

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH Log of a Hitch-Hiker

"Hop in boy. We'll be in Naashville by 6:30." The driver, a frayed Rabbitt, hailed from Atlanta and eked out a precarious living selling a life-insurance-magazine-subscription combination. The car was a model of five years back and broke down where we had gone far. With a little tinkering we were on our way again.

Sellout Fixed For N.Y. WPA Relief Strike

(Continued from Page 1) erment officials in Washington, D. C. His friendship for General Johnson has not been affected one whit by the present serious situation in which Johnson, with the entire government apparatus behind him, has undertaken to smash union conditions and union wage scales of PWA and WPA projects. Johnson's success (read: U. S. government) in this campaign cannot fail to undermine organized labor standards in the building industry and all classes of private employment. Despite the serious situation Meany, representing labor, finds it possible to utter pleasing words about his "good friend," Gen. Hugh S. Johnson.

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, the PWA strike committee met with Gen. Johnson at his offices in the Port Authority Building. According to Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Business Manager of Electrical Workers Local 3, one of the "major" demands by organized labor is reclassification of all building mechanics. Van Arsdale reported to a meeting of striking electrical workers that Johnson is prepared to accede to this "demand."

Calif. Vigilantes Terrorize Agricultural Laborers

Tar and Feather Union Organizers in Desperate Attempt to Stem Unionization; But Crops Rot in Field

(Continued from Page 1) used against Nitzburg and others. No one else but the police had the bombs nor the guns to fire them. Police Cooperation Santa Rosa is not a large town and three hundred men could not organize themselves without police knowledge and connivance. It is definitely charged and proven that public officials, police officials and prominent "honored" citizens were active in the raiding. U. S. Attorney General Webb, who had given sanction to the vigilantes, by refusing to act in earlier cases in Santa Rosa, had the following statement to make in reply to a demand of the Civil Liberties Union for investigation and action: "There is nothing to investigate."

Let some strikers say "scab" to some strikebreaker and Mr. Webb will be sure to call out all the forces at his disposal to restore "law and order," meanwhile beating and arresting workers by scores. This attack upon the lives of five workers evokes nothing out of him but the implicit support of the vigilantes. Knowing the character of the capitalist state machinery, this need cause us little surprise, no matter how discomfited the San Francisco News, a liberal paper, may be by the declaration of Webb. The San Francisco News in its timid protest against the Vigilantes has the following to say: "We have every sympathy for growers who see their entire year's work menaced by a few agitators."

of big business, will have to be met determinedly, or the cause of labor will be doomed. Vigilantism has become a common occurrence: Jackson, Pixley, San Francisco, Richmond, Imperial Valley, Santa Rosa and other places have been scenes of raids by vigilantes against labor unions. The only way the workers can defeat the vigilantes is not to meet it with moans of anguish and appeals for sympathy, but by having groups of workers ready and willing to fight for labor by all means—matching weapon for weapon with the vigilantes. Contrary to the hopes of the master class the jailing of eight workers, at Sacramento, a few months ago has not stifled the labor movement. It continues. Struggles are developing in agriculture, mining, industry and on the waterfront. We have recounted in brief the situation in Santa Rosa. Word comes that the Mexican Agricultural Workers Union of Los Angeles and surrounding counties is preparing to go out on strike. The Jackson miners are still holding out. On the waterfront the probabilities are that there will be a struggle with the expiration of the contract, on September 30. The river bargemen are on strike. Five locals of agricultural workers have been chartered in one county by the Bakersfield Central Labor Council.

The capitalist class places a lot of hope in the vigilantes as a weapon against the workers. P. S. The terroristic action of the vigilantes has resulted in creating a labor shortage in Sonoma County which may mean that the crops will rot unharvested. This was the announcement of J. A. Stellers, state director of national re-employment. Mr. Stellers said 1,500 men are needed for work at once in the harvest around Santa Rosa, and emphasized the point that only men active in fomenting labor trouble and strike movements are "in disfavor" there. Behind all the obscene exhibition of flagging and frenzy stands the economic interests of the growers. The motive behind this 100 percentism is cold profit. Patriotism is the refuge of all anti-labor forces.

