

# Courier Journal

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## Fr. Higgins Says:

History Is Made

From the point of view of the headlines, the CIO convention was a rather dull affair, at least on the surface. The convention opened with a bang on a Monday morning with a remarkable address by Archbishop Cushing, received with enthusiasm by almost everybody except the labor editor of The Daily Worker and some of the Communist conferees. And then followed a series of speeches by the labor leaders, which were generally well received, until the appearance of Secretary of State Marshall on Wednesday afternoon.

The more fact that Marshall appeared on the program, clearly aside from anything that he might have said or left unsaid, was a sight new in itself. For never before in the history of the United States had a Secretary of State addressed a national labor convention. Why, I don't know. But those are the facts.

MARSHALL GAVE a good talk and was very well received—again by everybody except the Communist and fellow-travelers, who refused to accept him even the elementary courtesy of standing as he entered the hall. Thereby, incidentally, they earned the disgust of the overwhelming majority of the delegates who, like everyone else with a sense of patriotism and ordinary decency, expect American citizens—at least when they are out in public—to show a modicum of respect towards a distinguished member of the President's official family. One feels quite certain that these same Communist and fellow-travelers would have jumped to their feet and applauded the secretary enthusiastically had his name been Molotov or Vishinski.

But perhaps the Communist lack of manners, by the very fact of its being so repulsive to the decent American citizens who make up the bulk of a CIO convention, was providential. For hardly had the Secretary of State left the hotel when the anti-Communist majority in the convention began to call a spade a spade—for the first time, incidentally, in several years.

LAST YEAR and the year before, the so-called Communist problem in the CIO had been so pedaled in the interest of unity—perhaps wisely so. But this year, thanks in part at least to the favorable atmosphere created by the unprecedented appearance of the Secretary of State, the lid was off. And by the time that President Philip Murray clamped the lid on again—in a masterful summary of the CIO's position on foreign policy—it was evident to this observer and to many others that the Communists are not quite as smart as they think they are, and not as influential within the councils of the CIO as they have sometimes been given credit for being. In short, they took a drubbing, although, of course, you never would have thought so had you read The Daily Worker the following morning.

I am mindful, of course, that when the vote was finally taken on the foreign policy resolution, there was unanimous support for all of its provisions. And that, therefore, Mr. Murray was technically correct when he said in closing the debate that "there has been no disagreement about the resolution." It all depends upon how the wording of the resolution is interpreted.

DURING THE DEBATE from the floor of the convention the pro-Communists interpreted it one way, the anti-Communists another. Mr. Murray, in summarizing the debate, patiently analyzed the provisions of the resolution and unquestionably attached to each of them the meaning favored by the anti-Communists during the debate. Actually, therefore, the 800 delegates, pro-Communist and anti-Communist alike, when they finally voted, were voting willy-nilly in favor of Mr. Murray's interpretation of the resolution, which interpretation was Americanism at its noblest and its finest.

To the writer the fact that the pro-Communists could bring themselves to vote for Murray's interpretation of the resolution—certainly not the interpretation for which they seemed to be pressing during the debate and not by any means the policy they are pursuing in those organizations over which they have control—is a further sign, if one were needed, of their lack of integrity. It is a very pleasant surprise if some of these Communists and fellow-travelers who, in effect, voted for the Marshall plan at Boston, don't turn around next week or next month and secretly try to sabotage it.

THE IMPORTANT THING to remember about the CIO is not that it has some Communists within its ranks (that's to be expected), but that, in spite of the Communists, it manages to perform such a marvelous service for its members and for the community at large. On several occasions during the Boston convention Mr. Murray remarked to the delegates, with emphasis and with deep personal feeling: "God help the United States if it didn't have a strong labor movement to carry on the struggle for social and economic justice."

Mr. Murray, who was paid such a high personal tribute on the first day of the convention by Archbishop Cushing, is perfectly correct. The importance of the CIO is that it keeps struggling, in fair weather and foul, for the social and economic betterment of the masses of the people and for the social and economic betterment of the nation as a whole. If we run into another serious depression, it will be in spite of and not because of the activities of the CIO and the A. F. of L. God help us all if either of these two great labor organizations is seriously weakened by the Taft-Hartley Act or by some of the vicious anti-labor legislation which has been enacted recently in several of the states.

