

Editorial

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LABOR ATTORNEY SAYS TAFT-HARTLEY LAW AIDING "REDS" BY PROMOTING CONFLICTS

Joseph M. Jacobs, Chicago labor attorney and counsel for many AFL unions, declared the Taft-Hartley law does not contribute to the ridding of Communists from the American labor movement.

"The new law actually protects Communists and promotes class conflict instead of industrial harmony," Jacobs declared in an address before the Southern Law Institute.

"The law," said Jacobs, "has singled out union members as individuals different from all other creatures in our republic. The leaders of union members must file anti-Communist affidavits when no one else must file such statements; disruptionists and undercover Communist members of a union cannot be fired out of a union if they pay their dues, but all other groups and associations have the power to oust undesirable members; a union can be forced to pay damages incurred through irresponsible sit-downs and wild-cat strikes called by disruptionists or labor spies planted in a union, but no other group is saddled by the same overwhelming responsibility."

"Moreover," continued Jacobs, "a union must win its elections by having a majority of all eligible voters, whether voting or home ill, but no other association, corporation or political body requires anything more than a majority of votes cast; a secondary boycott is forbidden to unions, but business enterprises are not forbidden to throttle a labor plant by withholding necessary supplies and parts from that factory; unions must file accounts of all expenditures, but employer associations are not required to meet the same test. The list is longer than time allows to recount."

"In one crucial area we have already found that the theory upon which the Taft-Hartley law was based is fallacious. For example, it was believed by Taft-Hartley proponents that union members were captives of their union bosses, and that breaking of the chains was an absolute necessity in order to free workers. The law therefore outlawed the closed shop which allegedly forced workers into unions, and surrounded the union shop with many hedges and obstacles.

"However, in the few elections held where union shops or closed shops had already existed, 96 per cent of the employes involved participated in the elections, and the vote in every instance of record was overwhelmingly in favor of the union. In no instance to date was a former union shop or closed shop defeated by employe vote. In short, employes are not captives of unions, as Taft-Hartley would seem to indicate.

TRUMAN WILL ASK CONGRESS TO REORGANIZE LABOR DEPARTMENT

President Truman gave his backing to those who are intent upon rebuilding the Labor Department into a more effective instrument for service to American workers.

Mr. Truman told the press that he would ask Congress to approve an extensive governmental reorganization plan affecting the department.

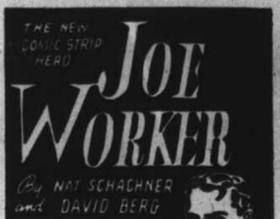
The plan, he said, would provide a permanent home in the Labor Department for the United States Employment Service and the Unemployment Compensation Commission. The former of these agencies has often been the target for congressional criticism and has been shifted from pillar to post on more than one occasion.

Mr. Truman has stated his desire for a stronger Labor Department many times, and Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach still wants "all the labor functions of government" in his department.

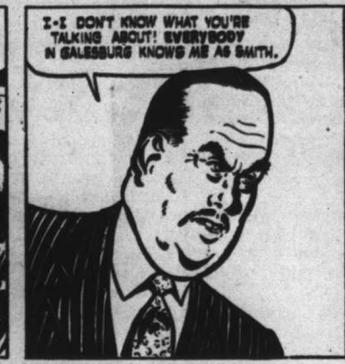
Mr. Schwelienbach told reporters in July, 1945, when he assumed office, that he would come up with a plan inside of six months to give his department jurisdiction over all the government's labor affairs. But the plan never materialized and the department has grown smaller during his two-and-a-half-year tenure.

The children's bureau was transferred to the Federal Security Agency some two years ago and Congress last year failed to approve a reorganization plan that would have kept the employment service in the department after the war officially ends.

When it passed the Taft-Hartley labor act, Congress gave Mr. Schwelienbach his hardest blow. It abolished the department's conciliation service and created a new, independent Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to handle labor-management disputes. In addition, Congress drastically cut the Labor Department's budget, forcing a sharp curtailment of operations.



SO SMITH, OF SMITH'S IRON WORKS UNION HATER AND ESCAPED NAZI, IS THE REAL HEAD OF BETTER WORKS AND RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS POLICY OF "RESTRICTED CLIENTELE" BUT HOW DO DAVE SPSTEN KNOW THAT SMITH'S REAL NAME WAS HASSLER?



NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE 330

I'M COMING TO THAT, JOE. ONLY LAST NIGHT I POUNDED OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT SMITH. HIS NAME'S HASSLER; HE WORKS IN CAHOOTS WITH THE VULTURES; HE'S A NAZI—



Employment in 1948 will probably hit the previously attained record of 60,000,000 jobs, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, predicted. Meanwhile the Census Bureau reported that employment in November dropped just over 600,000 because of a seasonal decline in farm work. Non-agricultural employment continued to rise, however, to new levels, the bureau declared.

Mr. Goodwin said his "best information" was that national employment would hover around record levels most of next year. Although farm labor would be scarce, he said, the employment service was planning a campaign to recruit agricultural workers.

In this connection, the Government has reached a new agreement with Mexico to permit the importation of Mexicans for farm work next year when this country's farm labor supply runs short.

Watson B. Miller, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, said the agreement was an extension of a wartime practice begun in 1943. The wartime arrangement, however, limited the importation of Mexican labor to 100,000 annually. The new agreement will have no limitation.

Mr. Goodwin said that the employment service would take over the responsibility for recruiting farm labor at a time when "less labor will be available for agriculture than since the end of the war."

"The demand for farm labor in 1948 probably will be the greatest in peacetime history," he said.

Mr. Goodwin said that officials of the employment service over the country were consulting with farmers, farm organizations and food processor groups to determine future farm labor needs and to develop programs for supplying them.

He said the job was a big one and would "require the closest co-operation between the employment service, farmers and other groups and individuals concerned with the maximum production of food."

GREEN URGES HELP FOR FARM STRIKERS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed for financial assistance for the striking members of the National Farm Labor Union which is conducting a strike against the huge Di Gorgio Farm at Bakersville, Calif.

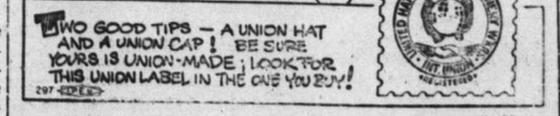
In a circular letter to all national and international unions, Mr. Green declared the management of the farm has refused to recognize the union or to engage in collective bargaining for increased wages and improved working conditions. He declared:

"Reports indicate the existence of a fine spirit and morale among the strikers, but because the National Farm Labor Union, which is one of the newest international unions to be chartered by the American Federation of Labor, is not financially able to extend the help and assistance which the strikers need at the moment, we, the officers of the American Federation of Labor, are appealing to you for financial contributions for the purpose of supplying food and assistance to the striking farm workers herein referred to.

"It is reported that this strike is effective. The workers need help and support, however, in order to win. Please make a generous contribution to these gallant strikers and help them to the extent of your financial ability.

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