

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

SWEETNESS AND LIGHT: Chained in a standing position in the "hole" of a Carolina prison for 12 cold January days, Woodrow Shropshire and Robert Barnes suffered frozen, gangrenous feet which had to be amputated. . . . Convicts at the Texas prison farm chopped off hands and feet to escape going to work under brutal guards. . . . In the brief period since the opening of Alcatraz Federal Prison four inmates have gone insane from brutal treatment. . . . National Broadcasting Company sound experts have developed new noises to delight radio fans: dripping maple syrup resembles the plopping of blood from a fresh wound, splitting a head of cabbage with a cleaver cannot be distinguished from splitting a skull, cracking raw spars resembles the crushing of human bones. . . . Two employees of the Pennsylvania Health Department have been indicted for redating old diphtheria anti-toxin and re-selling it for use in charity cases

HIGHER LEARNING: The Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association voted overwhelmingly against the discussion of controversial social subjects in the classrooms. . . . Five boys arrested in a school strike at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., were accused of molesting the children of scabs. . . . Director Roscoe Ingalls of Los Angeles Junior College blew a tin whistle into the campus amplifier to drown out pacifist speakers. This falling, he turned on the sprinkler system and called the riot squad. Two co-eds were badly beaten. . . . School children at Nanticoke, Pa., walked out in protest to anti-union sentiment of teachers. . . . President McCracken of Vassar objects to students joining the picketline in nearby garment strikes. . . . Dr. S. B. Freeborn of the University of California, after years of diligent research, discovered that orange is the favorite color of houseflies. He received honors. . . . Students at Oglethorpe University stopped spring football practice long enough to run out of town a visiting radical professor. "It was a most refreshing exhibition of good, old-fashioned Americanism," remarked President Thornwell Jacobs. . . .

FEARLESS JOURNALISM: The newspaper publishing business is the only industry that refused to sign an NRA code abolishing child labor. Newsboys are "little merchants" say the publishers and should not be deprived of the valuable education of selling papers on the streets. . . . "Never before has it been so clearly the duty of newspapers to think long and work devotedly to bring suggestions to men in public office." blab-blahs Grove Paterson, President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in annual convention. . . . A survey by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor reveals that the average weekly earnings of newsboys in 1934 was \$1.41 for 15.6 hours, approximately 9c an hour. . . .

SALARIES: "There are no pockets in shrouds," cried Widow Mary Gallagher, Bethlehem Steel Stockholder, in protest against the enormous salaries paid to Eugene Grace, Charles Schwab and other officials. "Forty four thousand men get 67c an hour by the sweat of their brows while three officers draw \$480,000," protested Stockholder Cothland. . . . "There are no rich men left in the old sense of the word," says Charles Schwab, "but we have made up for that in happiness." . . . Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad proposed a \$15,000 increase to the \$60,000 salary of President Atterbury. . . .

COERCION: Says Governor Curley of Massachusetts: "Unless government aid is given the textile industry not a spindle will be turning in New England in six months." . . . The National Association of Manufacturers accuses the American Federation of Labor of "coercion" and "deliberate fostering of strike talk" to influence legislation. . . . James Sinclair, President of the Fall River Cotton Manufacturers Association declares he will go to jail rather than pay the cotton tax and asserts he will close his mill and discharge 750 employees in protest against the levy.

MORALS DEPARTMENT: Mae West lauds movie decency campaigns: "I never took sex seriously," she says, "I helped put it back in proportion." . . . Arch-Bishop Glennon of St. Louis, leader of the Legion of Decency, condemns scanty athletic costumes as "a vulgar pagan tendency to indecency."

