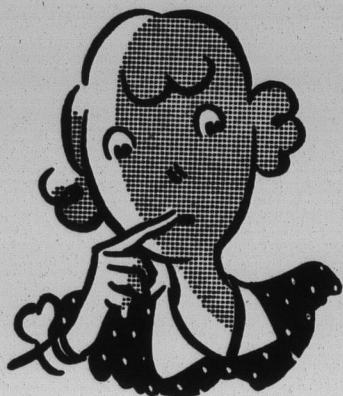


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WANTS ELECTORATE INFORMED

Congressman Church Comments on New Deal Inquiry Into European "Co-operative Movement"

By Ralph E. Church

(Representative, 10th Congressional District)

Chicago, Illinois, August 3 — Not much has been said in the public press about the three-man commission of inquiry which President Roosevelt now has in Europe. It is, however, a development which is beginning to receive some attention in the business world, particularly by those engaged in the retail trades. In the background they see the making of another New Deal measure, if the Administration should be continued in power.

Study Co-operative Movement

Both the NRA and the AAA had to be discarded. Time and again the President has stated that if he fails in one scheme he will try another. The more apprehensive see in the President's appointment of a commission to study the "co-operative movement" in Europe the adoption of the idea of a "co-operative commonwealth" for America by the New Deal. If such should be the intention of the President, the program certainly should be made clear to the people before the election.

The commission now studying the European "co-operative system" consists of Jacob Baker, Assistant WPA administrator; Leland Olds, secretary of the New York Power Authority, and Charles E. Stuart, engineer. Their preliminary study of the British movement has been completed, and an investigation is now being made into those on the continent.

Not New Idea

The development of "consumer co-operatives" is not altogether a new idea with the Administration. They have been sponsored in the Tennessee Valley Project and generally throughout the country by the Department of Agriculture. Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, has long been an advocate of the system. Those who have read his recent book, "Whose Constitution," will have noted his conviction that the "co-operative commonwealth" should be established in America.

In the last chapter will be found these words: "Producers' co-operatives are not enough. For the most part they merely take the place of middlemen, and while in many cases they save a substantial part of the middleman's profit for the producer, they do not have any very profound effect on the people whom they serve. The co-operative way of life must pervade the community, and this means there must be consumers' co-operatives as well as producers' co-operatives. . . . I believe the majority of American people are already receptive to the general purposes and possibilities of a co-operative commonwealth."

Movement In Progress

The quotation clearly shows Secretary Wallace's belief in the "co-operative system." He does not specifically state, however, in what way the government should seek to establish the "co-operative commonwealth." At the last session of Congress a bill was introduced which would authorize the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make loans to organized co-operatives. There was also a bill introduced which would establish a revolving fund of \$75,000,000 for credit unions and consumer co-operatives.

I am not prepared to say whether

either of these measures was sponsored by the Administration. They throw some light on what form of development of the idea under government sponsorship on a broad national scale might take. In any case, if the continuation of the New Deal is to mean the adoption of the "co-operative commonwealth" idea, it behooves the President to make his intention clear during the course of the campaign. Those who are familiar with the system and may be in favor of it or opposed to it have the right to know before November the specific nature of the program the New Deal would adopt. While consumer co-operatives have existed in the United States for a number of years and we here in Illinois are probably familiar with their nature, I venture to say that system is entirely foreign to the vast majority of the American people, particularly in the eastern states.

Legionnaires Get Ready to Invade Cleveland Soon

Making the trek from every section of the country members of the American Legion will converge upon Cleveland September 20 to 25 in record numbers for their 18th national convention.

Registrations for the colorful conclave at this time promise an all-time peak attendance well above the 200,000 mark. Weeks away from the convention date registrations have been running three to four times heavier than at the same period in previous years.

Striking Background

Always picturesque, the great Legion parade, Forty and Eight procession and thrilling drum and bugle corps contests now will have for a striking background the brilliant-hued exhibition halls of the Great Lakes Exposition and Cleveland's vast Stadium.

A fortune will be represented in the value of the equipment carried by the drum and bugle corps competing here. A conservative estimate places the investment close to a million dollars.

Reunion of Air Heroes

One of the numerous reunions scheduled in connection with the convention will bring to the city probably the greatest assemblage of air heroes in American Legion history.

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, Maj. Jimmie Doolittle, Mayor Fiora LaGuardia of New York, Capt. Orville A. Anderson, Col. William Bishop, ranking Canadian World War ace—these are but a few of the illustrious figures in World War aviation history who will attend a banquet Sunday night, Sept. 20, especially arranged for pilots and observers.

Under a system worked out by the Ohio Highway Patrol in cooperation with the Cleveland police department every assistance is to be offered Legionnaires motoring to the convention.

RETURN FROM CRUISE

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Lamprey and daughter, Susan, have returned to their home at 730 Washington avenue, from a three weeks' cruise of the Caribbean.