

BARRINGER QUESTIONS EVERYTHING

(Continued from Page One.)

in general and C. P. Barringer's activities in particular.

J. F. B.

Barringer's Letter.

Mr. James F. Barrett,
Editor Charlotte Herald,
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I read with much interest and amusement the rather arrogant story and criticism of the September 5th issue of your paper (The Herald) and I have carefully noted the lack of abstract connotation in what you had to say regarding me and my attitude towards your speech on Labor Day at the Greensboro celebration. There are a number of things in your remarks that you are assuming, and you have clearly dodged the issue in which I was criticizing your remarks and I laconically want to point out or in other words I want to spill some more "ignorance."

I know I am an ignorant, almost illiterate, unpopular, despised, labor cuss, but I have a few peculiar, ignorant ideas of my own, and I express those ideas straight from the shoulder, in my own peculiar ignorant way and straight to the one intended. The game I play, though crude and ignorant as it may be, is open and above board, which is more than some of the so-called labor leaders of North Carolina can say of all their actions.

Were it not for the fact that I just recently heard you stand before an audience and plead with the people not to believe all they heard about me, and other labor leaders, I no doubt would feel hurt over your lambasting and jocular remarks of reading me out of the political side of labor's game. But when the memory is so fresh in my mind, I just can't help taking the written epistle in the same ironical, satirical, sarcastic vein in which it was written, and the advice so well given and applying the same opinions to your remarks, as you would have others apply to things they hear about me. And I am not going to believe all you have

said and I feel sure that there are others who have the same opinion relative to the situation.

I have heard you, on a number of occasions, say that "if the labor leaders would spend their time and energies fighting for the laboring cause, and the laboring people, instead of fighting me (Jim) the cause would accomplish much more." I have wondered at this myself. But through the columns of the last edition of your paper this has been answered. I wrote a letter and furnished you a copy for your information, and as a result of playing a fair, square, honest and open game, I have been cussed, discussed, ridiculed, lambasted, bombarded, kicked, knocked, bruised and pounded all the way from the first page of your paper to the latter part of the fifth page.

That is what a man gets for trying to treat you fair, and play a fair, square, honest and sincere game with you. Cheap publicity? So I no longer wonder at the laboring people, papers, and leaders of the state fighting you and your attitude in the issues that come before these great people.

I appreciate very much your statements relative to the employer who sits on the dry goods box and hands out ballots to the employes to stick in the ballot box. How many employers have handed you a ticket and said, "Barrett, let the columns of The Herald support this or that candidate for such and such an office in the coming primaries and election; and you dared not do otherwise? Why has the attitude of your paper been so different from the other labor papers in the great political issues of our state? Doesn't all labor papers work for the uplifting of the laboring folks? Doesn't all labor papers want to educate the workers along the lines of economic, and political freedom? Then why does yours differ from those published elsewhere in the state? Is yours right and all the others wrong? Isn't this sufficient evidence that other employers are handing out tickets and saying vote them? Then why blame the illiterate ignorant fellow for voting the ticket when it is being voted daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly by the highly educated in our movement? I think you should pity us ignorant workers more than to ridicule us for our actions when clothed in ignorance we know no better.

Is it not a fact that the vested interests do all they possibly can to keep a wedge driven in the ranks of labor? And you know this better than I. Then why give them additional material with which to work upon? Why help the employer by telling to the world that there is a difference of opinion relative to the things meant and said by labor leaders and speakers on Labor Day? Why condemn, ridicule, lambast and damn the opinions of the other fellow openly? Does this kind of publicity make conditions any better? I really am surprised at a man of your intelligence, ability, and experience in the labor movement resorting to the children's kindergarden game of "I'll tell teacher on you" and "I'm gonna tell my daddy when I git home." Now, Jim, you know better than that. You knew it would do you no good and also it would do me very little harm, yet you resorted to such methods and tactics, and you did it with a vim, with vigor, with all the flowery, bombastic, vociferous language at your command, and you knew darn well it would result in nothing beneficial for either of us or the cause we represent. You even made it a leading story in your paper. What does this mean? Have you sold to the vested interests? Have you affiliated yourself with these vested powers? Are you catering to the special privileges? Are you promoting the cause of Labor?

In giving your explanations of the following quotations, why did you not give all the explanations? Why did you stop before you had finished? "The next eight weeks will determine whether or not the workers of the United States will depart from the ways which have brought them to their present high plane of progress. One of the things that labor has stood for and fought for is education, and through education the workers have learned to think for themselves. I thank God that the workers have learned to think for themselves as people in other lines of endeavor and business are doing." It was good as far as you went, but you failed to finish it as you finished it in Greensboro. You brought it in as a connecting link between the comments upon the progress of the labor movement and its entering into an independent non-partisan political campaign. It was not the word-

ing that I was quoting but the sense that it made. Not only me but others and a number of them not as ignorant as I, are of the same opinion. You were throwing all the pressure you could against the La Follette-Wheeler campaign without mentioning names, it was very clear and in your mind you will admit it, so why dodge the issue by putting out the impression that I want the workers to go backwards, yet you did it. You in all your wisdom took advantage of a poor ignorant, insignificant, unpopular president of the State Federation of Labor and made it appear as though his ideas of progress were that the workers should go to that period where they were not able to think for themselves and the right of thinking be denied them. I have not tried to take the thinking powers of privileges from any worker, on the contrary, I am trying to make them think for themselves, and that is one reason why I am replying to

your criticism to get the workers to think just how little you apparently try to carry out the endorsements of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. Also that is the reason I wrote to Mr. Gompers and Mr. Morrison relative to your remarks at this Labor Day celebration and how you desecrated this day by criticising the endorsement of those who have fought and won the fight by having this day set apart for those who toil. I hope all readers of your paper will think of this, then they can better judge what kind of a labor day orator you are by spoiling a perfectly good speech and a beautiful, clear, sunshiney day, all spoiled under a political camouflage by a labor day speaker.

You wrote of being overwhelmed, of being flabbergasted. Were you ever overwhelmed? Were you ever flabbergasted? You must have my permission to speak. How

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THE MAKING OF A SAVER

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