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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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SENATE IS DEFIED BY DETECTIVE AGENCIES WHO DESTROY RECORDS OF LABOR SPYING ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Six officers of the Railway Audit and Inspection Company, a detective agency with offices in New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and St. Louis, defied the authority of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee in its investigation of industrial espionage by refusing to obey the subpoenas issued by the committee to appear at the first hearing with the company's records and documents.

Not only did the six officials flout the authority of the committee by refusing to appear before it, but, according to testimony submitted by the committee's agents, officers of the company began a wholesale destruction of the documents as soon as the subpoenas were served on them. These astounding facts were revealed at the hearing held here by Senator Robert La Follette, chairman of the sub-committee authorized by the senate committee on Education and Labor to make the investigation. The determination of the company to resist the authority of the committee was made known by its counsel, who declared he had advised his clients that the senate resolution under which the inquiry was being held was unconstitutional and exceeded the senate's power.

During the entire hearing it was learned that Justice James M. Proctor in the United States court for the District of Columbia had acted on the request for an injunction made by L. Douglas Rice of Philadelphia, a stockholder of the company, restraining the officials from appearing before the committee. Although Justice Proctor did not issue the injunction, he directed the defendants to appear in court four days later and show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be granted.

Despite the refusal of the company's officials to appear, Senator La Follette continued the hearing by placing its committee's agents on the stand to tell how they had in part circumvented the destruction of the company's documents by requisitioning from building superintendents the waste paper from the concern's various offices and patching the

fragments together. Twelve pieced-together letters and memoranda were submitted showing the spying activities of the company, while bales of other torn bits of paper have still to be fitted into complete documents.

One of the patched up letters was from W. W. Groves, at Pittsburgh, addressed to G. E. Ivey, the Atlanta manager of the spy concern. Much of it concerned the placing of "hooked men," a term to describe active spies masquerading as workers who go into industrial plants with a view to learning labor secrets and making friends with the labor leaders so as to ascertain in advance what is going on.

The "hooked man" in this case was Mr. W. H. Gray, whom Groves said was "experienced in hooking and does a first-class job along this line."

When the testimony regarding the destruction of the documents was concluded Senator La Follette declared it "disclosed the grossest kind of contempt ever witnessed under a Senate subpoena," adding:

"It shows the grossest and most flagrant contempt of the United States Senate. As far as the chairman of the committee is concerned, every legal remedy that can be taken to punish this flouting of the Senate will be prosecuted with greatest vigor."

The officers of the industrial espionage organization thus described by Senator La Follette are W. W. Groves, president; W. B. Groves, vice-president; L. Douglas Rice, vice-president and general manager; J. E. Blair, secretary-treasurer; Robert S. Judge, former counsel, and J. C. Boyer, alias O'Keefe, an employee in the Railway Audit and Inspection central offices in Pittsburgh.

James F. Burns Friend of Labor Is S. C. Nominee For U. S. Senator

COLUMBIA, S. C., Aug. 26.—Senator James F. Byrnes, vigorous supporter of the Roosevelt administration, and a friend of organized labor, won an overwhelming victory over his anti-New Deal foes in Tuesday's Democratic primary on the face of partial returns.

With 1,272 of 1,474 precincts reported, the State's junior senator had 198,813 votes against 17,923 for Thomas P. Stoney, former Charleston mayor, and 9,714 for Col. William C. Harlee, retired marine of Dillon.

FIRST LESSON

Scotchman: Now then, son, double up your fist tightly, like this. His Wife: Say, teaching our boy how to fight? Scotchman: No, I am teaching him how to carry a penny to Sunday school.

FRANK BARR TO DO UNEXPECTED; HIS MARRIAGE IS ANNOUNCED; CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE AT UNION

Columbia, S. C., Aug. 16. To the Editor of The Labor Journal:

One of the most interesting and unique weddings to occur in labor circles in the state will be that of Mrs. Ruth Morton, wife of the late Royal W. Morton, of Charlotte, to Mr. Robert Francis Barr, recently of Charlotte, but now residing at Columbia, S. C. The ceremony will be performed at Union, S. C., home of the prospective bride, on September 3, 1936, by the Rev. Dr. Chick, pastor of the Union Methodist church.

Mr. Barr has been active in labor circles over the state for many years, having recently served a term as president of the Charlotte Central Labor Union prior to his moving to Columbia, S. C. He is now on the production staff of W. B. Guimarin & Co., of Columbia, S. C., plumbing and heating contractors. Mr. Barr is a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union of Columbia.

