



Zavezniški vojaki na strazi v Bizertu.

Kakšno vlado naj dobi Italija, ko Mussolini pade?

ALI BO DARLANIZEM NADALJEVAN TUDI NA EVROPSKI CELINI?—SPLÈTEK ZA "NOVO" VLADO V RIMU.—BOJAZEN PRED SOCIALNIMI PREVRATI.—ITALIJANSKI POGOJI ZA MIR

To, da je Italija vojno izgubila, je znano. Toda glavni del njene armade je še nedotaknjen. Do dneva, ko pišemo to poročilo, ni stopil na njena tla te vojni še noben sovražen vojak. Prišla je le ob imperij v Afriki, v Evropi pa ima še vse kar si je pridobila v tej in po prejšnji svetovni vojni.

Zavezniške sile je napadajo z bombojnimi in prizadavajo silovito škodo in pa — zmedo med ljudstvom. Nepremagljivi "duče", ki je toliko vpil in grozil, je potisnjhen na prag in vse sorte poročila ga v "živčni" vojni zaveznikov proti oslušku slikajo kakor v smrt obsojeno osebo.

Oseba ni vse

To, da je Mussolini doigral, že že dolgo znano. Svoj udar sam vase si je zadal, ko je zavratno napadel Francijo baš v trenotku, ko jo je že Hitler polnil na tla, da jo zadavi.

Ampak če se Italija popolnoma zruši, kdo naj prevzame za fašisti vlado v njej?

Ako so vse sorte govorice o notranjem razkroju saj deloma resnične, tedaj je pač fašističnega režima tudi v Italiji

sami konec, ne samo v njenem afriškem imperiju!.

Vse polno poročil pa govorita, da se Italija, častitljiva naslednja rimskega cesarstva in pa prestolnica krščanstva, zanaša na "milost" — toda ne na način premagane države, nego kakor da ima ona vzlizk porazenu moč in pravico zahtevati koncesije.

Torej tudi ako Mussolini izgine z vladnega mesta, zahteve Italije po novih osvojitvah in ohranitvi starih morajo ostati v veljavni.

Ali naj fašizem v Italiji ostane?

Ne samo, da zahteva Italija, ki je bila teperna v tej vojni vsepravosod in sedaj jo čaka enaka osuda tudi doma, več kot pa je izgubila. Hoče namreč tudi ohranitev fašističnega režima. Baje so pogajanja v ta

(Nadaljevanje na 5. strani.)

Beneš o demokraciji, v kakršno veruje in je zanje že tudi kaj storil

V zveznem kongresu je govoril o zmago in demokracijo že precej visokih obiskovalcev iz drugih dežel. Med njimi pa takih, ki o vsem tem vičesar ne razumejo in so bili povabljeni pred kongres le vsled svojih takozvanih dednih vladarskih pravic.

Dne 13. maja je govoril v kongresu bivši predsednik čehoslovaške republike Edvard Beneš, sedaj načelnik češke zamejne vlade v Londonu. V vsem društvu narodov ni bilo boljšega zagovornika demokracije in socialnih pravic, kakor je bil Edvard Beneš.

V priznanje za svojo iskrenost in zmožnost je bil nekaj časa tudi predsednik lige, vsikdar pa upoštevan in priznan za najboljšega zagovornika idej, ki jih je skušal uveljaviti na mirovni konferenci po prvi svetovni vojni Woodrow Wilson.

Beneš bi se lahko zelo potožil nad demokratično Anglijo in Francijo, ker sta žrtvovali Čehoslovaško Hitlerju v nadi, da mu bo to utešilo imperialistične ambicije in obvarovalo mir v Evropi. Niti ni Beneš uverjen v pravilnost vseh stremljenj sedanje angleške in posebno še ameriške vlade. Zato se je zelo oprl ob Moskvo, kar mu mnogi zamerijo.

Njegov govor dne 13. maja — imel je pravzaprav dva — v vsaki zbornici enega — so mnogi časopisi le površno omenili. To je znamenje, da odnošaji med to deželo in pa vlado, ki jo on zastopa, niso tako prisrčni kot bi morali biti.

Ko je v zbornici poslanec Beneš svoj govor končal, se je oglašil kongresnik Emanuel Celler iz New Yorka in udrial po Ottetu Habsburgu ter vseh tistih, ki ga podpirajo, kajti kar Otto zastopa in hoče, je nasprotno vsemu, kar zastopa Edvard Beneš. Tudi mimo tega incidenta je ameriško konservativno časopisje v skladu s politiko našega državnega oddelka prešlo večinoma s par kratkimi omembami. Beneš ni s tem nič izgubil, nekaj poklicnih "demokratov" pa se je pokazalo v zelo nedemokratični luči.

