

MARCH, 1937

# Champion

OF YOUTH

PILGRIMS  
of  
PROGRESS

10c



THOSE SUPREME

FOGEYS OF AMERICA

**KO-SEN THE SACRIFICED**

By PEARL BUCK

I WANT THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX

# Letters

In the name of the Jacksonville Champion Recreation Club (which was named after your splendid magazine) I wish to congratulate you on the way you have widened your field of interest to such a great extent and still maintain and intensified your clear, steady, progressive stand. We hope to be able to double our bundle order soon.

J. William Greenleaf,  
Jacksonville, Fla.

I think the February issue of *Champion* is the best that has ever come out and I am recommending it to everyone I come across these days.

The issue in general in content and emphasis is perfectly swell.

William W. Hinckley,  
Chairman, American Youth Congress.

I believe teachers should interest their students in the *Champion of Youth* because I feel it is a progressive periodical which will stimulate the thinking of students.

Jerome Davis, New Haven

Received our first issue of your publication, read it from cover to cover. My sincerest congratulations upon such a unique and mighty interesting youth publication. You are to be highly complimented.

As one editor to another, we do not wish, in fact we cannot afford to be at bayonets ends, so I'm offering my hand in all sincerity, for future co-operation in every possible way that will benefit *Champion of Youth*, our publication and the general youth movement. It is our desire to co-operate with you. We hope you will feel likewise towards us and the National Youth Union.

I wish you unlimited success with your splendid and worthwhile magazine and best regards.

Howard M. Casteel, Pres.  
National Youth Union,  
Garrett, Ind.

Anything that will bring out the true facts which underlie the difficulties which beset youth is a good thing. The social problem cannot be discussed too much and your publication developed along these fundamental lines should be of assistance to the nation.

Aubrey Williams, Exec. Dir.  
National Youth Administration

Your February issue is really swell. *Champion* begins to look as important as it really is, and at the rate you are progressing it should soon become the most vital publication of its kind.

G. F., New York

The article by Dr. Hannah Stone was swell. What she said about the need for more sex education was perfectly true. More articles like hers would help solve problems for many young people to whom no other avenues of information are available. Let's have more like it, or possibly a question and answer column on the subject.

Gloria Pittman, Chicago

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Vol. II

MARCH, 1937

No. 9

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## OUR STAND

This magazine is dedicated to the aspirations and interests of the young people of the United States.

It supports the American Youth Act as an immediate means of improving the tragic lot of the 5,000,000 young Americans who are out of work and out of school.

It supports the program of the American Youth Congress.

It stands for alliance of all progressive youth with labor.

It is opposed to war and to all efforts to militarize youth.

It is opposed to every form of race prejudice.

It is opposed to reaction and fascism and urges the maintenance and extension of democratic and civil liberties.

It declares that these ends can be best achieved through the independent action of all progressive Americans in a Farmer-Labor Party. It supports every step in the direction of such a party and in the formation of a Farmer-Labor youth movement.

# Contributors

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## LETTERS

One thing I'd like to see in *Champ* is an article about employment agencies. Lots of us are unemployed and would like to know how to avoid those agencies out to rook us.

Charles Weaver, Indianapolis

It will interest *Champion* readers to know that the Trotskyites here have fought against the American Youth Congress. They have attacked the American Student Union as a "company union." They have condemned every attempt to unify working class and Christian and liberal youth. They seek to disrupt the great youth campaign of assistance for Spanish democracy; in their agitation they call for the overthrow of the Spanish government.

It is through such examples of antagonism to the building of a great American youth movement . . . it is through such beginnings that people come to the sad end of wrecking and sabotage.

Joseph Starobin, New York

I am a member of the *Champion of Youth Club* here and president of a Young People's League.

I want to compliment you on your wonderful magazine.

I would like to suggest that you publish articles on religious topics. I could use them in my work. And I am sure they will be of great interest to your readers.

C. L. Kogge, Jacksonville, Fla.

CHAMPION OF YOUTH

# CHALLENGE FOR ROOSEVELT

*The Pilgrimage to Washington, D. C., Stirred a Rhode Island Girl Into Writing This Open Letter to the President*

By JANE CALKINS

**S**AY, Mr. President, you know about those four thousand young fellows and girls who went to Washington last month to ask you about jobs. I was one of them but I didn't get a chance to see you. Bill Hinckley, our chairman, told us about his talk with you and I read everything you said in the newspapers but there's one thing I still want to know, and that's why I'm writing this letter.

Now, you don't know me and even if you saw me I guess you still wouldn't know who I was. I heard you didn't even recognize Angelo Herndon until he told you his name and lots of people heard about Angelo since the time he was sentenced to the chain gang for trying to get bread for the poor folks in Atlanta. Of course, I never did anything like that. I happen to be just a small town girl from Rhode Island. Maybe you never even heard of Central Falls; it's near Pawtucket. For that matter, I don't suppose anybody'd be able to recognize all of us that marched to the White House. We came from all parts of the country—forty-four different states somebody told me.

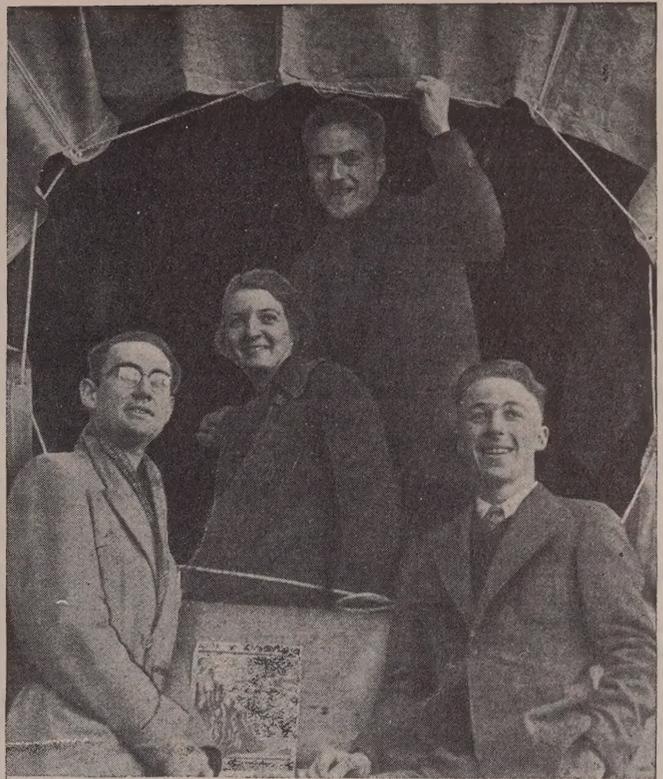
And many of us couldn't help feel disappointed that you broke your promise to talk to all of us and only saw some of our leaders. Most of us were in Washington for the first time, and I came all the way from Central Falls so I could speak to you.

I can't use those big words like some of the delegates. Lots of them, I heard, went to college. They were the ones that wore those funny black caps and gowns and were talking about "Scholarships not Battleships." I never went to college—not even high school. I started to work in the mills when I was fourteen. But I guess going to college doesn't make so much difference anyway. Lots of them that finished college don't have jobs either. Like our petition said, you know how many there are without jobs better than any one of us, but they tell me it's more than five million.

So we, four thousand that came to Washington, aren't the only ones that want to see the American Youth Act passed. Take me, for instance, I was the only delegate from our Y.W.C.A. but there are hundreds of girls here who want to know how I made out. And besides, there are the seventy girls from my shop, who couldn't afford to send a delegate so I went for them too. You see the girls in the shop couldn't afford anything like that because we've been on strike five weeks and we haven't had the money coming in. Not that we get much when we are working—that's why we went on strike: to get more pay than the eight or ten bucks a week we've been averaging when we do work.

We were making fifteen a week under the Blue Eagle before the Supreme Court killed the N.R.A., and that's why we're backing you up against the "nine old men." But getting new spirit into the Supreme Court isn't going to help us unless we can get the American Youth Act passed. I know how you feel about the Supreme Court: that you can't wait until an amendment goes through but have to do something right away. That's just how we feel about the American Youth Act; we need it now.

Our leaders who saw you inside the White House told us how nice you were about them having been arrested and how you told one of your men to have



*Above: Washington State Pilgrimage Delegates Who Travelled by Caravan.*

## A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

By SENATOR ERNEST LUNDEEN

**F**IVE MILLION young people out of work and out of school today constitute one of the gravest national emergencies our country has faced. Over forty per cent of our young people of high school age are not in school. The American Youth Act providing young age security makes real again the possibility of opportunities for young people to go to school and to work. It is the Homestead Act of 1937 opening up new frontiers in the form of federal scholarships, public work projects, and vocational guidance and training.

We, who are introducing the American Youth Act, do so at the request of the young folks themselves. We pledge ourselves to leave no stone unturned to secure for them the opportunities their national heritage has guaranteed them. The American Youth Act makes permanent the present temporary National Youth Administration and extends it to meet the actual needs of the youth generation. The wage standards are based on the sound principle that young people are entitled to equal wages for equal work and should not be turned loose on the labor market to bludgeon down the American wage scales already achieved. This bill must be passed to achieve again the rights of every American youth to a job and a chance to go to school.

## THE FUTURE AT STAKE

By JOHN L. LEWIS

**W**HO can measure the sum total of the loss to America in the denial of opportunity for our young people during the depression? There are thousands and thousands of young men and women in this country, educated for the professions at great sacrifice to themselves and the families who contributed to that education, who have been unable in these years to find an outlet for their knowledge or an opportunity to practice that calling or profession for which they were trained. Who can measure the loss to America and America's people in the denial of opportunity to those young people during that period? Who knows what ideas have been brought forth by them for your benefit or mine? I count not the day-to-day sufferings and sacrifices of the average citizen who has somehow managed to live, but I can see how many have died who would have lived had we had a more rational relationship in our economic structure and in the administration of our social and our political problems.

it fixed. I'm glad you took care of that because it certainly was a disgrace the way the cops tried to march our leaders off to jail and run into us with their motorcycles just because we were waiting on Pennsylvania Avenue to see you. When he reported it to us, Bill Hinckley mentioned how you laughed about the time when you were arrested in Germany four times in one day and how you laughed more when someone said, if you were in Germany today you'd be arrested ten times in one day. Only this isn't Germany, and we don't want it to be like Germany.

What I liked most of all was the way you told our leaders that you were glad we came to Washington and you hoped you'd be able to get more money for the National Youth Administration and you hoped you'd be able to make it permanent and not end in June like they said a few weeks ago.

And that's why I'm writing you, Mr. President. We're all hoping for the best, but like I told you before, seventy of us girls have been striking for decent pay for five weeks and the boss has been taking in scabs and we need money and jobs right now. Not only us but the fellows and girls who came from California in the covered wagon, and the fellows in the striped suits who said, "We want jobs—not Sing-Sing," and the girls in the black caps and gowns, and not only all these thousands who came to Washington, but the millions who couldn't come. All of us, Mr. President, were glad to hear that you told Angelo Herndon that you were with him, and that you didn't think our leaders should have been arrested, and that you hoped the National Youth Administration would be made permanent and larger, and that in general, you were glad we came.

But you didn't say anything about the American Youth Act, and what we want to know more than anything else is: when will you pass the American Youth Act? When will we get jobs?

"A MOUTHFUL of tea, O my mother—O my mother!"

With a great effort Ko-sen turned his head a little upon his hard round pillow, that he might see his mother in the dusk of the small room where he lay. A bar of evening light streamed in from the square hole in the earthen wall of the house, which was the window and scarcely a foot across, and this light fell upon her as she sat crouched on a stool beside his wooden bed. She rose, weeping a little, as he could see when she turned her face to the light, and went to the table under the window, and taking up a bowl brought it and held it to his lips. He opened his dry mouth eagerly to receive the drink and then he tasted something bitter upon his tongue. He turned away and moaned.

"A little tea, I said, my mother—I burn with thirst! How is it so bitter?"

His mother broke into sobs and then pleaded with him.

"Ko-sen, my only one, the doctor says you must drink it if you are to live. Listen, my son!—It has the heart of the tiger from the southern hills brewed in it—that is to make you strong. It has the entrails of a great serpent dried and powdered into it—that is to make your life long. What lives longer on the earth than a serpent? It has herbs of magic qualities whose very names are known only to geomancers, they are so magic. Drink, my son, my only son! If you die, then I die also. What use has a mother when her only son is dead and there can be no more born to her in her old age? My little son—my little son?"

But Ko-sen could scarcely understand what she said. Her voice sounded very faint and far away, and his fevered blood pounded in his ears like water roaring after spring floods. He lay still and he whispered over and over.

"But it is very bitter—it is very bitter—"

And he would drink no more. Then the fever rose again in his blood as it had for many nights, and when darkness fell he did not know whether he was thirsty or not or what was the matter with him. His head was full of noise and confusion, and although he listened and tried to repeat aloud what he heard there, the words came broken and without meaning, and try as he would he could not hear the end of any sentence. Only sometimes through all the confusion in his own head he heard a voice louder than any other and voice cried out in terror,

"My son is dying—my only son is dying!"

But even then he did not know what these words meant nor that this was the voice of his mother, crying by his bedside.

Then suddenly silence drapped him about like a soft garment. They had taken him somewhere but he did not know where because his head was burning hot and full of confusion to which he must listen day and night, whether he would or not.

But they had taken him up from his bed. He felt his father's brown lean arms under him, gathering him up. Ah, his father's strong arms, strong with the years of ploughing and of cutting the sheaves! When his father's arms slipped under him Ko-sen was suddenly clear for an instant in his head. He remembered his father's strong arms lifting the flail high above his head, high above the threshing floor before the house. His father was stronger than anyone in the village. Then before he was aware for more than a moment, Ko-sen slipped back into the dark confusion of his fever again.

Out of that confusion he waked suddenly to silence.

But where was he? This was not his room. This was not his bed. His own bed had always stood in the small earth-walled room of his father's farmhouse. There should be above him and around him the blue cotton bed curtains and above these the warm thatch of the roof, laced with hempen ropes against the rafters. There across from him should be his little table, his stool, his box that held his few changes of clothing. If it were after harvest there might be baskets of grain against the walls because the house, if it were a good year, was too small for the fruits of their fields.

But there was nothing like these about him, nothing that he knew. He lay on a narrow, curtainless, bamboo cot. Above him, immensely high above, was a great arching roof of tiles supported by enormous beams. Dragons crawled their painted length there in colors rich and dimmed with age. The floor was not the beaten earth floor of his home, but great tiles set in a pattern he could not follow and worn smooth and polished with the passing of many feet. Then at the other end of the hall he saw, glittering out of the dusk of the night, the great golden shapes of gods. Where was he, indeed? Had he died—was this the place of which priests spoke when they said men went to a judgment hall when they died?

Then out of the silence came a joyful voice and it was the voice of his mother and he knew it now.

"He is awake—he is awake—oh, the gods be praised!"

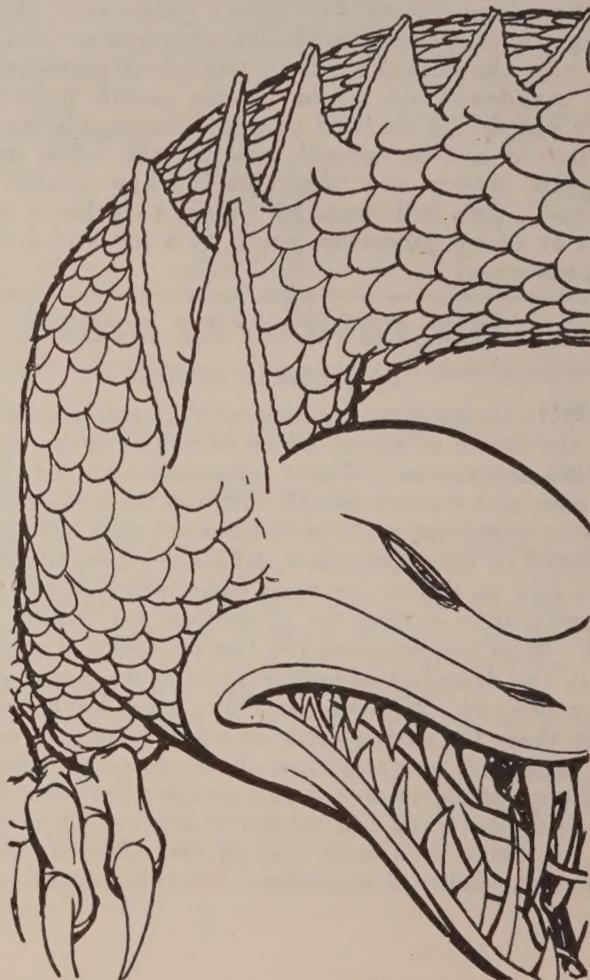
"My mother, where am I?"

And she who was always there beside him night and day took his thin hand and stroked it and she said,

"Ko-sen, my only one, you are in the temple. If we had not brought you here, my son, you would even now be dead and under the earth. You fell ill of a fever at the end of the summer—do you remember you fell ill that day you went with your father into the city and you ate so heartily of the meats in the inn by the city gate? Whether there was something wrong with what you ate or whether in passing a devil saw you, an only son, and leaped on you, who can ever tell? But you fell ill—ah, do you not remember any of it, so near death have you been! But hear this, my son. You fell ill at the end of the summer and now we have already had the first frost to kill the melon vines, and your father borrowed money even to the promise of his next year's rice crop that he might hire Chang, the skilled physician from the city. But even that one had no power over such a devil of sickness as had fallen on you, no, not even though he used his most secret and magic prescription. So that at last he said, 'Well, and you can only take him to the temple and see what the gods will do with him, since I can do no more.' Therefore are you here, my little son."

Then suddenly she fell to silent weeping, and Ko-sen looked at her in astonishment and he whispered,

"Why do you weep, but why do you weep, my mother? I shall live!"

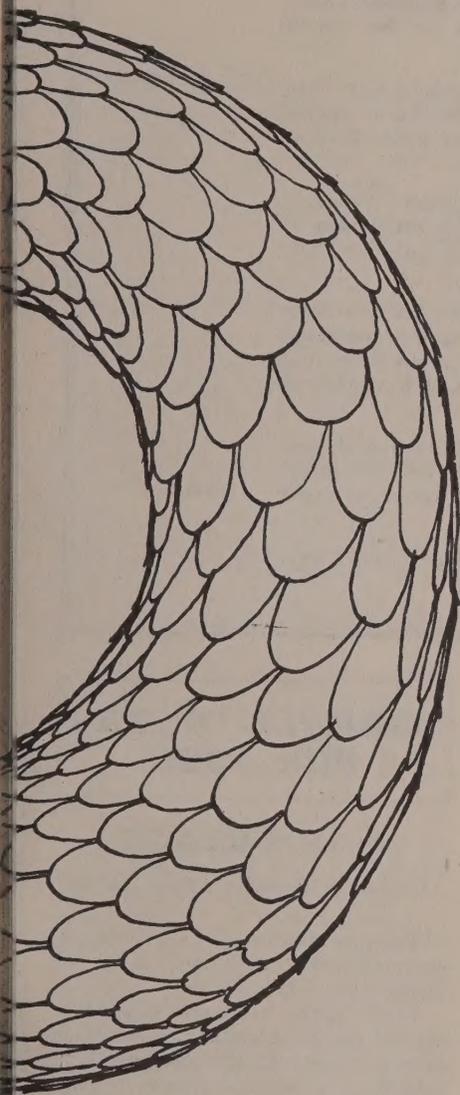


# Ko-Sen the Sacrificed

BY PEARL S. BUCK

Illustrated by Herman Bernard Temple

A Short Story About a Young Chinese Who Falls Victim to an Ancient Custom Accepted by His Parents



"Well, my son, today I harnessed the water buffalo to the new plough and I ploughed for winter wheat. It seemed to me the soil is good enough this year, not dry and not wet, and if there is enough snow we shall have a good harvest if we do not have flood in the spring before the wheat is cut."

Sometimes he thought hard to think of something to please Ko-sen especially and so one day he said, "Your yellow dog mourns for you and looks everywhere about the house and the fields and he lies beside your bed."

But when he said this he looked away suddenly and covered his face in his hand. And Ko-sen, wondering, asked, "What is it, my father?"

But his father only shook his head and on that day he took his leave more quickly and more early than on other days.

Sometimes, but this was seldom, Ko-sen's little sister came. She was two years younger than Ko-sen who was now sixteen, and her feet were bound and being bound more tightly every day for her marriage, and this binding since it was not yet complete, was still painful and she could not walk easily even the scant mile from their home to the temple. When she came in she leaned upon a little bamboo stick and sat down on the stool and crossed her legs and held her little feet for a while to ease them before she could walk for the pain.

Ko-sen watched her sorrowfully thus one day as she sat, for he loved his sister and she had been more to him than most sisters are to their brothers, for out of the ten children his mother had borne there were only two of them left, the youngest and nearest together. Yet he knew on that sad day seven years ago when his mother had begun to bind Siu-may's feet that it must be, for Siu-may was even then betrothed as he was himself, and the man whom she was to wed had bargained that her feet must not be longer than four inches on the day of her marriage. That day Ko-sen, seeing his sister weep, had gone to his mother and begged.

"Do not, I beg of you, my mother, bargain thus that she whom I am to wed shall have small feet. I hate them!"

"Even so, her mother will bind her feet for very pride in her."

