

Labor Will Need To Talk Strongly

By Chester M. Wright

Congress in session. The Liberty League congealing reactionary opinion. Labor looking at a surrounding ring of enemies. The courts taking pot shots at law enacted in response to labor demand.

Forces are moving toward tremendous decisions.

Historians will know more about the great import of today's trends and doings than can be known today.

In a battle men move and some are mowed down and some march through to the conclusion. Afterwards the battle is given its value by those who can look back and see the whole picture.

Today there seems to be a vast lining up for struggle. There is much fog in the air and it may be a long time before issues are clearly stated or line-ups fixed according to true interests.

At bottom, the thing toward which we are moving has to do with whether human interests are to ride superior to property interests.

Here is a sample of what helps to shape the thing called opinion. One of the two or three big solvent railroads of the west went to Wall Street for a huge 10-year loan.

Wall Street wanted to cut the time in half and it wanted the traditional rate of interest. Here was a melon looming up.

The railroad went to the RFC and the PFC made the loan at a rate about 1½% below the Wall Street bankers are and on a 10-year basis.

The bankers howled and they still howl. This business of monkeying with interests rates is something terrible, and it has to be condemned. All good bankers are supposed to join in a solid front of banking opinion.

Looking back on what the banks did along about 1929 and what they did during 1930 and 1931, it wouldn't seem that bankers ought to be very loud in their protestations. They ought to be quiet. But they have forgotten and they are today very belligerent.

Similarly, many corporations that were in the red less than three years ago, that had thrown their employees on the scrap heap and that didn't know where to turn for business, are

joining in the howl against labor.

With labor's help they are doing business, because without labor's support the moves that have made for better business never could have been made to stick.

No sooner are they out of the woods than they begin to act like wild animals again, forgetting all social responsibilities, howling at the very developments that have saved them.

Big business, though it doesn't know it, is by its current actions building up a reservoir of resentment that may get scalding hot before long.

Big business is a political and social simpleton. It doesn't know that, either.

Congress probably will be afraid to do very much for the people in this session. It seems likely to be cowed by those big brave pirates who were on their knees weeping not so

very long ago, but who, having once more got a dollar in their corporate jeans, are full of the kind of courage that usually marks the buccaner—the courage that runs with the winds and that oozes in reversals.

Labor will need to talk strongly to this Congress.

Labor is the majority—the big majority.

Labor, too, sometimes acts as if it were licked, but it never needs to be licked and it never actually is licked.

Labor can command and compel respect for its just and fair opinions and demands. That takes organized effort, but it can be done. Why not?

Not Enough to Matter

Teacher—If I subtract 25 from 37, what's the difference?

Able—That's what I say—who cares?—B'nai B'rith Magazine.

THEIR OWN ENEMIES

What is philosophy, and how can it be applied to the term of Socialism? The best definition anyone can give is that, philosophy means clear thinking and it can be applied to Socialism. Why? Simply because a Socialist always considers both sides of a given fact or question. Everything as a matter of fact, has always two sides to be considered, no matter what the problem may be. Thus, philosophy begins as soon as one begins to doubt, and turns round to examine carefully of what's what. And a Socialist is a person when after considering the two sides of a question, knows right from wrong and chooses likewise. (I am mainly referring to politics.)

It is said that men in crowds are apt to be more foolish than when they are alone or separate, and of course the bigger the crowd, the more likely they are followed. We can note this almost anytime, and anywhere, and of course also on election day. People go into the voting booth to vote the same thing over and over again. Once it's the Republicans, and then the

Democrats, etc. In other words they follow that crowd because it's a bigger crowd. They feel that they do not want to belong a small crowd, simply because it isn't big enough for them! Thus a worker who votes in this respect is merely casting a vote against himself, and consequently he always gets what he votes for, but does not really want. If one tries to explain all this to such a voter, he'll tell you something like this: "Ah, go an lay an egg, will you?"

Every person prefers good from bad, when he knows the difference between the two. But, people are so easily misled, and so easily deceived that they go back to the voting booths, only to vote for more of what they already have. The people are their own enemies, and when they cast a vote against themselves, they have no one else to blame but themselves. They are deceived by rosy promises, filled with a lot of hot air and promises that do not mean a thing. We are already being told over the radio and newspaper that President Roosevelt will not be elected again. How can they be so sure of saying that he will not be elected if he should run? Doesn't it seem a bit queer?

