

George Sokolsky Ben Gitlow Scorned for His 'Courage'

EVEN so wise a man as William McFee can write a paragraph such as this: "Max Eastman, ex-editor of The Masses and now on Reader's Digest, mentions Gitlow's 'non-Bolshevik courage.' Far be it from us to disparage the lost sheep who return, weary and footsore, from the Muscovite mountains, but this praise of one being called by another becomes tiresome. It is becoming a regular profession, well paid too, to renounce Communism and then write a book about it."

TRUE, Ben Gitlow was once a leader of the Communist movement, not only of America but of the world. In a recent review, wonders how Gitlow knows what he says. He wants confirmation. Anyone familiar with the history of the Communist movement would acknowledge Gitlow as a primary and reliable source. Much that he writes about he lived.

WHERE to accept McFee's view, this would indeed be a tough world; the sinner would have to continue to sin lest a cynic suspect his virtue as being the product of lust. No truth could be broken lest one be suspected of being sanctimonious.

Actually, the case of Ben Gitlow is one of hard and bitter suffering and sacrifice for what he believes to be the truth. He has known Gitlow intimately. I have marveled at his courage and his strength in avoiding benefits from his apostasy.

Capital Capers Capital's Cocktail Circuit Getting Back to Full Swing

THE capital is settling down to viewing the future through an amber glass hazily, which is by way of saying that the cocktail party circuit has picked up speed to the point that it's possible, once again, to hit five or six parties in the same afternoon and evening, if you can stand it.

By all odds, the most informal of the week's parties is a Western "hoedown" which former residents of Washington State and Alaska, now living in the capital, are planning for later this week. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, president of the Washington State and Alaska Society, which will sponsor the dance, has directed that the women wear sweaters and skirts and the men slacks and sport shirts.

Such goings-on are quite a contrast with the white tie and tails affairs of the past, which have been multiplying in numbers during the last few weeks.

Former Ambassador William C. Bullitt gave a party at his home in honor of former Undersecretary of State Will Clayton, by leaving Washington for Texas. Alice Roosevelt Longworth was among the guests.

The Labor Front 40 Left Wing Labor Chiefs Facing Jail

WITH the campaign for the White House over, there are 40 or 50 labor leaders who soon may be heading for another big house where they'll learn that stone walls and iron bars do a prison make.

These union men are going to jail, if a lot of campaign-battered and fatigued Congressmen have their way. The Congressmen have been waiting for the national election to get out of the way.

IT sounds like a good idea! These cases will go to the Supreme Court. Then we'll know if there is a separate set of rules for the left wing union officials who refused to answer and the long, long parade of financiers, industrialists, contractors, armament manufacturers, and military men who have divulged their most intimate secrets for years.

Among the 40 facing jail are some of the CIO's most militant executive board members—all those who refused to reveal their affiliation with various political outfits, which FBI evidence disclosed as subversive. There are many liberals who say that it's none of the government's business. They should, however, know that these labor men about to be cited for contempt lead busy lives who work in the inner sanctums of the State Department, operate the Panama Canal, and own key waterfronts where they learn every detail of every single bundle of all cargoes going abroad.

Gossip of the Nation - Walter Winchell

BROADWAY RAINBOW—Faces About Town: Talooker Bankhead and a cabbie (a Dewey-rooter) in a shrieking debate outside Sardi's... "Gorgeous George," the Hollywood wrestler (blond curls and all), being barred at the Stork door... Jessica Tandy, star of "Streetcar Named Desire," buying her nightly gardenia from a posy peddler at 46th and Broadway... Fay Bainter, high on the list of First Ladies of the Theater, hailing a cab near the Delmonico's... FDR, Jr., on the mend from malaria... Charles Boyer, excited about his first stage role (via "Red Gloves") in 15 years. It'll be his first in English. He plays a Communist leader... Mrs. J. D. Rockefeller, 5d, taking in the sights of the city... Producer M. Gordon, whose next is "Bravo!" showing Lindy chums a sugary note from a Boston critic... Kay Thompson and the four Wims leads in the Clubroom (in the middle of the night) pushing aside four tables—to show newsmen some of their new routines. (SBS music.)

