

EDITORIAL

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GREEN GIVES 4-POINT PLAN

In an editorial written for the American Federationist, which is partially reproduced below, AFL President William Green lays down a four-point program to help guide unions through the perilous days ahead.

"This period of world revolution places on our free trade unions a special responsibility to protect their own rights as well as to safeguard democratic institutions for the whole country and this hemisphere. Observe these safeguards:

"(1) Keep your unions free from Communist control. Communists use unions to promote the party.

"(2) Carry on collective bargaining and other union activities in good faith to assure workers continuously rising standards of living and management dependable work contracts.

"(3) Seek to broaden the field for co-operation between unions and management for the mutual advantage of those the industry serves.

"(4) Be on guard against co-operation with Communist Front organizations and party followers that further party line objectives.

"No trade unionist can be neutral in this world crisis in which democracy and human freedom are at stake throughout the world. The roots of democracy are in the principles of the Christian religion.

"Every time a crisis in labor affairs ties up a large portion of our economy there is an immediate demand for legislation to stop strikes by drastic regulations and penalties. Such demand ignores the fact that strikes are the culmination of a series of efforts to adjust views on matters of joint concern.

"Collective bargaining is the basic procedure of democracy. Applied to work problems, it provides that representatives of workers and management shall agree upon terms and conditions of work and set up the agencies to put the contract into effect. It rests upon recognition of mutual interests in production and in the distribution of returns on joint work.

"As the union becomes increasingly effective, there is an approach to equality in bargaining.

"The first step which the Federal Government should take in a program to prevent strikes is a well-equipped Department of Labor headed by an experienced person who knows labor problems. Then, an effective conciliation service, supplemented by a technical staff and by research information on wage rates, productivity, labor costs, and a wide range of other information made readily available for all workers by a labor conciliation service.

"Make available for labor's study and use comparative data on union agreements, management techniques, health and welfare funds.

"Finally, emphasize the constructive gains of collective bargaining.

"Such a program would help the public to assume its responsibility for standards in order to enjoy uninterrupted production.

"Strikes in the past have been labor's main dependence in lifting standards of living permanently to new high levels. The only safe way to establish them is to increase the effectiveness of collective bargaining. The right to strike distinguishes the free worker from the slave. The right to strike involves the foundation of our free democracy. But as workers value this right, they must use it with wisdom and responsibility. Equally essential is it that employers learn the value of responsible collective bargaining in good faith and not try to trick the union into indiscretions."



GIVE HIM THE BUM'S RUSH

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

DANE-GELD

Kipling once wrote a poem about the Danish pirates who, nearly a thousand years ago, preyed on the coast of England and collected Dane-geld to stay away; and he showed how fallacious was the idea that "paying Dane-geld ever got rid of the Dane."

The nations of the world learned again at Munich that "peace in our time" only meant that our time was measured.

What's the difference in dictators? Whether it be Mussolini strutting on his balcony, Hitler screaming in a rage—or Stalin making his puppets walk out whenever he can't have his own way—or other lesser dictators, ready to do exactly the same things whenever the chips are not all on their side of the table?

A dictator is a dictator and it never pays to appease him. But—the one thing we always can do is—not to do business with him. It doesn't make any difference whether for the moment he is on our side of the fence or the other. His methods are wrong. And we certainly learned as children that the only way to make a bully change his tune is not to play with him. Brutal talk? Yes, but these be

brutal times. The peace we hoped for after the war is not here. The peace we wanted we are not achieving. Our time seems again to be but seconds. Why? Because we have appeased. We went about what we thought was our business instead of taking care of the most important business of all. We all agreed, compromised and acquiesced in order to concentrate on our own affairs and forgot that in order to have the road smooth the line must be true. We paid Dane-geld—and not only overseas.

Can we still correct our errors? We can—but only if as individuals we turn back to the straight line—and we must not do it at the expense of any one, of any group, or of any nation. We must make up our mind what we want—and make every one know that we do know what we want.

This is as true today as it was in the days of which Kipling wrote. We must do as he advised, and stand firm, armed and ready, that we may be able to say:

"We never pay anyone Dane-geld. No matter how trifling the cost, for the end of that game is oppression and shame, and the nation that plays it is lost!"



