

Comments
On Life, Liberty
and Pursuit of
Happiness

By BILL REICH

PEACE ON EARTH

Stimulated by the Italo-Ethiopian conflict, world arms exports to August 1, 1935 mounted to more than \$120,000,000 or 20 percent above 1934. An increase of 29 percent is expected as compared to a general world trade gain of 2 percent. The price level of arms dropped only 14 percent compared with a general world price drop of 50 percent. . . . The National Council for the Prevention of War urges that the present U. S. embargo on arms and ammunitions be extended to cover loans, credits and raw materials for war purposes. . . . 10,000 Missouri mules were shipped to Ethiopia via Cuba. . . . U. S. motor manufacturers have sold 2,200 trucks to Italy in the past five months. . . . In reply to Secretary Hull's request that no war materials be sent to Italy, Walter Teague, president of the Standard Oil Co. of N. J., announced indignantly: "My firm has been doing business with Italy for 40 years and is not ready to quit now."

CIVILIZATION

"I refuse to believe that Britain will make war on Italy for the sake of a barbarian country," says Mussolini. . . . Carrying sticks for guns and obeying the gibbering commands of a leader, a squad of baobabs was seen going through mimic military maneuvers after watching Ethiopian soldiers drill near Addis Ababa. . . . Meeting in Amsterdam, a committee of 339 psychiatrists representing 30 nations declared that war is a manifestation of insanity and that Hitler and Mussolini who glorify war suffer from "hallucinations and delusions." . . . "Il Duce impressed me as being probably the calmest ruler in the world today," remarked Henry Allen, former Governor of Kansas, after a half hour interview with Mussolini.

EDUCATION

One schoolboy in Massachusetts, two in Pennsylvania, have been expelled from their classes for refusing to salute the flag. . . . The Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars proposes the enactment of a state law requiring school children to take an oath of allegiance to the state and national constitutions twice weekly. . . . French psychologists are conducting extensive experiments with children to find their reaction to eating animals that have been their pets. . . . In Willard, Ohio, Eugene Truschel, 11, despondent because there wasn't a bite of food in the house, offered his pet rabbit as supper to his mother and brothers and sisters. He then hanged himself to leave one less mouth to feed.

LAND OF THE FREE

David Ashcraft, crippled news seller, killed his five-year old son rather than see him starve. "I had to do it," he said. "The boy was all I had in the world, but I had to do it. I didn't want him dragged through the world the way I've been. I carried him over to the stove and held him there while the gas filled the room. Then I fell. After that I just remember being sick." . . . Representative Sol Bloom of New York orates on freedom: "The American citizen is still the master of his fate, captain of his soul and sovereign over his government, thanks to the glorious workmanship of the men who labored under the eye of George Washington in framing the Constitution of the United States." . . . Original American citizens, the Poosapatuck Indians, who have been occupying a 500 acre reservation near Mastic, N. P., since 1700 have been served with an eviction notice. A white neighbor claims the land.

RELIEF

The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway has asked for a \$5,000,000 loan from the R.F.C. Its current liabilities are \$38,000,000, its assets \$20,000,000. . . . John Haskin, 52, of Chicago faced eviction. Unable to endure the red tape of applying for relief, he slashed both wrists and turned on the gas. He left six children fatherless. . . . Miss Lucy Gillet of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor defends the 25 cent a day food allowance of the home relief bureau as being adequate for an emergency diet. . . . In Kentucky relief averages \$7 a month, or 6 cents a day per person. . . . Lewis W. Douglas, former director of the Budget, states: "Relief expenditures must be cancelled if our government is to be saved." . . . Roger Babson, statistician, predicts a period of prosperity accompanied by a lowered standard of living. His formula for prosperity: "If employers were encouraged to extend their plant, to conduct sales campaigns and to make profit, three-fourths of the unemployed would be absorbed immediately."

LABOR DEFENSE FRONT

Protest Against the Frame-Up and Deportation of Jack Warnick

It has been revealed that the evidence being used against Jack Warnick by Federal immigration authorities seeking to deport him to Canada consists of material obtained from the Sacramento court which acquitted him in the criminal syndicalism trial in April.

