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READING LABOR ADVOCATE

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Poor Lose, Rich Gain, by Fusion "Economy"

REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

I BELIEVE I can understand the feelings of the man who brandished a revolver in Congress this week.

If I size him up correctly, that man was just an ordinary citizen who was driven frantic by the immense amount of quibbling which has been going on under the big dome for the past three years. He thought he knew why starvation was increasing at the very time when the ability exists to produce what everybody needs. He saw that Congress was doing nothing toward providing prosperity for the great mass of people, and he wanted to tell them where they were wrong.

And, of course, he was given the bums' rush to the hoagew—which is the fate of all kibitzers.

THE TROUBLE WITH that man may have been that he still retained a greater measure of respect for the intentions of our national lawmakers than, deep down in their hearts, most people possess.

As for me, I would not be eager to risk jail for the mere privilege of telling congressmen a few economic truths. What good would it do? I suspect that most of the seasoned solons have been playing the game of politics so long that simple truth has become a foreign language. And even if they could be made to understand that the only thing wrong is the policy of permitting a few people to own the means of life, that the correct remedy is to take away the natural resources and industries and operate them for public welfare instead of for private profit, even then the net results of such education would probably evoke nothing more intelligent than the Congressional equivalent for "Oh, yeah?"

WHAT THAT GUN-TOTER failed to understand is that neither of the two political parties represented in the national lawmaking body are very much interested in making things better for the plain people of the nation. They were really not elected to bother about the people. Their "patriotic" duty is to see to it that something can be done to enable the owning class to resume the highly profitable business of working workers. Under the laws of the land, as enacted and interpreted by the political servants of the rugged individualists who own everything, workers are entitled to work and live only when the individualists can make a profit by permitting them to do so. Therefore Congress concerns itself with the more direct problem of getting something for the people who already have plenty.

ALL THIS TALK about foreign debts is an example of how busy Democratic and Republican congressmen can become when their real problem is under construction. The steady payment of interest and principal on the billions which are owed by European nations to the U. S. A. is necessary if the bondholders of America are to continue to get something for nothing. The money which comes from Europe will be used to pay dividends on the bonds which parasites, big and little, wish to continue receiving. If debt payments stop the security of those bonds is menaced. So the national capital hums with action to see to it that the easy money grabbers shall be protected.

But to bother about giving workers a constant opportunity to produce (Continued on Page Six)

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT, LESS PUBLIC SERVICE TO CUT BILLS FOR WEALTHY

Tax Reductions Will Benefit Mortgage Companies While Workers Continue to Be Victims of Mortgage Companies—"Economy" Plans Now Proposed by Fusionists Further Cheapen the Lives of the Very Poor—Old Party City Officials Serve the Few at the Expense Of the Many

Reading's Fusion administration is proceeding with the business of justifying its existence by planning a tax reduction which will cut the expenses of the large property owners of Reading and, at the same time, deepen the shadow of gloom which has fallen over thousands of homes in Reading and Berks County.

In order to save hundreds of dollars for the wealthy, it will be necessary to do one or both of two things: City wage rates will have to be cut. Either that or sufficient reductions in the number of city employees will have to be made to still further cut the depleted purchasing power of the great mass of people. In either case the many will lose and the few will gain.

The word "economy" is being used to justify a policy which is certain to have a devastating effect upon public as well as private welfare. Next year, and in the years to come, it will be "economy" to permit the streets to sink to disrepair, to skimp on parks and playgrounds and libraries, probably to cheapen schools and, most certainly, to force men out of jobs which enable them to support families in semi-respectability and into the lengthening lists of those whose only means of existence is the niggardly charity which is now being doled out in the land of "rugged individualism."

Public Versus Private Wealth

Councilman George has already stated that the reduction of his budget will mean that the streets will be maintained on a mere patching basis. However, George and Hoverter, the two Socialists on the councilmanic body, are in the minority. Whatever they may make for public welfare at the expense of the big property owners will receive scant consideration from the Fusionists. With the latter the welfare of the big interests—the owners of large blocks of property and the loan sharks and real estate firms who have been taking over the homes of workers by mortgage foreclosures—will be considered of first importance.