MEMOS OF A MIDNIGHTER: To all readers: I hope you saw Dan Parker's col'm yesterday, in which he confirmed completely the fact that Champ Joe Louis is broke because of tax arrears and great debts. More anon... A drug store fountain at 58th and 6th (northeast corner) now sells a sandwich that costs 11¢... Jerry Cooper's new partner is Marie Rosenbloom... Giving Marie some class and color for the first time... It's a boy for the M. Brodys of Wall St... Mom's the former Lana Jelke of the Social Reg... It's a girl for the Ron Rawsons at Lenox Hill Hosp... Pop's the radiator... Minerva Pious of the Allen program is okay. The leg injury (which kept her off last week's show) is mending... The Runyon Committee embraces Warren Wright again... The Gallant Farms sportsman just sent in the \$10,000 purse the great Citation won at Pimlico/Satdee... B. Rose has warned author M. Hart's lawyers he will sue if the alleged portrayals of a showman and his wife in "Light Up the Sky" aren't toned down.

NEW YORK VIGNETTE: Little Margaret O'Brien, the movie moppet, is always considerate and never offends people. Dining with her mother at Bill Bertolotti's in Greenwich Village, she said: "I'm not a movie star, I'm a girl."

CHARACTER PORTRAIT: She was a wonderful thrush in her day, with curves people loved to look at, too... She tells this to her employees... When she was young and beautiful she enjoyed life to the fullest and the wolves of those paid nearby with gems, gifts and chunks of money—for her companionship... Now she is a lot older and plumper and the fortune she accumulated goes the other way... As she aptly puts it: "I've got to buy it all back!"

overly lax. He attributes the appalling amount of crime in this country to (a) over-exploitation of the crime and under-exploitation of the punishment by American newspapers; (b) the sloppy sentimentality of the public over the criminal and the relative indifference to the rights of the victim; (c) and unassimilated population; and (d) corruption in municipal government.

REP. HARTLEY tells me he's been watching Reuther and the auto union and plans action against it for jumping into the national campaign. And, brother, they did. This union was practically the Democratic Party in Michigan.

OBVIOUSLY the United Automobile Workers spent more than the "legal" Political Action Committee had available. And obviously, the chips came out of the UAW treasury, as did wages for the organizers and money for Reuther's anti-Dewey broadcasts to almost 100 cities.

IT IS a pity, perhaps that the people will not share our indifference to the question of whether the local government is corrupt and autocratic. We have explained that it does not matter, but for some reason the explanation does not seem to carry.

WE ARE going to have to change our approach, and realize it was a deceptive spring which seemed to be dawning when, early this year, we looked at each other and said, "Why, it doesn't matter what sort of ruler Chiang is!" That is the kind of discovery one makes at midnight, when tired, and should forget by morning.

PERHAPS, obscurely, what is happening to us is that in the course of our effort to save democracy we are learning what democracy is, and learning the hard way. We have just discovered, for example, that you can't prop up a reactionary indefinitely by giving him a packet of money.

Chance and the Presidency

permanent interests of the whole community. No man and no group of men may so exercise their rights as to deprive the Nation of the services which are necessary and vital to the common life. A strike which ties up the coal supplies of a whole section is a strike invested with a public interest.

THE position thus stated by President Roosevelt was flatly contrary to the position the coal operators took when through their spokesman, George F. Baer, president of the Reading Railway, they declared: "We will give no consideration to any plan of arbitration or mediation or any interference on the part of any outside party."

SINCE that time both employers and labor unions have been taught that the public has a paramount interest in any controversy between capital and labor which vitally affects the Nation's economy.

It is interesting to note that President Theodore Roosevelt declares in his "Autobiography" that if arbitration had not been agreed to he "had made up his mind to take effective action of a very drastic character." He said: "The method of action upon which I had determined in the last resort was to get the Governor of Pennsylvania to ask me to keep order. Then I would put in the Army under the command of some first-rate general. I would instruct the general to keep the peace order, taking any steps whatever that were necessary to prevent interference by the strikers or their sympathizers with men who wanted to work."

MR. ROOSEVELT declares that land ex-President Grover Cleveland knew of his Roosevelt's plans to seize the mines and put the military in charge and that Grover Cleveland expressed his sympathy with the course I was following. Mr. Roosevelt also says that he "notified Senator Quay, who was greatly wrought up over the condition of things and put the word in that he was going to make another effort to get the operators and miners to come together, but that I would solve the problem in any event and get on with it."

Chance and the Presidency

He said the Senator replied that he "would guarantee that the Governor would request my intervention the minute I asked that the request be made."

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IN A book written in 1903 entitled "Organized Labor," by John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, that very successful and highly respected labor leader in a chapter entitled "Proper Conduct of a Strike" said: "It is sometimes claimed that no strike can be won without the use of physical force. I do not believe that is true, but if it is, it is better that the strike be lost than that it succeed through violence and the commission of outrages."

