

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

AMERICA NEEDS . . .

In last week's People's Column there appeared a letter from a reader who works in a factory. The gist of his communication was that work stoppages by labor are no more serious than work stoppages caused by inefficient management, and that suggests a crying need in American industry.

One of the great shortcomings in industry, as I see it, is a mistaken idea about the general goal. Organized labor too often thinks of the whole problem solely from its own angle—more money, shorter hours, and to hell with the foreman and the company. The foreman, of course, thinks he is a little Hitler and thinks the men should jump with fear when he barks a command; while management in often thinks first of profits but second in terms of production, and lockouts and general hectoring are done as a commodity to be hired or fired at will. In other words, each side is looking at the problem from a selfish viewpoint, and the result is trouble.

Too prevalent That is not the case in every plant, of course, but the situation is far too prevalent as strikes, lockouts and general hectoring are done. Just as these lines are written, I note that a Detroit factory is closed because the men in one department did not like the foreman, who probably was a member of the union. The men who were not have been any trouble in the first place. Still, is a thing on the way when the lives of our country are at stake on the fighting lines?

Too often, labor and management lose sight of the fact which takes precedence over all other things in the factory—the product. They are trying to see who can gouge the other most, but rather, it is one of producing goods for the benefit of all.

What America needs is more efficient management competition, arranged through joint committees set up for the purpose of discussing and settling problems, primarily. "How can we get more efficient production?" If issues can be ironed out by some, around-the-table discussion of the kind never reach the belligerent stage, as has been proved in many factories where such councils have been tried out.

On Both Sides The trouble is that labor often doesn't give a damn whether efficiency is increased or not; while management is too often interested in profit for gross mismanagement, it knows it all, and can learn nothing not get anywhere by treating with the men. The laboring man has no doubt, he can show management many weak spots in its factory policy; but he won't if he thinks that his ideas are not wanted, or if the net result will cut his paycheck. The laboring man has had a historical suspicion of labor-saving devices, fearing they will deprive him of a livelihood, and in some cases, that has been the case. Think of the buggy whip artists who lost their jobs. On the other hand, in the long run, labor as a whole benefits from labor-saving machinery, for does Detroit, decided to move out this way when their five-year-old son, Dick, expressed a desire for a dog . . . and anyway, they've always wanted to live in a small town. Dick has a younger sister, Susan, who is three years old. Mr. Saunders is managing agent for a machine and tool company in Detroit.

Have You Met . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Saunders, who are living at 444 Broadway road. The Saunders, formerly of labor-saving machinery, for does Detroit, decided to move out this way when their five-year-old son, Dick, expressed a desire for a dog . . . and anyway, they've always wanted to live in a small town. Dick has a younger sister, Susan, who is three years old. Mr. Saunders is managing agent for a machine and tool company in Detroit.

Newcomers, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Layman, who recently moved here from Marine City. The Laymans have two children, Nancy Ann, who is just two years old and Douglas, 12, who attends Barnum school. Mr. Layman, labor stand-the executive with Fisher Body. Not only that, as efficiency in 1908 creases, the saving should be closer to his split three ways, with part of the company going to labor, part to management, and part to the public in the form of lower prices or an improved product. It is a matter of fact that is exactly what has happened in many industries, with the automobile. Neap.

The eagle is said to fly faster or an improved product when going away from its nest, making it an appropriate emblem what has happened in many industries, with the automobile. Neap.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. Complete Banking Service. Pay-As-You-Go Checking Accounts. Commercial and Savings Accounts. Collateral and Life Insurance Loans. Unsecured and Co-Maker Loans. F. H. A. Modernization Loans. Automobile Loans. BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Need for a full-time recreation director for Birmingham gradually is being accepted as a good investment for the youth of Birmingham. This was revealed again last week at the Community Institute, when interested and informed local citizens presented proposals for a better recreation program for this community.

A significant statement was made by City Commissioner Howard R. Estes, who offered statistics to show that of 96 American cities with populations between 9,000 and 13,000, Birmingham is about 12,000, all but four have a full-time recreation program; 75 of them are tax-supported (Birmingham is mostly voluntarily supported); only eight are supported by donations, and 13 are a combination of both.

