













## CIO Opens Drive on Anti-Labor Laws

WASHINGTON.—Philip Murray, CIO president called on all affiliated CIO unions to oppose passage of two "model" bills proposed to the 48 state legislatures by the federal-state conference.

This organization was set up in August at a conference sponsored by the Department of Justice. Both President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Robert H. Jackson addressed the conference and urged it to work out state bills dealing with "sabotage."

Observers here pointed out that Jackson had appointed a committee of five Department of Justice officials to collaborate with the federal-state conference in the drafting of the legislation and in other activities.

### AIMED AT LABOR'S RIGHTS

Murray called the particular attention of CIO unions to the so-called anti-sabotage bill and to the so-called home-guard bill which had been drawn up by the federal-state conference for passage in state legislatures.

The sabotage bill, he pointed out, would punish by 10 years imprisonment any one interfering with defense production of allowing defective materials to pass, and would permit local authorities to put streets and highways near industrial plants under martial law.

"The sabotage provisions of the bill are of such nature that they could readily be used to suppress strikes or other union activities to improve wages, hours or working conditions," he wrote.

"Reactionary local authorities would try to invoke the penalties of this bill upon the ground that labor union action resulted in interference with national defense production."

The model state home-guard bill could also be used to deny labor its right of freedom of expression and action, Murray wrote, since it "leaves these states' guard units completely free from any civil responsibility for their acts by making them subject to military law only."

This would leave workers engaged in union activities at the mercy of military officers who would be unchecked either by civil authorities or by civil law, he declared.

## Says Indian People Resolve To Resist War

LOS ANGELES.—Pasabhai Patel, Bombay agricultural engineer, here on mission to buy agricultural machinery, declared that the Indian people "dislike England's attitude" and refuse to be tied to British imperialism's war chariot.

Patel said his uncle, Valabhvhai Patel and a cousin have been thrown into jail by the British.

"They will be kept in jail, too, without any trial," he said. "Yet the only charge against them is that the British feared my uncle would make a speech against England."

Discussing the Indian situation in general, Patel said:

"Slowly, but surely, England is attempting to force our people to fight against their will. India has no sympathy with the Nazis, but we are determined to resist all efforts of England to fight her war.

"Why should we give up our lives so that England may benefit, when she has done nothing for us, despite so many golden promises?"

"In 1914 India sent two million men to the battlefields of France and there we helped stop the rush of the German army. After the war we left a million and a half men buried under French soil.

"At that time England promised us complete independence. You know what happened to that promise.

"We are not independent and we cannot stop what England is now doing in India. Whatever materials of war England wants, she takes and without asking permission from my people."

## Pickets March At Chicago Pro-War Rally

CHICAGO.—An anti-war picket line outside of a William White war, rally attracted the attention of thousands of Christmas shoppers in the Chicago Loop.

The picket line sponsored by the American Peace Mobilization, was a protest against the appearance here of Herbert Agar, newspaper columnist and outspoken advocate of America's immediate entrance into war, who spoke at a meeting in the Palmer House.

Thousands of shoppers stopped to read the picket signs which declared: "Aid to the Allies is the First Step to War-Remember 1917!" Another depicted the steps leading America to war—planes, battleships, loans, men to England.

In addition to the APM, the American Youth Congress and the American Student Union took part in the picketing.

The reception to the pickets by the throngs of shoppers was so warm that it was decided to have a peace picket line in the Loop every night through the Christmas season.

The APM also distributed leaflets which declared:

"The American Peace Mobilization charges the Roosevelt Administration with openly and secretly cooperating with the William Allen White Committee to plunge America into war! The campaign for credits to Great Britain is to create the public impression that Britain is on the verge of financial exhaustion. This is fraud on the American people."

Less than a hundred years ago "a man could give away his wife's children, even an unborn child. No married woman had a legal right to any money she earned. No woman unaccompanied by a man was admitted to a restaurant or hotel. No married woman could own anything."

## Emergency Peace Parley To Be Called

WASHINGTON.—The American Peace Mobilization laid plans for an emergency conference against involvement in war to be held in Washington in mid-January to protest the "deadly danger" of proposals to "lend" war supplies to Great Britain.

The conference, Peace Mobilization officials said, would bring to Washington representatives of trade unions, churches, fraternal clubs, youth groups and other progressive organizations, whose membership "is united in one great determination that the United States shall not be involved in another European war."

"The representatives of many millions of Americans will gather here with but one purpose in mind," a mobilization spokesman, Frederick V. Fields, executive secretary of APM said, "to make clear to the administration and Congress that all steps leading to that bloody end, under no matter what dubious disguise, must be halted at once."

Fields declared that the most immediate of the steps to war to be protested by the conference is the proposal, hidden behind the "childish subterfuge of responsible government heads," to give loans and credits to England.

"The people are not blind to the deadly danger of such an art, behind which stands the open face of war," he said, "nor will they stand idly by while politicians drag the nation to war to safeguard investments of munition makers."

### NO SUBJECT FOR JOKES

Fields added that the plan proposed by President Roosevelt to "lease" war supplies to Great Britain "would be amusing in its childish simplicity if it were not so deadly serious."

"The experience of the last war showed," he said, "that the industrialists of this country cannot trust the 'proud' Britons to pay off their debts to this country. Rather than run the old chances over again, therefore,

these good businessmen now insist that our government guarantee their sales to England, and that the expenses to be taken from the taxpayer of this country rather than from those of Britain."

