

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

Brides...

From the New York Times, July 22: "Mrs. Ottilie Stufmann Umback, 28 year old bride, drowned Saturday near Washington Bridge when a torrent of rain water swept her down a drain in which poverty had driven her and her husband to seek refuge. . . . The couple had moved to New Jersey about a month ago, police said, after Umback had lost his job and they had no living quarters. With a crude tent, they camped in Fallsades Interstate Park by night, hiding the tent by day, until the rains of last week forced them to seek other shelter. Then they moved to the mouth of the drain, a concrete tunnel about four feet in diameter. . . . From the same issue of the N. Y. Times: "Jim (a polar bear) will bring his mate to one of the finest dwellings to be found in any zoo, with the latest and most modern improvements. At least fifty feet long, the ground is slanted, with a drop of about thirty feet from the top of the stone cliffs to the semi-circular swimming pool below. A narrow waterfall separates the two cliffs under one of which is a roomy and comfortable den."

Housing...

The courts have ruled that land may be condemned to build railroads, arsenals, military camps and public buildings. . . . The circuit court of Louisville, Ky., has denied the power of the government to condemn land for housing workers. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Sonnes, transit workers, occupied the Barnesville, Ohio, fairground stable during the birth of their baby. . . . The HOLC up to July 15 had started foreclosure proceedings against 712 home owners who failed to meet payments on loans granted to save their properties from foreclosure. . . . The government has appropriated a half million dollars to install a heating and ventilating plant in the Statue of Liberty. . . .

New Deal...

John Dickenson, former counsel for the Sugar Trust and vocal opponent of the Securities and Exchange Act, has been appointed Assistant Attorney General in charge of anti-trust suits. . . . The U. S. Shipping Board sold 146 ships, some of which cost as much as \$2,500,000 for \$4,600 each. The company that purchased the ships made a profit of \$35,000 each on the steel alone, selling it to Japan for munitions. . . . In 1933, 80,539 corporations reported incomes below \$100,000 and 284 above \$1,000,000. The aggregate income of the big corporations exceeded that of the small. . . . \$25,000 has been appropriated for a photo-electric eye to check examination papers for the Civil Service Commission. It will displace 100 clerks. . . . Figures compiled by the FERA show that 29 percent of the employed heads of rural households have shifted from their usual occupations, most of them going one or more steps downward on the occupational ladder. . . . Dr. I. M. Hargett, Methodist minister, criticizes Roosevelt's policies: "I wish the President would not make such a pleasure day of Sunday."

Prosperity...

Last February General Charles Daves predicted that prosperity would return by July, 1935. . . . Apple growers in Illinois are permitting their fruit to rot for lack of a profitable market. . . . Eight children in Fresno, Cal., were poisoned from eating contaminated garbage. . . . Household workers in Harlem place themselves on the public auction block and sell themselves to the highest bidder. . . . The home of Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Dall Boettger near Ossining, N. Y., is being sold to foreclose a mortgage. . . . Huey Long's newspaper, The American Progress, has curtailed its staff from 22 to 16 and doubled its subscription price. . . .

Royalty...

When Haile Selassie was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia, the King of England presented him with a one tone Angel Food cake. The King of Italy sent 500 bottles of Chianti. . . . John D. Rockefeller, at 96, has 19 of his own teeth. . . . The monarchist Austrian State Council approved a bill to restore Hapsburg property the income of which, estimated at \$200,000 per year, has since 1919 been used to aid crippled war veterans. . . .

Book Review...

Walter Pitkin of the Columbia University School of Journalism, in his "Capitalism Carries On": "Who are the Coolies? Hundreds of thousands sweatshop workers. They live in squalor that a fastidious animal would shun. . . . How grotesque to ask scientists and engineers and administrators to spend their lives supporting such rubble." His solution is sterilization. . . .

The Role and Position of the Various Groups in the Struggle Occurring in the Teachers Union

Below is the third of a series of articles on the situation in the Teachers Union, its background, the policies of the groups within it, and the struggle for union democracy as occasioned by the recent attempt of the administration to drive minorities from the organization.—Ed.

