

**SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
SAYS**



The postal reorganization bill which won Senate approval on June 30th contains a "union shop" provision which I

strongly opposed during debate on this measure. The Senate version of the bill to convert the Post Office Department into an independent government agency differs from the House version which eliminated the compulsory unionism requirement for employees of the proposed U. S. Postal Service.

I voted for the Fannin Amendment which would have assured all employees of the Postal Service the right, without fear of reprisal, to form or join labor organizations, or to refrain from such union activities. I regret that the Fannin Amendment was rejected by the Senate, because I believe that every man should have the right to join a union or the right to refrain from joining a union. I also believe that where persons voluntarily join a union -- it makes no difference whether they are Federal employees or employees of a private employer--they should have the right to negotiate through representatives of their choosing with their employer, whether it be the Federal Government or a private employer, in respect to conditions of their employment insofar as those conditions are not regulated by acts of Congress.

The Senate-passed bill proposes for the first time in American history that Federal employees shall be compelled to pay to labor unions sums of money for the privilege of work for their government. It would give to unions as automatic a power as the kings of France had in their most despot days. Once the kings of France possessed almost absolute power over the lives of their subjects, and Frenchmen had to pay their king for

the right to earn a living during that tyrannical era.

Today, we find this doctrine enunciated by those who advocate compulsory unionism in the Postal Service. In essence, what is now proposed in the Senate-passed bill is that the right to work in the Postal Service is a labor union right which the labor union can sell and the individual postal employee must buy if he is allowed to earn a livelihood for himself and his loved ones.

During a previous generation, labor unions rightly condemned "yellow dog" contracts whereby employees were required to agree either to join a union selected by their employer or to abstain from joining any union whatever. The

current demand for compulsory unionism in the Postal Service, in my judgment, is actually a demand for a "yellow dog" contract which says that a man cannot join a union and a "yellow dog" contract which says that he must join a union.

No free man ought to be compelled to join any organization against his will for the privilege of earning his bread, and no man should be required to join a union or to financially support a union except by his own free choice. Certainly, no man ought to be required to pay union dues as the price of working for his own government.

For these reasons, I am hopeful that the Senate-House

conferees, who are considering this bill, will eliminate the possibility that postal employees may be compelled to join a union irrespective of their own free will.

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