

ITALIAN LABOUR'S LIBERATION UNDER THE ALLIES

New York

The workings of the Allied Military Government in Italy demonstrates that "the Army is proceeding with a due regard for the fundamental rights of Labour", Mr. John J. McCloy, U.S. Assistant Secretary of War, told representatives of the American Labour Press Association in an address here yesterday.

Mr. McCloy, who visited Italy recently, said that after the Fascist syndical system had been abolished "an atmosphere favourable to the development of collective bargaining had to be created, but at the same time the Army had to avoid any affirmative policy of actually dominating or controlling the new unions to speed their development.

"The Fascist practice of giving preference in jobs to members of their party was abolished. Tears of joy were shed by Jewish workers who could get jobs for the first time in many years, and thus obtain food for their starving families. Our rule required that employment be given on an equal basis regardless of race or creed."

Mr. McCloy said that during his visit to Italy "the most striking thing to me was the dull and apathetic appearance of the people.

"War and Fascism," he continued, "have left them with a general atrophy of spirit and capacity to help themselves. In my judgment, it will be a long time before Italy really is back on her feet again. What A.M.G. can do in the short space of time it operates, what the Allied Control Commissions can do, or even U.N.R.R.A. can do, is but the smallest fraction of what the people will have to do for themselves when the Allies have left. It is the job of the Allied Civil Affairs Officers, from the highest to the lowest ranks, to give a good and clean start to the undertaking by the Italian people of re-building their nation."

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