In 1928, a small group of Union teachers organized the Progressive Group based upon a program designed to make the Union a more effective force among the teachers. The Union then had within its ranks less than 1,000 members out of a teaching body of over 80,000 and was making little progress in organizing them. Two years later certain sections of the left wing within the general labor movement adopted a policy of seeking to build a new national trade union center in opposition to the A. F. of L. The influence of this policy was soon reflected within the ranks of the Progressives, which resulted in a split into two groups, one retaining the name of the group and the other group representing this new influence adopting the name of Rank and File.

The Progressive Group based its policies on building the Union as the sole economic organization of the teachers and was opposed to all independent activity outside the Union. Although it has been in opposition to the Administration and fights it on many issues on the floor of the Union, it does not seek to oust the Administration from the leadership—it seeks to reform it in a progressive direction. It takes the position that at present the Administration is much to the left of the great mass of teachers—hence what is needed is not a new leadership but a reform of the policies of the present one.

Bertram D. Wolfe, one of the leaders of this group, declared at one of its meetings that it would be disastrous to the Union or the present Administration to be replaced by a left wing leadership because the latter would be so much out of touch with the point of view of the majority of the teachers as to cause a collapse of the Union and the ruin of many years of hard work in building the organization.

Ben Davidson, the chief of the Progressives, declared that if Dr. Lefkowitz should resign as legislative representative of the Union, he believed it would go to pieces. With this defeatist point of view as its guiding line, it becomes clear why the Progressives did not put out a full election slate until 1933, offering until then no candidates in opposition to Lefkowitz and Linville. It also becomes clear why the Progressives centered their main attack during this period upon the Rank and File for its dual-unionist policies, and not upon the Administration, thus giving the latter fuel for its attack upon the entire opposition. That is why the belief has existed among many teachers that the Progressives are simply a pseudo-opposition.

After the formation of the Unemployed Teachers Association in the spring of 1931, upon the initiative of the Rank and File, the Progressives, in the fall of the same year, sponsored the organization of the Association of Unappointed Teachers as a rival organization of unemployed teachers—thus splitting the policy at the very outset. This policy it has maintained until the present despite the fact that there does not exist any legitimate reason for two organizations in this field.

The leaders of the Progressives—Davidson and Wittes—openly promised that as soon as the Rank and File Group abandoned its dual unionist position, liquidated its Classroom Teachers Groups, etc., it would propose a merger of the Progressive Group and the Rank and File and other opposition groups. In this event it further promised to merge the Association of Unappointed Teachers with the Unemployed Teachers Association and strive for the eventual entry of both into the Teachers Union. Despite the fact that the Rank and File has changed its policies in this respect—despite the dissolution of the Classroom Teachers Groups—the Progressives leader refuse to carry out their promises and hide their opposition to the long overdue merger under various untenable pretexts.

Policies of Rank and File Group. The Rank and File group, as stated above, came into existence as a result of the movement, during 1929 to 1934, for the building of a new national trade-union center, and as a result of a split within the Progressive Group. The Rank and File is officially allied to the "Rank and File" movements in other A. F. of L. unions, such as the A. F. of L. Committee for Unemployed Insurance. Its official organ is "The A. F. of L. Rank and File". The Rank and File, under the leadership of Isadore Begun, originally took the position that it was hopeless to seek to reform the union and have it adopt and carry out a

progressive or militant program.

In accordance with this orientation, it initiated the organization of the Committee to Protect Salaries (1931) ostensibly for the purpose of organizing school salary committees to fight the then proposed salary cuts, but actually for the purpose of laying the basis for a rival organization to the Teachers Union.

After this attempt had failed, it initiated and organized the Classroom Teachers Groups on a similar anti-Union basis and used this organization as a means of attacking the Union from the outside. Attempts by members of the Rank and File to correct this policy proved of no avail; they were simply dropped from the group, received no notices, were refused the floor, etc.

Similarly, the Rank and File undertook the organization of the Unemployed Teachers Association in 1931, which was a correct move in itself due to the refusal of the Administration to organize or permit the organization of the unemployed teachers under its auspices. But the Rank and File leadership (Begun, Citron, Levine) misused their influence within the U.T.A. to lead it into anti-Union channels. Within the U.T.A. a struggle was carried on by a group of false members to correct this false course. The result was the same as in the Rank and File: the opposition was removed from the Executive Board and ostracized within the organization.

