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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 16)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments
*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.
Cloakmakers on Eye of Strike

A BLACK SPIRA

We are living in a period of reaction. Darkness, stupidity and corruption have increased their sordid faces which had been disguised as progressive or even revolutionary.

This is the time when darkness andivelgess have joined hands; it is the time of the laborer, the parasite. The scavengir will pervert himself all liberties if only he can keep himself in the clack of patriots.

Small wonder, therefore, that all factions are fighting the body of the labor movement, the workers, who, until now had enough reasons to remain in the dark, have now come to realize that all they have to do is to raise a hou and cry of socialists! Bolsheviks! Radicals! and they can continue to stay on the organism of the labor movement as parasites.

Until now these vile creatures feared the day when the workers would come to realize their role in the struggle, and so now they take advantage of the prevailing confusion of minds to attempt "to clean out the labor movement", of all that is noble and pure, of all that contributes to the material and spiritual welfare of the workers.

A conspiracy is on foot to "cleanse the labor unions of their radical elements." It is planned to break every union concerning which there is slightest suspicion that it is more than an organization that affords cozy corners to a handful of parasites and idlers. The plans are to make the American Federation of Labor a fighting organization.......

...to pieces because of its own decay and upon its ruins will arise a great, powerful labor movement which is long needed in America, if our is not to remain the most backward of civilized countries in the world.

Yet, let them do their worst!

May Day Celebrations Throughout the World

The first of May was celebrated this year in every portion of the world in spite of the rigid police precautions taken everywhere.

Of particular significance is the May Day demonstration in Paris. The capital of France witnessed once more one of those great, elemental mass demonstrations of Parisian laboring people, which mark the turning points in the history of the French nation and, indeed, of the whole world.

In a moment when the entire labor movement is in danger of regression, our duty is to forget the minor differences, and the black conspirators will face united labor. Workers that will be the stronger since it has no other interests than those of labor movement.

These traitors may attempt to do their worst; the result will be such as will aid the further progress of the labor movement.

One of two things must happen, either they will fall maimed and na at their attempted conspirac
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Yet, let them do their worst!
In the International Labor World

By M. Kolchin

May Demonstration in France

There are now enough troops in France to put down a revolution if the French Socialists wish to do it, but they are not yet ready. France has two important labor organizations, the CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail) and the Force Ouvrière, which control the majority of the working class. However, the government is not willing to accept the demands of these organizations, and is currently engaged in a struggle with them.

The French parliament is greatly engrossed upon learning of the coming demonstration. What will be done to be done? A law was once passed granting an 8-hour labor day. The legislators hoped to divide the labor masses and win over a part of the working class. But this is not all. France is now in the verge of revolution. The French government, which has always been a mystery, is now looking for an issue to divert the attention of the masses from the political situation. But it may be too late, or at least put off the revolution. Therefore, grasped at the Fiume question, this country sided in this. The people now have an issue—the honor of Italy is at stake, the representatives of the government are heroes, they demand Fiume as the last of Italy. Later they will get Fiume as mandates, and this will strengthen the government still more.

Departing from this position, they consider an issue for the Fiume question. They maintain that Italy has for the time been in the verge of revolution. The revolution with the socialists, and against the government, in spite of the ostensibly patriotic manifestations reported by the press. The government on the first of May, which is said, was to the day of the beginning of the situation, that the government was looking for an issue to distract the attention of the masses from the political situation. But it may be too late, or at least put off the revolution. Therefore, grasped at the Fiume question, this country sided in this. The people now have an issue—the honor of Italy is at stake, the representatives of the government are heroes, they demand Fiume as the last of Italy. Later they will get Fiume as mandates, and this will strengthen the government still more.

We are not in a position to contradict this opinion for we do not know what has taken place at the peace conference. Diplomacy has always been a mystery, and the situation in Italy is serious, it may even be called critical. And the situation there has nothing to do with Fiume. Long before the Fiume question, the representatives of the government are heroes, they demand Fiume as the last of Italy. Later they will get Fiume as mandates, and this will strengthen the government still more.

