

Let liars fear, let cowards shrink.
Let traitors turn away.
Whatever we have dared to think
That dare we also say
—James Russell Lowell



We pledge ourselves to organize and unite the workers in the automobile, metal and allied industries, in the struggle to increase their power in the national economic life. Our immediate objectives are higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions and the enactment of adequate social legislation. Our ultimate objective is the complete industrial and political freedom of all workers.

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No. 17

M.E.S.A. BULLETIN

CIO Workers Fight For All Union Dictatorship

BULLETIN

CIO RANK AND FILE REVOLTS

A general uprising of the workers of Chev. Gear and Axle Division of the CIO broke out anew on Tuesday, when the General Motors Co. fired seven active leaders of the Local. The International Union had made a deal with the Company to get the workers back to work and then get rid of their leaders. The workers remembering what they were taught in the past, have walked out again and threaten to withdraw from the CIO.

LOCAL 9 MOONLIGHT AND DANCE, AUGUST 12

The much talked about Moonlight and dance for members of the M.E.S.A. in the Detroit area is to take place Saturday, August 12. Don't miss the fun. Local 9 has scheduled another picnic for August 27, at Edgewater Park. If this one is as good as the affair held last month, you are in for a good time.

CIA TO MEET AT INDIANAPOLIS, OCT. 19, 20, 21

The third National Convention of the Confederated Unions of America is scheduled to convene at this City, to hear reports of National Officials and to decide on further action in the fight for representation. The position of the CIA in the Presidential election will be a major issue before the Convention.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICIALS

Locals of the M.E.S.A. meet during the Month of August to make nominations for National Officials of the Union. Each member of the M.E.S.A. will receive a ballot and officers will be elected by a referendum vote of the membership.

M.E.S.A. National Election Workers Vote for Officials

Unlike the procedure followed in other organizations, the election of National Officials of the M.E.S.A. is an affair in which the entire membership of the organization takes part. The M.E.S.A. Constitution provides for nominations for all national officers to be made by the various locals. National Elections Committee elected by the rank and file delegates of the National Administrative Committee, then send ballots to each local of the organization to conduct the vote among their membership.

In a primary election, the ballots are distributed to the workers in the shops. After the votes have been cast, they are tabulated. Under the M.E.S.A. setup, a candidate must get a majority vote to be elected, so that in this tabulation all candidates are eliminated except the two candidates for each office who received the highest vote cast. A run off election is held on a referendum basis to decide the winner of the election. Under this setup, each member of the M.E.S.A. votes in the primary and final election. This arrangement places the choice of National Officials in the hands of the men and women who work in the shops. It is a guarantee of officials with the confidence of the membership.

In most labor organizations the election of National Officials is one of the orders of business at the National Conventions. These conventions are composed of delegates who usually are paid officials of the Union. There are organizers, secretaries, regional directors, publicity directors and a grand gathering of full time paid officials. These full time paid officials meet as the high authority of the organization and make the rules that they as officials of the Union should function under. In many cases, the delegates are appointed by the administration in power and although they might differ with the opinions of the full time paid officials, they dare not oppose them for fear of being fired from their job.

Under the M.E.S.A. setup, this cannot happen. All delegates to the National Administrative Committee are workers in the shops. They have no particular debt for a job, to the

What's Wrong in the CIO? Everything

The question has been raised as to how a group of people organized with as much enthusiasm as the workers in the CIO could possibly come up with an organization such as they have today. First of all let us remember the causes behind the formation of the CIO.

The American Federation of Labor, had spent most of its time in organizing workers in the skilled trades. The rank and file of labor, the workers on the production line were left to function as best they could. The American Federation of Labor was considered a dictatorial organization, in which the general membership could not have their say in the election of officers. And so the CIO was born. Now it wasn't as easy as that, but those were the reasons behind the organization. Although the new organization screamed democracy, the very structure that it adopted prevented it from functioning along those channels.

Any organization that is established with a centralized control from the top eventually must operate to the detriment of the rank and file at the bottom. The leadership of the CIO as individuals are not to be condemned, it is the constitution of the CIO that gives them authority that is at fault.

No matter what kind of protest they might have had at the inception of the organization, the very principle of walking on soft soap has given the CIO a family soft foot.

The answer to the problem of the CIO is that organization does not lie in a change in the official family.

See "WHAT'S WRONG"—Pg. 4

Chevy Workers Fight CIO-Company Conspiracy To Fire Union Men

During the past week, the spark of revolt among the rank and file of the CIO flared up in the uprising of the workers of the Gear and Axle division of G.M. This revolt differed from previous similar events, in that it was a direct challenge to the CIO as an organization. It is true that the uprising ended in a victory for the communist controlled International Organization. Nevertheless, the refusal of the rank and file of the gear and axle Local to turn over their organization to an administrator appointed by the royal family of the

be possible to recapture the organization from the politically ambitious phonies who now control it. In the event they are unsuccessful in this move, some of the sit down methods that were so successful back in 1937 may be put to use to force the resignation of the CIO top-notchers.

