



Ko je ameriška armada udrila v francosko Afriko, so se ji nekatere francoske posadke uprle in potopile par ladij. Na gornji sliki so ameriški vojaki, ki so se oteli z rešilnimi čolni in v Afriko srečno prišli.

Francoski narod brez zastopstva v sedanjih metežih

JEAN DARLAN BIL ZGOLJ OPORTUNIST. — GIRAUD SPREJEMLJIV ZA VSE STRUJE. ATENTAT V ALGIERU NI BIL ZA OSIŠČE NIKAKRŠNA PRIDOBITEV

Atentat na admirala Darlana na zadnji Božič v Algieru ni nikogar posebno osupnil. Kdo je umor izvršil, čemu in pod kakšnimi motivi in vplivi, o tem bodo po pravici pisali šele kdaj pozneje.

Kdo je bil "on"?
Darlani je predstavljal v Vichyju, in potem v Afriki tisto francosko kliko, ki je najbolj kriva upropačenja njegove države. Darlan je sovražil Anglijo na svoj način še celo bolj kakor jo sovražili njegovi fašistični tovariši Pierre Laval. Ne le, da jo je mrzil, nego je Hitlerju pomagal proti nji vsekozi do posrečenega ameriškega vpada v francosko Afriko. Proglasal in pozival je svet v vojno proti Rusiji in govoril zoper ameriški in angleški imperializem, kot da je le njegov edino nedolžen.
Francija ne bi bila izgubila vojne s Hitlerjem kakor jo je, če ne bi imela Darlanov in Lavalov, ki so ji bili in so ji sedaj na krmilu.

Ljudski zastopniki v ječi in v jetniških taborih

Tisti, ki so Francijo hoteli rešiti in si prizadevali, da jo otmo — med njimi Herriot in Blum, so zaprti. Francosko ljudstvo je pod vlado terorja, ki ga je pomagal ustvariti Jean Darlan, Pierre Laval, in stari maršal Petain.

V "starih časih", ko še ni bilo tako razvite vojne tehnike kakor je sedanja, se je ljudstvo lahko uprlo. Sedaj pa — tudi če bi se hotel dvigniti zoper Hitlerja ves francoski narod, ne bi dosegel drugega kakor kupe ubitih in ranjenih. Napačno od zaveznikov pa je, ker so del francoskega naroda, ki je hotel svobodo, potisnili v ozadje.

Ameriška taktika bila pravilna

Ko je ameriška armada prišla v Afriko, si je njen poveljnik Eisenhower, ali kdor že v imenu naše dežele, skušal pridobiti naklonjenost Jeana Darlana. Kako in kaj je bilo s tistimi posvetovanji z njim, bo pisala zgodovina. Dejstvo je, da je Darlan preskočil z nacijskega na zavezniškega konja



JEAN DARLAN

sodelovanje z ameriškim poveljnikom, brž je oznanil svetu, da se smatra za glavarja Francije in njenega imperija, zato ker je maršal Petain, prejšnji glavar Francije, Hitlerjev jetnik.

Ta trik se Darlanu ni postal (Nadaljevanje na 2. strani.)

Edvard Beneš pravi, da bo leto 1943 leto zmage zaveznikov

Čehoslovaška, majhna kot je, oziroma je bila, je producirala v sedanji dobi dva državnika svetovnega slovesa. Tomaža Masaryka in Edvarda Beneša. Prvi je umrl po vojni, drugi je predsednik čehoslovaške zamejne vlade v Londonu. Beneš je bil v društvu narodov eden izmed najbolj izrazitih zagovornikov vzajemnosti in je tak tudi sedaj. A ker zastopa le vlado v begunstvu, njegov sloves v svetovnem tisku ni tak kakor je bil, dokler je njegova republika bila še svobodna in ena izmed najbolj upoštevanih.

Beneš je v svoji poslanici češkemu in slovaškemu narodu dne 25. dec. dejal, "da bo leto 1943 skoro gotovo leto zmage za zaveznike."

Ako bi bilo po Beneševem, ne bi prišlo do te vojne, toda on je bil zastopnik le male dežele. Pa so vlade velikih držav smatrale, da čemu riskirati mir zato, da bi se par milijonov Nemcev ohranilo v mejah Čehoslovaške proti Hitlerjevi volji.

Beneš je edini izmed načelnikov vseh zamejnih vlad, ki je dobil zagotovilo vseh zavezniških velesil, da zanje marelski monakovski pakt več ne velja. Poljski in Jugosloviji na primer niso še nič določnega obljubilo.

