

Editorial

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DOES DANGER LIE AHEAD?

If North Carolina is to be governed by laws made by men who represent the people in the same manner that the House passed the anti-closed shop bill last week the people of this State are in line for hectic times. The Journal refers to House Bill 229, an anti-labor measure, which was rushed through the House committee and the House itself last week. According to The Journal's observation, Labor's case was presented in a very able and statesmanlike manner before the House committee on Labor and Manufacturing, not only by members of organized Labor but by great and patriotic North Carolinians who are not affiliated with the Labor movement. Josephus Daniels, our grand old North Carolinian, told the House committeemen that such a drastic law would not work in North Carolina; Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, told the members that "We must not use our powers of government to forbid the freedoms of contract and collective bargaining;" E. B. Jeffries, publisher of The Greensboro Record-News, criticized the wisdom of such a proposal in no uncertain terms; and Capus Waynick of Raleigh told the committee that "for this General Assembly to enact this bill and go on record as unfriendly to unions, which have raised the weekly pay of workers from \$13 to several times that amount, would be an attack upon the principle of organization itself."

Following presentation of the testimony of men whom we have every reason to believe are North Carolina's great leaders, the committee stormed over a vote of 21 to 6 in favor of one of the most drastic pieces of legislation that has ever been introduced in this state. Many reasons have been talked around the Capitol halls in efforts to justify the committee's vote, one being that the General Assembly representatives from Eastern Carolina farming counties are tired of "Old Man" Daniels dictating to the North Carolina General Assembly.

A legislator who would "fall" for propaganda of this nature evidently does not know Mr. Daniels and on top of that he must not be capable of passing judgment on the merits or demerits of any piece of legislation. Such a legislator should be denied a seat in our law-making body; he should be ostracized by friends and abhorred by the electorate as an abomination.

When the bill reached the House floor it was given over to the "special interests" by a weak voice vote. No Legislator had the fortitude to ask for a roll call vote, because of the seemingly prevailing "cut and dried" attitude favorable to the bill's passage; no legislator had the guts to call for a rising vote, and it required only one to bring this about. In Labor's opinion this was somewhat of a let-down for the workers of North Carolina. It is no wonder that Unionists are expressing bitter disappointment over the House action.

North Carolina Labor has had a belly full of pussyfooting. Throughout the years Tar Heel Labor has been both "used and abused." It has had friends and it has had critics; it has enjoyed fat years and it has enjoyed lean years—ever trying to present its problems to its employers in a dignified and pacific manner. We say this without fear of criticism from intelligent thinking people. Comparatively speaking, this State has been almost free of Labor-Management strife throughout its long history. There has been no need for a drastic anti-closed shop law here; there has been no need for North Carolina legislators accepting pressure from outside interests to enact drastic anti-labor laws here; there has been no need for the enemies of Labor to endeavor to enroll the services of ministers of the gospel and ally them against Labor in North Carolina; but there is a crying need for North Carolina to be more careful in the future as to who they elect, to the highly responsible State offices in the North Carolina General Assembly.

If farmer representatives are to go to Raleigh arrayed against Labor; if management's representatives are to go to Raleigh arrayed against Labor; if other classes are to go to Raleigh arrayed against Labor, a form of "warfare" has been declared here and the period of battle will undoubtedly take us through the chaos of many dark days and many hot political battles, which may continue until a balance is achieved, whereby this drastic piece of anti-union legislation is wiped off North Carolina's statute books, along with some others.

CLOSED SHOPS

(Reprinted from The Columbia Record, Columbia, S. C. Monday, February 24, 1947)

There ought not to be in the law any requirement that a union and an employer must put into effect the closed shop, the union shop, maintenance of membership or any other like contract provisions.

There ought not to be written into law any prohibition of the closed shop.

These things are matters for honest collective bargaining and all the law should require is that both sides should bargain in good faith and that any and all changes in the contract shall be produced by collective bargaining, not unilaterally, by either union or employer. Both compulsion and prohibition are negations of collective bargaining.

And why all the furor about the closed shop and the "individual's basic right to work?" Labor unions are not the only agencies that maintain closed shops in South Carolina. The state itself has set up a closed shop in the law, in medicine and pharmacy. You cannot practice law in South Carolina until you are admitted to the bar after passing the scrutiny of the board of bar examiners. You can not practice medicine until you get the approval of the

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medical examiners, or pharmacy until you get the O. K. of the pharmaceutical examiners. You can not practice dentistry, chiropractic, veterinary medicine or embalming until you get the approval of the dental examiners, chiropractic examiners, veterinary examiners or the board of embalmers.

You have to belong to the union, or society or fellow of licensed attorneys, physicians, pharmacists, chiropractors, dentists, embalmers before you can get a job in any of these professions and there is no collective bargaining about it. Nor is this all. You have to have a license to practice the business of the cosmetics arts, barbering, chiropody, naturopathy, optometry, osteopathy, to be an engineer, a contractor or a public accountant—every one of them closed shops set by the state of South Carolina.

South Carolina even maintains a close shop for hunting and fishing. You must belong to the union of licensed hunters and fishermen and pay your union dues, which you have nothing to do with fixing, before you may hunt or fish, using artificial lures. You can not drive an automobile, even if driving be a necessary part of your job, unless you belong to the union of motor vehicle driver's license holders.

What is the matter with this "individual's basic right to work" if it applies only to cotton mill workers, printers, carpenters and doesn't apply to barbering or law, beauty shop operators or doctors, public accountants or contractors.

The state of South Carolina if it is to pass the anti-closed shop law should in logic repeal all of these statutes establishing closed shops in these professions and businesses. Sauce for the lawyers and the beauty-shop operators is still sauce when the cotton mill workers and the carpenters use it.

But why enact the one or repeal the others? The state can be logical by permitting free collective bargaining on the union shop while it continues to maintain these closed shop professions.

There are reasons for all of these—some of them not so good reasons—and no denial of any basic right is involved in them any more than there is involved any denial of any basic right in the union shop. All that is necessary for a person to get a job as a lawyer, a beauty shop operator, a chiropractor, pharmacist and so forth is to meet the conditions that have been established for admission to these jobs. And that is all that the closed shop amounts to, with the additional precaution that it cannot be established, generally—there are a few exceptions to this rule, which might itself be written into law—without the concurrence of both employer and workers by collective bargaining.

Finally, of course, the Democratic party in South Carolina is a closed shop to top all closed shops.

(Written by George A. Buchanan, Editor of The Columbia Record, who has had 10 years experience negotiating Union contracts with the Columbia Typographical Union; International Sterotypers Union and Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union for a good many years.)

INTERFERENCE WITH LABOR RIGHTS AND PRACTICES HOTBED FOR COMMUNISM

(Continued From Page 1)

implores you, gentlemen, to look upon this piece of legislation as you would upon an adder ready to strike at your best friend and co-partner in business. He is your employe back home. You have it within your power to protect the ideals for which he has worked. His way has been a bulwark to keeping America free and the wheels rolling. His toil has helped win on the battlefields.

Similar laws have been steam-rolled through in other States and lest our judgment is wrong such laws will become a boomerang some day and strike down the proponents of this un-democratic and un-American legislation.



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