Thus Ko-sen, lying in his bed in the temple, health growing again into his blood and his flesh, watched this small sister of his on this day. Her face was pale and her eyes were closed and she sat holding her feet and breathing heavily, her lips pressed together. And it

came to him dimly, although he hardly knew how to say it even to himself, that it was very hard to be a girl; even a welcomed and loved girl child in a good home like his, it was hard. And there were many homes less good than his where the daughters were not treated so well, whether because parents were not so kind as his, or else, there being many girls alive, girls were not so welcome as his one sister. And thinking thus he lay and ached in his heart because of his sister's pain.

It happened on this same day a little later, as his sister sat beside him and they talked, that their mother had left them for a while to go out into the court into the sunshine and air. And the two were left alone and Ko-sen said to his sister;

"Siu-may, I have something to ask you."

And Siu-may said,

"What is it, Ko sen?"

And Ko-sen said,

"Why is it that my mother weeps so much even now when I am getting well and when in a few more days I shall put my feet to the floor, and why does my father sit and look at me so hard and then turn his eyes away and cover them with his hand? One would think I were yet to die!"

Then Siu-may fell very silent and her little pale face went paler still and she pretended to be very busy with a button on her coat that would not stay fastened in its loop.

"Tell me!" begged Ko-sen, suddenly frightened although he did not know of what.

She looked at him then. "They do not know how to tell you," she whispered. "They have told me to tell you if I can, but how can I even, my brother, tell you?"

Then indeed Ko-sen knew that there must be some evil in store for him, for Siu-may looked at him sadly, as sadly as though she saw him lying there dead, and her pretty dark eyes filled with tears and she winked them so that the tears fell round and bright down her cheeks and upon her little blue cotton coat.

"Now must I know my evil fate," said Ko-sen faintly. "Whatever it is, I must know."

"You see, the doctor could not cure you," Siu-may said suddenly and then she stopped again, for the sobs choked up into her throat. Ko-sen looked at her steadily.

"But I am alive and well almost," he replied, still looking at her.

"Yes, but—Oh, Ko-sen—" cried Siu-may, suddenly breaking forth in a rush of words, "it is only because you were given to the gods—you have been given to the gods—and for this the gods let you live!" She began to weep then and to tremble, and she trembled as turned to look over her shoulder at the gleaming gilt figures of the idols, silent and shining out of the dusk of the hall.

Ko-sen lay motionless, looking at his sister. He could not for a moment think at all. Then slowly the meaning of what Siu-may had said came flooding over him, for well he knew what it was.

Given to the gods! They had dedicated him to the temple—to the service of the gods. All his life, then, must be spent here in their shadow! Here must he live, here must he die, a priest, less than a man, separate from his kind—in the shadow, in the shadow! He turned his face to the wall and lay silent for a long time.

When at last he could speak his words came muffled through his stiff lips.

"I wish they had let me die, I wish I were dead."

Then Siu-may crept forward and took his hand in her small cold hand and said, coaxing him,

"No, Ko-sen, that we could not bear. You must not blame our father and our mother. They did the only thing they could. They chose the lesser death, my brother. For in this way we can still come to see you. Later when you are full priest you may even come home to see us, even though rarely. But if you were under the earth we could never, never see you again. No—no, you must not blame them!"

But Ko-sen could not speak and he could not turn his face to her again because his heart was swelled so big in his bosom and so hot in his throat that if he turned to her he must weep it all out. So he lay still and stiff and at last she pressed his hand a little and stood up and took her bamboo staff and she said sighing.

"I must go before it is too dark, for I have to cook our father's rice for him when he comes in late and weary from the fields. He is cultivating the land now after the winter frosts. Do not grieve, my brother. Do not think, 'I wish I were dead.' Think only, 'What if I were dead indeed?'"

But still he could not answer her, and he lay there and when his mother came in he knew from her silence that Siu-may had told her he knew and he could not speak even to his mother. He lay on silent while the sun sank behind the courtyard walls and early night fell upon the temple. Out of the heavy dusk he heard the evening chants of the priests and the music rose long and mournful, rising and falling like a wail.

"Prisoners?" he thought to himself.

And with the word he saw suddenly the whole of what it would be when he was among them, his gray robe, his shaven head, mingled, lost, among the others, and he burst into weeping, his face muffled in the quilt.

(Copyright, Friendship Press)

PEARL S. BUCK, whose story "Ko-sen the Sacrificed," appears on these pages, saw "The Good Earth," her famous novel, released this month in movie form. Twenty writers are reported to have worked on the script and two and half million dollars spent on production but, despite Hollywood's lavishness, "The Good Earth" remains a moving document of the Chinese peasant struggling for food on his land.

# ON THE FARMER-LABOR FRONT

## THOSE SUPREME FOGEYS OF AMERICA

By EDWARD MORGAN

THE outstanding political issue of the past month brought Young America and Labor side by side in a stand against reactionaries. When President Roosevelt asked the American Youth Congress delegation of seven what they thought about his proposed court reform, he found they were united against the usurped power of the Supreme Court to invalidate social legislation. As one speaker at a Youth Congress meeting pointed out, the Constitution which the "nine old men" were "interpreting" had been written by men who were young not alone in years but in spirit. Educated in the campaign for their own legislation, the youth leaders could see how the Supreme Court menaced their own fight for jobs and schools.

Labor's Non-Partisan League, headed by Major Berry, took the same view. "Labor realizes that all of its program may be defeated in the future, as it has been in the past, by the arbitrary action of a Supreme Court which has long since lost all real contact with the people of the nation. Only by judicial reform can the way be opened to social and labor legislation."

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, fresh from the struggle against General Motors, wired the President, "I believe that the mandate given you by the people of the United States should be realized and not flouted by a Supreme Court that is packed with judges appointed by Presidents either dead or repudiated by the American people."

Following the action of C.I.O. leaders and many state and central labor bodies, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. stated that "the sincere and earnest desire of labor for judiciary reform and for the realization of social and economic advancement could be prompted better through the acceptance and application of the President's recommendation, rather than through the slow, tedious process of a court amendment."

Prominent industrial union leaders like John L. Lewis and Sidney Hillman, associated with Labor's Non-Partisan League, declared for the President's reform. "To propose or to favor delay now is to strengthen the hands of those privileged groups, aptly designated as 'economic royalists' whose real purpose is to prevent or to throw out any legislation which would curb their absolute power in industry or limit the gigantic profits which have thrown our economic system so badly out of adjustment.

"It may be true that we should have a court amendment restricting the power of the federal judiciary—but it would be difficult to find, for amendment that part of the Constitution which gives the courts the power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional . . . The Court has unquestionably usurped a power never formally granted it—and strongly denied by the most revered among our presidents. . . .

"By the time an amendment could be adopted, the damage of unrestricted industrial autocracy would have been done."

### UNIONIZATION IS VITAL

By LEWIS MERRILL

*General Secretary, National Committee of Office and Professional Workers Union, A. F. of L.*

The uncontrolled employment of youth, particularly under-privileged youth, in hazardous jobs threatens the health standard of the future. Where they are used to fill occupations formerly held by adults, they serve to depress the wage scales of all workers. In the broadest sense the problems of the young wage earner are the same as all other workers. It is vital that they be won to the organized labor movement.

The trade unions themselves enroll a program suitable for these young people. In the office-professional field we find that the use of an athletic program, dramatic groups, glee clubs, dances, forums, lectures, etc., are of tremendous value. This sort of approach has ensured that our Union, (the bulk of the membership being under thirty, and half at least under the age of 25), is one of the closest-knit organizations in the trade union movement, and is in a position to attract an increasingly wide number of young people to our economic objectives.

### AN HISTORIC RESOLUTION

Every person interested in the future of America's young people must be heartened at the recognition by labor leaders of the tremendous importance of organizing young people into the labor movement. The significance of this trend is apparent to champions of trade union standards, to opponents of fascism, to all progressive Americans. The following resolution was adopted at the last convention of the A. F. of L. and the accompanying statements are contributed by the militant leaders of two unions which are composed almost entirely of young people.

#### The A. F. of L. Opens Its Ranks

WHEREAS A large number of youth have recently entered labor's ranks, finding employment in various industries; and

WHEREAS, Among these young people there is a sturdy and growing tendency to enlist in the organizations of labor; and

WHEREAS, Many efforts, such as the following, are being made to endanger Union standards: Government-sponsored N.Y.A. and C.C.C. projects establish wage levels far below prevailing levels; special apprenticeship systems are being set up to get young people to do the work of and displace adults at apprenticeship wages; company unions are developing athletic and cultural activities with the hope of weaning young people away from the bona-fide union movement; and

WHEREAS Various International and Local Unions, recognizing the need of developing Union consciousness among the youth, have instituted, as a regular part of Union procedure, cultural and athletic activities, thus winning large numbers of young people to their ranks; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor now in Convention assembled, undertake a campaign to promulgate union consciousness among America's young people and raise among its members the slogan: "Win your sons and daughters for the Trade Union Movement."

Your committee recommend concurrence with the resolution. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted.

### EXAMPLE OF THE FUR BOYS

By LEON STRAUSS

*Organizer, Fur Floor Boys Union*

The organization of America's unorganized youth in industry is the job facing us in 1937.

Youth in the trade unions must be among the most militant fighters in labor's battles. In the past they have constituted a serious menace to trade unionism, because they had no previous background of struggle for unionism implanted in them. Young workers must give their support and strength in the coming battles to unionize the mass production industry as only young workers can.

In the Fur Floor Boys' Union in our area we already begin to see what it means to have young workers in trade unions. Throughout the period of all our strikes their fighting spunk in mass picket lines and demonstrations, in going even to the length of jail sentences is what gave us victories.

We have results to show after a year and a half of organization. 1500 workers who have benefited by receiving \$6000 weekly wage increases—a 44 hour week—the security of their jobs—are things that count with our floor boys.

# HAS THE CHURCH FAILED?

*An Assistant Pastor Examines Religion Frankly and Finds It Lacking in Many Respects But Sees Some Hopeful Signs*

By JOHN HUTCHISON

I SPEAK of religion both as a young person and as a member in good standing of the church. On the one hand I have felt the force of the skeptical currents of thought that have swept through the mind of youth. Indeed some of them have made valuable contributions to my own thinking. On the other hand—I appreciate the thinking of many of my acquaintances who will have nothing to do with religion, and aware as I hope I am of its shortcomings—I still remain in the church. To tell in detail why I do so would take us beyond the bounds of this article, but I will say in general that I find within the church the most valid philosophy of life which it has been my good fortune to come across.

But be that as it may, let me say that in my opinion organized religion will stand or fall with our generation as it proves itself to be a reactionary or a progressive social force. It is along these lines that our present chaos is going to be worked out. If the church persists in blocking the road of human progress it may fully expect to be deserted by its youth. Indeed it may expect as has already been the case in many lands, to be rudely brushed out of the way.

If on the other hand religious faith, whatever form it may take, proves to be a socially constructive and creative force, then it will have a future with us. It is this problem, the social nature and the social consequences of religion, with which in my own religious thinking I have sought to deal. It is in these terms that I wish to speak of religion here.

We shall do well to deal very frankly with two very serious charges that are leveled against religion by progressive youth—charges that religion is inescapably reactionary and that it is otherworldly.

There is a group and I think it is increasing daily in numbers and in importance, which believes that the church often stands not for the ideals which its own prophets and leaders have proclaimed, but for a very conservative status quo, that very often reaction masquerades in the brocaded vestments of religious tradition.

One does not have to look past the first pages of the daily newspaper for present-day examples of reactionary alliance between church and state. Hitler claims to be God's chosen emissary to the German nation, and if his military fortunes are propitious, we may expect the claim to be extended to the entire earth.

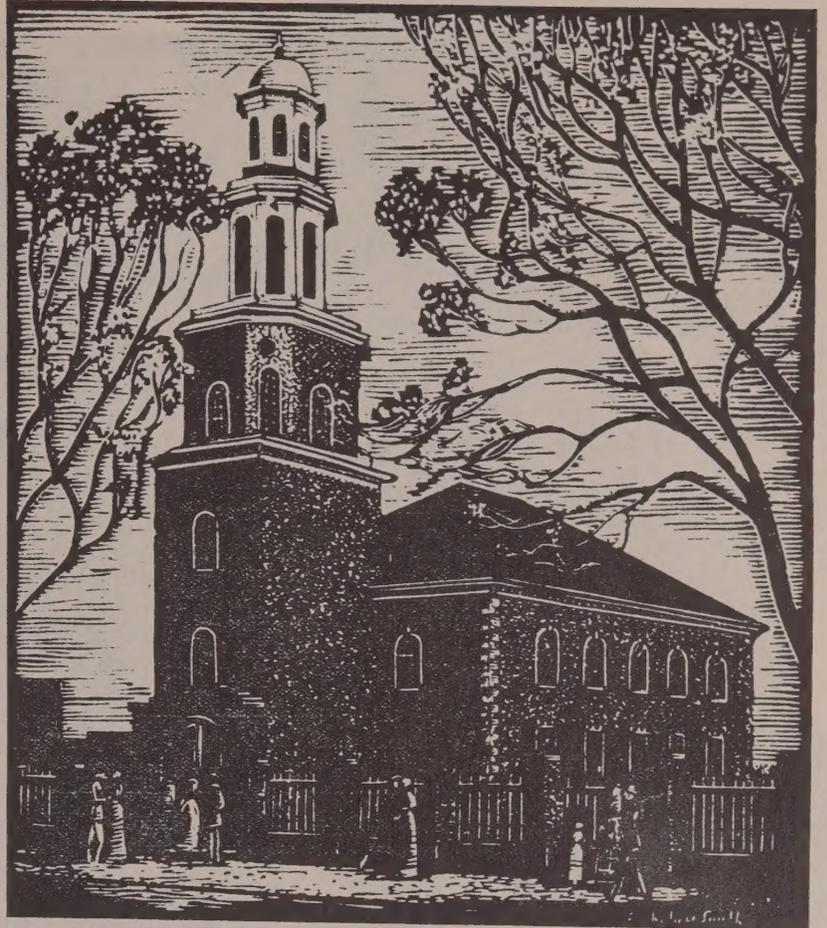
The Japanese emperor claims to be the sun of heaven. When the American government voted to enter a war which we now know to have been a curse and only a curse to mankind the American clergy joined in the hysterical demand for German blood. In its 1934 Labor Day message, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America had this to say of the New Deal:

"If as we steadfastly believe the mind of Jesus Christ is a revelation of the divine, then these measures are divine. . . ." Now, however much one may think of the definite social value of some of the measures the Roosevelt

administration has undertaken, one cannot help reflecting ironically on the long lines of jobless people, of jobless youth, after four years of his administration, on the billions poured out for armaments, on the weak-kneed concessions to reaction, on the big words and the empty promises.

Personally, I see no other way of dealing with this charge that religion is reactionary than frankly to admit that a good deal of it is just that. Whether these things are necessarily and inescapably part of religious nature will be discussed later. But it is certainly true that reaction is a tendency which may always threaten religion. Therefore it becomes the special obligation of progressive youth to fight reaction wherever it appears.

The second charge of many young people against religion is that it is otherworldly. Mankind looks out upon a hard, cruel world which contrasts rather poorly with his hopes and dreams. Instead of resolutely setting to work to build the world nearer to his ideals, he wishfully creates a dream-world where his ideals have full sway. Finding the earth hostile instead of changing it, he flees away to the contemplation of heaven. The early Christians found the Roman empire a very decadent and depraved place in which to live, but instead of working to make it a better place, they fled away to the wilderness of asceticism and monasticism. So throughout history, it is charged, religion has told the common people of the earth, "Yes, your



lot here is hard, but think not of the evils of this transient world but of the perpetual bliss in store for you in heaven." Here again I see no way of dealing with this charge other than to grant that there is a large, an uncomfortable, measure of truth in it. We must frankly grant that very often religion has been the opiate of the people, an otherworldly distraction of energies sadly needed for the work of this world.

But let us turn to another aspect of the subject—a hopeful aspect. There is latent in religion another and a very different tradition of thought and action, a tradition which is not so much social opium as it is social dynamite.

It has frequently provided the energy and the conscience for momentous social changes.

This tradition began with the prophets of Israel who believed that a just and brotherly society is God's will for the world and that any society based upon injustice is doomed. They further believed that since there was one God over all the earth any community less than all mankind was evil and wrong. Thus they were outspoken critics both of nationalism with its attendant evils, and of the host of evils that flow from the social sin of greed or acquisitiveness. It is upon this tradition of social ethics that the church is built. Of course for the most part it has been content to ignore the challenge of its own ethics or to explain them away by shabby equivocations.

But periodically there have arisen people—particularly young people—who have insisted upon taking the church's ethics at their face value. They have broken through the hard crust of conservative tradition to make religion a decisive and a crea-

tive factor in history. I believe that such a process is taking place among many young people in the church today.

We are seeking to sweep aside the cluttered accumulations of centuries and to get back to the actual social ideals of peace and brotherhood proclaimed by the prophets and by Jesus and to seek their embodiment in human society. Of course I do not mean that there is a group of us within the church organized, disciplined, and ready to mount the barricades to fight for a new society. Rather it is a new direction of thought and action. Being new it is still full of illusion and error, yet granting a measure of wise guidance it has the possibility of producing good social results. One thinks for instance of the number of progressive leaders in America who have been motivated by religious idealism.

Personally I found the atmosphere around the theological seminary I attended far more congenial to progressive social thought than that of my college. And as this is being written, I have just returned from a meeting of a group of younger ministers in my city who have initiated several progressive movements, ranging from a support of the local unemployed organization to fighting gag legislation in our state legislature. Today we made plans to send a delegation to Washington to interview our Congressmen on the American Youth Act.

Now I do not mean that we of the church have any ready or complete solutions for the social ills of the world. But I do think that we do represent a social force that ought not to be dismissed with a sneer. Religious idealism, if properly channelled, may yet  
(Continued on Page 28)



## I Want the Truth About Sex

By ALICE SHERMAN

Illustrated by  
Wilbur G. Stewart

I'VE NEVER had much use for the kind of person whose chief topic of conversation is sex. You know the type—the girl to whom everything in pants is a possible conquest, who thinks of herself as the object of every male glance as she boards a trolley car or walks down the street, and who is always calling you up to tell you about the boy who followed her home or the man who came to read the gas meter and stayed to read her palm. Nine times out of ten, those girls only get what they're looking for. If they can't find a real situation, they create imaginary ones.

I suppose it's ungenerous of me, but I've never had much patience with prudes either. I mean the kind of people who whisper, "Joe tried to put his arm around me last night," or "What shall I do if he asks to kiss me?" Those girls are usually the ones whose families have "protected" them, and who are going to get a big shock some day. They need more than just good advice, but, fortunately, there are only a few of these among my friends.

Most of the girls I know are like myself. We have brothers, as kids we played with the boys on the block, and we went to a co-ed high school. So we've always known a lot of boys, and some of them have been swell friends. While we're not the kind of girls that can walk onto the dance floor and knock the stag line down with a glance, and there have been nights that we've waited for telephone calls that never

came, we manage to have a lot of fun.

Consequently, I'm rather surprised at myself for writing an article about sex. My crowd has always prided itself on being very up-to-date about most things, sex included. At 16, we liked to think of ourselves as fairly sophisticated about the "facts of life," at least as far as they were revealed in books, magazines, and movies. We had philosophical discussions about Companionate Marriage and Free Love, and if any one of us was ever shocked, we certainly never admitted it. People who had fears and doubts about sex and marriage were to us, well, not "modern."

Of course that was four or five years ago, and since then, I must admit, things have begun to seem a little more complicated. Our problems are no longer, "Shall I go to the dance with Bill or Harry?" and "Should I wear Jim's high school ring? They are no longer vicarious ones borrowed from movies and novels, and we're not so sure of ourselves any more. Now we ask:

"What standards shall I try to live up to—which are really important and which valueless?"

"Of the information I've picked up and the advice that has been given me, what shall I keep and what shall I

throw away? How shall I reconcile opposing points of view and make a pattern of conduct for myself that I can really follow?"

And most of all, "How can I prepare myself now, before marriage, in order to insure a reasonable easy adjustment to married life?" For myself, I've found that decisions that I made with a snap of the fingers when they involved Joan Crawford and Robert Montgomery, leave me full of doubts when I am the leading lady of the drama.

I never really tried to put my finger on the difficulty—and I don't think it's my difficulty alone—until I read Dr. Hannah Stone's article in the last issue of *Champion*. After reading it, I suddenly found myself asking this question: "If you could speak to someone frankly and without embarrassment about questions and doubts that are troubling you, what would you say?"

For a moment I hesitated. After all, I've studied biology and hygiene. I know the cold scientific facts about sexual relationships and the reproductive processes. Then I hit on Dr. Stone's phrase, "the essential facts of sex and sex behavior," and realized that most of our problems come under the heading of sex behavior. I could easily imagine myself talking to Dr. Stone or someone like her, asking the questions that many of us would like to have answered by someone who really knows.

The first one that came to my mind was: Is frequent petting unhealthy? By

that I don't mean promiscuous petting, necessarily, but frequent petting with the same person. And as a sort of post-script to that: Do most men judge the past sex conduct of the girl they plan to marry more harshly than they do their own?

Another question leads naturally from that one. Two friends of mine are very much in love, but for financial reasons will have to wait at least a year before they can be married. They see each other three or four evenings a week. Would it be better for them to continue necking and petting up to a certain point, or should they have extramarital relationships, assuming, of course, that this would have to be kept a secret from the girl's family.

If they decide on the latter course, where can they procure reliable birth-control information? The only doctor they know is the family physician, and they would probably feel hesitant about going to him.