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PARTY BAZAAR AT ST. CASIMIR HALL FEBRUARY

Second Big Winter Activity Planned by Picnic Committee Will be Held on Seven Nights

SEEK HELP OF BRANCHES

Two Floors of Big Building to Be Used in Effort to Exceed Success of Year Ago

Announcement of plans for a gigantic indoor Bazaar in February was made this week by the Picnic Committee of Local Berks. The big winter social event will be held in St. Casimir Hall, Orange and Bingaman streets, on seven

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LIES--OLD AND NEW

The outcome of the Hornstein-Hoffman controversy has thrown a new and revealing light upon the hostility of the Reading Times toward the Socialist administration which came into power in 1928.

For four years the Times neglected no opportunity to harass the Socialists. The actions of the administration were continually given unfavorable interpretation and their failure to act on any matter, however well-intentioned, was portrayed as neglect of public interest.

It was in the final week of the campaign, while the Socialists were battling the combined forces of Republican and Democratic fusion that the Times, under the management of I. Joe Hornstein, portrayed the Socialists as "Hinky-Dinks," officials who used their offices for personal gain and not for public welfare.

Of course, the Times was lying about the Socialists—just as I. Joe Hornstein lied about M. B. Hoffman. Time and again the ADVOCATE unmasked the attacks which Hornstein's paper made against the administration. Repeatedly we issued the warning that the Times was taking unfair revenge upon a group of public officials who refused to be bossed by unscrupulous newspaper managers. However, public officials are fair game; it is difficult for them to resort to court action. Therefore the Socialists were not in a position to force Hornstein, Hurwitz, Symontowne and company to eat their lies—as Hoffman has done.

Without doubt, some of the Times' slander against the Socialist administration was believed by many of the good people of Reading. The readers did not know the personnel of the Times—as almost everyone in Reading has now come to know Manager Hornstein. And so it may be possible that the last-minute charge of "Hinky Dink" swung just enough votes to the cohorts of Bertollet and company to decide the outcome of the 1931 election.

Since then, however, certain things have happened which convince many people that the real "Hinky Dinks" are located at Sixth

THAT'S THEIR STORY

"Control of news and editorial matter in the Reading Times is vested solely in the editors of the Times. No one else, either outside or inside the Times, can bind the Times editorially or in news handling."—Reading Times.

OH, YEAH?

SOCIALIST S.E.C. PLANS FOR MORE PARTY ACTIVITY

Conference in Philadelphia Takes Steps to Organize in Coal Fields of East and West

TO FORM SPEAKER UNITS

Zones of 40-Mile Radius Planned as Basis for Systematic and Economical Propaganda

Increased activity throughout Pennsylvania, and especially in the industrial sections of the State, was planned at a meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party in session at Philadelphia last Sunday. The conference was held in the Labor Temple, 810 Locust street, and was attended by every member of the committee.

Authority was given State Secretary Sarah Limbach to engage Robert Cullum for organizational work in the northeast section of the State, principally in the anthracite district, and David Ring in the western counties. If and when finances permit a third person will be secured for similar service in the central section.

Regional Activity Planned

In an effort to extend the activities of organized sections, the committee districted the State into regional units along the same lines as congressional districts. By this means it is planned to have growing locals and branches extend the sphere of their activities into less active communities and act as a medium for bringing party branches and labor fraternal groups together.

As a means of stimulating interest and encouraging educational work among the young Socialists, State Secretary Limbach was authorized to arrange for two Summer schools and encampments, one of which will be in the eastern section of the State, probably in Reading. These encampments will be conducted along the same lines as were fol-

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READING MILL OFFERS HOSIERY FOR WHEAT

Under the above heading, with a Reading date line, Wednesday's issue of the New York Daily News Record reported the publication of an advertisement in a Minneapolis newspaper which offered silk hosiery in exchange for wheat.

