

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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SOCIALISTS ASK "CAPITALISTIC" FINANCING

England is flirting with the doctrine of national socialism. The failure of that political philosophy was shown up vividly by the war. Of England's export tonnage, 70 per cent is coal. Its 706,000 miners produce only some 200,000,000 tons of coal a year, compared with 600,000,000 tons produced by some 400,000 miners in the United States.

Getting a ton of British coal to the top of the group costs \$4.20 for labor; \$1.40 in America. Why this startling difference in the man-output of coal in the two countries? Answer, government interference and tax laws that discourage improvements and replacement of old machinery, and regulations which penalize efficient methods. Coal doubled in price in England during the war, while American coal advanced slightly. Results for England, low wages and a ruined export trade. The true facts were so craftily hidden from the workers that they shouted for government ownership, and in the last election gained their objective, when too much government had already ruined the industry.

The new labor government that promises socialization of the Bank of England, the mines and the railroads, is already seeking to borrow billions in the United States, a "capitalistic" country, to finance its socialistic philosophy. What irony to see the collectivists in England asking our country, which pays its own way from the profits of free enterprise, to tax its people to furnish the money (profits) necessary to finance national socialism. In other words, we are asked to finance a system that frowns on profits, but which would compete with our own industries.

Let other countries go socialistic if they desire, but let America retain its independence and its capital to out-produce them in quality, quantity and price.

WE NEED A NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING

In the postwar plans for Ashland, numerous items have been set out as needed here, such as truck by-pass, new streets, etc., but nowhere have we seen any plans for a new post office building. With plans for post-war government projects for public works developing, right now would be a good time to ask for a new post office building here. It wouldn't cost this community anything, except the time to draw up the request.

The first of July the local post office was raised to a first class office, an increase this community can well be proud of. But the present quarters, no doubt adequate when the office was third class, are hardly adequate for a first class office. We know that no new buildings have been under construction during the war years, so that nothing could be done about it, but if there is to be public money available for such things, right here would be a good place to spend some of it.

IS IT A TEST OF POWER

This week this nation is faced with strikes in several important industries covering the nation . . . in the automobile industry in Detroit; the lumber industry in the Pacific Northwest, elevator operators in New York, oil company employees in the midwest, and others. While they have not spread to the proportions of paralyzing the nation, the threat is there and indications point to the regrettable fact that other industries will soon be tied up with strikes. And from the way these have started, it would appear that they were long and carefully planned by union leaders, and is more a test of strength to see who shall rule, the manufacturers or the unions, rather than any desire to help out the working man.

To our way of thinking, the strikes are ill-timed and ill-advised. We may sympathize with the working man, and no doubt most people do, in that workers in many industries have not asked for raises in pay, during the war years, because of federal laws and War Labor Board pronouncements, but at this time, when several million men are already out of work, from closures of war industries, when the task of reconverting to peace time production is rough enough without union troubles, when the nation is desperately in need of some of the very articles which are being stopped from being manufactured by the acts of the unions, is not very good strategy, to say the least.

When strikes occur, the entire nation suffers, and most of all the working men out of work because of it. The unions may and do contribute funds to their members, but it is not enough to provide more than a bare subsistence during the strike. A nation starved for automobiles, lumber, gasoline and other materials the production of which is being impeded by strikes, will raise such a clamor that unions will suffer in prestige.

Again from the union standpoint, they may think that this is the proper time to strike, as public opinion would force the manufacturers into accepting the demands of the unions.

But which ever view is taken of the situation, it looks to us as though there is a fight between organized labor, and the entrenched manufacturers with both being prepared to fight it out. There is every indication that the struggle will be long and bitter, with the consuming public caught between the two. And we might point out that neither the unions or manufacturers took time out to attempt to settle their differences by negotiation, a thing we have learned the past few years could settle a great many differences.

AGAINST FORGETTING

So Premier Higashi-Kuni says Japan will forget the bombs if America will forget Pearl Harbor. This sounds too much like the little boy on the way to the woodshed who says, "Dad, suppose we just forget the whole thing." It is rightly attacked as the latest package of effrontery wrapped in pink ribbons. It ought also to be labeled, "Dangerous—Don't Touch."

Here is a real booby trap. If it were possible for Americans to forget Pearl Harbor it would be the last thing they should do. For it would mean losing one of the most effective lessons they have ever had. To forget Pearl Harbor would be to forget what happened when America tried first to live as if she were not a great world power, then tried to resist the Axis without fighting. America cannot afford to forget

Japanese treachery at the very time she is seeking to prevent a recurrence. Nor can she forget her own place in the world just when the "bring-the-boys-home" cry is reaching full voice.

Here is a booby trap for Japan also. If she could forget the B-29's and the atomic bombs it would be the last thing she should do. For her own sake as well as the sake of humanity let Japan never forget what happened when she launched on a career of conquest.