At the same time Miss Marion Briggs, administrative secretary, announced that local APM peace councils had already begun to flood Congress and the White House with protests against extension of loans, grants, gifts of "leases" of American money and materials to Britain.

The local councils, she said, have started an "all-American protest" campaign of postcards, letters and telegrams, and, in many instances, small delegations have been descending upon Washington to state their protests in person.

Local delegations also have been calling upon Congressmen who are at home in their districts during the Christmas holidays. So great has been this spontaneous demonstration, she asserted, that it may develop into another mass march on the Capitol.

## Disease Spreading In London Air-Raid Shelters

LONDON.—The first public statement that air raid shelter life has been responsible for the outbreak of an infectious disease was made by Dr. D. G. Geffen, medical officer of Enfield suburb, who said there had been 25 recent cases of diphtheria, which four were fatal.

"It is well for the public to realize," he said, "that diphtheria is here and in serious form."

## Nazi Blackout Hits Alsatian Schools

BERLIN.—A Nazi party decree ordered a "house cleaning" of desks and books cases through former French Alsace to weed out books, which the Party frowns upon.

All material "weeded out" will be destroyed, it was said.

## Food Prices In Belgium Soar

BRUSSELS.—The prices of all foods are rising sensationally, in some cases as much as 300 per cent.

A decree authorized police to enter homes throughout Belgium at will to investigate cases of suspected hoarding of foodstuffs and other goods.

The first high schools for girls were founded in 1839 (only to be closed soon after), the first educational college and first school in the world to offer a college education to women (Oberlin) in 1833; prior to 1860 only two state universities admitted women.

In 1870, 15 per cent of all women 16 years of age and over were breadwinners; in 1930 the percentage had risen to 25 per cent. In 1930 there were eleven million employed women in the United States.

## Seamens Union Opposes Loans To Europe

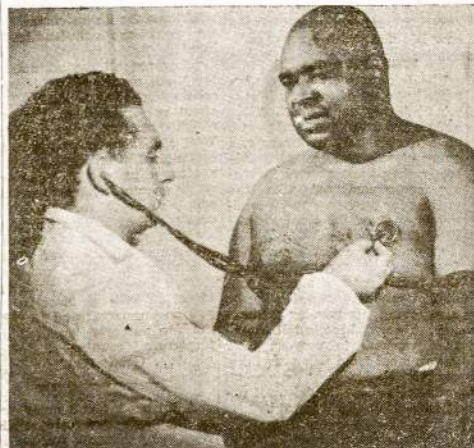
BUFRALO, N.Y.—Some 50 representatives of 32 Great Lakes ship crews scattered to their home ports to urge their local unions to oppose loans to European belligerents and fight to retain labor rights under the national defense program.

Delegates to the Great Lakes conference of the National Maritime union (CIO) concluded their annual meeting last weekend after adopting a resolution which declared the union opposed to any destruction or surrender of the rights of labor "under the pretext of national defense."

## UAW Wins \$8 Wage Increase In Aluminum Company

DETROIT.—Described by union leaders Fred Williams and Fred Swann of the Bohn Aluminum local of the United Auto Workers as "one of the best contracts in the CIO", the local this week obtained wage increases of 5 to 15 cents an hour for the 3,000 employes of the Bohn Corporation.

"The minimum wage," said Williams and Swann, "has been raised by \$8 a month and the company will expend \$500,000 a year for wage increases." Due to war orders, the Corporation, according to union leaders, will hire 1,000 additional employes beginning Jan. 1 to fill war orders.



CHECKING UP ON HEALTH: A Ford worker is examined by Dr. Morris Raskin, industrial disease consultant formerly on the staff of the CIO United Automobile Workers Medical Research Institute. Raskin predicts an alarming increase in accidents and industrial disease as a result of defense speed-up.

# LITHUANIAN WORKERS TAKE COMMAND

By Anna Louise Strong

The only American Journalist in Lithuania during the thrilling weeks when that little country transformed itself from a capitalist into a Socialist state, was Anna Louise Strong. What she saw, and reports, is something new in history, a peaceful transition to Socialism.

The article below is a section from her account which is being issued as pamphlet, under the title "Lithuania's New Way."

Almost at once after the Seimas sessions, the take-over of factories began. A new Ministry of Industries was formed, secured two rooms in another ministry as temporary offices and at once became the general staff for the nationalization. In automobiles commandeered from other ministries, several dozen inspectors were sent out to the factories, beginning with the largest ones.

In each factory the inspector called together the workers' Factory Committee and with their help selected a commissar, in most cases some well known and reliable worker, in the plant itself. He was not charged with management; all former directors and even owners ordered to remain on the job pending the government's final decision. The Commissar's task was to make full inventory of plant, machines, raw materials, finished products and general conditions of the plant and its relations with other factories, preparatory to the formal taking over.

## VISITING PLANTS

The Ministry of Industry gave me a letter of introduction authorizing me to visit the factories to see how the nationalization went on. They were proud of the seal with which they stamped this letter; it bore a red star with a hammer and sickle insert. "Historic," they said. "No ministry ever had such a seal before. By the time the other ministers get seals like this, they'll not be 'ministries' but 'commissariats.'"

The auto in which I drove with Inspector Izim to view the factories on Sunday afternoon still bore the nameplate of Graf (Count) Komaras, a nobleman and landlord from tsarist days, now dispossessed. As we drove through a crowded part of the city, Izim said, "I can't get used to it. Less than two months ago I wouldn't have dared to walk down these streets. This was a regular nest of police spies and one would of surely seen me and turned me in. 'Now... his hand indicated the sweep of the journey we were making,—'ten factories visited in an afternoon.'"