Do You Remember? 35 Years Ago—Oct. 27, 1912 Bishop Thomas F. Hickey presided at a Golden Jubilee Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Albany, celebrated by the Rev. J. M. McGrath of Auburn, also a former pastor.

16 Years Ago—Oct. 28, 1931 Blessing of a new organ and breaking of ground for a new convent were announced by the Rev. John J. Eiler, pastor of St. John's Church, Greece.

6 Years Ago—Oct. 20, 1941 Reorganization of the Catholic Courier-Journal corporation proposed by His Excellency Bishop Hickey took place with the Bishop having the final word and the board of directors.

## "King for a Day?"



## As We See It By Dan Patrick

SOME OF the boys are coming home this week.

In strange contrast to the colorful and noisy welcome accorded their buddies, these boys are returning to the funeral cadence of muted drumbeats.

The triumphant music of blaring bands is denied them. Instead there is only the tear-swelling notes of taps. As if in mute preparation for this mournful home-coming, nature has stripped away the early autumn finery and the mist of late October hangs like a shroud over a scene of silence and tears.

Yes, these boys will never know the triumph of victorious armies marching home from the wars. They will never be able to read the "Well Done Welcome Home" signs which spot our coastline harbors.

They have come home to us in flag-draped caskets. They are our honored dead and this is their journey's end.

IN THE ACADEMIC discussions of war and its awful consequences, we haven't quite reckoned with the return of these dead.

To us they were buried in well-trimmed cemeteries all over the world. Their graves were surrounded by neat white crosses and the flag for which they died curled slowly in the breeze which rustled across these silent and hallowed acres.

But now it's all different. The restless dead have been brought to their graves and brought

back home more than two years after the last shot of World War II has been fired.

With their return comes a rush of memories, heartaches and tears not to mention a tinge of personal reproach as we survey the remnants of the brave, new world for which they died.

As the callous rolls through hushed streets, carrying the body of an unknown hero, we wonder what he would say were he to arise from his untimely grave and survey this sorry world of ours.

Where, he might ask, are the once shining promises embodied in the Four Freedoms? Where, he might ask, is the world of the post-war era which rose like some mirage on every battlefield of World War II to encourage men to fight and die that it might be transformed into even a modified reality?

Where, he might ask, is the spirit of unity which welded this nation into a fighting machine of great power during the war?

PERHAPS, IT IS a blessing that this fallen warrior can't rise and point an accusing finger at each and every one of us.

As individuals we must share the collective guilt for our failure to keep the fires of liberty burning on the fields where he bought that liberty with his very life.

Our greatest failure of the moment, perhaps, is localized at a place called Lake Success.

ONLY THIS WEEK the Holy Father pointed to the United Nations as a source of world accord despite the discouragements of the past few months. He said:

"It is no less true that nobody who has taken to his breast as a sacred obligation the fight for a worthy peace should renounce the use of this possibility, however limited it may be, to stir up the conscience of the world from a place so high and so clear even though many indications seem to demonstrate that its motives will not be more, for a longer or shorter time, than a voice crying in the wilderness."

That best expresses the only hope we can offer this unknown soldier to whom we owe such a tremendous debt. His body should serve as a reminder to us of the awful penalty of war.

May his soul, already judged in eternity, rest in the peace for which he fought and for which we pray.

## The Boys Come Home

cess where the general assembly of the United Nations is in session. Here we have leaders of world political and economic thought who are united neither in word nor in deed.

But our warrior, if he could speak through those lips now cold in death for nearly three years, would counsel against despair. He would advise us to grasp any straw, however fragile it might be. If it kept alive the flame of hope for a world organization which might possibly avert another catastrophe.

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## The Bishop's Appointments

NOVEMBER

2 Sunday—Veterans Administration, Bath — Mass and Benediction—8:30 A. M.

St. Francis Xavier, Confirmation—2:30 P. M.

New York State Armory, Memorial Tribute to Marine County Dead of World War II—4:30 P. M.

Immaculate Conception, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

3 Monday—St. Charles Borromeo, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

4 Tuesday—Nazareth Academy, Mass—9 A. M.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

5 Wednesday—St. Andrew's, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

7 Friday—St. Patrick's, St. Monica Sodality Mass—9 A. M.

St. Bernard's Seminary—Students' Conference—5:30 P. M.

8 Sunday—New York City, St. Cecilia's Alumni Banquet.

10 Monday—Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Low Mass for Diocesan School Children 10 A. M.

Powers Hotel—Banquet of the Diocesan Laymen's Retreat League—6:30 P. M.

