

# READING LABOR ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE WORKERS

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## Hoopes Replies to Poor Board's Arrogance

### REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

TWO WEEKS AGO I commented upon the insignificance—or lack of significance—of a party name. What, I asked, would the Socialist party gain by changing to another title and attempting to hide the Socialist character of its purposes. For proof of my contention that any other party name would not fool anybody I pointed to the opposition which the Technocrats had to face, despite the fact that Technocracy had never been heard of up to a few short months ago.

WELL, THAT COLUMN brought me some favorable comment. The National Office press service gave it notice, the Milwaukee Leader mentioned it favorably in an editorial, and I received one letter from a lady who agrees with me that the name of the Socialist party may just as well remain as it is.

IT WAS THEREFORE somewhat of a shock for me to learn this week that names do have the effect of leading people astray.

That much I learned from a letter which a puzzled reader addressed to my office:

"I cannot understand," he admitted, "the news about Adolf Hitler. He is called a National Socialist, a Nazi and a Fascist. At times he is linked with Mussolini, who is in favor of Capitalism. This is confusing to me, as I cannot see how a man could be a genuine Socialist and at the same time be friendly to Capitalism. Please explain."

HERE IS ANOTHER proof of my contention that a name doesn't mean anything. It's the PURPOSE and PRINCIPLE of an organization that matters.

As a matter of fact, the term "National Socialist" is just one of those many instances of deception which European political parties have been practicing.

Hitler and his crowd are Nationalists, but they are not Socialists. They mouth a gospel of Germany for the Germans; declare against the payment of war debts and indemnities, assuage the Jews and look for the return of Germany to her old place in the "Sun of International Capitalism." At the last recent election in Germany the Socialist party actually helped to elect Hindenburg in order to keep Hitler from power; (a compromise which leaves few Socialists with a glow of pride and which has now failed to accomplish its purpose, but which definitely and conclusively shows that Hitler is not recognized as a Socialist by the Socialist party of Germany).

OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS have their parties with Socialist names but without Socialist tendencies. France, for just one more example, has a so-called "Radical Socialist" party which is neither radical nor Socialist, but which aims to maintain the old order . . . and improve it—as all politicians are so eager to do.

I HOPE THAT I have made my explanation sufficiently lucid to convince my correspondent that just because a man or a party calls himself a Socialist is no guarantee that he or it is Socialist.

A Socialist party is a party which aims to use the political power of the Capitalist state to destroy the present economic order and establish a new one.

### SOCIALIST Radio Program

EVERY SUNDAY  
at 12:15 P. M. over

361.4M WEEU 830K

Feb. 12—Mark Starr  
Feb. 19—Darlington Hoopes  
Feb. 26—J. Henry Stump  
TELL YOUR FRIENDS

### SOCIALIST'S BILL FOR OPEN MEETINGS FOLLOWS BOARD'S OUSTING OF UNEMPLOYED

Value of Working-Class Representation Seen as Snub to  
Jobless Brings Quick Action by Socialist—Publicity  
Is Best Safeguard Against Dictators, Hoopes De-  
clares, in Discussing Arrogance of Public Officials

The value of real representatives in the lawmaking bodies of the state and nation was demonstrated this week when Darlington Hoopes, Reading's Socialist lawmaker, introduced a bill in the State Legislature to compel all local government bodies, County Commissioners, Poor Boards, City Councils, Township Supervisors, School Boards, etc., to throw their meetings open to the public.

While the Hoopes measure is phrased in general terms, it is the immediate reaction of the action of the Berks County Poor Board which, last Saturday, refused to admit to its meeting a delegation from the Taxpayers' Protective League, the organization of Berks County's unemployed workers.

Seek to Evade Complaints  
While up to the present time the right of citizens to listen in upon the legal actions of their elected officials has been assumed, the action of the Berks Poor Board proved that the rights of citizens need further safeguards of the kind which Hoopes hastened to provide.

Since the present economic system has collapsed the constituted authorities (Continued on Page Four)

### UNITED WORKERS' COUNCIL ADOPTS 13-PT. PROGRAM

City and Farm Workers Will  
Help Each Other in Plan  
Announced by Rhodes

### HOLD WEEKLY MEETINGS

Preparing For Action While  
Civic Leaders "Fiddle,"  
Leader of Combined Group  
Declares

A definite program of 13 demands has been adopted by the newly-organized United Workers' Council of Berks County. The aim of the Council is to bring all workers' groups into a single organization for united action in any crisis which may arise. The Council will meet every Monday morning in Labor Lyceum. The Council's program follows:

- 1—Establishment of a planned system of social economy for production and distribution for public service instead of for private profit.
- 2—Socialization of banking.
- 3—Social ownership, development, operation and control of all utilities and natural resources.
- 4—Extension of social legislation and facilities, with adequate provision for illness, accident, old age and unemployment.
- 5—Security of tenure for farmer on his land and for the worker in his home.
- 6—Cash payment of adequate relief.
- 7—Abolishment of the poll tax to protect unemployed workers from disfranchisement.
- 8—Unemployment insurance.
- 9—Outlawry of yellow dog contract, blacklist and spy system as prevails in the local hosiery industry.
- 10—Moratorium on taxes and interest for unemployed home-owners and farmers.
- 11—Opposition to any and all proposals to lower the educational (Continued on Page Three)

### DEMO-REP UNITY ON BILL WHICH SLASHES RELIEF

Appropriation Sponsored by  
Sarif Falls Far Short of  
Actual Needs of State's Job-  
less

### NEED \$8,000,000 MONTHLY

Failure to Provide Adequate  
Funds Will Force Local  
Communities to Increase  
Debts and Taxes

What the newspaper headlines present as a gigantic relief appropriation in support of which the Democrats and Republicans of the State lawmaking bodies are preparing to unite is, in reality, a cut far below the actual needs of the unemployed and desperate workers of the State.

The "Reading Times" was the first local newspaper to give an enthusiastic account of how Wilson Sarif, Berks Democratic leader, was lining up with the Philadelphia Republican machine politicians for a State appropriation of twenty-five million dollars to cover the next twenty-four months. This, readers are expected to believe, is a generous contribution for the salvation of Pennsylvania's million-and-a-quarter destitute workers and their families.

Fails Human Needs  
Compared to the actual needs which confront the people of this wealthy State, the appropriation which the two old political groups are threatening to support has the effect of cutting to shreds the appropriations which must be made if many people are to be saved from actual starvation.

The present expenditures for relief total, close to \$6,000,000 per month and municipal and county resources are rapidly reaching that (Continued on Page Four)

### JOBLESS OPPOSE SHOE VOUCHERS

Poor Board Policy Induces  
Merchants to Victimize Job-  
less—League Wants Right  
To Select Merchant

Dissatisfaction with the manner in which orders for shoes are issued by the County Poor Board was intensified last week when new cases were reported which indicate that the unemployed are being imposed upon by shoe merchants favored by the county.

It is the aim of the Taxpayers' Protective League to have requisitions for shoes issued in such a manner that the person receiving a voucher can go to any local merchant to make his selection. In this manner, it is contended, the merchants will compete for the patronage of the jobless and better service and values can be obtained. The present policy of the Poor Board is to give vouchers which are redeemable at only two stores. According to a statement by Poor Director Milton Luft to George Gaul, an investigator for the League, all vouchers are for \$1.50, whether the shoes are worth that much or not. Luft explained that the policy works out satisfactorily when some people receive higher priced shoes on \$1.50 vouchers.

Works Against Unemployed  
That the Board's policy works against the interests of both the unemployed and the taxpayers was indicated in another case investigated (Continued on Page Four)

### SOCIALIST BAZAAR

Begins Tomorrow Evening

Saturday, February 11

Continuing Eight Nights

ST. CASIMIR'S HALL

ADMISSION—10 CENTS

Free Dancing Every Night

Music by Socialist Orchestra

### SPECIAL PROGRAM SUNDAY

ADMISSION FREE

Starting at 4 P. M. lasting until 11 P. M. Mass  
Singing, Singing by Socialist Chorus, Motion Pictures,  
Refreshments. Lecture by Mark Starr at 7 P. M.  
Concert by Socialist Band. Dancing to Music by  
Socialist Orchestra.

### THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

The purpose of government in a class society is to serve the economic interests of the dominant class.

Get this straight and you will understand why there are certain people who are now eager to fill county offices without pay.

The people who are willing to sacrifice the salary of office in order to wield the political power of Berks County are the ones who see themselves approaching economic ruin as a result of the county's taxation policy. They want an opportunity to modify that policy because they believe they can protect their own economic interests more effectively than the old line politicians can do it for them.

What they sacrifice in the way of salaries, they hope to more than recover by abolishing jobs, casting more people into the breadlines, slashing relief budgets and—reducing their own tax bills.

In years gone by the old party politicians conducted the business of government to the satisfaction of the owning class. The "Boise Penrose type of politician, who was the hired man of the big business interests, earned his rewards by serving the industrial masters.

But recently a new type of office-holder has appeared. This type is best exemplified by Andrew W. Mellon, who as a member of the Harding cabinet, served his own economic interests and the interests of his class instead of hiring a politician to do the job for him. It wasn't the salary which interested Mellon. But the power to serve the owners did interest him.

The big property owners, bankers and building and loan companies formerly were satisfied with the way in which the politicians served their interests in Berks County. Then the owners were willing to hire the politicians and pay them a salary. Now the owners are not satisfied. They see the politicians being influenced by job-hungry henchmen and food-hungry jobless. And they do not want those influences to prevail. So they are ready to fire their political hired men and do the job themselves—in their own interests.

