

Labor Sunday Messages from National Churches of Christ, U.S.A.

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By the same token, individual members of unions are called upon to assume their full share of responsibility for union policies and programs and, particularly, for the maintenance of union democracy. Regular attendance at union meetings is the very minimum to be expected of every worker who holds a union card.

Management, in turn, is reminded of its responsibility to be honest in appraising its own financial situation. Too often in collective bargaining negotiations the language of management would seem to indicate proximate financial collapse, even though their official records reveal that they are earning fair profits after generous provision has been made for depreciation and future expansion. Such misleading statements, made for the purpose of bargaining, naturally tend to develop a spirit of distrust among employees and union leaders.

Finally, labor and management have a joint responsibility to forestall the harmful effects of inflation. In negotiating collective agreements, they may not legitimately use their economic strength to advance their own interests at the expense of less-favored groups who are dependent on a fixed income and lack the necessary bargaining power to keep up with the rising cost of living.

Christian Meaning of Labor Day

In concluding this annual statement, in which we have counseled an attitude of guarded and realistic optimism, we ask you to join with the Vicar of Christ, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in reflecting prayerfully on the spiritual meaning of Labor Day:

"Who better than the true Christian can give to Labor Day a profound significance! For him it is a day on which he venerates and adores all the more intensely the Man-God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, that He might be our model, our consolation and sanctification passed the greater part of His life, in the exercise of a manual trade, as a humble worker (Cfr. Matt. 13, Mark b. 3); it is the day of thanksgiving to God on the part of all those who provide assurance, through their labor, of a tranquil and peaceful life for themselves and their families; it is the day on which is affirmed the will to overcome class warfare and hatred with the strength deriving from the realization of social justice, from mutual respect and fraternal charity for the love of Christ; it is the day, in fine, on which believing humanity solemnly promises to create by the labor of men's minds and hands a culture that gives glory to God, a culture that, far from alienating man from God, brings man ever closer to Him."

(His Holiness Pope Pius XII, Address, May 1, 1953.)

May these beautiful words of the Holy Father inspire the working

people of the United States and their fellow-citizens from other walks of life to renew their dedication to the cause of social justice and social charity. And may they be accepted as an expression of the continuing interest of the Catholic Church in the material as well as the spiritual and supernatural welfare of all of God's children regardless of their occupation, nationality, race, or social status.

Goals of Unions Have Definite Spiritual Implications

By DR. MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Co-Chairman, Commission on Religious Organizations
National Conference of Christians and Jews

It is a privilege to salute the forces of organized labor on this day set aside for special tribute to those who toil with hand and mind.

The Hebrew word for labor is *Avodah*. Interestingly, the same word means, in the Sacred Tongue, "religious service." I believe that the twin meanings of this word are magnificently demonstrated in the growing awareness on the part of unions that their goals have definite spiritual implications.

To do one's allotted work with conscientiousness, and to espouse the cause of social advance, constitute genuine religious functions.

I pray that all laborers, at desks and in the ranks, will ever be mindful of the fact that they are engaged in enterprises tinged with spirituality. And let us remember the words of the Psalms: "Who shall ascend into the mountain of the Lord and who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

May a spirit of zeal plus purity of hands and heart also continue to characterize your struggle against illiberalism and reaction, against bigotry and injustice, against greed and strife. May you in humility recognize your own shortcomings and seek to eliminate them. May you who have pioneered in so many ways also strive towards the heightened unification of all groups who live in our beloved land. And may that land be blessed with peace.

We of the Jewish faith now approach our High Holy Day season. Perhaps a prayer from our Rosh Hashanah liturgy is the most fitting greeting of all for Labor Day: "Our Father, our King, keep far from our country pestilence, war and famine."

"Our Father, our King, cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth."

"Our Father, our King, inscribe us for blessing in the book of life."

"Our Father, our King, grant unto us a year of happiness. Amen."

LABOR'S Declaration!
BUY UNION
I Promise to Patronize Firms which Display:
UNION LABELS SHOP CARDS & UNION BUTTONS

L.P.A. Poses Questions to Nation's Labor Leaders

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unity among the working people of America, for only when that is accomplished can we have oppressive laws repealed and progressive measures enacted.

There must be unity all the way down the line—among those new members of unions and those still outside. While the present situation prevails the anti-union forces make holiday.