This material consists of a Communist party membership book issued in the name of Bertrand Warner, and an I.L.D. membership book in the name of Jack Warnick. A letter from Austin Lewis, attorney for Warnick, to a member of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense asks him to "get us all the help you can" in the Warnick case. The National Sacramento Appeal Committee, which is handling the appeal of Norman Mini, Prisoner 67696 in San Quentin, and which fights for the release of all criminal syndicalism victims in California, has voted to aid Warnick's fight to stay in this country.

"The hounding of Warnick," according to Herbert Solow, Secretary of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, "is a continuation of the drive to smash California unionism. Warnick is guilty of no crime. He was acquitted even by the frame-up court in Sacramento. Six years ago he tried to take out naturalization papers, but could not prove that he had been born in Montreal because that city had no birth registration. Consequently, he was not naturalized."

"It is not enough for the Associated Farmers and Chamber of Commerce that they have put Warnick's wife, Caroline Decker, in Tehachapi Prison. Now they want to prevent Warnick from alleviating her suffering by an occasional visit. They want to deport him from the country in which he has spent his whole life since the age of two. They will send every militant worker to understand that to take part in a strike struggle or a union organizing drive is to become subject to the most bitter and endless persecution."

Importance of Case

"Warnick is deserving of wide support. His case is of concern to the whole working class and to every friend of civil rights. Protests should go at once, from organizations and individuals, to Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, Washington, D.C., calling for the abandonment of deportation proceedings in the case of Jack Warnick. The N.S.A.C. will be glad to transmit to Warnick's attorney any funds contributed to his defense."

The N.S.A.C. is continuing its drive for funds for the Mini appeal. Raymond W. Henderson, Bakersfield attorney who handled the famous Wobly trials, is now preparing his brief. Contributions should be made payable to Harry W. Laidler, Chairman, National Sacramento Appeal Committee, Room 707, 41 Union Square, N. Y. C.

Jack Warnick is a graduate of the University of California. He was brought to the West coast from his birthplace, Montreal, at the age of two and has lived in the United States ever since. He was a leading militant of the now-extinct Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union, and belonged, with Caroline Decker and Norman Mini, to the faction which dared criticize the policies of Sam Darcy of the Communist party. He was active in the Redwood City mush-

room strike and other union work. During the criminal syndicalism trial in Sacramento, Warnick and Mini protested against the C. P. defense policies in several respects. When the C.P. tried to wipe out its record of disruption by denouncing Mini as a stool-pigeon, Warnick issued a statement blasting the slanderers and expressing solidarity with Mini.

He resigned from the C. P. and was subsequently "expelled," with the proper ceremonies of denunciation. He was "charged" with being a "counter-revolutionary Trotskyite," but in fact has not been connected with the political movement since leaving the C. P.

Herndon Sick; Faces Chain-Gang

Angelo Herndon surrendered to the Georgia authorities October 28 in accordance with the orders of the U. S. Supreme Court. An attorney immediately applied for a writ of habeas corpus on the grounds that the ancient slave insurrection law under which Herndon was sentenced to 18 to 20 years on a chain gang has never undergone a test of constitutionality.

Herndon's motion will be heard Nov. 12. In the meantime, the court has ordered that he shall not be removed from Fulton County (Atlanta) before the issue is settled. He is now lodged in Fulton Towers, the county jail. While he is thus saved for the moment from the chain-gang, his health is endangered by the damp atmosphere in Fulton Towers. Herndon suffers from gastritis and chronic bronchitis, the latter being almost as bad as tuberculosis.

Should Herndon win a writ, he would be retried. Should he fail to get a writ, an appeal will be made all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court, demanding such a writ. This would involve a long struggle, somewhat similar to Mooney's repeated efforts to force the Supreme Court to act on his case.

During such a struggle, whose eventual outcome cannot be foretold, the courts could grant or refuse bail as they chose. Herndon might have to go to the chain-gang while the issue is fought out.

The Joint Committee to Aid the Defense of Herndon, organized by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense and five other organizations, is extending its petition campaign. The N.P.L.D. has brought out a special edition of the new Herndon pamphlet. Already 4,000 copies have been sold. A few more are available at 2 cents each or \$1.50 per hundred, at the office of the N.P.L.D., 22 East 17th Street, N. Y. C.

