

become an excuse for putting people off the place. Naturally, the ones they wanted to get rid of were the "troublemakers." And even the mildest agreement about keeping tenants had to have the clause "insofar as possible" inserted to get the legislation through.

I knew what he meant. Our most senior southern senators, chairmen of powerful committees, owned some of the biggest plantations. Roosevelt had to keep them behind him or his whole program would be in trouble. That situation alone, I thought, was enough to make a revolutionary of anybody.

Jerome thanked me grimly for not having shown the letter to any of his young hotheads. One more letter like this, and he'd lose hold on their shirttails.

We knew about these lawyers who fought so daringly on our side. Too daringly, and too noisily, Mary thought. Everyone had heard about Lee Pressman's wild remark when he couldn't get a decent milk-marketing agreement. The lawyers for the middlemen were holding out for processors to get a spread that amounted to two-thirds of the price consumers paid for a quart of milk. That kind of bullheadedness, Pressman said, might result in the government taking over the sale of milk. The opposing lawyer said ironically that if they went that far they might as well take over all retail business. "Why not?" asked Pressman.

Later I wondered how he could have spoken so recklessly if he was a Party member then. The CP's first priority was career advancement. And only a year went by before our "Black Monday," when he would be fired.

The newspapers often accused us of "harboring subversives." And we weren't the only ones. As early as October I had written Claud that Hermann's fellow workers on the labor board of NRA took care how they greeted new recruits "because there are many real reds who knew one another as such in New York now working down here."

I went on to report what Hermann had told me of their methods of bringing industrial scandals into the open. "These labor board people are acting as cross-questioning attorneys on labor's side, grilling the bosses. A great deal of cleverness is being used to make