V NEDELJO 23. MAJA BO V WAUKEGANU KONFERENCA PROSVETNE MATICE IN J.S.Z.

Ali ste že izvolili deležate na zborovanje društev in drugih organizacij Prosvetne matice, ki bo v nedeljo 23. maja ob 10. dopoldne v Slovenskem narodnem domu v Waukeganu?

Prvotno je bil datum določen na 30. maja, a se ga je zaradi drugih priredb, ki bodo omenjenega dne, premestilo na nedeljo prej, to je, kot že rečeno, na prihodnjo nedeljo 23. maja.

Na dnevnem redu bodo poročila o naših aktivnostih ter o drugih zadevah, nato pa razprava o splošnih problemih, všečki delovanju za SANS, za delo in aktivnosti na zadružnem, političnem in društvenem polju.

Delokrog organizacije Prosvetne matice in JSZ obsegata Razprava je svobodna vsem.

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Delokrog organizacije Prosvetne matice in JSZ

POVESTNI DEL

FERDINAND GODINA:

BEG V TEMO

(Nadaljevanje in konec.)

Drugo jutro je bilo zopet sonce. Vročina je rasla in vremenska opazovalnica se je svetila v soncu. Markovič je prebudil glas komandanta bataljona, vpitje komandirjev, suhi udarci vodnikov. Vsak dan isto, čakal je, da je šel bataljon na vežbališče, da bi ne vedel starega dedeka, kako je korakal v svoji debelosti.

Markovič se je počutil slab. V glavi mu je šumelo, izmučilo ga je trdno spanje. Cigan mu je šel pred očmi. Poskušal je pesem o ciganki, pa mu ni šla. Poklicjal je Tafila, da mu je odklenil vrata in ga spustil na prost. Dolgo sta sedela podnarednika pred stražnico in nista govorila. Ničesar se ni zgodoval novega. Tafil je vstal danes zjutraj, uravnal stražo in reportiral komandan-

"Sest let sem podnarednik, Tafil, sest let," je začel Markovič zamišljeno, "in se nisem ničesar naučil. Knjigo začenam brati tri, štirikrat, nato pa jo pustim. Ni časa, straža, dežurna služba, vežbališče, ženske in vrag si ga vedi, kaj še." Zopet se je Markovič obrnil v stran, stisnil trepalnice in zamišljeno zrl v svet.

"Vesel sem, da pojdem," se je zopet prebudil Markovič. Tafil je močel. Tudi on bi odšel, pa si ne upa.

"Kaj boš delal v civilnem življenju?" ga je vprašal Tafil.

"Pojdem za detektiva; če pa mi ne uspe, se odpeljem v Ameriko."

"Dobro, pa kaj boš delal tam?" je sili Tafil.

"Kaj... Amerika je velika. Še prej pa običejem Dalmacijo. Nejam denarja imam, to zapravim za vse to življenje."

Tafil se je smejal. Čudovito.

"Boem je Markovič. Boem je Markovič."

"Boem? Ti nisi boem in kdo še ni boem?"

Tam daleč se je nebo poljubilo z zemljoi. Modro nebo in rumena zemlja. Jesen je bila, orumelno listje je popadalo na usahlo travo, ptic ni bilo več in čudežni mir je vladal povsod. Buče so bile razmetane po polju, repa je rasta, povsod, kamor si pogledal, je bil plod, ki ga je prinašala zemlja. Ozračje je bilo nasičeno s prijetnim vonjem. Kako pride vse samo ob sebi. Zulji so se spremnili v sad, vsa zemlja se je obrnila v plod.

To je bilo tri mesece 'po onem večeru, ko se je Markovič napisil v celici in razdvijal ob ciganovih pesmi. Sedaj je bil prost. Sedemnajst mesecev preiskovalnega zapora zaradi krajev in pretepa. Sodba: Osem mesecev zapora. Zato je bil Markovič takoj prost, izpustili so ga v svobodo, v svet, kakor je bil vedno dejal.

Sedaj se je Markovič za-

v pogovor in govorili so z zanosom. Studentje morajo biti to.

"Kako so tovariški med seboj?" je pomisil Markovič. Oni pa so govorili tiko, ostre sodbe so letele in takoj sporazum. Blebo je svetila plinovka nad to mlado družbo, ki je pada kot z neba v vagon. Luč se je igrala na njihovih obrazih, da so bili videti kakor brušeni iz stekla.

