

MAY ☆ 1944

The Jewish Veteran



MAYOR FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA — J. EDGAR HOOVER
JAMES B. CAREY — T. C. KRAABEL — L. M. BIRKHEAD

WORDS ARE WEAPONS, TOO-

. . . And just as our sons battling in the far-flung areas of the world must be more proficient than the enemy with machine gun, tank, and grenade, so must we on the home front use words more effectively than the American hate-spreaders who use discrimination and disunity as stock in trade.

. . . With truth and the unrelenting fury of our North African and Guadalcanal heroes, we must fight that enemy at home who desecrates graves and defiles synagogues; who accosts Jewish children in Boston; who publishes false and scurrilous literature.

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The Jewish Veteran

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J. GEORGE FREDMAN, Editor

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What Labor Wants For The American Veteran

By JAMES B. CAREY

Secretary, Congress of Industrial Organizations

THE CIO is cooperating closely with veterans' groups in the interest of full employment after the war. Unless there is a post-war job for everyone who wants and needs a job, depression, chaos, and strife among minority groups will undermine the ideals and purposes for which this war is being fought.

Our organization envisages a post-war United States of full production and full employment. Full use of war plants and farms employing most of the present labor force, plus returned soldiers, sailors and marines, can produce in field and factory the good food, clothing and shelter to make us a nation of secure and healthy citizens. At the same time, we can supply huge needed amounts of goods for other countries. Physically, we can deliver the goods. The difficulties confronting such a social program are largely psychological. As some wise man has said, we shall have peace when we are as willing to give up our prejudices as we are our sons! We all have prejudices—business, labor and government; soldiers, workers and farmers. The salvation of all lies in cooperation toward a better, more secure world.

Organized labor is acutely conscious of its double responsibility: first, to produce the maximum of weapons needed for the speedy and successful conclusion of military hostilities; and second, to set up at home the mechanisms by which to carry over into a prosperous and secure peace, the production and employment record set during the war. If our nation can face and accept the abundance of consumer goods made possible by modern technology, we can have the highest standard of living the world has ever known. If not, we will slide back into stagnation, unemployment, and poverty. There is no middle ground.

In spite of anti-union propaganda, the serviceman does enough independent thinking and has enough good common sense to realize that his clothing and equipment as well as the ships that transport them, have been produced by his brothers at home—in huge quantities and as speedily as possible—for the purpose of bringing total victory. Organized labor made and has kept its no-strike pledge to an official figure of over 99%. The divide-and-conquer tactics of our enemies come easily to hand when disruptive forces at home seek to separate soldier and worker, so that when the war ends they may be set against each other to keep jobs scarce, goods scarce, fellowship scarce, and corporate profits plentiful. Yet in spite of all the money being spent through the press and radio on these efforts to cause bad feeling, the CIO has reason to believe firmly that servicemen will not be so easily fooled. When soldiering is over, they will again become workers and their interests will be served along with those of all the other workers in the land.

It is therefore important that the army be sympathetic toward labor organization. In occupying conquered territory, civil government and popular elections should follow as soon as possible. The essence of democracy is faith in the common man, wherever he may happen to live. The vigor and extent to which European labor organizations are revived will serve as an index of democracy in the occupied countries. Also, by raising living levels abroad, through collective bargaining, we create a market for our own goods and help to discard outmoded economic practices which could lead to future wars.

The labor movement fights for international and national stability because it knows that should reaction set in, it will be the first to lose its freedom. This was well demonstrated when Mussolini destroyed Italy's labor movement, Hitler

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La Guardia Says:

The Little Flower Speaks His Mind to the Veterans

By MAYOR
FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA

AS VETERANS we are interested first in the winning of the war and then in the maintenance of peace and the welfare and prosperity of our country following the war. We should profit by the experience of the past and see that we do not repeat any of our mistakes. Now I can tell you something about the mistakes of the past. I took part in making some of those mistakes.

You will remember that after the last war, every man or woman was convinced that we fought a war to end war and that was the end of that. After I was discharged from the Army, I went back to the House and I was on the Military Affairs Committee. I remember just what happened. The country was absolutely against anything that reminded us of war. We licked Germany—there was no enemy in the offing—the peace conference was then (about the early part of 1919) working for the maintenance of peace and everyone believe it would.

1919 was the last year that the Legislative Committee had control of the appropriations for their own determinations. The Military Affairs Committee had a Budget before it, and Newton Baker came before our Committee in Executive Session. Newton Baker asked for an Army of one million men—500,000 compulsory military training and 500,000 in the regular army. The Committee was shocked. The Chairman of the Committee and the Majority Members were simply shocked. Mr. Baker then went into detail. He stated very frankly that peace brought responsibility—that we had to assume our share in that responsibility; that we would have to police some of the mandated countries and that the plan was to have sufficient military force to enforce any decision or adjudication of the world organization. (The details of the League of Nations had not then been worked out.) But the country, the press,



Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia

the people and the veterans were all against universal compulsory military training; and the committee voted unanimously to strike out the appropriation and refuse legislation for the compulsory military training. They recommended to the House an army of 500,000. There was a great deal of opposition even in the Committee to the recommendation for an army of 500,000 men, and I gave notice to the Committee that when the Bill reached the floor I would seek to reduce it to 300,000. The Bill came on the floor. I made my motion and it carried through unanimously. Both the Majority and Minority Leaders voted for my amendment and it had no trouble in the Senate at all. So that the Army for 1919-1920 was then fixed at 300,000 men. We then started to demobilize very rapidly.

I left Congress at the end of 1919, to spend two unhappy years at City Hall and then went back after I had served my term down there and the Army then had been reduced by another 100,000.

In 1920 there was a change of Administration, Harding was elected Pres-

ident and Charles Evenas Hughes was appointed Secretary of State. In the early part of 1920 the Washington Naval Disarmament Conference was called. At the first session the first morning, the Conference voted to reduce the navies and it was then that we junked 170,000 tons of ships. That was followed by the London Conference and we junked additional ships. We had a constant decreasing in military and naval forces all the way down the years.

In 1933 a change in government took place in Germany. I served again in Congress from 1922 to 1932 and all during that time very little was provided for military defense other than the maintenance of the army of 186,000 men. We had modernized some of the capital ships of the Navy in that period but that was all. Appropriations for aviation were very meager. The country was absolutely against large appropriations for the Army and the Navy.

In 1933 when the change of government in Germany took place and the Nazis came into power, it seemed to me that any student of political conditions in Europe could have seen what was going to happen. The policy and the program of the Nazi government were very clear; first that they would discontinue to pay indemnities and reparations and, secondly, that they would not wait for the period fixed in the treaty for rearmament. Germany got the jump on military preparations right in the face of Great Britain. Anthony Eden told me that at the time of the League of Nations sanctions against Italy and the Ethiopian War, no country was able to enforce these sanctions as the defense of the countries had reached so low an ebb. We all know what followed.

Now an army cannot be formed overnight. We now know what a terrible period Great Britain had to go through

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