

LABOR-MANAGEMENT TODAY



INSIDE AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL WORLD
with **LOUIS F. BUDENZ**

This is the ninth of a series of timely articles of labor-management relations by Mr. Budenz, former editor of the Communist newspaper, The Daily Worker, who has returned to the Catholic Church. He is now professor of economics at Fordham University.

IX. The Communists in the Unions

On January 16th of last year an episode occurred which deserved wider attention than it received. The New York World Telegram on that day started its readers with a big front page story. Harry Bridges, "the West Coast labor leader," so the story went, had been caught in a New York City apartment conference with William Z. Foster, national chairman of the Communist Party, John Williamson, that group's "Labor Secretary," and two other leading Communists. The conference was being held just at the time of a big shipping strike on the East Coast and when the Reds were eager to thrust a political knife into the back of Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, who had broken with them.

Although this story linked Bridges up with the Communists in a manner which had always been denied by the Reds, none of the Communist leaders refuted that account. The apartment in which the conference was reported to have taken place was that of Murray Winocur, suspended this past month from the presidency of the Radio Division of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association by that union's executive board for refusing to sign a non-Communist affidavit.

Apartment conferences of this character are the very life blood of Communist intrigue within the union movement. They go on constantly, constituting from 60 to 75 per cent of the so-called Communist Party's activities. At the January hearings of the Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities of the State of Washington, more such meetings with Bridges were disclosed by witnesses who held or had held high positions in the West Coast trade unions.

In the February trial of Harold Christoffel, former president of the Allis-Chalmers local of the United Automobile Workers, the apartment house conference was again revealed as the chosen means of contact between the Soviet fifth column and its leading agents in the unions.

Thus behind the back of the American workers, in utter contempt for them, the Communists carry on their conspiratorial preparations and activities for the capture of the labor organizations. That is something which no one interested in labor-management relations can overlook or evade. It is ironical that the Communists use the phrase, "labor emancipation," overtime in order to bring about labor's enslavement. If there were any lingering doubts about that, they are dissipated by the scholarly book, "Forced Labor in Soviet Russia," by David Dallin and Boris Nicolaevsky, published by the Yale University Press.

Fifteen to twenty million souls are compelled to work at slave labor in the Soviet Empire, making shoes for the Red Army, engaging in lumbering, gold and metal mining. It is a gruesome scene. The overwhelming facts of that volume should be brought into every labor union hall in the United States, for the complete enlightenment of our working people.

In like manner, the Communists in every country outside Soviet Russia seek to control the labor unions for the purposes of the Soviet dictatorship rather than for the welfare of the workers. This can be quickly ascertained in the United States from the twistings and turnings of the Reds in their attitude toward the unions.

This includes their formation of separate "red" trade unions, attempting to break up the American Federation of Labor organizations and (AFL) strikes in typical labor spy fashion, when Moscow wanted that done. Then, the sudden turn toward entry into the AFL affiliates, when the order in that direction came from the Soviet capital.

Finally, they developed the Red infiltration of the CIO, which was one of the most disastrous events for the American workers. Some of the latter harm is being remedied now, with the removal of all Communists from the CIO national headquarters and other like measures within that labor center. But a big job still lies ahead.

ONE DIFFICULTY in dealing with the Communists in the unions is that many people still do not know how to recognize a Soviet fifth columnist, although this is a comparatively easy matter. The same confusion exists even in a larger measure in "intellectual" circles, where the Reds frequently have a Roman holiday through their use of deceit and disguise.

Perhaps too much has been written against Communism in general and not enough about how Communism actually operates on the ground floor of our national life. Pope Pius XI has appreciated the Reds' method of which we must all be aware—that is, their employment of "perfidy, deceit and trickery."

NEW CONGRATULATES OLD



On the occasion of his first profession at the Marianist Preparatory in Beacon, N. Y., Brother Norman Niloski, S.M., ex-servant man, congratulates Brother Bernard Wepplmann, S.M., jubilant, who renewed his holy vows at the same ceremony. Seventy-five years ago, in 1873, Brother Bernard made his first profession. (NC Photos).

The Dominican priest-author contends that the story of Fatima has excellent professional value in picture possibilities. "Fatima is a more compelling story than 'Bernadette,'" he says. "I think the movies are asleep to its possibilities."

The earmarks of the Communist are not difficult to detect, if some energy and observation are put into the task. He is one who changes as the Communist line changes. That is his first characteristic. If a man who formerly was against the "imperialist war" during the Hitler-Stalin alliance period and then enthusiastically turned to chanting for the "Second Front" when Russia was attacked is now busy laboring the Marshall Plan, promoting Wallace for President and finding excuses for Soviet aggression, that man is beyond doubt a Communist.