STOCKTON, Cal., Aug. 28.—After deliberating less than an hour and a half, a jury in this city found A. Grey not guilty and released him. During the warehousemen's strike in April, Grey had shot down in cold blood Ray Morency, vice-president of the union, who was on the picket line at the time of his death and had attempted to dissuade Grey from carrying "hot cargo" in his truck. Class Justice: Santa Rosa and Stockton.

A Foreunner of the Revolution

By A. J. MUSTE

On a mountain side near Old Fort, N. C. hundreds of men and women gathered last Sunday for the funeral of Larry Hogan, Workers Party member and Southern strike leader. The mountain folks from whom he had sprung, farmers, unemployed, hosiery workers, textile workers whom he had organized and with whom he had fought on a hundred picket lines, union officials, composed that crowd. Editorials in the capitalist press of North Carolina commented on his death which was the result of an automobile accident, pointing to him as an arch enemy of the employing interests, yet paying grudging praise to his courage, skill and power over the masses. Colorful, dynamic, filled with a passion for social change, were the expressions they used about him. Less than seven years ago Larry Hogan, a young married man of 24 who had come down out of the hills to work in a cotton mill, was not to be distinguished from tens of thousands of Southern textile workers. When, however, a \$11.00 wage for a 70 hour week, plus a merciless speed-up, finally forced the workers of the Marlon Mfg. Company to revolt, Larry was one of the leaders of the union and emerged from the long strike in which six men were killed by drunken deputies on a picket line as an outstanding figure.

Learning from Life Larry learned many things during that strike. At its beginning the quartette of which he was the leader was singing "We are building Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross." Before many days had passed the words were changed to read: "We are building a strong union, workers of the mill." He had learned, in other words, to use the idealism which had been bred in him in the only realistic way possible under modern conditions, namely, by organizing the workers to cope with the oppression and misery to which they were subjected. He learned the basic fact of the class struggle in modern society and from that time on read men and events in the light of that Marxian truth. He learned, furthermore, that the struggle was not a superficial one but must end with the destruction of the prevailing economic system. He had become a revolutionist. He also learned that within the labor movement itself there are the fighters and the class collaborators, and decided that his place was with the former. At the close of the strike he could have eased into a secure position as a trade union organizer if he had been willing to trail along with the machine. He felt instead the need of study in order to discover the intellectual justification for the convictions he had reached in the struggle and to equip himself for translating his ideals into reality. Thus he became a student at Brookwood Labor College which had shortly before been placed under the ban of the A. F. of L.

His course at Brookwood was interrupted by an educational period on the chain gang in North Carolina, the state having found "sufficient evidence" in his strike activities to warrant a sentence, though it had not been able to discover "evidence" on which to convict the deputy sheriffs who had killed six strikers. Plugging Along Following the completion of his work at Brookwood, Larry went back to North Carolina. It was a period of dullness and slump in the labor movement. He plugged away nevertheless organizing farmers, unemployed, textile workers, building small, secret groups, picking out individuals and patiently teaching them the meaning of the class struggle, helping Pioneer Youth to work with groups of mill and mountain children, etc. Beginning with the general strike in High Point three years ago a change occurred. In one town after another the workers were ready for revolt and wanted instruction and leadership. In 1933 the Hosiery Workers Union launched large-scale organizing campaigns in the South. Larry was a member of the staff and called upon incessantly for strike organization activity. Characteristically, he was on the way from High Point to Durham for a strike meeting when his car was crowded off the road and the accident which in a few days brought on his death occurred. Characteristically also, during this summer he had backed up his father and other progressive natives around Old Fort in having Negro as well as white children at Pioneer Youth camp in spite of the suspicion and opposition of many of the neighbors. He had plans for putting up in the mountain retreat where he was building his own little house, a couple more buildings to house a training school for organizers. "Pick out the promising young fellows and girls," said Larry, "who emerge in a strike, take them to Old Fort for a month and teach them something of what it is all about, send them back into practical activity, bring them back again for further instruction after six months or a year; that is the way we will

Crumbs for America's Starving Children Millions for "Defense"

By G. R.

