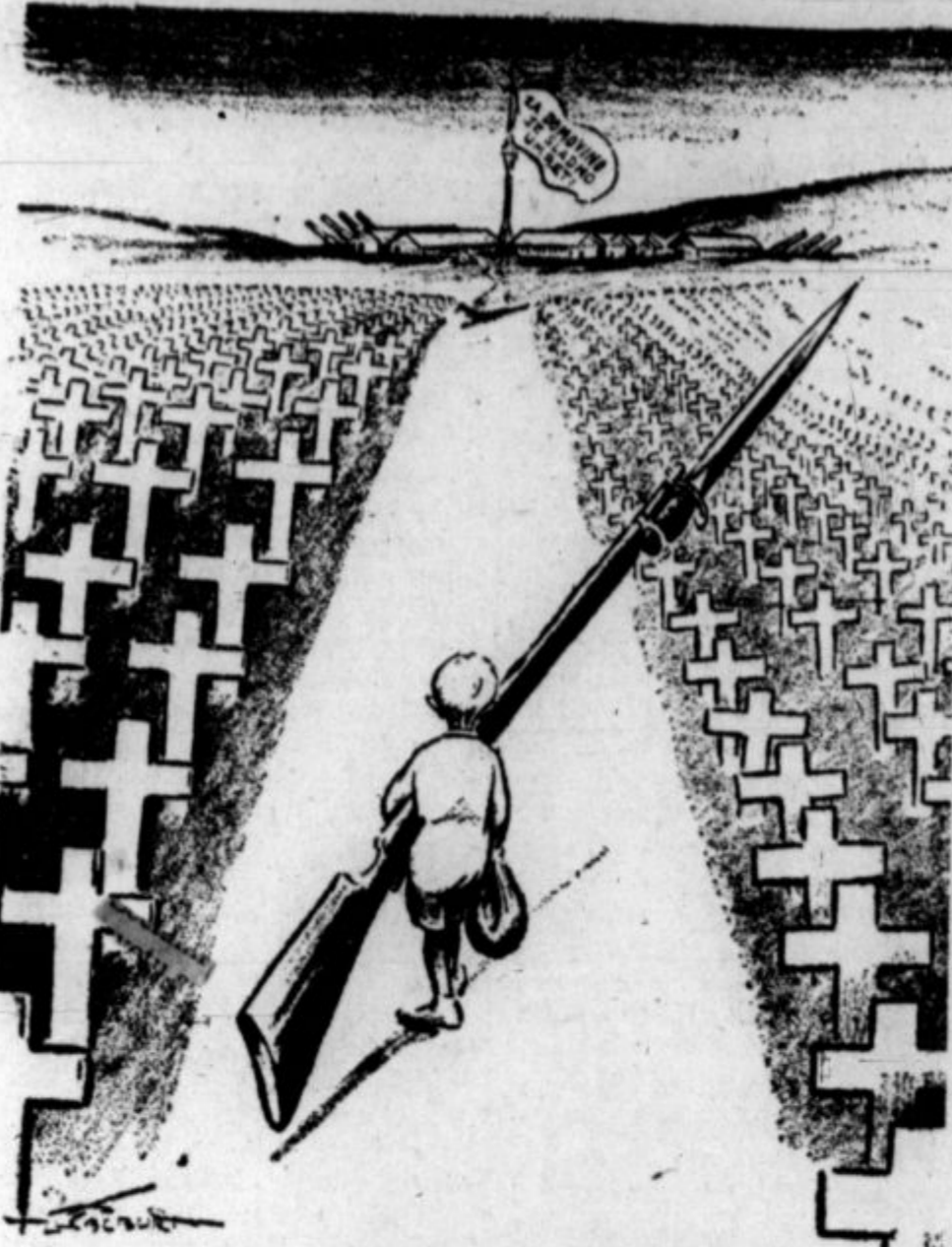


KAM LETO 1950?



Ali na nove bojne poljane in na še večja pokopališča, ali v mir?

Važne spremembe v vrhovnem koncilu Združenih narodov

Aleš Bebler prvi Jugoslovčan v najvišjem
odboru OZN. — Govori osem jezikov. — Spor
radi vprašanja kitajskega zastopstva.

Mrzla vojna med USA in USSR
bo nadaljevana

Generalni tajnik OZN, Norvežan Tygre Lie, je na minulem zasedanju splošne skupščine javno izrazil svojo nejevoljo nad položajem, v katerem se nahajata ustanova, v katero je Roosevelt polagal toliko upanja. Krivim za to stanje pa je obdolžil politično silo (v angleščini "power politics") in vsakeinu je bilo jasno, da ima pri tem v mislih dve velesili, Zedinjene države ameriške ter Sovjetsko zvezo.

Kaj s kitajskim zastopstvom?

Nova kitajska komunistična vlada je naslovlila uradu OZN v New York in v Lake Success zahtevo, da ubežna Čiang Kaiškovska vlada nima več nobene pravice biti zastopana v komisijah in v odborih Združenih narodov, ker ne zastopa kitajskega ljudstva in sploh nobenega kitajskega teritorija.

Ko je bil zaščitni ali vrhovni svet OZN ustanovljen, so se Roosevelt, Churchill in Stalin sporazumeli, da naj bo v njemu pet stalnih članic: USA, USSR, Francija, Velika Britanija in Kitajska. Poleg tega ima vsaka teh stalnih članic pravico vsak sprejeti sklep vetirati in tako ne more postati veljaven. Ker je Rusija vedno v manjšini pri glasovanjih, je ona vetirala največ sklepov.

