

ACC 10000/146/189

LSC / 703

LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION. REPORTS

Jan. - March 1945

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

Labor S/C
LSC/703

31 March 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Report- March 1945

TO : Regional Commissioner
Lazio Region AMG

Final Report Lazio Umbria Regional Labor Office:

1. 200 delegates of the Christian Association of Italian Workers met in Rome 8-12 March. The Pope Spoke to the group and spotlight was flashed on his favoring nationalization or socialization of industry where demanded by the common welfare. The A.C.I.I. while strongly urging trade unionism also advocates compulsory state unionisms in which every worker is enrolled. This latter strongly resembles the concepts of the abolished Fascist Confederations of Workers.

2. Indennita Garo Pane was promulgated in AMG Provinces previous to their passing from this region to Marche Umbria Region.

3. At Terni the "Associazione fra gli Industriali" and the "Camera del Lavoro" imposed upon the Provincial Commissioner to sanction a collective agreement reached consistent with principles of that of Confindustria and A.C.I.I. made in Rome in February. The Labor S/C disclosed that the increased wages had already been paid on two pay days by the Industrialists. The opinion was formed that submitting it at such a late date only implied an attempt to place onus on the Provincial Commissioner should he disapprove; and by the same token, his approval would but establish a precedent that labor leaders could publicize elsewhere to bring pressure on other industrial

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employer groups, official sanction has not been granted.

4. The Allied Labor Supply Office at Via Boncompagni N° 101 was transferred to G-4 Rome Allied Area Command. Capt. Maxwell will be in charge of supplying labor to military units in future.

5. The "Files" of the Lazio Umbria Regional Labor Office were turned over to Regional Adjutant for delivery to archives, Hq AC; with exception of those relating to Allied Labor Supply Office which were transferred to Capt. Maxwell RAAC, and those of the Provinces of Terni and Perugia which were transferred to Maj. Fisher, Marche Umbria Regional Labor Officer.

NED A. HOLSTEN
Captain QMC
Chief Labor Division

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

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31 March 1945

SUBJECT: Summary Report
To : Regional Commissioner
Lazio Region AMG

Paragraphs on Nine Months of Labor:

1.- Much that occurred of seemingly local aspect often took on national character, due to Rome being national capital of Italy.

2.- Italian General Confederation of Labor from office or two at Via Boncompagni N° 19 has grown to be largest organized labor group in Italy and strongest single special-interest pressure group.

3.- Cost of food in Rome rose to \$277 per day for typical workers family. Clothing and shoes out of reach of purse. Wages are not sufficient. To support his family worker must sell after working hours what he has, or can make by hand, for as high a price as he can get people to pay. Some such part time merchants have been so successful they have amassed wealth, others literally struggle to live from hand to mouth.

4.- Allied Labor Supply Office supplied civilian personnel to Allied units to extent of 1,000 to 3,000 persons per month, of which most were specially skilled and English speaking persons.

5.- Unemployment registration figures continued fairly consistent with reemployment. Estimate is 125,000 unemployed or less than 4% of population for Lazio Umbria.

6.- Labor disputes, demonstrations, and threats there have been; but of strikes, of a dislocating nature, there have been none. Labor leaders were well aware that

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responsibility, would be placed on them personally for any cessation of work that might even distantly limit the prosecution of the war in this area so close to combat zone.

7.- Consistent with G.O. 28 one Regional and seven Provincial Labor Offices were created to be absorbed into Ministry of Industry Commerce and Labor. This latter however gives them little support as possible when provinces are turned over to the Bonomi Government due largely to expressed objection to them by C.G.I.L. Consequently such authority as these Labor Offices acquire under Military Government of Allies evaporates to nearly nothingness under Bonomi Government.

8.- Land-grabs of uncultivated land in agricultural areas has been principal activity of organized labor to handle the problem of unemployed in the provinces. The proceedings have been systematic, quietly but forcefully pursued, and given the backing of Decree Law, and land owners are properly compensated from revenue of crops raised.

