

# The Omaha Guide

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## Labor Looks At Free Enterprise

In a recent editorial, the newspaper Labor said: "If free enterprise" fails in the United States and Canada, it's gone with the wind. This newspaper would not like to see that. Labor believes in the American system. 'Free enterprise' has been guilty of many crimes and Labor hasn't hesitated to say so, but, after all, it's better than any form of totalitarianism."

This is a very mild statement of the case. Free labor has never existed except where free enterprise has existed. In every country where total government has been established, the workers have been among the first to be enslaved. Their unions have been destroyed. The right to strike to make demands for higher wages and better conditions, to organize, and to change jobs, has been brutally abrogated. Labor does what it is told.

The newspaper Labor states that free enterprise has been guilty of many crimes. So, of course, has organized labor. But in a democratic society these crimes can be corrected without destroying our economic system, or infringing on the basic liberties of the people, the crimes of dictatorship can be corrected only through revolution and war.

The welfare of labor is inseparable from the welfare of industry under the free enterprise system. Whatever the difference between them, they should present a united front against the ruinous doctrines of statism.

## When Costs Outrun Earnings

The American railroads are handling a record-breaking volume of peacetime traffic. Yet a number of major roads are operating at a loss and earnings for the industry as a whole are far below what they should be if the lines are to avoid financial disaster and are to continue to improve their plant and better their services to the public.

That statement was recently filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission in support of the railroads' petition for rate increases. Basically, the railroads' problem is that costs have far outrun rate adjustments. Since 1939, freight rates have gone up 17 per cent. In the same period, wage rates have risen 52 per cent, the average price of railroad materials has gone up 67 per cent, and the rate of payroll taxes has increased 52 per cent.

The upshot of all this will be that in 1948, unless higher freight rates are authorized, the rate of return on railroad investment will be less than two and one half per cent. And that does not take into account the higher operating costs that may develop in the future. The United States Supreme Court, and many regulatory bodies, have repeatedly held that six per cent is a fair and reasonable return for regulated utilities.

Railroad operating costs must always reflect going prices, wages and taxes. The industry cannot be expected to provide the expanding, improving services the country requires at rates which are slightly above the prewar level.

## One Form of Monopoly

Sometimes one of the most obnoxious forms of monopoly and one of the least recognized can be found in the single-store crossroads community. Retail stores fortunate enough to be the sole merchandising outlets in their areas should lean over backward to meet their responsibility to the townfolk depending upon them. The bulk of retail distributors in this position to do just that. But there is a shortsighted minority among merchandisers, as in all fields of human activity. From such a minority outspoken proponents of legislative restrictions of one kind or another on the free market and free competition often appear, particularly if possible competition has shown up on the horizon.

Take the case of these single-store situations. The proprietor opened his store many years ago. In all that time he did not make an improvement in the physical appearance of the establishment. The showcase with the broken pane of glass is still in use. The vegetable rack is still an improvised affair half filled with rotten vegetables. Merchandise is shelved or piled in a manner that defies self-service. The meat department is an antiquated cabinet. No apparent effort is made to keep prices in reasonable relationship with those of the nearest shopping center.

These things continue in evidence in spite of undreamed of increases in business resulting from expanding local activity.

Under such circumstances no great imagination is needed to picture the eventual entrance of a modern, efficient, retail store. It may possibly be a chain store. When that time comes, the present operator will be hand-tapped. His record is not good and he will have no one to blame but himself, yet he will be bitter and can, become an enthusiastic booster for any kind of a law penalizing the efficient merchant-and the consumer.

This is an important problem which consumers and the distribution industry must be actively aware of at all times. Situations of this character, multiplied manifold, have resulted in special chain store tax measures and other laws deliberately aimed at undermining modern mass distribution.

A little girl overheard the doctor saying that her mother, who was ill, would not get really well until some warm weather came. That night she began her prayers by saying: "Please, God, bless father and make it hot for mother."

A colored preacher at the close of his sermon, discovered one of prayer. Deacon Brown will lead.

"Lead" said Deacon Brown, suddenly awakening. "I just dead."

## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare

The British experiment in socialism is of unusual interest to the American people. First of all, we naturally feel a much closer kinship with England than with any other country except Canada. The bond of a common language and common institutions is a strong one. So is the fact that we have been allies in two great wars, and millions of Americans have visited and liked England in either a military or a civilian capacity.

England's trials and tribulations under the Labor government, therefore, are continuing to occupy a top spot in the American press, and they have been the subject of millions of words of reporting and interpretation. And, of late, many of the interpreters have come to the somber conclusion that British socialism, just like European socialism, is putting ideology ahead of everything else.

Henry Hazlitt recently touched on this in one of his Newsweek columns, when he wrote: "Fascists have been defined by Santayana as people who redouble their efforts after they have forgotten their aim. So the heads of the Labor government are forgetting their ideals of liberty, forgetting even the material purpose of their plan, and drive grimly ahead with a plan that has become an end in itself. Meanwhile their planned economy is running out of coal, running out of dollars. And perhaps most serious of all, it is running out of alibis."

This point of view is not confined to the United States, nor even to Mr. Churchill's conservative opposition in England. Some of the Labor officials have engaged in sharp differences with Mr. Attlee, on the grounds that his program is unworkable. This led to a near crisis in the Cabinet a short time ago, but Mr. Attlee was sufficiently strong to ride out the storm. Even so, there is still some unrest in high Labor circles which may make its appearance again.

The growing strength of communism in England has been a cause of worry. This does not mean that the communist party itself is of substantial size—it has only two members in Commons, and it is a sorry also-ran in most elections. But some avowed communists have risen to positions of considerable influence and authority. As an example, the leader of the coal miners is an old-tim communist, and a faithful follower of the party line. Some writers have openly raised the question as to where his final loyalty might lie in the event of serious trouble between the Soviet Union on the one hand and an Anglo-American alliance on the other.

In many circles, the Labor government's recent action in levying a 75 per cent net profits tax on American movies—a step which was immediately followed by a ban on film exports to England by the American producers—is regarded as having been motivated more by ideology than by economics. American films are in high favor in England, and attract about 70 per cent of the total movie attendance. A strong case can be made for preventing the further export of England's dwindling dollar supply for entertainment. But the Labor government, instead of slapping on a prohibitive tax, could have in England, as many of them have said they were willing to do. Life's London correspondent explains the tax by saying that Sir Stafford Cripps, its instigator, "feels that U. S. films create a longing in British hearts for the fancy plumbing and conveniences and the shiny new gadgets and luxuries with which Hollywood crams its sets. He would like to dull this appetite." If this view is correct, England has banned American films because it doesn't want the British people to see visualizations of comfort of the luxury. The attitude of mind behind that is uncomfortably close to the mentality of the high Soviet officials.

Many a study has been made as to what rank and file of the British people, now living under an austerity regime much more severe than that in effect during even the darkest days of war, feel about all this. It has been found that there is much dissatisfaction, and the grumbling has naturally increased as food and other rations have been reduced. Yet they don't seem any strong feeling that a change in government would be of benefit. The Labor government has won a number of by-elections, since the last general election, by comfortable majorities. The mass of English voters are apparently convinced that Labor should be given every chance to make a go of it. This feeling, it is said, is in part the result of a fairly general belief that the Conservatives, despite Mr. Churchill's forensic brilliance, haven't offered anything sufficiently specific to swing the popular sentiment.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that most observers of England, even those who are opposed to socialism, think that black as conditions are, she may win out yet. This is based in large part on the sturdy British character—and on England's historical habit of losing all the battles but the last.

## No Question About Them Fitting



## The Veteran Asks . . .

Q. If I apply for a G. I. loan, will I get a gratuity payment of some kind?

A. Yes, VA pays to the lender, for credit to the veteran's loan, an amount equal to 4 per cent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. For example, if the guaranteed portion is \$3,000, the lender will receive \$120 from VA to credit to the debt of the veteran.

Q. May the wife or child of a veteran be granted hospital or domiciliary care by the Veterans Administration because of the relationship to the veteran?

A. No, Admission to a Veterans Administration hospital or home is based on the service of a person in the armed forces and may be granted only to the persons who served.

Q. I am receiving compensation for a service-connected disability has become more severe since the compensation was allowed?

