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REDWOOD BULLETIN

FOR SOCIAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY

issued by

TRADE UNION SECTION, COMMUNIST PARTY, EUREKA

Vol. 2 No. 3

Page 1

Feb. 20, 1939

ON THE AMERICAN DEAD IN SPAIN

by Ernest Hemingway

(Reprinted from the "New Masses" of February 14)

The dead sleep cold in Spain tonight. Snow blows through the olive groves, sifting against the tree roots. Snow drifts over the mounds with the small head-boards. (When there was time for head-boards.) The olive trees are thin in the cold wind because their lower branches were once cut to cover tanks, and the dead sleep cold in the small hills above the Jarama River. It was cold that February when they died there and since then the dead have not noticed the changes of the seasons.

It is two years now since the Lincoln Battalion held for four and a half months along the heights of the Jarama, and the first American dead have been a part of the earth of Spain for a long time now.

The dead sleep cold in Spain tonight and they will sleep cold all this winter as the earth sleeps with them. But in the spring the rain will come to make the earth kind again. The wind will blow soft over the hills from the south. The black trees will come to life with small green leaves, and there will be blossoms on the apple trees along the Jarama River. This spring the dead will feel the earth beginning to live again.

For our dead are a part of the earth of Spain now and the earth of Spain can never die. Each winter it will seem to die and each spring it will come alive again. Our dead will live with it forever.

Just as the earth can never die, neither will those who have ever been free return to slavery. The peasants who work the earth where our dead lie know what these dead died for. There was time during the war for them to learn these things, and there is forever for them to remember them in.

Our dead live in the hearts and the minds of the Spanish peasants, of the Spanish workers, of all the good simple honest people who believed in and fought for the Spanish republic. And as long as all our dead live in the Spanish earth, and they will live as long as the earth lives, no system of tyranny will prevail in Spain.

The fascists may spread over the land; blasting their way with weight of metal brought from other countries. They may advance aided by traitors and by cowards. They may destroy cities and villages and try to hold the people in slavery. But you cannot hold any people in slavery.

The Spanish people will rise again as they have always risen before against tyranny.

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P.O. Box 417 Eureka, Cal.
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Party, Humboldt County

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AMERICAN DEAD IN SPAIN

The dead do not need to rise. They are a part of the earth now and the earth can never be conquered. For the earth endureth forever. It will outlive all systems of tyranny.

Those who have entered it honorably, and no men ever entered earth more honorably than those who died in Spain, already have achieved immortality.

You have read on the front page and the adjoining column the words of a famed American author, the greatest exponent of a hard-boiled American style. But when he writes of Spain his words soften. They are the words of a poet—a poet who has seen action.

Let us take action in turn! Let us do our part in making the deaths of these American heroes immortal and substantial to the cause of democracy!

LIFT THE EMBARGO ON LOYALIST SPAIN! SEND FOOD TO HER! BOYCOTT ALL GOODS FROM GERMANY, ITALY AND JAPAN!

You and your union, church, or fraternal organization—send letters, postcards, telegrams to the President, Senator Pittman (Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Committee) and Rep. McReynolds (Chairman of House Foreign Relations Committee), as well as to Congressman Lea and our state senators!

Save Spain and our own peace! The front-lines of our own democracy today lies on the Central front in Spain!

ORGANIZE LUMBER!

Each unionist, no matter what his trade or affiliation, must constantly bear in mind that the prime aim of the union movement in this area is to organize the redwoods.

More than that. Each unionist must assist in any efforts to organize the industry, by bringing his union into line to support as an organizer of public opinion in favor of such a drive.

For it is not merely a narrow trade union question, it is a community problem that involves every man, woman, and child in this area.

It is obvious that if we can

win over such public support, the organization of the industry will be tremendously facilitated.

Just how, then, is it a community question? How does it involve all the people?

First of all, let us recognize the fundamental fact that the redwoods constitute the basic industry of this area. The prosperity of this area depends on the industry.

Organized, there would definitely be not only the maintenance of the present wage scales, but a substantial increase, as up north.

This would guard against a cut and make for an increase in the purchasing power of the people.

This would mean a) better living conditions for the large mass of people; b) prosperity for the merchant, especially the small merchant (neighborhood grocery stores, etc.); c) it would provide the farmers with a steady market.

And with a strong labor movement, which organization of the redwoods will insure, taking part in local politics, the result will be cleaner government, and the New Deal can be brought to this community, meaning such concrete things as sewage facilities in the Sunnyside district, etc.

That the labor movement can win over the populace to such an organizational drive has been proven back East in the CIO drives of late (steel areas, etc.)

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT TO HAVE PROGRESSIVE CITY OFFICIALS AFTER THE COMING ELECTIONS IS ONE IMPORTANT WAY OF AIDING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE REDWOODS!

