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THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MONTANA
HELENA

Democracy Cannot Endure Under
Economic Systems Which
Cause Hunger, Cold, Poor
Housing and Unemployment to
Millions.

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STATE HIGHWAY DEPT. BRANCHES OUT INTO PRINTING BUSINESS

Subterfuge Used by the Highway Department in the Purchase of New Process Printing Equipment. Purchased As "Photostatic Equipment." Its Use in Printing Is Violation of State Law.

While there is no requisition on file from the state highway department for the purchase of printing equipment and no voucher has been issued in payment of such equipment, the department now has and is using equipment for lithographic printing, which was purchased as "photostatic equipment" at great cost. Since the records of purchase are apparently deliberately vague on the part of the department, there is no record substantiating the report, but it is said that the purchase of the type of equipment bought, obligates the department to purchase all supplies in the future from the company selling this particular type of equipment.

A further cloud is cast on the transaction by the fact that the purchase of the equipment was not made through the ordinary required channels of competitive bids. The entire business transaction insofar as records are concerned, is hidden, but the fact remains that the printing equipment is in the highway department and in use.

The reasons for the subterfuge employed by the highway department are clear enough. There is no state department that is not familiar with the requirements of the state law in regard to printing, and that any printing done by the highway department or any other branch of the state government will result in direct violation of Section 260 R. C. M. 1935, which reads as follows: "All printing for which the state of Montana is chargeable including reports of state boards, pamphlets, blanks, letterheads, envelopes and printed matter of EVERY DESCRIPTION save and except certificates of appointments and election to office shall have the label of the branch of the International Typographical union of the city in which they are printed." The section following this provides the penalty to be imposed on any state official for violation of the provisions of the section quoted above.

Up to the present, the matter of jurisdiction of some craft in the printing trades has not been definitely settled in connection with the processes involved in the use of the equipment purchased and now being used by the highway department, and the right to the use of any union label has been definitely denied by the printing trades council to one private concern in Helena using this process, and the same would, of course, be true in connection with any other individual, concern or public body.

The highway department will probably advance the argument that it is deeply concerned in saving money for the taxpayers of the state. This argument will stand some scrutiny in view of the fact that the equipment is expensive, that operators must be trained with consequent loss of time and waste of material and if and when competent operators of the process are trained, they will be able to (Continued on Page Four)

TRESPASSING AT THE CAPITAL

By A. I. HARRIS

It is suggested that Admiral Byrd take time out from his South Pole exploration to do a little exploring for jobs for the unemployed in this country.

Setting the 1941 Stage For Wagner Act Execution

If Howard (Undertaker) Smith, democratic tory, and his two republican pals on the NLRB investigating committee, Rutzohn and Halleck, succeed in putting over their emasculatory amendments to the Wagner act, IT WILL BE PROOF THAT THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE AFL AND THE CIO HAS BEEN WON BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS. About the only thing they did not change was the title of the act—and we cannot understand how they overlooked it.

Danger of adoption of the Smith amendments by the present congress is rather remote. This is an election year, and politicians think first of being re-elected. The amendments will be opposed, for certainty, by the House labor committee, and we have word that the Senate committee on education and labor will offer strenuous opposition. Some amendments to improve administration of the act may be passed during the present session.

Why did the Smith committee (with Murdoch and Healey, new deal demerits, dissenting) go to such extremes in their recommendations? Surely not with the hope of putting them over at this time. The answer is that they are setting the stage for execution of the Wagner act in 1941—not an election year. That explains why Smith wanted \$50,000 more in order to continue spreading the poison.

"Cotton Ed" Smith, who is serving as chairman of the Senate committee

on agriculture, took a proverbial slap in the face when the La Follette-Wheeler-Jones bill to reduce farm mortgage interest rates and scale down and refinance farm mortgages was referred to the Senate committee on banking and currency. In the House it was referred to the House committee on agriculture.

"Economy Bloc" in Need of Doctor

Since it has become evident that war-time prosperity is an elusive phantom, life for the so-called "economy bloc" in congress has become just one splitting headache after another. Banking on the hope of increased farm prices, the House "economy bloc" lopped some \$107,000,000 off a farm budget already cut to the core, which contained no provisions for parity payments.