Sedaj pa bo treba temu vrhovnemu svetu skleniti, kdo naj zastopa Kitajsko.

Jasno, da bi morala imeti to pravico tista kitajska vlada, ki je vladarica Kitajske, ne pa ostanke iz razbitih vrst Čiang Kaiškove diplomacije.

Toda Zed. države saj teoretično smatrajo, da je Čiang Kaišek še predstavnik legalne kitajske vlade — ob enem so fronta v borbi proti komunizmu vsepovsod (namreč v smislu Trumanove doktrine).

Poleg petih držav, ki so stalno članice zaščitnega vrhovnega sveta OZN, so v njemu začasne članice sedaj Norveška, Egipt, Jugoslavija, India, Ekvador in Kuba.

Teh dodatnih pet članic varnostnega sveta izvoli skupščina OZN, vsako leto tri namesto prejšnjih treh, katerim termin poteče.

Predsedniki varnostnega sveta se vrste — vsak mesec predseduje drugi. Na sedanjem zasedanju je padla vrsta na kitajskega delegata, ki pa ne zastopa nikogar razen svoje ubežne skupine na Formozo.

Jugoslavija, Rusija, Anglija, Indija in Norveška sta kitajsko komunistično vlado priznale že v minulem tednu. Čiang Kaiškov delegat je torej ob službo in tako bodo v novem koncilu trije komunisti: ruski, kitajski in pa jugoslovanski delegat. Seveda stvar glede priznanja nove kitajske vlade v OZN ni še rešena.

Kako bodo nastopali?

Jugoslovska vlada je delegirala za svojega zastopnika odvetnika Aleša Beblerja, ki se je šolal med drugim v Parizu in v Moskvi. Bil je častnik v Abraham Lincolnovi brigadi za časa civilne vojne v Španiji in bil ranjen v nji. Star je 42 let, doma iz Idrije, med vojno je bil v partizanski borbi in sedaj je član jugoslovske vlade. Govori slovensko, srbo-hrvatsko, italijansko, francosko, špansko, nemško, rusko in angleško. Dejal je:

(Konec na 3. strani.)

PRITISK V NOVE POLOME AMERIŠKE POLITIKE NA KITAJSKEM

Za obvarovanje Čiang Kaiškovega režima je zvezna vlada potrošila nad tri milijarde dolarjev. Preskrbela mu je ladje, bojna letala, municijo, živež in poslala mu je tudi mnogo zlata za okrepitev njegove valute.

A ni vse nič pomagalo. Kitajsko ljudstvo se je hotelo njegove koruptne vlade iznebiti in to se mu je posrečilo s komunistično revolucijo. Čiang Kaišek ima v svoji oblasti samo še otok Formozo, ki je sto milj od kitajske celine. Od tu njegove ladje in letala napadajo največjo kitajsko luko Šanghaj in jo blokirajo. V pristanišče so položili tudi mine.

To mu je omogočeno samo z ameriško pomočjo. V Angliji ne razumejo, kako da ameriška vlada še podpira režim, ki je na Kitajskem za vse čase odgral. Anglija bi novo kitajsko komunistično vlado priznala že koncem minulega leta, a je to odlagala vsled ameriškega pritiska. Vsi vplivni angleški listi dokazujejo, da je bolje kitajsko vlado priznati kakršna je, kot pa se delati, da je le propadli Čiang Kaiškov režim legitim.

V našem državnem departmentu jih je nekaj, ki soglašajo z Angleži. Toda zakopali so se v podpisanju stare koruptne vlade tako globoko, da se sedaj ne morejo kar tako izkopati iz polomije.

Mnogi reakcionarji člani zveznega kongresa zahtevajo, naj vlada prične z odprto intervencijo proti komunistični Kitajski. Zdi se, da je tudi ameriški vojni štab teh misli. V naturi militarstov je, da sploh ne mislijo drugega kakor na vojno. Državni tajnik Dean Acheson ima z njimi in s histeričnimi senatorji z ozirom na Kitajsko veliko truda. Zahtevajo, da naj ameriška bojna mornarica okupira otok Formozo, ker je Čiang Kaišek z ostanki svoje armade ne bo mogel braniti. Pravijo, da je Formozo za ameriško obrambo silne važnosti in pa za v bran Japonske.

Med onimi, ki zahtevajo, da okupiramo ta otok, je tudi bivši predsednik Herbert Hoover, senator Taft, dalje senatorji Wherry iz Nebrasko, Knowland iz Kalifornije, kongresnik Eaten, senatorja Ferguson ter Jenner, in cela kopa drugih.

Pritisk za direktno oboroženo intervencijo je bil tolikšen, da je Truman pozval reporterje ter jim sporočil, da ameriška bojna sila za enkrat ne bo šla na Formozo. Isto je dejal tudi državni tajnik Acheson.

Oba sta ob enem pojasnila, da bi tak korak lahko povzročil splošno vojno.

Toda republikanski senatorji ter ultrazingoiistični listi so takoj zakričali nad njima, da se umikata Stalinu in s tem i onadva pomagata širiti komunizem.

