

We Dissent!

A LOOK AT LABOR

By A. C. Tandy

"THE DISAPPOINTMENT" will probably go down in history without other declarations by famous Americans, such as "Don't give up the ship." In years to come, history examinations will ask students to identify the author of this pointed statement.

JOHN L. LEWIS, of course, used this term—certainly in announcing the withdrawal of his United Mine Workers from the American Federation of Labor for the second time within a decade. The president of some 400,000 coal miners has had a checkered labor career.

FOR TWENTY YEARS Lewis was a stalwart of the AFL. Only for his stormy personality he might have succeeded Samuel Gompers as president of the AFL in 1934. In 1936 he withdrew from the AFL to form the C.I.O. His coal miners became the foundation of this new labor movement. When, however, the C.I.O. in 1940 refused to follow his lead in fighting for the defeat of President Roosevelt, Lewis and the United Mine Workers withdrew from the C.I.O.

FROM 1941 TO 1943 the U.M.W. remained an independent union with no allegiance to either labor federation. In 1943 he returned to the AFL. Reunion with the AFL was apparently a step toward realizing Lewis' greatest ambition—to become head of all organized labor. He first hoped to assume the presidency of the AFL and then attempted to unite the AFL and C.I.O.

AT THE LAST convention of the AFL Lewis not only did not become its president, but he suffered a resounding defeat. Lewis wanted the AFL to go on record as refusing to sign the anti-Communist affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley Act. Not only was his proposal rejected but Lewis lost his position as a key official of that labor federation.

THIS DEFEAT however, was probably not the reason why the United Mine Worker chief withdrew from the AFL. More likely, Lewis expected to be made the head of the new Education and Political League which was established at the convention and which, like the PAC of the C.I.O., is expected to play a vigorous part in the 1948 elections. Lewis is a Republican. The AFL will probably support President Truman. As a member of the AFL Lewis would have been embarrassed in the 1948 campaign. As an independent, he can decide for himself what political allegiances he should form.

THE LESSON of his withdrawal is a lesson that appears everywhere in the history of the American labor movement. Whenever labor has entered

the field, the labor movement has been divided and has been at war with itself. Through otherwise labor unions would form a united front, politics has divided them.

AT THIS MOMENT Lewis is supposed to be an unpopular figure. Carteblanchers have a field day in holding "old ironjaw" up to ridicule. Yet Lewis is respected by a great many Americans. He is a strong man. He is a rugged individualist. His economic views are as different from those expressed by the National Association of Manufacturers. He may make things uncomfortable for employers at times, but he gets along with them because he speaks their language.

LEWIS is an opportunist. He has no labor philosophy. His opinions vary with his circumstances. Although he "hates" government intervention as a matter of principle, it was he, more than any other labor leader, who took advantage of the "New Deal" labor sympathies. In 1933 he was poor and his union was broke. In 1947 he is—not need government support, as he calls every attempt by the government to deal with labor problems as "socialism" to disgruntle.

IN 1937, when the country was in a recession and his miners suffering with the rest of the country, Lewis considered that the "guaranteed annual wage" was the only solution to the problem of labor's security. In 1943 when his miners were "working and receiving good pay" he stated that the "guaranteed annual wage" was merely the attempt by the government to take over collective bargaining and to destroy unionism.

THE PRESIDENT of the U.M.W. until the day he dies will never cease to catch the imagination of the American public, no matter how little idea he has of rights and wrongs. He will always be a very interesting and a worthy gentleman.

Mission Vacations Urged on Priests

London—(NC)—The Rev. Dr. John Neenan, new superior of the Catholic Missionary Society, sent a personal letter to every priest in Britain this week asking them to give up a week of their annual summer vacation to help spread the Faith to remote parts of the country.

The society, whose aim is the evangelization of Britain, plans to have relays of priests spending their vacation in rural villages, offering Mass there in the mornings and preaching on the village green or in a local hall in the evenings.

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Text of Holy Father's Christmas Message

In view of the indications that date in 1947 a general agreement had been reached between the leaders of the world during the Second World War, the Pope has decided to publish this message.

The pontiff has finally decided not to do the short message which he had intended. Instead, you will note, he has written a longer message to the leaders of the world.

