



PETRILLO vs. THE PEOPLE

LEGISLATION is pending in Congress to compel James C. Petrillo to consider the American people even if he doesn't respect them. Petrillo (middle name Caesar, and he inhabits a swank suite in one of New York's finest hotels) is chief of the American Federation of Musicians (A. F. of L.). This labor union has rounded up all, we believe, of the 138,000 professional musicians in the United States, and many of those in Canada.

Within reason, that is a fine thing. Few musicians are astute businessmen, to put it mildly, and before this union got on its feet the profession was pretty generally gypped, underpaid and trodden upon.

Petrillo, however, has carried the thing beyond reason.

His latest, as we go to press, is a flat order to the

broadcasting companies to stop airing any foreign programs containing music, except those originating in Canada. This, at a time when it is widely agreed that unless the peoples of the various nations can come to understand one another there is little hope for an enduring peace, but rather there is a brilliant, indeed a blinding, prospect of an atomic finish for the human race.

This is only the latest in a long string of acts aimed at making J. C. Petrillo the czar of professional music in the United States. He forces creation of unneeded jobs for his union members and in other ways abuses the essentially healthy principle of labor organization.

One of his smelliest acts of dictatorship to date was the forcing off national networks a while ago of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, a

noncommercial group of children studying music.

The time has come to trim this little fellow down to his correct size. He is overdoing the legitimate work of his union, appears to take delight in it and shows no compunction about defying all public authorities from the President of the United States on down. The proposed legislation we have mentioned would make Petrillo, whenever he gets too big for his hat, liable to as much as \$5,000 fine or two years or both.

If any of Petrillo's musician followers suffer by the enactment of such laws, that will be just too bad. They didn't have to let him get by with his Little Caesarism. The interests of 140,000,000 Americans are and must be kept paramount to those of J. C. Petrillo and of such musicians as he has muscled into unjustifiable benefits and perquisites.

EX-PRIVATEs AND JOBS

The man's the gowd for a' that.

—Bobbie Burns (1759-96).

"**GOWD**" was Bobbie Burns' Scotch way of saying "gold."

We're reminded of Burns' immortal line by a G.I. gripe which is cropping up in our esteemed contemporary, the Infantry Journal—a G.I. gripe which, unlike some of them, appears to be eminently sound and to deserve wide publicity.

This one is to the effect that too many personnel managers, employment directors, etc., are giving heavy

preference in hiring to men who were officers in the war, and are perfunctorily passing up ex-privates and ex-noncoms.

The reasoning is that any man who was an officer must have the ability to think for himself and to handle other men, while any man who didn't rise from the ranks must be a lug who has no initiative or capacity for advancement.

It is bad logic, and therefore is more than likely to backfire on any personnel director who falls for it.

The fact is, as almost everyone knows, that merit does not always mean advancement in the armed forces

any more than in civilian life; that many other factors are involved in many cases.

This isn't said to detract from the average high caliber of our officers in the war. It is said in an effort to combat what can grow into a widespread and very dirty deal for a lot of ex-servicemen, and as an urgent hint to all employers to give rank no more than its proper weight when hiring veterans. As always, before the war, and probably for all time to come, you'll get better results by sizing up the entire man for what he is and may become, after careful investigation of his personality, background and equipment for the job.

OCCUPATION ETIQUETTE

GENERAL JOSEPH T. McNARNEY has recently worked out a definite plan for reduction of our German occupation forces to 300,000 by July 1st. As this is written, our forces in the European theater total more than 600,000. All this is good news for overseas G.I.s with low point totals. McNarney feels that 300,000 men can do an adequate occupation job, and that perhaps the force can be still further reduced next year.

Now that this matter is definitely arranged, we move that General McNarney and others in authority in occupied Germany and in Washington take the necessary steps to clean up another matter. We refer to the inexcusable conduct of some U.S. occupation soldiers toward German civilians.

Stories keep coming back to this country about American soldiers sticking up Berlin restaurants, or beating up German citizens, or looting German homes. How much of this stuff goes on, we don't know. We do know that some of it goes on, and that any of it is too much. Not that we believe in sobbing unduly over the German people. They let themselves be razzle-dazzled into the war by Hitler and his mobsters. But that does not excuse U.S. occupation troops for conduct which can only spread around the world the impression that Americans are given to talking like preachers and acting like thugs.

Occupation corrupts the occupying force—true. But such corruption can be combated by the govern-

ment at Washington and by the officers in charge in Germany. Replacement troops for Germany and Japan should be thoroughly indoctrinated with the fact that they are not going on a looting foray, but to do a job which may be distasteful but must be done properly.

We came out of the war the most revered nation in the world, because of the colossal part our fighting men and our war goods played in winning the war. We can on no account afford to let U.S. occupation troops—mainly, now, replacements who saw no fighting—smear our national reputation. An unknown percentage of the boys are doing just that. It is time to step on them as hard as is necessary to cut such dirty work to the irreducible minimum.

Collier's for February 16, 1946

Choice of a lifetime...



Treat yourself to the finest Golden Wedding in more than half a century. Linger over its lighter, finer flavor. It's the discriminating whiskey drinker's *choice of a lifetime*.

Golden Wedding

*Has
had no
peers for
fifty
years*

BLENDED WHISKEY. 86 PROOF. 72½% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS. JOSEPH S. FINCH & COMPANY, SCHENLEY, PA.



LUCKY STRIKE
Means Fine Tobacco

SO **ROUND**, SO **FIRM** -

SO **FULLY PACKED**

SO **FREE** and **EASY** on the **DRAW**

Yes, L.S./M.F.T.