Sac'to Defense Meet In Cleveland

John N. Thurber, leading Socialist, will preside at a mass meeting called by the Cleveland sub-committee of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee on Nov. 1 at 8 P.M. The meeting will take place in Morgan Hall, 1550 E. 40th St. The speakers will be F. Cedervall of the I.W.W., Joseph Knight of the Workers Party and J. Sommer-

Statement of Nat'l Comm. of the Workers Party

The opposition group of Oehler and Stamm, hopelessly defeated and isolated in the Workers Party and despairing of their ability to influence the party members or even to avoid further disintegration of their own ranks in the internal party discussion, have left the Workers Party. Following the October Plenum of the National Committee, which witnessed the rejection of the Oehler-Stamm position and the condemnation of their disruptive methods by a vote of 18 to 2, they have proceeded to address their appeal to the "public."

A publication of the faction has been issued as a rival to the party press. Members of the faction were put up to attack the party and its position at a public meeting in New York on October 20. On October 27 the faction held a public meeting devoted to slanderous attacks on the party. By these acts Oehler and Stamm have put themselves outside the ranks of the Workers Party and taken their place in the camp of its enemies.

Together with Zack, who left the Socialist party before he was cured, Oehler and Stamm advanced a platform of sterile sectarianism completely alien to the concepts and methods of Bolshevism and deriving fundamentally from the "third period" radicalism of the Stalinists. With arguments and slanders borrowed from the arsenal of the Stalinists they conduct a frenzied campaign against the liv-

latte of the Socialist Party. The Cleveland committee is the latest sub-committee to be set up in the Sacramento movement. Its forces are now organizing for the mass meeting, selling pamphlets and circulating collection lists.

Other sub-committees are functioning in San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Boston, and are being organized in several other cities.

Court Reverses Ruling In Ohio Railroading

Mike Lindway, National Screw Co. striker framed on a dynamite charge in Cleveland, Ohio, has advanced a step in his fight for freedom. The Ohio Court of Appeals reversed the conviction on the grounds that certain evidence used by the prosecutor should not have been allowed in the case. Prisoner 60549 of the Columbus Pen, and the General Defense Committee which handled his case, thus win a real victory. The Associated Industries may compel a new trial of Lindway, according to Tor Cedervall, secretary of Local 2 of the G.D.C.

Mendieta Gag-Law Outlawed in Cuba

The Cuban Supreme Court having declared unconstitutional a newspaper gag-law adopted by the Mendieta regime, conditions for the work of the Cuban National Committee for Amnesty for Political Prisoners may be eased somewhat. The work of this Committee, itself a united front of thirty-one workers' organizations, is being supported in this country by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

Vigilante Justice in Santa Rosa, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21.—District Attorney Wm. F. Cowan of Sonoma County late today refused to accept statements from three victims of the Santa Rosa vigilantes, so long as they insisted upon having one of their own representatives present. Mr. and Mrs. Sol Nitzberg and Charles Mayer met at the District Attorney's office in Santa Rosa by appointment, but Mr. Cowan refused to conduct his inquiries in the presence of Ernest Beag, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union from San Francisco. The entire group thereupon departed with Beag, promising to submit sworn statements from all three.

"It is perfectly obvious," declared Mr. Beag, "that Mr. Cowan by delays is maneuvering to escape issuing complaints against the more than twenty known vigilantes. Previous interviews with victims of the vigilantes have been turned into fishing expeditions concerning their economic and political opinions because they did not have the protection of counsel. The district attorney is doing no more than attempting to put our clients in a bad light."

Explaining the two-month delay in taking any action, Cowan in a letter to Beag complained that "None of these victims, except one, ever solicited a personal interview with this office. . . ." In today's brief conference the District Attorney also asserted that, "If it weren't for outside interference, these people would be content to do nothing."

Moreover, the October meeting of the National Committee laid down regulations to guarantee the minority the same rights to present their case in the period preceding the second convention of the party which is to convene on Dec. 27. This opportunity is still open to the Oehler-Stamm group if they wish to return to the party and conduct themselves as loyal members. Their refusal to accept it is only a confession of lack of confidence in their ability to influence the party members with their arguments.

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Opportunities Big for New Rubber Union

Confidence in Own Strength; No Reliance in Boards or Labor Fakers Is the Road to Victory

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, Ohio, Oct. 28.—The prelude to a new epoch in the history of the labor movement in the rubber industry is being written by the United Rubber Workers of America since its inception as an international union following two years of constant defeats for the workers under the reactionary leadership of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy.

Not only did the rubber workers distinguish themselves by freeing the unions here from the stranglehold of William Green and his henchmen at their convention but now they are leading a fight against the establishment of an eight-hour day and wage cuts. Non-union members are rapidly returning to the fold.

