

Conscientious Objector

Re-entered as second class matter Nov. 19, 1941, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. VIII—No. 2

New York, February, 1946

360

Price 10 Cents

U. S. Bars Amnesty for War Objectors

Reign of Terror is Revived

COs Describe Beatings of 3 At Springfield

Editor Scores Previous Probes of U. S. Prison; Calls for New Investigation

By Prescott Vernon

Again a picture of brutal beatings and strip cell treatment of inmates at the Springfield Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Missouri, has reached the outside.

Letters received by Julius Eichel, editor of *The Absolutist*, from Bent Andresen, Joseph P. Reilly, and John Hampton last month described the horrors of the

See Dr. Thomas' attack on the use of "strip cells" in the federal prison system—page 2.

manhandling by attendants, and pleaded for an aroused public demand for action that will stop the abuses. Their requests to Dr. J. M. Pescor, warden of the prison, have brought denials of any mistreatment; appeals to the courts have been turned down on the basis that disciplining of prisoners is an executive and not a judicial matter. Complaints to Surgeon General Parran and to Attorney General Clark are filed away or referred to Dr. Pescor, according to Hampton.

Andresen, Reilly, and Hampton asked (Continued on page 7)

Unsolved Tresca Case Feared Precedent for Political Murder

By Isabel Boulter

On the same stage where Abraham Lincoln spoke against slavery in 1860, Fiorello LaGuardia addressed a mass memorial meeting at Cooper Union last month on the eve of the third anniversary of the murder of Carlo Tresca.

Praising the gallant and courageous fight waged by Tresca against reaction and injustice, LaGuardia stated that his case is "one of the blackest spots in the history of jurisprudence in our country." Tresca, an anarchist, labor leader and editor of the anti-fascist Italian journal *Il Martello*, was murdered in 1943 in New York City, and the case remains unsolved.

"I have one regret," LaGuardia continued, "and that is that the murder of Carlo Tresca is still unfinished. I wish that it had been closed before I left the City Hall. It should never be marked closed until those responsible for this cowardly murder are brought to justice."

The former Mayor addressed his remarks to a near-capacity audience.

Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader and chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, chaired the meeting. Expressing the fear that the unsolved murder of the anarchist editor might set a precedent for political murder, he said that "what we are concerned with is justice, not just the memory of a man we love." He remarked that although District Attorney Frank S. Hogan and Mayor O'Dwyer had been invited to attend the meeting, neither was present.

(Continued on page 8)

Board to Pass On Each Case After Review

Parolees Over 26 May Apply For Modification of Restrictions

Special to *The C.O.*

WASHINGTON — Following a lengthy discussion with the United States Parole Board and James V. Bennett, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Frieda L. Lazarus, chairman of the CO Problems Committee, declared last month that there will be "no blanket releases" of conscientious objectors from prison.

In a statement, verbally approved by the Parole Board and circulated by the Committee, Mrs. Lazarus asserted that the Parole Board will "continue its policy, according to the regulations set down by Congress, of passing on each case" after review of the applicant's file or personal interview.

The statement said that, effectively, all men over 26 who have

Meeting Held By Doukhobors

Protest Militarism, Urge Work Stoppage on Atom Bomb

BRILLIANT, B. C.—In a nine-day conference here last month, a convention of all Doukhobor groups in Canada endorsed a resolution appealing to all anti-militarist groups and individuals to unite against militarism and other forms of violence.

The preamble to the resolution stated in part:

"The militarists of the world are rushing in their preparation of an unimaginable bloody slaughter. If we do not perceive this predicament and do not undertake necessary measures, and we can accomplish much, mankind is faced with inevitable annihilation."

Protesting against the "abusing" of atomic energy, the convention, in a 175-word telegram to *The Canadian Press*, urged all persons connected with the production of the bomb to refuse to assist in the manufacture of "instruments of destruction until such time as atomic energy shall be applied for the good of humanity."