Oni, ki je sedel ob oknu in so ga zvali za Ivana, se je zgrani, se prikel za brado in nekaj rekel. Zasmajali so se vsi, trepljali Ivana po koljenih, on pa si je samo gladil golo brado, se držal na smeh in se pripravljal za naslednjo šalo.

"Drago, zapojo," se je oglašil nekdo.

"Zapojo," so govorili vsi.

"Majko mu, peli bodo," je zaživeljalo Markovič, se naomehnil, si podpril glavo in se pripravil, da bi poslušal. Saj pesem je kos njegovega življenja.

"Katero?" Drago, kodrast, bel fant, z močnim glasom se je vzrvnal. "Ono rusko?"

"Ah, gonite jo že ves dan," se je vznevoljil Ivan.

Vsi pa so vpili: "Rusko! Rusko!"

V vlaku je postal tih. Znajo se je in nekateri so zaspali. Mači jih je bilo v vagonu, zato so legali po tleh in smrčali. Markovič je bil začuden nad tem, kar ga je obdajalo. Saj si je bil vsega tega tako zelo zelo. Pa vendar ga je skrbelo, kje bo prespal noč, kje bo jeli, kamen se dal. Markovič je postal eden izmed mnogih desetnik.

Odkašljali so se in se pripravili kot na slovensko opravilo. Zbranosti potrebuje pesem. Tih je bilo v vagonu, le dvečka kolesa so udarjala ob tračnice, da se je čulo in odmevalo v noč. Drago si je objel kolena, se nagnil nazaj, da mu je plinovka svetila v obraz in so tudi drugi nehoti postali sentimentalni. Nato je začel z učinkom, lepim glasom:

"Gdje umru ja, gdje umru ja... pohorit mena..."

Mir je vladal povsod. Le kolesa so bila enakomerno in iskre, ki jih je bruhala lokomotiva, so se opletale okrog oken. Ljudje v kupeju so se prebudi in negibno poslušali študentovsko pesem.

Še je Drago sedel na sponjanem nazaj. Nihče izmed studentov ni črnih besede.

"Veste, kaj mi je padlo v glavo," je izpregovoril počasi Drago. "Prav tak smo kot ruski studentje pred petdesetimi leti, ko so šli od svojih domov zopet v Moskvo. Moj Bog," je zavrel v njem, "dramo sem gledal nekoč. Dobro se spominim. Peli so to pesem, otočno, turbo, pred njimi je bila posrasta, nepregledna stopa in od daleč so se čuli mogočni moskovski zvonovi."

Studentje in vsi v vagonu so onemeli. Res, otočna je ruska pesem. Markovič je zopet vzdrihtel. Kako je vse to drugače. Hotel je prositi študente, da bi se peli. Pa ga je bilo sram.

Ivan ob oknu se je pogledal zopet po goli bradi, raztegnil ustnice v smeh in pokazal dolni kolenski.

"Naši zvonovi niso tako turobni in Ljubljana tudi ni daže."

Dobra volja se je vrnila in govorili so vsi vprek. Oživelje je v vagonu. Studentje so se spustili spet v pogovor, resen in prijeten, da jim je Markovič zavidal.

Ko so v Ljubljani izstopili, jih je Markovič opazoval, te študente, polne življenja. Zaposleni so se mu zdeli, a vendar jih je smeh in pesem premislila.

Podnarednik Markovič pa je sedel zopet v kupe, prisluhnih množiči, ki je čebljala na peronu in čakal, kdaj ga potegne vlak naprej v novo življenje. Ko se je vlak zgnali, se je Markovič zatopil sam vase.

Pred njim se je odprlo življenje, ki se ga je bal in ki ga je šele začel spoznavati.

Vsek dan izgubimo povprečno 150 mož

Ameriške izgube na bojiščih, všeči ubite, ranjene in vjetre, značajo povprečno 150 mož na dan. To je dejal Col. A. Robert Gainsburgh, ki je uslužben v vojnem departmantu.



Največja nečast za generala je, ako se pusti ujeti. Gornje na levem je nemški general von Arnim, ki je povlejel Hitlerjevi armadi v Tunizijski. Bil je ujet z vsemi svojimi četami vred. Von Arnim je naciji oglašal za nega izmed svojih najboljih generalov.

POMAGAJTE!