While the bosses and their government appropriate hundreds of millions of dollars to protect their interests at home and abroad they hand out a few miserable crumbs to the workers. Their motto seems to be: Millions for "defense" but little or nothing for the starving children of the American working class. Almost every day newspapers all over the country carry such news items as the following: "About 3,000,000 children in the rural districts of the United States have been deprived of schooling during the whole or part of the school term of 1933-1935 because of insufficient school funds. "In making public these figures recently the United States Office of Education stated that over 37,000 rural schools were unable to operate the full school term because of lack of funds. In 477 rural districts funds this year were insufficient to pay teachers salaries for even one month. In some of the districts schools remained open only because teachers served in a missionary capacity." The appropriation for 1936 for the Office of Education was \$251,780 while the appropriation for ferage only for army horses is \$602,317. Or maybe we will run across a headline like the following: "3,000,000 Children Under 16 On Federal Relief Rolls." "The result," says Katherine Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau, "is seen in increased sickness and death rates in families with curtailed incomes, in malnutrition among children, in curtailed educational facilities, closing of schools and restricted budgets for health services." Safe for Capitalism Meanwhile big-hearted "Uncle Sam" grants the army the tidy little sum of \$341,348,261. While millions of children are growing up in illiteracy in the "cultured" U.S.A., while schools are closed down and teachers go without pay, while the infant mortality rate mounts higher and higher, more than a third of a billion dollars goes to make the United States safe for capitalism, for the defense

of American bankers and imperialists in the next (and imminent) international murder match. Estimated appropriations for the year of 1936 for what the bosses call "social security" and for how war are as follows: Children's Bureau, \$403,380 — Caretakers for Army horses, \$1,830,900. Old age pensions, \$50,000,000 — Sea Coast Defense \$88,645,518. Orphans, \$24,750,000 — National Guard, \$30,812,798. Employment Service, \$4,000,000 — Aircraft Maintenance, \$4,896,764. Women's Bureau, \$153,580 — C.M.T.C., \$1,000,000. Unemployment Insurance, \$4,900,000 — Army aircraft, \$30,710,874. Mother and child health, \$4,000,000 — Army Air Corps, \$23,333,400. Crippled children, \$3,000,000 — Army planes, \$22,183,900. Child welfare, \$1,500,000 — R.O.T.C., \$3,323,246. Building a War Machine Study the following table and learn how a "peace loving" country builds one of the most powerful war machines in the world: Navy Dept. approp. .... \$467,805,251 Navy Dept. PWA fund.. 118,236,982 Additional PWA fund authorized for Navy.. 38,000,000 Total for Navy .. 614,132,243 War Dept approp. .... 341,348,261 War Dept. PWA fund.. 3,639,243 Total for Army .. 344,987,494 Grand Total .. \$957,119,647 This will be \$7,627,725 per day for war but the bosses propose to spend on the program of "social security" the sum of \$98,400,000 for the whole year. Nearly \$300,000 a day for "preparedness" and almost \$6,000,000 a day for the past war. More than \$8,000,000 a day is ground out of the bodies of the workers for the benefit of capitalist bankers and munition manufacturers. Nor is this all. This huge armed force will be used also against the "enemy" at home—the disillusioned workers who will seek to make the demagogic promises of Roosevelt for "security"—something of a reality. Against wars for American imperialism! Conversion of all war funds to the unemployed!

The Manager's Corner

The Fall season is now before us and we should have reason to expect that it will bring about a great spurt in activities for the launching of the eight-page weekly. The summer months are always more difficult and still we did not do so badly as might have been the case. Already this week we can report a slight increase in total contributions over the preceding week. But, of course, it is not nearly enough. We still have a long way to go to obtain the total sum necessary. \$2,000 is the amount. The comprehensive plans outlined by the New York party district organization, which began to take form at its recent convention, are now on the way to execution. But, concrete results are still very small. The most active comrades in the lead of sustaining and building the party press have formed a special press and literature committee. It is beginning to mobilize the membership for an extensive scale of distribution to be followed up by canvassing for subscriptions, increase of bundle sales and in general to push the campaign forward. In view of this the standing of the New York district branches will bear special watching. This week the record of total contributions made compared with their quotas is as follows:

branches, although now with a diminishing margin. Its total contribution is \$59.50. The Philadelphia Kensington branch has contributed \$34.78, the Minneapolis branch \$33.50, the Chicago branches (three branches) \$30.25, the Los Angeles branch \$10.00, the Detroit branch \$8.00, the Youngstown, Kansas City and Gulfport, Miss. branches each \$6.00, the New Haven branch \$4.50, the Pittsburgh and St. Louis branches \$4.00 each and the Davenport, Iowa branch \$1.50. But what about all the other branches from which we have not as yet heard at all? There are a good many of them, and some of them are large branches. We have not yet heard from Allentown, Pa.; Akron, Frisco and Oakland, Cal.; Cleveland, Columbus, Buffalo, Toledo, Salt Lake City, Charleston, W. Va.; New Castle, Pa.; Northampton, Pa.; Dickson City, Pa.; Mt. Carmel, Pa.; Pientwood, Mont.; Springfield, Ill.; Utica, N.Y.; Washington, D.C. and soon we may also expect to hear from our newly organized branches in Fargo, N. Dak., Austin, Minn., and Albert Lea, Minn. Two active sub-getters are evidently heading for the special prizes offered for advance subscriptions turned in for the eight-page weekly. Leon Goodman of Philadelphia has sent in to date such subscriptions to the amount of \$14.00, and Paul Graves of Detroit has sent in \$6.00. The prizes offered are for a total of 10 years subs (\$2.00 each) or twenty six month subs (\$1.00 each) turned in by one individual: "History of the Russian Revolution," by Leon Trotsky, in three bound volumes. For a total of five yearly subscriptions or 10 of six months a bound copy of the "Correspondence of Marx and Engels." During the past week we can record the following amounts received in the campaign:

Guffey Bill is Blow to Miners

(Continued from Page 1) including an excise tax of 15 per cent of the sales price of all coal marketed with a return of 90 per cent of this tax to all operators accepting the code. It sets up a national bituminous coal commission appointed by the President and provides for the organization of twenty-three district boards of coal producers with power to fix prices for marketing of coal, based on a "fair profit," in order to accomplish what is called "sustain the stabilization of wages, working conditions, and maximum hours of labor." This part of the Bill, it should be noted, puts all the power of regulation in the hands of the operators under governmental supervision. There should thus be little wonder of the fact that the large coal operators backed the Bill to the limit. The provisions mentioned can serve them well. Not only can the large operators corner the market by the price fixing devices and squeeze out the smaller operators by closing down their mines as unprofitable and throw many miners out of work; but these provisions can serve also for the large operators to completely dictate and dominate conditions of labor, wages and hours. A second aspect of the Guffey Bill refers more specifically to labor relations. It re-enacts the provisions of Section 7a of the NRA. But an amendment attached to the bill before its passage makes clear that the rights of collective bargaining applies not merely to the miners union but to any group of miners. In other words the company union has exactly the same legal status. Finally, a coal labor board, appointed by the President, is to be set up to adjudicate all labor disputes and to have the power to hold elections to decide who shall represent the miners. Indeed, what we have here is a repetition of the NRA, but in worse form. The Guffey Bill does not fix maximum hours or minimum wages

since that became the particular NRA feature which was declared unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court. Many predictions have already been made that the Guffey Bill will suffer the same fate. Be that as it may, what is important to remember is the fact that it is now a force functioning essentially as a means of frustrating any direct action by the coal miners. John L. Lewis has now the pretext needed to cancel the projected strike for the six-hour day and the six-dollar a day scale altogether and submit all such questions to the coal labor board. No doubt this will be the course he will pursue. And before this board where these questions may be treated exactly as were the demands of the automobile workers, the steel workers and the many others who have had experiences with established labor boards. The result of their experiences were a strengthening of the company unions and a corresponding set-back to their own organizations. In the passage of the Guffey Bill is thus revealed once more the combination of the bosses, the government and the top labor union bureaucrats against the rank and file workers. This has become typical of the Roosevelt policy. Ostensibly it sets out to establish harmony between capital and labor. In reality it is an attempt to harness the trade union movement in a new system of class collaboration supervised by the government. The top union officials, and this is particularly characteristic of the John L. Lewis regime, fear strike action by the workers above all and are prepared to go to any length to frustrate it, including an outright sell-out. They gladly accept this refined system of collaboration with the bosses and become so much more directly their agents in labor's ranks. This lesson the actual operation of the Coal Act will once more make clear to the workers, and with redoubled force.

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Table with columns: Branch, Contribution, Quota. Lists various branches and their respective amounts.