The United Textile Workers of America stands ready to ratify the no-raiding agreement submitted by the unity committee of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The 1952 convention of our union authorized this stand, which is our historic position. We are ready to make such a bargain, and if our word is given it will be scrupulously honored.

If unity among organized workers is thus attained, we shall be able to remove the chief bar to substantial progress. Our union will be free to use its resources to complete the organization of the textile industry, where now there are hundreds of thousands of workers who are members of no union and who are used by the greedy to check the legitimate aspirations of trade unionists and to punish the decent employers with whom they bargain.

The present situation is bad not only for unionism but for the country. Now it is possible for the greedy to keep standards down by playing section against section through the fostering of racial and geographical fears and hates.

It is only when that organization is substantially completed that we can move forward. As of now, it is often safe for Northern reactionaries to join with their Southern counterparts in the enactment of anti-labor measures. We know that the great bulk of the unorganized in our industry want to join hands with us, and once they are able to speak and to act as free American workers, they will so make their power felt that the corrupt alliance of Northern and Southern anti-unionists will be smashed.

In summary, the United Textile Workers of America see as the task before them the completion of the organization of our industry. When that is brought about it will be possible to repeal the repressive features of the Taft-Hartley Act. Given an organized textile industry, we shall prevail in our fight for the National Textile Bill and end the ruinous throat-cutting which menaces the security and the advancement of our people.

Labor, Hobbled by T-H, Must Clean House of Reactionary Congressmen
By James C. Petrillo, President American Federation of Musicians AFL

We should all applaud the time-honored custom on Labor Day for union journals and labor papers to print words of praise for past victories and more important, the calls to arms for impending battles.

Labor has a two-fold job to do in the year ahead. We have coupled with ending the tragedy of the American boys in Korea, the obligation to clean house in Congress next November of those who are the avowed enemies of labor.

Reaction at home cannot defeat the threat of Communism abroad. If we allow the shortsighted men who scuttle the nation's preparedness with one hand while they fasten the chain of Taft-Hartley around us with the other, to return to office, the world that permits the free association of the workingmen and workingwomen to better themselves—is very likely doomed.

The job of the labor union gets

tougher each succeeding year because the laws of today require different procedures. We compromise when we must because the laws give us no chance to fight and win.

The Taft-Hartley law has been in effect since 1947. It has cost one union \$24 millions to fight this law.

Powerful unions have tried through strikes to win a few cents an hour. In days gone by it was possible to call strikes and win them. Now, the only smart course, in the face of impossible laws is to compromise.

As I have said before, and must of necessity repeat again, the moral of the bitter lessons of the Taft-Hartley era is that every day must be a day of labor for the restoration of those rights that were usurped by the passage in our own country of legislation that has shackled progress in our own American labor movement.

Those in Congress who voted for restrictive labor legislation also voted against expenditures for foreign affairs and for defense. The same broom will clean up both menaces at the polls. That is the simple task for us to dedicate ourselves to on this Labor Day, 1953.

POLITICAL ACTION TO ELECT LIBERALS STILL NO. 1 JOB

By Richard F. Walsh, President International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada—AFL

I regard the election of liberal-minded men and women—to Congress, to state legislatures and to local governing bodies—as the labor movement's most pressing task in the year ahead.

It would be nice to come up with some novel, or at least fresher, objective, but I think the facts of our problem leave political activity still the No. 1 "must." We have made fair progress during recent years past, keeping a close balance between liberals and reactionaries at Washington and stemming the tide of anti-labor legislation in the states. But balance and tide-stemming are not enough. We must keep up the fight relentlessly until the crippling laws already passed are replaced or amended so that the unions can get a decent break in organizing and collective bargaining.

I have referred to "liberal," rather than mere "friendly," legislators because experience has shown that for a candidate to espouse the cause of the unions is not enough. He—and we must never forget the non-union working people who vote. I am convinced that tax relief, price relief, good housing, health and welfare measures and all the other aims in the liberal program are important to these people—and that laws denying us a fair chance to bring them union protection are not. And, by and large, the candidate who stands for things that are liberal includes our cause in his philosophy.