But the war has brought no material blessings to the American farmer. Prices are still 30 percent below parity. Farm leaders have converged upon Washington and are literally storming the gates. The Senate committee on agriculture is struggling with the bill—and when the upper house gets through with it, it may have no resemblance to the measure as sent up by the lower house. It's hard to see how they can now avoid making an appropriation for parity payments to the tune of at least \$175,000,000. And demands for appropriations for tenancy aid and the food stamp plan are increasing rather than diminishing.

That is not all to this headache business. The House "economy bloc" is about to tackle the one billion dollar WPA bill, reduced one-third because of expected "war prosperity." This comes at a time of mounting (Continued on Page Two)

Newspapers Are Big Business, ANG Tells Wages-Hours

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Newspapers are operated on the same basis as other big business enterprises and can lay no claim to being "service establishments," the American Newspaper Guild (CIO) declared in a memorandum filed here with the wages-hours division.

The memo, prepared by Attorney A. J. Isserman on behalf of the guild, was presented to Wages-Hours Administrator Philip B. Fleming in opposition to a brief filed by the American Newspaper Publisher Association requesting exemption from the wages-hours law.

"The memo," the guild said, "was filed at this time in view of reports from Washington that many employer organizations are seeking to induce the new administrator, Philip B. Fleming, to make new interpretations which would eliminate many categories of workers from the scope of the act, particularly newspaper white collar workers and all persons receiving average pay of \$150 a month or more."

"The situation is made worse by the threat of amendments in congress, Rep. Graham Barden (D., N. C.) having introduced some destructive (Continued on Page Two)

NLRB DEFENSE OF ITSELF ATTACKED IN HOUSE HEARING

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Attempts to show that the national labor relations board had in some way been guilty of illegality in opposing amendments to the national labor relations act marked the progress of the special House committee allegedly investigating the act and its administration by the board.

A request for an additional \$50,000 with which to pursue the inquiry further, in the meantime, was granted without debate by the House. It is expected the committee will file a preliminary report shortly.

Edmund M. Toland, corporation counsel acting as attorney for the committee, headed by Rep. Howard Smith (D., Va.), put into the record numerous documents and memoranda showing board officials had been active in building up the board's case against amendments.

NLRB Chairman J. Warren Madden wrote several college professors asking them to testify concerning the act or to file statements with the Senate education and labor committee. Benedict Wolf, former secretary of the board, wrote letters to various persons asking them to testify in support of the act, it was revealed. Wolf's activities were conducted after he had left the employ of the board.

Regional officials, one memo showed. (Continued on Page Three)

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS NLRB POWER TO VOID CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Holding that workers were entitled to benefits obtained under the individual contracts with their employers, the supreme court here upheld the NLRB and directed the National Licorice Co. of Brooklyn, N. Y. to comply with an NLRB order.

The court, in a decision written by Justice Stone and dissented from by Justices Black and Douglas, held that the NLRB was correct in declaring the contracts in violation of the national labor relations act but said that the workers could still claim the rights given them under the contracts.

The NLRB's decision ordering the company to declare a contract with a company union void was upheld, the court holding it was within the power of the board to cancel contracts made in violation of the act.

Stone's decision amended the order to state that individual employees remain free to assert "any legal rights they may have acquired under such contracts."

Capitol Corridor Clatter

You just can't hear anything but politics around the state-house these days. Everyone seems to be figuring or trying to figure where he's going to be January 1, 1941. A. D. Boy, when this year is over, no paper or magazine had better start any guessing games. With the practice all of these guys are getting they'll be able to outguess any editor that ever lived. I hear some other things while I'm prowling around too, and the more I hear about the way some of these babies can raise money the more I feel like kicking myself for getting into as dumb a game as the newspaper racket.

Today I heard that the mayor up in Great Falls is putting the bee on the fellows that work for the city up there. They tell me he's raising a fund to finance himself for a race for the governor's job or the attorney general's office. Also I heard that some of these guys working for the city are yelping about it, but since they (Continued on Page Four)

SPARLING RESIGNS AS COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Quits Post Because He Cannot Support Ayres for Re-election; Issues Statement on Reasons for Resigning.