BILLS AT SACRAMENTO

During the first session of the Legislature at Sacramento some 4000 bills were introduced. To attempt to analyze all the proposed legislation is entirely out of the question. However, certain bills, those vitally affecting labor and the large mass of lower income groups, demand serious consideration. Among such bills in which the trade unions have a definite interest and about which they can do something are the following:

Under the head of Labor Legislation Humboldt County's representatives at Sacramento should go to bat on (First) the State or Little Wagner Act. This bill is modelled after the National Wagner Act which guarantees the right of workers to choose their own union through a free and secret ballot. While the National Labor Relations Act covers those industries engaged in inter-state commerce no provision is made to cover those industries engaged only in intra-state commerce. The State Wagner Act would be an invaluable aid in this direction for a large section of as yet unorganized labor in California. Second is the State Wages and Hours Bill which would set a minimum wages and maximum hours for workers not covered under Federal law. This would have the tendency of lifting the entire wage level of unorganized and lower income groups which in turn would permit the organized groups to bargain for higher wages and lower hours.

Under Civil Liberties bills which progressive labor should support are:

1. Repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Law which has been used time and again by the Associated Farmers to prevent the organization of the agricultural workers.

2. An anti-injunction bill modelled after the Federal Norris-LaGuardia Act, which would prohibit the issuance of injunctions against striking and pick-

eting workers.

3. A bill to prohibit enactment of anti-picketing ordinances by counties and municipalities and providing for the repeal of such laws where they exist. Organized Labor in Humboldt County was one of the first to initiate action on this question. (How do Mike Burns and Irwin Quinn stand on this issue?)

Under SOCIAL SECURITY are a number of bills vital to all wage earners, organized and unorganized.

1. Health insurance as explained by J. Vernon Burke at Monday night's Federated Trades Council meeting, and supported by Labor's Non-Partisan League.

2. Establishment of a State public works system at union wage scales.

3. Increase in direct relief budgets.

4. Increase in old age assistance, extending it to wider sections of the aged, liberalization of the law, and elimination of red tape.

On UTILITIES passage of the Garrison Bond Act should be pushed. This act facilitates the issuance of revenue bonds by communities to acquire and construct public utilities. Passage of this act would mean:

1. The opportunity of financing and building community recreational centers, public owned power plants, etc. in the interest and welfare of the community.

2. It would provide work for the building trades.

3. It would help the farmers. The Granges have already put up a stiff fight for this bill. Why not labor and the farmers get together on this issue through a committee from the Central Labor Council?

Finally AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL should be the passage of the Olson budget. Already the Tories are howling for economy. Any reduction in the budget would mean that legislation important of itself--housing, health, ap-
(cont'd p. 4, Col. 1)

(BILLS AT SACRAMENTO--cont'd)

pointment of commissioners, etc.-- would be hamstrung for lack of finances.

Despite misrepresentation of the Tory press the fact remains that the Olson budget calling for \$557,163,355 is only \$4,000,000 more than the actual expenditures of Merriam in the last two years which was \$553,390,204. Besides this the Olson administration inherited a deficit of \$44,746,925 from the Merriam regime. Remember: Merriam campaigned on the slogan "Keep California out of the RED."

These are some of the most important legislative measures facing the trade unions and the progressives in the state of California. It is needless to say that favorable action will be obtained only to the degree that labor in conjunction with the progressives, the small farmers and little business men do something about it. To elect representatives to the legislature is not enough. They must be made to reflect the needs and desires of the people in the communities they represent. Labor, organized and articulate, is the best medium through which this can be accomplished.

WHAT IS YOUR UNION DOING ABOUT IT?

An Open Letter To The Eureka Trade-Unionists

Thru this bulletin the Communist Party has stated its position on the important problems facing the local trade union movement for the past few months. This has clarified many confusing ideas about the Party. However, we feel that many trade unionists still "suspect" certain proposals and individuals as being "Communistic". This has hampered the progressive trade union movement from going forward.

Communists believe in democratic-controlled unions. We insist only on the right that any other trade unionist should have, the right to express ourselves on the issues confronting the organization. If we can convince the majority of the members that

our policies are correct, then those policies should prevail. This can be accepted by all trade unionists who believe in democratic-controlled unions. If we fail to convince the majority that our policies are correct, then there is something wrong with our policies or the way in which we present them.

The members of the Communist Party in the local labor movement work at the same trade or in the same industry as all of the other members of the union to which they belong. The problems of the other union members are the same problems that confront the Communists. It is to the interests of the Communists as well as of the other members that those problems be solved correctly.

We do not say that our proposals have always been correct. We, like all active unionists, have made mistakes. But many times our proposals have proven to be correct. There are many questions that bother trade unionists in regard to the Party. What is their position on "religion", do they try to gain "control" of locals, do they bring "politics" into them, etc.? We will try to answer these questions in a series of articles. In the meantime we welcome any criticisms that unionists may have. We will also try to answer any questions written to the bulletin. Drop us a letter or a card with your questions or criticisms. Our address: P.O. Box 417, Eureka. Sincerely,
TRADE UNION SECTION, COMMUNIST PARTY

BOOK REVIEW

"National Issues", a survey of politics and legislation. 15¢
THIS new magazine has made a big hit wherever it has appeared.

Some of the articles in it are Save the Wagner Act; National Defense; Tory Politics and Relief; A Plan For the Railroads; and The President's Message.

Of especial interest to trade unionists is the article on the Wagner Act, exposing how the top AFL clique is doing the work for Wall Street in seeking the destruction of the