The reference given in the advertisement is B. W. Loeb, of the "Ralo" Hosiery Company. Loeb, the Record reports, believes his offer will stimulate business in Reading and also help to dispose of the surplus wheat if he accepts certificates of wheat in storage in exchange for silk hosiery.

Search of the directory failed to reveal a "Ralo" Hosiery Company, although one B. W. Loeb is an official of the Penn Hosiery Mills, Inc., a local concern.

Hosiery workers here, who have suffered numerous heavy wage cuts, are now wondering whether the next move of the employers will be to fill their pay envelopes with wheat.

SOCIALIST CIGARS

Karl Marx Cigars, in five and ten-cent brands, put up in boxes of 25, make splendid Xmas Gifts. Order yours now by dialing 2-2441.

ADMITS HE LIED

Litigation between "Big I" Joe Hornstein, manager of the "Reading Times," and Attorney M. Bernard Hoffman was terminated last week when Hornstein signed a statement



I. JOE HORNSTEIN

admitting that he had lied about Hoffman. Hornstein's abject surrender came after he had been given an opportunity by the Berks Bar Association to present his charges against Hoffman. On the request of Hornstein the hearings were kept private, although Hoffman stated his willingness to have all facts aired in public. Hoffman had taken action against Hornstein in suits for civil and criminal libel. It is now believed that Hoffman will not press for further action in those suits.

So utterly was Hornstein discredited that he agreed to make such amends as a committee of three, composed of William M. Lewis, ex-Judge John B. Stevens and Frederick A. Marx, Judge of the Orphans' Court of Berks, should deem proper. The committee on punishment decided to award Hoffman \$1,500 in payment for damages which Hornstein's action had occasioned the local attorney. Hoffman has since declared his intention of giving Hornstein's money to charity.

HOFFMAN GIVES I. JOE'S \$1,500 TO CHARITY

True to his promise that every dollar which I. Joe Hornstein paid as indemnity for false statements made against M. Bernard Hoffman would be donated to some charitable cause, Attorney Hoffman yesterday mailed the following checks, totalling the \$1,500: Horace Custer, principal of the Southern Junior High School, \$200; Howard Snyder, principal of the Southwest Junior High School, \$125; Caroline Reedy, principal of the Continuation School, \$75; Landis Klinger, principal of the Douglass and Weiser Junior High School, \$50; James Shook, principal of the Northeast Junior High School, \$50; Berks County Community Chest, \$1,000.

No Discrimination Intended. In explaining the various amounts to the school principals Mr. Hoffman yesterday declared that he was not actuated by any desire to discriminate against one school and against another.

"I tried to ascertain which section of the city presented the greatest need for assistance and used my best judgement in distributing the money from that point of view," Mr. Hoffman declared. "The major sum of \$1,000 will be helpful to all charities through the channels of the Welfare Federation agencies."

Although Hoffman left the actual use of the Hornstein money to the discretion of the various principles, it is understood that the greater portion of the amounts given to schools will be spent to provide meals for needy pupils in the various cafeterias.

UNIONS TO HOLD SECOND MEET IN LYCEUM, SUNDAY

Legislative Committee and Labor Representatives to Perfect Program of Demands For Workers' Protection

TO UNITE WITH FARMERS

Laws to Establish Minimum Wage and Maximum Working Time Will be Urged at Harrisburg

Representatives of all labor organizations in Reading and Berks County will meet for the second time in Labor Lyceum on Sunday at 2 p. m., for the purpose of perfecting a legislative program which will be urged at the next session of the State Legislature in January. At a meeting last Sunday, Earl White, Andrew P. Bower and Stewart Tomlinson were named as a committee on labor legislation.

One of the objectives of the organized workers is a closer co-operation of city workers with the farmers of the county. George M. Rhodes, president of the Federated Trades Council, stressed the common interest of city and rural workers this week. "There is every reason why both groups should get together in an effort to secure laws for the protection of all workers," Rhodes declared. "With thousands of city families destitute the markets of the farmers have been destroyed. Jobless and penniless people can not buy food, no matter how much they need the products of the farm. And when the city can not buy the country can not sell. The result is that farmers are finding themselves in the same perilous position as factory workers. Both must act in harmony and demand consideration from the state's lawmakers."

