

This is Going a Little Too Far

All of us like doctors. We still like them even when the "Doctors' Trust" uses unscrupulous methods to block any "health insurance" plan designed to provide adequate medical care for all the American people, including the millions who cannot afford it now.

But influential doctors are acting a little too much like monopolistic businessmen when they put over schemes similar to those described recently by Dr. George C. Ruhland, chief health officer of the District of Columbia. This is not a pretty picture.

Washington and its Virginia suburbs are actually one city, connected by bridges across the Potomac River. The entire area lacks enough doctors to serve its sick people.

Yet, Ruhland revealed, the doctors on the Virginia side maintain a semi-monopoly by means of a state law which "fines" Washington physicians \$50 a year if they cross the Potomac to treat sick folks in the suburbs.

Now the Washington doctors are putting up an even more formidable barrier against the medical brethren from Virginia. A new District of Columbia regulation will require the Virginia physicians to pay \$1 "fine" for each patient they treat in Washington.

"That will certainly make it inconvenient for the Virginia doctors," newspapers quoted Ruhland as saying, "with a grin."

He explained he hopes this "purposely irritating" new regulation will result in abolition of both barriers, so doctors on each side of the Potomac can compete with those on the other side. We hope so, too.

Apparently, sick people's interests were the last thing considered in these monopolistic activities by the local branches of the "Doctors' Trust." Even some of Washington's reactionary dailies registered strong disapproval.—Labor.

A Little History

The noted historian, Pulitzer-prize Winner Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. of Harvard University, explains a lot about politics of today when he says in his recent book:

"For many decades, businessmen fought almost every measure looking to the improvement of conditions of labor, pursuing their quest for economic power with callous disregard for their weaker competitors or for workers."

"... the American business community has not had an inspiring record in politics. Business fought Jackson; it fought Lincoln; it fought Theodore Roosevelt and Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt; and, on virtually all the issues of controversy, Americans now believe the business community to have been wrong."

"... American capitalism responded to the depression by an attack of hysterics. It responded to the challenge of Nazism by founding the America First Committee. It responded to the opportunities opened up by the second world war by rushing to dismantle the instrumentalities of American military and economic influence in the name of tax reduction.—The Progressive Miner.

"WEST GERMAN STATE"

By Emil Carlebach
(From The American Guardian)

BONN, Germany—When the correspondent of the conservative Stockholm Svenska Dagbladet reported the first general debate of the West German parliament in Bonn, his editors wired him to ask whether the things he reported really happened. In Stockholm they could not believe at first that they did.

The right-wing majority in parliament elected Theodor Heuss President. In a newspaper article in 1939, Heuss glorified the "blitz" victory over Poland and said that the "stupidities of 1914"—the protection of non-combatants in enemy territory—"must not be repeated." He also collaborated with Dr. Goebbels on the periodical Das Reich.

Dr. Konrad Adenauer was elected Chancellor. He announced that the policy of his government would be irrevocably anti-Soviet, anti-Polish and anti-Czech, and he boasted that Germany could not participate in the Atlantic Pact without an army.

Adenauer's Finance Minister is Dr. Schaeffer. General Patton kicked Schaeffer out in 1945 because he actively aided Hitler's assumption of power.

These Charming People: Deputy Ewers of the German Party, one of the parties in the government coalition, insulted the German republic flag and demanded its replacement by the old imperial banner. Another member of the German Party is Hitler Youth Colonel Rehmer, whom Hitler promoted to general for betraying the anti-Nazi rebellion of 1944.

When Social Democrat Loebe commemorated the victims of the Hitler dictatorship, members of the right-wing parties in the government remained in their seats.

Echoing Deputy Ewers' demand for a new "Anschluss" with Austria, Deputy Seelos of the Bavarian Party also asked for a "strong German power to achieve order in the Danube area." Deputy Loritz, who demanded for West Germany a large chunk of Czechoslovakia, had criminal proceedings pending against him at election time; they were dropped on orders of U. S. Military Government.

