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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Effect of Wagner Act Validation on National Labor Policy and Supreme Court Controversy—President Orders Curtailment of Expenditures.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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VALIDATION of the Wagner act brought the administration up against the necessity of formulating a new national labor policy to prevent strikes and to determine what course shall be followed when collective bargaining is unsuccessful. For this purpose Secretary of Labor Perkins invited 33 leaders of industry and labor to attend private meetings in Washington, stating they would be asked to discuss the need of new safeguards for industry to balance the gains achieved by labor under the Wagner act. Among those Madame Perkins invited were William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization; Myron C. Taylor, board chairman of United States Steel corporation; Gerard Swope, board chairman of General Electric corporation; Harper Sibley, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and government officials.

Certain of the President's advisers have told him a law requiring the incorporation of labor unions should be passed; or that at least there should be a law similar to the British trades union act which provides that all union funds must be accounted for to the government and that unions cannot participate in sympathy or general strikes.

Organized labor always has opposed any such legislation and probably would continue to fight against it.

John L. Lewis thinks one result of the Wagner act decisions may be the abandonment of the sit-down strike, though this, he says, depends on the attitude taken by employers in the operation of the act.

HOW does the upholding of the Wagner labor relations act affect the battle over the President's plan to enlarge the Supreme court? That question arose at once on announcement of the decisions and received various answers. Opponents of the President's bill declared the necessity for such a measure, if it ever existed, was entirely removed by this showing of liberal tendencies by a majority of the court; and many supporters of Mr. Roosevelt admitted that some compromise such as the appointment of two new justices instead of six, might be advisable. But the President himself let it be known that he wished his program pushed through without modification. The favorable majority of one, created by the shift of Justice Roberts, did not seem to him safe enough.

This position of the President was taken also by some of his cabinet members. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace declared that agriculture could expect nothing from the Supreme court as now constituted, and urged American farmers to give the Roosevelt plan their earnest support.

Attorney General Cummings declared that the four justices who dissented from the court's decision that the Wagner act is constitutional still constitute a "battalion of death" and will continue to oppose all major New Deal social legislation.

John L. Lewis, head of the C. I. O., asserted the Supreme court had demonstrated its "instability" anew and that the Wagner act decisions only made more imperative the need for enlarging the court.

Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, whip of the senate, predicted that the President's court plan would emerge from the judiciary committee "a much compromised, amended and generally transformed measure."

CHIEFS of executive departments, independent officers and other spending units of the government were called on by President Roosevelt to reduce expenditures up to the end of the fiscal year June 30. In his letter to them the President said:

"It is apparent at this time that the revenues of the government for the present year will be materially less than the amount estimated in my budget message of last January; and, hence, the deficit will be far greater than was anticipated unless there is an immediate curtailment of expenditure."

"You will carefully examine the status of appropriations for your activity with a view to making a substantial saving by eliminating or deferring all expenditures which are not absolutely necessary at this time.

"You will report to me through the acting director of the budget not later than May 1, 1937, the steps which you are undertaking to reduce expenditures and the amount of the estimated saving resulting therefrom."

SOUTHERN congressmen found they were no longer in the saddle when the house by a vote of 276 to 119 passed the anti-lynching bill. The debate was furious and the representatives from the South were deeply resentful.

"For more than 100 years the people of the South have kept life in the Democratic party," declared Representative E. E. Cox of Georgia, "and now that that party has grown powerful it turns upon the South and proposes to pass this wicked and cowardly law. This bill is directed just as much against the South as any reconstruction bill passed after the Civil war."

The bill was sponsored by Representative Joseph Gavagan of New York whose district includes the big negro city of Harlem. It provides that any state officer who surrenders a prisoner to a mob shall be guilty of a felony and subject to prosecution and severe penalties. In addition, the county in which a lynching occurs shall be liable for \$2,000 to \$10,000 damages, to be paid to the family of the lynched person.

Proponents of the measure were greatly aided by a mob in Mississippi that took two negroes from a sheriff and tortured and burned them to death. The local authorities were supine and called the shocking affair a "closed incident."