Insofar as money relates to a recreation program, a relatively small budget only is needed to benefit many people. Perhaps nothing in the field of community activities can please and interest so many for so little money, as properly directed recreational projects.

By the same token, recreation stands in a class by itself insofar as the development of youthful community spirit and cooperation among the community as a whole. It is a valuable community asset, we heartily approve the idea of including proper allotments of funds for its support in the annual budgets of both our city and public school agencies.

Having observed the growth of Birmingham's recreation program over recent years, we know that it is popular and, therefore, a valuable community asset; we heartily approve the idea of including proper allotments of funds for its support in the annual budgets of both our city and public school agencies. However, we cannot forget that we are engaged in the most expensive war ever fought and that even now, most of us do not realize the magnitude of the coming tax burden. Thus we must move with caution with respect to any increase in the local budget and the Eccentric suggests that the Recreation Commission, in drawing plans for a new program, contemplate not one plan but two plans: the first, the barest essentials of a paid directorship; the second, the sort of program we would like to have if times were normal. We believe that any elaborate setup is out of the question at this time, but that a modest additional expenditure might permit the hiring of a year-around part time coordinator to set the wheels in motion.

Let Experts Run The War There have been constant references, in the press and on the air, to what commentators depend on for their information and the inference has been rather freely promulgated that too much civilian control is hampering the military men in the conduct of the war.

We doubt if there is an official, in high public office today, either in Great Britain or the United States, who would attempt to tell the admirals and the generals exactly how the war must be won. The consensus of opinion is that this war must be left to the experts who understand strategy and tactics,

and that civilian officials have other functions to perform.

Much the same observation applies to helicopter efforts to hasten a second front, or any other venture on the field of battle. There was, not so many weeks ago, something like a persistent campaign to put the pressure on the Navy to "do something in the Aleutians."

There will be similar popular efforts to prod responsible officers and officials, in relation to specific objectives, but the average American will do well not to become "steamed up" over such issues.

Manpower The manpower problems of the nation can be understood so when we are told that in 1943 only 47,000,000 out of 133,000,000 Americans were at work.

In June, of this year, the work force, including 4,500,000 men in the armed services, has risen to 57,000,000 individuals.

By the end of 1943, this figure is expected to include 65,000,000 Americans and 17,000,000 must be women.

The estimate includes 9,000,000 Americans in uniform, with 7,500,000 in the Army and about 1,500,000 in the Navy. Some 20,000,000 would be employed in war industries and 12,000,000 would work on the farms. Another 21,000,000 would have to care for activities, which, a few years ago, required the services of about 35,000,000 Americans.

In view of these figures, it is not surprising that the President has advised the nation that "now we must learn to ration manpower."

The UNITED NATIONS have decided that, after victory against the Axis, they will arrest and try any Axis leader responsible for the brutal killing of innocent and helpless people of conquered countries. We aren't all bloodthirsty, ordinarily, but on this program we'll heartily agree. We'd even pay admission to see some of them executed.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish notices of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a large normal situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than personnel of the staff cannot be used. Any notices reflecting upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be quickly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Collection Here Next Week

HOW TO PREPARE TIN CANS FOR COLLECTION. 1. After emptying contents, wash out can. 2. Cut off bottom, as well as top, if you can. 3. Step heavily on can to flatten-but do not flatten by hammering. Now tear off paper label, which is allowed by direction. Labels printed on can need not be removed. 4. Save your cans for tin can collection. Keep separate from other cans. If collection not yet started, save your prepared cans in a dry place until they are taken to the collection point.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1892 "Thank you for a white. Campaign poets and singers are shelved for a while. That well, or 'tis a word that rhymes with 'well'—just according to which side of the fence you belong." "Boys, do you need a new necktie? If so, be sure and come to the social at Miss Ella Adams' on next Tuesday evening, and procure a necktie and a supper for 20 cents." "The birds of the buzz-saw is now heard in our peaceful little village." "Fitting with the truth" is a latter day definition of plain, old-fashioned lying.