Hungry Aryans: For the National Rights Party, Deputy Leuchtgens

demanding the reconquest of Alsace and Lorraine. Deputy Richter, a "denazified" former member of the pro-Hitler Henlein Party in the Sudetenland, demanded "Danzig, Miel and other German territories in the East" as well as part of Czechoslovakia. He said his party would never recognize a peace treaty which "leaves the German East to the murder gangs of Beirut, Gottwald and Zapotocky" (Czech and Polish leaders).

When Communist leader Max Reimann said his party recognized the German frontiers set by the Potsdam agreement in order to prevent another war, Parliamentary President Koehler (Christian Democratic Union) refused to let him continue. Chancellor Adenauer previously tried to prevent Reimann's speech by bringing two former soldiers, one of them an SS man, into the chamber. They said they were former prisoners in Russia and touched off a tumultuous demonstration by the government faithful.

On the day the Adenauer government was formed, the Moscow New Times said it could be compared with the Von Papen government of 1932 which killed the German republic and boosted Hitler into power. Eight days later, Social Democrat leader Schumacher said the same thing in parliament. Three days later, the conservative Svenska Dagbladet repeated it.

Sign of Times

Sign of the times in England: The deer which once graced the great private parks of the "noble lords" are disappearing.

From the days of Robin Hood, the herds of deer have been a picturesque feature of the English countryside, providing sport for the wealthy land owners, and many a meal for "poachers." But two wars, with their demand for food production, and postwar taxes, have broken up most of the great estates, leaving no place for the deer to roam.

Once "common lands," open to the common people, the estates were taken over by the titled families centuries ago. Now the common people are getting them back and no space is left for deer herds.

"Bettering" U. S. - Spanish Relations

By HARRY FLEISCHMAN

Two Democratic Congressmen, James Richards of South Carolina and Eugene Keogh of New York, were robbed of \$5,000 on a train in Spain while enroute to see Fascist Dictator Franco about "bettering U. S. - Spanish relations."

The congressmen are lucky. All they lost was \$5,000. What they propose to do would rob the American people of any pretensions to promoting democracy.

The disgusting spectacle of Democratic and Republican legislators vying with each other to see who can fawn at Franco's feet faster is enough to turn one's stomach.

One might expect a Southern Democrat to embrace Franco, Bourbon racism is reasonably close to fascism. But when supposedly "liberal" New York Congressmen like Keogh and James Murphy (who called Franco "a very lovely and ovable character") snuggle up to the world's leading unhung Fascist, we ought to expect a tremendous outpouring of protest from every decent person in America. Certainly, our liberal and labor leaders must not allow these actions to go unopposed. But will they, when so many of them are supporting Mayor O'Dwyer, who once called Franco's Spain a "real democracy?"

That Republican Senator Taft urges a loan to Franco while attacking Socialists in Britain and Western Europe only proves that reaction prefers Fascism to real democracy.

The ostensible excuse for an alliance with Fascism is the need to defeat Communism. If the alternative to Communism is Fascism, then the world might just as well commit suicide. No decent person would want to live in it, except as an underground opponent of both.

The facts are that a deal with Franco, far from stopping Communism, would be the greatest break that Stalin could possibly secure in Europe. It would demoralize all the democratic forces of Europe, give color to Communist charges that the United States wants to reimpose Fascism on Europe, and force untold millions into the Communist camp.

One would think that even Senator Taft, who has been called the most "intelligent" man in the Senate, could understand this. But when one wants to use Socialism as a whipping-boy, any stick—even Fascism—will do.

Frankly, I would hardly be surprised to find out that Senator Taft and the pro-Franco Democrats are secret members of the Communist Party. They certainly are doing all they can to help it.

Poorhouse, Crime Or Prison

A 63-year-old man recently knocked on the door of the Minnesota prison in which he had spent 33 years, and asked to be taken back for the rest of his life.

"I can't get a job," he told the warden. "I'll end up in the poorhouse unless I get back into my cell."

Such human tragedies are common. Men and women serve their time in prison. Some come out even more hardened criminals than when they went in. Others hope to make a new start in a better life. To do that, they need jobs.

"What are your recommendations?" employers ask. The ex-prisoner produces a paper showing he has finished his sentence or been "paroled" for good behavior.

The job vanishes. Few employers will take a chance on anyone who has been branded "convict." Too often, the only choice offered is to return to crime.