A. Probably. The rate of increase of compensation depends upon the increase in disability, as shown by examination by a VA physician and evaluation under the VA rating schedule. Visit the nearest VA office if you feel you are entitled to increased compensation.

Q. Can a disabled veteran taking a course of instruction under Public Law continue his training for more than four years?

A. Training in excess of four years may be approved when the veteran's disability is such that no course of training which does not exceed four years will restore him to employability, or when circumstances beyond the control of the veteran necessitate the extension beyond the prescribed four-year period.

Q. What is the latest date on which I can reinstate my lapse? National Service Life Insurance without a physical examination?

A. The deadline is December 31, 1947. If you reinstate your term insurance, you will be required to pay only two monthly premiums—one for the month in which your policy lapsed and one for the month in which it is reinstated. Instead of a physical examination, you will be required to sign a statement that your health is good now as it was when the policy lapsed.

Q. My husband was killed in World War II and I re-married. I have divorced my second husband, and now I would like to have my first husband's name on my Social Security record. Can I do this?

A. The government has won a number of by-elections, since the last general election, by comfortable majorities. The mass of English voters are apparently convinced that Labor should be given every chance to make a go of it. This feeling, it is said, is in part the result of a fairly general belief that the Conservatives, despite Mr. Churchill's forensic brilliance, haven't offered anything sufficiently specific to swing the popular sentiment.

like to know if my widow's pension can be reinstated?

A. Existing legislation provides that compensation or pension shall not be allowed to a widow of a World War I veteran who has remarried. Her status cannot be changed if she later is divorced.

## LABOR DEPARTMENT URGED TRANSFER APPRENTICES

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach was urged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to transfer the Apprenticeship Training Service from the Housing and Home Finance Agency to the U. S. Department of Labor in order to forestall the possible loss of the service through revisions in the HHPA's program. The transfer was first suggested by Clarence Mitchell, NAACP Labor Secretary during a recent conference with Mr. Schwellenbach. Mr. Mitchell, in suggesting the transfer, indicated that under such a setup there would be greater opportunities for increasing the present number of apprentices in the vital building trades, where today, out of approximately 100,000 persons taking this training, less than 2,000 are Negroes.

The Labor Secretary was urged by Walter White today, to take some action on the proposed transfer. In a letter to Mr. Schwellenbach, the NAACP head declared, "Knowing the importance of developing skilled craftsmen in the construction field, we are very anxious to see something done which will increase the participation of colored people in this program. With the current needs in the building trades, the construction industry is a good place to give emphasis at this time. I hope that the Department of Labor will be able to include this phase of the program in Apprenticeship Training Service as was suggested."

## Primitive Origin

The universality of man's love of color was demonstrated early in antiquity. Each region and sub-region of the globe developed its own dye sources. It is estimated that nearly 1,800 different plants, vines, shrubs and trees were, at one time or another, employed for extracting dyes. However, only a few of the primitive dyes survived to ancient and medieval times.

## Lime Essential

Lime is essential on acid soils for proper growth of many crop and pasture plants. To promote this desired growth, sufficient lime should be applied to change the acid condition to a neutral point. Under most conditions in the upland area the addition of lime to the soil also provides calcium for plant growth. Commercial fertilizer, incorporated with the soil management practices previously mentioned, is essential for continued high crop production. Every crop harvested for grain, forage or other use removes plant food from the soil. Soils under continuous cropping systems, coupled with erosion, lose their plant nutrients faster than they can be replaced by nature.

## Knockabout Chairs

If you have knockabout chairs in the sunroom or on "sabbathical leave" from the summer porch and their appearance is not everything you desire, consider making simple slipcovers for them. Use strong fabrics like ticking or oilcloth in last colors, so they can be passed regularly into the washing machine.

## HOW CAN I ?

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I drive a nail into plaster without marring the wall?

A. This can be done without crumbling the plaster if the nail is placed in hot water for a few minutes, or dipped into melted paraffin.

Q. How can I launder a man's ties successfully?

A. Before washing the ties, baste them carefully to prevent the lining or padding from becoming lumpy. Remove the basting before ironing and the ties will look as when new.

