

THE JOB AHEAD-A CHALLENGE

(This is the speech made by ROY V. WILKINSON, Socialist Party candidate for governor, when he accepted the nomination on September 15th, 1943.)



The working people of New Jersey and of the entire nation are faced with serious problems affecting both present war-time conditions and post-war conditions. Present indications point to determined efforts by economic royalists and their henchmen in Congress to put labor "in its place." Labor is expected to do the work of producing the materials to carry on the war, and to supply the manpower to fight the war. At the same time, labor is expected to be satisfied with things as they are, and not to think of having any part in the conduct of the war or in the management of industry. In plain words, labor is expected to be both the industrial lackey and the blood-letting lackey for the owning classes of America.

To substantiate this statement, I refer you to the vicious legislation against workers known as the Smith-Cannally anti-strike bill, and to the smear campaign carried on against John L. Lewis and any other labor leader who dares speak out against existing evils.

Workers must understand that the HAPPY-DAY TALKS by prominent government officials will not result in a post-war Utopia so long as our country is dominated by the economic system of profit taking. World War Two will not correct this condition. Only militant workers, using their preponderant numerical strength, organized in their own political party of working people in support of an economic and social system designed to benefit all the people, will apply the corrective.

Thus far, decaying monopoly capitalism has offered only peace without jobs or full employment through war. The economic royalists have the audacity to tell workers now to work or fight, whereas just a few short years ago, workers were put to flight by police and sometimes by firemen with high-pressure hoses, for fighting to get a job. Already the economists of our country are estimating how many of the now-busy workers will be thrown onto the scrap-heap of unemployment when the war ends. Be assured that the estimated figures are astronomically high; the U. S. Department of Labor has authoritatively placed it at 12,500,000 six months after the war ends.

The capitalist politicians; Democratic candidate for governor, Murphy and Mayor Brunner, in Camden, for instance, in their worry about the post-war calamity are trying to set up planning boards, and the old-line Republicans are rushing in to join the melee. We have a glimpse of what is in their minds, and what direction their planning will take. It is more parks, more curbs, and gutters, more public edifices for the politicians, more highways, only more such things that will make the tax burden heavier. More simply, a more glorified W. P. A.

These politicians never seem to get the idea that productive work can be done. It never occurs to them that we can socialize the activities that are socially useful, and that through socialization and true social planning, we can actually pay our expenditures as we go, without placing the citizenry in bondage indefinitely, to pay for accumulated debts. Socialists propose planning boards, too, but they will be with the objective of taking over--socializing--all natural resources and all monopoly industries, so that they will be used to produce the things by which we live, and setting up a distribution system that will use the economic machinery of the nation to benefit ALL THE PEOPLE.

The start must be made in the several states.

I ask the people of New Jersey to compare my proposals with the statements made by the old-party politicians. On the basis of this comparison, I call for the support of the Socialist program. Working people of New Jersey, you are in the vast majority and there is every reason why society should be organized to function for you. You will have the opportunity at this coming election to show your power, and to make the forward steps toward the establishment of true social and economic democracy. I ask you to use this power wisely.

(Copies of this speech, and other campaign literature may be obtained by writing to the Socialist Party of New Jersey, 34 Park Place, Newark, 2, N. J.)