



Unions Are Democracies

I HAVE often said that America's unions are one of the foundation stones of America's Democracy. I still think so. I think so because unions are for the most part democratic organizations, democratically run in the interest of their members. If this is true, then it is also true that anything which tends to undermine unionism in America tends also to undermine Democracy in America. Unions protect the ordinary men and women of our country in their daily life and work. So does Democracy. Unions protect them against dictation by their employers, just as Democracy protects them against dictation by their government. Unions strive constantly to raise the standard of living of the American people, just as democratic government in America tries to do the same thing. Essentially the only difference between America's unions and her form of government is a difference in size. Unions are smaller democracies within the one great Democracy. America is herself really just one big union, which includes and protects all Americans. Anything that harms our unions harms our democratic way of life. An attack on a union is an attack on the democratic way of life that union members have fought to win for themselves. There have been many signs recently of renewed attacks on unions. Congress is full of anti-union legislation these days. Proposals to emasculate the Wagner Act. Proposals to limit or "kill" the Wage and Hours law. The professional smear committees are always busy trying to dis-



Dan Gilmore

credit unions or their democratically elected leaders.

But the most dangerous attempt to smash a union is the proposal to use the Draft to break strikes. It's an old trick. The employees of a concern go out on strike. Some government official comes along and says to the strikers: "Either you go back to work or we will draft you into the army."

Of course, it's all supposed to be for the defense of Democracy. But what kind of "Defense of Democracy" is that? This kind of attack on unions is exactly what Hitler did in Germany. This kind of attack on unions is exactly what went on in France in the name of defending French democracy. And you know what happened in France.

But even more than that, it implies something that I, and I will guess most other Americans, do not like. It implies that going into the Army is some kind of punishment. It implies that the Army is going to be used as a nationwide concentration camp for those who defend their wages, their jobs, and the American standard of living against assault.

Our Army was created to defend American Democracy. If it is going to be used as a strike-breaking agency, its purpose will have been subverted. That will be using it to destroy our Democracy, not defend it. And Americans don't want to destroy their Democracy. Democracy protects America and Americans. We want to defend it.

Dan Gilmore

reprinted from FRIDAY Magazine

A. F. OF L. COUNCIL POSTPONES TWO NAT. CHARTERS

MIAMI, Fla.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at its mid-winter meeting here, postponed granting a national charter to 126 Federal unions in the grain processing industry, claiming 17,000 members, because it wished to make sure that these unions did not include craftsmen who should come under the jurisdiction of other national unions.

The Council also ruled that the time had not yet arrived to grant a national charter to nearly 100 Federal office workers' unions claiming 10,000 members.

Synthetic rubber is being found useful as bearings. Tests show that it is co-efficient of friction about the same as that of ball bearing.

Wind from the East signifies stormy weather. Changing from East to Southeast portends rain, soon.

The same evil forces that have brought wreck and ruin to the Christian religion in other parts of the world, are at work throughout America.

PATRONIZE THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN THE JOURNAL

J. ED. STUKES NAMED NEW CO. SOLICITOR

The county commissioners Monday elected J. Ed Stukes solicitor of the Mecklenburg Recorder's court to succeed Hugh M. McAulay, resigned, and designated David H. Henderson to act as assistant at such times as the regular solicitor may be on vacation or absent as result of illness.

The county is to pay the assistant for two weeks while the solicitor is on vacation, but the solicitor pays the assistant on other occasions when the assistant relieves the solicitor.—Observer.

'Gunmen' Were Indian Warriors "Gunmen" originally were not hoodlums but Indian warriors. The 1750 vintage gunman was mentioned in the Georgia Colonial Record: "A small party of Indians, consisting of one chief, six gunmen and a woman come here this day." By 1818 "gunmen" were cavalrymen; in the Congressional Debates, Andrew Jackson is recorded as seeking "one regiment of mounted gunmen" to put down an Indian uprising. The word did not carry the stigma of an outlaw until 1903, according to the new American English dictionary of the University of Chicago Press, and even then it designated the desperados of the Wild West. The first use of the word in its present sense, the dictionary shows, was in 1916, when Carl Sandburg wrote: "I have seen the gunmen kill and go free to kill again."

LASTING VALUE
The successful resistance of the American Federation of Labor to the introduction of Communist purposes and methods in the labor movement was an outstanding patriotic accomplishment. Its lasting value will be recognized more and more as time passes.—John P. Frey.

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NOTICE

North Carolina Mecklenburg County. In the Superior Court.

Virgil A. Outlaw, Plaintiff.

vs. Nancy Barbara Outlaw, Defendant.

The defendant, Nancy Barbara Outlaw, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to obtain absolute divorce; and that said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court thirty days after the completion of service by publication, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 8th day of February, 1941.
J. LESTER WOLFE,
Clerk of Superior Court, Mecklenburg County.

Feb. 6-10-30-41.

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