

# Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

**Relief . . .**

An FERA survey of Baltimore's 1550,000 unemployed showed only 8 cases where people refused to work "without legitimate reason," this phrase applying to men who refused to seab and to those who refused to work at less than union rates. . . . An ad for a salesgirl in a New York evening paper attracted 1,000 applicants by 6 A.M. the following morning. By 9 o'clock the crowd was so dense that the plate glass store front gave way. . . . Berry growers complain that the unemployed will not go to work. In North Carolina the highest average net earning of berry pickers is 35c a day. Workers are quartered in barns in most cases entirely lacking in sanitary facilities, twenty persons eating and sleeping in one room. . . . General Hugh Johnson, recently appointed relief administrator for New York City, states his views: "Whenever a worker gets a chance to take a private job, even if it pays less than he is getting on relief, he should be made to take the private job." . . . E. P. Hahburton, Oklahoma oil magnate, has been banned from employment in his refinery anyone who has ever accepted relief are forced to live in camps and work on public projects for maintenance and one dollar a week spending money. . . . Sixty-five year old Callie Fancy, on relief in Little Rock, Ark., could not eat the canned beef provided her because she had no teeth. Relief officials found her a job with a dentist where she could "work out" a set of false teeth. . . . Using an "attitude test," Dr. E. A. Rundquist of Minneapolis found that the average person on relief felt no inferiority complex but that his economic position bred radicalism. . . .

## Imperialism . . .

Mussolini's war with Abyssinia is scheduled to begin when the rainy season ends. Meanwhile he is collecting insults to justify it. "Italy needs room for expansion," says he. . . . In spite of every encouragement, Italy's birthrate has declined steadily during the past ten years. . . . Great Britain protests that health conditions in Liberia (literally a U.S. protectorate) are so bad that it is a source of infection for the rest of Africa. Monrovia, the capital, is overrun with rats and bubonic plague which is kept from spreading only because the city has no harbor. Government officials raid the interior for slaves which they sell to Spanish and French provinces. Harvey Firestone gave the nation a brief period of prosperity by hiring natives at 25c a week on his rubber plantations. . . . The United States Senate passed a bill which makes it illegal to pursue, shoot, shoot at, kill, capture, trap, collect or otherwise willfully molest or disturb the American Eagle. . . .

## Patriotism . . .

In the Revolutionary War 4,204 Americans lost their lives; 4,294 people were killed celebrating the Fourth of July in the last 30 years. . . . The Illinois Senate Committee investigating allegations that students at the University of Chicago were subjected to subversive teachings dismissed the charges but accused Prof. Robert Morse Lovett of being "unloyal to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States" because he engaged in activities in defense of civil liberties. His only son was killed in the battle of Belleau Wood. . . . Chicago newspapers were filled with reports of the investigation which was inspired by Walgreen, the drugist. Not a word was said about Court Case 22585 against the Walgreen Drug Co. for adulterating medicines and tonics. The company was found guilty. . . .

## Commerce & Industry . . .

To boost their British Association of Cotton Manufacturers announced at a trade luncheon that the Prince of Wales wears cotton underwear. Wool manufacturers countered with the information that King George wears "woolies" bought by Queen Mary. . . . California prunes are graded according to the following sizes: medium, large, extra large, mammoth, giant, jumbo, colossal, and super-colossal. . . . Cheese manufacturers in Wisconsin were successful in obtaining a law requiring two thirds of an ounce of cheese to be served with every 25c meal. . . . Maxwell Stewart, Associate Editor of The Nation, was arrested for picketing the office of The American Mercury in protest to the refusal of officials to grant collective bargaining to employees. . . . The current issue of The Nation carries a full page ad offering the two magazines clubbed at a bargain price. . . .

Sunday, July 14 — Beach Party, Boro Park Branch. Meet at the 1st Aid Station on Ocean Parkway at 11 A.M. sharp. All comrades invited.