It is our opinion that this final try on the part of these workers is futile. We believe that their organization is so founded, that even if they were successful in their fight to make a change in the ruling family, that before long the new big-wig would also slip into an anti-labor position and they would be right back where they started from.

The fault in the setup is not with the individuals who hold office in the organization, but in the organizational structure of the CIO that places untold power in the hands of the leaders and makes the men and women who work in the shops as the mere sheep to jump at the snap of the whip.

The answer to the problem of these workers lies in the open break with the very foundation of the CIO. It might not be pleasant to swallow, but today, the workers in the CIO face a situation even more intolerable than that which existed in the AP of L back in 1934. The answer to the problem of these workers is a break with the CIO, taking in some thirty members of a confederation of labor that is controlled by the workers who work at the tools of the trade.

Final Notice

All locals of the M.E.S.A. have been instructed to have their nominations for National Elections Committee not later than August 31. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

R. J. Thomas Spouts-off! WLB on Spot

A confession on the part of R. J. Thomas, President of the UAW-CIO and a member of the National War Labor Board that the Labor members of the WLB were showing preference to their own organizations and discriminating against unaffiliated unions was made recently.

Evidently "Tommy" got out on his own and spoke out of turn, nevertheless his statements have reopened the case of unaffiliated unions for representation of government agencies having to do with labor problems. Thomas' fall from Washington his responsibility to appoint only CIO members on WLB panels and that although he was being paid out of the Federal Treasury, he need not consider his Board position as a government job. This position taken by a prominent member of the labor sections of the WLB, substantiates the charges of discrimination made by Unions affiliated with the Confederated Unions of America and the M.E.S.A. in particular.

In all demands made by unaffiliated unions, the only reply that we have received has been to the effect that the records of the Board showed no acts of discrimination and that therefore a change in the constitution of the Board was not in order.

This confession places the Chairman of the Board, then President Roosevelt in a position in which they must continue to deny representation in face of undeniable discrimination. It is our opinion that if members of unaffiliated unions are to be bound by the decisions of the Board, then the Board composition must be such, that the organizational enemies of millions of workers belonging to those unions should not be placed with the responsibility of being

Freedom of Unions from Outside Control Depends on M. E. S. A. Success

The fight being carried on by the 68,000 members of the M.E.S.A., is more deeply rooted than to affect just the membership of that organization.

The basic principle of free associations of workers is that it be a movement established for the prime purpose of representing workers in their dealings with industry and government. Just as soon as a labor organization accepts the responsibility of carrying out the dictates of either the employer or the political

government in power, that to others, who today are attempting to break the chains that bind them to a dictatorship even more dangerous than the rule of the economic barons before the advent of the labor tyrants in the mass production industries. We have spoken to a score of workers whose greatest fear is the ruthless setup that calls itself the CIO. They tell us that they have no fear of the boss, they have licked him before and it will be easy for it again, their fear is of the labor tyrants who have gained control of their organizations and who have eliminated any idea of real unionism.

While it is true that the 68,000 members of the M.E.S.A. and the million members of the CUA are only a fraction of the organized labor movement, nevertheless, the fact that these organizations are conducting themselves as free labor unions is the hope upon which millions of other workers depend.

The gains that have been made by the M.E.S.A. in better working conditions have been the advantage of all labor. When once we have had victory, then other organizations have reaped the benefits for their members.

The major fight that is being carried on by the M.E.S.A. is the fight to promote free associations of workers, and when we say free, we refer to free from control by the employer and free from control by the government, is of importance not only to our own members, but

U.A.W. Debunked at Nat. Supply

The height of hypocrisy has been demonstrated by the U.A.W. in the recent work stoppage at National Supply, in Toledo.

The first to sponsor the no strike pledge is now stooping to subterfuge and unauthorized stoppages (with the blessing of the International and the Local Union) to put pressure on the W.L.B. for action on a case of long standing.

The irony of the whole incident is the fact that it is an admission that the W.L.B. is not a good shop for the direct action and U.A.W. to promote the unauthorized strike as a weapon as means of trying to get the board to move on some of their long forgotten cases.

It's bounding back, and is very embarrassing, were they the first to promote the no strike pledge, and pointed to the board as the powerful means of settling all the ills of labor relations.

They neatly arrange for officials to be absent from the scene, and in the name of spontaneous action point with the finger to the board that they can't control the people and the board must act immediately.

However, in these unauthorized dramatic shows they usually pull a stunt in which they make the mistake of not preparing the membership for the no strike pledge, and 90% of the plant is still wondering what they went out for.

The plan is neatly arranged, the ship leaves the company and usually condemn the Shop Committee for their actions of not supporting the no strike pledge, and in an administrator, and tell the Company with much ado that the Company is taking advantage of the patriotism of the Union.

Usually the windup is the demand for maintenance of membership because the company is threatening the Union's Security. Then the Union can hold the whip over the no strike pledge, and in time when they want something concrete for the dollar they pay in tribute.

