

FRENCH SOCIALISTS REFUSE TO TURN TO THE RIGHT

The importance of the Socialist Party congress that ended on September 1, in Paris, reaches beyond the area of internal party disputes into the entire domain of French politics. To begin with, the congress will have an immediate effect on the new Constitution which in its present form depended upon the combined support of Socialists and Mouvement Republicain Populaire (M. R. P.) to counterbalance the more and more belligerent opposition of the Communists in the Assembly. It will also destroy some of the hopes entertained in moderate circles that the next elections might bring about a government of Socialists and M. R. P. representatives with some additions from the Radical-Socialists and other minor groups, but leaving the Communists outside. If one thing has clearly emerged from the congress, in the midst of all kinds of reciprocal concessions to avoid a split in the party, it has been the uncompromising will of the majority to rule out any flirtation with the party of M. Bidault. The M. R. P. was the main target of the delegates from the provinces where the traditional anti-clericalism of the French masses had been aroused by the creation of a Cabinet under Catholic leadership. With his experience of so many years in the labor movement, Leon Jouhaux had already warned the Socialist leaders not to allow themselves to appear as "the allies of the priests." Since the elections this feeling, strongly expressed at the Montrouge meeting in May, has swept every regional and local pre-congress gathering. It is not any personal objection to Bidault, whom everybody likes; it is fear of the Vatican smuggling itself, against all logic, into the France of the Liberation. From the point of view of personalities, there is not one among the new members of the National Executive Committee who can compare with the defeated leaders. Neither the young though successful Minister of Agriculture, Pierre Tanguy-Prigent, nor Guy Mollet, in spite of his excellent record in the Resistance, has the authority of a Leon Blum or a Vincent Auriol, but they have become the voice of the Socialist youth and the Socialist workers who, while favoring collaboration with the Communists for limited ends, demand party independence and leadership—leadership in directing France toward socialism and checking the increasing aggression of the reactionary forces.

—The Nation.

Quit Hiding

"If the Consumers Cooperative movement is as good as you think it is, you should quit hiding its light under a bushel," said Rowland Burnstam to a group of regional and national co-op employees recently. This is the kind of critical appraisal we all need often. And it's especially well-taken in these uncertain days when the consumers main thought is "government price control or bust."

Cooperators know that the only effective and enduring price control measure is "buy co-op, join co-op, own co-op." But how about the rest of the folks who want to get out from under rising prices—and establish a stable economy of the American people who have never heard of co-ops.

Now's the time to remove the bushel and let the light of voluntary cooperation shine clear and far.—Cooperative Builder.

Sounds Like Fascism, Doesn't It?

"We are rapidly going to hell in a handbasket. The great United States of America, mightiest nation the world has ever seen, simultaneous winner of two colossal wars in Europe and Asia, is tottering toward a collapse. It is staggering downward in complete stagnation, prostration and paralysis."

Who said that? Some "crackpot" on a soapbox? No; that comes to us from the "Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc." Its high priest is Frank Gannett, multi-millionaire newspaper publisher. Its treasurer is Sumner Gerard, also a millionaire. Its chief "mouth-piece" is a former Democratic Congressman from Indiana named Pettengill, and its "master brain" is a gentleman who was sent to prison during the first World War on the ground that he was the paid agent of the German kaiser.

The way to save America, according to this precious outfit, which apparently is collecting immense sums from the gullible rich, is to destroy trade unionism. You will remember Hitler and Mussolini took the same position.—Labor.

NO-WE WILL NOT BECOME A "HAVE NOT NATION" IF WE DON'T WANT TO

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

One can not be quite sure about the stories appearing in our newspapers from time to time, telling us that this nation will soon be a have-not nation in respect to many things that are essential to the American standard of living. Some of the scare stuff may be just plain hokum, but some is clearly true and understandably alarming.

Anyway, here is the condition that government sources which should be reliable tell us exist. Listing only a few of our essentials:

The nation's supply of vanadium is likely to be exhausted in seven years; tungsten, four years; tin, less than a year; lead, less than 12 years—etc., etc. In addition, we have been warned that America can't "oil another war" and that the famous Messabi Range of high grade iron ore is nearing exhaustion. Also that our lumber resources have been used up much faster than they were replaced.

Even this sketchy picture of how our nation stands in economic indispensables should serve as an explanation of why our diplomats are so interested in who is going to control the resources that are to be found in Middle East and other parts of the world.

However, it would be well for Americans to turn the situation around and look at it from an angle that is seldom explained by the economists of capitalism.