# Stalinists Go to Bat for Priest

## Chicago C.P. Makes Touching Plea for Coughlin

By F. X. FERRY

CHICAGO.—The workers of Chicago who were greatly interested in following the contortions and zig-zags which up to the present time represent the policy of the 8th District of the Communist Party and who saw many surprising things perpetrated under the flag of Stalinism—even those who were surprised when the bourgeois press of July 2 headlined in black letters "Red Party Joins Coughlin's Suit." The workers shared the surprise of the bourgeois press which pointed out ironically in the Chicago Tribune, the Daily News and the Daily Times that the Communist Party of America sought to join in a lawsuit on behalf of Coughlin against the Chicago Park Board.

The story began when Attorney Samuel Eitelson, former Insull attorney and the former city attorney of Chicago during the administration of the famous "America first" Mayor Thompson, filed a suit in the Superior Court of Cook County on behalf of the Detroit priest, Coughlin, and of his organization "Union for Social Justice," asking that the Chicago Park Board be ordered to rent the Stadium, or as it is known, the Soldiers Field to Coughlin for the purpose of holding a public meeting.

C. P. "Enforces the Constitution" The point of view of the park board was that the Stadium is not to be rented for the purpose of holding controversial meetings, be they on political or economic questions. They pointed out that the field is to be used for sport and general educational purposes as singing festivals, etc. The hearings in the court were continued a number of times after certain technical points were decided and after a petition of the Huey Long faction and of his "Share the Wealth Club" for permission to intervene on behalf of Coughlin was denied.

On July 2, the Chicago Tribune reported "Reds Offer Aid in Fr. Coughlin's Fight for Field" and that formal notice was served on Coughlin's attorney and on the counsel for the Park Commissioners that the "Communist Party of the United States of America" will ask permission of Judge James Joseph Kelly to file an intervening petition in the case." The Chicago Tribune obtained some information on the matter from the attorney representing the Communist Party to whom the vicious bourgeois paper refers to as "the mouthpiece of the Reds" and who identified his clients as "having an organization in Illinois and a headquarters in Chicago" and described the organization as follows: "The Communist Party of the United States of America is an organization made up of workers, industrial and agricultural, small farmers, professionals, intellectuals and such other sections of the population who are opposed to exploitation of the toiling workers by a handful of the rich."

The C. P. attorney assured the Chicago Tribune that "his friends and associates really are hostile to father Coughlin for a number of reasons," but nevertheless, as he stated in his petition, "we are interested in the performance by public officers of their official duties and in the enforcement of the Constitution and laws protecting public rights."

A "Fascist Attack" on Coughlin Of course, it is very hard to say whether the Communist Party of the United States actually identifies itself with the petition presented on its behalf by its attorney, but if it does, it is more than interesting for the workers to know that the attorney for the Communist Party states that "many Communist workers would like to hear Father Coughlin, not only to listen to him, but to expose his anti-workingmen ideas." It is undoubtedly true that Coughlin will appreciate the help extended to him by the C. P. in obtaining working-class and more particularly Communist working-class audiences in which to peddle his stuff.

To be sure, the attorney for the C. P. becomes also theoretical in support of his petition in which they support the prayer of Father Coughlin that the court should give him the right of using the Soldiers Field for a public meeting because it is stated that "any denial of the use of Soldiers Field is in itself a Fascist attack against the right of freedom of speech and assembly of citizens and workers."

Apparently the C. P. has a new theory concerning Fascism somewhat similar but not quite as clear as that concerning Social-Fascism, because now they believe, at least in their intervening petition in Chicago, that the duty of the workers

in general and the C. P. of the U. S. in particular is to prevent the advance of Fascism, and for that end to fight for Father Coughlin's right to obtain a public meeting place where he may expound his views which up to the present was characterized by the C. P. as nothing else but potential fascism if not clear fascism.

### In Black on White

Many of the workers of Chicago when reading the bourgeois Daily News wondered how it happened that the "Communist Party sought leave to file an intervening petition in Coughlin's behalf — an ironical note in view of the priests' attack on Communism." Judge Kelly attempted, unbeknown to himself, to save the C. P. from the embarrassment of being recorded in the court files when he first denied leave to the C. P. to intervene, telling the lawyer representing the C. P. that he was too late. Later, however, the court relented and permitted the attorney to file an appearance in the case; and thus the historical finger, warning the C. P. to keep out, at least from the written records, was not observed. The C. P. of the U. S. is on record in the Superior Court of Cook County under No. 358 SS75, as an intervening petitioner in which they joined with Coughlin in asking the Court that the Park Commissioners be ordered to rent Soldiers Field to the priest whom the C. P. labelled the "Radio Hitler of the United States."

