

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

PEACE ON EARTH: In June 150 U. S. battleships and 500 planes will maneuver over 500,000 square miles of Pacific Ocean in the most extensive naval "games" in peace-time history.

GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN: Dr. Clarence A. Barbour, President of Brown University, asserts: "Such a thing as the crucifixion could not happen today."

HOME SWEET HOME: Since the depression at least \$3,484 families have been forced to "double up" in Pittsburgh according to a recent survey.

BLESSED ARE THE LITTLE CHILDREN: Families on relief produce 250,000 children annually. Jean Leopold Duplan, head of Pennsylvania's largest silk mill patriotically boasts: "I founded my company in 1898 when I saw hundreds of healthy children coming out of the doors of schools."

LABOR: Chevrolet Motors is rewarding 24 loyal and faithful workers averaging 71 years of age with free trips to Washington, D.C. to visit patriotic shrines.

THE STATE OF THE NATION: Relief workers in Lee County, Ala., receive \$5 weekly. Francis B. Davis, chairman of the United States Rubber Co., receives a salary of \$125,000 annually.

Mass Picketing is Effective in FERA Workers Strike in Ohio

Radio Workers Are Fighting For One Nation-wide Union

PHILADELPHIA.—Some time last year the membership of Radio and Television Workers Federal Labor Union 18368 and 18369 successfully prevented the A. F. of L. from breaking them up into craft groups and by their determined stand succeeded in getting federal charters.

Both unions are organized strictly on an industrial basis. No. 18368 for the Philco plant at Front Street and Allegheny Ave. and No. 18369 for the plant at C Street and Allegheny Avenue.

A. F. of L. Fakers No Help At last a conference was called, but those unions not yet affiliated with the A. F. of L. were left out, thereby undermining from the outset the very aims which the union wanted to accomplish.

The conference, which took place in December in Buffalo, decided to apply to the A. F. of L. for a charter for a National Organization and to make a decided effort to organize the industry.

The workers are beginning to wonder what affiliation with the A. F. of L. is good for if they cannot get any aid from it in organizing the industry.

First Regional Conference of SYL Marks Real Progress

By BILL STREETER The first regional conference of the Spartacus Youth League concluded its sessions last Sunday night with a hotly contested election of a district committee for the New England district.

The report on New York City by Comrade Streeter took up the activity of the five New York branches in relation to the decisions of the National Convention on Building a broad revolutionary youth organization.

Comrade Gould, National Secretary, S.Y.L., explained how the N.C. had taken hold of the organization from the first day, how the first month had been spent on developing and consolidating a national apparatus.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. paid nearly \$5,000,000 in suicide claims in 1934. This was \$2,500,000 less than the peak year of 1932.

by the union. Repeatedly sentiment has been voiced that might—if the present policy of the A. F. of L. continues—lead to dissolution.

How correct the position of the Philco unions is in their demand for a unified national organization—which by the way is shared by officers and members of the union alike—is illustrated by conditions in the Victor plant in Camden, where three groups are trying to function: a so-called Independent Union; the Radio and Metalworkers Union (probably the strongest) and the A. F. of L. The latter, however, seems to be content to wait until in the various departments 51% of the workers have decided to affiliate with it and then taking them in.

This new and unspoiled blood in the radio unions, as well as in other groups, with their sound instinct for the needs of the day would be far less pliable to the maneuvers of the top officials. As a matter of fact, this new blood might become the instrument (especially if other industries would experience similar developments) to instill new life into the organization, make it a real fighting instrument of the workers and incidentally unseat the swivel-chair "labor leaders" from their coveted positions.

Any attempt to secede from the A. F. of L. is wrong and must be opposed by all really progressive and militant forces. Rather a determined fight must be put up by the progressive elements to keep the union on the militant course on which it started.

There is only one way that will lead the workers to victory—determined, militant ACTION.

Newsellers Picket Press; Organize Union; Make Gains

On the FERA strike front, the past week has been one of militant mass action. Thursday and Friday saw "flying squadrons", organized by Frank Buck of the W. P. and Lucas County U. L., descend on three major work-relief projects and 2 open shop construction jobs on which scabs were being employed, and shut them all down tight.

No action toward a state-wide FERA strike was taken by the emergency conference of the state Federation of Labor held in Columbus, Ohio, April 7. Discussion on the floor of the conference on all matters concerning social legislation was limited to two hours, which prevented the strike from being discussed.

Widespread disorganization and confusion has been revealed in the Ohio relief administrative machinery by Stillman. Substantial increases in direct relief promised by Clarence Benedict, new Lucas County relief head, on April 1 during a demonstration of 1,200 workers massed inside the relief headquarters, have since been denied.

The Joint Action Committee, following a mass meeting held in the Central Labor Union hall Saturday afternoon, April 6, of which Art Preis, organizer for the Toledo branch of the W. P., was chairman, threw a mass picket line of 200 about the offices of the Toledo News-Bee and Toledo Blade, leading capitalist dailies here.

