

# READING LABOR ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE WORKERS

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## Hoopes Compels House to Delay Evictions

### REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

IT IS NOT because I am one of those much-touted "good citizens" that I wish for President Roosevelt a successful administration. I must confess to a much more personal reason. As a Socialist, I hope that the American people will be happier and more prosperous four years from now than they are today because of a deep conviction that that much-to-be-desired end will be gained only to the extent that the Roosevelt administration accepts basic Socialist policies.

RIGHT NOW press, radio and all other agencies which are used to influence public opinion are attempting with fair success to convince the common run of people that Franklin D. is going to solve all their problems. The new administration is not silly enough to insult anybody's intelligence with the idiotic statement that "prosperity is just around the corner," but, somehow, somebody has succeeded in convincing millions of people that everything's going to be all right.

The outcome of this feeling is going to be disastrous to somebody. If future events justify the optimism with which publicity channels are being flooded, then the class which has thus far managed to live upon the stolen labor of workers is going to be "decidedly unhappy." And if the whole thing turns out to be just another political pipe dream, then the unhappiness is going to be general. Even "General Frank" will not be able to give anything to the workers without taking something away from those who have been working the workers.

SURPRISING AS IT may be, the brave words of Roosevelt have somehow managed to dispel a goodly portion of the fear and resentment which resulted in his election. The people are hoping now. But hoping on an empty stomach is a job which exhausts patience. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see real trouble start in these United States if any considerable number of people ever become convinced that they are being kidded once more.

PAST RESULTS TO the contrary, I believe the end of deception is at hand. Wilson affronted pacifists by declaring war; Coolidge fooled everybody stiff by maintaining a discreet silence which passed for wisdom; Hoover got away with it when his "chicken in the pot" bubble burst. But those bits of deception were perpetrated against a population which was either eating regularly or had a well established hope that things would right themselves. Conditions are different now; if Roosevelt falls down on the job, the reaction of the present ballyhoo is likely to shatter more things than faith in a man.

BACK IN THE McKinley-Bryan campaign I heard a spread-eagle orator declare that "We Americans are a liberty-loving people." It wasn't until some years later that I discovered that we're no such thing. We're not liberty-loving at all; we're only hungry.

If Mr. Roosevelt feeds us his administration will be approved by the American people. But these are the days of mass production, and the day (Continued on Page Six)

### FAMILIES PROTECTED BY QUICK SOCIALIST THREAT AGAINST PROPERTY BILL

House Unanimously Approves Delay on Evictions Until April 3 to Avoid Socialist Opposition to Sheriff Sale Moratorium—Senate Protects Property But Delays Action Protecting Householders—Old Party Politicians Alarmed by Financial Weakness of Cities

HARRISBURG, Pa. (FP).—On threat of halting consideration of an emergency resolution halting sheriff sales of property until April 3rd, Rep. Darlington Hoopes, Berks Socialist, secured unanimous approval of a similar resolution suspending the eviction of unemployed under constables' writs until the same date. The resolution was then immediately shunted into the Senate Committee on Judiciary General, there being no Socialist spokesman in that body to take up the fight.

Immediately that Hoopes learned that the Senate had unanimously approved the suspension of sheriff sales under a resolution sponsored by Senator Coyne of Pittsburgh, at the behest of the sheriff and property interests of that county, the workingclass spokesman went to the rostrum of the Speaker of the House and demanded to see the resolution before it was attempted to be rushed through the House. Noting that the resolution covered only property interests and did not touch the problem of the worker faced with eviction for inability to pay rent, Hoopes announced his intention of amending it to include equal protection for the worker. Rather than permit this, House leaders agreed to give unanimous support to a separate resolution of the Socialist member covering evictions.