ACLU Favors Repeal Of Smith-Connally Act

A bill to repeal the war-time Smith-Connally anti-strike act with amendments to impose penalties on labor unions for strike actions and to prohibit political contributions by them was opposed by the ACLU in a letter to Speaker Rayburn recently. In a five page memorandum the ACLU said it favored repeal of the Smith-Connally Act as "ill-conceived legislation intended largely to curtail labor's rights," but objected to the inclusion of new legislation curtailing labor's rights.

The provisions in the bill forbidding unions to make political contributions was scored as discriminatory and "indefensible from the point of view of civil liberty," since "the making of financial contributions is one extremely important way of participating effectively in the political life of the nation." The bill failed to get House consideration by a 200 to 182 vote and went over for later action.

Solution to Racism Imperative In Atomic Age, Reuther Declares

By Walter P. Reuther

Vice-President, CIO United Auto Workers Labor Reports

DETROIT—How many Bilbos will break a democracy's back? Sometimes it seems that the American people are playing around with this question, seeing how close they can come to an answer. We pay lip-service to our national creed, summed up in the declaration that "all men are created equal"—but in our everyday relations with our fellow-citizens we are prey to the same old habits of mind and behavior, full of the same old prejudices and failures of understanding.

In short, we are drifting. We are sitting around, twiddling our thumbs while the time-bomb of race hatred and group animosities ticks away the hours left for a solution. The newspapers (some of them, at least) reflect the embarrassment of all men of good will over the antics of Rankin, Bilbo, Gerald L. K. Smith and the other crackpots of the lunatic fringe. And we all applaud. But do we soberly confront the fact that Bilbo and other celebrated peddlers of primitivism have been spawned and nourished in an environment which each of us has helped to create by the petty prejudices we have

(Continued on page 8)



"O.K. THEY WON THE WAR WITH THEIR ATOMIC BOMB; BUT FOR THE RACE WE GET THE



Freedom In America

completed a third of their sentence and whose paroles have been denied, "will now have their cases reviewed in the Washington office and paroles will be granted if approved by the Parole Board."

Men over 26 who have served at least a third of their sentence, but who have failed to apply for parole are now being visited by a Special Board Examiner and their cases will be forwarded to Washington for review, according to the statement. Men over 26 who have not served a third of their sentence will receive attention on the approach of their eligibility dates through the routine visits to prisons by the parole judges.

It was learned that those under 26 whose paroles are approved upon completion of one-third sentence, will be subject to the usual restrictions as to salary, job and location, although "this is not an inflexible policy." But in each case the applicant must make his re-

(Continued on page 6)

Employment Restrictions In England Relaxed

LONDON—It was announced here last month that men of 31 and over and all women except nurses and midwives have been released from their obligations under the Control of Engagement Order, which requires people to obtain jobs through government Employment exchanges.

There is to be no further registration of women at 18, according to the bulletin of the Central Board for COs.

Religious Sect's Rights Backed

Supreme Court Decision Favors Jehovah's Witnesses

The right of Jehovah's Witnesses to distribute religious literature on public property and in a company town was extended in two decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court on January 7. In two five-to-three decisions, the court held that members of the sect cannot be barred from distributing literature within a company-owned town or a federal housing project. In one case the court reversed the conviction under an Alabama statute of Grace Marsh for trespassing on a suburb of Mobile, Alabama, owned by the Gulf Shipbuilding Corp.; and in the other reversed the conviction of A. R. Tucker under a Texas statute, for trespassing on a federal housing project in Medina County, Texas.

Justice Hugo L. Black wrote the majority opinion in each case, and Justice Stanley Reed, the minority dissent supported by Chief Justice Harlan P. Stone and Justice Harold H. Burton.

In his opinion in the Marsh case Justice Black held that: "The managers appointed by the corporation cannot curtail the liberty of press and religion of these people consistently with the purposes of the constitutional guarantees, and a State statute such as the one here involved, which enforces such action by criminally punishing those who attempt to distribute religious literature, clearly violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments."