Q. How can I make a good toilet perfume?

A. A good toilet perfume can be made by mixing two ounces of alcohol with one-half ounce oforrisroot. Keep in bottle tightly corked, and shake well before using.

Q. How can I test eggs for freshness?

A. Place the egg in a pen of water. If fresh, it will lie on its side. If a few days old, it will tilt upwards. If stale, it will stand on end. If very old, it will float.

Q. How can I separate a water glass that has become "set" by glass to contract it, and then immerse the lower glass into warm water to expand it. They can then be separated very easily.

Q. How can I make good furniture polish?

A. Furniture polish can be made of one part vinegar, with equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine.

Q. How can I remove a roken cork that has slipped down into the bottle?

A. Pour in enough household ammonia to float the cork, let it stand for a few days, and the cork will break into fine pieces, which can be removed without difficulty.

Q. How can I tighten the handle of an umbrella that has become loose?

A. Fill the hole in the handle with powdered resin, heat the rod, and then press firmly into the hole.

Q. How can I remove a rusty screw?

A. Heat a poker or spike red-hot and apply it to the head of the screw. When the screw has become hot, it can be removed very easily.

Q. How can I relieve sunburn?

A. One of the very best remedies is to mix two parts of limewater with one part of linseed oil, beat it to the consistency of cream, and apply.

Q. How can I remove the socket of an electric light bulb, when the glass bulb has broken off?

A. This can be done by pressing a large cork firmly into the socket. This will enable you to unscrew the metal part.

Q. How can I mend a tear in a kid glove?

A. Buttonhole around the edge of the tear before drawing together and the repair is substantial.

Handled Many Times  
Less one is handled the times from the time it is removed from the earth until it emerges from the furnace as liquid metal.

Only Margaret Church  
Only Margaret church in America is at Charleston, S. C. It was founded in 1687.

You Takes, Yer Choice

By GEORGE S. BENSON  
President of Harding College  
Searcy, Arkansas

Looking Ahead

I AM an American worker. If I decide I'd rather work and live in Schenectady, I can go there. Or Racine, or Spokane. If I want to, I can settle down and make the San Fernando Valley home. If I've been a machinist, but decide that the radio industry is the place for me, there are ways I can train myself to get into radio. If I want to drive a Diesel locomotive instead of a bus, I can go into railroading.

Nobody tells me I can't. I can try as many jobs as I like. If I don't like the job, I can walk out the door. When I find a job that suits me, I can work right up to be manager of the department or even president of the company, if I have the ability and the enterprise. If I want to start my own business and become an employer, I can do that, too.

Nobody IN AMERICA no- says "No" body tells me I can't do all these things. But if I lived in a totalitarian country, I would be told: A uniformed official would have the duty of telling me in what part of the country I could work. A representative of the State would inform me that I must train for a certain job. I would have no choice in the kind of job.

Being told to stay put, I would have little chance for advancement. My wages would be regulated entirely by the State, and there would be no redress of grievance. Leaving a job would be impossible. There would be no firing for unsatisfactory work. Instead, I could be thrown into a concentration camp or a slave labor battalion. There I would

be taught completely how to become servant to the master, the State.

Swap With IS NOT THIS con- Europe? trasting picture agree. However, what you are probably thinking is that America can never become such a totalitarian state. Friend, we would have to ignore the history of the world to assume that such dangers do not confront America. When a nation is prosperous is just the moment that you may watch for decline to set in. We must be no less watchful because times are good. We cannot ignore danger signs.

No American worker would want to swap places with the average European worker. Yet so many of us unhesitatingly accept ideas and methods that come right from the very countries that we have outperformed a hundred ways to breakfast. Not everything is bad simply because it originates in Russia or Europe, but it is time to look around and see that what we have puts totalitarianism out of the running.

Yet, in a recent survey from a cross-section of 5,000 persons, 63 per cent of the college students and 43 per cent of the general population said they would get as much or more in America under government management and ownership of industries. In other words, a lot of folks apparently believe that state socialism or totalitarianism would be more efficient and more desirable than freedom of opportunity and freedom of the individual. How mistaken they are!