Hoopes Silences House  
After passage of the Senate resolution, Hoopes arose in a deathly still House and pointed out that the action just taken did not cover evictions, and moved his resolution to meet this situation, which he had hastily penciled on a pad. Unanimous consent was given, and both resolutions sent back to the Senate. However, in the Senate, leaders refused to let the Socialist measure go farther on the excuse that only ten of the fifty Senators were to be (Continued on Page Two)

### NEG WILL MEET IN INDIANAPOLIS

Large Gathering Expected When Socialist Executives Assemble in Mid-West. Thomas Will be Speaker

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party will meet in Indianapolis March 11th and 12th. A banquet will be held at a leading hotel on the 11th and a mass meeting at Tomlinson Hall on the 12th. Large delegations of Indiana Socialists are expected and an overflow meeting is expected. The principal speakers will be Norman Thomas, Morris Hillquit and Dan Hoan. Members of the committee will fill speaking engagements at nearby locals and universities before and after the above dates. Engagements will be published later.

Local Marion County, which includes Indianapolis and suburbs, has adopted branch organization with a county central committee. Fifteen branches have been organized with others now forming. An educational committee has been elected which has already started five classes in the branches with the Rand School extension course of Scientific Socialism. Unusual interest has been shown and other classes will be formed immediately.

The League for Industrial Democracy lectures have drawn crowds. Norman Thomas, Frank Crosswaith, Krjycki and Carl Thompson have spoken here with Dr. John Ise, Garfield Cox, Karl Borders and Oscar Ameringer to speak here on successive Wednesday until March 8th.

### HOUSE DEFEATS WILSON BILL TO OPEN INDUSTRY

Resolution Calling Upon Federal Authorities to Socialize Industries Killed by 176 to 9 Vote

### SOCIALIST CITES DANGER

Mrs. Wilson Tells Lawmakers Rapid Breakdown of Charity Endangering Lives of Jobless

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The resolution sponsored by Representative Lilith Wilson, Berks Socialist, which would have memorialized the President and Congress of the United States to declare a National Emergency and use the power of eminent domain to acquire and operate industry in the interest of unemployed workers, was indirectly defeated by a vote of 176 to 9 in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives this week.

A typical example of the uneasiness of the rulers of the State and the enforced hypocrisy of the capitalist politician under democratic forms, was given in the fact that instead of voting directly on the resolution, a motion was put to send the resolution to the Committee of Federal Relations to "avoid tying the hands of the new President."

The resolution was a straight Socialist measure; logically entitled to only the two Socialist votes of Representatives Hoopes and Wilson. Nevertheless with the collapse of the profit system proceeding so fast that the Legislature opened with the (Continued on Page Four)

### MOONEY DENIED PRISON VISITORS

Warden Takes Revenge on Capitalism's Victim For Magazine Article Attributed To Mooney

SAN QUENTIN, Cal. (FP).—Warden Holohan meant what he said when he threatened to hold Tom Mooney incommunicado, after The American Spectator carried an article which it claimed Tom wrote. The warden admits he believes Tom's denial of authorship of the article. However, he refuses to allow Tom to see anyone but members of his own family, his attorneys, and two or three members of the defense group. Milen Dempster, San Francisco Socialist who endeavored to see Mooney in regard to nationwide meetings, was refused an interview, in spite of his credentials from the Socialist Party and his formal protest to Holohan.

The warden says that the defense committee's "recent attack on Gov. Rolph (in connection with the proposed recall of Rolph) and the character of their circulars" are proof that "the attack on President-elect Roosevelt might have been caused by just such things as the defense committee" (Continued on Page Five)

### SOCIALISTS ASK U. S. ACTION TO SOCIALIZE BANKS

Hoopes' Resolution Declares Actions of Big Financiers Make Capone Look Like a Piker

### FOR POSTAL BANKING

Racketeer Policies Reveal Need Of Placing Control of Credit In Hands of the People

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Rep. Darlington Hoopes, Reading Socialist, rose in the House of Representatives last Monday night to present a resolution urging Congress to socialize the banks either through extension of the postal savings system to all banking operations or by the establishment of a government-owned bank of the United States.

This action came after a week of intense legislative activity on the part of both houses in the interest of the private banking system. The Hoopes resolution was laid aside for printing and is not likely to receive the support of the old party lawmakers who acted so faithfully for the bankers.