Of course, it may be that Earl Browder does not know anything about Chicago, but there is no question about it that some of the bright lights must have been informed since the political genius of the C. P., Bob Minor, was seen around headquarters on the first day of July, that is, one day before the petition was filed.

The workers have seen the C. P. in action more than once and they have seen it going through a whole series of united front tactics so there is no justification for any follower of the C. P. to be very much surprised. They may feel satisfied that the theory of "Social-Fascism," the "united front from below" and the latest help extended to Father Coughlin is undoubtedly not out of line with the circus which they have divided together with Father Divine (Father Divine is God), and it is surely not out of line with the tragic role which the C. P. of Germany played in the famous referendum when they joined, if not in forces at least in efforts, with the Hitlerites to oust the Socialist government of Prussia.

# The Color Line in the A. F. of L. The Negro & American Labor

Discrimination against Negroes in the American Federation of Labor has always represented one of the most ignominious features in the organized labor movement of this country.

At the convention of the A. F. of L. held in San Francisco last October Pres. A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters raised the question of discrimination for discussion among the assembled delegates. It might be interesting to observe that Negroes picketing the convention for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were arrested.

Randolph's resolution called for the expulsion of "any union which violates the constitution of the A. F. of L. by maintaining the color line." It might be pointed out, here, that despite his "radical" gesture at the convention it is well known that Randolph has worked hand-in-glove with Green and Co., who have tacitly condoned race discrimination in A. F. of L. unions. After hearing the resolution the committee on organization recommended non-concurrence, but a loud chorus of "NO" greeted the recommendation. Fearing a show of hands, Pres. W. L. Hutchinson of the Carpenters union quickly introduced an amendment calling on William Green to appoint an investigating committee to report on the whole matter to the next convention.

After some debate this amendment was finally adopted. Chairman of the committee on the Negro question is John E. Rooney of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Assn. The secretary is John Brophy of the United Mine Workers of America.

### No Negro on Committee

The other three members of the committee are John W. Garvey, International Hod Carriers; Jerry L. Hanks, Journeyman Barbers and T. C. Carroll, Brotherhood of Maintenance of War Employees. It is again interesting to note that the one concerned most in that he brought the question up at all for discussion, Randolph of the Sleeping Car Brotherhood is not on the committee.

At the hearing held July 9, Randolph reiterated his plea for the necessity of disciplining interna-

tional unions if they maintain the color bar. Reginald J. Johnson of the National Urban League warned that "dual unions, company unions and anti-A. F. of L. unions among Negroes would take shape unless the policy of discrimination were discontinued."

One or two preliminary meetings of the committee have been held but a hearing will finally take place in Washington sometime in July of this year where Randolph and others will present their case.

A number of unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. absolutely deny membership to Negroes by constitutional provisions. Others exclude them by various rituals which pledge members of the union not to bring up a Negro for membership. Still others, having no outright provisions excluding Negroes, yet in practice see to it that few if any are admitted. In still other unions the Jim Crow system of Negro locals prevails.

It is of some merit here to cite same example of crass discrimination against Negroes in A. F. of L. unions and of the policy of evasion if not outright chauvinism of the leadership of the American Federation of Labor. We quote at length from the 25th annual report of the N.A.A.C.P.:

### Outright Discrimination

"On October 31 the attention of President Green was called to the complaints of discrimination against Negro members of Local 306, Motion Picture Operators of New York City, as to hours of work, general working conditions, rates of pay and restriction of locality of work to the colored section of Manhattan. It was pointed out that the employment of Negro union operators was restricted to theatres patronized principally by Negroes and that they were not permitted to work in circuit houses; that working conditions and wages unacceptable elsewhere within the union's jurisdiction and in violation of the N.R.A. code. The A. F. of L. was asked to promptly correct these abuses. Late in November President Green replied that it was impossible to interfere in the internal affairs of affiliated national or international unions except upon their consent, and referred the Association to the

President of the International Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators, thus continuing the familiar policy of evasion."

