

(EDITORIAL)

CROCODILE TEARS?

The outcry against Max Brodsky, Regional Director of Local No. 713, UPW-CIO, is threatening to become one of the loudest wails heard at THE CROSSROADS in many months. Max is said to have been identified with Communistic activities at one time and, as a consequence, peregrinates forever — at least according to his Inquisitor — to the left of center.

We do not know Max Brodsky intimately, although one is instantly impressed with the genial little fellow. However, if he has attempted to indoctrinate any one locally in anything other than trade unionism we have yet to be apprised of the fact. Our interest in this repeated attack on Brodsky is aroused by a number of things, among which are an allergy to persecution in any form or under any guise; the unmistakable similarity between the attacks on Max and the hue and cry raised over his predecessors, as well as our distaste at seeing him summarily crucified upon the CROSS (roads) of Brodie Burnham, for Brodie's own personal satisfaction.

Is Max Brodsky the true target of the present barrage? Or, despite the protestations of friendship and goodwill, is it but a case of striking at the shepherd in order to scatter the sheep?

It is pertinent to ask also — why do some of our local dailies so furiously rage together? Why the sudden flood-tide of crocodile tears? Why the alarming and concentrated interest in the "silver" worker? For forty odd years he was pitifully pushed around, thoughtlessly discriminated against, and selfishly exploited. None of those who are now most concerned over the unfortunate alien "silver" employee conceded him the right to better wages, higher education, improved living conditions. Not an inch of paper or a drop of ink has been devoted by Brodie, for the years he has been around, towards securing the betterment of the alien's unenviable lot; not a pen point broken in his humane defense. Like John the Baptist, Young of the PANAMA TRIBUNE and free-lancer Westerman raised the only cries in the desert. Now Messrs. Burnham & Co. assume a paternal role and display unusual interest in the "illegitimate" son. The right to speak for a community is earned, not arrogated.

There are Augean stables to be cleaned all over the Canal Zone. To this end, Local No. 713 is dedicating its efforts. Appreciating the Herculean task, however, it welcomes assistance from within and without. This we ask and only this. Let that assistance be sincere and let the waters of Alpheus and Peneus be directed where their force can wash the greatest quantity of filth.

n.a.r.

NAVY EMPLOYEES IN MONTHLY SESSION

Cristobal, Sept. 6—Navy employees met at the Club International, Colon, on Thursday evening September 4th, to hold their regular monthly meeting. Presiding was Bro. Cecil R. Joseph, Chairman, with Bro. G. Lewis fulfilling the duties of Secretary.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks said that the usual reports of the month would be presented and discussed; that Regional Director Brodsky would make his report on developments of affairs pertaining to employees of the Navy, and introduce to them the new International representative Bro. Joe Sachs.

As a result of the muster, it was discovered that several departments were not represented by Stewards, and temporary appointments were made to facilitate members until elections

could be held. Bro. A. L. Delatier was appointed for the Naval Garage; Bro. Enos Chambers for the Repair Department of the Naval Air Station, and Sister Savina Pearce was appointed Steward for the Ship Service Department.

Report By Regional

Director Brodsky:

Bro. Brodsky reported that representation had been made to the head of the Ship Service in New York relative to Leave privileges which had been suspended by the Canal Zone Ship Service. After outlining the various steps taken, he informed the meeting that final decision was now pending. He gave a guarantee that whatever the outcome, representation will not cease until satisfactory results had been secured for members and employees of the Ship Service. Depositions by Navy em-

Retired Employee Receives Timely Gift

Gatun, Sept. 20:

At a Chapter Meeting held at Gatun, September 19th last, Bro. Joseph E. Baker, veteran employee of the Gatun Locks, was presented with a Retirement Purse donated by members of the Gatun Chapter and community.

Bro. Baker, after 42 years loyal and faithful service with the Government, was retired from the service on August 6th. He was a resident of Gatun for a period of over thirty years. The victim of a double tragedy, having lost one of his legs in 1931, and the other in 1941, he was, however, still able to carry on with his job up to his retirement, through the use of artificial limbs.

Presentation of the Purse was made by Bro. George A. Rowland, after delivering an eloquent talk. The amount totalled \$53.65.

This tribute is the outcome of a resolution passed by the officers and members of the Gatun Chapter, wherein any member of the Chapter, who retires from service with the United States Government, will be the recipient of a purse contributed to voluntarily by members of the community. A Committee was formed to carry out this plan, and it was through its tireless efforts—special mention being made of Brother Herbert A. Gittens, Assistant Chapter Steward and Publicity Director—that the venture turned out a success.

Regional Director Max Brodsky commended the Chapter and community for their well-considered action, showing true solidarity by such a gesture. This was the first time any matter of its kind had been undertaken within the ranks of Local 713, and hope was expressed that other chapters would follow suit.

