

Must Law Back Up Union Contracts?

(By Richard L. Strout in Christian Science Monitor)

Washington.—The difficulty with writing a rigid "no-strike" pledge into a union contract, and of passing laws (as some Congressmen propose) imposing penalties when these contracts are violated, is that trade unions are very human and very fallible institutions. On a practical basis, few of them are strong enough or stable enough to impose discipline on their workers. British unions are older and often better disciplined than American, for collective bargaining began earlier and has made wider progress in Britain. But even under a Labor Government, the trade-union leaders have not been able wholly to suppress strikes. The recent dockers' strike was a case in point; it was a rank-and-file walkout

disapproved by union leaders. Just the same, the men quit.

Certainly, nobody can deny that unions ought to live up to their contracts. They lose public esteem when they don't. Congress shows signs of adopting legislative provisions penalizing unions for breach of contract, and some writers see in the proposal a good deal of hope. Another proposal would include joint disciplinary action by management and union heads: If Tom Smith and Bob Jones lay down tools in a huff because they don't like the spot where their section boss has placed the drinking fountain, the theory would be that the union head could fine them, under penalty of losing their jobs. If they refused to pay their fines and if they worked in a closed shop, they might lose their union cards and thus be forced to take up some other livelihood.

It is a practical question, however, whether this would work out very well. A factory isn't an army for rigid discipline; there will always be

occasional flare-ups and personality clashes. If perfect harmony existed, companies wouldn't need personnel experts. Anyone who has attended a trade-union meeting knows how very human they are. The disinterested observer is apt to be both encouraged and provoked. They provide examples in practical democracy; on the other hand, they may show shortsightedness and poor judgment. They are apt to be boring rather than sinister, stuffy rather than inspiring. There is in them about the same ratio of wisdom and stupidity, courage and cowardice, selfishness and idealism that one finds in other organizations devoted to specific interests. John Smith at his lathe and in Mechanics' Hall is much the same sort of person.

On paper, certainly, an airtight case exists for enforcing union contracts, although they are signed with groups that are fraternal and non-profit-making, and deal with the matter of human labor. Most unions try to abide by their contracts. This is the more apt to be true among unions whose membership is more disciplined, better established and higher paid. Whether this evolution toward greater responsibility can be much hurried by legislative disciplinary action regarding contracts is a good deal of a question.

Through no fault of its own, management frequently breaches a labor contract, often inadvertently and through some subordinate. This arises because in a typical contract the union chiefly agrees to furnish labor, while management, on the other hand, agrees to a thousand and one details regarding wages, hours, conditions of work, and the like. Statistics indicate that in a majority of cases coming before arbitration panels, breach of contract by management is established. Most of them are, of course, not willful.

But suppose Congress passes compulsory enforcement legislation. Will the union collect damages for such breaches? There are dozens of other difficult questions that might arise. The deeper Congress goes into it, the more complicated it may seem. As contrasted to the punitive approach, Henry Kaiser's simple proposal for incentive payments seems to have many advantages.

PRICES AND YOUR PURSE

Washington.—A bank on wheels is servicing small communities in Maine. This unique trailer traveling bank is equipped with a special teller's cage, cashier counter, and a private office for business consultations.

It includes all the necessary banking equipment and a burglar-proof safe. It makes regular rounds to towns within 24 miles of the main office.

Helicopter Travel
"How are you traveling—by helicopter?" This may be a common question in the near future.

One of the largest operators of passenger buses is reported as seeking permission to operate 14-passenger helicopter air buses over their existing network of 60,000 miles of highway.

News for Kibitzers
News for construction kibitzers: One of America's largest builders of bulldozers, dump trucks, winches and cranes has announced the engagement of leading engineer designer to restyle and streamline these ungainly vehicles.

Chicken and Turkey
With meat supplies in question at the moment, consumers may dwell with some slight satisfaction at least, on the assurance that they are due for near record supplies of chicken, Turkey, too, will be in plentiful supply.

More Surplus Goods
Among the latest Army surplus goods to come pouring back into civilian channels are:

\$2,000,000 worth of new wool hoods and fingerless knit gloves or wristlets;

800,000 pairs of heavy rubber gloves;

130,000,000 rubber aprons;

\$1,500,000 worth of hardware items.

