

MORE ABOUT YUGOSLAV "INCIDENT"

Two inconspicuous items appearing in the last few days raise questions which almost certainly will not be answered. One was A. J. Liebling's story in last week's New Yorker about the death of a friend of his, a radio correspondent, who was machine-gunned back in 1943 while traveling in an American transport plane flying off its course over "friendly" territory—namely, Spanish Morocco. The plane, full of bullet holes, managed to get to French Morocco, but Mr. Liebling, then in Africa, assumed that the shooting had aroused great indignation in the United States. When he looked through the Times files on his return home, he found only the following notice under the small, possible head:

Mrs. Eduard Baudry has been advised of the death of her husband, 33-year-old Canadian Broadcasting Company correspondent in North Africa. It was learned here today that Mr. Baudry was killed by anti-aircraft fire when the plane in which he was a passenger flew off its course and appeared over Spanish Morocco.

It would be pleasant to attribute this almost excessive restraint to the fact that, with the war still going on, an occasional small incident like a shot-at transport plane was bound to get overlooked. It would be more realistic to suppose that the United States wanted, at that moment to keep Franco in a relatively friendly mood, while it sees no similar urgency about placating Yugoslavia.

We were even more interested in an editorial note appearing in the New Statesman and Nation of August 31. After taking up in detail Tito's charge of frequent violations of Yugoslav sovereignty by United States planes (and ignoring, rather unaccountably, his earlier complaints about British violations), the London weekly reports almost casually, "The Yugoslavs state that a third plane was brought down, but that the evidence was so incriminating that no American protest was made about it."

Do the Yugoslavs state this? If so, newspapers and radio in this country have conspired to conceal, or the government has censored, a most important piece of news—so important, in fact, that we cannot believe the Yugoslavs would tolerate its suppression. But the charge alone is enough to confirm acts of the British government in Palestine and calls for "a just and not a punitive peace for a democratic Italy." With a frankness and courage rarely displayed in intraparty relations, it breaks sharply with the Southern Democrats. Dissolution of the Rankin committee is called for, as well as an anti-lynching law and abolition of the poll tax. And its Senatorial nominee is pledged by the platform to "support measures legally to eliminate Bilbo from federal office and influence." We have yet to hear an unkind word from Mr. Dewey about comparable afflictions in the Republican camp.—The Nation, Sept. 14, 1946.

"It's Just a Lot of Hogwash"

Sometimes we find the truth in the strangest places! For example, a friend sends us a quotation from "Industrial Relations" for August of this year.

It says that a survey by the American Management Association—which, of course, represents the bosses—reveals that "the most pressing industrial relations problem at the moment is the need for better communications between employer and employee."

It would appear that "the boys down in the shop are pretty well fed up with the perfumed chatter which fills most employee publications. They are tired of generalities and sweet nothings. So far as they are concerned, it is just a lot of hogwash."

My, my, that's very interesting! But here's another sentence: "Is it any wonder that publications put out by some employers clutter the streets near the plant, while those of the union are taken home and read?"

No, we don't think there is anything very remarkable about that. You know, American workers are intelligent—the most intelligent in the world.—Labor.

WELL—WE "PLANNED THAT WAY"

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

If the collapse of the private-profit capitalist system were all that Socialists wanted they'd have plenty of cause for jubilation right now. For even though most people fail to understand what is causing the inconveniences of high prices, labor strikes, shortages, falling values and insecurity on the home front plus international conflicts which contain all the causes of war, Socialists have every right to point their finger and say: "See, here is what your profit system has done for you."

Unfortunately, however, most people just don't see. The average person fails to understand that there is a continuity in events and that his immediate problem is the natural consequence of what has been happening up to this time. And so it happens that a majority of Americans direct their gripe against everything but the private-profit system itself.

When people can't get homes and clothing and meat; when they see their savings shrink in buying power; when production lags; when international complications in the age of the atom bomb threaten the complete destruction of civilization itself, they blame results and refuse to look at causes.

It doesn't lead to a better understanding and intelligent action to blame unions when workers go on strike. Unions, no less than gigantic corporations, are the creatures of the economy under which they came into being, and acquired their power. Nor does it help to blame the capitalists; they have been playing the game the majority of people have been approving. They, too, are the product of the capitalist economy.