Chicago, III. — Darujte, pomagajte, žrtvujte! Te besede slišite vsak dan, v vseh krajih, da že ne veste kam bi davovali, da bi bilo bolj pravilno in da bi bolj zaledlo. Dolžnost naša je, da v prvi vrsti pomagamo naši domovini Ameriki tem, da kupujemo vojne bombe, darujemo Rdečemu križu in da pomagamo in darujemo sploh vsem organizacijam, katere delujejo za zmago Amerike. Med organizacije, katere moramo podprtati, gotovo spada tudi Jugoslovanski pomožni odbor Slovenske sekcijs. Večkrat se slišijo opazke, češ, zakaj pomagati ljudem v Evropi ali kje druge? Skrbimo samo za Ameriko in zmaga bo naša. Ljudje, kateri tako govore sploh ne razumejo, ali pa nočejo razumeti idej in ciljev, za katere so bori Amerika in njeni zavezniki. Kdor razume vso stvar, bo dobro vedel, da ljude v Sloveniji, oziroma Jugoslaviji umirajo vsak dan za ideale, katere reprezentira naša zvezdnata zastava, to je za svedobno v demokracijo.

Ljudje v Jugoslaviji in sploh po vseh državah, katere se boro proti našemu skupnemu sovražniku, zaslubojo, da jih podprtost podpiramo. Zadost se moramo, da kolikor škoda naredijo ljudje sovražniku tam, bo to pospešilo zmagajo Amerike in zaveznikov. Pomislimo moramo, da vsaka človeška žrtev, katere je danes doprinesena v Evropi v boju proti našem in fašistom, nam mogoče prihrani 5 ali pa 10 življenj naših ameriških vojakov. Ako bi ne bila stvar v skladu z idejami Amerike in v njeni koristi, gotovo bi State Department ne dal temu odboru dovoljenja za poslovanje. To pojavite vsem tistim, kateri nasprotujejo pomožni akciji. Vse, kateri se zavedate velikega pomena, katerega ima ta akcija za Ameriko, vabimo, da pridete v nedeljo 30. maja v Bridgeport, na prireditve, na katerih bo vprizorjena igra "Vera v vstajenje". V tej drami boste videli in občutili strašno trpljenje skozi katerega morajo iti danes ljudje v starem kraju. V tem listu bo objavljen celotni program, in kdor ima vero v zmago Amerike, in vero v vstajenje potepisce Slovenije in Jugoslavije, bo gotovo navzao na prireditvi 30. maja. Torej na svidenje!

Pridite v pokažite, da ste vredni potomci ljudi, kateri so preprečili, da se naši življenji ne končajo v vajnah. Naša življenja so vse naši življenji. In za njegovo osvoboditev.

Veseli me, da me Louis ni pozabil. Včasih sva precej argumentiral, vedno seveda v prijateljstvu, čeprav sva si prisla o tem ali onem vprašanju na navskrižje.

Hvala tudi s. Snouju in pa pozdrav prijateljici Frances Bajec v Clevelandu, ki pridno Preletarca podpira.

Nace Zlemlberger.

VAŽNO VABILO

Bridgeport, O. — Podpisani odborniki krajevne organizacije SANSA in Jugoslovanskega pomožnega odbora, Slovenska sekcijs, s sedežem v Bridgeportu, apeliramo na vse rojake v teh krajih, da posetijo našo skupno priredbo v soboto 29. maja v društveni dvorani na Boydsville.

Gre se za pomoč našemu narodu, kolikor ga bo še ostalo pri življenu. In za njegovo osvoboditev.

Upamo, da se temu klicu odzovete vsi. Ako se kdo izmed vas ne bo mogel udeležiti prireditve, naj kupi vstopnico vseeno. Razposlane so bile organizacijam v tem okraju.

Mi trkamo na vaša srca v imenu nesrečnega naroda. Vemo, da živi skoro v vsakem kraju tod okrog nekaj naših ljudi, pa si predstavljamo, da će pridejo vsi na prireditve, bo to sijajna manifestacija, na kateri bi se predstavili vsi kot Slovenci v naporih za skupne namene. Žrtev onkrat morja zaslubojo, da jih ne pozabimo in pomagamo tistim, katerim bo pomoč še mogoča.

Mi uradniki, ki sta nas izvolili, da vodimo to samaritansko delo, ne moremo brez vašega sodelovanja nenesčesar opraviti.

Ako nam boste dali svojo naklonjenost, pa bo uspeh pri tem važnem poslu, in delo za tisti dve takoj vstajenki, katerim bo pomoč še mogoča.

Pa mi je Joe Snoy pisal, da imam pri njemu dva galona vina. Priprjal ga je iz Clevelandu, in dal ga mu je zame Louis Erste.

Snay mi je v pismu omenil,

da bi ga mi rad priprjal na borbi in v pomoč našim zatiranim bratom in sestram v starim domovini.