Never have I seen a gayer bunch of workers than we met in the Gumi plant. This is a large establishment making galoshes, garters, and fancy elastics and other rubber articles. Operation was shut down for Sunday, but in every department a group of workers was busily taking inventory. In one room thousands of aluminum forms had to be counted, in another room tens of thousands of yards of fancy braids had to be measured. Elsewhere they were counting boxes of galoshes.

One of the girls in her haste dropped an aluminum form which she was counting. Another girl at once reproved her. "Take care of those things. They're ours now, she said... Yes, 'ours' for the past two days and not yet listed, but already the mental attitude was new. They were learning their new possessions.

## OUR TREASURES

Then I saw what the process of "inventory and take-over" was doing to the minds of the workers. It was breaking down life-long habits of thought. All their lives they had been trained under capitalism. This and that

"belonged" to the boss. Their working day also "belonged" to him.

Trade unions were all very well, but they didn't break down that feeling. Even with collective bargaining the boss was still "boss." Even the election of Shop Committees and Workers' Soviets had not stirred the workers like this. They had talked and listened and elected; they had been told that new life had come. But the workers think not so much through talk and elections; they think more deeply through their hands on machines. Now they are putting their hands on the machines and listing them as "ours."

I went from the stockroom in "Gumi" into the room with the machines. Instead of the gay flocks of girls there were more skilled and older workers here, the men who know machines. Three days ago the clatter of those machines was hateful, reminding them of the long exhaustion of the worker's life.

The clatter was still as noisy, the machines were still as speedy. Yet everything had changed. A worker laid his hand caressingly on the biggest machine and introduced it to me.

"These are our treasures," he said.

Nor far from "Gumi" we stopped at Inkaras, another large factory of rubber goods. The new commissar had formerly been a chauffeur and "one of the best comrades in the plant," the workers said. He told me, Inkaras had belonged to a large stock company, with capital from Latvia and England. The company had another factory in Poland and tried to reduce the conditions of Lithuanian workers to those of Poland, which were among the worst in Europe.

I asked if the bosses of Inkaras were worse than others. "All bosses are of one bone," he said. "But the big ones—the colonizers—are better organized and hungrier. In that way they are worse." He added that "No doubt some of the bosses have already reached America, and are telling tales about us, trying to get America into war with USSR for the sake of their property. Tell America from us that we have a new life now, with open eyes."

## WORKER'S CLUBS

The Inkaras workers were especially proud of the new Worker's Club they had started. They had rented a building and set up an assembly hall, a library and many classes and lectures. Already they have several "workers correspondents" who are writing for the newspapers, sending news about the plant and the life of the workers.

"I waited for this hour when I could work for the workers' own factories," said a young machinist whom I asked why he was giving his Sunday without pay. He urged me to tell American workers to prevent their government from doing anything against the USSR. "We are all optimistic about the future if only there is no war," he said.

Back in the Ministry of Industry I found Assistant Minister Maimin working late into the night. Instructors were coming in to report on their day in the factories; phone calls were coming from the provinces too. Here in this office a balance had to

be struck each day. What factories needed help and raw materials? Where were the weak spots? Between phone calls Maimin talked to me.

He listed for me the chief tasks in their order. First, make inventory and take over the factories. Next, secure adequate raw materials. Third, organize and improve the actual functioning of industry.

The phone calls come. "What shall we do to get raw materials? There is plenty of it here but it is sealed away under a bank loan."

"Why worry about that?" answers Maimin. "Aren't the banks ours too?"

Another phones: ("Our products are waiting to be shipped to fill foreign orders. Shall we let them go?")

"Certainly," replies Maimin; "all our international obligations must be fulfilled."

Again the bell rings. A Commissar wants to know what to do with a director who refuses to give up the shares of stock. "He says he doesn't know where they are but he must be sabotaging."

"Do you need them?" asks Maimin. "Are they valuable?"

"Valuable? What do you mean? They are the company's whole capital."

"Wait a minute," said Maimin. "Isn't your factory nationalized?"

"But of course. What a question to ask?"

"Then what's the use of those bits of paper of past ownership? Don't worry about them. See to the materials and machines."

A delegation arrives—a whole shop committee—to ask: "The owner asks a salary. Does he get it?"

"What was he doing during the time?" asks Maimin. "Was he at the factory or cutting coupons?"

"He was at the plant directing it."

"Then he needs a salary—the same that the technical staff gets."

Siauliai calling... Siauliai calling... It is an instructor reporting from the city where I saw trade Unions start. I listen to Maimin's replies.

"Of course we nationalize electric stations even with only ten workers. ...Anything that has to do with electric power..."

"Quite right... The big ones first... You can take in the little electric power plants tomorrow."

"No, no, don't take factories with less than twenty workers unless they have motors... Motors, I said, not electricity. They all have electricity."

"Didn't you read the papers? Hadn't time? Well, you're a bright one for an instructor! Better read the Nationalization Law!"

"How are all the administrators? All on the job? Nobody sabotaging? That's good. How about raw materials? Big ones alright but little ones complain... Well, rich factories always had it better... But tell them to signal shortages at once. Tomorrow we're opening a department for supplying raw materials, also credits. Send in your needs."

