

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL KEICH

Prosperity . . .

Without choking on his false teeth (as he once did while waxing oratorical in Little Rock) Senator Robinson proclaims: "Our president has been charged with everything from communism to despotism, and yet you cannot pick up a daily paper that does not reflect a rise in the stock market, an increase in profits, a resumption of dividends; in fact, every manifestation that tells of a country bound back to prosperity."

Equality . . .

In delightful non sequitur Al Smith orates: "It is a mistake to say that we have a property or privileged class in this country. Lincoln said property is only the fruit of labor."

Washington Side Show

Pat Hurley received \$100,000 from the Utility Lobby for handling the Republicans in Congress, Joe Tunally received \$107,000 for lining up the Democrats . . . Marvin McIntyre, Roosevelt's secretary, believes that presidents come and go but the power trust goes on forever.

Society Notes . . .

Herbert Hoover of Palo Alto, Cal., has applied for membership in the American Philatelic Society. The most prominent member is F. D. Roosevelt . . . John Jacob Astor recently purchased a \$200,000 yacht to commute to and from his \$25 a week job . . . Edward Schulte, 17 year old Chicago boy, was fatally shot when he attempted to steal a bottle of milk for his crying baby nephew.

Albert Goldman, the noted labor lawyer who defended Norman Mini in the Sacramento courtroom, will be the speaker at the monthly membership meeting of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 8 P.M. at the headquarters of Local 48, I. L.G.W.U., 231 East 14th Street, New York.

Fink AFL Leadership Sabotages Then Betrays KC Battery Strike

By STAN DOLSEN

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 17.—The National Battery strike was settled by a committee of strikers this morning. Called originally for recognition of the union and the reinstatement of five men discharged for union activity, the strike was mishandled from the start by the A. F. of L. leadership in charge. The men, all new to the labor movement, are members of the United Auto Workers, Local 19720, this local also including the organized workers in the Chevrolet and Fisher Body plants of this city.

The National Battery Company, largest producer of batteries in America, has seven production plants throughout the country, three of these, the St. Paul, Chicago and Kansas City plants servicing the Midwestern and southern states. St. Paul and Chicago, organized during the early NRA days, still retained skeleton organizations despite the mishandling and defeat of their strikes by the Dillon-dominated United Auto Workers Union. Victory for the Kansas City strikers would have brought about immediate repercussions in those plants and revival of the fight for the 100 percent unionization.

Oddly were overwhelmingly favorable for an early and complete victory for the strikers. The busy season—June to December—was commencing. Fully fifty percent of the men struck immediately (on an overnight decision of the union and those entering the plant were favorable to the union and practically all others promising to come out if the A. F. of L. would furnish the additional pickets so firmly promised by President Homer Martens of the Auto Workers and Polley of the Teamsters. Instead of the 500 pickets promised—a dozen Teamsters and quarrymen were supplied. No effort worthy of the name was made to prevent men from entering the plant. The strikers all green men, had confidence in President Martens, who assured them the strike was being handled in "Washington" and that they must by all means "conduct themselves like gentlemen" in order to impress the public and the company with "our absolute fairness in this matter."

Four days later four pickets were placed back on the line, Martens maintaining that "the strike strategy and tactics" laid down by Missouri State Law (a picket's enough to win any strike) was an age-old axiom of Sam Gompers and must be strictly lived up to by "his" union. So the battle of labor was transferred from the picket line to the cozy little court house, the balance of the week being held off the line for two weeks while the injunction hearing was repeatedly set back by the judge.

When the injunction was first issued, Martens was immediately called upon by an experienced West Coast progressive, who presented a definite program of action. Pressure was likewise brought to bear by the Chevrolet Shop Stewards Committee. Martens thereupon agreed to put the following proposals into immediate effect:

As is always the case with Martens' promises—they were either not carried out or so emasculated as to be entirely useless. The men, totally inexperienced, and kept completely in the dark as to the actual situation, led to repeatedly by this preacher-labor faker, did not await to a realization of the situation until the lifting of the injunction and their return to the picket lines. Martens, Polley and Dyer, President of the C.L.U., laid the blame on the heads of the strikers themselves, with Martens telling them openly that it was up to them to get back into the plant as best they could.

The men now thoroughly aroused, raised the demand previously outlined; the strike committee was doubled. Arrangements were made with the American Workers Union to supply pickets. Immediately after the Strike Committee left Martens went over their heads, cancelling the agreement with the A.W.U. and in the morning when the A.W.U. workers, unaware of the cancellation notice, arrived on the picket line they were told to withdraw by Martens, Polley and Bledsoe who threatened to withdraw their pickets and all A. F. of L. support if they did not do so.

