

Ed" Smiths, the Georges, the McKellars, etc., etc., would be of little avail. The electorate gets the government it deserves.

Opposed as we are to any and all restrictions placed upon the members of the working class, the Poll Tax is not, as the author states, "the device that has been the most serious menace to American democracy from within." (p. 270). The menace is far more sinister than that. Its restrictions far more damaging. It is the minority class ownership of the means of living which enslaves the great majority and makes the word "Democracy" an empty phrase.

To the student of American political history, Mr. Perry's book has value, if only for its picture of the "Boss" in politics and the working of the political "machine." However, in the Poll Tax states, three-dollars, the price of Mr. Perry's book, may be found to be a bar to those whom the author would like to get on his side of the fence.

S.F.

We have just received word that Comrade Adolph Kohn died of tuberculosis in London on Dec. 28, 1944. An obituary will appear in the February issue. Any reader having information regarding Comrade Kohn's experience in North America, kindly forward data at once to 12 Hayward Place, Boston 11, Mass.

Bases on the Moon?

(A LETTER TO "TIME")

Sirs:

Subject: the Winthrop plan of interglobal strategy in World War III. According to this theory only a planet with a backside has a military future. The earth, alas, has no backside. It is immediately imperative for the U. S. to take the lead in rocket exploration of the moon and to establish bases there. The nation that controls the moon controls the earth.

In short: it is a well-known fact that the moon revolves in such a way that it always turns the same face to the earth. The other side of it will always be inaccessible to rocket fire from the earth. Thus it forms an ideal site for supplies, factories, munitions works, etc. Well placed emplacements on this side of the moon, on the other hand, could command every part of the earth as if it were a chicken turning on a spit, simply waiting for New York or Moscow to come within range...

I offer this idea free of charge (out of selfless patriotism) to "Time" or the U. S. General Staff. On with lunar exploration! It is later than you think!

GOUVERNEUR WINTHROP

New York City

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NOW DO THEY KNOW?

The Melbourne "Herald" of Sept. 24 reported, from the "London Times", some discontent among long servicemen in the Middle East, at an order that they consider a gross interference with their private affairs.

A general order in August announced that married men of more than three years' service in the Middle East could obtain compassionate leave to go home and start a family.

The deluge of applications that followed embarrassed the authorities to such an extent that any shred of subtlety they had possessed fled, and there followed an amendment of such bald tactlessness that even the War Office is slightly shocked, and according to the "Herald" of September 30, has ordered an inquiry.

This amendment restricted leave to men whose wives were over 35, who could produce a medical certificate stating that they were able to bear children, and could show good reason why they had not started a family before the war!

It is seldom that capitalist relationships are permitted to be seen in such an unfavorable light. But sometimes, some Jack-in-office, over-zealous in his master's interests, blunderingly tears down a carefully placed veil, to the embarrassment of more practised tacticians.

The resentment aroused by this piece of affrontery is not without a wry humor.

These men are driven obviously against normal inclinations and desires, to live unnatural lives away from their homes and chosen mates, and to spend years on end being conditioned to kill men who, like themselves, are forced into the holocaust in their master's interests. Yet they still, somehow, retain the quaint illusion that they are free men, and that when and why they have offspring is entirely their own affair!

...Actually, if it were not for the nagging fear of the master class that they are killing the goose that lays the golden egg that this numerical strength of their wage slaves will fall below that of the working class of a trade rival, and so leave them open to attack, "compassionate" leave would not have been considered.

Do these men know now what is their class position in society? Is their resentment due to a belated realization that they belong to a class that has been stripped of every vestige of human dignity by the economic relationships of capitalist society? Or is the indignation only evident among those men who are deprived of leave because their wives are not so old that delay will negate their usefulness as breeders of wage slaves?

At least one would think that, whatever reasons the most confused of those men would advance against socialism, that feeble but tenacious objection that it "would break up family life" would not be one of them. For these men, and thousands like them, family life is non-existent.

SEYMOUR

(From "Socialist Comment and Review", Dec. 1944.)

The Socialist Party of Australia, with assistance by the Socialist Party of New Zealand is now publishing the "SOCIALIST COMMENT AND REVIEW" in printed form. Anyone desiring copies can obtain them from our Literature Agent, for 5 cents per copy.