Da-li je Beneš tako dober prerok kakor je več v državištvu, bomo videli, predno bo konec leta 1943, v katerega vstopamo. V zmago zaveznikov je prepričan, in če bo na mirovni konferenci dovolj Benešev, bodo tudi narodnostna in socialna vprašanja rešena tako kakor je potrebno, da se rešijo.

Glavni zaključki prve seje eksekutive Slovenskega ameriškega narodnega kongresa

Prva seja izvršnega odbora Slovenskega ameriškega narodnega sveta se je vršila v torek, 22. decembra, v Chicagu. Navzoči so bili predsednik Etbin Kristan, prva podpredsednica Marie Prislant, drugi podpredsednik Janjo N. Rogelj, tajnik Rev. K. Zakrajšek, zapisnikar Mirko G. Kuhel ter odborniki Vincent Cankar, Leo Jurjevec, dr. F. J. Kern in Frank Zaitz.

Zapisnik prvega Slovenskega narodnega kongresa je bil prečitani in sprejeti. Zaključeno je bilo, da se tiska zapisnik v 3000 izvodih in se razdeli med kongresne delegate in lokalna društva slov. podpornih organizacij, obenem pa se apelira nanje, da pomagajo kriti stroške za izdajo.

Na lokalna društva vseh slovenskih podpornih organizacij bodo poslani apeli za organiziranje lokalnih podružnic SANS v svrhu zbiranja prostovoljnih prispevkov za politično akcijo. Naproseni bodo gl. odbori naših podpornih organizacij za finančno podporo ter da apelirajo na svoja društva za ustanovitev postojank ali podružnic.

SANS je registriran pri ameriškem justičnem departmentu in na sugestijo tega depart-

menta je bilo ime našega sveta spremenjeno v **Slovenski ameriški narodni svet (Slovenian American National Council.)**

Odbor je pooblastil pisatelj Louisa Adamiča, da posreduje pri guvernerju Lehmanu za pomoč v rekonstrukciji in rehabilitaciji uničene Slovenije.

Predsednik in tajnik sta delegirana, da tvorita deputacijo, v katero smeta po potrebi in nujnosti imenovati še druge odbornike, da osebno poneso na pristojna mesta v Washington resolucije, ki jih je sprejel kongres.

Administrativni urad SANS se bo nahajal v Chicagu, politični pa v Washingtonu, slednji potem, ko bodo finančna sredstva dopuščala.

Na vse slovenske časopise in revije se apelira, da **podpirajo delo**, katerega bo vršil SANS na podlagi resolucij sprejetih na kongresu, posebno za **zdrženje Slovenije v federativni Jugoslaviji**. Nastopati moramo enotno v besedah in dejanju.

Mirko G. Kuhel, zapisnikar.

Velik pridelek koruze

V Zed. državah se je leta 1942 pridelalo tri milijarde bušljev koruze, kar je več kot kdaj prej.

Nemci mobilizirajo podjarmljene narode tudi za v vojno

Poročevalec newyorškega dnevnika Times je brzojavil dne 26. decembra iz Stockholma, da bo Nemčija v naslednjih mesecih mobilizirala v okupiranih deželah nad dva milijona mož v direktno vojaško službo. V Nizozemski in v Belgiji jih namerava dobiti v svojo armado do 900.000, v baltičkih deželah okrog 300.000, v Ukrajini 500.000, na Norveškem 100.000, ostale pa na Slovaškem, Hrvaškem, Češkem, Poljskem itd. Tega načina mobilizacije se je lotila vsled svojih velikih izgub na Ruskem.

Tudi Francija in Španija ji bosta morali pomagati več kot doslej. Kmetje v vseh deželah morajo urejevati svoje poljedelstvo po nemških navodilih, da dobi tretji rajh še več živil kot dosedaj. Stotisoče močnih moških in žensk pa bo moralo to zimo iz okupiranih krajev v nemške tovarne in na nemške kmetije, da nadomestijo Nemce, ki so bili pozvani v armado, in pa izčrpane delavce v industriji.

Nemčija se vsled teh dejstev ponaša, da dela zanjno več ljudi kot za katerokoli drugo deželo na svetu. A kaj pa, kadar dobe prilagoditve delati proti nji — kaj bo potem z njeno veličino in njenim zaslužnjenjem?

