











Wage Raises Not Enough

From the American Federation of Labor comes a demand for wage increases which will keep buying power at least as high as present levels when war orders stop and the 40-hour week becomes the way of American life. The Federationists ask for the nullification of the Little Steel formula and point out that, with the elimination of overtime in the war industries the maintenance of present wage rates will greatly reduce the take-home pay of American workers. We believe with the AFL that present living standards should be maintained. However, we are compelled to assert that the reasoning displayed in making this demand is woefully incomplete. Does Mr. William Green or any other unionist believe that equal money for less work is, in itself, a guarantee of living standards? We don't. We know and most workers know what happens when the unit cost of a product is increased by wage raises. What will happen if the Federation's demand is met is that the selling cost will rise with the wage bill. Moreover, if the usual procedure is followed the price to the consumer will be increased even more than the increase of the wage bill. That's how it happened in the case of the miners, as every fuel user knows. And that's how it will happen if workers get as many dollars for 40 hours' work as they now do for 48 hours. We are not objecting to workers asking for more money. That is a defensive measure which must be taken from time to time. But we must face facts; and the fact is that business always aims to recover what it gives to workers—and then some. That's how the private-profit system operates. And when we say that we also suggest what is necessary to obtain justice for workers. What is needed is the abolition of the private-profit economy. Labor should now make the socialization of industry its goal. Its quest should be, not for higher wages than can be taken away from them when they buy the necessities of life, but for the full social value of the product of their toil. That's what Socialists in and out of the Federation want. Until the economy of the nation is socialized and all its products distributed upon the basis of service instead of ownership, the claim for ever increasing wage rates will continue to keep workers battling for benefits that are illusory.—The Reading Labor Advocate.

Can't Regulate Man-Eating Tigers

"Cartels." Note that word. You will be constantly running into it from now on. It means a contract or agreement between big business men of two or more countries to limit output, raise prices and soak the public wherever possible. The printed stories of a hundred hearings show that men who form international cartels honor no flag and never permit the interest of any country to interfere with their profits. A writer in a Washington paper suggests that this administration has decided that instead of outlawing cartels, it will undertake to regulate them. Nothing could be more futile. One might as well talk about "regulating" a man-eating tiger. If cartels are permitted to develop, they will have so much money and influence they will regulate the regulators in a very short time. When a business becomes so big and strong that it is a monopoly, it should be taken over and operated by the government and all chance of private profit eliminated. A better way is to see that cartels and trusts are not permitted to secure a foothold—nationally or internationally.—Labor.

Free Enterprise For Whom?

In Congress the bi-partisan wing is riding high. Its leaders constantly echo the Dewey song of free enterprise. Americans are never, never to be slaves of the bureaucrats. Their moral fiber is not to be weakened by WPA hand-outs. They want no doles and no directives. Each one is to be left strictly alone to grow rich as the result of his own lusty efforts. Free enterprise—but Returning soldiers are properly to get every sort of break. Great corporations are to have every sort of help. Big farmers and food processors get price support, small farmers get big troubles. Little businessmen get kind words. And— Wage-workers are allotted all the advantage to being left on their own. This is the upshot of a whole network of laws which will set our course for years to come. The measures passed and soon to be passed are complicated, detailed and carefully thought out. Anyone who lays them end to end can easily figure out their general direction. The sponsors of these measures sing both high and low of individual initiative, but the only group of citizens who are not to be pampered with public help are wage-workers and working farmers. What goes on here? If the free enterprise believe what they say, this is the nature of a compliment, a favor, an advantage. If they don't believe their own words, it is a slight, an insult, a handicap. Congress has adopted or is about to adopt measures dealing with termination of war contracts, disposal of what is called surplus property and demobilization both civil and military. These measures affect millions of men and many billions of dollars worth of property. A clearly defined principle—or perhaps it is a prejudice—runs through the whole network. We start with the veterans. Out of the whole lot the only law that we all support is the G. I. Bill of rights. It is the best measure of the sort which we have adopted in

our entire history. It provides for unemployment insurance, education, industrial training and re-training and, finally, assistance in finding jobs. Everyone agrees that the returning soldiers and sailors should have every possible break. They will get it. Next come the great industrial corporations. Every care has been exercised to give them all the breaks. The tax refund, the easy and quick sale of surplus property, the rapid pulling of the government out of business, the generous arrangements for contract termination—these and other similar provisions make of the big businessmen our most pampered class. But that is about the end of the tale so far as pampering and care and help are concerned. Some provisions have been slipped in here and there to support farm prices. But these will benefit exclusively the big farmers and the food processors. The little farmers will get precious little help. And as for the workers—they are placed entirely on their own. There we have it. Some are helped. Others are not. And those least cared for—those left out in the cold—are the wage-workers. What are we to think of the exponents of free enterprise and individual initiative? When they take tender care of certain class—is it possible that they have no fear at all of weakening their fiber and turning them into vassals of a bureaucracy?—From The New Leader.

