

The Country Needs a Rest!

By JAY LOVESTONE

The country needs a rest! And the good shepherd of the American people, Gamaliel the First, will give us a vacation. President Harding has announced that for nine months the Congressional windmills of Washington will be shut down. There will be no extra session of Congress and the new legislative body will not be convened until its "Constitutional" birthday, in December, arrives.

Harding is right. The country does need a rest. The Sixty-Seventh Congress has worked overtime for the American capitalists. It has cost the nation over \$14,000,000 in tribute to the employing class. The mineral contractors have received an outright bonus of \$40,000,000. The shipping magnates have been given a bonus of \$50,000,000. Over \$500,000,000 have been handed over as an outright gift to the railway capitalists. This is merely the bonus allotted to them by the Esch-Cummins law and does not include the millions spent by the Government in breaking the shopmen's strike for the employers. The reduction of the Surtax has saved the powerful industrial barons at least \$61,000,000. And the repeal of the Excess Profits Tax has put into the pockets of the capitalists \$450,000,000. Of course we are not attempting to tabulate the millions granted to the employers by Congress thru permitting outrageous tax evasions and frauds and the high protective tariff.

Why the Long Vacation?

But why is our good shepherd Gamaliel so anxious for a rest? Is it because he is tired? No. Harding has proved himself to be an untiring worker for the employing class. He is not tired. However, the President believes the country is tired. Gamaliel of Marion is convinced we need a vacation. The last election has given him a severe jolt and the army of political cripples that has besieged Washington, the horde of lame ducks, is a harrowing reminder to him that the country has been "done" for as much as it possibly could have been done for in the lifetime of one Congress. In this, Harding is undoubtedly right. The Sixty-Seventh Congress has proved itself to be the blackest Congress we have ever had. Its strikebreaking activities were not even camouflaged by the usual confusion of empty reform legislation.

Harding is now in a tight corner, politically speaking. He is faced with a repudiated, discredited body of legislators. To attempt to continue this group of political inebriates in harness would not get the reactionary Republican bureaucracy very far. This is particularly true in view of an approaching Presidential election. And to convoke a hostile Congress—the Sixty-Eighth—would mean political suicide at this time!

What the interests of the powerful employers demand now is a rest for Congress. The country must be given the "much-needed" opportunity to cool off. The people must be given a chance to forget their "radicalism." So speak the reactionaries of all stripes. And Harding is their

spokesman for this occasion. At the same time the capitalists must reform their lines for a new onslaught on the city and rural working masses. Harding must reorganize his machine to crush whatever opposition may manifest itself to his strikebreaking policies in the Sixty-Eighth Congress. This will require several months.

In the meanwhile the country will be without a Government. That is, we will be denied the luxury of having even a greatly unrepresentative Congress governing us. The capitalists will not take any chances in increasing the ire of the masses and fanning the flames of discontent into organized protest by overworking the lame ducks. Therefore, all Government powers will virtually be lodged in the hands of Harding from March to December. He will be the Government during this period. He will rule the country without even the slightest danger of interference or question by ducks, lame or otherwise.

This is the boldest example of executive absolutism resorted to by any capitalist Government today. Bonar Law would not dare to pro-rogue the British Parliament and put it out of business for nine months. Not even the militarist Poincare could deprive imperialists of France of their Chamber of Deputies for so long a time. Yet, America boasts of being the greatest democracy on earth. Yes, America is the greatest employing class democracy on earth. The American Government is the most powerful capitalist dictatorship today. Harding's executive absolutism is only one of the numerous inherent features of the powerfully centralized tyranny of the employing class over the working class. Harding's arrogating to himself the powers of Government under the pretense of giving the country a rest and under the disguise of giving the people a chance to cool off is only a link in the long chain of evidence completely condemning the Government, American capitalist democracy, to the working masses as a dictatorship of the owning class over the working class.