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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely and honestly represent Trade Union Workers in efforts to obtain economic freedom through organizations as advocated by the CIO and AFL, and we solicit the support of trade unions. Material for publication must be authorized by the organization it represents and signed by the President and secretary, and bear the seal.

The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of the combined circulation of the two largest circulated weeklies in Cambria County and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns.

**RANDOM THOUGHT**

"I've changed the heating fuel in the executive mansion from an oil burner to anthracite coal from my home county of Luzerne," press reports early in the week. Governor Arthur H. James as saying, "We didn't have any oil burner at all, but used city heat in the executive mansion," declared Mrs. Geo. H. Earle, wife of the former Governor. "It's all a mistake, I meant somewhere else," finally declared the Governor. So that's that.

On Monday afternoon the prison board of Cambria county, held its annual meeting and received the report of Warden Ed Kneeb, for the year. As usual, the report disclosed an administration of efficiency and economy—without stinting—and with prison conditions that are much better than in most counties of Pennsylvania.

In the case of Warden Kneeb, this county is being rendered public service by a public official, in the manner that is to be desired. Warden Kneeb has been in charge of the Cambria county jail for many years. In that capacity he has seen political changes that in many counties would have effected changes in wardens. But politics hasn't bothered Mr. Kneeb. He has had a job to do as a paid public employee, and he has done the job well. Politicians have never tried to remove him. That is the type of employee that should be demanded by the state and county in every job, however menial. The employee should be just as worthy and deserving of his hire, as would be the case were he hired by a private employer. Unfortunately this is by no means always the case. Too often, a public job is looked upon by the recipient as something "soft."

Take most union labor organizations for instance. A miner is qualified, and he most work, or he won't earn. A printer, must be well versed and capable in his trade, before he is even admitted to the Typographical Union. Most unions, demand that their members be capable, and incompetency is one factor the union won't tolerate any more than the employer can tolerate. Union labor asks a decent wage, and decent working conditions, with decent hours—but demanding all this, they, too, are prepared to give the employer his just due. Union labor, generally, does not encourage the shirker. If they did, organized labor soon would disintegrate. Such is not the case, it appears, with some of the folks who work for the taxpayers, but it should be a requirement. If a fellow has political pull sufficient to land himself a job, he should not have political pull sufficiently strong to hold onto that job if he proves himself a drone, or is incompetent. But something is apparently wrong.

We wouldn't be critical for the world. But, in pointing out the different degrees of efficiency, we will take for an example a road let out on contract by the state between Carrolltown and Allegheny township late in the fall. The contractor came along, hired men, required each to do a certain amount of work each day—or else! The result was that the several miles of road is now completed with the exception of a top surfacing, and the work was all executed in the late fall and early winter when weather conditions naturally retarded all concerned. In the north of the county, there are a couple of roads, in which the labor was hired by the state, and directed by the state, and men were not required to do any specified amount of labor—and the roads are lying in an uncompleted and impassable condition during the winter.

A bill to abolish the 40 year old mercantile license tax and wipe out more than 150 lucrative Democratic-controlled jobs, in a move to reduce state taxes more than seven million dollars a biennium, is before the House at Harrisburg, introduced by a tax-collector Representative Don Wilkinson, Republican, of Luzerne county. The appraisers receive their remuneration from fees, and the jobs, appointed by the Democratic auditor general, are quite desirable. It may be quite a move on the part of the Republicans for economy. It has been a thorn for years—this mercantile tax!

But here's another feature that may not make the bill so popular among Republican newspapers. In abolishing the mercantile tax, it is true that the Democrats are going to lose a nice quota of jobs, but, as the mercantile list is published in two to three newspapers in each county each year, and the remuneration, too, to the newspapers, is worth while, it will be Republican and not Democratic newspapers that will suffer. Despite the fact that the auditor general names the mercantile appraisers, the publication of the lists is ordered by the Governor's office, or rather the Department of Revenue—and that's that.

A new interest is being created in the Boy Scout movement in the north of the county. Various units and troops that have been dormant for some time are being rejuvenated, and this, particularly, is happening in Patton. A few years ago Patton had three rather lively and active troops. That they were permitted to become non active, is deplorable. But signs are that they are on the "way back." At least two of the troops are.

Regardless of how much interest the boys themselves may manifest in the movement, and regardless of how hard a scoutmaster may work, a troop will soon go to decay if the backbone of the scout promoters, the local committee, is not functioning properly. After, all, it is the troop committee in each locality that either makes or breaks the boy scouts. Patton now is organizing an active bunch of "scouters" and in the near future material developments in scouting lines will likely be an accomplishment.

Governor James last Friday night in a radio address, declared that the "cupboard is bare" as far as state finances are concerned, with a prospective deficit of 50 million dollars and only \$200,000 in the state's general fund. Of course, he blames the Earle administration.

But something like that also was experienced by the Earle administration when they "took over" four years ago. We believe it was 36 millions that was needed. Likewise, if our memory serves us correctly, we believe that a preceding session of the then Republican legislature had borrowed from the state highway and other special funds—and DID NOT pay it back. Mr. James is doing some such borrowing. The people must see, to it that it is paid back this time.