25 YEARS AGO Nov. 18, 1917 On the front page was a letter written by Frank P. German to his mother, Mrs. M. E. Barney, telling of his automobile trip through the State of Colorado. "Mrs. George Ferguson is conducting a class in surgical dressings at the Red Cross Rooms. All women in the village are urged to come to the Red Cross Rooms and assist in the making of surgical dressings. The need is very great, and all will be welcome." "Baldwin school is nearing completion rapidly." "The football team reserves played Rochester Friday. Score was 24-20 in favor of Birmingham."

With the Collegians

Albion College BILL HOPKINS, sophomore student at Albion College, has played in every football game this season. Bill, a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, made his football letter in his freshman year. He is majoring in engineering.

Stephens College COLUMBIA, Mo. With fighting work activities coming to an end at Stephens College this week, ALICE NEWBALL, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Newhall, Alton, Mo., served as president of the Scholars Group. Those students of the junior and senior classes who are members of average of two or more points per semester hour (a B average) constitute the Scholars Group.

Bradford Junior College NATALE SAHOLM, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Sontom of 846 Kensington road, as a member of the Christian Union Council at Bradford Junior College, Bradford, Mass., was on the committee for the annual book fair held at the college. The proceeds from the sale of books go to the charities to which the Christian Union contributes each year.

Western Michigan College SAMUEL NINO BRINI of the dental school at the University of Michigan, was recently elected president of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, and was also commissioned in the Medical Administration Corps as a second lieutenant. Sam was graduated from the literary college of the University of Michigan, where he was affiliated with Phi Kappa Tau social fraternity.

University of Tampa "ERIC LEE KONERSMAN, of 226 East-Lincoln avenue, has recently been elected president of the Sigma Phi chapter at the University of Tampa, Tampa, Fla.

Miami University One Birmingham student at Miami University, Oxford, O., is studying for his second year in the Miami Volunteer Training Corps which meets on the campus every Wednesday night to take basic military training as a part of their expected induction into the army.

Part of their weekly program includes running through a command course which has been built in the woods. The course is reputed to be one of the toughest and it incorporates the best features of similar courses at army camps. The course is held at Gatten with food. Place at curb for City collection the last week of every month. Keep dry, keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE FATS—Strain and place in a clean, dry, metal can. Market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted. SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER, etc.—Place at curb for City collection the last week of every month. Keep dry, keep separate from rubbish. NEWS PAPERS, M.C.A. ZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

'A Junior Album'

Presenting young people of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and vicinity . . . for them and the youth of America, we strive for Victory and a just peace!



TOP CENTER: Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Griffith, 2234 Puritan. PATSY and KIP, children of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Morgan, 4357 Pine. BOTTOM CENTER: Robert and Elinor, children of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Schulz, 27500 East California. LETHUR, TOWASSIE, LEFT, of Mr. and Mrs. Truman F. Campbell, 1240 Dardanelles. (The two) READING DOWN: Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Cochran, 318 (arranged by the Beatrice Studio, Birmingham.)

Members of the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club celebrated the 20th anniversary of their organization at a musical ride, followed by a dinner dance given at the club house.

When driving through the countryside, the car ran over and killed a small dog. Halting the car, the driver sent his chauffeur to the house to express regret. The driver came back a few minutes later with a big black dog on his arm. "The farmer was not angry," he assured her fuhrer. "What do you say to him?" insisted Hitler. "When I went to the door," the driver explained, "I saw a dog. He said, 'Hell Hitler—the dog is dead.' The farmer yelled 'Hoops!' and I gave me a big 'B' exam." "The American Gun Magazine State of Michigan—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. As an executor of the estate of the late George F. H. Moore, Judge of Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in the County of the City of Pontiac, I, A. D. 1942. Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Est. E. O. Jones, Decedent. JOHN S. OELER, executor of said estate, having filed and said estate may be the time for the presentation of claims against said estate. It is further ordered that the 1st day of February, 1942, at said probate office, and to be held open for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said estate. ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. 11-25-42

NOTICE To Whom It May Concern: Please to Take Notice that on Monday, the 22nd day of December, 1942, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the office of the Judge of Probate in the County of the City of Pontiac, County of Oakland, Michigan, there will be a public hearing in the Probate Office of the County of Pontiac, Michigan, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, and to be held open for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said estate. ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. 11-25-42

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