These are the kind of questions that occurred to me. They are things that the textbooks never discuss, and questions few girls would be willing to ask their mothers. It's not that our families are particularly narrow-minded, but somehow ever since word got around that we had been disillusioned about the stork, and everyone was satisfied on that point, the whole subject of sex has simply been ignored. Occasionally mother gets a far-away look in her eye and I know she's picturing me in her wedding dress, but if she has any inkling that unmarried girls have any problems other than which beau to marry, she gives no sign. Besides, even if I did go to my mother, I know just what she'd say. She'd give me the advice that her mother gave her when she was a girl. But the problems we have to meet today aren't the same, I'm sure, as the ones our mothers were faced with. Especially for those of us who can't afford marriage and who can't afford much in the way of amusements and entertainments while we're waiting, the old answers don't seem to fit. Girls no longer expect a boy to take them places and bring them home again if it's impractical. We're not adverse to going dutch if we know that a boy is broke. In other words, we've developed a new set of attitudes that go with being broke and not having spacious homes to entertain in. It seems to me that we need a new set of sex attitudes, too.

Where can we go for help in developing them? There are no such courses at school. Books dealing practically with sex problems are not generally available. Heaven forbid that the library should carry them! To me it seems that the only source of information which will enable us to lead normal lives before we marry, and prepare us for some marital relationships is such an article as Dr. Stone's. I hope *Champion* will give us more of them.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The questions posed by Alice Sherman and many of our readers will be answered in forthcoming issues by several distinguished authorities on sex problems. Dr. Stone's article in the February number was the first in a series.*



*These Chain Gang Prisoners Were Forced to Work in Flood Areas With Their Iron Shackles*

**E**ARLY on the cloudy morning of February 12, a ramshackle Ford, loaded with bedraggled young sharecroppers from Alabama, tinkered into Richmond, the capital of the Old Confederacy.

The occasion that had called these young working men and five hundred and thirty delegates from Birmingham, from Galveston, from Atlanta, and small towns and rural areas of the South was the first All-Southern Negro Youth Conference. Meeting in a region which Dr. Johnson, President of Howard University, described as "the greatest menace to American democracy, because in it the people are denied the free choice between two political parties," delegates soon realized that they had come to play a part in an historic meeting.

They had come to play a part in a meeting that symbolized the birth of a new spirit of American youth—yet a spirit that is as old as American democracy: the spirit of Thomas Paine, who turned his back on the "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots"; the spirit of George Washington, when he stood at Valley Forge and kept alive the flame of freedom.

On entering the First Street Baptist Church, wherein the meetings of the conference were held, an observer was immediately struck by the representative cross-section of young Negroes there. Mingling together were students, sharecroppers, laborers, white-collar workers.

The All-Southern Negro Youth Conference was called to order officially by J. Thomas Hewin, Jr., of Richmond. The invocation was offered by Dr. C. C. Scott, pastor of the Church. An address of welcome on the part of the church

## THE SOUTH AWAKES

By VICTOR LAWSON

### *The All-Southern Negro Youth Conference Sounded a Clarion Call for Action Against Race Discrimination*

was offered by Miss Mary James. Edward Strong, national youth chairman of the National Negro Congress, was then called to the chair.

Splitting up into groups that met on the main floor of the church and in the balconies on either side of the church, round-table sessions were initiated. "Youth on the Job" was discussed under the leadership of Columbus Alston. The round-table on "Youth as a Citizen" was led by Angelo Herndon, Lorenzo Bennett and Martin Richardson. James E. Jackson of Howard University led the discussion on "Youth and the Social Basis of Interracial Understanding"

After two days of discussion resolutions were drafted and adopted. The significant resolutions from the round-table on "Youth and Social Integration" state:

**"We advocate equalization of educational opportunities for all people, regardless of race or color."**

**"That this body go on record as opposed to distorted statistics relative to criminal reports."**

**"That this body go on record to endorse and support the passage of the American Youth Act and such Federal legislation as the Harrison-Fletcher Bill."**

Discussing the problems of "Youth as a Citizen", the delegates declared that youth in the South just isn't a citizen unless he fights vigorously for his constitutional rights.

**"Therefore be it resolved that this Conference, and the thousands of Negroes its delegates represent, are resolved to re-enter the fight for the full establishment of the political, civil, and social rights of the Negro youth of the South; and that: We pledge immediate concentration on the three major phases of Negro existence: the church, school, and social groups, and that: We pledge to**

institute within these structures an immediate sustained attempt to build a leadership that will bring them into the united fight against the oppression of the race in any form and produce a new, militant, self-respecting spirit of fight and struggle within."

Although there were some five hundred and thirty delegates, the full size and significance of the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference could only be sensed at the mass meetings held on two nights of the conference. Each one was attended by some twelve hundred persons.

It remained for Edward Strong to sound the keynote of the conference:

**"We are here to save ourselves and our people. In fact, we are the hope of our people. We have assembled in the most historic setting—the home of Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. We have met during this celebration of the birthdays of two firm believers in liberty—need we name them? Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. . . . With the same courage and determination, fortitude and clear vision, as was displayed by them, let us move toward the solution of our present difficulties."**

In these words a young leader who has come out of the South, from the very same cotton plantations of Texas whence came several of the delegates who heard him, stated the firm basis of progressive tradition upon which the movement of Negro youth in the Southland is being built.



# NEW

## In the Mills

**T**HE young miner and steel organizer who tell their stories on these pages write not only of themselves but of thousands of others who are playing an increasingly important role in the news. While the United Automobile Workers consolidate the gains won in their long "sit-down" struggle against General Motors, other unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization continue their powerful drives for organization and better conditions.

This month will mark a high point in the campaign. On March 31, the present agreement between the United Mine Workers of America and their employers expires, and already the employers have refused to meet the miners' modest demands: thirty-hour week, 200 days work guaranteed each year, and six hour day for the men who go deep into the earth for America's fuel.

The Amalgamated Association has scored an historic and tremendous victory in steel, and the whole labor movement is responding to this victory.

By **BOB BURKE**

**T**HE four o'clock whistle blew. I took a long, almost disrespectful, look at the hot, brutal open-hearth furnaces, threw my slagging shovel into the locker, thumbed my nose here and there, and said goodbye to the boys.

This was goodbye for real. I had saved enough money for a term's tuition at Columbia University, in the fall of 1934.

I had long ago determined to go to college, and this was my opportunity to learn. But one thing especially I wanted to learn: why my buddies in the mill get so little of what they produced, and why, ever so often, a depression came along to decrease their meagre earnings. You get that way, wanting to learn about these things, after you've boiled in the sweat of the mills.

Two years at school put me on the right road. I don't know whether it was school or the memory of the mills, but I knew I had the answer to my problem. The "economic royalists"—that small clique of financial barons that ruled the mills and the college boards at the same time—were confiscating the major portions of what the steel workers produced. But I had already worked out a practical solution to the question: to organize working men into industrial unions with bargaining power superior to that of their masters.

I tried to express my convictions and work with my fellow students in a different phase of the same problem—the defense of democratic rights for American citizens. For that I was refused re-admission to Columbia University—I had used my democratic rights to speak at an anti-Nazi demonstration.

Back to the steel town, Youngstown, Ohio, where the first rumbles of John Lewis' C.I.O. drive were breaking into thunder on the industrial scene. I soon met Frank Shiffka, United Mine Worker Organizer, leading the campaign in Youngstown to unionize the steel workers. Because of my work with the American Student Union and my wide acquaintanceship in Youngstown, I was enlisted in the army fighting the royalists of the royalists, the merchants of greed and profit, the Iron and Steel Institute.

When I met Shiffka we went to his hotel room to discuss the situation. Passing through the lobby he pointed out two steel company spotters planted in the lounge chairs to spy on steel organizers and any workers who talked with them. As Frank opened his room door I noticed the door of the next room slightly ajar so that a man could be seen peeking through. I mentioned it rather concernedly, but Frank replied, "Oh, don't worry. He's just another one of my watchdogs."

Frank went right at it and gave me the set-up. He explained that Lewis saw the immediate need for the organization of the mass industries if his and other unions were to withstand the increasingly serious attacks of the Liberty League and its reactionary sponsors.

"Is it possible to organize steel in the face of such obstacles?" Frank asked. "Well, with John Lewis leading the fight, with the desire of working men for organization and protection, with the support of President Roosevelt, and with the financial, material and moral support of the 15 C.I.O. unions we can't fail.

"We have to build a staff of real men to do the job. Men who can't be bought with company gold, men who believe strongly enough in what they're doing to ignore insults and shun daily rebukes; men who are willing to give themselves unselfishly to this job of welding an organization which will make steel workers free Americans."

"Count me in," I said.

Unless and until steel is organized, we agreed, the trade union movement stands to lose immeasurably. And we knew that the steel corporations would not only use every weapon in their arsenal to defeat this drive, but would invent new methods if necessary.

I soon learned what some of these weapons were. Chief among them is the labor spy—known intimately in Youngstown as a rat; blood brother to this specimen is the thug, "strong arm man."

But in the very first line of attack was the intensive campaign of intimidation which threatened immediate loss of jobs to workers who dared exercise their right to organize for genuine collective bargaining and an elaborate system of petty graft and corruption in the impotent company unions.

Seven months have elapsed since that first meeting with Shiffka. These months have been filled contacting and signing men, setting up department committees, looking after the million and one detail jobs of a steel organizer. I have talked to men so terrified by the power of the steel companies that they would point in fear at a group of bambinos—another intimate term of ours—and beg me not to sign them. I have talked to men who underwent third degree the very morning after I saw them. I have seen men fired wholesale for union affiliation.

It is almost impossible to believe, at times, that Youngstown is really a free

part of America. Hitler's Gestapo can't have very much on the spy system of the "100 per cent Americans" who operate the steel industry. All day long I have felt the actual power of the corporations' oppressive terror. As a matter of fact, that feeling was pretty well localized on the back of my skull when three Republic Steel thugs blackjacked me in an attempt to cast all my teeth down my throat.

These are all the futile attempts of the steel trust to stop the inevitable. Despite this system of organized terror and espionage, I have been signing real, honest-to-goodness American workers into the C.I.O. I know the thrill of hearing, "We can't miss this time; to hell with them; sign me up." I have seen the union in my mill grow and I have watched the eager and intense interest which this growth has aroused in the steel areas. And I can look with joy at the scoreboard of the C.I.O.'s steel union, the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, which shows an enrollment of close to half of the 500,000 steel workers in America.

Every day, in every mill of the country, men, thousands of them, are asking their buddies to come into the union. And they are coming. For they know, the vast majority of them, that freedom, security and happiness are all at stake now. The steel workers are being organized to defeat their lords and masters, the Steel and Iron Institute.

Neither the poisonous anti-union propaganda, nor the tear gas and thugs, nor the rats and stool pigeons, nor the terror of the royalists shall deter these men from their duty of welding a powerful industrial union alliance with the coal miners, the victorious auto workers and the rest of organized labor to insure a decent standard of living for the American working man.

# VOICES

## In the Mines

By HORACE BRYAN

THE first five o'clock breakfast I had came on the morning of my sixteenth birthday. Mother prepared it with an air of defeat. As she gave up each son to the coal mines at the age of sixteen she prayed that the next younger would be spared. Years before, when my brother had turned sixteen, he had entered the coal-mines, too, and as long as I can remember, my father and brother have been eating five-o'clock breakfasts, trudging off hurriedly into the dark to return at night with slow steps and coal-stained eyes.

I had a mixed feeling of pride and defeat. I had visioned great things for myself as every American youth envisions something better than digging coal from the age of sixteen to sixty. But I was proud to be a man, to work for money of my own, to be independent, as the saying goes.

There was a new shiny dinner bucket standing on the breakfast table beside the three other scarred and blackened ones. Mother filled them with food for our noonday meal in the mine. She cut an apple pie in four pieces, instead of the usual three; she put a baked sweet potato in each; she split biscuits and placed pieces of meat between the halves. I also had a new copper-colored carbide lamp—a Guy's Dropper! I had a new miner's lamp cap, a pair of white miner's pants with padded knees, and a pair of heavy rubber boots. A new pick and shovel set by the side of the fire place and a ten-foot coal drill stood just outside the door—it was bad luck to bring a drill inside the house.

After breakfast we started for the mine. As we left the house mother went into another room so that we would not see her cry but she came back to the door to wave as we cranked the car and drove away.

There was an old saying, "Once a miner, always a miner." She had hoped for something better for her sons. And she feared for our safety. Each morning when we left she visioned them bringing us home in gunny sacks before the day was over.

We lived about five miles from the mine. It lay in a valley and we approached it from a hill. From it we could see the mine below stretched out like a little village. The tippie, wash house, and other little buildings were outlined in electric lights. Moving out from the wash house to the mouth of the mine, a steady stream of lights bobbed along one behind the other in slow procession like a trail of glow worms. At the mouth of the mine there was already a group of waiting workers, their lights blazing.

Inside the wash house, I followed father to where he let down a square wire basket, swung by a rope. On the basket were his work clothes, and in it were his lamp, boots and carbide can.



He took his work clothing from the basket and laid them on the floor and began taking off his other clothes, hanging them on the basket.

"You'll have to change clothes here with me until we get you a basket of your own," he told me. The wash house was crowded with men changing to their work clothes and otherwise preparing for work. They talked and joked in loud tones; they cursed and swore; they laughed and sang and whistled. It was all strange.

There was an odor of sweaty, mildewed clothes, of bodies, of sulphur, of slacking carbide, of smoke and tobacco. There was the babble of the miners, the hissing of leaky steam pipes, the sizzle of showers and burning of carbide lights. The yellow light from dirty electric bulbs shone weakly through the dust and smoke. Naked bodies were everywhere—the great hairy bodies of Italians; the dowdy girl-like bodies of boys; the great bulging muscles of young giants; the withered bodies of old men. Perfect bodies with broad shoulders, hairy chests, straight legs and piston-like arms, crushed and deformed bodies; crooked and peg leg, and missing arms. Bodies scarred from knife wounds in a brawl; bodies crushed from falling rock and runaway cars; bodies wrinkled and scarred from gas burns. They were all there—the men who dig the coal. They were English and Irish, French and German, Austrian, Italian and Russian.

That first morning there in the wash house I hardly felt myself one of them but I guess I was—just as much one of them as father and he had been there with them for forty years. I glanced around me. Would the mines make me like that? Like big Joe Urki, the Russian, who drove his entry eight feet every day. Or like Old Man Black with his kinked back. Or maybe like Tony, the Italian, who by mistake drilled out a live powder shot. The miners have a saying that it will either make a hell-of-a-man out of you or kill you. Sometimes it does both!

Before we had finished dressing for work, I found myself the center of a shower of remarks. It opened with:

"Got a new chalk-eye, eh, Tom?"

"Yeah," father answered, "got to break him in so he will be worth something."

"What you gonna let him do, Tom? Hand checks and make dummies?"

"No," father replied, "I am going to hang the checks and make dummies and let him do all the other work." That was a pretty good one—letting a kid do all the work, so they all laughed.

"Tom, when you get through with him send him down to my room and I'll let him drill my holes, just for practice," one miner volunteered.

"Think I'll bring out my boy to chalk-eye for me," put in a young fellow hardly out of his teens. This brought more laughter.

By this time we had our clothes

changed, and left the wash house. Father stopped at the supply office and ordered a fuse, keg of powder, blasting caps, and some dynamite, or "permissible" as I learned to call it. From the weigh-boss I got my shack number—64. He handed me a dozen brass checks to hang on my cars of coal to identify them.

We then fell into the line of slow moving lights leading out to the mouth of the mine. We placed my tools in a pile and tied them together with wire with my check number on it. On the back of the shovel father marked the number of the entry and room in which we were to work and where the tools were to be brought.

On the entrance of the mine there was a sign reading, "SAFETY FIRST." Father glanced at a blackboard which stood near the entrance of the mine.

Below was signed the name of the fire boss.

"That's a gas mask," father explained, pointing to the three X's on the board.

By this time all the miners had gathered at the mine top—six hundred of them. They waited for the work-whistle to send them scurrying into the mine like rats into a hole. They sat on pit cars, on the prop piles, on their dinner buckets, squatted on their haunches, while others lay on their side on the ground, leaning on their elbows, in the middle of the track. They carried picks,

(Continued on Page 29)

# SPORTS FOR ALL

*Out in San Francisco the Maritime Workers Got Together and Established Their Own Recreation Center and Games*

By G. O. SMITH

*"For the first time in the history of economic struggles in the United States, recreation was considered a major part of the relief set-up during a strike. A distinct contribution and impetus has been given to the independent sports and educational movement in trade unions by the splendid activities of our Union Recreation Center."*

HARRY BRIDGES

NO, you're not in a swanky athletic Club. This is the Union Recreation Center of the Pacific Maritime Federation in San Francisco, and that guy who just intercepted a pass and rang up two points is not a "tired business man" trying to keep his waist line. That's one of the waterfront boys, fresh from a day on the picket line, showing 'em that a star in union activity can be a star on the basketball floor in his spare time.

It's a typical scene from the recent Pacific Coast Maritime Strike, during which the newly-built Recreation Center served 2,000 men daily, and was no small factor in keeping up the spirits of the men—most of whom were out of work and on the picket line for weeks at a time. The gymnasium, boxing ring and handball courts were crowded day and night. Outside competition was fostered by basketball players and indoor baseball fans. Eight basketball teams were formed from the various maritime unions, and from this a varsity team was selected to play in the San Francisco Recreation League, and at the present time is leading in its division. Two baseball teams were entered in the winter League competition, one of the teams finishing second. In addition, there is a soccer team showing of what waterfront boys are made.

There was no lag in social activity during the strike, if the Recreation Center had anything to say about it. Bi-weekly social affairs offering three-hour shows of boxing, movies and entertainment provided both by professionals and our own talent, were free to the strikers. The men, their families and sweethearts; filled the capacious gymnasium to the rafters listening to volunteer singers and dancers from night clubs, yelling when their favorite union brother banged the ears of a brother from another union.

As for less strenuous forms of relaxation—the library, which is furnished completely with donated books, was so crowded that an additional room had to be taken over. Books are always in demand, and current novels and classics get no time to cool off on the shelves.

The Center played a serious role as well, housing many all-important sub-committees of the Joint Strike Committee, such as the Central Relief Committee which handled relief and ran a kitchen for seventeen thousand men. The Joint Publicity Committee used the Center for its important function which qualified this strike on a publicity battlefield. Making their headquarters at the Center were the Entertainment Committee, Joint Picketing Committee, and the First Aid Hospital. Daily meetings of the strike committees of the Warehousemen, Marine Cooks and Stewards, and I.L.A. Local 38-124, were housed at the Center.

The Recreation Center didn't spring out of the ground, and it wasn't donated by Rockefeller. It started first in the minds of a group of far-sighted trade-unionists whose interests in sports amounted to something more active than collecting Dizzy Dean's autograph. They had visions of boxing rings and basketball courts, and dreams in

which their union brothers appeared swinging baseball bats, until finally in November, 1935, they convinced two unions of their sanity and received a loan of \$200. With money in their pockets, a visionary ideal, and plenty of courage, they sat down and planned the building of a "sports center," the first of its kind in the United States. Eight months later, on June 1st, the results of the dream and activity of longshoremen, sailors, warehousemen, and scalers was presented to the Maritime Federation workers in San Francisco and to the world, as the Union Recreation Center—two floors of freshly painted gymnasium with showers, lockers, steam room and hand ball court.

As reality emerged from the dream, the small original committee had snow-



*The Teachers' Union in action.*



*The baseball team of the Union Recreation Center.*

balled into a membership of 500, who continued campaigning for more members, and conducted the activities of the Center in spite of obstacles placed in its path.

Many of the hurdles to be surmounted were valid objections—finances, the possibility of the approaching strike, fear of undertaking new ventures, but all were overcome. The Center was made self-supporting from its inception, with no financial responsibility to the Maritime Federation. Through transactions with interested business men, the owner of the building was persuaded to invest \$10,000 in necessary renovations and the installation of the gymnasium floor, courts, club rooms, and shower plumbing. He received as a consideration two leases, one from the Center, paying a small monthly

rent, and one from a restaurant which carries the burden of the cost.

Activities, though slow in getting under way, were in full blast in December, 1936, the height of the Pacific Coast Maritime Strike. During the financial crisis of the strike, realizing the tremendous value of the Union Recreation Center, the Federation revoked its step-child status and took it unto its bosom. It was the role the Center played during the strike which permanently and irrevocably endeared it to the hearts and minds of thousands of members in the Federation, proving beyond doubt, the foresight and vision of the Center's supporters.

Strike or no strike, the activities of the Center continue and broaden their scope. In the educational field, classes are functioning in parliamentary law, public speaking, citizenship, English, current events, and trade union problems, and are well attended. The parliamentary law class conducts mock trade union meetings, the members participating wholeheartedly and providing much of the instruction from their experience on the San Francisco waterfront. No little part of the educational program are the lectures held periodically, one series on workers' health and sex hygiene proving particularly popular. Political symposiums and lectures by prominent trade-union leaders have met with remarkable response.

The success of the Union Recreation Center has resulted not alone in tremendous immediate benefits to the San Francisco District of the Maritime Federation, but has provided an inspiration to the entire Pacific Coast and to the East as well, and is a challenge to continue building trade union centers along the path which has been blazed.

# MERCHANTS OF MISERY

**T**HE campaign against the Child Labor Amendment is carried on in the name of "defending the Constitution," and the privilege of the parent to send little Bobby to the corner store for a bottle of milk.

But the bills are paid by the richest corporations and most subversive organizations in America — by men who pretend to be protecting the Constitution but who are actually trying to undermine the guarantees of freedom it gives the American people.

Among so-called "patriotic" organizations actively fighting the Child Labor Amendment are the Sentinels of the Republic, The Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution, The National Committee for the Protection of Child, Farm, School and Church (sic) and the New York State Economic Council.