The fight to abolish the income tax immunity on public servants is a long way from being won down at Washington, although no voice was raised against the Presidential proposal in House hearings last week. The plan seems to be to defer action. The trouble is that the very fellows who are free from income taxes now on their salaries, are the fellows who will make the decision. It will be a fine bill to ascertain whether or not our representatives and senators at the national capitol think in terms of their constituents, or in terms of their own personal gain.

And, isn't it a pain in the neck to see a lot of national and state office-holders, and a lot of judges, and even a lot of county officials, with nice big fat salaries, being exempted from income taxes, and a lot of other chaps who are earning but a few thousand dollars a year, being required to pay. The office holder, elected by the people, should be the very first of all to be required to pay this tax, instead of being immune. What taxpayers, for instance, wouldn't be glad to pay income tax if he were to be chosen a Judge, for instance, or chosen to serve the people in any other lucrative office?

Retrenchment in government is picking up momentum in Harrisburg among public officials, but it too early to make any prophecies. Politicians are notoriously adverse to retrenchment in public expenditures but there seems to be more force to the economy movement in the present legislature than in previous years. Governmental costs in all of the branches have been increasing at tremendous strides the last 20 years. In no single year has there been a decrease over the previous year always an increase. The cost of the public school system in Pennsylvania has increased 135 million dollars since 1931. The cost of running the state government has increased in similar proportion. The administration of Governor Earle, just ended, was the first billion dollar administration in history. General expenses alone, independent of such extraordinary costs as unemployment relief and special functions, such as state highway department, have been tripled in the fifteen years.

Nor is that all. The cost of local government, cities, boroughs and townships, in the last complete figures for a full year, was twice the cost in 1923. These rising costs, with consequent increases in taxation, have been subjected to repeated studies by legislative committees in recent years. In 1933, a committee investigated, and filed a report, but their recommendations have been gathering dust, for the most part, in legislative archives. Pressure from local officials, jealous of their official prerogatives and jobs, has defeated most of the legislation introduced in line with these proposals.

In less than three years the United Automobile Workers of America has mushroomed from a membership of 30,000 to 400,000. In the process it has become the second largest affiliate of the CIO, ranking only behind the United Mine Work-

ers. But the union's phenomenal growth, plus unseasoned, if zealous leadership, has brought administrative problems. The UAWA has been wracked by dissension among its executive officers, dissension that has reached new intensity. Essentially, the executive struggle, with its charges and counter charges of a lot of things, has been a fight for union control. A climax was reached last June when a faction led by Homer Martin, ex-clergyman, expelled four "anti-Martin" men from the UAW's twenty-four man executive board. CIO leaders stepped in, obtained a truce, and by October the ousted officers were reinstated. But behind apparent calm a struggle for control raged on. A couple of weeks ago President Martin again expelled the anti-Martin members of the executive board—who by this time had grown in number to 15—locked them out of Detroit's headquarters and seized the union's records. The fifteen retaliated by voting to impeach Mr. Martin.

Thus the battle lines were sharply drawn for what promised to become a bitter dual union war in the auto industry. The anti-Martin faction have made three moves: (1) It went to court, obtaining an order that tied up UAWA funds; (2) it won the "complete support and recognition" of the CIO; (3) it obtained control of the United Automobile Worker, the official union newspaper. Mr. Martin countered by resigning from the CIO's executive board. He prepared to contest the issue in the courts, asserted that his cause would be upheld by the rank and file at a convention which he called for March 4th. And such is the complexion of the UAWA at the present time.

**OVER 40! SO WHAT?**  
 By Dr. Charles Stelzle, Executive Director, Good Neighbor League.

There is one important fact in connection with the tendency in industry not to take on men after they have

reached the age of 40 to which we must give serious consideration; namely, to steady increase in the percentage of older men in our total population.

To better understand what causes this situation, let's examine a few statistics as revealed by the Bureau of the Census. First, as to birth rates. These have decreased from 25.1 per 1000 of the population in 1915 to 16.9 in 1935. Second, as to death rates. These have decreased from 14.1 in 1915 to 10.9 in 1935.

This means that during this period birth rates decreased 8.3 per cent, while death rates decreased 3.2 per cent. It means also that there are proportionately many more adults in this country, because the average length of life in 1910 was 51 years, whereas in 1938 it was 61 years. Apparently the great problem of the future will no longer be that of the children, but that of the adults, particularly those over 40 years of age.

The question is, what will happen to the men and women who are losing

their jobs because they have passed over the 40 year "deadline," and who will not be hired because of their "old age." This is not a new situation. It has been destroying jobs faster than because the development of the machine and new methods of production has been destroying jobs faster than they can be created by the Government and industry.

This whole question lays upon our statesmen, our economists, and upon industry which they dare not shirk. What Congress will do in this respect remains to be seen, but the measure of every member of Congress will be taken by the position which he will assume when this problem comes up for consideration and concrete action. Unquestionably, new, and sometimes radical measures must be adopted, for we are living in a new age, such as has never before existed in the history of the world.

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