

### WHY ORGANIZED LABOR HATES INJUNCTIONS

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spread over the front pages of the newspapers. The law-abiding citizen, with his deep respect for the law, would conclude that the workers were in the wrong, that they were to be regarded as criminals whom the law had to restrain.

The newspapers, even more sweepingly biased against labor in those days when it was easier to hoodwink the public than it is now, would never carry a line to intimate that the true lawbreaker was the judge himself, since his action in issuing an injunction was without basis either in the Constitution or in the enactments of Congress. This was the truth, of course, but to tell the truth would be to spoil a colossal swindle which was highly profitable to big business.

Just think how the wage-earner of the injunction felt. Driven by low wages, long hours and health-shattering working conditions, he would join with his fellow workers to form a union. Acting with his fellows and through their newly established organization, they would appeal to their employer for consideration of their grievances. The employer would refuse to talk to them. He wouldn't negotiate. He wouldn't arbitrate. He wouldn't do anything of a reasonable nature. Not infrequently his answer would be to fire his work force and lock

them out. Sometimes he would just fire some and slash the wages of those remaining.

The workers would meet at their union hall. They would discuss the situation. Given no alternative, they would vote to strike.

But the employer, having a powerful ally in the court, would quickly confront the strikers with an injunction.

The American Federation of Labor fought the injunction disease from the very beginning. The unfairness of the use of injunctions against workers was pointed out time and again. Appeals were made to public opinion. And eventually the tide began to turn.

Long before 1932, when the Norris-LaGuardia Act was put on the federal statute books by a Republican Congress and a Republican President, voices against the injunction evil began to be heard. Even judges spoke out against this criminal abuse of the power of the judiciary which was undermining public confidence in the courts and the administration of justice.

The National Association of Manufacturers, the National Metal Trades Association and other defenders of anti-labor corporations and their nefarious practices fought stubbornly to preserve the best strikebreaking tool in the book. They argued insistently that the

### Union Industries Show Opens May 18 Promises to be Most Successful Event

#### LABOR'S '48 INCOME SHARE LOWER THAN PREWAR LEVEL

Lake Success, N. Y.—Labor's share in the U. S. national income dropped last year below prewar levels, according to statisticians on the staff of the United Nations.

The same situation was true in Canada, Belgium and New Zealand, the experts reported.

The ratio of wages, salaries and other income to labor stood at 62 per cent of total national income during 1948 in this country, a decrease of 4 per cent from the position 10 years earlier, the experts announced. Declines of 7 per cent and 6 per cent were reported in labor's part of national production in Canada and New Zealand, respectively. In Belgium, where workers received 4 per cent less of the national income than they did in 1938.

United Nations statisticians, commenting on results of the survey, attributed the altered position of labor in the United States, Canada, Belgium and New Zealand to strong inflationary pressures that have forced prices up faster than wages in these countries.

Largely undamaged by the war, concerns in these countries have reaped high profits from trade with war-devastated countries, dependent on them for essential goods and services in the post-war years, those experts declared. They cautioned, however, that income distribution figures did not adequately take into account income received by self-employed persons, small entrepreneurs and farmers.

Wage-earners in Switzerland enlarged their slice of the national income pie by 12 per cent, it was reported. A movement of small artisans, farmers and professional persons into the ranks of wage-earners may be responsible for the sharp increase in the ratio of wages and salaries to other national income in Switzerland, authorities here suggested.

injunction merely maintained the status quo. They averred that labor could appeal, and if labor was right, the injunction would be vacated.

Of course, these arguments were specious. One of the most objectionable features of the anti-labor injunction was that the injury which it did to the workers could not be repaired. In one memorable case, the Hitchman case, 10 years elapsed between the issuance of the injunction and the final determination by the Supreme Court. Long before 10 years had passed, the fight was over. In another case, there was an interval of 7 years. Invariably, a long period of time elapsed between the issuance of the original injunction and the final decision of the Supreme Court.

While the weeks and months and years rolled on, the employer operated his plant and collected his profits. His workers, whom he had abused and induced to walk out, either crawled back, unfairly defeated, or they starved. This was called justice!

At last the 72nd Congress, with Republicans in the majority, and with President Herbert Hoover, a Republican occupying the White House, took action to restore the average citizen's confidence in the fairness and justice of the American system. That Congress, in the year 1932, passed a bill sponsored by Senator Norris of Nebraska and Congressman LaGuardia of New York.

From 1932 until 1947 the Norris-LaGuardia Act continued in effect. It was a boon not only to working people. It was a boon to the nation as a whole. It was a valuable asset to the nation in its conduct of foreign relations, demonstrating to the world that the United States did not oppress and persecute its working people.

Then, in 1947, in a fit of hysteria and stupidity, the reactionary 80th Congress turned the clock back. It restored the tragedy of government by injunction. This provision of the Taft-Hartley Act is surely one of the most malicious and destructive features of the entire law.

Now, when a new law is being written, a law which all reasonable citizens hope will make it possible for American labor and American management to live and work together, it is imperative that the ruinous action of the 80th Congress shall be corrected.

Equal justice under law must ever prevail in the United States. If there is to be equal justice in the realm of labor-management relations, employers must not have an unfair weapon. Let us put government by injunction back in the grave—for all time.

Cleveland.—The Union Industries Show, sponsored by the AFL Union Label Trades Department, will open here May 18, in the spacious Public Auditorium.

"It will be one of the most unique and action-packed exhibitions of its kind to be seen anywhere in the world," stated Director I. M. Ornburn, who will speak at the opening ceremonies with AFL President William Green, Gov. Frank J. Lausche of Ohio, and Mayor Thomas A. Burke, of Cleveland.

"Throngs will get big thrills seeing 500 elaborately designed booths in which skilled AFL craftsmen actually make every article used and man every service required in our daily lives," Mr. Ornburn said.

"They will view with awe the union-crafted goods, fabricated by big-name firms, for every member of the family. The list of nationally advertised brands on display reads like a business directory. AFL unions as well as manufacturers are making an outstanding contribution to this show.

"The theme of the entire all-AFL-union exhibition is good relations between labor and management," Director Ornburn declared, "and the proof of such harmonious relations will be seen in the highest quality of goods on display. It also proves that teaming together they utilize the greatest showmanship and best salesmanship to reach all American consumers."

#### INT. TYPO UNION WINS A RAISE OF \$5 WEEK WITHOUT A CONTRACT

SEATTLE.—An agreement granting a wage increase of \$5 a week May 1 to newspaper printers here was announced. It was approved by Local 202, International Typographical Union, AFL, and publishers of the two daily newspapers, the Times and the Post-Intelligencer.

Charles T. Hickey, president, said that the union would continue to work without a contract as it had in the past year.

Wage scales for a 35-hour week will be \$95 for day work and \$100 for night work.

The Golden Rule of Trade Unionism is to buy Union Label goods from others as you would have them pay Union wages unto you!

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