Most recent experience also has shown that party labels are becoming less and less important to the growing body of voters who swing elections. This augurs well for the ultimate success of our policy of ignoring such labels. Sooner or later, by helping enlighten these independent citizens, we can achieve an unfettered labor movement in this free land.

Of course, to avoid the hostility of these citizens, we must keep our houses in order, conduct our affairs responsibly, prove—beyond question—that our aims are always in line with the welfare of America

as a whole. This is an essential part of labor's political task in all the years ahead.

With Peter McGuire As Patron Labor Must Continue Organizing the Unorganized

By M. A. Hutcheson, President United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America AFL

As a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America it is impossible for me to think of Labor Day without simultaneously thinking of Peter J. McGuire, that heroic figure of the past century, who was the Father of Labor Day as well as the founder of the United Brotherhood.

In my mind's eye I see that humble yet proud figure standing before the New York Central Labor Union nearly three quarters of a century ago, to advocate that one day be set aside to pay homage to those who toil with their hands for their daily bread. I also see him roaming the highways and byways carrying the message of unionism to the carpenters of America.

As long as I live, Labor Day will be to me a living monument to Peter J. McGuire fully as much as it is a holiday honoring working people, for it was McGuire who laid the foundation not only for Labor Day, but also for the free, responsible and unencumbered labor movement which has been able to do so much to elevate the economic and cultural standards of American working people.

In May of 1881, issuing a call to all carpenters to lend their efforts toward the establishment of a national carpenters' union, McGuire wrote:

"The learned professions have their unions for the avowed purpose of elevating their calling. Manufacturers have also discovered the benefits of united, in place of, divided action and they have numbered unions, local and national. In various cities we find mechanics' exchanges composed of boss builders.

"They look to each other's common interests. Shall we not profit by these lessons? IF THE STRONG COMBINE, SHOULD NOT THE WEAK?"

Since McGuire wrote these words, millions of articles, pamphlets, and books have been written on the need of working people to organize. Yet all of them combined do not tell the story more vividly than do these few words by McGuire.

On the eve of Labor Day, 1953, this nation is facing a paradoxical situation. For the first time in several years, the prospects appear bright for a peaceful settlement of the Korean conflict. But the prospect of peace seems to alarm many people in many walks of life. The specter of depression disturbs their slumber and waking hours with a haunting fear.

These people, I believe, are alarmists needlessly. I am sure McGuire would consider them so were he able to return to earth by some supernatural circumstance. McGuire never doubted the ability of our economic system to provide a continuing era of prosperity for all citizens once the labor movement achieved sufficient strength to win for its members a fair share of the wealth they produced.

Like McGuire, I am inclined to believe that nothing very damaging can occur so long as the working people are able to keep their purchasing power high through their unions.

This, of course, is not the only factor involved in the maintenance of prosperity, but it is the most important one. It is one through which we can make our biggest contribution toward lasting prosperity.

Therefore, on this Labor Day, 1953, I think the major goal of all union members should be to strengthen and build the labor movement as fast as strong as possible. The 20 million workers who are still contributing little or nothing to American prosperity because of substandard purchasing power are a challenge to American unions. Once these people can be brought into full participation in the economic life of the nation, they offer a great potential market for peacetime goods that can offset any decline in defense spending.

The only way that they can be integrated into the normal economic scheme is through union membership. That is the challenge that faces all of us as union people. This Labor Day we should be looking toward Peter J. McGuire for inspiration, so that we can meet the challenge quickly and adequately.

AFL-CIO Unity Would Free Energy for Effective Organization, Political Action
By Joseph A. Beirne, President Communications Workers of America—CIO

Of all the problems facing organized labor, perhaps the most important is for the AFL and CIO

to get together, to merge their identity into one organically united organization. Once that is accomplished, many of the other problems, now especially difficult to solve, will become easier to crack.

Labor can do a better and more complete organizing job. Legislative and political action work will be more effective. With one common pool of resources and material, research and education work can be carried on more successfully. Public relations work can be geared to a common objective.

And the rank-and-file member will benefit.

Our union, the CIO Communications Workers of America, has favored an AFL-CIO merger for years. We have worked for it. We shall continue to work in that direction.

Ultimate success may take some time, but already there are encouraging signs that the two federations can work together.

Important among these were the meetings and accomplishments of the United Labor Policy Committee. AFL and CIO leaders found this committee a way to work together in solving problems related to wage stabilization.