ACLU attorneys said the decision appeared to extend to Jehovah's Witnesses engaged in distributing religious literature the same legal protection given to persons whose regular business requires their presence on private property.

The decision was seen as revealing a tendency of the Supreme Court to give precedence to civil rights where they conflict with property rights.

Race Protests Result In Prison Segregation

By Sander Katz

ASHLAND, Ky. — Five prisoners—three whites and two Negro—in federal prisons here and at Lewisburg, Pa., will be entering their thirty-third week in solitary confinement for refusing to eat in racially segregated dining halls as we go to press.

In the first week in June, last year, at the Federal Correctional Institution here, fourteen inmates—twelve of them conscientious objectors, one of them an American of Japanese extraction, and three of them Negroes—announced that they would not eat in the prison's segregated mess hall, and requested that a separate place be set aside in the institution where men of all races who were so disposed could eat together. The fourteen men were Alfred Partridge, George Yamada, Morris Horowitz, Jason Hopkins, John Neubrand, Arden Bode, Rodney Owen, Bjorn Eikrem, Arnold Satterthwait, William Hefner, William Fagarty, Bayard Rustin, Philip Brooks, and Charles Hall. Brooks and Hall, both Negroes, were promptly transferred to the federal institutions at Mill Point, W. Va. and Terre Haute, Ind.

In the second week in June the remaining twelve participants were placed in solitary confinement. By August 3rd four of these men—Eikrem, Owen, Rustin, and Yamada—were transferred to the federal prisons at Sundstone, Minn.; Lewisburg, Pa., and Danbury, Conn. Of these four men, Rustin and Owen

Artist Con Depicts Demonstration



These drawings of the Christmas amnesty demonstration at Danbury prison were done by Lowell Naevre, one of the 16 COs who took part in it. The big signs on the baseball backstop (upper drawing) and Christmas tree (lower left) as well as the 50 small signs around the prison yard (lower right) were deftly set up by the men during Christmas dinner. They happened to be out in the yard at the time since they were on a 3-day hunger strike which was part of the demonstration. They also succeeded in posting amnesty leaflets on the bulletin boards of cell blocks and dormitories. This first World War II amnesty demonstration to be held within prison walls, was greeted enthusiastically by the other prisoners, many of whom booed the guards assigned to picking up and tearing down the signs.

Told—and Untold

By Worldover Press
Misrepresenting Molotov

Ever since November 6, when Foreign Commissar Molotov made an important speech on Russian foreign and domestic policies, certain radio commentators and news interpreters have persisted in presenting the Russian's remarks on atomic energy as a threat to develop and employ the atomic bomb. The speech was open to criticism on various counts, but this is sheer misrepresentation of Molotov's words. He mentioned the atomic bomb in an early portion of his address, in which he disavowed vengeance toward conquered peoples. He discussed atomic energy, saying Russia would have this and more, not in connection with the bomb at all, but with reference to the Russian campaign for rehabilitation and economic progress. Those misled on the point would do well to bear this in mind as the Atlee formula for atomic bomb control is brought into the open and the Russian position on it becomes crucial.

Towards Construction

In the midst of international failures and breakdowns, usual sources of information tend to overlook small but significant advances in human relations. Two were continued in rigid confinement at Lewisburg following their transfer. Of the eight men remaining here, three—Horowitz, Bode, and Hopkins—are still in solitary status.

recent examples are worthy of note, and are typical. Though Eire has been criticized bitterly for lack of sympathy toward the democracies, the "Irish Aid to Europe" movement has shipped to Rotterdam a gift of 220 cattle, a first installment of an eventual 4,000 head. Also scheduled to be delivered in the donation are 4,400,000 pounds of sugar, 3,000 work horses, 2,000,000 pounds of tinned meat, 440,000 pounds of butter, 220,000 pounds of bacon, 22,000 pounds of powdered milk, 110,000 pounds of condensed milk, 22,000 pounds of infant foods, besides cheese and articles of clothing. This is worthy of note in view of frequent charges that Europeans are leaving everything up to Uncle Sam.

