

The Million New Businessmen

by William Z. Foster

LAST Sunday Roelif Loveland, a war correspondent for the pro-Dewey, Cleveland Plain Dealer, had a piece in that paper in which he said that "the majority of the lads now fighting the war in France want to go into business for themselves. They are tired," says he, "of taking orders from other people." So far so good, but Mr. Loveland is troubled. "Just how," he ponders, "10,000,000 men can go into business for themselves is a little difficult to understand."



But the Plain Dealer's writing man should not be of such little faith. After all, the great party of which his paper is such an ardent supporter, could take care of this little chore—that is, if the American people will give it a chance to do so. After World War I a Republican Administration put vast numbers of ex-servicemen into business—selling apples—and it will do the same this time, only upon a much larger scale if Dewey and Bricker can kid the American people into electing them this coming November.

The Republican Party's platform is precisely adapted for putting the returned fighters out on the street corners of the nation's cities peddling apples. Its contempt for government planning and government works, its support of high tariffs, its irresponsible attitude towards full production and full employment, its contempt for Federal social insurance laws, its placing of the interests of the great monopolies above those of the rest of the nation, its perspective of a competitive grab-what-you-can on the international market—would, if they should become government policy, lead straight to another economic crash, but incomparably more devastating than that in the last war's aftermath. With millions of starving workers walking the streets, the door would then be wide open for another big expansion of the apple-selling busi-

ness, with the ex-servicemen having first choice.

Hoover—Exponent of Small (Apple) Business

A Dewey-Bricker Administration would be further facilitated in providing independent businesses (selling apples) for the millions of ex-servicemen by virtue of the fact that its leading figure, Mr. Herbert Hoover, has had a wealth of experience in this direction. He showed once before that he could put the country's whole economy out of business and, as Al Jolson says, "You haven't seen nothing yet." Just give Mr. Hoover another chance and he will make the economic crisis of the early thirties look like prosperity in comparison with the industrial paralysis he would bring about after this war.

Another striking feature of the Republican Party's apple-selling program of the past and of the future (if Dewey should get in) is that it demonstrates the genuineness of the "free enterprise" slogan of the forces behind Hoover, Dewey, et al. There are certain misguided persons in this country, notably Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, who would have us believe that the Hooverites have no thought dearer to their hearts than protecting the profits of the monopolists. But this slander is effectively refuted by the hosts of independent apple-sellers, who were quite free of monopolistic tendencies, that Hoover's Republican Administration created after the last war and that Dewey's would conjure up in still larger numbers after this war if it were permitted to do so.

Rugged Individualism or Starving Americans

An additional advantage of the

Hooverite apple-selling business is that it validates another of Mr. Hoover's beloved slogans, namely the one calling for "rugged individualism." In the apple-selling of Mr. Hoover's regime we had, indeed, rugged individualism at its ruggedest. There was no question then about unemployment insurance and such effete and decadent legislation. It is true that several million people were half starved, but this was a minor matter in view of the larger fact that the sacred principles of rugged individualism, upon which our nation is solidly based, were not infringed upon.

But, of course, there are obstacles in the way of the Hoover-Dewey apple-selling program. In the first place, the American people, once burnt are twice shy, and are not inclined to give the Hooverites another chance to ruin the industries of the country. And then, too, the millions of soldiers and sailors, now busily saving our country from fascist slavery, don't seem to cotton to the perspective of peddling apples. Instead, they are talking about the maintenance of full production and jobs for all, and they also want the government, through a comprehensive system of social insurance, to protect them fully against the hazards of illness, old age, accidents, and unemployment in general.

All of which make it rather tough going for the Hoover apple-selling program of providing opportunities for the, according to Mr. Loveland, 10,000,000 ambitious men in our armed services who want to go into business on their own account.

Adam Lapin is on vacation. His column They're Saying in Washington will be resumed upon his return.

Worth Repeating

BALTIMORE SUN, in a lengthy review article on postwar prosperity for its big port city through extended trade with the Soviet Union, in its issue of July 29: The port of Baltimore, the railroads, that serve it and the industries in its metropolitan area are anticipating and planning for a heavy immediate postwar trade with Russia. The anticipations and plans were confirmed—not inspired—by the recent Russian trade predictions of Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, who said, on his return from Russia, that the Soviet Union will offer a vast postwar market for American machinery if this country will extend long-term credits. The local plans and anticipations long antedated the Russian visit of Mr. Johnston. They are, in fact, a continuation of the rather successful efforts in that direction that were being made before the war and the contacts that have been kept throughout the struggle.