Impressions of the quarterly meetings of the General Executive Board at Philadelphia on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25-27.

By S. Yanofsky

Fortunately for me, or rather for us, for I came in the company of Baroff and Seidman, it was a pleasure to be a member of the delegation that went to the convention. We were surprised to see a large room filled with delegates from the U.S. and Canada, with men and women, with men and women, with men and women, with men and women, with men and women.

The convention was held in the Gleed Club. Twenty old girls sang in choruses and though in a short time the hall was filled with a natural and beautiful voices, they all sang with great joy.

Our enjoyment was marred by a sad encounter. Friend Baroff and I recognized in a company of young girls who years ago had been very pretty and healthy. She has a wrinkled face, her eyes are sunken, and her clothing is worn. We could not help feeling sorry for her.

The delegates were not the only party in the convention. We were also witnesses of the working day in France, a day that the working class is working on its own initiative. We were told that the working class had a large house in Philadelphia in which the members hold their shop meetings and all the business, which has a gymnasium, a swimming pool and other facilities. However, the union's clubs have been successfully organized and competently run. The working class is working in the near future.

In addition to these city accommodations the Union has built its own summer villa, a Unity in the streets of industrial cities. It costs 40,000 dollars and is all right.

When I entered the labor temple it was humming and bustling like a bee hive. Something was stirring. I could see from the activities of them Bernstein sat as judge in some kind of shop dispute. His shushed face I can guess, that the case is not of the usual run, and I hurriedly shut the door and gave an air of nervousness, where the same activity and bustle.

Here a girl hands out receipts for dues, a person whom Miss Keenan has already introduced to us, is enthroned in high places. In every room, in every nook there is talking, debating; everybody is easily engaged in doing something.

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Lawrence Again

By REV. CEDRIC LONG
American Citizen, A Harvard Graduate and Congressional Minster

For eleven weeks textile workers to the number of 30,000 have been on strike in the mills of Lawrence, Massachusetts. They demand an eight-hour day without a reduction in wages. The employers are trying to meet their demands, but the strike continues. The workers pay for nine hours is far below a living standard. This pay is to be supplemented by weekly employment since the armistice. They cannot stand a further reduction.

Yet the famous American Woolen Company in 1917 paid its workers $7.50 a week, while they declare themselves unable to meet the new wage demands (March, 1919) they grant an extra dividend of 10 per cent.

The strikers have asked for arbitration and are awaiting the decision of the arbitration board—-the Governor himself.

Meanwhile the police have been called in to quell any disorder and the unfair citizens, investors, social workers and ministers, who come to the scene, are being stoned and beaten by the helpless victims with fists and clubs.

Frank Ribando, Italian, served as an American soldier in France for 18 months, returning to Massachusetts February 28. On March 17 it was attacked by police officers while walking down a clean street. Ribando, a laborer, was about to unlock the door of his cell, entered and beat him so severely with the butt of a club that he was forced to bed for several days. Ribando says he will never again wear the same uniform as long as he has lost all faith in American institutions.

The first "crime" of the workers is their request for a 48-hour course, gain all their demands for the masses are with them, but the police is against them, an example of their influence upon the population. The conservative and liberal press are making use of this "civil war."

Canadian Labor Favors Industrialism

In Canada organized labor is beginning to understand that a form of organization which includes only the skilled workers and leaves out the unskilled is a menace to the working class as a whole. The Western Conference of Labor therefore decided to reorganize the labor movement on a co-operative, industrial basis, one union for one industry, and the union should include both skilled and unskilled. This is a revolution.

India Again Self-Determined

The fact that several million Hindus believe that the population of India is enslaved and starving, that the real issues are the Hindus' desire of determining their own destiny, that several hundred of them were shot at a single demonstration, that bombs were thrown and the protest meetings were fired upon from the air—all this is of no importance. The important thing is that there is now quiet reign in India. This is certainly a great change in Great Britain again "self-determined" week without a reduction of their inadequate pay.