9.- Such increases in wages as have occurred were, except in very few instances, forced by Decree Law, as a result of considerable agitation by organized labor. Thus though prices rose of their own impetus, wages have not. This period passed is another historical proof that though business may get its price only by asking, labor must demand, insistently and emphatically, for its proportional share of that price. The most outstanding case of collective agreement for wage increases was that between C.G.I.L. and Confederazione delle Industrie in February 1945 affecting over a million workers.

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FRED A. HOLSTEN -
Captain QMC
Chief Labor Division

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

TEL. : 478048
REF. : LU/LA/85/51
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - February 1945
TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Attn: Labor Subcommittee)

28 February 1945

A. LABOR RELATIONS, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS.

1. There is observed greater tendency of management to have recourse to organized joint action as against individual action. The number of strike threats have been increasing and organized labor was heckling and pecking away at individual proprietors making agreements where they could and harassing those who did not come along. Such organization of management had a fascist taste and management was slow to use it. But with the increasing number of demands upon individuals, association and unity of action is being resorted to by management. Such of these are Confederation of Industry and Unione dei Commercianti which definitely came to the fore front this month. However, the press could not refrain from calling the former by the old fascist name "Confindustria".

B. WAGES, HOURS AND LABOR CONDITIONS:

1. There have been numerous instances of reports this month of labor forcing anticipatory payments from employers pending new agreements for wage increases. These anticipatory payments range anywhere from £. 100 to £. 3.000.

2. Howls there are, and plenty, for more wages. The "Black Market" gets whatever price it asks and labor feels it should, too. And the demands are very emphatic. Labor wants the "Sliding-Wage-

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LSG/703

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B. WAGES, HOURS AND LABOR CONDITIONS:

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2. Howls there are, and plenty, for more wages. The "Black Market" gets whatever price it asks and Labor feels it should, too. And the demands are very emphatic. More than anything else Labor wants the "Sliding-Wage-Scale" instead of present "Fixed-Wage-Scale" so that when prices go up, wages will automatically go up; and justly so, when prices go down wages will also go down. The theory being that the average market price of "Labor" should balance relatively with average market price of "Produce".

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3. Although it appears that Labor wants the "Sliding-Wage-Scale"; it also seems that before really pushing for it they are hurriedly rushing to raise the level of Base Wages by revising their collective contracts upward and revising upward legislative minimums. Thus with a higher "Base Wage" they can see-saw better with their "Sliding-Wage-Scale" when they get it. To this end they seek for:

a. Government Employees :

- (1) 50% increase of Basic Wages
- (2) 100% increase of Family Allowances
- (3) £.66 Daily Food Indemnity

This is approved in general by Italian Government and will be embodied in a new decree.

b. Industrial Employees:

- (1) Increase of wages of £.80 per day for men £.50 per day for women and £. 30 for children workers.

c. Commercial Employees :

- (1) This is still cooking but pending a comparable agreement anticipatory payments were agreed upon ranging from £.500 for children workers to £. 2000 for heads of family.

4. And so it seems that wages will go up again. In meantime, the Allied Force Basic Wage Scale becomes antiquated and must be revised upward. The question also arises as to the application, in A.M.G. Provinces of such wage agreements between Confederation of Industry and Confederation of Labor. Particular attention is called to the neighboring AMG Provinces of Terni and Perugia which are just on other side of line from Italian Government-Territory. Such Collective Agreements between the two Confederations are not necessarily acts of Italian Government as would be Decree Laws, such as with State Employees, or Indemnity Caro Vita, and Family Allowance, but they have the same effect. Local Organized Labor in Terni feel they

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This calls for a revision of the Policy of Allied Commission with respect to application of Wage Adjustments in Military Government Territory, as well also a simultaneous revision of Allied Forces Basic Wage Scale. Without such revision the Military would no longer be in a preferred position on wages.

Furthermore with Organized Labor and Industry making agreements on the national level, our wage adjustment policy on provincial level must be more flexible. The conditions, under which the rules were made a year and a half ago, are considerably different now that Organized Labor has become so much stronger than they were then. Provincial Commissioners need specific, concrete, modern rules to handle this very fluid problem in place, of the antiquated rules. The "old 70% maximum wage increase" general order still published by Army Civil Affairs as provinces are liberated is an inadequate guide for Provincial Commissioners. The present Allied Force Basic Wage Scale is insufficient as a guide of a reasonable maximum wage scale.