Below we cite another example of discrimination against Negroes as brought out by Mr. Johnson at the hearing and culled from the New York Times, July 9, 1935:

"Negroes who tried to enter a local of the painters' union in Atlanta, according to Mr. Johnson, were told that their leader was a Communist. They withdrew the leader and then again applied. This time, he said, they were informed by the District Council of the Painters' Union that the hod-carriers were forming a union and that their members should apply to that organization."

"The applicants responded that they were skilled painters and not hod-carriers. Then the secretary of the International Painters Brotherhood suggested that they send the usual \$15 fee to accompany the request for a local union charter. This they did and a charter was refused, the witness explained."

## N.U.L. Bill

(Continued from Page 1)

extended to workers and farmers without discrimination because of age, sex, race, or color, religious or political opinion, or affiliation, whether they be industrial, agricultural, domestic, or professional workers, for all time lost. No worker shall be disqualified from the benefits of this Act because of refusal to work in place of strikers, at less than normal or trade union rates, under unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or where hours are longer than the prevailing union standards at the particular trade and locality, or at any unreasonable distance from home.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted that pending the establishment of the system of unemployment insurance provided for under this Act, Congress shall authorize to be appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of 5 billion dollars to provide for all the unemployed cash relief at the rate of not less than \$10 per week for each unemployed worker or farmer, and \$3 additional for each dependent.

WOOSTER, Ohio.—A dramatic five-minute strike of thirty telephone operators of the Ohio Bell Telephone Co. office here won for them a ten percent pay increase—their main objective.

# Coast Dockers Defy Ryan at I.L.A. Meeting

## Propose Progressive Measures; Wants New Leadership

The convention of the International Longshoremen's Association held this week in New York promises to have some stormy sessions if advance indications can serve as a measure of judgment.

Since the upswing in business such conflicts have found increasing manifestations in numerous A. F. of L. unions. In the longshoremen's union it is particularly advanced. There is a fairly distinct division of right and left, the former represented in the main by the international officials and their supporters and the latter by the Pacific Coast delegation headed by Harry Bridges.

### West Coast Against Ryan

This delegation declares openly that it has come to the convention instructed by the West Coast membership to oust the president, Joseph Ryan and to fight for a new leadership. This course of action is based on direct experiences, dating back to the Pacific Coast maritime strike and the San Francisco general strike of last year. Ryan took some flying trips to the coast, not to support the strike but to connive with the employers and to break it up.

A high sense of solidarity has prevailed ever since. The popularity of Bridges is attested by the fact that in the elections of delegates to the international convention he snoved under his conservative opponent by a vote of 1,759 to 129.

But the greatest gain scored by the Pacific Coast longshoremen since their famous strike is undoubtedly expressed in the creation of the waterfront federation extending through all the ports from Seattle to San Diego. It comprises the unions of all the waterfront workers.

The Pacific Coast delegation proposes that the convention adopt this form of organization in all ports. It proposes a national uniform agreement for all ports and joint control of hiring halls.

# Russian Stalinist Emissaries Sent to France to Win Socialist Youth for Patriotism and against Marxism

## INTRODUCTION

**Kossarov:** The minority of the Socialist youth will be defeated if it continues on its present course of action, not knowing exactly what it wants. A minority is built for struggle, failing that it becomes demoralized, its leadership disintegrates, and it loses the masses. You are not yet ready to fuse with the Young Communists; that will leave you a free hand. Should you become a sympathetic organization of the Young Communist International you will retain the prerogative of tendencies and internal factions. If you should fuse with the Y. C. we will propose that you accept our program without reservations, because we do not permit factions in our movement. We do not force anyone to join our organization but once there he belongs unreservedly. From our point of view tendencies are detrimental to the unity of our organization. Our rule is the following: before accepting a decision there is a discussion, then everyone must abide by it—a strict and indispensable discipline. **Unity with the Y. C. will be possible only on the basis of the above.**