Their second "crime" is more significant. They have dreamed of a little leisure and opportunity without war. The different nationalities might build themselves a great temple, for the Western world has found a vision of great classes for the study of English, economics, industrial arts, etc., that they have not even attempted to do it co-operatively. Three ministers caught them by the crotch. They have exerted a restraining and law-abiding influence. Two of them have been beaten and arrested by the police, but were acquitted by the court. These three uprisings are but small issues of industrial justice in America.

A strike and Distress. It now costs $18,000 a week to feed the strikers. Because of a lack of funds the medical station and the baby-milk station have been closed. The sick and the helpless are suffering. The Relief Committee can provide only soup, bread and coffee for the families of the strikers.

Defeat or victory, Lawrence is a strategistic center for industrial disputes. Reduction in the wages of low-paid labor here means eventual reduction elsewhere. More than that, it means the movement, disorder, seeds of Bolshevism and revolution. Victory for the strikers means peace, national industrial evolution. Human life versus abject profits! What will be Lawrence if the strikers win? Lawrence is one of the great industrial battlefields of the nation. The victory of the strikers will carry its message all over America. Will that message be justice and democracy or exploitation and anarchy?

$10,000,000 excess profit for the mills, millions of unemployed and hundreds of thousands of families in distress.

For 61 per cent of the workers a wage $200 below the minimum wage standard proposed by the War Labor Board.

Boston Phone Girls Win Wage Advance

Boston.—Telephone girls in this city and vicinity have won their long-sought battle for higher wages and against the "postponing" policy of the postal department in regard to the granting of grievances. A general wage advance has been secured, and will total $3 a week, having been employed seven years and over. This class will now receive $3.50 daily.

As a result of this a new schedule dates back to December 31, when the old scale expired. A clerical girl will now get $4 a week instead of the increase of 50 cents a day in Boston and 60 cents elsewhere. This establishes a uniform rate for these workers.

Maguire— I thought your engagement him was surely for the coronation of the war. Marjorie— Pshaw! It will go on indefinitely. We're agreed to vote it for the duration of the Peace Conference.—Life.

S AN FRANCISCO CLOAKMAKERS WIN 44 HOURS SCHEDULE

By I. H. GREENBERG Business Agent Local No. 8, 54a San Francisco

Some few weeks ago, the editor of this magazine asked his readers if they knew a cloak and suit industry existed in San Francisco. In reply there were 40 employers, 40 cutters, 600 cloak and suit makers (all girls). It supports besides the workers and their families, 55 boneless, the insurance, 50 per cent union along of the system here at the beginning of the season. We didn't ask permission of the board that they might help themselves to hire his scarce at his own sweet will, as his royal hands are accustomed to immortal, paying whatever reasonable wage he can get. If of those didn't object, but others raised an awful howl called up Gernemann, lawyer, and all his in Chico, and worse than that, actual and solemnly proclaimed to the Bolsheviks.

A number of employers complained against us to the San Francisco Labor Board. We then attended a meeting of the executive Board of that body with a committee of our Unions. They found that the S. F. L. C. true to its traditions, would not side with workers of radical tendencies. The unexpected happened. Even this conservative labor organization took our part. We had just so happened a special meeting for operators had been called for that evening and the 44 hour week was unanimously demanded.

Our presses had a special meeting two days later at which it was decided to the Saturday half holiday with full pay and they requested us to send the workers of one shop who were already on strike, back to work.

Local No. 8 was the first to go over the top. Go you and do likewise.

Minimum Wage for Women—$15.50 Per Week

Washington.—The first wage conference to consider the minimum wage law for women in private employ in the District of Columbia has recommended a minimum wage of $15.50 per week. This conference was organized in order to consider the wages of women employed in private printing and publishing houses, and if accepted by the Minimum Wage Board, as is expected, every woman employed in the District of Columbia must be paid at least $15.50 per week after the decision goes into effect.

