

EDITORIAL

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COST OF LIVING REACHES NEW HIGH

The rapid increase in the cost of living is perhaps the main topic of present day discussions, and right it should be the most thought of subject, because it affects all of our citizens.

In some sections of the country buyers' strikes have been inaugurated, and in others the housewives, who buy most of the food and clothes for American families, have gone on the warpath in an effort to make themselves heard by those who most likely will be able to do something about the predicament America finds itself in.

Arguments have been advanced both pro and con relative to controlling the prices of consumer goods, and to date not much relief has been forthcoming.

Politics can be charged with producing evil and good. Greed can be charged with producing nothing but evil, especially so when advantages are taken of the relatively weak masses by those who are in position to steer the ship around the stormy waves.

To our way of thinking average Americans have been placed in front of the firing line unnecessarily exposed to the "bullets" of the profiteers who have absolutely no conscience when it comes to exacting the last penny from the purses of those who must eat and wear clothes to maintain their modest places in a country where civilization is supposed to be at its highest ebb.

Politics and profiteering be damned. This situation must not long remain as the experiences of our countrymen who have toiled and sweated to make America the great nation it is. Those who work, eat and buy clothes for their families must be given priority over all else if our country is to continue to prosper.

Costs of living in 65 leading American cities were at the highest point June 15 since January, 1921, according to a report by the National Industrial Conference Board.

The survey showed sharp increases in men's and women's clothing and food. Living costs climbed in all cities except Richmond, Va., where a decline of 0.2 was reported.

Nevertheless, there was one bright spot in the national economic picture. Promising the largest harvest of food and feed grains in history, the Agriculture Department reported this year's crop production will exceed the 1942 harvest by 3 per cent.

Prospects on August 1 indicated record crops of corn, wheat, tobacco, peaches, plums, and truck products; near record crops of oats, rice, peanuts, potatoes, pears, grapes, cherries, and sugar cane, and average or better yields of hay, soy beans, dry peas, prunes, apricots and sugar beets.

Only in the case of grain sorghums, flaxseed, buckwheat, dry beans, sweet potatoes, pecans, cotton and rye are below average crops indicated.

The department said if that production turns up as now indicated, the aggregate output would be 27 per cent above the 1923-33 average and 6 per cent above last year's bumper production.

It said almost ideal growing and harvesting conditions prevailed during July to give this favorable outlook.

The department reported, however, that toward the end of the month a few drought areas were developing and in some sections late crops had begun to deteriorate, particularly in the Great Lakes regions.

AUGUST 25 MASS MEETING

Plans have been nearly completed for the August 25 mass meeting of American Federation of Labor unions in Charlotte. This meeting deserves the wholehearted support of all A.F.L. affiliated and non-affiliated unions in North Carolina. It will be the formal opening of the Southern membership drive for Charlotte and vicinity. Unions of not only North Carolina, but surrounding States as well, have been invited to attend. George Gooze and "Uncle" Jim Barrett will be on the speakers' program and a real old-fashioned rally is planned. Be here, brothers!

FEDERATION MEETING SUCCESSFUL

The North Carolina Federation of Labor closed one of the most successful meetings in its history last week. Organization of the unorganized was the theme of the meeting, which means the delegates returned to their respective homes with renewed vigor to press the work forward in their localities. The outlook is bright.

OFF THE BEAM

A RETRIEVER

A dog-loving dowager was looking over a prospective pet. "And are you sure," she asked the pet-shop clerk, "this dog is faithful?" "Faithful as they come," the clerk answered. "I've sold him five times and each time he's come back."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

It was quite an important preview of a new film, adapted from a novel by a very popular writer. Afterward he was asked what he thought of it. "Excellent," he replied. "Who

wrote the story?" "You did," was the answer. "Who got it from your book?" "I wouldn't have known it," said the author. "But it would make an excellent novel. Mind if I use it?" "Of course not, so long as you give us an option on the film rights."

WHERE TO FIND THEM

"I have just killed five flies—two males and three females." "How do you know?" "Two were on the table and three were on the mirror."

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

We all believe in democracy. But just what does the word mean to us. What is your definition?

At a meeting of business agents recently, one of them gave a definition which I think is a fine interpretation of the word, "Democracy is that form of government which is run by a responsible group from the majority—but with the actual participation of all minorities."

The advantage of this definition is that it clearly defines the duties of both groups. The majority elects the leadership—but it has no right to ride rough shod over the will or the rights of any minority. The majority has the responsibility for action, but no right to revenge itself upon those who disagree with them. It is as much of a duty for the majority to work with the minority as it is for them to carry out the expressed wishes of their own group.

The minority has a duty too—that of giving fullest co-operation to the majority, even while holding firm to their own beliefs. They have the right to make every effort to convert the majority to their own way of thinking, but they must do this by reasoning and argument, not by force, and

they have no right to become a stumbling block in the way of progress.

Democracy implies that men will get together to find a common meeting ground for their opposing viewpoints. Since each man has the right to speak, there should be no offense taken at difference of opinion. Democratic discussion should be conducted not only in a spirit of tolerance and fair play—but with full recognition of the basic fact that there are more things upon which men of good will are agreed than there are points of disagreement. Democracy is not compromise—it is co-operative action.

You as labor men believe in democracy. Your unions are run according to the democratic principles. Democracy is the life blood of the Organized Labor movement. When the lights of democracy are dimmed, Labor goes into servitude.

What is your definition of democracy? I wish you men through out the country would discuss this in your Central Labor Bodies and in your locals and let me know what the voice of Labor says to this question. I've an idea we'd really find the answer!



