

SNPJ Members Alive to Vital Issues

The Slovene National Benefit Society consists mostly of wage earners. More than 90 per cent of the adult membership of our Society of nearly 47,000 is engaged in war industries, and approximately 4,000 of our young members are in the armed forces of our country. As such, the majority of our members is deeply interested in and alive to the issues at stake both on the home front as well as on the fighting front.

In recent weeks reactionary forces in Congress have again been on the rampage, intent on blocking every sane progress that would benefit the common people and the war effort. They have shown this by re-passing the vicious anti-strike bill over President Roosevelt's veto, by curbing appropriations to various worthy government agencies and by waging a fierce battle against government subsidies.

The members of the SNPJ are deeply concerned about this latest assault by the reactionaries in Congress against the interests of the people. A large number of our members make their living by working in the coal mines producing the essential material for the war effort. They and the rest of the workers strongly oppose this reactionary trend in Congress. While our own members alone can do little to improve the situation, the workers as a whole can put a stop to all reaction if they resolve now that a situation of this kind will be impossible in the future.

We all know that the present reactionary movement in Congress was made possible chiefly because a large majority of workers failed to go to the polls last November and thus enabled the anti-labor elements to pack Congress with reactionary Congressmen and Senators. It is hoped that the workers will remember their "friends" in Congress for their anti-labor stand at the next election and replace them with representatives who will work for victory on the home front as well as on the battle front.

Our members and readers of Prosveta will be interested to know that out of the mist and haze of reactionary maneuverings in Congress, there came a cheerful note last week that commands our attention—a note which brings good news to all consumers.

Last week, according to labor reports, eighteen Congressmen formed a "Committee to Protect the Consumer," organized and headed by Congressman Thomas E. Scanlon of Pennsylvania. The main purpose of this group is to fight for consumer interests.

The fact alone that a number of Congressmen are organizing to protect the people as ordinary, everyday consumers is good news, indeed. But the importance of the Committee's program to the consumers and to the war effort makes this action an event of major significance to all concerned.

It is also significant to know that cooperating with the Committee to Protect the Consumer are representatives of all branches of organized labor and the Farmers' Union. The committee went immediately to work and a campaign to secure lower prices and other consumer protection was launched last week.

Thus for the first time, consumers have a group of spokesmen in Congress defending their interests. Obviously, the decision of these Congressmen to organize a consumer bloc to fight the commercial farm bloc and the trade lobbies, is an outgrowth of the unprecedented fight of the people against inflation.

Our members and readers of Prosveta will be also interested to know how this came about, that is, what prompted these Congressmen to organize the consumer bloc.

Unquestionably, this was due to the mountains of letters written by consumers to their representatives and their delegations sent to the Capital. These have shown the Congressmen that they could count on the backing of millions of people who are alive to the issues at stake.

It is estimated that about 50 Congressmen are in general sympathy with the program of the Consumer Committee. Already the members have started to see key government executives to get their public support for the President's anti-inflation program and to roll back food prices. The organization of this committee provides an essential rallying point for the whole home front fight.

There is no doubt that the people will have a powerful instrumentality in the committee with which to combat the pressures of selfish and greedy interests and profiteers hell bent for higher prices no matter what the cost to the morale of the people or to the war program.

What has been done in the House should be duplicated in the Senate. But in order to make the Consumer Committee effective, the constituents must urge their representatives to join it. The Congressmen and Senators will show by their action if they are working for the people as a whole or for special interests.

Badgerland News

MILWAUKEE, WIS.—Badgers have had so many happenings in the last few weeks that it again makes it necessary for your reporter to tell you the current news.

Home on furlough were Pfc. Louis Lonker and Pfc. Anton Paulin.

Mr. and Mrs. John Debelak visited in Lincoln, Ill., and brought back their niece Francine Jereb for a visit.

Vacationing for the week-end in Chicago was Mary Poklar. Visiting Milwaukee were Arley Bozichnik and Lefty from the Pioneers.