J. T. Sparling, a recognized progressive, who was appointed as commissioner of agriculture by Governor Ayers, and as head of one of the state departments has been in a position where he could observe the "inner



J. T. SPARLING

workings" of the present administration, last week resigned, and released the following statement of his reasons for doing so:

STATEMENT
I do not feel that I am justified in withholding from the public my true reason for resigning as Commissioner of Agriculture, Labor and Industry, a public office. Nearly three years of work under, and observation of, the administration of Gov. Roy E. Ayers has brought me to the conclusion that I cannot conscientiously support the governor for re-election. Custom and precedent in Montana directs that in a case like this I resign forthwith.

I have resigned effective at once, or as soon as my successor shall be appointed and qualified to assume full responsibility for the office.

J. T. SPARLING.

NORRIS FLAYS HOOVER, FBI

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Echoes of J. Edgar Hoover's federal bureau of investigation's high-handed activities in the dawn roundup of Spanish loyalist sympathizers in Detroit and Milwaukee were heard here in the U. S. Senate.

Sen. George W. Norris (Ind., Neb.) put into the Congressional Record an editorial from The New Republic charging the FBI with using illegal methods in the arrest of 16 persons.

Norris brought the subject up shortly before the Senate approved an appropriation bill giving the FBI over \$9,500,000. He said the activities of the bureau should be looked into.

In many newspapers, Norris continued, he had read statements concerning the Detroit and Milwaukee raids indicating that the methods used "were, to say the least, rather abhorrent to one who believes in constitutional liberty."

"If these charges are only partially true it is a matter of taking the law into their own hands and punishing people who are not convicted of a crime, who are not charged with any malicious crime, who are not charged with anything which has attached to it any element of criminality."

After Norris made his charges a local newspaper charged Hoover was basking in the Miami sun in a \$225 a week "cottage" on the pretense of conducting a roundup of criminals in Miami. The paper further charged that a large number of cases were being neglected by the bureau while Hoover's men gathered in Miami.

Dies to Resume In March; Union Officials First Witnesses

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Officials of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) will be the first witnesses before the House committee allegedly investigating un-American activities when it resumes hearings late in March, it was announced here by Rep. Martin Dies (D., Tex.), chairman of the committee.

Dies made the announcement as he left for Miami, Fla., for an unannounced purpose. He recently returned to Washington after an extended stay in Orange, Tex.

The UER&MW officials, it was said, will be given an opportunity to answer charges made against them in the committee's last report to congress. Two members of the committee have already apologized on the House floor for the inclusion of the union's name in a list of 11 unions allegedly "tinged" with communism. (Continued on Page Four)

Oregon Employer Group Plans Nation- Wide Organization

SALEM, Ore.—(FP)—Labor in Oregon, already hampered by the state's drastic anti-picket law, faces a new and powerful opponent in the Associated Employers, a union of small businessmen to conduct labor negotiations for its members.

The state headquarters of the organization, which claims a membership of 2,300 firms in more than a score of Oregon towns, is located here. Daniel Hay, former director of the Motor Vehicle Assn. of Oregon and the Washington Truck Assn., is manager.

He plans extension into a nationwide organization to be called the American Federation of Employers and has tentatively scheduled the first national meeting for March 26, 27 and 28 in Spokane, Wash.

Six purposes of the association as given in the articles of incorporation include the usual pleasantness about promotion of industrial peace; advocacy of legislation fair to employers, employees and the public; and protection against coercion. This employer agency even says that one purpose is "to protect employees in their legal rights against employers, others and the general public," the reference to (Continued on Page Two)

LABOR ACTS SEEM SAFE THIS SESSION

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Belief is growing here that the national labor relations act will escape the present session of congress unscathed.

This belief rests principally on refusal of Reps. Healey (D., Mass.) and Murdoch (D., Utah) to agree that the House committee allegedly investigating the national labor relations board and act has uncovered anything that would warrant submission of amendments.

A dissenting report by Healey and Murdoch will throw the issue up to the House labor committee, a group which is, in the main, sympathetic to the problems of the board and in favor of the principles of the act.

Another factor in the belief that the act will be unamended this year is the desire of all members of congress to congress business as rapidly as possible. There is talk of adjournment between May 15 and June 1 in order to allow members to prepare for the campaign year.