After passing last week's resolution to permit banks to limit withdrawals of depositors' money and thus avoid a general moratorium, the Pennsylvania General Assembly met this week and adopted a resolution immediately approving the successive general moratoriums proclaimed by Governor Pinchot after they had gone home.

The House then rushed to a first reading a bill to legalize last week's action. Under this bill, banks can limit the withdrawal of money by depositors for six months and remain open merely with the approval of the Secretary of Banking. After the six months the Governor can extend the privilege for two years by proclamation. Even while this legislation was being rushed at a record rate, advances reached Socialist members of the House that the moratorium resolutions would also have to be soon revised as banks in this wealthy (Continued on Page Five)

### WORKERS' COUNCIL MEETS AT LABOR LYCEUM TONIGHT

A meeting of the United Workers' Council will be held tonight in Labor Lyceum, third floor, for the purpose of considering a call for a state conference of all workers, farmers and unemployed. Delegates are urged to be present.

### BUILDING TRADESMEN WILL MEET WEDNESDAY

All members of the building trades unions of Reading have been called to a special meeting in the Building Trades hall, 29 Reed street, fourth floor, next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Business of importance to the entire craft will be transacted.

### Prepare to Resist The New Dictatorship

To the workers and farmers:  
Time after time the Socialist party has called your attention to the inevitable collapse of the industrial system. Today the capitalist system is in a state of collapse. The present banking crisis is only the visible evidence of the complete bankruptcy of business and industry as well as finance.

Our financial and industrial leaders are panic-stricken. They see danger of losing their power. They will use the present banking crisis as an excuse in an attempt to fasten a dictatorship on the American workers and farmers.

#### Sound Alarm For Action

Workers and farmers, employed and unemployed, must strengthen and perfect their organizations at once. Grave times are before us and the nation's toilers must be ready to rally in great demonstrations and mass meetings to protect their rights and struggle for power.

Workers and farmers must oppose all attempts to give unlimited power to President Roosevelt and his Wall Street Secretary of the Treasury Woodin. They will endeavor to gain such power in an effort to safeguard the investments of the wealthy owners of finance and industry at the expense of the workers and farmers.

#### Program Benefits Rich

Instead of revising the banking system in the interest of the people they will revise it to protect profiteering investors. Instead of balancing the budget by the imposition of greatly increased income and inheritance taxes on the wealthy, they will impose a sales tax on the poor.

Instead of reducing the staggering burden of debt by a capital levy on the holders of great wealth, they will attempt to fasten that burden more firmly on the people through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Instead of giving the unemployed adequate cash relief and employment through huge public works, particularly slum clearance and housing projects that are so sorely needed, they will attempt a system of forced labor on government farms and logging camps.

#### Ask Right to Work

Workers and farmers must demand adequate cash relief for the unemployed and the creation of opportunities for work. They must demand that the factories be turned over to the workers to produce the necessities of life they so desperately need. They must demand that banking be made a function of the government and be run in the interests of the people. They must be prepared to struggle against the impending dictatorship and to solidify their strength to gain plenty, peace and freedom. That struggle must be carried on—

- Against capitalist dictatorship!
- Against bankers' control!
- Against the sales tax!
- For increased income and inheritance taxes!
- For the capital levy!
- For producers' control of industry and finance!
- Fight for Socialism!

### BANKERS' GREED, NOT DEPOSITORS, CAUSED NATIONAL FINANCE CRASH

Revelations of Business Methods Disclose Real Reasons For Collapse—Scrip as Medium of Exchange Seems Inevitable—Loss of Jobs to Many Workers Is Most Dangerous Possibility—Inflation of Currency Will Cut Wage Values

NEW YORK (FP).—With a howl going up from the bankers that it was all the depositors' fault, the banks of the nation have collapsed and for the first time in history America is without any banking service except that offered by the untouched Postal Savings System. Private banking has failed; social banking goes on untouched.

