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OLDEST LABOR PUBLICATION IN THE TWO CAROLINAS

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WINS FIGHT SO UNION MEMBERS CAN SERVE IN LEGISLATURE

North Carolina is the only state which denies legislators both travel and expense allowances, says The Machinist, official publication of the International Association of Machinists Union in its May 17 issue, in an interesting article which points out that Rep Jesse Vetter of the Idaho legislature, a member of the I. A. M., has won another round in his fight for more union men to join him as state legislators.

Continuing The Machinist article says:

"Vetter, a retired member of I. A. M. Lodge 86, led a successful labor-backed campaign in the Idaho Legislature to boost legislators' pay by \$5 a day. The Legislature approved the pay raise recently at the 1951 session.

"Ever since Vetter entered the Legislature in 1943 he has been fighting for pay boosts for state representatives and senators. He saw it was impossible for able union members to serve as legislators as long as the pay was less than what they earned on their regular jobs plus enough to cover the cost of living away from home during sessions. Union members simply don't have the means to quit work for two months if the pay they get as legislators won't support their families and cover their expenses. The bill Vetter introduced and finally pushed to passage provided for a \$5-a-day expense allowance in addition to the \$10-a-day salary, to bring the total to \$15 a day.

"Working men," Vetter told The Machinists, "now can afford to serve in the Idaho Legislature, and we sure need more union men in all our Legislatures."

"Unless a lot of other state legislatures in session this year have followed Idaho's lead, there is plenty of room for improvement throughout the nation. New Hampshire pays its legislators only \$200 per term, although it grants a fairly generous travel allowance. Rhode Island pays but \$5 a day, gives no personal expense allowance, although there is a mileage rate. Utah provides \$300 per year but no expense allowance. It allows 10 cents a mile for one round-trip to the capital. Tennessee's \$4-a-day for 75 days with no expense allowance dates back to its Constitution of 1870. The Tennessee legislators' situation is improved somewhat with \$4 for each 25 miles of travel.

"North Carolina is the only state which denies legislators both travel and expense allowances. Total compensation is \$600 per session. Thirty-one states, prior to this year's sessions which may change the picture somewhat, paid nothing for expenses other than travel. New Jersey, which comparatively treats legislators quite handsomely with a \$3,000 a year salary, takes care of travel with a rail pass.

"New York and California top the list. New York pays \$5,000 a year plus actual travel expenses for one round trip per week while sessions are in progress. California allows \$3,600 a year, \$12-a-day expenses during sessions, and travel at 5 cents a mile.

"Vetter says that it isn't simply zeal for state government economy which leads reactionary forces to oppose pay increases for state legislators. He knows from experience that business interests feel that as long as service in the Legislature is too expensive a luxury for the average working man to afford, they will continue to get more of the kind of legislation they want. Plain people will get a better break, he says when more union members can afford to serve as state legislators."

OFF THE BEAM

An Overflow

"Are you sure that you watered the plants in the drawing room, Josephine?"
"Yes, ma'am. If you listen closely you can hear the water dripping on the carpet."

Half Fare

Mother (in a tram car): "Stop staring at the gentleman Donald. Stop it, I say, or I'll tweak the ear off ye!"
Donald: "Niver a tweak, mither, or I'll tell the conductor how old I am."

Arithmetic

A girl bought a ticket in a big Christmas lottery, and insisted on having the ticket number 51. It turned out to be the winning number, and she received \$15,000.
A reporter called upon her and asked: "Why did you especially want ticket 51?"
"Well," she said, "for seven nights I dreamed of number seven, and seven sevens are 51, so I bought the ticket!"

Duly Warned

One Sunday an English church became so crowded the pastor decided to have the verger stand outside with a notice reading "House Full."

Just then a little man ran up and wanted to enter. Upon being refused admission he pleaded that he had a very urgent message to deliver to John Smith — a matter of life and death.

The verger, a kind old man, eventually succumbed.
"All right," he said, "you can slip in—but Heaven help you if I catch you praying!"

Snowball

The ichthyologist, was asked to read a paper before a learned delegation of zoologists. He chose as his subject "The History of the Ling Cod." The secretary who typed the program had never heard of the species called "Ling," and corrected it to "Living."

The printer who turned out the programs glanced at the title, made his own correction on the last word, and the scientist found himself on the platform facing an audience awaiting his paper on "The History of the Living God."

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WHAT WAR IS ABOUT

(Continued from Page 1)
found no reason to change a word of this statement. Experience has proved beyond doubt the wisdom of it.

It is in this language—plus the statement of the employer's and union's duty to bargain in good faith—that you have the keystone of the entire structure of government and collective bargaining.

The very nature and cause of our emergency underscores the importance of strengthening the principles of collective bargaining.

There are no short-cuts to the benefits of orderly collective bargaining. Before either management or labor, for reasons of their own immediate advantage, decide to follow a will-o-the-wisp substitute for collective bargaining, let them remember that industry and labor not only enjoy more freedom but are more productive when they work together under mutually agreed terms than under conditions dictated by government.

True, emergency and stabilization measures mean modification of collective bargaining. Herein lies the challenge. Management

and labor, to preserve and augment their joint strength, should fashion, through negotiation, these modifications. In short, collective bargaining should be the tool for sharpening and shaping collective bargaining procedures for the duration. To do otherwise, is to forget the lessons of history and lose the larger fight.—The Machinist.

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