

# WINGS Over WASHINGTON

by LEN DE CAUX  
Federated Press

Washington (FP)—"America is a middle class country," declared Up-ton Sinclair. And even as he spoke these words in Washington, guns were barking in a dozen textile towns. The guns did not speak the same language as Sinclair. Hired by a small owning class, they shouted death and terror to a large working class. Sinclair's middle class were there, but divided, in support of one or the other camp when the battle lines were drawn.

Mos. writers, like Sinclair, are middle class. The nature of their work separates them from the great mass of wage earners and working farmers, and few make money enough to rank as capitalists. If one half the world doesn't know how the other half lives, this is still more true of that small segment of the world who have created the great myth of a middle class America. They live in middle class sections of town, they travel in middle class style, the few workers with whom they associate are those closest to the middle class. So they look at the world through middle class glasses and find it middle class.

If Sinclair would read his own books... however, he would see a different picture. He chose a queer time too for his conversion to the idea that the middle class are America's chosen people to lead us to a promised land. Just when Washington has had at least to recognize the existence of the working class explicitly in all its legislation; just when labor boards, relief authorities, framers of social legislation are laboring to define the exact status of working and employing classes; just when the class lines are more sharply drawn than ever before in one gigantic strike wave after another; just when the middle classes are retreating into which camp to jump, as monopoly cuts the ground from under them—Sinclair leaps into national prominence and says: "I was wrong before. America is a middle class country with a tradition of pioneering democracy. We have a working class, but they don't know it. What we have to do is to talk to the middle class."

Sinclair did not mention the textile strike in his Washington speech; he did not mention any strikes. But national leaders of the textile union interrupted their round of strike duties long enough to listen to his talk. What they thought of it, they refused to tell curious reporters. But if they hought back through American labor history, they may have reflected that the Sinclair phenomenon was nothing but an old friend bobbing up again—another movement essentially middle class, but seeking labor support.

the trusts"; Robt. M. LaFollette Sr. was another champion of "the people" against the money lords. They and many others found many eager listeners in the working class. Trade union leaders again and again have thrown labor's support to movements which did up as suddenly as collapse as quickly.

Wall St. has continued doing business at the same old stand, through all the turmoil. It has thought and acted in class terms, it has consolidated and entrenched itself in control of government, even when the middle class shouted most against it. It has sneered at the erratic and often fantastic slogans of the recurring champions of a middle class America. It has not feared them, for it has looked up its books to check the credit standing of this middle class. "They can't last long," it has said to itself, "they are our debtors now, and soon they'll be our employees. Then we'll tell them where to go off."

And the money changers of Wall St. have rubbed their hands when they have labor, politically leaderless, trailing in the wake of the middle of the classes. For they know that while the middle class represents a dwindling and uncertain power, the working class represents a very certain and a growing power. Anything that keeps this class from learning its power and acting in its own right help us, they have said to themselves, and they have looked with not kindly eyes, at times on the middle class of Don Quixotes that have broken their lances in brave charges against the Wall St. mills.

But with each charge the middle-class weakens, and history moves on meanwhile, Sinclair mounts his Rosinante... a time when a great economic crisis has widened the gulf between rich and poor as never before. Under a regime of "business self-government with government supervision" monopoly has consolidated its political power still further. The ranks of the working class have been swollen by countless former members of the middle class. Farmers have been divided more than ever into rich and poor, with growing numbers of tillers of the soil as much in the power of bankers, landlords and bosses as are the workers of the city.

So Sinclair's middle-class America hesitates before this gulf. On one side there beckon to it the political parties financed by Wall St. and controlled by it. Their siren voices sing any song they think will win the hesitant, and the piping voices of would-be Hitlers contribute to their chorus. On the other side is a power still to be reckoned with, a power that shakes the earth... when hundreds of thousands walk out on strike—a working class that when it knows it is a working class and acts accordingly will sweep all before it.