SOCIETY NOTES: At the wedding of General (Blood) Purge Goering, Premier of Prussia, General of Aviation, Chief of Secret Police and Master of the Hunt, to actress Emmy Sonnemann, "bridesmaids" were used instead of bridesmaids. Adolph Hitler was "best man." . . . Edward Riley, hitchhiker from Denver, collapsed in the Plaza of the City of Brotherly

August Upswing is Strategic Time for Silk Union Victory

Thorough Preparation is Vital - Organize Nationally, Raise \$500,000 Strike Fund, Publish Strike Paper Now

By FELIX GIORDANO

At the last meeting of the Plain Goods Department of the American Federation of Silk Workers in Paterson, the membership was confronted with a burning issue: the approving of a national strike in the silk industry to enforce the union demands, should the manufacturers refuse to accept them. These demands as well as the proposed strike have been submitted for approval to all other locals of the A.F.S.W.

Needless to say, these demands will not be granted by the manufacturers of their own accord. The strike which today is as yet a threat, will have to be fought tomorrow.

Every silk worker must of necessity look to the impending strike. In the light of these circumstances a number of questions arise.

What are the possibilities for a really effective strike? What are our chances of victory? What must we do to best assure victory?

The correct answers to these questions bear vitally upon the outcome of the strike itself. We shall therefore analyze the situation and answer them one by one.

Need of Organization

From the national standpoint a really imposing and effective response to the strike call demands the expansion of unionization of the silk industry to every field. This applies particularly to Pennsylvania, where even the last general textile strike either did not penetrate at all in a good many towns, or lasted only for a day or two. In this territory there is no union as strong as in Paterson, for instance, and in several centers there is no union at all despite the most miserable and unheard-of conditions prevalent. No town in Pennsylvania is more than fifty percent organized, and, worse yet, the largest mills are the ones least unionized. Allentown, one of the key towns in the industry, has approximately 1,000 union men out of some 7,000 workers. Northampton, only seven miles away, with three big mills, has no union at all. In Hazleton only a few mills are controlled by the union, with almost no organization at all in the most important mill in the industry, the Duplan. The throwsters in and around Scranton are hardly unionized as yet. Such is the situation that prevails in the most important district of the industry, Pennsylvania, where, we must not forget, over fifty percent of the industry is located. What happens in eastern Pennsylvania will to a large extent make or break the pending strike, both as regards its effectiveness and striking power. The first thing that must be done, therefore, is an intensive drive for union organization, preparing for and leading up to the strike. Only if this is done can the strike be really effective.

Perspectives

Unionization alone is no guarantee of victory. Militancy and co-

Love. "Death from excessive walking," was the verdict. . . . Investigators recently found \$45 of Ivar Kreuger's \$300,000,000 match fortune. . . . Boy triplets were born to Mrs. Walter Kiser in an abandoned schoolhouse near Somerset, Pa. The father was removed from relief rolls when gifts reached \$50, the limit of cash allowed relief recipients in Pennsylvania. . . . Pennsylvania legislators receive \$2,500 a session. . . . Born to Mrs. Nicholas Suttis, on relief at Johnstown, Pa.—triplets. . . . The solid gold dinner service of King George of England is valued at \$16,000,000. . . . L. M. Crouch, unemployed, of Milwaukee, made himself a serviceable set of false teeth from plaster of paris and pieces of broken china. . . . Governor Davey of Ohio requested an appropriation of \$16,000 for the purchase of oriental rugs for his office. . . . Fat back and sow-belly have become luxuries in many parts of the South. . . . Last year the government spent \$20,730 on ammunition for military salutes. . . . An Associated Press reporter, mistaken for a union organizer, was chased out of Birdsong, Arkansas. . . . When John McCullough, Arkansas sharecropper, attempted to get the law on two plantation bosses who raped his 15-year old daughter he was beaten up and evicted from his miserable shack. . . . Heiress Doris Duke is peeved because Mahatma Gandhi won't see her and explain his philosophy of life in a few words. . . . More than 600,000 families are affected by unemployment in New York City. . . . Mayor La Guardia banishes hurdy-gurdies from the streets and orders Civic Virtue (the statue) removed from City Hall Park. . . . The chickens of Charles Settles of Bowie County, Texas, are laying eggs shaped like torpedoes. "If another war doesn't break out, my hens don't break out, my hens don't know their business," says Charles.