It is noteworthy that Premier Higashi-Kuni did not say "forgive". Forgiveness goes with repentance and carries a real change of thinking. There is great need for it. But none at all for forgetfulness—for pretending that there is nothing to repent.—Christian Science Monitor.

Letter From Washington

BY HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Representative In Congress
from Oregon

Since the House has been in session following the recent recess, I have noticed a decidedly different atmosphere. While the war was on, there was more or less restraint. Criticism of government agencies, which in any way touched the actual prosecution of the war, was always carefully voiced, so that the speaker could not be accused of hampering the war effort. Criticism of the War and Navy Departments was, of course, almost never heard. Now, Members who feel inclined to be critical about anything or anybody, are giving full vent to their ideas. I have also noticed that clashes in debate of a political nature are more frequent, and are of a more "rough and tumble" variety than formerly.

The Congress has voted to conduct its own investigation of the Pearl Harbor disaster. Unfortunately, the resolution as passed provides for the control of the investigating committee by the Administration. Republican members of the House made a hard fight to have the investigating committee appointed on an equal bi-partisan basis, but were voted down.

The recent reorganization of the Department of Labor is something that should have been done years ago. For a long time, the Secretary of Labor and the entire Department have been almost a useless part of our government. Other than the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which has always enjoyed an excellent reputation, the Labor Department apparently has not been functioning. Now, with the addition of the War Manpower Commission duties, and with the War Labor Board operating under the Department, the Secretary of Labor is getting set to do a real job.

The other reductions and consolidations of agencies is also obviously a good trend. Many of us have felt that far too many new agencies and offices have been created during the last several years to solve problems which have been handled by existing organizations. The elimination of these surplus groups will make for reduction of federal expense and greater efficiency in government.

Although there have been many big headlines, emanating both from Capitol Hill and the White House recently, the Congress has also been considering some rather important minor legislation.

The House passed H. R. 1591, to provide for additional Naval Midshipmen and West Point Cadets; H. R. 1645, which provides that veterans, who are engaged in war jobs after being discharged, may have ninety days after leaving their war plant job in which to apply for their pre-war positions; H. R. 3755, which, if passed by the Senate, will establish an Optometry Corps in the Army Medical Corps; H. R. 1123, which increases the age limit for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point to twenty-three years for boys who have been in the service one year or more during this war.

A bill to stimulate voluntary recruitment in the armed forces was also passed. It is anticipated

that this bill, when it becomes law, will have the effect of hastening demobilization by adding additional personnel to the services.

The entire Oregon delegation in Congress, our two Senators and four representatives, called on General Bradley, head of the Veterans Administration, recently, urging more hospital beds at the Portland Veterans facility. I feel certain this combined effort of the Oregon delegation, not only on this problem but on other problems, is very effective. All six of us are pulling together as a team, and we all enjoy working in that way.

The lifting of restrictions on building (officially known as Order No. L-41) seems to have met with universal approval here. The building industry can and will provide employment for a vast number of men. There is the danger, of course, that some building materials may become short when the building boom gets under way, so, to prevent skyrocketing prices on such materials, it is necessary that price ceilings be maintained. Unless homes and other buildings can be constructed on a basis that will make such real property a sound value, we cannot expect maximum employment in the building trades. None of us like government controls, but in this case, proper controls would seem to be necessary.

Maybe It's Me!

By Ruth Taylor

When everything is crossways and upset, when you feel that all those around you are either malingering or doing their jobs badly, when you are overwhelmed by the crass stupidity and inefficiency of those in authority—then is the time to stop and say "Maybe it's me!"

Is the world against us? Or we against the world? Are people always fighting us? Or are we combative? Have we a perpetual chip upon our shoulders? Have we been interested only in our own rights and in our own problems?

Are we misunderstood by our fellow men? Is everyone else out of step?—Well, what has been our attitude toward others? Have we been open and friendly, ready to understand and to be understood, or have we assumed a "take it or leave it" attitude? It works both ways.

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We cannot create good feeling by force. We cannot legislate friendships. We cannot get full cooperation on demand. But - we can draw sympathy and understanding for our own problems by our own attitudes towards the difficulties of others.

We like people who like us. We are friendly toward those who give us friendship. We are considerate of those who are fair to us. This works in reverse, as well.

"Maybe it's me!" Maybe the trouble is with us. "Let's be doubly sure our own attitude is right before we start criticising the other fellow. Let's do some self-straightening-out first."

Let's not be so quick on the trigger to defend ourselves. If our actions are right, we don't have to put up a defense - we just have to tell the facts. Let's be readier to understand the op-

inion and wishes of others and deal with them as we wish them to deal with us.

"Maybe it's me!" That's the place to start to improve the conditions around us. And, after all, - maybe it is me!

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