It is high time that we start examining what's what, and stop deceiving ourselves. We must get the workers to follow the more intelligent crowd! When we do this we will have a strong Socialist Party in power which stands for clear thinking and wise ruling.

Louise Bratanic-Jurczyk,
Milwaukee, Wis.

HUMAN SACRIFICES

Primitive men often offered human sacrifices to their barbaric gods. Some were executed by fire, some died of exposure, others were buried alive. The gods had to be appeased. Capitalism also exacts its human sacrifices. Its god is surplus incomes sweated out of workers by workless owners of industry.

It consigns millions to idleness and starvation. They are the human sacrifices offered to its god.

Two aged women, sisters, went to the sacrificial altar recently in the Greenpoint district of Brooklyn. Mary Ann was 66 and Catherine was 68. They had lived alone behind shuttered windows thick with the dust of thirteen years. Their beds were heaps of rags on a bare floor.

Of nights the sisters were heard crying, crying in the dim light made of old kerosene dips. There were crates for chairs and a crate for a "dining table." They shared an old black dress between them, to be worn by Mary or Kate when either ventured to the street on an errand. "Dead of exposure," reads the news account.

So Mary and Kate died in accord with the death ritual of some primitive peoples, died in the heart of "civilization."

"Died of exposure." And others await the death march to the sacrificial altar of modern capitalism.

The New Leader.

The essential difference between peacetime and wartime is that in peacetime the sane lock up the mad, whereas in wartime the mad lock up the sane.

BUNCO AND CARD PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Chicago, Ill. Saturday, February 29, the young comrades of our Social Study Club will entertain their friends with a Bunco and Card Party at the Slovene Labor Center. The committee has solicited a lot of valuable gifts. Besides a beautiful door prize, there will be over 30 other gifts awarded to the winners. Comrade Tillie Troyka, Jean Rak and Tillie Loeniskar in charge of this affair plan to make it a real social evening of entertainment. After the Card and Bunco games are over, the chairs and tables will be cleared away to make room for dancing. There will be good music to entertain both old and young dance lovers. In as much as it will be Leap Year's night it may happen that a proposal may take place by some of the fairer sex so join the party for a good time.

The admission tickets are only 25c. According to reports, several of our comrades have already disposed of quite a few tickets. Others, having them, are urged to speed up their

You will notice that the title of our little column is changed this week. It is changed because we discovered that some men have been reading it and that to one man, in particular, it was a severe pain in the neck.

Far be it from this column to degenerate into the usual run of mudslinging. Let it never even enter into a controversy without support by facts. But this is such a good example of what women run into when they begin to exercise their own power of mind that it may be a good thing to remind them of the old-line Christian, outmoded, medieval (thank goodness!) man's sense of superiority.

The point in question is a statement made in this column some weeks ago about the freedom and equality of women in Egypt and Mesopotamia "in all the years of civilization before Christ is imagined to have come into the world." We went on further to say that Christians had the ingenuity of subjugating women so that they (the women) had to preposterously fight for their "rights."

A certain Rev. Trunk takes issue with this mild statement. Yes, mild, because we didn't take time to mention all of the countries with a civiliza-

tion before "Christ is imagined to have come" — Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Rome, all of which had a code of morals far superior to the early Christians. Further it was mild because we did not say that a couple of good centuries were lost by Christians arguing with each other only over question of whether woman had a soul — like man — or not!

Now here comes the example mentioned above. When this man of knowledge sets in to argue with a woman, here is his line — in his own words: "... With the expression 'know' you must be very careful, or you will write 'for women only', but not for men, who may know, and you may be not 'equal' with such men in the knowledge."

Women, is this quotation anything new to you? Don't ever try to equal man — some men, that is — with your knowledge! You must never question — only listen — and pray! We had thought that fighting for equality of expression is something out of date!

This learned man further says: "If a woman writes of equality with man, she must be equal also in knowledge to men — who know a little more than this woman writer."