rect tactics are of vital importance. And correct tactics can flow only from a correct appraisal of the immediate situation and of the perspectives ahead, otherwise no amount of militancy will avail. Above all it is essential to choose the proper time to initiate the struggle, that is to say, to strike when the bosses are weakest and the blows of the union are most effective. The best possible organized strike initiated during the slack season gives the bosses the best chances of playing their chief weapon—wearing out the workers through a drawn-out struggle. In silk, the most seasonal industry in textiles, it is of primary importance to strike at the very beginning of the busy season. That is why it would be only adventurism to initiate the struggle in the weeks immediately ahead, the period when the industry is at its lowest ebb. All indications point today to the latter part of August as the beginning of the next busy season, as the best time to enforce the union demands and to strike.

Only last Wednesday, our General Manager, A. Williams, speaking before a chairman's meeting, reported that in his trip through Pennsylvania he found most of the mills shut down, and the rest curtailing production and in the process of shutting down. And yet Williams

Plentywood and Youngstown Tie

In spite of a poor start the sub campaign is gaining momentum every day. Two branches have already passed the 100% mark and all indications are that they are not finished yet. PLENTYWOOD was the first branch to achieve 120% as a score. A day later YOUNGSTOWN came along with a new batch of subs and made the same grade. These two branches are showing the way for the backward industrial centers.

DAVENPORT has made the grade of 70% which is also an excellent showing. More returns are expected daily from there.

Frank Collins of ALLENTOWN has sent in 19.5 subs for the month thus far and the indications are that he will carry off the individual prize for April unless some others get busy and take it away from him. He challenges all comers and threatens to roll up a larger score if there is any danger of losing first place. In fact, he threatens to do so anyhow.

There have been some other changes on the score board since last week. Here is the new list:

Table with columns for location, status (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor), and percentage.

New York, as has been pointed out several times, is woefully lagging behind in the campaign. We think it is about time that the

approved of a stoppage following the presentation of the union demands to the bosses! Empty threats not only can have no effect upon the bosses, but may easily force the union into a position where it may have to resort to action under most unfavorable circumstances. For example, what action are we forced to resort to should the bosses openly flout the union by ignoring our demands? Can we back up our demands with a general strike in Paterson at the present time? Then, under no condition should the union put itself in a position where it might be forced to strike when the bosses wish.

What Must Be Done?

We must PREPARE now. This means in the first place that we must obtain the sanction of the parent organizations and secure their full support for the strike.

This means that in the meantime we must raise the necessary funds for the struggle, a war chest of at least \$500,000. These funds can be raised through assessing the membership, sponsoring affairs for that purpose, setting up committees throughout the country to solicit funds from labor organizations and liberals. In this way we shall have the necessary funds for the fight.

An equally important preparatory step is the initiation of a series of preliminary regional conferences in the various territories, for the purpose of unifying the organizational steps for the strike. At these conferences committees should be elected to carry out the work relating to the strike preparations in collaboration with the union leadership. These regional conferences should culminate in a special National Convention of the A.F.S.W., devoted only to the question of the general strike.

Strike Organ Needed Now

An immediate and necessary instrument throughout the period of preparation and especially during the strike is a national union organ, which shall in every issue popularize the union demands and build up support for the strike. Such an organ must be established at once.

The struggle of the employed silk workers must not be separated from the daily problem of the unemployed. All A.F.S.W. locals must take the initiative and directly aid in the organization of the unemployed. In this way the unemployed will be assisted in securing relief, a close bond will be established between them and the union, and the strike will be assured of their support.

Throughout the preparatory period as well as the strike itself, all elements must be drawn into active participation, in this way presenting a solid front. There can be no question of discrimination.

At the same time, there must be no changes from the present policy of carrying on a guerrilla warfare of individual shop strikes to obtain and to maintain union conditions.