Hull za enotnost v vojnih naporih

Državni tajnik Cordell Hull je po prvih vesteh o atentatu na Jeana Darlana znova poudaril, da naj nas ničesar ne odvrača od našega glavnega cilja, in ta je, zmagati nad osiščem. Vsi spori, ki obračajo pozornost drugim, nas oddaljujejo od tega namena, je poudaril. Slično je njegov oddelek izjavil tudi ko se je zvedelo o Stimsonovem pismu Otonu habsburškemu.

Vojna nas resno opozorila na spolne bolezni

Zdravniške avtoritete v Zed. državah se resno ukvarjajo s problemom takozvanih socialnih bolezni, med katerimi je sifilida najbolj razširjena in najnevarnejša.

V preiskovanju vpoklicancev v armado so dognali, da jih ima v starosti od 21. do 35. leta 47 od vsakih tisoč pozvanih sifilido. Ta bolezen je razširjena veliko bolj kot se je domnevalo pred to vojno in merodajna oblast se bo morala potruditi bolj kakor se je dosedaj, da se to zlo saj zajezi, če ga že ni mogoče odpraviti.

Armada potrebuje tudi pisalnih strojev

Ameriška armada in mornarica potrebujeata še okrog 600.000 pisalnih strojev. Ker jih tovarne več ne izdelujejo, nego strojne puške namesto njih, jih skuša vlada dobiti od privatnikov in uradov, kolikor jih imajo odveč.

Wickard in Davis pojasnila, da je pred nami resen živilski problem

"HOARDERJI" BODO MORALI OZNACITI VSO ZALOGO HRANE.—CEMU POMANJKANJE ŽIVIL V DEZELI IZOBILJA? — ODJEMALCI ZELO SLABO ZAŠČITENI

V nedeljo 27. decembra zvečer so morali izostati ob določeni uri vsi radio sporedi, da sta mogla v tistem času pojasniti poljedelski tajnik Claude R. Wickard in Elmer Davis naš živilski položaj.

Gremo na odmerke

Ni je dežele na svetu, ki bi na povprečnega kmetovalca pridelala toliko živil kot jih ameriški farmer. Nekaj let smo jim celo plačevali, da so pridelke uničevali, ali pa jim dajali subvencije, da njiv niso zorali.

Sedaj je vse tisto proč, ker smo v vojni.

In živilski problem je prvič v naši zgodovini postal resna zadeva.

Pomanjkanja ne bo

Ni pa nevarnosti, da preti ameriškem ljudstvu glad. Navaditi pa se bo moralo, kakor sta mu sporočila omenjenega dne Davis in Wickard, na od-

merke. Vzrok pomanjkanju je kot že rečeno vojna. V nekaterih mestih ni mogoče dobiti potrebščin že od junija 1942 dalje. Transportacijska sredstva so vsa mobilizirana v vojne namene. Za dovažanje potrebščin prebivalstvu doma ni ne dovolj vlakov, ne delavcev.

A to, kar imamo sedaj, so šele začetne težkoče. Ako bo vojna šla v nedogled, si bo treba tudi v naši deželi zelo zatisniti pasove.

Kontrola nad konzumom neizogibna

Več milijonov fantov in mož, ki so bili prej uposleni na farmah in v industriji, je sedaj v armadi in mornarici. Treba jih je zalagati z blagom in s hrano. Povprečno porabi vsakdo v armadi in mornarici funt hrane na dan, več kakor v civilnem življenju.

Vrh tega ni sedaj brezposelnost (Nadaljevanje na 2. strani.)

Leto 1943 naj bo doba kampanje za razširjenje Proletarca in naših idej

Elmer Davis, ki načeljuje uradu za vojne informacije (OWI), je izjavil, da bi bilo za svobodo tiska silno slabo, če bi začela subvencionirati časopise zvezna vlada.

Mnogo bogataških dnevnikov in revij namreč deluje, da bi jim vlada plačala oglašanje za vojne bonde ali jim kako drugače naklonila gmotno podporo.

Velike korporacije, ki sedaj delajo zgolj za vlado, pa trošijo za oglašanje celo več kot pa so pred vojno. Vzrok je, ker izdatke za oglašje lahko odštejejo od prebitka (profita), ne da bi jim bilo treba plačati davek, a ob enem s tem pomagajo listom, ki so protidelavski in protisocialni.

Proletarec in drugi slični delavski listi pa so navezani samo na tiste, ki soglašajo z njimi. Nihče teh ni imovit, da bi mu mogel pomagati s stotaki in tisočaki, pa z milijoni, ki jih prejema kapitalistični tisk.