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE, BENEFITS AND TRAINING:

1. There was formed this month at Naples the National Federation of Statal Dependents.

2. Pensioners who always suffer most during inflationary trends, due to the fixity of the amount of their income, appear to be getting consideration toward increases. It is felt, generally, they should be treated the same as government employees and any concessions granted to government employees should automatically apply to pensioners, being another category of dependents of the state.

D. STATISTICS, MANPOWER AND REGISTRATION PROBLEM:

1. The cost of food for a typical family has risen from £. 269 per day last August to £. 345 per day in January in Rome. It is remembered that the High Cost of Living Indemnity of £. 35 per day was based on August 16th and now the cost of living has increased another £. 85 per day since then.

2. It is contemplated that Rome Area Command

policy on provincial level must be more flexible. The conditions, under which the rules were made a year and a half ago, are considerably different now that Organized Labor has become so much stronger than they were then. Provincial Commissioners need specific, concrete, modern rules to handle this very fluid problem in place, of the antiquated rules. The "old 70% maximum wage increase" general order still published by Army Civil Affairs as provinces are liberated is an inadequate guide for Provincial Commissioners. The present Allied Force Basic Wage Scale is insufficient as a guide of a reasonable maximum wage scale.

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2. It is contemplated that Rome Area Command Labor Branch will assume the functions of this Regional Labor Offices with respect to servicing military units in this area.

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3. While the number of requests for civilian personnel for military units increased to 56 in our Allied Labor Supply Office the total number of persons declined to 433; being as follows :

Group A : Office and Supervisory	33
" B-C : Hotels, Messes, and Clubs	17
" D : Skilled Trades	287
" E : Unskilled Labor	96

E. MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Minister of Navy has granted exclusive on stevedore work at Civitavecchia to Cooperative Campioni - Mascherpa.

2. There will be a convention at Rome on March 7, 12, at Latin American Pontifical College of Assoc. Christiane Lavoratori Italiani; 120 are expected to attend.

3. The Rome Province Labor Director, Prof. Giuseppe Togni resigned this month. He remained in office pending appointment of a successor. Dr. Luigi Bellotti informs us that he was nominated verbally by Minister Gronchi, effective 1 March 1945. It is questioned the legal effectiveness of such a verbal appointment of a provincial officer by a Minister without being confirmed by publication of Prefects or Ministerial decree in the province affected.

G. STAFF CHANGES:

1. Capt. Matthew Adams (E) relieved from assignment to Lazio-Umbria Region and assigned to Lombardia Region.

2. Capt. Ned A. Holsten (A) relieved from assignment to Lazio-Umbria Region and assigned to Lombardia Region.

FOR REGIONAL COMMISSIONER


 NED A. HOLSTEN
 Captain, QMC
 Chief, Labor Division

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HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

TEL. : 478048
REF. : LU/LA/85/51
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TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Attn: Labor Subcommittee)

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B. WAGES, HOURS AND LABOR CONDITIONS:

1. There have been numerous instances of reports this month of labor forcing anticipatory payments from employers pending new agreements for wage increases. - These anticipatory payments range anywhere from £. 1500 to £. 3,000.

2. Howls there are, and plenty, for more wages. The "Black Market" gets whatever price it asks and Labor feels it should, too. And the demands are very emphatic. More than anything else Labor wants the "Sliding-Wage-Scale" instead of present "Fixed-Wage-Scale" so that when

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LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

LC/703

TEL. : 478048
REF. : LU/LA/95/30
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - January 1945
TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Attn: Labor Subcommittee)

26 January 1945

A. LABOR RELATIONS, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS.

1. As observer and councillor of Labor in Italian Government Italy the range of the possible field of interest is so extensive it would be inhuman to expect to encompass the whole. Effort is made to keep in close contact with those Italians active in Labor Unionism as well as with Provincial Representatives of Labor Ministry without officiousness or undue familiarity. Thus they are able to be informed of the important issue and to help wherever acceptable or necessary.