SECRET OF SUCCESS

Trying to bring home to his audience the evils of drink, the speaker was telling them how his own life had been influenced by total abstinence. "Three years ago," he said proudly, "there were two men in my office holding positions superior to mine. One was dismissed for drunkenness; the other was led in to crime, and is now serving a term in prison, all through strong drink. So I am now head of my department. I ask you," he wound up, "what has raised me to my present position?" "Drink!" came the unexpectedly reply from the back of the hall. Health is the greatest of all possessions; a pale cobbled is better than a sick king.—Bickerstaff.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



IN THE WIND

From THE NATION We have it from one who is in a position to know that several Republican bigwigs went to Darryl Zanuck during the filming of "Wilson" and offered to make difficulties unless it were suppressed. Zanuck told them he was perfectly willing to suppress it, because he had a better idea for a movie anyhow—the life and times of Warren G. Harding. That ended the argument. In the midst of a war against Nazism, Clifton D. Gray, president of Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, has sent to educational agencies throughout the country a letter advising them of a vacancy in his faculty, containing this sentence: "The situation makes it necessary for us to consider only those candidates who have affiliation with some branch of the Protestant church." That seems to be the chief qualification. Some teaching experience is "desirable," but apparently not essential. A reliable source in the book-publishing field informs us that an effort was made to have Carl Carmer write the official biography of Thomas E. Dewey, which has just appeared under the McGraw-Hill imprint, the idea being that then it could be presented as "a great piece of Americana" rather than as a campaign document. Carmer, who knows his Americana, wasn't interested.

The fortnightly "News Comment" of Canada's Cooperative Commonwealth Federation sums up the past session of the Canadian Parliament as follows: "A small group of C. C. F., about one-fifth of the Liberal membership, but backed by an ever-growing popular opinion, was able to force the government to adopt social legislation, some of which has been in the Liberal platform for a quarter-century... The evidence is incontrovertible that it has reached the statute book because the Liberals felt that it offered their only means of stemming the rising tide of C. C. F. support... History may well record that no party... ever accomplished so much before actually assuming power." Tom Y. Chan, a leader of the Chinese community in Chicago and a member of the committee that sold more than \$4,000,000 in war bonds during the Fifth War Loan drive in Chinatown, died recently. He expressed a wish to be buried in Rosehill Cemetery near his first wife, who was buried there twenty-four years ago. Cemetery officials said no. For the past twenty years they have catered to a restricted clientele.

Festung Europa: The Slovakian Nazi paper "Gardista" warns that an Allied victory would mean "that the country would return to senseless equal suffrage and to the unnatural dogma of equality..." This want ad slipped past the censor into a Copenhagen newspaper: "Apartment of three rooms and bath wanted at end of war, no later than October 1."

4,000,000 STILL GET LESS THAN 40c AN HOUR

Although an minimum wage of 40 cents an hour has been established for all the 21,000,000 workers protected by the Fair Labor Standard Act, over 4,000,000 of the workers outside its protection still are paid less than 40 cents an hour, L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, said recently in a Labor Day statement. "Actually, there are more workers without its protection than are covered by the Act," Mr. Walling said. "Parallel state legislation is needed to provide a similar bulwark against post-war wage slashing, deflation and consequent unemployment. Here is an opportunity for those who advocate state, rather than Federal, action to demonstrate the sincerity of their stand."—U. S. Department of Labor.

A LIBEL IN KANSAS

Out in Crawford County, Kans., a woman wrote to the ration board for extra gasoline which she needed because she was "teching skoll." But the board turned down the request, deciding if she were a "skoll teacher," she shouldn't be. Young persons are creatures of impulse, old persons are creatures of habit.—G. B. Cheever.

