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Shall Strikes Imperil The Nation?

Borrowing from the thought of Lincoln, as expressed at Gettysburg more than three quarters of a century ago, it may now be said.

Eight score and five years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, ad dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Then it was the crisis of a great civil war—now it is the crisis of totalitarian threat from without and labor strife within our own borders, that is "testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

In these crucial days when the fate of our nation hangs in the balance, when millions of people in Europe have already been deprived of liberty of thought and action, and when the surviving remnants of democracy are fighting desperately for self preservation a small minority in the United States is permitted to wreak havoc with the national program of industrial production of war materials, vital to defense and aid to Britain.

If Hitler were, at the moment, directing the affairs of the United States in his own interest, he could ask no greater show of sympathy and co-operation than is now being evidenced by the numerous strikes in essential defense industries, the violence associated with the Bethlehem Steel and the International Harvester strikes, the internal dissension in the ranks of organized labor and the revelations of racketeering methods used in collecting exorbitant initiation fees and dues in connection with construction work on government projects.

If Nazi, Fascist and Communist hirelings were seeking a way to weaken this nation in its determined course to safeguard itself from aggression and also to give all possible aid to Britain and the other embattled democracies, they could pursue no more effective course than to foment the disunity being evidenced by strikes in defense industries, or in the production of materials necessary to the steady maximum output of these industries.

But it is not Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin who is directing the course of this nation—nor are Nazi, Fascist or Communist agents or sympathizers assumed to have a voice of authority in either of the antagonistic labor organizations.

It is President Franklin D. Roosevelt who is the executive head of this nation and also commander in chief of its military forces.

A recent statement by President Roosevelt bears repeating, for the emphasis it merits:

"The determination of America must not be obstructed by unnecessary strikes of workers, by short-sighted management, or by deliberate sabotage . . . . Let me make it clear that the nation is calling for the sacrifice of some privileges but not for the sacrifice of fundamental rights. That kind of sacrifice is for the common national protection and welfare; for our defense against the most ruthless brutality in history; for the ultimate victory of a way of life now so violently menaced.

And President Roosevelt also said: "Wise labor leaders and wise business managers will realize how necessary it is to their own existence to make common sacrifices for this great common cause."

Germany has no labor unions. Russia has no labor unions. Italy has no labor unions. The privilege of groups to organize and bargain collectively, and the "right" to strike, are accorded only to people who are adjudged capable of self government and who evidence willingness to proceed, in orderly manner, to exercise their privileges and rights under the law.

The time is again at hand for every American, in whatever capacity he may serve, to at least temporarily put bickering, greed and self interest in the background and to once more become "dedicated to the great task that lies before us and to highly resolve that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . .that government of the people, by the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Mass Distribution Scores

An article in "The Agricultural Situation," official publication of the United States Department of Agriculture, observes that the farmer,'s share of consumer expenditures for domestic food products increased through 1940, as it has during all recent years. The article attributes this to a continued decline in middleman charges for marketing services. "Middleman services" is used to describe a variety of functions, including local assembly, transportation, storage, processing and wholesale and retail distribution.

The article further notes that where the marketing margin declined $2 per family on a list of 58 important food items studied for survey purposes, there was a rise in retail value of $3. So the increase in value to the farmer totaled $6.

Modern distribution must be given the lion's share of the credit for this progressive trend. The country has learned that mass distribution, whether done bychains or independents, is as important as mass production—one complements the other. And mass distribution does not hold down prices to the consumer by forcing down the price paid the farmer. Instead, it tends to make the farmer's share of the final selling price of his products constantly larger. Mass distribution attacks waste and non-essentials all along the line in the marketing process. It eliminates unnecessary operations, and speeds up others. It limits the number of profits taken between farm and store. And so, while the consumer gets more for his money, the farmer too gets a better proportionate return for what he sells.

What is true in the food field is true in others. Mass distribution in clothes, furniture, household goods, etc., has made it possible to bring the economies effected in the factory to the home of the consumer—and to cut in-between costs in many places. Mass distribution is working to effect still greater economies to help offset the upward price trend occasioned by the defense boom. The guiding principal of mass distribution is to protect the standard of living of both consumers and producers.