Ako bo vlada koncem konca od kongresa primorana pomagati časopisu, bo te ugodnosti deležen samo velebizniški tisk. Razni veliki dnevniki in magazini zvišujejo naročnino drug za drugim eno tretjino in več. Vzrok je, ker se nešteto stvari draži, pa tudi mezde so bile zvišane.

Uprava Proletarca si prizadeva ne zvišati izdatkov v svojem uradu, a kar pa se tiče višjih cen, ne moremo drugega kot jih plačati.

Naročnine vzlic temu ne nameravamo zvišati, ako bodo vsi prijatelji tega lista sodelovali z nami toliko, da mu zvišamo število naročnikov in pa število onih, ki prispevajo v njegov tiskovni fond. Odbor JSZ, ki je ob enem upravni odbor lista, je že sklenil, da se po novem letu prične s kampanjo za razširjenje Proletarca, in pričeli jo bomo, čim bo načrt dogotovljen. Kdor pa lahko kaj stori v ta namen že prej, naj pomaga, kakor je pomagal doslej: Nove naročnine, iztirjane naročnine, prispevki v tiskovni sklad—to je denar, s katerim plačujemo tiskarni in krijemo izdatke urada. A po novem letu pa moramo vsled sedanjih razmer še vse bolj odločno v akcijo!

Tudi ameriški Hrvati sklicujejo narodni kongres

Hrvatje v Ameriki so se koncem konca v večini zedinili obdržati svoj narodni kongres, ki se bo vršil 20. in 21. februarja v Chicagu. Predsednik sklicateljskega odbora je Ivan Butković. V pripravljalnem odboru so zastopane vse struje, med njimi par duhovnikov, in komunisti.

Raznih frakcij in trenj je med Hrvati v Ameriki veliko več kakor na primer med Slovenci. Vrh tega je njihov problem zamotan vsled Pavelića

in njegove "neodvisne", ki mu jo je dal Hitler, oziroma Musolini, in pa vsled silnih razprtij med njimi in Srbi, ki so razplamtene tudi v Ameriki.

Ta boj med Hrvati in Srbi usodno škoduje vsem Jugoslovanom, kar v Washingtonu in Londonu radi javno poudarjajo.

Ko je bil nedavno dr. Ivan M. Čok na pomenku z uradniki državnega oddelka v Washingtonu, katerim je naslovil manifest v imenu Jugoslova-

nov pod Italijo, so mu rekli, da simpatizirajo z zahtevami in aspiracijami Slovencev, toda glavno zlo med Jugoslovani je njihova nealoga.

"Kaj naj vam bo povečana Jugoslavija, ko pa se niti v sedanji niste mogli sprijazniti in složno živeti," mu je rekel neki uradnik.

Temu zlu bi se moglo najlažje odpomoči in ga odpraviti, ako bi se zedinili med sabo Jugoslovani v Ameriki in vladi v Washingtonu ter Lon-

donu dokazali, da sporom v starem kraju in tu ni kriv narod nego napačen režim in pa forma države, ki je temeljila na dominiranju enega naroda nad drugim dvema.

Hrvatski kongres je potreben ne samo da zbrše med gotovimi krogi v ameriški javnosti napačne vtise o tukajšnjih Hrvatih, ampak da pomaga tudi narodu tam in pa da Srbe uveri, da ne more sovraštvo med njimi koristiti nikomur razen sovražnikom Jugoslovanov

Byrd Strikes Another Foul Blow

"Boss" of Virginia's Corrupt Machine Says Repeal
of 40-Hour Bill Would Have Saved Our
Fighters From Defeat

Senator Harry F. Byrd, a crafty politician who is kept in office because the poll tax and grossly unfair election laws disfranchise 75 per cent of the voters in Virginia, never loses an opportunity to hit American workers "below the belt."

In a speech at Boston Byrd solemnly declared that if the 40-hour week had been repealed by Congress right after the fall of France, production in this country would have reached such heights that "the reverses we have so far suffered in the war would not have occurred."

There is not a scintilla of evidence to sustain that statement. Unquestionably, Byrd knows that, but he is so anxious to serve the low-wage employers of his state that he cheerfully indulges in the most brazen falsehoods.

How could the 40-hour week be responsible for Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor? That disaster was not caused by lack of munitions, but by the fact that our commanders were not on the alert. We had enough airplanes at Pearl Harbor to repeal and destroy the enemy, but they never got off the ground.