Senator Connaly (demokrat iz Texasa) jim je odgovoril: "Seveda smo proti komunizmu, ampak mar naj to pomeni, da naj gremo z našo oboroženo silo v vsako državo, ki ima komunistično vlado?"

Kaj pa prebivalstvo Formoze? Ono želi, da se bi Čiang Kaiška ter njegovih trovtov čimprej iznebila. Otok spada po vseh pravicah Kitajski in v kongresu ter v zvezni vladi bi morali to razumeti. Toda namesto tega so bile poslana v kitajske vode dodatne ameriške bojne ladje ter nosilke bojnih letal. Naši vojaški ljudje ne razumeja, da s tem sovraštvo Kitajcev do Zed. držav še bolj podnetujemo.

Par izmed tistih senatorjev, ki so v zahtevanju intervencije najbolj glasni, so bili lansko jesen na obisku pri MacArthurju in tu sedaj širijo vtis, da je fudi on za direktno oboroženo akcijo proti kitajskim komunistom. Pravijo, da kakor je otel Japonsko pred nevarnostjo komunizma, tako bi pod njegovim vod-

(Konec na 2. strani.)

Čemu Truman zbornici še sili svoj "program"

Zvezni kongres se je 3. januarja vrnil s prazniških počitnic in pričel z delom. S kakšnim? Veliko stvari in problemov ima pred sabo.

Npr., ves program, razen par malenkosti, ki ga je Truman propagirala l. 1948, s svojo stranko vred, je še neizpolnjen. Bil je zanj na uspešni govorniški turi, dobil je predsedniško nominacijo — in to proti volji večine politikov njegove stranke — in proti volji večine unijskih vodij. Vzlic temu je bil izvoljen. Tako je njegov "fair deal" triumfalno da bi mu bilo treba z njegovo stranko zmagati na demokratskem jugu, ali pa v New Yorku, kar jako rad poudarja.

Po zmagi je prišel pred kongres ter rekel svoji stranki, ki

je dobila v njemu večino, izvesti obljubljeni program.

Saj ni bilo veliko. Rekel je, da naj kongres uveljavi naredbe za enakopravnost črncev z belopoltnim prebivalstvom, da naj izboljša zakon o socialni zaščiti, in pa da naj uvede zdravstveno zavarovanje. In pa da naj reši stanovanjski problem ter odpravi Taftov-Hartleyjev protiujijski zakon.

Potem je predlagal še nekaj drugih stvari, ki so jih njegovi nasprotniki označevali za socializem.

Tudi v tem zadnjem letu sedanjega kongresa bo Trumanov "fair deal" ostal največ na papirju. Zakoni za socialno zaščito ne bodo izboljšani. Protiujijski zakon ostane tak kot je. Premo-

govniške družbe apelirajo, naj to postavijo uporabi proti uniji premogarjev in njenemu predsedniku John L. Lewisu in ga primora preklicati svojo odredbo, ki premogarjem dovoljuje delati več kot tri dni na teden. Truman bi ta zakon morda uporabil, toda je nerodno, ker je toliko govoril proti njemu in ga hoče odpraviti. Dasi Truman Lewisa nima rad, se brani ustreči operatorjem, ker noče, da se bi potem republikanci norčevali iz njega in letos je kampanjsko leto.

Vlada je kongresu predložila proračun (budžet) za prihodnje fiskačno leto, ki je višji kot kdaj prej v mirnem času. Predvideni dohodki bodo pet milijard nižji kakor dohodki, tudi ako bi

Vse se viša — dobički, mezde, brezposelnos in cene potrebščin

Značilnost minulega leta, kot v nekaj prejšnjih — je v tem, da gre vse navzgor in izgleda, da letos ne bo nič drugače.

Profiti korporacij so bili lani še enkrat višji kot so bili leta 1929, katero je bilo zadnje leto brezprimerne prosperitete po prvi svetovni vojni.

Lanski profiti velekapitala znašajo okrog dve in pol milijarde dolarjev več kot leta 1946, in to po odbitku vseh davkov ter drugih stroškov.

Bili so večji kot v kateremkoli letu med drugo svetovno vojno. Kdor torej živi od dividend ter drugih profitov, mu ne bo slabo.

Veliko težje gre onim, ki žive od brezposelnostne podpore.

Priglasilo se je zanjo v minulem letu 7.500.000 delavcev, ki so skupno prejeli \$1.700.000.000 podpore. Vsota je visoka, toda razdeljena med sedem in pol milijona ljudi je nizka. A vendar — kot pravimo med proletariatom, boljše nekaj kot nič.

V gornjem številu brezposelnih so vsi tisti, ki so prejeli kaj podpore tekom leta, med njimi torej stotisoči tistih, ki so bili začasno zaposleni kot oni, ki so bili stalno odslovljeni in si še niso mogli dobiti novih služb.

V decembru je bilo stalno odslovljenih 962.000 delavcev, večinoma takih, ki se jih označuje za sezonske uposlence.

Census Bureau pravi, da je bilo ob koncu leta zaposlenih 58.556.000 delavcev, vstevši one, ki delajo le po par dni v tednu. Omenjeni vladni urad čeni, da je stalno nezaposlenih sedaj okrog 3.489.000, ali 80.000 več kakor v novembru. Mnogo podjetij delavce še vedno odslovlja.