Alexander Lincoln, president of the Sentinels of the Republic, is a former assistant attorney general of Massachusetts who was forced to resign from public office because of public condemnation of his anti-Semitic activities in the Sentinels. In the Senate Lobby investigation held last Spring Lincoln was quoted as having written, "I am doing what I can as an officer of the Sentinels. I think, as you say, that the Jewish threat is a real one."

Also brought out in this testimony by the boastful admission of David Sibley, appearing for Lincoln, was the fact that the Sentinels, since their formation had devoted themselves almost exclusively to crushing the state drives for the Child Labor Amendment. Gifts to the Sentinels, who claim they are motivated purely by their devotion to childhood and their desire to save the 45,000,000 children in this country from the communist supporters of this Communist-inspired measure, were headed by the tidy sum of \$103,000 donated by the Pitcairn family of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Raymond Pitcairn, chairman of the Sentinels, can attribute his affluence to his position as Director of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Works, and the Pitcairn Autogyro Company.

Other donors to the Sentinels were Morgan partner, E. T. Stotesbury, \$1,000, Horatio G. Lloyd of Morgan and Co., Drexel and Co., Bell Telephone Co. of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Electric Co., Philadelphia Power Co. and Susquehanna Power Co., \$1,000, Alfred P. Sloan, \$1,000, J. Howard Pew, president of Sun Oil Company, \$6,000, A. Atwater Kent, the same amount, and Irene Du Pont, \$100.

Clearly affiliated with the Sentinels is the National Committee for the Protection of Child, Farm, School and Church, headed by Sterling Edmunds. Writing in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* on January 9, 1934, Edmunds admitted that it was for the Sentinels that he organized the National Committee which has its headquarters in St. Louis.

The relation between these groups is further strengthened by the fact that a large portion of their executive boards are overlapping. Included among members of both groups are Alexander Lincoln mentioned earlier, and Mr. John Kirby who also heads the Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution. The president of a large southern lumber firm (children in southern lumber mills get 50 cents a day) he is also ac-



tive in several southern state committees opposing the Amendment.

Equally active against the Amendment is the New York State Economic Council headed by gentle, polite Merwin K. Hart who is fond of quoting southern governors and manufacturers for evidence that child labor no longer exists.

Very silent about contributions, the New York Economic Council managed pretty well to escape investigation in the Senate Lobby Hearings last spring. However, recitals of gifts to the Liberty League and Sentinels sometimes revealed additional donations to this group. Lamot Du Pont who, with his brothers contributed over \$8,000 to the Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution and whose gifts were a large factor in the support of the Liberty League, also gave \$1,000 to the New York State Economic Council. Alfred P. Sloan whose gifts to the Sentinels are mentioned above, gave \$1,000 to the Southern Committee and \$250 to the New York State Economic Council. John M. Schiff of Kuhn, Loeb and Company gave \$1,750 to the Crusaders, and \$250 to the Economic Council.

Interesting, in view of the continued protests of the opposition that their work is done purely in the interests of child and family, is a record of their other legislative activities. They have continually opposed not only state aid for education, but also all kinds of relief, unemployment insurance, the Wagner Labor bill, etc. It would be difficult to name any social legislation which has gained the support of these groups. The Economic Council, as far as is known, has never supported better state child labor laws, although its attack on the Amendment starts with, "Let the states take care of it."

## Those Opponents of the Child Labor Amendment Are Rich Corporations

By SARAH HARRISON

However, opposition of business interests is not always cloaked in patriotism. The National Association of Manufacturers brags of its success in defeating the measure. The Tennessee Manufacturers Association one year congratulated its members individually for killing the Amendment in that state.

Curiously enough, despite continued assertions on every hand that the textile industry in the south has abandoned the practice of employing children the *Textile Bulletin*, manufac-

turers' house organ, still blasts forth monthly against the Amendment.

The opponents of the Child Labor Amendment no longer refer to it by its legal name—although they're allegedly great respecters of law.

They call it "The Youth Control Act." But these learned constitutional authorities certainly know the difference between an Act, which is a bill passed by Congress and an amendment to the Constitution.

In this their hypocrisy reaches its height of brazenness. For it is precisely these people who today control the destinies of the hundreds of thousands of child laborers. It is they who utilize their control over the youth to produce stunted bodies broken health uneducated minds.

It is because the Child Labor Amendment challenges their exclusive right to control the youth and grow rich off their labor that they oppose it.

## REASONS FOR CHILD LABOR LAW

Passed by Congress in 1924, the Child Labor Amendment, giving that body power to pass uniform national laws regulating the labor of persons under 18 years of age, has now been ratified by 28 states. Eight more states are needed before this Amendment becomes a part of the Constitution.

Why young Americans should support this measure:

1. Child labor is cheap labor. A supply of cheap labor means a general lowering of the wage scale.
2. There are seven million permanent unemployed. Should children have jobs while adults are on relief?
3. Twentieth century America is a land of specialization where every bit of education and training possible is needed to get ahead. Child labor means blind alley jobs and little chance ever to earn a living wage.
4. Child labor means juvenile delinquency.

# WHY YOUNG CRIMINALS?

## NORMAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE LACKING

**I** DO not believe that it is possible to do away with juvenile crime and delinquency, either by passing more laws or in being more lenient in our enforcement of the law in our books. We can, however, lower the rate of increase in the manufacture of young criminals whenever we are brave and intelligent enough to face the situation.

Normal family life with its joys and its discipline has never existed for thousands of youngsters. Childhood and youth has been a long period of mental and spiritual numbness for many of them.

There must be a reasonable chance of getting a job for boys and girls as they leave school. There must be provision for that part of their time when they are not at work or asleep. The activities so provided must lead to satisfaction and not be merely some form of "busy work."

Our whole code of behavior breaks down when youngsters are forced to be spectators and cannot participate in the work of the world or its play.

LESTER F. SCOTT

*National Executive, Camp Fire Girls.*

## GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP NECESSARY

**I**'VE read the article in your February issue and think it is a pretty arresting thing that you have done.

No one can say, of course, that proper leadership, particularly in the boy's leisure time, would have saved him. But our Boys' Clubs constantly see the way in which a little leadership of the right sort at the right time is giving boys the right sort of ideals and attitudes.

Just a day or two ago I walked into one of our Boys' Clubs to see one of our home visitors. She was sitting and talking to a lad of about sixteen and drew me into the conversation getting my advice as to the best college which he might attend in preparation for his career as an electrical engineer. He was intelligent and alert. Shortly afterwards the visitor told me privately that this boy had two older brothers in our State's prison who, she felt, were just as intelligent as this lad but lacked the sort of guidance that she hoped he was getting. It would be hard for us to say just what is going to happen in this particular case. But a boy in his third year in high-school who is being encouraged in his burning ambition to go to college, certainly has a better chance to do things that are worthwhile than if he had not had such personal attention.

I regard the activities of the Boys' Clubs as simply the tools through which intelligent leadership is trying to function.

R. K. ATKINSON

*Educational Director, Boys' Clubs of America*

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS A BASIC CAUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1937

My dear Mr. Schnapper:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to thank you very much for sending her the copy of "Champion of Youth". She was glad to see this and wants me to tell you that she thinks youthful crime is tied up with economic conditions. She feels that it is impossible to expect normal people to grow in abnormal, indecent surroundings.

Very sincerely yours,

*Malvina T. Scheider*

Malvina T. Scheider  
Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr. M. B. Schnapper  
Editor, Champion of Youth  
2 East 23rd Street  
New York, New York



## SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION IS VITAL

**W**ARDEN LEWIS LAWES, in placing the major emphasis upon the social conditions which produce delinquency, is reaffirming a view generally accepted by students of criminology and by social workers. It is to be regretted, however, that this view had made little headway in influencing the opinion of those sections of the community that control economic, political and cultural institutions. These institutions do not recognize their responsibilities and their actions are determined rather by the theory that the criminal is an abnormal and rebellious person, who refuses to abide by the rules. The treatment of crime, therefore, instead of beginning the development of a healthy social organization follows largely the tactics of restraining or coercing the criminal into obedience and conformity with established rules.

But to say that most criminals represent the failure of the home, the school and the church in the development of character is to deal with only a part, and that the negative part of the difficulty. Better vocational training, more adequate recreational facilities, more desirable family life, better housing, mental hygiene clinics and the rest are all desirable aims. We must not blink at the magnitude of the problem if we are to achieve its solution. President Roosevelt, in a recent message, has stated that he sees one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. Nothing less than a program of social reconstruction, therefore, is required if we really want to eliminate the conditions which breed criminals.

H. L. LURIE

*Executive Director, Welfare Federation.*

## AMERICAN SOCIETY IS FANTASTIC

**I**N THE February issue of *Champion of Youth*, Warden Lewis Lawes begins by saying: "I know from 31 years of experience, 16 as warden of Sing Sing, that delinquency—especially juvenile delinquency—is traceable to certain well-defined social causes."

By coincidence on the very day I read Warden Lawes' excellent article I read a full column account in the *Herald Tribune* (Feb. 6) of a widow and 14 orphans living on \$28 a week in New York City amid the most appalling poverty. Living mostly on potatoes and water.

And again by coincidence I happened to scan an ad in a magazine which read: "Something new! New York's first Dog Club devoted entirely to the care and exercise of members' dogs. Newly constructed building, specially designed, has all ultra modern equipment. Exercise run tracks on roof garden, swimming pool, individual bath tubs and plucking booths. Private car calls for dogs. Members entitled to 20 per cent discount on plucking, clipping, bathing, manicuring and other privileges. . . . The Dog Bath Club, 144 East 57th Street."

In a society so fantastic that dogs are manicured and plucked and children starve, I do not wonder at juvenile delinquency. I wonder only that great bands of juveniles do not roam the streets howling their contempt and defiance of a social order in which such unbelievable anomalies are permitted to exist.

ERNEST L. MEYER

*New York Post*

# "UNITED WE STAND"

*Young Spain Forgets All Differences in Defense of Their Government Against Fascism*

By ROGER KLEIN



Photo Shows Spanish Youth Delegates who Have Just Completed an American Tour

*Valencia, Spain.*

THE "Conferencia Nacional de la Juventud"—the National Youth Conference—held its sessions in Valencia, in the very hall where the Spanish Parliament meets.

The awe-inspiring features of the place of assembly, the quality of the distinguished personalities who were present—the greatest names of politics, of the army, of science, of literature and of the arts—marked the meeting with an historic character which will leave a lasting impression in the minds of all who were there.

Speeches were made now by ministers, now by scientists, now by men of letters, but the theme was always the same:

*The rising generation in Spain has won the esteem and earned the gratitude of the most famous of its elders, by its heroism, its work for unity, and its close collaboration with the legally constituted authorities in the fight for liberty.*

It would be impossible for me to describe the extraordinary enthusiasm which swept over the audience when Dolores Ibarruri, better known as "La Pasionaria," made her speech. Even foreign delegates whose knowledge of Spanish was imperfect were stirred to the depths of their being by the few words spoken by this noble woman, the living symbol of heroism of Spain. The whole audience listened standing, in an almost religious silence, as she spoke on behalf of the mothers of her country.

## THE CRY OF HUMANITY

By W. E. J. GRATZ

*Editor, Epworth Herald*

Representatives of seventy-three organizations from twenty-four countries and of ten International Youth organizations met in Paris at the invitation of the Spanish Youth Front. Representatives of the Spanish youth reported on the conditions in their strife-torn land and declared that "the immense majority of the youth of Spain has placed itself on the side of the lawful government of the republic."

The delegates of this gathering of European youth expressed their sympathy for the Spanish youth "who are struggling for the defense of democracy, of peace, of culture, for a free and happy life for the younger generation."

This gathering ought to have significance for Christian youth in America because it is like a Macedonian cry from a group of young people struggling toward the ideals that we hold so dear.

At a time in our world when fascist governments are using every resource provided by modern science to regiment growing youth and undertaking to mold the thought and the attitudes of a whole generation away from democracy and Christianity, those who believe in freedom of inquiry, of expression of opinion, and in democracy, must become sympathetically conscious of groups around the world that are working toward the same goal, and make common cause with them.

The faces of all, from the youngest pioneer to the most seasoned campaigner, showed with what passionate conviction they saw in her the spiritual mother of all the children of Spain who are fighting in the most just of all causes.

At the close of this inaugural session, held under such happy auspices, Manuel

Vidal, of the executive committee, expressed in a few well-chosen phrases the feelings of his comrades for the President of the Republic, Azana, and for those of his elders who are showing such typical and whole-hearted devotion to the cause of the people.

He showed that the young members of the new united organization were whole-

heartedly for union and aimed solely at strengthening the powers of action of the youth movement in Spain and, it might be, in the whole world.

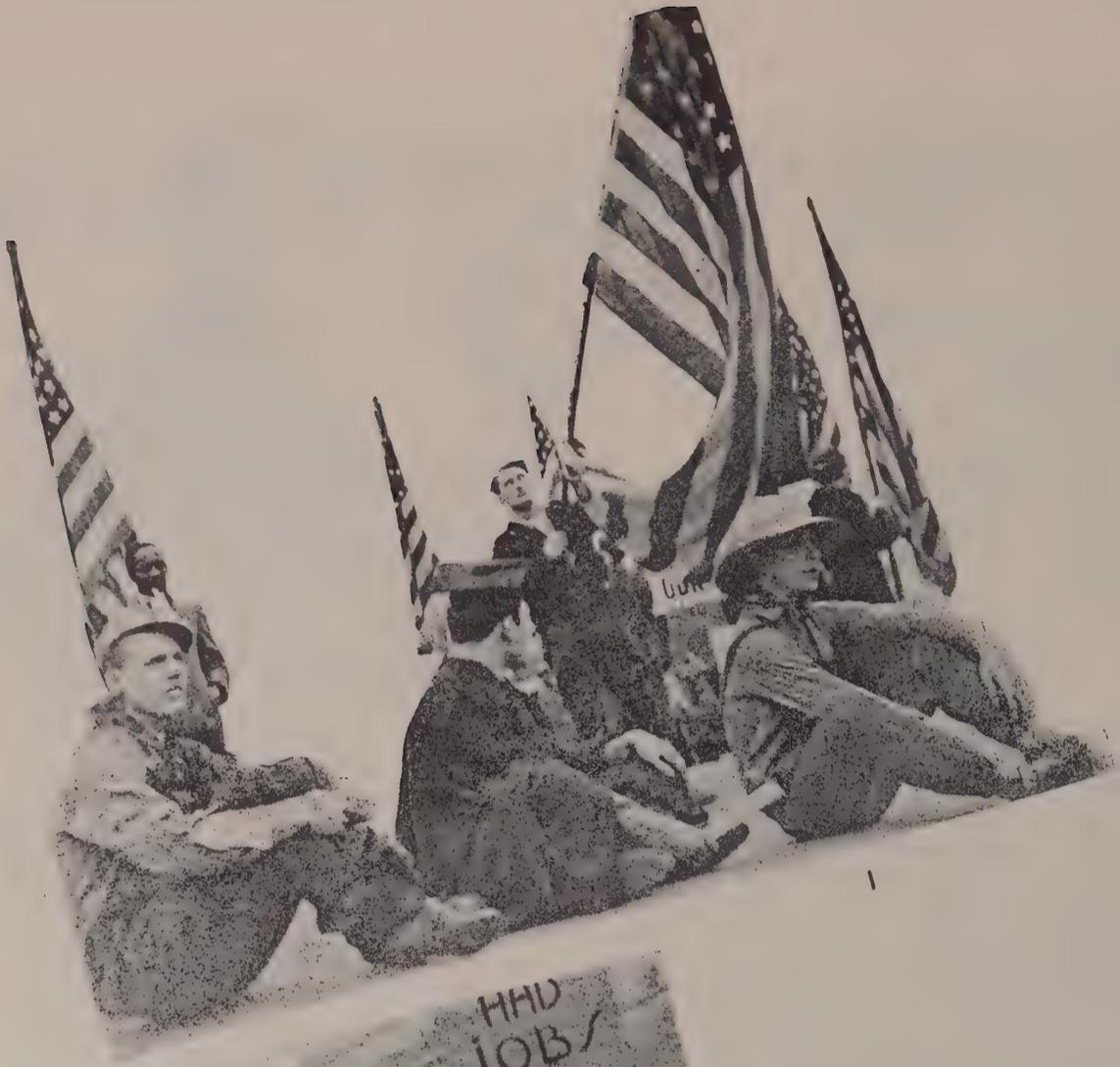
There were present at the session delegates not only from all Spain but from youth organizations of the entire world.

It was a deeply moving sight to see the delegates of the most widely differing provinces of Spain rising each in his turn to address the Conference. Arconada, the general secretary of the United Youth Movement of Madrid, spoke on behalf of the 40,000 defenders of the capital. He reminded us of the colossal task accomplished by his federation: 100,000 militants mobilized to work in the factories of Madrid, 277 juvenile groups set on foot, 59 journals and 12 bulletins published, 300 political commissaries and 300 young chiefs supplied to the Popular Army.

Sometimes a thrill of horror ran through the audience. A fugitive from a fascist-controlled province related the sufferings he had gone through. In one place a youth leader had been put to death, but not before he had seen his fiancée first abused and then assassinated before his very eyes. In another case, a young worker had fled to offer himself in the service of the cause—and his wife, his parents, and his brothers had paid for this with their lives.

A peasant delegate said dramatically: "We peasants were always kept in the most appalling poverty and the darkest ignorance by all the previous regimes,

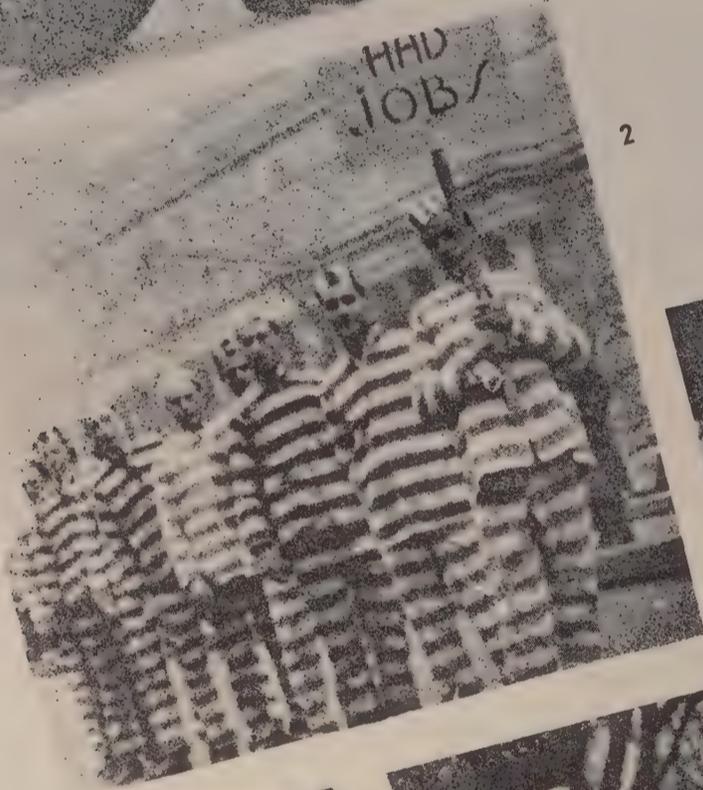
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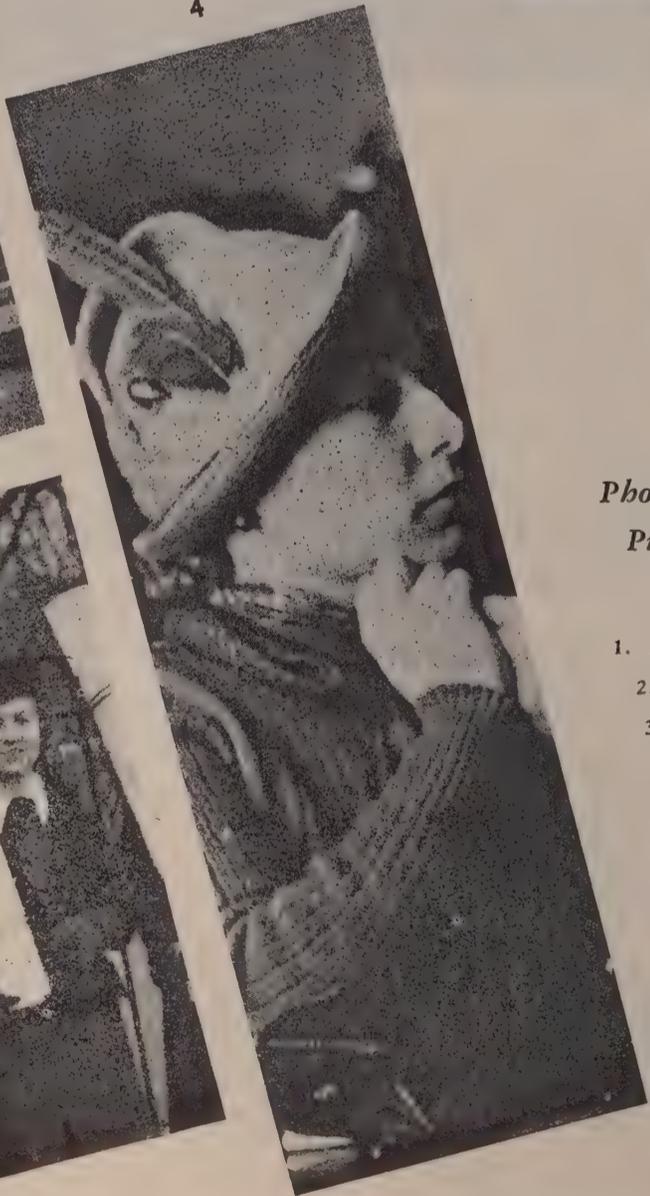
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# PILGRIM C PROG

Photos by D...

