

The Omaha Guide

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Published Every Saturday at 2920 Grant Street
OMAHA, NEBRASKA—PHONE HA. 0800
Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927
at the Post Office at Omaha, Nebraska, under
Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

C. C. Galloway, Publisher and Acting Editor

All News Copy of Churches and all organizations must be in our office not later than 1:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy on Paid Articles, not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

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ONE YEAR \$3.00
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MINIATURE "OIL FIELD" FORETELLS FUTURE

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Physicist H. G. Botset of Gulf Research Laboratories, plans oil production on the "Electrolytic Model Oil field" he invented. The device, which duplicates actual oil field operations on a laboratory scale, will substantially increase the world's usable oil resources. The "Model" can foretell results of various production methods in given oil fields up to 20 years in the future, assuring more scientific advance planning and a greater percentage of oil recovery. The young lady assistant holds a tray of miniature "oil wells."

Editorial: "The Reality of 1945"



"bilbo, v. i."

The New Yorker, irreverent magazine of international fame, suggests a new word for the English language. The next edition of Noah Webster's masterpiece would have this entry if the New Yorker's suggestion is followed:

"bilbo, verb, intransitive—to appeal to the basest instincts of human nature through lies, defamation, prejudice, venom, and vicious ignorance."

We got the words quilting, fagin, lynch, boycott, filibuster, maverick, gerrymander, and other terms of reproach the same way.

Read The Greater
OMAHA GUIDE



By Ruth Taylor

Confucius said: "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness."

In our impatience with injustice, with discrimination, we too often forget that everything cannot be accomplished at once, that it is better to have a little light than no light at all. And that no one ever brought light out of darkness by cursing—however satisfying it may be at the moment.

The thing to do when darkness confronts us is to stand still and consider just what is the darkness? Is it a black wall in front of us? There is seldom a wall without a gate in it somewhere. Or is it a darkness of spirit that will vanish with the application of light?

What is the taper we have to light? Is it a talent, a skill, or a willingness to work well? Whatever it is, we have within ourselves the power to bring light into the darkness.

John Kendrick Bangs carried out Confucius' thought in humorous vein when he said:

I never seen a night
So dark there wasn't light
Somewhere about if I took care
To strike a match and find out where.

Don't curse the darkness. It certainly isn't pleasant—particularly when it is the darkness of sorrow, of depression, of loss, of ignorance. Stand still and light your taper. By its most feeble flickering, you may see the way into the sunlight. And if the sunlight does not lie beyond, you can make of the taper a torch by which the darkness will be dispelled.

Don't expect life to work like an electric light switch. We are so used to mechanical devices that we sometimes substitute them for our heads—or for our hands and feet. Tapers carried high by each and every one of us will light the world. But we each have to bear our own light. And if we do that well—we will be too busy and happy to curse our neighbor for the darkness.



The Murrays, Thomases, Dalrymples, et al., are getting "militant." Reluctantly, and with a weather eye out for opportunity to compromise, they have quit sitting on the keg. Had they dallied much longer, the keg would have blown up anyway, in which case a lot of labor leaders would have been blown right out of their cushy jobs. Even now suspicion is rife among rank and file workers, particularly in the United Auto Workers, that their international officers are only going through the motions of being "militant."

The current wave of strikes, "wildcat" and "authorized," in progress and brewing, is the purest manifestation of irrepressible class struggle. The demand of the auto worker for a 30 per cent pay boost, and similar demands in other industries, are demands by labor for a larger share of labor's product. As such, they bring into bold relief the focal point of the class struggle.

The widely touted "New Charter for Labor and Management," signed under klieg lights in Washington last March, is kaput. It wouldn't work for the simple reason that it is futile to cry "Peace! Peace!" where there is no peace. Capitalism has divided society into two distinct classes, one of which owns all that is worth owning, the other owning nothing but its power to labor. Their interests are antagonistic and irreconcilable for the reason that if one increases its share of labor's product the other's is reduced. It's like cutting an apple in halves. Make one half larger and the other half is smaller. This is the nub of the class struggle. It cannot be overlapped by rhetoric nor explained away nor suppressed by treaties of peace. It is a palpating reality that, ever and anon, plunges society into the convulsion of industrial war.