Višanje profitov je radost za lastnike, a višanje brezposelnosti pa večja zaskrbljenost in pa ekonomske težave v delavskih družinah.

Tudi višanje cen je še v veljavi. Ob koncu leta so bile razne življenjske potrebščine povprečno 26 odstotkov dražje kot pa junija 1946, ko je kongres ukinil kontrolo nad cenami (OPA). Letos bo brzkone odpravljena kontrola nad stanarjnami popolnoma in "land-lordi" ter drugi "real estate" magnati se vesele, kako jih bodo pognali kvišku.

Tudi mezde so se v nekaterih obratih nekoliko zvišale, a povprečen dohodek delavcev je znižan vsled nestalne zaposlenosti in "over time" je prof. Zelo prizadeti so spet premogarji, kakor po prvi svetovni vojni. In v svoji borbi za lastniški premogovniški industrije so osamljeni. Sodišča in kongresne preiskave so lomastile po njih, ob enem tudi Truman in unija premogarjev je morala plačati nad milijon dolarjev globe.

Za premogarje novo leto torej ni bilo nič kaj veselo in pa za tri milijone brezposelnih delavcev ter za njihove družine tudi ne.

KOMENTARJI

Zbira in presoja urednik

Mercy Hospital — katoliška bolnišnica v Davenportu, Iowa, je dobil minuli teden mnogo prav neprijetnega "oglašanja". To je velik zavod, obsegajoč dva mestna bloka. V posloplju za umobolne se je pozno ponoči dogodil požar. 40 bolnic je umrlo v plamenih. Nekaj pa so jih gailci rešili. Zenske so spale v zaklenjenih sobah, ki jih morejo odkleniti le varuhinje. Skozi okna jih tudi niso mogli rešiti, ker so zamrežena. Gasilci so sicer trkali železne rešetke raz oken, a je bilo že prepozno. Prišli so tudi bolnišnični dthovniki in mglili za duše umrlih. Gasilec se je posrečilo omejiti požar samo na to poslopje in tako se k sreči ogenj ni razširil še na druge predele te velike bolnišnice. Oddelek, ki je zgorel, je bil smatran za "mišjo past", ali po angleško, za "fire trap". Starinsko in večinoma leseno trinadstropno poslopje je bilo hipoma v plamenih. Pred par leti je inspektor gasilskega oddelka vodstvu bolnišnice svetoval namestiti pod stropi, te pasti vodne brizgalnice, ki začno v slučaju požara avtomatično delovati. Zakaj ni oblast svoje naredbe tudi uveljavila, o tem so uvedli preiskavo in pri tem bo ostalo. Ali pa je bila morda — po stari katoliški razlagi, to le božja volja,

ali pa božja kazen? Vemo pa, da je vodstvu te katoliške bolnice hudo, ker se je tako katastrofen požar dogodil baš v njihovem zavodu.

"Kralj" Pefer je prišel v Chicago in se nastanil s svojim spremstvom v sobah, kjer je bil pred njim podpred. Zed. držav Barkley. Očividno je Peter z denarjem dobro založen in zato on ne ve, kaj je "Dollar shortage". Torej kar se udobja in financ tiče, ni napačno biti "kralj", pa magari v ubežništvu.

Madama Čiang Kaišek je govorila v nedeljo 8. januarja po radio-omrežju CBS in zagotavljala ameriški avdienci, da se bo Kitajska borila proti "tujim vpadalcem", dokler se ne osvobodi. Omenjala je pri tem Rusijo, čeprav ji je znano, da na Kitajskem ni bilo sovjetskih vojakov, razen kolikor jih je v Mandžuriji, dočim je imel njen mož na razpolago številno ameriških letalcev, oficirjev, inženirjev ter ekonomskih svetovalcev. Madama, ki se je izštudirala v ameriških šolah, je prišla sem že pred meseci, da Truman pridobi za polno intervencijo ameriške oborožene sile v podporo njenemu možu. Ko je uvidela, da je njen napor zaman, je (Konec na 3. strani.)

Nekaj o naših stvareh

V zadnjih 45 letih — v dobi od kar izhaja Proletarec — je šlo v pozabljenje že nešteto časopisov, med njimi ne samo delavski ampak veliko takih, ki so jih izdajali bogataši.

Minuli teden je prenehal newyorški "Sun", ki je izhajal 117 let. Svoja leta je imel velike dohodeke in dobičke, z oglasi seveda. Toda tudi mnogim bogataškim dnevnikom gre težko vsled konkurence, v kateri jim odvzema oglase radio, sedaj tudi television in pa magazini, in pa ker ameriški dnevnik postajajo last malega števila multimilijonarjev. Ti svoje liste združujejo v enega v posameznem mestu in svoje liste v drugih mestih napolnjujejo z istim gradivom.

Marshall Field II. v Chicagu, ki je izdajal dnevnik "Sun" (istega imena kot je bil omenjeni v New Yorku) je izgubil z njim nad šest milijonov dolarjev, predno ga je ukinil. Vzroki so bili politični in ekonomski. Kajti tudi take časopise tepejo naraščajoči tiskovni stroški. Zahteve unije tiskarjev so ubile že nič koliko posebno malih bizniških listov, nič koliko listov, ki so bili pisani v jezikih tujerodcev, in previsoki stroški so primorali v prenehanje v tej dobi tudi veliko glasil raznih unij in posebno prizadeti pa so neodvisni delavski listi, kot je Proletarec.