In attendance at the meeting and taking active part were Regional Director Max Brodsky, International Representative Bro. Joe Sachs, (who was introduced to the membership by Bro. Brodsky); Bro. Graham Lewis, Second Vice President and Chairman of the Cristobal Chapter; Bro. Foster Bourne, Assistant Director of Education and Recreation; Bro. G. M. Ogle, Secretary of the Cristobal Chapter and Chairman of the Publicity Committee; Bro. Santiago Agnew, Interpreter; Bro. Vernon Harper, Trustee, who gave side-lights on his recent visit to the Governor of the Panama Canal as a member of the Negotiating Committee.

The meeting was chaired by Bro. Edward Green, Chairman of the Chapter. Addresses were made by all the above-named officials, the guest speaker being Bro. Sachs, who was treated to a warm reception on his first visit to the Chapter.

Employees were also before Colonel Wang, Assistant to the Governor. He was making no promises, but was hopeful as to results. He made reference to a previous complaint on Busses not being allowed within certain areas on the Base to the detriment of employees, in the rainy season. This matter was also in a pending status, the question not being specifically confined to employees of the Navy. Referring to Reduction of Force on the Pacific side, he said representation had been made as to the improper manner in which it had been conducted in many instances.

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President Truman Speaks

"There is no justifiable reason for discrimination because of ancestry, or religion, or race, or color. We must not tolerate such limitations on the freedom of any of our people and on their enjoyment of the basic rights which every citizen in a truly democratic society must possess.

"Our case for democracy should be as strong as we can make it. It should rest on practical evidence that we have been able to put our house in order.

"Every man should have the right to a decent home, the right to an education, the right to adequate medical care.

"For these compelling reasons, we can no longer afford the luxury of a leisurely attack upon prejudice and discrimination. There is much that State and local governments can do in providing positive safeguards for civil rights. But we cannot, any longer, await the growth of a will to action in the slowest State or the most backward community. Our national government must show the way."

WHAT ABOUT THE "SILVER" EMPLOYEES ON THE CANAL ZONE?

FROM THE ORGANIZERS CORNER

Folks lend me your ears! Behold an Esquire-minded Organizer went forth in the Madden Dam region to organize. But the rain, being no respecter of persons, not even organizers, fell in torrents on that day;

And it came to pass that as the "jeep" bearing this organ-



FITZ H. EVERING

izer came to a halt before the meeting place, a great congregation of damsels did crowd the windows and doors to greet the exalted one;

But as that exalted brother was about to alight from his chariot, lo! and behold the rain and mud conspired against him and he slipped, yes brethren he slipped, and his triumphant descent ended in a "pan-cake" landing; and there was wild confusion; and much merriment did break forth because he had thus prostrated himself at the feet of the

maidens.

Verily I say unto you, "pride goeth before a fall", and again it is written "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

This snooping scribbler has never enjoyed a face-to-face "gab fest" with Organizer Fitz H. Evering of Ogleland (Cristobal), or had the opportunity of guzzling a "rum-an"-coca-cola with "Sir Josiah" at some wayside "pub". Ours has been a met-him-by-deeds-not-words acquaintance; but we hope one day to kill one stone with two birds.

Because Organizer Evering has seen plenty of action in the Union's fight to put "a little more gravy in every pot" today this column is going to be entirely his.

Fitz, the son of Evering, has been an organizer for the past ten months. As a Shop Steward of the R.F.A. he was among the first, if not the first, to mark up three hits on the Union's score card when three employees were reinstated.

His latest accomplishments, with the cooperation of Management, are: Reinstatement of Reuben Clement, IC 162743, employee of Cristobal District Quartermaster, who was discharged Sept. 16, 1947 and given Clearance reading: "Re-

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Cristobal Stewards Greet Joe Sachs

The Cristobal Steward's Council held its regular weekly meeting in the Government Building, 6th Street, Colon, on Wednesday evening, September 3rd, with Bro. Pascual Ampudia, Vice Chairman of the Cristobal Chapter, occupying the chair.

Among those present were the Regional Director Max Brodsky, the new International Representative Bro. Joseph Sachs, several officers of the Executive Board and of the Cristobal Chapter, and a representative gathering of Stewards. The Chapter Steward of the Balboa Chapter, Bro. Moore, was in attendance to address the Council by invitation.

The Education and Recreation Committee submitted a brief report, as did the Publicity Committee. When the question of the election of Chapter officers and delegates to the Convention came up for discussion, Bro. G. M. Ogle, Secretary of the Chapter was called upon to explain the situation. He stated that no definite answer could be

given at that stage as to whether the rank and file would conduct the election according to the recommendation of International Vice-President Richardson, since the Executive Board had extended the dead line for receiving answers to the feeling existing in the respective chapters. On Sunday September 7th the Board will decide on the question finally, after which the required answer will be forthcoming.

Bro. Moore of the Balboa Chapter Steward's Council presented a short address on Trade Unionism, after which Regional Director Brodsky introduced Bro. Joseph Sachs.

Bro. Sachs, who is a very fluent and interesting speaker, narrated some of his experiences while organizing in the southern part of the United States; and after expressing the pleasure of himself and his wife at being transferred to Operation Panama, exhorted the membership to stick together as only by so doing could success be achieved.