Democracy—Economic as Well as Political

Democracy is a system of economic and political freedom. The lack of one means the absence of the whole. It is our opinion that the right of a people to exist is not the property of other individuals. We believe that the right to enjoy the pleasures of life, the right to bring up children in decent surroundings, the right to live, are inalienable rights any government that declares these rights as the property of individuals and only the privilege of the people, fails to function as a democracy.

The question of economic and industrial democracy may seem as a far off hope, but let us observe the actual gains being made toward this end, in all steps in the direction of establishing an economic democracy were taken by those early fighters in the labor movement who

established the legality of workers forming free associations to meet the employer on the economic front. Such organization was condemned as conspiracies against the government and illegal societies. The establishment of labor unions as a legal weapon, was a victory in recognizing the right of workers to challenge the financial dictatorship.

That challenge has grown up, and as labor has gained strength, concessions have been made in proportion to the strength it has shown. It is our opinion, that barter, a setback caused by the capture of the labor movement by representatives of the economic royalists, the establishment of an economic democracy is not far off.

Charges that President Roosevelt has established a dictatorship over the nation,

is a dangerous political weapon being used by a gang whose record of service to the people is something they sooner not talk about.

On the other hand, to boldly claim that we live in a nation based on the principle of complete democracy is wishful thinking. Capitalism, as Fascism, Communism, Socialism or any other economy, is not only an economic system, it is also a political system.

The great danger that faces us in the interim is the possibility that concessions made in an attempt to stave off a laboratory, will capture the enthusiasm of a

poorly grounded leadership and that the fight for the ultimate objective will be given up.

The scene in the labor movement today, is definitely in that direction. The CIO and AP of L have become the labor sections of the administration in power and such are forced to administer the decisions of the government rather than to serve as an ever reaching arm.

Political democracy without its equivalent on the economic front, is like having the opener but not having the can. The danger that we are faced with is that in our enthusiasm we may trade away the opener, and find ourselves with a sealed can.

We have to be able to live in a political dictatorship regardless of the pretty pictures of bread and honey that might be shown on the economic front.

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Social Security Legislation

Various bills before Congress propose increasing social security benefits for what are now termed "demobilized workers and soldiers." The benefits vary from \$20.00 to \$25.00 a week for various periods. As for the M.E.S.A., we are tired of retreating that unemployed men and women who are available for work and cannot obtain employment through no fault of their own are entitled to and should receive approximately their average wages until such time as work, at labor union rates, is provided.

Even many of our vigorous members have not as yet got themselves mentally adjusted to the point where they believe that people should have continuous incomes irrespective of as to whether suitable work is available or not.

Soldiers and sailors receive wages, in peace time, on the basis that they are prepared to wage war, if necessary, and by perfect analogy workers are entitled to wages even when industry cannot at the moment place them in suitable occupations.

While many of our members cannot accept the foregoing promises, the most violent opposition to full incomes for the unemployed comes from the fortunate people who live abundantly without the necessity of working. These very indignant people who live in the face of what will happen to them if they receive what they call "money for not working." The theory is that if the unemployed were sustained during periods of industrial adversity, then these workers would decay and lose their self-reliance. Further, temporary idleness would give them an opportunity of developing bad habits according to the old bromide that "the devil finds work for idle hands."

The obvious reply is that accepting the claim that even temporary separation from healthy work causes men and women to sink to all kinds of depths of depravity, then the people who have been permanently divorced from work all their lives must be in a devil of a state and not fit to associate with workers who have preserved their characters through perpetual toil and sweat.

As a matter of plain fact, it isn't true that reasonable periods of unemployment without loss of pay does anything beyond preserving the sanity and well being of most people.

The time is past when workers, because they have stocked the warehouses with goods, should be thrown out of income and so made unable to buy back the goods they have produced.

M.E.S.A. members should realize that holding themselves available for work should be recompensed at the same rate as actually working.

We devoutly wish we had the command of words to get this securely in the minds of all workers, the net result would be appropriate legislation to outlaw poverty in this land of surpluses.

The proposed legislation for increased social security benefits is a small step in the right direction but why should we stay in low gear? Let's change gears and step on the gas.

Strikes in the M.E.S.A.

There appears to be some misunderstanding as to how and when strikes can be called in the M.E.S.A. The by-laws read as follows:

Article XIX—Strikes

Strikes may be declared after a thorough discussion of the motion "To Strike" by the member involved in any shop, local, at a special meeting called to consider strike action. Local Executive Committee shall be notified to attend this meeting. A 60% majority vote of those present and voting is necessary before a strike can be called. The method of voting to be by ballot. The highest authority in any strike shall be the General Meeting of the strikers held daily, and between meetings the Strike Committee, democratically elected from the strikers' ranks in conjunction with the officials of the local involved.

However, as a matter of tactics all plants should study their contracts as to what procedure is demanded in their grievance set-up. This, of course, must be strictly kept as we cannot expect the employers to keep the terms of our agreement if we fail to hold up our side of it.

When negotiations have arrived at a deadlock, technically the Local Executive Board is only to be notified to attend the meeting where the strike vote is to be taken. However, seeing that the Executive Board may have to vote considerable money to support the strike, it would appear to be good sense to keep the Executive Board up to date with all negotiations that may eventually lead to strike action.

