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A Sweet Example of Junkerism.

Toryism has menaced the peace of the NRA from time to time with its pleas for entrenched capitalism. It is too mild a name, however, to cover the case which follows - an editorial published recently in the Indianapolis Star:

"Child Labor Buncombe."

"The United States is a unit in seeking to prevent the exploitation of children in industry. It should be equally insistent that selfish interests do not use alleged child labor as a smoke screen to deceive the public. That is the type of campaign waged in the interest of the harmful, misleading and unnecessary child labor amendment to the constitution. The progress of this proposed constitutional change has been possible only because the public has failed to look behind its title to discover the true scope of the measure. Conditions accompanying the depression also have served the selfish interests of the amendment's backers.

"The truth of this situation is demonstrated by a review of the proposed amendment's wandering about the country during the last decade. From 1924 to 1932, a period of eight years, six states ratified the change. That certainly reflected no nationwide concern over the alleged plight of children made victims of greedy industrialists. The American public, on the contrary, knew conditions had improved so materially that the amendment was not justified. It should have expired automatically if not ratified within a definite term of years. Careless or spineless congressmen, however, set no limit for ratification.

"The depression came and afforded opportunity for propaganda that child labor was depriving adults of jobs. Pressure was brought to bear on legislatures, and thirteen were cajoled into voting ratification during the last year. Even the slim pretense that one or two states might fail to prevent the exploitation of children has been nullified by provisions of the NRA codes which bar such types of employment. Sponsors of the amendment say that it would release 200,000 children to the schools and provide that many jobs for adults. It would confer unnecessary powers on Congress to interfere with the prerogatives of states, including the possibility of meddling in even the normal routine of farm life. The public should familiarize itself with this amendment and take steps to prevent such unwise tinkering with the constitution."

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The Bulletin has pointed out more than once that the depression followed an unusual prevalence of "the four sins that cry to heaven for vengeance": 1. Wilful murder; 2. Unnatural lusts; 3. Defrauding laborers of their wages; 4. Oppression of the poor, widows and orphans.

Time and again publicity has been given to the unnatural exploitation of children in the cotton mills of the South, where tots labored for a few cents a long day; similar conditions existed in other parts of the country, though not on so large a scale. The effect of the NRA in doing away with child labor in the cotton textile industry was hailed by decent people everywhere as sufficient justification for that Act. It is a blotch on our record that we should have to await the utilitarian argument of providing jobs for adults to be moved to ratify the child labor amendment: to have that amendment now referred to as "harmful, misleading, and unnecessary" makes one wonder whether there is hope for our civilization.

In Germany the "Junker" is the die-hard imperialist who will listen to no argument. Perhaps the stifled lives of children would move the Junker; if so, we apologize for describing as "Junkerism" this attack on the natural rights of 200,000 children.
PRAYERS: Deceased - an uncle of James Clark (Corby); a friend of a student. Ill - the wife of Gerald Barry, '31; relatives of Nick Connor and John Riley.