Byrd also knows, or at least he should know, that the law does not forbid a worker staying on the job more than 40 hours a week. It does provide that after 40 hours he shall receive time and one-half. The big majority of the employers in this country are paying overtime and workers in munition plants are working, in many instances, 48 to 60 hours a week; and the average is very close to 48 hours a week, which the A. F. of L. points out is "the maximum for efficiency set by eight government agencies."

If there has been any slowing up in output, no responsible official blames the workers. The chief complaint, as a matter of fact, is lack of materials.

That this is the attitude of officials who are in constant touch with the nation's labor problems is shown by the statement made by Paul V. McNutt, chief of manpower, when newspaper men directed his attention to renewal of attacks on the 40-hour law.

"The law has nothing to do with curtailing hours of labor," he said. "Time and a half for overtime is not hindering production in any manner."

"It is perfectly amazing to see in some reputable journals statements calculated to cause their readers to believe that the 40-hour week is a rigid limitation on work."

L. Metcalf Walling, who administers the Wage-Hour Act, agreed with Mr. McNutt, declaring that the repeal of the 40-hour week law "may seriously hamper our war production at the most critical moment."

The truth is that opposition to the 40-hour week does not come from the war industries, but from low-wage employers—"sweatshoppers" is the proper term for them—who are producing goods for civilian consumption.

Senator Byrd is their spokesman. The enthusiasm he displays in their behalf is due to the fact that they and the public utilities supply much of the "oil" which keeps his corrupt "machine" in operation.—Labor.

THAT 3rd WAR FOR "REAL" FREEDOM

By NORMAN THOMAS

In the military field, no miracles are happening and neither Germany nor Japan as yet is "cracking," but progress seems to be satisfactory and the expectation of victory at the end of the road reasonable. The tragedy is that there is no corresponding reasonableness of hope that with victory will come a just and lasting peace. Pearl Buck challenged attention by saying that already the war "has ceased to be a fight for freedom" and is now "not even a war to save civilization, but only a war to save European civilization." She is particularly and rightly concerned about the Asiatic peoples, who, she believes, already foresee "another war, a greater war, a real war for freedom, in which none yet sees clearly either friend or foe."

Pearl Buck's prophecy of another war is all too likely as things are going, but I see no reason to believe that a third world war will be more truly a real war for freedom than the second. The nature of war itself, especially modern total war, and the way nations are maneuvered into war—witness our own case in this war—tend to make it wishful thinking to talk about wars for freedom. Nevertheless, there is nothing for it now but to try to put into the winning of the peace those elements of justice to all peoples and co-operation between them which may prevent a third world war.

Instead, our government is playing with Hapsburgs and Darlans, guaranteeing the French Empire in Africa, and the British Empire in India. And what our government is doing is exactly what was to have been expected under the circumstances. Anything else would have been a miracle but it is a miracle for which we still have to work. The enemy is not merely a hideously cruel German and Japanese imperialism; it is all imperialism.

WAR WORK ISN'T HIT HARD BY SABOTEURS

America has been particularly fortunate so far as sabotage of the war effort is concerned, Attorney General Francis Biddle declared this week.

While there have been 80 convictions under sabotage statutes, he said, the majority of the charges involved nothing more serious than malicious mischief or a desire to get publicity.

"NOT A PANACEA," SAYS SIR WILLIAM

Overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception accorded his social security program recently submitted to the British government, Sir William Beveridge warns the world that "it will not serve as a panacea for all economic ailments." It is a British plan, he emphasizes, and is designed to aid the British people. "It will not carry us half way to either Moscow or New York."

Sir William is to be congratulated on this display of good sense. Many American commentators have failed to note that the "plan" is merely an extension of well-tested principles of social security. Benefits are sharply increased, and some new ground is covered. So far as it goes, it is splendid, but much more must be accomplished before workers will be assured of "economic freedom."

Speaking for Americans, we must never forget that any plan for economic reform must include two basic requirements: The inalienable right of every worker to permanent employment at a wage sufficient to adequately care for his family and to join the union of his choice.

With a job at a good wage, and a union to protect him, the American worker will ungrudgingly make his contribution to the upkeep of a social security system even broader and more generous than the one contemplated by Sir William.—Labor.

WEEP FOR "THE NEW POOR"

The "Wall Street Journal" is running a series of articles about "the New Poor"—those affected by the administration \$25,000-a-year salary "ceiling."

One of the unfortunates mentioned by the "Journal" is the president of a big manufacturing concern in Cleveland. His salary is \$150,000 a year, and he has "additional income" from investments.