"None of you are to come back to Kaunas till it's over. That's orders now. Did you take enough money? Well, you've got to eat... Tell the bank to lend you on our credit and to phone me for authorization... Phone tomorrow evening... Good night... Good night."

A husband found some holes in his sock and said: "Wife, dear, why haven't you mended these?"

"Hubby, darling, did you buy me that coat for Christmas, as you promised?"

"No."

"Well, if you don't give a wrap, I don't give a darn."

# DEFENSE SPEEDUP BRINGS MORE INDUSTRIAL DISEASE

DETROIT, Mich. (FP).—A rising tide of industrial disease and accidents is beating against the health of Michigan's factory workers as one of the fruits of the accelerated defense program. Both public health officials and private consultants are dreading the outcome if nothing is done to stem the current.

The bureau of industrial hygiene of the Michigan state board of health finds that its small staff, inadequate even in normal times, is unable to cope with the situation. While no specific figures were given out, it is believed that the bureau has only five men for inspection in Detroit and only two men for out-state.

Factories are working three shifts a day, in many cases Saturdays and Sundays at overtime rates. Idle plants are busy once more and old buildings are being converted to industrial uses. Plants designed for a certain health load are being overtaxed.

## ACCIDENTS INCREASING

The result is a bumper crop of disease and accident cases.

Ventilation and safety measures are none too good, even in normal times. But when additional machines are installed and more dust and fumes created, the existing blowers and exhausts and dust preventives no longer meet the demand. Men and women swallow fumes and dust. Poisons eat into the skin and lung tissues and affect the blood.

The accident rate is also rising sharply. Union officials are warning their members to insist on safety rules being enforced. Secretary George Borovich of UAW Local 410, for example, told the workers in Midland Steel that they were losing too many fingers and suffering too many cuts and bruises.

The rise in accidents is due to many causes. In many plants the seniority lists are exhausted

and inexperienced men and women are taken on, almost automatically boosting the industrial injuries. The rush of orders is leading to a breakdown of normal safety measures. Overtime leads to fatigue and a letdown in ordinary alertness of the employees. Installation of more machines crowd the work space, narrows the aisles and increases the traffic of material and output.

## METAL POISONING

Accidents are also multiplied by the absence of adequate ventilation and other equipment to remove fumes and dusts. This condition lowers the vitality of the workers and brings on more accidents. The hurry to get out orders introduces a further health hazard through the increased use of solvents to cover defects. In normal times defective pieces would be scrapped. Today in some plants they are doctored with lead, which increases the poison content in the air.

"Health and safety conditions must be improved quickly," says Dr. Morris Raskin, industrial disease consultant formerly on the staff of the UAW Medical Research Institute, or else there will be an alarming increase in accidents and industrial diseases. My office is getting many more calls than in normal times. All health agencies should pool their resources to cope with this critical problem."

As unions negotiate new contracts greater insistence on adequate safety clauses is coming from the bargaining committees.

# Canada's '2nd World War Hero' Found Penniless, Frozen To Death

TORONTO, Canada. — Paul Reynolds Scott was Canada's Second World War hero No. 1. He was the machine-gunner who shot down a German bomber in England. The story was run in all the papers here. For a day he was a hero!

But then he was discharged from the Canadian Army, and was shipped here. He beat his way from Halifax, Nova Scotia, trying to reach his father's home at Port Coquitlan, well over 3,000 miles away. A hero, he was thrown out of the army penniless. Beating his way home, he was killed by the bitter Canadian cold... by the gasping Canadian monopolists and their King Government.

Paul Reynolds Scott was found frozen to death in a railway freight box-car at Empress, Alberta, on Nov. 21. His father, from Port Coquitlan, B.C., identified the body of his son on Friday.

The case of Scott dramatizes the terrible plight of Canada's ex-servicemen of World War No. 2. Thomas Maglader, president of the Ontario command of the Canadian Legion, on Dec. 5th declared:

"We have a new job before us, a new and important part in looking after the veterans of the present conflict. These fellows,

# Midwest Youth Coun. Training School To Open Fri. Jan. 10

Beginning Friday, January 10, and continuing every Friday for the next eight weeks, the Midwest Youth Council training school will be held at the Mark White playground center on Halsted and 30th Street.

Instructors have already been assigned to teach the various subjects. The courses which will be taught at the school are as follows: The History of the Lithuanian Movement; the Character and Structure of the LDS; Organization; Parliamentary Procedure; Current Events.

Members of the LDS should register at their coming branch meetings for the school. A proposal has been made that all new executive boards that were elected should enroll. The school offers an opportunity for the New Executive boards to learn how to conduct a meeting and learn more about the principles and organization structure of the LDS.

On opening night of the school, the students will be furnished with entertainment in the form of movies starring Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians and another on Tobaccoland.

over 17,000 of them already, are discharged from the army—kicked out with only \$35 with which to buy new clothes, many of them in no condition to return to civilian life."



# ANALYZING THE PROBLEMS OF LITH-AMERICAN

Each Lithuanian-American organization, at some time or other, comes face to face with its most important problem: maintaining and increasing its membership.

Ten years ago this problem existed, as well as now. While it is always with us it has become Problem No. 1 today.

What causes it? What are the reasons behind the failure of groups to function in some sections? Why is not the Lithuanian cultural movement as active and widespread as it was ten or fifteen years ago?

The first answer that comes to mind as one tries to formulate the basic difficulties facing us is this: the Lithuanians who came to America and who started these choruses are dying out. They are spending more time at home listening to the radio and not going out to picnics and dances the way they used to.