Sometimes you will not be able at once to get a man's full history in this respect. If then you discover him promoting the present fringe objective of the Communists—antagonism to any American aid to Europe, the intense championship of Henry Wallace and apologies for Soviet brutality—you can have one further and an acid test to apply. That is to compel a showdown on his part in regard to Soviet Russia. He will be obliged as a party duty to defend that dictatorial regime.

A resolution condemning the slave labor system in Soviet Russia, giving the data contained in the volume to which I have referred is an excellent way to smoke out the Communist in your union.

That this fermenting out of the concealed Reds in the labor organizations is a solemn duty of all trade unionists cannot now be denied. If it is not done, the free trade unions will be destroyed as has occurred in countries after country in Europe. With their extinction will go the immediate possibility of a Christian and democratic solution of the labor-management problems. Beyond that, the union movement is being degraded and distorted by the Communists, through its use when they get control as an agency for injury to America's national defenses. The Red infiltration of Hawaii under the guise of union extension and the new Red interest in organizing workers in the Panama Canal zone and in Alaska bear upon this point. That cannot be allowed to continue.

Fortunately labor has become aware of this threat to its free life perhaps more than any other section of American society. The anti-Communists in the unions will now be required by the present crisis to become as zealous in their spotting and routing the Communists as these subversive individuals have been in gaining dominance in labor groups. It is the same patriotic obligation as is placed upon the soldier in the hour of battle.

Next week: Union Management Cooperation. Copyright, 1948, by Courier-Journal.

Ex-Communist Tells Of Soviet Tyranny

Philadelphia — (NC) — Reviewing her life as a young radical, as a member of the British Communist Party, and as the wife of a divorced man and a Russian citizen during a sojourn of six years in Moscow, Freda Utley, in her volume "Lost Illusion," writes that "perhaps in my case as in that of many young people today, the instinctive desire for a religion was the compelling force leading me, step by step, into the Communist trap."

Miss Utley tells of the suffering that is the constant lot of the Russian people, of the poverty and death that are their daily companions under a system of tyranny and slave labor surpassing that of any previous epoch, and of the terror of successive purges in one of which her husband was arrested and exiled without trial to Siberia.

Of the ultimate fate of her husband she was never able to learn, notwithstanding repeated appeals to Moscow on the part of prominent Communist and Socialist leaders in the western world. Following his exile she left Moscow with her young son for London. She resides today in Washington, D. C., writing and lecturing in the hope that her experience may be a warning to others.

"The Soviet Government even in those days denied that it persecuted religion," Miss Utley writes, "but it was a fact that anyone known to go to church or to a synagogue, or to have any religious beliefs, could not, if it were obtain a good job. Membership in the Communist Party with the privileges that gave was, of course, out of the question for either Christians or Orthodox Jews."

The standard of life of the masses of the Russian people just prior to the outbreak of World War II, Miss Utley writes, "was lower than under the Tsars. The Soviet economy, she observes, a system of state capitalism, has enslaved the people for the benefit of a small ruling clique and has resulted in constantly deepening impoverishment of the nation."

"There was no alternative for them except starvation," she continues, "and they were practically slaves. On the other hand, they naturally had little moral sense. Their village world had been destroyed, they or their peasant neighbors had been expropriated and robbed by the state and their religion vilified and reviled. To be religious was tantamount to being considered counter-revolutionary. So freed of moral and religious inhibitions, they stole whatever they could lay their hands on."

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Information Desk

What of 'Invention' of Papal Infallibility? May a Catholic Be Married to a Jew? What About the Age of Man? St. Bernard's Seminary

Q. Our history professor made the statement that the doctrine of Papal Infallibility was not invented until 1870. Is this true?

A. No. In the first place, she does not speak of a truth as being "invented." When speaking of the mysteries of our faith, we must distinguish between the "revelation" of them and the "definition" of previously revealed truths.

This prerogative of Papal Infallibility (not to be confused, of course, with impeccability) was conferred upon St. Peter and his successors by Christ Himself, when He prayed for Peter that his faith might not fail, and commissioned him to confirm his brethren. Our Lord Himself revealed this doctrine in the very first century of our era.

During later centuries the infallibility of the Popes (the successors of St. Peter) was held by all Christians. From time to time, small groups arose, denying it. The largest of these were the numerous Protestant sects which arose during the sixteenth century and after. These were so insistent in their denials that the Church was moved to take the solemn step of "defining" the doctrine, i.e., solemnly declaring that it had been truly revealed by God. This "definition" of Papal Infallibility was made by the Vatican Council in 1870. It may be this to which your history professor referred when speaking of the "invention" of this Catholic truth.