MITCHELL HEPBURN, premier of Ontario, reiterating his determination not to permit C. I. O. representatives from the United States to take part in negotiations for settlement of the strike in the General Motors of Canada plant at Oshawa, promised to "call out an army if necessary" to protect the property of the corporation. Hugh Thompson, U. A. W. A. organizer, barred by Hepburn, threatened that every General Motors plant in America would be closed unless the Oshawa strike were settled soon with recognition of the union demands. Homer Martin, president of the U. A. W. A., called Hepburn a number of unpleasant names. The Toronto Trades and Labor Council pledged the support of its 40,000 members to the union's strike against General Motors.

Hepburn forced two of his ministers to resign, charging they were not supporting the government in its fight "against the inroads of the Lewis organization and communism in general." They are David A. Croll, who held the labor, municipal affairs and public welfare portfolios, and Attorney General Arthur W. Roebuck. Axel Hall, young mayor of Oshawa, who has been friendly to the strikers and critical of Hepburn's action, sent an "ultimatum" to President Martin of the Automobile Workers of America demanding that members of the union in the United States strike in support of the Oshawa local. The latter body adopted a resolution demanding that Premier Hepburn withdraw from the negotiations.

In Montreal 5,508 women garment workers, members of the C. I. O. international union, employed in 72 plants, started a strike for higher wages; and in Fernie, B. C., 1,000 C. I. O. miners threatened to strike for union recognition.

FOR the second time in two years the house passed the Pettingill bill to repeal the "long and short haul" clause of the interstate commerce act. This law prohibits railroads from charging lower rates for a long haul than for a shorter one on the same route in the same direction, and it hampers the roads greatly in their competition with water and truck carriers for long distance traffic.

DIPLOMATIC representatives of 20 Latin American republics gathered in the Pan-American union building in celebration of Pan-American day and listened to an address by President Roosevelt. This was formal and was broadcast to all the republics, but it was followed by an "off the record" talk which the reporters were not permitted to hear. It was said the President sought to convince the diplomats of the good faith of the United States in its foreign policies, and that, reviewing the promises made by his administration in this respect, he declared them 100 per cent fulfilled.

BEFORE this session of congress closes it is probable the law providing for publication of salaries of corporation employees who receive \$15,000 or more a year will be repealed. The house ways and means committee already has voted unanimously in favor of recommending such action and the law now has few supporters in congress.

Chairman Robert L. Doughton explained that much criticism has developed as a result of the law which was passed in 1935. The salary lists which have been published have been used as mailing lists by companies selling luxury articles and in the case of some huge salaries they are thought to have been used by criminals contemplating kidnaping or blackmail.

THE United States coast guard cutter Mendota paused briefly during her regular ice patrol in the north Atlantic and, her engines stilled and the church pennant at the masthead, floated over the place where the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank 25 years ago, carrying 1,517 persons to their death. For nearly a quarter of a century the coast guard cutters have guided shipping through the dangerous ice area without an accident, their motto being "Never another Titanic disaster." They are on the job until the last iceberg has disappeared.

FIVE history-making decisions were handed down by the Supreme court, all upholding the validity of the Wagner labor relations act and inferentially broadening the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution. The most important ruling made by five of the nine justices and read by Chief Justice Hughes, was in the case of the Jones & Laughlin Steel company and directed the reinstatement of ten discharged employees. The decision supported the constitutional basis of the Wagner act, finding it a legal "scheme" to protect commerce from injury resulting from the denial by employers of the right of employees to organize and "for the refusal of employers to accept the procedure of collective bargaining."

The broad constitutionality of the act, was strongly noted by the chief justice. He declared that:

"We think it clear that the national labor relations act may be construed so as to operate within the spirit of constitutional authority."

Hughes defined the right of employees to self-organization and to select their representatives for collective bargaining as "a fundamental right."

Regarding the vital point of the application of the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution, Hughes declared:

"The congressional authority to protect interstate commerce from burdens and obstructions is not limited to transactions which can be deemed to be an essential part of a 'flow' of interstate or foreign commerce. Burdens or obstructions may be due to injurious action springing from other sources."

In the case of the Associated Press, concerning the dismissal of Morris Watson, a New York editorial employee, the court was split, 5 to 4. The majority opinion, read by Justice Roberts, held that the act does not "abridge the freedom of speech or of the press safeguarded by the first amendment" to the Constitution. The court took the view that Watson was dismissed not because his work was unsatisfactory but because of his activities in the Newspaper Guild, and ordered his reinstatement.