In spite of this, the new strike committee, now completely awake, succeeded in pulling eleven key men out of the plant and with three-fourths of the men in the plant newly-bred scabs and green, production was thrown clear out of gear. The establishment of a mass picket line at this time would have brought about complete victory. But Martens did nothing to mobilize either the members of the auto union or assist in any way. Instead a series of arrests of strikers, some at his instigation, occurred. In spite of this the workers tried to extend the strike to Chicago and St. Paul, sending the new chairman of the strike committee there. At this time the company offered a settlement. But Martens and Polley stalled the matter off—then after a number of days announced that they could do nothing more for "you boys."

On Saturday four members of the strike committee designated by the men made the following settlement:

- 1. Reinstatement of all strikers without discrimination, including the five originally discharged.
2. A shop grievance committee of 6, 3 strikers and 3 scabs.
3. Payment at rate of time-and-a-half for all overtime above 48 hour week. Sunday work to be paid for at rate of time-and-a-half.
4. Recognition of departmental seniority rights.
5. Recognition of the union refused, but right of men to belong to union without discrimination and to wear their buttons in the plant conceded.

The previous settlement offered provided for elections to be held with only those working in the plant prior to the strike voting. This would have given the strikers control. Three former employees who refused to scab and arrested in picketing were refused any guarantee of employment though the committee put up a fight. However with the danger of a break in the strikers' ranks evident after ten weeks of this "Dillon man" leadership the settlement was agreed to. And another example of what the Kansas City auto workers have in store for them under the Dillon-Martens leadership in the none too distant future was enacted before their eyes.

Martens utilizes his previous training as a sky pilot with considerable skill. Recognizing clearly the implications of Section 7a and the opportunities existent for a gentleman of his ilk, he became an ardent exponent of labor. Leaving the regular church, he launched a Labor Church. As this project also had its limitations he secured work at Chevrolet and shortly after blossomed forth as president of the union. Polley, fake progressive business agent of the Teamsters whose remark, "that he made Martens' possibly gives the clue for Martens' immediate employment by a company which is so careful about hiring "labor agitators."

Present Course Leading to Disaster If the present condition of the auto union continues, the loss of the great majority of the Chevrolet workers, of the 100 splendid women members, their demoralization and disillusionment in this kind of unionism; the hiding from the union membership of the decision of the Detroit Auto Labor Board on the cases of the dismissed employees; Martens' craven attitude towards the company on the one hand and his deception, evasion and failure to rally the slightest support for the fighting Toledo auto workers on the other, and his treacherous conduct in the battery workers' strike—if all of this does not drive home to the workers the necessity for a complete check on Martens' present power and a sharp turn from the course the union is now pursuing—then nothing less than disaster, a complete miserable collapse faces the union during the coming year.

Only the organization of a progressive wing and the publication of a progressive auto workers' bulletin can change the present disastrous course of the union. It is possible through the bulletin to bring the real issues before the auto workers whether within or without the union, to bring about a restoration of democratic rights, to break the stifling grip of this budding labor faker and propagate the principles and ideals of militant unionism. This course, and only this course, can bring about a sharp change in the internal life of the union. Furthermore it is the only line of action that can restore the confidence of the auto workers in unionism and achieve complete organization and unity of the auto workers in one militant, progressive union.

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The Manager's Corner

As announced elsewhere in this issue, the week's receipts on the 8-page weekly campaign shows a welcome improvement over the last two weeks. But we still have reached a total of only \$596.81. Still to go is \$1,404.19.

The problem now is to keep a steady improvement a steady rise week by week, increasing the speed so that the time of the conclusion of the campaign will not be far off. This week's remittances in the campaign were as follows:

Table with columns: Branch, Contribution, Quota. Includes Newark Branch, J. B. Washington, Los Angeles Branch, etc.

Grand Total . . . \$596.81 The New York branches have not yet gone very far in the realization of their extensive plans for the campaign, but they are on the way. None of them has as yet reached their quota.

SETTLE BUNDLE ACCOUNTS This month the Philadelphia Kensington branch has set an excellent example in cleaning up entirely its account with the NEW MILITANT which on August 1 had fallen to the extent of \$23.60. Comrade R. Lee contributed \$10.00 toward making this settlement. Now, the Philadelphia branch is on an equal footing with the Minneapolis and Boston branches which previously settled their accounts in full.

dere emily

well kid, i hope yure avin a good time in new york, which you sure deserv after workin without no vakastun for 18 years dont fall for none a those union square peasants an be sure an get those books i asked ya to. stuff is happin hear thich & fast. a iron workers strike, a strike at Strutwear, a lathers strike an a fur workers strike. they all cum to us at 574 an ask for help an we giv it to em. from the way the bosses is threaten to pick up an moov outa town, you wud think all the factories in minneapolis wus on roller skates or sompun.