## The Common Defense

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY  
Every so often we hear objections raised to the idea of Unity among the American people. It will lead to uniformity, the critics say. It will compel everyone to accept certain beliefs forcibly imposed by public opinion and the state. It will suppress religious freedom by preventing minorities from expressing their own particular views. It will relegate to a position of relative unimportance those beliefs which distinguish one religion from another.

These objections arise, and could only arise, from a misunderstanding of what is meant by Unity and the principles upon which it must rest. By Unity we simply mean that there are some principles in American life so easily recognized by all men of good will as to be accepted by them gladly, voluntarily, and reasonably—and that in acknowledging these principles we all find a common ground on which to stand.

There is the principle, stated by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, that every man born into this world brings certain inalienable and inherent rights with him as the gift of God. The right to seek is one of them. The right to print is another. The right to worship according to the dictates of conscience is still another. This principle of equal rights applies to the Protestant, the Jew, the Catholic, the Negro and the White man without any distinction between them whatsoever.

And all Americans of good will are one in proclaiming, acclaiming, and accepting this principle. We are united on this ground. There is the principle of majority rule and the security of minority rights against both the state and the majority. Americans of good will are united on that principle—regardless of their religion, their race, their national origin, or their class. There is the principle, as Jefferson again stated in the Declaration of Independence, that the function of government is to secure to men the rights they have from God—a principle which protects us forever from state tyranny and makes the Government man's servant, not his master. We are united—Catholics, Protestants and Jews—on that principle.

When we speak of Unity in America it is Unity based upon and growing out of the acceptance, in the main, of these principles. We are not trying to enforce any kind of uniformity in religion or politics. Indeed, the principles upon which we are united, teach us that we have an inalienable and inherent right to be different.

We are not seeking to force anyone into a mold—or to expel any group from our society. We are, instead, saying that everyone of every group has an inherent right to enjoy the fullest opportunities America offers and to develop his talents to the highest possible degree without discrimination against him because of his race, religion, national origin, or class. We are not endeavoring to deprive any religious group of its particular and precious beliefs. We are, in accordance with our

principles of Unity, maintaining the right of every religious group to teach and practice its tenets free of persecution or restriction.

We are united on those principles which guarantee our freedom to be free and to be different.

The people to watch in America are not those who seek Unity on this basis—but those who deny it—those who deny the right of a Protestant to be a Protestant and a good American, a Catholic to be a Catholic and a good American, a Jew to be a Jew and a good American, a Negro to be a Negro and a good American. The people to watch and to oppose are those who strive, by spreading prejudice, to make America a land for their class only—as the Communists do—or their kind only—or their group only—as the Fascists do—denying the rights of others to free participation in our life and using whatever means they can to drive them out of society.

## APPROPO OF NOTHING

By James Alfred Williams

Glad to meet you this morning. Hope you will like my musings. If you do, tell your editor.

I am concerned now about America as we know it. Will it survive the pressure, or will we deceive ourselves by singing a song of peace when there is none in sight. Thank you, Think of it.

Whatever come of my leaders? The entire group is drifting around thinking of bread. If we don't eat we don't live, if we don't live we don't eat.

My earnings in 1932 was \$26.60 a week. I carried it all home. Your earnings today is \$40.00. You carry \$31.00 home and each one of your dollars is worth only 19 cents. What have you gained by your folly?

The amount of dollars you are paid on paper does not make you rich nor does it give you a high standard of living. It is what you have to spend for that living that gets you anywhere.

Milk 52 per cent up, bread 50 per cent. These are not luxuries they are necessities. What can you do about it?

Look at the price of iron. Everything you use is connected with iron. The price of iron is the gag for the cost of living.

What do you think of Britain today? How would you like to be a citizen over there? We are heading for the same flood if someone doesn't do something about it.

What do you think of the Atom Bomb? Who's afraid of the Atom Bomb. Nothing that man makes can ever destroy the work of God.

One hundred and one in the shade today. No clouds in sight. My advice is to find your storm cellar. Goodbye.

This article is written by James Alfred Williams who hereby assumes any and all responsibilities.

21-Congress  
Under its constitution, Chile is a bi-cameral congress elected directly by the people, as is the president. The latter has somewhat the same power as the president of the United States.