### CORRECTION

The Omaha edition wishes to make the following corrections:  
In the Sept 1 issue, concerning the death of Mr. Homer Burdette of 1829 North 22nd St., his mother's name was printed incorrectly. The correct name is Mable Jenkins of Denver, Colo.  
Mrs. Mable Jenkins, mother of Mr. Burdette was at his bedside at his death, with Mrs. Anderson, his grandmother, and Mr. Harry Jenkins, his stepfather. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins came to Omaha with the body to attend the burial.



### BOOK CHAT

— by MARY WHITE OVINGTON —

**"THE WAYS OF WHITE FOLKS"**  
(by LANGSTON HUGHES)  
"The Ways of white folks," I mean some white folks—  
They are certainly very trying ways for a white person to read about. No single contact between the races as described in this book is satisfactory. One of the characters, Annie, brought up by white folks, first finds happiness when he goes to a gathering among his own race. For the first time in his life Arnie was happy. Somebody had offered him something without being nice." According to without prayer, without distance and without being nice." According to Langston Hughes' picture, contact between the two races never makes for friendship. White folks' ways are not natural ways. Sometimes they are terrible and we have the too familiar lynching at the end, sometimes they are condescending, and the Negro escapes as soon as he can. The two worlds never meet in friendly sympathy.  
The stories vary greatly. "Little Dog," to my mind the best, shows the love that a lonely white working woman gives to her Negro janitor and the complete unconsciousness of the janitor. The little dog brings the two together for a few minutes of the day. Of course, in the end, the white woman runs away. "Poor Little Black Boy" shows the good intentioned but hopelessly obtuse white Northern family bringing up a colored boy. He is kept from his own group but never

receives full entrance into the white. He is always on the side lines. In a third, "Cora Unshamed" a young white girl, gets into trouble and only the colored servant understands her. Here at least the two races meet in love, but the older members of the white race are antagonistic. The end of the story is poignant. Langston Hughes always writes of the overworked servant girl, upon whose back the labor of the house is placed, and who receives scant reward, with deep sympathy. That faithful memory whom the white writer loved to depict he sees in her true light, a servile woman whose natural instincts were appropriated by her owner for her selfish uses. She was to be a mammy for her mistress's children but not for her own.  
After the reconstruction period the white South took upon itself to educate Northern opinion regarding the Negro. We were flooded with books showing the black man as sullen, ungrateful. Sometimes a rapist. "The Birth of a Nation" marked the high water mark of this propaganda. Now we have the Negro's conception of the white man and woman, and it is as severe as the picture the South once drew of the black. I use the word, "ones" advisedly. Negro stories by white writers today are usually sympathetic, but such stories are at their best when dealing only with the black race. One sees from this most interesting and entertaining book how far the groups still are from one another, how little chance they have really to understand each other. The "Ways of White Folk" are sorry ways indeed. I especially recommend the book to the Caucasian reader.

are fought and millions slain, because rners covet the prestige, the honor and the possessions of other ruler and other people.  
3. This Sin Injures the Sinner Also. There is no peace within the breast of an individual who envies the good fortune or covets... the possessions of another. Such a spirit burns and consumes her fier values and deprives it peace and contentment. This is a part of the penalty for this common sin.

### MADE A BRIEF VISIT TO 24TH STREET

Al Patovina and his men went through twenty fourth street like a storm Thursday night, Sept. 6, visited several places. It was alleged that he destroyed a tablet at Twenty-fourth and Clark St., and ordered negotiations, and other obstructive views at various places torn down and moved.

### PARABLES AND PROVERBS... (The Goose on the Golden Egg)

By R. B. Mann  
(For the Literary Service Bureau)  
The axiom "Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg," is derived from an old fable. The fable is that a goose owned by a man laid a golden egg each day. He wanted to get rich. He imagined that the body of the goose contained many such eggs. To secure this treasure he killed the goose—and all, even what he had.  
There have been women who became in a fit, alienated the affection which they prized greatly. Societies, a wife quarrels and nags... because her husband believes in economy rather than extravagance, and in thus quarreling she loses the love of her husband. A man has a profitable position, but he than his income makes possible. He steals, is discovered, is diseased, and perhaps is prosecuted and punished. These, and all such are just so many instances of "killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