Efforts of street corner newspaper sellers, the most exploited group of workers in the city, to organize into a union have been met by all types of victimization and terror in the past two weeks. Commissions and bonuses from sales paid to these men average not more than \$4 per week.

As a result of the picket line Saturday, April 6, the circulation managers of both papers met with Bill Prior and the News Merchants Union committee today, and made an agreement to reinstate at once all union men fired, to pay medical bills and compensation to the union man who was beaten up, and to refrain from any further victimization or discrimination against union men.

Militant Joins Workers Party in Fort Wayne

To the N.E.C. of Workers Party Dear Comrades,

After careful study and consideration of the principles and policies of the Workers Party, and after seeing these policies in action, I am convinced that the Workers Party is the force that will really organize the workers of the United States into a powerful revolutionary movement.

The Lovestone Group's position for the reform of the official Communist Party and the Third International leaves only one road open to them and that is the road that must, if the line is principally adhered to, lead them back into the ranks of the official C. P.

The Workers Party is the necessary force to unite the revolutionary forces for positive revolutionary work and action. The purely opposition groups have outlived their usefulness.

It is for these reasons that I apply for membership in the Workers Party. I hope through the Workers Party in Fort Wayne to do my share to unite the revolutionary forces in the Workers Party and to carry on work among the masses for a revolutionary program.

With Communist greetings, HARRY H. CONNER Fort Wayne, Ind.

Spartacus Starts National Tour

The following is the itinerary of Nathan Gould, National Secretary of the Spartacus Youth League:

- APRIL: Philadelphia—20, 21, 22. State College—23. Pittsburgh—24, 25. Youngstown, Ohio—26, 27, 28, 29. (Regional Conference 27, 28). Cleveland—30, May 1. MAY: Columbus—2, 3, 4. Toledo—6. Detroit, Mich.—7, 8. Chicago, Ill.—10, 11, 12, 13. (Regional Conference 11, 12). Gillespie—15, 16. St. Louis, Mo.—17. Kansas City—18, 19. Phoenix, Ariz.—22, 23. Los Angeles, Calif.—24, 25, 26, 27. (Regional Conference 25, 26). Fresno, Cal.—28. San Francisco—29, 30, 31, June 1. JUNE: Salt Lake City, Utah—3. Minneapolis, Minn.—7, 8, 9. Chicago, Ill.—11, 12, 13. Detroit, Mich.—29, 30. JULY: Toronto, Canada—2, 3, 4. Buffalo, N. Y.—5.

MAY DAY RALLY and SOCIAL Dancing - Skits - Refreshments Saturday, April 27, at 8 P.M. Presentation of May Day Banner by Workers Party to S. P. L. at 2 West 15th Street, N.Y.C.

ADMISSION 15c Ans : Spartacus Youth League

Just Off the Press The Suppressed TESTAMENT OF LENIN With two explanatory articles by LEON TROTSKY 10c each \$7.00 per hundred WHICH PARTY FOR THE AMERICAN WORKERS? Letters to Worker-Correspondent by A. J. MUSTE 5c each \$3.50 per hundred PIONEER PUBLISHERS 96 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

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IN THE UNIONS

By KARL LORE

The "American Flint" which suspended publication in 1932 after 23 years of continuous activity, is with us again. It is the organ of the American Flint Glass Workers Union. The organization was losing membership steadily and the few thousand who remained in the ranks were unable to bear the burden.

Unionism in glass has contributed interesting and valuable pages to the history of American labor. Glass workers were among the first to hoist the banner of organization. And now where has the complete futility of craft unionism been as conclusively proven as in this industry.

The American Flint Glass Workers Union is also a craft organization. Its failure to grow in this last period is a reflection of that fundamental weakness in its structure. It is one of the last of the old type of labor unions which regard themselves more as social and fraternal clubs than fighting economic organizations of labor.

Early in 1934 when a number of Federal Labor Unions merged with the Window Glass Cutters League to organize the Federation of Flat Glass Workers, the Flint Glass Workers refused to go along in this attempt to build a real industrial union in the industry. The Federation is the most promising development that has appeared in this field for a long time.

There is a good deal of loose thinking in the labor and radical movement on the subject of industrial unionism. The subject has quite often been to create structures that were so unwieldy that they broke down of their own weight. Industrial unionism does not mean to merge organizations which have no real reason for being together.

It is even more puzzling when the executive council of the American Federation of Labor pulls a stunt of this kind. Those gentlemen have shown themselves, in the past few months, to be anything but friendly to industry organization. The whole trend, in fact, has been in the other direction.

YOUNGSTOWN has made excellent progress in the past week. With a score of 90% at this writing and the prospects of 100% by the time this is printed it puts to shame such "active" centers as New York, Chicago, Boston, Toledo, Detroit!