While apparently logical we find, upon closer examination that this reason for our weaknesses is not true. We find the highly encouraging fact that quite a high proportion of the Lith-American choruses are composed, not of adults, but of young people in their teens and in their twenties. The average age of the chorus members is around 25 not 45.55 or 65 as many would imagine.

If it is not the age of the members—then where is the essential fault behind weak choruses?

**"Politics" and Its Effect on Us**  
At this point we come across argument No. 2.

"Politics" rears its head. The fault is, some say, in the political situation around us and in the political and social views of the people who have been the leaders in Lith-American cultural activity here.

Let us first understand what a portion of our members mean when they say this.

The Lithuanians, the argument goes, are aliens. And as aliens and people whose descendants have not come over on the Mayflower they're suspect in times of crisis. We can see how this works at the present time when we saw Congress pass the Alien Registration Bill which calls for the registration and fingerprinting of all aliens. We also see how this suspicion works when a number of factories and shops refuse to hire anyone to work for them if that person is not a U.S. citizen. This suspicion hurts activity, creating distrust and timidity.

Secondly, Lithuania became a Soviet Republic with Russia this year. Knowing what sort of government Lithuania had under the former administration, a good number of the Lithuanians here, instead of condemning it, approved of the change and said it was for the better.

Those who say our difficulties are political say these two things are wrong: that the Lithuanian here should not say what he honestly thinks about the new Lithuanian government, and that the Lithuanian here should keep his mouth quiet when it comes to discussing politics and to taking sides any sort of political or social argument in America.

If we do this, the argument goes, members who are dropping out because they're afraid, will come back and that people, who now don't feel like taking part in picnics, concerts and affairs, will feel assured and will start being active again.

Well, that's the argument regarding politics and the way in which it affects Lithuanian-American choruses. Let us see how much truth there is in it and what does it mean to us and what we can learn from it.

**Opinion on Events in Lithuania**  
First, let us take this matter

about Lithuania becoming a Soviet country because, in some sections, that really is a pressing issue that needs a bit of explanation.

Briefly, when Lithuania signed with the Soviet government, it had a distinct cutting influence among the Lithuanian people here in America.

A great number of people here felt glad that the Smetona government was out and that a new deal would now be in effect. They felt that their brothers, sisters and friends who remained in Lithuania would be better off under the new government.

On the other hand there were a number of Lith-Americans who didn't like what happened. Some of them owned estates in Lithuania which were confiscated by the government in order to be divided among the farmers. Some of them had interests in Lithuania businesses and in business deals with the old government. Some of the newspapers lost many subscriptions in Europe. Some of them had medals and were on the pension list of the government and so they, and all those who had well-to-do friends in the old country under the old government were angry.

Because of this factional differences among the Liths here were accentuated. You either were for or against Paleckis and the government, you either said yes or no to political questions.

I think there is no question but that this feeling has, to some extent, affected and influenced cultural activities among the choruses and Lithuanian communities, not so much the adult membership for they having friends and relatives in Lithuania, have a clearer idea as to what is going on, but it has affected the younger members.

First of all because, the younger generation, not being close to Lithuania and not as sensitive to what is going on as their parents are, is easily subjects to and affected by the propaganda that is constantly going on around us.

In every way, subtle and outright, the finger of suspicion is pointed at certain leading people. Because of their sympathies with the people of Lithuania they are branded politically and the demand is raised that they be set apart and that nothing be done in cooperation with them.

In this way, political issues and political feeling, is used to cause dissension within the membership, suspicion, distrust and even fear.

You sometimes find this sort of feeling quite common among some groups: a few members, generally young, get up and say: it's okay to sing and to hold dances, it's okay to have our groups going, but for god's sake stay away from politics or from anyone connected with politics. The great number of them believe, honestly and sincerely, that it's to the best interest of the chorus that its members, the Lithuanians, keep their mouths shut when it comes to talking about anything that concerns their lives, their country, our lives, our country.

This feeling, this keep quiet, don't say anything attitude is based upon one thing and generally this one thing only. They're afraid.

Well, they're afraid—of what? It's this: they believe that the Lithuanians as a minority group, as a language group and as a group that is emotionally concerned with the Soviet government in Lithuania—that group should act as if it had a guilty conscience and should lay low on all political questions. They're afraid of small-fry politicians who might move against them—they're afraid that public opinion might, in times of crisis,

turn against them. This fear exists, and is an actuality which every chorus executive must acknowledge and cope with.

Isn't it possible many can ask, for us to hold dances and affairs without getting involved in politics?

There are many ways of looking at the question. Offhand one would say there's nothing difficult about dancing, singing and having a good time without getting mixed up in vital political movements of the day. We do it every time we go out.

In a few individuals this separation of political consciousness and individual activity may work, but not in groups.

For this is the thing we find now: whenever dances are held and a group conducts activity, we find that politics has plenty to do with the success of the dance or the activity. The trouble is not in the type of activity and work the choruses and clubs do (despite what don't do-anypthings may say) but in the effect foreign and domestic affairs have upon members who become frightened, despairing and confused.

To understand this is important, for it means that our weaknesses that arise from misunderstandings on political lines can be corrected. It means that our difficulties are not in the nature of our work and activity but in the intellectual and emotional attitudes of our young people.

Since this is so it means that every such difficulty we face can be solved and corrected by explanation, by discussion and by facing of the facts.

