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H I G H

P O I N T S

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SOME THINGS . . .

. . .one sees and another cannot. That, I ~~can~~ think, is the core, the pith, the very heart of the illness; the chronic everlasting epidemic that infects man and putrifies his attempts at a civilization, that rots the core....

How to make those see who do not. Can one restore sight to the blind? To every man there is a justification of what he is and what he deems right. Every scoundrel has his full and complete justification for his own satisfaction.

Some things one sees and another cannot...

She entered the lobby. Mr. Stuhmer sat as usual in his favorite chair. "Good evening, Mr. Stuhmer," she said, with the usual attempt to be civil. "Has the duchess been bothering you?" he asked. "No. She hasn't been home." The duchess was a Belgian woman who lived on the floor below. She slammed doors and too frequently was hysterically vociferous. She had fled from Europe in terror and her mind had remained panicked.

"Mr. Stuhmer, do you think you could do something about the window sills and the steam pipes? The paint peels so. They look very bad."

"Why don't you call the office?" he said. "Although I don't think they will do anything," he added. "The landlord is angry. It was the agitators," he said as though that explained everything.

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"Agitators?" She started to add, What were they-agitating for? but remembered the woman who had knocked at her door that evening and asked her to sign a petition for a washing machine to be installed in the basement.

"They used to sit in front of the house. That-makes a house look bad. It makes it look ~~cheap~~ cheap. But the landlord, he fixed them. He brought them into court. Before Judge Markowitz, who has a part ownership in this house--but the agitators didn't learn that. He fixed them. He fined them and told them to go back where they came from. That fixed them," he repeated.

"He's smart all right, the landlord. He said, 'We're millionaires, we can wait.'" Mr. Stuhmer sighed with satisfaction. He leaned back more comfortably in his chair. He seemed to become a millionaire himself in his mind.

"Agitators only make trouble," he said, as though he liked this vastly original thought. "They should go back where they came from." Instead of going to the O.P.A.

Some things one sees and another cannot...

Is that how you would have it? Stupid people who remain so? All need not be for profit! All need not be governed by greed!

It is possible to work for the joy of creating, for the pleasure of seeing something which was not there before grow out of your hands and brain. Do you know the potentialities of hands and brains and hearts? If you know, then how can you say that stupid people must remain so? In the most stupid, there is a spark. There is a spark, I say!

Have you ever been ill? Not with a disease, I mean, but with fatigue. So tired that you could not have lifted a finger if the house

were burning? And did this not stir your thoughts to the "lazy, good-fer-nothin n----"? Isn't there a-faint possibility...?

Let them use the atomic bomb to blow the slums into kingdom come. Let them use atomic energy to sprout new clean houses. Someday... they will. But time passes too quickly in one's own lifetime...Now, today!

Become angry about your fellow man, I adjure you! Give him a hand. Help him to help himself, you who can read the hidden thoughts behind the words there in the newspapers. Show him the stupidity in the advertising muck we endure. Fight!

--E.B.W.

-----high points -----

THE ASSIZES OF THE PEOPLE

In all the discussion about Ezra Pound's trial and threat of execution, the real question has not been posed. Judy Zissman almost touched on the real issue in her remarks one evening. She mentioned that she was in favor of Ezra Pound being lynched by a mob of socialists, but was not in favor of his being executed by a capitalist government. When this is thought out, it becomes clear that the difference she draws is not one of Pound's guilt or innocence--his guilt insofar as he was a radio speaker against the fight of the United States to overthrow Fascist Italy is beyond dispute. The difference Judy draws is simply: Can Ezra Pound's death benefit the working class movement for socialism? If he is lynched by a mob of socialists, the lesson is clear. He has met his death at the hands of revolutionary representatives of the anti-capitalist masses--hence he is executed as a pro-capitalist opponent of socialist thought among intellectuals.

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But, reasons Judy, if the U.S. government executes him, he is being shot by a bourgeois capitalist state apparatus no more friendly to the cause of revolutionary socialism than was Fascist Italy. Consequently, it is of no benefit whatever to that which Judy considers the cause of progress. Thus the fate of Ezra Pound at the hands of the U.S. courts is of no interest whatever to her.

However, let us press the issue of Ezra Pound in that fashion further: Can the execution of Ezra Pound by the United States government benefit the cause of world socialism? Yes, it can. For regardless of the fact that the U.S.A. is a capitalist regime, guilty in its own way of many of the anti-worker actions of any capitalist state including Fascist Italy, in this instance the court would be trying Pound on the basis of the U.S.'s official theoretical war aims. He would be ~~executed~~ tried for opposing the proclaimed ideals of the Four Freedoms, world peace, world unity, and democracy. It matters but little in this regard that the U.S. government actually has no intention of realizing these aims itself. Let Ezra Pound be shot for fighting against these idealistic aims--which any socialist would be proud to call his own.

And in this sense, the execution of Ezra Pound by the U.S. would very well serve the cause of socialism. For it would prepare the ground for future indictments against those of similar ilk who pay lip service to democratic ideals and then sabotage democracy's military victory after the blood-letting is over.

-- D.A.Wo