Ako premislite, da gre vse to proti Hitlerju in Mussoliniju, boste sami sebi hvaležni za vsako pomoč, ki jo boste dali temu gibanju.

Na tej prireditvi 29. maja bo ste čuli tudi slovenske pesmi, ki jih bo predvajala ista skupina, ki je pela 11. aprila v gledališču Virginia.

Za odbor: Joseph Snay, predsednik; Joseph Fabian, podpredsednik; John Vitez, tajnik-blagajnik; Karolina Stefanich, zapisnikarica.

V spomin Johnu Godnjavcu

V prejšnji številki Proletarca je bilo poročano o smrti dveh naših prijateljev v Clevelandu, dne 4. maja pa je umrl naš znani somišljnik John Godnjavec.

Star je bil 47 let, doma iz vasi Radlje pri Trebnjem na Dolenjskem. Zapušča ženo Cilko, sina Stanleyja, ki je v armati, in hči Frances.

V Ameriki je živel 33 let. Počrpal je bil 7. maja. Pogreb je bil civilen.

Frank Česen pravi o njemu v Enakopravnosti med drugim:

"Ako hočemo pravilno oceniti zasluge pokojnega Godnjavca, se moramo vrniti v cesto dobroga razvoja in idealizma mladih slovenskih priseljencev.

Pokojni John je okusil že v starem kraju kruto borbo za obstanek. V premogokopih je dobil prve nauke razredne zvesti. Mlad in poln idealizma se je napotil v Ameriko ter se takoj pridružil naprednemu gibanju, v katerem se je nesrečno udejstvoval, dokler ga ni bolezni položila na posteljo.

Ob svoji smrti je bil John član tretih društv, toda kot dolgoletni tajnik je posvetil največ energije društvu "Vodnikov venec" št. 147 SNPJ. To društvo je pod njegovim vodstvom naraslo iz ponižne mladike v mogočno drevo, katerega cvetje širi omamljivi vonj po clevelandski naselbini.

Ko se je počela akcija za Slovenski narodni dom, je postal John eden prvih članov direktorja. Dalje je bil večletni predsednik Mladinskega pevskoga zbora "Slavčki". Vodil, no vlogo je igral tudi v "Zvezdi preooricov in mesarjev".

Prijetelju Louisu Ersteju se je na najtopleje zahvalil za žalhtno kapljico — za poslana galončka z vincem napolnjeno, ker se mi je jako dobro prileglo.

Čeprav je zaposlen na farmi in v rovu, oziroma je bil do te poškodbe, je vedno dobil še kaj časa za naše aktivnosti na društvenem in političnem področju.

Prijetelj Louis je bil civilno. John je bil vesel narave. Prijeteljstvo je cenil nadvse, zato smo se marsikateri večer zbrali v Erstetovi kleti in diskurzirali tekoče probleme do pozne ure.

V poznejšem času se je lotil trgovine. Naporno delo in skrbni zdravje — lotila se, ga je paraliza in tako je preminil dne 4. maja po dolgi in mučni bolezni. Pokopan je bil civilno.

Pridružujemo se F. Česnu in drugim: Johnu Godnjavcu časten spomin, njegovim družinam na našo prihodno sejo to sobje ob 8. zvečer.

Za odbor,

John Turk, blagajnik.

NAREDBE, KI NAJ UNIJAM ZAPRO VSE AKTIVNOSTI

(Nadaljevanje s 1. strani.)

What is an Uncontrolled Boom?

Having labored at the writing trade for many years, we still marvel at the possibilities of words. An example of the power of language to hide what is furnished in a report of Commerce Department economists, who, after "reviewing post-war markets," announced that —

The country's problem after the war may be to control a boom rather than to prevent a depression.

We have been thinking about that problem. And we have come to the point of wondering what this nation would be like with a boom that was uncontrolled.

History provides an example of that sort of thing in the period of currency inflation in pre-Nazi Germany. Summed up in one word, the best description for an uncontrolled boom is—BANG! Bang! goes the value of money. Bang! goes the security of accumulated wealth. Bang! goes the insurance policies, bank accounts and bonds.

When Germany had her uncontrolled boom, business was brisk—to use a quite inadequate word. People literally ran in terror from the money they had and the money they got. No sooner did workers receive their wages than off to the store they ran with a pocketbook and a wheelbarrow—the wheelbarrow was to carry the money to market and the pocketbook was to bring the purchase back home.

So great was the boom that people stood in lines for hours at a time—and the boom was so great that by the time those at the end of the line reached the grocer's counter prices were double those paid by buyers who had arrived first.

