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## POLL TAX WILL BE REPEALED

The United States Senate ignored the popular demand for poll tax repeal, a demand that was reflected in the decisive 3 to 1 vote of the House of Representatives for poll tax repeal only a few weeks ago.

The Senate capitulated to minority rule. It gave way before the first assault of appeasement. It capitulated not to guns and bombs but to words and threats. It listened for a week to words "of sound and fury signifying nothing." And then it retreated.

But the American people will not retreat. They will not tolerate partisanship or bargaining or collusion with appears. They will not tolerate obstruction of our war effort.

The American people have pledged their all for victory over Nazism and Fascism. They will fight the Axis on the battlefield. They will fight its cohorts in our midst. They will fight division and discrimination. And they will repeal the poll tax, sooner or later. That is certain.

## PROTECT STANDARDS NOW

Vital importance of maintaining labor standards during wartime was stressed in a recent "Labor for Victory" radio program presented by the AFL. Three soldiers were heard talking as they opened packages from home on Christmas morning. One soldier, who had explained the benefits of buying union label goods, answered the question of another as to why preservation of standards was of interest to men in the armed services, saying:

"It's darned important for us soldiers that union standards be maintained and not shot to pieces even with a war on. In the first place, you and I know that our families have got to get along without our help for the duration and if they start cutting my old man's pay, my folks would starve."

"But what we've also got to remember is that this war isn't going to last forever. When it's over, we won't be eating on the Government any more. All of us are going to have to find jobs and go to work to rebuild the world that Hitler and his gang are trying to destroy."

"And how are we going to feel then if the only jobs open to us are in sweatshops, if wages are cut so low that we won't be able to make up for lost time and start raising families of our own?"

"How will we feel if while we've been risking our lives to defend our American way of life, it's been whittled down to a bare crust while we were too busy to prevent it?"

That the argument struck home was shown by the remarks of one soldier that "It would be a crying shame if they did that to us," echoed by another's "You said it."

Labor participation in the planning and administration of the war effort gives assurance to all workers of the development of a constructive program to assure workers jobs, adequate incomes, economic security, and economic justice when the war is won.

## COMMENT ON WORLD EVENTS

GREAT BRITAIN has given proof that a democratic nation can organize for total war without losing its freedom, says Prof. William S. McCauley of Smith College in a study prepared for the American Council on Public Affairs.

In a statement based on the study, both of which should be required reading for American advocates of labor regimentation and other totalitarian controls, Prof. McCauley points out that the United States may well benefit by greater consideration of Britain's policies, problems and experiences in connection with its manpower program.

The statement is based on an exhaustive study of British manpower developments — "evidently the most comprehensive study made in the field," the public affairs council says.

This country, in framing manpower policies, can benefit considerably from Britain's experience, Prof. McCauley holds.

"For Britain," he goes on to explain, "with her tradition of individual freedom, her peacetime unplanned economy and her independent labor movement, more closely resembles the United States than any other great power. Moreover, Britain, like the United States, entered this war without any effective production plans and under pressure of wartime survival has been forced to devise a comprehensive scheme of manpower controls."

"Today Britain is the most completely mobilized democracy in the history of government. Practically all available manpower—over 23 million men and women out of total working population of 33 millions—is engaged

Edward Flore, president, Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance.

## WHAT NEXT?

Collapsible tubes, long made from tin, are now being made from a plastic. The tubes resemble tin tubes and can be rolled up to get the last drop more easily than tin could, it is said.

## WISDOM

Slow are the steps of freedom, but her feet never turn backward.—James Russell Lowell.

## THE CHERRY TREE

Where with our Little Hatchet we tell  
the truth about many things, sometimes  
profoundly, sometimes flippantly, some-  
times recklessly. . . .

Every now and then, in the midst of battle reports, there comes the urge to think of a post-war world.

Of course, unless the Allied Nations, or the United Nations, to use the proper term, win complete victory the post-war world be something from which to flee, something fearsome to contemplate.

But the United Nations WILL win and there WILL be a post-war world of freedom and progress and decency—and of marvelous things for the use of men and women who no longer fear the toll of global war.

What sort of life will there be when this war is over?

Nobody can answer with any degree of satisfaction, or with any degree of accuracy.

But some things we do know — and they are mostly good.

We shall have to pay the debt of war—the price of freedom. Perhaps that will be a heavy burden, but it will not be too heavy.

Beyond that this one thing we do know: The world we had before this war loosed its stream of blood will never be known again. Some certain things are ended, finished, done for keeps.

Among those things is the kind of exploitation that made our earlier billionaire barons. That's done with. And as that thing checks out, there must come a higher level for the 90 percent who never before had any certainly secure level and who, often and in great numbers, were pitched face downward into degraded depression, from the depths of which hope rose again only because there is an inner well spring in the human frame that keeps hope alive, even against all of the evidences visible to reason.