*Photos of the American  
Pilgrimage to Washington  
Behalf of the*

1. Miner, Student, Farmer
2. Prefer Jobs to Jail.
3. Petitions for Youth
4. Miss Young America
5. At Washington's
6. Caravan "Pilgrimage to Washington" State.
7. Jersey's Best.
8. Abbott Simon, Hinkley Being Attended by Police.

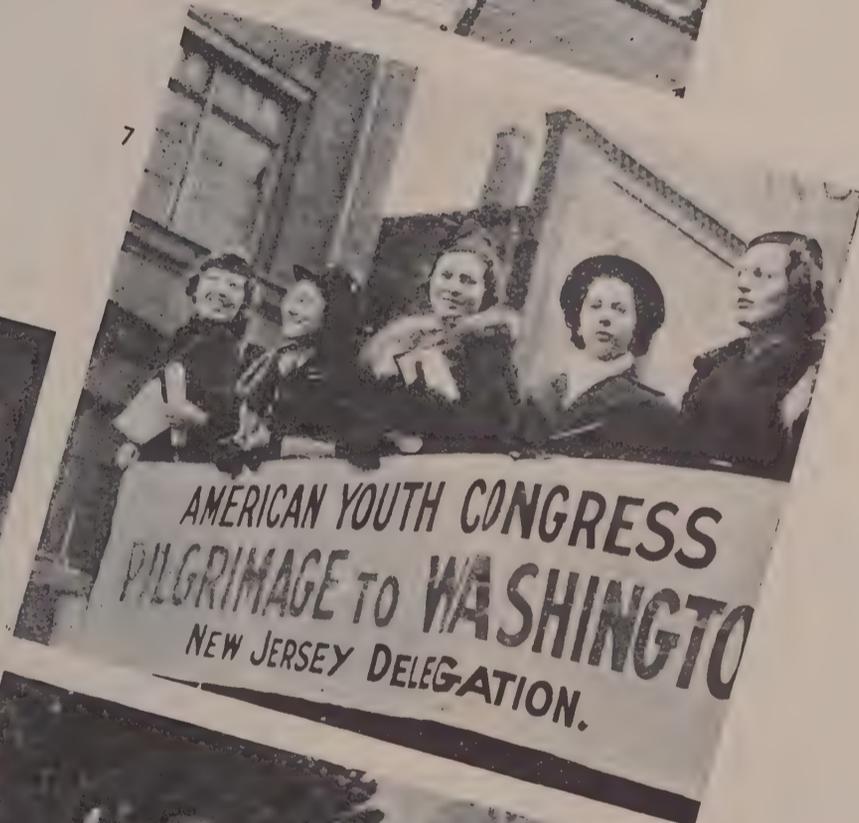
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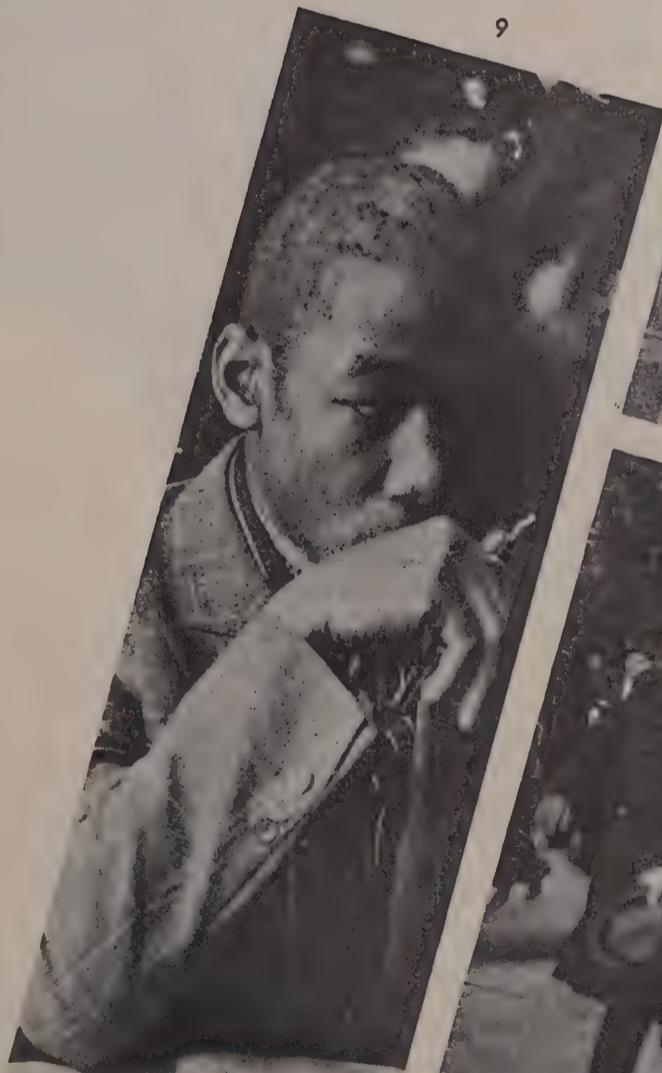
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# OURS IS THE PRESENT

*The Story of the Youth Section of the Washington Commonwealth Federation and Its Rise to Significant Political Power*

By WILLIAM ZIEGNER



GUS HALL



JEAN LLOYD

**Y**OUNG people in Washington are beginning to realize that in a region unrivaled in natural wealth there is no need to tolerate starvation or insecurity. They rightfully believe that this wealth should be used for the benefit of the whole people and guarded from those who would control it for their own private profit.

It was that belief which led to the formation of the "youth section," a state-wide organization of progressive youth groups affiliated with the powerful Washington Commonwealth Federation.

It was that belief which contributed to the election of seven young people to the State Legislature pledged to a program calling for the reduction of tuition fees, the abolition of compulsory military training, and the enactment of a state youth bill.

Political Experts scoffed at the entrance of the youth section into the field of state politics. But now, as the 25th session of the Washington State Legislature is under way, it is apparent that these seven young people constitute the most progressive and intelligent "bloc" in the entire House of Representatives.

It was Gus Hall, youthful vice-president of the Metal Trades Council, and Edward Henry, young King County deputy prosecutor, who led the successful fight on the floor of the lower house for approval of a measure barring the use of tear gas and other dangerous chemicals in labor disputes.

On another occasion it was "Mike" Smith, Lloyd Lindgren, and pretty 23-year old Margaret Coughlin who jointly introduced one of the most popular and vital measures of the entire session—the Emergency Youth Employment Bill.

The bill is similar to the American Youth Act but is adapted to local conditions.

The bill would be administered by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (W.C.F. supporter, Stanley F. Atwood) who would be instructed to appoint a state youth advisory committee to be made up of members representing business, organized labor, organized farmers, parent-teacher associations, public school teachers, and youth organizations, together with other persons interested in youth problems.

Eligibility would not be limited to members receiving public relief. Wages would not be less than the prevailing rates.

Though only six bills reached the governor's desk during the first month of the current legislative session, observers predict that the youth employment bill will be enacted into law.

These observers know that the bill is sponsored by a broad committee composed of delegates from the W.C.F. Youth Section, the Y.W.C.A., the Y.M.C.A., unemployed groups,

and the Central Labor Councils of Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Olympia and Aberdeen. They know that the bill has been endorsed by United States Senator Louis B. Schwellenback and other members of Washington's congressional delegation, by King County Commissioners Tom Smith and Louis Nash, by Superior Court Judge William G. Long, and by scores of other prominent citizens and public officials. They know that the measure was drafted as a result of numerous conferences with Governor Clarence D. Martin and John H. Binns, State Director of the National Youth Administration, both of whom endorsed the principle of youth assistance as embodied in the measure.

The principle obstacle appears to be the conservative State Senate, but even these dignified state Senators have learned to respect the united front of Washington youth supporting the bill, and to fear the mass pilgrimage to Olympia. . . .

By now, hundreds of young people from all parts of the state will have marched to Olympia, convened in the chambers of the State Capitol, selected committees to interview public officials, and presented the speaker of the House with thousands of petitions bearing the signatures of youth bill supporters.

Whether or not the pilgrimage has accomplished its purpose remains to be seen. This much is certain: The youth of Washington have served notice on their public officials that they will not tolerate starvation in the midst of plenty.

**I**T IS pleasant to walk from the waterfront of Seattle to the very top of one of its seven hills.

If you start early in the morning, you will see the ships drifting into the harbor. You will see ships from all over the world. Incoming teas and silks from China pass lumber, flour, hides and food products bound for Asiatic ports. Ships laden with gold, copper, fish and furs from Alaska will return with Washington's canned fruit, machinery, dairy products, and clothing. You will see ships that carry lumber from Pacific Coast ports through the Panama Canal to the eastern states.

But don't tarry for long. You will want to see other sights and visit other places. You will want to see the fertile, rolling fields and the grassy plateaus of the Yakima Valley; the wooded foothills of the Cascade Mountains; the dense evergreen forests of the Olympic Peninsula; the beautiful, narrow lakes reflecting the gorgeous scenery of snowy peaks and towering pines; and the precipitous slopes and lofty, rugged peaks of Mount Rainier.

The great state of Washington, far flung from its ocean swept coast line hundreds of miles inland across great mountain ranges and plains, has within its borders rich mineral and coal deposits, great stands of virgin timber, over 20 million acres of farm and crop land, and one-fifth of all the water power in the United States.

Here is an immense diversity of natural wealth crying out for development and conversion to human use through willing hands.

This is not wishful dreaming. In 1935, Professor R. G. Tyler of the University of Washington conducted a comprehensive survey of the natural resources of the state. He announced that in two of the three basic classifications, food and shelter, Washington stood second to none; that the production of clothing could only be limited by the tremendous surplus of other commodities and by the genius of man; and that "if these assets were properly handled" Washington residents could enjoy a remarkably high standard of living.

"There is absolutely no excuse," the survey concluded, "for unemployment, poverty and insecurity in this evergreen empire of western America."

A young wife of a Port Lawton soldier applied to the State Department of Public Welfare for relief in 1935. Her husband was receiving \$20.80 a month out of which \$10 was deducted each month for expenses at his post.

(Continued on Column 3)

## LEADER



WILLIAM ZIEGNER

At the welfare office the young wife was referred to a home investigator. She was asked all the usual questions and filled in the proper forms. Then the investigator stopped and looked the applicant over closely.

"You're young and pretty," the investigator said. "Can't you get a boy friend to take care of you?"

"For a minute, I couldn't believe my ears," the young wife said later. "It seemed impossible that anyone working for the State Department of Public Welfare could say anything like that, so I asked the investigator if she meant that I should go out and walk the streets—become a prostitute."

The investigator smiled, hesitated, and then said: "Well—"

That is one example of how young people actually live in the midst of the grandeur of the Pacific Northwest. More than one-third, in absolute figures from 30 to 50 thousand, of this state's young generation, between the ages of 16 and 25, are in constant fear of economic insecurity, a government official recently reported.

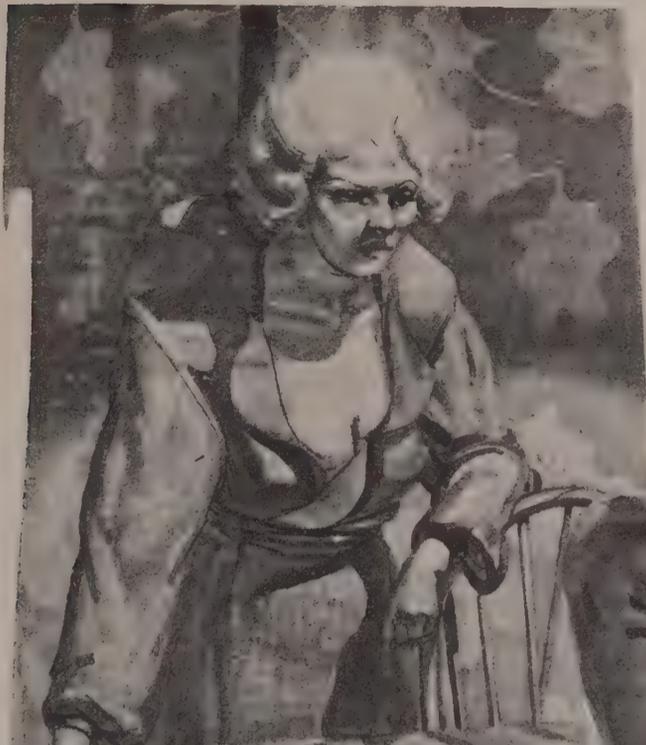
What government officials are doing to alleviate these conditions can best be illustrated by the fact that the city of Seattle will allow \$1.50 a week for stray cats and dogs, but give many of its single unemployed not a cent, and others \$1.30 a week.

Recent drastic cuts in W.P.A. and relief appropriations have seriously intensified this situation, leaving in their trail privation, in some cases starvation, and in most cases the destruction of morale. So desperate has this latter problem become that relief officials are now dismissing young people from W.P.A. rolls on this basis: If the recipient shows signs that he may commit suicide he is retained; if not he is promptly dismissed.

The National Youth Administration is providing student aid and project employment for some 8,000 youths, but, according to its state director, applications for all forms of assistance are approximately double the number who can be employed, there is a serious problem of youths from border-line families who are not at the present time eligible for N.Y.A. projects, and adequate facilities for vocational guidance and education are extremely meager. Available money has been spread by cutting down college aid to a little more than \$10 per month and high school aid to a little more than \$4 per month. The \$4 is supposed to provide for car fare, lunch money and school expenses.

# CENSORED

By WALLIS SIDNEY



What are you,  
a copper?"

## A SHORT STORY

### *Ella the Prostitute Told the Truth About Her Life But It Remained Unknown*

Illustrated by  
HERMAN B. TEMPLE

company money, and the company finally figured they would save money by firing him.

Blake was a sympathetic listener, and he couldn't help thinking how typical her story must be. She sounded honest and he kept taking notes, although he was beginning to wonder how much his city editor would take.

Ella, it seemed, was the eldest in a family of six girls and three boys. When her father no longer got odd jobs in the mills and on the surrounding farms, Ella told her mother she wanted to go to New Orleans and get a job as maid. She knew someone who got a job from an agency, a job that netted \$25 a month with board and room.

Ella came to New Orleans, the next week, sitting up in the day coach. The agency people met her at the station in a car. She slept on the kitchen floor that night with two other girls. She was so tired that she didn't even ask where she was. She just went right to sleep. In the morning, the girls were given coffee by the lady of the house, who was the owner of the agency. Then Ella was sent to a seven-room house to be a maid.

She cooked, washed, cleaned and obeyed three children and two adults. She slept in the attic. She did the laundry, cleaned the house and fed the children, separated them when they got into fights, and took them to school every day. She had every Thursday afternoon off. When she broke a plate or ripped a pillow case, it was deducted from her pay.

The man in the house tried to make a date with her after the second week she was there. Ella refused. The next time he saw her he told her that if she didn't go out with him she would be fired. She waited until the next Sunday, which marked the end of the month. Then she got her pay and left.

Ella went back to the agency. But the agency had received a complaint from the madam of the house. Ella slept at the Y.W.C.A. and had spent almost all her money before the agency sent her to another place.

There were only five rooms in the second place, but Ella had to cook for four adults. One of the madam's sons took a liking to Ella, and she didn't mind his talking to her because he was young and very nice. But madam noticed it and didn't like it. So the madam's boy and Ella had to meet each other secretly.

A few weeks later Ella and the madam's boy were in love. Still later Ella told the madam's boy that she was going to have a little baby, and they had better get married right away. But the madam's boy said he couldn't get married because he had no money. Ella had saved some money and she made him take her to a doctor who was a friend of the family. She stayed there for three hours and then came back to the house. But the doctor or somebody had called up and told the madam. The madam said she would arrest Ella if she came near her son again. Ella left that same day and went back to the agency. But the agency had been informed that Ella had ruined the madam's boy and the madam would send the cops to the agency unless the agency assured madam that they would turn Ella over to the cops. Instead, the agency turned Ella into the street.

Ella thought she would go on home  
(Continued on Page 28)

WHEN Blake knocked on the door of the little tea room in the South Side at New Orleans, a young, well-formed and dark-haired girl answered. No, she said, she had no sandwiches but she could get him some tea and then she would tell his fortune by reading the tea leaves. So Ed Blake followed the girl who wore only a cotton print frock into the tea room with the cheap shantung curtains in the window.

When they sat down at the table she brushed her leg against his. "Would you like to see the back room," she asked in a matter-of-fact manner, "or do you really want me to read the tea leaves?"

"No," said Blake. "I don't want to see the back room and I don't care about my fortune. But I'll pay you just as much if you tell me about yourself."

The girl got up. Her eyes narrowed.

"What do you mean, tell you about myself? What are you, a copper?"

"Calm yourself, sweetheart. Take it easy. I'm only a reporter for the *Star* and I'm not going to hurt you."

"Well, what do you want me for?" she asked, as she sat down again.

Blake, who was really a good newspaperman (he got his facts straight and drank his rye straight) explained that he wanted her story but wouldn't mention her name or address. He told her about his city editor who wanted a follow-up on the vice scandals. ("So they got Joe the Punk," the city editor had shouted, "but they didn't get the girls. We want a real story,

human interest that will burn with the fire of righteousness and the hot coals of the great white slave traders. Make it sparkle with the lust of a million men and the ruined bodies of ten thousand young girls. But remember that we run a family paper. So be generous with puritanical warnings!") Blake didn't tell her about all that and the circulation drive, but he did tell her enough to get her story.

Her name was Ella and she was twenty-three years old. She came from a little town, twelve miles away from Johnstown in Pennsylvania. Her father worked in a steel mill, or rather, had worked until he began to owe the

# AN OPEN LETTER TO AMERICAN LIBERALS

By a Group of Distinguished  
Professors and Writers

**W**E wish to address ourselves to liberals who may be approached by the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, an organization which, we believe, is attempting to enlist their support for partisan purposes under the guise of defense of certain principles of civil liberties. Especially do we address those members of the committee whose names have been identified in the minds of the American public with truly liberal and progressive ideas, and who have always been counted among those who believe the Soviet Union should be permitted to work out its problems without interference from the outside world. We hold it of great importance that such members should make their position clear at the present time.

A number of persons joined the Trotsky defense committee for the purpose of defending the right of asylum for Trotsky and to provide him with "the fullest opportunity to state his case." Since Trotsky is now safely domiciled in Mexico, the right of asylum is no longer an issue. The Mexican Government and The American press have certainly allowed him full freedom of expression in his own defense.

Under these circumstances it is proper to inquire into the nature of the further activities of the committee, since we believe it likely that these were not endorsed by its liberal members. Its publications have included not only violent attacks on the Moscow trials, but bitter denunciations of the Soviet Government. Speakers at meetings sponsored by the committee have not merely defended Trotsky and his theories, but have gone so far in their attacks on the Soviet regime as to advocate armed uprising. One of the announced purposes of the committee is the organization of "a complete and impartial investigation of the Moscow trials." The thirty-three defendants in the trials under attack all confessed fully the crimes of high treason of which they were convicted. Impartial observers and newspaper correspondents present at the trials have reported that the trials were justly conducted and the accused fairly and judicially treated. The committee has offered no shred of evidence to the contrary. The demand for an investigation of trials carried on under the legally constituted judicial system of the Soviet Government can only be interpreted as political intervention in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union with hostile intent.

We note that a member of the committee, Mr. Mauritz Hallgren, has publicly announced his withdrawal because of his conviction that the committee "has become an instrument of the Trotskyites

for political intervention against the Soviet Union." Mr. Hallgren says further:

"Perhaps the liberal members are not aware of the real nature of the committee. But this cannot be true of the political members, of the Trotskyites and others, who have but one purpose and that is to use the committee as a springboard for new attacks on the Soviet Union." Other members of the committee have withdrawn for similar reasons.

We believe that it is imperative, in the interest of separating liberal ideas from active hostility against the Soviet Union, that liberal members of the committee, who presumably have no hostile intent against that nation but whose names are being used to further these hostile purposes, should clarify their position on the following questions:

1. Did you join the committee out of interest in Trotskyism or wholly in defense of the right of asylum and free speech? If the latter is true, do not the present activities of the committee indicate that the alignment of liberals with enemies of the Soviet Union and defenders of the political principles of Trotsky can only result in confusion and the distortion of true liberalism?

2. Are you willing to ally yourselves, even incidentally, with the internal political movement which has opposed the progressive movement undertaken by the Soviet Union under the five-year plan and the Soviet foreign policy of peace and international understanding and other achievements which have commanded the respect of liberals throughout the world?

3. In uniting with avowed Trotskyites in this committee have you taken account of the effect of its activities in lending support to the fascist forces which are attacking democracy in Spain and throughout the world? Do you not agree with us that there is also a genuine menace to real democracy in the fact that the campaign to defend Trotsky is being supported by the reactionary press and by the very elements which attack the labor movement and freedom of speech in this country?

4. Should not a country recognized as engaged in improving conditions for all its people, whether or not one fully agrees with all the means whereby this is brought about, be permitted to decide for itself what measures of protection are necessary against treasonable plots to assassinate and overthrow its leadership and involve it in war with foreign powers?

