

The Reds Say--

By JIM ALLEN

"Not Charity, but Social Insurance," was the head over a large front page editorial in the Birmingham Labor Advocate, official A. F. of L. organ. Our heart stopped beating for a moment—was it possible that this prostitute sheet, in the teeth of Bill Green's ultimatum against social insurance, contrary to the whole nature of the A. F. of L. betrayal was actually . . . but wait! "The bedrock of stable government and permanent civilization is justice," we read in the first line. Our heart began its regular heart beats again. Any editorial that started that way had something up its sleeve. The sleeve rolled itself up fast enough and uncovered the gnarled arm and hook of treachery.

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For the most part it quoted as vicious a set of lies ever heard from the lips of a labor faker—a statement by one, Joseph Toole, British Socialist and member of Parliament, supposing to show what slaves the Russian workers were, how they were starving and suffering. "If I heard anyone recommending the Soviet system for England I should recommend him for a mad-house," says this tool of the British bosses, and the A. F. of L. lackeys of the T. C. I. at Birmingham quote him in evident approval. Far worse than a mad-house is the Birmingham City Jail to which the A. F. of L. fakers not only recommended Communist organizers in Birmingham, but helped place them there.

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The gem is reserved for the last lines, however, and we had the patience to read that far. "our contribution to the Community Chest is an indication that you are in accord with the finer ideals of humanity which float upon the banner of our freedom. Your contribution is SOCIAL INSURANCE AGAINST CONFLAGRATION OF REVOLUTION AND DESTRUCTION WHICH HAS BROUGHT RUSSIA TO ITS LOW STATE OF BARBARISM AND CRUELTY."

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Those boys certainly understand how charity serves to prevent militant organization and helps the bosses live thru a crisis. Not only do they understand it but they are actively campaigning to throttle labor with crumbs of charity and prevent anything like social insurance against hunger. Eighty-five percent of the workers in the steel industry in and around Birmingham were affected by unemployment and part time, the mines of Walker county employ just enough workers to keep going. And who pays for this charity of the Community Chest, if it is not the workers themselves? On part time with wages cut a whole day's pay is being taken from many workers to fill the Community Chest quota. At a stove and range foundry in Birmingham the three-day schedule was increased to five days for one week—the extra two days went to the Community Chest. The City Council was kind enough to slash a day's wages out of all the city employees for the Community Chest. These are the "finer ideals of humanity which float on the banner of our freedom.

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Social insurance against revolution is the platform of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy in a nutshell. Its convention signed its name to the policy with a flourish. It is nothing as prize insurance salesmen the Danville mill barons. Social insurance against the starvation of capitalism? They don't starve, so why they worry?