The leadership of the Rank and File proved in action that in addition to steering a dual unionist course, it could outdo the Lefkowitz-Linville faction in anti-democratic measures against those who disagreed with them in their own organization. Through these destructive activities the Rank and File leadership played into the hands of the Administration which used their tactics as arguments to confuse the membership and to prevent the adoption of mass action policies by the Union.

A Bankrupt Maneuver

After the liquidation of such dual organizations as the National Miners Union, the National Textile Workers, the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, etc., the policy of the Rank and File also was changed. At first it proposed a united front of the Classroom Teachers Groups with the Teachers Union (June, 1934). When this maneuver failed, it proposed that the Teachers Union call a conference of all teachers' organizations for the purpose of uniting, although the Rank and File leaders knew perfectly well that the only organization that would respond to such a call would be its own controlled Classroom Teachers Groups. This maneuver was designed to cover the bankruptcy of its own policy and to act as a face-saving device while a change of policy was being effected, likewise failed. The Rank and File leaders were compelled to order the liquidation of the Classroom Teachers Groups, thus substantiating the charge that its intent was to create a rival to displace the Teachers Union.

In spite of its false policies, the strength of the Rank and File has increased considerably during the past year, a contradiction which not

only does not justify its past anti-Union course, but serves to emphasize how much greater its strength might have been had it followed a pro-Union course. In the last few months of the school year it strove feverishly to bring in as many members as possible into the Union from among its followers which it had previously kept from joining the Union. But the Administration made good use of the Rank and File's previous blunders to win in the elections of 1935. This soon made it possible for the Lefkowitz-Linville faction to block the rapid growth of the opposition by closing the books of the Union against the entrance of new members.

The Committee for Democracy

Because the leaders of the Rank and File refused to reform their policies in a pro-Union direction, because they refused to organize a broad and non-factional united front movement together with the Progressives and other independent elements to restore democracy in the Union, because they resorted to expulsion and ostracism against those of its members who advocated these changes—the Committee for Democracy in the Union came into existence. Dissatisfied members of the Progressive Group and independent members likewise joined the committee. The aim was not to create a third opposition group with a complete trade union program but to develop a non-partisan movement to restore the democratic rights of the membership to determine the policies of the Union.

The program of the Committee consists of the following:

- 1) The restoration by constitutional amendment of the right of the membership to determine the basic policies of the Union.
- 2) The democratization of the Delegate Assembly, which will then constitute the working body of the Union between membership meetings.
- 3) The reduction into the Union, with full membership rights and at nominal dues, of unemployed and unappointed teachers of the city.
- 4) The education of dues to facilitate an organizational campaign to make possible the drawing into the Union of the great mass of teachers who are still outside it.

The Committee for Democracy in the Union, in the brief period of its existence (Nov. 1934) engaged in a remarkable amount of constructive activity in a hostile atmosphere created by a highly factionalized situation. In this brief period it issued a program for the democratization of the Union. Six bulletins explaining this program were issued to the membership. It sounded the alarm and called for a united front when the Organized Union Majority was organized and when Dr. Linville sent out his unauthorized letters to the membership attacking the right of minority groups to exist in the Union. Predicting that these moves were preliminary to the renewal of the Administration's campaign to crush the opposition groups by ousting them from the Union, the Committee pointed out the dangers and appealed to the Rank and File and to the Progressive Group to form a united front with it on a limited program of restoring and extending democracy (Nov. 1934). Both of these groups refused to heed the appeal, each denying that an immediate danger of expulsion existed and each setting forth ultimatum demands which made a united front impossible. They were soon to learn how costly their blunder would prove.

Green's Papal Bull

Just received following telegram from President Green. "Have dispatched a letter with seal attached thereto to officers Central Labor Council, Kelso and Longview by airmail instructing them to disassociate delegates from suspended local 2504 from affiliation with central body and also writing organizer Watson Longview him to proceed to instructing and if necessary revoke the charter of the central body in order to enforce compliance with my instructions." Wm. L. Hutcheson."

This we hesitate to use any methods, no matter how vile, to smash militant unionism. Although the workers fell short of winning their original strike demands, and agreements such as the ones concluded in Portland represent a real setback, nevertheless some definite gains can be recorded. Wage increases were won, the company union (4L) has been smashed in the largest production centers, and although its ranks are infested with such rats as Muir, a bonafide trade union has been established. The Northwest lumber workers must gird themselves for a struggle to cleanse their ranks of the fakers and build a strong rank and file movement that will wage a determined struggle for better living conditions. Above all the workers must realize that labor fakers, the bosses, and the government are one big union of exploiters which the workers must unite to smash from the earth or gradually sink back to the level of the serfs of the Middle Ages. Join the ranks of the Workers Party. Onward to the goal of a classless society.