2.- There is certain and definite unrest among employees of Public Services of gas, electricity and telephone whose scale of wages is inferior considered in relation to their responsibility to the public. A specific eruption came from Ceperano, whence came report of threatened violence and also of discord among members of Internal Commission of employees of Societa Romana di Elettricita. On investigation it was determined to be exaggerated to force attention to wages dispute which had been submitted to the Directors at Rome, but which was not getting consideration. The matter was adjusted.

3.- Wages of statal and parastatal employees are still considerably below the norme for private employees. The "Regalo" System may argue for lower wages, but in actual practice the opportunities for "Regalo" are very remote for most, particularly those whose duties do not bring them in contact with affairs that permit of granting privilege. Specifically, office workers of Provincial Labor Office receive 2,300 lire per month including all deductions. This is inadequate to live, yet the worker

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4.- The Ministry of Labor has been consistently inattentive to provisions for employees of Labor Offices with resultant weakening of his effectiveness. The Fund for payrolls for January was not forthcoming until consi-

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derable agitation, complaints and demands were made. The application of decrees improving statal employees' wages due to high cost of living, has not been extended by Minister Gronchi. There have been complaints of this in other departments of Italian Government. Minor officials are reluctant to pay indemnity "caro vita" without specific instruction from their particular Ministry. Specifically in the case of the Labor Offices it would not be possible to pay anyway because they do not have the money.

B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

1.- In the latter part of the month there was observed preoccupation and preparation by Labor Unionists for the Congress of Labor at Naples to take place commencing the 28th. In matters of wage disputes there is an inclination to delay action until after the Congress. The "Memoriale" of C.G.I.L. has had much discussion but little accomplishment of objectives. It is predicted that there will be much agitation, threatening and actual strikes in February after the Congress.

2.- The growth of "Gente dell'Aria" Union in organizing, influencing and controlling Air Force Employees at Bari, Brindisi and Naples with central office here in Rome, was investigated and detailed report submitted.

3.- AFHQ Adm Memo No 65 providing subsistence allowance for civilians employed by Allied Forces in Italy is a sum so low that it is generally regarded ridiculous considering the extraordinary expenses incurred by civilians when required to be temporarily away from their homes for a day or several days, when demanded by their duties. In a very large number of cases Officers have Drivers who also are Interpreters and Special Assistants that accompany them through the Provinces. To pay a driver 50 lire when his expenses are never less than 300 lire if he eats only one meal a day, that is too disproportionate. Since the duties imposed upon them require this expense through no control of their own, it is felt that the civilians should be properly reimbursed and the expense charged against the proper military fund and not against the already insufficient personal funds of the civilian.

4.- Labor wants a Sliding Scale wage system in place of the Fixed Scale and it is anticipated that this will hold into specific, emphatic demands very shortly.

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5.- In spite of fact that Rome is Italian Government Territory, and Allied Commission no longer has "control" Labor says that SUPRAL will not authorize additional "Mense Aziendale" without approval of Allied Commission. Labor feels that this is still "control". At present there are 95,000 workers in Rome receiving a midshift meal through

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this Italian Agency. Many employers were authorized last fall and have since increased the number of employees due to increased work, but cannot draw rations for the additional. Many cases exist where one factory is authorized and its neighbor is not, though both are equally qualified. This is causing considerable unrest because of the evident inequality. Either there is actual control "or the Allied Commission is being blamend and made the goat by weak Italian Government Officials.

Labor demands unlimited extension of "Mense Aziendali" that does not permit granting of privilege and preference to favored groups or "control" by Allied Commission. This "Mense Aziendale" is, in many cases, in addition to the "Mid-shift Meal" authorized for contractors and industries engaged in war work for the Allies. These latter are actually receiving double rations. However, the "Mense Aziendali" of Italian Government is so far superior to the "Mid-shift Meals" of the Allies that labor, if given a choice, would prefer to have the "Mense Aziendali". In such case the historic preference of greater authorized food rations for workers, directly or indirectly engaged in work for Allies, no longer exists in Italian Government Territory. If food privileges is the inducement, labor would prefer to work where they can get the "Mense Aziendali".

6.- There have been considerable number of aircraft specialists hired here in Rome for work at Bari for whose occupations there are no grades in Allied Force Basic Wage Scale. There is observed a trend to replace soldiers in this highly specialized field.