We ask you to clarify these points not merely because we believe that the Soviet Union needs the support of liberals at

## FASCISM—THREAT TO THE WORLD



Militarized Youth in Nazi Germany

this moment when the forces of fascism led by Hitler, threaten to engulf Europe. We believe that it is important for the progressive forces in this country that you make your position clear. The reactionary sections of the press and public have been precisely the ones to seize most eagerly on the anti-Soviet attacks of Trotsky and his followers to further their own aims. We feel sure that you do not wish to be counted an ally of these forces.

JOHN C. ACKLEY, College of the City of New York  
 NEWTON ARVIN, Professor of English, Smith College  
 EDWIN HERRY BURGUM, Professor of English, New York University  
 HEYWOOD BROUN, President of the American Newspaper Guild  
 HAAKON CHEVALIER, Professor of French, University of California  
 ADDISON T. CUTLER, Department of Economics, Columbia University  
 JEROME DAVIS, Yale University Divinity School  
 DOROTHY DOUGLAS, Professor of Economics, Smith College  
 MARY DUBLIN, Sarah Lawrence College  
 THEODORE DREISER, novelist  
 MILDRED FAIRCHILD, Professor of Economics, Bryn Mawr College  
 LOUIS FISCHER, author and foreign correspondent of "The Nation"  
 WILLYSTINE GOODSSELL, Professor of Education, Columbia University  
 ARTHUR KALLET, Technical Director, Consumers' Union  
 ROCKWELL KENT, artist

PAUL KERN, New York Civil Service Commission  
 DR. JOHN A. KINGSBURY, Director, National Tuberculosis Association  
 MARY VAN KLEECK, Director of Industrial Studies, Russell Sage Foundation  
 DR. CORLISS LAMONT, author and lecturer  
 RING LARDNER, JR., author  
 MAX LERNER, Editor, "The Nation"  
 ROBERT MORSS LOVETT, Editor, "The New Republic"  
 KATHERINE LUMPKIN, economist, Smith College  
 ROBERT S. LYND, Columbia University, author of "Middletown"  
 ANITA MARBURG, Sarah Lawrence College  
 CLIFFORD T. McAVOY, C. C. N. Y.  
 V. J. MCGILL, Professor of Philosophy, Hunter College  
 HERBERT A. MILLER, Professor of Economics, Bryn Mawr College  
 EDWIN MIMS, JR., Harvard University  
 M. Y. MUNSON, Department of History, Columbia University  
 D. W. PRALL, Professor of Aesthetics, Harvard University  
 COL. RAYMOND ROBINS, former head of American Red Cross in Russia  
 MARGARET SCHLAUCH, Professor of Linguistics, New York University  
 HOWARD SELSAM, Professor of Philosophy, Brooklyn College  
 DR. HENRY E. SIGERIST, Johns Hopkins University  
 DR. TREDWELL SMITH, educator  
 ROBERT K. SPEER, New York University  
 REV. WILLIAM B. SPOFFORD, Executive Secretary of Church League for Industrial Democracy  
 BERNHARD J. STERN, Columbia University  
 MAXWELL STEWART, Editor, "The Nation"  
 PAUL M. SWEZEY, Instructor of Economics, Harvard University  
 LILLIAN D. WALD, leading social worker  
 LOUIS WEISNER, Mathematician, Hunter College

# So You Want to be An Aviator?

Well, Here Are a Few Things You Had Better Take Into Consideration Before You Let Yourself Believe Business Ballyhoo

By LUCIEN ZACHAROFF

**B**REATHE there a fellow who at some time has not toyed with the idea that flying was the thing for him? Probably not, if the results of my exploration of this air-minded continent mean anything. From coast to coast a host of lads, and lassies too, are definitely or vaguely feeling that their place is in aviation.

Always a soft-hearted chap, I shrink from performing that cruelest of operations—splashing icy water on young people's aspirations—if it can be avoided. But, as the late Will Rogers would say, all I know is what I read in the papers, and the other day I read in the *New York Times* that:

"There is an axiom among airline pilots that if you fly long enough you get killed."

Among airline pilots, mind you, not to mention military aces. So, if you are looking forward to a long life of exhilarating adventure and harbor no suicidal notions, fellow, perhaps from now on aviation will appear in a different light.

Incidentally, you will recall that Will Rogers himself had perished in an air crash, in company with one of the ablest American pilots of all time, Wiley Post. They were not stunting, either.

As I write this, the radio is bellowing of the latest disaster wherein a luxurious airliner with two pilots, a pretty stewardess and eight passengers plunged to the muddy bottom of San Francisco Bay. Last night, also over the air, a commentator gave an appalling list of other aeronautical tragedies of recent months. The young men and women of the crew virtually never escape.

Simultaneously with an accident there usually occurs a burst of feverish alibi activity by the airline operators, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Air Commerce and others charged with responsibility. As often as not you will hear the blame placed at the hospital doorstep, graveyard gate or wherever the crippled or killed pilot reposes at the moment—unless the weather or other "act of God," as our lawyer friends quaintly put it, tends to exonerate the higher-ups.

Far be it from me to pass the final judgment herewith. But on the subject of blaming the pilots I take an emphatic stand. You have seen public statements by the politicians in the Commerce Department about the rigid requirements which must be complied with before transport or commercial pilot licenses are granted.

You have heard the airline owners' assurances to prospective travelers of the additional precautions they take by

setting even higher standards for their personnel than asked by the government examiners, with every pilot employed by them able to prove a record of thousands of flawless flying hours, abstinence from alcoholic beverages, a happy family life, and a thousand and one other virtues that ordinary earth-bound creatures cannot begin to hope for.

If by the officials' and aviation-financiers' own modest admission they enforce such strict qualifications, it is a rather foul brand of sportsmanship to accuse the luckless pilots who are apparently as perfectly fitted for their jobs as is humanly possible, don't you think?

On the other hand, a likely source of misfortune is indicated when you look over the circumstances of a typical accident. Such a one happened in the Midwest a short time ago, to a flyer with over 10,000 hours in the air to his credit. Again our testimony comes from *The New York Times* which, as the world knows, offers only "the news fit to print":

"He came in through bad weather on a run, flying at 18,000 feet, and was worn out. He went home to dinner, grumpy and tired from the exertion of handling the ship in such rarified air, and almost immediately was called on to take another ship out on the same run in the other direction. He drove to the field and found his plane sitting in a snow bank. The drift was so thick he could not see the tips of the wings, and it was icing so badly that the windshield was opaque. Two planes had gone

out ahead of him, so he took off.

"About twenty minutes out of the field, when he was having difficulty with ice, and not able to see anything, one of his engines cut out. There were several small towns on his line of flight and he decided to turn south so that he could sit down with the hope of finding an open field. But no sooner had he completed the turn than his other engine quit, and he had to get down as best he could. He let the ship settle, keeping his speed to the minimum and hoping he would be able to see the ground before he hit. But no luck.

"Trees scraped the under side of the plane. He pulled the nose up into a stall and let the plane sit down in the midst of them. It stopped more than thirty feet in the air, in the treetops, without a passenger being injured. But the pilot opened his door to get out, slipped on the icy wing and fell to the ground, injuring himself so badly that he has not been able to fly a commercial plane since . . ."

It was no emergency flight. This disregard for the pilot's life, like scores of similar instances, was due to the operators' determination "to maintain schedules." This, in turn, must be done lest profits suffer. Commercial aviation is Big Business, with profits at any cost (to the hired hands) as the prime motive.

Indeed the term *commercial* favored over *civil* aviation is a fair indication of the profit urge behind this industry!

It is a well-known characteristic of Big Business to trample ruthlessly over human values in its quest of dollars-and-cents. But pilots are human, and the most experienced of them, when victimized by the system dominated by the \$ sign, are apt to be distracted at a critical moment in midair by those gnawing worries about a probable loss of job, low pay, one's family.

People in every "gainful" occupation are subject to mental depression when they are burdened by thoughts of their insecurity under the profit system. The results of this common form of mental depression are more likely to prove immediately disastrous in the air than on *terra firma*.

I am not suggesting that the pilots' worries are an invariable cause of flying accidents. But this is the first time that public attention is being invited to an important source of trouble, natural-

ly neglected by those who get the most out of the profit system and who are in control of aviation publicity.

Before another air tragedy stuns the country and those responsible again distract the great American public with insinuations of the pilot's fault or with a crack that "the cause will perhaps forever remain locked in that charred cabin," the searchlight should be turned on the real culprits.

How much longer will public indifference continue to doom the able and useful young people in the industry and the bright youngsters eager to apply their talents to it?

For their sake, for the sake of air travelers and the nation as a whole, profit-squeezing as the prime consideration must be banished from what is perhaps modern technology's greatest contribution to civilized living—conquest of the air.

## Science

If you know anyone who wants to go from Chicago to Denver in a hurry, or wants to see how some people do it, take him to look at the new streamline Zephyr trains. They make the 1034 miles in 13 hours and the passengers don't even know they're moving. Two 3,000 horsepower diesel engines carry them along at the rate of about 84 miles an hour, and sometimes hit over 100.

A Zephyr train, besides carrying passengers, carries mail, a cocktail lounge, dining car, three pullman cars and an observation car. If you're sitting looking at the view and want a drink or a cigar, all you have to do is lift the handy phone at your elbow, and order one.

A more available form of streamline travel are the new Chicago trolleys. They offer more light, less noise, better ventilation, and greater speed.

And then there's glass wool. It looks like fine cotton, only the fibres are about six times as long. Because it doesn't settle, it is being used to a great extent in refrigerator cars and ship insulation. It weighs only 1½ pounds per cubic foot. It also comes in granulated form, weighing 2 pounds per cubic foot.

# Fluff

A sense of humor rather than a million dollars is what University of Richmond co-eds want in a husband.

Asked if they had to choose between the two, the overwhelming majority said they would "marry the fellow who could wisecrack at the empty larder and the baby's urgent need for shoes." But with a million dollars, the minority said, they would provide the sense of humor.

"A pauper isn't very funny even if he be an Irwin Cobb," the co-eds emphasized.

## Girl Friends Union

A union for the girl friend is the latest proposal in the age-old war of the sexes.

The proposal this time comes from the Rev. Clinton C. Cox of Chicago's Drexel Park Presbyterian Church, who suggests that the girls get together to "get men away from their present idea that they are doing a girl a favor when they take her out." The minister presented the suggestion at the same time he presented to his parishioners a study of modern business conditions and women who "think more of virtue than position."

The good-night kiss which the minister found to be "payment" exacted by the boy friend came in for criticism, as did the exacting male. "The lone girl, who prefers to stay at home rather than go to a show with a man if she has to pay with a kiss, can't single-handed bring about a changed attitude. She is more likely to be a wallflower or an old maid." So unionize, he repeated.

Reform, however, should begin at home, Mr. Cox asserted. He suggested that the girl stop swearing and telling "off-color" stories; cultivate modesty; stop necking; skip cock-tails; cultivate mind, charm and personality. He would still permit them to powder their noses.

## Osculatory Activity

Saturday night dates aren't the simple things they used to be, since science stepped in as the third party.

Now that simple all-American pastime is just the battlefield for the opposing theories of physicians from Spokane and Chicago.

It started with the recent statement of Dr. Adolph J. Roth of Washington State College at Spokane, who announced that more college students had colds on Monday morning than at any other time of the week. He attributed it to the "osculatory" activity by undergraduates on Saturday night. He deplored the fact that "students do not make use of hygienic knowledge available to them."

## Those Hasty Marriages

Illinois "gin marriages" are to be abolished. The move follows the direction of domestic relations court judges, who determined some time ago that a considerable proportion of their problems were due to hasty marriages.

A test during a ten-day period by Chicago Clerk Michael J. Flynn revealed that 38 per cent of couples applying for license to wed expected to be married in less than two days.

# Movies of the Month

By MORT HAMPTON

"Black Legion" is another in the still short list of movies that treat the seamy side of American life. Essentially, it is a sort of lengthened March of Time, with a sprinkling of love interest to assure people it's not a news-reel.



Frank Taylor, working in an auto factory, joins up with the Legion when a hard-working foreigner gets the job he expected. And once in, he finds it difficult to get out. At the end, Taylor brings the Legion to earth.

Everyone ought to see "Black Legion."

Greta Garbo gives a pretty good performance in "Camille." The story itself helps her along considerably. What can possibly be more touching than the grand courtesan who finds that she loves some one even more than her camellias, but only when it is too late?

As might have been expected, the two years spent in celluloidizing Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth" were exceedingly well spent. Two of



Hollywood's best, Paul Muni and Luise Rainer, faithfully reproduce the Wang-O'Lan romance that delighted practically everyone who read her book.

## STAMPS

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## CHAMPION?

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**Saturday, April 17**

at the Grand Street Boys' Club House

106 W. 55th St., New York City

# Book Notes

THIS NEW AMERICA: THE SPIRIT OF THE C.C.C. edited by A. C. Oliver, Jr. and Harold M. Dudley (Longmans, Green & Co.). Appearing almost simultaneously with the administration's proposal to make the C.C.C. permanent, this book, based almost entirely on official material, is especially significant. The editors themselves are connected with the War Department; Mr. Oliver, Jr. is Senior Chaplain at the Walter Reed Hospital and Mr. Dudley is Reserve Chaplain of the U. S. Army. "In this new living," declare the editors, "may be found a new baptism of patriotism and an increased consciousness of national unity. The meeting of East and West in the camps should bring new appreciation of democracy and the sublimation of an unwanted incipient radicalism." There are forewords by President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Woodring and C.C.C. Director Fechner.

THE NEW EDUCATION IN ITALY by Howard R. Marraro (S. F. Vanni). A scholar frankly in sympathy with the Fascist regime, Dr. Marraro has herein brought up-to-date the material in his *Nationalism in Italian Education*. He expresses great appreciation for the cooperation he has received from the Italian Department of Columbia University and the Fascist government.

TOTEM: THE EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH by Harold Stovin (Methuen & Co., London). This book finds a curious reversion to tribal behavior in British youth movements, especially in the Rover Scouts, Toc H, the Boy Scouts, and the youth division of the Oxford Group. "If," asks the author, "education means the development of critical ability in democracy, are not these movements, which veil a modernized totem-worship under such apparently harmless ideals as Fellowship and the Team Spirit, subtly hostile to Education and Freedom?" The Fascist youth movements of Germany and Italy come in for a good deal of criticism.

DEMOCRACY ENTERS COLLEGE, by R. L. Duffus (Charles Scribner's). Mr. Duffus sketches, in highly interesting fashion, the development of the American college, the foundation and evolution of the academy, the establishment of the public high schools and the present problems of higher education. Subtitled, "A Study of the Rise and Decline of the Academic Lockstep," the project was sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

LET ME LIVE by Angelo Herndon (Random House). Here is the dramatic story of the life of young America's courageous leader. He tells his story in simple, vivid and poignant style—a style that leaves a profound impression on the reader. The appendix contains all the pertinent information about his case, which is at present before the Supreme Court. It will be recalled that he faces twenty years of imprisonment because he organized the unemployed of Atlanta. No one can afford to say he has not read this book.

M. B. S.

# The "Prof"

By GEORGE RUTHERFORD

TAKE me, for instance. I guess when you get right down to facts I'm as dumb as any of the clucks around here who said the Prof was a coward, but just the same I wasn't so dumb I didn't know that kid would break out in a rash some day and splatter a couple of faces.

The Prof was a pretty good kid and I seen that as soon as we got to camp. In the C.C.C. you got to hang around all kinds. There's the guy you don't like because you figure he's the kind what would kick his ma downstairs and take the rent money away from her. Then there's the kind you like and you don't like—the kind you're not sure of. And then there's the kind of a guy what's pretty okay—he's right, see?—and he just fits in with everybody.

Well, most of the guys in camp didn't take to this fellow Al Davis. They said he belonged to class B and didn't have no guts. But me, now, I didn't say nothing to nobody about how I felt because I knew sooner or later somebody would get punched and find out how dopey they were. I knew all along that this guy Al what we called the Prof because he talked serious, was a regular class C fellow.

The way it started was this. There were six guys in our hut and I was one of them and the Prof was another. We used to sit around at night before turning in and chew the rag about things and somehow or other we got to talking about war one night because somebody read about this nut Benito Mussolini and the folks he was making the Italian people kill in Ethiopia. Me, now, I never seen much sense in being born if you have to go out before your time and get your brains blown out, but I've found out it ain't no use to go around belly-aching—you got to do something about it. So when this fellow what we call Prof come right out and said he wouldn't go out any more and kill people in a war than he'd slit his own brother's throat why I knew right then that him and me had something in common. But do you think those other bohunks felt that way?

"What kind of a namby are youse?"

"Yeah, yuh mean to tell me you wouldn't protect yuh own country?"

"Oh, a coward, eh?"

That's the kind of stuff they gave the Prof.

He didn't say much. I never seen a guy what could hold his blood down the way he could. The others kept on gassing and blowing up but he just sat there smiling to himself and waited till they calmed down. Then he started to talk.

"Fellows," he said, "it isn't so bad to fight for something that's going to make the world better for us to live in. Then there's a reason for giving your life if necessary and even then it's a horrible thing. But to kill and die because someone you don't know anything about tells you to, tells you to go somewhere and kill as many people as you can, people

you've never even seen, that's the worst sin there is. What good has all the bloodshed done? Has it made life better for us or the people to come?"

That's what he said, just as quiet like as you ever heard.

Well boy, there was fireworks. Some bohunks gave it to him and one guy, Tom Donovan, he was worse than all of them. He called him every kind of a son and said he sounded like a coward talking and by God he didn't have no use for cowards and he bet nobody else did either. The Prof didn't say anything except, "Use your head, Irish," and turned over just as nice and went to sleep before you could say nothing.

This dope Donovan felt like a drooping lily, at least he sure looked like one.

"Gripes," he said, "the mug wouldn't put his mitts up if yuh insulted his mudder!"

And from then on it was like a cat

## A SHORT STORY

Donovan Had the "Prof" All Wrong But He Found That Out Too Late for His Own Health—He Gets a Thrashing and Some Wisdom

Illustrated by Wilbur G. Stewart

and dog between them two, the Prof and Donovan.

I kept my trap shut. I knew it would happen sooner or later.

One day Donovan and Al were put together to saw down a big oak tree and everybody was tickled because they felt that it would certainly happen now. Now it ain't no easy job to saw down a tree if you ain't used to it and the Prof wasn't no brute but Donovan was a pretty hefty guy and so several times the saw would buck on the Prof and he'd sweat gallons trying to push it through so Donovan could push it back. Guys are funny. It made the Prof mad because the saw kept bucking and it made Donovan happy because he had the Prof squirming. One time, just before the tree was ready to topple, we saw the Prof push and push hard and the saw wouldn't budge and then Donovan stopped and sneered and said something—we couldn't hear what it was but we could guess.

Well, they went to another big oak and started sawing and it was just as bad as ever. They pushed and pulled and got madder by the minute and it was all we could do to keep from laughing, because it sure was funny to see them two boiling up. Finally the saw really stuck and the Prof stopped and the sweat was running down his face in rivers and Donovan started yelling at him.

(Continued on Page 29)



They went at it, hot and heavy.

# NEWS VIEWS



**NINE OLD MEN** dominated the headlines throughout the nation as newspapers plunged into a controversy over President Roosevelt's judicial reorganization program. Although the plan dealt with Federal circuit courts throughout the country, most attention was centered on the U. S. Supreme Court, where five conservatives—Justices Butler, Sutherland, Hughes, McReynolds and VanDevanter—as well as the liberal Justice Brandeis would be retired or matched by new appointees, according to the President's plan.

The five conservatives have been instrumental in blocking social legislation after being passed by overwhelming votes of the people's representatives in Congress.

**WHILE** Governor Alf Landon called for "non-partisan" opposition to Supreme Court reform, Labor's Non-Partisan League and a day later the American Federation of Labor Executive Committee called for full support of the President. Labor's Non-Partisan League, whose vice-president, John L. Lewis, heads the Committee for Industrial Organization, called a national convention of league representatives in Washington for the first week in March and also announced mass meetings in support of the President's plan will be held in large cities.

**CONSIDERABLE** attention was drawn to the amendment of Senators Wheeler and Bone, empowering Congress to re-enact by a two-thirds vote any Federal law invalidated by the Supreme Court, but under this amendment no action could be taken until a new Congress had been elected following the Supreme Court's decision. Another proposal was Senator Norris' plan to require a 7 to 2 vote of the court to invalidate acts of Congress. Experienced political observers agreed, however, that despite squabbles in the House and Senate public opinion in the United States would lose the stranglehold on social legislation held by the "nine old men."

## SENTINELS OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY



The young miner who writes in this issue of his "coming of age" tells not his own story alone but the story of thousands of others who are playing an increasingly important role in the news. While the United Automobile Workers consolidate the gains won in their long "sit-down" struggle against General Motors, other unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization, continue their powerful drives for organization and better conditions.

The United Mine Workers of America led by John L. Lewis, have already announced their demands for the thirty-hour week with wage increases and 200 days' work guaranteed each year as provisions to be incorporated in the new agreement when the present one expires March 31. Philip Murray, vice-president of the union, expressed the miners' conviction that six hours a day was all the men should be expected to work under conditions prevalent in the mines and declared that, all in all, the unions demands were very conservative. Meanwhile, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the C.I.O. progressed steadily, heartened by the auto victory and the United Textile Workers announced an organizational drive in New England.

That labor understands the important role young people are playing in this drive for security, leisure and happiness is indicated by the resolutions unanimously adopted at the last A. F. of L. convention. The statements on page 9 by leaders of trade unions whose membership is composed largely of young people show how seriously the resolution is being acted upon by young people themselves. America's young workers in the mines and offices are translating A. F. of L. resolutions into action.—E. G.