Whenever the problem of political attitude in Lith-American groups arises, it must be faced, answered and explained. No person, no matter who he is, should be allowed to break up a chorus or group by injecting into organizational work biases and hatreds that injure the harmonious working of the group.

We are not interested in what this or that person thinks about this or that person's opinions. We are interested in maintaining our groups and our cultural activities in the face of ignorance, prejudice and fear.

We must reiterate that the freedom of individual expression, in the right of persons to speak up and say what they honestly think, and in the necessity of defending the democratic ideal of life, is the believes of our cultural organizations.

On that issue there can be no compromise—all other issues of political differences that arise out of fear and confusion, can be settled by discussion and explanation, honestly and openly.

## PART II

### WHAT ARE WE STRIVING FOR?

The other week a friend of mine returned from a visit to a small town and I asked how the chorus was going.

"Not so good," he said, shaking his head.

"Why?"

"Well," he said, "most of the fellows are just interested in the bar, in getting pie-eyed every week and in loafing around. Most of the girls seem to be interested in nothing but the fellows."

That sort of an answer makes you think: maybe, after all, we're just wasting out time about choruses and in holding affairs and carrying on the club. Maybe we're wrong in thinking they're worth while because, it seems, a lot don't think so. Maybe we haven't got the right idea—and maybe a beer, a car and a girl is all that's important.

Most of us, at least the people I've come in contact with,

way we've looked at the justification of the choruses. We took for granted that they exist, and have been rather smug in the that's that.

It sounds good and it's true—but it's not enough to satisfy me or any other young person belonging to a Lith group or taking part in the general Lith-American cultural movement.

So ask yourself: what, after all, are we striving for? What are these conferences, these picnics, dances, concerts, affairs, parties, socials, lectures, dramas, and so on for? What do we want from them? What good is it all?

This question, I want you to realize, is no idle bit of philosophizing to test your thinking. It is a question that every club, chorus and organization, that every member, must answer. For upon that answer, in the long run, depends either the success or failure of our activities, of everything we have striven for and fought for. By answering correctly we can hope to survive.

In a few cities the cultural and social movements of the Lithuanians has been weakened. In some cases choruses have ceased to function. Time and time again my friends, upon marriage, have dropped out of activity. Still others, upon entering or leaving college, upon beginning life on a broader scale, have decided the question for themselves: that the Lithuanian movement wasn't worth it.

Are they right?

If they are, what's wrong with us and what can we do about it?

If we want them to be active with us again—if we want choruses to function, and if we want the maintenance of Lithuanian culture, habits and tradition to be more than a stock cliché, it is time for us to think things over.

If people drop out it means that we have failed to offer something they want.

What is it?

First of all, I think, each man and woman wants more out of life than a chance to work, to eat, to sleep and to rest.

Each person I have ever known has within him a sense of the tragedy of life, and, even more, a sense of the dignity that comes with being an individual and a man.

This dignity, this consciousness of life in all its major aspects, comes out of a person in many ways. Go to the saloon where Lithuanian tailors, farmers, machinists, laborers and just plain workers sing. Listen to them and what they sing about: childhood in Lithuania, faint memories of people they knew, of good times they had, of their ambitions, their hopes, their lives when they came to America in their youth.

A man and woman want companionship, understanding, a chance to meet and mingle with people with common memories, common experiences. Why are picnics so popular? Not for the beers and drinks, for that could be had any time—but for simple pleasures of friendship, of emotions and feelings commonly experienced and enjoyed.

### WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE NEED AND WANT

We want young people to join our choruses. What do they want and what can offer them? Crudely expressed, girls come because there are boys, and boys come because there are girls. But let us go into that a little deeper, what is needed by them? What do young men and women want?

I think it is this: levels upon which a young person can meet another and exchange ideas, feelings, experiences and emotions. Young people enjoy each other,

love and marry because of ideas, feelings, experiences and emotions.

What does the Lithuanian cultural movement offer to them? What does it give to answer these basic human desires we have just touched upon? What should it offer?

The answer must be, I believe, that the Lithuanian movement must offer each person the chance to express himself as a human being—the chance to develop his personality and individuality with other human beings like himself.

This chance for expression is what we need. This is what everything we do is for—for the chance to be a human being, to fulfill each person's natural desires for beauty in life, for order, for understanding and sympathy in life.

How can this be done? The things we do and our activity must center more upon these broad avenues of expression.

A dance and a meeting, a meeting and a dance—these things while important in themselves are not enough. In themselves they do not supply the real needs of the people—life is not made up of only dances and meetings.

These needs, these human needs, which I've tried to outline can be filled only by broadening out our activity to include all activities which are necessary to express human desire and human personality.

What are these activities? They manifest themselves whenever you do anything that makes you a finer, more intelligent and feeling person.

Don't be satisfied with dances and meetings—nothing lasting can be built on them alone. Every other phase of human experience must be gone into if what we do, if what every Lithuanian community and group does, is to draw closer to the people who are slipping away.

Singing and music is one thing, but it must be singing and music that enriches everyone. A song carelessly sung upon a stage does no one any good. A play sloppily produced, childishly directed and insincerely acted may amuse for a moment but afterwards each person in it will ask: So what? What did I get out of it? If we want anything lasting, if we want to get deeper into the people, every effort put into a song or play must be on a higher—more sincere, level. More effort must be put into it.