"WORKING IT OUT"

by Frances Perkins

The Social Security legislation, which was undoubtedly one of the most important contributions of President Roosevelt's administration, is now due, after ten years of operation, for reconsideration and extension.

Since that legislation was passed in 1935, great strides have been made in other countries in the extension and application of the principles of Social Security. The news from England is that a modified form of the so-called "Beveridge Plan" has passed the House of Commons and will become law after the formalities of approval by the House of Lords and other officers.

The Beveridge Plan is commonly known as "cradle to the grave" insurance, by which is understood that all citizens of England contribute to the fund and are eligible to share in the benefits when they are old, unemployed, sick, crippled, or unable to earn a living. The Act is very far reaching and it is predicted that it will make tremendous changes in the way of life in the United Kingdom. To some extent it can be thought of as a program of abolishing poverty, although real poverty will not disappear except under a practical program of high levels of full production and full employment.

Undoubtedly the intense competition between individuals and groups for a greater share of a limited amount of goods and money will be considered eased by a program which assures to everyone the necessities of life and some protection against unforeseeable adversities. This in turn ought to bring about a decline in class prejudices and class and group discriminations which have so hindered the development of modern civilization.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand where they have an established Social Security Plan of the type of the Beveridge Plan, that public officers, such as Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister and Walter Nash, former ambassador to the United States and President of the International Labor Conference in 1944, are willing to announce that they believe they have "abolished involuntary poverty in New Zealand." Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister, a most vigorous and intelligent man who comes from a long trade union background, is enthusiastic as well as picturesque in his comment. He says in a recent speech, "We can claim to have abolished involuntary poverty in New Zealand. We are also the first country to have augmented the undertaking, given by all countries at San Francisco, to follow a policy of full employment. We passed a full employment act within the past six months."

"Of course," adds Mr. Fraser,

"if a man wants to drink his money away or waste it in other ways he can still be poor. We can't, as a government, abolish that but we can claim to have prevented poverty which is due to causes outside the individual's control."

New Zealand has been under a Labor Party Government for ten years. Six of these years were spent in waging war in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific. Imports and exports are state controlled or state owned in that country but the main productive property is in private ownership. The Reserve Bank and the largest stock bank, the civil airways and the railways are Government owned and operated. Hydro-electric power stations were originally developed by the Government and have always been state owned in New Zealand. All farms and ranches, however, are privately owned, as are the factories and shops and stores. But farm produce is all bought by the State at a guaranteed price. The State then sells it, either overseas under its export control or markets it internally as needed. This is a peculiar blend of public and private enterprise which seems to satisfy the majority of New Zealanders.

According to Mr. Fraser, class prejudices between the rich and the poor, the manual workers and the professional workers, don't exist in New Zealand. Women have long had the vote and participate in public life. The New Zealanders are proud of their lack of class prejudices and they assess it to their systematic policy of preventing poverty.

There are some observers, however, who while congratulating the New Zealanders upon having overcome this type of prejudice, point out that there remains a considerable amount of racial prejudice which shows itself in their immigration and settlement policy. Perhaps the further development of a program of preventing poverty will eventually help them to overcome this also.

M. W. MITCHELL, 72, DIES; EX-HEAD STONECUTTERS

Indianapolis, Ind.—Michael W. Mitchell, former international president of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America, died at his home in this city. Mr. Mitchell was 72 years old. He retired in 1939, after serving as president of his organization for over 25 years, and was well known in labor circles throughout this country and Canada.

AFL OPENS ROME, GA. OFFICE
Rome, Ga.—George L. Googe, Southern representative of the AFL, announced the opening of an office here as part of the AFL drive for a million new members.



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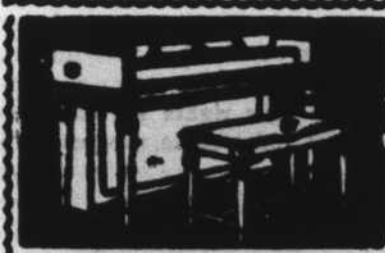


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Uncle Sam Says



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