Included in the hardware items are single bit axes, adjustable heavy pipe wrenches, mattock picks, bolt clipper or wire cutters.

All these items are now being offered for sale to wholesale and retail merchants through the 11 regional offices of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Folding Chairs
A retail ceiling price of \$3.50 each, plus freight, has been set on new wooden or metal folding chairs declared surplus by the armed forces.

World Wheat
Despite a record crop of wheat, a world shortage is developing. This is due to the widespread drought of last year in Europe and the heavy buying of many European governments determined to provide bread, at least, for their people.

The acute world sugar shortage will ease "only slightly" during 1946, according to the Department of Agriculture.

More shortening, cooking fats and salad oils are predicted, but less margarine.

Butter stocks are expected to remain slow, with production down 10 or 15 per cent under that of last year.

More Lining Material
One reason for the present shortage of men's clothing is lack of lining material. In addition to parachute silk recently released by the Government for that purpose, 800,000 yards of surplus rayon twill cloth has now been made available. It is hoped that this will help speed the manufacture of suits and coats.

More—or Less
The story all around seems to be either more of this or less of that.

In shoes, it will be more. The General Shoes Corporation report that it has completed reconversion and is now at the highest daily production level in its history.

All kinds of shoes have a ready market, the company reports, but strongest demand is for the higher priced footwear.

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retail outlets. Textile troubles are still largely due to prices, according to industry spokesmen. Clothing makers say they cannot sell many items at present ceiling prices on the basis of present costs. Wage increases of 21 per cent on December 10 added to their cost problems. Meanwhile, the public waits with cash in hand to buy a number of necessities.

THINGS TO COME—A new vaporizing units to attack influenza, pneumonia and common cold germs in the home and office. It is the size of a small table radio and it releases by electrical means an invisible fog of triethylene glycol. It is said to have reduced absenteeism in a large airplane plant and to have been successful in military tests. . . . A light control which compensates for variations in light intensity and is expected to be a boon to photographers. . . . A new sling for a child for children's wear which will make it possible to order by weight, height and waist measurements. . . . A special eyecup with a saw-toothed leaf spring to firmly hold a shoelace at the desired tightness. . . . Curtis Publishing Co. is considering a new pictorial magazine somewhat similar to Life, but it may be a year away. . . . Fireproof waste-basket. Made of metal, it is equipped with double open lids or collars which do not interfere with its use but are designed to accumulate between them enough carbon dioxide from the combustion gases to prevent the air's oxygen from feeding the flame started in paper.

BITS O' BUSINESS—New York City-owned and up to their ears in losses each year, will shortly be faced with a new wage increase demand. That demand, obviously, will not be based on any "share the profit" plan. . . . Lack of goods which are pinched off as wage labor difficulties continue is spurring black market operations. . . . Economists are trying to figure what advantage wage increases will be to the worker if everybody gets one. Living costs will be higher and taxes will take a bigger bite so the net gain may be more apparent than real. . . . Mil-

waukee vies for role of fur auction center. Fur is big business and the ranchers look kindly to a mid-western city, where they think their returns may be better. . . . Chester C. Davis, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, says one of the areas of the economy that would be most seriously affected in the event of inflation and collapse is agriculture which in the St. Louis reserve district is the most important single activity.

MRS. IDA C. STEWART
Mrs. Ida Catherine Stewart, 35, of

Dunn R-3, died in Harnett County Hospital in Dunn Sunday night following an illness of several weeks.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon from the old Stewart home place near Mary Stuart school, conducted by Dr. A. R. McQueen. Interment was in Greenwood cemetery.

