AMERICA SPEAKS ON SOVIET RUSSIA

To give you a few words about Soviet Russia, I would say that I know little about it, except what I can gather in the current papers and learn from the few people whom I have met who have been there since the war. I know that it is to form such worth while opinions on such information. My ideas about Russia are more hopes than opinions. I have always been sympathetic with the Russian Revolution. For the last thirty years I had hoped there would be one. What will come out of it I do not know. They seem to keep their ideals of working out a greater equality for mankind that has ever been in the past. No doubt the task is a difficult, if not an impossible one, but I am watching it with the keenest sympathy and consideration.

Existing institutions are always against revolutionists. They were against the revolution in France; they were against revolution in America against Great Britain. This applied not only to the people of Europe but to the well to do is the United States. The smug and comfortable do not want to be disturbed and revolutions are born of discontent and conditions that have been suffered too long. The "experiment" of Russia, to borrow a word from Mr. Hoover's vocabulary, is the only great hopeful movement that I know of in the world today.

Clarence Darrow.

Speaking in behalf of the National Miners Union of America, I am proud to testify to the high esteem that the only workers' government in the world, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, is held by them. The mine workers of America have always been foremost in the demand for the recognition of that great government as convention after convention have recorded. All over the entire world with the exception of Soviet Russia, there is a crisis in the mining and other basic industries. Our new union has been built to meet such a crisis and to secure for the workers the things enjoyed by the workers of Soviet Russia, such as the six-hour day, free house rent, vacations with pay, workers' rule in the industry, a one hundred per cent organization in the industries, etc. The rule of the class collaborators—the Llewellyn, Greens, Wallis—must come to an end, and the dictatorship of Mellon, Schwab, Rockefeller and Wall Street must be displaced by a workers' and farmers' government in the United States.

On this, the eleventh anniversary of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the militant mine workers of America hold out the hand of workers solidarity to all the workers of the world and pledge continued support to that great government of Workers and Farmers Emancipation.

John J. Watt
President National Miners Union.

When the Czar and the Grand Dukes were overthrown in Russia, there was some justification in the refusal of other governments to recognize the "revolution." One cannot extend "credit" until there is some accumulated "capital" as security. But eleven years after the revolutionary government has established itself, the situation is vastly different. A government that could stay for a decade and control the lives of nearly 200 million people, certainly has become a fact and ought to be recognized by all governments in practice if not in theory and formalism. The failure of formal recognition under such circumstances becomes almost an act of hostility.

We have at least friendship and normal relations with all governments in recognition of the fact that Russia has proven to be a great power that has been the object of hostility.

Russian delegates at Geneva stood alone among the great nations in proposing complete and total disarmament. We need to build to recognize Russia because of their "propaganda," but that has proven to be a ghost. They are far too busy to acknowledge the fact that peace and security can be achieved only by recognizing the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

William Pickens.

Nat. Am. for the Advancement ofColored Peoples.