We face what may be the weightiest struggles in which the American workers have yet engaged. Because of the tremendous numerical increase of Negro workers in industry, it will be their first opportunity to play a major role in a capital-labor conflict. Employers will, of course, try to drive a wedge between Negroes and whites. But where the two stand shoulder to shoulder and mingle on the picket line, such attempts have small chance of success. The solidarity a bona fide strike evokes does to prejudice what D. D. T. does to vermin.

No more than white workers should Negroes have

illusions about the outcome of these strike struggles. They have been going on since the beginning of the industrial system and, whether the workers win their demands, lose them, or settle on a compromise, they face essentially the same conditions after the strike as before. The capitalist remain capitalists and the wage workers, wage workers.

The question might be asked then: Why do workers strike? The great working class champion Karl Marx, once asked this question rhetorically. And he answered it by saying that if workers didn't strike, they they abandoned their attempts at making the best of occasional chances to win temporary improvement, "they would be degraded to one level mass of broken wretches past salvation. . .By cowardly giving way in their every-day conflict with capital, they would certainly disqualify themselves for the initiating of any larger movement." But Marx did not forget to caution the workers against exaggerating to themselves the ultimate working

of these every-day struggles. "They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the causes of those effects; that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction; that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady." It was in the same address that Marx uttered the famous words:

"Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work!" the workers ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wages system!"

This much is certain: The conflict, of which the present spate of strikes is a manifestation, will go on until the wages system is abolished. I, for one, do not doubt that ultimately it will be abolished because the alternative is deep, corroding poverty, universal misery and recurring war. Meanwhile, the rebellious spirit now being evinced by the American workers is an earnest that slavery shall not prevail.

WASHINGTON R. F. D.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—OPA is locked in a death grip with manufacturing and retail business associations over the issue of reconversion pricing. The view is gaining headway here that the whole Price Control Act may be allowed to die a natural death when the current enabling legislation expires next June 30.

Authorities close to the subject feel that the only thing that can prevent price control from dying on the vine is for the Administration to come forward this fall with a limited program of price control for operation until the dangers of postwar inflation are completely passed.

The immediate issue is this: OPA's general reconversion pricing formula permits manufacturers to allow for prewar manufacturing costs, plus a slight increase for higher costs of labor and materials, plus a prewar profit margin.

OPA thinks this formula, in most cases, will make reconversion costs about comparable with those of 1942. But should they run higher than 1942 retail costs, distributors and retailers are asked to absorb the difference.

Both manufacturing and retail associations are fighting the reconversion formula, though the controversy over the cost absorption policy is especially bitter. The retailers charge that this policy already "has gone about as far as it can go," and declared it is impossible for them to recommend "a practicable, reasonable, and economic pricing program" under the President's recent hold the price line order.

Advocates of continuing limited price control feel that the issue is directly related to the question of mass consumption, necessary to full production and full employment, in the postwar period. They claim that taking all the brakes off prices until the dangers of inflation have been skirted will result automatically in a contraction of markets, and a

curb on employment and production.

OPA is expecting its major support to come from consumer, farm, and labor groups. The reason is that the prices of most of the things which farmers, workers, and all consumers have to buy are expected to go the highest and stay high longest if price control is killed.

Less widely publicized than some of the "big league" testimony on the Wagner-Murray-Patman full employment bill was that of Clarence Avilsen, chairman of the Republic Drill and Tool Co., of Chicago, which denoted a significant trend in business organization. Said Mr. Avilsen:

"I am appearing before this committee not only because I am a businessman, but because I am a member of a committee which is now engaged in organizing a new businessmen's association to be known as the New Council of American Business.

"This new organization will be composed of liberal and progressive businessmen who feel that the public policies generally sponsored by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers are not as liberal and progressive as they should be."

Avilsen is first-year president of the Council, Morris S. Rosenthal, vice-president and general manager of a large New York manufacturing and importing firm, is executive vice-president. "Trust Buster" Thurman Arnold, formerly with the Department of Justice, is the organization's general counsel, and Howard J. McMurray, former Wisconsin Congressman, is its executive director.