Svoječasno je izhajalo v tej deželi v angleškem in v drugih jezikih okrog 400 socialističnih listov, med njimi trije angleški dnevniški (v New Yorku, v Montani in v Wisconsinu). Deloma vsled preganjanja med prvo svetovno vojno, vsled visokih stroškov in pa vsled frakcijskih bojev so bili potisnjeni ob zid ter zadušeni.

Proletarec je imel v borbi za obstanek že veliko kritičnih dni. Ako ne bi bilo v vsaki njegovi krizi takih ljudi, ki so mu pomagali, bi ga že davno ne bilo. V službo k njemu ni nihče. silil. Večinoma so jo kmalu pustili, ker s plačo, ki so jo imeli, ne bi mogli preživljati svojih družin. V nekaterih slučajih so jim njihove žene pomagale s tem, da so šle i one v službo.

Prav od prvega leta pa do sedaj se ta list bori NE SAMO za načela, ki jih propagira, pač pa tudi kje dobiti sredstva, s katerimi bi pokrival račune. Kot sedaj je imel ta list posebno težke čase skozi zadnji dve leti prve svetovne vojne in potem po vojni. Proletarec s svojim tedanjim urednikom je bil v oni dobi na čelu kampanje za Jugoslovsansko republikansko združenje, ki je propagiralo ustanovitev jugoslovsanske federativne republike na temelju socialistične uredbe. To je nas obremenilo, da nismo mogli vršiti toliko agitacijskega dela za list kot bi bilo potrebno, vsled borbe za program JRZ, in pa silovitega boja s "kraljevaši", in pa z razkolniki v JSZ, ki so se izrekli za nevtralnost v tisti vojni ter nam pri tem delali nič koliko težkoč. Ob enem so nas reakcionarji denuncirali pri oblastih in v teh okoliščinah je Proletarec zagazal v velik dolg.

Na mirovni konferenci v Versaillesu so zmagali imperalisti ter ustanovili pod imenom "država SHS" veliko Srbijo z dinastijo na čelu. Naši ljudje so bili poparjeni.

A vseeno smo te težave prestali, ohranili naše gibanje in Proletarca.

Sedaj — po tej drugi svetovni vojni, pa nas tepe najbolj draginja, ker tiskovni stroški so jako narasli. Drugič — dasi ima ta list znatno skupino iskrenih agitatorjev in podpornikov, je premajhna, da bi si mogla vse to breme sama naložiti na hrbet.

Potrebujemo oni in mi več razumevanja in sodelovanja, več prispevkov v tiskovni sklad, več novih naročnikov.

Aranžirajmo ob petinštiridesetem letu Proletarca privedbe njemu v pomoč, zbirajmo v tiskovni sklad — vprašajmo prijatelje in znance, da se nanj naroče. Samo tako bomo izšli tudi iz sedanjih krize, skozi katero gre list vsled nezadostnih dohodkov spet po tej vojni.

FORMOSA: ANOTHER DOSE?

President Truman is being urged to repeat in Formosa the same mistakes which brought about a disastrous defeat for our policy in China.

Formosa is the most significant part of China still held by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists. It was the base from which Japan launched invasion of the Philippines and Indonesia. It is right in the middle of what has come to be called the American "defense arc," running from Japan through Okinawa to the Philippines.

From a purely strategic point of view it would, of course, be desirable to have Formosa in friendly hands. The Chinese Communists are not friendly. Military considerations, however, are not the only ones to be considered in framing foreign policy.

Until recently it appeared that Washington was acting on the realistic assumption that Formosa had been lost when China was lost. Lately, however, Republican senators have been returning from visits with Gen. MacArthur, bringing the word that Formosa must be held at all costs.

President Truman has reportedly decided against the direct use of American military force for that purpose. But he is under heavy pressure to back Chiang Kai-shek with more military aid and an American military mission. We spent three billion dollars giving Chiang that kind of aid on the mainland.

Chiang failed in China because his forces were corrupt and lacked the support of the people. His forces are still corrupt. They still lack popular support in Formosa as on the mainland. There is every reason to think that they cannot hold the island any better than they held China proper.

Even if we could rescue Chiang, however, the effort would do us no good with other Asiatic peoples. In their eyes it would be a demonstration that our concern is not with the people of Asia but with military positions for a future war. In their eyes it would undo what has been done by our support of freedom for the Philippines and Indonesia.

Nor would a last-ditch stand behind Chiang do us any good with our friends elsewhere. We could not pour aid into Formosa without indefinitely delaying recognition of Red China. Britain and other allies in the cold war are about to grant recognition, as India has already done. So did Britain.

Our pursuit of an unrealistic Formosa policy would drive a wedge into the Western diplomatic front. Nothing, surely, would please the Kremlin more.

Formosa may be strategically important, but it is not important enough to risk alienating the peoples of Asia and dividing the non-Communist world. The new policy which our State Department is seeking in Asia must be built on creative effort to win friends, not on last-ditch defense of discredited military dictators.

— Chicago Sun-Times.

New Star in Firmament

By DONALD RAMSEY

When I hear of a new self-governing nation, I feel sure God has hung another star in his heavens. This may sound a little emotional, but it is sound American sentiment.

Our Declaration of Independence lays down the proposition that "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." That's something to remember in these days when our beloved U. S. is a "World Power."