At present, the board found, half of the women in this industry in the District of Columbia are paid less than $15 per week, and nearly half of them are paid from $12 to $15 per week.
A Word of Sympathy to Our Old Labor Champion—Samuel Gompers

Samuel Gompers, for many years president of the American Federation of Labor, who was shot in an auto accident, surely has the sympathy of labor the world over, in spite of the fact that he was one of the oldest and most powerful of its leaders. Gompers has been in quite poor health for the last few years of Babilonian confusion, when stirred up by evil passions. He has been undermined to underrate him and undervalue him. Now, when Gompers and his associates have come to their final resting place, there will begrave consequences for the 70 year old veteran, who cannot think of that which divides us from him, but rather of our common ties, and embittered in its efforts to be his helper, we recall with profound feeling that all his life has been devoted to the workers. The issue of labor as a labor leader has been spotted. He may have committed many blunders, but his wide sympathies were always true for labor. We disagree with him on many things but we must recognize his indefatigable work, his marvelous energy, his great organizing power. We are certain that he is a man of unusual caliber, a man who may be the just pride of American labor, who has given its blood and flesh of its flesh.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and with it our sincere hope for his complete and speedy recovery. We are sure that the workers will openly disagree with him, not so much with his views as with his action. For it must be noted, that in his actions as representative of labor in its struggles, Gompers has always been more concerned with his utterances, which we find this week to attack very sharply. We are sure that the majority of his criticism of him, for we consider this moment as altogether inappropriate for the expression of these sentiments. The great and lofty aspects of Gompers and his activities and forego for the moment these utterances about harmony between capital and labor and similar sentiments, which we consider surfeical and unfounded.

Our Sympathy to Ab. Barof

We reported in the last issue of the Justice that the general Executive Board at Philadelphia and the firm determination to see week-work established throughout the cloak industry, we almost lost our breath. We have no doubt that the week-work in favor of week work. Why take up space in our publication? Why waste effort in convincing those who are convinced as it is? But once we understand the position of the workers, we want to carry it out even if the readers who are already convinced, but are still some who believe that piece-work is the more advantageous.

In our last issue we touched on the connection between freedom and piece-work. We pointed out that freedom has as much to do with piece-work as one with his friend. We showed that the piece-work system subjects the worker to a perpetual form of slavery, for the worker must__(ed)icating labor for the new boss.

We did not, of course, for a moment want to say that the idea that week work means absolute freedom. Far from it. As we stat- ed before, we have no question as freedom in connection with work for wages. But it is easy to see how the down-and-out system the worker is at least assured a definite weekly wage, and his work is no longer arbitrary, as to how much he will earn and from fear lest he will not earn enough, for himself and his family.

The advantage of week work is obvious and indisputable. But we must admit that a workman will not have to pay for these advantages is that it pays him more than he is getting on in the old system. We are told (we quote from the advertisement of the week work advocates) that, whereas, the workman will not have to pay with-it an unbearable discipline in the shops; secondly it will be possible for him to get a new job; and thirdly, "that it will decrease his hours of work. The truth is, the worker will never be as high as the present earnings of the piece workers in the trade.

Let us consider each argument singly and then together and we will see to what extent they contradict each other.

"Week work will lead to unbearable discipline." Unbearable discipline means a discipline people cannot stand. How can it be unbearable discipline last if it is not endurable! We know from experience that a certain number of people will tolerate discipline much less than a week work. Yet every worker is well aware of the fact that the history knows how often laboring people rose to cast off the voice of discipline, and has shown it is really any fear that the modern worker who is at least to some degree imbued with ideas of freedom, will long tolerate a discipline that is unbearable.

"True workmen are not the best of men, but they are no fools either. They know better than to obey a discipline that with an unbearable discipline they will not go far very far, that if they break it they may have to frequent strikes and stoppages. Can it be believed that in the interest of the "unbearable discipline" the employers will cut their own throats?"

When we take into consideration the fact that the workers belong to a powerful Union, whose principal object is to prove its power to protect its members when they are wronged in their business, we do not feel the semblance of validity, and falls to appeal even to the least discerning.