Here's another constructive item: The Maastricht, Netherlands, Hebrew congregation, which had its own synagogue destroyed in the war, has nevertheless collected about \$700 and presented it to the Catholic Bishop of Roermond to help the devastated churches in his diocese. The gift was made as a testimonial to help received by Dutch Jews from the Catholics of Limburg province during the occupation.

Japan's Education Minister

Tamon Maeda, present Japanese Minister of Education, is a member of the Tokyo Quaker Meeting, and has studied in Friends' discussion groups. His wife attended a Quaker school for girls. Quaker groups in Japan have been small, but are typical minor segments of the population steadfastly opposed to the war.

Amnesty Figures

The following are the figures on amnesty granted to political prisoners in seven countries:

Japan: On October 18 general amnesty was granted 957,000 political prisoners.

Greece: 12,000 political prisoners were released, including all but murder cases.

Rumania: Complete freedom was given all but 200 political prisoners.

Bulgaria: On December 12 Bulgaria granted full pardon to 500 and reduced the sentences of 500 other political prisoners.

Russia: All wartime offenders with three years or less were freed, while all other political prisoners received reductions of sentences.

India: On August 28 50,000 Indians who took up arms against the United Nations received full amnesty.

United States: In America, the "Land of the Free," no amnesty has been granted to political prisoners.

Amnesty Is Denied COs

(Continued from page 1)

quest which is then passed upon by the Parole Board, which may approve in the event there is no hostile feeling in the community "and the Local Board has no objections."

Must First Get Job

In the case of men over 26 who are now out on general parole, the statement declared that they may apply through the regular channels to return to "their community or a location of their choice, first obtaining a job in the chosen locality and the approval of the probation officer in the district." Pointing out that there are no restrictions as to salary or job for men in this category, the Committee said that "COs over 26 on general parole are now on the same basis as all other (paroled) federal offenders." There remains the provision that the job must not be anti-social.

While the usual restrictions remain in force for men under 26 on regular parole, the parolee may apply for modification of the conditions and, on reaching 26, may apply for regular parole status.

According to the Committee, Bennett conceded the point that parole under Executive Order 8641 is no longer an issue. Since there have been no such paroles granted in the past five months, "the plan may be considered dead," the statement asserted.

"Good Writing" Praised

Let me congratulate you on your December number. It is full of meat. You are doing such a good job you ought to have a better name. The good writing you are presenting, has a broader appeal than to the mere conscientious objector.
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COs Describe Beatings of 3

(Continued from page 1)

for help in saving Carlos Swick, a conscientious objector, who made the following statement about what has been happening to him:

"On Sunday, December 9, A asked me to go into the barbershop and clean it up. I said no. Later he came and asked me to show him in which bin I had my clothes. I told him they were in the proper bin, and there was no necessity for me to go in there so that he could beat me up. A grabbed my arm and twisted it. I told him to lay his hands off me, then I jerked free. B and A then began struggling with me on the sunporch and hallway, trying to get me into the clothing room, practically twisting my arms out of their sockets. 2-1-E (violent insane unit) attendants, X and Y, came running to help. Desk man Z also came in to help drag me into the clothing room.

"While in the clothing room, I got more of the arm twisting, hit near the kidney and spine by a fist or a knee, then I was taken across the hall into a single room. They told me to take my clothes off. I said take them off yourself. W yanked my shirt off, then B hit me in the stomach. I told them I would fast until this thing (beatings) stopped.

Asks Medical Examination

"Monday I wrote a letter to Dr. Biach (building doctor): 'I would like to have a civilian doctor come in and give me a physical examination, for I was beaten up by B and A Sunday, Dec. 9.' Dr. Biach said that he did not give them permission to beat up any inmates and that it was forbidden to beat up any. I said if that was the case, they have disobeyed orders and should be dismissed. He did not say anything about dismissing them. I said I would fast until they were dismissed. He asked me if I would go to 2-2-E. I said that does not solve the problem of beatings. A and B were overheard saying they would beat the hell out of me if they lost their jobs.