Why We Must Cut Prices, Boost Wages

That's the Best Way to Sustain Buying Power and Assure Generous Prosperity to All Classes

James G. Rogers, Jr., deputy administrator, Office of Price Administration, speaking to a convention of Associated Chain Drug Stores in New York a few days ago said: "After the war reduced production costs resulting from increased efficiency must be handed on to the consumer in the form of lower prices and to the worker in the form of higher wages." Reduce prices and increase wages! "That's impossible," some may exclaim, but it is as sane as anything any public official has uttered during all the discussion of our post-war problems. Everyone can see that the productivity of American workers is increasing by leaps and bounds. If employers attempt to reap all the benefit, we are pretty sure to run into a depression, much broader and deeper than any we have heretofore experienced. That will be because the masses of our people will lack the buying power to purchase the output of our factories, mines and other industrial establishments. Once buying power is shut off, the most selfish of employers will find it impossible to keep his head above the water for any length of time. Even the government "experts" who clung so tenaciously to the now thoroughly discredited "Little Steel Formula" are willing to concede that the hourly rate of wages for American workers must be sharply increased as soon as war contracts begin to run out. If that is not done, it is obvious that the worker's "carry-home" wages will be greatly reduced because the worker will no longer have a chance to earn overtime. Only an increase in the hourly or daily rate can compensate for this loss. But if profiteers are permitted to run wild and to boost prices like so many business men are doing right now, the worker will not benefit from any increase in wages he may be able to secure. Such increases will be taken from him by the profiteer in the form of increased prices.—Labor.

END LITTLE STEEL TO BOOST BUYING, AFL MONTHLY URGES

Wants Overtime Pay Continued When Work Is On 40-Hour Base WASHINGTON (FP). — To offset a \$12 billion drop in worker's buying power through return to a 40-hour week and loss of overtime, wage rates must be raised now, the AFL Monthly survey stated Sept. 11. It called for an end to the "Little Steel" formula to increase postwar buying power. "We anticipate that unless wage rates are raised now, workers' buying power will be 15% to 20% below the amount needed to support full employment and full production," the survey said. "Unless there is enough buying power in the hands of the public to create a demand for full production, there will not be enough jobs for all after the war." The survey showed that American workers buy three quarters of all the consumer goods and services produced by American industry. The "Little Steel" formula has frozen wage rates at 15% above January, 1941, while figures show living costs are 28% higher, it said. "Unless wage rates are raised now, buying power will fall short of the amount necessary to support full production and employment."

TRUE CONFESSION

When the late "Gabe" Bouck was representative from the Oshkosh district, Wisconsin, a pension bill came up before the House to his great vexation. While his personal convictions were directly opposed to it, his political interests were strong enough in the opposite direction to whip him into line. On the day the bill came up for final disposition, a fellow member met Bouck in the space behind the last row seats, walking back and forth and gesticulating excitedly to the accompaniment of expletives which would hardly look good in print. "What's the trouble, Gabe?" inquired his friend. "Why all this excitement?" "Trouble!" snorted the irate lawmaker. "Trouble enough! That pension bill is up, and all the cowardly nincompoops in the House are going to vote for it. It is sure to pass—sure to pass!" "But why don't you get the floor and speak against it—try to stop it?" suggested the other. "Try to stop it?" echoed Bouck. "Try to stop it? Why I'm one of the cowardly nincompoops myself!" — From the Wall Street Journal.

THREE, PLEASE

Three slightly deaf men were motoring from the north to London in an old, noisy car, and hearing was difficult. As they were nearing the city, one asked: "It this Wembly?" "No," replied the second, "this is Thursday." "So am I," put in the third, "let's stop and have one."

STOPPED

He: "Whatever became of those old-fashioned gals who fainted when a boy kissed them?" She: "Huh! Whatever became of the old-fashioned boy who made them faint?"

THE DR. JEKYLLS OF CALIFORNIA

There will be a lot of wind expended from the bellowing lungs of politicians between now and the November elections. Not a single one of these candidates for office will fail to brand Germany's Hitler as the most atrocious monster of all time. They will yell for the benefit of their listeners that we must "Fight for freedom and crush tyranny whenever and wherever this serpent raises its head." There are many would-be Hitlers already in our Congressional halls and in our State legislatures who, while they continue to shout for liberty and justice, themselves seek to impose upon the trade union movement of our nation laws that are closely akin to those enacted in Germany in the preliminary march of Hitler to power. One of the first acts of Herr Hitler was to outlaw labor unions in Germany. He subsequently outlawed labor unions in every country his brutal hordes invaded. In fourteen of our sovereign states small legislative Hitlers have been found to introduce laws that have for their purpose the outlawing of labor unions in the United States of America. Now legislative "Dr. Jekylls and Mr. Hydes" have imbibed this same poisonous concoction in California and seek to shackle the trade union movement there by adding to the Constitution of the Golden State a section, part of which is as follows: Sec. 1-A: Every person has the right to work and to seek, obtain, and hold employment without interference with or impairment or abridgment of said right because he does or does not belong to or pay money to a labor organization. That is nearly in substance what Mr. Hitler ordered in Germany when he realized that all power over the people was vested in him alone. With the destruction of the labor movement as an organization, then immediately certain other inalienable rights were taken from other groups in Germany: The Jews were bound to the ghetto and the Christian bible was burned. The Hitlers in California legislature are thinking in terms of the Hitler in Germany in their efforts to have this un-American amendment added to the Constitution of that liberal state. —From the Butcher-Workman.