It's the system itself that has caused all the evils which now

burden mankind and threaten worse ones for the future.

Socialists should be very determined to place the blame for present-day conditions where it belongs, and they never should compromise their sociology by merely helping hapless victims of capitalism to sob and squirm.

It is important that the capitalist system be indicted for its own actions because that is the only way to sustain an argument against the apostles of the same kind of mis-named "free" economy that has got the world into its present mess.

Right now there is a tendency to place Socialists, and not capitalists, on the defensive. As a result of the government controls that have been inaugurated since the beginning of the Roosevelt era, a growing section of the American people are prone to believe that the economic evils of today are the consequences of a controlled economy. They have failed to understand that Roosevelt controls were intended and "planned that way" merely to give a new lease of life to a dying economic order.

ARMY AUTOS ROTTING

While veterans and civilians would give their eye teeth for an automobile, about 40,000 army vehicles are deteriorating as they stand idle for weeks and months at Atlanta, according to the "Journal" of that city.

Army chieftains give no explanation of this amazing situation.

NO COMPLIMENT
Lady (showing photograph)—
Don't I look terrible?
He—Not on the photograph.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



Famine In India

The India Famine Emergency committee is urging the sending of 750,000 tons of American grain to that unhappy country. A circular from the committee explains that the lives of millions of Indians are at stake.

The appeal is a familiar one. India has a famine every few years. The most recent one occurred in 1943, when 1 1/2 million persons died in Bengal. Nearly every American Sunday school scholar of the last 50 years must have engraved in his memory a picture of a dark skinned spindly legged Indian child who obviously needs help from Christians in other lands.

Since Americans don't like to have anybody starving, the current request for grain no doubt will be met as it should be, but there will be some misgivings about the arrangements. It is one thing to relieve suffering caused by war or natural calamity and it is quite another thing to keep on subsidizing a system that produces its own recurrent calamities.

Great Britain has been the master of India for more than a century and a half. When the British came, India had prosperous textile and other industries, but most of them were ruined by British competition and control of tariffs and trade policies from London. As a result, millions of industrial workers had to return to dependence on agriculture.

Now there is less than an acre of land available per farmer. Poverty and illiteracy in turn have prevented the introduction of modern farm methods, with the result that the average yield of crops is exceedingly low. With the people constantly on the verge of starvation, every drought year brings a famine and the necessity for large food imports.

In recent years Britain has been making motions toward granting independence to India. The independence proposals lately have fed the flames of Hindu-Muslim enmity and thousands of Indians have been killed in riots.

Grating that India's religious problems are difficult, it may yet be doubted that they would be half so difficult if the people of India had been guided toward full use of their own country's resources for their own needs.

The United States is harvesting bumper crops of grain this year and can spare some of it to keep Indians from dying of starvation. It would be comforting, however, if we could be sure that our shipments are not used to prolong Britain's stranglehold over the economic life of India.—The Chicago Tribune.

"Tom" Stokes Has a Good Idea

Even columnists can't stomach the "blah-blah" which floods the American press and radio. His fellow newspaper men in Washington have voted "Tom" Stokes a reliable, accurate reporter. We think he is frequently "off the beam," but he's very much above the average. Therefore, the following, from one of his recent articles, is truly significant:

"Perhaps the best thing to do on a vacation is to get deep into the wilds somewhere, out of range of newspapers and radios—if it's possible any longer to find such a spot. This is the sober reflection of one who didn't."

It's a grand idea. We have said something like it many times in recent months. If the American people would shut off the radio, and toss the daily paper in the ashcan, and stick to that policy for 12 months, they would experience a tremendous uplift mentally and spiritually.—Labor.

WHY WORKERS REFUSE JOBS

The "Wall Street Journal" inadvertently gives the answer to complaints of labor-haters that a couple of million workers are drawing unemployment compensation while employers throughout the land are vainly crying for help.

The lamentations, according to the "Journal", come mainly from laundries, cleaning establishments, retail stores and other service industries, where wages are how and have always been notoriously low.

These employers, whose income tax returns show they are "rolling in wealth," claim, the "Journal" reports, that they cannot pay the wages asked, and the workers insist they cannot live on the wages offered.

