

EDITORIAL - COMMENT



On the treadmill of capitalism workers have to run hard to stay where they are. Take the New York elevator operators. As the cost of living rose, they tried to bridge the widening gap by working longer hours.

What is true of the elevator operators in Gotham is also true of the loggers in the Douglas Fir Country in the Northwest Pacific, and the oil workers in Texas, and the industrial workers in Detroit.

This is a fact, a sobering fact, and I think workers should ponder it soberly. Throughout the war the would-be postwar planners talked endlessly about raising living standards so we could use the out-put of our expanded plants.

The American people are in the pleasant predicament of having to learn to live 50% better than they have ever lived before. Only the defeatist can scoff at this inescapable fact that we must build our economy on that basis.

Now instead of raising living standards, employers, by cutting wages, are causing them to fall. In fact, some of the employers who declaimed the loudest over the need to "raise living standards" are the most determined to cut the wages of their own workers.

One's first impulse is to blame employers, and accuse them of being greedy and shortsighted. But if we follow this impulse, we lose sight of the fact that employers are under the compulsion of external, coercive economic laws inherent in the capitalist system.

The real malefactor is not the individual capitalist, but the capitalist system. The capitalist system is prevented from bringing the promise of abundance for all to fulfillment because of inherent economic laws. And we can no more repeal these laws without "repealing" the capitalist system than we can repeal the law of gravitation.

1. To enjoy higher living standards under capitalism, wages must rise. They must not fall. They must not even remain where they are. They must RISE.

2. Labor power is like any other commodity. When the supply of workers exceeds the demand—especially when it exceeds the demand by many millions—its price (wages) falls.

3. When demobilization of war-workers and servicemen is complete, the supply of labor will greatly exceed the demand.

4. What this adds up to is not the higher living standards our postwar planners forecast in such glowing terms, but unemployment, depressed wages and depressed standards. Right now workers in scores of industries are resisting these effects of capitalism.

GIVE We Still Have a Job to Do! VICTORY FUND AND COMMUNITY CHEST

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

DECLARED OLD IDEAL WASHINGTON.—Although the full employment bill is being pushed through congress into law by a preponderant favor for it—and there is no objection to the basic hopefulness of its theory—no one seems to know what it means, or even where it came from.

I have been calling it a CIO bill because the CIO has campaigned for it in the usual expensive and prepossessing manner which obscures other backing and monopolizes the publicity. But CIO planners did not write it.

The numerous senators whose names are attached as co-authors will give you little satisfaction if you inquire where they got the notion of passing a law proclaiming the right to work which has always existed, legally, constitutionally and by custom.

The original draft of their bill was composed, as nearly as I can ascertain, by the Farmers Union, farthest left of the three farmers' lobbies and often called the farmer branch of the CIO.

There it has some meaning because under a dictatorship fixing salaries, controlling hours, renting homes and even cooking and charging for the workers' meals, while restraining the worker from freedom, a law promising to share whatever work the government gives is a realistic right.

Even this would not be so perplexing except that both sponsors and amenders of this right-to-work bill agree it carries no legal rights. Co-author Thomas of Utah may not have been pinned down on that point yet, but Co-author Murray and Amender Taft, and all the others, seem agreed no citizen could sue the government or employers for a job or get out an injunction, or that a labor union could sue, or get the courts to make someone establish jobs or wages, hours or anything.

If it does not do this, then what does it do? Well, its sponsors rather frankly indicate they look on it as a political propaganda step, establishing a policy-peg upon which they can hang future legislative demands.

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New York.—Poll tax exemption for all veterans regardless of race, color or creed, asked by the Minneapolis American Legion Post, is a hopeful sign in the Legion's relations with Negro veterans, according to Julius A. Thomas, National Urban League Industrial Relations Director.

DECORATED FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK



MAJOR HOMER B. ROBERTS

MAJOR HOMER B. ROBERTS IS DECORATED FOR MERIT-OUS PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES

Major Homer B. Roberts, since August, 1943, Chief of the Negro Interest Section, Press Branch War Department Bureau of Public Relations, received the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious" services in "the establishment and maintenance of effective Public Relations on behalf of Negroes in the Army."

Following is the official citation: "Major Homer B. Roberts performed exceptionally meritorious service while assigned to the War Department Bureau of Public Relations from August 1943 to September 1945. As Chief of the Negro Interest Section, Press Branch he ably contributed to the establishment and maintenance of effective public relations on behalf of the Negroes in the army and rendered service of great value to the War Department through the institution of adequate publicity on the performance of Negro troops."

Major Roberts displayed an outstanding knowledge of the problems of the Negro soldier and exercised sound judgment in meeting these problems, with favorable results in the press, on the radio and through other media, resulting in assistance of the greatest value to the war effort.

A veteran of the World War, Major Roberts first enlisted in the Army as a private in December, 1917 and served overseas with the 92nd Infantry Division where he was elevated to a first Lieutenancy in the Signal Corps. At the conclusion of the war he returned to his automobile business in Kansas City, Missouri, which was considered as one of the most successful business ventures in the city.

Reporting for duty as a captain in October 3, 1942, Major Roberts was assigned as Public Relations Officer and Commanding Officer of the Military Police Detachment at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. While in this capacity with the Corps of Military Police, he prepared and distributed to the press many news releases on the activities of Negro soldiers at Fort Huachuca.

In recognition of his efforts in this direction he was ordered to the Bureau of Public Relations in Washington, D. C., where he set up the Negro Interest Section in the Press Branch of the News Division. The Negro Interest Section provides a weekly press service for interested newspapers.

Just passed a resolution to be presented to its National Convention in Chicago in November, demanding that "all honorably discharged veterans of World War I, regardless of race, creed or color, be exempted from all poll tax payments, Grandfather's clauses, and all other local restrictions and requirements to the end and purpose that such honorably discharged veterans, be enabled hereafter to exercise their voting franchise under the intent and provision of the Constitution."

The Home Town Reporter in WASHINGTON By Walter Sheard WNU Correspondent A World Department Of Agriculture

EVERY farmer and rancher, every person connected with the food and agricultural industry in these United States from producer to processor, and citizens generally, should watch with deep interest the meeting of the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations in Quebec, starting October 16.

This is the first of the permanent new United Nations agencies to be launched after the end of hostilities, which marks the importance attached to its deliberations by our government and the governments of all the 44 United Nations.

The food and agricultural organization ratified by the 44 nations at San Francisco is part parcel, and a most important function of the United Nations organization. It is not a relief agency. Its aim is to improve world agriculture and to increase food production; to provide a higher standard of diet and raise the levels of nutrition and the standards of living throughout the world.

Not Enough Land There are now about 2,200,000,000 human beings populating this old world on which we live, and the experts predict that at present rate of increase there will be a billion more by the end of the century.

What the representatives of these 44 nations... what our own delegation does to Quebec to commit this country to a program of world agricultural rehabilitation will determine in large measure whether we as a people were honest when we subscribed to the Atlantic charter and the charter of the United Nations at San Francisco.

Two-thirds of the people of the world are farmers. These hundreds of millions are striving to raise food on worn out land.

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STUDENTS DEMONSTRATION IN BUENOS AIRES.— Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Soundphoto) A shower of leaflets shower upon Moreno Street in Buenos Aires from students atop the Engineering Building of the University during one of the recent demonstrations which led to Juan Peron's resignation.

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