Well, sir, if controlling something like that is going to be the country's after-war problem, then we'd all better pray for strength. For although the Commerce Department economists didn't use the nasty word, such a boom means inflation.

But great is the power of words! And so the people just don't think of inflation at all when they read about the problem. Nor do they think about what is going to happen to them while that boom is being controlled.

Another important factor is that booms can't be controlled without also controlling people. And so it will be—if a boom is going to be placed under control—that the American people will have to be told all over again what they may spend and for what and when—and all that sort of thing.

And, try as we have, we just can't interpret the process of that kind of control as four freedoms, or even one freedom; not at last by time-honored yardstick for measuring freedom.

The more we try to find out what those economists meant when they talk about booms and controls, the greater becomes our conviction that the old order is going to see some drastic changes on the financial and political fronts.

However, change is what we Socialists have been wanting. We've been wanting a chance from economic autocracy to economic democracy. But that isn't what we'll get if we permit the same old crowd to control a boom and control us in the bargain.

For many years now we've been warning that the next social order must be either socialism or Fascism. And the more we think about controlled booms the deeper becomes our conviction that the time for choosing is short.—Reading Labor Advocate.

Why So Many Are Physically Unfit

Since the first settlers landed on the Atlantic Coast, we have neglected the physical well-being of our people. That form of extravagance must end. As a matter of fact, it is one of the chief threats to our success in this war. Perhaps you imagine that is an exaggeration, but listen to the latest reports of National Selective Service:

Twenty-five per cent of the 18 and 19-year old boys examined for military service have been found physically unfit. That's pretty bad, but here are figures still more startling:

Of the first 2,000,000 men examined 50 per cent were rejected. After Pearl Harbor physical standards were lowered, but, according to Selective Service, rejections never fell below 35 per cent. In the 45-year group, 85 per cent were found unfit.

Of course, there are many reasons for this, but the principal reason is lack of jobs, with sufficient wages to enable human beings to live up to what should be American standards.

Good health is simply a matter of putting sufficient money in the pay envelope to enable Americans to live decently. Even today, when "experts" insist that 35 million dollars must be siphoned from our national income, millions of Americans are compelled to exist on incomes that do not provide even the bare necessities.

We will win this war despite the mistakes we have committed in the past, but we can't afford to continue to live in a fool's paradise. We must recognize the human beings are a nation's most valuable asset.—Labor.

Looking Ahead

By LEN DE CAUX

There are so many self-proclaimed spokesmen these days for the boys in the foxholes of North Africa and the Southwest Pacific!

And Rickenbacker isn't the only one.

There are pot-bellied poll-taxers in Congress, who don't even speak for their own largely voteless constituencies. But they're quite willing to misrepresent the boys in the foxholes as well, in their fight against labor and "social reform."

Then there are big-business publishers who daily promote selfish profit interests "for the sake of the boys in the foxholes."

And ever so often some stuffed-shirt returns from a flying trip to the back of the front, to tell the papers what's on our soldiers' mind.

By the strangest coincidence, such reports always fit in most neatly with the stuffed-shirt's own ideas and with the propaganda of the paper to which he speaks.

*

Unfortunately our fighting men can't elect their own spokesmen. They get little news from home, and have no means of speaking directly to the general public.

So tory papers and politicians feel safe—without fear of successful contradiction, as the saying goes—in proclaiming that our soldiers are always griping against American labor and demanding that it be sweat and shackled.

We have yet to read a report, from such sources, that the boys

will be shorter.

59 BILLIONS WILL BE SOUGHT BY THE ARMY

The army's monetary requirements for the fiscal year starting July 1 next will be \$59,000,000,000, it was revealed by Congressman J. Buell Snyder (Dem., Pa.), chairman of House Appropriations Committee sub-committee dealing with military matters.

The sum to be sought, Snyder said, will be more than the entire cost of our participation in the last World War, \$17,000,000,000 more than the current year's appropriation and \$6,000,000,000 in excess of the President's January budget.

Snyder insisted "we should continue to prepare in a bigger way for at least four years more of war," adding that "we can only trust the President's January budget."

We have yet to read a report, from such sources, that the boys

PROLETAREC

THE MARCH OF LABOR



REFLECTIONS

By the Editor of the
Reading Labor Advocate

I experienced a strange reaction of uneasiness this week while reading an article telling how soldiers are being fed and urged civilians to adopt the same rules of diet as those followed in the armed forces. As it was published in "Victory Bulletin," a magazine published and distributed free by the Office of War Information, the story was authentic enough and advice contained was "kosher" in every respect.