By the way, fellow Badger member, Bro. Tony Primorich is now a real motorcycle cop. It's always nice to have a friend in the police force.

Another one of our fellow members has gone to work for the city. It is Otto Jereb who is a city fireman.

For the benefit of the members who did not see last week's issue of the Prosveta I would again like to bring to your attention the new address of our Sec'y: 325 S. 3th Street.

Received a card from Luke Groser of the Pioneers. He is stationed in Camp Shelby, Miss.

To Joe Hudale, Harry's address is: Harry Uhle, A. S. Co. 748 U. S. N. T. S. Great Lakes, Ill.

Make a promise to our boys that if they'll keep 'em firing, we'll keep 'em writing! Write now.

MARIE KRMENC, 584.

Buy a Share in America

It will cost money—lots of it—to buy the ships, planes, tanks and guns needed to defeat enemy aggressors. Our government calls on you to help—now. Do your part by buying War Bonds or Bonds every payday.

Detroit Lodge Young Americans

DETROIT.—Sunday evening, June 27, the Young Americans held a party in honor of Bucky Wierbecki, who will soon be leaving to augment the military ranks of the nation. Bucky was the star pitcher of the Y. A. softball team. When he burned 'em in, the opposing team was usually confronted with a scary city of hits.

A V-mail letter from Charles Stimac was read aloud to the gang. Charles is located somewhere in North Africa.

Three of our members who are in the services, were also present at the social gathering: Pfc. Stanley Krainz, Frank Stimac and Lt. Rudy Grum.

Stan is stationed at Chickasha, Oklahoma. He melodiously revealed his accordion technique at the Omira, where he played several waltzes and polkas.

Frank returned home, too, after he had completed his boot training at the Great Lakes Naval Training School. Upon returning, he will attend a school to earn his qualifications for electrician's mate.

Rudy Grum is the latest Young American to receive his bars. He's a navigator in the air corps, based at Walla Walla, Washington. Besides Rudy, the Young Americans have four other members who are commissioned officers—Johnny Krainz, Steve Ozanich, Joe Zrimec and Herman Koss.

It was quite warm in the hall, but all of the girls danced with Bucky. I'll bet that he won't get such a workout in the army. It was unfortunate that Detroit's temporary curfew limited the time of the party.

Larry Luketich, who was formerly the business partner of John Jane, is stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Larry is in an armored division. I hope that he's taking good care of Uncle Sam's gold.

The Y. A. meetings are held each second Friday of the month at 7:30 p. m. at 17153 John R. Come early and get in your two cents' worth.

ADOLPH KOSS, 564.

Westm'land SNPJ Fed. Meeting on July 25

HERMISTE, PA.—The Westmoreland County Federation of the SNPJ lodges will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 25, at Claridge, Pa., starting at 2 p. m. All SNPJ lodges affiliated with the federation are urged to send their delegates to this important meeting. If you travel by bus you can get one from Jeannette to Claridge at about 12:35 p. m., just in time for the conference. In the evening you can also get a bus at Claridge leaving for Jeannette. Don't fail to have your lodge represented at this meeting on July 25 at 2 p. m.

ANTON ZORNICK, Sec'y.

SNPJ Lodge 318 Will Meet Sunday, July 11

BAGDALEY, PA.—A reminder to all active and social members of SNPJ lodge Luc Svoboda 318 to attend the regular monthly meeting this Sunday, July 11, at which time will proceed further negotiations concerning the improvements on the Slovene Home at Pipetown, Pa. Due to some error we have been unavoidably detained from further developments, therefore I urge you all fellow members to be present at this most important session. It is a well-known fact that this matter is worthy of our fullest consideration and cooperation.

THERESA MATKO ARCH, Sec'y.

Solons Organize to Protect Consumers

Labor and Farmers Co-operate with House Group to War on Profitsteering

More than 25 members of the House have enrolled as a committee to fight for consumers. The group was organized by Congressman Thomas E. Scanlon, who has been named chairman.