We must expect a higher average level of life—and we shall have it!

We shall have new beauties in the things around us, when the engineers and the chemists and the planners of manufacture can get back to the pursuits of peace.

in some essential sector of Britain's war effort.

"What is most significant for America is that Britain's vast mobilization of manpower has been achieved with extraordinarily little limitation of democratic freedoms. Here is striking proof that an intelligent democracy can organize its resources for war without losing the precious freedoms for which it fights."

Prof. McCauley says there are five fundamental lessons America can learn from Britain's manpower experience. Labor will not agree with all of his conclusions, notably one that industrial conscription of both women and men is an "inescapable necessity." It will agree, however, on the whole with what he says is the fifth lesson, which he outlines as follows:

"The fifth lesson is the need for giving responsible labor leaders a more significant share in the formulation and execution of mobilization policies. In England, trade union leaders are equal partners in the top administration of the war. It is unfortunately true that in America our labor movement is not unified, nor is it as experienced in the work of public administration as is the British labor movement. But these differences only add to the difficulties of admitting labor to greater responsibility; there is no way to eliminate the task."

"As the restrictions tighten up, as workers lose their rights to choose their jobs, to change jobs, to quit jobs and to work leisurely hours, labor is going to ask and expect that its leaders share in the administration of these restrictions. Probably in no other way can complete labor confidence in the leadership of the war effort be ensured."

We shall have new homes of new design, filled with new joys, in which the work of living in homes will be reduced to a point where it will have lost its drudgery aspects.

We shall have automobiles that will look not at all like the models we now nurse along so carefully. In them will be new power plants and on them will be a new kind of tires. These new cars will be beautiful and wonderful.

And we shall take to the air, just for the sheer fun of it; and for the sake of getting to far places in a hurry. Danger will be no greater than in today's cars on the road; perhaps less. To fly will become as commonplace as to ride the roads in the pre-war days.

Our clothing will change its substance and it will be better. The era of plastics is just dawning and we have yet to see most of its beauties and its utilities. That will come with the post-war dawning.

And perhaps above all we shall have learned more about living together in harmony and helpfulness.

The war is teaching us about our neighbors, at home and abroad.

There will be a new day for our Southern states. There will be vast travel from and to Latin America.

Miami may become a luncheon stop on the flight to Rio.

There's a great day coming, when this war ends.

That its coming should have to be preceded by such a holocaust is but one of the great ironies of history. Birth seems to require its advance convulsions of agony.

But while we pass through this period of shock and pain and loss, it may help us in our contemplations if we look now and then at that horizon over which one day the bright sun of a post-war tomorrow will rise to greet us.—CMW.

## LONGSHOREMEN GET WAGE INCREASE

New York City (ILNS)—Increases in hourly and overtime pay are provided for 40,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL affiliate, under a negotiated agreement just approved by the National War Labor Board.

The new scale brings the basic pay of longshoremen to \$1.25 an hour, an increase of 5 cents. Overtime pay is increased 1½ cents, to \$1.87½ an hour.

In addition checkers of the union receive a 35-cent daily increase, bringing their pay to \$9.60 a day.

Longshoremen on the Atlantic Coast from Portland, Me., to Hampton Roads, Va., will be affected by the new scale, which is retroactive to Oct. 1.

Increases were agreed to early in October by a negotiating committee representing the longshore association and another, representing the New York Shipping Association.

The higher pay was withheld after the "wage freeze" of October, pending approval of the War Labor Board.

## THE MARCH OF LABOR



## FACING THE FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We caught a tiger by the tail last week when we suggested that the CIO submit an audited report on the paid-up membership in its affiliated unions in order to facilitate the mechanics of bringing about labor peace.

In response, the Executive Board of the United Steelworkers of America, a CIO affiliate of which Philip Murray is president, issued a torrid blast calling us a lot of names. The statement said we are "very ignorant." We admit the charge and confess we are still completely ignorant of the dues-paid membership in the CIO after reading the statement. It shed no light on that mysterious subject.

However, we see no good in continuing such a grandstand quarrel at a time when the peace committees representing the AFL and CIO are about to sit down together to try to work out a settlement.

Our purpose in raising the issue was not to embarrass the peace conferences but to point the way for the CIO to cooperate in making them successful. The reaction of the CIO to our suggestion does not indicate any burning desire on its part to be helpful.

## A Nuisance Raid

Another straw in the wind which is disturbing to sincere advocates of labor peace is the attempted raid by the CIO, with the collaboration of the National Labor Relations Board, on the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast which are under closed shop contract with AFL unions.

This is truly a "nuisance" raid. It can do the CIO no good and it can do the nation a great deal of harm. The AFL does not fear the outcome of an election in the shipyards covered by the NLRB complaint but it does fear the effects of a bitter union campaign in a thoroughly organized industry where labor-management cooperation has reached the peak of efficiency and where uninterrupted top production is vital to the success of the war effort.