Now what can a poor devil like that do, after paying taxes, he has only \$25,000 of his salary left, and he is also compelled to pay Uncle Sam something on account of his "other income"? The question is calculated to melt a heart of granite!

But we know a lot of men—official reports indicate there are millions of them—who are rearing families and discharging all their obligations to their country, including the payment of taxes, on less than \$1,500 a year. Perhaps if the Cleveland manufacturer consults some of these men they may tell him how to dodge the headline on \$25,000 a year, plus "other income."—Labor.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



Upper Crust Leads Bitter Campaign On Ceiling of \$25,000 (or \$79 a Day)

JAMES B. CAREY, Sec'y of C. I. O., in The New Leader

Ten years ago, a congressional investigating committee revealed to the people of this nation the dirty linen of world war one—a shocking spectacle of super-profits going into the pockets of a small group of the people.

Then and there, in those depression years, we resolved to take the profits out of future war.

Today that vow is being ignored. The bulldozers of great wealth, barking on flag-draped platforms or in the editorial columns of the press, are bitterly assailing a move by the commander-in-chief to limit the income of individuals to a paltry \$25,000 a year after taxation.

The limiting of salaries to \$25,000 (or \$79 a day) is certainly justifiable on a number of counts—all of them important to the war effort. There can no longer be any question that the President's Economic Stabilization Program is necessary to the welfare of our country during this emergency. I need not go into the dangerous effect on our participation in the war if the domestic economy is not held stable. And the stabilization program cannot accomplish the desired aims unless it is accepted as a whole.

The workers of this country have gladly gone along with the President in accepting stabilization of their wages. Merchants have had ceilings placed on the prices they receive for the goods they sell. Farmers have had a ceiling placed on the income they receive from their produce. Why, then, should the comparatively small number of persons with huge salaries be allowed to escape from their share of the burden? At a time when every man, woman and child in the nation is being called upon to contribute to the struggle against aggression, is there any reason why we should play favorites? There are approximately 11,000 single persons and married couples in this country who will have incomes in excess of \$25,000 and \$50,000 respectively after paying taxes. And, mind you, there are about 21 million families in this country with incomes under \$2,000. Furthermore, 82% of all American families have incomes under \$3,000. We claim to be fighting a war for justice and equality. How in the light of such a claim can we ask 82% of our people to make the major sacrifice in the war which is being fought for all of us?

The war is costing our nation unbelievable sums of money. No one begrudges that—least of all labor, which has the greatest stake in the final outcome. Labor has been exceedingly glad to dig deep in its pockets to help finance the war. Workers want to feel that the tremendous financial burden the country has to bear is distributed equally and fairly. I feel fairly confident in saying that the 82% of our population who receive less than \$3,000 a year believe that incomes over \$25,000 a year are excessive.

At the outset of this war promises were heard on every side that no one would profit unduly from it. And we all knew that we would have to tighten our belts and make sacrifices before it was over. How can we justify the fact that in the first year of the war executives' salaries rose 400%, while workers wages only rose 71 per cent. Does that sound as though no one was profiting from the war?

Even if there were no other factors to justify this limitation, the effect of the morale of the country would be sufficient. The boys who are risking their lives for our protection are doing so in the belief that we will keep the faith at home—that no special interest are profiting from their sacrifices.

The unity of the nation, the effectiveness of the President's seven-point economic program and every principle of democratic sacrifice to win the war justify this \$25,000 limitation.

PLOTTING A PROFIT MELON

That new propaganda wave calling for the end of the 40-hour week is nothing but a wage-cutting, profit raising scheme.

Having got away with a so-called "excess-profits" tax that is actually the biggest joke of the year, having piled a payroll tax on the poor in disregard of the "ability to pay" principle, and having sat on their noble rears while the cost of living shot upwards, these Tory congressmen are now proposing to cut a profit melon for that small minority of their constituents to whom they listen.

The tool they have used is the lie that production is now on a 40-hour basis.

Actually, the latest Labor Department reports show 45.2 hours is the average work week in the durable goods industries where war produc-

tion is concentrated. Employees in the metal industry are working an average of 56.9 hours a week. The machine tool industry is working an average of 55 hours a week.

What these lousy politicians are proposing is that overtime begin at 48 hours instead of 40. But putting over a profit melon for the owners and a six per cent wage cut for the workers under the pretense of war production demands would be the hardest slap the morale of the men and women who are turning out the planes, tanks and guns has yet received. And coming from politicians, who, since the first World War, have been braying about taking the profits out of war, such a profit melon and wage cut would be the last word in indignities.—St. Louis Union Press.

