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Tuesday, April 8, 1941.

National Solidarity

We continue to hear much about national solidarity as the expansion program marches forth with its increasing payrolls and greater purchasing power. But are we really united in the cause of war, peace or brotherly love? As long as we are eating freely of the good things, and marching more or less in the same direction, we are not prone to complain. But when the crisis comes, will we be able to withstand the demands for sacrifice?

Today we are furthering class hatred, advancing vehement criticism of others and reserving none for ourself. In our haste to criticize others, we are ignoring the foundation for unity and progress in the several fields, material, religious, social and civic.

In this land of high-praised democracy we are attacking approximately ten million workers, condemning them to a man because of a few racketeers in the labor movement. Just as the National Association of Manufacturers has its leaders so do the labor unions. There's nothing wrong with that. Just as the National Association of Manufacturers has its racketeers, profiteers and flagrant violators of the laws of the land, so does labor. The being of one is no excuse for the being of the other, and the wrongdoers should be brought to justice. Today there is a wide movement to condemn all men who earn a livelihood by the sweat of their brow. If the rights of working men to better their lot in life are to be denied, then what future hope rests in our efforts to aid Britain and build up our own defenses against Hitler and the things he represents?

There is no hedging in these quarters when it comes to prosecuting law violators whether those violators be found in the ranks of capital or labor. It has been maintained that the violators should be brought to justice. Recently there has been an expressed desire on the part of the general public and the dominated democratic press, so-called, to prosecute only one group and to prosecute the innocent along with the guilty in that group. It is difficult to understand why certain facts fail to find their way into the headlines and why they are never mentioned. For instance, the management of the strike-bound Allis-Chalmers plant is a bitter isolationist. Possibly the management is anxious to turn out war orders contrary to its own personal desires. But isn't it a fact that all strik-

ers are branded as communists or pro-German? It is a fact that those workers who are seeing profits rise fifty to 100 per cent for the manufacturers and stockholders are being branded as communists because they seek to share in the extra profits.

The recent strike in the soft coal industry brought bitter condemnation down upon the heads of the striking miners, but in all of the thousands of columns of strike reports was there a word about death in the mines? On an average four to five lives are lost each day in the coal mines of this country. As many as 361 miners have paid with their lives in single mine disaster that you and I may enjoy the warmth of our firesides far removed from danger, sweat and grime. Since 1906, nearly 73,000 lives have been lost in mine accidents. Last year, 1,420 persons were "accidentally" killed in mines, 91 losing their lives in a single disaster. The Tobacco Roads presents no detail more pathetic and saddening than those seen from a speeding train's window in the coal regions. Poverty and want are there in bold relief against the smoke-darkened shanties and huts. But in this land of democracy we are ready to hop on the bandwagon and condemn all coal miners and all men who work for a living. We do it directly or indirectly, forgetting the possibility that many enjoying high standards of living today will be mired down in poverty tomorrow with a livelihood to be gained only by the sweat of our own brows and with no one to champion our cause at the table of labor's master.

Labor is probably asking too much in some cases, and in some cases it is asking much with the hope of getting a little. Labor has made mistakes, but they do not compare with the brazen mistakes made by some industrialists who would damn the public good to score a defeat over the worker. Some years ago Henry Ford, determined to steer clear of Wall Street, loaded his dealers with automobiles. Today he is depending on the wolf, wolf story by yelling about communists to gain support in his bull-headed fight against labor and in his challenge of the laws of the land. Mr. Ford does that even after he said he did not care who won the war. Possibly two out of every 1,000 men employed in the Ford sweat factories and along the slave-driving assembly lines don't care who wins the war, but they have been branded as communists long ago.

The rights of labor, not racketeers, are being recognized by official Washington and it is good that they are recognized, for once we enslave labor a fall similar to the one experienced by France is to be expected in these United States despite all this talk about solidarity.

Defense Delay By Industry

It has been pointed out to Congressmen and the country, at large, that labor strikes have delayed the defense program a million man-days. The stoppage is to be regretted. But while the million man-days delay on account of strikes is being pointed out, Congress and the public, at large, overlook the glaring fact that industry itself delayed the defense program for nine long weeks, meaning that 450,000,000 man days were lost in advancing the defense program.

It would appear that we are treating labor as the red-headed stepchild, that we, so bent on condemning labor, overlook the faults and racketeering in other fields. Little can be gained by a division in a division of labor and industry, and the burning criticism heaped upon the heads of labor is helping no one or anything. Especially is this true when the critics turn and tip their hats in innocent approval to those who have delayed defense and bulged their pockets with profits on a cost-plus basis.

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