Should the House agree to amendments to the act, it is regarded as likely that the Senate will deliberate long and carefully before agreeing. Most of them feel that their best interests require that the question not come to a vote.

Whichever way a senator, or representative, votes on amendments to the labor act puts him squarely in the AFL-CIO crossfire, an uncomfortable position at any time but especially so in an election year.

Incidentally, the refusal of the House investigating committee to agree to amendment of the labor act has provided the capital with one of (Continued on Page Two)

Chinese Industrial Co-operatives' Role Economic Strategy

By ROBERT W. BARNETT
Institute of Pacific Relations
Written for Federated Press

There have been two main aspects to the economic strategy of the Sino-Japanese war. On the one hand, Japan has progressively cut China off from the outside world by blockading China's coastal ports, closing the Yangtze and Pearl rivers, severing China's highway and threatening the rail connections with Indo-China.

On the other hand, China has hastened extension of her communications through the southwest to Indo-China, the southwest to Burma, and the northwest to the Soviet Union; and in the remote and relatively inaccessible west and southwest has begun to create a new industrial basis for continued resistance.

Some heavy and large scale industrial enterprises have been established. Such enterprises are, of necessity, concentrated and immobile and therefore liable to Japanese air attack. They could not suffice to meet the needs of beleaguered China.

To escape the vulnerability of factory concentrations and to disperse industrial capacity to regions where raw materials and demand already existed, the Chinese Industrial Co-operative movement was conceived.

The Chinese Industrial Co-operatives have the support of the Chinese government. Yet the movement should properly be viewed as one whose success rests with the energy and integrity of common people rather than with the decisions of a few political or economic authorities.

Blessed with a nucleus of imaginative and enterprising leaders, both Chinese and foreign the movement has made rapid progress. In less than a year and a half more than 1,300 co-operative units have been established, comprising 25,000 members. Free China has been divided into five regions and subdivided into 55 districts in which over 500 men and women (Continued on Page Four)

ANOTHER PROOF OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUSINESS ACUMEN DISCLOSED

Chief Executive Proves That He Is More Meticulous In "Getting the Money" for Himself More Than He Is Concerned With Ethical Consideration of Claims Made by Him On Taxpayers' Money.

State warrants Nos. 175,203 and 179,022 totalling the sum of \$80.30 issued to Governor Ayers last year disclose the fact that the chief executive of the state apparently does not refrain from stooping to subterfuge to chisel even petty sums from himself from the public treasury, and certainly displays his utter disregard of any ethical consideration in his attitude toward public funds when his own personal interests are involved.

INSURANCE COS. GET BIG AAA PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Eight insurance companies, two banks, and one huge ranchowner got over .5% total benefit payments made by the agricultural adjustment administration for the year 1937, a report by the AAA to congress showed.

The eight insurance companies were paid a total of \$1,538,217 for co-operating in the administration's farm program while the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, the Federal Land Bank of St. Paul and the King Ranch in Texas were paid \$360,204 for co-operating in the program.

The 11 enterprises, receiving payments in excess of \$100,000, were paid a total of \$1,898,421 out of total benefit payments of \$325,856,887. The average check received by the 3,750,000 farmers participating in the program was \$75.

Payments after 1937 were limited to \$10,000 by an amendment to the act passed by congress. Payments for (Continued on Page Four)

Chicago Advertising Men Launch Drive Against Consumers

CHICAGO—(FP)—Alarmed by the growth of the consumer movement, the Chicago Federated Advertising Club has organized a permanent bureau of "buyer information."

Consumer skepticism toward misleading advertising claims was branded as "designed ultimately to destroy the American system of private enterprise and substitute a socialistic form of government."

The club claims to have mobilized 400 persons for an extensive campaign against "radical consumer groups." Walter E. Botthoff, president of Standard Rate & Data Service Inc., was placed in charge of the administrative committee.

Ample financial backing was indicated by an ambitious program calling for publication of booklets and textbooks and lectures before consumers', women's, school and business organizations. Co-operation of the commercial press was taken for granted.

Botthoff hailed the anti-consumer drive as "the greatest contribution that can be made to strengthen and perpetuate the advertising business."