Only if we realize these concrete proposals will we be able to lead our struggle to a successful conclusion.

These steps must be realized. It is the duty of all the silk workers who recognize the urgency of this program to get together in each local as an organized body for the purpose of translating this program into action.

Once again the most important point on the agenda is the formation of a genuine left wing nationally in the silk union. Only the left wing, organized on the basis of this program can lead the general strike to victory.

branches woke up to the fact that the farmers of Montana are making a better job of construction work than the proletariat of the metropolis.

The standing of the other branches leaves much to be desired. Here is the actual number of subs sent in:

Table with columns for location and number of subs sent.

MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM St Louis Branch Workers Party of the U. S.

Mpls Council For one Union In Railroads

By a Railroad Worker

MINNEAPOLIS, April 20.—On October 23, 1932, the Minneapolis Railroad Council was organized by eleven volunteer members from six of the 21 railroad unions. The Council is composed of volunteer and elected delegates from the various local unions in the City. The aim and purpose of the Railroad Council idea is to provide a medium at each terminal for getting the railroad workers together during their present divided condition.

The railroad workers of this country are today maintaining the most antiquated trade union structure in the world. In no other industry on this globe do we find the workers organized into 21 separate and autonomous unions. This useless and extremely expensive arrangement is driving thousands of workers out of the railroad unions and is keeping other thousands from joining. And although there has been a union on the railroads since 1864, the industry is now only about 50% organized.

This backward condition of the railroad unions naturally reflects the condition of its leadership. The unions are literally infested by swarms of overpaid officials who act as a dead weight or that many stuck brakes on the movement. This top heavy official bureaucracy has gradually entrenched itself in power behind all kinds of gaglaws, "obligations," secret work, and a strictly censored labor press. A bankrupt leadership must have this artificial protection for its own preservation. Otherwise it would be unable to maintain itself at the expense of, and against the interest and welfare of its membership.

The Minneapolis Railroad Council has been organized to meet this situation in the railroad unions. It has adopted a definite program of needed changes in our union structure, policy and leadership. We are building the Council movement around this program, which is in brief as follows:

Set up Railroad Councils at terminals to permit members of the present 21 R. U. unions to get together to discuss and take action on their problems.

We pose the question sharply for ONE union in the railroad industry instead of 21.

We propose that the leadership of the 21 crafts join in a movement to organize that 50 percent of the railroad workers who are now in the company unions or in no unions at all.

The Council program provides for joint strike action instead of voting one single craft. We want and propose one joint strike ballot for all railroad crafts when necessary to take a strike vote. We stand for lower salaries for the officials and lower dues for the members. Abolition of gaglaws, obligations and secret work, and for joint trade union action for the six-hour day without reduction in earnings. Watch these columns for further reports on the Railroad Council movement.

- MAY DAY GREETINGS ARTHUR BRICKLEY, N. Y. C. ARCHIE—New York City OLGA—New York City A. Dentist—New York City E. DAVIDOFF—New York City S. BRICKNER—New York City A. Williamsporter—New York City

IN THE UNIONS

By KARL LOBE

The workers at the Toledo plant of Chevrolet have walked out in the first major revolt in the industry since a general auto strike was knocked on the head by the Honorable F.D.R. over a year ago. It is hard to imagine a better place for the show-down to come. The auto workers showed their militancy last year. The working class of Toledo knows what it means to rally to the picket lines. The unemployed are organized in one of the best Unemployed Leagues in the United States. And the leadership of the local automobile workers which ousted the reactionary Ramsey some months ago is a militant one and has been putting the Toledo organization into fighting trim ever since.

Go to it boys. The workers of the nation are looking to you to raise the banner of unionism high over the feudal barony of General Motors. You have rescued it from the dirt in which a cowardly labor leadership dragged it.

