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"C'Did Be Dot Our Goot Fuehrer Vas Misinformed?"



Washington Column

By Peter Edson (NEA Staff Correspondent)
Washington, D. C.—Without prejudice and just for the fun of it, there are here set down a number of recently observable trends in what is known as "the labor movement," so that he who reads may also run his finger down the list and make his own conclusions on where this labor movement might be headed:

Union membership is now close to 14 million, or roughly one out of every four persons in the labor force, one out of three industrial or non-farm workers.
There are five principal groups within the movement, AFL, CIO, Railway Brotherhoods, John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers, and the Independents. Though these groups get together in various combinations for specific purposes, general unification of the labor movement in a common front seems to be making no progress whatever.

The need for a department of labor to serve as labor's spokesman in the halls of government has ceased to exist. Organized labor itself is interested and active in every phase of government activity. The labor lobbies are as powerful as any pressure groups ever established in Washington by industrial groups.

Union officials sit on many war agency advisory groups. Union representatives sit on the national war labor board, passing judgment on its own controversies, though not always winning majority decisions to labor's liking.

Activities of the CIO political action committee are well known to everyone who showed any interest at all in the last national elections. While openly opposed by leaders of the other big labor groups, the PAC program was unquestionably followed by many rank and file members of those other groups.
Many labor policy decisions on both international and national affairs are made by labor leaders

RUSSIA AND JAPAN
One by one, occurrences recorded in the news, aside from that dealing specifically with battles, point the way and measure the progress of the war. Such occurrences have been government changes of axis powers and axis satellites, eleventh hour declarations of war by Turkey and Argentina. Latest of them is the action by Russia in denouncing that nation's neutrality treaty with Japan.

This is good news, of course. Hitherto Russia has been bound to take no military action against the enemy of her allies. Now Russia will be free to take such action after another year. That Russia might enter the war against Japan has long been the hope of America and Great Britain. Whether Russia would do so has been, and still is a matter for conjecture. The difference between now and then is in the removal of the barrier to war between the two nations.

There was a time, and it does not seem so long ago, when Russia was being pounded back, far behind her western frontier, when Japan, as well as Germany, was mighty, when Italy was still a going concern. In that time Turkey was meticulously preserving neutrality, Argentina was unwilling to take sides with the allies. Russia's one war with Germany was enough and more than enough. Another war, with Japan, could easily have been fatal. Indeed, it will be recalled that Germany diligently endeavored to persuade Japan to war on Russia. It was fortunate for Russia that Japan felt that it would be good business to finish off America first.

There came a later time, however, when Turkey felt that it was not only safe but necessary to join forces with the allies. Presently Argentina was convinced that a voice in the post-war world depended on her record in the pre-war world. So Argentina lined up against the axis.

Now Germany is no longer an offensive threat. The days when vast armies are needed to overcome the nazi resistance are numbered. Japan's might is dwindling. No longer does Russia require a treaty's assurance that Japan will not attack. The treaty has become one which is for Japan's benefit only. Hence the denunciation. The treaty is on its way out.

Russia has not declared war on Japan, but she will be in position to do so. In this fact, without actual warfare, Japan is weakened. But Japan was already weakening and Germany was already nearing the time when she could longer do mischief. The notice of treaty annulment marks this trend.

Death's BRIGHT DIAMONDS by Lionel Mosher
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TENSION XVII
Charley sat quietly for a long time staring at the distant white tower of the lighthouse on Old Prince. Finally he said:
"Could that fellow have killed you down in the cellar?"

"I shuddered.
"What makes you think he didn't try?"
"Figure it this way," Charley spoke impersonally as if he were working out a simple problem in long division. "If the fellow who entered your room last night and the one you encountered in the cellar are the same man, and I think they are, you may explain his actions as attempts to avoid discovery. You surprised him in your room, and, of course, he shot. But there's the possibility that he may not have known it was you in the room. Then you were prowling around in the cellar and, in order to protect his identity, he hit you on the head. It strikes me that if he had really wanted you out of the way, he could have hit you a lot harder—or he could have hit you again. He had plenty of time, you know."

"I felt the back of my head gingerly.
"On the other hand," continued Charley, "the fellow who slugged Joubert and sabotaged our plane must be the same man. All of which still leaves us precisely nowhere," I said.
"Not quite," Charley leaned forward and tapped me on the knee. "You haven't forgotten that Booker was anxious to talk you into something, that Calavestri slipped you what is very probably one of the Ostermann diamonds, and that she was murdered while trying to contact you."

"Or Eric Woolf?"
"I doubt it," replied Charley. "From there on it seems relatively simple. You had possession for awhile of one of the Ostermann diamonds. Somebody besides Marks must have known that—Booker possibly. So far as anyone on the outside goes you might still have it. And that makes you a marked man."

"Very pretty," I said, "but still no more than a theory."
When the seven of us gathered around the table for lunch, the air had cleared a little. Bruce Temple, it seemed, had been persuaded to delay his departure until afternoon by the promise of native pheasant, which Pat had wheedled out of Nig Nelson's, the grocer's, own private refrigerator. And Temple had brought in Tocky, his Filipino houseboy, to cook the meal. Woolf beamed ecstatically at the appearance of the birds and Charley murmured:
"Four dollars a portion at Harvey's."

"Harvey's?" Eric looked up pleasantly. In the presence of good food he became expansive, almost human. "In Washington, you mean?"
"That's right."
"Dinner at Harvey's is one of the bright spots in my life. Martin's first at the Carlton. Then sturgeon at Harvey's." Woolf put back his head, closed his eyes and bestowed a reverent kiss upon the memory.
"Martin's," repeated Bruce Temple. His massive, rock-like features had relaxed. "That calls up memories. The best martins in the world are to be had in the Palacio Hotel in Estoril."

"I know... THAT'S THE THING THAT MELTS ME DOWN!"
"WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE MAKES HIM TREMBLE THE WAY HE DOES?"
"Maybe he has a VITAMIN DEFICIENCY!"

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and executive committees before reference to union membership. This had led to charges of dictatorship of the rank and file by its hierarchy. If such dictatorship exists, it can be viewed as a healthy thing in attempts to enforce such decisions as the "no-strike pledge." It can be viewed with alarm if it suppresses the freedom of thought or action of the rank and file.
Among the debatable major objectives of the labor movement, these trends are worth watching: Post-war full employment and increased social security. Broad and better public housing. More public health measures, including health insurance, hospitaliza-

tion and even socialized medicine. Royalties on production to provide worker benefits.
U. S. Casualties Nearing 900,000
Washington, April 6 (U.P.)—U. S. combat casualties officially compiled and announced have reached 892,909. This means that the actual total, including losses yet to be recorded in Washington, has surpassed 900,000.
Today's official figure was 2,047 greater than that announced week ago. It included 798,383 army and 94,526 navy, marine corps and coast guard casualties.

WHAT CAN YOU SPARE THAT THEY CAN WEAR?
In the war-torn countries ravaged by Nazi hordes, 125 million people—30 million of them children—are in desperate need of clothing—your clothing—your spare clothing—to shield them against death from exposure, from disease, and misery. Every garment helps.
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