The couple, after a short honeymoon, which includes a very interesting automobile tour, will make their home at Columbia, S. C., where Mr. Barr is indeed no stranger both to business men and union men alike. Friends and acquaintances in the

Roosevelt Workers To Meet Wednesday Sept. 2, Moose Hall

A meeting of the Labor Non-Partisan Political League will be held next Wednesday night at the Moose Hall, South Tryon Street, about 8:45, immediately after Central Labor Union has completed a curtailed meeting. The organization has as its main object the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president, and all union men and their friends are urged to be present, when J. H. Fullerton, of Charlotte, who is the North Carolina chairman of the league, will preside and an organization perfected. This League will not, we understand, work for or against any candidate in the field, but is aiming all of its guns against President Roosevelt's enemies. Every worker organized or unorganized who stands for Roosevelt and the New Deal, is urged to be present. This organization is going to prove a factor in the Roosevelt campaign and in J. H. Fullerton, its state chairman, has an indefatigable worker and a loyal supporter.

Be on hand, bring a friend, and let's start with a banner organization in Charlotte. Time: About 8:45 P. M. Place: Moose Hall. Date: Wednesday, September 2.

CHATTING

It may be recalled by some readers that about a year or more ago two boys in Chicago, at play in the cellar of the home of one of the boys, did some digging, as boys frequently do. As a result of their labors they unearthed a large sum of money which had been buried some time before by some unknown person. The home was a rented one, and the owner claimed the find. The money was put into the hands of the court, and finally the judge decided the money belonged to the boys and it was returned to them.

The above is incidental to the following story which is of a somewhat similar nature. This story appeared in the daily papers also, but the best report is discovered in the Christian Century and is here given as published:

"The story has a faint flavor of Maupassant's 'The Necklace,' but it happened last week in New York. A young man named Aleck Krunocky, who had been out of work for many months, got a PWA job and set to work with a gang that was making a park at the waters' edge. His own was not quite so ideally located, for part of the time he had to work in the water. In delving there he brought up a bag that seemed very heavy. He succeeded in hiding it from his fellows, got it home, opened it, and found \$1,060 in twenty-dollar gold pieces. He knew that gold could not be kept by private owners. At any rate he knew that his title to this treasure trove was somewhat clouded. Being an honest youth, he wanted a clear title. So he took the gold to the nearest police station and told his story. He was congratulated on his find, and was told that the authorities would keep the gold six months and then, if no owner appeared, it would be his. Naturally, he was very happy, and mentally spent his money several times over in comforts and luxuries for himself, his mother, and his step-father, and still had enough left to make a large deposit (still mentally) in the savings bank. His mother had urged him to hold out a few coins for a few pressing needs. One does have pressing needs after several months without work, and his step-father had no work either. But no, he said, he had no right to that. He must turn it all in. A few days later he was called to the police station and the news was broken to him, as gently as such news could be broken, that the coins were counterfeit. His fortune had evaporated. The woman who has the little store down on the corner said: 'Well, he's got no money, but he has credit. Everybody knows he is honest.' It is something to have that left after a fortune has evaporated."

That is the end of the story as written. But there is more yet to be said. It pays to be honest, even though one may sometimes seem to lose as a result of honesty. It will be recalled his mother urged him to keep out a few coins for "pressing needs." No doubt there were pressing needs. Perhaps many of them. It will also be recalled the coins he found were declared counterfeit. First, it was unlawful to own gold coins, and he was in danger of legal entanglements had he retained them, since Uncle Sam has called in all gold money. Again, even though it be legal to own gold, had he endeavored to spend any of the money he would have been in the meshes of the law for passing counterfeit. Truly this young man found what would have been a bag of trouble had he not been born with a mind and determination to be honest with himself and the world.

Place yourself in the position of this young man and decide if you can what your actions would be in such case. Honesty is the best policy, but on the other hand, when one has been short of cash for a long time and suddenly comes into possession of a bunch of it, the human mind begins quickly to work, and it shows many angles to the case in question. Money is the root of all evil, and had this young man decided on the wrong course his find would have sprouted many evils and given him a world of trouble, all caused by the fact that he had finally secured a job with the PWA, which Uncle Sam established with a view to alleviating suffering and need and putting more satisfaction and comfort in the way of our unfortunate citizens. All honor to this young man for his honesty, and here's hoping the next time he comes into possession of sudden wealth it will be the real thing and that he will know how to handle it.

1,250,000 NEW HOMES NEEDED ANNUALLY SAYS A. F. OF L. SURVEY; 2,300,000 DEPENDENT ON BUILDING

Recent issues of the Monthly Survey of Business have emphasized the creative possibilities of America's highly efficient industrial equipment. If this equipment is used to its full capacity, all American workers may have work and can produce enough to give every family a comfort level of living. In this issue we deal with one industry, building, showing its part in creating this comfort level of living and suggesting steps which may be taken to help it meet the requirements.

