

"Backseat Driving" in War Times

"Backseat driving" has been a favorite "outdoor sport" with the American people for many years. It doesn't do any particular harm, especially when "Dad" is at the wheel, "Junior" beside him, and "Ma" and "Sis" full of apprehension, in the rear seat.

They know "Dad" is just a "Sunday driver," and they know the chances are pretty good he will hit that truck or crash into that street car. So they gasp instructions, and they are not always wrong, by any means.

But "backseat driving" in a World War is a horse of quite a different color, and we are certainly getting too much of it.

Almost every columnist is screaming instructions. Not one in ten ever toted a gun in his life. Editors and members of Congress are also apoplectic. Even Mr. Willkie, sitting in his Wall Street law office, equipped with a pencil and pad, solves the problem without the slightest difficulty.

These "backseat drivers" can't agree among themselves. Some shout that MacArthur must be brought back from the Philippines, and given supreme command. Others insist we must fling an army into Italy or, with the aid of the British, open another front in Norway. Or land on the coast of France and "blitzkrieg" toward Berlin.

Perhaps all these suggestions are excellent. But those of us who are associated with LABOR are not military strategists. Frankly, we haven't any plan for winning the war except: **Keep the American people united and working like hell to produce more and more munitions!**

We do know that under our Constitution, Franklin Delano Roosevelt is commander-in-chief of our army and our navy. He will have the job until January, 1945, when his third term expires—and maybe longer.

As chief of staff he has General George C. Marshall. We confess we like Marshall. Never met him, and don't know what church he attends, or what his economic views may be.

But his fellow officers tell us he understands his trade, and we notice he seldom talks, but always says something when he does open up. And he doesn't appear to be running around looking for the photographers.

Somehow we like to feel that the President's chief military adviser is not a "glamor boy." In other words, we like our soldiers plain and tough and taciturn; and Marshall fills the bill.

We reserve the right to criticize the work of this administration whenever we see fit. But we are not going to tell President Roosevelt and General Marshall how to handle our armed forces. We are just smart enough to know we don't know any more about that subject than the editors, the columnists and the politicians like Mr. Willkie, who are giving such an appalling exhibition of "backseat driving."

We hope President Roosevelt has his ears stuffed with cotton so far as these gentlemen are concerned.

But we recognize there is a dangerous side to the situation. In a democracy, public opinion may be churned up to a point where men and women will become hysterical that those responsible for the conduct of the war will feel compelled to do something to "appease popular clamor." That would be disastrous. Even a "backseat driver" should be able to see that.

So far as this newspaper is concerned, it will not consciously do anything to "force the hand" of the Commander-in-Chief. He has all the available information concerning what is going on around the globe, and we take it for granted he is doing his best.

Instead of frenziedly suggesting what he should do next, we are disposed to humbly ask God to give him the wisdom, the courage and the strength to properly handle what is perhaps the most difficult task that has ever fallen to the lot of a human being.—Labor.

DON'T MAKE AMERICAN JAPANESE ENEMIES TO THE USA

The problem of Japanese aliens and American-born Japanese in California is an ugly one for all believers in freedom and democracy. It is an appalling fact that every day the sane and just people lose a little more ground to the representatives of hysteria and race prejudice. The facts should be faced: There are no doubt fifth columnist and subversive activities. The FBI is doing a thorough job of investigation and the general public has every reason to have confidence in this office and its officers. What happens instead? Japanese aliens in San Francisco who have to move from prohibited areas cannot find another place to live. Nobody will rent to them, nobody wants them in their neighborhood. Many have lost their jobs. During the two weeks prior to the establishment of prohibited areas in San Francisco, only thirty two applied for help at the State Employment Bureau. This number has jumped to one hundred during the last few days. It is a known fact that Japanese won't ask for help unless actually desperate. Many farmers are not planting their seeds for fear they won't be able to harvest their crops. Old people whose sons serve in the United States Army do not understand why they should be moved, much less where to.

