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LABOR ADVISED TO SEEK INCREASED WAGES

T-H Law Inconsistent On Commies; Unions Can't Demand Their Discharge

Dan Tobin Says Labor Law Doubly Confusing

By Daniel J. Tobin

Endeavoring to prove to our people how absolutely unreasonable the Taft-Hartley Act is as it is written, let me call your attention to one section of that law as interpreted to us by our attorneys from all over the country.

First they ask us (and we have complied) to sign affidavits that none of our board members are members of the Communist party, then in another part of the act they tell us we cannot refuse to work with Communists.

In other words, we can refuse to admit a Communist into our union under our constitution and under the law. I am not sure we can expel him after he gets in. I think we can and that is the opinion of our attorneys. But after we expel him and he is working on a job with our union men under a union contract, we cannot tell the employer that we do not want to work with this Communist.

I don't know why Republican leaders and many Democrats in Congress say out of one side of their mouths, "We don't want Communists in your union" and then, out of the other side of their mouths they say, "but you must work every day with a Communist if he pays his dues or even if you expel him for that or any other reason, you cannot ask the employer to discharge him."

A Communist works every day on his political beliefs. He is constantly mouthing around amongst the other employees. He never gets irritated if a non-Communist into whom he is pumping his poison walks away from him. That does not discourage him. He comes back the next day, backs into a few fellows eating their lunch and opens up the subject again in a clever manner.

As long as he is working he is continuously spreading his propaganda. He tells of the great things the Soviet government is doing for its people and attempts to arouse hatred of the so-called capitalistic form of government in the United States.

He will tell you of every member of the government who is connected with Wall street and of all the other crooks and graft.

SOL BLOOM, LOYAL FRIEND OF LABOR, PASSES IN CAPITAL

WASHINGTON. — Organized labor joined the nation in mourning the death of Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs committee.

A member of the House since 1923, Congressman Bloom had stood solidly with labor throughout his long career. His voting record over the years was a perfect one from the standpoint of labor.

Sol Bloom sold newspapers as a child in Peoria, Ill., and later, when his family moved to San Francisco, he found a job in a brush factory, working the treadle on a lathe for \$1.25 a week. On (Continued On Page 4)

UNION IS DENIED FREE SPEECH UNDER THE T-H LABOR LAW

WASHINGTON. — Right in the midst of the Senate Labor Committee hearings on Taft-Hartley reveal, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that the T-H Act guaranteed "free speech" to employers but not to workers.

At issue was the action of a Carpenters' local in peacefully picketing a Kansas builder who used materials made by sweatshop, non-union labor. Also, the builder was placed on a "We Do Not Patronize" list.

The union argued it was merely exercising the right of "free speech," but the board very reluctantly—in fact, with "anguish"—held that the plain language of the act gave it no alternative but to find the union guilty of violating the law. The "free speech" clause of the act does "not give immunity" to the union, it said.

Funeral For Senator Broughton Held In Raleigh; State Mourns

RALEIGH, March 8.—Last respects were offered by several thousand Tar Heels who gathered in Raleigh Tuesday for the funeral of Senator J. Melville Broughton who died suddenly in Washington last Sunday morning. The service was held in Tabernacle Baptist church for North Carolina's wartime Governor whose career as a U. S. Senator was cut short by his untimely death after two months' service in the nation's law-making body.

The services were conducted by Dr. F. O. Mixon, pastor of the Tabernacle church, where Senator Broughton labored for years as a lay leader, and Dr. Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor of the First Baptist church in Washington, of which Mr. Broughton was an honorary member and where he already had built up a large Bible class.

Senator Broughton is survived by his widow, Mrs. Alice Willson Broughton, three sons, J. Melville Broughton, Jr., Woodson H. Broughton, and Albert Bain Broughton; one daughter, Alice Willson Broughton.

Survivors, besides the widow and two brothers: Mrs. G. L. Vinson and Mrs. Willard L. McDowell of Raleigh, Dr. Ernest H. Broughton of Raleigh, and James T. Broughton of New York City.

Senator Broughton was admitted to the Naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., last Sunday morning about 7 o'clock after a restless night in his apartment in Wardman park. He had suffered from a cough, having recently had a severe cold. Only the day before he consulted Dr. Calver, the official physician for members of Congress.

Death came to the North Carolinian less than two hours after he entered the hospital. All that medical science and skill could do was unable to stay the weakened heart. Mrs. Broughton was at his bedside when the end came.

The Senator remained conscious to the end and his last words (Continued On Page 4)



J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON

PRINTERS SCORE GAINS IN PITTSBURGH DEAL

PITTSBURGH. — Five-dollar weekly wage raises and increased vacation benefits go to typographical workers on three daily newspapers here in a new one-year contract.

Members of Local 7, International Typographical Union, voted 207 to 32 to accept the pay increase and a three-week vacation clause for men with five or more years' service.

Printers will draw \$95 for day work on a 37 1-2 hour week, and \$99 for night jobs. The weekly increase on the one-year contract is retroactive to January 1.

BRICKLAYING CONTEST AT UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

Finals for a nation-wide bricklaying contest for apprentice bricklayers is scheduled for the Union Industries Show to be held May 18-22 in Cleveland Ohio.