Your son, husband or sweetheart may be discharged from the armed forces much sooner than could have been expected a few weeks ago.

The Army plans to reduce its size from the present 8,050,000 to 2,500,000 by next July 1. Rate of

discharges will be stepped up from 250,000 in September to a peak of 672,000 a month in January. Discharge points will be reduced from 85 to 80, and no veteran with 60 or more points will be sent overseas.

Navy plans to release nearly 2,900,000 men in the next 12 months, cutting down to a force of 500,000 enlisted personnel and 50,000 officers. The Navy discharge point system, under fire in Washington, also will be changed within two months to allow credit for overseas service.

The World Abroad

NEW YORK, N. Y.—In three widely separated parts of the world the problems of United States foreign policy have emerged more clearly.

China. The questionmark which has long stood behind the Soviet attitude toward China's internal problems has now been removed. The Soviet Union will cooperate with the Central Government of Chiang Kai-shek. It will not fish in the troubled waters of the Chungking-Yenan dispute.

Publication of the texts of the Russo-Chinese Treaty of Alliance and of the supplementary agreements recently signed at Moscow clearly evidence the Russian position. So far as Russia is concerned, China will not be permitted to become another Spain.

Will Britain and the United States adopt a similar hands-off attitude toward China's internal problem?

The Russo-Chinese Treaty puts an end to Japanese hopes of starting trouble between these two countries. But, if Britain or the United States should intervene in China, Japan's hopes of disension among Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union might still be realized.

The Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse Tung is now in Chungking negotiating with Chiang Kai-shek. Upon the outcome of these discussions will hinge the unification of China. Upon the attitude of United States Ambassador Hurley may largely depend the attitude of the Generalissimo. All the cards are now in Chiang's hands. He can afford to deal generously with the Chinese Communists. He can afford to recognize their contribution to victory. He can afford to make it possible for them to join in a democratic government of national unity. If our Ambassador exerts his influence in that direction, China may not only avoid civil strife but become a bulwark of future peace in Asia.

Latin America. Nelson Rockefeller, the chief sponsor for admitting the fascist Government of Argentina to membership in the United Nations, has resigned as Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs. His place is to be taken by Ambassador Spruille Braden, an uncompromising foe of fascism and appeasement. Whereas Mr. Rockefeller's policies tended to place "Hemisphere Solidarity" ahead of all other considerations, including United Nations unity, Mr. Braden can be counted upon to carry out Cordell Hull's belief that "free governments and fascist governments cannot exist together in this world."

Ambassador Braden has made it clear that he believes that the present Farrell-Peron Government of Argentina does not represent the Argentina people, and that, if the people were given a chance to assert themselves, a democratic regime would be the result.

Europe. General De Gaulle's visit to this country and British anxiety over the sudden termination of Len Lease both served to highlight this country's interest in European rehabilitation.

The problems of the liberated countries, such as France, are very different from those of Britain. Both problems must be solved, if there is to be any hope of maintaining full production and employment in this country.

France has suffered far less than Britain, so far as her intrinsic long-run economic position is concerned. She has contracted no external debt to speak of. Her war expenditures have been relatively small. She is normally very nearly self-sufficient.

Of course, France has suffered much deeper psychological wounds than Britain. She has been defeated and plundered. Right now she is suffering from lack of coal, machinery, transportation, and most of all from lack of food. She badly needs immediate help to get on her feet, but, once on her feet, she can stand alone.

Britain, on the other hand, has gravely compromised her basic economic position. She has depleted her wealth in fighting the war. She has lost a large part of her export trade by concentrating her industries on war production and living off Lend Lease. She has piled up a huge debt and will have to borrow more. She must not only rebuild at home, while still living on short rations; she must recapture her world markets in order to live.

Our foreign policy makers face the difficult problem of finding the means to help bring about the recovery in Europe, which is essential to our own prosperity and to the maintenance of peace, without causing Uncle Sam to be Santa Claus now and Uncle Shylock later.