Party Grows In Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—The recent organization of the C.P. as to why he was leaving the Stalinists for the Workers Party. Thurnan, a member of the Communist Party for two years, became convinced of the bankruptcy of the Third International after reading statements of Thorez, leading "theoretician" of the French C. P., in which he attempted to explain away the entangling alliance the Soviet Union has just concluded with France, which forces the French C.P. members to act as recruiting sergeants in time of war. Other members of the C.P. and Y.C.L. in Cleveland announced their intention of leaving the Stalinists for the same reason.

CHELSEA, Mass. (FP).—A unique decision closely affecting the labor and radical movements was recently handed down when Judge Samuel R. Cutler of Chelsea district court found the Western Union Telegraph Co. in contempt of court and fined it \$500 for accepting, transmitting and delivering protest telegrams against the arrest of two defendants appearing before his court. If this decision is upheld, it will deprive the great majority of the people of the right to inform public officials of their opinions, and bring mass pressure to bear on reactionary officials.

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—C. A. Hathaway was responsible for my resignation from the Communist Party and my intention to join the Workers Party," Harry Thurnan, young C. P. member answered in

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Lumber Strike Ends; Obtain Few Demands

Labor Skates Expel All Rebellious Locals from Union

By EARL LANE

PORTLAND, Ore., July 31.—The great Northwest lumber strike virtually ended in this important lumber production center when on its 80th day the Sawnmill and Timber Workers local voted overwhelmingly to accept a compromise settlement of 50 cents per hour minimum wage scale, a 40-hour, five consecutive day week, no discrimination against workers who participated in the strike, re-employment as soon as each department re-opens, and collective bargaining between the individual employers and employees in each mill are to be worked in the individual mill as they are by a committee elected by them. The original strike demands were: 75c per hour minimum wage scale, 30-hour week, one week's sick leave and one week's vacation annually with pay, and union recognition.

The bosses were reluctant to grant even the meager concessions contained in the final settlement, and only did so after the workers had flatly rejected a proposed agreement that would have left the operators free to discriminate against the militants in the union's ranks and put the matter of re-employing the strikers off into the nebulous future, "whenever it is possible to do so." In the case of the militants "whenever it is possible" would with a creativity have been never. Another concession forced by the union was the five consecutive day week.

Concessions Inadequate

In spite of the fact that these concessions were won the settlement must be considered a defeat. The fact that the workers in two plants were not included and were left to settle with their bosses by themselves, was a serious departure from true union solidarity. But the gravest defeat is the splitting up of the union into separate mill locals, thus preventing the presentation of a united front to the attacks of the bosses which are sure to follow as soon as they feel themselves strong enough.

In the face of the fact that the strike has virtually ended in every other important center, the workers in Tacoma and Aberdeen are still out, the Tacoma local having rejected a compromise settlement last Saturday night.

Abé Muir, with the support of the top leadership of the A. F. of L., is continuing his campaign to smash the militant locals of the S. & T. W. U., using the same charter revoking tactics that are being used against the Minneapolis militants. William Green injected himself into the struggle to smash local 2504 which has been fighting Muir and his sell-out policies. In a telegram to Hutcheson, reactionary president of the Carpenters and Joiners, he threatened to revoke the charter of Longview-Kelso Central Labor Council if they did not unseat delegates from 2504 and completely disassociate itself from the militant local. The federation executive's threat is contained in this message sent to P. W. Dowler, general representative of the Carpenters and Joiners.

What to Attend

Friday—Dram group of S. Y. E. L. meets regularly Friday evenings at 8 P.M. at 65 E. 11th St. All comrades interested in dramatics are asked to attend.

Sunday, August 4—Come Sparta and swimming with the Sparta Youth League. Meet at Pelham Bay Station at 10:30 A.M.

The Manager's Corner

The realization of the eight-page weekly is now assured by the enthusiastic response given to our call for the strengthening of the party press. The figures of total contributions received to date for this special purpose would hardly seem to substantiate our claim. But these figures do not tell the whole story. So while we have not reached only a little less than 20 percent of the \$2,000 set as a goal for the campaign to launch the eight-page weekly, the real situation is that we are building up a solid economic foundation for our press, and above all, we are really beginning to extend its circulation.