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE, BENEFITS AND TRAINING.

- 1.- The Rome Province Labor Office has been very active in encouraging occupational training courses. 1117
- 2.- Nothing particular to report on Social Insurance Agencies; they present most of their problems direct to the Labor Subcommission AC. It is probably futile to say it, but will; they do need tires and but bad.

D. STATISTICS, MANPOWER AND REGISTRATION PROBLEMS.

- 1.- Personnel requirements of Allied units showed increased activity. Due to fact that most requests are for specialists, individual personal attention is required. Furthermore the Labor Supply Office to fill a request, most generally, must send a messenger by vehicle to the homes of

shift deal" authorized for contractors and industries engaged in war work for the Allies. These latter are actually receiving double rations. However, the "Mense Aziendali" of Italian Government is so far superior to the "Mid-shift Meals" of the Allies that labor, if given a choice, would prefer to have the "Mense Aziendali". In such case the historic preference of greater authorized food rations for workers, directly or indirectly engaged in work for Allies, no longer exists in Italian Government Territory. If food privileges is the inducement, labor would prefer to work where they can get the "Mense Aziendali".

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D. STATISTICS, MANPOWER AND REGISTRATION PROBLEMS.

1.- Personnel requirements of Allied units showed increased activity. Due to fact that most requests are for specialists, individual personal attention is required. Furthermore, the Labor Supply Office to fill a request, most generally, must send a messenger by vehicle to the homes of prospective employees to notify them to call for interview. This "personal treatment" type of request requires considerably more time and organization than does the "mass employment" type of request for unskilled or semiskilled labor such as occurs in ports and many other Military Labor Offices. Requests of this latter type average only one or two a week for approximately one fourth total persons supplied. Meanwhile requests of the former type flow in three to four a day for a total number of persons of 523.

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2.- In spite of fact that Far.EB AFHQ Adm Memo 47 states that American Units will pass their applications for employees through AC/AGC Labor Office there is consistent violation by a large number of organizations. The result is that there is repeated cases of reemployment of "blacklisted" persons who were discharged for reasons of dishonesty, security or insubordination. In any cases discovered, the offices involved are prompt to cooperate upon being informed.

This seems to be most generally true because the importance of the matter has not been impressed in orders by appropriate commanding officers. Also the responsibility of reporting to Labor Offices needs more teeth in it.

This Labor Supply Office to properly deal with labor requests must be informed of persons employed by name and grade to establish an experience record of the person and upon severance of employment must be informed of that fact with a rating of the persons ability in the grade and ability with the English language. Having this latter, the well recommended capable persons can be channelled to other Allied units for reemployment. Furthermore, the reemployment of "blacklist type" of persons will be avoided.

This cooperation of reports has been requested of all units whom we have "serviced" and everyone is responsive in assisting for the mutual good of all Allied Units.

This Regions Allied Labor Supply Office services requests of American Installations, Joint Allied Headquarters as well as of Embassies, etc. All with exception of British Units for whom there is the Pioneer Civil Labor Unit under Deputy Assistant Director of Labor.

3.- Attention is also called to fact that AFHQ Memo 47 does not direct Joint Allied Command Units to report to AC/AGC Labor Office and instruction is given to separate Command British and American units only.

4.- This Headquarters has completed establishment of Civilian Personnel Policy and Reviewing Board for treatment of all matters relating to Civilian Personnel, such as hiring, classifying, wages, transfers. It is anticipated that inconsistent, independent action by individual section officers will be eliminated and a more uniform policy in the application of directives from higher authority will result.

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5.- It is observed that within many Staff Headquarters unlimited and uncontrolled authority is permitted to individual section officers in matters involving civilian personnel. Yet these same Staff Headquarters would frown upon such freedom with supplies, purchasing or other financial commitments. This results in inconsistent policy within such Staff Headquarters in matters of hiring,

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classifying and wages. It is urged that AFHQ Adm Memo M.47 be extended to include a paragraph somewhat as follows:

"It will be the responsibility of Commanding Officers to establish uniform procedure and policy consistent with this directive within their Staff Headquarters and in Lower Echelons. In all cases where geographic proximity permits, Staff Sections and lower echelons of a Command will process through a Civilian Personnel Section of the Command all matters relating to civilian personnel, such as hiring, classifying and re-classifying, wages and feeding. Independent action by individual officers will be discouraged, with exception of those whose operation is geographically so far away from the Command Headquarters, as to be impractical to refer to Civilian Personnel Section in all cases. These matters may then be given such authority as in opinion of the Commanding Officer is necessary, including the payment of civilians that delays in paying may not occur due to dependency on a distant Headquarters Paying Officer."