Further, the National Office has no constitutional right to prevent any plant from striking action but again it would be good tactics to advise the office in order that steps may be taken to obtain a solution of the workers' problem, perhaps without the necessity of a strike.

Nobody wants to strike if the same result can be obtained without a shut-down and our advice is to use all the union's negotiation resources before taking strike action.

CUA On the March

It is evident from the number of unions that have recently affiliated with the Confederated Unions of America that that organization speaks for all unaffiliated unions in the nation.

While there are still more than three million workers belonging to unions that have not come into the new federation, the rate of applications being received by the CUA National Office makes it clear that it is an organizing job that must be done rather than a job of selling the principles of a worker controlled confederation of unions.

The October Convention of the CUA, will bring together representatives of some eighty unions. The convention will take a stand on what actions are to be carried out in order to win our fight. When the CUAs were established at Chicago, it was merely an idea. Although we are not satisfied with the results we have attained, we are off to a good start and are confident of the future.

Washington Dope

Bankers Buck on G. I. Loans

"Well sure, it was perfectly alright for those fellows to risk their lives so that we could continue to reap profits, but now that they are coming home, we'll be damned if we'll lend them any money to get a start in life unless they can guarantee repayment of that money." No, that's not an actual statement, but it is the substance of statements made by American bankers in stating their position regarding loans under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

You see, the government provides that veterans may make loans from banks half of which will be guaranteed by the government. The purpose of the loans was to enable the returned veterans to rehabilitate themselves. The hitch now entering the picture is the refusal of private bankers to advance the funds unless they can be guaranteed a profit. It now appears that unless Congress takes some action to protect the soldier, the veterans of World War II are going to find the same kind of a welcome home that their fathers received in 1918.

It is evident from the position taken by these bankers against millions of boys spilled their blood to defend the interests of free enterprise, they can only expect a kick in the face when they get home as far as the advocates of free enterprise are concerned.

The only chance that these boys will have, will depend on the same sort of a fight that the workers in the future will face when war production comes to a halt and big business tries to clamp down. Every effort will be used to try to turn the returning soldier against the worker at home. Those who work in that direction will have in the hands of the returning veterans of World War II, will be to join forces with organized labor and to demonstrate some of the tactics they learned overseas on the financial barons here at home.

Listening in on the Senate hearings on the Kilgore bill, Senator some reactionary Senator screaming the passage of that bill will cost the nation \$24,000,000 a year to take care of the unemployed war against misery, hunger and suffering at home is even more important than the war overseas. We still believe in freedom from want and don't give damn if it costs ten times that amount.

If our government found sufficient funds to give money and supplies to England, Russia, China, Greece and other semi-fascist states, we will accept no reason for denying the necessities of life to the workers and soldiers here at home.

During this war, capital has reaped untold profits, while tens of thousands labor in misery in Europe, the Pacific and the factories here at home.

The Modern Trojan Horse

By John Edgar Hoover

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice

The classic strategem employed by the Greeks at the gates of Troy was the forerunner of a modernized weapon in modern warfare. World War II, though they haven't crawled from the belly of a Trojan horse, the Greeks have now the loss attempted to throw open our gates to the attack.

The landing of the eight ships, ten years ago, was a somewhat obvious effort, but there are more subtle and more dangerous enemies whose mission is similar to the weakening of the nation from within.

Let us credit the forces arrayed against us with at least the shrewdness of the Greek warriors who conceived the Trojan Horse. They will evolve new plans for our destruction, and they may well rely upon overconfidence and unwarranted optimism to assure the success of their stratagem.

We have no desire to share the misfortune of the citizens of Troy who were deceived by the Trojan Horse. The nation's security can be as easily fall before a Trojan Horse as before the blinding of the enemy.

Now that the two major political parties have gone through the motions of nominating their candidates for president and vice-president, the next few months will see a barrage of propaganda in which both groups to further the candidacy of their favored bearers. Both parties will tell labor that only by electing their men to office will there be a possibility of existence during the next four years.

The fact of the matter is that regardless of which candidate is elected, the prime issue of the inalienable rights of workers to live will still be left as the property of private industry. It is the position of the M.E.S.A. that as long as a man is available for work at Union wages, he is entitled to the same living as if he was actually working.

It is true that the two parties have adopted different attitudes toward labor in its relation to capital. The Republicans on the one hand take an attitude that this is a nation for the privileged few, and that labor is subordinate to industry. They work on the assumption that labor is indebted to industry for giving them jobs and that if you are not a slave, you lack the initiative. When demobilization comes, this group hopes to revert to the good old days of Herbert Hoover. Labor has a clear

memory of those days and if the election of the Republicans means the return to the "empty soup pot," we want no part of it.

The Democrats on the other hand have adopted a policy of weeping in your coffee. Roosevelt's program of making the suffering of the workers a little less painful, compares favorably with taking a shot in the arm so that you can stop the pain. The fact that the pain is stopped is the important issue and the fact that your right leg might be caught in a crank shaft is just a minor issue.

