

Morgan, Thomas and the Block-Fakers

By I. AMTER

One of the most shameful acts of deceiving the workers and the people in the neighborhoods is being put across in New York City. Although on the one hand, Roosevelt denies that there is any starvation in the state of New York, the statistics and capitalist papers record cases daily of starvation, suicide, crime, etc., caused by hunger and starvation.

J. P. Morgan knows that the situation is desperate—or as he said in his “only” radio talk: “We have reached a point where the aid of governments or the gifts of individuals, no matter how generous, are insufficient to meet the conditions which have come upon us. So we must all do our bit.” So Morgan tries to escape the obligation that he and his fellow capitalists have, to maintain the unemployed in the country, and working hand in hand with the other fakers, liars, grafters and racketeers of the Emergency Relief Committee, he proposes to shift the burden on to the backs of the workers in the neighborhoods. This is to be done by means of the block-aid scheme.

Hijacking, Blackmailing Is the Method.

The committee composed of such leading lights as George F. Baker, Cornelius N. Bliss, H. P. Davison, Dr. Fosdick, General Harbord, E. R. Harriman, Robert A. Lovett Elihu Root, Jr., Myron C. Taylor, Colonel Arthur Woods—bankers army officers and sky pilots—and of course Harvey D. Gibson and Wilton Lloyd-Smith—proposes to hijack the workers in the neighborhoods, intimidate them and threaten them with discredit if they do not contribute to the relief fund. That they will find out where an employed worker works and have the firm exert pressure, even to the point of threatening to fire him, is obvious. The “volunteers”

are instructed to make note of “agitators” and trouble-makers.”

The plan of organization provides: 1) That each district shall have a district chairman. “He will be a citizen of high standing”. In each district there will also be a district secretary. “This paid secretary will be a carefully selected so-called ‘white collar worker’.” (1) He will be a man who has held a responsible place in the business or professional world. He will be a man who has commanded a substantial salary or return from his business interests.”

These people are not only selected from among the tens of thousands of office and bank executives who have been thrown out of work owing to the crisis, but forces will also be obtained from other sources. Thus the bulletin of the “block community organization” instructs the district secretaries to “call upon large insurance agencies, bond houses and other firms employing large groups of salesmen and endeavor to obtain the co-operation of such organizations in covering the various districts.” “Block-aiders”, it says, “recruited from sales forces will be experienced solicitors.” And if any of these “experienced” forces working for the insurance companies should refuse,—out they go into the ranks of the unemployed!

This organization is not a temporary institution. On the contrary, it is regarded as a “semi-permanent asset of our city...and can be held together for any future time of need.” Thus the ranks of the fascists are being built up.

There were not sufficient “volunteers” for the work in the beginning. It was notable that the Tammany

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henchmen did not recognize the possibilities in the work. Therefore the emergency relief heads went to Tammany Hall, and those who refused to "volunteer" in the beginning soon "VOLUNTEERED". This is building up a permanent fascist organization under the guise of "relief".

Spying One of Its Main Functions.

The bulletin (February 5, 1932) states that the district organization shall "furnish a complete and detailed record as to each city block of available citizens, their capability...and other useful information." What this information is may be gathered from the warning of Police Commissioner Mulrooney, who instructed a meeting of investigators, to "report about the neighbors who advocate Unemployment Insurance or the organization of Unemployed Councils." In view of the fact that the Tammany police are directly involved in the block-aid work, the ferretting out of "agitators" and advocates of Unemployment Insurance will be an integral part of the block-fakers' work.

Relief Not to Go to Needy In Block.

One of the most shameful and brazen aspects of the block-faking plan is the fact that the fascist bosses of this scheme are **aking and lying** to workers in the blocks as to what will become of the money collected. For some weeks they have been spreading far and wide the slogan "help a needy case in the neighborhood". This is a lie. The directions state quite clearly: "Selection of Cases. It is undesirable that any block should select as its beneficiary a family living in that block. There are some 20,000 cases in the five boroughs already investi-

gated and certified as in urgent and immediate need, and these families are the first obligation under this plan."

In other words, the whole plan is working **UNDER FALSE PRETENSES**—and all funds are obtained through fraud. The Emergency Relief Bureau, the city Tammany administration and the Roosevelt government have no intention of taking care of the unemployed through taxation of the rich. Not having succeeded in obtaining enough through the workers in the shops, they are determined that the workers in the neighborhoods shall through **fascist** methods be compelled to contribute—**NOT** to the relief of immediate needy cases in the neighborhood, but of the 20,000 starving families that up to the present have obtained nothing—but words.

This is further demonstrated in the instruction to the block treasurer, not to keep the money in the neighborhood, but to deposit it in a bank, which "will send its own check weekly to the treasurer of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee, 29 Broadway."

Is this not clear robbery, fakery, hijacking, black-mailing, spying work? Does this not show the building up of a fascist organization of a "semi-permanent" character to be used "for a future emergency?" Morgan knew what he was doing when he spoke over the radio for the block-faking scheme. He knew that he was laying the basis of a fascist organization with its tentacles in every block of the city to take care of agitators for Unemployment Insurance and for the building up of Unemployed Councils. In other words to take care of radical and revolutionary workers!

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