Might a mere woman be peeping out of the shell too far if she were to prove to this wise man that everything would not have perished if Christ had not come and with him Christianity, as he says? Might it be a dishonor for any woman to know that the Egyptians had a whole code of "Christian" morals in the "Book of the Dead" of which the earliest manuscripts are found as early as 1800 years before the Christian era and whose inscriptions show that it had been known since 6000 years B. C. Furthermore, there are papyrus manuscripts of 3500 B. C. which contain every one of the moral principles later adapted by the Jews around the figure of a certain Christ of whom there is no historical record until after the fall of Jerusalem — 70 A. D. — and not known to us in the present form until the middle of the second century.

Will this august gentleman be shocked if he is reminded that even ancient history textbooks taught in high schools tell of King Hammurabi of ancient Babylonia who ruled 1958

years B. C., and who instituted the famous moral code "for the protection of woman's rights." This wasn't made up; it was found carved on stone. It had a number of laws more stringent than we have even at the present day A. D. to safeguard against immorality and to provide for woman's equality with man. And here we have even St. Augustine (De Bono Conjugali) saying that he could not condemn a man who took a mistress if his wife was sterile. And again we have this same holy man saying "that which is now called the Christian religion existed among the ancients, and, in fact, was not wanting from the beginning of the human race." How can any present disciple of his now say "bi bilo vse zgninilo, ko bi ne bil prišel Krist in z njim kršćanstvo"?

St. Chrysostom, certainly a Church Father, said that woman was "a necessary evil, a natural temptation, a desirable calamity, a domestic peril, a deadly fascination, and a painted ill." And 1849 years after Christ, Susan B. Anthony had to spend all of her life still crusading for the rights of women! What a record for the Christian era!

"Resnična zgodovina o razmerah v paganstvu najmodernejšega kova nam poroča, da je smrdelo od neba," says our authority Rev. Trunk. I believe that if you took off the cover from the pot of Christian dominance, especially in the Middle Ages, the smell will be so rank that "nebo" will not be the limit. Even Kirby Page, a Christian, is not afraid to admit in his "Makers of Freedom" that "under the feudal system women were taught by Church and State alike that the Feudal Lord or Seigneur had a right to them, not only as against themselves, but against any claim of husband or father. The law known as Marchetta, or Marquette, compelled newly-married women to a most dishonorable servitude. They were regarded as the rightful prey of the Feudal Lord from one to three days after their marriage."

One last appeal "to women only." If you expect to fight for freedom of women politically, economically, and from religion, you will have to make any man who takes issue with you realize that the day of "I'm a man, so naturally I know more than you" is a thing of the long, long ago.

Our Program For March 8

Chicago, Ill. The next affair of our branch will be the Benefit Program for Proletarec which will be held on Sunday, March 8, at the SNPJ Hall.

One of the added features for this program are the Waukegan troupe of players which will present a comedy, The Two Vagabonds. Comrade Martin Judnich is the director of this play and according to his request for stage properties, the arrangement committee is confronted with a difficult problem. The comedy must be full of excitement when such things as live poultry, operating tables, knives, saws, ropes, medicine etc., will be used by the 15 different players. It's full of laughs and promises to be a real treat for the audience.

The Social Study Club will stage a short skit "God and Country". This short drama portrays the spirit of four soldiers, each from a different nation talking about what happened in the World War, and how they

were coaxed to enlist for the slaughter against each other. One is an American who enlisted for war service to make the world safe for Democracy. The others are a Frenchman, a British Tommy and a German Hun. All of them were fighting. For what? They explain their reasons and the awards that had been offered.

The program would not be complete without a few musical numbers. In this respect singing society Sava will render a few selections of folk and classical songs. There will also be other novelties for your entertainment. After the program Johnny Kochevar's orchestra will entertain the dance lovers in the upstairs Hall. Good music will also be provided for our merry-makers in the lower Hall. Admission tickets are 35c in advance and 40c at the door. We ask our friends and sympathizers to reserve Sunday, March 8, for a pleasant afternoon and evening at the SNPJ Hall. — Pub. Committee.

A Call To Action

Chicago. — Members of English-speaking branches of JSF: How many times you write of agitation for new members, the difficulty of getting new members, why we cannot get young folks interested, etc.! You will realize more and more that it will become increasingly difficult to secure new members, and this for the reason that young people have no opportunity to be reared in a working class atmosphere. You can't get a person stuffed with capitalistic ideology to become an ardent worker for the workingclass movement.