Divide Germany?

Among various panaceas advanced for "solution" of the German problem is the proposition that the Allies should forcibly divide the Reich, after victory, into three or more separate states. Such an enforced division admittedly is not so abhorrent as the reported proposal of Secretary Morgenthau to force Germany to exist as a strictly agricultural nation. Sumner Welles, who perhaps has produced more constructive suggestions for the organization of the peace than any other single citizen, arrived at the conclusion, in his "The Time for Decision", that the Reich should be divided by the Allies. But he reached it reluctantly. We believe that all who propose it are in error. Essential though it is to end the Prussian brand of German unification, an Allied fiat of separation would defeat its own ends. It would enrage the German people. If maintained it would keep animosities toward the conquerors alive decades after Hitler's death. Thus it would furnish emotional fuel for revived and lethal German nationalism, bent on revenge. Nor would the mere fact that the Allies imposed political "frontiers" between the German states prevent such states from cementing, in their hate, an alliance for the formal reunion of Germany and all-German war. What must be had if Germany ever is to be truly peaceable is, we repeat, a democratic German revolution—however long such revolution may be in coming to reliable fruition. Enforced separation would work most powerfully against that end. It is good to read that President Roosevelt has rejected the Morgenthau agricultural state plan, which, by barring German industry, would produce mass German unemployment and destroy the prospects of European economic recovery and peace. It is also to be hoped that, as indicated in recent dispatches, the present plan of America and Britain is not to seek to accomplish separation by fiat—although they will rightly encourage German movements for emancipation from Prussian overlordship. The Allies must smash the Nazi government, punish war criminals and take other direct police actions. They must prevent rearmament, in part by economic controls; in larger part by a system of detection and, if required, instant military coercion. One of the advantages of that plan is that it will not require years of military occupation after the original disarmament is forced. Such occupation will be necessary for a time. If projected indefinitely into the future, it, like forced separation, would invite the emergence of a new substitute for Hitler, and undermine all prospects of constructive revolution. —The Chicago Sun.

Let's Have Uniform State Laws

The American Trucking Association is running large newspaper ads in an effort to enlist public support against conflicting State laws and regulations affecting highway transportation. The ads, for instance, cite laws in one State which limit loads to 30,000 pounds, while the limit in the neighboring State is 18,000 pounds. For a truck line traveling on a highway through the two States—"the same highway, the same roadbed and construction," says the ad—"this means re-loading, or re-routing, or not operating at all. Hundreds of such conflicting regulations—on loads, insurance, licenses, operating fees, mileage fees—complete the confusion, and all of this, says the Association, adds to the operating expense and boosts the price of everything we buy. We suppose that any attempt to force the adoption of uniform laws and regulations by States would be hollered down as a violation of "State rights," but we hope the Association will not let that deter it in its campaign to wipe out these senseless trade barriers. — The Brewery Worker.

CHURCHILL, PROFITS AND FRANCO

By Bernard Johnpoll The Spanish Fascists have Churchill to thank for remaining in power. This statement does not come from a Socialist or liberal organ. It emanates from the Spanish Falange itself. The Falanga de Oviedo, official newspaper of Spain's totalitarian party in an editorial in its August 15th issue, just arrived in the United States, said, "The question of who will win in Europe is not a material matter to Spain. Our Red (meaning republican) friends, who we know to be secretly plotting for a revolt against our leader, believe Churchill and Roosevelt will oust Generalissimo Franco. But they have another guess coming. "The British and American governments will do business with us and will back our government. THEY ARE NO MORE PRO-RED (democratic) than we: Mr. Churchill has called our enemies in Brit-

ain vicious people. He is our friend." Possibly one source of this rapport between the Franco government and Churchill arises from the fact that British industrialists have wide holdings in Spain. The British owned and controlled Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Co. earned a 300% profit last year. According to the Wall Street Journal, the utility company showed an income for the year 1943 of \$14,644,096 as against expenditures of \$1,864,687. This leaves a net balance of \$2,779,409. The investment profit for last year was transferred to the earned surplus of the company, which now amounts to \$4,803,675. The ownership of the company, according to the American Investors Annual, is 91% British, 3% Dutch and 3% American. The company has no Spanish investors. TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE "Is this the pugilist who was run into by a motorist?" asked the house surgeon. "No; he's the motorist who ran into the pugilist."