11 Tuesday—Pro-Cathedral, Pontifical Mass, Investiture of Monsignor—10:30 A. M.

Hotel Seneca, Luncheon for Diocesan Clergy—7 P. M.

12 Wednesday—Washington, D. C., Annual Meeting of the American Hierarchy—November 12-13.

16 Sunday—Chicago, Catholic Extension Society Celebration in honor of Bishop O'Brien's fortieth anniversary with the society.

18 Tuesday—Holy Rosary Hall, Rosarian Banquet—8:30 P. M.

19 Wednesday—St. Anthony's, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

20 Thursday—St. Patrick's, Elmira—Adult Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

21 Friday—Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary, Elmira—Reception Ceremony—9 A. M.

22 Saturday—St. Bernard's Seminary—St. Cecilia Concert—7:15 P. M.

23 Sunday—St. Patrick's, Corning—Corning Council, Knights of Columbus Golden Jubilee Mass—10 A. M.

St. Vincent's, Corning—Confirmation—3 P. M.

St. Mary's, Corning—Confirmation—4 P. M.

St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights—Confirmation—7:30 P. M.

24 Monday—St. Vincent's, Churchville—Confirmation—7:30 P. M.

25 Tuesday—St. Francis Assisi, Confirmation—7:45 P. M.

## Fr. Gillis Says:

"Slave Labor"

THE TAFT-HARTLEY BILL has been condemned by certain union leaders on the ground that it creates and enforces "Slave Labor." It is not my purpose here and now to point out the merits and demerits of that bill. But I must say that those who talk about Slave Labor here in the United States either don't know what Slave Labor is, or if they do they are uttering not only a wild exaggeration but a falsehood.

However, the use of the phrase may serve a good purpose. It may lead members of the unions and others to look into a recent book written in collaboration by David J. Dallin and Boris I. Nicolaevsky, "Forced Labor in Soviet Russia."

In fact you might say that a great number of experts worked together to produce this amazing book. I say amazing I might use the word "incredible" were the facts not so well authenticated. Perhaps the best verification of all is that of some of the slaves themselves who must have been by miracle—escaped, or who, like some of the million and a half Poles were granted amnesty. There is no amnesty for Russians or for Russia's prisoners of war. Somewhere between ten and twenty millions of them work without wages and in conditions of horrible cruelty, in mines (salt, coal, iron, gold) or on great public projects.

IN THE DALLIN book (I call it this for brevity's sake) there are named and listed no less than 125 centers of slave labor in European and Asiatic Russia. Dr. Dallin quotes Kravchenko's "I Chose Freedom" in which that former Soviet official speaks of "vast armies of prisoners whose ranks during the war swelled to unprecedented size."

Kravchenko says that the Soviet officials themselves admitted that there were twenty million slaves, not including fourteen to sixteen million boys and girls forcibly torn away from their parents and assigned to regions and industries in which man-power shortages were sharp.

Dallin says, after summarizing and analyzing a number of other estimates, that there are between eight and twelve million men (not counting women and children) in slave camps and that the men are 85 to 90 percent of the total. He goes on to say that the system is "not the invention of a diabolic mind, but an organic element, a normal component of the Communist social structure."

Reviewing the Dallin book in The New Leader, a moderate Socialist weekly, Dr. John Dewey of Columbia University emphasizes the hypocrisy that goes along with the cruelty of the Soviet Slave Labor institution.

HE QUOTES MOLOTOV who said: "An unemployed worker in capitalist countries will envy the living and working conditions of prisoners in our northern regions." Dr. Dewey calls it "hypocrisy." Others less squeamish about the use of adjectives and epithets would call Molotov's statement "just a d— lie."

Lying is an essential component of the Soviet technique. Anyone who wishes to learn how the Russians put over the lie on Henry Wallace, when he visited some of the camps, may read in Dallin's preface how the sick Muscovites pulled the wool over Henry's eyes.

Dallin doesn't seem willing to excuse Henry on the ground of naïveté. He says, "He should have been aware of the fact that every yard of the ground of these cities and towns (which he visited) was drenched with the blood of Russian 'common men'; and that the 'collective labor camps' located in this one of the coldest regions of the globe, are the most cruel and murderous institutions of our inhuman world." Yet Mr. Wallace did not even mention these camps and their inmates.



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