While we grant that most of the forces of reaction are gathered in the camp of Thomas Dewey, we see no reason for labor to get all excited about the election of either candidate.

As long as control of workers' lives is the property of private capital, neither party is offering a cure for labor's ills. Children of labor have just as much right to enjoy the pleasures of the country as the children of millionaires, but under the platforms of both major parties, there is not one word written to build a powerful organization that will use its economic strength in a fight to force the administration into action. We have found that all gains that have been made on the political front were actually in response to pressure by the workers in the factories. Regardless of how fast the other organizations might become the enemy of the war will see the M.E.S.A. and the CUA in a position to carry on the fight where it hurts most.

Under the UMW setup, the International President may appoint an administrator over the district, who rules with an iron fist. This has been done in a majority of the districts of the UMW and has been going on for a long time. Will the forces that are opposing this setup be able to break the control of the International? The answer to the next convention.

The fight is even more interesting, in that it is the leader of the local autonomy movement has announced himself as a candidate for John L. Lewis' job. Keep your eyes on this battle, you can expect fireworks.

Elevating the Worker

HOLD THAT LINE !!



Economic Action the Best

inevitable period of unemployment will be completely involuntary as far as labor is concerned, that all workers are entitled to their full wages during that period.

If Congress fails to provide satisfactory incomes for a large part of the consuming public, then we are definitely in for a long period of unemployment and depression. On the other hand if sufficient purchasing power is placed in the hands of the workers, a home market will be available and a period of Capitalist prosperity will be with us.

This present session of Congress will enact legislation that will affect the economic condition of the nation for years to come. The fact of the matter is, that if the right of life was made a guaranteed right, the adoption of legislation to provide temporary relief would not be necessary. We are perfectly willing to accept the salaries and opiates to relieve the pain, but we do wish that the doctor would do something about curing the disease.

If labor is to make any progress during the next few years, it will be necessary to build a powerful organization that will use its economic strength in a fight to force the administration into action. We have found that all gains that have been made on the political front were actually in response to pressure by the workers in the factories. Regardless of how fast the other organizations might become the enemy of the war will see the M.E.S.A. and the CUA in a position to carry on the fight where it hurts most.

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Straight From The Shoulder

Industrial Congress Instead of Geographic Representation Advocated by S.L.P.

Our article of June entitled "Abolish Capitalism? Yes! But up with what?" has brought comments from several of our readers. It is our opinion that as long as we have posed the question and invited answers, we should print the answers submitted by our friends so that you can judge for yourself. Although we may be in accord with contributions of our readers, they are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor.

The June 2 issue of the M.E.S.A. Educator posed the question in a front-page article: "Abolish Capitalism? Yes! But Up With What?" The Socialist Labor Party has the answer to this question, a concept of a workers' democracy based on Industrial Union constitutions—an Industrial Union Government.

Our productive mechanism is as complex as it is vast. It cuts across all arbitrary geographical boundary lines and can no more be controlled and directed by Congressmen elected from Congressional areas than you can drive a steam train with a bull-whip. To direct this complicated industrial machine under the collectivist society which is destined to replace capitalism requires an industrial form of administration. Industrial representation must take the

place of geographic representation and an Industrial Congress must replace the present outworn political State.

This is no arbitrary assumption on the part of the Socialist Labor Party. It is a goal made mandatory by (1) modern mass production methods and (2) the burning need for collective ownership and democratic management.

The functions of this government are as simple as the products it produces. They are to coordinate and direct production for the benefit of all. In short, the government of the future Socialist society will be an administration of things instead of a government over men.

Instead of electing Congressmen from States and Congressional districts, we will elect representatives to the Industrial Congress from the various industries to an Industrial Congress. The qualifications of those elected will be vastly different from the "qualifications" of our present representatives in Congress. Aside from devotion to duty they will include a technical knowledge and the ability to coordinate and direct production, research, and to facilitate the adoption of new techniques as they are developed.

The workers who run the industries today under capitalism are the workers who will operate them tomorrow under Socialism. They will vote in their union, elect their foremen, management committees and representatives to local, departmental and national industrial union councils, and, finally, to the All-Industrial Union Congress. This very shop will constitute a sort of local government in which every individual may participate with the general outline of his being elected a worker, but every day. The workers' government thus organized will constitute the most complete democracy ever achieved by any society.

The Socialist Labor Party does not seek to make a right blue-print of the Industrial Union administration, nor lay down arbitrary lines of demarcation. But the general outline is clearly defined in the mode of modern production itself. All industries will be represented in the All-Industrial Union Congress which replaces the political Congress. All industries which produce goods falling into a single category, such as general manufacturing, food processing, mining, etc., will be grouped into Departments. And each industry, thus integrated, will have its National Industrial Union Council to direct and supervise production within that industry on a national scale.

Here is the harbor the American working class must make for, if it is to escape the alternative to Industrial Democracy—namely, the return to Feudalism, so familiar to workers in the Pacific nations. Once a nation of this goal is in the mind's eye, the means to reach this revolutionary political achievement are laid out by the working class united and consolidated in the Socialist Industrial Union are easily grasped. Until this conception is achieved, "no wind is the right wind."