Service men, I learned, are "given the food they like in meals that give them maximum nourishment." And that, of course, is all to the good. The article then went on to tell what the soldier and the civilian needs to obtain the calories and vitamins for nourishment and health. I read such familiar words as milk, eggs, cheese, liver, fish, poultry, lean pork, green leafy vegetables, apricots, melons.

Why, then, should I feel uneasy? Surely, I want the sons of America's workers who have been drafted into the armed forces to be properly fed. Surely I must agree that civilians would do well to plan their diets by like menus. Surely it is well that the government is giving thought and publicity to the whole matter of correct diet. What was bothering me?

Suddenly I know. The trouble was that I was not thinking about the present at all, but about the past.

My mind was back in the dismal decade which began in 1929, and I found myself saying, "Why, dammit, they knew this all the time!"

Yes, They knew it!

What a man or a little child needed was a matter of scientific knowledge even while millions of people were being "kept going" on poverty rations.

Back in the days when private industry's discards were getting handouts of "flour paste," to be mixed with water and eaten, and canned meat that many hungry people just couldn't bring themselves to eat even then the authorities KNEW about lean pork and white milk and fruits and leafy vegetables.

While they were starving the people with one hand, so to speak, and destroying little pigs with the other—the people who wrote and enforced the rules of the game of life KNEW that the American people were not getting what was needed for healthy living. While Pres. Roosevelt was giving his promise that "none shall starve" in America, there were men of scientific minds who could have told him that starvation was a long-drawn-out process for miserable adults and children who were then getting the ration of planned scarcity.

Well, there is a contrast between the past and the present which shows how people are treated—deliberately starved when an owning class has no use for them and carefully fed, like farm animals at plowing time, when there is a special job to be done.

There isn't much of human dignity in the picture.

Neither is there much of hope for the future, when the present task has been done and the labor and sacrifice and strength and blood of workers no longer are pressing needs.

For the same class owns and the same people rule.

What will the lot of people be ten years hence? Can workers afford to trust the people who kept them on a bellagran diet when the supervisors of the dole knew all about calories and minerals and vitamins?

Are Americans not risking another era of flour-paste diets unless they act now to make the means of life the property of all the people and—now, before the war ends—establish an order of abundance for use to replace the way of scarcity for profit?

RAILROAD PROFITS ARE UP 100 PER CENT

Class I railroads in the Southern states report that for the first three months of this year, after they have paid interest on their bonds and all other obligations, they had net profits of \$41,500,000, an increase of almost 100 per cent over the same period last year.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific made a more spectacular showing. Its profits for the first three months of the year went over the \$8,000,000 mark, an increase of about 400 per cent over the same period in 1942.

WORSE THAN EVIL

Rationing of railroad passengers travel would provide a cure that's "worse than the disease," Defense Transportation Chief Joseph B. Eastman declared recently.

Under-Cover Pressures

The failure of OPA head Prentiss Brown to enforce grade labeling of canned foods is but one of a series of shameful administrative retreats on the anti-inflation front.

It is obvious that there cannot be effective price control of these goods without grade labeling.

Though the President has called for a roll-back of prices to September levels, new meat ceilings have been announced that mean a substantial rise over existing prices; and the OPA has increased one price after another.

Since the President's order, the price of corn has been raised by 5 cents per bushel; and Food Administrator Chester Davis has refused to put ceilings on livestock and other farm products affecting the cost of living.

More than that, he has ordered discontinuance of the school-lunch and school-milk program, that benefits some five million American children.

The direct pressures of business interests and price profiteers that have caused some of these retreats are obvious. But less obvious, and more effective, have been the under-cover pressures from the tory element in Congress.

Among its first acts, the present Congress set up a number of "investigating committees," each headed by the worst type of poll-tax and anti-New Deal reactionary, to harry and smear the administration.

In addition to the notorious Dies committee, there are the Cox committee to probe the FCC, the Smith committee to probe almost any agency it chooses, and other committees.

These committees have been working secretly, and with little publicity so far, to frighten government administrators into doing their will. They are set on eliminating anything that smacks of "social reform"—which means almost anything that benefits the common people.

For fear of Congressional attack, many administrators are yielding again and again to this reactionary pressure, which amounts to political blackmail. To "appease Congress," some of them even retreat before the anticipated pressure is applied.

To counteract these secret business and tory pressures, labor must apply the public pressure of a storm of popular protest—not only to the administrators directly responsible for betraying the public to appease the profiteers, but also to Congress itself.—The CIO News.

