

Castro Has Become Enemy of Labor

When history lends a bit more perspective to these times, there will be opportunity for someone to write a fascinating account of how Fidel Castro "pulled his revolution up by the roots." The expression was recently used by the labor columnist, John Herling, in an article which marshalled persuasive evidence that the Cuban trade union movement has been surrendered to the Communists.

The fate of labor is merely one facet of what has happened to Cubans under the revolution. The betrayal of the trade unions reveals much, however, about how the 26th of July movement has gone sour.

Organized labor, far from having gained by the Castro revolution which it supported as a means of overthrowing the hated Batista regime, has suffered a great setback. Herling reports that 20 of the island republic's top labor leaders have

either sought sanctuary in foreign embassies or fled the country. "Trade unionists in Cuba," he writes, "is in fragments."

THE COMMUNISTS, as always, have been quick to move into the resultant vacuum. Factory committees and workers' councils in the Soviet pattern have negated gains made by labor during many years of collective bargaining. Exploitation is more than ever the order of the day in a country where the workers have been exploited by both political and economic interests for many years.

The Castro revolution, in short, has been a profound disillusionment for Cuban trade unionists who once regarded it as their great hope. They are not the only ones in Cuba who are disillusioned. The forces that will eventually bring Castro down appear to be gathering.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

You probably recall during the recent Presidential campaign, President Eisenhower's rather vigorous criticism of the words and methods of President-elect Kennedy. Without mentioning Kennedy's name, like, in one of his talks, referred to an "arrogant young man." To be sure, it's understandable why a man with the world stature of Eisenhower should become a bit miffed when an "upstart" attacks 8 years of Ike's stewardship of the United States. Let's hope, though, from now until President Eisenhower turns his office over to Jack Kennedy January 20th, that whatever breach now exists between them will not grow any wider. Indeed, if Ike regains his composure he no doubt will do very much to orient the Kennedy administration into its tremendously important jobs.

The 1960 Annual United Foundation campaign in this area closed recently. It was found that the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin community collected \$170,559.00, or 99.2% of its \$171,860.00 goal. The unusual success of this campaign in this area may be attributed not only to the worthwhileness of the 195 organizations that are aided, but also to the capable hard-working men and women here who plan and direct the campaign. Let us hope 'twill always be thus.

'Tis reported that half of the earth's three billion people don't have enough water... and 40 million Americans teeter on

the edge of a water shortage. Yes, the water level beneath the earth's surface is getting lower and lower. Increased population and ever-increasing industrial use of aqua pura in this land of ours causes much concern to the citizens of many U.S. areas. But we'll bet that some day, some man or men, will solve the problem of turning sea water into fresh water, cheaply.

You have read that China's Red leaders want to annihilate capitalism via the war route, whereas Khrushchev believes it can be done through economic means. Everybody knows that such a war would kill off millions and millions... but do you suppose that the Chinese Reds might like to see a couple hundred millions of their people killed... "just to reduce the population—with enough millions remaining to seize what's left"?

Now that collegiate and high school football seasons are ended, the gridiron boys may find it a little bit difficult to sit quietly in the classrooms. Let's hope that most of them make plenty of scholastic touchdowns. The kind of touchdowns that will help them successfully to carry the ball through the game of life.

With Christmas but a few weeks away, the appearance of coniferous trees appropriate for the occasion will be evident. In Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula are many "tree farms" that cater to this seasonal business.

States' Rights—And Lefts



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

No Prejudice Heard In B'ham Churches

To the Editor:

I feel compelled to answer the letter signed, "Mrs. Bill Jones." I have been a resident of Birmingham for several years. During this period I have visited many churches in this vicinity, some large and some small. I can truthfully say that I have never heard any prejudice against Negro, Jew, Protestant or Catholic.

Before moving to Birmingham I lived in Detroit for over 20 years. Since I am an inter-denominational I often attended services in the Baptist church which was within walking distance of our home. The minister and congregation felt a very strong affection for the Jew and many attended the services. This church, like many others, sponsored projects to help the natives of Africa.

I AM FAMILIAR with Catholicism, Catholic authors, leaders and publications; and in my many visits, to churches of different denominations, in and around Birmingham, I have never heard a minister criticize the Catholic church.

In answer to your question, "Who can be my friends — who meets the requirements of being my friend?" To have a friend you must FIRST be a friend. Live to grow spiritually, to give rather than receive, and remember that you can learn from ALL, even a little child. For this spiritual growth may I recommend books and TV programs by the Christophers and Father James Keller; Norman Vincent Peale (including "Guidedposts," a publication for Catholics, Protestants and Jews); and also "Unity" literature.

M. McM.

Suggests a Use For Filtration Plant in B'ham

To the Editor:

The Birmingham filtration plant has nearly all been salvaged, which is located on the valley on Evergreen avenue.

What will be done with the 1939 plaques signed by the President and Birmingham city officials?

How about getting the state to take over for fisheries, with the Rouge stream with a supply of good fish, assuming that all people now living on the banks of this stream are all living up to the law and not allowing any contaminating.