We give away nothing so liberally as advice.—LaRocheFoucauld.

REFLECTIONS

By the Editor of the
Reading Labor Advocate

The ancient aescop gave posterity a fable which tells of frogs who lived happy, carefree lives in a very pleasant pool. However, there was something lacking; they had no king to rule over them. So they petitioned the gods to send them a king.

The gods, being wise and good, knew that a king would only bring trouble to the frogs and sought to satisfy them by casting a log into the pool. For a short time the frogs were delighted with their "king." But after a few days they came to understand that what they had was not a king that all, but only a log. And so they sent their plights again to the gods.

"See," they said, "this that you have sent us is only a log, a dead thing upon which we can sit. We want a live king; one that can rule over us."

Thereupon the gods sent a live king in the form of a stork.

And the stork, after the manner of storks with frogs, proceeded to eat his subjects.

*

I recalled the above fable after many years while wondering what had happened to the workers of America since they accepted government regulation of labor relations within a private-profit economy in lieu of the economic democracy which Socialism offers.

For now it appears that the thing for which workers yearned, and which they accepted as a new "bill of rights," is not a bill of rights at all. Government regulation, which at first appeared to be directed against those who exploited labor, has now come to mean control of labor, a control which is exercised when occasion warrants with the same force and effect as has resulted from government-sponsored labor fronts in nations where democracy is damned and decided.

The king is not a king, but a stork that is eating its subjects. Perhaps my meaning is obscure to some people. But I am hopeful that it will be clear as day to the Philadelphia employees of the Electric Storage Battery Co.

Those battery unionists were given an object lesson when the War Labor Board penalized their union—by refusing to grant a "union security clause" in a contract between the union and the company—and by rejecting a request for a general 12½-cent-an-hour wage increase.

I am not arguing here that any group of workers must necessarily receive anything they want under any condition. But this was not a usual decision. On the contrary, it was frankly a Penalty ruling, openly made to punish workers who dared to strike against their private employers.

And so I am arguing that when a government board has the power to PUNISH and PENALIZE an organization of workers, then that board is not an instrument of liberation but of control.

Whether it functions in Nazi Germany or in Democratic America, the government body that has the power to impose penalties has to power to destroy. Moreover, the union that is forced to submit to such punishments is not a free union at all but the subject of a State that, whether by swift and brutal suppression or the devious course of legislative procedure, has eaten away the liberties of individuals and groups.

Unions Big Winners AT Ballot Box

Workers are selecting bona fide unions as their bargaining agency at the highest rate in history, National Labor Relations Board reports disclosed.

During the past year, the board said, nearly a million employees voted in 3,629 collective bargaining elections, or as many as in the entire first five years of the board's existence.

A. F. of L., C. I. O. or bona fide independent unions were chosen by the workers in 85.4 per cent of the ballot box contests, the board's roundup revealed.

THERE ARE PLACES WHERE LINCOLN IS NOT POPULAR

A petition is being circulated in South Carolina requesting the state legislature to make the public display of a picture of Abraham Lincoln an offense punishable by a fine of \$50 or thirty days in prison. "You wouldn't hang a picture of Hitler or Tojo in a public building, would you?" asks the Anderson Independent, which favors the idea.

"Any person guilty of such a thing would be tarred and feathered. But neither Tojo nor Hitler has done as much damage to the South as Abe Lincoln did." The man who started the petition, incidentally, is named Lynchfield.—The Nation.

Let Us Make This Dream Come True

Planning Board's Nine-Point Program for After the
War; We Have the Resources; Have We the Will?

The National Resources Planning Board, one of President Roosevelt's favorite projects, is constantly turning out "reports." Some are of great value; some are scarcely worth reading. Everything depends on the man, or men, who wrote the particular document one happens to pick up.

Recently the board presented what it describes as a "New Bill of Rights." It has nine points. Here they are.

- 1—The right to work usefully and creatively through a man's productive years.
- 2—The right to fair pay, adequate to command the necessities and amenities of life, in exchange for work, ideas, thrift and other socially valuable services.
- 3—The right to enjoy adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical care.
- 4—The right to security, with freedom from fear of old age, want, dependency, sickness, unemployment and accident.
- 5—The right to live in a system of free enterprise, free from compulsory labor, irresponsible private power, arbitrary public authority and unregulated monopoly.
- 6—The right to come and go, to speak or to be silent, free from the shying of secret political police.
- 7—The right to equality before the law, with equal access to justice, in fact as well as in theory.
- 8—The right to education, for work, for citizenship and for personal growth and happiness.
- 9—The right to rest, recreation and adventure, the opportunity to enjoy life and take part in an advancing civilization.

