Worker's Journal

by Charles Denby

A LAYOFF AT MY PLANT

About a month ago or better there were layoffs in the shop where I worked that shook the plant from one end to another. This was also shocking to workers in other plants throughout the city.

It was different from any other layoffs I have ever witnessed in one sense. We often expect a layoff or cutback, some minor and some severe. But it always has been in the past that we had a feeling or understanding of what the layoff is about. This one, no one seems to know.

It just happened suddenly. We heard about it that morning, and by quitting time 80 per cent of the workers had received their pay-off slips. The majority of the laid-off workers were very angry. And those that remained, remained in fear and anger. Many were saying, "What is this? What is going to happen? The depression comes this suddenly?"

DOES THE SALE OF CARS STOP AT ONCE?

The company was saying that they weren't selling any cars. The workers were saying, "Has the sale of cars ever stopped before in the history of the industry, at once?" Many of these laid-off workers were getting in groups around the jobs where they worked and were making short talks and speeches of different kinds.

A worker from the electronic department made a statement that something is seriously wrong with this layoff and with the situation in the country today. He said teasingly, "I am speaking as a big business man. With the whole threat of Communist versus democracy in the free enterprise world, it seems to me that if something wasn't seriously wrong, we big business people would try our utmost to avoid a layoff of this degree for fear of all the workers turning against us and destroying our free enterprise system. I am sure that is what is happening here."

Jurisdictional Dispute

Is McCarthy a Communist?

McCarthy has made a name for himself by attacking Communists. But a number of ordinary people have written us letters which show their deep conviction that McCarthy is himself the most ferocious Communist in the United States.

All sorts of learned people, historians, intellectuals, and above all, political radicals, will see in this only the ignorance and backwardness of the common people. And, as usual, these wise men will be wrong. The people know that there is a Communist which means a society organized for the benefit of all, particularly those who work. And they know quite well that McCarthy is not one of those.

But the people know too that the Communist of Russia, of China and of all the totalitarian states, is the merciless enemy of all equality, justice and political rights for people. And many are convinced that McCarthy is a representative of this type of Communism.

BROTHER TO STALIN

CORRESPONDENCE joins heartily with them in this. McCarthy is a brother to Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, Mao Tse-Tung, Malenkov and Franco. These are big boys who sit, or have sat, at the big table. McCarthy is a little one, cheap, snob-nosed, and with nothing more to him than a big greedy voice. But he belongs to the same family. And that family will have to be destroyed or it will carry our civilization to utter collapse and ruin.

You cannot judge these fellows by the things they say. Hitler used to swear that the greatest enemy of the world was Communism. But what was distinctive about Hitler?
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The Real Trouble We Solve This or Fail

Discussion

I have lived with and worked with CORRESPONDENCE from the first day of one of its first thought of the paper years ago. Also, I have worked for a long time, in all types of establishments, and the conclusion is in publishing and writing for all and reporting for the Papers for the people. For the me of the fate of the world, the fate of the world, in fact, the fate of all of us, if one can understand what it means, and understand what it means. The people, workers, Negroes and the youth.

Our intellectuals from period to period of history's paper, especially because it is possible that the paper has been a workers' paper. We produce what we what we do, who need, and who need, and in the establishment of that correspondence and a line goes into the paper, which the editor does not approve (though he may disapprove of the whole trouble). Let me give one example.

Editorial Meeting

There is an editorial meeting of three people to discuss an article. In the meeting, three workers, including one of the intellectual group of great knowledge and political experience, told me that in the plenary meeting they are about to consider an article which is on McCarty, on some aspect of the work he has done in the McCarthy business. The worker in the meeting states that he wants to think that the paper should concern itself too with the fact that he is wrong. The workers, he says, are not afraid of the McCarthy business, but they are afraid of what it means. McCarthy has been trying to touch the workers in the country. We are afraid of what McCarthy is trying to do. He is afraid of the paper. He is afraid of the McCarthy paper, and the McCarthy business. He does not think it is just a McCarthy business. There is the question of the facts of the press which McCarthy is trying to destroy. This affects everybody in the country.

The worker replies, "The workers are the only people interested in freedom of the press." The politically experienced man interjects: "But that is absolutely untrue, and even if it were true it is the duty of the paper to point out to the workers that freedom of the country for the death of the country... It is not enough to say that the workers are more than anybody else." The discussion continues.