Facts Manipulated

The daily papers bring sensational stories of arrests and raids. Checking up these reports one finds them to a very great extent misrepresented and falsified. The following may serve as a typical example: A newspaper report says: "Five Japanese spies were taken into custody yesterday." Further, "Among the out-Citizen's League. A. B.'s farm was Japanese, father-in-law of C. D., President of the local Japanese-American Citizens' League. A. B.'s farm was found to have a 20-ga. shotgun, large supply of ammunition, a short-wave receiving set, four flashlights." The facts are as follows: The "outstanding suspect" is an old man, hard of hearing, with poor eyesight. He is not the father-in-law of the local president of the JACL, the shot-gun was not in the possession of this old man, but of his son, who is an American citizen and has previously turned in his shotgun to the police who told him that they were not confiscating this kind of gun, so he took it home again. The large supply of ammunition consisted of a few cartridges. The short-wave receiving set was a small radio in the house of an American citizen who had also previously made sure that it was legal to keep

it. C. D. farms 800 acres with ten tractors which he runs also at night; hence the four flashlights. The investigation by the FBI of this farm and the surrounding district was made on account of a nearby military field. The "five Japanese spies" so far have not been identified as such, and will most likely be released.

Give Them a Chance

The Japanese-American creed read before the United States Senate, and printed in the Congressional Record, May 9, 1941, is a testimony upheld by the great majority of American-born Japanese.

Referring to a newspaper report, one of the officers of the JACL said: "I felt sick and discouraged when I read these false statements about myself, but my wife told me not to forget the Japanese-American creed, and reading it again I found now strength and confidence."

Let us give these people a chance to be the good citizens they want to be. Let us preserve the great agricultural work which is now in the hands of Americans of Japanese ancestry whom it would be difficult to replace. And last, but not least, let us uphold our own ideals as expressed in the Bill of Rights.

Gerda Isenberg, American Friends Service Committee, Los Altos, Calif.

Buy Defense Stamps For Defense

A warning has been issued against the misuse of United States Defense Stamps. It has recently been brought to light that persons are using stamps in place of cash for purchasing merchandise, and this is, of course, in opposition to the purpose for which they were originally issued. While U. S. Defense Savings Stamps are negotiable and redeemable upon presentation anywhere, such redemption should be reserved for a real emergency. Stamps are for war and defense, not for routine spending. Merchants who accept these stamps instead of money are equally to blame. It is urged that reports be made to the Better Business Bureau or the Treasury Department of specific instances where Defense Savings Stamps are so used.

The law stating that a person of foreign birth had to live in the United States for five years before he could become a citizen was passed in June, 1906.

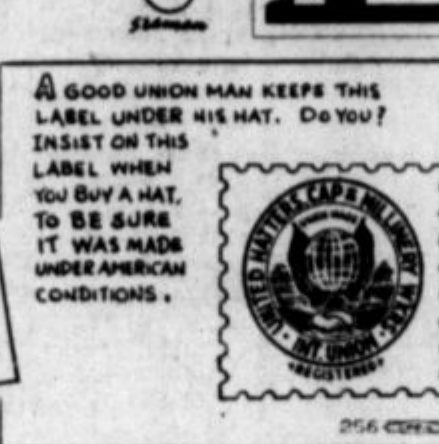
THE MARCH OF LABOR



GRETA GARBO'S
FIRST MOVIE PART WAS IN A FILM ADVERTISING SWEDEN'S INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WHOLESALE CO-OPERATIVE, ORGANIZED IN 1899.



ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY BEFORE THE TEMPORARY NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, PRODUCTION PER MAN-HOUR IN THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY INCREASED BY 36% BETWEEN 1929 AND 1939.



One Thing and Another

And now we hear suggestions that Gen. Douglas MacArthur should be elected president of the United States.

Isn't it funny how, in a democracy, when a man is good at one thing, a lot of people jump to the conclusion that he would be good at anything else he might be asked to do?

As an example, because Henry Ford was a success in making cheap automobiles, it was taken for granted that his opinions on public affairs would be worth mentioning. We'll leave it to you if they were.

Because Ulysses S. Grant was a good general, it was taken for granted that he would be a good president. He was elected. The result was that his great reputation received a setback.

After Admiral George Dewey and his men destroyed the Spanish navy in the Philippines, his friends tried to create a boom for him as a candidate for president. He seemed to be falling for it, but, fortunately for him and his place in history, the boom soon collapsed.

MacArthur did a brilliant job in the Philippines. This does not in the slightest degree indicate that he would make a good president. If anything, it indicates the opposite. Let him keep his high reputation. Don't spoil it by running him for an office for which he has had no training and probably has very little if any fitness.