"I wrote Dr. Pescor on December 12: 'I would like to have a civilian doctor come in and give me a physical examination. Were A and B carrying out your orders to beat me up on December 9?'

"On Thursday, December 13, I was sent to 2-1-E. After stripping I was hit in the head by an attendant with a rabbit punch which knocked me down. Then X and Y each began to twist my arms. I was dragged by my arms by S and Y down the hall into a cell. While lying on the floor (naked) they threw a mattress on top of me. There was a commode and water basin in the room, and the room was very cold. I haven't slept Thursday and Friday.

Denied Blanket

"Cockroaches crawling all over my body, men yelling, swearing, and singing all night. It was too cold, and I asked Dr. Moreland (Clinical Director), the Officer of the Day, for a blanket, and he said I would have to see Dr. Danke, who didn't come around so I sat on the commode the rest of the night. The mattress was filthy and I couldn't sleep on it.

"Dr. Biach told me I was put there because of my fast. Saturday I agreed to eat again and was moved to 2-2-E. While in the strip cell naked, one night, the window was left open. Nothing has been done about the attendants yet."

The choking and beatings of two other prisoners who refused to work was described in a letter from Hampton, who wrote: "I pointed out to Mr. Hagan (probably the Parole Officer) that one of the witnesses who saw these 2-building brutalities was Swick. He replied that Swick was 'psychotic' and there-

Peacetime Conscription Decried By British Anti-Militarists

LONDON—Over one thousand people attended the first public meeting convened by the recently formed No Conscription Council.

The Rev. A. D. Belden, D.D., presided and among those on the platform were Lady Parmoor, Lady Snowden, and the newly appointed secretary of the No Conscription Council, the Rev. Charles H. Cole—former organizing secretary of the No More War Movement in New Zealand. Dr. Belden expressed appreciation of the service performed by the first secretary of the No Conscription Council, Mr. A. J. Brayshaw.

The opening speaker was Mr. Rhys Davies, M.P., who had just returned from a visit to the United States.

"I have always been a Socialist" he declared "and I always thought the coming of Socialism would mean the end of militarism and military conscription. I would regard it as the greatest calamity which could ever befall the British labour movement, if conscription was imposed upon us by the Labour government. Here is one, at any rate, who would vote against conscription if it was ever introduced into Parliament."

The Trade Unions in America were united against conscription, both in the C.I.O. and the A.F.L., because they knew that governments were inclined to use troops to break strikes. The churches in America were officially against conscription. Davies asserted.

"Don't Fight!"

"If I had my way I would say to the young men and women of every country in the world 'don't fight!'" the speaker declared amidst applause. "Let those who made the quarrels fight it out amongst themselves."

A "human document"—to quote the chairman—was submitted to the meeting in a frank speech characteristic of her by Miss Vera Brittain, who said her son would be 18 in a fortnights time. Not interested in politics—perhaps because he had heard it discussed so much in his cradle—he did not feel able to take the stand of a conscientious objector and had registered for military service.

The speaker described how his impending call-up had interfered with his education and training for an intended career as an architect.

"What conscription does is to ruin a boy from the standpoint of his prospects in a profession, and probably his character as well," she suggested.

The next war, she pointed out, would be fought without a declaration and it

would be fought in the laboratories—if there was a next war.

"If our generals and admirals were not always thinking in terms of the war before last they would realize that military conscription is no longer of any use," she argued.

Dr. Joad, the next speaker, characterized conscription as an outrage against liberty and an outrage against human nature.

"There has been more conscription in the world since I have been alive than there has ever been before, and the world has never been so insecure," he said. "It has not made us safe."

He could never understand, he said, why the women of the world did not stop war. Men did very often get something out of it; excitement and so forth—but the women never did.