**Lissansky:** It is only thanks to democracy that I who was expelled for having participated in the Amsterdam-Pierre conferences (the Stalinist international united fronts with themselves on war and fascism which were held in the twilight of the "third period"—Ed.) can speak here today. The situation is becoming increasingly revolutionary. The comrades believe that they will be able to continue their action without being expelled, to do as the minorities did during the war. It is possible, if events are with us, to regroup the left elements as our Belgian and Spanish comrades have done. It is therefore more possible to raise their class consciousness by creating an organization sympathetic to the U.S.S.R. In this manner we will be in agreement with the left elements of the party and the international and we will be able to retain the comrades who still evince a party patriotism. What we propose is almost a desperate solution: 1935 is not 1917. You have thirty million sympathizers and the prestige of having defeated your capitalism. If we discuss as equal to equal we are likely to hesitate for we are not entirely in agreement.

**Chemodanov:** Thanks to the existence of a tendency, the meeting this evening could have taken place; thanks to democracy Lissansky was reinstated. But we must not lose sight of the differences between the Socialist and the Communist organizations. We stand on

your autonomy. You are twenty-five years behind the Germany of 1908. And once autonomy is obtained, what will you do? It is a little to soon to form an organization sympathetic to the Young Communist International. On the other hand it is not enough to confine yourself to the strengthening of the united front.

(At this point, Memeton raises the question of "National Defense" and the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.)

**Chemodanov:** As far as Russia is concerned I can say that we have made our revolution; but we want it on a world scale. . . . In present conditions your entrance into the Young Communist International would be complicated and inopportune. Practically, we must arrive at the point where the united front turns to action.

**"WAR? IF WAR OCCURS AGAINST THE U.S.S.R. AND YOU MAKE YOUR REVOLUTION, YOU WILL BE TRAITORS."** This statement was made three weeks before the Stalin-Laval Communiqué!

Equally interesting is the first part of the conversation in which the young socialists evince a horror of the stifling internal regime of the Y.C.I. Any reference to recent history will show how barren is the statement that the Stalinists believe in discussion first before arriving at a decision.

The young socialists participating, Lissansky, Memeton, Ranvier, and Fred Zeller, are leading militants in the Seine organization and members of the "Revolutionary Socialist Youth" group. It is interesting to note that a few days after these conversations took place Fred Zeller declared in the Seine District Committee of the young socialists on April 29: Up till now we were social democrats, they (the Bolshevik-Leninist group) Leninists. They were right in defending against us all the positions they believed correct." And on May 5, Lissansky said in part: "If we expel them (the B.-L.) we would be submitting to the external influence of the Young Communists."—Ed.

a revolutionary basis; our aim is the dictatorship of the proletariat; we do not collaborate with the bourgeoisie. If there are factions, in whose interest do they struggle: those of the bourgeoisie or of the revolution? For us a faction weakens our ranks.

"What has happened in the Young Socialist International? In Sweden the Socialists are collaborating with the bourgeoisie in the government and are against the united front; similarly in Norway, Denmark and Czechoslovakia. One of the leaders of the Swedish Young Socialists, Valenken, said: 'If negotiations with the Young Communists are opened we will leave the Second International.' In Spain the Young Socialists have voted to withdraw from the reformist Socialist International and are for the united front; similarly in France and in Belgium (where the leaders are neither for nor against the united front; we cannot understand that). We believe that the French young socialists are acting in the interests of the young workers, contrary to the young Socialists of Sweden. If we struggle for the united front we must exclude those who are against it; that is why we are against factions.

"Will you be expelled from your party? Possibly. In Argentina the Young Socialists were dissolved. In Belgium the leaders brought pressure to bear on Godefroy (leader of

the Belgian Young Socialists—Ed.), threatening to cut off all financial assistance to his organization. It is hardly different here. If you stand in the way of the party they will not play the democratic game with you. Don't be so sure of yourself. The question of expulsion is not so important. What counts are your perspectives. Do you want to win out in the youth movement, in the Party and then in the International? That is a remote objective. Everywhere in the Y. S. there is to be found a tendency favoring unity. Is your aim then to form an international mid-way between the Second and the Third? That is a difficult and unfruitful task. There is another road: change the leadership of the Young Socialist International; remove Ollenhauer. And then what? What are our basic differences? The theory of Marx has been translated into life over one-sixth of the globe, etc. . . . If there is a war it will indubitably be against the U.S.S.R. It will not be a war between imperialists but between classes. Where will the Young Socialists be in such an eventuality? In the middle-of-the-road? With us? They must make their position concrete.