The national competition, first of its kind ever to be held, is being sponsored by the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union which will seek to name the champion bricklayer apprentice from a field of about 5,000 young aspirants from every State in the Union. The final contest will see 80 fledgling bricklayers competing in a mass exhibition of masonry skills.

Consumer Buying Power Must Be High—Keyserling

NEW YORK.—Leon H. Keyserling, vice chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, told representatives of 100,000 trade unionists that labor should work "militantly" for higher wages and a better standard of living.

Only by keeping purchasing power high can this country sustain full production and forestall a general business recession, Dr. Keyserling declared in the Hotel Astor at a dinner that ended a three-day meeting of Districts 1 and 2 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL. The sessions were attended by 350 delegates from 80 locals in 15 eastern states and Canada.

BILLION DOLLARS ASKED BY A F OF L FOR EDUCATION

The Administration asked for 300 million dollars aid for our deteriorating schools. The AFL executive council asked for one billion dollars last week. Whatever the amount finally voted by this Congress, the need is just as great as when the Un-American 80th Congress voted the magnificent sum of six million last year.

WALL STREET SEEKS GOOD WILL OF A F OF L AT LUNCHEON IN N. Y.

NEW YORK CITY.—The chiefs of the New York Stock, Curb and Cotton Exchanges are going to "break bread" with union officials at a "goodwill luncheon."

Leaders of the AFL union that represents employees at the exchanges, as well as officers of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and Matthew Wolf, Federation vice president, are among the trade unionists to be at the luncheon. And the exchanges will be represented by all their top executives.

The union contract with the exchanges expires in the spring and it is hoped that a new one can be negotiated amicably.

DEEP IN THE HARTLEY OF TEXAS

The House of Representatives voted 109 to 23 (that's right, 109 to 23) against a resolution which would have memorialized Congress to retain the Taft-Hartley law in full strength.

Insisting that a business recession could be avoided, Mr. Keyserling said that recent unemployment figures and market conditions were only "very small signs of so-called softening of business" that could be reversed if consumer purchasing power were kept up.

"Nothing at this time would do more to accentuate the beginnings of a softening-up that we have seen in a small way," he declared, "as to follow up price adjustments by wage reductions which would cancel out the consumers' increased buying power. Softening-up starts because consumers throughout the country do not have enough money to buy goods in amounts that will keep production and employment at a maximum."

Mr. Keyserling said he would not suggest that the leaders of unions become "labor statesmen."

"Labor statesmen" is a fine sounding expression," he explained. "Too often it is used to mean that labor should make the sacrifice play first. I don't ask you to do that. I ask you to be good trade unionists, to be militant trade unionists in the best sense of that word."

Mr. Keyserling held that if "any temporary sacrifice is needed" in the national economy, it should not be made at employment or wage levels. He said there was "plenty of room for it to be made elsewhere, in accruals of fat earnings of the last several years."

"We can raise our living standards and our real wages, which I believe means raising our money wages, year after year," the speaker declared.

Mr. Keyserling said that recent price cuts in some foods and other (Continued On Page 4)

Gradual Price Declines Needed, Survey Shows

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor Monthly Survey declared that "a gradual and orderly decline in high prices is greatly needed now to increase buying power of workers and other consumers and bring them back into the market."

The danger of inflation is gradually disappearing, the survey said.

"The need at present," it said, is rather to make up the serious lag in workers' buying power so that business can reach a normal peacetime balance without sliding off into a recession."

The present business situation was characterized as "precarious. Unemployment could increase or inflationary policies "might check the normal downward adjustment of prices," the survey said.

"Much depends on the wisdom of union leaders, business executives, government officials," it added.

Suggesting that buying power of workers must increase each year in order to absorb the country's output of goods, the AFL said it could be accompanied "by continued downward adjustment of prices" or by raising wages without increasing prices as productivity rises.

AFL research workers made public a study of an eastern metal-working plant. They found that three-fourths of the workers were exhausting savings to keep abreast of living costs. The items these workers had hoped to buy with their war bonds and savings, such as refrigerators, radios, furniture, houses and automobiles, now were beyond their reach.

Behind the False Face!



Retail Clerks Secure \$3,000,000 Increases

LAFAYETTE, Ind.—A \$3,003,000 wage increase for 5,775 food clerks in 1949 has been negotiated in one-year contracts by six California local unions of the Retail Clerks International Association, AFL, it was announced by James A. Suffridge, international secretary-treasurer.

The multi-million-dollar wage boost represents a \$10-per-week individual raise in all categories, since it is on an across-the-board basis. This sets the minimum weekly rate of journeymen food clerks at \$65 and managing clerks at \$85 for a 5-day, 40-hour week, a work pattern which was established two years ago. Figured on an individual basis, the \$3,003,000 sum will give each union employe approximately \$520 more money this year.

The one-year agreement covers an area roughly from the middle of California to the Mexican border. The exceptions are San Diego county, where food contracts expire in April; Los Angeles and San Pedro, where agreements expire this fall.

With the exception of wages, there were but few changes made in existing agreements. The new pacts were negotiated with employer associations on a friendly plane. This labor-management relation is historic with the RCIA-AFL, which has not had a major strike in a quarter of a century.