

## Facing the Facts

With PHILIP PEARL

We heard Frank Morrison, Secretary Emeritus of the American Federation of Labor, disclose at a recent testimonial-dinner the secret of his long and honorable life.

"I have made it a rule during my life," Mr. Morrison said, "never to go to sleep while harboring thoughts of malice against anyone."

If that is the secret of long life, perhaps its converse is equally true—that is, people who constantly harbor and cherish thoughts of malice are doomed to die young. And if that is so, pity poor Westbrook Pegler.

Malice is Pegler's racket. It is his break and butter, his meat and drink. He lives on it and off it.

During his career as a sports writer and columnist, Pegler developed an unusual and individual technique. He didn't know enough about what he was writing to make his articles interesting, so he hit upon the novel method of saying them earnest things he could about everyone. He deliberately picked on people and organizations generally enjoying popular favor and considered above reproach. He reasoned that if he couldn't get his readers interested any other way he could at least get them angry. In this way he picked up quite a following.

**Hoodlum Language and Hoodlum Philosophy**

Pegler uses a gangster idiom which he assimilated back through the years of his association with persons in various fields of sports and crime. He has used his gangster language in sweeping denunciation of the President of the United States and members of his family. He has used the same technique in his more recent diatribes against the American Federation of Labor.

Back through the years, Pegler has been against so many things that it is more than a little difficult to find

out what he is for. It is a cinch, however, that he is not for organized labor. Not only back through the years but to this day Pegler has maintained a bitter, reactionary attitude toward organized labor. He has never had a friendly word to say about it. Thus we find him referring to union dues as an "income tax" on the workers. We find him tearing several passions to tatters about union policies for the protection of workers. We find him inveighing against progressive legislation. We find him ranting about injustices to employers. In fact, the only thing we have ever been able to find Pegler "for" is reaction. The only thing he has ever defended is the cause of big business.

Frequently Pegler has been accused of being a Fascist. We hesitate to pass any judgment on that. But it is only too true that he has borrowed several leaves out of Adolph Hitler's book.

Just as Hitler has denounced democracy as a tool with which racketeering politicians fool the public, so has Pegler, in pursuing his own "Kampf," denounced the American Federation of Labor as an organization of racketeers to fool the workers. There is just as much truth in Pegler's statement as there is in Hitler's.

### MORE ABOUT PEGLER

What a man does in his spare time is his own affair. We would be the last person in the world to put the finger on a man because of the way he conducts his personal life or because of his personal references in recreation. But we recently heard a story about Pegler that is so rich, so characteristic and so apropos that we cannot resist the temptation to pass it on. Here it is:

Some time ago, it seems, Pegler went on a yachting trip with some friends and colleagues. It was not his own yacht but Pegler proceeded to make himself so much at home that in a short time he became ill, despite the fact that the ship was riding at anchor on a smooth sea.

But the attack of illness passed quickly and soon Pegler was feeling good again. Very good, in fact. He reclined on an easy chair on the after-deck of the yacht and entered into the spirit of the party with a right good will. The hour was growing late, however, and one by one his companions departed below decks to their cabins to get some sleep, leaving Pegler to solitude.

Some time during the middle of the night one of the guests awoke, felt restless and decided to go on deck to get some air. It was a warm night and all the sea a solemn stillness held. That is, until this guest approached the after-deck. There the voice of Pegler assailed his ears. As he approached the easy chair and he was able to hear what Pegler was saying. The guest stopped, dead in his tracks

—dead with astonishment. Because apparently Pegler was unaware that he was alone—and had been for hours—and was carrying on a spirited but imaginary conversation with his fellow yachtsmen all soundly asleep in their berths below decks.

Would it be unkind to suggest that Pegler in his ravings against the American Federation of Labor will have about the same audience and the same effect as that memorable night aboard the yacht?

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 J. J. Woodall, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 Lessie Woodall, Defendant.  
 The above defendant will take notice that an action has been commenced in the above court by the above-named plaintiff against her for a divorce absolute on the grounds of two (2) years' separation and that she is required to appear before the undersigned and answer or demur to the complaint filed herein within thirty (30) days for the last issue of this notice or the plaintiff will ask the court to try the issue joined herein.  
 This the 5th day of February, 1946.  
 J. A. RUSSELL, Assistant,  
 Clerk Superior Court.  
 Feb. 5, 15, 22, 29.

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