As 'Serene' as Benito

Once again Gen. Franco has spoken as the loyal aide of Der Führer. He has consistently sided with the Axis. He has proudly identified himself with its purposes. The triumph of its Fascist New Order in our world, he told us not many months ago, was inevitable. Gen. Franco was very sincere in this hope. If fascism falls in Europe, he falls. That explains the insolence of his past language to America and Britain. It explains, equally, his current peace offensive.

A month ago Franco, alarmed by the tide of battle in Africa, as in Russia, was glad to serve his German master by launching the offensive, through his foreign minister. He tendered an olive branch to America and Britain. It was summarily rejected. Now Franco himself has spoken forth. "We have arrived," states he, "at a so-called dead stop in the fight: no belligerent is strong enough to destroy his adversary." To which he adds the gem: "We who look on serenely judge it is madness to retard peace."

In fact, Francisco! Your serenity in the light of Tunisia, we can well imagine, all but equal that of Mussolini. And how right you are, from the viewpoint of every Fascist, that it is madness to retard peace.

Germany's only hope today is that a "peace" drive and other divisional tactics can separate the Allies and bring the war to a close with the German machine still intact or repairable. Its armies will fight hard to make the war as costly as possible for Britain and America. Meantime its satellites will continue to send up "peace" balloons. Like Franco in his Sunday speech, Hitler will continue to tell us about the Russian menace. He will do these things in the hope that the toll of the war, plus the siren of surcease, plus the propaganda of the American red-baiting front, will rob us of our will to carry through to the unconditional surrender of fascism. He and Franco, wage the peace offensive in the knowledge that total victory is ours for the fighting.

In serving the campaign Franco is logical, also ridiculous. The spectacle of this insolent little Hitler agent telling us that no one can win the war, when he has just learned not merely of German defeat in Africa but of utter German rout there, involving the capture of no less than six hervolok generals, is Franco at his funniest. It's no use, Francisco. The drive to unconditional surrender of the Axis is speeding; and it has no turning back.—The Chicago Sun.

SENATE APPROVES ANTI-STRIKE BILL

Legislation Makes Uncle Sam Strikebreaker; Stiff Penalties for Violations

Hot and bothered by the brief coal miners' strike, the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, rushed through legislation designed to shackle all workers for the duration.

The long-pigeonholed "Connally Bill" to outlaw strikes was dusted off, brought back to the floor, and after several days of bitter debate, was put over by a vote of 63 to 16.

Both Senator Alben W. Barkley (Dem., Ky.), Administration leader, and Senator Charles L. McNary (Rep., Ore.), minority leader, pleaded for delay, but the bill's sponsor, Senator Tom Connally (Dem. Tex.), fought desperately to railroad the measure through.

Wheeler's Vain Appeal

Senator Burton K. Wheeler (Dem., Mont.), also led a losing fight to refer the bill back to the Judiciary Committee for study, appealing to his colleagues not to pass such legislation "just because great financial newspapers of the country say we should."

The bill calls for government seizure of strikebound properties, which would be returned to bosses after a walkout was smashed, thus making Uncle Sam No. 1 strikebreaker. Any one who participates in, or in any way aids a strike during government operation, would be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and a year in jail or both.

OF LIKE MIND

"Mary," said a lady to her maid, "I don't like the looks of that man who called to see you last night."

"Well, well," said Mary, "ain't it funny, ma'am? He said the same about you!"

Liberate Anti-Fascists, Religious Leaders Urge

NEW YORK.—Liberation of Spanish Republican Army veterans from concentration camps in North Africa has been asked by 427 Protestant bishops, clergymen, editors and presidents of theological seminaries in a letter to President Roosevelt.

Editor Kenneth Leslie of The Protestant, a non-denominational magazine, made public the letter May 4.

The petition declares: "There can be no excuse for this open disregard of your command made nine days after the historic landing of American military forces in North Africa last November."

It goes on to quote Roosevelt's order requesting "the liberation of all persons in North Africa who had been imprisoned because they opposed the efforts of the Nazis to dominate the world."

SHIPIARD WORKERS AGAIN SMASH RECORD

Turn Out Vessels in April At Rate of More Than Five Daily

America's shipyard workers have broken records, turning out 157 merchant ships in April, more than five a day, the Maritime Commission announced jubilantly this week.

Every month this year, the workers have been setting new high marks and they are now producing ships at a rate higher than the goal set for 1943, the commission reported.

In the first four months of '43, the shipbuilders put more vessels into service than in nine months of 1942. Henry Kaiser is still leading the nation in speed of production, the commission said.