Editorial

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"LET THE SUNLIGHT OF A FREE PRESS SHINE IN DARK PLACES"

SOUTHERN LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION

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WEEKLY BIBLE THOUGHT

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the Angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just."

-St. Matthew

"VOLUME-DESTROYING" TAXES

Labor agrees with President Truman on most things but can't see eye to eye with him on the question of the wartime excise taxes. Though these taxes are a burden on business, reducing sales and employment, particularly at a time of slackening industrial activity, the President favors their retention. Labor believes they should be eliminated

Striking evidence of the effect of the taxes has just come from the Western Union Telegraph Company, whose business is hampered by a 25 per cent excise tax on telegrams. Reporting a deficit of \$5,091,795 in the first seven months of this year, compared to a loss of \$1,192,500 in the same period in 1948, the company attributed it to the reduced business activity and to the "volume-destroying effect of the telegraph excise tax."

For the seven months, revenues from telegrams sent by the public, which bear the full impact of the tax, declined 9.1 per cent, the company added.

The Commercial Telegraphers Journal said some months

"The war is over. Telegraph employes want employment. The excise tax is discouraging and impairing the use of telegraphs. It should be eliminated entirely."

The same thing could be said of the wartime excise taxes on transportation fares, electric light bulbs, amusement admissions, luggage and other things. They should be eliminated or at least greatly reduced.

-Wilmington (Del.) Labor Herald.

UNION WAGE SCALES FOR SOUTHERN DRIVERS AND HELPERS ADVANCE

Rates for a majority of the union motor truck drivers and helpers in twenty-one Southern cities advanced from 2c to 30c per hour between July 1, 1948, and July 1, 1949, it was announced recently by Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director of the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the South. Advances between 5c and 10c per hour were most frequently reported.

The Bureau's annual study of negotiated union wages in the trucking industry disclosed hourly rates of from 60c per hour for wholesale fruit drivers in Memphis to \$1.94 for drivers of large construction trucks in Mobile. Oil truck drivers in Oklahoma City were paid \$1.775 while drivers of euclid trucks (used in the construction industry) in Little Rock and heavy construction equipment drivers in Memphis were receiving \$1.75 per hour. Other rates reported were \$1.68 for drivers of 3- to 5-ton trucks in Mobile; \$1.625 for drivers of brewery trucks in El Paso; \$1.56 for truck drivers transporting chemicals in Houston; and \$1.55 for special construction equipment drivers in Chattanooga.

The report is based upon data secured through personal visits of the Bureau's field representatives and by mail questionnaire. Rates for over-the-road drivers and local city drivers paid on a mileage or commission basis were excluded from the study.

Copies of the report for any of the 21 cities may be obtained by addressing the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1020 Grant Building, Atlanta 3. Georgia.

Council Hails States' **Action On Labor Laws**

St. Paul.-The Executive Counthe various states to repeal obnoxious labor legislation and to a union. enact satisfactory labor laws, but warned that the situation leaves no room "for complacency or

Summing up the results of

"State federations of labor are to be congratulated on the results of their hard work in Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Missouri. Deleware and New Hampshire. There the voters defeated proposals to ban closed shop and other types of union security agreements.

"Maine voters in September rejected a 1947 anti-closed shop law and defeated a proposed measure with even more restrictive provisions.

"In November, voters in New Mexico defeated a proposed amendment to the state constitution which would have prohibited denying employment to any person because of membership in, resig-

turned down a measure to require strike vote is conducted. state legislative actics in the la- by secret ballot at least once a souri act that regulates labor bor field, the council's report de- year, and a proposed law which disputes in public utilities is still

compulsory arbitration in public "Massachusetts, at the Novem- utilities. This provision for volthe same election, this state also the conditions under which a

labor union officials to be elected "A bill to repeal the 1947 Mis-



HEADS UP! DON'T BE STRUCK DOWN!

Be Careful—the life you save may be your own!

less approved by a majority of now in recess, expects to recons the union's membership. vene in the fall.

"'Little Taft-Hartley Act's in Missouri and Deleware were re- the long road trade unions must pealed. The New Hampshire act follow to secure the repeal of antiregulating union security agree- to District 50, United Mine Workments was also repealed.

"In addition, Michigan amended of the states. The record merely cil hailed the progress made in nation or expulsion from, a labor its law substituting voluntary ar- shows that the job can be done organization, or refusal to join bitration of labor disputes for but that it is not easy." ber election, also defeated a pro- untary arbitration applies to all press brought across the Atlantic types of labor disputes. Other by the Puritans. The book was posal to ban the closed shop. In amendments made less restrictive hymnal, produced on a printing North American continent was a entitled "Bay Song Book."

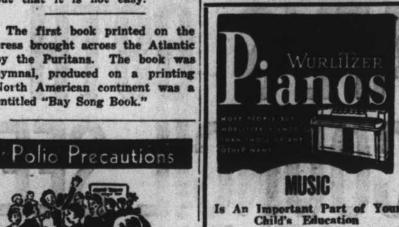
would have prohibited strikes un- pending. The Missouri legislature,



few years in nearly three-quarters

"The record is a good start on





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At American technical progress, which has made mechanical energy perform miracles of mass production, reflected in constantly lower costs-and in the long run, lower prices.

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