—ERIC HASS, Editor Weekly People

Free Higher Education an Essential

It is hard to realize that a civilization which is supposed to have progressed as far as we have that we still have talented boys and girls who are deprived of education, their rightful status in life because of the lack of the required education. This is not a matter of education, but a matter of economic condition of the family. There is no money to send Joe to college. Because of the lack of this money the boy or girl isn't able to take advantage of the equal opportunity of our great country. It is supposed to be given to all. A potential doctor, teacher, artist or writer, even a great scientist, is wasted—because we still only talk about equal opportunity.

There is no priority on brains and nature does not ration them or grant priority to those who are worthy or able to develop them. There is, however, a priority on higher education and the funds to pay for it is what is taken to get it. Society owes it to itself to use the resources of talent wherever it may be. It is the duty of society to grant equal opportunity to all, regardless of color or creed. There can be no equal opportunity unless we are as liberal as our grandfathers in the way we grant it to society assumes the responsibility for it. It is labor's job to see to it that this is carried out.

—ROSINA RAYMOND

Chas. Hockenbrouch, M.E.S.A. Local 41

IN LIGHTER VEIN

+ BOOK REVIEW + Lost Economic Horizons

By BEN B. SELIGMAN
NEW LEADER

A curious intellectual exhibition is the spectacle of a man declaiming the economic virtues of a culture that has ceased to exist. Ludwig von Mises, who is often accompanied in his strange lamentations by such writers as Friedrich von Hayek, Lionel Robbins and Gustave Stolper, frantically berates the modern world for refusing to abide by the economic virtues of the 18th century. He denounces a fate that compels him to listen to such outrageous ideas as economic planning, social control and labor's rights.

Von Mises' portrayal of the world of laissez faire is an awkward amalgam of faith, hope and historical distortion. In the world of laissez faire, says the author, those who were penniless had a free hand to develop new industries, provided they had the ingenuity to do so. In this state of pure imagination the consumer is king. Producers simply must subject themselves to the ungracious whims and fancies of those who buy. If they refuse to comply with demands of the consuming public, "they will be thrown out of their positions as capitalists" for "the consumers are the masters." Von Mises quite neatly summarizes his theory of life when he says: "The market is a democracy in which every penny gives a right to vote and where voting is repeated every day." What von Mises ignores is the obvious fact that some voters have more pennies than others. It was this palable lack of balance that contributed ultimately to the decline of the free market.

A reasoned historical appraisal of the market economy should reveal that it brought about its own doom. The market economy was based on an automatic technique of pricing, and everything, including labor's power to produce, had to have a price. Labor, however, is a strange commodity. It cannot be separated from people. It can't be stored. Yet laissez-faire theory, carried to its logical and cruel conclusion, would insist that labor be dealt with as the merchant deals with corn. People were bound to protest against a system of economics that converted them into inanimate adjuncts of the loom and the steam engine. They were bound to revolt against the barbarous requirements of a price economy. Capitalists, too, discovered that the extensive technical apparatus necessitated by modern mass production could not be operated in accordance with free market principles. They simply had to be assured a minimum price that would guarantee the recovery of sunk costs. They got together and established monopolistic practices that effectively abolished market price. Prices were now determined long before commodities reached the consumer.

Yet all this is a foul myth to von Mises. Capitalism, glibly identified with liberalism and democracy, arose, he says, from a moral atmosphere that encouraged saving; did not discriminate against the poor and destitute; and prosperity for all. Von Mises would even deny that economic crises are inherent phases of the life cycle of capitalism. After blandly making this categorical denial, he does not pursue it further. That is unfortunate; it would be interesting to see his chain of logic on this significant question.

The author claims for himself a dispassionate and scholarly approach that is nowhere apparent. To condemn the evils of state intervention, he invents an ugly word "Etatism," which is skillfully employed to arouse horror and fear. Everything von Mises abhors is liberally plastered with the label "Etatism." Economic nationalism, Marxism, tariffs, price control and rationing in wartime, the New Deal, autarchy—even public education—are the diabolic offspring of that devil of the modern world, "Etatism." This is no distortion of von Mises's views. He clearly asserts the political conflicts of Europe to be attributable to public education. "The philologists and pedagogues

Just Stuff! Facts of Life

We have just heard the one about Sherlock Holmes' first day in Heaven. When he got to the last step of the golden stairs, Saint Peter came on down to assist him through the gates. He was met at the front door by the good Lord himself, who explained that he's been waiting for Holmes for quite some time. "You see," said the Lord, "We seem to have lost Adam and Eve, they're around here somewhere but it's beyond us." He continued, "Now Brother Holmes, your reputation as a detective on earth qualifies you to get the job of chief searcher among the angels."

Holmes put his glass to his eye and without much difficulty picked out a "he" and a "she" angel who quickly confessed that they were the missing Adam and Eve. "Tell me," said the Lord, "How did you do it?" "Easy," replied Holmes, "I just looked for the only two up here that hadn't have navel."