I am reminded of something John F. Carew said years ago. He was a big, vigorous congressman from New York City, head of the Tammany delegation and always "right" on labor issues. Eventually Tammany took him out of Congress and put him on the bench.

Before that happened, Carew accompanied a congressional delegation to the Philippines. The visitors were wine and dined by the military and the Chamber of Commerce crowd and were stuffed with propaganda to the effect that "the little brown men" were incapable of self-government.

Rebuke for a Propagandist
Finally, Carew lost his temper and he said something like this to an army colonel who had been peculiarly obnoxious:

"I got my Americanism from Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. It's not our business to govern other people. We will be kept busy if we govern ourselves properly."

And now the Indonesian Republic, with thousands of islands and a land area equal to that of the United States, comes into the firmament. The Dutch didn't want to turn loose this juicy possession. In fact, ratification won by only one vote in the Senate of the Netherlands' Parliament.

'Reds' and 'Blacks' Unite

An American correspondent, reporting the event, says the average Hollander doesn't seem interested. Why should he? Dutch possession of the East Indies didn't help the common people of Holland. The higher-ups, including members of the royal family, got all the rake-off and divided the loot with the big financiers in Britain.

Here is an interesting bit about the debate in the Dutch Parliament: The Catholics, the Socialists and the Liberals backed Indonesian independence, but the Dutch Tory party, known as "The Christian Historical Union"—what a name for a group of reactionaries—and the Communists united in denouncing the proposal. That's something worth recording. The "Reds" and the "Blacks" going down the road together in opposition to basic human rights.

Romulo's Bid for Peace

Brigadier General Carlos P. Ro-

mulos, a Filipino, has been serving as president of the United Nations Assembly.

He thinks the United States and Russia should enter into a temporary armistice "in the production and use of atomic weapons." Romulo is one of the great speakers for the "little people." He fears the great powers, in their fight for supremacy, will wreck the world and that the small nations are sure to be the worst sufferers.

It isn't probable Romulo's suggestion will receive serious consideration. America, Britain and France will say Russia can't be trusted, and Russia will condemn the "capitalistic nations" in about the same terms.

So, at the beginning of the New Year, no one, except God, knows where we are drifting.

A Unique Compromise

After much debate, European countries have decided how they will divide Uncle Sam's billion-dollar arms aid program.

According to the original proposal, only the Western European democracies were to get in on the deal. In other words, we were helping only those who were in the direct path of Communism.

Britain objected. It wished to send some of the arms to other parts of the world, largely to guard its colonial possessions. Finally a queer compromise was reached: Britain will get a large slice of our arms donation and then will use arms manufactured at home to take care of its colonies. That's like taking money out of one pocket and putting it in another.

Strange Road

By MAX PRESS

You will hurry, for the sun shall be low,

And there is peace and love where you would go,

But the road is strange and the night comes soon

With never a sign of a star or moon?

Then slowly the sun shall sink in the vast,

And you shall stray and stumble, trapped at last,

And if you have faith, you will feel and grope

Through the falling dark with a desperate hope,

But if you have none, you shall huddle and weep,

While the trees grow tall and the night grows deep,

The sounds of the wood in the rising wind,

And you: stricken and fearful, chilled and blind.

NO COMMENTS

From The Nation

PRETORIA, South Africa—City life leads many South African Negro workers to magistrates' courts through drunkenness, assault and battery, and other misdemeanors. Since the penal code takes no cognizance of the color bar, the same penalties are meted out to whites and Negroes, regardless of their very different earnings. It follows that prisons are overcrowded with Negroes serving short terms in default of paying fines. Some shrewd Transvaal farmers saw an opportunity in this state of things. At Leslie, in a corn and potato county, they . . . built a pail. The Department of Justice readily agreed to fill it. Now the farmers of Leslie holding shares in the venture have labor aplenty at the cost of 1s. 6d. (about 25 cents) per man per day. The Minister of Justice in the Nationalist Cabinet, Charles R. Swart, has . . . pictured the convicts "living in the congenial atmosphere of the countryside."—From a special dispatch to the New York Times, October 5.

Two Negro men sat in (Dade) county jail behind bars for half a year even though they were not charged with violating any law. The men are material witnesses in two different cases which have not been brought to trial. . . . How did the men . . . get into jail? It was all very legal-like. . . . Criminal County Court Judge Ben Willard . . . set bail at \$500 for each man, and because neither . . . had enough money to make bond, they were tossed into the clink. That was last April.—From the Miami, Florida, Daily News, October 9.

On the surface (Frank) Costello operates like many another capitalist. He has a full-time press agent, a lawyer on retainer, and a psychiatrist. — From the New York Times, October 23.

Art lessons for business men. Beautiful live models. Relaxing and private. Call OR-56 . . . Classified advertisement in the Los Angeles Mirror, October 17.

Cambridge, Mass.—The Russian club at Harvard has changed its name to the Slavic Society. . . . President Alexander O'Globin, 19, . . . explained: "Somehow the word 'Russian' seems to have a peculiar connotation these days." O'Globin said the club—or society—had no political leanings. Its chief function, he said, was to sit around, drink tea, eat crackers and caviar—and talk Russian.—From an Associated Press dispatch, November 2.

Being a Socialist and an educated one, Nehru has read such publications as The Nation for years. It is no secret that up to his recent tour (of the United States) he had a distorted picture of the country.—From the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, November 6.