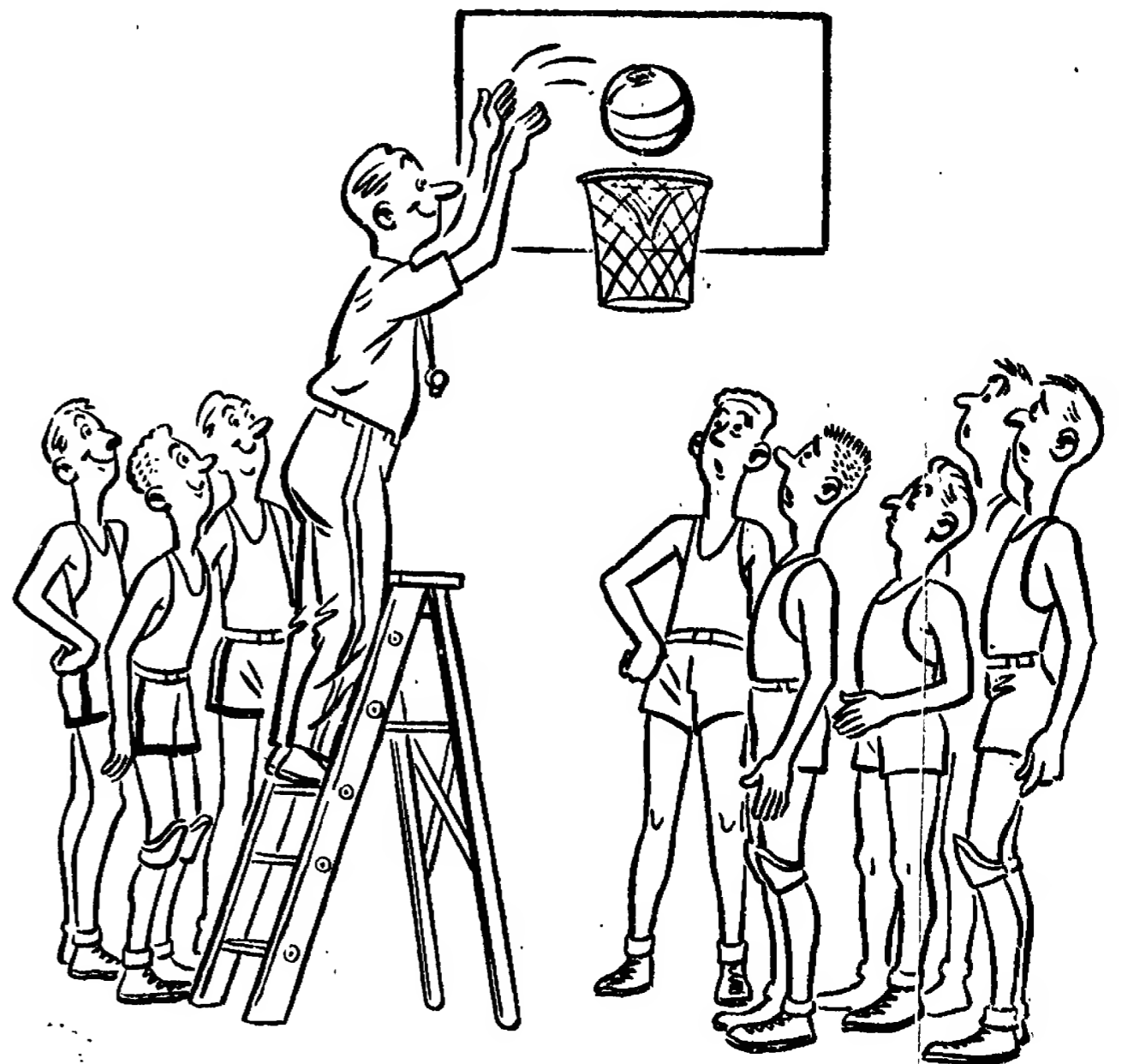
Surviving are her husband, James R. (Jack) Stewart; one son, James R. Stewart Jr.; and two sisters, Mrs. Ruby Grace Hart and Mrs. Arlene McDonald, both of Dunn R-3.

Mrs. Stewart was the daughter of the late James A. and Ida Jackson Stewart.

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Come to The News Office and get some of our feather-weight writing paper for your air-mail. You can write more for less postage. . . . Better than V-mail.



"Hey, Ref—aren't you out of bounds?"

IN basketball or business, Americans expect fair play all down the line.