Of 21,029 medical officers in the armed services, 47 per cent say they will return to practice in former communities.

IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Appreciation is due. From the Marshall, Missouri, Democrat-News: "To the people who voted for me, my sincere thanks. My wife thanks the ones who did not vote for me. She says I have so many friends, why get in that office and make a lot of enemies? (Signed) Felix Baker." (Mr. Baker was a candidate for county judge and lost.)

Furriners! Drat 'em. The Wall Street Journal reports that California orange growers say their future is menaced by "foreign competition." They mean Florida competition. These Californians have become used to thinking of their southeastern rivals as another country. No Florida oranges are ever admitted to California (bug danger, inspectors explain), and Florida won't let in any California oranges during its growing season.

We suspected as much. A letter to the editor of the Pontiac, Michigan, Daily Press complained: "Of the quite large number of relatives and acquaintances of mine who do not think, gamble, or use tobacco, I am sure that there are few, if any, who lean to the left."

Plain talk. The Toledo Blade, through circumstances involving the transposition of a line in a caption, reported that Supreme Court Justice Harold Burton "received the honorary degree of bickering" at Western Reserve commencement.

Old-time religion. Want ad in the Bradentown, Florida, Herald: "Wanted — An elderly Christian couple to live in our apartment. No children or grandchildren or pets. Yours in Christ."

Amen, brother. Editor Frederick Sullens of the Jackson, Mississippi, News, believes folks in other states should get down on their knees and thank God that Bilbo "carried nothing but Mississippi." But pity the "pore folks" in Washington. Bilbo is chairman of the Senate District of Columbia Committee.

Maybe he knew the boss. Reviews of the new book "An Honorable Titan: A Biographical Study of Adolph S. Ochs," by Gerald W. Johnson, revealed interesting and divergent opinions. Lewis Gannett of the New York Herald Tribune rather fancied the book, but Orville Prescott in the New York Times says the book about his late publisher lacks the qualities of notable biographies and doesn't put the reader on familiar terms with him.

CO-OP TO PAY FARMERS REFUND OF \$1 MILLION

Richmond, Va. — A patronage refund of approximately \$1 million will be paid its farmer members by the Southern States Cooperative, it was announced July 18.

The Co-op reported a total volume including that of its affiliates for the fiscal year of about \$68 million, or an increase of \$11 million over previous years.

Southern States Co-op distributes feed, seed, and fertilizer and supplies farm products to co-op stores in Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and Kentucky.

IT'S DIFFERENT!

The welcome mat is again out at Washington hotels. During all the years of the war emergency they greeted travelers with a cold and clammy eye. It took a lot of influence and a pocketful of cash to get a room.

Now things are different. The lush days are over, and the hotels would like to have 3,000 guests for that number of empty rooms.

MISSING PARTS HALT PRODUCTION

"For want of a shoe the horse was lost," etc. For lack of relatively insignificant but vital parts, many lines of manufactured products are not reaching the consumer.

A Chicago producer says he has had to delay the delivery of thousands of pressure cookers because of a shortage of wood handles. Scarcity of springs is cutting a Philadelphia bus manufacturers' output by 30 per cent.

The Philco Corporation complains that radio sets are piling up because it cannot get copper wire, and that it will have to cut down on refrigerators unless it can obtain some special steel.

A San Francisco company says it could triple production of stoker-fired furnaces if it could find a supply of needed motors.

THE WALL STREET SKID

Not being "in the market," most workers will have only an academic interest in the recent drop in stock values that has thrown the New York Stock Exchange into a violent tailspin. Nevertheless, it should interest working people everywhere to know what topnotch spokesmen for the capitalist system think about the latest slump in "security" values.

From the "Wall Street Journal," conservative organ of the investing and stock-gambling fraternity, we get word that "consumer buying" is an important factor in the Wall Street lull. The "Journal" reports that people everywhere are saying: "Prices are too high." This, it comments, means, among other things, that the cost of living is straining the family budget. It also says that consumer buying is the key to what lies ahead and interprets the recent breaks in stock values as reflecting a fear of a sharp cut in consumer buying.

If our readers think we have used the words "consumer buying" to excess, we must reply that we did so far a purpose. What we want to emphasize is that at least one prop of the capitalist economy is woefully weak.