Our appeal was not in vain. The party branches and the bundle agents are undertaking in a serious manner to pay up their accounts, regular subscriptions are rolling in, subscription renewals are given attention and advance subscriptions for the eight-page weekly are appearing.

Postponement Unavoidable

When we announced our campaign for the eight-page weekly we set August 3 as a tentative date for its appearance. Many comrades undoubtedly expected this issue to be in. But we were a little too rash in our estimates. We did not fully realize that because we had been so badly remiss in the past, resulting in so many frightfully delinquent accounts, there was so much to be done before a sound economic basis could be assured. In addition we were ourselves so much delayed in getting the campaign underway. And let it be clearly understood, we have no interest in making a show of progress that is not real and does not rest on a realistic basis enabling us to maintain every gain and to march forward. Our aim is not merely to add to the pages of the NEW MILITANT, rather it is to make the kind of advance that will produce a vastly improved party organ and produce a worthy spokesman for the militant workers.

Since last week's report the following amounts have been received:

Contributions	
Newark branch	\$12.00
Boston branch	6.00
Harlem branch, N. Y. C.	4.05
Gulfport, Miss. Branch	5.00
East Side branch	3.00
East Side branch, N.Y.C.	6.00
Herman Kressig Brj, N. Y.	1.00
Workers of Bangor, Maine	2.00
Flatbush branch, N.Y.C.	1.25
Bronx branch, N.Y.C.	6.00
Paterson branch	1.00
Center branch, N.Y.C.	8.50
Boro Park branch, N.Y.C.	2.00
Total	\$68.80

Advance Subscriptions

New Haven branch (Gendeman)	\$ 2.00
Philadelphia branches (Goodman)	7.00
Subscriptions (Club Plans)	
Chicago branches	3.80
Boston branch	1.50
Greetings	
Philadelphia branches	6.00
West Side branch, N.Y.C.	5.00
Kansas City branch	3.00
California District Committee	1.00
Libby Rockhill, Brooklyn, N.Y.	.25
Previous total	\$276.48
Grand Total	\$345.28

Exact Date in Next Issue

That basis is now actually in the making due to the gratifying response from our comrades and supporters. Plans for the further organization work are going ahead, and with the present beginnings of excellent results it will be only a very few weeks before the eight-page weekly will be in your hands. In our next issue we shall give you the exact date.

The most excellent example of responses made to the party's call for the strengthening of its press and of the strengthening of the campaign to make the eight-page weekly possible is set by the branches of Boston and Minneapolis. Both branches settled their delinquent accounts in short order and simultaneously made good contributions to the campaign. The Boston branch still leads the field with a total of \$45.00 contributed. Other branches have made a beginning toward getting their accounts in good standing. The total results in this respect we shall publish in our next issue.

The New York district made an excellent promise at the inception of the campaign. It undertook to raise half of the funds needed for the eight-page weekly, not less than \$1,000. Magnificent. The New York district had the jump on all the other party units in the country. It could get into action much quicker in the campaign and all that remained was to make good on the promise. Let us compare how well this advantage has been utilized. To date the total contributions from New York branches is \$184.03. In other words still less than 20 percent of the pledge. No, the advantage is not yet made use of. More action, more speed is necessary.

Totals Going Up

have received from the other branches in the various cities in the country a total of \$131.08. From individual supporters we have received a total of \$42.76.

In the New York district the West Side branch has maintained its lead with a total of \$38 turned in. The Harlem branch follows closely with \$33.63 and the Center branch is next with a contribution of \$32.75. Let us see which of these branches will be ahead next week. Following amounts have been received:

Moonlight On The Hudson

ATTENTION—moonlighters, comrades and sympathizers. The preparations for the Moonlight Ball are going full steam ahead. We have engaged the services of a well known New York music maestro for those who like dancing in the moonlight. There will be entertainment and games galore. Don't wait until the last moment to purchase your tickets. Only 300 tickets will be sold and those who wait too long will find it impossible to obtain them. Tickets can be bought at 55 W. 11th Street, and at the Bookshop, 96 Fifth Avenue.

MUSIC DANCING

MOONLIGHT SAIL

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