Sunday night a mass meeting with the young officials of the international union as speakers was attended by nearly 2,000 workers, the largest gathering since the fall of 1933 when the unions were just formed.

The futile "effort" of the Goodyear company union to fight against the 8-hour day under the pressure of the 12,000 workers in the two plants here has neatly exposed the lies built by Goodyear in the 29 years existence of this tool, and swung more workers into the bona-fide union.

Union Active

The United Rubber Workers' leaders took quick advantage of the exposure of the company union. A committee went to the Goodyear plant and demanded a return to the six-hour day. Mass meetings were held. A picket line was established around the entrance of the Goodyear plants, urging the workers to rejoin the union.

The Union Buyers club held militant demonstrations at the factories pleading to all workers to join the union so that a real fight against the starvation policies of the rubber barons could be made.

These facts indicate what the temper of the rubber workers has become as the rubber barons are trying to foist the cost of a price war upon the backs of the already underpaid workers.

Significant too is the open letter written by the independent union leaders who have been fighting the A. F. of L. since they were ousted for trying to form prematurely the international union. These leaders praised the United Rubber Workers of America and asked for re-admission into the ranks of the bona-fide union.

What has caused this seemingly sudden lift from the apathy of last spring after the betrayal by Claherty? What does the future hold for the rubber workers in view of the facts of today? These are questions in every progressive's mind which need an answer.

Struggle of Rubber Barons

We have already mentioned the valiant fight against Green and company. This gave self-autonomy and an opportunity for the rubber workers themselves to guide their union.

Then the inexorable laws of capitalism forced the rubber barons to try to save their profits, defeat their competition and fight for monopoly control of the industry which created the basis for the present upswing of labor.

To defeat competition Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich and the others had to sell tires and other articles for lower prices. But they wanted to make profit so they naturally wanted to cut wages. That's why they introduced the eight-hour day under which a worker toils 40 hours a month more but receives only \$3 extra! In other words, he gets longer hours and a wage cut.

The workers began to fight against this move. At Goodyear the company union was meeting. It

claimed to be there to help the workers. That's why 150 workers jammed the meeting and asked for the return of the six-hour day.

But the move of the company union naturally failed. John House, Goodyear local president, told the workers at a mass meeting that "the company union will never bite the hand that feeds it. Join our bona-fide union and we'll really fight together against the rubber barons!"

Fight for Six-hour Day

The other union leaders took up the cry. Warned by the NEW MILITANT, the progressive and other unionists were prepared for the rubber barons. They used the slogans advocated in these columns: "Fight for the Six-Hour Day! No Wage Cuts! No Discrimination in Lay-offs!"

"Only through the United Rubber Workers of America can the workers fight against the attempt of the companies to lower the miserable standard of living!" This message has been patiently explained to workers at meeting after meeting. The utility of the company union moves has helped greatly in establishing this truth.

Boldly the leadership of the international is trying to meet the challenge of the rubber barons. Holding mass meetings; the picket lines; patiently teaching the facts to the workers; these are correct steps to rebuild the unions.

But there is much more that can be done and must be done if the challenge is to be met successfully. And the first thing is the necessity of realizing that the federal government, despite talk of Madame Perkins, won't do anything.

No Illusions in Boards

Remember, this same woman helped in the rubber betrayal this spring. Likewise, at best she will only appoint a fact-finding board. But the rubber workers know the facts. Smaller pay checks with more work speak for themselves.

No illusions must be tolerated regarding the role of the federal government. It has in the past, it does today, and it will tomorrow do all in its power to aid the rubber barons. For it is their government, not the workers'.

The workers must realize that the simple act of their joining the union will not mean that the companies will be frightened into returning the six-hour day. Quite to the contrary. The rubber barons will fight more strongly than ever against the workers.

What is necessary is to educate the workers into seeing that organization can mean something only if it has the correct program, not only of what they want, but how the workers can achieve it. How they can re-establish a six-hour day.

Capitalists have never given anything voluntarily. Only insofar as the rubber workers have strength to force their demands, by strike, if necessary, can they succeed in wresting back the wages and hours stolen from them by the companies.

Until this is permanently established in the workers' minds and they are convinced they must fight with this fundamental idea as their policy, the hard work of the union leaders will come to naught.