Cooperating with the committee are representatives of all branches of organized labor and the Farmers' Union.

A campaign to secure lower prices and other consumer protection was launched on June 25, at an all-day meeting at the House Caucus Room, which was expected to be attended by 150 labor representatives, an equal number of farmers and mayors from several cities.

How Canadians Talk

OTTAWA, Ont., June 30.—Over two million of Quebec province's population of 3,332,000 can speak French only. About 411,000 speak English only; 893,000 speak French and English, and 12,000 speak neither English nor French.

COMRADES' NOTE BOOK

By J. F. Fiftolt, Sec'y

In the Service

CLEVELAND.—Additional boxes of candy are on the way to boys who have joined the service, since our original list. With the exception of Casimir Mack, whose address I do not have, all of them will be remembered. There are three members on this list, to whom cards will be sent asking them to request permission to receive the candy.

Rudy Malovac's, 3551 1827, 13th Station, Complement Sq., new address is: APO 4524, c/o Postmaster, New York City.

Home on furlough and making the rounds recently was Seaman Max Spik, looking heavier and more handsome.

A familiar voice called last Sunday, none other than "Popeye" Modic. He only had a short time to say hello. Was ready to leave for Chicago to complete his last week's training period, then will be on the way. Requested to say "howdy" to the gang.

Vacationing

A card from Marie Stefanie, who spent a pleasant weekend in Pittsburgh. Pauline Spik, Fran Spik (how will she stand it), Marge Beljan and Mollie Koren spending this week at the Beljan temporary homestead in Michigan.

A Reminder

To pay your dues on time. Attend meetings now and then. Turn in your stubs for the Labor Day SNPJ Federation affair.

Use your liquor ration card. Visit sick and ailing Stella Zadell. Bring in that new member.

To proud mothers and fathers, to be sure the youngster joins the lodge.

Congratulations

As you probably know, Frank Doljack is back in the major baseball league, with the Cleveland Indians. We wish Frank the best of luck.

Memories

Sept. 1929—New members: Sis. Kalan and M. Yampick. Transferred: Sis. Slakovic, M. Papez, F. Papez, A. Papez, Bro. J. Zagar, J. Papez, T. Papez, W. Papez, E. Bradae. Comrades announced by Heine Martin and inter-lodge baseball champions. \$25 donated to the Loyalties for their flag dedication.

Universal Comets

UNIVERSAL, PA.—Not dead but sleeping—probably is very descriptive of the present status of the Comets lodge. Fortunately for the SNPJ generally—the Comets included, of course—fraternal contacts are maintained through the medium of Mike Lipesky of Verona, Rezek of Girard, Fiftolt of Comrades and other faithful ones.

Hereabouts the activities of the Comets—as such—are at a low ebb. The fraternal links prevailing now consist of golfing and meeting at the Dom. There is, however, more than a spark of interest in a local branch of the SANC (Slovene American National Council) which was launched last month. Representatives of the local SNPJ, AFU and KSKJ lodges of Universal and Center were present at a meeting which elected Anton Erzen of Center as President, Paul Kokal of Universal as Secretary and Frank Schiffler of Center as Treasurer. The same evening nearly \$50 in contributions was solicited from local Slovenes and friends. The secretary was instructed to write to the Renton lodge of the SNPJ inviting its cooperation. It was decided that further solicitations would be continued through the local Doms, and all other authorized persons. The next meeting was set for July 25 at the Center Dom. At this time reports will be made and further plans laid for the continuation of this activity.

MAX KUMER, 715.

Corporate Profits Continue to Move Up

18 Per Cent Gain Reported for First Quarter, When Wages Were Frozen

That profits are rising to unprecedented heights during a period when wages are "frozen" was brought out in shocking fashion last week by the Department of Commerce.