Building construction is one of our four great basic producing industries. Normally, it creates constructions worth more than 10,000,000,000 each year, and 2,300,000 workers depend on it for their livelihood. Beside direct employment in building, one man employed in the materials industries is needed to provide the building supplies for each worker on the construction job, and one in the consumer-goods industries to provide his food and clothing. Thus far the fate of the building industry affects 4,600,000 workers in other industries, in addition to its own 2,300,000 or a total of nearly 7,000,000.

Records covering building contracts awarded in the 37 eastern states show that about 4% of the wealth created by building each year is in homes and apartments, 30% in factories, office buildings and public utilities, 25% in public works and public buildings, and 5% in other buildings. Home building is the backbone of the industry, business building the next most important, and public construction normally accounts for about one-quarter of the whole.

During depression, home building almost ceased, dropping from 840,000 homes built in 1928 at the peak of the building boom, to 123,000 in 1933, or less than 15% of its 1928 volume. Contracts for factory and commercial building dropped to less than 17% of their 1929 value, and although public building was not so drastically cut, tax losses reduced it to barely 40% of 1929. This virtual disappearance of private buildings so cut employment that by March, 1933, less than 600,000 of the industry's 2,300,000 workers still had jobs—three-fourths were out of work. When those thrown out in materials and consumer industries are added, this meant unemployment for 5,100,000 in all.

There can be no prosperity without recovery in building, yet building has lagged behind other industries on the road out of depression. Therefore, the gains of this year and last, which have finally lifted building to nearly half (43%) its 1929 value and definitely started it toward re-

covery, have strengthened confidence throughout the business world. Also re-employment in building and related industries has added greatly to the nation's buying power. The level of building activity in the first half of 1936 has been twice that of 1933. Over 400,000 men have gone back to work in the industry since March 1933, and probably about double this number in material and consumer goods industries, a total of about 1,200,000. There are still, however, 1,300,000 unemployed in building and over 11,000,000 in American industry as a whole.

While private building in 1936 is more than doubling its 1933 volume, it is significant that the industry still depends to a large extent on public funds. In normal times public construction is only one-quarter of all construction, today it is more than half (51%); private building today is only 29% of its 1929 value, public construction 76% of 1929.

The public construction being done today includes road-building (a larger volume than normal), flood control, schools, libraries, city halls, water works, sewers and the like, financed either through PWA or other public funds, and housing projects providing some 18,000 homes. In looking forward to the future we may well consider whether public building should not permanently play a larger part in our national building program and whether it should not include the building of lost cost homes which would not be profitable for private enterprise. We will consider first the outlook for private building, next the present housing shortage and the function of public building in remedying it.

BUILDING OUTLOOK. Private building in the last two decades has been subject to very great changes from boom to depression and back to boom. During the war, building practically ceased, leaving the nation in 1920 with an acute building shortage. Then began a boom period when in its efforts to make up the shortage, building construction exceeded all previous records. This lasted through the nineteen twenties,

ROOSEVELT LABOR DAY RALLIES CALLED FOR BY THE NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE; FULLERTON N.C. CHAIRMAN

Smaller Demonstrations Everywhere Are Called For in Proclamation by Labor's Non-Partisan League to Back President in Record-Breaking Show of Workers' Solidarity.

In a proclamation received here, Labor's Non-Partisan League calls on all League state chairmen to arrange a series of mass demonstrations in support of President Roosevelt on Labor Day. Plans already are underway here throughout the state for a state-wide response to the call from Washington.

It is planned that there shall be one principal demonstration in each state and that there shall be state, to be attended by the state chairman and all of the vice chairmen and other demonstrations in as many cities and towns as possible throughout the state.

If the plans are carried through and it is evident they will be—Labor Day will witness the greatest demonstration of American labor political solidarity ever recorded in all of our national history.

Maj. Berry has asked all state chairmen to plan these meetings at once and to let nothing stand in the way of their success.

In each meeting a declaration of support of President Roosevelt will be adopted.

State chairmen have been asked to arrange local radio facilities wherever possible.

"I believe we can say it is already assured that there will be Non-Partisan League Labor Day mass meetings in every state in the union, united by a single purpose, marking in dramatic fashion the uprising of the workers in support of the President," said Maj. Berry in writing to state chairmen. "And there will be hundreds of smaller meetings throughout the states. I look for the greatest political spectacle of our time and I feel confident we shall not be disappointed."

