

THE CROW'S NEST



LIFTED AND SIFTED

THE GREATEST PART of the nation's daily press plugged for Dewey, upheld the Taft-Hartley Act, and so forth. Together with the pollsters they misled pretty near everybody as to what could be expected in the elections. In any event, there was not a single national daily on which labor could depend for authentic, objective information.

Good, militant union men in Chicago have been compelled to read papers produced in plants against which the union typographers have been striking for over a year.

This all stresses the need for a national labor daily paper, possibly subsidized by the unions.

ELMO ROPER, one of the poll-takers, last week made a statement which said in part that "one of the chief mistakes by the pollsters was in interviewing too many people in the 'upper income brackets,' and too few of the people who have little money but do have votes."

IN AN INTERVIEW with the magazine U.S. News & World Report, presidential economic adviser, Edwin G. Nourse said: "Personally I hope very definitely that we are not tending toward more controls, because I think that is incompatible with the flexible and quick adjust-

ments that business has to make.

Nourse does not have the final voice in determining economic policy of the government. He is, however, considered a highly influential adviser. He heads President Truman's Council of Economic Advisers.

ARTHUR W. BINNS was hailed before a Philadelphia court last week on charges that he is the "worst operator of firetraps and health menaces" in that city.

A firm operated by Binns rents out many homes which are "unfit for human habitation," and "flagrantly takes advantage of the housing shortage," the court was told by H. M. Packer, city housing and sanitation chief.

WHO IS BINNS? He is a big real estate operator and former president of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, the local "realtor" organization. Now he is president of the National Home and Property Owners' Foundation.

That was one of the Real Estate Lobby organizations which, for the past two years, have been spending money like water in Washington, to end rent control and keep Congress from passing any housing bill which would help the victims of such "landlords" as Binns.

40,000 Slum Houses In Nation's Capital

The Washington "Post" printed a sickening story in its Sunday issue. It described slum conditions in the Nation's capital, within half a mile of the Capitol building itself.

For low-income families living in these places it's a constant fight against rats, insects and disease, the "Post" said. The roofs leak, walls are damp and crumbling, floors are about ready to cave in, windows and doors don't keep out the cold, let alone rats and mice. All have outdoor toilets. None has lights.

Interested mainly in the exorbitant rents they collect through their agents, the landlords, most of whom haven't even seen the properties in years, merely shrugged when the reporter questioned them about the conditions.

Apparently they have a "pull," for practically all of the houses have been condemned by the municipal authorities, some of them several times.

Their callous attitude was illustrated by the statement of one, "If people choose to live, that way, what can you do about it?"

But it isn't a matter of choice, the "Post" pointed out. These families simply can't pay the rent for a decent house.

Years ago the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, appalled by these conditions, started a move to clean out the Washington slums. Legislation was introduced, but the landlords and the real estate interests jumped in and blocked it. The success of their fight against all moves since is demonstrated by the 40,000 slum dwellings in the capital today.

ILLEGAL SHIPPING REAPS FORTUNES

By means of "forged licenses" and other crooked tricks, a Senate investigating committee reported this week some business men have been making "fabulous" fortunes by "illegally shipping" flour, lard, steel, iron pipe and other scarce products to foreign countries, in violation of the Export Control Act passed this year by Congress.

The committee is headed by Senator Homer Ferguson (Rep., Mich.)

THE EDUCATIONAL BUREAU OF JSF

Approximately 115 progressive fraternal and cultural organizations are today affiliated with the JSF Educational Bureau (Prosvetna Matica).

Groups from various fraternal organizations in the country are members; some of those represented are the SNPJ, SDZ, JPZS, and a number of JSF branches, along with singing societies, dramatic groups, and cultural organizations.

What benefit does an organization enjoy as a member of the Bureau?

Member organizations are entitled to free usage of any of the hundreds of plays, comedies, dramas, and operettas in the Bureau's files. In addition, books are sent free of charge to all groups every year. This year over 2,000 books were distributed.

What fee do organizations pay?

YOUR INCOME

TAX

Form 1040A

For the year 1948 the Bureau of Internal Revenue has done away with the W-2 Form as a final income tax return. In its place a new form 1040A has been devised. This Form 1040A is a single sheet return printed on buff-colored paper.

This new form is the simplest of the three returns available. It is similar to the form which appeared last year on the back of the withholding statement. If you file this form you do not need to figure your own tax. From your answers to the questions, the Collector will figure your tax, and send you a bill or a refund.