If you own a business and your hired help do not do their duties to your satisfaction you fire them and do the job yourself. You do not pay yourself the salary, but you get all the rake-off which you can make for yourself. Why, then, shouldn't the big taxpayers of Berks be willing to run Berks County? Don't they own it?

Socialists will join in the condemnation which has greeted the proposal of free service which the county's owners have made. They will condemn it because it is intended merely as a means of keeping the government under the control of the same group who, up to this time, have been served by the salary-getting politicians and because its chief purpose is to continue the economic dictatorship which an owning class has always been able to exercise by its control of politics.

Now, more than ever before, the workers need to get political power and use it for themselves. If they are at all wise they will not surrender the taxing power of Berks to the few who pay large taxes.

### SCHOOL DIRECTOR SPEAKS TO UNEMPLOYED TODAY

At a meeting of the Taxpayers' Protective League in City Hall Auditorium, starting at 1 p. m. today, the guest speaker will be Raymond S. Hofess, Socialist member of the School Board and editor of the Reading Labor Advocate. Hofess will substitute for Mark Starr, instructor at Brookwood Labor College, who was compelled to cancel his engagement to address the group. The League is planning to have the Brookwood instructor speak to them at a future meeting.

### Economize On Juries

CLEVELAND. — Six-man juries have become common as a result of efforts of local judges to reduce expenses. The judges have obtained the consent of both sides to the new jury system.

### KENHORST RELIEF OFFICIAL T. P. L. UNCOVERS RACKET

Investigations by members of the Taxpayers' Protective League resulted in the removal of Claude E. Derr, Kenhorst Burgess, as Supervisor of Relief in that borough when it was discovered that Derr had been accepting assistance from the Relief Board to which he was not entitled. Harry Alexander, the League's county organizer, brought Derr's activities to the attention of the county authorities and reported this week that the above action had been taken.

According to Alexander, Derr had been receiving assistance while he was employed as a shop worker by the Reading Railroad Co. The case has been turned over to attorney Philip Schmehl, who assured League officials that the offending Burgess would be required to make restitution.

(Continued on Page Four)

### What Reading Folks Are Talking About

#### MUSEUM IN DANGER

Just because a lot of people are outraged by School Director Fink's plan to close the Reading Public Museum in order to save taxes is no reason to believe the museum is not in danger.

It is. So are many other public services which now go to rich and poor alike but for which only those who have the money can possibly pay.

Not only the museum, which is recognized as a valuable part of our public educational system, but the schools themselves are likely to be gradually impoverished and finally closed if the people of this nation continue to tolerate an economic system which quite naturally results in the wealth of the land flowing into fewer hands.

We simply can't permit the day-by-day production of industry to go to private pockets and at the same time have a rich public life—not unless we have a taxation system which will drain those private pockets.

Mr. Fink is extremely concerned about the taxpayer these days. He wants to stop the drains on their pockets and is willing to do so at the expense of public education. In the days gone by his plan would have appeared to many more people. But right now, when there are so many people unable to pay taxes, the general public is anxious to have the benefits which taxes provide—even though it may be necessary to tap the pockets of building and loan companies and real estate speculators.

#### HEBER, STAN, & CO.

Speaking to the members of the Holy Name Society this week, Mayor Heber Ermentrout took occasion to throw bouquets at his florist associate, Police Commissioner Giles, who was given that title by the Fusionists in defiance of the spirit of the Civil Service law.

According to Heber, the fact that Stan got his job in an irregular manner has not detracted from the latter's efficiency. On the contrary, he has afflicted the coppers with a high morale—a thing which the police force lacked under the Socialists, if you believe all that Heber says.

Considering the kind things that Stanley has said about Heber to the various civic clubs who have invited the Police Commissioner to eat with them, it is only proper that the Mayor should return the compliment. The speech to the Holy Name group may prove to be more than that, however; it may, in fact, result in the formation of a brand new organization under the title of "The Political Order of Backscratchers."

Having delivered himself of his eulogy of Police Commissioner Giles, we suggest that the Mayor's next public address should be on "How Stan and I Raked Down in the Loan Shark Game."

#### WE CHANGE OUR TUNE

The Reading Times has taken recent utterances of James H. Maurer as an excuse to remark that Socialists are talking differently today than they did a few years ago.

Which is quite true. A few years ago the Socialist party of Reading were warning the people against the danger of municipal loans. Now Maurer, once an opponent of bonds, declares that he doesn't care much how deeply in debt the city and county goes if debts are necessary to provide for the needs of the jobless.

A few years ago School Director Raymond S. Hofess was urging that the unemployed should be cared for by state and federal taxes. Now, although he still believes that way (and has the backing of many economists who are not even Socialists) he isn't as much concerned as he once was about who feeds the hungry—as long as they are fed.

Of course the tune has altered somewhat. But so have conditions. If the Socialist advice had been (Continued on Page Three)