by-the-by, emily, dont forget you an me has got a sub contest on fer the NEW MILITANT. this is the weigh i feel about a workers paper, kid. you remember when we joined the Party after the strike las summer, we both sed we wus in this thing to win if it took all r life an then sum. we seen then that the job cant be dun in 1 city or 1 state or 1 cuntry even but must be dun in all the cuntries. all rite. if that is r job, less get to work. the 1 thing we got to do is to blid the Party in America. the weigh to bld the Party is to get members. the weigh to get members is to let the workers no what we're doin an what we think about things. the weigh to let the workers no is by reachin em with our literachor an espeshully the NEW MILITANT.

from the weigh r farmer-labor mayor is usin the cops to eskort the finks past the picket lines, its hi time we got gain on this. from the weigh the stalinists is tellin us whut nice peepul the top hats at the League of Nations is, an that there is good bosses and bad bosses, its hi time we got gain on this. hell, emily, a geez cud read the daily worker from now to then an never no whut the score wuz. an the socialist is just as bad, emily. a socialist is just a farmer-labor geez with a black ribbon on his i-glasses anyhow.

It is only ourselves, emily, the Workers Party which has got the rite line an nos how to deliver the goods an win for the workers. i goss we seen that in minneapolis, eh, emily?

so you see what the 1 job is—on the "must" list, as the pres. & i sed. its to get readers for r paper and to raise enuf dough so that the paper can be bigger an offener. so far i got 6 subs for the NEW MILITANT, an i razed 4 bucks for the paper from buys which is frenly to us an likes the way we get things dun, and i kicked in with a days wages for the paper.

most of us here in town did the same thing, but r expensis is purty high an we cudnt send all the dough to the paper but had to spend sum of it here on the head-1/2. so now we are goin to kick in another days wages for this month to the paper, an then we'll be paid r share to the new 8-pager.

god nos, kid, the bosses papers is gettin worse an worse, what with that fink, daddy warbucks, an ol man hearse's ads an the crappy handlin a strike news. if we're ever goin to get anyplace—as we r—we gotta hav a big paper of r own, a daily paper which will go to 1,000's of workers. the 1 step to this is the 8-pager, an i dont begrudge anny wurk or donashons on my part to make it clk. rite now r spehul task is to get subs an dough for the paper. i no you av yure ma giv more'n yure share to the fund, but try an get all the subs ya kin from yure frens in new york. remember, kid, whichever 1 a us has the least subs by sept. 15 treats me to a dinner at red goldens. by that time you'll be back here, an we'll see whose who.

sochully, things has bin rite pleasant. las saturday i went to the Spartacus affair given at the Party head-1/2, an nites i usually hang around the 574 hall, which they got all fixed up on the 2 floor with tables on a bar, very pleasant like. guys cum up there with there wives and girls an sit around an hav a glass a beer or so, an there is a geezar an a mandoleen playin, an evry once in a while a guy will get up an dance a jig, or another guy will sing rocked in the cradle a the deep an evryone aplauds an has a swell time. las nite i got up an restied the mask of anarchy by Shelley which you taut me, an ended up with ye are many, they are few, join the Workers Party. it got over big. get those subs. an hurry home.

Green Extols Capitalism on Labor Day

With all the black, infamous record of Roosevelt and his administration with its serious consequences to the welfare of the working class—the effects of the NRA, the spending of hundreds of millions for war preparations but not much for relief; the role of the government as strike-breaker in every strike; and so on—with all this record, Green ignores the administration, in fact, he praises it for bringing "economic recovery" to the capitalists!

Thus, in every serious problem facing the working class, we get from Green exactly what one would expect from a labor faker. . . The working class gets nothing!

P.S. The Minneapolis truck drivers will be interested in knowing who the clergyman was that sat with Green enjoying a fine, fat meal. None other than Rev. Francis J. Haas! He's still up to his old tricks, trying to fool labor. But thanks to the Minneapolis drivers, we have the Indian sign on him.

Brownsville Mass Meeting "THE RAID ON ETHIOPIA!" Speaker: A. J. MUSTE National Secretary, W. P. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 P.M. 1776 Plink Avenue Aus: Brownsville Branch, W. P.

Do you know how the police, prosecutor, judge, the Hearst press, American Legion, preachers, bankers, boss politicians help send our comrade, Norman Mini, to the San Quentin jute mill? Read: UNION-SMASHING IN SACRAMENTO The Truth About the Criminal Syndicalism Trial by Herbert Solow

MASS MEETING International Youth Day Anti-War Rally Speakers: BILL STREETER DAVE ATKINS JANE OGDEN, Chairman Sunday, Sept. 8th., 1935 - at 8P.M. Irving Plaza Hall - Irving Place & 15 St. Admission 15 cents

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