There must be a way to remedy this situation, which harms not only individual human beings, but society as a whole. It's high time for this country to think about it, and do something about it.

Very Generous

"He is so generous," said a girl, praising a young man of her acquaintance. "He takes mother and me out to dinner every week, we dote on him. In fact," she added with a smile, "we table d'hôte on him."

Night Off

Gay blade: "Now at poker I lose one night and win the next night." Sweet young thing: "Well, why don't you play every other night?"

THE MARCH OF LABOR



Children: America's Future

Of the 46 million children in the United States under 18 years of age:

Three out of five live in families with incomes of less than \$2,100 a year.

Four out of five live in families with incomes of less than \$3,000 a year.

One half live in 32 states which have only one third of the national income.

Thirty per cent are members of farm families who have only 11 per cent of the national income.

These facts point up the need for such progressive legislation as a national health insurance program. Federal aid for education to supply better-paid teachers and better equipment and services, a farm plan to help make farmers prosperous, a strong minimum wage law and a host of other measures which liberals have fought for, are fighting for and will continue to fight for.

If the future of America lies in its children, national, state and local legislative bodies must help them get a decent start in life.

There can be no quibbling about it.

PEOPLE DO IT

By Henry Jones

At a final parley before the steel strike, Philip Murray is reported by press to have griped to John Stephens of U. S. Steel:

"You fellows are party liners, just like the communists. If you want the CIO to fight Wall Street and the Communist party at the same time, we'll do it."

Could he have been thinking that he could fight the communists and not fight Wall Street?

Whatever showing the communist are making seems to come from the notion of a bunch of labor leaders that the way to fight them is to grape up to Wall Street. About the only bill of goods the commies have to offer is that the labor leaders have been asking us to become a bunch of kigmlies.

How big a menace are the communists? Nearest official indication is the recently published sworn statement for circulation of the Daily Worker. Total circulation, including a substantial non-communist circulation, is 23,400. This should hardly alarm anyone—but they might have a chance yet if labor leaders persist in thinking that the way to fight communism is not to fight Wall Street.

To fight Wall Street, one has to fight for something more than a dime's worth of welfare per hour. Even Fortune figures welfare is "The Greatest Opportunity on Earth" for business. To fight Wall Street, one has to fight Wall Street stands for, one has to fight the assumptions on which it rests. Taking these assumptions for granted is what gives big business its unadulterated gall. For instance—

IN NEW BRITAIN, Conn., the school kids recently had a holiday. Their teachers were attending school instead, a school arranged by the businessmen of that industrial community, to get them acquainted with "industry." They were taken on tours of plants, given talks by leading executives on personnel matters and the role of manufacture in the town. Re-

ported the N. Y. Times: "The plan was frankly an attempt at explaining industry from the management point of view to the educators." Following it the management men plan a "clinic" to explain how it worked out to businessmen from other cities.

It would be impossible to find a clearer example of subversiveness in the school system than that. But because the right of the business man to put the world in a mess is a prerogative taken for granted, no one howls about this subversive procedure.

Suppose instead the schools had been closed so that the teachers could spend a day with opponents of the businessman's control over industry. Suppose they had been taken to an exhibit of the inventions business has suppressed; then been shown some city planning charts of how business interests made their city as it was, but how intelligent planning, if we freed ourselves from business motives, could make it a much better laid out city to live and work in; then been shown film picturing how good life could be in a world where industry was run by its organized workers for their own good—a film interspersed by animated graphs to show that this sort of thing is economically and technically possible; then been subjected to a rousing lecture on the need for teachers co-operation in rallying mankind for this good life!

Would there be complaints about teachers taking a day off for this sort of education? Would there be talk of "subversives" corrupting the teachers? Yes, there would. Yet which sort of day, the actual or the imaginary day, would have been best for the educational system of New Britain?

Fair Enough

Pupil: "Do you think it's right to punish folks for things they haven't done?"

Teacher: "Why of course not Johnny."

Pupil: "Well, I haven't done my home work."

Higher Wages Without Price Increases

We believe AFL President Green was generalizing too much when he told his membership that it is possible for industry to pay higher wages without increasing prices. That may be true of the larger and more monopolistic corporations. It is less likely to be the case with most small concerns. And if it is true today the point is certain to be reached, given a few more wage raises, when it will no longer be true about any private industry.

