

About Adverse Editorials

By COMMON SENSE

The matter of adverse editorial opinions seems to be occupying the major part of our time these days. To the rank and file member, adverse editorials, especially those that tend to label the UPW-CIO as communistic, should never be regarded with the deep concern with which they are now regarded among us. I am inclined to agree with this.

After all, editorials represent only the opinion of an editorialist in line with the policy established by the person or persons that own the paper. At times this policy is the result of the great assistance that a particular clique or organization can offer the paper. Other times this policy is motivated by the pressure that an organization can bring to bear upon the newspaper. The net result in these instances being that this particular clique or organization is never criticized nor rebuked editorially by this newspaper.

Sometimes it is only after a long period, even as much as twenty years, that there might appear an editorial or two that would be contrary to the policy of a paper. These editorials might, in a small degree, score the practices of principles of the clique or organization, that hitherto, were never denounced.

Consequently, it is very obvious that these adverse editorials are seldom barren of the partiality or bias that is necessary towards the fulfillment of the obligations or agreements that the paper

might have undertaken.

We should never concern ourselves with unfavorable editorials to such an extent to have to be seeking the opinion of these very same editorialists that are so narrow-minded, prejudiced, and bigoted.

The UPW-CIO is a democratic American organization. More democratic than a particular morning daily that distorts the news in order to present it along the lines of its illiberal policy. More democratic than this local paper that has been editorializing against one group of people as long as the Metal Trades Council has been fostering the principles of discrimination on the Canal Zone; even more democratic than this same newspaper that is one of the leading exponents of the system of divide, conquer, and rule.

It should be no surprise that we have been the victims of the most unfavorable newspaper propaganda that any local organization has ever suffered during the past four months.

The only reason for such unfavorable publicity is the arrival of the CIO in our midst. Naturally, no prejudiced or bigoted person or group would want to welcome an organization like the CIO because neither prejudice, bigotry, nor discrimination is fostered by the CIO.

Thus when we read of the CIO being branded as communistic by any newspaper it should be no surprise to us.

Voice of the Membership

This is a membership forum. It's a place to blow your tops criticize, suggest, state your ideas. Letters are limited to 400 words. Dangerous or libelous letters are not suitable for publication. All letters must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. The union's strength has been built by the participation of the membership. Constructive criticism has always been in order. State your views through this column.

Editor ACCION
Dear Sir:

After forty years, the people who have felt, known, and realized that they were much like peons, working for someone else who pays you very little, someone who compels you to shop in his store for your needs year in and year out, can now look up with new hope.

Your appeals in the past were met with reproach. You were told that you were better off as you were. And yet you were the most loyal people to be met anywhere. You were happy to pass this word along... and remain just peons... loyal and happy to work for the master, happy to carry your master and your master's burden.

The CIO is here! Yes, the CIO will cut us apart, and away from the... past! Bob Weinstein and Jack are here to look us over. Once our numbers were not strong enough to have a favor granted us. Now? Let's join up and keep in the CIO "Confidence in Organization."

Sincerely,
A. Thinker.

60 cents goes to the division charge "launch" for handling seamen to and from ships boarded. I think that although the Panama Canal charges \$6 per trip for each canal seaman, no deduction should be made from the silver men for a divisional charge. This charge is for the efficient operation of the Panama Canal, and as there is no other division besides the Marine and Dredging division which has launches in the Panama Canal, this charge should be absorbed by the division in a manner similar to the charges made against Pilots, Customs Boarding Officers, Doctors, Commissary Division, and Mechanical Division, etc.

My point to this argument is that because the Canal Seamen are employees of the Marine Division, as are the Canal Pilots, the charges for Canal Seamen could be consumed by the Port Captain's Officer under a division charge. No deduction from pilots or other gold employees are made for launches or railroad inasmuch as pilots are known to board

the same launches as the Canal Seamen. This charge is hour with the pilot and Canal split as: "if a launch takes one Seamen from the dock to ship and returns, this one hour charge is split into two (1/2 hour for pilots and 1/2 hour for Deckhands) and at the end of the month, the total amount is handled as a divisional charge, therefore no charge against seamen should be made).