The three other cases, in each of which the Wagner act was upheld, involved dismissal of 18 employees by an interstate bus company; a dispute between the Fruehauf Trailer Company of Detroit, Mich., and the United Automobile Workers Union; and a dispute between the Friedmann - Harry Marks Clothing Company of Richmond Va., and Amalgamated Clothing Workers. In the bus case the decision was unanimous; in the others the division was 5 to 4.

THE reduction of railroad fares seems to have done everything expected," says observing Olivia, "but discourage the hitch hikers."

Buccaneer Fern Welcomed to Yosemite Lodge

Picturesquely attired as a bold, bad but beautiful buccaneer, Fern Arnold, pirate theme girl of the 1939 Golden Gate exposition, is shown entering the picture under a triumphal arch of ski poles held by pretty ski enthusiasts at Yosemite Lodge, Calif. Miss Arnold was the first exposition beauty to try Yosemite's famed ski run.



Bedtime Story for Children

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

PETER RABBIT'S GLAD SURPRISE.

IT HAD been many days since any of the little people of the Green Forest had seen or heard anything of Mrs. Grouse and all but two or three had made up their minds that Sammy Jay was right and that Farmer Brown's boy really had killed her and eaten her for his dinner. Tommy Tit the Chickadee didn't believe it. Chatterer the Red Squirrel remembered how he had been kept a prisoner and treated ever so kindly by Farmer Brown's boy and he didn't quite believe it.



And Then Mrs. Grouse Walked Out Right in Front of Peter.

Anyway, he had hope that it wasn't so. Peter Rabbit tried not to believe it. But as one day followed another Peter's doubts grew until at last he felt that he almost had to believe it.

Now, all this time Jack Frost had stayed in the Green Forest and on the Green Meadows and kept the icy crust he had made over the snow as hard as ever, which, of course, made it dreadfully hard for the little people who live there and must eat to get enough food. They were hungry most of the time and had to spend every minute that they



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were awake in hunting for food. Only those who sleep most of the winter didn't mind. But at last Jack Frost grew tired and went away. Just as soon as he left, jolly, bright Mr. Sun saw this and he set to work to melt that hard, icy crust until there wasn't a bit of it left. Then it snowed again, a soft, light fluffy snow that fell in the night.

The next morning Peter Rabbit was hopping through the Green Forest, lipperty-lipperty-lip, when suddenly he saw something that made him give a gasp and sit up very straight. Then he looked and looked, rubbed his eyes to make sure that he was seeing right, and looked again. What was it that he saw? Why it was tracks, queer looking tracks that led straight under a great thick branch of hemlock tree, and they looked, they certainly looked, very much like the snowshoe tracks of Mrs. Grouse.

Peter felt as if he must be dreaming. He stared and stared and stared.

"What's the matter with you, Peter Rabbit? Didn't you ever see my snowshoe tracks before?" asked a voice from under the hemlock tree. And then Mrs. Grouse walked out right in front of Peter.

Peter's big eyes opened wider than ever. "Oh!" he cried. "Is—is it really and truly you, Mrs. Grouse?" he cried.

"Of course, it is me! Who else should it be? Is there anybody else who looks like me in the Green Forest?" he cried.

"No—no," replied Peter slowly, as if even yet he wasn't quite sure, "only Sammy Jay said that you had been killed and eaten by Farmer Brown's boy and—and—"

"And you believed it!" snapped Mrs. Grouse. "I should think that by this time you would have learned never to believe what Sammy Jay says. You ought to know that he's the greatest mischief-maker in the Green Forest. Do I look as if I had been killed and eaten?" Mrs. Grouse ruffled up her feathers and strutted back and forth in front of Peter.

Peter laughed joyously. "Not a bit! Not the least little bit!" he declared. "But where have you been all this time? Do tell me all about it! This is the gladdest surprise I have had for a long time."

Then, Mrs. Grouse told Peter all about how Farmer Brown's boy had taken her home when he found her so weak that she couldn't fly, and had fed her and made her as comfortable as he knew how in the henhouse all the time that the hard, icy crust had lasted in the Green Forest, and then how he had taken her out and let her go and had laughed to see her whirr away into the Green Forest.