Specific instances of Headquarters where such civilian personnel matters are not centralized are:

Rome Allied Area Command
American Red Cross
1st Replacement Depot

In these Headquarters, Staff Sections, Lower Echelons and the respective units are competing with each other for individual civilians. Often times, reclassification and increased wages are inducements. And frequently persons who should have been "blacklisted" within the headquarters on discharge are discovered re-employed by another section or unit of the same organization. Cases exist in such headquarters where two persons doing identical work and of equal capability are paid the extremes in allowable wages; one getting the minimum and the other, in the office next door, working for a more generous hearted officer, receiving the maximum. There is either injustice or waste in such cases.

E. MISCELLANEOUS:

1.- Rome Chamber of Labor claims 120,000 associate union members as of first of year.

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latter are reviews of the general labor situation and attempt an intelligent approach toward comprehension.

3.- This Labor Division was drawn into conferences on the Reconstruction of the Port at Civitavecchia, which work is actually to be performed by contractors for Genio Civile under Public Works Projects of the Italian Government. The initial study made of the available labor for these contractors indicates there is adequate labor consistent with estimates of requirements made by Genio Civile. [Should need exceed the estimate, then towns approx. 20 km distant, of Santa Marinella, Tolfia and Terquinia can supply it providing transportation, train and bus service, is established.] Housing in Civitavecchia is very poor and cannot accommodate any influx of workers. [Provision for such, if ever it becomes necessary, is obviously the responsibility of the Italian Government in form of a housing reconstruction project.] There is at present heavy unemployment in this area near Civitavecchia. The progress thus far for this reconstruction as of close of month has been very slow.

4.- This Headquarters requested from Headquarters Allied Commission on 6 Jan. 45 for the publication of "Civilian Personnel Memorandum" clearly and concretely setting forth the policy of the Allied Commission with respect to its civilians employed through Italy both in the Headquarters and the Regions. It is recommended that a "Civilian Personnel Policy and Reviewing Board" be established to issue such "Civilian Personnel Memorandum" such as has been established for this Regional Headquarters. Such Board could consist of representatives of Finance S/C, Labor S/C, G-1 Section Civilian Personnel HQ and Establishment Branch. At present there is no clear out policy or instructions exist.

5.- Reports not having been received from the Italian Government Regional and Provincial Labor Offices, it is not possible to append them or quote from them. Their reports to Ministry of Labor do not go forward until the eighth of February.

F. STAFF CHANGES:

None.

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FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

NED A. HOLSTEN
Captain, MC
Chief Labor Division

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

TEL. : 478.048
REF. : LU/LA/85/31
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Provinces
TO : Regional Commissioner
Lazio Umbria Region

25 January 1945

1.- there is certain and definite unrest among employees of Public Services, gas electricity and telephone, whose scale of wages is inferior considered in relation to their responsibility to the public. A specific eruption came from Ceperano, in Frosinone Province, when was received report of threatened violence, which on investigation proved an exaggeration to force attention on wage dispute.

2.- Funds for Provincial Labor Offices was appropriated only after considerable complaint, the Ministry being indifferent and lax. There is unrest among the employees of these offices due to fact that decreases increasing statal employees wages has not been applied to them by Ministry.

3.- Study made of available labor to supply needs of Italian contractors reconstructing port at Civitavecchia. There is adequate to meet estimate needs within 20 Km range of port due to large number of unemployed in this area. Transportation, train or bus service, to and from work is badly needed. Housing in town of Civitavecchia is very poor and will not accomodate influx of workers to live nearer work. Obviously, Italian Government will have to inaugurate a housing project to offset that will other wise be required.