Why is it that we have been so profligate in the use of irreplaceable necessities in the past? The answer is that, in an economy that has sale and private profit as its objective, the purpose of human activity is not primarily to get real wealth, but to get rid of it.

For capitalism is a class economy and altogether individualistic in its objectives. That is to say that it operates to serve the purposes of the individuals who own the nation and not to preserve the nation as a whole or to promote its ultimate welfare.

BALINA TOURNAMENT

CHICAGO—We are inviting the members of the Slovene Center Social club and their friends to participate in our balina tournament Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Center, 2301 S. Lawndale Ave. Many members from Waukegan are planning to attend, and also invite other cities who are interested. The entry fee is \$1.50 for three person team. There will be separate divisions for men and women. The exact number of entries will determine the starting time.

All those interested turn in your names with entry fees to the Balina Committee, 2301 S. Lawndale Ave., Chicago 23, Ill. No entry blanks have been prepared, all the information we want is the names of the three team members, name of organization they will represent (if any) and entry fee. Entries will close on Wed., Sept. 18, thereby giving the committee sufficient time to prepare the schedule and notify the participants as to their approximate starting time.

The Center Club will also donate money so that a substantial amount will be available for prizes. For more information contact any member of the committee or write to the Center. Members of the committee are Louis Zorko, Ed Hudale and Frank Groser. Refreshments and sandwiches will be available for all.

For the Balina Committee,
FRANK GROSER.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



HISTORY MADE AT TWO HARBORS

An important milestone for Cooperation in America was posted at Two Harbors, Minn., when delegates of co-op health care plans voted to establish the Cooperative Health Federation of America.

Until now, the national movement has concentrated more on consumers' goods and farm supplies, particularly petroleum, and wherever co-op health care plans have sprung up, they've developed spontaneously as expressions of the bitter need of the people. There's been no central organization to coordinate experiences and to offer aid and advice. As a result, each group has groped its own way, making the same errors over and over again, and thus losing valuable time, and stunting its own growth.

Health care, like every other consumer need, is a natural for the democratic cooperative movement. Buying your beans and pork chops cooperatively is vital, but if you lack adequate preventive medical care, you won't need pork chops for very long.

Is our present fee system of medical care adequate? The stand-patter medics think so. But, then, the standpatters are always short-sighted, always masterful at rationalization. They are like the Bourbons, who fought all change so much that their nation ended up in the throes of a destructive revolution and they themselves rode the tumbrel to the guillotine. The rumbling thunder of discontent with the fee system of medicine is in the air—if it weren't so, America wouldn't lend its ear to the advocate of state medicine, which, in this case, represents that total revolution that the medical Bourbons are inviting through their obstinacy.

Change is in the air for America's medical care, and whether that change be toward bottom-up democracy or toward top-down stateism depends on the people's, and the doctors' willingness to push organizations such as the one set up at Two Harbors.—The Cooperative Builder.

A. F. L. C. I. O. P. A. C.

That conglomeration of letters means American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations and Political Action Committee.

CIO started the PAC several years ago. AFL held completely aloof, even went so far as to oppose candidates for office supported by CIO. IF—and that is a big IF—PAC of AFL and CIO can agree on candidates, they are as good as elected. If they take opposite sides merely to be "mad" at each other, than labor itself is the loser.

Wonder when AFL and CIO will wake up to their mutual responsibilities to the working voter?—The Progressive Miner.

TURN DOWN SALES TAX, MR. PRESIDENT

Powerful interests in the District of Columbia, including the great property owners and the "royal families," which control the daily press, are urging President Truman to assist in imposing a sales tax on the people of the Nation's Capital.

In the main, this would be a tax on the stomachs of the poor. We are sure the President knows that. In addition, there are plenty of other sources of revenue within easy reach.

Taxes in Washington are lower than in any other city in the country, or in the world, for that matter. Naturally, the great property owners wish to continue that system, and among the largest of these property owners are the publishers of the profitable Washington newspapers.

These greedy interests have enlisted the support of gentlemen who are supposed to be "close to the White House," and they are boasting that these emissaries have succeeded in convincing the President. We can't believe it, but, nevertheless, we indulge in this word of warning.

JUST SO IT'S MEAT

Chicago.—Anyway, it was meat. That's what a long line of women waiting to buy hamburger at a local butcher shop protested when police put in an appearance, stopped the sale and arrested the proprietor for palming off horse meat.

IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

What? No discount? Bread and Butter, Consumers Union's weekly, reprints the following letter to a Congressman from an irate citizen in Melrose, Mass., who had been comparing his June and July food bills: "Congressman Angier L. Goodwin, Debtor, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. For the money you have picked from my pocket by your votes to sabotage price control as a ventriloquist dummy for the National Association of Manufacturers, balance due, July 1-20—\$18.07. Please remit promptly. (Signed) A long suffering victim of Congressional misrepresentation."

Bedfellows Hall: The New Leader, which calls itself "America's Leading Liberal-Labor Weekly," is featuring the European correspondence of William Henry Chamberlin. So is America's leading conservative-capitalist daily—the Wall Street Journal.

Long arm of the law! A New York Sun story about a police officer's malfeasance reads: "He was found five blocks off post, in uniform, when he should have been on duty, with his arms around a woman's neck. Two women, who remonstrated with him; said that he waved his nightstick at them and said, 'Get along or I'll arrest you for interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty.'"

What price vision! Philip W. Pillsbury, president of the Pillsbury Mills, makes this comment in his firm's annual report: "For American agriculture, we should already have planned—and should be planning now—what to do with the coming grain surplus." An admirable thought; perhaps something should be done, instead of letting the grain rot.

Insurance for a best seller. The New York Times comments: "With all the books pouring off the presses nowadays, a person whose time is not all his own would certainly miss out on some of the most absorbing ones, if it weren't for the anti-vice societies. The deuce of it is that other people also read the anti-vice news, and before a busy man can find time to get to the book store, there isn't a copy left."

LIKE THROWING AWAY \$20 GOLD PIECES

The Veterans' Administration is authority for the statement that 10,000,000 veterans have refused Uncle Sam's urgent plea that they renew their government insurance. This is most unfortunate.

A government insurance policy is the cheapest and best in the world. It is literally "worth its weight in gold."

The day will come when every veteran will realize that, but for many of them it will then be too late.—Labor.

NOT GUILTY

Traveler—Your son just threw a stone at me.
Irishman—Did he hit you?
Traveler—No.
Irishman—Well, then, he wasn't my boy.

And Still Go On

By MAX PRESS
To be maimed, broken, blind and still go on,
Rising with each bleak dawn to meet the day;
To be bound and noosed and await the hour,
Silent, while minutes wear the brain away.
To drink to the last acid drop of grief,
Too strong to die though one has drained the cup;
To walk with a pounding heart to the wall,
And to look at the guns and still stand up.
To bear the black wound with a ribald jest,
Cursing without tears the throb and the pain;
To rise from blood and dust where loved ones lie,
And yet to stumble on and on again.
To watch with stoic calm the last wan sun
As it sinks irrevocably in the West;
To endure all these things and yet not break—
Such the heart that beats in the human breast.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Oakland, Calif. — To illustrate the danger of uncontrolled prices, the Alameda County Emergency Committee to Combat Inflation showered from a plane 100,000 million-dollar bills, "currency" of "The Disunited State of Inflation" and redeemable on demand in old bottle tops—good only in payment for illegal debts and campaign promises.

Portrait on the bills was that of a melancholy goat.

MAKING PLENTY SEEM DIFFICULT

When we read the ponderous articles of some of capitalism's columnists and ponder the charts and graphs of economists we sometimes suspect that a conspiracy has been formed against the thinking apparatus of the American people.

It seems to be the purpose of our "wise" men and "thinkers" to make the common citizen believe that there is a great and somewhat mysterious difficulty that obstructs the enjoyment of all the things that workers need.

We challenge any such suggestion. It is not hard for workers to produce the things they need. There is no mystery connected with the satisfaction of human desires.

Take housing as an example. There are plenty of people to produce the raw materials which go into houses. There is an abundance of human beings who can or could be taught to build. Why, then, is it that there isn't an all-out drive to fill this most reasonable of demands?

The answer is that the people who rule our economy and our nation aren't interested in building houses. What they are interested in is making profits. And while it would be a simple and easy matter to construct homes for people to live in, it is not so easy for the collapsing capitalist economy to do the job in a manner which would be profitable to the few people who control materials and hire labor.

This nation was able to produce abundance for war because the winning of the war was of such importance that the way was cleared for profits by government action. We say that the way could be cleared for building and producing by government action if profits for the few were not the first consideration and if the purpose sought was the welfare of human beings.

People stand in their own way when they continue to tolerate the profit economy. They are playing the other fellow's game and concerned about matters which should not concern them at all when they accept the proposition that they must wait for the things they need until private business is able to find some way to supply them.