This section is hilly and could supply Birmingham with more park space.

Just a suggestion.

R. A. S.

'Mixed-Up' People Are the Prejudiced

To the Editor:

An answer to Mrs. Jones' request: Quote "After attending many different churches in Birmingham she is all mixed up." Well, Mrs. Bill Jones, I don't really believe you are any more mixed up than those men of the cloth are, for no true disciple of God who accepts the inspired word (See PEOPLE'S COL. 7-18)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 9, 1910

The Presbyterian supper at the church last week was a most brilliant and successful affair. It netted the promoters over \$100, and all enjoyed the affair.

The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Birmingham, will be held at the banking office on Tuesday, January 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year.

The regular meeting of the Birmingham club was held at Mrs. Carter's. Roll call "Current Events." The literary program consisted of a paper by Miss Post Subject, "Sketch of Lincoln During the War and Stephen A. Douglas," and a review of "The Crisis" by Mrs. Morrow. The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Mrs. Whitehead, Woodward avenue, Dec. 6, in the evening.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1930

An amendment to the Village Building Code, regulating the height of rooms to permit an eight foot ceiling instead of the eight and a half foot ceiling was recommended by the village building inspector and adopted by the Village commission Monday at their regular meeting. The motion for the adoption of the amendment, following the recommendation of James W. Parry, village manager, was made by Commissioner Walter I. Connelly.

That the Antarctic was once a warm country and not always the frozen territory it now is was one of the interesting facts determined as a result of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition. Dr. Laurence M. Gould told an audience which filled the Baldwin High School auditorium to capacity last Wednesday evening.

A skating rink will be built by the city on the Quarten school site, the southeastern corner of the grounds.

15 YEARS AGO

Dec. 4, 1945

Over at the last Sunday afternoon meeting, honoring local citizen Russell Barnes, when he was answering questions from the audience, following his speech, this Wauden overheard someone say during a lull in the open forum: "Say, there's Mayor Moody up on

the platform with Mr. Barnes; would it be o.k. to ask the Mayor some questions about Birmingham's street improvement program?"

A. Stoddard White, son of Lee A. White, of 652 Brookside, who got his first reporting on The Eccentric, and prior to his entering the U. S. Army was a member of the staff of The Detroit News, is currently reporting the Nuremberg trial in Germany for Stars and Stripes, the Army newspaper. He is thus provided with a "front seat" in history's greatest criminal trial; his assignment of course, a outstanding evidence of his reportorial ability.

People who never bought a War Bond can redeem themselves with a Victory Bond.

The puppets are coming to town! As a matter of fact, they're already here and will make their first bow in a three-day performance in a Christmas program in the auditorium of Baldwin Public Library Dec. 17, 18 and 19 at 4:30 p.m.

STRICTLY FRESH

Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down.

Most green thumbs eventually come to the belief that Mother Nature is siding with the bug.



A word to the wise is usually enough, but a library full of books won't convince those other guys.

Election time is when you find out whether your friends are really so smart after all.

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Join our 1961 Christmas Club Now!

This is the time to start your planning for a merry Christmas in 1961. And the way to do it is to open a 1961 Christmas Club account at any of National Bank of Detroit's 66 offices. A few dollars every two weeks (25 payments) is all the care your Christmas Club account requires. But how will it grow! For example, \$4 every other week adds up to \$100 by next Christmas.

So stop in this week at your nearest National Bank of Detroit office—make Christmas 1961 happier for you and your family by planning for it now.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

What would Birmingham be like if its population were distributed on a world population basis?

Where would the city's economic wealth be located?

How many Communists would we have? Who would be eating, and how many would be starving?

Willard Y. Graff, superintendent of schools in Springfield, Mo., recently compiled some figures on a percentage basis per 1,000 population of these and other interesting comparisons.

THIS COLUMN HAS APPLIED Graff's percentages to Birmingham's 25,000-plus population—with this interesting result: 1,500 persons here would be Americans. 23,500 would represent all other nationalities.

1,500 Americans would be getting one-half the personal income in Birmingham. 23,500 others would share the other half.

900 Americans would be a church member.

600 would belong to no church.

7,500 of Birmingham's residents would be Christians.

17,500 would have other beliefs.

2,000 OF OUR CITIZENS would be

card-carrying Communists. 9,000 would be under Communist domination.

7,575 would be white. 17,425 would be non-white.

The 1,500 Americans could expect to live to the age of 70.

The life expectancy of all others would average under 40.

Of Birmingham's total supply, the average American would have 15 1/2 times as much as the average of other persons.

The Americans would produce 16 1/2 per cent of Birmingham's food supply, consume 15 per cent, and store the 1 1/2 per cent.

MOST OF THE 23,500 non-Americans would be hungry most of the time.

These 1,500 Americans would have:

12 times as much electricity

12 times as much coal

2 1/2 times as much oil

60 times as much steel

50 times as much general equipment

—as the remaining 23,500 others in Birmingham.

The LOWEST income group of Americans would be better off than the AVERAGE of the other 23,500.

Have any of us Americans nerve enough left to say we don't have things so good?