The basis for the defeats by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats lay in their class-collaboration philosophy. They preached that the rubber barons and the workers were brothers. The latest company moves tears this falsehood apart. The lesson of this should not be forgotten.

The progressive platform of the United Rubber Workers, which recognizes this idea—class struggle—as embodied in the constitution, gives a good basis for winning back the rubber workers. Events favor the union too.

Continue the Battle

By starting a fight against the companies, the union leaders have aroused the workers who are re-joining the ranks. They are writing a good first chapter in the future history of the labor movement in rubber.

A continuation and intensification of the efforts, bringing more sharply into play the progressive program adopted at the rubber workers' convention, will bring further success and stave off the drive of the companies.

The battle between the capitalists and the workers has begun more openly than ever before in the rubber industry. Final victory can come to the workers only when the present decaying system is buried in its grave and a socialist economy under the control of the workers lives in its place.

In this epoch of imperialism with nothing but war and further degradation of the workers' standards possible under capitalism, no illusions can be tolerated that security and peace will reign in the future. This can come only under a workers' government. These thoughts must prevail among the rubber workers if they are to fight correctly against the rubber barons. In them lies the only hope of victory!

LEFT JABS

By BILL

PRAVDA ON "MOTHER"

All the old, worn-out claptrap of bourgeois democracy finds a ready market in Moscow today. In an article that outdoes a 1927 Mother's Day speech by the president of the Florists' Association "Pravda" describes a visit of Stalin to his "dear old mother." Any hack who translates into Russian the song "Mother"—"M is for the million things she gave me"—is due for a sure fire success.

"POPE'S COUSIN ONCE REMOVED"

The Daily Worker announces with justifiable pride that a "First Cousin (once removed) of the Pope" has come out in favor of the Stalinist Peaceful People's Peace Program and joined the League Against War and Fascism. The D. W. says that this "once removed cousin" is a real "religious Catholic." ("Real religious" to differentiate her from the ordinary Stalinist stooge type.) The cousin is all for Pope Pius but the "D. W." informs us that she has learned "that more than prayers are needed to preserve peace." "Organic Unity" of "Christ's Vicar" and "the infallible Leader" is now on the order of the day. I suggest as the first article of the new creed: "I believe in the Holy Roman Catholic Church, the forgiveness of sins, the life everlasting, the indivisibility of peace, and the infallibility of Stalin."—"I knows it, Browder, I knows it, Browder, I knows it Browder—our line's been changed again."

CHAMPS

"Detroit Michigan, Oct. 21.—A leaflet issued by the Young Communist League here, calling for the support of Morris Sugar, labor's candidate for the Common Council, carries the picture of three champs—Joe Louis, Tommy Bridges and Morris Sugar." —Daily Worker, Oct. 22.—The Daily Worker should have added that the three champs were blindfolded, then copies of the "Mirror," the "News," and the "Daily Worker" were placed before their noses, all agreed that the Daily Worker smelled equally as strong as the other two.

THE CHANGING LINE

"Jasper McLevy is a bosses' skate—our line's been changed again. Now we vote the S. P. slate—our line's been changed again." The Daily Worker of October 24 announces the withdrawal of all C.P. candidates in Bridgeport and the pledge of support "to Jasper McLevy and the entire S.P. slate."—"I knows it, Browder, etc."

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"I will support all moves of the League of Nations or any individual nation for genuine peace"—O. C. Doolan, Communist candidate in East Edmonton as reported in the Canadian Worker.

Point 6 of the 21 conditions for admission to the Third International, "Every party that wishes to belong to the Third International is obligated to unmask not only open social patriotism, but also the dishonesty and hypocrisy of social-pacifism, and systematically bring to the attention of the workers the fact that, without the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, no kind of international court of arbitration, no kind of an agreement regarding the limitation of armaments, no kind of a 'democratic' renovation of the League of Nations will be able to prevent fresh imperialist wars."—But "the line's been changed again." Today, any C. P. member carrying out Point 6 is a "counter-revolutionary Trotskyite" and is excluded from the C. P., while the spokesmen and press of the C. I. with Stalin at the head, are busy painting up that old prostitute-hag, the League of Nations as a blooming, peace-loving virgin.

Philadelphia Mass Meeting

on

"WAR AND THE WORKERS"

Issues of monumental importance have arisen out of the present Fascist onslaughts on Ethiopia and the general preparations for new imperialist wars. Come and hear

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