Here in these United States there still is plenty of everything. The only reason the people don't have plenty is because they don't own the nation's resources.

Frankly, we sometimes wonder what's loose in the skulls of Americans. What is it that makes veterans, who defied Hitler's legions to win a war, now meekly permit a few puny owners, with nothing more dangerous in their hands than stock certificates, to tell them they can't enjoy the riches of the nation they saved?

It would be a simple matter to have a full life in this country. All the people would have to do would be to make things and use them. The only reason they can't do that is because they still recognize the right of the few to own the nation and exploit the many who own nothing.—Reading Labor Advocate.

Double Standard on Emperors

Henry Pu Yi, former puppet emperor of Manchukuo, is a tragicomic figure in his war crimes trial at Tokyo. But he was a tragicomic emperor, all along. He did what the Japanese war lords told him, and got pomp and pay in return.

We're not much interested in what happens to the ridiculous little man now. Obviously he deserves conviction, but if the punishment is to fit the crime it need not be too severe, beyond the disgrace he already has. What really interests us is the contrast between Pu Yi, on trial under the Allies, and the Emperor of Japan, protected and held in power by the Allied (i.e., American) occupying authorities. He, too, was, personally, a weak tool of the Japanese war lords, but he served them immensely more powerfully against America, China and the United Nations than Pu Yi ever dreamed of doing. We would recommend conviction of war guilt and then clemency for the Mikado were he on trial. He need not lose his head. But the least he ought to lose is his throne. Instead, the occupying regime is saving it for him.—The Chicago Sun.

Foreign-Policy Makers

The action of the International Longshoremen's Association in refusing to load UNRRA supplies destined for Yugoslavia, as a protest against the shooting down of United States fliers last month, sets a precedent with dangerous implications. In effect, President Joseph Ryan and his longshoremen have taken it into their own hands to decide what our foreign policy shall be. They have arrogated to themselves the right to overrule the State Department and an international relief agency; we are making the largest contribution to UNRRA, of course, but it is nevertheless an international body.

The matter is not a question of whether we should or should not continue to send supplies through UNRRA to Belgrade. It is whether a single group of unofficial persons in this country has the right to decide what action this country shall take in its relations with another country. The fact that many will applaud this action without thinking does not make it right. Certainly it is not in the democratic tradition. Mr. Ryan and the longshoremen are not elected representatives of the people. They do not speak for the country. They are using the economic weapon of the strike—which is what their action amounts to—for international political purposes.

The ILA is in considerable part anti-Communist. This factor probably played a part in the decision, as well as righteous anger against the killing of American fliers. But how would the same men who are taking direct action in this instance like it if another group of longshoremen, whose sympathies lay with the Communists and not against them should decide that the United States should pull its troops out of Korea and the Marines out of China and should refuse to handle any supplies for our men there, as an implementation of that decision? Should such an action be taken, it would be argued logically that those establishing that embargo were only following the precedent that has been set by the ILA.

It will be a bad day for all of us

when we allow our foreign relations to be directed by longshoremen, or any other group, instead of by responsible Government authorities.—The New York Times, September 10.

BABSON'S CURIOUS PROPHECY

Roger W. Babson is a queer old bird. He makes a handsome income by writing a "column" for the newspapers and giving gullible citizens "tips" on the stock market. Of course, if Roger could accurately forecast the course of the stock market, he would soon become one of the richest men in America.

However, that is not the point of this story. Roger is spending the summer at Gloucester, Mass.—"the world's largest fishing port." He reports that there has recently been a radical "break" in the wholesale price of fish. He says the same thing happened in 1920, after the first World War, and that the drop in fish was followed by a drop in other commodities.

If fish is again to be a leader, then cattle and cotton will tumble within a year, while shoes and textiles will tumble within two years, says Roger.—Labor.

GREEK KING WINS

The elections in Greece were part of the power struggle between Russia and the west, with Great Britain dealing the cards in this particular session. The British Labor government, following the traditional policy of continuity—doing just what its predecessors had planned to do—simply dealt the Greeks a king. The Greeks actually had about as much to say about it as did the people in Lithuania and Poland about what was to happen to them. In this colossal game of power politics, the rights of small nations is a colossal farce.—Industrial Worker.

PRICE GAUGING CHARGED

Furniture manufacturers complain they are being gouged on the price of Philippine rattan. A chair made from the product they say, would cost from \$100 to \$150, against a prewar cost of \$15 to \$20.