If your total income is less than \$5,000.00 and consisted entirely of wages reported on withholding statements, or of such wages and not more than \$100.00 total of other wages, dividends and interest, you may use Form 1040A. If you had any income from other sources, such as annuities, rents, royalties, a business or profession, farming, transactions in securities or other property, partnerships, estates and trusts, you may not use 1040A but must file Form 1040.

You cannot deduct travel or reimbursed expenses from your wages if you file Form 1040A.

Form 1040 may be used either as a short form or as a long form. The short form is simpler than the long form. It differs from Form 1040A in that (a) you must compute your own tax; (b) you may include income from sources not eligible for 1040A; and (c) you may deduct travel and reimbursed expenses from your wages. If your income was less than \$5,000 and you do not desire to itemize non-business deductions (contributions, interest, etc.), find your tax on the table on the back of the form which allows 10% for such reductions, tear off the second sheet and file the first sheet of Form 1040 as a short form.

NEW 4-CENT AIR MAIL POST CARD

A new 4-cent air mail postal card was made available by the Post Office Department on January 10, 1949. The new card is of the regular postal card size with the 4-cent stamp arranged horizontally in the upper right corner.

The central design of this stamp consists of an eagle in flight with outstretched wings on a light background. Across the top on a dark panel appears "U.S. Postage." In the lower left corner of the stamp is a numeral "4-cent." Directly under the eagle is the lettering "Air Mail."

Good Try

The high school sociology class was asked to define "imbecile." One student wrote: "A person who cheats someone out of something. We have people who imbecile money."

LEARNING AND LABOR

(Prepared by the staff of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Illinois.)
URBANA, Ill.—Now in the early stages of its industrial revolution, India hopes to avoid much of the conflict between labor and management which has been a part of the history of Western countries, according to Arimathari Singh, now a student at the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois.

As a new industrial country, India is faced with the problem of inflation. Recently, Singh pointed out, the government called a conference of labor, industrial, and agricultural leaders to study this problem. "Perhaps it will be surprising to many in the United States," Singh said, "to learn that industrialists and bankers recommended profit and price ceilings as well as wage ceilings. They decided 6 per cent should be the maximum rate of dividend which any company should be allowed to pay to the shareholders."

India is singularly free from restrictive labor legislation. This is not accidental. It is generally recognized in his country, Singh explains, that strikes are not confined to labor, and a "strike" by capital—lack of investment resulting in lay-offs and unemployment—is perhaps more harmful to the country than labor strikes. So long as capital enjoys the right to strike, Indians believe, it is undemocratic to take away a similar right from labor.

One More Year For Chicago Rail Fair

The Chicago Railroad Fair, of 1949, will open on June 25th and run for 100 days—closing on October 2nd. The 1948 Fair opened on July 20th and continued until October 3rd, attracting more than two and one-half million visitors during the 76 day run.

Thousands were turned away from the grandstands at the brilliant spectacle "Wheels a-Rolling" which played to an audience of more than a million, two-hundred thousand. In view of the need for more seating space, plans are being made to enlarge the grandstands.

The erection of covered ways connecting the various exhibits on the grounds are being planned to protect visitors from sun and sudden showers; all roadways will be black-topped to add to walking comfort.

THE WORKERS ARE ALWAYS TO BLAME

Anything unpleasant—such as high prices, a railroad wreck or "industrial disputes"—is promptly blamed on the workers by most daily papers. Following that custom, a Washington editor publicly scolded government workers this week for the shocking failure of the Capital City's "Community Chest" money raising campaign.

This time, the workers had an able defender in C. G. Davidson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, who headed the money raising among government employees.

He wrote the editor pointing out that the government workers contributed \$125,000 more this year than last year, while the campaign as a whole fell 26 per cent short of its goal. Obviously it was the businessmen of Washington—including wealthy newspaper owners—who did not do their part.

SMART

"Johnson is so conceited."
"Yes, on his last birthday he sent a telegram of congratulations to his mother!"

SOCIALIST NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROGRAM

Declaring that America needs Socialism—and there can be no Socialism without active Socialists, the National Executive Committee of the party has adopted a statement of policy which surveys the social, labor and political structure of the nation and provides for a National Conference in May at which party policies and activities will be further discussed.