It has been suggested that conservatives and reactionaries think it would be nice to sacrifice MacArthur on the presidency because they think his popularity would get him elected and thus prevent any liberal, who would continue to make social advances, from filling the position. And it is said that the conservatives and reactionaries remember that he was in charge when Commander in Chief Herbert Hoover wanted to get the bonus marchers out of Washington in 1930, and that they admire the way the boys were ousted.—Milwaukee Post.

PANICKY PATRIOTS

In spite of the healthy leveling effect of the war crisis, it seems that some Americans still have their rugged individualism—and don't mean to go ragged, either. The Chicago Journal of Commerce tells the absurd lengths to which some hoggish hoarders are going in that city.

A 65-year-old man placed an order with a Loop department store for 1½ dozen 25¢ wool union suits.

A suburban woman bought 5 two-piece wool suits and ten blouses. Another bought 6 corsets.

A customer of a downtown store bought two dozen white shirts "just in case there is a shortage."

A male customer purchased a dozen wool sweaters at \$3 to \$6 each.

If you are tempted to "lay in a stock" of some necessity, just stop and think how jolly you'd feel if there came a shortage of that thing and the people around you were suffering for want of it.

It's socially irresponsible acts like this which force government to step in and exercise economic controls, which are then denounced by the rugged individualists as "the very fascism we are fighting against."—The Co-operative Builder.

INVISIBLE FIGURES

The government weekly called "Defense" changed its name to "Victory" after Pearl Harbor. It used to be under the office of production management, and it is now the official bulletin of the office of emergency management. It gives a good deal of information regarding matters which have a bearing upon the victory program of production.

Among other things that official publication says that there were 4,200,000 unemployed in January.

These figures were invisible to the reactionaries who want to abolish WPA, CCC, NYA, the food stamp plan, and everything else the New Deal has done for the alleviation of suffering. Or if they notice the figures, they will not pay any attention to them. They would have prevented these measures from being adopted in the first place, in the midst of the depression when there were three times as many unemployed, if they could have done so.—"M. P."

Chicago Players Inspire New Interest in Dramatics

Chicago.—JSF Club No. 1 presented a play at SNPJ Hall on Sunday, March 15. It was a three act comedy titled "Poslednji mošt" (The last Man), with the following players: John, Olip, Angela Zaitz, Alice Arbach, Marya Omahen, John Rak, Louis Beniger, Jack Groser, Elaine Turpin, Mildred Simic and Darwin Taschwer. The director was Frank Zaitz, the prompter, Katka Zupancic and the pianist, Mitzi Owen; in all, thirteen people who worked together to provide the afternoon's entertainment.

Their excellent teamwork resulted in a good performance. The play itself is better than average comedy, and the leading roles were in the hands of our ranking players. The supporting roles brought out some fine talent, and this contributed to the general feeling that interest in our dramatics can and will be revived.

The writer has seldom seen a better audience than at this performance. Undoubtedly Frank Zaitz and Joakim Owen's opening remarks helped to create the spirit which prevailed, but also perhaps each of us realized that here is something precious to hold on to—the privilege of seeing a play in our native tongue without fear or hindrance, and that by so doing we are holding the torch for our people in our homeland until they, too, shall be free again!—A. B.

ANYTHING GOES

A good sample of the complete dishonesty of the Nazi propaganda coming out of Germany is the contradictory treatment of the same subject for different radio audiences.

In its propaganda to England on Feb. 4 the Goebbels lie-factory said, "Churchill has not yet realized that the United States is resolved to fight to the last Tommy."

In its propaganda to the United States on Feb. 17 the Goebbels lie-factory said, "England has taken the cream of the American youth while she keeps her own troops at home out of harm's way."

One type of lie to the British—an opposite type of lie to the Americans.

LOOKING AHEAD

BY LEN DE CAUX

Cooties are a pretty serious matter to the man at the front. They are dangerous disease-carriers as well as a constant annoyance. But the soldier must disregard them at times when he goes over the top. The enemy's steel and shells demand first attention.

War calls for an acute sense of proportion. First things must come first, or there won't be any second or third things. This is as true behind the front as at the front. War production—and more and more of it—must be the first and all-compelling consideration. All else, no matter how important, is secondary to producing enough to win.

