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EDITORIAL—

A thief is generally known as one who takes from others that which enriches him and leaves the others poor indeed. From ancient times his philosophy is said to have been "Thine is mine". In conducting his operations his manner is usually stealthy and, if he possesses the slightest bit of common sense, he befriends his victims and always takes precautions against detection. The thieves we have always with us and at no time do they make their presence forgotten.

The police is an agent of the community and has been evolved over a period of several centuries for the protection of the citizen. This protection, though widest in scope, has, as one of its primary objects, the security of life and property against thieves. This agent of public safeguard has been gradually moving into perfection with several specialized branches, all designed to trap and punish the offenders of ownership rights.

Both these institutions, for the first has also been developed into a profession of the first magnitude, have been opposing each other and at the expense of the poor citizen. That one has put forth an overwhelmingly glorious record of escape or detection over the other is doubtful. However, there are times when the differences in performance between the two become so great as to bring forth from the populace cheers of joy or cries of alarm.

Settling down to the point of interest, we desire to discuss a situation in which we have both forces actively at work in our backyard. The ensuing maneuvers of the two factions are indeed noticeable and serious enough to warrant attention. The central office of this Union was robbed last Sunday morning of two typewriters and one adding machine. The Police courageously discovered the break and furiously began an investigation that has, to this date, proven fruitless. No clues leading to the offenders were discovered. The office from which the equipment was stolen had been left fully lighted by the employees and, to all appearances, had been found and robbed in that condition. The break had been made in the rear office door nearest the street. Within a short time after the discovery almost every inhabitant in the immediate vicinity became aware of the loss. Sleepy-eyed bachelors looked down into the street at the police car from which blared forth announcements on the incident.

Yes, the police was known to be at work. But the community had much to be worried about. Within a relatively short period there had been 10 robberies within the area and only two of these were cracked by the police. Some believed that in one of these cases the young man convicted confessed simply because he desired to return to prison from which he had just been released in order to escape the disadvantages of starting a new life without hope. Three of these offenses had been committed in the office of the PCWIEA and one in the adjacent office of the District Quartermaster. A few yards across the street the Panama Canal

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Allow me a little space in one of your valuable columns in order that I might be able to say a few words to my friends and co-workers of the Electrical Division Field Office in Balboa.

On the 21st. inst. I took up a grievance with the heads of our department in our field office on behalf of one of the employees. I regret to report that, due to the overwhelming evidence against my co-worker, I failed to change the conditions which caused the grievance.

However, I am happy to report that I have found in Mr. R. Reece, supervisor, and Mr. J. McGuire, General Foreman, 2 men who are disposed to be fair, just, attentive and willing to cooperate at all times with their employees, regardless of their race, color or position.

It is commonly known that on the Canal Zone we have several foremen who are so abusive to their employees that one seldom desires to approach them about anything. However, in the unit in which I am employed no such conditions exist. In all fairness the workers there are working harder and in a better spirit of harmony under this type of treatment. It would do well for other foremen to follow this example. Three cheers for such fair treatment and for reciprocal cooperation from both foremen and workers!

Yours ever,  
T. T. Brathwaite,  
Shop Steward.

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Gamboa, Canal Zone,  
February 7th., 1947.  
Gamboa Chapter, Local N. 713,  
U.P.W., CIO.

I the undersigned herewith embrace the opportunity to extend to the above-mentioned

Chapter and Local my most sincere gratitude for the actions taken in my behalf, that has now enable me to be privileged for Retirement Pay (Cash Relief), a privilege from which I was denied for over a period of eight (8) years.

At present words are incapable of expressing my gratefulness to you; but, may God bless the CIO., its Executive Officers and Local No 713, and continue to champion the many causes that need assistance.

Respectfully,  
Brother A. Argentine.

—:o:—

Mr. Editor

I appreciate the meritorious work of the CIO. and the U.M.U. I hope that our brothers and sisters will continue to fight for the good of our fellow members, disregarding race and color, to exterminate the racial discrimination which confronts us today; for the good of our fathers, relatives and fellow members, we must all unite in one solid block. The miserable salary which we earn does not afford an education for our children. We have not been able to better our condition because of the lack of complete support on the part of all our fellow members. Especially we the native Panamanians, are very unwise in not wishing to give our support to this organization which fights for our parents and relatives.

I hope that the advice of a grade child from the REPUBLICA DE BOLIVIA School who sees the future for all of us will be heeded. I make this suggestion so that later on we may be able to live better; and in this way the education of our children will be happier in the future.

Yours Truly,  
Julio Moreno Jr.  
Colon, R. P.

End of War Acts in U.S. Seen by July 1.

It is believed that by July 1 this year most of the 102 emergency laws on statute will be ended by Congress. 12 of these have been recommended by President Truman for continuance after that date.

Everything points to the early return of the U.S. to normal life as far as these laws are concerned. Despite the continued vastness of differences in opinions and desires among the big nations, the normalization of events is seen everywhere.

However, there is almost always some fly in the soup somewhere. For the poor "silver" worker the item of first interest is the cancellation of the President's power to keep on the shelf the provisions of the McCarran Amendment that will undemocratically and selfishly deprive some workers of their positions without regard to their ability to continue working.

It will be recalled that this amendment was pushed through the U.S. Congress by the M.T.C. with the only purpose of securing for themselves jobs of value and restricting others to menial tasks.

This policy has been pursued by them consistently ever since the formation of that organization and there is no indication that the new principles of new world cooperation and brotherly attitudes mean anything to them.

Certainly, the valuable and cheap service performed by the people against whom the discrimination is fostered has no place with the MTCers. Yet these are the people who shall be allowed to put into operation that permissive clause in the legislation that allows Panamanians to be employed on the "gold" roll in equal number with the white Americans. Can they be trusted to execute whatever spirit of justice and fairness exists in the legislation that is not mandatory in its declarations towards the use of competent Panamanians? We think not.

Those who have not been mentioned within the scope of the privileged few are fully aware of their fate. On the other hand, the Panamanians who are confronted with the promising finger of the spider are conscious of two points. The first is that, in the majority, they are of a darker hue than the white Americans and that as such they have no fair chance to enjoy the privileges of fair employment practices.

The second point is that the remaining few, though physically acceptable, will form the dregs of the "gold" roll and not be fully acceptable within the "superior" ranks.

Unless there is definite and firm legislation designed to establish equal employment opportunities for all, there is going to be continued discrimination of one form or another with discontentment following through as its running mate.

FROM WERE OF STAND

By FOSTER BOURNES

We would like, about here, to have a word or two with those pessimists who have been saying that it was impossible for "silver" employees to organize. We have listened to all of your arguments as to why it couldn't be done, also to your excuses and evasions when asked to support status... and ours. Your support would have been invaluable at the start, and we do hope that you have seen that willing hands and stout hearts have accomplished what you said was impossible.

We feel, justifiably, a little glow of pride and satisfaction in being able at this time to show something tangible by way of progress — and we doubt that you can help feeling blue; the inevitable aftermath of having muffed the catch of the century, and not being able to share the pride of achievement. We doubt if your conscience will let you rest, and if does bother you a bit, then let us remind you that it is never too late to mend. Your battle station on



this fighting ship is not manned. Are you content to let your fellow employees double in brass while you, for whom they fight, lie supinely on your backs unheeding the tumult and the strife. You are not helping yourselves by keeping aloof; you are helping the enemies of fair play when you ignore the fact this is your union... that this is your fight.

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In the December 1946 issue of THE PUBLIC RECORD official publication of United Public Workers of America — CIO, under the heading of "Information Please", the question: "What happens to

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