For Socialist Unity

The NEC adopts the following program:

1. Establishment of an American Socialist Center. Our Committee on Socialist Unity, which is to meet a Committee from the Social Democratic Federation, is instructed to propose the immediate establishment of such a Center, to serve as a clearing house for all democratic Socialist groups in the United States. The functions of this Center will be:

a. To bring all Socialists into closer contact with each other.
b. To develop and circulate a body of Socialist literature on the current problems confronting the American people.
c. To maintain and cultivate contact with socialist-minded people not now affiliated with any Socialist group.

d. To maintain and cultivate contacts with Socialists abroad, particularly with those who visit the United States in connection with United Nations proceedings.
This Center is to act primarily as a federation of existing Socialist organizations. It should include, in addition to the Socialist Party and the Social Democratic Federation, such organizations as the Jewish Labor Bund, the Workmen's Circle, the Socialist foreign language groups, etc.

2. Organic unity with the Social Democratic Federation. Our committee is instructed to press for full unity at the earliest possible date.
3. Clarification of Socialist philosophy and program. In connection with this Center, and through all the existing media of the Socialist Party—in the CALL, in pamphlets, in an internal organ, in educational meetings—Socialists must re-examine Socialist attitudes on current and coming issues, and seek more effective formulations of Socialist goals and methods.

4. An immediate campaign for a "Social Budget for America."

The Party will draft a Social Budget for America as a minimum fighting program for liberals, labor groups and Socialists. The inadequacies of current "progressive" demands must be met with a constructive program.

5. Research projects. The party will begin an intensive period of research and study in basic problems. This must be carried out on two levels:

a. National. Committees will prepare material for study groups, classes, speakers, etc. The Party must develop a nation-wide corps of party members who are thoroughly informed on the application of Socialist principles to specific issues.

b. Local. The NEC urges locals and branches to undertake similar study and programing in relation to the problems of their communities. This may form the basis of local electoral activities where party interests point to the wisdom of a local campaign. Neighborhood work on an educational nature is essential under all circumstances. Locals and branches are urged to keep close contact with the national office—to apprise it of the nature of their problems, developments in local labor politics and for whatever assistance the national office can render.

6. Long-range electoral policy. The NEC is initiating a discussion of fundamental tactics. The following steps will be taken:

a. The various alternatives will be presented in the form of a detailed series of questions, focusing attention on the factors involved in reaching a decision. These questions will reflect the discussion carried on at the NEC meeting by NEC members and representatives of local and state organizations who were present. Discussion outlines will be prepared, and due attention will be given to local political conditions.

b. An internal organ will be set up, in whatever form finances allow, for the discussion of this question and for use as a medium in exchanging ideas on Socialist fundamentals and their application to immediate issues.

c. Following this discussion, the NEC will call a National Conference, set tentatively for the "Decoration Day week-end of 1949, to discuss future policies and activities.

IT'S NOT THE COMIES THAT'S CAUSIN' THE TROUBLE

WASHINGTON (ONA) — The top-level officials here in constant contact with the urgent Chinese crisis are being made aware that their greatest problem is the rapid internal collapse of the central Government of Chiang Kai-shek rather than the strength of the Red Army forces.

This collapse from within is becoming so evident that it is greatly complicating the efforts of the U. S. officials to find some way to stem the tide. The realization is dawning in these circles that the U. S. may be left without a government to do business with against the Reds. This fact is causing some natural hesitation about the manner and means of shipping additional material to China.

The Chinese Communists apparently are also faced with unexpected problems because of the rapid Kuomintang collapse. The prospect now is that the Red forces are advancing too fast for their advance preparations in organizing the conquered territories.

Until very recently the Communists have been predicting three to four years of campaigning before the final defeat of Chiang's Government. Only last week the Chinese Red radio was saying that it would take another year to uproot the Nationalists.

Corporations Take The Profit Out Of Inventions

The profits from inventions nowadays mostly go to big corporations, not to the men who make the discoveries. Even if that were not so, it is necessary, as is so often claimed, to "encourage" inventors by offering them monopoly profits?

Consider the case of Dr. Cleo Brunetti, who got into the news a few days ago when he left Uncle Sam's top scientific agency, the Bureau of Standards, to take a job with the Stanford Research Institute.

While working for Uncle Sam, Brunetti developed a device which made possible the "proximity fuse," often called the greatest war invention aside from the atomic bomb. The fuse "revolutionized war" by vastly increasing the deadliness of artillery and anti-aircraft fire.

A patent on this amazing invention would have made a private corporation "rich beyond the dreams of avarice," but Brunetti sold it to the government for \$1, and never collected the dollar.

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EVERY BOOK ORDER
RECEIVED. YOU
CAN'T AFFORD TO
MISS THIS OFFER

THE MARCH OF LABOR