CIO President Murray's ringing response to the production goals set by President Roosevelt and the program announced by Production Chief Nelson leaves no doubt as to labor's attitude. He speaks the sentiments of millions of American working people who know their immediate concentration, above all else, must be on working to win the war.

But cooties? Labor has them, too. War profiteers, newspaper liars, anti-union Congressmen, and a whole host more. Disease-carriers? You've said it. Unintentionally perhaps, they spread the poison of disunity and discord with which Hitler weakens his intended victims.

There isn't anything in any war book that says you shouldn't do all you can to get rid of cooties. On the contrary, the soldiers' health and welfare demand they be dealt with whatever possible.

Labor is devoting its first attention to more production to smash the Axis. But that doesn't mean it won't swat the cooties every chance it gets.

Lately the cooties have been gangling up on American labor. They have been taking advantage of the preoccupation of our soldiers of industry with more and more war production.

Surveys of the daily press reveal a shameful and widespread campaign for wage-cutting, under the phony pretext of "abolishing the 40-hour week." This is coupled with propaganda against wage increases, opposition to adequate benefits for the war unemployed, and calls for anti-labor laws.

The source of this campaign is not far to seek. The National Association of Manufacturers has been putting out distorted figures about a few minor unauthorized strikes of a few hours' duration, and other propaganda to whip up an anti-labor hysteria.

Employer dopesheets have been burbling about "rising anger against labor," about unions being "spoiled and cocky," about demands for legislation to "curb labor."

This campaign found its first expression in Congressman Howard Smith's attempted blitz against overtime pay, which would have destroyed the labor protections of 17 federal laws.

Labor, the administration and many friends of labor in Congress combined to expose the fraudulent claim that this Smith bill was designed to permit longer hours for more war production.

Actually there is no legal limit of working hours to 40. Much longer hours are worked in many war industries, and Secretary Perkins pointed out that "more than two-fifths of the plants in defense industry are operating their equipment for 160 hours a week or more."

The Smith bill would simply have cut the wages of war workers for the purpose of increasing already swollen war profits. It was defeated 225 to 62.

But this defeat of the cootie crowd has not disposed of them. The propaganda on which they feed has not stopped, but is rather increasing again.

Demands for anti-labor legislation are heard again and again in Congress. They come from a selfish minority of poll-tax Congressmen and stooges of the profiteers, who seek to take advantage of labor no matter how much this may hurt our war effort.

The purpose of these demands is clear. They are intended as a threatening club over labor's head every time it enters into wage negotiations that may reduce profits, or seek fair conditions to promote labor morale and more production.

NAM Starts A Backfire

The crude attempt of the National Association of Manufacturers and its newspaper yes-men to blame organized labor for production failures makes fantastic reading at this late date in our war efforts.

The NAM's doctored figures, dutifully spread over front pages by the labor-hating press which knows where its advertising revenue comes from, demonstrate anew that war or no war, the Association continues to pursue its single-minded objective of smearing organized labor.

Last week the NAM broke out with a rash of phony figures designed to show that strikes all but paralyzed war production in January. Official data shows, of course, that labor-management disputes hardly affected total production at all, but the NAM is playing a crafty game. It is building a backfire for the criticism it knows is bound to come when the public gets the full story of production failures. And the story is beginning to come out, bit by bit.

A New York Times survey showed that "thousands of man-hours of aircraft production" are being lost in the metropolitan New York district alone because of a shortage of materials.

W. H. Harriman, production chief for the War Production Board, announced that the armament program was running headlong into shortages of steel and aluminum.

Fortune Magazine, the \$1-a-copy organ of big business, announced that a poll of management revealed "shortage of materials" as "the most important problem facing business in the war years ahead."

Marquis Childs reported to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that the chief of one of the largest aircraft companies in the country had stated categorically that his plants could produce twice as many planes if it were not for shortages of materials.

Now all this adds up, as even the NAM can see, to a critical shortage of materials which has nothing whatever to do with organized labor. The absence of adequate stocks of materials like steel and aluminum can be traced directly to the refusal of the great industries which dominate NAM to expand and convert plant capacity last year and the year before when they were urged to do so.

Donald Nelson summed it up recently when he said that "we've lost a lot of time because industry was fearful of what might happen after the war." Yes, industry was playing it close to the vest, examining each unit of increased production in terms of potential profits and not the country's needs.