A Divisional charge is one which is made for the convenience of that Division; and if a Pilot takes the same launch as canal seamen since his charge is made "divisional" the Canal Seamen charge should also be divisional.

(The Mechanical Division, it is known, sends electricians, welders, at workmen, to ships to handle repair work. At the end of the month this charge is handled as a division expense.) Charges for Canal Seamen can be handled in a similar manner.

Transportation charges via Panama Railroad can be also handled as a division charge at a flat-rate charge which is done in all divisions.

I agree with you that the Canal Seamen should have received this \$1.00, but had to get the right information before I could let you know anything about how this amount was deducted.

It would need much pressure, I believe, to have certain employers in the Marine Division loosen up a little.

SYMPATHIZER.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By The Moron

In human affairs there is a time for silence and a time for speech. There is a time for thought and a time for decision. Inevitably there comes a time for action. IT SEEMS TO ME that the big drive of Local No. 713 is about to begin all along the line with — SPEECH, DECISION and ACTION.

...THAT the laugh is on Comrade Albertus McGeachus of the matutinal sheet. The venerable vassal of vacillation got hoisted with his own petard last week. Let the headlines tell the story:

"A. F. L. To help latin workers against communism"

"A wise move by the A. F. of L"

"A. F. L. Demands preference for U. S. citizens."

"A foul blow from Panama's enemies"

In order not to eat humble pie one should never reckon without one's host.

...THAT the Metal Trades Council has come to the Rubicon of its existence. Confronted by a relentless CIO and an outraged Panamanian public it must either continue the iniquities of its discredited past, to its ultimate destruction or, by lending its support to the construction of a new Canal Zone where fear and wretchedness will no longer exist; where oppression and

exploitation of the "silver" worker will no longer obtain, assure its existence in the future. Of course old prejudices like a cold in the head are not easily cast off but neither was it easy for Ceasar to make the momentous decision. The die is cast! "Going My Way," Mr. Wahl?

...THAT in the lexicon of leader writer of the "Star and Herald" the term-prolixity— does not appear. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind" dear reader but the gentleman has just about succeeded in making me red. Pumping after your bucket is full prevents it keeping so. How about laying off the vodka and caviar for a while Alberto and giving John Public a change in his literary diet?

...THAT this reproduction from an article by Hugh Morley, O.F.M., Cap., should provide some food for thought.

"There is a spirit abroad in the land which whispers communist or communistic every time a new and potent personality or strange and powerful idea makes itself felt. To call Trotsky a communist, and a large group in the Loyalist Government of Spain communist, was correct and just because true. But to raise the same hue and cry for little or no reason is ridiculous and... (TURN TO PAGE 5)...."

"Acción"—

I read your article about Marine Division Seamen not receiving their increase of \$1.00 as of August 1, 1946, and in addition would like to add this .02 worth which I think would be much help to you in continuing your right for the Panama Canal Marine Division C & M Seamen.

This is the square and authentic information from talks with "heads" and from files.

The Marine Division Seamen are charged \$1.00 for each trip. This charge is then split, 50 cents for the Railroad and

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THE QUESTION BOX

What do you think about the removal of the "gold" and "silver" signs on the Zone?

THE ANSWERS:

I think it is a sign that we are going to get better working conditions in the near future. Some of the foramen here are beginning to act a little different towards us. It shouldn't be long now.

G. S. T.

That is just another of their tricks to fool us. I have seen things like that before. Those people will never change.... voluntarily. Just wait and see.

R. R.

I want to breathe a sigh of relief — but I'm still afraid to. It is too early to form a definite conclusion. I'll wait a little longer.

V. G.

I think a lot of things are happening behind the scenes and the it is just a little sign of those happenings. Certain

U. S. Congressmen are supposed to visit here sometime in January on an inspection tour. Maybe that is why they are cleaning house. Maybe the arrival of the two CIO big guns has something to do with it. In any case, I feel things are going to be better for the "silver" worker.

SYMPATHIZER

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