"I do beg of you to insist that this government puts an end to the horrible thing," he exclaimed. "If not, it will put an end to us."

The last speaker, Mr. Reginald Sorensen, M.P., described by the chairman as a Member of Parliament "with a touch of statesmanship," reminded the meeting of the first world war when the comedians and the clerics vied with each other and with business interests to bring indirect pressure on men to go into the Army. Some took the view then that a clear-cut system of conscription was to be preferred to that; certainly the pressure of emergency in time of war might be used to make a colorful case for the equality of conscription. But the ending of hostilities had taken away even what case there was. The essential thing to do was to ask: what is the purpose of this conscription—against whom was it directed?

"Given the concept of peacetime conscription," Mr. Sorensen continued, "it will not be the slightest use for Britain, with its shrinking population of youths of military age, to adopt half measures." There must logically be Army conscription for men and conscription for women for the home—that, he reminded the meeting was their proper place according to Nazi principle.

Group Asks More Draftees

Age Limit May Be Raised to 45 to Meet Army Quotas

WASHINGTON—In the wake of GI demonstrations on demobilization, a Senate group last month sought to increase Selective Service inductions in order to supply enough men for the Armed Forces before the expiration of the Draft Act on May 15.

Raising the age limit on draftees to 45 was cited as a possible means of obtaining the number of men required. 37,000 men a month are now being drafted, although the full quota is 50,000, and Sen. Edwin C. Johnson called for the induction of this number.

It was reported that it would be nearly impossible to extend the Draft Act beyond the May 15 expiration date, in the opinion of the Senate group.

Meanwhile, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General James B. McNary last month outlawed further protest demonstrations of soldiers overseas awaiting demobilization.

Demobilization Plans Termed Inadequate

THREE RIVERS, Calif. — Seven members of Civilian Public Service Camp 107 here last month wrote Col. Lewis F. Kosch, assistant director, Selective Service in protest against present CPS demobilization plans which make no allowance for the release of men with families.

They stated that present plans are unjust since "they totally disregard the plight of CPS fathers and married men as a basis for demobilization."

"Many fathers have been forced to labor in Civilian Public Service Camps with no compensation or dependency allotments whatever, inflicting severe hardship in many cases upon the innocent dependents of drafted men," the letter pointed out.

Information said last month that, starting January 10, men with three or more children could apply for release. The service said that there are about eighty assignees in the new release category.

Court to Consider Jim Crow on Trains

Traditional Southern laws providing separate accommodations for Negro passengers on trains and buses will be challenged before the U. S. Supreme Court in an appeal by Irene Morgan, scheduled for hearing early this year. It will be the first time in more than 50 years that the high court will be called to pass directly upon the legality of Jim Crow laws as applied to interstate travel. The ACLU will support Miss Morgan's appeal with a brief as friend of the court, and other organizations are expected to join. The Supreme Court will be urged to reverse its traditional position in racial discrimination cases that segregation is legal provided equal accommodations are furnished.

oughly capable of dreaming up these incidents."

Prison Was Investigated

The horrors attributed to the Springfield institution have previously resulted in two separate investigations, which were forced by revelations that shocked the public. The New York World Telegram was instrumental in forcing the investigations, and expressed editorially their dissatisfaction with the results.

The Absolutist pointed out that "each of the investigations was directed by the

Plan Co-op Town

One of the most ambitious projects of the British cooperative movement is planned for the village of Meopham, where a new town will be built during the next five years, consisting of 10,000 houses, all built and run on co-op lines, and providing homes for 40,000 persons. The new town will have its own schools, factories, shopping centers, and churches.

Prison Bureau responsible for the shocking administration at Springfield, and each resulted in whitewashes which left all of the evils intact. The groups who called for the investigation denounced the manner in which it was being conducted and the results were denounced as biased and unsatisfactory. An impartial investigation of these prison horrors and tortures is still in order," the publication declared.

THE
Conscientious Objector
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