

Honorable Angus W. McLean

The Peoples' Candidate for Governor of North Carolina

Comes Clean With Answer to LABOR'S QUESTIONS

Lengthy telegram to Chairman of Special Committee of Central Labor Union, thoroughly explains and outlines Gubernatorial Candidates' views on questions of interest to local workingmen and trades unionists

The Text of the Reply is as Follows:

QUESTION No. 1—

Would you as Governor favor putting the affairs of the State upon a strictly business basis, all departments being operated upon business principles, just as you would operate a railroad, a printing business, a cotton mill or a banking institution?

ANSWER—

Yes; if you read my original declaration and speeches you will see that I have been stressing this point from the beginning.

Number 2—

Would you use your influence toward abolishing the practice of paying political debts with appointments to office regardless of any special fitness of the appointee?

Answer—

Yes.

Number 3—

How would you view the enactment of a law which would prohibit the service of persons on special committees or commissions created by a General Assembly of which they are members?

Answer—

In principle I am opposed to appointing persons on special committees or commissions, created by the General Assembly of which they are members. I recognize the fact, however that there are cases in which peculiar knowledge or experience possessed by a member of the General Assembly, upon some particular matter, might render it advisable to modify the general principle solely on account of the public welfare.

Number 4—

Which would you consider most important, the cutting off of all expenses not absolutely necessary to the progress of the State, or the seeking of new sources of income through taxation?

Answer—

In my judgment both methods should be applied. The strictest economy in the conduct of our governmental affairs has been urged by me from the beginning. It is a cardinal principle of my political creed. If upon the most careful scrutiny it is found that there are sources of revenue which are not bearing their just and fair proportion of the burden of taxation, whether they are new or old, there should be such a readjustment as is necessary to require such sources to contribute their just proportion of the expenses necessary to the progress and welfare of the State. I heartily approve of the pledge in this connection contained in the Democratic platform.

Number 5—

Would you advocate an eight-hour work day in all the industries especially the textile?

Answer—

I favor the eight-hour work day where the employee is subjected to severe mental and physical strain. For example, railroad service, but I do not believe we have yet reached the point in this state where it would be practicable or to the best interests of those concerned in maintaining our industries on a sound and successful basis, including the employees themselves to apply the eight-hour law to all the industries of the State. Farming, textile and some other industries in the State would be seriously hampered by such a law. Our industries must compete in the markets of the world with like industries in other states, and this must be taken into consideration along with other facts and circumstances in determining what is best for employer and employee, whose interests are so closely inter-related that whatever works serious injury to the one will undoubtedly affect the other.

Number 6—

Would you favor a law prohibiting the working of women and children more than eight hours a day?

Answer—

The reasons given by me in answer to question No. 5 above, are applicable to this question also. I share the opinion held by our people generally that special consideration should be given to women and children wherever the same is practicable. The Democratic Party in North Carolina has gradually improved the working conditions and reduced the number of hours of labor in this State during which women and children may be required to work has prohibited the working of young or immature children. I believe that the policy of the Democratic Party will continue to be sound and humane and that it may be trusted to gradually work out the problem in the interest not only of the workers themselves but in the interest of the Public Welfare generally. I shall lend my best efforts to this end.

Number 7—

Would you favor a law making it a punishable offense for an employer to discharge an employee solely because of his membership in a labor union, or by threat or intimidation prevent him from joining such an organization or refuse to give a person employment because of such membership.

Answer—

The principle of collective bargaining by any group of persons whether they be laborers or others is now thoroughly recognized by the Federal and all our State governments as well as by public opinion. The Labor Union is a method of collective bargaining on the part of labor which has also been approved by our Federal and State Governments, provided the laws are not violated, in my opinion it is unwise and unjust for an employer to commit the acts set out in this question solely because of union affiliation. If an employe properly performs his duty and acts within the law, his Union affiliation should not prejudice him in any way. Upon the hurried consideration I have been able to give this matter, I doubt if it is practicable to enact a law that would effectually remedy the evil mentioned in the question without working injury to employee. If upon full consideration, however, it should appear that a law can be enacted that will remedy the evil and at the same time be fair and afford full legal protection to the rights of both employer and employee, I would favor it.

Number 8—

When State troops are called into service to quell a local disturbance or protect private property, who, in your opinion, should bear the expense: the State, county, city or firm or corporation asking protection?

Answer—

State troops should not be called into service except to maintain law and order and to preserve the peace and dignity of the State and where the local authorities are unable to do so, as now provided by law. When they are called into service they should protect the rights and property of all citizens alike and they should be under no obligation to any party to the controversy or disturbance, but should represent the sovereignty of the State alone.

To permit any group or interest, whether capital or labor to have any special interests in or control over the State troops when called into service would be a surrender of the sovereignty of the State, and contrary to all the dictates of public policy. For these reasons the State and the State alone should bear the expense.

Number 9—

Do you favor the furnishing of school books free to the children in the public schools?

Answer—

I favor this as soon as a way may be found to finance the cost without imposing an additional burden upon land and per-

sonal property where it is already too high in many of the counties in the State, and provided some plan can be devised whereby the books furnished free may be protected from unnecessary damage and destruction while in the hands of the pupils.

Number 10—

Would you favor the establishment of a State-owned printing plant of sufficient size to satisfy the needs of the State for printed matter and to manufacture the books used in the public schools?

Answer—

I would, provided it is found to be practicable and the work can be done with the same efficiency and economy that could be obtained by contract with private concerns. It is a serious question as to whether a State-owned printing plant could manufacture or print the books used in the public schools for the reason that most if not all of these are copyrighted and the purchase of the copyright would either be impossible or impracticable because of excessive cost.

Number 11—

How do you view the practice of hiring our State and county convicts to work in competition with free labor?

Answer—

I am opposed to it. I believe the convicts should be employed in public work, such as road construction.

Number 12—

We are extremely anxious for the adoption of the Australian ballot system or some other equally effective method whereby every citizen may express his own choice for public officials without let or hindrance. Do you agree with this sentiment?

Answer—

I agree fully with the sentiment that every citizen should have the right to express his own choice for public officials without let or hindrance. I have no personal objection to the Australian ballot system, but I do not believe that where it has been adopted it has worked well in North Carolina. Our present election laws are conducive to fair and honest elections and I know that they have many of the most important elements of the Australian ballot system. I believe further that the question of election laws is largely a matter for the Democratic party in its convention or legislature to decide and that it is not incumbent on the Democratic party to adopt every suggestion made by the Republican party in North Carolina in regard to the election system.
A. W. McLEAN.

A Vote for McLean Means a Vote for Better and Bigger Things in North Carolina!