In basketball, the referee is there to see that the game is played according to the rules. But he's not a player.

In business, the referee is the government, which establishes regulations for fair practices.

But when government goes into business and competes with its own citizens, the American tradition of fair play is set aside. The referee then becomes a player, and he enjoys advantages that are denied to all the other players in the game.

Take government-owned electric power systems, for example. They pay little or no taxes. When they need money, they call on the U. S. Treasury and get it at

little or no interest. If they have losses, why worry? You, as a taxpayer, will take care of that.

Business-managed power systems, on the other hand, do not have these special privileges. They pay their full share of taxes, pay fair interest on all loans.

It is a tribute to American self-reliance that tax-paying, self-supporting companies supply over 4/5 of the tremendous amount of electricity used in this country.

The same forethought and experience which furnished electric power for a global war will assure America dependable—and cheap—electric service for a post-war world. And businessmen can do the job better than bureaucrats.

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A Glittering of America's TECHNICOLORE Cavalcade Reckless Era!

Betty Hutton
ARTURO de Cordova
INCENDIARY BLONDE
Directed by GEORGE MARSHALL

A Paramount Picture

SATURDAY—JANUARY 26 DOUBLE FEATURE
Roy Rogers Wm. Dargan, Nancy Kelly

'DON'T FENCE ME IN' 'Follow That Woman'
Plus: Chapter 2 of Phantom Rider

MONDAY—TUESDAY JANUARY 28—29

BUD ABBOTT and **LOU COSTELLO**
in **HOLLYWOOD**
STARRING ROBERT RAFFERTY, STANTON, BOB PORTER, WALTER ANDERSON, BOB RAGLAND, MIKE MAZURKI

Also: News—Cartoon—And Pete Smith Short

WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 30 DOUBLE FEATURE
'HIDDEN EYE' 'Trailing Double Trouble'
Starring EDWARD ARNOLD Starring The Range Busters.

THURSDAY—FRIDAY JAN. 31—FEB. 1
BARBARA STANWYCK—GEORGE BRENT
in
'MY REPUTATION'

Attend Our Matinees Every Mon.—Wed.—Fri.—at 3:15

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A Glittering of America's TECHNICOLORE Cavalcade Reckless Era!

Betty Hutton
ARTURO de Cordova
INCENDIARY BLONDE
Directed by GEORGE MARSHALL

A Paramount Picture

LATEST NEWS

Wednesday JANUARY 30
DOUBLE FEATURE
'SANTA FE SCOUTS'
—with—
BOB STEELE
—plus—

The Gay Nineties . . . when romance and adventure ran riot.

BING CROSBY
PRODUCTIONS
presents
"THE GREAT JOHN L."
starring
LINDA DARNELL - BARBARA BRITTON
GREG McCURE
Q. KRUGER - WALLACE FORD
GEORGE MATHews - ROBERT BARRAT

Thursday-Friday JAN. 31—FEB. 1

AS A HARD HITTING MARINE JOHN GARFIELD WAGES WAR ON THE JAPS

'PRIDE OF THE MARINES'

LATEST NEWS

WATCH FOR THESE ATTRACTIONS

—COMING—
'ABBOTT & COSTELLO IN HOLLYWOOD'
'SHE WOULDN'T SAY YES'
'PRISON SHIP'

Saturday JANUARY 26
DOUBLE FEATURE

'RANCHO GRANDE'

—with—
GENE AUTRY

—plus—
'GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST'

—and—
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FEDERAL OPERATOR
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BEHIND THE SCENES
IN AMERICAN BUSINESS
By JOHN CRADDOCK

The flow of goods which was expected to begin with the turn of the year has not materialized yet, indicating that manufacturers were not holding back simply because of tax advantages. There was a fairly widespread belief during December that manufacturers were waiting to take advantage of lower excess profits taxes in 1946 before increasing the bulk of their sales. Elimination of that question highlights the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, of meeting OPA price ceilings and of labor disturbances. Home appliances probably will not come into the market in volume for some time. The three largest manufacturers of these items, General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors, have their production tied up with strikes and when production is resumed, it will probably be allocated to the various