Peter listened with his big eyes opened their widest and his long ears standing straight up. "Then Tommy Tit and Chatterer were right, and Farmer Brown's boy isn't half bad!" he cried.

"He isn't bad at all," declared Mrs. Grouse.

The Shoemaker's Last

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

I'VE studied the state of the nation, Considered the case of the poor, And wondered what new legislation Is needed to re-assure. And here is the step I'd be taking: I think that a law should be passed—

There ought to be some way of making The shoemaker stick to his last.

I'm not one of these view-with-alarmers, But the man I'd get rid of with thanks

Knows more about farming than farmers And more about banking than banks.

There ought to be some way of listing A man by his trade in the past, There ought to be some law insisting The shoemaker stick to his last.

There are places for all of us, brother, And matters for straightening out, But not in the place of each other, And things we know nothing about.

Depression? Well, one thing will do it, Will make it a thing of the past: To each have a trade, and go to it, The shoemaker stick to his last.

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THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR HAND

By Leicester K. Davis

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PURPOSE has been called the mainspring of progress. But the Master of our destinies has not decreed that progress should be made by each of us in the same manner. Such is clearly indicated by the variety of forefingers which come under the observation of the analyst of hands.

Each forefinger and its type indicates with amazing clearness the way in which its possessor formulates his or her purposes and puts them into action.

The Scholarly Finger of Jupiter. The outstanding characteristics of this type are its extremely irregular contour and pronounced inclination toward the second finger. These indicate a high degree of concentration and reflection. While the forefinger of the overcautious type crooks rather than bends toward the second finger, the scholarly type not only bends toward it but almost

FIRST AID TO THE AILING HOUSE

By Roger B. Whitman

SOUND-PROOFING

UNLESS a house is built to prevent it, sounds will travel through walls and floors to an unpleasant degree. When sound-proofing is wanted, it can best be applied while the house is under construction. In a finished house, sound-proofing is not always possible, because some of the sound is carried through the framework.

An inside wall usually consists of wood studs, to which the plaster or other surfaces are attached on both sides. Some of the sound is carried through by the studs, and more by the vibration of the parts of the walls between the studs. Packing the spaces in the walls with rock wool or other material will cut down some of the sound, but not all of it. For a greater degree of sound-proofing, a second wall can be built on one side of the offending wall. This consists of studs, to be surfaced with stiff insulating boards, or better yet, with lath and a kind of plaster that absorbs sound waves. This wall should be separated from the main wall by an inch at the closest points; there should be no actual contacts between them. The same idea can be used to reduce noise through a ceiling by the building of a false ceiling that is nowhere in contact with the one above.

Noise through a floor can also be deadened from the upper side by laying stiff insulating boards, and placing a new floor on top. Linoleum is more effective as a sound deadener than a new floor of wood.

Sound-proofing a door requires the deadening of the sound that passes through the door itself, and also the packing of the joints all around the door with sound-proofing material, such as thick felt. The door can be covered with a sheet of insulating board. Some makes of these boards are especially treated to absorb sound waves. A sheet should be cut to the size of the door, and attached to it by one-inch strips around the edges. Strips of thick felt can be had, suitable for filling the spaces around a door.

Noise may be carried through a house by the heating and water pipes; the click of a water meter, for instance, or noises from an oil burner or a stoker. These noises can be reduced by bracing the pipes to check vibration and by pipe covering.

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White Birds on Blue



This afternoon frock with an Eton jacket top is made of a widely spaced silk print in navy blue with white birds. The trimming is hand-drawn white handkerchief linen with real binche lace. The hat is navy blue felt with white pique.

leans against it throughout its entire length.

When viewed from the back, the scholarly type has a bony wrinkled look that immediately differentiates it from all other types. The nail of this type may vary, on some forefingers being broad and squared, on others long and narrow. In either case, the nail itself is often found to be ribbed in its structure.

When analyzing a hand with this type of forefinger, you may feel safe in placing its owner as a man or woman who has plenty of sound purpose, but one who puts it to work only after careful study and dissection of all facts relating to a worthwhile objective.

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