### WHAT THE RAILROADS MEAN TO YOU

What the railroads mean to the American people was well expressed in a recent statement by A. J. Conroy, of the Pennsylvania system. The financial condition of the lines affects the financial status of about 50 per cent of the population, who either own railroad securities themselves or own them indirectly through insurance, banking, educational and similar institutions which are heavy investors in railroad stocks and bonds.  
The railroads give employment to about 1,000,000 people whose jobs are imperiled when the lines operate at a loss. Millions of other workers in mines; factories and all types of industry are dependent on railroad purchases for their livelihood. In normal times, railroads are the greatest single purchaser of supplies in the nation.  
Government itself—local, county, state and national is dependent on the lines for much of its tax revenue.  
Railroad money paves roads, build-

Who suffers most from such a program? Millions of wage earners and inventors.  
What will replace the taxes destroyed by tax-exempt government business competition with private citizens? Higher taxes on remaining private property.  
What is the difference between the town bully and the politician who uses the force of government to take what he wants from helpless private citizens? None.  
The people make the government. The people make the politicians. Industry and business create incomes property which politicians tax. If the politicians destroy private business where will they get taxes? Where will people get jobs? Can we all get jobs with the government? No.  
If politics can't get taxes, then what happens? Government is bankrupt.  
Will business and employment increase under a town bully policy? It is our businesses, our jobs and our taxes that are at stake.  
Private business cannot compete with government business. Try it if you think it can.  
What is the answer? Keep government out of the business and confine it to the function of governing a free people, for which it was established.  
What has government in business done for other nations of the world? Bankrupted them in most cases and made the tax slaves out of the people.

### THE TOWN BULLY

Who pays your wages or salary? Business and industry.  
Who pays the politicians and office holders? Business and industry.  
Who pays the doles now handed out by government? Business and industry.  
Who improves property that pays taxes? Business and industry.  
Where does permanent employment for the masses come from? Business and industry.  
Who is injured by government going into business? Business and in-

public buildings, carries on all kinds of government activities, and educates thousands of our children.  
Every person benefits when railroads prosper—every person feels the ill effects when they are depressed. It is an excellent sign that thousands of industrialists, representing all lines of business, are behind the movement to give the rails a fair deal.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Mill made Screens and Doors while you wait.**  
2717 North 24th Street.  
Loves Kitchenette apartment for rent at 2516 Patrick Ave. We. 5553.  
**YOUR OWN—LAKE SHOE SERVICE NONE BETTER;** 2407 Lake St.  
Room for one or two gentlemen on Binney Street—JA. 5918  
Furnished Rooms for rent. Webster 2303.  
Big Rummage Sale on New Goods—1324 N 24th St. Come and Be Convinced.  
**BETTER RADIO SERVICE**  
A. E. and J. E. Bennett 2384 Cummings St. Phone Ja. 6696.  
Three Room Apt., Furniture, gas, light and water \$4.50 week Ja. 6886  
**CUMING'S HOTEL**—1916 Cuming St. PHONE Webster 4835.  
Kitchenette for rent—strictly modern, 2914 North 25th Street.  
Two room apt. and use of kitchen We. 4162.  
**FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT**—MEN. Ha. 9009.  
**FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT** 2224 Ohio Street.  
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HER DULL, FADED HAIR WILL CAUSE HER TO LOSE GEORGE IF HE'S WILD ABOUT HER—IT'S TOO BAD SHE DOESN'T USE GODEFROY'S  
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SAY—WHOSE GIRL IS SHE?  
Don't let colorless, faded hair rob you of love and happiness. Keep your youthful appearance. Keep your hair bright. Get-Back treatment. Keep your man! Do what thousands of stage and screen stars and other celebrities do. Get a bottle of the famous Godefroy's L'Esclave French Hair Coloring at your favorite dealer's today. If he can't supply you send \$1.25 (intimate or post office money order) direct to Godefroy Mfg. Co., 3504 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.  
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