

The Reds Say--

By JIM ALLEN

Forced labor!

There was a little story in a Richmond paper of how a hospital patient who, because he had not understood a nurse's instructions, took a whole box of pills at once and, becoming temporarily insane, also became violent. A court here sentenced him to one year on the chain gang.

The legislature of Tennessee, knocking off for a while covering up the graft of the Horton machine, ordered two carloads of coal to be sent to Chattanooga for the unemployed. This coal comes from the state-owned mines where prison labor is used.

Forced idleness!

Ten million workers in this country are unemployed. They are looking for jobs but cannot find them. And if an unemployed worker is unwilling to accept forced idleness and forced starvation into the bargain he is forced to labor—on the chain gangs. When farmers refuse to starve and feed on the Red Cross promises and raid a store to get food they, too, are forced to labor on the chain gangs.

Forced labor—many bosses in this country are talking about it now. About the brutal and inhuman chain-gangs in this country? No! About forced labor in the Soviet Union! A Senator and a Congressman have introduced bills in the Senate and in the House, demanding an embargo on Soviet imports because, they say, it is produced by forced labor! In the Soviet Union, not only is there no employment but there is actually a shortage of 2,000,000 workers. What labor could be freer than a labor that is 100 percent organized in unions, than a labor which is the government itself? That is labor in the Soviet Union, the freest labor in the world.

This talk about forced labor in the Soviet Union cannot fool an American worker. Doesn't it sound very much like what is said by a boss when the workers in his factory organize into a union and strike? "I stand for free labor," says the boss. "Under the principles of our government, no one has a right to prevent a man wishing to work from working." And there comes an injunction against picketing. It's a wonder the boss doesn't say it now when he himself is keeping many millions of men who want to work from working.

Here you can be forced to work at the bosses' price or forced to be idle. We're free, eh?

The whole idea in back of this talk of forced labor in the Soviet Union is to force the American "free workers" into a war against the Soviet "forced labor." The very success of the Soviet workers in building their country and setting an example to the workers here threatens the American system of forced idleness.

Included in Fish's fourteen points against the working class there is also his talk about "forced labor" and an embargo on Soviet goods. His other thirteen points are planned to doubly enforce starvation on the American millions by declaring illegal any workers' movement for real relief, by banning the Communist Party, the only true leader of the working class in its greatest need.

There is only one kind of forced labor in the Soviet Union. The former rich of tsardom have been forced to labor for their bread. The force of America's toiling millions will also make the idle rich labor for their bread some day. And only the force of the starving millions today can force immediate relief from the government of Hambone Fish.