Papal Infallibility (like the other truths of our faith) is "revealed" by God, "defined" by the Church, "invented" by no one.

Q. Is it ever permitted for a Catholic to marry a Jew?

A. The Code of Canon Law forbids any Catholic to marry a non-baptized person (can. 1070, No. 1). We presume that our questioner refers to a Jew who has not been baptized in the Catholic faith. Such a one would come under the prohibition of the canon referred to. In a particular case, where there is a just reason for the marriage, the Church is willing to grant a dispensation from her own law. The Jewish partner must of course make the customary promises that he will not interfere in the practice of the faith of his Catholic spouse; that all children of the union will be baptized and educated as Catholics.

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FATIMA PLAY PUBLISHED

New York — (NC) — As the "Lady of Fatima" leaves the script of the Rev. Urban Nagle's Blackfriars Guild here for publication by the Declan X. McMullen Company, it bears the approval of well-grounded Fatima scholars.

Four priests, two from America and two from Portugal, who talked with the sole survivor of the three children who experienced the apparition, saw the play in production and made constructive criticisms which resulted in changes in the final script.

The play is presented in two acts and seventeen scenes. Pictures and diagrams of the Blackfriars production are included in the published version, along with stage directions. "Lady of Fatima" had 37 Lenten performances at the Blackfriars experimental theater on 58th Street, and 19 "encore" performances after Easter. The best Blackfriars run since before the war.

The Dominican priest-author contends that the story of Fatima has excellent professional value in picture possibilities. "Fatima is a more compelling story than 'Bernadette,'" he says. "I think the movies are asleep to its possibilities."

Publish "Canticle of Canticles." New York (NC) "The Canticle of Canticles," first volume in the projected Catholic Scripture Library being prepared by the Catholic Biblical Association, has been published here by Declan X. McMullen Company.

will be destroyed as has occurred in countries after country in Europe. With their extinction will go the immediate possibility of a Christian and democratic solution of the labor-management problems. Beyond that, the union movement is being degraded and distorted by the Communists, through its use when they get control as an agency for injury to America's national defenses. The Red infiltration of Hawaii under the guise of union extension and the new Red interest in organizing workers in the Panama Canal zone and in Alaska bear upon this point. That cannot be allowed to continue.

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A Look at Labor Young and Smart

By A. C. Tuohy

Professors are supposed to know a great deal. One professor of history told me not long ago that he had one serious objection to the trade union movement. It was this: "It does not produce great leaders. For the most part union officials are ignorant uneducated men."

Many Americans would agree with this judgment. If we were asked to dream a cartoon of the typical union leader, we would draw something like this: A big man. Powerful shoulders. Strong muscles. Not very handsome. Unpressed clothing. Long on brawn. Short on brains.

To compare this cartoon with a similar drawing of the typical American business man would not be very complimentary to the union leader. American leaders of their business as tall but slender. Their hair is cut and polished. Their fingers are manicured. They are graceful. They cut a fine figure. Intelligence shines out of them.

THE DRAWING of the typical business man may approximate reality. But the picture of the modern labor leader is completely out of focus. It is true that, even today the average labor leader is not as well educated as the typical business man. But labor leaders are beginning to catch up.

More than two of ten business leaders (25 per cent) have not been educated beyond the eighth grade. Almost four out of ten union officials (36 per cent) stand on the same level. Seven out of ten business men have had at least a high school education (73 per cent). But we may be surprised to know that six out of ten leaders of unions have received high school training (63 per cent).

Twice as many business men, as union officials, have gone to college. While not so well educated as business men, trade union leaders are better educated than the average American adult.

Even at its worst, then, union leaders cannot be classified as "ignorant, uneducated" men. But we said that trade union leaders were catching up on their education.

THE C. I. O. represents the younger element in the trade union movement. Their leaders are approximately fourteen years younger than those in the older unions. And the C. I. O. leaders are just about as well educated as business leaders!

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3 Marian Holy Days Abolished in Hungary

Budapest — (NC) — Without any prior consultations with the Hungarian Bishops as representatives of the country's Catholics — representing 70 per cent of the total population — the Hungarian government has abolished three Marian holy days: the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (February 2); the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25); and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8).

Emphasizing that the Church will continue to observe the three holy days, a Catholic spokesman declared that the measure has caused "great consternation, particularly among the workers."



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