He has decided to do this because the great powers would have serious difficulties respecting the respects brought upon the human race.

Forced migration and emigration have been suffered later, although the moral consequences have been enormous as well as the injury and the spirit of the rights of nations. When this could be interpreted, had the leaders of justice which had been rightly observed at the time of the armistice been perpetrated by the sides should also reflect similarly when it came about against them?

WHO CAN DETERMINE what should be done and what should be done? The Pope has decided to do this because he is not alone of the human race, but the majority, and international agreement of progress, what should be done, what attitude should be taken?

It is obvious that a stronger advertising and peaceful propaganda and mutual peace, which would result in the reduction of the number of the world's inhabitants, would provide a favorable situation for an otherwise favorable situation.

All better, then, to those of every nation who wish to privilege or make no labor to begin

the fulfillment of such a noble enterprise. Let them not be troubled at the construction

which separates them from us, nor the opposition they will have to meet, and which probably in those days before the Second World War, the Pope has decided to do this because he has grown more anxious in eliminating another war of service, preserving freedom, relating to mitigate the effects of the disappearance of Italy and power. Let them not be concerned that the base is at hand—

We trust and hope in Our privilege—where the King of Peace will grant victory to those who battle for the cause with a right intention and with the weapons of peace.

THE HUMAN RACE, then,

will be powerful to emerge from the present crisis and desolation, and to go forward to a more harmonious future where it reaches and creates the basis of division and discord by means of a sincere and brotherhood working all classes, all races and all nations with the one hand of love.

THE INVITABLE outcome of such a situation is the splitting of humanity into powerful and rival groups, whose highest law of life and conduct is a basic and invincible mistrust. Here is at once the tragic paradox and curse of our time.

That is why we would remind you, dear sons and daughters, that we "celebrate tomorrow the birth of Him from Whose lips one day escaped the cry, 'Veritas liberabit eum' (John 8:32); 'The truth (which is His teaching) shall make you free.' Never, perhaps, has this cry resounded so loudly as it does today in a world hungry for peace but forced to groan beneath the oppressive yoke of falsehood.

Let all Christians, too, make answer— to whom Who was made flesh that He might be for all "truth, truth and life."

In a prayerful pie that the truth may find its way back to the hearts of the rulers of nations, where yes or no may determine the fate of the world. And with the truth may there stand out upon the earth no despotic mirth, but Bethlehem's bright star of peace divine.

The Church, though her heart is full of love and sympathy for these erring souls, cannot fail to denounce error, in loyalty to her Divine Founder's declaration: "He who is not with Me is against Me" (Matt. 12: 30). She cannot but tear the mark from the "fingers of God" (Job 12: 3) in some forward as we were in sheep's clothing (cf. Matt. 25: 1), as founders and destroyers of a new golden age. She cannot but warn the faithful not to let themselves be turned from the path of rectitude or be deluded by fallacious promises.

Our position between the two opposing camps is exempt from every prejudice, from any偏見, for this or that people, for this or that bloc of nations, as it is foreign to any sort of temporal consideration. To be with Christ or against Christ that is the whole question.

Each of the opposing sides believes itself constrained to this distrust, as by a duty of elementary prudence. Obviously this very fact leads to the building of an immense wall which renders hopeless every attempt to bring to the bewildest human family the blessings of true peace.

HAVE WE NOT had occasions, even during the last few weeks, to experience the tangible results of this mistrust? Have we not seen a most important conference of the great powers adjourn without having taken those essential and decisive steps along the road to peace for which the world in its anguish was waiting?

There can be but one way out of the conflict to write the cult of "Individuality" has brought the world to the brink of destruction and war. Men are still unenlightened and already the dim light of a new century flickers on the horizon.

Men of the post-war period could have easily confronted this generosity with their own moral superiority; unfortunately

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If, however, the Devil were to plan a plot the Pope and others would be surprised when they learn the base and diabolical origin of the Pope's Christmas message.

WE ALIVE DURING today's civilization, know no boundaries. They never fail to penetrate the minds and hearts of the Pope and others who are the victims of Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, and other dictators who might render very difficult to Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the salvation of the entire world.

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