#### Certain facts stand out:

1. Before the panic came confidence had been undermined by the failure of 20% of all U. S. banks with losses in the billions, by revelations of illegal loans to racketeers like the Isalls, by revelations of million-a-year bonuses to bankers like Mitchell of Manhattan's National City Bank.
2. Depositors have every right to expect that funds deposited in a checking account shall be withdrawable on demand. Such funds are presumed to be invested in 30- to 90-day loans to business men, loans which can be liquidated practically at once, not put into bonds, mortgages and other high-profit, slowly-maturing investments. Bankers too eager for big profits "froze" their depositors' assets in 1929 so that they could not liquidate them (turn them into cash) in four years. That's the reason the banks are closed—bankers' greed, not depositors' panic.
3. Clearing House Certificates, the new kind of money we're going to be using, are the (Continued on Page Four)

### What Reading Folks Are Talking About

#### SCRIP AND INFLATION

Regardless of the present needs for some form of currency with which business can be kept going, the fact is patent that the issuance of scrip under any form whatever is merely one form of inflation.

From the point of view of the Socialist economist, it is equally clear that the purpose back of the scrip or any other form of inflation is merely to bolster up the outworn capitalist system. In effect, the printing of either dollar bills or paper tokens is similar to the process of pumping oxygen into the lungs of a dying man. It will help the reader to understand just how sick capitalism is by remembering that the oxygen treatment is generally an act of desperation and a last resort.

With most of the gold reserves of the nation in fewer hands than ever before, the capitalist government of the United States has two main courses to follow. One would be to make the dominant rich disgorge their holdings, to confiscate the gold and use it to strengthen the currency system. This the Roosevelt administration, pledged to the continuance of the capitalist system, can not be expected to do. The other course is to print money. When this course is started it is likely to continue until money becomes so cheap that it will buy scarcely anything.

The effect of the latter course will be different with different people. When money is cheap prices rise and so, at a slower pace, do wages. To the worker with only his weekly earnings, or the unemployed with nothing more than a food voucher, price rises will mean a lowering of living standards. To thrifty workers and farmers who, by years of toil and self-denial, have managed to save a few thousand dollars, inflation will mean that the purchasing power of his savings will be reduced—how great the reduction will be depends upon the amount of inflation. In Germany's after-the-war inflation money was cheapened to such an extent that the savings of a lifetime, formerly considered as a reserve against old age and dependency, were not valuable enough to buy breakfast. To the big bankers, who control the finances of the nation, inflation will have the result of increasing their ownership of the mills, mines, homes, farms and all other resources which, after all, are the real wealth of any nation.

Regardless of the high hopes with which Roosevelt press agents have buoyed up the workers of the nation, dark days loom ahead. The workers are going to pay with their liberty, their savings and their lives for their folly in permitting the capitalist system to run its course to collapse. Neither scrip nor inflation will secure economic justice and security for the great mass of people. That is not what those make-shifts are intended to do. They are adopted to strengthen the power of the master class and that is the thing they will accomplish.

The only hope for the masses is a system which will take over the wealth-producing resources and operate the farms and industries as social assets for social welfare. That is what the Socialists propose to do, and the people are either going to accept the Socialist plan or pay the same penalty that workers in other nations are now paying.

#### STAMP SCRIP

Opponents of the stamp scrip plan are making much of the fact that the stamp will be merely another method of levying tax upon the people.

Their arguments are sound. Nevertheless, they are again making the mistake of losing sight of a large indirect tax while fighting against a small direct tax.

Compared to the loss in purchasing power resulting from cheaper money, the few stamps which the average worker would have to buy sink into insignificance.

We call this to the attention of all concerned for only one reason; namely, to help convince the average (Continued on Page Four)

**SOCIALIST**  
**Radio Program**  
**EVERY SUNDAY**  
at 12:15 P. M. over

**361.4M WEEU 830K**  
Mar. 12—Mark Starr.  
Mar. 19—George M. Rhodes.  
Mar. 26—Raymond S. Hofes.  
**TELL YOUR FRIENDS**