What the private-profit economy needs—and cannot exist without—are two in number. One is workers who can be induced to produce more value than they receive, thus creating a surplus for owners. The second requirement is markets in which to dispose of the surpluses which workers create but never get.

In times of an expanding economy the surplus takers can supply their own market by building new plants and enlarging their holdings. But the days of economic expansion are over—so far as the internal American economy is concerned. From now on out the people who own the machinery of industry and collect the surpluses must seek investments and customers throughout the entire world. And unless they succeed in finding an outlet for their surpluses, "securities" become less secure.

When workers consider where this nation may be taken by the surplus-takers' search for customers they may come to the conclusion that their interest in Wall Street's decline is more real and personal than they had imagined. For it is that need for customers which develops the industrial and commercial rivalries which the late President Woodrow Wilson correctly described as the field in which the "seeds of war" are planted. And in the next war, as in all the wars that capitalism has caused, it will be the working people who will do most of the dying.

Our reason for discussing capitalism's weakness and in pointing to the almost-certain consequences of it is to suggest that the stock market slump should give the American people an added reason for establishing a new and different economy.

Socialists offer an economy under which workers would not have to depend upon the ability of owners to sell surpluses. Under Socialism workers would produce primarily for use and foreign trade would be based upon the desire of the people to get what they lack instead of upon the pressing necessity of owners to get rid of what they do not need.

When we Americans produce wealth for no other purpose than to elevate our standard of living we'll not have to worry about getting customers. We'll BE the customers as well as the producers. And when we have produced as much as we need or want we'll stop!—Reading Labor Advocate.

Good News for the Afflicted

Two new and spectacular developments on the health front! The American Chemical Society reveals that a diet of powdered milk and eggs cuts down the recovery time of sick and wounded persons by a third. The discovery is said to have been made during study of starved war victims.

A "miracle" drug derived from oat hulls is hailed as one of the world's most effective germ killers, taking its place alongside penicillin. It is credited with having saved the lives of many soldiers who returned home with wounds that would not heal.

Tests being made on mice are declared to have produced satisfactory results on highly infectious disease germs.

Think! If your brain will but extend
As far as what your hands have done,
If but your reason will descend
As deep as where your feet have gone,
The walls of ignorance will fall
That stood between you and your world,
And from its bloody pedestal
The last god, Terror, shall be hurled.
—Arturo Giovannitti.

How Power Trust Sabotages Rural Electric "Co-ops"

Claude R. Wickard, former secretary of agriculture and now head of the Rural Electrification Administration, is a very conservative gentleman, but the methods used by the "Power Trust" against the farm electric "co-ops" have opened his eyes and made him "hot under the collar." In a speech, Wickard said:

At first, when the R.E.A. was getting started, "the Calamity Janes of the commercial power companies predicted wholesale failures among the cooperatives." But, the R. E. A. proved a huge success.

When propaganda failed to stop the R.E.A., the Power Trust turned to more direct methods, such as "cream skimming" and "spite lines."

"Some people may have the idea that private utilities have stopped such tactics," Wickard said, "but I would like to give you a recent example which has come to my attention."

"A number of farmers along a rural highway in Southwestern Ohio had tried for years to get electricity from the Columbus and Southern Power Company. The company refused to extend its lines."

"Then came the R.E.A., and the Buckeye Rural Electric Coopera-

tive of Gallipolis. The cooperative signed up the people along the road, but wartime restrictions delayed construction.

"When the restrictions were lifted, the cooperative staked the line and cleared the right-of-way. Poles and conductors were assembled on the job."

"Then the Columbus and Southern, a past master of spite lines and obstruction, came to life. The company started from the other end and built lines along the same road. A race developed and the company was able to get some of its lines in service before the 'co-op' could."

"The wires were so close together as to constitute a grave safety hazard, so the 'co-op' was forced to take down its lines."

EIGHT BILLIONS

Sickness and accidents are costing the American people more than eight billion dollars a year. So says a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Education, headed by Senator Claude Pepper (Dem., Fla.)

In its final report, the committee called for health facilities for all the people to correct the "shocking inadequacies of our medical care system and our generally low level of health."