The Communists Again

The Dies committee—appointed several years ago by the house of representatives to investigate the activities of subversive groups in this country—has been given a new lease on life by the allotment of $150,000 for the coming year's expenses.

Well, now, that certainly is handsome of our government to give away that vast amont of money to fight the Communists, Bundists, Fascists and other Ists who admittedly infest so many important cogs in the machinery of the nation. That stupendous amount of money would almost fill the annual pork barrel in Podunk. Two or three more outpourings like this and the financial structure of the nation must collapse.

And after all—what has the Dies committee done, and what is it doing? It has only exposed the truth about a very serious situation which up to the time the committee was formed, was pooh-poohed by 90 per cent of the American public. And all it is doing at the present time is to run down the same sort of treacherous groups which were held responsible—to a great extent—for the fall of Norway, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and France. Nothing much really! Just doing more to save this country from the bloody horrors of revolution and betrayal than any other organization except the department of justice.

Open any daily paper, any time:

"Dies charges Reds aid defense strike."

"Dies says 5,000 plot sabotage in Detroit plants."

"Dies warns sabotage only getting started."

"Green says Guild run by anti-American forces"

"FBI agents study three powder blasts."

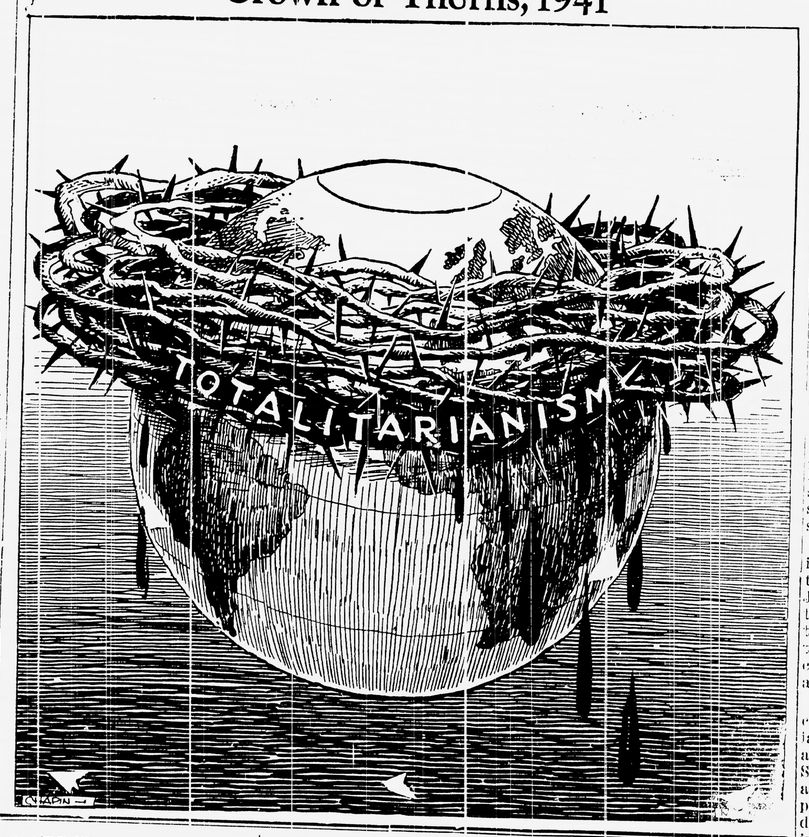
"Ampter expects gains for Reds in 24 states."

And last—but quite significant—

"2 Movie makers side with (Harry) Bridges."

Turn over the page and read about Communism in the free public schools of New York city. Try to remain calm as you read of the powerful organized groups of lawyers, teachers, students and other professionals who are feverishly spreading the most venomous and murderous doctrine ever devised by man. Peruse calmly the day by day accounts of peculiar accidents in powder plants and munition factories.

Crown of Thorns, 1941



This Week in Washington

Washington, D. C., April 10—Following on the heels of the signing of the largest lump-sum appropriation in the history of this country — the $7,000,000,000 defense bill — a record-breaking appropriation for the benefit of farmers may be pushed through Congress.

Favorable reception of the Senate appropriations committee's request for a $1,340,610,822 farm grant, which is $445,000,000 higher than the President's budget recommendations, indicates that many Congressmen don't intend to do much scrimping on domestic expenditures to offset the huge appropriations for defense.