Platitudes? Yes. Not particularly new? Yes. Yet worth reading and remembering. Our Commander-in-Chief, through this board, says these are the things we should all enjoy "after the war."

Somewhat similar promises were made during the first World War, but the ink on the treaty of peace was scarcely dry before they were forgotten by politicians everywhere.

The same thing will happen this time unless the people are on the alert. Nothing worth having is gained without a fight.

We have reproduced the nine points, not because we expect to have them handed to us on a silver platter, but in order to emphasize that there is no reason why the people in every civilized land should not have these blessings. There is nothing Utopian about them. Here at home we have everything needed to build this better world—a world in which all men could live in peace and comfort.

This time let's not permit the politicians to forget!

—Labor, Washington, D. C.

FOOD COST ZOOMS 40% SINCE 1939

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The cost of food has risen 40% since the outbreak of war in August, 1939!

That was the startling revelation made by the U. S. Dept. of Labor. Its report buttressed labor and consumer demands for tighter price control and rationing of necessary food products.

Food prices have jumped 16% since mid-November, 1941, and are still going up, Sec. of Labor Frances Perkins noted.

During the month ending November 17, she said, average family food costs soared upward by 1.2%. Most of the increase, the Labor Dept. found, came in foods like fresh fruits, vegetables and fish, prices of which are outside the realm of the Office of Price Administration. Prices of these commodities zoomed up 6.6% in one month, and are now 21½% higher than in May of this year.

Prices controlled by the OPA also moved up by one-half of one percent.

Publishers prosper on the best sellers. Best buyers prosper on the Union Label.

MAKES LABOR THE "GOAT"

Conference Blames Workers For
Plight of Little Business Men

Members of Congress are still worried over the fate of small business men. Unless something is done to prevent it, about 300,000 retailers may be squeezed out, according to the Senate Small Business Committee.

To avert that disaster, the committee has called a conference of more than 50 trade associations, to meet in Washington the middle of January. Senator James E. Murray (Dem., Mont.), chairman of the committee, said relief measures now before Congress will be laid before the conference.

From the beginning of the emergency, organized labor has staunchly supported movement designed to help small businessmen, but this sympathy apparently was wasted, if a group which met this week correctly reflects their views.

Calls for Shackles

A conference of Small Business Organizations at New York sought to place almost the entire responsibility for the plight for little business on the doorstep of the labor movement. Legislative shackles for labor were demanded, as was also a sales tax, "to be passed on to consumers."

The conference insisted there must be no extension of the Social Security system and that existing old-age pension programs be made even less than they are.

Vigorous attacks on various New Deal proposals indicated that the conference was dominated by the same reactionaries who recently dictated the "war program" of the National Association of Manufacturers.

DON'T BE KIDDED ABOUT THE 40-HOUR WEEK

In an obvious effort again to pull the wool over the eyes of the American public, a section of the press and politicians has set out to stir up pressure against the so-called 40-hour week. "There ain't no such thing!"

There isn't a defense worker in America who is interested in limiting his working hours to 40 a week. All are willing to work 60, 70 or 80 hours. But they insist—and rightly so—that their profiteering employer pay them time and a half for all hours beyond the basic 40 per week.

The reactionary press—and politicians—never tell you this. They'd have you believe that the wage-hour act or some trade union ruling will not permit employees to labor beyond 40 hours a week. Baloney! The same gang has been trying for months to convince the American public that the 40 hour plan will lose the war.—Ohio Labor Tribune.

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

Hitler found out that his high powered mechanized and motorized army bogged down in the snow and mud of the Russian Winter. Although our Army is largely mechanized the cavalry horse is still a highly essential factor in this mounted division and in the Field Artillery. The Army also maintains remount farms where many cavalry horses are bred and raised.



These select horses cost from \$100 to \$165 and our crack cavalrymen are expert riders and carry on the traditions which have followed the cavalry from the earliest days of the Army. Purchase of War Savings Bonds will insure good mounts for the Cavalry. You and your neighbors buying War Bonds and Stamps regularly every pay day can help buy these horses for the U. S. Cavalry. Invest at least 10 percent of your income in War Bonds. U. S. Treasury Department