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It's Time to Call

Off Strikes

Increasing the prices of manufactured goods and products to match increased wages demanded by labor unions looks to the average person like simple problems in mathematics and addition. But our common-sense in OPA has insisted that industry should absorb high wages out of profits through imaginary higher volume of production, without increasing prices. President Truman, Secretary of Labor Schweitzer, Price Administrator Chester Doolittle and a flock of "brain bays" in the Administration have insisted on the above methods of settling strikes. They have failed.

Editor Statesman Bernard M. Baruch was edged into the picture early in February and he argued that Congress should modify present policies to permit some high or prices to compensate for payment of higher wages. That seems to make common sense—and it didn't take a Presidential fact-finding body to prove it.

Arguing people will about the ways to settle the strikes in which more than a million men are engaged and there is but one reasonable answer, that a square deal for industry and an equal square deal for wage workers. The basic of the whole matter calls for nothing more or less than readjustments that balance the present inflationary rates that affect the cost of living. The cost of living has gone up despite the Office of Price Administration. It is doubtful whether it would have gone up faster, or higher, without a Government Price Administration.

When the whole matter is reviewed the fact stands out that the CIO has scared the dickens out of the politicians. The Democrats know that they retained control of the National Government through the labor vote, even after the farmer vote had gone back upon Democratic policies.

Actually this long knock-down and drag-out fight between labor and management could have been avoided. One of the leading newspapers of Washington says that the Truman plan to keep the prices down and lift up wages "does not make sense," and it adds the same philosophy that "wages and prices shouldn't have separate compartments."

There is a statute that has been on the books for many years and it is known as "voluntary bargaining." If politics had been left out of all this trouble it might have

been that these strikes could have been settled by collective bargaining.

It is high time to get down to cases, which means that should bring these strikes to the Federal Government a end, and start the wheels rolling in the direction of Reconstruction.

The Legion is Alert

At a time when the United States faces extremely critical situations both at home and abroad, any one organization in the country has come forward with a thoroughly studied plan for real national security.

That organization is The American Legion, which numbers more than a million World War I Veterans on its roster and almost that many more from World War II.

These veterans have put their plan squarely up to Congress at a time when there are no other broad provisions for an adequate national defense.

Obviously, the Legion realizes that in a still turbulent world it is dangerous for any nation to demobilize its forces before it has made any plans for defense, especially when it is plunging ahead with UNO and other foreign commitments. To do so leaves a nation powerless to carry out its responsibilities for peace or to defend itself against aggressors.

In spite of this precarious procedure, the Legion's plan has stirred up some short-sighted opposition because it involves a year of military training for youth of the country.

But if we recognize that there can never be any positive assurance of continued peace and that if fighting is to be done that youth must do it, then why not give that youth the best possible preparation?

It is the unshakable truth that a trained man has a better chance to live in battle than an untrained one. Now the Legion plan not only gives youth that training but it considers the youth, his family, his future and his country by splitting that training into phases.

Interference with education is kept at the minimum. He has a chance to train in any specialty of his own choice for which is in demand. At the same time, growth of a military caste in this country is avoided by keeping control of the program in civilian hands.

Only in the first four months of basic training is the youth under almost complete army and navy jurisdiction unless, of course, he chooses to complete his full year of training with the armed forces.

After the first four months he may choose to complete his year by taking special courses in school or industry or he may take military training with the National Guard or Organized reserve units closest to his home.

This plan maintains the Guard and the Reserve at proper strength and puts the youth under a leadership that is entirely civilian in character for officers and men of both the Guard and the Reserve are people from his own home community.

On maneuvers, the boy is led by members of the Guard, the Reserve and graduates of officer candidate schools of these candidate schools of these American? What plan could better provide adequate national security?

Veterans of two wars see the value of the plan and

want it. Public polls clearly show the majority in its favor. Congress should hesitate no longer, but stand courageously and write the plan into law for the future security of the people of America and of the world, for to us the world looks for the preservation of peace.

NOT TOO NOT TOO HOT COLD

Road Construction Delayed

Evidently Congress will accept the advice of its Appropriation Committee and clamp down on high road building operations this summer. One of the reasons for postponing the large program until 1947 is a labor problem. There are many uncertainties according to the Government's Public Works Administration, and when Chairman MacDougal was before a Committee of the House of Representatives he expressed the opinion that a large and effective road building program would not be practical at this time and suggested waiting another year.

From Real Estate

A continued rise in farm land values, and a moderate decline in sales, took place in the farm real estate market during the past year, according to a report from the United States Department of Agriculture. The report shows that the average per acre values for the country as a whole on March 1, 1946 was 11 per cent greater than for the same period a year before. The value of sales began to increase a few months ago, indicating that many persons who left the farm during the war period are returning to their former homes.

Does Your Business Suffer? Even though the steel sector is accounted by the loss and steel industry as "the coldest steel since the industry's most vital industry," there isn't anyone here who is in Washington who is shorting term of sympathy for the steel companies. They have been doing as high a volume of business in the past 20 years as ever. But the industry has to depend upon steel as a product for all kinds of manufacturing processes. Disruption of what anybody thinks about the United States steel, all men agree that the wage controversy should be settled in the public interest. That's where the loss and steel industry has earned the public into a position to fight for the steel trust.

How Do They Get That Way?

Several million people, with the President of the United States leading the band, are in "heat of infection." The "heat" these people are wage inflation and jumping prices back to pre-war times. But—deflate the survivors of the old time heat—the manufacturers and producers have improved their efficiency to such a degree that they can turn out all kinds of machinery cheaper than in the 1920 and 1930 period. That's more than wished thinking.

The oft-repeated hope that the leading nations of today would get together and preserve world peace and which is clouded with doubt. As a matter of fact, Russia started out in Communism. While the British are quarreling with Russia the American Delegation in London is trying to straighten up Russia and go ahead with the tough steps in that country's development.

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