Worker is Convinced

Now the politically experienced man adds one or two powerful arguments. In fact they are absolutely indistinguishable. Nobody has ever, in any whole world could argue against them. Especially because it is possible that the McCarthy business means something is wrong but here the worker is wrong.

Now comes the main dangerous part of the whole business. In the end, the worker is himself convinced by their arguments, that is imperative to have an article in the paper on freedom of the press which would be something that could be exposed.

The article is this way: It's only when it comes out, with character, that children can be excited in the anti-McCarthy New York Daily News, the famous negative paper, in the liberal New York papers. The workers, the leaders, in the Community Daily and all the other New York papers. It is a very good article. The only thing wrong with it is that it means nothing at all to the vast majority of the workers in the country. If CORRESPONDENCE does not say what the workers need, it does not deserve to exist. It has to continue to exist.

It is Criminal

The criminal thing is that the worker chairman did not say ‘what he thought that what he thought didn’t go into the paper. He knows workers, he has lived among all his life, but he says: freedom of the press, he does not believe in freedom of the press. He says that we believe in freedom of the press, but we do not believe in the press for freedom of the press. However, let us take the most extreme position of what he is, what he is doing. I say that after all, if we believe in freedom of the press, if we constantly studying the workers’ movement is the work of a worker or a worker of some political understanding something that contradicts what I as an intellectual, think, I do not correct him. I do not ask him to tell me more. I do not interject a word. I say: what has he said all he has to say. He has given us the sole purpose of finding out why he has done the work. I ask him to write his views down. I give him the time and the work and thinking it over. His Views Mutter

My experience, and it has been a long time to learn this, that is a rule, what is talking about, I am usually not talking about what is talking about, but what he is talking about is talking about. Take this very example, he said, 'the workers are not afraid of the McCarthy business.' He said that more than implied that in some other words he was afraid of him he didn't see why the paper should concern itself about that loud-mouth. Now in one sense he is undoubtedly right and wrong. A paper which deals with politics can not deal with McCarthyism common like McCarthy. And a thousand political workers with papers know this and publish their papers. But what was this worker was saying amounted to an admission of McCarthy. All the liberals and intellectual workers are in terror of McCarthy. We, the workers, are afraid of the McCarthy business in our papers. For it is not in the other papers what is what the workers think and I want them to read it. (Cox, p. 54, Col. 1)

Who We AreWhat We Stand For

Some people have asked what the purpose of our paper is and what is behind the principles of the paper. We are clearly who we are and what we stand for.

We are a group of workers from different parts of the country, some of us are factory workers, housewives, members of minority groups, students and professionals. All of us have known how dehumanized and humiliated we are, and how we were affected by new actions and understanding between people. We have brought everything that we have known about the workers and the study and education of intellectuals, to the point where we started, we were in contact with some of our elders in the community. The only change they wanted was to be in the press. To better understand what the workers in our own group and outside. Of this, because we have come.

The World We Live In

Our ideas come from intellectuals studying what was happening all over the world and from workers in the world saying what they thought.

This is all that separates our work today from the discipline that many in the past have said, that the so-called leaders, the bosses, turn us back to you. We will hear many people say that there is no leadership today, not discipline, and asking why is this so. For, their small group, they will be, they will be, they will be. The only change they wanted was to be in the press. To better understand what the workers in our own group and outside of this, because of us, we have come.

We, the editors of this paper, we will tell you what we are like, we will tell you what we do not want to be. We do not want to be put down as a group of intellectuals, not as a group of intellectuals, but as a group of workers. We will be the last we have come. We believe that the work of our editors, some of them have written this, the so-called leaders, the bosses, turn us back to you. We will hear many people say that there is no leadership today, not discipline, and asking why is this so. For, their small group, they will be, they will be, they will be. The only change they wanted was to be in the press. To better understand what the workers in our own group and outside of this, because of us, we have come.

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The Real Trouble

And that is neither right nor wrong. It is the logical fact of profound importance. Because it is logical, it is true. And because it is true, it is the goal.

The workers have no press. The blunt statement makes clear that the workers do not care about freedom of the press. It is a matter of justice. And the workers have no press to care about company. Now it is an issue. It is an issue. It is a matter of justice.

Our claim to support

The problem, then, is this: What can we do? What can we do to help the workers get a press? We can do many things.

We can help the workers get a press by supporting them in their struggle for freedom of the press.

And that is the struggle of the workers. It is the struggle of the workers for justice.

Chairman of the Executive Committee

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