But, true or not, that is not what is going to happen. Workers who are strong enough and important enough to enforce their wage demands probably will get more dollars. But people who buy the goods which those workers produce will pay the bill as consumers.

That is how the economics of higher wages worked out in the past and why present demands for more wages are justified. There is nothing to warrant the belief that prices will fall behind wages in the immediate future.

There are, on the other hand, a number of reasons why prices will go higher, even without another round of wage increases. Basically, this is a profit system we're living under. Owners of industries simply won't permit their industries to be used unless they can collect a profit by so doing.

Again, the American economy needs high money wages, big money profits and a cheap dollar. This should not be difficult to understand when it is remembered that the nation's gigantic debt is "serviced" by taxes upon both wages and profits and that a drop in either will simply increase budget deficits and throw the entire economy into a more rapid tailspin. And, surely, dollars can not be permitted to be valuable when the government owes so many billions of them.

No, the plight of the capitalist private-profit economy is too great and its problems too complex to be remedied by merely putting more dollars into workers' pay envelopes. Labor has to do something more basic than merely win wage increases to be assured of abundance and security.

What workers—and all other Americans—need is an economy that will be geared to human needs and not to either profits or wages. However, capitalism is not such an economy and, therefore, should be scrapped as rapidly as possible. Otherwise—

Well, future wage gains, like those of the past, will be followed by statistics that will prove that labor as a class was not benefitted at all by the extra dollars it received. The fact still remains that to get the benefits of our economy we must own it... and operate it to supply our needs instead of to service dead debts and provide profits for non-producers.

Was 'Andy' Really 'Greatest'?

Uncle Sam recently reduced from 1 1/4 to 1 1/8 per cent the interest rate on \$6.5 billion of his nation debt. As a result, he is saving over \$8 million a year in interest.

A similar 1/4 of 1 per cent reduction in the interest rate on the entire \$256 billion national debt would save \$320 million annually. In other words, each 1 per cent interest cut lightens the load on American taxpayers by more than \$2.5 billion a year.

Back in the Harding-Coolidge era when "Andy" Mellon was being touted as "the greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton," Uncle Sam paid 4 and 5 per cent interest on his debt, compared to the average of about 2.4 per cent now.

If Uncle Sam were still as generous to bankers as he was under "Andy's" rule of the Treasury, the American people would have to "cough up" at least \$5 billion a year more than they do.—Labor.

Talk One Way, Act Another

Users of 'Welfare State' Tag Fight Individual Initiative in Bargaining

The following is an editorial from The Machinist, official weekly newspaper of the International Association of Machinists:

"A lot of people seem to be terrified these days for fear that the United States is going to become what they call a 'welfare state' in which the government uses its power and its money to look after the welfare of the people.

"They say that it is better to let the poor suffer, than to use Federal authority and Federal money for such things as slum clearance, public housing, public schools, minimum wages, social security and health insurance.

"They argue that we must take care of ourselves by our individual efforts if we are to preserve our freedoms. From their arguments you might draw the conclusion that (they) are the staunch exponents of voluntary collective bargaining.

"Certainly, history has shown that plain people can only take care of themselves by collective bargaining through trade unions free of Government domination. But, strangely enough, those who are so fearful of Government when anyone wants to use its authority and power for welfare purposes, are the staunchest supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act. Yes, these enemies of the welfare states, these exponents of individual self-reliance, are the advocates of the law which restricts and weakens the efforts of plain people to take care of themselves through collective bargaining.

"Could it be that (those) who worry so loudly about the welfare state really want the Government to look after the welfare of the few instead of the many? We think it could."

Perfect Fit

Tailor: "Now you're all measured sir, I'll have the suit ready in six weeks."

Customer: "Six weeks! Why the whole world was created in six days."

Tailor: "Right you are sir, but have you taken a good look at it lately."

SLOVENE CENTER SOCIAL CLUB

Chicago, Ill.

DANCE

Saturday, October 29

Lawndale Masonic Temple

2300 South Millard Avenue

Admission 60c, Tax Included

Music by Milwaukee's Polka King

RUDY PUGEL'S ORCHESTRA