Insuring Doctors' Fees

The Wall Street Journal reports that President-elect Elmer Henderson of the American Medical Association "urged doctors throughout the country to support (Congressional) candidates who are against the Truman (national health insurance) scheme."

In the next paragraph, the Journal reported:

"In bull sessions outside the regular (AMA) meetings, the doctors discussed their own most pressing problem: How to make a living. Laboratory, technician and other costs have gone up—and fees are increasingly hard to collect."

In other words, Dr. Henderson wants to fight the very program that would allow doctors to collect their fees without any trouble—and thus protect their laboratory, technician and other costs—League Reporter.

He who gives himself airs of importance, exhibits the credentials of impotence. — Lavater.

Longer Loops, Please

To his son who was attending college, the dean of a church wrote:

Dear Arnold: I suggest that you add penmanship to your other courses; at least, long enough to learn that the small "e" and "l" are not the same height. Until your mother deciphered your last letter for me, I was sure that you and the other young men sharing your room all had coeds—not colds.



LEARN! — Learn from experience while you are going along, learn from history, and from successes and failures of others.

Are Reuthers' Target of Gamblers?

The implacability of the Reuthers' would-be assassin indicates either a maniac or a shrewd criminal giving a good imitation of one. It is fantastic to believe that a mere anti-unionist or Communist, no matter how fanatical, would make three atrocious assaults of the sort suffered by officials of the United Automobile Workers. In April, 1948, Walter Reuther, president of the union, was shot at close range through the window of his home. He lost the use of his right arm and very nearly his life. Thirteen months later his brother Victor was shot in almost identical circumstances. He lost an eye and came even closer to being killed. Recently enough dynamite was planted in the U.A.W.'s Detroit headquarters to blow up the building and was discovered only six minutes before it would have gone off. The Reuthers know of no one whose personal enmity would carry him to such a pitch of determined violence, but there are reports, not much discussed in the press, that before Walter Reuther took the helm of his union, the numbers game flourished in the automobile plants, while management and the left-wingers, then in control of the U.A.W., looked the other way, to say the least. The breaking up of this flourishing racket may have made the Reuthers the target of gamblers suddenly deprived of a sizable take. On orders from Attorney General McGrath the FBI has now stepped in, though it may have been quietly at work on the case ever since the United States Senate asked it to take action at the time Victor Reuther was shot. With the evidence available—a discarded shotgun and now the dynamite—it should be possible for the federal agents, the Michigan state police, and local detectives to lift the intolerable menace that has hung over the union and its officers for the past nineteen months.—The Nation

REFLECTIONS

By Raymond S. Hofses

I AM CONVINCED that I shall never become a great commentator on social trends. To be great, one must mystify and confuse. In discussing the results of the capitalist era, allusions must be made to persons and events about which the average reader knows nothing. This is necessary to convince the reader that, after all, he is just too stupid to understand and, being stupid, must rely upon those who are great—like those clever writers who make economics and sociology sound like a mystery novel—for relief from the evils of a muddled world.

I'm not like that. I neither know nor care whether Benny Mussolini was a modern Julius Caesar, Hitler a reincarnated Napoleon, or Franklin Delano Roosevelt a second Moses. I like my sociology to be simple. And, above all, I want the people who read this column to understand what I believe is happening to them.

CONSIDER THE BUDGET. During the coming fiscal year we're planning to spend (roughly) about \$40 billions, for which we are going to take in—also very roughly, as wage earners and housewives and bondholders and lots of other people know—about \$45 billions.

Now, I submit that it isn't necessary to dig deeply into history to know what that means now and in the future. The millions of Americans who regularly go broke the day before payday know that our national economy is going in the sink to the tune of \$5 billions this year—which is more money than the government nicked us for back in the pre-FDR era. Moreover, people now living who never read even one book know where that is going to lead the capitalist economy. They either have gone through that or are fearful that they will have to.

When a worker loses his job, he lives on his credits. Maybe he has some bonds. He sells them.

Perhaps his insurance policy has a cash surrender value. He borrows on it. Or he may have a bank account. So he writes some checks.

But even while he appears to be living well, he's going in the hole and is headed for financial collapse.

And that's what our national economy is doing. It's just as simple as that.

AND AFTER the worker uses up all his credits—then what?

Why, then he has lost his freedom. Then he goes to the relief office and fills out forms which tell the relief officials all his personal business. Then he is subject to periodical inspections and check-ups. "Control" becomes the most important fact in his life.

And that's just what is going to happen to the American way of life if it keeps on spending more than it takes in.

No matter why Rome fell, American democracy is going to fall when the dollar has lost enough of its value and when public debts make freedom altogether impractical.

And then CONTROLS will become the most important word in the language of the nation.

I'M DRAWING a parallel in the life of an individual and of a nation because both are governed by the same economic laws and because there is no turning back for the American private-profit system.

Guess Who?

Not long ago, one of America's largest organizations jumped all over the Anti-trust Division of the Department of Justice for the manner in which it has been enforcing the anti-trust laws against monopolies.

Was it the National Association of Manufacturers? No.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America? No.

The National Association of Real Estate Boards? No.

The Committee for Constitutional Government? No.

The National Tax Equity Association? No.

The American Farm Bureau Federation? Yes. Incredible? Yes.—League Reporter.