SLIGHT MISTAKE

"Now," she asked, "is there any in the audience who would let his wife be slandered and say nothing? If so, stand up."

A meek little man rose to his feet. The lecturer glared at him. "You mean to say you'd let your wife be slandered and say nothing," she cried.

"Oh, I'm sorry," he said. "I thought you said slandered."

HAD SYNOPSIS

A patient who complained of digestive troubles was told by a specialist that he was drinking too much and would have to stop it. "Well," said the patient, "what am I to do?"

The doctor thought for a few minutes then said, "Tell her you are suffering from syncope. That will satisfy her."

"The patient said as he was told, 'I am in syncope,'" asked the wife.

"I don't know," said the husband, "but that's what he said." When her husband had gone out the wife looked at the word in the dictionary and found that it meant: "Irregular movement from bar to bar."

PURSERY RHYME

Sing a song of Europe,
Highly civilized,
Four and twenty nations
Wholly hypnotized.

When the battles open
The bullets start to sing!
Isn't that a silly way
To act for any king?

The kings are in the back-ground
Issuing commands;
The queens are in the parlor
As Etiquette demands.

The bankers in the counting-house
Are busy multiplying;
The common people at the front
Are doing all the dying.
—General Sherwood
Industrial Worker.

PLAYFUL

A man visiting a home for the first time found that his host was the father of three wild children.

One child was busy ripping the upholstery out of a brand new divan; a second lad was driving nails into an expensive table, and the third was swinging gaily from a chandelier.

The bewildered guest eyed the youngster who was driving nails into the furniture. He turned to his host. "I say," he said, "don't you find it rather expensive to let your children play like that?"

The host smiled proudly.

"Not at all," he replied, "I get the nails wholesale."

BOTTOMS UP

We feel sorry for the poor fat fellow that has been trying to get off the train at the last half dozen stops. You see because of his size it is necessary for him to get the back wards. Whenever he gets down to the bottom step, accommodating porters, thinking he is trying to get on, push him back up again.

I TELL YOU BOYS

We'd like to pay you \$5 an hour, but it's just not in the cards.



We—the Useful Workers of the Earth

We are the hewers and delvers who toil for another's gain. The "common clods" and the "rabble," stunted of brow and brain.

What do we want, we gleaners, of the harvest we have reaped?
What do we want, we neuters, of the honey we have hooped?

Ye have tried and failed to rule us; in vain to direct have tried.
Not wholly the fault of the ruler, not utterly blind the guide:

Maybe we need not a ruler, maybe we can find the way:
At least ye have ruled to ruin, at least ye have led astray.

What matter if king or consul or president holds the rein,
If crime and poverty ever be links in the bondsman's chain?
What careeth the burden-bearer if Liberty packed his load,
If Hunger pressed behind him with a sharp and steady goad?

There's a serf whose chains are of paper: there's a king with a parchment crown;

There are robber knights and brigands in factory field and town.

But the vassal pays his tribute to a lord of wage and rent;
And the baron's toll is Shylock's, with a flesh-and-blood percent.

The seamstress hends to her labor all night in a narrow room:
The child defrauded of childhood, tiptoes all day on the loom
The soul must starve, for the body can barely on husks be fed
And the loaded dice of the gamblers settle the price of bread.

Ye have shorn and bound the Samson and robbed him of Learning's light
But his sluggish brain is moving; his sinews have all their might.

Look well to your gates of Gaza, your privilege, pride and caste!

The Giant is blind and thinking—AND HIS LOCKS ARE GROWING FAST.

—JEMMY ROCHE, Industrial Worker.

WORRY

That worry is wrong and hard on your health
I haven't the slightest doubt.
But most of the People who tell me this
Have nothing to worry about.

—RICHARD ARMOUR, Scope

More Stuff!

MORATORIUM

A negro was walking down the street mulling to himself, when he met his pastor.

"Person," he wants you to explain sumpin' to me. I heah the white folks talking about dis here moratorium. It's moratorium dis, and moratorium dat. What do dey all mean?"

"I'll explain to you—explain hit exactly. You see de King of England owes Uncle Sam a lot of money. Uncle Sam sent de King a bill but de King tore it up. He sent him another bill and he tore it up. Uncle Sam just kept sending de King bills and de more he sent him de more he tore 'em."

WAR

The Army cook had just whipped up orders of fried eggs for a hungry mob of soldiers. Wearing his herculean efforts, he sat down, yawned, lit a black cigar and wrote a letter to his sweetheart.

"Darling," he began, "for the past three hours shells have been hurting all round me."

COMEBACK

Talkative Lady: "A big man like you might be better occupied than in cruelly catching little fish."

Fisherman: "Perhaps you're right, lady. But if this fish had kept his mouth shut he wouldn't be here."

BIG SHOT

Sunday Visitor: "I'd like to speak to someone around here with a little authority."

Apprentice Seaman: "Maybe I can help you. I've got about as little authority as anyone."

NEW STYLED PIE

Triumphantly the new bride placed the dessert on the table. It was an oval shaped piece of covered pastry, about 18 inches long and six inches wide.

"What is it?" her husband inquired.