Aside from the motives of the CIO in pressing such a hopeless raid at this time, we would like to delve into the motives of the National Labor Relations Board in giving it official approval.

The crux of the NLRB position is that it is illegal under the Wagner Act for an employer and a union to enter into a closed shop contract before any appreciable number of employees have been hired to work in the plant concerned.

This interpretation of the law is completely unsound and at variance with the established practice of trade unions. In the building trades industry, for example, practically all contracts are entered into by management and labor organizations before any employees are hired. In fact, the union is the employment agency for the works. It supplies the men after the contract is signed. The same practice is employed frequently in the metal trades. And even the maritime unions follow it through their hiring halls.

## An Axis Victory

Thus the NLRB is striking a blow at fundamental trade union procedures when it hauls Henry J. Kaiser up on the carpet and accuses him of unfair labor practices when he has

only complied with the fair and just demands of democratic trade unions.

The suspicion that the NLRB is trying to change the form and structure of American trade unions by misinterpretations of the National Labor Relations Act is confirmed by its action in this case.

It would be different if Mr. Kaiser were a tough, oppressive employer. But his workers and the unions that represent them testify he is a model employer. He has gone the limit in cooperation with labor. He has instilled an enthusiastic, cooperative spirit among his men. They are producing for him as perhaps no other comparable group of workers are producing for any other war industrialist.

No wonder that President Green denounced the board's action in this case as the "outstanding Axis victory of the month!"

It is significant that the protests of the American Federation of Labor are echoed by practically every agency in the Federal Government concerned with the war effort. Representatives of the Maritime Commission, the Labor Department, the War Production Board and other key agencies tried in vain to prevail upon the unrealistic members of the NLRB not to issue the complaint against Mr. Kaiser.

But these bureaucrats apparently are indifferent to any considerations beyond their own determination to reshape the labor movement according to their own preconceived ideas. Their predecessors also made the same mistake. They are now out of public life.

## 5 Companies, 4 Unions Fined in Army Cap Price-Fixing Case

Washington, D. C. (ILNS)—The Department of Justice is giving "serious consideration" to the request of the Workers Defense League that it investigate the activities of the sheriff's office in Spartanburg, S. C., in connection with the recent labor dispute at the Draper Corporation there, an iron foundry employing Negro and white members of the AFL Molders Union.

In October the company locked out the men, and later seven union members, colored and white, were arrested and charged with conspiracy and held incommunicado for almost a day, it is alleged. Frank McCallister, Southern WDL secretary, charged that the arrests were part of a union-busting campaign of the local public officials and asked Victor Rothnem, chief of the Civil Liberties Section of the Department of Justice, to investigate.

These days a cheerful idiot is enviable.

## AFL METAL TRADES IN FIGHT IN LABOR BOARD DECISIONS

(Special Conference Denounces CIO Raids)

Washington, D. C. (ILNS)—Representatives of unions affiliated with the Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, meeting at a special conference at the AFL building here, pledged themselves to "apply all of their resources" for the purpose of "protecting their interests and their rights from outrageous decisions by the National Labor Relations Board and the unjustified and unpatriotic raiding now being carried on by the CIO against AFL organizations."

This decision was made as a result of the action of the National Labor Relations Board in issuing a complaint against three Henry J. Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast which are under contract with AFL unions.

John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department announced that the special conference had created a Defense Committee to carry on the fight against the NLRB ruling and against the attempted raid on established AFL unions.

The Defense Committee was empowered to take such action as it deems necessary to carry out its objectives.

Members of the committee named at the meeting include Harvey W. Brown, president, International Association of Machinists; Robert Byron, president, Sheetmetal Workers Union; George Masterton, president, United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters; Ed J. Brown, president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Charles J. McGowan, vice president, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

Other members may be added later, including a representative of the building trades unions.

## Action By Army To Protect Negro Soldiers Demanded

New York City (ILNS)—Protesting against what is charged was the cold blooded murder of one Negro military policeman and the beating of another Nov. 1 by state police in Alexandria, Louisiana, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has demanded that Secretary of War Stimson take drastic action.

"We are informed," said the NAACP, "that the slayer was suspended for only one day and has been restored to full authority. We are further informed that state police have told army authorities in effect that they do not intend to recognize authority of the army. If this be true a state bordering on treason anarchy exists which you as Secretary of War cannot ignore."

## Agriculture Top War Ranking

Oxford.—Agriculture must have a top ranking as a war occupation, Joseph W. Fichter, lecturer for the Ohio State Grange, told the Oxford Men's Forum. A revision of the parity formula is necessary, he said, to enable farmers to pay what labor is worth.

Necessity is a powerful stimulant.

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