BANKS

Do we throw our hats in the air when we hear that a large New York bank has recognized the Bookkeepers, Stenographers and Accountants Union and has signed an agreement with it providing for a classified minimum pay scale, closed union shop, overtime and vacations? We do not.

Not, at any rate, when that pioneer bank is the Amalgamated Bank, owned by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Its employees should, of course, be organized on this basis too long and too exclusively. It has become a sort of genteel racket, a union which organizes almost exclusively among the office workers who are themselves employees of unions. When we hear that the B.S. & A.U. has taken steps to organize the Chase National or the National City Bank we promise to get excited and to get excited plenty.

All of which does not mean that the union is in the best possible position to do a real organizing job. Ever since its formation many years ago it has functioned as a local (Federal Labor) Union of the A. F. of L. There has been no national organization of office workers to undertake a real drive among the white collar men and women.

At the last convention of the A. F. of L. in San Francisco the delegate of the B. S. & A. U. introduced a resolution requesting the Federation to grant the office workers of the nation a regular international charter. The question was referred to the Executive Council.

Certainly the time is ripe for such a step. Office workers have been organized into Federal Unions in a good many places. There is an awakening recognition among them of the need of solidarity with or-

ganized labor. The unions can use them far better than the legions of fascism. . . . NATIONAL GUARD

A. C. Jindra, member of Mt. Morris (Ill.) local of the Typographical Union was an anti-militarist. Kable Bros Co., printers, are deeply interested in the national guard band and their employees are threatened with discharge if they do not enlist and play in the band Jindra, although a good musician, did not join. He was fired in July 1928 but the union had him reinstated two days later.

In 1923 he was again fired on a trumped up charge, was ordered reinstated by the local but denied employment. He is still out of work. Now he is suing for reinstatement and \$10,000 back wages because he charges: ". . . a conspiracy wrongfully to bring about the discharge of the plaintiff because of his continued refusal to participate in or become a member of Kable Brothers 129 Infantry Band." YELLOW DOG UNIONS

Warm weather seems to be bad for company unionism. Right after the news that the company outfit at the East Pittsburgh plant of Westinghouse has boomeranged, comes word that the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Clerks Association has been forced to give up the ghost to the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. At Pittsburgh the company union modestly asked for a 33 1/3% wage increase all around, with double time for Sundays and holidays and equal pay for equal work for women. The biggest piece of company gall in a long time comes from Kankakee, Illinois, where employees of the Bear Brand Company are being forced to shell out their hard earned cash to pay for gasoline and extra wages to a gang of spotters and thugs who have been hired to "protect" the workers from union organizers. . . . BRIEFS

There is collusion among manufacturers to defeat collective bargaining according to the Hartford, Conn. Central Labor Union, and a general strike may be the answer. . . . The International Ladies Garment Workers Union has asked Baseball Commissioner Landis to take action against Leo Durocher, shortstop of the St. Louis Cardinals. His wife is scabbing at the Forest City Mfg. Co. and Durocher himself is doing his damndest to get union members to go back to work. Organized labor goes to baseball games, the union reminds the sport czar. . . . The International Union of Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers is getting ready to put the axe to the union hating Phelps-Dodge Corp. at Bisbee, Arizona. Peaceful preparations for the last eighteen months have convinced the miners that real action is necessary. . . .

MAY DAY GREETINGS G. E.—Bethlehem, Pa. J. K.—Bethlehem, Pa. R. S.—Bethlehem, Pa. R. S.—Bethlehem, Pa. Boro Park Branch WORKERS PARTY GREETS The NEW MILITANT Headquarters: 1850 48th STREET Brooklyn, N. Y. GREETINGS TO THE New Militant SO. SIDE BRANCH CHICAGO LOCAL Workers Party of the U. S.

May Day Greetings TO THE NEW MILITANT FROM BRANCH ONE, W. P. NEW HEADQUARTERS — 420 E. 19th STREET HOUSEWARMING AND DANCE SATURDAY, MAY 4, at 8:30 P.M.