The farm-aid bill may face a fight in the House, which already had approved a bill more in line with the President's recommendation. If the Senate measure goes through, however, it will provide more than double the amount suggested by the President for "parity payments."

The President had asked $212,000,000 for parity payments so that they would equal at least 75 per cent of the purchasing power they equalled in the base period of 1909 to 1914. But the farm bloc senators are attempting to attain a "parity" of nearer 100 per cent.

Opponents of the larger appropriation argue that farm prices and farm purchasing power will benefit by the defense spending. They say that is no justification for a record-breaking subsidy to farmers during a year when the treasury is being subjected to the heaviest demands in our history.

Proponents argue that certain groups of farmers are worse off then ever before because their export markets have been cut off. That is why they have included in the bill a specific provision that a large portion of payments be made to the worst sufferers — those who grow cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco and rice.

Appropriating billions has become more or less routine procedure in Congress recently. The Office of Production Management released a figure of $39,177,500,000 as the amount of authorized and proposed expenditures for defense alone, but the figure is so astronomical that ordinary Congressmen and officials seem almost to ignore it, leaving it up to the financial experts to work out.

Valuable background information for planning new taxes was made public last week when the census bureau released figures showing that last year's tax assessments averaged approximately $410 per family, or about one-fifth of the average family income. Of these taxes, which totaled over $14,000,000,000, it was reported that 36 per cent went to the federal government, 25 per cent to state governments and 39 per cent to local governments.

EASTERN SHORE ESTATE PURCHASED

Announcement was made today of the sale of Buckingham Wharf estate on the upper Chester river, in Kent County. The sale was made by a Chestertown real estate agency for H. H. LaMent, of Philadelphia, to W. Lee Graves, of New York.

Mental Hospitals Lack Personnel

A shortage of attendants at the State mental hospitals is developing into an extremely serious situation, which may have tragic consequences, Dr. George D. Preston, State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, asserted this week.

Dr. Preston said that the shortage, which is most acute at the Crownsville State Hospital in Anne Arundel county, undoubtedly will become worse as the defense program lures more men into industry and that he is unable at present to see a solution.

"It looks as though we're just going to have to worry along as best we can, knowing that we are going to have accidents because we're inadequately staffed," Dr. Preston said.

"We had a conference of superintendents of the various hospitals, together with the State Employment Commissioner, to talk over the situation, and in three hours of discussion we got nowhere at all."

Two men escaped from Crownsville Sunday night, and Dr. Preston said this was because of the shortage of personnel. The institution's budget calls for ninety male attendants, but at the present time there are only seventy-six, he said.

Springfield State Hospital was short ten men at the last report, the mental hygiene commissioner said, and Spring Grove State Hospital lacked five. The Eastern Shore State Hospital and Rosewood Training School have managed to keep up to quota.

Hospital attendants are paid $40 a month and maintenance. In former years the institutions always had a large turnover in this class of employes, but were kept supplied from a large reservoir of floating labor from which the State Employment Commissioner recruited.

ARMY PUTS "TEETH" INTO DRAFT LAW

State selective service officials no longer need gnash their teeth over dental draft dodgers.

The D. D. D.'s of whom a few have been found in Maryland recently, now are out of luck, it was explained early this week by Lieut. Col. Amos R. Koontz, State medical director for the draft.

What the D. D. D.'s did, after being examined and rated as physically fit for service, was to go to a dentist and have just enough teeth pulled to disqualify them by the army's standards, Colonel Koontz said.

One man, who had more than enough teeth when he was examined by his draft board physician and rated as okay, turned up at the army induction station with not a single tooth in his upper jaw. There was nothing the army could do but turn him down.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Are Sin, Disease and Death Real", will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ Scientist, on Sunday, Apr. 13.

The Golden Text will be from Psalms 27:1—"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible—John 8: 1, 2—"Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives, and early in the morning, he came again into the temple and all the people came with him, and he sat down and taught them."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy among which is the following, page 11—"Truth bestows no pardon upon error, but wipes it out in the most effectual manner."

"A GOODNESS ALL ITS OWN!"
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