It reported that corporate profits—after all taxes—for the first quarter of 1943 were about 18 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 1942. If the spurge continues—and there's no reason to believe it won't—corporate profits for the year will reach \$8,000,000,000—the largest on record, the Department said.

Our parting line for this week is—Don't forget to attend the meeting Sunday, ZACK CHESNIC, 589.

New York SNPJ All Americans

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The regular monthly meeting of the New York All Americans, SNPJ lodge 580, was held on June 18, but other than usual, we had the pleasure of having two guests, members of the supreme board, Lt. Michael Kumer, 1st Vice President of the SNPJ, from Universal, Pa., and Sgt. Raymond Travnik, 3rd district Vice-President of the SNPJ, and member of Young Americans, of Detroit, Mich. These gentlemen who are both at present stationed in different sections of Brooklyn, made the meeting very much more interesting by what they contributed in their speeches. We hope they will be able to attend our meeting again, and become acquainted with more of the New York All Americans, as well as members of the other SNPJ lodges in New York City.

On the bright sunny Sunday of June 27, the annual outdoor picnic of Lodge 580 was held at Karl's Dee Old Homestead. The attendance was as can be expected in these days when many members are engaged in war industries, working full days on Sundays. The committee composed of Brothers Feliks Kramarsich Sr., Frank Padar, John Kirk, and Peter Fugina should be complimented on their fine management in making this another successful affair to the credit of the New York All Americans.

We were happy to see many of the New York societies represented, such as members of SNPJ lodges 56 and 140, and Singing societies Sloven and Domovina.

Brothers M. Kumer and R. Travnik were also with us on this day and we certainly hope they really enjoyed themselves as they said they did.

We were also happy to have with us on this day, Mr. John Mutz, from Joliet, Ill., who after over fifty years has had the opportunity of getting in touch with his nephew, our Brother Ludwig Mutz.

Due to business reasons, Frank Arnez, proprietor of Astor Hall, was not able to attend the outdoor picnic and he therefore contributed five dollars which was forwarded to the secretary. Thank you, Mr. Arnez.

Even though the adult members were all out for a good time, the juveniles were not forgotten. The "Junior All Americans," Circle 50, had an outdoor party on the same day with a big cake, candy, and a few gallons of ice cream which our treasurer, Bro. George Mikeoley contributed for the children. I am sure a good time was had by all.

We are glad to welcome two new transfer members from Lodge 144 of York Run, Pa., Anna Murin and Cecelia Murin. Happy to hear Frank Suchoparski and Edward Wolf are completely recovered from their recent operations and illnesses and are both back at work again.

The New York All Americans Branch 56 of SANC is growing steadily with seventeen members to date. Come on you All Americans, when are we going to hit that 100% mark?

The next regular monthly meeting will be on Friday evening, July 16, at 8 p. m. We would like very much to see some new faces at this meeting. How about it, members?

In compliance with postal regulations, all members sending dues or other mail to the Secretary are requested to use the postal key number, Brooklyn 27, N. Y.

JENNIE PADAR, Sec'y.

Strabane Pioneers

STRABANE, PA.—Due to the fact that our regular monthly meeting came on the Fourth of July, the meeting was held over until this Sunday, July 11, at 6:30 p. m. at the SNPJ Hall. Don't forget that our slogan for this meeting is "Every member bring another member." Let's see if we can't double last month's attendance.

Our softball team is still plodding along, but remember that old story about the race between the tortoise and the hare and the surprise ending. Our boys may be slow getting started, but they will finish up with a bang.

Home for the holiday we saw S/Sgt. Bert Chesnic from Keesler Field, Miss. Cpl. Joe Krulce from Fort Bragg, N. C., Pfc. Lefty Zuzek and Cpl. Ham Kaminski from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

This month we lose another one of our members when John Gernovsek leaves for the Navy. This makes two sailors in the Gernovsek family, John and Jock. Jock is now in Gulfport, Miss., and writes home that the weather down there is unbelievably hot.