Yes, this argument is simply foolish. There is and there must be discipline in a shop both under the week work and the piece-work systems. The rigidity of discipline depends on the degree of unity among the work-ers of the shop. Under the piece-work system, each worker must look out for himself, and the devil may take his chance. The week work system has divided against themselves. They are actuated by motives of envy and selfishness. Under these circumstances the employer can tighten down on the discipline in order to put the workers in his strongest weapon. On the other hand, where real interest and the larger social and common interests, which must be the case under week work when the workers have a voice in the wages and work the same hours, and all of them belong to the un-ion, they are likely to be so careful not to tighten the discipline too much lest it snap. He can not lose hic friends and his allies for his ends, and it stands to reason, because the discipline under the week work is so much more value than any of us would be very lax, at any rate far from '*unbearable.'

Week work will lessen the chances of the worker to get a new job. This is remarkable reasoning on the part of the week work advocates when one man does the work of three it is easy to get a job. But the fact is that every one works a set number of hours at normal speed it will be impossible for any one to escape the inevitable absolute of being seen through this. Now try to put these two arms aside by side and you will see that every worker has to work hard to get a new job it means that the workers are so comfort-able. But if unbearable discipline exists in all shops it may be that they will have at least a few vacant places every week. It is clear that only when week work is introduced the case: either the discipline is unbearable, and then there are place for the workers, or so well off in their jobs that they would not quit and there are no vacant places. In this case there is, of course, no "unbearable discipline" either. This is elementary common sense, and they show how worker champions both things are possible. With them unbearable discipline lasts and will with a total absence of jobs.

"Week work will decrease the present prices on goods." The scale that will be obtained will never be as high as the present earnings of the piece workers.

"Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers. Never is really too comprehensive a word. Life, in itself, is never so great as the present earnings of the piece workers.
RIGHT AND LEFT WING
BY N. BUCHWALD

The Background
Socialism of America as well as in the world is watching with the closest attention the air that is now going on in the United States. If anything, probably the party will soon split in two or three factions. It seems that the current controversy has given a common basis upon which all elements and tendencies in the party can unite.

Grave, as the crisis is, it did not come as a surprise to anyone. The influences of industrial material had long been stored up, ready to burst into flames. The favorable moment was only needed.

The war split the socialist parties of all the European countries, especially in Germany, Russia and France. To the old tradition of controversy, concentrating methods and tactics, in themselves sufficient to give birth to various "wings" and factions, was added the very burning question as to the attitude toward the war. This was a problem of the revolutionary question. It called for action, immediate and decisive.

Many may be regretted or not, but in all the belligerent countries the great majorities were carried away by the general sentiment of nationalism and official patriotism, and under one pretext or another, the socialists huddled themselves into the life-and-death struggle against medievals, Prussianism, others against the "barbarous conqueror of the Rhine" and the German "man" and the "cynical, greedy Englishman".

In each of the belligerent countries there remained a minority of socialists who failed to see in this war the class war for the revision of the traditional, fundamental socialist point of view, according to which the capitalist war is bourgeois war, and the socialist war is the war of the proletariat.

The British workers realize this danger to the international socialist movement by the division of the world into three nations which are striving to reorganize themselves on a more just and democratic basis, and they are lifting their voices against the act of achrism in a cry: "Down with the blockade!"

As the war progressed the economic conditions took on greater importance. The nations of Central and Eastern Europe were submerged by a ring of steel, and their ports were closed to commerce by the navies of the Allies. Food and raw materials were excluded from nations which even in peace time were never able to exist without importing both of these on a large scale. The final defeat of these nations is not merely a defeat of liberalism, but a defeat of socialism as a whole, more than a purely military defeat. It was the starvation of the children which was more influential in destroying the workingmen, the failure of industry through lack of raw materials, which people thought about the sudden collapse.
Proposed Hardships for Immigrants

A. Warner Parker of the United States Bureau of Immigration told the Boston Chamber of Commerce that the bureau has drafted tentative immigration laws which will have a number of radical provisions regarding the admission and stay of aliens in this country. The three main features are:

- Registration of all aliens now in the United States or who are to apply for admission hereafter.
- Obliging the admission of immigrants provisional or prohibitory during their stay in this country.
- Changing the burden of proof from the immigrant to the government, that it will be incumbent upon aliens to prove their fitness for admission, and not the other way about. The government to prove their unfitness, as at present.