"WORKING IT OUT"

by Frances Perkins

In the midst of reports of extreme prejudice between various minority groups and in particular the outcropping of old prejudice against Roman Catholics on the part of a certain few Protestants, it is heartening to hear the voice of a lifelong Protestant and clergyman raised in explanation of and defense of certain Roman Catholic positions which have in the past been subject to misunderstanding and misrepresentation.

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, President of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, made a statement recently in which he regretted the public verbal clashes between Protestant and Catholic leaders and said that it represented a step backward from significant progress toward civic cooperation and understanding between religious groups in the United States.

While recognizing the right of leaders of Protestant bodies to announce which of the Catholic positions are against their own convictions, Dr. Clinchy asked that public disputes be avoided and that face to face conferences be relied upon to eliminate the mistakes and errors of understanding and to make possible adjustments in point of view.

Dr. Clinchy pleaded for good relations and the abandonment of recent criticism of Roman Catholics by Protestants and pointed out a list of five illustrations of issues which are widely misunder-

stood by Protestants. First, civil liberties. Dr. Clinchy says the Roman Catholics in the United States have always stood for civil liberties for Protestants, Jews, and Catholics alike and points out the strong Catholic support for the American Bill of Rights from the time of Lord Baltimore. Second, Dr. Clinchy distinguishes between the spiritual loyalty which the Roman Catholics give to the Pope as head of their Church and the complete national allegiance which American Roman Catholics give to the United States Government. Third, Dr. Clinchy points out that Roman Catholics, subject to the authoritative creed of their Church in the realm of faith and morals, have always participated completely in the political and social democracy which is the way of life in the United States. He further points out, fourth, that there is no more lobbying by Roman Catholics today than by Protestants and that in each group there are thousands who express their sense of morality and conscience in the political field. Dr. Clinchy, in his fifth point states that the special representative of the President of the United States to the Vatican has been useful in gathering valuable information for the President; while supporting the right of those to object to this kind of representation to express themselves and indicating that their motives are honorable, he nevertheless regrets the hard

CONVENTION CALENDAR OF A.F.L. UNIONS

- Sept. 1 — Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers — San Francisco, Cal.
- Sept. 2 — National Association of Letter Carriers — Detroit, Mich.
- Sept. 3 — Connecticut State Federation of Labor — Undecided.
- Sept. 3 — Intl. Brotherhood of Labor — Scottsbluff, Neb.
- Sept. 11 — Oklahoma State Federation of Labor — Shawnee, Okla.
- Sept. 15 — Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters — Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16 — United Slate, Tile, Comp. Roofers; DXW wrks. — Denver, Colo.
- Sept. 16 — Bakery & Con. Workers' Intl. Union of Am. — Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16 — Intl. Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers — Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16 — Illinois State Federation of Labor — Rockford, Ill.
- Sept. 16 — Minnesota State Federation of Labor — Mankato, Minn.
- Sept. 17 — Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Wrks, Intl. — Montreal, Can.
- Sept. 20 — American Wire Weavers Protective Ass'n, New York, N. Y.
- Sept. 21 — New Hampshire State Federation of Labor — Portsmouth, N. H.
- Sept. 26 — West Virginia State Federation of Labor — Huntington, W. Va.

- Sept. 30 — Metal Trades Department — Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 2 — Natl. Org. of Masters, Electrical Workers — San Francisco, Cal.
- Sept. 5 — Intl. Association of Siderographers — Philadelphia, Pa.
- Sept. 9 — Intl. Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers — Albany, N. Y.
- Sept. 9 — United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union — Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Sept. 9 — Intl. Association of Fire Fighters — Toledo, Ohio.
- Sept. 9 — Operative Plasterers' Intl. of U. S. and Canada — Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Sept. 9 — Kentucky State Federation of Labor — Owensboro, Ky.
- Sept. 9 — Nebraska Federation of Mates and Pilots — San Francisco, San Francisco, Cal.
- Oct. 2 — Building and Construction Trades Dept. — Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 4 — Union Label Trades Department — Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 5 — Nat. Assn. Master Mech. and Foremen of N. Y. — Silver City, N. M.
- Nov. — New Mexico State Federation of Labor — Silver City, N. M.
- Nov. 5 — New Mexico State Federation of Labor — Washington, D. C.

Uncle Sam Says



The wise money is on Sureshot, friend. You won't find him in this race or in any race. And yet Sureshot runs every moment of your life. He pays off \$4 for every \$3 at all of my windows in banks and at the Treasury Department. All you have to do is keep your money on Sureshot and you don't care if he doesn't come in for 10 years. This is one bet which your Uncle Sam can guarantee as a winner. You're one American I don't have to tell that Sureshot has another more familiar name: United States Savings Bonds. U. S. Treasury Department

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feelings and conflict that arise from unwise and over-vigorous expression.

Dr. Clinchy's expression is healthy in times like these when the ancient prejudices between Roman Catholics and Protestants have begun to abate in the presence of the opportunity and necessity for cooperation for the improvement of our social and economic moral life. It would be tragic to allow feelings of prejudice to arise once more. Too much prejudice already exists in American life. It should be a matter of conscience to those who are building America in this generation to avoid any further extensions of misunderstanding and separation between sections of one people.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



ONE OF THE LONGEST STRIKES ON RECORD ENDED IN DUBLIN IRELAND IN DEC. 1945, WHEN FIVE EMPLOYEES OF A DRY GOODS STORE WENT BACK TO WORK AFTER STEADILY PICKETING FOR EIGHT YEARS. THROUGHOUT THE STRIKE THE FIVE STRIKERS WERE SUPPORTED BY A TAX ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE IRISH DISTRIBUTIVE WORKERS UNION.

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