There are people of talent among us: we must develop and improve their avenues of expression, give them the chance to appear before the people. Some of you may say that the Lith people are not prepared to appreciate music and singing of a higher grade, that all they want is the polka and any old folk song—all right, give the people the chance to learn. Where are the demonstrations of good playing and good singing? Where are those who will explain to us just what Lithuania has given to the world in the way of music and culture? Where are our Lithuanian men of letters who can interpret modern life and tell us what they see, experience and feel? Where are our painters, our designers our artists who exhibit their work and show the people what they can do? Where are our dance groups? Our short story writers? Poets? Lecturers? Actors? Actresses? Thinkers? and dreamers? Where are the levels upon which our young people can meet each other and understand each other? Are picnics and dances

(Continued Page 4)

# CLUB NEWS - ACTIVITIES - SPORTS - SOCIALS

## ALL OUT FOR THE LITHUANIAN NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

Ring in the New Year by attending the New Year's Eve Banquet and celebration to be held in Cicero at the Liberty Hall on 14th St. and 49th Court. The 2nd District of the LDS and the ALDDL District in conjunction with the LDS branch in Cicero and the Midwest Youth Council are sponsoring this affair.

Delicious turkey dinners will be served at the banquet.

Solists have been invited to delight the attendants with musical renditions. Mrs. Abeck and Mrs. Dockus will sing several of their duet selections. There will be a few short talks by different speakers as to the purpose and meaning of the affair etc.

Those who are planning on making New Year's resolutions, bring your list and together with the others drink a toast that they may be kept for the duration of the New Year.

There will be community singing of many good old Lithuanian songs. The orchestra will swing out with a variety of music, including polkas, waltzes and whatever else may be required. So, for an evening of fun and enjoyment, round up your gangs and come out to the Liberty Hall and celebrate like you've never celebrated before.

Tickets can be purchased from any LDS member. Price, 75 cents in advance.

## L. D. S. MERRY-GO-ROUND

Unscrupulously many have enjoyed the Christmas holiday by exchanging gifts and greeting one another. While to some it may have been just another day of rest.

This month not only brings holidays but it allows also for several L.D.S.'s birthdays. To Joe "Mike" Peculunas, Houston Zebraitis, Jessie Shaiko and Mary Shimkus old Father Time added another year. It may be a belated birthday greeting, nevertheless, it still is extended and may they await many more of them.

So many have been occupied by working in sweat-shops for manufacturers and concerns who have been doing a record smashing business this year during the rushing holiday season that a little time was allowed to even grasp a few moments to make new resolutions for the New Year.

the only foundations upon which life is built? Of course not.

Where is the culture and dignity which is the justification, and practically the only justification for the Lithuanian movement?

### NEED TO BROADEN ACTIVITIES

We have these things, you will say,—of course we do—too often like unwanted step—children that are obligations and difficulties. We have these activities, of course, I don't go the other extreme and say we have nothing.

The problem and duty before us is—the spreading and broadening of these activities, of this cultural heritage of ours.

In saying all this I am not casting any aspersion upon groups or individuals who have been leading our work—what I am doing and what I have been doing is saying one thing, and one thing alone: that the existence of our groups depends upon offering more and more to our membership the things which enable them to understand and appreciate human dignity and experience. In the final analysis, this dignity and experience can be had only through the cultural and intellectual activity which we must now turn our attention to.

It is, of course, difficult for an entire cultural movement to sit back one bright sunny day and take account of itself. None of us can say, "Now's the time to think," and presto! chorus, club and fraternal branch start thinking.

As a reminder slip, a few lines in for dear L.D.S.: That you'll resolve to work ardently and practically in the future for the L.D.S.—Try to get new members in the LDS and by all means keep your branch activities on top. You will undoubtedly think of more and will add them to your list. By and by in the coming issues more will be announced of what the Midwest Youth Council has proposed to do this coming year. At the present time too many goodies have been consumed and holiday spirits are floating in the air to concentrate on work. Also the personal gossip is omitted until you become very naughty and smash your way into this column.

Bring your list of resolutions and friends to the New Years Eve banquet to Cicero, Liberty Hall on 14th Street and 49th Court where everyone will join in ringing in the New Year. A turkey dinner will be served and an enjoyable evening is at your disposal. The committee has arranged a musical program, of which out of town guests will render.

## Marriage Alone Insufficient to Obtain Draft Exemption

Marriage is not sufficient ground for deferred classification—the registrant must show there is a dependent—State Draft Director Paul G. Armstrong said in a statement emphasizing that no local draft board classification is permanent.

"The deferment of any registrant," he said, "is subject to termination whenever the basis for such deferment ceases to exist. Every registrant must notify his board of any change which would require his reclassification."

"Also the local board will reclassify any registrant whenever it receives new information warranting such action. Reclassification also may occur as a result of any changes in the rules and regulations of the Selective Service Act."

### Many Registrants Misinformed

Armstrong's statement was intended, he said to correct a general misunderstanding on the part of registrants concerning their classification. He said a great many believe that if they are married, they will be automatically deferred.

"Marriage itself doesn't constitute a deferment," he said. "Class III deferments can only come from dependency. It makes no difference when the man was married. If the wife is dependent on him for support, he should be deferred in class III."

### Local Boards Decide Status

"However, the regulations plainly state that local boards shall be diligent in preventing registrants from evading military service when their status with respect to dependents does not warrant their deferment."

"Local boards are instructed to determine all questions of class III deferments with sympathetic regard for the registrant and his dependents."