Under this law, said Mr. Parker, "new immigrants will be registered upon arrival in this country. They will also be required to report when they move from one immigration district to another. The percentage of immigrants who will be excluded from the country under this legislation might be much greater than the 3 or 4 per cent which have been excluded herebefore.

"Our Judges Would Give Them 20 Years"

There was an unusual scene in the office of Commons tonight. During a discussion of a labor motion on pensions two women in the strangers' gallery began shouting: "You are murderers. You have not settled the last war. You are leading the peoples and workers of another war." The officers, as well as the Executive board members and other workers present, have done everything in their power to make this movement a success. All of the necessary measures were taken in order to assist our strikers, so that they may not get discouraged.

In some of the shops the manufacturers were stubborn and we had to work out our strike for as long as it lasted, paying them regular strike benefits. There is still a large number of non-organized shops, which are to be organized. As soon as the holiday period is at an end the next campaign will again be launched in order to bring the remaining non-union workers into line.
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For you 200,000 fell wounded at the front—tens of thousands maimed for life.
A million and a quarter other Americans again and again offered their lives for you at Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel, in the Argonne and along the Meuse.

Are you grateful? The A. E. F. will answer that question not by the number of flags you wave as it comes marching home, but by the way you take the new Victory Liberty Loan. The A. E. F. is today sizing up the new America, to which it is returning by its works and not by its shouting.

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Are You Grateful?

This space is made available to the Government for the advertising of the Victory Loan by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company on behalf of the holders of its twenty millions of policy to force, amounting to over four and a half billions of dollars of insurance, for whose protection this company is holding over seven hundred and twenty million dollars reserves besides other assets. Its employees sold over $135,000,000 of Liberty Bonds and W. R. B. last year, and are still in the campaign. The company holds $89,000,000 of Liberty Bonds and intends to subscribe for millions of this loan which it recommends as without qualifications the safest investment in the world.
Political Prisoners in The United States

In the bulletin of The National Civil Liberties Bureau we read the following:

William Powell and his wife on May 25, 1919 went to call at the home of one of their relatives, Ives Lefko, at Lansing, Michigan. In the course of the visit an argument arose about the war. Powell said to Mrs. Lefko (1) that the stories of German atrocities were lies and were part of a paid propaganda; (2) that he was not satisfied with the United States and could not believe in the President; and (3) that the war was a rich man's war. Somebody told the United States Attorney and Powell was indicted, tried and convicted. The judge sentenced him to serve twenty years in prison and to pay a fine of $5000. The Powell family got together their savings, sold the liberty bonds which Powell had previously bought and paid the fine. It took practically everything they had. Powell now writes to his family from the penitentiary at Leavenworth. Mrs. Powell is supporting herself and five children as best she can.

Will Ask Six-Hour Day

When 100,000 indusctrie workers make their next demand of the operators they will ask for a six-hour day and a substantial increase in wages, according to Thomas Kennedy, president of the policy committee of the United Mine Workers. The present contract expires next year.

President Kennedy says that the policy committee is squarely on record to use the full power and influence of the organization to retain the present war-time increases. If peace is officially declared before September, a special international convention probably will be called to handle the situation. Under the agreement the advances granted during the war are to run only until the official signing of peace.

Can't Stop Unionism

Waukegan, III. — When the American Steel company discovered that trade unionists were arranging to hold a mass meeting that might "select" its employees it hired a large hotel in the city, secured all the music possible and advertised an evening’s entertainment. About 20 his employees and boys enjoyed the show. The unionists secured the next large hall which was packed by nearly 1,000 workers and over 150 joined the trade union movement.

Want $1 An Hour

The new scale of bricklayers and Masons’ union in Toledo, Ohio, calls for $1 an hour, with an additional 20 cents for foremen.

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