Oppose 12-Hour Day

At last Sunday's meeting, Sunday work, wage cuts and the 10- and 12-hour working day was severely criticized by almost 100 union men who responded to the Federated Trades call for a meeting.

Among the laws which the State Legislature will be asked to enact will be one for the establishment of (Continued on Page Seven)

SOCIALIST MUSICIANS MEET AT LYCEUM TONIGHT

If music hath charms to soothe the savage beast, then, surely, peace should reign within the confines of the local Socialist movement. For the Socialist musicians of Local Berks are all "het up" with plans for a band an orchestra which is now being organized under party auspices.

Action to have a Socialist band was started last Friday night at a meeting in Labor Lyceum, and it was surprising to see the large number of people who responded from all sections of Berks to the call which appeared in last week's Advocate.

Another Meeting Tonight. A second meeting will be held in Labor Lyceum tonight at 8 o'clock, and all musicians are urged to attend. No matter what your instrument may be, whether you swallow a slide trombone or merely blow a base drum, temporary chairman, Edward Arnold, will be looking for you tonight.

Comrade Burkholder, of Newmantown, is acting as secretary for the time being. Permanent officers will be elected tonight and a definite plan of action discussed. At latest reports, 30 persons had signed for the band and 11 for the orchestra.

What Reading Folks Are Talking About

HIGH RIDING FUSIONISTS

The ignoring of the Socialists by the Fusionists in the planning of a councilmanic budget has resulted in various public reactions. Some people take the matter seriously and rightly declare that Councilmen George and Hoverter should have been consulted all along the line. Others smile and remark that Ermentrout and his fellow Bertollet-men have forgotten to be consistent.

The latter are thinking about the time—a few months ago—when Ermentrout made a public play about inviting all the ex-mayors of Reading to sit in on this budget business. At that time ex-Mayor Stump declined to be a party to such a plan. He was of the opinion that Councilmen George and Hoverter could adequately represent any Socialist line of thought when the proper time came. Furthermore, Stump pointed out in a radio address and in the public press, the Fusionists were acting strangely when they asked the advice of Socialists, after refusing an invitation to participate in the consideration of the final budget which the Socialists had to make for the use of the Fusionists.

It now appears that Socialist advice is now wanted after all. The Fusion gang gets together, makes its plans, and then says to George and Hoverter: "You had as much opportunity as we to form a clique and bring in a budget of your own."

Of course, Mayor Ermentrout is opposed to playing politics! Although his actions do not prove it, we know that is so. In fact, he says so himself.

However, the making of a tentative budget without the help of the Socialist councilmen looks like something more than mere partisan politics. To many it looks just plain "dum." The less authority the Socialists are given, the less responsibility they will have to shoulder for the calamity which is certain to come to the city as a result of Fusion's false and unsocial "economy." Even the liars at the "Reading Times" office saw the danger and felt called upon to write an editorial to put salve on the present situation.

COAL FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Jobless workers who have been so fortunate (or unfortunate) as to be given coal from the Relief Board's fuel yard are complaining that "the darn stuff is hard to burn and makes little heat."

That is interesting in view of the great bally-hoo that went up a few weeks ago about the "economical" price at which the coal was being bought. It now appears that was just another "economy" which shifted expenses from the wealthy and made the poor pay in suffering.

Users of the coal declare that it is "topping" which is taken from surface strippings and which has been exposed to the air so long that oxygen has burned up much of the carbon.

Such coal never had a high market value and at the present time is difficult to sell. Giving it to people who are faced with the sad alternative of taking it or nothing may be solving a problem for some coal company. But such management is scarcely to be called "economy" unless it is economical to have cold homes for workers and their children.

However, with the recipients of relief placed upon a fuel ration, bills can be kept down. And its better Capitalist "economy" to have the jobless shiver than to levy high income (Continued on Page Three)

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