Our parting line for this week is—Don't forget to attend the meeting Sunday, ZACK CHESNIC, 589.

Thomas Jefferson and the Pattern of American Democracy

In these perilous times we need to gather whatever strength we can. Out of the past many voices still speak to us, and we are free to listen, to select those that seem most truly great, those that promise to illuminate our problems. Jefferson is unmistakably such a voice. Born just two hundred years ago, he formulated, better than any of the founders of the nation, American democratic philosophy. Much in Jefferson's democratic ideology may now seem obsolete, for the decentralized, rural and isolated America which helped shape his ideas has given way to a centralized, interdependent, industrial America, encompassed by a greatly shrunken world. Furthermore, modern social science casts grave doubt on many of the concepts which figured centrally in Jefferson's thought. In spite of these considerations, Jeffersonian democracy can illuminate our understanding and fortify us in our struggle to preserve, strengthen and extend our democratic heritage.

Jefferson himself wished to be remembered by three of his innumerable achievements, the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia statute of religious freedom, and the University of Virginia. All exemplified his fundamental conception of democracy, and the ideas which each embodied should be of interest to American teachers and to all other workers engaged today in the maintenance and extension of American democracy.

The Declaration of Independence was, of course, a summary of widely held beliefs. But Jefferson crystallized these beliefs in words of great power and beauty, words which convey, after all is said and done, truths which have endured and which we feel must endure. Just before the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote that it was intended "to be an expression of the American mind." It was, and still is. The Declaration of Independence advanced the creed that all men are created equal, endowed with certain inherent and inalienable rights. Among these Jefferson selected for emphasis the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Government, he said, exists to provide for, to guarantee, these basic human rights. Whatever government does must be constantly tested by this criterion: is this act necessary and desirable for the promotion of the freedom and happiness of all?

Implicit in the Declaration of Independence is a conception of human nature and society. Like other disciples of the Enlightenment, Jefferson believed that human nature is, in essence, good and capable of functioning rationally and intelligently. Insofar as human beings are enabled to realize these good and intelligent potentialities, society will improve; and insofar as society permits and encourages men to be intelligent and rational, they will be so. Thus Jefferson, while emphasizing as the ultimate end of society the freedom and happiness of all individuals, was not a mere individualist; he recognized that man is a social animal; that he is affected by the society in which he lives; that to be free, to be happy he must live in a society governed by intelligence rather than force by the goal of the good life for all men, rather than for any particular group of men. Jefferson, moreover, had great respect for and confidence in the common people. "Our ancestors who migrated hither were laborers, not lawyers," Jefferson remarked. "I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom." On another occasion, he declared that he would never swerve from his purpose of fortifying public liberty by putting "it out of the power of the few to riot on the labors of the many."

He enlarged somewhat the concept of the "four freedoms" previously laid down, saying that "our ultimate objectives" can be stated as follows: "To build for ourselves, for all men, a world in which each individual human being shall have the opportunity to live out his life in peace; to work productively, earning at least enough for his actual needs and those of his family; to associate with the friends of his choice; to think and worship freely; and to die secure in the knowledge that his children, and their children, shall have the same opportunities."

The President said the food conference had demonstrated that "free peoples all over the world can agree upon a common course of action and upon common machinery for action."

Ample Rubber Supply Forecast Next Year

AKRON.—Next year the country will have a rubber supply twice as large as that consumed in a normal peace year, it was predicted here this week by Harvey S. Firestone Jr.

For this "brighter picture" he gave principal credit to "Bill" Jeffers, rubber "czar" and former Union Pacific head.

BOATLOAD OF TROUBLE FOR TOJO



A LARGE DETACHMENT of American troops lands by lighter at a Southwestern Pacific port in this photo just received from down under. Field artillerymen have poured from a troopship onto a barge which will be towed ashore. U. S. Signal Corps photo.