A less well-known example of broad-scale labor cooperation is found in the operations of Labor Press Associated. Governed by a board coming from AFL, CIO and independent unions, LPA does an important job of furnishing news, features, photos and other material to some 250 labor papers having a combined circulation well over ten million.

But perhaps most important of all are the joint AFL-CIO meetings where preliminary steps leading toward organic unity have been taken.

Quite properly this joint committee has concentrated first on the problem of raiding, and mechanics of a program to eliminate it. Once that problem is settled, work can begin on other problems of merging the two groups.

Not until this is accomplished, when there are no longer two big labor federations but only one, will labor be able to show the greatest progress on some of its really big jobs.

Success in many other fields of union work depends on the success of the move to bring the AFL and CIO together.

Not until then can labor show really significant progress in getting non-union workers to join unions. Once the two federations are merged, better results at the bargaining table will follow. More successful political action work will come with a united membership.

With AFL and CIO unions in one group, all functions of organized labor will prove more productive, more beneficial to the member.

Strong Unions, Cooperating, Labor Defense Against GOP Attacks On Gains

By James A. Brownlow, President Metal Trades Department—AFL

Organization of the unorganized workers is essential. There will be continuing less support of economic programs by the government in the year ahead, which will mean that employees will have to depend for any economic advantages which they may obtain, on their unions rather than on the Federal Government. There will be attacks upon every phase of social legislation, meaning housing; minimum wage laws; social security; unemployment compensation; aid to education and such other advancements as working people have made during the last decade and a half.

It is proper that the dependence for the economic welfare of working people be placed in strong unions without relying on govern-

ment. We all recognize that in some programs of benefit to the people of the nation as a whole, only the enactment of legislation by the government can accomplish them. However, neither this year nor any year must we ever lose sight of the fact that the power of government to give is the power of government to take away.

Therefore, the greatest task which I can envisage for the trade union movement in the coming year is the protecting and retaining of those gains which have been made, and to use every effort to continue to progress. This progress can best result from strong unions, increased organizational activities, lessening of internal differences between unions, and closer cooperation between all organizations representative of the trade union movement.

Unity of CIO, AFL And Independents Would Demand Respect From Employers

By D. W. Tracy, President International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL

"What do you regard as the most pressing task for the Labor Movement in the year ahead?"

That is a most serious and thought-provoking question. Labor has many tasks for the year ahead—most conditions for its members, safeguarding their rights, fighting bitter anti-labor campaigns in state legislatures, resisting a weakening of social security and a hacking away of other benefits that years of effort and sacrifice have attained. But these are all subordinate to Labor's No. 1 job for the year ahead—organic unity.

We of organized labor are never going to realize our full strength and make our wants and needs truly felt and respected, until we have achieved real solidarity.

There have been some serious and most encouraging efforts put forth in recent months on the part of both the CIO and the AFL to achieve unity. The proposed "no raiding" pact is a tremendous step in the right direction. We of the Electrical Workers are going to try with all our strength to cooperate in this enterprise toward peace, and we hope that our rival groups in the CIO and those unions within the AFL with whom there has been some jurisdictional conflict, will do the same. We believe that they will.

But this step is not enough. We of the CIO and the AFL must not only stop hindering one another, we've got to work together for the good of organized labor and our country as a whole. And the independent labor groups must be encouraged to join with us as well. There is nothing that would demand more respect from business people and corporations, and anti-labor forces at home and abroad, than a united labor movement in the United States and Canada.

I think that organized labor is going to prove itself capable of accomplishing just that. The job can be done, but the sooner the better.

Our nation, in its position of world leadership, has been handed the tremendous task of fighting Communist domination and trying to lead that world to peace.

I believe that organized labor is the greatest force in this nation which is trying to lead the world to peace. Therefore, we of organized labor must create peace and unity in our own ranks before we can lead the way for anyone else.

With God's help we can do the job!

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LABOR DAY GREETINGS

N & W CAFETERIAS

Charlotte Asheville Raleigh Chattanooga Knoxville Atlanta Roanoke Washington Greensboro

COMPLIMENTS

Peerless Spinning Corporation

LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

LABOR DAY GREETINGS

Barger Construction Co. Inc.

Mooresville, North Carolina