"At least some local consumer leaders were happy about the advertising men's campaign."

"In the first place," remarked Wilard Grant, editor of Co-op News, "the boys will have to try to be honest enough that their self-praise won't conflict obviously with the facts. That's all to the good. Those who are honest on principle will put the heat on the exaggerators to tone down."

"In the second place, word of the consumer movement—among them the Rochdale consumers' co-operatives—will reach people who otherwise might not hear of Co-ops for years. Such people will listen to attacks on ideas of which they never have heard, then they will look up the original argument back of the idea. Any politician will tell you an attack is far better than no publicity."

Policy of Land Banks To Keep Farmers On Land

The Farm Credit Administration through the federal land banks and Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation is going to help farmers stay on the land, and in so doing expects to protect and not jeopardize the stake which farmers have in co-operative credit, A. G. Black, governor of the Farm Credit Administration, told the general agents of the 12 districts today.

"Some of our national farm loan associations have already suffered serious losses by selling real estate at a loss or carrying it at a loss, and I believe these local credit institutions owned and operated by farmers are in a better position to tell what the real value of a farm is than someone coming to the community from the bank for a day or so."

The warrants were issued in payment of two claims made by the governor to reimburse him for payment for a room at the Rainbow hotel in Great Falls for one month WHILE HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL IN THAT CITY. The claim is made that "This bill is for a hotel room at Great Falls while I was confined in a hospital there. The room was used as a temporary office by the state officers coming to or called to Great Falls to consult and work with me." It is claimed by the governor that he had made arrangements with the hotel for a monthly rate and the claim is made on that basis.

It is a fairly well established report that Mrs. Ayers occupied this room, and since it is a fact beyond dispute, that when state officers are away from Helena on state business, the expense allowance paid them by the state include provisions for hotel rooms when necessary, so these state officers IF they were called to Great Falls by the governor while he was confined to the hospital, were able to provide themselves with rooms, and it may be presumed that they certainly did so.

Moreover, since the governor was confined to the hospital, what advantage would a "temporary office" in the hotel be to him or to such state officers as he might have called in.

The claims set forth that the room charges were \$2.50 a day which must strike anyone as an odd rate for a hotel to make. Certainly it indicates very close "figuring" on the part of the governor, to make a bill for 31 days hotel room amount to a rate of \$2.50 a day for a total of \$80.30.

The Voice challenges the governor to prove that this room was ever used for a "temporary office." It challenges (Continued on Page Four)

BUTTE L. N. P. L. ELECTS OFFICERS

At a largely attended meeting in Judge Lynch's courtroom on Friday March 1st Silver Bow unit of Labor's Non-Partisan League elected the following officers who will serve for the current year: President, Glen Zorn of Butte Miners Union No. 1; vice president, Pat C. Sullivan of Plumbers & Steamfitters Union No. 41; and secretary, Charles Christman of the Machinists union.

Plans were laid for an intensive campaign in Silver Bow county and in the other counties throughout the state. The League will co-operate with other genuinely progressive groups in the movement to elect candidates to the state legislature who will pledge themselves to the enactment of legislation in the interests of the common people. It is also the aim of Labor's Non-Partisan League to work with other progressive groups in the selection and support of progressive candidates for all other state offices.

The next meeting of the League will be on Friday, March 29. All members are urged to attend and all labor unions and other progressive groups are requested to send delegates.—R. C. Brown.

Taxpayers Protest Paying Sheriff Back Mileage

WOLF POINT.—(Special)—The Taxpayers association has filed a written protest with the board of county commissioners of Roosevelt county against payment of the claim of Henry Lowe, sheriff, for \$2,597.37 back mileage. The claim covers the period from August 1933 to January 1940 and represents the difference between the 70 rate of mileage and the 100 rate which a recent decision of Attorney General Freebourn said might be collected by sheriffs.

The taxpayers are protesting all parts of the claim prior to the present term of office of Mr. Lowe, claiming that each term of office is a unit in itself, and that an official has no more right to collect for services back of his present term of office than he would have to collect for the services of a predecessor. Their protest is further based on the fact that says that the salary or emolument of a county officer may not be increased or decreased within the term of office for which he was elected.

The commissioners tabled the claim until a later date.