## Youth Angles

Alleged beatings and food reportedly served up with cockroaches and worms prompted Federal Judge J. Foster Symes to boycott the Colorado Industrial School for Boys, at Golden, as a reformatory for young prisoners.

Oscar E. Goetz, acting superintendent of the institution branded as a "lie" the accusations made by David Medlin, 17, and Lawrence Sassen, 17, charged with escape on January 1.

Jobless and destitute, 23-year-old William Robinson tried the desperate expedient of smashing himself into jail. His key to prison and food and shelter of a sort was a plate glass window on Lenox Avenue. But he found he had to smash three windows to attract the attention of a policeman.

In night court, Robinson was held on a charge of "malicious mischief."

Street car motormen of this city don't necessarily have to be Phi Beta Kappas, but a college education is essential.

A Creedmoor youth who applied for a job was told: "You are entering a profession," and given only part-time work that he might attend the University of Texas. Pay of motormen is low.

## HEROES OF THE FLOOD

By OTTO NALL

Cincinnati, Ohio.

**WHEREVER** there has been work to do in the flood-stricken areas of Cincinnati, young people—young men and young women alike—have been ready to do their part.

Lester Etter, 21, rescued single-handed 17 persons when a building collapsed. He continued his work all through one night and, although he had to be hauled out of the flood waters more than once, he refused to stop even long enough to dry his clothes. He is a worker with the Catholic Youth Organization.

George Fisher, 20, was willing to risk his life to save some cows penned in a stable by the flood. He and Richard Bradford, 21, were taken by a towboat to the stable. The rescued included three of the seven cows and three mules. The two boys had to be treated for exposure at the hospital.

George Wilson, 22, stepped into a hole and sank while he was carrying clothing to distressed families in the east end. The Knox Presbyterian Church had furnished the clothing. Coming up, young Wilson managed to grab a towline and was pulled to safety. He emptied out his hip-boots, changed into dry clothes and began all over again.

Many other heroes and heroines might be cited in a report of what young people are doing in Cincinnati's fight against the worst flood disaster in its history. It is no sur-

prise to find that most of the workers, whether Red Cross volunteers, Coast Guardsmen in their high boots, or even soldiers in khaki, are young people. Girls with nurses' armbands are ministering to haggard women and fretful babies. Younger girls are serving meals. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are running countless errands, are collecting canned goods and clothing. Their good humor as they go about their errands helps to relieve a situation that is overcast with gloom.

All National Youth Administration activities in Hamilton County have been suspended, because the workers have volunteered their services under the organized flood relief agencies for the duration of the emergency. Assistant District Supervisor Harold R. Muntz urged them to do it.

At the Y.W.C.A., the American Youth Congress, with Mrs. Lydia Strong as executive secretary, conducts a canteen, accommodating 120 people. Mrs. Strong, a bright, youthful person, says:

"We are also acting as a cooperating agency with youth groups in the Cincinnati branch of the Youth Congress, to minimize any duplication in work and to make more effective any participation which any young people's organization may take in the work of rehabilitation. These youth groups are the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., church organizations, student groups, labor (A. F. of L.) unions and other labor groups, and fraternities.

CHAMPION OF YOUTH

# Youth In Action

## ANTI-LYNCHING LAW DESIRED

Young people, more than any other group, want the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law, according to a poll taken by the American Institute of Public Opinion.

While the nation on the whole was revealed as being 70 per cent for the anti-lynching measure, young people were listed as being 77 per cent for and 23 per cent opposed. The poll was taken by groups and by geographical divisions. Besides young persons, the Institute polled women, relief clients, farmers, small towners, and the urban population.

The southern states were listed as 65 per cent answering "yes," and 35 per cent "no" to the question, "Should Congress enact a law which would make lynching a federal crime?"

## ROTC VOLUNTARY

Students at the North Dakota Agricultural College and the State University are no longer forced to take military training. A bill has been passed by the state legislature and signed by Governor William Langer which abolishes the compulsory feature of the war drill.

Enactment of the law represents a victory for the state chapter of the Farmers' Union, which has campaigned long and vigorously against forcing students to drill, a practice which in convention after convention the farm group has branded as "un-American."

## C.C.C. "SECURITY"

Because the Government's Social Security Plan doesn't affect enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps, members of Co. 1183 of Charlemont, Mass., are providing their own form of "social security."

Forty young C.C.C. men have organized a club for the promotion of thrift and as a means of securing financial aid if, and when, urgently necessary.

Members agree to deposit certain amounts each month, and this money cannot be withdrawn until the 15th of the following month, except for emergencies. Five of the club members will comprise a board of directors. The board will be in control of the club's books, records and financial statements. Constitution and by-laws of the club have been drawn up and charter members are recruiting new men for the group.

## Y.C.L. YEARBOOK

This year's national convention of the Y.C.L. will be greeted by the appearance, for the first time, of a year-book of the organization, reflecting its growth, history, and life.

Local branch leaders and activities will be prominently featured, as well as biographies of leading officials and graduates of the organization who have "made good" in the legions of labor.

## Call for International Peace Crusade

*Appeal of World Youth Congress Council*

**T**HE Council of the World Youth Congress Movement, representing thirty-six countries and twelve international youth organizations, sends its greetings to the youth of the world, calling on them to make the forthcoming year the year of the Youth Crusade for Peace.

While all men and women hope earnestly for peace, war is already devastating one country of Europe, and threatens to engulf the others. The whole world awaits the future in fear.

In September, 1936, the delegates to the Geneva World Youth Congress pledged themselves to take common action for the prevention of war and the establishment of social justice.

In this dangerous hour it is meet that we remind the youth of the world of the principles of peace adopted by this great gathering of youth:

*That international obligations freely accepted must be respected;*  
*That collective security and disarmament must be organized;*  
*That aggression, wherever it takes place, must find the youth united in defense of peace.*

Young men and young women, in the villages and in the towns, in the workshops and offices, in the colleges and schools, spread these ideas and become the pioneers of peace among the youth of your country! Resist the spirit of war and banish it from the hearts of the youth! Carry to the youth the generous spirit of peace!

In order to give effective expression to the desire for peace of the youth, the Council of the World Youth Movement has decided to organize an international youth peace day. Further, the youth of all countries will in the course of 1937 visit the International Exhibition at Paris, in connection with which an international camp and reunion will be organized.

Youth of every land, by making 1937 a year of youth propaganda and action for the defense of peace you will prove that the young generation, united, constitutes a vital factor in the maintenance of the peace of mankind.

## FARMER LABORITES FAVOR ACT

By ALLAN STONE

*St. Paul, Minn.*

The Minnesota Farmer-Labor Convention has gone on record favoring the enactment of the Minnesota Youth Act. The state act is patterned after the American Youth Act, which was originally introduced into the United States Senate by Governor Elmer A. Benson, then senator from Minnesota.

Eight hundred delegates from over the entire state, representing Farmer-Labor locals, Farmer-Labor Juniors, trade unions, and fraternal organizations, spent an important part of their time dealing with the problems facing the young people of Minnesota.

The convention was especially significant since it met at a time when the Farmer-Labor Party is represented in almost every elective position in the state government, by virtue of its sweeping victory in the November election.

The convention asked that the C.C.C. be continued and that the boys in the camps be paid regular government wages. A demand was made that the camps be taken out of the hands of the War Department and placed under the control of the Department of Labor. Democratic organization of the camps and better educational opportunities for the enrollees were urged.

Full state-aid to schools was asked by the convention. Only partial payments are made at present.

Harold Peterson, youngest member of the State Legislature and chairman of the State Farmer-Labor Juniors, was elected secretary-treasurer of the association. Mr. Peterson was a delegate to the World Youth Congress at Geneva, Switzerland, last summer.

## PREFACE TO POVERTY

*Aubrey Williams, executive director of the National Youth Administration, to American teachers:*

Professional and intellectual honesty demand that you tell your pupils that 70 per cent of our people must live below the standard of decency, that nearly half the national wealth is concentrated in the hands of less than 2 per cent of the population, that millions now unemployed will never find jobs again, that their chances of gaining economic freedom are staked four to one against them.

## METHODIST NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Organization of a new administration of work for young people in the Methodist Episcopal Church was announced recently by its Board of Education, meeting in Chicago.

The new organization will be known as the National Council of Methodist Youth. It has been in existence since 1934, but now, for the first time, obtains the official recognition of the church. Its purpose will be to provide a functional co-operation between the various young people's organizations of the communion including the Epworth League with half a million members, fifty thousand students of Methodist colleges and universities, the Standard Bearers, and young women's group of The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and the Queen Esthers, and young women's group of The Woman's Home Missionary Society.

"Windows of Vision" telling the story of Methodist youth's share in building a new world, have been constructed by the young people of Fort Dodge, Iowa. The windows have been exhibited at the Fort Dodge District Religious Education Conference. They have attracted much attention and have served to interpret the objectives of the Christian youth program. It is probable that they will be displayed throughout the district later.

Two hundred delegates from all parts of Colorado met at Trinity Church, Denver, over the week-end, January 29-31, in a Colorado Methodist Youth Conference. The conference was divided into commissions studying the problems of organizing Methodist youth activities, of social action, and of personal religion.

At the closing session the name, Colorado Association of Methodist Youth, was adopted and officers elected.

In connection with their church's fortieth anniversary celebration, Epworth Leaguers of Central Church, Oskaloosa, Iowa, acted as hosts at a young people's rally. Dr. W. E. J. Gratz spoke on the program of Christian Youth Building a New World.

## MEXICAN METHODS

A drive to eliminate motives of private profit from the practice of the liberal professions—the law, medicine, dentistry, etc.—is going forward here under the auspices of the National Confederation of Students, following its recent convention in Mexico City.

Protection of autonomy of Mexican universities and schools of higher education is also stressed by the student organization, which has now expanded its general program in accordance with the convention.

# America's Youth in the C.C.C. Camps

## REMOVE THE ARMY!

By HARRIET ENGDAHL

At this writing the youth pilgrimage is on the way to Washington with the American Youth Act, demanding the President give young America a better deal. The Youth Protective Committee has gone along to add its voice and has drafted a special bill which would take the C.C.C. camps out of the hands of the Army. It has hammered away at this idea repeatedly and is more determined than ever to divorce the army from the camps.

Now that the government has indicated that the camps are to be made permanent the time is ripe to take action. Every forward-looking, progressive American realizes that so long as Army officers rule the camps, there is the danger of militarization. If the camps are to become permanent, why not place them on a civil service basis? That would certainly be broader, more democratic, in fact in line with the policy recently proposed by the President for other departments. Why not take control out of the hands of the Army and transfer it to the jurisdiction of representatives of education, youth and labor? That is what we propose.

Howard C. Oxley, Educational Director of the C.C.C., speaking at the Congressional Hearing on the American Youth Act, declared that crimes annually committed by young people cost the nation \$3,500,000,000. Scores of additional millions are spent annually to maintain prisons, gallows, electric chairs and gas chambers which do not benefit either the young people or society. Certainly this money can and should be spent on constructive measures which would benefit the young, prevent crime, and give them more adequate education and vocational guidance.

The C.C.C. camps are only a makeshift at best. They could be much improved with the three and a half billion dollars which go for crime. But this cannot be done properly while the camps are under the control of the War Department. The plain fact is that the business of the War Department is *WAR* not *PEACE*.

According to Executive Order 6101, of April 5, 1933, the camps are completely controlled by the War Department:

*"Department of War cooperates with F.C.W. in the following functions—Accepts the men selected by the Department of Labor and Veterans.*

*"Administration; examines physically and enrolls qualified applicants who have been accepted; commands the Civilian Conservation from the time of acceptance of the men until their final discharge embracing all the functions of re-conditioning, organization, administration, transportation, supply, sanitation, medical care, hospitalization, discipline, welfare, and education; constructs and maintains work camps; furnishes work details from work com-*



### WHAT WE STAND FOR

This page, sponsored by the YOUTH PROTECTIVE COMMITTEE, will appear regularly each month. We stand for:

1. Take the camps out of army officers' control. No military training, drill or formations of any kind.
2. Increased food allotment and improved quality of meals.
3. Increase in base pay to \$45 a month. Trade union wages for all skilled men (chauffeurs, clerks, plumbers, electricians, etc.)
4. Right to organize. Recognition of all committees and organizations of men in all grievances.
5. No discrimination against Negroes.
6. Protection against accidents. Adequate compensation for injuries and disease. Life pensions to families in case of death.
7. No dismissals because of C.C.C. curtailment without providing jobs or relief.

C.C.C. boys in or outside of the camps, write to the Editor of AMERICA'S YOUTH, 2 East 23rd Street, N. Y. C., Room 508. Send stories, letters, experience accounts, photos, anything about the life in camp.

## THE AMERICAN WAY

By REP. JOHN T. BERNARD

An act of Congress completely removing C.C.C. camps from the jurisdiction of the War Department and placing them under the jurisdiction of the Office of Education is not only advisable but imperative inasmuch as one of the principal functions of the camps is to assist in the education and vocational training of the young manhood of America. Maintaining as we do that we are disciples of peace and democracy it is our moral duty to cast away the mantle of hypocrisy and oppose the forced militarization of our youth.

Too many countries are being crushed under the iron heel of militarism. The very foundation of human civilization is shaken by fascism whose monster child is militarism. America must lead the way. America must be the apostle of peace, the torchbearer illuminating the road to human brotherhood, peace, and freedom. This can be done only through a grim determination to oppose the militarization of our youth through the arousing of public indignation against the forces of war.

*panies to project superintendents; and demobilizes the Civilian Conservation Corps."*

Now that certainly covers everything. Why was it necessary to give the War Department this control? Was it because the government wants to militarize the enrollees? Commanding officers have plainly implied this by their statements from time to time.

This country boasts many able and experienced educators who would train and develop the enrollees better than army officers—certainly the War Department is not qualified to prepare the enrollees to take their places in industry, science, the professions, the arts, in fact in any field, which would give them a better future, a more cultured life.

True the boys in the C.C.C. camps are now doing splendid, heroic work in flood control, soil erosion, road construction, and other labor. But for all this constructive work it is those who know their trades who must teach the boys—not the army.

The first step is to get the camps out of the control of the War Department and under the direction of education and youth. That's what is proposed by educators and labor. That's what is proposed by the bill the Youth Protective Committee is presenting in Washington, D. C. For this we must roll up thunderous support all over the country. Send the Youth Protective Committee your opinions.—Start the ball rolling in your own camp. *This is your bill—back it to the limit.*

## REVEILLE

A Vermont Camp Sketch

By AN ENROLLEE

It is 32 below in the Vermont hills. The windows in the barracks are white with frost. It is reveille. Garfield, the Section Boss, strides up and down the barracks shaking beds violently. "Get up!" he yells. He is tall and willowy-looking. A year ago he joined as an ordinary enlistee in Syracuse.

"Get up!" he jerks a bed.

"What's the rush? There's no fire." Garfield yanks the blanket. "Get out or I'll throw you out!" He moves up and down the parallel row of cots. Outside it is still dark and the electric lights are on. Beneath them we can see the clouded breaths. One by one we get out of bed and the icy air contacts our bodies. Grey underwear-clad figures leap up, grabbing for shoes and stockings.

"How in hell can ya dress in this damn cold?" We curse, our shoulders shivering. Suddenly one of the stoves is going. We huddle about it, pulling on shoes and stockings. We murmur in chilled voices and each movement is hurried and sharp. Some are swinging their arms to keep warm.

The Section Boss is still striding the barracks. Down on the far end, Cesaro is still in bed, tightened up like a knot.



"Get outa that bed!" Garfield yells. Cesaro doesn't move. We turn, chattering to watch. Garfield stops by Cesaro's cot. "Get out, do ya hear me!" There is not even a movement. "Get out or I'll fling ya out!" he shouts, his hands on his hips. On the cot Cesaro moves. "I'm not eating breakfast!" he says. Suddenly the Section Boss stoops. There is a gasping scrape . . . a thud . . . and Cesaro bangs against the wooden floor.

"Damn you," he shrieks, leaping up. His fist curves . . . crack! Garfield crashes into the cot beside him. "Now mind your own business!" Cesaro shouts, and he crawls back to bed!

## IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW

The *Chicago Daily-News* of January 14, carries a news item that Rep. Nicholas of Oklahoma is preparing a bill to make military reserve units of C.C.C. enrollees. The representative from Oklahoma thinks this is the way to pep up the morale of thousands of young and unemployed Americans and provide the nucleus for a bigger army.

CHAMPION OF YOUTH

# AMERICAN YOUTH ACT

## A Bill

To provide vocational guidance, vocational training and employment opportunities for youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five; to provide for increased educational opportunities for high-school, college and post-graduate students; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that

### DECLARATION OF POLICY

The general aim and purpose of this Act is to provide that the traditional American ideal of opportunity for youth be preserved. In the past, the Federal Government opened new fields for the enterprise and initiative of generations of American youth and made possible the development of this Nation through such legislation as the Homestead Act of 1862. With the closing of the physical frontier, this outlet for the initiative of the Nation's youth disappeared. Because of circumstances beyond their control, many young people in the United States are now being denied the opportunity for gainful employment as they reach maturity. Because of similar circumstances, many others are being deprived of the education and vocational training to which they are rightfully entitled and which the general welfare and future well-being of the Nation require that they secure. Without renewed opportunity for these young people on a nationwide scale, the American ideal of opportunity for youth can no longer be served. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress, in order to promote the general welfare, to make it possible for the youth of the United States to obtain once more these economic and educational opportunities. It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that funds for these purposes shall be obtained through taxation of those best able to bear the common burden of enabling youth to attain their opportunities and not through any form of taxation which will effect persons of low income and low purchasing power, thereby aggravating the conditions that this Act is designed to remedy.

### NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2 (a) There is hereby established a National Youth Administration (hereinafter called the "Administration") consisting of a National Board of Directors of nine members who shall be appointed by the President as follows: upon the enactment of this Act, the President shall request national organizations of youth, of labor and of education and social service, to submit lists of proposed appointees, and from these lists the President shall choose three persons to represent youth, three to represent labor, and three to represent education and social service. The members of the National Board of Directors shall hold office for terms of two years. No more than five members of the National Board of Directors shall be members of the same political party. The President, with the consent of the National Board of Directors, shall designate one of its members as the National Youth Administrator. The National Youth Administrator shall be paid a salary of Five Thousand Dollars per year and shall engage in no other business, vocation or employment during his term of office. He shall administer the policies, rules and regulations determined by a majority vote of the National Board of Directors in carrying out the provisions of this Act. The remaining eight members of the National Board of Directors shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(b) The National Board of Directors shall establish such geographic divisions, consisting of states or economic regions, as it shall deem desirable for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act. The National Youth Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, shall appoint Divisional Administrators, each of whom shall receive salaries of Three Thousand Dollars per year. The Divisional Administrators shall serve for terms of two years. They shall choose Divisional Boards of Directors in the same manner locally as is herein provided that the President shall choose the National Board of Directors.

(c) The National Youth Administrator and the Divisional Youth Administrators may hire employees, all such employees to be subject to the civil service law. The National Board of Directors shall supervise the allotment and allocation of funds appropriated pursuant to the provisions of this Act, shall determine the nature of the projects to be financed, and shall make all other determination of general policy necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act. The National Board of Directors shall have power to acquire by contract with other Federal, State or municipal agencies, or by expenditure of its own funds, all land and materials necessary for work projects established under this Act, and shall have power to cooperate, in all ways consistent with the provisions of this Act, with all other governmental agencies carrying on work of a nature similar to or related to projects adopted under the provisions of this Act. The Administration is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(d) The Divisional Administrators shall have authority to determine eligibility to receive the benefits provided under this Act, and the compensation and conditions of work on all projects carried on under the provisions of this Act. Local supervisors may be appointed by the Divisional Boards of Directors to carry out the functions of the Divisional Boards in sub-divisions of the area under the jurisdiction of each Divisional Board.

### PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS

Sec. 3. The National Board of Directors shall establish a system of public work projects employment on which shall be open to all young people who are not otherwise employed and to whom other employment is not available. Provided, That such young persons must be registered with the United States Employment Service. It is hereby required that each young person employed on work projects herein provided shall devote at least four hours per week to school work. Regular wages shall be paid for work done on such projects, such wages to be equal to the prevailing hourly rate of wages for similar work in the locality, provided that this is no lower than the local trade union rate. In no event shall the wages paid on such projects be less than fifty cents per hour, nor shall the wages paid to any person be less than twelve dollars per week. No person employed on any such project shall work in any week a greater number of hours than the local trade union maximum, or forty, whichever shall be less. In case of emergency, persons employed on such projects may work a greater number of hours, provided, however, that for each hour of work in any week over the maximum prescribed herein such persons shall be compensated at one and one-half times the hourly rate prescribed herein. In cases where the young persons are engaged in apprentice work in skilled trades on any project, standards of wages, hours, and conditions of work shall correspond to those set by local trade unions for such apprentice work.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND GUIDANCE

Sec. 4. (a) Each Divisional Board shall appoint a Vocational Training and Guidance Commission, to consist of six members, three of whom shall be representatives of labor, one of whom shall be a representative of youth, and two of whom shall be representatives of educational and social-service agencies.

(b) Each Commission so appointed shall employ as vocational advisors persons trained in the furnishing of vocational guidance, whose services shall be available without charge to all young persons residing in the Division; and the Commission shall encourage all such young persons to consult such advisors. All young persons employed on public work projects under Section 3 of this Act shall be permitted, if they so request, to work on projects which, in the judgment of any vocational advisor employed hereunder, is most in consonance with the capabilities of such young persons. Vocational advisors employed hereunder shall be empowered to cooperate with persons engaged by the schools and other agencies in the locality who do like or similar work.