"Why, darling, can't you see?—it's a pie."

"Rather long for a pie, isn't it?"

"Of course not, silly. It's rhubarb."

HIS POP A WINNER

Three small boys were bragging about the prowess of their dad. The first boy said: "My dad writes out a few short lines, calls it a poem, sends it away and gets ten dollars for it."

"My dad," spoke up the second lad, "makes some dots on a piece of paper, calls it a song, sends it away and gets twenty-five dollars for it."

"That's nothing," spoke up the third, "my father writes out a seaman on a sheet of paper, gets up in the pulpit and reads it and it takes four men to bring in the money."

So You Want A Raise In Pay?

First you must clearly understand that you are wrong in thinking this is the time to screw another nickel an hour out of your boss. Your employer is having tough sledding as he will explain to you when you broach this nickel question. It usually goes like this "listen fellows it's not that I don't think you have a nickel coming but hell after these renegotiations birds get through with me I just break even."

The chairman of your Shop

Committee then patiently explains we held a shop meeting the other night and resolution was passed that we demand a flat increase of a nickel and to go back and tell those guys about your renegotiation problems won't do a damn bit of good—they'll say it's boloney anyway as they know you boys given all this consideration to incentive plans! Now don't get me wrong, I don't mean piecework but a job evaluation plan worked out our time study department that will allow everyone in the plant to increase his take-home pay by 25%.

If you boys are willing to go along I'll give you a couple of members of the Board who would help us get it approved quickly.

The Shop Committee members look at each other dumbly as they know that if they take any tricky piece of work plan back to a shop meeting then and then an election of a new shop committee. The chairman, a past pastor in charge of a conference in motion picture industry, fully chooses his words. "My committee has at many meetings given great thought to this question of job evaluation, bonus, system, individual and groups and outright piecework. Our international problem has also studied, this problem and the general sense of opinion is that all these methods of 'payment by results' inevitably breed dissension between individual union members that tends to break down the feeling of unity so necessary to a labor union and therefore we suggest, Mr. Boss, that we get back to our original demand of a flat 5 cents an hour day wage increase."

Another member of the Shop Committee, a very smooth as his chairman breaks in his discussion, "If this business of just pay for what you actually produce is so damn good how is it that supervision gets a yearly salary? Why doesn't the war labor board get paid so much for every case it decides—why don't congressmen and senators get paid so much for every law they pass—oh what the hell, how is it of a guy gets \$100,000 a year without producing a damn thing? The Committee chairman at this point steps on the toe of his radical aide as he can see the boss is at the explosion stage.

The boss controls himself and begins to whine "Havet I always gone along with you boys when I could—didn't I Thanking—have you forgotten the \$25.00 Christmas bonus you all got—Hell, every way I turn I've got my tit in the wringer if its not enough to be handled by War Production Board, Man Power Commission, Labor Boards and then after I make a couple of dollars here and there by renegotiation but you guys have to put me over the barrel for more money. I think I'll give you the keys of the plant and see what you can do."

"The only reason I've been keeping on is that I know the boys in the army need the stuff—believe me there's a percentage in it and I'd like to buy me a little farm and forget this racket."

By this time the conference begins to get up with all the Shop Committee want to talk at once. The chairman however dependently winds up the proceedings by saying "It's evident we are getting no where and we all have to report back to our members." The conference informal breaks up with the boss going into another office mumbling something to the effect that nothing would please him better than to see the boys get \$50.00 an hour but hell its just not in the cards.

Who's Who in the M.E.S.A.?



Ernie Coken — National Representative

The Road to Jericho

I know the road to Jericho
It's a part of town
That's full of factories and
I've seen the folks go down.

Small folks, with rosy cheeks
And star-light in their eyes,
And seen them fall among the
thieves

And heard their helpless
cries.

When toiling took their roses
red
And robbed them of their
stars

And left them pale and almost
dead.

The while, in motor cars,
Stiff front shirts speeding by
Beats of the latest circumlocution
In headlines spread in black
or red

Across the "Evening Times,"
How hard for those in limousines
To know the hurt of man
It was a slow-paced ass that
born

The Good Samaritan,
—Edwin McNeill Potest, Jr.

Local 6 Makes Plans for Dance

The August meeting of Local 6 of the M.E.S.A. at Detroit, elected an entertainment committee to arrange for a local dance to be held the latter part of September.

We have had many requests for such an affair from the men and women in the 19 plants that comprise this local. Although no date has been set for this affair, we think that the committee elected to put it over are determined to make this one swell affair.

If a woman wears gay colors, ruffs and a startling hat, a man business to take her out. If she shows a little turbid and a sailor made suit, he takes her out and stares all evening at a woman in gay colors, ruffs and a startling hat. Now what's a girl supposed to do anyway?

Local 9 Plans Another Picnic

Anyone who attended the picnic held by M.E.S.A. Local 9 on July 30 will tell you that the committee could do no better than to make its invitations. Local 9 plans another picnic to be held the 27th of August at Edgewater Park. If the last affair is a sample of what the M.E.S.A. members of Local 9 can do, we certainly won't miss the next one.