At the same time Major Berry announced formation of a Woman's Division of Labor's Non-Partisan League. All state chairmen have been asked to begin the building of a women's division immediately and to enlist in each state the leading women, including those who are friends and sympathizers of labor as well as those who belong to labor organizations. Major Berry pointed out that there

are fully two million women now organized in women's auxiliaries of unions. "It is a fact beyond doubt that the overwhelming majority of these organized women and their friends favor the re-election of President Roosevelt and will want to share actively in the triumph of his re-election," he said. "Their economic interests are in no way different from those of the men who make up the labor movement. Added to the women who are in auxiliaries there are thousands who are active members of unions. We can count on the support of at least three million women for re-election of President Roosevelt."

Major Berry expressed himself as more confident than ever of the success of the campaign. "Not only are we assured of success in achievement of our immediate objective, but we shall go on from there with the building of a strong, permanent organization reaching into every Congressional district in the United States."

"The case of the opposition reveals its weakness every day. The banding together of the great exploiting interests of the nation in the opposition camp is impressing upon labor with fresh emphasis the vital necessity of uniting solidly in support of the President. No amount of Republican oratory can conceal or distort the issues. The forces that drove the nation to the very brink of ruin are supporting Governor Landon and he welcomes their support, making his cause one with theirs. Our task is to mete out overwhelming defeat to that menace to everything that American labor values, preserving liberty and the fundamental democracy of our country. Labor's Non-Partisan League is in action everywhere with that single objective as our task for 1936."

State chairmen will be responsible for arranging the nation-wide series of mass meetings.

J. H. Fullerton, first vice-president of N. C. State Federation of Labor and president of Charlotte Central Union, is the North Carolina Chairman of the League.

THE CONSTITUTION WAS MADE FOR THE PEOPLE

The Constitution was made for the people of the United States, not the people for the Constitution. This is the fundamental fact which economic Tories overlook in the howling that accompanies the conflict between the progressive social legislation recently enacted by Congress, and the reactionary majority of the Supreme Court.

It is along this line that Associate Justice Harlan F. Stone, who is usually found in the progressive minority of the Supreme Court, sounded a call for common sense and a broad consideration of the rights of the masses in interpreting the Constitution in his address at the Harvard Tercentenary Conference on the future of the common law.

Justice Stone said:

"We are coming to realize that law is not an end, but a means to an end—the adequate control and protection of those interests, social and economic, which are the special concern of the Government and hence of law; that that end is to be attained through reasonable accommodation of law to changing economic and social needs."

"Just where the line is to be drawn which marks the boundary between the appropriate field of individual liberty and right and that of Government action for the large good is the perpetual question of constitutional law. It is necessarily a question of degree which may vary with time and place."

It is apparent to all sincere citizens that the aims of the framers of the Constitution and those responsible for the Federal social legislation enacted by the last two sessions of Congress are the same—both desire a just balance between individual liberty and the authority of the Government.

Those who framed the Constitution were not confronted with child labor, starvation wages paid to large groups of workers, denial by many employers of the essential right of their employees to organize for the protection of their economic liberties, and an industrial system so managed that millions of toilers are thrown into the unemployed army.

In these directions it is clear that the spirit of the Constitution confers on the Federal Government the duty to enforce the intent of the Constitution in protecting the general welfare of the people.

In discussing the guarantees of the Constitution relative to personal liberty and property rights, Justice Stone said:

"The chief and ultimate standard which they exact is reasonableness of official action and its innocence or arbitrary and oppressive exactness. There is need for a continuity not of rules but of aims and ideals which will enable government, in all the various crises of human affairs, to continue to function and to perform its appointed task within the bounds of reasonableness."

As Justice Stone views the question, the text of the Constitution always means the same thing, but in translating its ideals into Federal law Congress should take into consideration the social needs and institutions of the time.

Justice Stone has hit the nail squarely on the head by directing public attention to the fact that the Constitution was meant for living people—that it is not a set of static rules by which men long since dead sought to hamper the legitimate aspirations of succeeding generations and impose servitude and poverty on a large portion of our citizens and their dependents.

"No," said the union man to the company "union" stool pigeon, "I haven't anything up my sleeve, but I have a union label in my pocket."

JOHN FERGUSON, SR., LEAVES FOR UNION HOME IN COLORADO

reaching a peak in 1928. During the present depression, private building has again dropped to almost nothing, leaving the country today with an acute housing shortage. Now that the industry is again on the upward road, with a shortage to make up, we may expect another period of high building activity.

J. L. Ferguson, Sr., who has been connected with the Charlotte Observer as linotype operator, for nearly 18 years, left Monday for Colorado Springs, Col., where he will enter the Union Printers' Home. Mr. Ferguson recently suffered a nervous breakdown. His friends hope for him a speedy restoration to health.