Last but not least the LDS Midwest Youth Committee wishes all ye a **Happy and Prosperous New Year.**

## The Greatest Navel Battle in The World

By Mike Quin

"Tell me, Murphy, what is democracy?" asked Mr. O'Brien.

"'Tis the right of free-born men to govern themselves," said Mr. O'Brien.

"Then where does the Ford Motor Company or the Standard Oil Company fit in to democracy? Is there any democracy in them?"

"None whatever, O'Brien. Not a dime's worth, not a nickel's worth, not a penny's worth."

"But according to them, Murphy, democracy is their right to own as much property or wealth as they can get their hands on and rule over it with as much authority as an ancient Caesar. It doesn't make sense."

"They love democracy, O'Brien, as long as they can rule over it through their lobbies and stooges. But as soon as the people take hold of things and start using the ballot box to vote themselves pay raises, they lose interest in democracy and start bellowing for fascism. That's what happened in Spain."

### 'Tis But A Navel

"Tell me, Murphy, why shouldn't we own the earth together and operate it democratically? There is plenty of oil and land and iron and cotton and lumber and tools and anything you can name. And we produced all these things by our own labor. Why shouldn't we own it all together?"

"We do own it all, O'Brien." "Don't be foolish, Murphy. 'Tis all owned and partitioned off by the various millionaires and we have to hope they'll give us work or we can't live."

"How come they own it, O'Brien?"

"That they have the papers—the deeds and all."

"And suppose we tear up the papers or burn them?"

"You can't do that, Murphy. You'd have no way of telling what belonged to who."

"Yes you would, O'Brien." Murphy pulled out his shirt and exposed his navel.

"What the devil 'tis this?" asked O'Brien.

"'Tis the secret of economics and sociology," said Murphy. "Every living person who's born has one, but few indeed know what it is."

"'Tis but a navel," said O'Brien.

"That is where you are mistaken," said Murphy. "The capitalistic propagandists would have us think it is no more than that. In reality it is our proof of birth—the supreme signature and seal of nature entitling every man or woman or child who can show one to an equal share in the goodness of the earth. It supercedes all deeds and mortgages and legal papers."

"Indeed it never occurred to me in that light."

"You should study Oriental philosophy, O'Brien. They have a famous statue of Budha contemplating his navel. And why, may I ask?"

"You've got me, Murphy. I have no idea."

"'Tis because the navel is the symbol of human equality. 'Tis the official badge of nature entitling man to walk erect on the earth."

### Marx Had The Answer

I believe you're right, Murphy."

"Certainly I'm right. For centuries mankind was mystified by the statue of Budha contemplating his navel. They didn't grasp what it meant. Then along came a fellow named Karl Marx who figured it out."

"Then you mean that a navel has higher authority than the signature of a banker?"

"It is nature's own mark of certification, O'Brien, entitling you to eat, work and live. The seals and signatures of banks and corporations are of secondary importance."

"If what you say is true, Murphy—and I don't see how any sensible human being could deny it—then the lands and industries are already our collective property. All we have to do is show our certifications of authority and demand justice."

"'Tis that simple, O'Brien."

"Aye, but suppose the bankers and millionaires won't recognize our certifications? Suppose they say they're forgeries?"

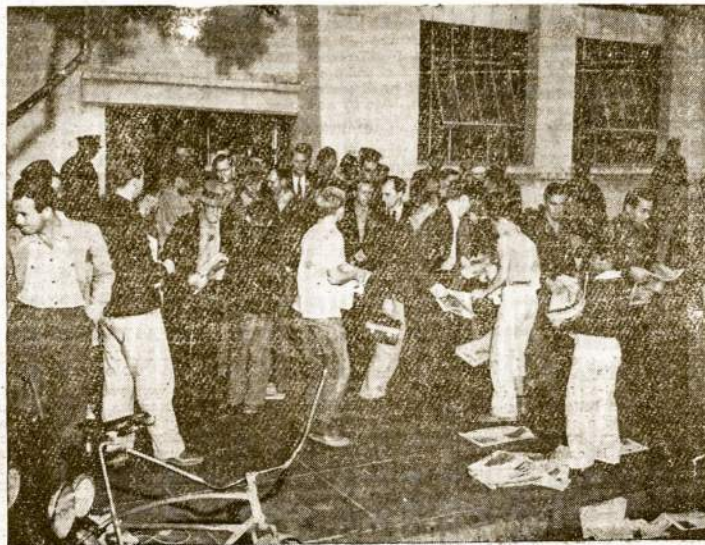
"In that case the law must be enforced, O'Brien. Already in Europe the people are waking up to the certifications of their right to live. They'll be demanding an accounting before it's over."

"What do you suppose will be the outcome?"

"In all probability, O'Brien, there will be the greatest navel battle in history. After that, men will own the earth together and operate it democratically for the good of all."

Try using half pineapple juice and half water for basting pork roasts. It gives a new and different flavor. Or lay a slice or two of pineapple on top of the roast in the oven. A few cloves stuck into the meat before it goes in the oven will also make a fine contribution.

Salt is good for other things besides seasoning food. If your electric iron doesn't slide easily, or sticks on fabric, sprinkle loose salt on a piece of paper and run the iron across several times. hot.



AIRCRAFT DRIVE BOOMS: Workers at the Douglas Aircraft Co. plant in Los Angeles get union literature from CIO organizers as the drive in the aircraft industry moves on, spurred by the Vultree strike victory.