ALLTOWN has also forged ahead and now stands at 44%. The list up to date follows:

Table with columns: GOOD, FAIR, POOR, VERY POOR. Lists cities and their percentages: Youngstown 90%, Allentown 44%, Akron 40%, Cincinnati 40%, Davenport 40%, E. St. Louis 40%, Louisville 40%, Minneapolis 37%, Worcester 30%, Salt Lake City 30%, Philadelphia 22%, Charleston 20%, New Haven 20%, San Francisco 15%, New York 12%, Boston 12%, Gulfport 21%, Toledo 12%, Newcastle 10%, Paterson 10%, Los Angeles 9%, Chicago 8%, Cleveland 7%, St. Louis 7%, Newark 6%, Kansas City 6%, Pittsburgh 5%, Columbus 4%, Detroit 4%.

None of the following have been heard from: Bhoixt, Buffalo, Dickson City, Fort Wayne, Mineola, Mount Carmel, Oakland, Springfield, Stannon, Throop, Washington, Winston Salem, Waukegan, Champaign, Virden. There is no excuse for such neglect and it is about time that all those from the top of "very poor" down should get busy measuring up to the standards set by the branches at the top of the list. In last week's issue Comrade Muste directed an appeal to all members and friends to take this task of augmenting the New Militant circulation as one of the first and most important ones.

Practically the entire membership of the Carpenters Union is in the building trades. Realistic industrial unionism for the Brotherhood means the unity of the building workers. Lumberjacks have no more place in the carpenters union than the Sheet Metal Workers, for example, would have in the organization of the steel workers.

HUTCHESON... We need not look too far for the executive council's motive. The Carpenters have two representatives on that august body. Hutcheson, president of the Carpenters is a staunch old-guarder, and this is an obvious move to strengthen the hand of the die-hards in the Federation.

This development is all the more important because it comes on the heels of a report that lumber workers in five western states are preparing to strike. Has Hutcheson been given the job of "controlling" the situation?

The lumber workers need a national union of their own. Back in 1920 the Timber Workers Union which had been organized during the war, counted ten thousand members. But it collapsed in 1922. In the last year and a half spontaneous organization has taken place in many sections and the workers have organized into Federal Unions. At the present time about 30 such locals exist. If the Federation really wants to do the job it will organize again on the war time basis with a leadership chosen by the workers themselves.

The Brewery Workers Union of Portland, Oregon has been barred from membership by the Central Labor Council on the ground that the union has refused to abide by the jurisdictional decision of the last two conventions of the A. F. of L. The Brewery Union, they charge, has boycotted breweries which maintained agreements with other labor organizations.

Alvayne Johnson, grand mogul of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has won a reversal of his conviction of having misappropriated funds of the defunct Standard Trust Company. He was Chairman of the Board. The United Textile Workers is sending a truck equipped with loud speaking apparatus through the Southern states to aid their organization campaign in Dixie.

members and friends to take this task of augmenting the New Militant circulation as one of the first and most important ones. He called for increased circulation by thousands. Only you in the field can make this plan a reality. The ground work must be done now—quickly. This time next week should see hundreds of new subs and pledges in the business office.

To the branches which are ahead on the drive—keep up the good work. Effort is needed every day of the week. To those which have been behind—wake up!

WHAT TO ATTEND

- New York City April 20, Saturday 8 P.M.—2 West 15th Street, (third floor). Spring Frolic and Chess Exhibition. Jazz! ... hot drinks. If you don't dance, there will be an exhibition of simultaneous chess by a well-known player. All who wish to participate should reserve boards immediately by calling Fred Nash, ALG. 9058. April 26, Friday, 8:30—"America's Role in the Coming War." Speaker: Max Shachtman. Sunny-maid Auditorium, 277 Kingston Ave. (near Eastern Parkway), Brooklyn. Auspices: Flatbush Branch W. P. April 27, Sat. evening—Dance by the Flatbush Branch at Cordoba Hall, 12 Crown St., Brooklyn (near Franklin Ave.). All Brooklyn comrades urged to attend and bring their friends. April 26, Friday, 8:30—Open Forum: "The Danger of War and the European Arms Situation." Speaker: Ludwig Lore. Branch 1 at its new headquarters, 420 E. 19th St. May 4, Sat. 8:30 P.M.—Branch 1 Home-warming and Dance. At new headquarters, 420 East 19th Street. Everyone invited. Minneapolis May 1, Wed. 8 P.M.—May Day Celebration at Branch Headquarters, 631 3rd Ave. S. Grant Dunne, principal speaker. Social hour and refreshments to follow. Adm. 15c. Wednesday evenings at 8 P.M.—Regular Public Lectures on working class problems at Branch Headquarters, 631 3rd Ave. S. Admission free. New Haven April 24, Wednesday 8 P.M.—A. J. Muste will speak on "Coming Labor Struggles and the W.P." Also Julius Bertman on "Why I Left the S.P." At Fraternal Hall, 19 Elm St.

Spring Frolic and Chess Contest Saturday Evening, April 20th 2 WEST 15th STREET (Third Floor) Auspices: New York District Membership, W. P. of the U.S. DANCING Admission 25c CHESS