56 PER CENT OWN CARS

Of the 43.8 million families in the United States today, 24.5 million, or 56 per cent, own automobiles, according to Federal Reserve Board figures. About 2 million, or 4.5 per cent, have two or more cars.

Jobs are Private Property too

The Stewart-Warner Corporation has laid off five workers who have refused to sign non-Communist "loyalty" affidavits. If they sign up within 10 days they may come back to work. If not, they are permanently out.

Commenting upon this action, "The Militant," a Trotskyist publication, asks: "What worker's job, what active unionist's job, will be safe if Stewart-Warner gets away with this and other companies take up the practice?"

Of course, that is a rhetorical question. "The Militant" knows the answer. No worker's job will be safe. As a matter of fact, no workers job is safe now.

The only safety that any worker has lies in such seniority as he enjoys as a result of being a member of a strong union. But even that "safety" is limited. For if, as happens if one is a Stalin Communist, a worker displeases both his employer and the officials of his union, then his hold on a job is very precarious indeed.

What many workers don't understand is that a job is still the private property of the person or corporation that owns the industry in which that job exists. They can hire whom they please. They can abolish the job. They can always find an excuse to fire.

That's why we feel so frustrated whenever we hear a worker sound off on his status as a "free and independent" citizen. There is no such thing—not under capitalism. Many years ago Shakespeare, the "immortal bard" caused one of his characters to say, "take my life and all. For you do take my life when you take the means whereby I live."

That is as true today as it was then. The owners of the means whereby we live own us in a very real sense. Indeed, most of us live by being owned. This condition is so real that we no sooner are discarded by one owner than we go looking for another.

Workers won't be "free and independent" until they own the means whereby they live—together. That is why Socialists never permit immediate problems to take precedence over the ultimate objective of a socialized economy. Until we make the industries the property of the people and regard useful service as a debt which every able individual owes to society, the mere signing of "loyalty" affidavit will fall far short of giving anybody the right to a job.—Reading Labor Advocate

THE LAST WORD

By Duffy

Every once in a while someone goes to the trouble of compiling a lot of wit and wisdom into a column or a book and selling it to others to read—nothing really "heavy" but just light piffle that has a sting to it as well as some pretty good common sense.

We've never tried it—we don't seem to have that capacity for wit and wisdom with which some of our fellow writers are endowed—but there's nothing in the world to stop us from passing it on to you from the typewriter of the other fellow.

One wag said that he got his wits sharpened by keeping his nose to the grindstone—which may be so, but I've always heard it said that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy—but plenty of Jack.

Diplomacy was described recently by another of the typewriter gentry who deals in wit and wisdom as the art of not letting the other guy know that you know he's wrong.

More gems include the following: The one person you can always outsmart is yourself—and how true that is and how often (unfortunately) it's true.

A woman really lets her hair down when she tells you what color it was.

Peace rules the day when reason rules the mind. Wonder if that day ever will arise on this earth?

A person seldom gets his head above the crowd without sticking his neck out.

The quickest way to lose an audience is to try to be the whole show.

People who can't get an idea into their heads usually don't have an idea in their heads either.

The happiest man, whether he be king or peasant or worker, is the man who finds peace in his own home.

Content makes poor men rich but discontent makes rich men poor.

Every gain which the human race has ever made was first an idea in someone's mind and every advance was first a purpose.

If you've got antagonism in your own heart, it would be pretty difficult for you to deal successfully with antagonism in another.

Just because you may have silenced a man in an argument or debate doesn't mean that you have either convinced him or even converted him to your side.

"Upon the increase and diffusion of education among the great mass of people, and the elevation of labor, depends, to a very great extent, the perpetuity of our free institutions."

The above sounds like a good doctrine, recently declared, but it is in fact a philosophy expressed by President Andrew Jackson when he was a member of congress back in 1800.

Speculators Drain Coffee Customers

Sen. Guy M. Gillette (D., Iowa) has concluded that speculators are responsible for the big increase in coffee prices since September.

He reached this conclusion after a subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee ended an investigation into coffee prices. He is chairman of the subcommittee.

Gillette estimates that "manipulation of the coffee market" cost consumers about \$650 million in higher prices for coffee. But, he adds, the speculation "apparently was not illegal or in violation of the law so there is little we can do about it but talk."

However, the price spiral has stopped. And a large part of the credit for the halt goes to Gillette, who has spotlighted the way in which speculators forced up the prices of coffee.

IT'S POOR BUSINESS!

"Counterfeiting does not pay," according to the U.S. Secret Service, which reported 207 arrests in a year and seizure of \$611,679 in bogus money.

Book to Help DP's

The new book—"Immigrants Information Book—How to Enter the United States," published recently in a most comprehensive form, is available to all now.

Many thousands of Americans want quick information on how they can bring foreign relatives or friends into the United States. These people felt a crying need for a small, comprehensive book on the subject which would be both reliable and easily understood by the average man, so that he would know exactly what to do to bring a relative or friend in. This book gives all that information in a most clear, easy to read and understandable form.

If you have a friend or relative anywhere in Europe and wish to bring them to America, you will be interested in this book. If you do not need it you will do service to all who do need it by recommending it to them or telling them about it.

This book is 56 pages and can be obtained from Palandech's Book Store, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago 5, Illinois. The price is \$1.00. Two or more books will be sent C.O.D.