We are paying the price today for this selfish, short-sighted, profit-as-usual attitude of big business. And the NAM and its newspaper errand boys have the effrontery to blame organized labor for production failures. It was labor which pointed the way to plant conversion last year and the year before, only to have its recommendations tossed into the ashcan by the NAM and its representatives who were masquerading as \$1-a-year patriots in OPM.—The Progressive.

What Is a Labor Dictatorship?

Just as a contribution to keeping the record straight, we now "say our say" about a fear expressed by Representative Cox of Georgia. Said Mr. Cox on the floor of the House:

"We're moving toward a labor dictatorship in this country."

Not being a mind-reader, we just don't know what kind of arrangement Mr. Cox had in mind when he spoke of a labor dictatorship. If what he fears is nothing more than that the American people are going to hand the power of government over to a group of union leaders, then he is foreseeing something that would not be much of an improvement over what we have already known. For any group, once in power, would tend to become selfseeking and tyrannical. In that case Labor would merely be changing masters.

If, however, Mr. Cox believes that present trends are leading to a condition under which the workers of America will be able to stop paying tribute to an owner-employer class, then we hope he sees clearly.

We Socialists are not wishing for the day when workers will dictate to owners—as owners have dictated to workers for so many years. What we want is the end of the class society under which owners and workers are different people with hostile interests. We foresee the classless society under which everybody will be a worker and government will exist merely to regulate how everybody shall work together for the common good.

We have a feeling that Mr. Cox isn't worried about our Socialist objective. Mention it to him and he'd probably snort, "humph, Utopian!" But if any dictatorship should ever come to be the American way of life it will happen because Cox AND the American working class have permitted the present class economy to run its course to the end. — Reading Labor Advocate.

"Enemy Aliens"

As Eleanor Roosevelt says, it is unfortunate that we have to use the expression "enemy aliens." In fact, we do not have to use it—it is merely a custom—but try to stop its use. Like other bad customs, it hangs on. An "enemy alien" is a person who was born in a country with which we are at war and has not become a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Many of these residents, although aliens, are not enemies at all, but are entirely friendly to the United States and its people.

Indeed, many of them are here because of their disgust for the despotic regimes in their own countries, and would like to do everything in their power to help the United Nations to overthrow the Axis powers.

Some "enemy aliens" are both enemies and aliens. The FBI is pretty well posted as to their identity and has already taken some of them into custody. It is keeping tabs on the others and will nab them if they try to pull off any shenanigan.

It was the duty of any of the aliens who had been here for some time to apply for citizenship, if eligible, and relieve themselves of an embarrassing situation, but, like so many natives,

they were more negligent than foresighted.

In the case of the Japanese, this country left them out of the quota allowances in the immigration law and they were not permitted to become citizens. This was quite unnecessary, as there were but few of them who could have become citizens under the same quota provisions made for other nations anyhow, and it always was a sore spot with Japan and was one of the things that made Japan hate this country. Some of the Japanese in this country are enemies as well as aliens, and others are only aliens.

As Eleanor says, let the FBI take care of the real or suspected enemy aliens, and let there be no vigilantes or individuals taking the law into their own hands. Vigilantism is lawlessness, and individuals always make a mess of things when they assume to enforce the law instead of calling the police or other law-enforcement officers.—Milwaukee Post.

Profiteers' Staggering "Rakeoff"

We like to present a witness who cannot be accused of being biased in favor of labor. The "Wall Street Journal" is such a witness. We quote the following from a first-page story in a recent issue of that eminently conservative publication:

"Inflation cost the American retail consumers \$600,000,000 in January. For the most part this inflation bill, which represents nothing more than higher prices, was paid out for non-durable goods, covering general merchandise, foods, clothing, fuels, rents, etc."

Multiply that figure by 12 and we have \$7,200,000,000. That's the amount the profiteers will take out of the pockets of the consumers of this country during the next year unless something is done to restrain them.

That's almost as much as Mr. Morgenthau is seeking to raise through the new tax bill he has recently asked Congress to enact.—Labor.

THE CALL TO THE COLORS IS A CALL FOR DOLLARS



Dig deep. Strike hard. Our boys need the planes, ships, and guns which your money will help to buy.

Go to your bank, post office, or savings and loan association. Tell them you want to buy Defense Bonds regularly, starting now.