(c) Each Commission appointed hereunder shall attempt to secure places of employment for young persons who desire apprentice training for entrance into a trade or vocation and who are eligible for such training. Each Commission shall, in the course of its duties hereunder, cooperate as far as possible with other State and Federal employment service agencies. No apprentice work shall be arranged under the terms of this Act unless it shall be carried on in accordance with the rules prescribed by the local trade union for such apprentice work.

### ACADEMIC WORK PROJECTS

Sec. 5. The National Board of Directors shall establish a system of academic work projects to be conducted in or near all colleges or other institutions of higher learning not included among the institutions enumerated in Section 6 of this Act. Part-time employment on such projects shall be open to all young persons who are officially enrolled for a course of study in any institution of higher learning not included among those enumerated in Section 6 of this Act, and who would be unable without financial aid to continue in such course of study. The Deans of all colleges or other institutions of higher learning not included among those enumerated in Section 6 of this Act shall be asked by the Divisional Administrators to prepare and submit lists of all students who qualify as herein provided. Regular wages shall be paid for work done on such projects, such wages to be equal to the hourly rate prescribed for such work by the trade union, professional association or other recognized organization to which persons engaged in similar work belong, or if it shall be impossible to determine such rate, that equal to the prevailing hourly rate paid for the most nearly similar work done in the locality. In no event shall work done on such projects be compensated at less than fifty cents per hour. Young persons employed on projects under this Section shall be entitled to employment for a sufficient number of hours to enable them to receive a minimum of thirty dollars in each calendar month.

### FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Sec. 6. The National Board of Directors shall establish a system of scholarships, to be known as "Federal Scholarships," which shall be awarded as follows:

# GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRACY

THE depression and the establishment of the National Youth Administration have revealed that the problem of youth today is so vast that it is one of the most pressing that confronts the nation. Our failure to grapple honestly with this problem means that we invite such a fatal solution as the youth of Germany accepted when it followed the ravings of Adolph Hitler.

I do not want this. I want to see the present National Youth Administration expand its services in accord with the wishes and needs of youth itself. The American Youth Act, with its comprehensive federal program of public works, educational assistance and vocational guidance, does just this, and I indicated my strong approval of it when it was first introduced last week. I feel that I can express the strength of my support only by introducing this bill once more, changed in no way.

If the proposals of the American Youth Act seem gigantic, the problem it attempts to solve is even more overwhelming. To answer it in terms of the act guarantees the future of American democracy, for our young people will thereby be brought up in conditions of enlightenment, health, vigor and purposefulness. They will make splendid citizens able to cope with those problems of a functioning democracy which confront all its participants.

REP. JOHN COFFEE

WITH more than 5,000,000 unemployed young people, our country faces one of the most serious problems in its history, and unless something is done, the coming generations of America will pay a terrible price for our neglect. The comprehensive program outlined in the American Youth Act, of public works, vocational guidance and federal aid to students represents the approach young people today are making to solve their own problems, and I am in full sympathy with the efforts they are making and the purposes of this measure.

SENATOR ARTHUR CAPPER

SOMETHING must be done to bring about better conditions for the youth of our nation. The American Youth Act, recently introduced into both Houses of Congress provides for a comprehensive federal program for aid to these young people who are so badly in need of employment. I am in hearty sympathy with this proposed legislation and sincerely hope that strong, public sentiment can be created to bring about the speedy enactment of the American Youth Act.

SENATOR WYNN FRAZIER

\* \* \*

(a) All young persons officially enrolled in a course of study in a high school, secondary school, or vocational training school, who would be unable, without financial aid, to continue such course of study, shall be paid weekly a sufficient sum of money to enable such young persons to pay school fees, costs of books and school materials, and personal expenses. The Principals of all high schools, secondary schools and vocational training schools shall be asked by the Divisional Administrators to prepare and submit lists of all students who qualify as herein provided. The amount to be paid to any young person hereunder shall not exceed five dollars in any one week.

(b) All young persons officially enrolled in a course of study in a professional or technical school of a University, such as a school of medicine, law, dentistry or engineering, who would without financial aid, be unable to devote full time to the pursuit of such course of study, shall be paid weekly a sum sufficient to enable such young person to pay for personal board and lodging, books and laboratory equipment and all school fees up to the amount of the fees paid for a similar course of study in the nearest institution of learning supported by any state which shall offer such course of study. The Deans of all professional or technical schools of Universities shall be asked by the Divisional Administrators to prepare and submit lists of all students who qualify as herein provided.

Sec. 7. In the event that any young person employed under any section of this Act shall be injured in the course of such employment, he shall continue, during any resulting period of disability, to be paid one-half of weekly compensation at the rate being previously earned by him under this Act at the time of such injury, and shall receive, in addition, all necessary medical expenses.

Sec. 8. No young person shall be denied the benefits provided by any section of this Act, because of sex, race, color, religious or political opinion, or affiliation, past or present participation in strikes or refusal to work in place of strikers, or refusal to work for compensation lower than that provided to workers engaged in similar work on projects under this Act, or refusal to work under unsafe or unsanitary conditions or where hours are longer than the maximum prescribed for similar work under this Act, or for refusal to work at apprenticeship employment where for work equal to that of adults or other young workers, equal wages are not received.

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

Sec. 9. When used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Young persons" means all persons between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, residing in the United States.

(b) "Public work project" means construction, improvement or other similar work of a type actually beneficial to the community, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the construction and development of such facilities as hospitals, sanatoria, clinics, parks, playgrounds, musical, dramatic and recreational centers, and schools; and the furtherance of such programs as slum clearance, reclamation of insufficiently productive agricultural areas, fine arts, reforestation, irrigation, drought prevention and flood control, the geographical distribution of such work to be determined by the needs of the regions, agricultural or industrial, for such projects: Provided, however, that no work shall be carried on under such projects which shall be directly or indirectly of a military character or designed directly or indirectly to subsidize or favor any private profit-making enterprise.

(c) "Academic work projects" means all work included within the definition of "Public work projects" and, in addition, work of an academic nature in accordance with the aims of institutions of higher learning, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, research, writing, study and experimentation: Provided, however, that no student shall, without his consent, be assigned to work completely divorced from his major field of academic interest.

(d) "Labor organization" means any organization of workers or farmers organized in good faith for the mutual protection and advancement of its members in their economic welfare. Provided, That no organization shall be considered a labor organization within the meaning of this Act if it shall be subject to the domination or interference of an employer, or if an employer shall contribute financial or other support to it.

(e) "Youth organization" means any organization more than three-quarters of whose membership are young persons within the meaning of this Act, or whose primary function is the advancement of the welfare of young persons, or any federation of such organizations.

### APPROPRIATION

Sec. 10. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury that is not otherwise appropriated, the amount of Five Hundred Million Dollars for the first year, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions, terms, and intent of this Act.

### SEPARABILITY

Sec. 11. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 12. This Act may be cited as "THE AMERICAN YOUTH ACT."

For additional information about the American Youth Act write to:

National Council AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS, 55 West 42nd St., New York City

## HAS THE CHURCH FAILED?

(Continued from page 7)

contribute some of the energy to build a new and a more brotherly world.

Now I do not mean that we of the church have any ready or complete solutions for the social ills of the world. But I do think that we do represent a social force that ought not to be dismissed with a sneer. Religious idealism, if properly channeled, may yet contribute some of the energy to build a new and a more brotherly world.

Speaking personally, I have never been able to see how anybody who takes the social teachings of Jesus and the prophets at all sincerely or seriously can be anything but extremely dissatisfied with many well-established social practices. Take the matter of war for example. It seems to me one of the crowning ironies of history that the militaristic, and for the most part anti-semitic nations of the western world should take as their symbol of God a Jewish pacifist, Jesus of Nazareth. The present day reaction of religious people against war is simply a belated realization that it is a complete violation of what is best and finest in their religious tradition. It is the ultimate denial of the teacher whose command was that his followers should love their neighbors as themselves.

Or turn from war and look at the economic situation. Anybody with half an eye can see that brotherhood is thwarted in a society where the distribution of wealth allows a few to live in extravagance and luxury while millions are condemned to work unceasingly for the bare necessities of life, where people starve while food is destroyed in order to keep prices up. Look at the contradiction in still another way.

In college my economics professor had a lot to say about the profit system; what he had to say boiled down in the end after the verbiage and apologetics were stripped off, to just this: ours is a system which depends for its motive power upon the pursuit of profits above all else, whose method is competition, and whose end is property for a few and poverty for many. In short it is the acquisitive society. Even in college I had to swallow hard to reconcile this system with the ethics of the sermon on the Mount which my church had taught me was the essence of religion. The ethical principles of the Hebrew-Christian tradition are brotherhood and cooperation. Between them and the principles of our economic system there is an irreparable contradiction.

Not Jesus but Mammon and Mars are the gods of our civilization. Thus anybody who professes to be an adherent of religion in present day society must be either a rebel or a hypocrite.

**But rebellion alone is not enough. It is necessary for we young people who take seriously religion's own ideal of a brotherly world to work for the creation of such a world.**

And let it frankly be said that we must share the job with other builders. The right to direct such a job of social reconstruction is an old factor but in our time it has capitulated far too completely to reaction to lay any such claim. The greater part of the energies for this job will come from sources completely outside the church. But if we share a common aim it is too much to expect that in the urgency of our task we work together. Surely our opponents are united. We too must close ranks and strive together.

**"But will religion take this course?" you ask. Personally I don't know. As I have sought to point out, there are strong indications that it is tending not toward progress but reaction, while there is also some significant evidence of progressive outlook and action in its ranks. But if it is too early to see on which side of the social struggle religion will fight, it is not too early to say that if it goes over to the side of reaction it is dead and damned. But if it chooses the side of progress it will not only be fulfilling the teachings of its own greatest leaders, it will discover for itself a socially constructive part to play in**

## CENSORED—A SHORT STORY

(Continued from page 19)

for a while. She needed a rest. When she came home, however, her mother told her she shouldn't have come. Her little brother was in the charity hospital with appendicitis and the baby had the rickets. The family needed the money that Ella used to send them from New Orleans. Ella's mother was awfully worried about whether Ella could get another job. Ella said that jobs were easy to get if one humored the men in the house. And her mother cried and said it was a sin before the Lord and she would die before her own flesh and blood went bad. But Ella said it was more important to feed her brothers and sisters than to worry about good or bad, because if you were good, it seemed you had to go hungry and she wasn't going to go hungry. So she didn't unpack her bag, but took the next bus to Pittsburgh and went back to New York.

In the beginning, Ella got as many men as she wanted. They paid as much as three and four dollars. Once, when she got in jail the cop told her to get herself located in his section and he would take care of her. It turned out that the cop had meant that 10 per cent of all her earnings was now going to belong to the cop. But Ella figured it was best in the long run, because no one ever annoyed her.

One day some man came in and said he didn't want anything but that a lot of cops were organizing all the girls and that she would have to pay so much for protection and so much for bail charges and so much to keep house. Ella told the men that she was doing all right without protection from anyone else. The man warned her that she couldn't operate if she did not pay. The next day she moved. Two days later the same man came around and said she would be arrested if she tried any more monkey business.

So Ella joined the organization. She was shifted from house to house and couldn't collect any more money. There was a madame in each house who gave the girls a cut. It was easier work because she didn't have as many men, but she didn't make as much money.

Once there was a raid and Ella was arrested. Some lawyer whom she had never seen before appeared for them and arranged the bail. The next day she was told that she didn't have to appear in court. She didn't have to **human life.**

answer any charges and the madame said that was the big advantage of belonging to an organization.

At times the girls would be called for to come up to parties. They had to pretend that they were chorus girls. The madame told them to say that they lived at such and such a hotel and worked in such and such a theater. They all got dressed up for these occasions and were able to chisel plenty from the rich old codgers. Some of the codgers would try to date them up and they had to say that they would meet them at the hotel. Then they would take them over to the madame's house. Sometimes the men would get sore and sometimes they wouldn't care.

When the district attorney started to fire away in his investigation of vices, every girl in the organization had to contribute 10 per cent more to help fight the case. Things began to pop. The collectors began to stay away when things got too hot. Then things began to break up and the smaller organizations like hers were driven out of practice. The girls began to shift around from place to place.

Some madame for whom Ella had once worked got the tea-rom idea. She went to work here about four weeks ago with five other girls. She didn't make as much money as she used to. But she was getting along. The cops on the beat came in for a cut each week. But the police didn't bother them. The madame had arranged for a lawyer and nothing serious could happen.

Her family?

Well, she was kind of lonesome for her old man, and she'd like to see the kids. She sent them money when she could and that kept them eating.

She took the five-spot Blake gave her and thanked him. Blake decided to write the story just as Ella had told it. It was the real McCoy, and Blake knew it. There were thousands of girls who had been forced into prostitution just like Ella, and if the *Star* focussed enough attention on the conditions, maybe something could be done about it. He was all excited about the possibilities when he sent his story in.

But the city editor's answer was short and sweet. "You sentimental idiot! What do you think this is, the Salvation Army? Get the name, address and some pictures, and forget how she got there. We want reader-appeal, sensation, and more circulation."

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## "UNITED WE STAND"

(Continued from page 15)

we lived like outcasts on our barren lands. We are dying every day in our distant province, dying without anyone knowing, dying spade in hand, for we have no guns. Yet if we all die to the last man, we shall die gladly, so that our sons may be better than we are, so that they may have bread, so that they may go to school—so that they may live happy and free."

I could have wished that all men of good will, all young folk who have a conscience, of whatever social class, of whatever country they may be, could hear that heart-rending cry of a people from which age-long oppression has tried to take away the dignity of man, and to reduce them to the condition of the serf or the moujik.

While these young men were speaking, in the balconies and galleries young representatives of Catalonia, of the Basque countries, young Catholics, anarchists, nationalists, members of the anti-fascist organizations from Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and elsewhere, the delegates of the Socialist and Communist Youth Internationals, young Communists from France, girls from France, were listening.

It was to all of them that there went out the appeal for the union of mankind, for the union of the young people of Spain and of all countries for the complete and final abolition of all the outrages inflicted upon the young workers of defenseless peoples.

New and great expectations became possible, when one after another the delegates of the different political fractions rose to affirm their confidence in the possibility of complete unity in the youth movement, and to promise that they would whole-heartedly work to that end.

The third day of the conference was remarkable for the diversity of the

speakers.

Several intellectuals who have always shown themselves to be good friends of the young were called to speak; among them were Sanchez Arca, the architect of the University City (now a battle field), the painter Gregorio Munoz, known as "Gori," and the composer Rudolfo Halfter.

Much interest was aroused by the speech of a young French girl who spoke in the name of the *Union des Jeunes Filles de France*. Judith Yvette captivated her audience with her first simple words. She recalled the efforts made by French girls to mitigate the hardships suffered by the young troops: warm clothing and food supplies had been sent in considerable quantities to Spain.

After her, a young Belgian and a young Czechoslovakian expressed in turn the sympathy felt in their respective countries for their comrades in Spain.

I have never seen any conference conducted with such seriousness and dignity. These young Spaniards showed, in little things as well as in big, that they were conscious in spite of their youth, of the gravity of the moment, of the tremendous responsibilities which they have accepted. On them now depends, unquestionably, the fate of a whole people and the future of the democratic Spanish Republic.

And when the president declared the conference closed, and when all the audience rose to sing the "Young Guard," in Spanish, in French, in German, in Italian, and in other languages, too, no doubt, there were a few minutes of intense emotional excitement; like that, perhaps, which overcame the deputies, who on the night of the 4th of August, at the beginning of the French revolution, renounced their differences, just as the young Spanish delegates had even now renounced theirs.

## LEADERS LAUNCH SPAIN AID

By JAMES CRONIN

**T**HE fascist invasion of Spain struck home to delegates to the Youth Act Pilgrimage in Washington when some of the foremost national leaders there took time out from their American Youth Congress activities to answer the call of Joseph Cadden to a meeting on Spain.

It proved to be an historic meeting, for from it grew a national United Youth Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy composed of individuals who are recognized as the outstanding leaders of American youth. The new national committee is already picking up the national campaigns which the New York City Youth Committee for Spanish Democracy inaugurated and is planning others of its own.

The purpose of the committee is to collect material aid for the victims of Spanish Fascism and to educate among young people on the issues involved in the tragic Spanish conflict. Its first task, in which young people throughout America can be of great assistance, is to contact existing youth committees throughout the nation and to organize new ones. By writing at once to Nancy Bedford-Jones, national secretary, United Youth Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City; all interested parties can enlist in the work for Spain and can help the work of the committee by reporting their activities.

Among those present at the Washington meeting were such leaders as Joseph Cadden, now chairman of the group, Joseph P. Lash, Gil Green, Wililam Hinckley, Rose Terlin, Ed Mitchell, Ben Fischer, Ed Strong, Don Steyer, Sam Pevzner and Jane Whitbread. New applications for membership are coming in from national youth leaders constantly, as are applications for affiliation from the various local youth committees for Spain.

## THE "PROF"—A SHORT STORY

(Continued from page 23)

"For crying out loud, you big simp, aintcha got no muscles?"

By that time all the guys had thrown down their saws and axes and gathered around them and the supervisor didn't say nothing to nobody because he figured there might as well be an end to those two right now. Everybody was laughing and the Irishman just couldn't stand that and he yelled louder.

The Prof swelled up like a frog and gave one big leap. They went at it hot and heavy.

The Irishman got on top of the Prof and began pummeling him in the face and half of us shut up and started moaning and the other half let up a big howl and kept yelling "Show him, Donovan, show him, boy!" And it got so bad with the Prof that I was going to run in and pull the big mug off of him. But just then the Prof managed to get his knee up in the big boy's chest and he heaved and sent him rolling over in the sand and then he got up on his feet and when Donovan was up, too, he lunged in and before we knew what was happening the Prof was sitting on Donovan's back holding a wad of his hair in his hand and rubbing his face in the sand. He was panting so hard you couldn't hardly hear what he was saying and everybody was absolutely quiet.

"Now," he panted, "I'm Benito Mussolini and . . . and you're the Italian people . . . and you don't want to eat sand, . . . but you're going to . . ."

And with that he rubbed the big Irishman's mug in all that grit.

The Prof held him down and turned and looked at us with the funniest grin you ever saw, and he looked really like a conqueror with his face all sweaty and bloody and dirty but laughing anyway, and he winked at all of us and we just grinned back at him.

And then he got about his business with Donovan.

He got up and the fellow turned over on his back and laid there looking up at the Prof. He really seemed sick, he had the biggest look of surprise you ever saw.

"Now listen, Donovan," the Prof went on. "I'm no better than you are but you did what I made you do because at the moment I was stronger than you. But I'll bet if we went at it again you could make me eat that dirt because you've got more lasting strength than me. That's the way it is with the Italian people. Old Benito may be the

big shot now but he won't always be because the real strength is on the side of those people who went to Ethiopia. Some day they won't butcher just because an old fizzle like Mussolini tells them to. Get me?"

Donovan got up on his feet and looked at Al.

"Friends, Tom?" said the Prof holding out his hand.

"You bet, Al," said the big boy.

Well, I'm telling you, you never heard so much noise as went on in that bunch of fellows. Everybody was jumping around and hugging each other like a bunch of flowers and old Tom and the Prof went back to work and sawed down trees like mad.

I get a big kick out of telling those guys I knew the Prof was real stuff the first time I seen him.

## NEW VOICES

(Continued from page 11)

shovels, and sledges, brought out for re-sharpening or repair. They talked, joked and laughed.

It was there at the pit top that I first felt myself one of them—one of the men who dig the coal. It was there I first felt the unity of existence that has been the driving force behind the historic struggles of the miners. It was there I first felt the brotherhood which makes the United Mine Workers the greatest union of American labor. It was there I first saw the power—the fighting strength which is stamping out child labor in the coal mines—which has snatched from the operators a few more precious years in the lives of the mine youth—years for study, for play, years of freedom from toil and care—which has made it age sixteen rather than eight and nine when the mine youth take up the pick and shovel!

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To them every month goes *Consumers Union Reports*, a compact magazine provocatively illustrated, written in straightforward language, and describing and rating tested products by brand names as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," or "Not Acceptable." Competent, unbiased technicians, either on the staff of Consumers Union or employed as consultants, working

in university and other laboratories, make the analyses and determine the ratings by means of laboratory and other standard tests, the results of which are painstakingly checked and verified. Products reported on include most of the merchandise you have occasion to buy from day to day: shoes, toothpastes, radios, foods, drugs,

cosmetics, vacuum cleaners, soaps, liquors, clothing, tires, oils, and many things besides. Notes are also included in the *Reports* on the labor conditions under which many of the products are manufactured, these notes, however, being entirely independent of the technical recommendations. Consumers Union has no connection with any commercial interest. Its income is derived solely from membership fees and contributions and is used solely in the interests of its members. The membership fee (which confers voting rights) is \$3 a year. It includes twelve issues of the monthly *Reports* and a yearly Buying Guide (the 1937 edition of this Guide, running to nearly 200 pages, is now in preparation). An abridged edition of the *Reports*, covering only the less expensive products, is also available at \$1 a year.

To become a member of Consumers Union, mail the application form below. Your membership will begin either with the forthcoming March issue or with any previous issue you may indicate. Listings of the principal subjects covered in past issues are given in the coupon below. (Note: *Consumers Union Reports* is not sold on newsstands and is available only through membership, subscription, or at the office of Consumers Union, 55 Vandam Street, New York.)

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Also discussed in the March issue are the following products: RADIO SETS, FLOUR, SHEETS, CAN OPENERS, BAKED BEANS, CANNED ASPARAGUS AND CHERRIES.



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