NED A. HOLSTEN
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NED A. HOLSTEN
Capt. QMC
Chief Labor Division

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
LABOR DIVISION
APO 394

TEL. : 478.048
REF. : LU/LA/85/32
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Rome
TO : Regional Commissioner
Lazio Umbria Region

26 January 1945

1. There is unrest among employees of Public Services, gas, electricity and telephone, whose scale of wages is inferior considered in relation to their responsibility to the public. Negotiations are under way between employees and management of S.R.E. and also of T.E.T.I.

2. Labor Unionists are preoccupied and preparing for First Congress of Labor of Naples commencing 28th from which much is expected and labor disputes are held in abeyance until after the Congress.

3. Labor wants "Sliding Scale" wage system in place of "Fixed Scale" and anticipate this will mold into specific emphatic demands very shortly.

4. The "Memoriale" of C.G.I.L. has had much discussion but little accomplishment.

5. The Allied Labor Supply Office is engaged in classifying civilian personnel furnished in past six months to improve the "Service" imposed on this Labor Office under AFHQ Adm Memo 47 in supplying civilian personnel to American Units and Installations.

6. Two specifically Labor Newspapers made their debut in Rome this month, namely: "Il Lavoro", a daily; and "Il Giornale dei Lavoratori", a weekly.

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Lazio Umbria Region

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NED A. HOLSTEN
Captain QMC
Chief Labor Division

FILE COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 384
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

WHB/rmw

24 January 1945

LSC/703

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Report by Captain Holsten re Gente dell'Aria,
dated 18 January 1945.

To : Colonel Junius R. Smith

Captain Holsten's report shows that there is a Trade Union called Gente dell'Aria, which is trying to operate as a placing agency. Certain points are not clear and should be ascertained before it is possible to take action:

Apparently the main placing office is at Rome under Rutigliano. If Rutigliano is a Trade Union officer and not on the payroll of any Allied unit, this seems to be clear.

There are three placing sub-offices of the Union, called "Groups": one is at Bari, one at Naples and one at Brindisi.

The head of the Bari Group, or placing sub-office of the Union, is Sabatello, with liaison maintained between Bari and Rome by Mascolo. The irregularity appears to be that both Sabatello and Mascolo are on the American Army Air Force payroll as technical advisors to Major Polk of Air Force General Depot No. 5 of 11th Air Depot Group, APO No. 528. The Civilian Personnel Officer of this unit is Captain Iacoucci and Sabatello acts as go-between for Iacoucci with workers.

Lt. Daubin is a subordinate officer of Major Polk and has used the Rome placing office to obtain skilled workers.

There are probably Army orders requiring labor demands to be registered with and satisfied by officially recognized placing agencies. It appears that this order should be traced and that the appropriate authority superior to Major Polk should be asked to obtain an explanation of the apparent disregard of this order on the part of Major Polk.

It appears that an investigation should also be conducted into the "Gente dell'Aria" and the scope of its activities. Probably this investigation should be conducted by, or in conjunction with the Italian Ministry of Labor, but I should like advice on this.

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- 8 -

After Captain Holsten's report has been considered, in the light of my remarks above, I should like to be told of the action proposed to be taken, but no steps should be taken until I have had a discussion.

W. H. BRAINE

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labor Sub-Commission

1110

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
APO. 394

LSC/703

1st January 1949

Subject : December report

To : Labor Sub-Commission

A. LABOR RELATIONS, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS.

1.- On 12th of December the Italian General Confederation of Labor presented to Italian Government Council of Ministers what is called "Memoriale, containing the most urgent claims of the Italian workers". Like the program submitted sometime in August, and most of which objectives were accomplished, this is the opening gun of their Winter-Spring program. Its presentation is much more orderly and conservative indicating an awareness of the growing strength and influence of the General Confederation of Labor. This latter is a favourable sign for it is observed that most local Chambers of Labor follow the lead of the General Confederation.

2.- Meeting was held on 23rd under the sponsorship of Council of Ministers of representatives of Management and Labor Associations to discuss this "Memoriale". After ten hours of continuous uninterrupted discussion it was approved in General by all parties.