Would it not be performing a worthwhile service and at the same time building an assurance of a field for future membership if you, now

active members in different communities, would become interested in organizing children's groups? We have a wonderful medium right here in Proletarec for a common center of discussion. There is such a movement already organized on a national scale — the Red Falcons.

You would be surprised how strong this movement is internationally. Only in America do we seem to be groping somewhat as yet. But there is no reason why all of us should not pledge ourselves to further it.

We've tried to arouse some interest by including the "Falcon Nest" in each week's issue of the Proletarec. The Waukegan group has elected a committee to contribute to it. There has been correspondence from the Chicago Flight and from Holland. As members of English-speaking branches, encourage the children you know to learn to read it regularly and to begin correspondence.

Then write to the National Office of the Socialist Party for information as to organization of such groups and you will find that you can sometimes accomplish more than by agitation among members of your own age. Think what a wonderful opportunity we have extended to us in Proletarec and in our Federation of the furtherance of such a movement! Let's hear from different ones of the active membership on this. — Mary Jugg.

"LEAP YEAR" DANCE SATURDAY, FEB. 29

Chicago, Ill. Lodge 86 SNPJ located on the North Side will sponsor a "Leap Year" dance Saturday, February 29, at Flier's Hall, 1638 N. Halsted St. The Isle of View Harmony Boys, a popular orchestra will furnish good dance music to the delight of both old and young dance couples. The lodge invites all of its friends and members to spend a fine evening at this affair. The admission is only 25c.

Don't Cheer, Boys, the Poor Devils Are Dye-ing!



The 1936 activities of our Social Study Club will get going Saturday, Feb. 29 with a Bunco Party and Social at the Slovene Labor Center. It seems to me that we don't get together often enough in just such social company and that makes us dull people oftentimes. The old story of "all work and no play makes Johnny a dull boy" is applicable to Socialists, too, because we do stretch our work so far and have so little time for recreation and pleasure. We can make the affair Saturday a happy and profitable one. It is hoped that our friends will be on hand for the occasion. The admission is only 25c.

Both the republicans and democrats in Illinois are knifing one another. The democrats, perhaps, are the more divided because the slating machine in Chicago dropped the present governor from their 1936 candidate list and, naturally enough, the present governor had to organize his own democratic party composed of the present democratic political officeholders and their hangers-on. The petty precinct politicians are now working to beat the band for their respective bosses and since the number of precinct captains has been increased they work more intensely and should get out a large vote in the primaries to the detriment of the Socialist Party. When we begin to gather signatures for our petitions we will be handicapped because of the split up of the capitalist parties. Ordinarily we rejoice when capitalist politicians fight between themselves but this seems to be one time when it will do us no good.

What makes matters worse is that these petty political jobholders and jobseekers cling so blindly to their respective bosses. I mean that they have no conception of what the thing is all about. They merely have a sponsor, a political boss, who secured their jobs and they swear allegiance to him and that's all. What causes depressions and how to remedy them, how to equalize the national wealth

gaining, that all is "greek" to them. But how to lick their opponent by fair means or foul they are well posted on. With such conditions prevailing how can we expect the advancement of humanity?

When the republican forces in Spain gave women the right to vote I disapproved it because I felt that they weren't ready for it. Hence, it was no surprise to see these same women, who were granted suffrage and placed on the same level as men, to vote the republican government out. I now see that one cannot always base ones judgement of the church on past experiences. We all know that religion and the church have been opposed to progress and that the women of the church are the most fanatic crusaders against right and justice and progress. Now, with religion being part of the State in Spain for so long only the most optimistic prophets dared to say that the republican forces would again come to the top. They are there, thank goodness, and they deserve the best wishes of all liberty-loving people. We can imagine the rejoicing when the victory was declared and as the thousands of rebels being trekking home from the jails.

During the first week of February the SNPJ Supreme Board held its annual meeting at its National Headquarters. On the Board are a number of worthy comrades but it seems they have no fixed policy which they could pursue thus causing serious divisions in our own ranks. Our com-

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NOTE

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