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said in 1910: "I would not conscientiously violate a law now or at any time during my whole life."

U.S. Learning Democracy the Hard Way

Russians know about this. That is why they peddle the "new democracy" and breed an anti-Americanism that is quite cynical about what they're offering, but at least they don't offer anything that can't be sold. They don't try to sell Chiang Kai-shek, for example. They leave that to us, and I suspect, gladly.

IT MAY be hard on us, but I'm afraid we're going to have to deal with the deep-rooted prejudice that people everywhere have in favor of decent government and meaningful personal lives. The

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME DELIGHTFUL CHAP OUR BUS DRIVER—ALL SUMMER LONG HE STOPPED HIS JUGGERNAUT UP ON THE SIDEWALK

NOW THAT UMBRELLAS ARE OUT OF THE MOTH BALLS AGAIN, HE STOPS IT HALFWAY ACROSS THE STREET.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME DELIGHTFUL CHAP OUR BUS DRIVER—ALL SUMMER LONG HE STOPPED HIS JUGGERNAUT UP ON THE SIDEWALK

Louella Parsons Ida Lupino Sought for 'Moneymen'

YOUNG HAL ROACH is the lucky boy who was able to get Thomas Costain's "The Moneymen." Through arrangements with Arthur Lyons, who had the first option, it now comes into Hal's possession. It is estimated that 300,000 copies of "The Moneymen" were sold and that it equalled the sale of Costain's "Black Rose."

I forgot how young Anne Baxter is until she asked me to tell her about Clara Bow, whose movie career happened before Anne's time. Anne Baxter is playing a Clara Bow character in "You My Everything" at 24th Century-Fox.

I am sorry that Kathryn Grayson and Johnny Johnston are seriously talking divorce. At first I thought it was a joke. Matrimonial breakups and reconciliations are an old habit of Kathryn's. When she was married to John Shelton they parted and reconciled eight times.

Barbara Stanwyck received a very funny letter from Bob Taylor. The day he landed in London the papers carried a story about Mr. Robert Taylor, who became the father of quadruplets. He comes from Middlesex. His parents are in New York with Mr. Robert Taylor, of Hollywood, who was not the father of quadruplets.

Susan Hayward used to lament that she wasn't getting any kind of break in movies. Now she has so many offers, she doesn't know what to do with them all.

It looks as if the 20th Century-Fox will get her as co-star in "The Side Story" with Edward Robinson—she's the male star and not John Garfield. Susan is reading the script, and if she accepts—and Walter Wanger agrees to lend her—it will be her first time on the 20th lot.

They Royal Highnesses arrived very late and full of apologies. They are the house guests of the Charles Skouras, and they went home to dress after an afternoon at the beach they found the house locked and the servants out. Finally, after an hour's delay, they managed to locate their host. Errol Flynn, all by himself, asked me to give him the blame for his trouble with his wife Nora Edington. "She's the greatest girl I ever knew," he said. Errol sat next to the attractive Princess Irene and turned his charm on her.

Cesar Romero's cocktail party honoring his new sister-in-law Ed, brought out just about the whole film colony. Cesar's young-looking, attractive mother received his guests with him. Brother Ed was married a week ago.

Rocky Cooper, done up in a gorgeous evening dress, was having a good time, but she said she missed Gary, who is in San Francisco on location. He had been making speeches for Dewey and Warren, she said.

T. R. Set Pattern in Handling '02 Coal Strike

101st of a Series By George W. Moxey Chief Justice Pennsylvania Supreme Court

IN HIS "Autobiography" Theodore Roosevelt tells of the crisis that prevailed during the first year of his Presidency, when there was an anthracite coal strike for six months. He said: "In consequence, the coal famine became a national menace as the winter approached. In most big cities and many farming districts east of the Mississippi the shortage of anthracite fuel was a dire calamity. In the populous industrial States, from Ohio eastward, it was not merely calamity, but the direst disaster that was threatened."

THE Governor of Massachusetts and the Mayor of New York both notified me that the coal war came on that if the coal famine continued the misery throughout the Northeast, and especially in the great cities, would become appalling, and the consequent public disorder so great that frightful consequences might follow.

AN ACCORD was reached and President Roosevelt appointed a commission headed by Circuit Court Judge George Gray, of Delaware, who had been a distinguished United States Senator.

Other appointees were E. E. Clark head of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors, Thomas H. Watkins, an independent coal operator of Scranton, and Carroll D. Wright, then United States Labor Commissioner. There were seven members in all.