3.- It will be of interest to list here the ten points of this program to observe the actions of Labor in their light and perhaps to check off the objectives if and when accomplished. They are graded into three groups as follows :

- X a) 1- Raising of bread rations and public

(2)

administration of oven and mills.

2- Fight the black market by means of the direct supply through cooperative sales.

3- Extension and improvement of the "Mense Aziendali", midshift meal.

b) 4- Immediate payment of the 13th monthly wages to all workers, indemnity carovita included.

5- Revision of economic improvement decrees relating to State employees.

6- Indemnity carovita to all pensioned, ill or injured people.

7- Extension to Banks and Insurance Companies Employees of the 50 % increase on family allowance.

8- Payment of unpaid two days national holidays for last six months of 1944.

c) 9- Adoption of "sliding scale " for wages of all workers public and private.

10- Promotion of urgent public works for re-employment of idle workers.

4.- The pattern of the labor situation in Rome while local is very often national in effect. It is believed that for this reason labor relations here is superior and approached more intelligently than elsewhere in Italy.

B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

1.- The confusion among military units as to the eventual application of the "Cost of Living Bonus" in A.F.Hq.Adm.Memo N°48 were dispelled by the publication of A.F.Hq.Adm.Memo N°62. Most military units had been advised to follow the lead in RAAC Daily Bulletin N°160 30th November 1944.

2.- What might have been an unpleasant incident was averted by the intervention of the Questura who halted a " parade" of 150 workmen that had marched nearly 10

1108

(3)

miles into town from a project of 345th Engineer Regt. Their objective was to march to our Labor Supply Office through which they were hired to demand their pay for previous work period which they could not be assured when it would be forthcoming by the officer in charge. The demonstration was dispersed, investigation made and workmen were paid in two days. This project is another case of the haphazard methods that result from military units wandering in and out of the area with long range direction and control of their civilian labor policy from Naples. There have been too many cases in past six months of civilian unpaid due to American military units leaving with records of employment. It is ^{urged} ~~waged~~ again the establishment of "Labor Central Control Office".

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE, BENEFITS, AND TRAINING.

1.- The Rome Provincial Labor Office has been very active in encouraging the enauration of Industrial and Professional Training Schools. Among those getting under way are in field of "Electrical workers", "Insurance" and "Cooperative Secretaries".

2.- The Memoriale of the Italian General Confederation of Labor has spotlighted the insignificance of the amount of pensions actually received by the disabled, the aged and the invalids. It is urged that steps be taken to make them eligible to the indemnity carovita as well as to increase the base amount of the pensions. 1107

3.- There were in existence in Italy under fascist control innumerable Casse Mutualita; Mutual Assistance Associations which labor urges be examined and reactivated

D. STATISTICS, MANPOWER.

The Rome Labor Office, in addition to its other statistical studies, is conducting factory by factory study on the readiness of industry for reactivation and re-employment. Questionnaires are completed by the management setting for their potentials and their requirements.

(4)

2.- Visits to black market are made by Rome Labor Office to establish cost of living statistics. There is a preference on part of Labor to call it the "free market" as compared to "controlled market" of ration tickets. Very commonly these are the same merchants who sell at fixed prices for ration quantities and at higher prices for excess over ration and non ration items. Labor has little difficulty finding the merchandise but because of the clandestine manner in which the transaction is regarded must pay exorbitant prices set by the merchant and not always by demand. Labor in the Memoriato of Italian General Confederation of Labor asks for control of prices and distribution by elimination of merchants and establishment of direct-to-consumer cooperatives for bread, flour, eggs, milk, and all strategic consumer goods. They felt that the high cost of living and the inadequacy of wages is largely due to the present unlimited control by profiteering merchant pirates. Labor feels that since it must pay the price it deserves a hand in determining that price.

3.- Manpower demands of military units declined due to deferrment of activating projects pending until after new year. The holiday spirit is reflected in this relaxation.

E. MISCELLANEOUS
F. STAFF CHANGES


NED A. HOLSTEN
Captain QMC
Chief Labor Division

1106

*N. 16 Enclosures, herewith a Hachios
have been passed on to Capt. Topliss
on 9 Jan 1945 - as statistics -*