There is another question: if you feel yourself to be very weak it is useless to form an independent organization. The essential question, however, is the struggle for

your autonomy. You are twenty-five years behind the Germany of 1908. And once autonomy is obtained, what will you do? It is a little to soon to form an organization sympathetic to the Young Communist International. On the other hand it is not enough to confine yourself to the strengthening of the united front.

(At this point, Memeton raises the question of "National Defense" and the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.)

**Chemodanov:** As far as Russia is concerned I can say that we have made our revolution; but we want it on a world scale. . . . In present conditions your entrance into the Young Communist International would be complicated and inopportune. Practically, we must arrive at the point where the united front turns to action.

**"WAR? IF WAR OCCURS AGAINST THE U.S.S.R. AND YOU MAKE YOUR REVOLUTION, YOU WILL BE TRAITORS."** A war provoked against the U.S.S.R. can be simultaneously directed against the U.S.S.R. and France; if there is such a war, it will be one of German fascism against communism.

The comrades ask us: what must we do in that case? The revolution is not made on command; you will not make it today nor on the day of the mobilization because there will then no longer be any organizations. **If war comes, the comrades must participate in it.** German fascism is arming and preparing for war. How shall we struggle against it? By meetings? By gatherings? A hell of a lot of Fascism worries about that. Paper stays paper, whereas gases and airplanes are being manufactured. **German fascism must find itself confronted with the countries who are struggling for peace: France and the U.S.S.R.**

**Ranvier:** For us, the enemy is international fascism. French and German. We do not believe, in any case, that the youth must follow their fascism against German fascism. If we allow our pre-fascist government to arm, then we allow the fascist morale to develop; our attitude must, of necessity, be clearly anti-militarist. If we allow the militarist spirit to develop, the revolution will no longer be possible. **We cannot bind ourselves to our own imperialism under cover of defending the U.S.S.R.** "The emancipation of the working class is the task of the working class itself." **Therefore, the workers must rise against their own fascism and thus assure the defense of the U.S.S.R.**

**Zeller:** Comrade Chemodanov has

proposed that we leave the Second International and join in sympathetic capacity to the Third. They have the advantage over us of having triumphed. We understand their state of mind. If we do what they want, what will be our relation, exactly, with the Young Communist International? Will we be obliged to apply all its decisions or will we have a certain amount of independence? Will we have the possibility of forming factions? Our movement is young, we are organizing ourselves, we must first win over the Young Socialists and the Socialist Party; we have no other perspectives. Can we extricate ourselves from it now? That is impossible.

"What is the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R.? For a long time it refused to join the League of Nations, that is, when there were revolutionary possibilities in Germany, in Austria and in Spain. On the other hand, the social democracy believed in the usefulness of the League of Nations: the Russians now have created a spirit of patriotism among the workers and they are obliged to utilize the contradictions between the imperialist states. I do not at all agree with Chemodanov: we do not want to place ourselves under the orders of our bourgeoisie for the defense of the U.S.S.R."

**Chemodanov:** The question of the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. has been discussed in the U.S.S.R. too; I am only giving you my personal opinion. But the Communists did not accept the united front because the U.S.S.R. needed it; the workers in every country need it. The foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. does not influence the course of the Party; the Young Communists have not abandoned the anti-militarist struggle, etc. If there is a war against the U.S.S.R. the workers will want to defend it and they will defend it arms in hand. In case of a struggle between Germany and Russia, the U.S.S.R. will be in no special danger; no country can withstand the Soviet Union; it will be a world war and the workers will all be on the side of the U.S.S.R."

**Kossarov:** The problem for revolutionists is the organization of the masses. The mistake many Young Socialists make is neglecting the struggle for the conquest of the unorganized youth, especially the Catholic; they are allowed to go their own way under the influence of the enemy. If we do not work among them, the enemy will. Peace is the aim of the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R., but besides it is also necessary to be able to maneuver for the purpose of utilizing existing contradictions; the bourgeoisie has good relations with us but we must not renounce the struggle against it.