFTER WAR

Boom in Spending, Then Slump, Unless Drastic Controls Are Imposed. By SCOTT NEARING. Speaking to the Intl. Student Assembly, and through them to the members of the U. S. armed forces, President Roosevelt gave this assurance: "We will not let you down... When you come home we do not propose to involve you, as last time, in a domestic economic mess of our own making."

Other spokesmen for the administration have given similar assurances. Some have even gone so far as to promise the American people that the necessary measures will be taken to insure full employment, living wages and fair prices after the war.

Economists are not in agreement concerning the outlook for post-war economic stability. If the United Nations win a sweeping victory during 1943 and are able to make their own armistice terms, they will be in the most favorable possible position to avert a post-war slump.

Geoffrey Crowther, British economist and editor of the London Economist, believes careful planning will ease the transition from war economy to peace economy, but will not necessarily prevent a serious pre-war depression.

"It would be wildly optimistic," Crowther writes, "to believe that the alternation of boom and slump, which has been plaguing industrial society for at least a century and a half, has now suddenly been cured. There is likely to be some kind of

slump sometime in the half-dozen years after the war." The real post-war problem is not to find jobs for demobilized soldiers and war workers, Crowther continues, but to keep them on the jobs they find. The armistice will undoubtedly be followed by a period of hilarious spending in the victorious countries. Government policy must be shaped to "moderate the wild excesses of "prosperity" in the armistice period."

REFLECTIONS

By the Editor of the Reading Labor Advocate

Fear of an economic slump after the destructive waste of war, ends torments humanity. Broach the subject to almost any worker, ask him what he thinks of his chances of being employed when—and, of course, if—this nation stops building and supplying a gigantic war machine, and he will shake a doubtful and worried head.

But the workers are not alone in their fears. Business men are bedeviling the possibilities of the post-war world with no greater confidence. Economists and sociologists are doubtfully submitting plans. Even administration spokesmen are offering the certainty of economic distress as one potent reason why everybody should accumulate a reserve of credit by putting every last possible cent in government savings.

Analyze that fear and it will be seen that what worries almost everyone is the possibilities of abundance. Look a little deeper and it implies that scarcely anybody really believes we are going to have a fundamentally-different society after the war for the "four freedoms" is won.

Surely there will be more of everything we need when we stop sending our substance to the four corners of the world and when we stop wasting the labor of people who are now producing things that are made only to be blown to smithereens.

What, then, are we worrying about? Well, we're worrying because we know only one economic system and one society; we know only the class society of owners and profit-takers on the one hand and propertyless workers on the other.

And so abundance worries us. Is that silly? Well, yes and no. It's foolish to be afraid of having too much — if we believe that the world is going to be truly free after the war is over. For true freedom means that the wealth of the world will belong to the people of the world; that less waste and greater surpluses are going to bring higher living standards, greater security and more leisure.

But people don't believe, deep down in their "hearts" or wherever belief originates, that things will be fundamentally different after the shooting stops. And on the basis of that belief worry is at least understandable. For the workers remember what happened to them when the ability of the profit economy to produce surpluses became so great that, here in America, the President of the United States was encouraged to announce that hard times would nevermore plague the people and that cars in family garages and chickens in cookpots would be the symbol of American life.

Few workers understand economies. But even the most ignorant know that they get their paltry portion of prosperity only when a scarcity of the things which they labor produces results in a demand for the services of workers. Understanding that they fear abundance, because abundance means that they are "freed" from their jobs.

So it is, too, with merchants who remember that workers thus "freed" can not be good customers and with the owners of surpluses who remember that such "freedom" fringes industrial stagnation, prevents investment and expansion and, all too soon, compels the government to do the things which private wealth can no longer do.

And so abundance becomes the nightmare of America. What will happen when there is too much of everything once more? What about the millions of workers who will not be needed? What about the war profits that can not be used to produce more and more profits?

Questions! Questions which will be answered because the human race must answer them or perish. How will the answer be given? Will it come with the positive action of a united and purposeful working class; will it be an answer that will free the nation from class rule and human exploitation? Or will the rules and beneficiaries of the old order supply the answer that will give Americans a slaves' security and a new era of class exploitation?

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.—Beasonfield.

Looking Ahead

By LEN DE CAUX

Absence makes the heart grow fonder—but not absenteeism. This new and much-cursed 'ism' does not apply to absentee owners, it seems, but only to the sons and daughters of toil. It's an 'ism' without any 'ists. No one believes in it or proudly calls himself an absenteeist. It's practiced but never preached.

Yet absenteeism is a serious drag on war production—as well as a stick used by anti-labor propagandists to belabor the working folks. To be absent from a war job, when you should be working, is an obvious interference with all-out production to lick the Axis.

But absenteeism is not a disease that can be cured by yelling and making faces at labor, as some of our modern witchdoctors imagine. Still less is it due to unions and "high wages," as they falsely claim. It's business executives rather than workers who take a morning off for a game of golf, who suffer from too much night-life, or who "just can't get through the winter without a few weeks in Florida."

Workers too, like to celebrate once in awhile—just as do absentee coupon-clippers, or soldiers, or sailors, or even anti-labor propagandists. And sometimes some of them lay off without a justifiable excuse, just as soldiers are sometimes AWOL.

But the organized workers particularly have a stronger sense of their war responsibilities than have most other Americans. The unions work constantly to strengthen this sense of responsibility, to shame or discipline the irresponsible, and to cut down absenteeism to an absolute minimum.

But even if every worker were perfect, tireless and beyond reproach, absenteeism should still remain a serious problem. For its chief causes lies beyond the individual worker's control. Government studies reveal that most absences from work are caused by sickness, accidents, housing shortages, transportation difficulties and other similar reasons.

Much sickness is caused by poor housing, overcrowding, lack of adequate eating facilities, as well as by the war strains of more intense work. And the sickness of children, under such conditions, is a frequent cause of absenteeism, particularly on the part of working mothers.

Housing shortages near war plants also mean that many workers have to travel long distances to their jobs. Hours spent standing in packed buses or street cars, increase fatigue; and poor tires, auto breakdowns, as well as inadequate public transportation, cause many absences from work.

Then too, when all adult members of a family are working, someone has to take time off for household shopping; and the services of doctors, dentists, etc., are often not available except during working hours. Employers' business-as-usual practices and governmental failures to plan production properly are among the worst causes of absenteeism.

The workers' morale inevitably drops when they see stock of unused materials in their plants; when work is poorly organized leaving them time on their hands; or when they know the speedy completion of one job may mean a layoff until the company gets more materials or another order.

Another cause of absenteeism is the long hours worked by many skilled and key workers. Some of them are working seven days a week and are humanly bound to need more rest.

PROGRESS MUST NOT STOP

By supporting a bill to broaden and liberalize the Social Security Act, the American Federation of Labor has served notice that it means what it says when it declares that social progress must not stop, even though the nation is engaged in a great war.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Eliot of Massachusetts, will improve the social security program immensely and thereby strengthen the nation for the trials that lie ahead of it. The bill is a big step in advance, as anyone can see by reading its provisions.

In endorsing the bill, the American Federation of Labor takes direct issue with those reactionary persons and interests who are taking advantage of the war emergency to fight further labor and social gains. Life, one of the most profitable magazines in the United States, is one of these. In a hysterical editorial, Life said the big job confronting the nation "is a challenge, because in order to fight this war we must deliberately wreck our standards of living, forego our social gains, forget our peacetime ambitions."

Following up on the harder wear on union suits worn by 25 boys in the same institution, the textile specialists found that knit cotton suits lasted on the average 31 periods of wear, and rayon 18. No cotton suit was discarded before it was laundered 19 times, which was longer than the average lifetime of the rayon suits. Cotton was definitely more suitable for the strenuous service that a boy's union suit must endure.

"For garments and service conditions similar to those used in this study," says a technical report on the tests, "two vests would be required annually on a girl's clothing budget if cotton were selected, and three if rayon. Boys would need approximately three and one-half cotton union suits or six rayon suits a year."

WHAT PRICE FAME! The late Dexter Fellows, who was press agent for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey combined shows, had magnificent faith in the overwhelming supremacy of his show. Some years ago he stepped into a newspaper office in Kansas City. "I am Dexter Fellows of the circus," he announced, waving his cane, "and I am here to—" "What circus?" snapped the tough city editor. Fellows was profoundly shocked. "Great Scott, young man," he protested, "if you were in London and heard a man singing 'God Save the King,' would you interrupt him and say, 'What King?'"

Hobbs Bill Dishonest; The House Should Bury It

LABOR hopes the House will bury the Hobbs bill, which the newspapers are gleefully declaring is aimed at "labor rackets." LABOR'S principal objection to the Hobbs bill is that it is not honest. Its object is not to remedy an evil, but to "smear" the American labor movement.

American labor has done nothing to merit such infamous treatment. Trade unions are as honestly conducted as chambers of commerce, bar associations or fraternal organizations. Labor leaders are as honest as members of Congress or any other group.

But Mr. Hobbs will say members of some trade unions are interfering with interstate commerce. We do not know of any union which is doing anything like that, but if Mr. Hobbs has information to sustain his charges, we would respectfully suggest that he submit it to the prosecuting officials in the state affected. He will find there are a score of laws to deal with such criminal acts.

If Mr. Hobbs is going on the theory that state officials are dishonest or refuse to enforce the law, he should have the courage to say so. For our part, we refuse to believe state officials have fallen to such low estate.

We repeat, the Hobbs bill is not aimed at an evil, but is designed to "smear" the American labor movement and is unworthy of serious consideration by members of the House.—Labor, Washington, D. C.

FPC CHAIRMAN CHARGES POWER TRUST HAS OPENED CAMPAIGN AGAINST LABOR

ST. LOUIS.—Charges that the power trust has started a new campaign to destroy labor's rights and do away with publicly owned utilities were made by Chairman Leland Olds of the Federal Power Commission.

Spending enormous sums on newspaper and radio advertising, the power companies are disrupting national unity in a drive to return monopolies to the position they held prior to New Deal reforms, Olds said. "These great economic powers," Olds asserted, "that opposed the TVA, the REA, the Bonneville administration and seek the disfranchisement of labor, see in the great war need for unity an opportunity to serve their private interests. They have blatantly reiterated

their program in thousands of newspapers and magazines. They offer 'private enterprise' by which they mean an end to the REA's and the TVA's and Wagner acts, and all other efforts by the people to control their economic lives and destinies.

"These interests are trying to sow the seeds of discord between agriculture and labor. This attempt is designed to undo the progress which both farmers and workers have made under the New Deal. It is based on the well known principle of divide and rule.

"Workers on the land and in the industrial centers must realize their interdependence if they are to create the united action which will not only win the war but also offer greater security and abundance to our people."

We are all excited by the love of praise, and the noblest are most influenced by glory.—Cicero.

LIBERTY LIMERICKS. Illustration of a man in a top hat. Text: There was a reporter named Flynn, Who said (Quote) The Axis can't win! Sure, we'll get Hitler's goat If we buy Bonds (Unquote) And now is the time to begin! Write Hitler's doom by putting 10% of your income into War Stamped Bonds each pay day. Sign up for the Voluntary Payroll Savings Plan. U. S. Treasury Dept.